

**CLARENDON PRESS SERIES. GERMAN  
POETRY FOR BEGINNERS, A GRADUATED  
COLLECTION OF EASY POEMS  
FOR REPETITION FROM MODERN  
GERMAN POETS; EDITED WITH ENGLISH  
NOTES AND A COMPLETE VOCABULARY**

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**EMMA S. BUCHHEIM**

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Clarendon Press Series

# GERMAN POETRY FOR BEGINNERS

A GRADUATED COLLECTION

OF

EASY POEMS FOR REPETITION

FROM MODERN GERMAN POETS

EDITED

*WITH ENGLISH NOTES AND A COMPLETE VOCABULARY*

BY

EMMA S. BUCHHEIM

EDITOR OF

THE CLARENDON PRESS EDITION OF 'NIEBUHR'S HEROEN-GESCHICHTEN'  
AND OF 'CHAMISSO'S PETER SCHLEMIHL'

Oxford

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1889

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## P R E F A C E .



THERE can be no doubt that, for those who wish to acquire a foreign tongue, it is a very desirable thing to commit to memory and read aloud or recite poetical pieces in the language which they are studying. It is not only because the learner is thus enabled to increase his vocabulary and to add to his knowledge of idiomatic expressions; for important as this is, something more is necessary before he will be enabled to speak with comparative fluency. We frequently hear the remark, 'I can read and write German, but I cannot speak it.' The fact is, that mere word-knowledge will rarely suffice to enable persons, who have not lived abroad, to express themselves with confidence in a foreign idiom. 'The mere reading aloud in the class, the repeating of single words and phrases, does by no means give that assurance, which is imparted to the learners by the process of reciting aloud, with proper emphasis and accentuation, a poem in the presence of others. This practice is acknowledged to be of great importance even in our own language, and is still more useful in a foreign tongue. The early learning of poetry affords also this advantage, that it makes the study of the foreign language at once more interesting, than it can be

made by any other means; not to speak of the great intellectual benefit and enjoyment derived from an early and continuous cultivation of poetical taste in general<sup>1</sup>.

It was my father's intention to append a collection of poems to the first part of his *Modern German Reader*<sup>2</sup>; but for various reasons it was deemed advisable to issue a separate collection of poems which could either be used as a companion volume to the Reader, or might be used independently of it, and the task of editing this selection was confided to me.

I have endeavoured to make the present collection, as far as possible, a *graduated* one, and I have also included a number of new poems, not to be found, I believe, in similar selections. The majority of the pieces are extremely easy, but I have inserted some poems of a rather more difficult character, for the benefit of those who are endowed with a retentive memory, and who delight in learning by heart verses far beyond the average degree of difficulty. The ever-attractive play of *Rotkäppchen* has been added for the purpose of enabling young students of German to repeat poetry in the form of a dialogue. Those who have had any experience in class-teaching know what a pleasant change this kind of recitation makes

<sup>1</sup> From the Preface to 'German Poetry for Repetition,' edited with English Notes by Prof. C. A. Buchheim. Longmans.

<sup>2</sup> *Modern German Reader. A Graduated Collection of Prose Extracts. With English Notes, a Grammatical Appendix, and a Complete Vocabulary. Part I.* By Prof. C. A. Buchheim. Fifth Edition. Clarendon Press Series.

in the ordinary routine of school-work; and Tieck's *Rotkäppchen*, with its simple, homely language, is particularly well adapted for this purpose. In Germany the play is frequently acted in schools and private circles, the necessary stage arrangements presenting no difficulty.

The *Text* of this volume has been printed in clear large type, and the modern orthography has been introduced in the manner now prevalent in Germany.

As regards the editorial matter, it has been my principal aim to enable students to make out the meaning of the pieces, for a thorough understanding of a poem is the first requisite in learning it by heart<sup>1</sup>. As the book is intended for beginners, I have thought it right to provide abundant help, and I have therefore given, in the *Notes*, renderings of all difficult or idiomatic phrases and expressions, adding at the same time such grammatical explanations as are calculated to illustrate the *Text*, and the *Text* alone. To travel beyond this, I considered contrary to the task before me. On the whole, I must repeat, regarding the *Notes*, what I said in my preface to Chamisso's *Peter Schlemihl*, viz. that I have, with my father's permission, taken a number of his own notes from those of his works, published in the Clarendon Press Series, and that I have to the best of my ability used his annotations as models for my own.

The *Vocabulary* gives all the words contained in the

<sup>1</sup> Some exceedingly useful hints on the learning of poetry will be found in the Rev. R. H. Quick's excellent monograph, 'How to train the memory,' pp. 326-332.



*Text*, including the various forms of the strong or irregular verbs. The appended *Index* will, it is hoped, also be of service to those who may use this book, either for the learning of the poems, or for the purpose of merely reading them.

I have only to add, in conclusion, that I shall deem my labour amply rewarded if it contributes, in some degree at least, to impart to young English students a taste for German poetry, which is so much akin to the English, and so highly appreciated by the cultured in the great community all over the world.

E. S. B.

LONDON,  
*September, 1889.*

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