

**RABELAIS; READINGS,
WITH A MEMOIR BY SIR
JOHN SANDYS, LITT. D**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649081516

Rabelais; readings, with a memoir by Sir John Sandys, Litt. D by W. F. Smith

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

W. F. SMITH

**RABELAIS; READINGS,
WITH A MEMOIR BY SIR
JOHN SANDYS, LITT. D**

RABELAIS

214
R1145r

RABELAIS

READINGS SELECTED

BY

W. F. SMITH, M.A.

SOMETIME FELLOW OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

WITH A MEMOIR BY SIR JOHN SANDYS, Litt.D.

391072
P. 4. 41

CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1920

PREFATORY NOTE

SOON after the publication of *Rabelais in his Writings*, Mr W. F. Smith agreed to edit for the University Press a selection from Rabelais's great romance. As he was then living at Cheltenham, he asked me to select from the revision of his annotated translation in the library of St John's College such notes as seemed desirable for the purpose. This I gladly agreed to do. Unfortunately, the exigencies of the times made it impossible for the Press to begin the printing before last October; except for a couple of specimen pages Mr Smith never saw his book in type, and I have had to pass it through the press without his supervision. I have occasionally given the substance of his notes instead of his actual words, and in two or three places I have added a very modest quota of my own, but the notes to all intents and purposes are solely the fruits of Mr Smith's ripe learning and knowledge of his subject.

The text for *Gargantua* and *Pantagruel* is that of François Juste, Lyons, 1542, and for Books III and IV, that of Michel Fézandat, Paris, 1552. *Gargantua* has been printed from the new edition of the *Œuvres de François Rabelais* edited by Abel Lefranc and other distinguished Rabelaisians (*Gargantua* 1912-13), and the other books from the edition published by Jouaust, 4 vols., 1885, controlled by that of Marty-Laveaux, 6 vols., 1868-1903.

ARTHUR TILLEY.

CAMBRIDGE,
April, 1920.

MEMOIR

WILLIAM FRANCIS SMITH, the elder son of the Rev. Hugh William Smith of St John's College, was born on October 20th, 1842, at Brackley in Northamptonshire. Educated at Shrewsbury, he had nearly attained the age of twenty when he came into residence in October, 1862, as the holder of one of the best of the "Open Exhibitions" awarded for Classics. As an Old Salopian, he long retained a vivid memory of that great head-master, Dr Kennedy, of whom he had many a happy story to tell in the company of his College friends. Outside the walls of St John's, his closest friend was John Maxwell Image of Trinity, who was bracketed second in the Classical Tripos of 1865. W. F. Smith himself won the second place in the following year, and both were elected Fellows in the same year as myself—1867. From 1870 to 1892 he was one of my most loyal colleagues as a classical lecturer, the favourite subjects of his public lectures being Sophocles and Plato, and Aristophanes and Plautus.

On the coming in of the New Statutes, in 1882, he married a devoted and accomplished wife, who shared his wide interest in modern languages. He applied the highly-trained aptitude of a classical scholar to the acquisition of an accurate knowledge of early French literature. Among his favourite authors was Montaigne, but he concentrated all his published work on Rabelais. He was in the best sense of the term a *homo unius libri*. His "new translation" with notes, and with letters and documents illustrating the author's life, was published by subscription in two handsome volumes in 1893. Two selected portions of the translation were privately printed in small quarto with vellum covers, "the first edition of book iv" in 1899, and "Rabelais on Civil and Canon Law" in 1901. Shortly before 1908, when I came to the subject

of Rabelais in the course of my *History of Classical Scholarship*, I was fortunate enough in inducing my friend to write on my behalf a notice of that author, as a student of the Greek and Latin Classics, which fills more than two pages in the second volume.

Late in life he produced a compact and comprehensive work entitled *Rabelais in his Writings*, published in an attractive form by the University Press in 1918. The most obviously competent notice, that in *The Lancet* of 4 May, 1918, is known to have been written by the late Sir William Osler. Two quotations from that notice must suffice:

Of these illuminating studies [those of Abel Lefranc and others in the ten volumes of *Les Études rabelaisiennes*], Mr Smith, himself a participator, has taken full advantage in a work just issued from the Cambridge Press. First of all a humanist, Rabelais can only be interpreted by a fellow-student who knows the highways and byways of ancient literature. It will please our French colleagues not a little to find an Englishman so thoroughly at home in every detail relating to one of their greatest authors...We trust this admirable study of the great Chinonais may awaken a renewed interest among us in the writings of a man who has instructed, puzzled, and amused the world, and who has helped "to pass on the torch of learning and literature to many leading spirits of other ages and countries."

The epilogue to Mr Smith's book ends with a tantalising paragraph beginning with the words: "As he borrowed freely from other sources, ancient and modern, so his own books have supplied much matter and many ideas to writers who succeeded him." Among these writers mention is briefly made of Brantôme and Pasquier, Montaigne and Molière in France; and, in our land, of Ben Jonson and Nashe, Bacon and Burton, Sir Thomas Browne and Samuel Butler (the author of *Hudibras*), and lastly Lawrence Sterne and Walter Scott. Mr Smith might easily have written a whole chapter on these imitators, with details as to the indebtedness of each. It was only with the author of *Hudibras* that he dealt fully in the second chapter of the eighth volume of the *Cambridge History of English Literature*.

He was also interested in the printed sources of Rabelais, and made a comprehensive collection of about 250 volumes, including facsimiles or reprints of early editions and copies of the authorities used in his writings. In 1919, by his own gift, this valuable collection found a permanent home in the Library of his College.

In the same year Mr Smith deposited with the Librarian of the College a complete revision of his annotated translation of 1893. This represents the ripe result of many years of continued study of his author, and it is much to be hoped that it may be published in a way that would be worthy of the translator's memory.

After the termination of the College Lectureship in 1892, as the climate of Cambridge was little suited to a valetudinarian who was liable to attacks of bronchitis and rheumatism, Mr and Mrs Smith lived more and more abroad, either in Switzerland (mainly on or near the Lake of Geneva) or in Italy (chiefly in Rome or Florence). A man of alert and inquiring mind, a delightful converser, an admirable correspondent, and an accomplished linguist, Mr Smith undoubtedly gained much, in mental as well as bodily health, by not remaining permanently in Cambridge. In the cosmopolitan society of cultivated scholars in other lands his interests perceptibly expanded, while his general character mellowed and ripened during his long residence abroad.

After the outbreak of the War in August, 1914, Mr and Mrs Smith left Florence for Geneva, and ultimately for England. Their return restored Mr Smith to the full use of his books, of which he had retained only a very limited selection as his travelling library. They settled down for a time, mainly at Malvern, and also at Bath and Cheltenham, and Oxford and Cambridge.

His familiarity with Rabelais as a humanist and a physician led to his receiving kind encouragement from the late Sir William Osler, who interested himself in a proposed new edition of the translation of Rabelais.

Mr Smith's special study of the old Greek physicians, who were among his author's sources, prompted him to form a design for translating some of the more popular works of Galen, or selections from Hippocrates. But (owing partly to weakness of sight) it was too late even to begin to carry out either of these designs, especially as, in the early summer of 1919, there was a prospect of returning to the Continent, to a drier climate than that of England, which was denounced by my valetudinarian friend as hopelessly "water-logged."

On May 24, Mr and Mrs Smith left England for France. Mr Smith had formally applied for the necessary passport with the express purpose of visiting places connected with his continued study of the life and writings of Rabelais. Rabelais never tires of speaking of Touraine, "the garden of France."¹ Accordingly the travellers began with Tours. They then proceeded to the author's birthplace at Chinon, and, amid intense and exhausting heat, journeyed down to the sea at La Rochelle, with its lantern-tower of old renown, "the lantern of La Rochelle," which (as Rabelais himself says) gave Pantagruel and his fellow-travellers "a good clear light."² There they stayed until the middle of September, when they went on by easy stages to Pau.

Early in November I wrote to Mr Smith enclosing a copy of the proposed book-plate for his gift to the College Library, while my main purpose was to break to him the news of the death of his friend John Maxwell Image. But he was already too ill to be told of the purport of any part of my letter. At the Hôtel de Jeanne d'Arc at Pau, he had been seized with a stroke of paralysis on October 16th. While his mind was wandering, his thoughts ran much upon his books, but the only person he then mentioned was "John Maxwell." After a severe illness lasting for six weeks, during which he was constantly tended by his devoted wife, he died on Friday, November 28th, the very day on which the

¹ W. F. Smith's transl. vol. i, p. xxi.

² *ib.* ii, 398.