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| The Cambridge Ritualists |
| The Cambridge Group of Classical Anthropologists |
| The Cambridge Ritualists, also known as the Cambridge Group of Classical Anthropologists, were a closely knit group of four classicists – Jane Ellen Harrison (1850-1928), Francis M. Cornford (1874-1943), Gilbert Murray (1866-1957) and Arthur Bernard Cook (1868-1952) (Arlen 1). Harrison, a woman of considerable intellectual influence, was a central figure; except for Murray, a professor of Greek at Oxford, all other members were affiliated with Cambridge University. The group shared a scholarly interest in establishing the common root of myth and ritual and asserted the primacy of ritual practices over written myth in the study of religion, culture and art. Their works captured a new anti-Victorian dynamism, as seen in Harrison’s book *Themis* (1912). |
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| Further reading:  (Ackerman, The Cambridge Group: Origins and Composition)  (Ackerman, The Myth and Ritual School: J. G. Frazer and the Cambridge Ritualists)  (Arlen)  (Frazer)  (Frye)  (Harrison)  (Harrison, Themis: A Study of the Social Origins of Greek Religion)  (Murray)  (Kirk)  (Vickery) |