

**AN ESSAY ON THE MEANS OF  
DISTINGUISHING ANTIQUE,  
FROM COUNTERFEIT, COINS  
AND MEDALS**

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An Essay on the Means of Distinguishing Antique, from Counterfeit, Coins and Medals by John Trotter Brockett

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**JOHN TROTTER BROCKETT**

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FROM COUNTERFEIT, COINS  
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AN  
ESSAY  
ON  
*Antique and Counterfeit Coins.*



TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH,  
WITH NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

AN  
ESSAY  
ON THE  
MEANS OF DISTINGUISHING ANTIQUE,  
FROM COUNTERFEIT,  
**Coins and Medals.**

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF M. BEAUVAIS ;

WITH  
NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS,

BY  
JOHN TROTTER BROCKETT, F. A. S.

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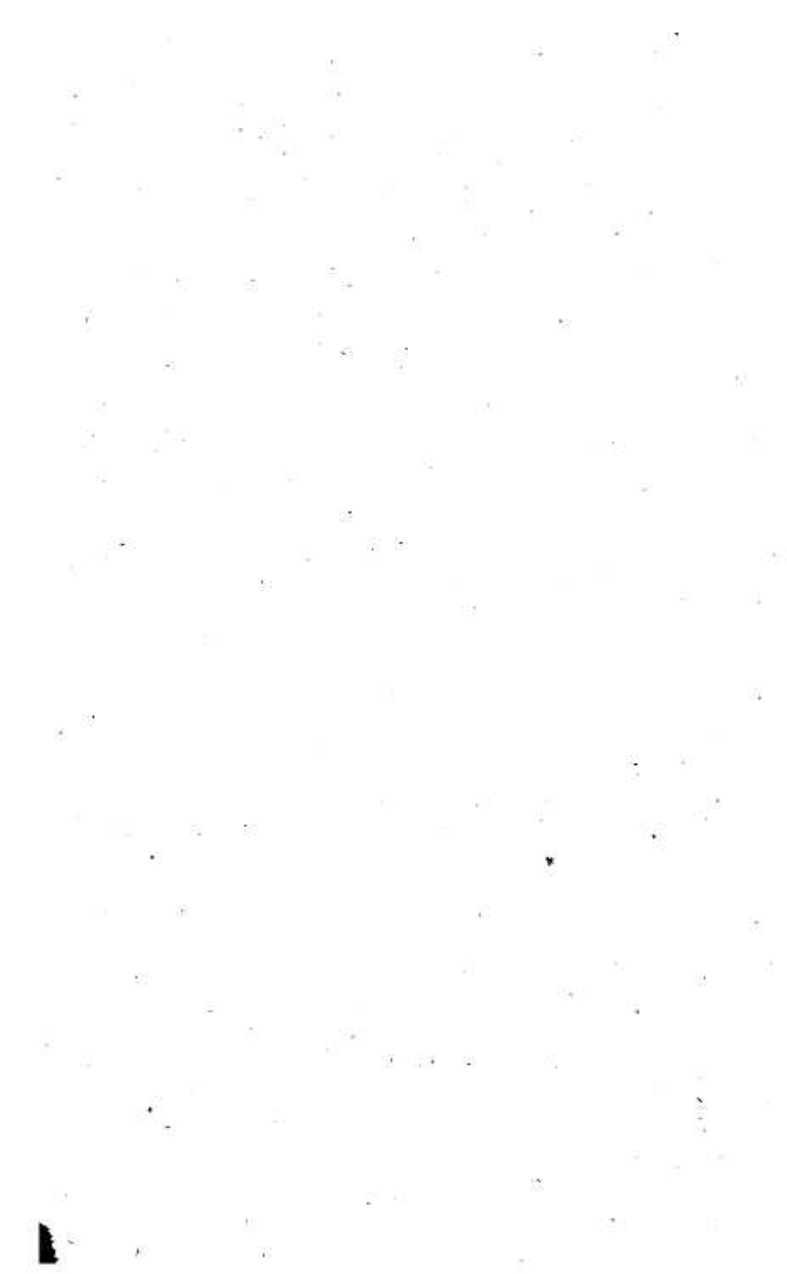
MDCCCXIX.

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THE Medal, faithful to its charge of fame,  
Through climes and ages bears each form and name ;  
In one short view, subjected to our eye,  
Gods, emperors, heroes, sages, beauties lie.

L'etude de l'antiquité est une de celles qui font le plus d'honneur à l'esprit humain ; elle étend le cercle de ses connoissances, réforme son moral en lui rappelant l'exemple des grands hommes qu'elle a produits, et renferme une source inépuisable de plaisirs et d'agrémens pour l'être sensible qui connoît la jouissance de réfléchir sur le passé, le présent, et l'avenir.

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## PREFACE,

BY THE TRANSLATOR.

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THE first edition of the following Treatise was printed at Paris, in 4to. in the year 1739. It was afterwards corrected and enlarged by the author, and added to his "Histoire abrégée des Empereurs Romains et Grecs," 3 vols. 12mo. This latter, being a much improved edition, has been followed in the present translation.

The Essay of M. Beauvais being allowed on all hands to be the best (and it is also the

most copious) that has been written on the subject, to which it immediately relates, it is not necessary to make any apology for presenting it to the English reader, at a time when ancient Coins and Medals are so eagerly sought after in this country. Neither need any thing be here said in favour of a study now become so very prevalent; or of the pleasure and information that may be derived from its cultivation. It is, however, proper to observe, (and it is an observation in which every one must concur,) that, unless the Coins deposited in the collector's cabinet are genuine and authentic, their very basis, as evidences of historical truth, independently of their value as Medals, is at once destroyed. The object, therefore, which the author had in view, in the publication of the present dissertation, was to impart to his readers, so far

as it could be laid down by theory, such a set of rules as might be sufficient to enable them, from time to time, to discern Coins and Medals really ancient, from such as were spurious and counterfeit.—However much the ignorance of some, and the limited information of others, may think it savours of pedantry or self sufficiency, a medallist, of skill and acute experience, can, at first sight, decide upon the genuineness or falsity of almost every Medal that comes under his notice.

It is not, however, to be expected that this distinguishing knowledge can be obtained, without much previous study and application. The rules of M. Beauvais, and the perusal of a few of the best medallic books, will acquaint the amateur of Coins and Medals with the