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John Guille Millais

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The Life and Letters of Sir John Everett Millais

A prodigiously talented artist, Sir John Everett Millais (1829–96) co-founded the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood with Rossetti and others, helping to revolutionise the Victorian art world. The minute realism of paintings like *Christ in the House of His Parents*, and his high-profile marriage to Ruskin's ex-wife Effie, were gradually accepted, and the iconic *Ophelia* was widely admired. Success as an illustrator also put him in the public eye, with the engravings market bringing him new wealth. With popularity came a return to more traditional forms in portraiture and landscape, inspired by Reynolds, Velázquez and the Old Masters, although he also played off Whistler and the aesthetic movement. He became president of the Royal Academy in the last year of his life. His son, John Guille Millais (1865–1931), published this highly illustrated and acclaimed two-volume biography in 1899. Volume 1 provides an account of Millais' most influential years up to 1867.

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VOLUME 1

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THE
LIFE AND LETTERS
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PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY

BY HIS SON
JOHN GUILLE MILLAIS

WITH 319 ILLUSTRATIONS
INCLUDING NINE PHOTOGRAVURES

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TO
THE MEMORY OF
MY DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER
I DEDICATE THESE VOLUMES

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PREFACE

THE task of selecting from such a vast mass of material as has been kindly placed at my disposal by friends and relatives has been no easy one, and I venture to hope that, so far as I may have exceeded my duty as a biographer, the interest of the extraneous matter may, in some measure at least, atone for its admission.

I cannot adequately thank the many friends who have so generously helped me with contributions, or in allowing me the free use of their pictures for these pages. To Messrs. Graves and Son, Thomas Agnew and Sons, Arthur Tooth and Sons, Thomas McLean and Sons, and the Fine Art Society my special thanks are due for liberty to avail myself of their copyrights; but most of all am I indebted to my father-in-law, Mr. P. G. Skipwith, for his invaluable assistance in preparing this work for the press.

JOHN GUILLE MILLAIS

MELWOOD, HORSHAM,

July, 1899

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