

# THE LATE MR. WILLIAM PAGE IVATTS.

## A MEMOIR.

BY

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THE subject of this Memoir was born at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, on the 10th of September, 1819, and up to fourteen years of age was associated with that town and with Oxford. After a voyage to sea he settled in London, and, in 1846, married and became the father of six children while living at Islington, where he resided for twenty-five years, since which time he resided at South Hackney. His association with learned societies commenced in the 'fifties, when he was appointed Collector to the London and Middlesex, the Surrey, and the Kent Archæological Societies, and to the Art Union of London in 1865. He took an active part in the Exhibition, held at Ironmongers' Hall in 1861, under the auspices of the London and Middlesex Society, which led to engagements at the International Exhibition of 1862; the special Loan Exhibition at the South Kensington Museum in the same year; the Leeds Exhibition of 1868; the removal of the Guildhall Library from its old to its present quarters in 1872; as Curator of the Londesborough Collection of Arms, Armour, etc., when on loan at the Alexandra Palace in 1875; the Wrexham Exhibition of 1876; as Assistant Curator at the Exhibition organised in 1877 to commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of Caxton's printing press being set up at Westminster; at an Exhibition of the

Craft, held in 1882 at the Mansion House, by the Worshipful Company of Horners of London; the Hanley Exhibition of 1890; and the removal of the Forman Collection from Dorking to Callaby Castle, Northumberland, in 1890.

The knowledge and great experience gained in this wide field of work, and stored in an unusually retentive memory, was, in later years, freely given to friends and strangers seeking antiquarian lore, and many compilers of archæological papers have been indebted to him for information. He also found time for a considerable amount of literary work in connection with a popular tri-weekly publication.

On attaining the ripe age of ninety years, the Council of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, desirous of placing on record his long and faithful services as the oldest officer of the Society, decided to present him with an address, of which the following is a copy:—

“ London and Middlesex Archæological Society,

“ London Institution,

“ September 10th, 1909.

“ The President, Council, and Members of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society desire to congratulate their friend and officer, Mr. William Page Ivatts, on the completion of the ninetieth year of his age, and the near approach of the fiftieth year of his connection with the Society: a connection in which his fidelity, courtesy, energy and zealous interest in the promotion of the Society's welfare have entitled him to the warm esteem of more than one generation of its members. They are glad that his health and strength

have been maintained during so many years, and hope that he may still long be spared to enjoy the delight of useful service.

“Signed on behalf and by the authority of the Council,

“EDWARD BRABROOK,  
“Chairman.”

The above testimonial, suitably framed, was presented to Mr. Ivatts at a luncheon given by Sir Edward W. Brabrook, C.B., at the Authors' Club, on the 10th of September, 1909, the ninetieth anniversary of his birthday. The design of the border of the testimonial is from a Venetian Illumination, A.D. 1476, in the South Kensington Museum.

The last public function in which Mr. Ivatts took part was a meeting of the Hampstead Antiquarian and Historical Society, on the 30th January, 1911. A few hours afterwards he was taken with a seizure and died on the 3rd February, in his ninety-second year. His venerable figure will be missed by many friends who had been associated with him and recognised his sterling worth. The remains were interred at Tower Hamlets Cemetery on the 7th February, and were followed to the grave by a large number of relatives and friends.

The accompanying portrait was taken on the attainment of his ninetieth year, and is an excellent likeness.