The Palaeontographical Society was established in 1847, and is the oldest Society devoted to study of palaeontology worldwide. Its primary role is to promote the description and illustration of the British fossil flora and fauna, via publication of an authoritative monograph series. These monographs cover a wide range of taxonomic groups, from microfossils, trilobites and ammonites through to Coal Measure plants, mammals and reptiles, and from all ages from Cambrian to Pleistocene. They form a benchmark for understanding the past life of the British Isles and many include the original descriptions of numerous key species. The first monograph (on the Crag Mollusca) was published in March 1848 and the Society still continues this work today. Notable authors in the series include Charles Darwin (fossil barnacles) and Richard Owen (dinosaurs and other extinct reptiles). Beginning in 2014, the Cambridge Library Collection and the Society are collaborating to reissue the earlier publications, focusing on monographs completed between 1848 and 1918.

A Monograph of British Graptolites

Prepared by Gertrude Elles (1872–1960) and Ethel Wood (1871–1946), this monograph was originally issued in ten instalments between 1901 and 1914, with the title page and index appearing in 1918. It is reissued here in two volumes. A systematic description and illustration of over 370 species of graptolites known at that time from the British Isles, and including nearly 100 new species, it was prepared under the editorship of Charles Lapworth (1842–1920), who also wrote a short introduction and some general discussion on classification. Elles wrote much of the descriptive text and Wood prepared the hundreds of wash-drawings. The resultant monograph is valued for the accuracy of these illustrations; those on the plates were printed at natural size, enabling a user equipped with a hand-lens to compare a rock specimen directly with the printed figures. The monograph was much admired and led to imitations, but none could match the quality of the original.
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A Monograph of
British Graptolites

Volume 2

Gertrude L. Elles
Ethel M.R. Wood
Edited by Charles Lapworth
A MONOGRAPH

OF

BRITISH GRAPHTOLITES.

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