

www.e-rara.ch

Exemplars of Tudor architecture

Hunt, T.F

London, 1830

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich

Shelf Mark: Rar 9294 q

Persistent Link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3931/e-rara-1>

Preface.

www.e-rara.ch

Die Plattform e-rara.ch macht die in Schweizer Bibliotheken vorhandenen Drucke online verfügbar. Das Spektrum reicht von Büchern über Karten bis zu illustrierten Materialien – von den Anfängen des Buchdrucks bis ins 20. Jahrhundert.

e-rara.ch provides online access to rare books available in Swiss libraries. The holdings extend from books and maps to illustrated material – from the beginnings of printing to the 20th century.

e-rara.ch met en ligne des reproductions numériques d'imprimés conservés dans les bibliothèques de Suisse. L'éventail va des livres aux documents iconographiques en passant par les cartes – des débuts de l'imprimerie jusqu'au 20e siècle.

e-rara.ch mette a disposizione in rete le edizioni antiche conservate nelle biblioteche svizzere. La collezione comprende libri, carte geografiche e materiale illustrato che risalgono agli inizi della tipografia fino ad arrivare al XX secolo.

Nutzungsbedingungen Dieses Digitalisat kann kostenfrei heruntergeladen werden. Die Lizenzierungsart und die Nutzungsbedingungen sind individuell zu jedem Dokument in den Titelinformationen angegeben. Für weitere Informationen siehe auch [Link]

Terms of Use This digital copy can be downloaded free of charge. The type of licensing and the terms of use are indicated in the title information for each document individually. For further information please refer to the terms of use on [Link]

Conditions d'utilisation Ce document numérique peut être téléchargé gratuitement. Son statut juridique et ses conditions d'utilisation sont précisés dans sa notice détaillée. Pour de plus amples informations, voir [Link]

Condizioni di utilizzo Questo documento può essere scaricato gratuitamente. Il tipo di licenza e le condizioni di utilizzo sono indicate nella notizia bibliografica del singolo documento. Per ulteriori informazioni vedi anche [Link]

PREFACE.

“ I have considered the days of old.”—*Psalm lxxvii. 5.*

“ TO BOKE SOME NEW THING”* is now a task of no mean difficulty, and one as much above my ambition as it is above my powers to accomplish; nor have I aimed at more here than embodying characteristic examples of the beautiful, though long-neglected Architecture of my own country with the observations of such intelligent writers as have treated of the subject, and showing that English Architecture is still the most applicable for English habitations.

I must repeat what has been frequently urged in my former publications, namely, that the object in view is not to exhibit specimens of hovels and cheap structures, but to combine in one edifice as many Architectural features as can with propriety be blended: thus affording hints of what may be separated and used as occasion shall require. It may also be necessary to observe, that when I have recommended this particular style of Architecture as an economical style, I have only wished to be understood that it is so as compared with the buildings of ancient Greece

* GOWER'S “*Confessio Amantis*” was written at the request of King Richard II. who, in a conversation with the Poet, on board the royal barge on the river Thames, desired him to “*boke some new thing,*” *i. e.* to write a new book.—J. P. ANDREWS' *History of Great Britain.*

or Rome, and not with the monotonous and unadorned dwellings of our London streets, in which, unhappily, too few traces of art are visible. Would that the legislature could control the practices of modern builders, since Taste has lost her "empire!"—but that must always be a vain hope in a commercial and free country like this, seeing, as a modern traveller has shown, that, even in Turkey, where grievances are more summarily corrected, such attempts are fruitless: "The regulations to be observed in building houses at Constantinople are accurately fixed, and an officer called *Mimâr Aga*, intendant of buildings (a district surveyor), is appointed to enforce them. The height fixed by the law is twelve *pics* (a *pic* is twenty-seven inches) for a muselman's house, and ten for a *rayah's*. The motives for this limitation are, says *d'Ohsson*, to diminish the danger of fires, and to facilitate the extinction of them; to leave a free passage for the circulation of air in the streets, and to give greater effect to the height of the public buildings. These laws are constantly eluded; and the office of *Mimâr Aga* is very lucrative, from the sums which he daily receives to induce him to wink at the violation of them." We have here, also, laws to regulate our metropolitan buildings, but their provisions embrace only one object of the Turkish code—viz. security against fire. Giving effect to the principal structures by diminishing the altitude of those of less importance, seems never to have been contemplated by us; on the contrary, the restrictions imposed by the statute against projections beyond a straight line, preclude all possibility of producing a picturesque appearance in our

public ways. And it is to be doubted whether, under the present division of London, the Act can be very efficacious, even as a security against fire; for, without impugning the integrity of the English Mimâr Agas, it may be observed, so unequal are the allotments, that while some districts are too extensive for the superintendence of one person, others are so small and insignificant as not to afford sufficient remuneration to induce diligence; and thus are the objects of the law defeated.

The free remarks which are occasionally made throughout the volume, upon practices at variance with those of our forefathers, are intended to be general, and in no instance referable to any individual;—I know no one, indeed, to whom they are personally applicable.

The attempt at tracing a history of the furniture of the Tudor period is, I fear, very feeble, and the illustrative examples few and unimportant; but the scantiness of materials, even for so slight a sketch, will, with those who have entered upon the same pursuit, and are consequently aware how little is now to be obtained, account for my deficiency; and the necessity which exists for information on that branch of our domestic economy, in some degree extenuate my temerity.

It may be observed that I have, throughout, used the term “ancient,” as applied to a period not more remote than three centuries;—this I have done, though sensible that it was not in strictness a perfectly correct phrase, but being led to the choice as the best epithet which could be used for my purpose.

The original Plate of No. XV. has been cancelled : it was prepared from a design of a more florid character of the same period—namely, Henry VIII. ; but the chimney-piece, of which the upper part of the Plate now given is a representation having been recently discovered on making some alterations in the Chapel Royal, at St. James's Palace, I thankfully avail myself of the kind permission of Colonel Stephenson, the Surveyor-General of His Majesty's Works, to present it to the public, being of more value as a genuine example—though in itself very simple—than any production of my own imagination, however elaborate, could be. In the lower division of the Plate are delineations of the spandrils on a larger scale, and a mantel of a chimney-piece in the Exchequer, of the time of Elizabeth, not less characteristic of its period than the specimen above. I am also indebted to Colonel Stephenson for this exemplar.

The splendid chimney-shafts in Plate XXIX. are from Chenies.

T. F. HUNT.

KENSINGTON PALACE,

October 22, 1829.