

**GOETHE'S MINOR POEMS,
SELECTED, ANNOTATED
AND RE-ARRANGED**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649484515

Goethe's Minor Poems, Selected, Annotated and Re-Arranged by Albert M. Sells

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ALBERT M. SELSS

**GOETHE'S MINOR POEMS,
SELECTED, ANNOTATED
AND RE-ARRANGED**

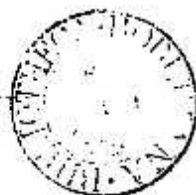
GOETHE'S
MINOR POEMS.

SELECTED, ANNOTATED AND RE-ARRANGED

BY

ALBERT M. SELSS, PH. D.;

M. A. AND SOMETIME SCHOLAR, TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN;
PROFESSOR OF GERMAN IN THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.



LONDON:

TRÜBNER & CO., LUDGATE HILL.

DUBLIN:

HODGES, FOSTER & CO., GRAFTON STREET.

1875.

285 . 0 . 178 .

P R E F A C E.

THE present volume is, as its title suggests, not a complete edition, but only a selection containing less than half of Goethe's *Gedichte*. It includes the majority of the lyrics and ballads, and all the more admired poems of Goethe, as well as such of his shorter effusions as throw light on the life and writings of the great poet. Beyond these limits the present work could not be extended, as it would otherwise have exceeded the proportions of an ordinary text-book. At the same time the Editor confesses that his regret in omitting so many of the 'Gedichte' is qualified by several considerations. Among the minor poems of the German master there is a good deal which possesses very little interest to an English reader. In this category may be placed the many complimentary verses addressed to persons little known in their own time, and wholly forgotten in ours. Such verses can hardly claim a place in a text-book of German literature.

Other poems of the illustrious author are too much in the tone of Aristophanes, to be suitable for readers of every class. Lastly, there are some verses, especially among the odes and the later productions of the great poet, which intermix so much allegory with their extremely rugged and slipshod diction as to puzzle and perfectly disappoint the reader who finds such lines side by side with Goethe's more finished pieces. These inequalities in the style of the author are the chief excuse which the Editor can offer for having ventured to abridge the *Gedichte*. If it be an error of judgment to have done so, the Editor is not the only offender. In Germany several distinguished scholars, among them one of Goethe's biographers, have set the example of publishing similar abridgments. Schäfer's '*Auswahl von Goethe's Gedichten für Schule und Haus*' may be mentioned as a book in some respects resembling the present; it is extremely popular in Germany, but as it does not contain notes, it is less useful to English than to German readers. A good commentary on Goethe's poems will be found in '*Goethe's Gedichte erläutert*', in three volumes, by Viehoff. But this work gives only occasional extracts from Goethe.

The Editor has not in any case altered the original text. He has supplied English titles, and prefixed or subjoined notes, wherever these were

absolutely required. The observations contained in the Introduction touch on all the literary questions, which the 'Gedichte' give rise to. In one respect only a radical change has been made. Following the advice of Viehoff, the Editor has substituted a chronological arrangement for the order of the poems generally adopted in the approved German editions. This has been done from a conviction that a constant reference to the dates, and a consequent knowledge of the author's time of life are highly desirable and often indispensable to the right understanding of the poems. As long as the compositions of an author are taken in the casual and unsystematic succession in which the accident of publication has left them, a correct view of the poems and a true estimate of their merits can hardly be formed. Each poem appears detached, and stands out of its historical connection; consequently its relative place in the life and works of the author is lost sight of — a thing particularly to be avoided in Goethe, that author having told us in many a page of his Autobiography that his works, one and all, embody personal experience, and that the key to all his writings must be sought in his life. The only means of carrying out this injunction is to 'pay the strictest regard to the author's biography, and this can best be effected by a chronological arrangement. The

view just advanced it is true would not apply with equal force to every writer. It would e. g. be of little consequence in what order we read the two hundred comedies of Kotzebue. But the case is different when we come to such writers as Shakspeare or Goethe. The reader who enters on the study of these authors has virtually *not one*, but two subjects to consider. Together with the poetry he must study the life of the writer. This principle has long been admitted in regard to Shakspeare. To apply it to Goethe is the chief aim of this little volume.

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.
EASTER, 1876.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
INTRODUCTION	XIII—XXXVI
Chronological survey of Goethe's Poems	XIII—XVII
The Songs	XVIII—XXI
The Odes	XXII—XXIII
The Ballads	XXIII—XXV
Aphorisms on Religion, Politics and Art	XXV—XXVI
Poems on scientific subjects and supposed Darwinism of Goethe	XXVII—XXX
Genealogy of the Goethe family	XXX
Genealogy of the Ducal family of Saxe Weimar . .	XXXI
The literary celebrities of Weimar	XXXII—XXXIII
Other celebrities mentioned in the Poems	XXXIV—XXXVI

THE MINOR POEMS OF GOETHE.

On his ancestry: <i>Som Vater hab' ich die Statur</i>	1
---	---

FIRST PERIOD. STUDENT YEARS. 1765—1771.

On Gottsched: <i>Gottsched ein Mann so groß</i>	2
<i>Ich sah den großen Mann</i>	2
On the statue of Gellert by Oeser: <i>Als Gellert der</i>	3
Wishes of young ladies: <i>Ich fände für mich</i>	3
Motives of young ladies: <i>Wenn einem Mädchen</i>	4
True enjoyment: <i>Umsonst daß du, ein Herz</i>	5
Dedication of the <i>Liederbuch</i> : <i>Da sind sie nun</i>	5