# A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF PAINTING

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A Short History of the British School of Painting by George H. Shepherd

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### **GEORGE H. SHEPHERD**

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BY

GEORGE H. SHEPHERD.



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1881.





#### PREFACE.

My aim in compiling a short History of the British School of Painting is to supply an apparent want in the Art Literature of the day. All our recent valuable Text Books and Essays upon Art pre-suppose more accurate information respecting the names, characteristics and principal works of the painters of the British School than is to be found in a concise form, within the reach of every art student. Although fully conscious that I have rather collected the materials for a history than deftly welded them into one, I trust that my foundation of facts will be solid enough to enable some future historian to construct upon it a more graceful edifice. If, in the meantime, my labours prove of service in bridging over the gap, I shall feel amply repaid.

I regret the accidental omission of the names of several excellent artists. This and other short comings I hope to remedy should a second edition be called for.

I am indebted to many Members of the Royal Academy for their kind co-operation, and I also acknowledge my obligation to the following works on Art:— Modern Painters, by John Ruskin; Chambers's Encyclopædia; Dictionary of Recent and Living Painters (Chatto & Windus); Redgrave's Dictionary of Artists of the English School; Allan Cunningham's Lives of the most Eminent British Painters (Bell & Sons); Leslie's Handbook for Young Painters (Smith & Elder); The Discourses of Sir Joshua Reynolds; Modern Painters and their Paintings, Sarah Tytler (Daldy, Isbister & Co.); Life of Turner, by W. Cosmo Monkhouse (Sampson Low & Co.); Anecdotes of Painting in England, by Walpole (Ward & Co.); Ten Lectures on Art, by E. J. Poynter (Chapman & Hall); Essays on Art, by J. Comyns Carr; The Higher Life in Art and The Witness of Art, by Wyke Bayliss (David Bogue); The Art Journal, from date of publication (Virtue & Co.); The Magazine of Art (Cassell, Petter & Galpin); The Artist (William Reeves); Cassell's Art Treasures Exhibition; Catalogue of the National Gallery; Catalogue of the National Gallery at South Kensington; Academy and Grosvenor Notes, by H. Blackburn (Chatto & Windus); Notes on Turner, Hunt and Prout, by John Ruskin (The Fine Art Society); The Year's Art, by Marcus B. Huish; The Athenæum; The Academy: L'Art; and other sources.

GEORGE H. SHEPHERD.

#### POSTSCRIPT.

In the brief account of the Foundation of the Royal Academy, on pages 9 and 10, I have repeated a common error respecting its supposed Charter of Incorporation. It is not a Chartered Body, but a Society, based simply on a document, called an Instrument, drawn up by the Artists, and ratified by the Sovereign. Full particulars will be found in "The History of the Royal Academy of Arts, from its foundation in 1768 to the present time, with Biographical notices of all the Members," by William Sandby (Longman & Co., 1862).





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