

**YALE STUDIES IN
ENGLISH, XV.
ESSAYS ON THE STUDY
AND USE OF POETRY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649524785

Yale Studies in English, XV. Essays on the Study and Use of Poetry by Plutarch & Basil The Great & Frederick Morgan Padelford

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PLUTARCH & BASIL THE GREAT & FREDERICK MORGAN PADEFORD

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YALE STUDIES IN ENGLISH

ALBERT S. COOK, EDITOR

XV

ESSAYS ON THE STUDY AND USE
OF POETRY

BY

PLUTARCH AND BASIL THE GREAT

TRANSLATED FROM THE GREEK WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

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NEW YORK
HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY

1902

C 617.45

Harvard College
Apr. 21, 1928
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Cambridge

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TO
GEORGE DANA BOARDMAN PEPPER
AND
ADONIRAM JUDSON PADELFORD

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PREFACE

The recent very general interest in poetics has led me to prepare these translations of the essays on poetry by Plutarch and Basil the Great, in the hope that they may prove useful to students of literature. Although they were not epoch-making, these essays are worthy of consideration, for, besides their intrinsic value, they mark interesting stages in the history of poetic criticism.

The essay on *How a Young Man Ought to Study Poetry* was first rendered into English by Philemon Holland, who made a complete translation of the *Morals*, which was issued in octavo from the press of Arnold Hatfield, a London printer, in 1603. Its title reads as follows: 'The Philosophie, commonlie called *The Morals*, written by the learned Philosopher Plutarch of Chaeronea. Translated out of Greek into English, and conferred with the Latin translations and the French, by Philemon Holland of Coventrie, Doctor in Physicke. Whereunto are annexed the Summaries necessary to be read before every Treatise.' This version, though its archaism possesses an undeniable charm, is not altogether adapted to modern requirements. A second edition, 'newly revised and corrected,' appeared in 1657, and this was followed not many years later by the translation of the *Morals* 'by Several Hands,' published in London in 1684-1694. To this work Simon Ford contributed the version of the essay on *How a Young Man Ought to Study Poetry*. Ford's translation is clumsy, frequently obscure, and often wide of the Greek. In 1870 Professor Goodwin offered a corrected and revised text of this rendering of the *Morals*, and the fact that the sixth edition appeared in 1898 attests the usefulness of this revised version. However, of the essay under consideration much more than a revision of