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978-1-108-07806-1 - Palissy the Potter: The Life of Bernard Palissy, of Saintes, his Labours and Discoveries in Art and Science: Volume 1

Henry Moley

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Palissy the Potter

This two-volume biography of the sixteenth-century French potter and natural scientist Bernard Palissy (c.1510–c.1590) was published in 1852, the year after the Great Exhibition, in which Palissy's extraordinary art had been brought before the Victorian public by Minton's highly decorated 'Palissy wares'. Henry Morley (1822–94) trained in medicine but later became an author and editor, writing for Charles Dickens among others. Here he gathers together all the material then available about Palissy, including the potter's own writings and a contemporary biography. Palissy was among the many European ceramicists who attempted to reproduce Chinese porcelain; his lack of success drove his family into poverty, but his highly ornamented wares, encrusted with sea creatures, came to the attention of Catherine de' Medici, who gave him her patronage and protection (he was a convinced Protestant); after her death he was sent to the Bastille, and died there.

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His Labours and Discoveries in Art and Science*

VOLUME 1

HENRY MORLEY



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University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108078061

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2015

This edition first published 1852

This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-07806-1 Paperback

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PALISSY THE POTTER.

THE LIFE

OF

BERNARD PALISSY, OF SAINTES,

HIS LABOURS AND DISCOVERIES IN ART AND SCIENCE;

WITH AN OUTLINE OF

HIS PHILOSOPHICAL DOCTRINES,

AND A TRANSLATION OF

ILLUSTRATIVE SELECTIONS FROM HIS WORKS.

BY HENRY MORLEY.

*" Je n'ai point eu d'autre livre que le ciel et la terre, lequel est comenu de tous,
et est donné à tous de connoistre et lire ce beau livre." PALISSY.*

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
CHAPMAN AND HALL, 193, PICCADILLY.
1852.

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P R E F A C E.

IN Chapters II. to VI. of the first volume of this book I have feigned two or three simple incidents and dialogues, in order that so I might more easily describe the character of the experience that must have been acquired by Palissy during his early travels. Nothing else in these volumes is fictitious; and in the chapters above named the information given is in no case fanciful: every point has been selected, as nearly as possible, from contemporary writings, and the dialogues express opinions of the time as they were spoken by the men who held them.

So much preface is made necessary by the romantic character of many incidents in the life of a man who laboured three centuries ago in turbulent times,

Voyaging through strange seas of thought, alone.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

PREFACE.

In his own day he was a man obscurely great among the prominently little; but the world, as it grows, improves its estimate of greatness, and the name of Palissy perhaps will not remain obscure.

LONDON, *October*, 1852.

ERRATA.

On page 185, in the first volume, at the twelfth line, Leghorn is printed for Libourne. It is requested that the reader will be kind enough to make correction of this error with a pen.

VOL. I.—Page 26, last line, for *from*, read *to*; p. 38, l. 16, for *drive*, read *dive*; p. 64, l. 17, for 1649, read 1469; p. 65, l. 9, for *V.*, read *I.*; p. 102, l. 7, for *usually*, read *usual*; p. 175, l. 7, for *day*, read *days*; p. 180, l. 1, for *Saintonge*, read *Saintes*; p. 185, l. 12, for *Leghorn*, read *Libourne*; p. 203, l. 3, for *by*, read *from*; p. 231, l. 6, for *II.*, read *I.*; p. 273, l. 4, for *works*, read *work*; p. 282, l. 11, for *prosecuting*, read *persecuting*.

VOL. II.—Page 110, last line, for *passages*, read *passage*; p. 172, l. 7, for *tells*, read *tell*; p. 185, l. 26, for *Hierononymus*, read *Hieronymus*.

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[More information](#)

CONTENTS OF VOL. I.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
BIRTH, PARENTAGE, AND EARLY EDUCATION	1
CHAPTER II.	
PALISSY OBTAINS SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD	15
CHAPTER III.	
MORE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD	29
CHAPTER IV.	
PALISSY STUDIES THE PHILOSOPHERS	42
CHAPTER V.	
COMMOTIONS IN THE CHURCH	62
CHAPTER VI.	
THE FRENCH REFORMER	80
CHAPTER VII.	
PALISSY MARRIED AND SETTLED—THE ENAMELLED CUP	101
CHAPTER VIII.	
POTTERY THREE CENTURIES AGO	109

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Labours and Discoveries in Art and Science: Volume 1

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER IX.	
PALISSY RESOLVES TO CONQUER FOR HIMSELF NEW GROUND— THE FIRST WAR FOR THE DISCOVERY OF WHITE ENAMEL . . .	122
CHAPTER X.	
A TRUCE: THE GABELLE AND THE SALT-MARSHES OF SAINTONGE . . .	131
CHAPTER XI.	
SECOND PALISSIAN WAR FOR THE DISCOVERY OF WHITE ENAMEL . . .	157
CHAPTER XII.	
A HERETIC IS BURNT AT SAINTES: NEW TROUBLES AFFLICT BER- NARD PALISSY	172
CHAPTER XIII.	
PALISSY BECOMES A POTTER	193
CHAPTER XIV.	
THE REFORMED CHURCH AT SAINTES	214
CHAPTER XV.	
AFFAIRS OF FRANCE	230
CHAPTER XVI.	
PALISSY PUBLISHES A BOOK	255
CHAPTER XVII.	
PALISSY IN SUNSHINE, AND FRANCE UNDER A CLOUD	274
CHAPTER XVIII.	
THE OUTBREAK OF THE STORM—PALISSY WRECKED	291