

FREDERICK WILLIAM HASLUCK FROM CAMBRIDGE TO SMYRNA*

by Giovanni Salmeri

1. Early in the afternoon of January the 11th 1899, Edward Morgan Forster and Frederick William Hasluck travelled up by train together from London to Cambridge at the end of the Christmas holidays¹. It was pouring when they arrived, and they had to take a cab to reach King's College, which both had entered in October 1897 to read Classics². In his diary the future novelist makes no mention of the topics of conversation with Hasluck on the way up. In a later entry, however, he records that on the afternoon of the following February the 14th he met Hasluck for tea, and we may well imagine that he talked over the essay he was to write on 'Distinctive Characteristics of the Attic Genus'³, a task that had already taken him to the Archaeological Museum of Little St Mary's Lane in search of inspiration⁴. In another entry, dated February the 23rd, Forster records the difficulty he was then experiencing in writing a paper on 'The Greek Feeling for Nature', but makes no mention of any discussion with Hasluck.

We could go on at length delving into Forster's diary to enter more closely into the everyday life of a Classics student in late Victorian Cambridge⁵. Here, however, we are interested in tracing out the essential lines in the cultural background of Frederick Hasluck, the future assistant director and librarian of the British School at Athens⁶, and it may therefore prove more relevant to consider at this point an event holding central importance for Classics studies in Cambridge in the late decades of the nineteenth century and the opening decades of the twentieth, namely the 1879 reform of the Classical Tripos. On this reform reference can be made to the studies by Christopher Stray and Mary Beard⁷. These two scholars not only identify the precedents and reconstruct the history of the reform, but also demonstrate how ultimately it gave rise to the most interesting researches on the ancient world carried out in Cambridge between the 1880s and 1920. With the reform the Classical Tripos was split into a Part I and a Part II. The first part, which led to a degree, was essentially linguistic in nature and

¹ See the entry for January the 11th in Forster's diary for 1899, deposited at King's College, Cambridge, Modern Archive Centre, which I thank for the permission to view it.

² See WITHERS 1929, 273, 277.

³ See the entries for February the 13th and the 14th 1899.

⁴ For the Museum, see BEARD 1993.

⁵ For an account of Forster's years at Cambridge as an undergraduate, see FURBANK 1991, I, 49-80.

⁶ For Hasluck's life, see now David Shankland's 'Introduction' to the Proceedings of the Conference 'Anthropology, Archaeology and Heritage in the Balkans and Anatolia or The Life and Times of F. W. Hasluck (1878-1920)', University of Wales, Gregynog, 3rd-6th November 2001 (forthcoming).

⁷ STRAY 1998, 141-167; STRAY 1999a; STRAY 2001; BEARD 1999; BEARD 2001.

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