

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Medieval History

This series includes pioneering editions of medieval historical accounts by eye-witnesses and contemporaries, collections of source materials such as charters and letters, and works that applied new historiographical methods to the interpretation of the European middle ages. The nineteenth century saw an upsurge of interest in medieval manuscripts, texts and artefacts, and the enthusiastic efforts of scholars and antiquaries made a large body of material available in print for the first time. Although many of the analyses have been superseded, they provide fascinating evidence of the academic practices of their time, while a considerable number of texts have still not been re-edited and are still widely consulted.

Essays on Archaeological Subjects

Thomas Wright (1810–77), antiquarian, archaeologist and historian, wrote many works on all his areas of interest, including several reissued in the Cambridge Library Collection. He was the first excavator of the Roman city of Wroxeter, wrote on the history of Ludlow and of Cambridge, and was interested in ethnology, folklore, the Celtic languages and Old English, and etymology. This two-volume collection of his essays was published in 1861: he selected them 'to embrace in some manner the whole field of our own primeval history and that of the Middle Ages'. The subjects range from the excavation of tumuli in Yorkshire to the history of drama in the Middle Ages. Wright draws on sources ranging from medieval charters to modern linguistic studies, as well as the remains and artefacts uncovered by his own and others' excavations. Volume 2 contains articles on the medieval period, from language to architecture and satire.

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.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Essays on Archaeological Subjects

*And on Various Questions Connected with the History
of Art, Science, and Literature in the Middle Ages*

VOLUME 2

THOMAS WRIGHT



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108083485

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2018

This edition first published 1861
This digitally printed version 2018

ISBN 978-1-108-08348-5 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with,
or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

The original edition of this book contains a number of oversize plates
which it has not been possible to reproduce to scale in this edition.
They can be found online at www.cambridge.org/9781108083485

ESSAYS ON ARCHÆOLOGICAL
SUBJECTS.

ESSAYS ON ARCHÆOLOGICAL
SUBJECTS,
AND ON VARIOUS QUESTIONS CONNECTED
WITH THE HISTORY OF ART, SCIENCE,
AND LITERATURE IN THE
MIDDLE AGES.

BY
THOMAS WRIGHT, Esq. M.A., F.S.A., M.R.S.L., Etc.
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF
FRANCE (ACADEMIE DES INSCRIPTIONS ET
BELLES LETTRES.)

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. II.



LONDON :
JOHN RUSSELL SMITH,
SOHO SQUARE.
1861.



CONTENTS.

Chapter	Page
XIII. ON the Ancient Map of the World preserved in Hereford Cathedral, as illustrative of the History of Geography in the Middle Ages	1
XIV. On the History of the English Language	28
XV. On the Abacus, or Mediæval System of Arithmetic	61
XVI. On the Antiquity of Dates expressed in Arabic Numerals	74
XVII. Remarks on an Ivory Casket of the beginning of the Fourteenth Century	88
XVIII. On the Carvings of the Stalls in Cathedral and Collegiate Churches	111
XIX. Illustrations of some questions relating to Architectural Antiquities :—	
(a) <i>Mediæval Architecture Illustrated from Illuminated Manuscripts</i>	129
(b) <i>A word on Mediæval Bridge-Builders</i>	137

Chapter	CONTENTS.	Page
	(c) <i>On the Remains of proscribed Races in Mediæval and Modern Society, as ex- plaining certain peculiarities in old Churches</i>	141
XX.	On the Origin of Rhymes in Mediæval Poetry, and its bearing on the Authenticity of the Early Welsh Poems	151
XXI.	On the History of the Drama in the Middle Ages	169
XXII.	On the Literature of the Trobadours	194
XXIII.	On the History of Comic Literature during the Middle Ages	230
XXIV.	On the Satirical Literature of the Reformation	272

PLATES.

Ivory Casket of Fourteenth Century, Plate I, to face	95
„ „ „ „ Plate II. „	98

ERRATA.

P. 94, *note*, for *Brit. MS.* read *Brit. Mus.*

P. 166. My conjecture on the date of the “Black Book of Caermarthen” is merely founded on the description by others. I have since received information which leads me to believe that this manuscript is of a considerably later date.

P. 168, l. 16, for *to as late a date*, read *to a later date*.