

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Classics

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.

An Analytical Essay on the Greek Alphabet

Originally published in 1791, this work by classical scholar and connoisseur Richard Payne Knight (1751–1824) attempts to reconstruct the original pronunciation of ancient Greek. Emphasising the importance of knowing what the various ancient dialects sounded like in order to better appreciate surviving works of ancient literature, Knight engages in textual criticism of certain notable writings, including the poetry of Homer and Hesiod and the plays of Sophocles. Representing a learned contribution to classical philology, the essay also goes some way towards analysing the ways in which Greek sounds were distorted by their inclusion in other languages. Several plates at the end of the text reproduce a selection of ancient inscriptions on stone, coins and ceramics. Knight’s *Analytical Inquiry into the Principles of Taste* (1805) and *Inquiry into the Symbolical Language of Ancient Art and Mythology* (1818) are also reissued in this series.

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

An Analytical Essay on the Greek Alphabet

RICHARD PAYNE KNIGHT



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06602-0 - An Analytical Essay on the Greek Alphabet
Richard Payne Knight
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University’s mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108066020

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2014

This edition first published 1791
This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-06602-0 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with,
or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

A N

ANALYTICAL ESSAY

ON THE

GREEK ALPHABET.

BY RICHARD PAYNE KNIGHT.

LEVIA QUIDEM HÆC, ET PARVI FORTE, SI PER SE SPECTENTUR, MO-
MENTI. SED EX ELEMENTIS CONSTANT, EX PRINCIPIIS ORIUNTUR,
OMNIA: ET EX JUDICII CONSUETUDINE IN REBUS MINUTIS ADHI-
BITA, PENDET SÆPISSIME, ETIAM IN MAXIMIS, VERA ATQUE ACCU-
RATA SCIENTIA. CLARK. PRÆF. HOMER.

L O N D O N,
PRINTED BY J. NICHOLS FOR P. ELMSLY.
MDCCXCI.