

# **THE PAINTERS OF BARBIZON: MILLET, ROUSSEAU, DIAZ**

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The Painters of Barbizon: Millet, Rousseau, Diaz by John W. Mollett

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**JOHN W. MOLLETT**

**THE PAINTERS OF  
BARBIZON: MILLET,  
ROUSSEAU, DIAZ**



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PORTRAIT OF MILLET. BY HIMSELF.

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*"The whole world without Art would be one great wilderness."*

THE PAINTERS OF BARBIZON

MILLET  
ROUSSEAU  
DIAZ

By JOHN W. MOLLETT, B.A.

AUTHOR OF THE LIVES OF "REMBRANDT" AND "WILKIE" IN THIS SERIES.



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## PREFACE.

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**I**N the following pages it is proposed to give short histories of the career of a group of painters, to whom is generally attributed the development in Landscape in the great change that has lately taken place in the canons of French Art, which is described by some writers on the subject as the victory of the Romantic School over Classicism.

The practical nineteenth-century standard of the success of this group is the enormous money value of their work in the international market, and the history that has to be told is as much a commercial as an æsthetic development.

We have prefaced our work with a short description of the scenery of Fontainebleau, in the midst of which some of the painters who are representative of the movement, studied landscape, and did their most successful work, and became known in the artistic world as the Barbizon School. Their works are commonly spoken of under this generic name, irrespective of their want of *internal* assimilation.

We have then translated and reproduced in the words of the

greatest critics of the age extracts from the interesting volume of criticism that their exhibited pictures provoked from year to year, leaving our readers free to determine for themselves the length to which their sympathy with the special theory of the Romantic movement will carry them ; believing, however, that the accident of American competition in the auction-room is not in itself a justification for placing even Millet, sublime as the poetry of his work is, on a level with Raphael. Finally, we have narrated so much as we have been able to collect, from credible record, of the stories of their respective lives.

J. W. MOLLETT.

LYNN REGIS, *May*, 1890.

NOTE.—The present volume treats of Millet, Rousseau and Diaz ; the companion volume of Corot, Daubigny and Dupré.