

**THE BURIAL CUSTOMS  
OF THE ANCIENT GREEKS;  
A DISSERTATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649398331

The Burial Customs of the Ancient Greeks; A dissertation by Frank Pierrepont Graves

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**FRANK PIERREPONT GRAVES**

**THE BURIAL CUSTOMS  
OF THE ANCIENT GREEKS;  
A DISSERTATION**



THE  
BURIAL CUSTOMS  
OF THE  
ANCIENT GREEKS.

---

A DISSERTATION

BY

FRANK PIERREPONT GRAVES,

*COLUMBIA COLLEGE.*

---

BROOKLYN.

MAY 1891.

14.

## PREFACE.

The author of this thesis does not lay claim to profound scholarship or extended research. It may contain errors that are perceptible to a careful student of Greek archaeology, even without subjecting the paper to a minute scrutiny. The material has been found scattered through the writings of ancient and modern authors and in the records of many excavations and the treasures of many museums. In the process of gathering from so extended a field, it is but natural that mistakes should have crept into the work. The effort has been made to exclude as many errors as possible and to weed out those that could be discovered with as great diligence as the inexperience of the author permitted. The labor of compilation has been undergone in the hope that a connected account of these ancient burial customs might breed an interest in the subject and prove an incentive to a more extended examination by some whose curiosity might not be strong enough or whose leisure time might not be sufficient to gather what was so widely separated.



## AUTHORITIES.

---

Besides the writers of ancient Greece, the following authorities have been consulted in the preparation of this dissertation :

- ANACHARSIS**, Travels of, Par l'abbé Barthélemi. English translation, London 1800.
- BECKER**, W. Adolph, Charicles, or Illustrations of the private life of the Ancient Greeks. Excursions on Burials.
- BENNDORF**, Griechische und Stelien, Vasenbildern.
- BOS**, Antiquities of Greece, London, 1779.
- CORPUS INSCRIPTIONUM GRAECARUM**, Edidit Augustus Boeckh, Berolini.
- COULANGE**, La Cité Antique.
- DODWELL**, Edward, Classical and Topographical Tour through Greece, London, 1819.
- FEYDEAU**, Histoire générale des usages funéraires et des sépultures des peuples anciens, Paris, 1858.
- FORBIGER**, Populäre Darstellung des öffentlichen und häuslichen Lebens der Griechen und Römer. I Band, Leipzig, 1876.
- GARDNER**, Percy, Journal of Hellenic Studies, vol. v.
- HERMANN**, Lehrbuch der Griechischen Privatalterthümer von K. F. Hermann. Dritte Auflage von Dr. Hago Blümner, Freiburg, 1882.
- MAHAFFY**, J. P., Rambles and Studies in Greece, second edition 1878.
- MERRIAM**, A. C., American Journal of Arch. v. Icaria.



- MILLIN, A. L.**, Peintures de vases antiques vulgairement appelés Etrusques tirées des différentes collections.
- MITCHELL, LUCY M.**, History of Ancient Sculpture.
- MILLINGEN, J. V.**, Painted Greek Vases, London, 1822.
- FERROT et CHIPIEZ**, Histoire de L'art dans L'antiquité, Tome premier, L' Egypte.
- POTTIER, EDMOND.** Étude sur les Lecythes Blancs Attiques à Représentations Funéraires. [Bibliothèque des écoles françaises d Athènes et de Rome, Tome 30.]
- ROBERTS, E. S.** Introduction to Greek Epigraphy, Cambridge, 1897.
- SCHREIBER**, Bilderatlas and Commentary.
- STACKELBERG, Baron.** Die Graeber der Hellenen, Berlin, 1837.
- ST. JOHN**, History of the Manners and Customs of Ancient Greeks, Vol. III, London, 1842.
- TEGG**, The Last Act. London, 1877.

## CONTENTS.

---

### CHAPTER I.

DUTY OF BURIAL: Burial of an enemy—Duty toward parents.

### CHAPTER II.

BURIALS EXTRAORDINARY: Burial of criminals—Of suicides—Of traitors—Of those struck by lightning—Special ceremonies for violent deaths—For persons drowned.

### CHAPTER III.

PREPARATION FOR BURIAL: Former features—Reforms—The passage money—The bath—The unguents—The wreaths—The honey-cake—The garments.

### CHAPTER IV.

THE LYING IN STATE (*Prothesis*): When this took place—Regulations of Coos—The women who took part—The scarf, the fan, and the bird—The place—The position of the corpse—The *kins*—The *lepythe*—The *ardanian*—Two purposes of the prothesis.

### CHAPTER V.

OUTWARD GRIEF: By whom rendered—Only a form—Excesses—Laws against excess—Their result.

### CHAPTER VI.

THE PROCESSION, (*ekphora*): Third day the set time—Exceptions to set time—Hour of the day—The *kins*—Who carried the bier—The dirge singers—Who might attend the procession—Military funeral processions.

#### CHAPTER VII.

**BURNING OR INHUMATION?** The extreme views—The two methods contemporary, Cremation at every period—Burial also existed—Custom at Sparta and Sicily—Comparison with modern methods—Details of cremation—Place of cremation.

#### CHAPTER VIII.

**THE COFFINS:** Early coffins—Those of stone—Of cypress—Shape and decorations.

#### CHAPTER IX.

**THE TOMBS:** The varieties—Heaps of earth—The *stèle*—Decorations—The *klion*—The *trapezas*—The *herseum*—Early entombments—Later cost and regulations against it—Inscriptions on the tombs—Epitaphs to children—Trinkets placed in the tomb—The public cemetery—Tombs of the richer class—Burials outside of the city—The motive—Laws at Sparta and other States.

#### CHAPTER X.

**THE FUNERAL FEAST (*Perideipnon*):** Its purpose—The host—The place—Praise of deceased's virtues—Consecration of fragments.

#### CHAPTER XI.

**SACRIFICES AT THE GRAVE:** Performed by relatives—The two varieties—Increase in expense—The *stiza*—The *esvata*—The sacrifices of the Argives—Of the Spartans—When mourning ceased—The basket—Other utensils—What was employed for sacrifices—Women performed sacrifices—Grief less noticeable than at prothesis—Customs at the tomb—General attention to the graves.

#### CHAPTER XII.

**FURTHER CEREMONIES:** The *genesia*—The *nekysia*—Funeral games—Duty of visiting the grave—General conduct of a mourner—Black garments and polling of the head—Custom at Sparta—Conclusion.