

**FOREIGN VISITORS IN ENGLAND,
AND WHAT THEY HAVE THOUGHT
OF US: BEING SOME NOTES ON
THEIR BOOKS AND THEIR OPINIONS
DURING THE LAST THREE CENTURIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649137763

Foreign visitors in England, and what they have thought of us: being some notes on their books and their opinions during the last three centuries by Edward 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

EDWARD SMITH

**FOREIGN VISITORS IN ENGLAND,
AND WHAT THEY HAVE THOUGHT
OF US: BEING SOME NOTES ON
THEIR BOOKS AND THEIR OPINIONS
DURING THE LAST THREE CENTURIES**

FOREIGN
VISITORS IN ENGLAND,

AND

What they have Thought of Us :

BEING,

*SOME NOTES ON THEIR BOOKS AND THEIR OPINIONS
DURING THE LAST THREE CENTURIES.*

BY

EDWARD SMITH



LONDON

ELLIOT STOCK, 62 PATERNÖSTER ROW

1889

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA
AND ANGELES LIBRARY

ANNUNCIANDO PER VOI
YAGHI CULTURA DO INIA

OCT 15 1937

DA
113
S642

INTRODUCTION.

IT will be seen, from the ensuing pages, that there is material for very curious and interesting inquiry in the opinions and experiences of travellers in Great Britain.

The frequent re-perusal of the memoirs of such travellers leads one to see that there is 'a good deal of human nature' about Englishmen; and that we have a special force of character, which brings us to extremes of both bad and good. We are, without doubt, difficult to understand on first acquaintance. The reason is this: that the average foreigner comes armed with prejudices. But when at last a Frenchman, or a Dutchman, or a German has succeeded in penetrating the character and understanding

b

LIBRARY JTW
1936
JUL 2
Bull.

6 113 S642

something of the habits and modes of thought of the ordinary English gentleman, he is first impelled to admire, and at length to love.

Among our intelligent visitors, there are some who are disposed to indulge the best hopes for England's welfare; whilst a very great number have reached our shores with their minds overweighted with the prejudices of their own fatherland. As for those of our own day, some have deliberately come as apostles of their own notions: the peace-and-equality fad, the anti-slavery fad, the women's rights fad, etc., are in turn flaunted in our face. This is especially so with American visitors. In these cases, the objects and advantages of a trip to London are so far missed, in that they do not minister to the special fancies of system-mongers.

The following essay is chiefly devoted to some visitors of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; although some references are made to diarists of our own and the last generation. When the reader learns that the bibliography of the subject

extends to at least four hundred items, he will readily understand that an exhaustive treatment of the subject would exceed the modest limits at our disposal.

As far as we are aware, there has been but one serious endeavour previously to present a picture of England collected from the writings of foreigners, viz.: 'England as seen by Foreigners in the Days of Elizabeth and James I. . . . By WILLIAM BRENCHLEY RYE, assistant keeper of the department of printed books, British Museum.' London, 1865. It would be impossible to praise too highly the execution of this work: a marvel of erudition and good taste. The exceptional opportunities enjoyed by Mr. Rye, supplemented by his own excellent linguistic and historical attainments, have here enabled us to come face to face with society during this interesting period in our annals, concerning many matters on which the native annalist is often silent.

*BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WORKS QUOTED
IN THIS VOLUME.*

- VON ROZMITAL.—A Bohemian noble (*circa* 1466).
Quoted from W. B. Rye.
[First published at Olmütz in 1577. The *Quarterly Review* of March, 1852 (xc., pp. 413-444), has an article under the title of 'Bohemian Embassy to England, Spain, etc., in 1466,' in which the more interesting passages from this curious work are given at large.]
- GRUTHUYSE.—'Narratives of the Arrival of Louis de Bruges, Seigneur de la Gruthuyse, in England, and of his creation as Earl of Winchester, in 1472.' Published in *Archeologia*, xxvi. 265-286.
[From Additional MSS. 6113. Edward IV. had been entertained and befriended by this grandee when in exile; and this journal relates the efforts made by Edward to honour him publicly at Court and elsewhere.]
- TREVISANO.—'A Relation, or rather a True Account of the Island of England . . . about the year 1500.' *Camden Society*, 1847.
[Andrea Trevisano, ambassador to England in 1497.]
- GIUSTINIAN.—'Four Years at the Court of Henry VIII. Selection of despatches written by the Venetian Ambassador, Sebastian Giustinian, and

addressed to the Signory of Venice, January 12, 1515, to July 26, 1519. Translated by Rawdon Brown. 2 vols., 8vo., London, 1854.

NICANDER NUCIUS.—'The Second Book of the Travels of Nicander Nucius. Edited from the original Greek MS. in the Bodleian Library, with an English translation by the Rev. J. A. Cramer, D.D.' *Camden Society*, 1841.

[Supposed to be in the suite of an embassy to England, 1545-6.]

PERLIN.—'Description of England and Scotland. By Stephen Perlin' (? 1553). Translated and printed in Grose's *Antiquarian Repertory*, iv., pp. 501 *et seq.*

[First published in Paris, 1558. Reprinted, London, 1775, with an English preface. Nothing else is known of the author.]

VAN METEREN.—The Dutch historian, and sometime a merchant in London (*circa* 1558-1612). Quoted from W. B. Rye.

LEMNIUS.—A Dutch physician (? 1560). Quoted from W. B. Rye.

HENTZNER.—'A Journey into England. By Paul Hentzner, in the year 1598.' 8vo. (Latin and English), Strawberry Hill, 1757.

[Part of the journal of a tutor, who accompanied a Silesian nobleman on an extended tour in Europe. First published at Breslau, 1617. This English portion was introduced to the English reader by Horace Walpole. Since his days it has several times been reprinted.]

SULLY.—'Memoirs of Maximilian de Bethune, Duke of Sully, Prime Minister to Henry the Great . . .'