

**FIRST GREEK READER: EASY  
SELECTIONS ADAPTED  
FROM XENOPHON AND  
THUCYDIDES**

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First Greek Reader: Easy Selections Adapted from Xenophon and Thucydides by Edward G. Coy

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**EDWARD G. COY**

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# FIRST GREEK READER

EASY SELECTIONS ADAPTED FROM

XENOPHON AND THUCYDIDES

AND INTRODUCTORY TO

THE ANABASIS OF XENOPHON

*With Dialogs and Exercises*

ADAPTED TO BOTH

HADLEY'S AND GOODWIN'S GRAMMARS.

BY

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## PREFACE.

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THE object of these simplified Selections is to assist beginners in acquiring ease and fluency in translating, "at a stage when otherwise they would either have had their attention confined to Grammar and Lessons-work, or would have had to struggle at translating authors whose style is really beyond them. Such a struggle evidently does not educate the boy or make him think. He is simply baffled and bewildered by having too many difficulties thrust at him at once; and either buys a word-for-word translation, or simply looks out the words without trying to connect them and discover a meaning.

"The essence of good teaching seems to me to lie in presenting to boys an infinite succession of problems, carefully graduated, of course, to the exact stage of their progress. POWER is what we want; and the feeling of getting on, the feeling of *doing something* with one's knowledge, the pleasure of following a connected story — all awakens interest, makes the brain and heart

work with eye and ear, intelligence with memory, and gives, in fact, that sense of power which is one of the chief sources of power itself. . . . . If the chief aim of our teaching is to develop intelligence, we cannot afford to dispense with the exercise of it at any stage."<sup>1</sup> The method of true scholarship is, therefore, the best method in education. It may not prove the shortest or easiest road to a stated examination; but, in the words of an eminent German scholar, *Qui examinibus studet, perverse studet.*

The selections from Xenophon, besides affording suitable materials for translating, include the leading details of the entire story of the Ten Thousand — four books of the "Anabasis" within sixty-eight pages; and will not only furnish a boy who has read them carefully with a good Xenophontic vocabulary, but also enable him to undertake a thorough study of the "Anabasis" with something of the advantage with which he would begin a book in his mother tongue.<sup>2</sup> The remaining selections will afford further materials for easy and instructive exercises in prepared translation, or in reading at sight. Taken mostly from Thucydides,—the history of the Peloponnesian war — they give some in-

<sup>1</sup> Phillpotts.

<sup>2</sup> To the same ends, Phillpott's "Selections from Xenophon" may be read preliminary to the selections from the Hellenica in "Goodwin's Greek Reader."

teresting details of that long and momentous struggle between Athens and Sparta for the supremacy of Greece.

These Adaptations have been somewhat graduated, so that at the beginning they are easier than further on; and they have no augmented forms within the first hundred lines. They may be taken up by a class as soon as it has reached page 84 of "Coy's Mayor's Greek Lessons," or page 122 of White's "First Lessons in Greek."

The way in which the book should be used has been sufficiently suggested in the first and third paragraphs of this Preface.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, I would emphatically commend for the class-room the practice of having each boy read the Greek of his passage *after* he has given the translation. With the sense thus vividly brought to mind, the boy can give his reading with far more expression.

The selections from the "Anabasis" are based on an edition by C. S. Jerram conjointly with J. S. Phillpotts, Clarendon Press Series; from the Preface of which I have made some quotations. My first intention was to use their book with my classes; but I found it so defaced with errors as to be unfit for service. Moreover, their 'adaptations' often consisted in needless and

<sup>1</sup> Cf. also especially I. 4; II. 1; III. 1, of the *Hints on Translating*.



undesirable departures from the readings and vocabulary of Xenophon. The original has been restored in such places; and the text as now given can be read with the ordinary lexicons for the "Anabasis."

The remaining selections have been taken, with scarcely any changes, from a book of "Stories in Attic Greek," by F. D. Morice, London. The Notes on this portion of the book will also furnish the meanings of the less common words.

Experience has shown that, other things being equal, a class which reads these Selections before beginning the "Anabasis" will, within a given time, easily overtake a class which has meanwhile been confined to the "Anabasis" alone; and, besides greater proficiency in translating, will have acquired broad and fundamental knowledge of the syntax of sentences.

ANDOVER, MASS., 1886.

P R E F A C E  
T O T H E T H I R D E D I T I O N .

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The present edition of the Reader differs from its predecessors chiefly in containing a few exercises in syntax, through translation from English into Greek. These exercises are not offered, however, as models of such sight-work for the class-room as is recommended on page 116; though that end, also, may be incidentally served. They are designed, rather, to furnish a summary presentation of such idioms as require of the student more than ordinary attention. Conditional sentences and supplementary participles are thus set forth with separate and fuller treatment.

What use shall be made of these exercises must depend on circumstances; which will usually vary with classes, even in the same school. It will sometimes be found best to make them introductory to the regular work from the Greek text; for other classes they will prove more serviceable when used by way of review, after considerable experience has been gained through the ordinary practice; sooner or later, however, they

should be so thoroughly mastered and become so familiar that the corresponding Greek can be given orally or in writing with the utmost accuracy and fluency.

For the sight-work of the class-room above referred to, I am not sure that any better special preparation can be made than by first translating the Greek into English, and then practising retranslation till the Greek can be reproduced with few, if any, mistakes. The chief objection to set exercises as preparation for class-work is, that they divert the student's attention from the Greek itself, on which it ought to be concentrated as his main authority and guide.

The "Hints towards a Method of Study" are inserted in response to continued requests for something of this kind.

The favor with which the Reader has been received by those who have examined and used it encourages the belief that it will now be found still more acceptable in the service for which it has been prepared.

ANDOVER, MASS., 1889.