

**A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF THE  
LIBRARY AND PRINT ROOM OF THE  
RUSKIN MUSEUM, SHEFFIELD. WITH  
NOTES AND EXTRACTS FROM THE  
WORKS OF PROFESSOR RUSKIN**

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A Descriptive Catalogue of the Library and Print Room of the Ruskin Museum, Sheffield. With Notes and Extracts from the Works of Professor Ruskin by John Ruskin & William White

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**JOHN RUSKIN & WILLIAM WHITE**

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[FIRST ISSUE.]

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GEORGE ALLEN:  
SUNNYSIDE, ORPINGTON, KENT;  
AND 8, BELL COURT, TEMPLE BAR, LONDON.

1890

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PRICE ONE SHILLING.

CATALOGUE OF  
BOOKS AND PRINTS  
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Visitors from a distance will find ready means of access to the Museum, either by train to Heeley Station (Midland Railway), from which it is about five or ten minutes walk, or by omnibus and tram running every few minutes from the centre of the town (Fitzalan Square or Moorhead), to the terminus at the same point.

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[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

## PREFATORY NOTE.

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The collections comprised in the Ruskin Museum are the property of the Guild of St. George, which have been placed under the custody of the Corporation of Sheffield, by whom the Museum will be maintained for the term of twenty years, the Trustees of the Guild being associated with the Corporation in its control and management.

The removal of the "St. George's Museum," as it was formerly known, from Walkley to its present situation in Meersbrook Park, took place in the spring of the present year; the opening ceremony under its new auspices being performed by the Earl of Carlisle on the fifteenth of April.

It was Professor Ruskin's hope long ago to treat of the contents of the different departments of the Museum in full descriptive catalogues, but his multifarious works then in hand rendered the task impossible. His continuous ill-health has, unfortunately, kept the matter in abeyance, and has prevented him even from superintending the preparation of this first instalment. In its compilation, however, I have endeavoured to present it in a form such as I hope he might approve, using all available means of embellishing it, both by minute study of the works themselves in connection with their individual history, and by research in relation to his writings respecting them. As



numerous sections of Mr. Ruskin's volumes contain full or discursive commentaries on the "things written" which may here be consulted, I have avoided quoting lengthy extracts from his works, preferring rather to refer the reader to the text in the books themselves; such brief passages as I have included, being chiefly indicative of the subjective analysis to be found in the volumes from which they are taken.

In the arrangement of the catalogue, I have entirely dispensed with the more usual alphabetical method, and have adopted instead a classified order of the various subjects included, as tabulated on pages xi and xii. My motive in making this departure from the ordinary rule has been that it may be generally recognised that, whereas collections of books on widely different subjects, are usually catalogued otherwise,—either the unwieldy bulk of material which has to be dealt with, or some other purpose, as of trade, rendering the alphabetical method a more expedient, if not the only practical resource,—the present circumstances are otherwise, and of an exceptional character. The main object in the present case is the representation of the Museum Library, as a chief exponent of, and in direct relation to Mr. Ruskin's special teaching. It is thus to be understood that the collection is *purposely limited*, being restricted to such works as are commended by Mr. Ruskin for their choiceness of quality, primarily in relation to the subjects that are dealt with, but equally with regard to the manner in which they are presented, and the perfection with which they are illustrated. The order of classification which I have devised will, I hope, effectually serve the purpose of assisting intending readers in the choice of works and authors unknown to them on account of rarity, or for other reasons,

and I have endeavoured, by means of descriptive accounts of each work, to provide a catalogue of a "King's treasury" which shall be of higher interest than a bare list of titles, and record of names. An alphabetical Index of the names of the Authors at the end of the catalogue, will afford to those who are already acquainted with them, a ready means of reference to their works.

The majority of the works included in the present catalogue are gifts which Mr. Ruskin has carefully chosen, and lavishly bestowed upon the St. George's Guild, as affording examples of rare works of genius which are specially worthy of attention as objects of study, or in other respects of particular value to students. The regard for rare quality, instead of mere accumulation, constituting, as already mentioned, a distinct feature of this, as well as of the other departments of the Museum, it is further intended that only such works as legitimately come within the scope of Mr. Ruskin's system of general culture, and which serve to illustrate his teaching, shall at any time be admitted into the collection as proper to the institution. This distinctive principle it is necessary to specify, since numerous friends, unaware evidently of the particular character of the Museum, have kindly forwarded presents, which are not of the nature desired, and which therefore, are not included in this catalogue.

The famous Eyton collection of Ornithological illustrations (see page 18), it has been impossible to epitomise at present, and the existing Manuscript catalogue is of little, if any, service; but I purpose revising the entire collection, and compiling a new and complete index to the plates, which will render this series of between six and seven thousand beautiful representations of birds from all parts of the world,—including over three hundred

drawings which have never been engraved,—of more practical interest, and of especial value to naturalists.

It may perhaps be thought that this descriptive account of the collection of books and engravings belonging to this Museum is out of all proportion to its extent, but the scope and importance of the works will be found at once of the greatest interest to all who know how to admire what is beautiful, and revere what is great.

WILLIAM WHITE.

*The Ruskin Museum.*

*October, 1890.*