

**THE GREAT MASTERS IN
PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE.
BERNARDINO LUINI**

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The Great Masters in Painting and Sculpture. Bernardino Luini by G. C. Williamson

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AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

BUT few words of preface are needed to introduce this book to the reader. It is necessarily a very imperfect sketch of the life and works of the painter, but it embraces, I believe, all that is at present known regarding him. Every effort has been made, by diligent search of records and works, to clear up some of the mysteries that surround Luini's life, but in only a very few cases has the effort been successful. Much still remains to be done in delineating this interesting life, and in settling many of its dates, and I can only hope that this little volume may serve as an inducement to others to still more diligent inquiry.

With respect to the pictures, I have endeavoured to avoid such criticism as is purely destructive. It is the easiest to make, and the most difficult to substantiate. I attach considerable importance to tradition, and hesitate to disturb it unless able to give well-defined reasons for so doing. At the same time I have been critical, and, I hope, discriminative; but in many cases have preferred to leave a question open, rather than to dogmatize upon insufficient evidence. Almost every picture has been carefully examined by me and, by means of a large collection of photographs, I have compared picture with picture, and included in my scrutiny those few works which it has been impossible for me to examine. The

record at the end of this volume is the result of this labour, and by it I am content to be judged. I believe such a comparison as I have adopted has never before been so systematically carried out, and, in fact, it has only quite recently been possible, inasmuch as many pictures were photographed for the first time for my use. The learned researches of such workers as Burckhardt, Crowe and Cavalcaselle, Eastlake, Jameson, Kugler, Layard, Morelli, Nagler, Rumohr, Rosini, Volckmann, Mr. Herbert Cook, Signor Beltrami, and others, have been laid under heavy contribution, and my thanks are most heartily due to the authors and publishers of these works.

I would also express my gratitude to Baron Edmond Rothschild, Prince Esterhazy, Miss Cohen, Mr. Benson, and the Director of the Hermitage Gallery, for the courtesy which enabled me to reproduce the pictures in their collections, and also to the various firms which have kindly permitted the use of their excellent photographs.

G. C. W.

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