

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07579-4 - *Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780*

William Robert Wilde

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*Books of enduring scholarly value*

### **Art and Architecture**

From the middle of the eighteenth century, with the growth of travel at home and abroad and the increase in leisure for the wealthier classes, the arts became the subject of more widespread appreciation and discussion. The rapid expansion of book and periodical publishing in this area both reflected and encouraged interest in art and art history among the wider reading public. This series throws light on the development of visual culture and aesthetics. It covers topics from the Grand Tour to the great exhibitions of the nineteenth century, and includes art criticism and biography.

### **Memoir of Gabriel Beranger**

Sir William Wilde (1815–76), surgeon and father of Oscar Wilde, was an Irish patriot and antiquarian with a keen interest in the history of his country. This life of Gabriel Beranger (1729–1817), published in 1880, describes the activities of an Irish antiquarian in the eighteenth century. Born in Rotterdam, the Huguenot Beranger moved to Dublin in 1750 and opened a print shop. Historical pursuits were becoming popular in Dublin society at the time, and Beranger's sketches of ruins and monuments found great popularity. He went on several tours of Ireland, keeping a journal of his observations and the people he encountered, while making plans and drawings of antiquities with a view to later publication. Wilde's work, drawn from Beranger's journal and from the memories of people who had known him in his old age, offers an engaging insight into early antiquarian practice in Ireland.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07579-4 - *Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780*

William Robert Wilde

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 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.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07579-4 - Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780

William Robert Wilde

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Memoir of  
Gabriel Beranger,  
and His Labours in the Cause  
of Irish Art and Antiquities,  
from 1760 to 1780

WILLIAM ROBERT WILDE



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07579-4 - Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780

William Robert Wilde

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## 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](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108075794](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108075794)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2015

This edition first published 1880

This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-07579-4 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

978-1-108-07579-4 - Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art  
and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780

William Robert Wilde

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

G A B R I E L   B E R A N G E R .

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07579-4 - Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art  
and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780

William Robert Wilde

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07579-4 - Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780

William Robert Wilde

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

MEMOIR  
OF  
GABRIEL BERANGER,  
AND HIS LABOURS IN THE CAUSE OF  
*Irish Art and Antiquities,*  
FROM 1760 TO 1780.

BY  
SIR WILLIAM WILDE, M.D.  
AUTHOR OF "BEAUTIES OF THE BOYNE AND BLACKWATER," "LOUGH CORRIB,  
ITS SHORES AND ISLAND," "CATALOGUE OF THE MUSEUM OF THE  
ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY," &c., &c.

*With Seventeen Illustrations.*

DUBLIN:  
M. H. GILL & SON, 50 UPPER SACKVILLE STREET.  
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL & CO., STATIONERS'-HALL COURT, LONDON, E C  
1880.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07579-4 - Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art  
and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780

William Robert Wilde

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

PRINTED BY M. H. GILL AND SON, 50 UPPER SACKVILLE-STREET, DUBLIN.



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07579-4 - Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780

William Robert Wilde

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## P R E F A C E .

---

THE Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, by the late Sir William Wilde, was originally written for the "Journal of the Royal Archæological Association of Ireland." The first portion appeared in January, 1871, and was continued during a few subsequent numbers ; but Sir William Wilde being then much occupied by the Irish Census for 1871, the work was interrupted, and not resumed until July, 1875, when he promised that the Memoir should be continued without further delay. This promise, unhappily, was never fulfilled ; for soon after all literary work had to be suspended, in consequence of Sir William's failing health and last fatal illness, which was terminated by his death in April, 1876.

The Memoir being thus left unfinished, Lady Wilde, at the request of the Editor, undertook its completion ; and the concluding and final portion contributed by her appeared in the October number of the "Archæological Journal," for 1876.

The Memoir thus completed, so far as could be done with the materials in hand, is now given to the public in a permanent form, according to Sir William's intention and express desire. As a contribution to the history of Irish Art it has a special value and interest, no other biography or record of Beranger being in existence. Until

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07579-4 - Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780

William Robert Wilde

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Sir William Wilde took up the subject, nothing more, indeed, was known of this remarkable Artist than some slight allusions to his name, scattered through the old periodicals of his time, although traditions existed of the many works he had contributed to Irish Art and Archæology, and pictures signed by his name were traced through many collections of paintings. Sir William Wilde took great interest in the works of Beranger that came to his knowledge, and in consequence spared no trouble in collecting together all the information concerning him that could be gathered from relatives or connexions of the Artist's family still existing. They also kindly placed at Sir William's disposal the Manuscript Books, in Beranger's own handwriting, descriptive of his various tours through Ireland, and the volumes of Water-colour Sketches, taken by him while travelling for the Antiquarian Society, entitled "Rambles through the County of Dublin, and some others in Ireland." These have now a peculiar value, beyond even their artistic interest, as many of the Castles and Monuments he drew with such minute accuracy of detail have since fallen to ruins or disappeared entirely.

Two portraits of Beranger are in existence: one in crayons by himself, now in the possession of the Reverend Cotton Walker of Ballinasloe. This was lithographed for the Memoir in the "Archæological Journal," and is a very pleasing picture, showing an acute, intelligent, French face, with a clear, intellectual outline.

The second portrait, in the possession of Mr. Clarke, at whose father's house Beranger died, is supposed to be by Mr. Burton, father of the distinguished painter, Frederick William Burton. Some relatives of the family still living, state that both these portraits are excellent likenesses, for

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07579-4 - Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780

William Robert Wilde

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE.

vii

although Beranger was born one hundred and sixty years ago, yet as he lived to ninety years of age, he is still remembered by persons not much past middle age. Dr. Sharkey, his grand-nephew by marriage, writing to Sir William Wilde, in 1864, says :—" Although Beranger was advanced in years at the time I knew him, he had even then an upright carriage and good presence." And the Rev. Cotton Walker, also in a letter to Sir William Wilde, dated 1865, writes :—" I recollect him well, for he used to come to breakfast with us every Tuesday. He was a very remarkable-looking person, and made a great impression on my young mind."

Beranger was twice married, but had no children by either marriage, and at the time of his death had not a single blood relation living ; consequently, he devised all his property, including his manuscripts, sketches, portfolios of detached drawings, and other valuable artistic remains, to the two nieces of his second wife—Mrs. Sharkey and Mrs. Walker ; and these valuable collections are now in the possession of the direct descendants of these ladies—Dr. Sharkey and the Rev. Cotton Walker, Rector of Ballinasloe.

Sir William Wilde was extremely anxious to have a volume published of woodcuts, or chromo-lithographs from Beranger's Sketches, and if his life had been spared longer, this interesting work would, no doubt, have been accomplished. But at present, we can only give the illustrations that appeared originally with the Memoir in the " Archæological Journal." In the Appendix, however, will be found a list of all the pictures included in the three volumes of Water-colour drawings, entitled, " Rambles through the County of Dublin and some

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07579-4 - Memoir of Gabriel Beranger, and His Labours in the Cause of Irish Art and Antiquities, from 1760 to 1780

William Robert Wilde

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

PREFACE.

others in Ireland." A list is also added of Sketches by Beranger, from the Catalogue of valuable paintings belonging to the late AUSTIN COOPER, Esq., a distinguished patron of Irish Art and Artists. This collection of works by Irish Artists on Irish subjects, along with his library of rare Books, Irish Antiquities, and large portfolios of drawings, containing contributions from Vallancey, Beaufort, Beranger, Bigarry, and others, were all sold after Mr. Austin Cooper's death ; and as the purchasers were principally the great London Booksellers, they are now lost for ever to the literature and artistic illustration of Ireland. Another list of Sketches by Beranger, principally copies of his original drawings from a very curious and interesting book in the possession of Huband Smith, Esq., will also be found in the Appendix.

---