

**MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS,
BOSTON. CATALOGUE OF
GREEK, ETRUSCAN AND
ROMAN VASES**

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Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Catalogue of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Vases by Edward Robinson

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EDWARD ROBINSON

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GREEK, ETRUSCAN AND
ROMAN VASES**





MUSEUM · OF
FINE · ARTS
BOSTON † †

CATALOGUE OF GREEK ETRUSCAN
AND ROMAN VASES
BY EDWARD ROBINSON CURATOR
OF CLASSICAL ANTIQUITIES

BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY
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PREFACE.

IN the present catalogue the Museum of Fine Arts desires to offer to archaeologists an exact description of the vases in its classical collection, and to the general public some assistance in learning to appreciate the qualities which give Greek vases an interest possessed by few classes of ancient monuments. The accomplishment of this twofold task is difficult within the limits of one book, and especially so when the size and character of the book are restricted, as those of a catalogue must necessarily be. The technical description of a vase, in the formulas now universally adopted in archaeological works, is dull if not incomprehensible to those who are not specialists in the subject; whereas the attempt to stop and explain, in every case, why this or that fact is noted, would undoubtedly lead to confusion in one class of readers, and exasperation in another, and would moreover prolong the descriptions indefinitely. Therefore the book has been divided into two parts,—the Catalogue proper, which has been prepared primarily for those who make a special study of Greek ceramics, that they may be informed of what this museum contains; and an Introduction, intended for those who are interested in the subject, but know little about it. In the latter are included a *résumé* of the history of Greek pottery, with descriptions of the different types, an account of the manufacture of Greek vases in the best periods of the art, and a list of the Greek potters whose names survive. For the illustration of characteristics which are described or alluded to, reference is constantly made to vases in our collection, to which the Introduction therefore serves in some degree as a guide or commentary.

Should an apology be needed for the insertion of such an essay in a catalogue, it is readily found in the fact that so little attention is given in our country to the study of Greek pottery. The majority of cultivated people still speak of the red and black vases as "Etruscan," and are wholly unaware of the great advances which, by the aid of these, are being made in our knowledge of all departments of Greek life. Whether for their artistic value, or as illustrations of the history of that wonderful civilization of which they are the modest but sympathetic witnesses, they are worthy of the most careful study that can be given them,—a study which brings its own reward in its fascination.

The author wishes to acknowledge his especial indebtedness to Furtwängler's valuable catalogue of the vases in the Berlin Museum, the method of classification in which he has followed so far as the great difference in the size and character of the two collections made it practicable to do so.

The full-page illustrations were drawn by Mr. Hermann D. Murphy, with the exception of No. 394, which is by Mr. Joseph Lindon Smith. The drawings illustrating the forms of the vases are by Mr. Robert S. Shedd. These are not reproduced to scale, though as a rule the relative sizes of the specimens are suggested. Where, however, clearness of detail, or other considerations, rendered it advisable, this rule has been varied.

In a first attempt at a scientific classification of a collection like the present, in which many of the specimens are of uncertain or unknown provenance, it is probable that mistakes have occurred. The author asks indulgence for these, and will be grateful to have his attention called to them.

BOSTON, *September, 1893.*



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