

**LIFE OF THOMAS
STOTHARD, R. A.**

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Life of Thomas Stothard, R. A. by Mrs. Bray

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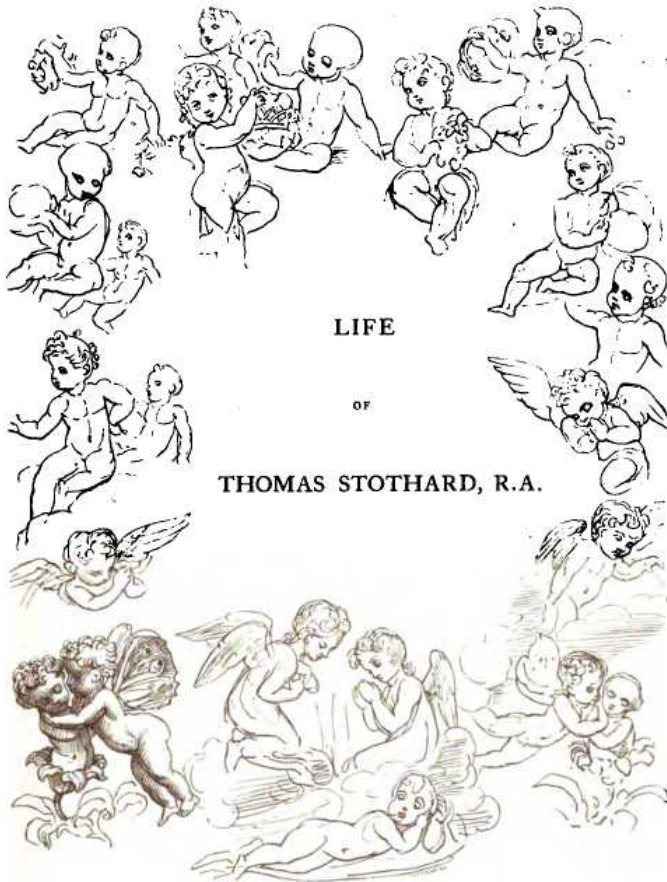
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MRS. BRAY

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STOTHARD, R. A.**



LIFE

OF

THOMAS STOTHARD, R.A.

Facsimile of various Pen and Ink Sketches by Stothard for Rogers's Poems. In the possession of Miss Deoman.



BARLOW, SCULPT.

R. - LASKY, LITH.

yours affectly
Thos Stothard



44-163

LIFE

OF

THOMAS STOTHARD, R.A.

WITH PERSONAL REMINISCENCES

By MRS. BRAY,

Author of "The Borders of the Tamar and the Tavy," "Memoirs of Charles A. Stothard, F.S.A.,"
"Trelawny," "Trials of the Heart," &c., &c.

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS FROM HIS WORKS.

LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1851.

BRADSHAW AND EVANS,
PRINTERS EXTRAORDINARY TO THE QUEEN,
WHITEFRIARS.

Autograph of the author

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN the year 1836, two articles of mine, entitled "Reminiscences of Stothard," were published in the May and June numbers of Blackwood's Magazine. In 1845, Mr. Alfred Stothard, son of the late historical painter, and himself a medallist of great ability, passed some little time with us at Tavistock. During his visit, he expressed his regret that he had not been made acquainted with my intention to write the articles on his father, as he could have furnished me with some additional information. These, therefore, I revised, corrected, and re-modelled; and embodied in them not only the particulars I received from so authentic a source, but added also many from my own recollections; till at length, the work grew so much upon me, that I determined to throw it into a more biographical form.

After I had thus enlarged and completed my task, it was suggested to me by Mr. Murray, that it would be desirable, if possible, to obtain some original letters of Stothard. In the hope of being enabled to do this, I applied to Mr. Alfred Stothard,

who kindly lent all the papers he had of his late father. These principally consisted of letters to and from his wife; with some rude drafts of others to various persons on matters of business connected with his profession; and two very briefly written diaries of journeys to Edinburgh and Derbyshire, whilst engaged in his pursuits. All these documents I most carefully examined.

I found the letters addressed to Mrs. Stothard evinced kind and good feelings as a husband and a father; but, for the greater part, so much were they of a private nature, as to contain little information for the public. From these, therefore, I selected only a few extracts, to show how strong were his domestic affections.

Respecting letters and papers of a more general or professional character, I grieve to say, I could find but few that were in a state for publication, or would have possessed any interest with the reader. Most of them were fragments, unfinished drafts, or rude memoranda, and usually without dates; some with so many obliterations, and in so imperfect a state, that they could not be clearly understood, and thus were useless. I have, therefore, been compelled to give but very few.

In justice to myself I have stated this; as it will, in some measure, account for a want of exact regularity as to the order in which they are placed. Indeed, I have frequently felt the difficulty, in some instances the impossibility, of following the principal events

of Stothard's life in strict chronological order. Those who were most intimately acquainted with the early part of his career are no longer living; and, from natural modesty and reserve, he seldom, if ever, talked about himself.

The plan of giving illustrations from the works of a great painter, with some account of his life, originated with Mr. Leslie, R.A., in his *Memoirs of Constable*; Mr. Murray has, in some measure, adopted it as the precedent and example in the style of illustrating the present volume. To that eminent artist I am indebted for two or three characteristic anecdotes of his brother Academician, and for the extract from a lecture which he recently delivered at the Royal Academy respecting the productions of Stothard's pencil.

To Mr. Carpenter, of the British Museum, my thanks are due for his great kindness and attention in enabling me to profit by the engravings from the works of Stothard, under his care, in the print-room of that National Institution. To Miss Denman, Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Windus, I am also indebted for having most obligingly allowed some of his designs, in their possession, to be copied for these pages.

ANNA ELIZA BRAY.

THE VICARAGE, TAVISTOCK,
November, 1851.