

**THE INDUSTRIAL
ARTS OF THE
ANGLO-SAXONS**

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The industrial arts of the Anglo-Saxons by Baron J. de Baye

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BARON J. DE BAYE

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OF THE
ANGLO-SAXONS.

BY
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With Seventeen Steel Plates and Thirty-one Text Cuts.

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PREFACE.



OUR knowledge of the Barbarian peoples would be infinitely more exact if historians, in recording the various phases of the great invasions, had studied all the nations who took part in them. Inquiry into the special developments and the particular tribal organisation of each of these numerous hordes provides us with material for a better general knowledge of the others, while the gaps in their annals may be filled by the aid of comparisons founded on ethnographic data. In any review of their origin, of the relations which they established along the line of their migrations, the alliances they contracted, the goal they sought, the treaties by which they bound themselves, their various halting-places before finally settling down—it is imperative that they should all be included in one general survey. These invaders, depicted hitherto in somewhat undecided colours, deserve to be more closely studied. Each tribal unit in turn throws light on its vast family, and illustrates its general character by similarities in customs, language, industry, and tendencies.

The interest attaching to the history of nationalities, and of the transformation effected in them by the incursions of the Barbarian tribes, has encouraged us to publish a sketch of Anglo-Saxon archaeology. The industrial art of these invaders has certain characteristics which distinguish it from other branches of contemporary archaeology. The force of the Anglo-Saxon genius compels recognition, and constitutes one of the most striking features in the physiognomy of the Barbarian nations.

We cannot pretend to offer to English archaeologists any new or startling discoveries. Anglo-Saxon industrial art has never, it is true, been dealt with as a whole, but its various branches, in all their numberless details, are none the less well known. It is our desire to provide archaeologists with means of comparison, to enable them to judge from a broader standpoint questions relating to the great invasions. Our essay may serve to render less obscure an episode in the Barbarian epoch of which hardly anything is known on the Continent. Nor is there anything surprising in our design, seeing that historians recognise this period as one of general activity among the Barbarian races. These nations were yielding to one universal impulse when they hurled themselves upon the Roman provinces during the decline of the Empire.

English archaeologists have collected with care the interesting remains of the industrial art of the Anglo-Saxon race. Numerous learned and elaborate monographs have been published, but they have become extremely rare, and no one has as yet undertaken the production of an archaeological synthesis.

We are still waiting for a treatise which shall deal with the subject in its fullest developments, and we should seek in vain in England for a work which would give, even in the briefest

form, a general idea of Anglo-Saxon industries. So numerous are the archaeological publications in England that we cannot hope to furnish English men of science with any fresh materials. Yet this very abundance of matter leads us to think that the time is come to attempt an essay which shall afford an opportunity of acquiring some general idea of Saxon antiquities, the peculiarities of which are so deeply interesting to archaeologists. So vast is the field to be explored that these preliminary observations will be necessarily incomplete. Our work will be limited to a simple but useful summary of the archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon period. We have already published some notes of a similar character on Lombard industries.¹ We are starting, amidst numberless difficulties, on a line of investigation which, with time, may be brought to the desired state of perfection. Meanwhile the grouping of the materials relating to the industries of the Barbarian period will be of incontestable utility. It must be admitted that the archaeology of the invaders has been hitherto neglected in France, in England, and elsewhere. The Roman period and the Middle Ages have received much more attention, and have been much more closely studied. The period of transition between these two epochs has been the subject of investigations on the lines of history, of philology, and of ethnology; but its archaeological side has remained buried in oblivion. The Romans scornfully designated as Barbarians all those nations which did not belong to the sovereign people; yet these nationalities possessed an art which did not merit the scorn poured out with too great severity upon the invaders of the Empire. The epoch of the invasions was the great prelude to the Middle Ages; this prelude deserves our most serious attention, for it is the introduction to the study of our civilisation. The domain of archaeology among the Barbarian nations contains immense riches, for it covers enormous territories. The problems which it offers for solution are complex, owing to the variety of the subjects it includes, and to the vast extent of its geographical area. We have to go back to the origin of these peoples, accompany them on their march, and trace their development, in order to recognise the forms assumed by their art in each of the different nationalities which they formed. As objects of study, the Barbarian nations are so closely bound up together that isolated investigation is impossible. Only when it has been studied, and interpreted as a whole, will the epoch of the invasions be rightly understood.

In recording the principal features of the Anglo-Saxon family we hope to find imitators, and thus succeed in reproducing the general physiognomy of the Barbarian peoples.

The English have been scrupulously careful to preserve all such antiquities as had relation to their history. Their public and private collections are numerous, and their discoveries have supplied matter for numerous publications.

As early as the last century Faussett and Douglas occupied themselves in determining the features which distinguished Anglo-Saxon art from the industrial products characteristic of the Roman occupation.

The *Nenia Britannica* of Douglas, printed in 1793, is worthy of attention, as indicating, in various ways, the first appearance of a still youthful science.

The Archaeological Album (1845), and *The Celt, the Roman, and the Saxon*, by Thomas Wright, have next to be noticed, the latter work, first published in 1852, having already gone through five editions. The *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, by the Rev. Bryan Faussett, written between 1737 and 1773, was published in 1856, with an introduction and notes by Mr. Roach Smith. Next comes the *Horæ Ferales* of Kemble. Mr. Yonge Akerman

¹ *Études Archéologiques. Époque des Invasions Barbares. Industrie Longobarde.* Paris, 1888.

published, in 1847, an *Archeological Index*, and in 1855 *Remains of Pagan Saxondom*. Mr. Roach Smith produced, between 1843 and 1868, a series of seven volumes, called *Collectanea Antiqua*, in which Anglo-Saxon archæology plays a very important part. We must further mention Mr. Neville's *Saxon Obsequies*, an account of the cemetery at Little Wilbraham, which appeared in 1852, and Mr. Wylie's *Fairford Graves*, published in the same year.

The English reviews, especially *Archæologia*, the *Archeological Journal*, the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London*, and the *Journal of the British Archæological Association*, have published a considerable series of articles on Anglo-Saxon antiquities. These publications are in general confined to a single locality, sometimes to a county, as in the case of the *Inventorium Sepulchrale* and the *Nenia Britannica*, which deal specially with Anglo-Saxon barrows in Kent.

Kemble's *The Saxon in England*¹ contains some valuable historical documents. From the anthropological point of view, the *Crania Britannica*² is full of information concerning the bones found in Anglo-Saxon tombs.

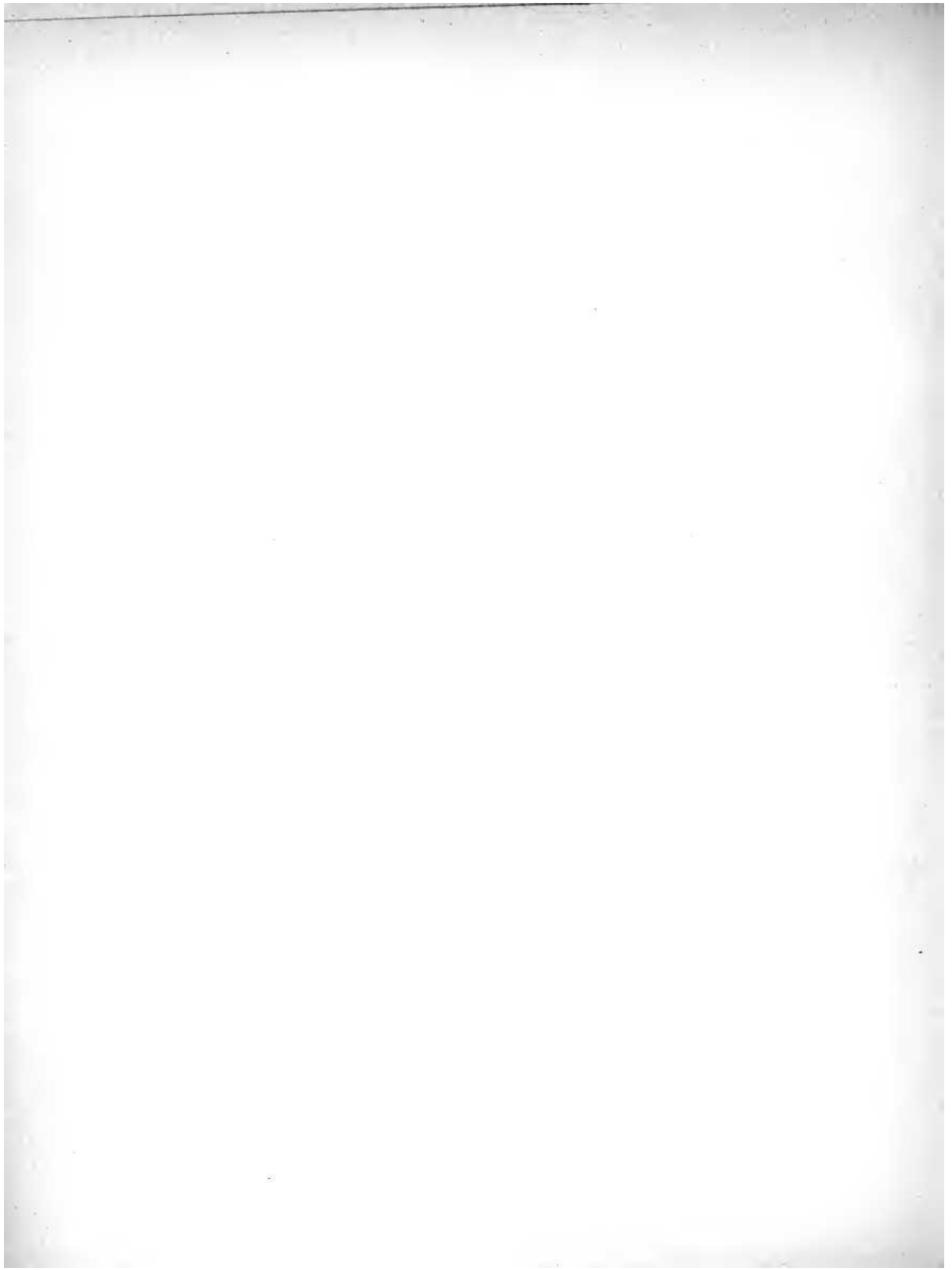
It is noticeable that the period during which the most important works on the Anglo-Saxons were published in England is contemporaneous with the explorations of the Abbé Cochet in Normandy. This eminent antiquary gave a great impetus to archæological research.

Since the appearance of the *Inventorium Sepulchrale* and the *Horæ Ferales*, though investigations have not been exactly abandoned, little has resulted from them beyond review articles. We have drawn upon these scattered sources of information for our sketch of the general position. The knowledge of the archæology of the great invasion has an international value for those countries in which the Barbarians have left traces of importance.

We shall necessarily obtain but an imperfect result, but our observations will at least form one more factor in the study of the Barbarian epoch.

¹ London, 1849.

² Thurnam and Davis, *Crania Britannica*. London, 1865.



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