

THE POPULAR BACKGROUND TO GOETHE'S HELLENISM

BY
HUMPHRY TREVELYAN

This is a detailed account, with full references, of the state of knowledge and of opinion about Greek literature and civilization, as it existed among the educated German public at the period (1785) when Goethe definitely turned (for a time) to Greece for his principal model and inspiration. The author describes the state of classical studies, literary and archaeological, in the schools and universities, and outside these, during the first half of the eighteenth century, and shows the ignorance about Greece that prevailed, even among the educated classes, in the Germany of the time.

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