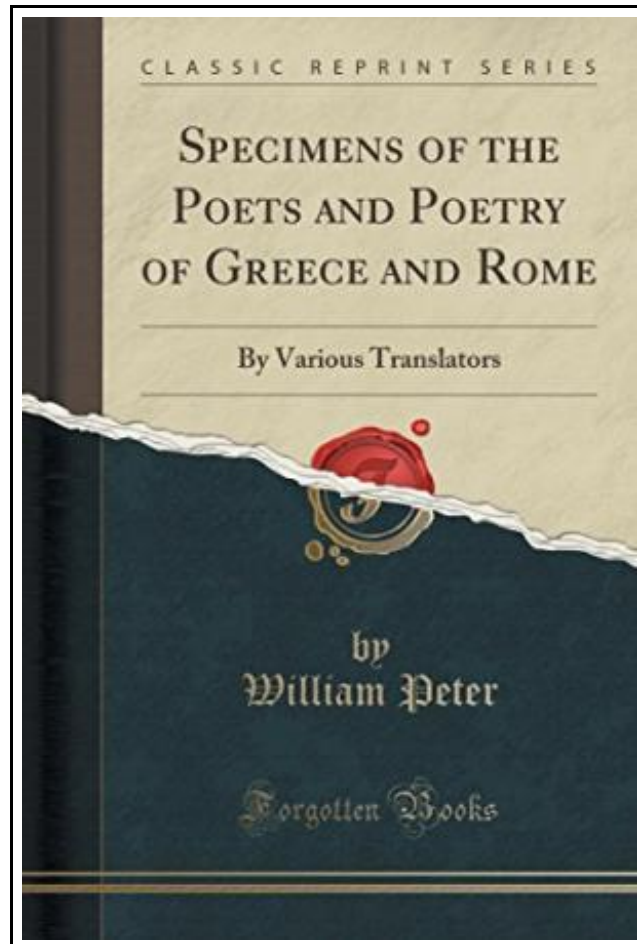


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from *Specimens of the Poets and Poetry of Greece and Rome: By Various Translators* There are, says a late accomplished scholar, in his introduction to the study of the classic poets, certain peculiar properties characterizing the Greeks and Romans, and contradistinguishing them from the present natives of Europe, which must be known, felt, and borne in mind, by those who would study the classic literature aright. The most essential of these consist in the facts, that the old Greek and Roman poets were - I. Pagans; - II. Southern, or Inhabitants of the South of Europe; - III. Ignorant of Chivalry. I. The spirit of the old Paganism is more freely diffused in the poetry than in any other part of the ancient literature. The Fancy and the Imagination, the two chief working faculties of a poet, are the most susceptible of a deep impression from the forms and influences of a national mythology; and therefore it is, that, while in their historians, their orators, and even their philosophers we may, for the most part, recognise the Greeks and Romans for our own contemporaries of some foreign nation, in their poets we must be conscious of a tone oftentimes completely alien to the moral or popular associations of modern days. Not detailing the chances of actual wars, or (with an exception, sometimes, on the tragic stage,) the intrigues of ambition, which in all ages must be nearly the same; not aiming to persuade an audience to a given measure, by means identical with those in use in every country; not speculating clandestinely on the probable amount of truth in metaphysical or religious systems; - the poet,...

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