From the middle of the eighteenth century, with the growth of travel at home and abroad and the increase in leisure for the wealthier classes, the arts became the subject of more widespread appreciation and discussion. The rapid expansion of book and periodical publishing in this area both reflected and encouraged interest in art and art history among the wider reading public. This series throws light on the development of visual culture and aesthetics. It covers topics from the Grand Tour to the great exhibitions of the nineteenth century, and includes art criticism and biography.

Life of Thomas Gainsborough, R.A.

Born in Sudbury, Suffolk, in 1727, Thomas Gainsborough was perhaps the best-known portrait painter of the eighteenth century. This 1856 work by George Williams Fulcher (1795–1855), bookseller and poet, also of Sudbury, was seen through the press by his son after his sudden death, and was, surprisingly, the first biography of the painter. Educated at the local grammar school, Gainsborough moved to London in about 1740, and received some artistic training there, but returned, married, to Sudbury in 1749, and thereafter moved to Ipswich and then Bath as he became more fashionable as a portraitist. He ended his career in London, dying in August 1788. Fulcher's work is anecdotal and engaging, and concerned as much with the life as with the works. He also provides a list of Gainsborough's works, and reproduces the lecture on Gainsborough given by Joshua Reynolds to the Royal Academy students soon after his death.
Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

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Life of Thomas Gainsborough, R.A.

George Williams Fulcher

Edited by Edmund Syer Fulcher
GEORGE WILLIAMS FULCHER,

BY THE LATER

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH, R.A.

A BOOK FOR THE CORNER.

GEORGE WILLIAMS FULCHER.
LONDON: BROW, GREEN, AND LONDON,

LONDON.

EDITED BY HIS SON.

GEORGE WILLIAMS FULCHER.

BY THE LATE

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH, R.A.

OF

LIFE
Him.

I learn anything of consequence respecting

Constable was unce— in 1797, 1797— in and she died thirteen years or so afterwards as

but in the town wherein Constablerough re-

lived the Colonel, concerning the Great Parture;

the latter he could conjuring that great Parture

at Preston, desiring him to gather what Partur-

"Millennium," wrote to Constable, who was then

their, expressed, and Simul, the biographer of

years expressed, and Simul, the biographer of

erected a name of equal duration. Now

never not here any more, than that it deservedly

ten, "he says," in one day, of which we

7. [Footnote, published in a foot note, "With

a month of his decease, the earl's parturion

been known of the personal history of him

near seventy years have passed away

PROFACE.
been born in the same town, to have been
brought up in the same village, to have a
brother, a sister, aunts, uncles, cousins, and a
whole tribe of relatives. The story of George
Williams Fulcher is as full of interest as can
be expected of a man who has lived to be a
man of letters, and who has published a book,
which is likely to become a classic in the
literature of biography.

Preface
Preface.

I am also indebted for many useful suggestions, for remarks on some of Gainsborough’s paintings, and for contributions to the Gainsboroughian literature, to the Rev. Edmund Syer Fulcher, R.A., whose generous and unfailing help to my endeavours throughout me with much kindness and interest, and whose encouragement and readiness to render assistance and advice I most cordially acknowledge. The kindness of the Chichester, Sussex, and other libraries, and of private owners of important pictures, has been most cordially appreciated, and the assistance received from them of inestimable value.

I have been enabled to consult the admirable biography of Gainsborough, written by Mr. Fulcher, and to make use of the original MS. note-books and other documents preserved in the British Museum, and also of the宝贵的 and comprehensive catalogue of Mr. W. H. Pyne, and all that is due to the kindness and generosity of the owners and the guardians of the many pictures that have been left to the nation, the privilege of studying which has been extended to me, and to which I am most grateful.

I am indebted to Mr. Thomas Gainsborough, R.A., for permission to reproduce several of his pictures, and for the valuable information concerning them that I have received from him. I have also been enabled to examine the notes of John Sheppherd, the sculptor, and other records of the life of Gainsborough that are in the possession of the Gainsborough Society.

I have studied the MS. note-books of Major Gainsborough, the ornaments of whose house in Bath I have seen, and I am indebted to Mr. Fulcher for some interesting particulars concerning the family.

I have been enabled to consult the admirable biography of Gainsborough, written by Mr. Fulcher, and to make use of the original MS. note-books and other documents preserved in the British Museum, and also of the valuable information concerning them that I have received from Mr. Gainsborough, R.A., concerning the life of his father, and from several other sources. I have also been enabled to examine the notes of John Sheppherd, the sculptor, and other records of the life of Gainsborough that are in the possession of the Gainsborough Society.
SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH, 1836.

I. S. PLECHER.

Correct the one, and supply the other.

In the Catalogue it would, perhaps, have been impossible, at this distance of time, to
prepare correct and complete. I shall be
grateful assistance.

On looking over my Ruther's papers, I found
W. R. Deak, and Mr. R. Deak,
C. Taylor; Mr. Hoggard, Mr. Carpenter,
Miss Gough; J. O. Raker; W. R.
J. R. Hay; R. M. T. Brown; C. C. Brown; B.
M. C. D. C. B. C. G. C. C. B. C. C. B. C.
R. M. A. D. M. D. M. D. M. D. M. D. M.
T. D. H. H. H. H. H.

I beg further to acknowledge the courteous
communication of R. R. Shepherd, Esq.,
Mr. D'Hostin, Esq., G. H. Chislet,
communica...
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