

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07893-1 - The Life of Sir David Wilkie: With His Journals, Tours, and  
Critical Remarks on Works of Art: Volume 2

Allan Cunningham

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.

### **The Life of Sir David Wilkie**

Sir David Wilkie (1785–1841) is often called the first truly international British artist. This three-volume biography, published in 1843, two years after Wilkie's sudden death while on a tour of the Mediterranean, and containing extracts from his journals and letters, remains an indispensable source for his life and works. Born in Scotland, Wilkie became a student at the Royal Academy in 1805, and in the following years the uncompromising realism of his scenes from rural life made his name known and attracted royal patronage: he was appointed 'the King's Limner in Scotland' by George IV. This work was compiled by his friend, the poet and critic Allan Cunningham (1784–1842) who himself died shortly after correcting the proofs: it was seen through the press by his son. Volume 2 follows Wilkie's life from 1817 to his extended study tour of Europe in 1828.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07893-1 - The Life of Sir David Wilkie: With His Journals, Tours, and  
Critical Remarks on Works of Art: Volume 2

Allan Cunningham

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

978-1-108-07893-1 - The Life of Sir David Wilkie: With His Journals, Tours, and  
Critical Remarks on Works of Art: Volume 2

Allan Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# The Life of Sir David Wilkie

*With His Journals, Tours,  
and Critical Remarks on Works of Art*

VOLUME 2

ALLAN CUNNINGHAM



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07893-1 - The Life of Sir David Wilkie: With His Journals, Tours, and  
Critical Remarks on Works of Art: Volume 2

Allan Cunningham

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/9781108078931](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108078931)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2015

This edition first published 1843

This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-07893-1 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

978-1-108-07893-1 - The Life of Sir David Wilkie: With His Journals, Tours, and  
Critical Remarks on Works of Art: Volume 2

Allan Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE  
L I F E  
OF  
S I R D A V I D W I L K I E ;

WITH  
HIS JOURNALS, TOURS, AND CRITICAL REMARKS  
ON  
WORKS OF ART;  
AND  
A SELECTION FROM HIS CORRESPONDENCE.

BY  
ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.  
1843.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07893-1 - The Life of Sir David Wilkie: With His Journals, Tours, and  
Critical Remarks on Works of Art: Volume 2

Allan Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07893-1 - The Life of Sir David Wilkie: With His Journals, Tours, and  
Critical Remarks on Works of Art: Volume 2

Allan Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

OF

## THE SECOND VOLUME.

## CHAPTER I.

	Page
Receives the Freedom of Cupar.—Paints “Duncan Gray,” “The Death of Sir Philip Sidney,” “The China Menders,” and “The Penny Wedding.”—Extracts from Journal.— Commences “The Chelsea Pensioners” for the Duke of Wellington.—Paints “The Reading of the Will” for the King of Bavaria.—Extracts from Journal —Letters to and from Sir Thomas Lawrence	1

## CHAPTER II.

Exhibits “The Reading of the Will.”—Owen the Painter.— Letter to Sir George Beaumont.—“The Chelsea Pen- sioners.”—“Guess my Name.”—Mrs. Thomson’s Recol- lections of Wilkie.—Wilkie’s Opinion of Martin’s “Bel- shazzar’s Feast.”—Extracts from Journal.—Paints the Sketch of “The School.”—Letters to Mr. Dobree and Mr. Geddes.—“The Chelsea Pensioners” exhibited at Somerset House.—Extracts from Journal	43
--	----

## CHAPTER III.

Paints “The Parish Beadle” and the Portrait of the Duke of York.—Commences “John Knox.”—The Picture liked, and commissioned by Lord Liverpool.—George IV.’s Visit to Scotland.—Wilkie and Collins at Holyrood.—	
--	--

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07893-1 - The Life of Sir David Wilkie: With His Journals, Tours, and  
Critical Remarks on Works of Art: Volume 2

Allan Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

## CONTENTS.

	Page
Commences his Picture of "George IV. entering Holy- road."—Acquires the Friendship of Mr. Peel.—Death of Sir Henry Raeburn.—Wilkie appointed Limner to the King, for Scotland.—Paints the Portrait of Lord Kellie.— Academy Elections.—Etty and Allan - - -	79
CHAPTER IV.	
Death of Mrs. Wilkie.—Death of James Wilkie.—Visit to Cheltenham.—Severe Ill Health.—Finishes his Picture of The Highland Family.—Generosity of Sir George Beau- mont.—Resolves to travel for the Benefit of his Health.— Mr. Lister accompanies him.—Extracts from Mr. Lister's Journal.—Wilkie at Paris.—Pictures at Milan, and at Genoa.—The Campo Santo.—Florence.—The Florence Gallery - - - - -	138
CHAPTER V.	
Rome.—Works of Art there.—Letters to William Collins, R. A., Mr. and Miss Wilkie, Sir James M'Grigor, Mr. Raim- bach, and others.—Letter from Mr. Lister.—Wilkie still a great Sufferer.—Canova and Thorwaldsen.—Failure of Hurst and Robinson.—Wilkie a Loser - - -	189
CHAPTER VI.	
Rome.—Memoranda made there.—Naples.—Memoranda made there.—Letters to Chantrey and Geddes.—Bologna. —Memoranda made there.—Parma and Correggio -	245
CHAPTER VII.	
Padua, Parma, and Venice.—Letter from Sir George Beau- mont.—Memoranda made at Venice.—Letters to Mr. Phillips, R. A., Mr. and Miss Wilkie.—Munich.—Ex- tracts from Journal.—Dresden.—Extracts from Journal. —Letter to Mr. Phillips, R. A. - - - -	292
CHAPTER VIII.	
Wilkie tries the Waters at Töplitz.—The Dresden Gallery.— Recommended to try another Year on the Continent.—	



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07893-1 - The Life of Sir David Wilkie: With His Journals, Tours, and  
Critical Remarks on Works of Art: Volume 2

Allan Cunningham

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS.

vii

	Page
Carlsbad. — Prague. — Vienna. — Florence. — Letters to Mr. Phillips, R. A., Dr. Gillespie, Mr. Tait, and Mr. Wil- kie. — Rome - - - - -	341

## CHAPTER IX.

Public Dinner given by the Scottish Artists to Mr. Wilkie at Rome. — Death of Sir George Beaumont. — Letter to Lady Beaumont. — Wilkie still an Invalid. — Letter to Mr. Bigge. — Genoa. — Geneva - - - - -	384
--	-----

## CHAPTER X.

Geneva. — Letters to Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Andrew Wilson, Mr. Allan, A. R. A., Mr. Collins, R. A., and Miss Wilkie. — Florence. — Extracts from Journal. — Lyons. — Mont- pelier - - - - -	426
--	-----

## CHAPTER XI.

Wilkie in Spain. — Letters to Mr. and Miss Wilkie. — Sir Thomas Lawrence and Sir Robert Peel. — Letters from Sir Thomas Lawrence. — Extracts from Journal - - - - -	459
---	-----

## CHAPTER XII.

Madrid and Seville. — Letters to Sir Thomas Lawrence, Mr. Phillips, R. A., Mr. Wilson, Sir Robert Peel, Prince Dol- gorouki, Mr. Nasmyth, Mr. Collins, R. A. — Extracts from Journal, Paris - - - - -	498
--	-----