

**THE LIFE OF  
HERODOTUS DRAWN  
OUT FROM HIS BOOK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649633807

The Life of Herodotus Drawn Out from His Book by F. C. Dahlmann & G. V. Cox

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Cover @ 2017

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**F. C. DAHLMANN & G. V. COX**

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LIFE OF HERODOTUS.

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THE  
LIFE OF HERODOTUS

DRAWN OUT

FROM HIS BOOK,

BY

PROFESSOR DAHLMANN,  
*OF BONN.*

TRANSLATED BY

G. V. COX, M.A.

*ESQUIRE BEDELL IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.*

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LONDON :

JOHN W. PARKER, WEST STRAND.

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**AUG 1946**

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## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

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If I took my author, Professor Dahlmann, as my pattern, I should allow his work in its English dress to appear without a word of Preface, as he has done by its German original. If I consulted, too, my own inclination, or considered only the smallness of my pretensions, the result would still have been a modest silence.

Custom, however, and the wishes of my respected Publisher, induce me to say a few words respecting the little work I have translated. They might have been more, but that I have already made my observations (perhaps too liberally and sometimes too freely) in my occasional notes.

I shall be dealing honestly with the readers of this Translation if I at once confess that the title of the book, "A Life of Herodotus, &c." is not quite a correct one, being considerably above and beyond its real character; nay, more than could *literally* be accomplished by any amount of labour or ingenuity. A *biography* of Herodotus it certainly is not; and for retaining the title I can only find my exculpation in my duty as a translator, and so throwing the responsibility on the right shoulders. The title in the original is this, "Herodot. Aus seinem Buche *sein Leben*." It is obvious, even to a superficial reader of Herodotus, that "his Work" really affords little or no materials for "a Life of him," at least in the ordinary sense of the term.

All then that could have been meant by Dr Dahlmann was, that his book was a *treatise upon the life* of Herodotus, or rather some detached incidents in his life in connexion with his work. Of these incidents the most prominent (as it is here intended to be proved) have been reported of him incorrectly, several without any real foundation, and some even contrary to the actual facts of the case. What these are will best be learnt from the "Treatise" itself; the two most important points being "the probable period of his life when he wrote his History," and "the story of his reciting his Work before the assembled Greeks at Olympia."

I do not undertake here to balance the questions which Professor Dahlmann has handled, nor even to pronounce how far he has succeeded in removing sundry false impressions respecting Herodotus, which from traditional repetition had almost grown into historical facts. The reader is rather invited to perform that task for himself.

The book itself has been for some time known and valued by German scholars in our Universities, and (as may be seen in an article, by the Rev. R. Scott, respecting it, in the *Classical Museum*, Vol. I. p. 188) it was recommended for translation to our lamented publisher, Mr Talboys.

As to Herodotus himself, "the father of history," and, I may add, of geography—it is not necessary for me to do more than refer to the vast labours, the "supellectile criticum" with which Valkenaer, Wesseling, Schweighæuser, Gaisford, Larcher, and a host of other eminent scholars, have illustrated his great Work.

It only remains that I add a word of apology to the distinguished writer, whose book I here introduce to the English Public, for the freedom of my remarks in some of my appended notes. If in his present honorable appointment at Bonn this attempt should ever meet his eye, I hope he will receive it indulgently from one who, like himself, is a grateful admirer of "the Halicarnassian," or, as he prefers to call him, "the Thurian."

Having said thus much I fall back into my character as a mere Translator.

G. V. C.

OXFORD,

Dec. 8, 1845.

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