

**THE FIRST PRINTED TRANSLATIONS
INTO ENGLISH OF THE GREAT
FOREIGN CLASSICS; A
SUPPLEMENT TO TEXT-BOOKS OF
ENGLISH LITERATURE**

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The first printed translations into English of the great foreign classics; a supplement to text-books of English literature by William J. Harris

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WILLIAM J. HARRIS

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The First Printed
Translations into English
of the
Great Foreign Classics

*A SUPPLEMENT TO TEXT-BOOKS
OF ENGLISH LITERATURE*

By
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BOROUGH LIBRARIAN, BROMLEY



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PREFACE

THIS bibliography has been compiled with the view of supplementing existing text books on English literary history, and assisting students in preparing for examinations in Bibliography and Literature. It will also be found of service to those who are working for the professional examinations of the Library Association.

Students of literature, more particularly of English literature, experience much difficulty in tracing the outside influences which at various periods, or, perhaps, speaking more correctly, at all periods, have affected or moulded our literature. The great foreign classics have exercised a direct and decided influence upon English literature and the object of this bibliography is to give in concise form the authors and titles, translations and dates of the first English translations of the chief foreign authors, and incidentally to enable students to note the effect of such translations on the works of many of our great imaginative writers.

So far as it has been possible to discover, no work of this kind exists in this country. Students are frequently reminded of the special need for such a bibliography as this, and to all interested in the subject it should serve a useful purpose, and perhaps help to fill a gap in literary bibliography.

Students have been asked such questions as—give the date of the first translation into English of *Don Quixote*, of *The Arabian Nights*, Boccaccio's *Decameron*, or of Homer. Such questions as these naturally involve some inquiry and research on the part of the student, and occupy a larger amount of time than is necessary for the purpose. Hence the necessity for a brief bibliography of this nature, which will show at a glance the first translations into English of the most important foreign classics, and save inquirers the fatigue of searching catalogues, bibliographies and similar works.

The dictionary form of arrangement has been adopted with the authors in alphabetical order. In some instances a work has been noticed twice, in which case the first entry will generally be found to be an edition, either issued in an incomplete form, or with a doubtful date. It has also been found necessary to enumerate in nearly all cases the separate works of each author; the complete works not appearing till a much later time. The date of original publication has occasionally been given in brackets, and where a date is seen in square brackets [], it denotes the approximate date of publication.

The anthologies, collections, folk and fairy tales, poetical and traditional literature have been placed in their national order under French, German, etc., many important minor works have been published in these forms, and many important poems have been first translated in these anthologies, often long before they have appeared in the author's translated works.

The most important of the Anglo-Saxon, etc., romances have been included in this Bibliography and appear generally under their titles. These have played a very important part in the development of our literature, and many may be considered as foreign, having derived their origin from foreign sources.

No one is more conscious than the compiler of the difficulties this little work has entailed, and no one is more conscious of its imperfections. As far as possible each entry has been verified at least three times, and from different sources, yet inaccuracies may have crept in, and any corrections, additions or suggestions will be thankfully acknowledged.

This bibliography could have been much enlarged, but the endeavour has been to include only those authors whose work has gone to the making of English literature, or who stand pre-eminent as introducing a special school, class or form.

I desire to offer to Mr. James D. Brown my best thanks for his suggestions in the early stages of this compilation, and to Dr. Baker for his kindly criticism, and also for going through the proofs.

WILLIAM JAMES HARRIS.

April, 1909.

FIRST ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

ABOUT, EDMOND. *b.* 1828, *d.* 1885. French Writer.

COLONEL FOGAS' MISTAKE. *Tr.* J. E. Maitland. 2 v. 1878.

FELLAH, THE: Story of an Honest Man. *Tr.* Sir R. Roberts, 1870.

KING OF THE MOUNTAINS. *Tr.* L. Wraxall, 1862.

LAWYER'S NOSE. *Tr.* J. E. Maitland, 1878.

MAN WITH THE BROKEN EAR. *Tr.* H. Holt, 1867.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE AND SAVING A DAUGHTER'S DOWRY. *Tr.* 1860.

ROMAN QUESTION. *Tr.* H. C. Coape, 1859.

ROUND OF WRONG. *Tr.* L. Wraxall, 1861.

SOLDIER LOVER. *Tr.* Elton Locke, 1886.

TOLLA: a Tale of Modern Rome. *Tr.* L. C. C. Constable's Miscellany of For. Lit., 1854.

ACHILLES TATIUS. Fourth Century. Greek writer.

CLEITOPHON AND LEUCIPPE. *Tr.* by Rev. R. Smith, 1855.

One of the decadent Greek novelists. An erotic novel of a conventional type.

ÆLFRIC. *c.* 1006.

THE CATHOLIC HOMILIES. *Ed.* with *tr.* B. Thorpe, Ælfric Soc., 1844-46.

LIVES OF SAINTS. *Ed. Text* and *Tr.* W. W. Skeat, E.E.T.S., 1881.

Eminent Saxon prelate, one of the most learned of his time. His works, upwards of eighty in number, have been republished by the Ælfric Soc. (London, 1844-46).

ÆSCHINES. B.C. *b.* 389, *d.* 314. Greek orator.

THE ORATIONS OF ÆSCHINES AGAINST
CTESIPHON AND DEMOSTHENES DE CORONA.
Tr. with notes, Andrew Portal, 1755.

Only three orations of A. are extant, and they relate to charges of 'malversation and corruption against Demosthenes'. The 'De Corona of D.' (330 B.C.) is in reply to Æschines.

ÆSCHYLUS. *b.* 525, *d.* 456 B.C. The first of the
three great tragic poets of Greece.

THE TRAGEDIES. *Tr.* by R. Potter, 1777-8.

The tragedies of Æschylus have affected English drama chiefly through French and Italian dramatists. 'Samson Agonistes,' by Milton, and 'Prometheus Unbound,' by Shelley, are unmistakable echoes, and the latter was intended to be a sequel to Æschylus' 'Prometheus Bound'. 'Manfred and Cain,' by Byron, are modelled upon A. Influenced also Racine and Corneille. The most famous speech in Swinburne's 'Atalanta in Calydon' is a translation from A.

ÆSOP. 6th century B.C. Fabulist.

Here begynneth the book of the Subtyl Historie
and Fables of Esop. . . . Translated out of the
French into Englysshe by William Caxton, 1484.

The fables of Æsop are among the very earliest of their kind, and probably have never been surpassed for point and brevity.

Nearly all subsequent fables are based upon Æsop. Has affected all European literature. All educated or even intelligent Greeks were supposed to know Æsop, hence their important influence.

ALAMANNI, LUIGI, *The Elder.* *b.* 1495, *d.* 1556.
Italian poet.

LA COLTIVAZIONE (1546). [Didactic poem on
agriculture.]

See 'Longfellow's Poets and Poetry of the Century'.

ALCAEUS. *b.* 610 B.C., *d.* 580 B.C. Greek lyric poet.

The purest text of this poet will be found in the 'Museum Criticum', vol. i. pp. 421-44. Edited by Bishop Blomfield.

'Museum Criticum, or Cambridge Classical Researches,' 1814-25, 2v.

Said to have invented the metre called 'Alcaic'. The style has been much imitated.

ALCORAN. See Koran.

ALEMAN, MATEO. *b.* 1550 (?) *d.* 1610. Spanish
Writer.

THE LIFE OF GUZMAN D'ALFARACHE, or
THE SPANISH ROGUE (1599), to which is added
the celebrated tragi-comedy Celestina. Done into