

**THE DEDICATION OF
BOOKS TO PATRON AND
FRIEND: A CHAPTER
IN LITERARY HISTORY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649560431

The Dedication of Books to Patron and Friend: A Chapter in Literary History by Henry B. Wheatley

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HENRY B. WHEATLEY

**THE DEDICATION OF
BOOKS TO PATRON AND
FRIEND: A CHAPTER
IN LITERARY HISTORY**

The Book-Lover's Library.

Edited by

Henry B. Wheatley, F.S.A.

THE
DEDICATION OF BOOKS

TO 4743-3
PATRON AND FRIEND

A CHAPTER IN LITERARY HISTORY

BY
HENRY B. WHEATLEY, F.S.A.



NEW YORK
A. C. ARMSTRONG AND SON
214 BROADWAY
1887

✓
11
4
15

—

PREFACE.

MANY articles have been written on book dedications, notably the one in D'Israeli's *CURIOSITIES OF LITERATURE*; and the late Mr. Huth printed privately an interesting and valuable volume (edited by Mr. W. C. Hazlitt), in which a large number of dedications and prefaces are reproduced; but I believe that the present is the first instance of a book being entirely devoted to the history of this topic.

In the following pages I have attempted to trace the subject through its three phases. In its first stage dedications are seen as the spontaneous expression of an author's love and respect for his friend or his patron. In the second we travel through those years when all sense of shame was

absent from the mind of the author, who sold his praises to the highest bidder. In the third we come back to a condition of things resembling the first, for at the present day the dedication is only used by an author who wishes to associate his book with some friend, as the patron has ceased to exist. Many of our great authors, from Shakespeare downwards, are included in the list of dedicators, and I have tried to give specimens of the work of most of them. Dryden and Johnson stand out from this class, the former as a pleader for patronage for himself in terms quite unworthy of so great a man, and the latter as the dignified spokesman of others, and not as a beggar for himself.

Although some of the examples will be familiar to all readers, many are from less known sources, and these will, I hope, give a certain freshness to the quotations as a whole. There is, how-

ever, a delicate flavour of antiquity and a certain quaint charm in the old print of the books from which many of the dedications have been drawn that seems to depart when the same sentences are printed in modern type, and we are apt sometimes to wonder what it was that we originally admired. The bouquet has fled while we were in the act of removing the cork from the bottle.

If my kind friend the reader will in fancy replace the blurred type,—if he will put himself in the place of those who lived in another age than ours, and had little or nothing in common with modern lines of thought, he will the better be able to appreciate the value of my gatherings, and he will too, I hope, be ready to acknowledge the claim I have ventured to set up, that this volume will be the means of throwing some light on a not unimportant chapter of literary history.



THE
DEDICATION OF BOOKS
TO
PATRON AND FRIEND.



INTRODUCTION.

FASHIONS in literature, like fashions in dress, are constantly changing, and the volumes that now issue from the press differ greatly in form from the books published in the last century, but in no one particular are they more unlike than in the absence of dedications.

Few desires can be more natural than that of an author to link the name of a friend of patron with the work of his own mind. When this end only is aimed at and it is carried out with taste and feeling, the result must