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978-1-107-45642-6 - Greek Votive Offerings: An Essay in the History of Greek Religion.

William Henry Denham Rouse

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GREEK  
VOTIVE OFFERINGS

AN ESSAY IN THE HISTORY OF  
GREEK RELIGION.

BY

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## PREFACE.

IN ancient times Polemon wrote an account of the votive offerings on the Acropolis of Athens in four books<sup>1</sup>, and another of those in Lacedaemon<sup>2</sup>; Menetor wrote also a book on votive offerings<sup>3</sup>. Since their day the subject has met with scant attention; there is no general work dealing with it, and I know only of Tomasio's book<sup>4</sup> on Roman votive offerings, the pamphlets of Reisch and Ziemann<sup>5</sup>, and the articles in the Dictionaries of Smith, of Daremberg and Saglio, and in Pauly's *Realencyclopädie* (*Donarium, Donaria*). A number of essays have, however, appeared on special parts of the subject, particularly in the archaeological journals, which will be found cited in the notes to this book. Most of them have their value, but it consists chiefly in their collection and presentation of facts. I have not wittingly used the work of others without acknowledgment; but inasmuch as most of my collections were made before I met with the books and articles alluded to, I have not thought it necessary to refer to these for quotations which we have found independently. I must particularly mention, however, Mr J. G. Frazer's *Pausanias*, which has been of great help in revising my book.

<sup>1</sup> Strabo, ix. 396; Athenaeus, xi. 472 B, xiii. 587 C Πολεμῶν ἐν τοῖς περὶ ἀκροπόλεως.

<sup>2</sup> Athenaeus, xiii. 574 C. Πολεμῶν ἐν τῷ περὶ τῶν ἐν Λακεδαίμονι ἀναθημάτων.

<sup>3</sup> Athenaeus, xiii. 574 C. Μενέτωρ ἐν τῷ περὶ ἀναθημάτων.

<sup>4</sup> Jacobi Philippi Tomasini, Episcopi Aemoniensis, *De Donariis ac tabellis votivis*, liber singularis, Patavii, 1654. Ziemann mentions another: P. Kunz, *Sacra et Profana ἀναθημάτων Historia*, 1729.

<sup>5</sup> See list of abbreviations.

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In the present essay I have attempted first to set forth the facts in some convenient order, then to deduce principles from them: the only possible plan in dealing with a subject which has never been fully investigated, and where explanations are commonly assumed as axioms without an attempt at proof. I began my work with a few of these ready-made theories, which so impressively enunciated seemed to be no more open to suspicion than Caesar's wife; to my surprise, as the evidence displayed itself, I saw them drop away one by one, and since the conclusions I have been led to are very different from what I expected, I may fairly claim that they are due to no prejudice. If those who prefer the old assumptions can give reasons for their faith, I am willing to learn; the true test of my own suggestions will be, whether future discoveries will fall readily into their proper place. It has interested me greatly to see that this subject, in itself apparently of small account, yet throws light on more than one great principle; and after the ten years' work which has gone to make this book, I seem to see far more clearly than I did the sincerity and simplicity of Greek religion in the great age, and the elements of corruption which finally brought it to nought. In this history there are not wanting apt illustrations of modern tendencies, which have more than antiquarian interest.

I tried to make my collection of facts complete; but so large was the mass of them that they could not all be presented. Certain classes of dedications, such as those of honorific statues, could without loss be dealt with summarily; and, in general, there is little to interest in dedications which are later than the fourth century. Before that date I have not wittingly omitted anything of note or significance. The most arduous part of the task has been to sift the archaeological finds. If in the hundreds of journals and periodicals much has been overlooked, the only excuse I can offer is that the book was written at Tomi, where there are no libraries, and therefore the time available for the search has been a week stolen here and there from leisure. It should also be remembered, that with a few exceptions (such as the Asclepius and hero reliefs) even the pioneer work of collection and comparison had not

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been done. When we have a *Corpus* of Reliefs, and more exact descriptions of the figures of all sorts which have been discovered in sanctuaries, it is quite possible that many obscurities may be cleared up, and mistakes corrected. This being so, it may seem rash to have published this book so soon; but after all, one might have waited until the Greek Kalends. It is something to have the available facts collected, which I have tried to do: if the future should bring more light for them, I shall be the first to welcome it. The only criticism which I shall not welcome is a vain repetition of old shibboleths, some at least of which I think this volume ought to destroy.

Although it was no part of my purpose to record foreign parallels, I have done so wherever I happened to know of anything to the point. It was, however, all along my intention to include modern survivals; and therefore I have described at some length the practices which now hold in the Levant. I speak chiefly from my own knowledge of these; but where other travellers have recorded similar scenes, I have generally added a reference to their works.

In the inscriptions which are cited below, restored letters are printed in thick type; and the iota adscript is printed in line, not beneath, where it is found on the stone. Where it is printed subscript I have copied my authority; in such cases there was no exact transcription available.

Proper names have been spelt in the traditional way; but Greek epithets, and some names not familiar in Latin form, keep the Greek spelling. In this matter it seems better to be inconsistent than pedantic, and nothing is gained by dubbing an old acquaintance Aischulos or Thoukudides.

I am well aware of the faults of this essay; but those who have not attempted to deal with the subject will not readily believe, how difficult it has been to present the material in anything like a clear arrangement. For one thing, there is its bulk; for another, its incompleteness. It was necessary to choose between two alternatives: either to adopt one uniform classification, and in each section to fill in such heads as were there represented; or to classify the matter in each chapter in the way most convenient, and to leave the general scheme to

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develop itself in the final survey. The former plan would have left in several chapters ugly gaps, and would have made it difficult to find a place for a great deal of my material; I therefore chose the latter. It is a drawback, no doubt, that the arrangement thus differs in the different chapters, some of which deal with specified groups of divinities and others with specified occasions: but in my opinion the gain is great, in that the theories of explanation are not assumed, but evolve themselves.

I have to thank the administrators of the Worts Fund for a grant of £50, which in the year 1896 enabled me to visit the museums of Sparta, Smyrna, Samos, Odessa, and Petersburg. Dr Waldstein and Dr de Cou, with the true scholar's generosity, have allowed me to quote from their unpublished discoveries in the Heraeum; and M. Haussoullier also was so good as to send me a copy of some inscriptions found by him at Branchidae. My thanks are due also to Prof. E. Gardner and Prof. Rhys Roberts, who did me the service of reading and criticising the proofs; to the Council of the Anthropological Institute, who kindly allowed me to use two plates from Major Temple's article referred to below (p. 391<sup>1</sup>); and to Prof. Ridgeway for the loan of several blocks from his *Early Age of Greece*.



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- AA. *Archaeologischer Anzeiger*: Beiblatt zum Jahrbuch, *q.v.*  
 AJA. *American Journal of Archaeology and of the History of the Fine Arts*. Princeton University Press, 1886—1896, *New Series*, 1897—  
 AM. *Mittheilungen des deutschen archaeologischen Instituts: Athenische Abtheilung*, 1876—  
 Ann. *Annali dell' Instituto archaeologico di Roma*.  
 Ant. Denk. *Antike Denkmäler*, herausgegeben vom kaiserlich deutschen archäologischen Institut. Berlin, Reimer, 1887—1891.  
 AZ. *Archaeologische Zeitung*, 1843—  
 Baumeister. *Denkmäler des klassischen Altertums*. München und Leipzig, 1885.  
 BCH. *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique*. Paris, 1877—  
 Bronzen = *Ergebnisse*.  
 Bull. *Bulletino dell' Instituto archaeologico di Roma*.  
 Carapanos. *Dodone et ses ruines*.  
 Cat. Ath. Mus. Sc. *Γλυπτὰ τοῦ Ἐθνικοῦ Μουσείου· κατάλογος περιγραφικὸς ὑπὸ Π. Καββαδία. Ἐν Ἀθήναις· ἐκ τοῦ τοπογραφείου Σ. Κ. Βλάστου*. i. 1890—92.  
 Cat. Acr. Mus. *Κατάλογος τοῦ Μουσείου τῆς Ἀκροπόλεως ὑπὸ Π. Καστριώτου*. 1895.  
 Cat. Acr. Mus. Br. *Catalogue des Bronzes trouvées sur l'acropole d'Athènes*.  
 Cat. Berl. Sc. *Beschreibung der Antiken Skulpturen mit Anschluss der Pergamenischen Fundstücke*. Berlin, Spemann, 1891.  
 Cat. Br. Mus. *Catalogue of the Bronzes in the British Museum: Greek, Roman and Etruscan*, by H. B. Walters. 1899.  
 Cat. Br. Mus. Sc. *A Catalogue of Sculpture in the department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, British Museum*. By A. H. Smith, M.A. London. Printed by order of the Trustees. Vol. i. 1892, Vol. ii. 1900.  
 Cat. Cypr. Mus. *A Catalogue of the Cyprus Museum*. By John L. Myres and Max Ohnefalsch-Richter. Clarendon Press, 1899.

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## ABBREVIATIONS.

- CIA. Corpus Inscriptionum Atticarum, consilio et auctoritate Academiae litterarum Regiae Borussicae editum. Berlin, Reimer, I.—IV. 1873—
- CIG. Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum. Böckh, I.—IV.
- Coll. Sab. Furtwängler: Collection Sabouloff. Vols. I. and II.
- Collitz. Sammlung der griechischen Dialektinschriften.
- Dar. and Sagl. Dictionnaire des Antiquités Grecques et Romaines. Paris, Hachette, 1877—
- Ἐφ. Ἀρχ. Ἐφημερὰς Ἀρχαιολογική. Athens, 1837—
- Ergebnisse. Olympia: Die Ergebnisse der von dem deutschen Reich veranstalteten Ausgrabungen. Vol. III. Bronzen, Vol. IV. Inschriften. Berlin, v.d.
- Farnell. Cults of the Greek States. Vols. I. and II. Clarendon Press, 1896.
- Furtwängler = Coll. Sab.
- F-W. Die Gipsabgüsse Antiker Bildwerke: von Carl Friedrichs, neu bearbeitet von Paul Wolters. Berlin, Spemann, 1885.
- Gaz. Arch. Gazette Archaeologique, 1875—1889.
- Girard. Paul Girard, L'Asclépieion d'Athènes. Paris, Thorin, 1881.
- IGA. Inscriptiones Graecae Antiquissimae praeter Atticas in Attica repertas, edidit Hermannus Roehl. Berlin, Reimer, 1882.
- IGI. Inscriptiones Graecae Insularum Maris Aegei. Berlin, Reimer. I. Rhodi, Chalces, Carpathi cum Saro, Casi. F. Hiller de Gärtringen, 1895. II. Lesbi, Nesi, Tenedi. Gulielmus R. Paton, 1899. III. Symes, Teutlaseae, Teli, Nisyri, Astypaleae, Anaphes, Therae et Therasiae, Pholegandri, Meli, Cimoli. F. Hiller de Gärtringen, 1898.
- IGS. Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum Graeciae Septentrionalis. Berlin, Reimer. I. Inscriptiones Graecae Megaridis, Oropiae, Boeotiae, edidit Gulielmus Dittenberger, 1892. III. 1. Inscriptiones Graecae Phocidis, Locridis, Aetoliae, Acarnaniae, Insularum Maris Ionii, edidit Gulielmus Dittenberger, 1897.
- IGSI. Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum Siciliae et Italiae, edidit Georgius Kaibel. Berlin, Reimer, 1890.
- IPI. Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum Peloponnesi et Insularum Vicinarum. I. Inscriptiones Graecae Aeginae, Pityonesi, Cecryphaliae, Argolidis, edidit Maximilianus Fraenkel. Berlin, Reimer, 1902.
- Inshr. von Ol. = Ergebnisse.
- Jahrb. Jahrbuch des kaiserlich deutschen archaeologischen Instituts. Berlin, Reimer, 1886—
- Jahreshefte. Jahreshefte des österreichischen archaeologischen Instituts in Wien. Wien, 1888—
- Kat. Κατάλογος τοῦ ἐν Ἀθήναις Ἐπιγραφικοῦ Μουσείου ἐκδιδομένης ὑπὸ τῆς Ἀρχαιολογικῆς ἑταιρείας. Τόμος I. Ἐπιγραφαὶ ἐκ τῆς Ἀκροπόλεως· Τεύχος I. Ἀρχαῖκα Ἀναθηματικὰ Ἐπιγραφαὶ ὑπὸ H. G. Lolling. Ἐν Ἀθήναις· ἐκ τοῦ τυπογραφείου τῶν ἀδελφῶν Πέρρη, 1899.

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- Mon. Ant. Monumenti Antichi, pubblicati per cura della reale Accademia dei Lincei. Hopli, Milano, 1889—
- Mon. et Mém. Monuments et Mémoires, publiés par l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-lettres. Paris, Leroux, 1894—
- Mon. Grec. Monuments Grecs, publiés par l'association pour l'encouragement des études grecques en France. Paris, Maisonneuve, 1872—1897.
- Mus. It. Museo Italiano di Antichità Classica, diretto da Domenico Comparetti. Firenze, 1885—1890.
- Notizie. Notizie degli Scavi.
- Preller, *Gr. M.* Griechische Mythologie.
- Reisch. Griechische Weihgeschenke: Abhandlungen des Archaeologisch-Epigraphischen Seminars der Universität Wien, VIII. Wien, 1890.
- Rev. Arch. Revue Archaeologique, publiée sous la direction de MM. Alex. Bertrand et G. Perrot. Paris, Leroux, 1845—
- Ridder, *Cat. Acr. Mus. Br.* Catalogue des Bronzes trouvés sur l'Acropole d'Athènes, par A. de Ridder. Paris, Thorin, 1896.
- Ridgeway, *Currency.* Origin of Currency and Weight Standards, by W. Ridgeway. Cambridge University Press, 1892.
- Ridgeway, *Early Age.* The Early Age of Greece, by W. Ridgeway. Cambridge University Press, i. 1901.
- RM. Mittheilungen des deutschen archaeologischen Instituts: Römische Abtheilung.
- Roberts. An Introduction to Greek Epigraphy, by E. S. Roberts. Cambridge University Press, i. 1887.
- Roscher. Lexikon der Mythologie.
- Schöne. Griechische Reliefs aus Athenischen Sammlungen, von Richard Schöne. Leipzig, Breitkopf und Härtel, 1872.
- Sybel. Katalog der Sculpturen zu Athen, von Ludwig von Sybel. Marburg, 1881.
- Ziemann. Franciscus Ziemann, De Anathematicis Graecis. Dissertatio Inauguralis. Regimonti Borussorum, 1885.

## ERRATUM.

p. 231, line 2. *Dele* reference to illustration.

## ADDENDA.

- p. 257. Figures of nursing mothers are in the Museum at Eleusis.
- p. 294. A r. f. vase found at Eleusis represents scenes from the Mysteries, and is inscribed in golden letters *Δημητριά Δημητρὶ ἀνέθηκεν* (*Mon. et Mém.* vii. pl. iv.).
- p. 298. *infra*: Croesus sent golden cows to Ephesus (Herod. i. 92).
- p. 384. I omitted to notice that there is a late dedication of the thyrsus to Aphrodite (*Anth. Pal.* xiii. 24).