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### **An Analytical Inquiry into the Principles of Taste**

Classical scholar, art collector and connoisseur Richard Payne Knight (1751–1824) took a keen interest in aesthetics and was a key figure in the debate on the picturesque. Of independent means, he journeyed across Europe, often in the company of artists. His home, Downton Castle in Herefordshire, set the fashion for crenellations. He sat in Parliament from 1780 to 1806, but beauty interested him more than politics. Following important works on aesthetics by such writers as Edmund Burke and Uvedale Price, Knight published his most successful work in 1805, cementing his reputation as an authority on matters of taste. Here he moves away from the ideas of Price and Burke, instead exploring the role of associations in the expression of aesthetic judgement. Knight's *Analytical Essay on the Greek Alphabet* (1791) and *Inquiry into the Symbolical Language of Ancient Art and Mythology* (1818) are also reissued in this series.

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# An Analytical Inquiry into the Principles of Taste

RICHARD PAYNE KNIGHT



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AN  
ANALYTICAL INQUIRY  
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PRINCIPLES OF TASTE.

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BY RICHARD PAYNE KNIGHT.

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*Quid placet aut odio est, quod non mutabile credas ?*

*τοιοσ γαρ νοοσ εστιν επιχθονιον ανθρωπων,  
οιον επ' ημασ αησι πατησ ανδρων τε δεοντε.*

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33. Knowledge and Ignorance.
34. Their moral Effects.
35. Love of Life and Fear of Death. Habitual Attachments.
36. Love of Property.
37. Sensuality, Prodigality, or false Generosity.
38. Desire of perpetuating Property.
39. Perpetual Imprisonment.
40. Real Principle of Happiness.

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## ERRATA.

PAGE	LINE
7,	— 6, for Florintine read Florentine.
53,	— 24, for accentutation read accentuation.
87,	— 20, for would read could.
95,	— 12, for this read the
119,	— 22, for surely read scarcely.
144,	— 5, for γραφικοί read γραφικός.
179,	— 15, for abbies read abbeys.
180,	— 12, a full stop after employs.
206,	— 2, for impressive read expressive.
210,	— 2, for on read or.
236,	— 23, for theoretical read theoretical.
244,	— 8, for φιλατατη read φιλιτατη.
247,	note, 3, for deliras read deliros.
250,	— 14, for κωγων read πωγων.
ib.	— 17, for auger read augur.
266,	note, 7, for pro read præ.
298,	— 7, for words read works.
330,	note, 1, for ἵχυσ read ἵψυς.
385,	— 2, for quem read quam.
396,	— 5, for in Pindar and Sophocles though read though in Pindar and Sophocles, with a semicolon preceding instead of a full stop.
420,	— 8, for laudible read laudable.
437,	note, 2, for hac read hoc.