

**THE ANCIENT BOEOTIANS:  
THEIR CHARACTER AND  
CULTURE, AND THEIR  
REPUTATION**

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The Ancient Boeotians: Their Character and Culture, and Their Reputation by W. Rhys Roberts

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*Boetia ÷s.*

[*Pind. Olymp. vi. 90.*]

Summos posse viros et magna exempla daturus  
Vervecum in patria crassoque sub aere nasci.

*Juv. Sat. x. 49.*

BY

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## PREFACE.

*The proverb **Boeotian swine**, printed on the title-page of this volume, was ancient in Pindar's time; it is still more ancient now; and notwithstanding the predictions of the outspoken foes and the faint-hearted friends of classical study, it is likely to continue to be known, in its original Greek form, for centuries to come.*

*But truth is more enduring even than Greek, and its writings are in many characters. Through records on the graven stone, or through the remains of art, it sets men thinking, and bids them examine anew all purely literary judgments, and especially such as would summarily condemn a whole people.*

*In the case of the Boeotians this sifting of all the evidence, old and new, has not yet been undertaken, and justice to a much decried race seems to demand a short separate inquiry, with the design of showing that there are many sides to this as to other questions, and that the side of which the least has been heard is not the least pleasant and not the least true.*

*The greater part of this small volume was written last summer in the beautiful city of St Andrews, with the aid of the resources of that fine Library which is a lawful source of pride to the venerable University with whose growth it has grown. It has often been thought and said that the Ancient Boeotians paid undue heed to the development of their bodies. However this may be, we may*

*all recognise that not the least of the attractions of St Andrews is the many-sided view of life which it presents. No 'Boeotian' of modern days can well forget, though his own interest may centre in the Links, that he is visiting the seat of the oldest Scottish university and the place where George Wishart suffered and John Knox preached.*

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A word of personal acknowledgment must be added. Many friends have taken an interest in this book, but special thanks are due to Dr Edwin A. Abbott, whose unflinching kindness none know so well as his former pupils at the City of London School.

It should be mentioned that the map is a reproduction of one which will be found in the first volume of Mr H. G. Dakyns' *Works of Xenophon*. It is based on the map of Greece issued by the Military Geographical Institute of Vienna. A slight alteration in the title will be noticed. For once Boeotia has been given precedence, and we read 'Boeotia and Attica' in place of the customary 'Attica and Boeotia.'

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NORTH WALES, BANGOR.  
February 9, 1895.

