

**THE WORKS OF LUCIAN OF
SAMOSATA, COMPLETE WITH
EXCEPTIONS SPECIFIED IN THE
PREFACE. IN FOUR VOLUMES.
VOLUME I**

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The works of Lucian of Samosata, complete with exceptions specified in the preface. In four volumes. Volume I by Lucian of Samosata

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LUCIAN OF SAMOSATA

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THE WORKS OF LUCIAN OF SAMOSATA

Complete with exceptions specified in the preface

TRANSLATED BY

H. W. FOWLER AND F. G. FOWLER

IN FOUR VOLUMES

What work nobler than transplanting foreign thought into the barren domestic soil: except indeed planting thought of your own, which the fewest are privileged to do.—*Sartor Resartus*.

At each flaw, be this your first thought: the author doubtless said something quite different, and much more to the point. And then you may hiss *me* off, if you will.—LUCIAN, *Nigrinus*, 9.

(LUCIAN) The last great master of Attic eloquence and Attic wit.—*Lord Macaulay*.

VOLUME I

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PREFACE

THE text followed in this translation is that of Jacobitz, Teubner, 1901, all deviations from which are noted.

In the following list of omissions, italics denote that the piece is marked as spurious both by Dindorf and by Jacobitz. The other omissions are mainly by way of expurgation. In a very few other passages some isolated words and phrases have been excised; but it has not been thought necessary to mark these in the texts by asterisks.

Haleyon; *Deorum Dialogi*, iv, v, ix, x, xvii, xxii, xxiii; *Dialogi Marini*, xiii; *Vera Historia*, I. 22, II. 19; *Alexander*, 41, 42; *Eunuchus*; *De Astrologia*; *Amores*; *Lucius sive Asinus*; *Rhetorum Preceptor*, 23; *Hippias*; *Adversus Indoctum*, 23; *Pseudologista*; *Longaevi*; *Dialogi Meretricii*, v, vi, x; *De Syria Dea*; *Philopatris*; *Charidemus*; *Neco*; *Tragopodagra*; *Ocyphas*; *Epigrammata*.

A word may be said about four pieces that seem to stand apart from the rest. Of these, the *Trial in the Court of Fovels* and *A Slip of the Tongue* will be interesting only to those who are familiar with Greek. The *Lexiphanes* and *A Parist Purized*, satirizing the pedants and euphuists of Lucian's day, almost defy translation, and they must be accepted at best as an effort to give the general effect of the original.

The *Notes explanatory* at the end of vol. iv will be used by the reader at his discretion. Reference is made to them at the foot of the page only when it is not obvious what name should be consulted.

Preface

The translators take this opportunity of offering their heartiest thanks to the Delegates of the Clarendon Press for undertaking this work; and, in particular, to the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, Dr. Merry, who has been good enough to read the proofs, and to give much valuable advice both on the difficult subject of excision and on details of style and rendering. In this connexion, however, it should be added that for the retention of many modern phrases, which may offend some readers as anachronistic, responsibility rests with the translators alone.

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INTRODUCTION

1. LIFE.
2. PROBABLE ORDER OF WRITINGS.
3. CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TIME.
4. LUCIAN AS A WRITER.

It is not to be understood that all statements here made are either ascertained facts or universally admitted conjectures. The introduction is intended merely to put those who are not scholars, and probably have not books of reference at hand, in a position to approach the translation at as little disadvantage as may be. Accordingly, we give the account that commends itself to us, without discussion or reference to authorities. Those who would like a more complete idea of Lucian should read Croiset's *Essai sur la vie et les œuvres de Lucien*, on which the first two sections of this introduction are very largely based. The only objections to the book (if they are objections) are that it is in French, and of 400 octavo pages. It is eminently readable.

1. LIFE

With the exception of a very small number of statements, of which the truth is by no means certain, all that we know of Lucian is derived from his own writings. And any reader who prefers to have his facts at first rather than at second hand can consequently get them by reading certain of his pieces, and making the natural deductions from them. Those that contain biographical matter are, in the order corresponding to