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978-1-108-01200-3 - Theatre of the Greeks: A Series of Papers Relating to the History and Criticism of the Greek Drama

John William Donaldson

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### Theatre of the Greeks

Sometimes accused of privileging controversy over scholarly restraint, the philologist John William Donaldson (1811–1861) was a precocious talent. Only twenty-five when this book was first published in 1836, he was already a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and would live to see his book appear in numerous editions. Revisiting the subject of a successful book published a decade earlier by P.W. Buckham (died 1829), a fellow of St. John's College, Donaldson's colourful new approach proved popular with readers. The appeal of his writing endures, and few can resist his invitation to 'strip our thoughts of their modern garb' and escape into a world of dramatic comedy and tragedy. From the historical account of Thespis, the forefather of Western acting, to an engaging analysis of Euripides and Sophocles, this introduction retains all of the appeal that made it a standard text on the Victorian student's bookshelf.

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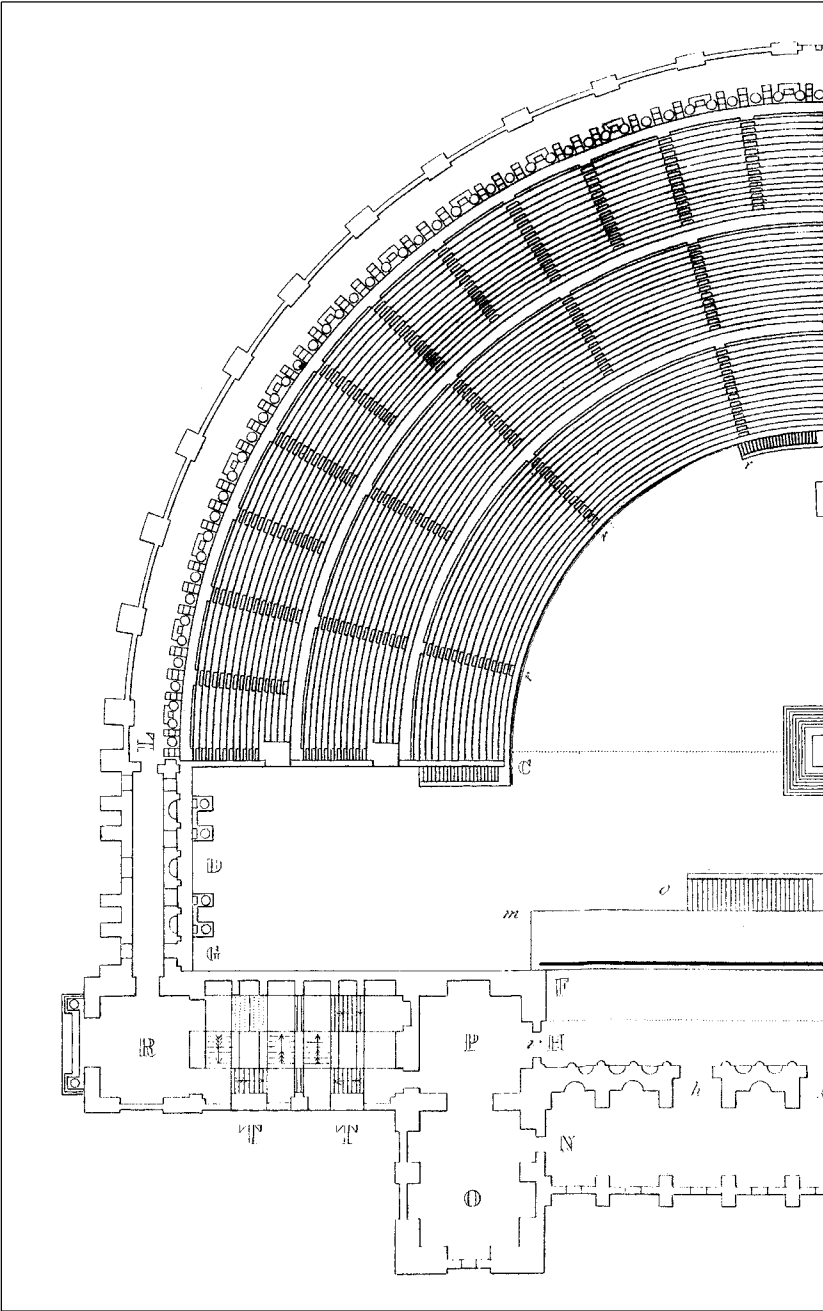
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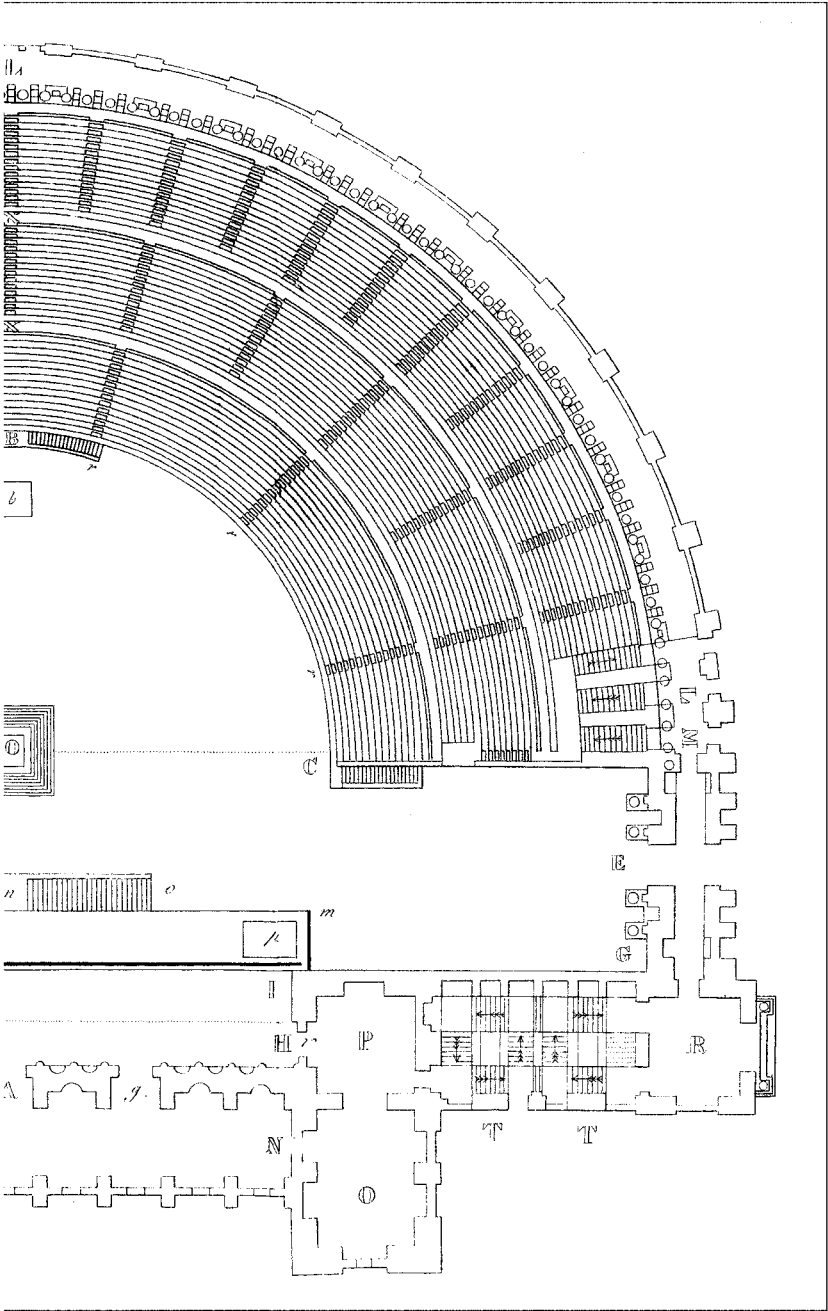
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*Storer sc Cambridge.*

*Plan of the Theatre*

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*Theatre of Bacchus at Athens.*

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THE  
  
THEATRE OF THE GREEKS,  
  
A SERIES OF PAPERS  
  
RELATING TO  
  
THE HISTORY AND CRITICISM  
  
OF  
  
THE GREEK DRAMA.

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FOURTH EDITION.  
WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION AND OTHER ALTERATIONS.

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BY  
  
JOHN WILLIAM DONALDSON, B.A.  
  
FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

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## P R E F A C E

TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

THE present Edition of the “Theatre of the Greeks” differs from the preceding in several particulars.

It appears from the advertisement to the last edition that the former Editor intended to make some important alterations in his introductory sketch, and I regret that he has been prevented by the pressure of other engagements from continuing and completing what he had so well begun. As I do not concur with him in many of the opinions there expressed, and could not of course venture to reconstruct his materials according to my own views, I have been compelled to substitute for the former Introduction a new Treatise on the same subject. I have, however, retained the description of the Theatre, which is, I believe, a correct abridgment of Genelli. If I have made any other use of my predecessor’s labours, I trust I have always acknowledged my obligations to him. The narrow limits imposed upon me by the nature of the work, the demand for a new edition, and my own insufficient leisure in the mean time, have not allowed me



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PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

to attempt more than a rough outline of the subject, which will, I hope, furnish the young student with a correct general notion of the leading distinctions between the Greek Drama and that of modern Europe: those who wish to prosecute the subject farther will find in the remainder of this collection, and in the works referred to at the end of the Introduction, the sum of nearly all that has been written on the Theatre of the Greeks.

The Extracts from Twining's Aristotle have been replaced by the whole translation. The divisions are those of Bekker's text.

In the Extracts from Bentley I have merely added marginal references to the pages of the original dissertation.

The Selections from Schlegel's Lectures have been revised by the gentleman who translated them for the last edition.

Mr Tate's Treatise on Metres has been more correctly reprinted from the separate work, and I have to thank that eminent scholar for some additions to his syntactical remarks in pp. 493—496. 499. 504, 505. 507.

The passages from Elmsley's review of Porson's *Hecuba* have been omitted, as they did not seem likely to serve any important purpose; I have also thought it better to substitute one judicious paper on each of the three

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tragedians for the collections of questions which appeared at the end of the last edition. I need hardly mention that the Index is new.

My absence from England has prevented me from correcting the press of more than the first few sheets; for the accuracy with which the bulk of the work is printed I am indebted to Mr J. Ind Smith, B.A., of Trinity College.

MUNICH, *2nd August*, 1836.

E R R A T A.

PAGE	LINE		ERROR.	CORRECTION.
1	3	<i>from bottom</i>	Poetry	Poetic
3	3	.....	connection	connexion
4	8	.....	äusserlich	äusserlich
11	22	.....	hyporchene	Hyporcheme
14	7	.....	(Le) luna	(Se) luna
	5	.....	Or	On
17	1		elementry	elementary
	14	<i>from bottom</i>	opinions	opinion
22	2	.....	χορεύσμαι	χορεύσομαι
26	3	.....	Iter	Πter
36	2	.....	See Welcker	See Welcker's Nachtrag
37	7	.....	Βραυραπίοις	Βραυρωνίοις
52	6		seems	seem
54	3	<i>from bottom</i>	κατασκήν	κατασκευήν
59	9		Phrynicus	Phrynichus
60	5		ditto	ditto
61	2	<i>from bottom</i>	ὑποσχήματος	ὑπορχήματος
75	3		conspiritors	conspirators
95	10	<i>from bottom</i>	Nazranzenus	Nazianzenus
116	11		Pantaguelist	Pantagruelist
136	15	<i>from bottom</i>	Phalarus	Phalaris
201	5	.....	ΑΥΤΟΣΚΕΔΙΑ	ΑΥΤΟΣΧΕΔΙΑ
448	1		Comic Masters	Comic Masks

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