

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05659-5 - *Museum Criticum: Or, Cambridge Classical Researches: Volume 2*

Edited by Charles James Blomfield and James Henry Monk

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From the Renaissance to the nineteenth century, Latin and Greek were compulsory subjects in almost all European universities, and most early modern scholars published their research and conducted international correspondence in Latin. Latin had continued in use in Western Europe long after the fall of the Roman empire as the lingua franca of the educated classes and of law, diplomacy, religion and university teaching. The flight of Greek scholars to the West after the fall of Constantinople in 1453 gave impetus to the study of ancient Greek literature and the Greek New Testament. Eventually, just as nineteenth-century reforms of university curricula were beginning to erode this ascendancy, developments in textual criticism and linguistic analysis, and new ways of studying ancient societies, especially archaeology, led to renewed enthusiasm for the Classics. This collection offers works of criticism, interpretation and synthesis by the outstanding scholars of the nineteenth century.

Museum Criticum

This short-lived (1813–26) classical journal was edited by James Henry Monk (1784–1856) and Charles James Blomfield (1786–1857), who were contemporaries at Trinity College, Cambridge. Both went on to ecclesiastical careers: Monk left his position as Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge to become Dean of Peterborough and subsequently Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, while Blomfield, who already held the country living of Quarrington in Lincolnshire when the journal was founded, became Bishop of London. Encapsulating the dominant contemporary style of English classical scholarship – the close linguistic analysis of (primarily Greek) texts, as practised by Richard Porson (1759–1808), Monk's predecessor as Regius Professor – the *Museum Criticum* became a rival to the *Classical Journal* (also reissued in this series) and was collected in two volumes in 1826. Illuminating the early development of academic journals, Volume 2 contains issues 5–8.

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MUSEUM CRITICUM

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