

**A REALIST OF THE
AEGEAN: BEING A
VERSE-TRANSLATION OF
THE MIMES OF HERODAS**

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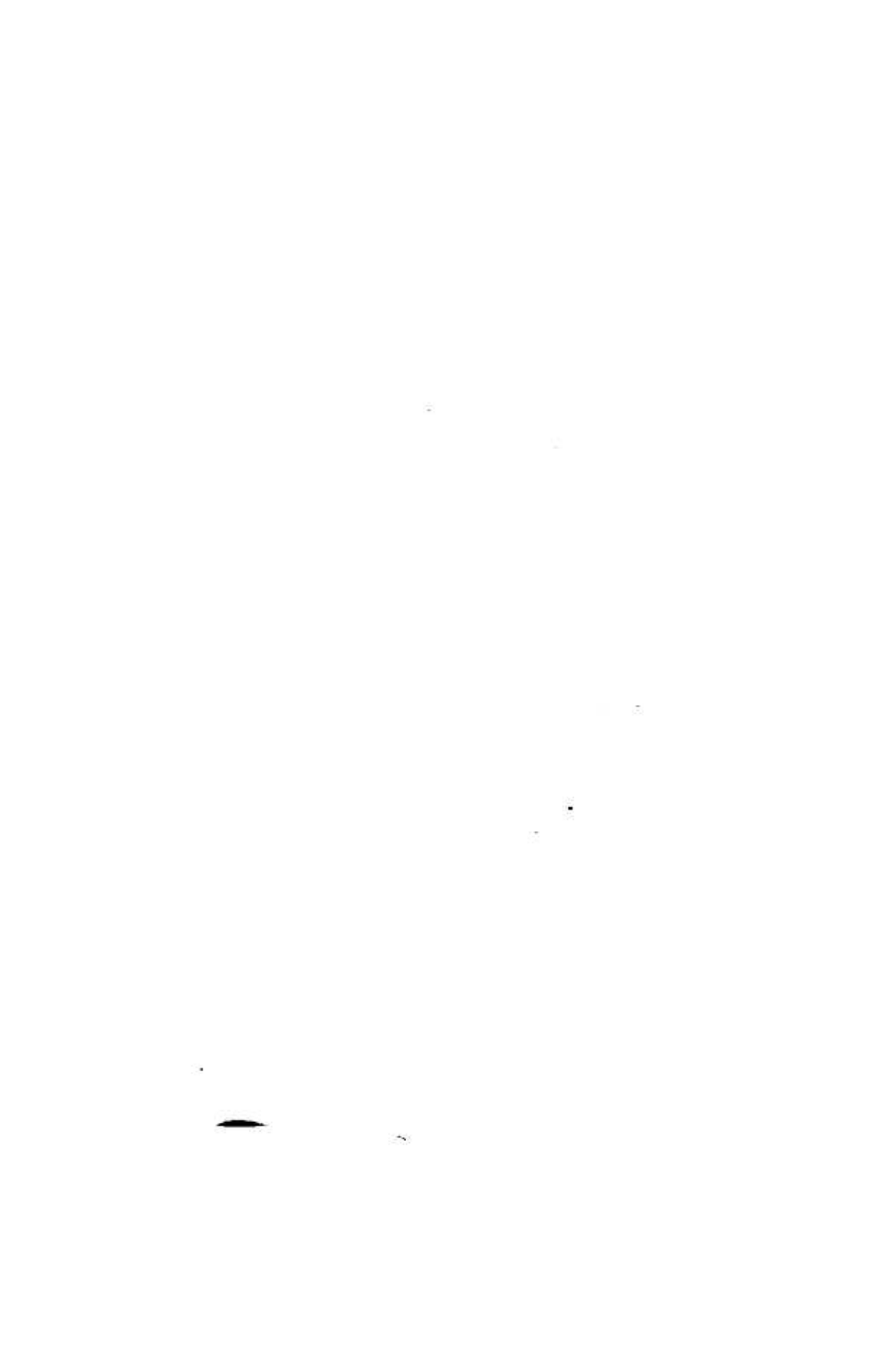
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THE MIMES OF HERODAS

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PREFACE

It is now fourteen years since, by the discovery in Egypt of a certain mutilated papyrus, a few of the *Mimes* of Herodas were restored to the world. From the very first they extorted the (sometimes reluctant) admiration of Greek scholars, by virtue of their wonderful technique and deft characterisation. Since 1891 they have been translated into at least four European languages, but never into English; they are now presented to English readers without further words of appreciation or criticism,¹ in order that they too may judge (so far as this version can help them) whether the scanty remains of this ancient artist deserve to be neglected.

The translator has endeavoured to keep closely to the Greek, and to avoid modern associations which were not justified by the original. No de-

¹ A masterly and concise article, from Dr. Headlam's pen, may be read in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* (tenth edition), vol. xxix., s.v. Herodas.

cipherable passages have been omitted, although certain phrases in the second Mime have been compressed or softened. It should be added that the use of the word "belt" in the sixth Mime is euphemistic.

Regular use has been made of the Greek texts of F. G. Kenyon (1891), W. G. Rutherford (1891), F. Bücheler (1892), O. Crusius (1900 and 1905), and J. A. Nairn (1904). The facsimile of the papyrus, issued by the British Museum in 1892, has naturally been of the greatest assistance, and the papyrus itself has been consulted on occasion. The readings adopted, where they differ from Mr. Nairn's text, have been tabulated in the Appendix, and the writer hopes to have an early opportunity of discussing some of them elsewhere.

The translator wishes to express his deep indebtedness to the many scholars, from Dr. Kenyon onwards, whose fruitful labours have made this translation possible: more especially to Dr. W. G. Headlam, whose memorable contributions to the study of Herodas (in the *Classical Review* and other journals) are but an earnest of what he is yet to give us; to Dr. Otto Crusius, for the great help derived from his critical notes and his *Untersuchungen zu den Mimiamben des Herodas*; and, not least, to

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the author of the only complete English commentary, Mr. J. A. Nairn.

The actual words of others have seldom been borrowed, but "angel's visit" (from Blair's *Grave*) on page 3 is due to Dr. Kynaston, "throbbing with life" (p. 27) to Mr. Nairn, and "punch his head" (pp. 33 and 45) to Dr. Headlam. Furthermore, the words of the seventeenth line on page 4 are strung together from a note written by the last-named scholar, and it may well happen that there are some other unconscious or forgotten reproductions. The foreign translations of the *Mimes* have been designedly left unread.

Hearty thanks are due from the translator to Dr. Rutherford, who gave the first kindly reading to these versions and made many helpful criticisms, and to several members of the translator's family for a like good office.

HEREFORD, *November 25th*, 1905.