

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - *Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period*

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Printing and publishing history

The interface between authors and their readers is a fascinating subject in its own right, revealing a great deal about social attitudes, technological progress, aesthetic values, fashionable interests, political positions, economic constraints, and individual personalities. This part of the Cambridge Library Collection reissues classic studies in the area of printing and publishing history that shed light on developments in typography and book design, printing and binding, the rise and fall of publishing houses and periodicals, and the roles of authors and illustrators. It documents the ebb and flow of the book trade supplying a wide range of customers with products from almanacs to novels, bibles to erotica, and poetry to statistics.

Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853

This volume brings together extensive recollections of authors, publishers, auctioneers and booksellers from 1779 to 1853, based on the author's personal acquaintance with the prominent writers, artists and book publishers of the period. The book is in three sections, each one concentrating on a given area of London and the literary scene centred upon it. They are Paternoster Row, Fleet Street and The Strand. Attention is paid to different forms of publication, such as the early magazines, in which books were published by instalments, and to key personalities. There is also detailed background to some of the most important publishing houses, such as Longman, and works which were considered pivotal to their success, such as 'Rees' Cyclopaedia' and the 'Annual Review'. Engagingly written from a personal perspective, this book will be of value to historians of literature and publishing, and others interested in London's literary past

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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 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 will bring 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.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With
Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853

*With Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers,
Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period*

THOMAS REES

EDITED BY JOHN BRITTON



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With
Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108009171

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1896

This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00917-1 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.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With
Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Reminiscences of Literary London.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With
Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With
Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Reminiscences
OF
Literary London

From 1779 to 1853.

**With Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers,
Authors and Book Auctioneers
of that Period, &c., &c.**

BY

DR. THOMAS REES,

WITH EXTENSIVE ADDITIONS BY

JOHN BRITTON, F. S. A.

Edited by a Book Lover.

LONDON:

SUCKLING & GALLOWAY.

1896.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With
Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



THESE interesting “Literary Reminiscences,” written about 1853, and privately issued, are known to but few persons, as but a limited number of copies were printed for presentation. The volume includes extensive recollections of Authors, Publishers, and Booksellers from 1779 to 1853. The authors were personally acquainted with all the prominent writers, artists, and makers of books, and many curious anecdotes, prices received by authors for their well-known works, editions sold, and personal peculiarities of literary and business men here given will be new to the reader. The work is now for the first time edited, with the hope that it may prove as enjoyable reading to the purchaser as it has been to the

New York, 1896.

BOOK LOVER.



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With
Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

By John Britton.

AT. PAUL'S Churchyard, Ave-Maria Lane and Amen Corner were familiar names to the eye and mind in my boy-days; but I had no more notion of the features and character of the places than of the interior of a man-of-war, or of Robinson Crusoe's island. After reading numerous magazines, and taking in several of the sixpenny numbers published by Harrison, Cooke, Parsons, etc., and thereby ascertaining something about authors, artists, printers, and booksellers, I became curious and anxious to see such gifted personages, their homes, or haunts; and also where the manufacturers of literature resided, what were their peculiarities, and who and what sort of beings they were. I also coveted to see and read more books than I could afford to purchase. During the apprenticeship, I do not remember to have had an opportunity of satisfying this curiosity, except early in a morning, before shops were opened, or on Sundays, when they were all closed, and "The Row," with its appendages, as

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With
Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*PREFACE.*

dull and silent as many village churchyards; but after being relieved from my apprentice-bondage, I found my way to the famed book-mart; traversed the narrow, dark street, miscalled Row; stopped to gaze at every shop window, and even stealthily looked in at every opened doorway, to see if a Harrison, a Cooke, a Hogg, or even one of their Grub-street workmen, or a rich author, could be descried. The names of Peter Pindar, Thomas Holcroft, Dr. Buchan, Wm. Godwin, Dr. A. Rees, Mr. Howard, Mr. Hall, Thos. Paine, the Misses Porter, Hannah More, Mrs. Radcliffe, and many others were familiar to me, and I longed to see such super-human beings, as I then regarded them. At length I ventured to enter some of the houses, and thus obtain a sight of labelled numbers, and volumes of new publications, and also the persons and faces of some of their proprietors. At that time most of the tradesmen attended in their respective shops, and dwelt in the upper parts of their houses; now, the heads of many of the large establishments visit their counting-houses only for a few hours in the day, and leave the working part to junior partners, clerks, and apprentices. Vast and numerous changes have taken place in the publishing and bookselling business since I first haunted Pater-

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE.

noster Row, and book-stalls; and many and important improvements have been introduced into all the essentials of book-making. Paper, type, ink, compositorship, and press-work, 'have advanced from almost the lowest to nearly the highest degree of perfection. The number and qualifications of authors have progressed in nearly an equal ratio. This assertion, I believe, will be fully verified, by referring to, and comparing, the books and periodicals which were published at the end of the last century with those of the year 1852. It would not be a difficult task to exemplify this by explaining the varieties and dissimilarities between the material and mental characteristics of literature of the two epochs; but I must limit myself to a brief account of Paternoster Row.

This far-famed thoroughfare is commonly said to derive its name from the stationers, or text-writers, who formerly dwelt there, and dealt mostly in religious books, horn-books, and others, which were marketable before the Reformation. It more probably had its appellation from the rosary, or pater-noster makers, a more thriving trade than bookselling, before Henry the Eighth, of revolutionary memory, commanded the books of Luther to be burnt in the Churchyard.

Strype, in his edition of Stow's "Survey of Lon-

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE.

don," 1720, says, "This street, before the fire of London (1666), was taken up by eminent mercers, silkmen, and lacemen; and their shops were so resorted to by the nobility and gentry, in their coaches, that oft-times the street was so stopped up that there was no room for foot passengers." Soon after that conflagration most of these moved to the vicinity of Covent Garden. Some of the mercers and silkmen renewed their residences in this spot in new houses; but near the east end there were "stationers and large warehouses for book-sellers; well situated for learned and studious men's access thither, being more retired and private." St. Paul's Churchyard appears to have been the chief mart of the bookselling trade at the time of the great fire. Dugdale told Pepys that more than £150,000 worth of books were destroyed on that fatal occasion. Previous to this epoch, Little Britain, and Duke Street adjoining, seem to have been the most noted site for book-sellers.

However sanguine my young imagination may have been, I did not dare to anticipate the possibility of ever writing or publishing a book; still less of being on friendly terms with the many partners of the largest publishing establishment in the world. Yet such has been my lot; and having in-

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE.

dulged the habit of continually visiting Paternoster Row, on the last day of every month for more than forty years, it has become identified with many and various associations and connexions of deep and exciting interest; and I have often meditated on writing an account of this literary emporium. But I have thought it advisable to solicit my old and esteemed friend, Dr. Thomas Rees, to indulge me with his opinions and recollections on this subject. With his usual kindness and courtesy he promptly favoured me with the following letter, to which I have subjoined a few memoranda of my own.

My Dear Britton,

You ask me to furnish some reminiscences of Paternoster Row, in the earlier period of my acquaintance with it, towards the conclusion of the last, and the commencement of the present, century. Our long and intimate connection, our kindred pursuits, and our joint labours on some occasions, in the same field of literary research, render it difficult for me to meet your wishes with a denial; at the same time I feel very sensibly that in recurring to a period so long past, between which and the present, half a century has intervened, important matters relating both to events and persons may have escaped my recollec-

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With
Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

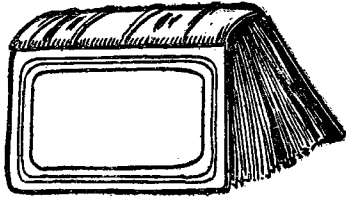
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE.

tion, or may be recalled too indistinctly and imperfectly to be of real value for a practical object. I will, however, endeavour to revive the image of this locality, as it appeared to my view at the period alluded to; and to awaken the memory of such facts and incidents relating to the character and enterprises of its inhabitants, as may be likely to afford some interest or amusement to your readers.

DR. THOMAS REES.



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00917-1 - Reminiscences of Literary London from 1779 to 1853: With Interesting Anecdotes of Publishers, Authors and Book Auctioneers of that Period

Thomas Rees

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents.

PART I.

Paternoster Row, Past and Present, and its Booksellers—Harrison's Publications—Dr. Busby—Charles Cooke—Alexander Hogg—The Rivingtons—Booksellers' Signs—Annual Register—London Magazine—The Baldwins—The Robinsons—J. Scott—Alexander Chalmers and his Publications—The Longmans—Owen Rees—Thomas Hurst—Chambers' and Rees' Cyclopædia—Annual Review—W. Taylor and R. Southey—Authors and their Publishers—Lardner's Cyclopædia—Third Class of Booksellers—Trade Auctioneers—Peter Pindar—Rees' Cyclopædia—P. Courtier—Miss Mitford—W. Pinnock—Ave Maria Lane—Whittaker's—H. G. Bohn—Stationers' Court—Stationers' Hall—St. Paul's Churchyard—Francis Newberry—Joseph Johnson—Sir Richard Phillips—C. Bowles—J. Mawman—Thomas Hood.....pages 19 to 87

PART II.

Fleet Street and its Immediate Vicinity—McCreery—Nightingale Rylance—John Major—Walton and Cotton's Angler—Walpole Anecdotes—Rev. T. F. Dibdin—Kearsley—Quarterly Review—John Murray—George Cruikshank—W. Hone and his Trials—Wm. Cobbett—E. Williams—The John Bull—London Magazine and its Contributors—J. Taylor—J. H. Wiffin—Duke of Bedford—T. Bensley—Red Lion Passage—John Nichols and his Literary Anecdotes—A. J. Valpy—Wm. Pickering—The Bridgewater Treatises—High Holborn—The Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain—John Britton's Partners—O. Rees—Josiah Taylor.....pages 89 to 126

PART III.

The Strand at the beginning of the Century—Thomas Caddell—The Newspaper Press—George Lane—D. Stuart—John Bell—Rudolph Ackermann and his publications—F. Shoberl, Author and Editor—Annuals—"Dr. Syntax"—Combe—Rowlandson—John and Leigh Hunt—The Literary Gazette—Richardson's Auctions—Geographers—Prince Sanders—Lyceum Theatre—Auctioneers—The Sothebys—Evans—The Christies' Sale-Rooms—Pall Mall—King Street—Covent Garden—Hogarth's Election—P. Luckombe—King and Lochee's Auction Rooms; their book-sales.....pages 127 to 174