

DOURIS AND THE PAINTERS OF GREEK VASES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649455737

Douris and the Painters of Greek Vases by Edmond Pottier

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

EDMOND POTTIER

**DOURIS AND THE
PAINTERS OF
GREEK VASES**

DOURIS AND THE PAINTERS OF
GREEK VASES

DOURIS
AND THE PAINTERS
OF GREEK VASES

BY EDMOND POTTIER
MEMBRE DE L'INSTITUT

TRANSLATED BY
BETTINA KAHNWEILER

WITH A PREFACE BY
JANE ELLEN HARRISON
HON. D. LITT. DURHAM, HON. LL. D. ABERDEEN

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET, W.

1908

NU

18

19

20

21

22

DEDICATED
IN LOVE AND GRATITUDE TO
AUGUST LEWIS

PREFACE

THE translator of M. Pottier's monograph on *Douris* has kindly asked me to write, by way of preface, a few words on the relation of Greek vase-painting to Greek literature and to Greek mythology. I do this with the more pleasure because this relation has, I think, been somewhat seriously misunderstood, and M. Pottier's delightful monograph which, thanks to Miss Kahnweiler, is now given to us in English form, should do much to clear away misconception and to set the matter before us in a light at once juster and more vivid.

First let us consider for a moment the relation between Greek art and Greek literature.

In classical matters we are all of us, scholars and students alike, bred up in a tradition that is literary. Our earliest contact with the Greek mind is through Greek poets, historians, philosophers. This is well, for these remain—all said—the supreme revelation. But this priority of *literary* contact begets, almost inevitably, a

certain confusion of thought. Bred as we are in a literary tradition, we come later to be confronted with other utterances of the Greek mind, for example graphic art—vase-painting. This we naturally seek to relate to our earlier and purely literary conceptions. What has come to us second we instinctively make subordinate, ancillary. Greek art, and especially what we call a “minor art,” such as vase-painting, is the “hand - maid” of Greek poetry, or, to drop metaphor, the function of Greek art, is, we think, to illustrate Greek literature. Public and publisher alike demand nowadays that books on Greek literature, on Greek mythology, even editions of Greek plays, should be “illustrated” from Greek art.

By illustration is meant translation, the transference with the minimum of alteration of an idea expressed in one art into the medium of another. Were it possible in a work of art to separate the idea expressed from the form in which it is expressed, such transference might be an eligible and even elegant pastime. But every one knows that such separation of idea and form is in art impossible. Translation of poetry from one language to another is precarious, a thing only to be attempted by a poet; translation from one art to another is a task so