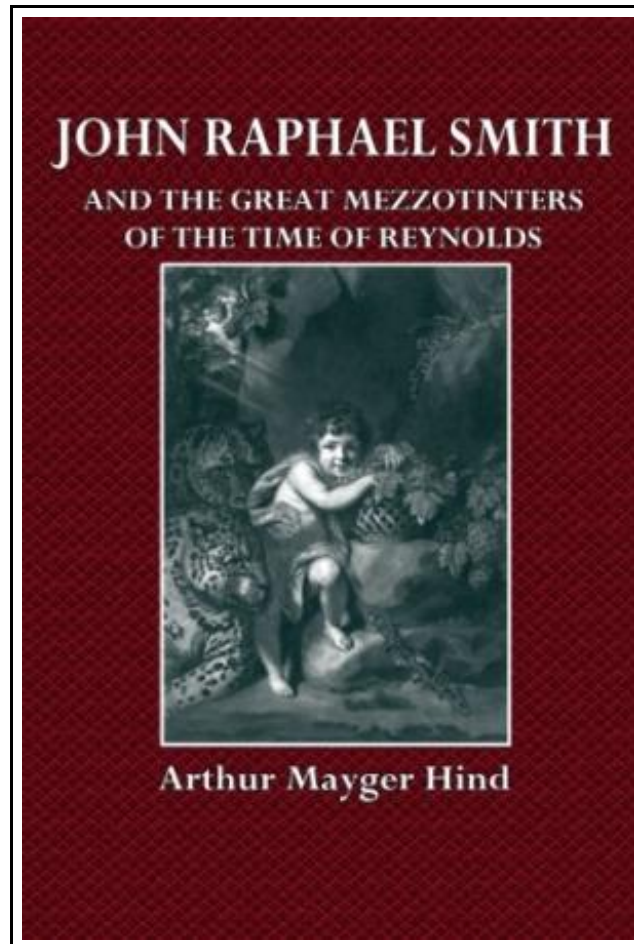


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JOHN RAPHAEL SMITH: AND THE GREAT MEZZOTINTERS OF THE TIME OF REYNOLDS (PAPERBACK)




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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY mezzotint is England s chief glory in the history of engraving. In line-engraving and etching England had started a century behind the continent of Europe, and even then much of the best work produced for a considerable period was done by settlers from abroad. With mezzotint, too, the initiative came from abroad, for its inventor, Ludwig von Siegen, was a German amateur, and most of its earliest practitioners were German or Dutch. But very soon after the introduction of the new process, England became the chief centre of attraction to the best mezzotinters of the period, though it was not until the beginning of the eighteenth century that an entirely native school thoroughly vindicated the title of la Maniere Anglaise, by which the art was commonly known before the end of the seventeenth century. Von Siegen s discovery was first taken up by the famous Prince Rupert, and for a considerable period after John Evelyn s notice in his *Sculptura* (1662) of the New way of engraving, or Mezzo Tinto, invented and communicated by his Highnesse Prince Rupert, fame or flattery assigned to the Prince the actual invention of the art. But though the discovery is now known not to have been his, he is justly famous in the history of the art for the most magnificent of the early mezzotints, the Great Executioner (after Ribera), which shows a real flair, and a far finer artistic feeling than anything of Von Siegen. It was no doubt Prince Rupert s interest in mezzotint when settled in England at the beginning of the reign of Charles II, that was the really determining factor in making England the centre of the art. The...

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