

**AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF  
THE ART OF SCULPTURE IN  
WOOD, FROM THE EARLIEST  
PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME**

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An Historical Sketch of the Art of Sculpture in Wood, from the Earliest Period to the Present  
Time by Robert Folkestone Williams

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**ROBERT FOLKESTONE WILLIAMS**

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AN  
HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF THE  
ART OF SCULPTURE IN WOOD,

FROM THE

EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME;

WITH NOTICES OF THE MOST REMARKABLE SCULPTURAL WORKS IN  
THE SAME MATERIAL NOW REMAINING IN EUROPE,

And some Account of their Designers.

By ROBERT FOLKESTONE WILLIAMS,

AUTHOR OF "RHYMES AND RHAPSODIES," &c.



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## DEDICATED

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR ROBERT PEEL, BART.

IN INSCRIBING this little volume to so distinguished an individual, I am fearful it may lead many to imagine, that I am attempting to give the work an importance which does not belong to it; but my sole object is to mark my gratitude for the generous and enlightened patronage which you have bestowed upon the Fine Arts.

To you, SIR, and other kindred spirits similarly situated, the present generation owes an

infinite debt of grateful feelings—an obligation that future ages also must acknowledge and appreciate—for, by wealth liberally applied, and judgment promptly directed, in the search after works of merit, you have allowed the multitude of lovers of the beautiful and the intellectual, who, like me, can only look on in admiration, to enjoy a gratification that ought always to be considered among the most pure and ennobling of human pleasures; while, fostered by such princely encouragement as you have even in the busiest period of your laborious and useful life found time to distribute amongst them, artists have continued to strive for superiority, and art made efforts to progress in excellence.

That such patronage increases the diffusion of intelligence cannot be doubted; for it will always be found that those nations who have ever been distinguished by superior civilization, have, at the same time, been remarkable for a general patronage of art. That the same influence assists the growth



of sociality is equally evident; for works of genius rarely fail to inspire their admirers with kind and estimable sensations.

As an acknowledgment of a good felt by all, that society is receiving at your hands, by which the heart and mind profit in the same exalted degree, I have presumed to dedicate to you this humble work, sincerely regretting that it should be so little worthy of the high honour it receives; and remaining, with every sentiment of esteem and admiration,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THE AUTHOR.



## PREFACE.

THE ART OF SCULPTURE IN WOOD, though of great interest, has not received that attention it deserves; and the want of some account of its history has been frequently acknowledged by those who have felt any gratification in the study of the arts of design. The following pages have been written as a popular compendium of the most interesting information that can be acquired upon the subject; the Author having in preparation a more elaborate work for those who are desirous of a complete book of reference, in which every thing relating to Timber Architecture and