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978-1-108-08158-0 - Retrospections, Social and Archaeological : Volume 1

Charles Roach Smith

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Retrospections, Social and Archaeological

Charles Roach Smith (1806–90) had a prosperous career as a druggist. His shop was in the City of London, then undergoing major excavation and redevelopment, and he began to collect the artefacts being uncovered around him. With a widening interest in all aspects of the past, Smith began to publish notes on his collection as well as antiquarian observations. (His *Illustrations of Roman London* is also reissued in this series.) This three-volume work, published 1883–91, reviews his activities as an excavator, collector, and co-founder of the British Archaeological Association. Pen-portraits of fellow enthusiasts and descriptions of ancient buildings and ruins are interspersed with accounts of infighting in the Association, and biting criticism of local and national authorities who refused to take on responsibility for Britain's archaeological heritage. Volume 1 includes essays on the Saxon Shore forts, of which Roach Smith was a pioneering investigator.

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VOLUME 1

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CHARLES ROACH SMITH.

FROM THE MARBLE BY
SIGNOR FONTANA.

PRESENTED BY JOSEPH MAYER.

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RETROSPECTIONS,

Social and Archaeological.

BY

CHARLES ROACH SMITH, F.S.A. ;

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, OF THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY OF LONDON, OF THE BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY, OF THE LONDON AND MIDDLESEX AND KENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES, OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, AND OF SEVERAL LOCAL AS WELL AS FOREIGN SOCIETIES.

V O L. I.

LONDON :

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TO

JOSEPH MAYER, Esq., F.S.A.,

AND

CHARLES WARNE, Esq., F.S.A.,

THESE

“RETROSPECTIONS,”

SO MUCH INSPIRED AND SUPPORTED BY THEIR FRIENDSHIP,

ARE

GRATEFULLY DEDICATED.

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P R E F A C E.

I HOPE that these RETROSPECTIONS, so far as they are yet printed, will justify the opinion and wishes of the friends who instigated their publication.

In consequence of fires at the Printers', there has been delay in issuing this volume, as much of it had to be reprinted.

While in a Dedication I record my especial gratitude to two long-trying friends, I am also indebted for substantial support to Messrs. J. O. Halliwell - Phillipps, John Harris, Charles Moore Jessop, and Henry Stevenson. To all the Subscribers, most of them old friends, and all true-hearted, I return thanks, cordial and oft-expressed.

C. ROACH SMITH.

TEMPLE PLACE,
STROOD, KENT,
March 17th, 1883.