

**SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS'
NOTES
AND OBSERVATIONS ON
PICTURES**

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Sir Joshua Reynolds' Notes and Observations on Pictures by William Cotton

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WILLIAM COTTON

**SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS'
NOTES
AND OBSERVATIONS ON
PICTURES**

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CATALOGUE

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BY WILLIAM COTTON, ESQ.

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SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS'
NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS ON PICTURES,
CHIEFLY OF THE VENETIAN SCHOOL,
BEING EXTRACTS FROM HIS ITALIAN SKETCH BOOKS;

ALSO, THE
REV. W. MASON'S OBSERVATIONS
ON SIR JOSHUA'S METHOD OF COLORING

AND
SOME UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF DR. JOHNSON, MALONE,
AND OTHERS.

WITH AN APPENDIX,
CONTAINING
A TRANSCRIPT OF SIR JOSHUA'S ACCOUNT BOOK, SHOWING WHAT
PICTURES HE PAINTED AND THE PRICES PAID FOR THEM.

EDITED BY
WILLIAM COTTON, ESQ.



LONDON:
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M.DCCC.LIX.

TO
STEPHEN POYNTZ DENNING, ESQ.,
KEEPER OF THE DULWICH GALLERY OF PAINTINGS,
WITH WHOM
I FORMED AN INTIMATE ACQUAINTANCE AND FRIENDSHIP,
MORE THAN FORTY YEARS AGO,
IN ROME,
This Volume
IS INSCRIBED WITH SINCERE REGARD,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

IVYBELDGE,

November, 1858.

P R E F A C E.

IN continuation of my Gleanings towards a more complete Memoir of SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS, and in compliance with the notice given in the Preface to my CATALOGUE OF REYNOLDS' PORTRAITS, I am now enabled to publish Extracts from portions of his JOURNAL IN ITALY, with Remarks upon Pictures, chiefly of the Venetian School; and in connection with it, a Transcript by the REV. J. MITFORD, of MASON'S OBSERVATIONS ON SIR JOSHUA'S METHOD OF COLORING; also, an APPENDIX, containing some unpublished LETTERS of DR. JOHNSON, MALONE, and others, transcribed from the originals by Mr. MITFORD, and a copy of REYNOLDS' Private Account Book, in which the sums he received for many of his most celebrated Pictures are entered by himself.

W. C.

Ivybridge, Devon.

INTRODUCTION.

"Would Reynolds have done what he did, if he had never seen Italy?"

SIR D. WILKIE.

PART of the following pages was transcribed several years since by J. Lovell Gwatkin, Esq., from two Sketch Books of Sir Joshua Reynolds, now in the possession of his daughter, Miss Gwatkin, of Princess Square, Plymouth. The largest of these books still retains its original parchment cover, and is filled with sketches and observations on pictures in Italy, chiefly of the Venetian School. These are, for the most part, written with a black-lead pencil, evidently on the spot; and the sketches are extremely slight—merely the shadows rubbed in, in the manner he himself describes in the Notes to Mason's translation of Du Fresnoy's *Poem on the Art of Painting*, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of *chiaro'scuro* and its arrangement, without any attempt at accuracy of drawing. This Sketch Book, together with one of a smaller size, was purchased at the sale of the Marchioness of Thomond's pictures in May, 1821, by Mr. Gwatkin, who married Theophila Palmer, the favorite niece of Sir Joshua Reynolds; and it was doubtless his intention to publish the remarks and observations contained in them during his lifetime, as he engaged an artist, Mr. Joseph Skelton, of Oxford, to make facsimiles of the drawings, and had written a Preface and Introduction to the work; but, for some reason or other, the design was abandoned, and I am now intrusted with the publication of the MS.¹ As, however, it is too brief and

¹ Since the above was written, these interesting Sketch Books have been purchased by the Trustees of the British Museum for one hundred and fifty guineas, and are now deposited in the Print Room, forming a valuable addition to the large collection of original Drawings, under the care of Mr. Carpenter.