

**A MANUAL OF
CHURCH DECORATION
AND SYMBOLISM**

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A manual of church decoration and symbolism by Ernest Geldart

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ERNEST GELDART

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AND SYMBOLISM**



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A Manual of Church Decoration and Symbolism

By

THE REV. ERNEST GELDART,

Rector of Little Braxted.



CONTAINING DIRECTIONS AND ADVICE TO THOSE
WHO DESIRE WORTHILY TO DECK THE CHURCH
AT THE VARIOUS SEASONS OF THE YEAR:

❖ also ❖

THE EXPLANATION AND THE HISTORY OF THE
SYMBOLS AND EMBLEMS OF RELIGION.

With LII. PLATES AND MANY ILLUSTRATIONS

By the AUTHOR.



A. R. MOWBRAY & CO.

OXFORD: 106, S. Aldate's Street;

LONDON: 64 and 65, Farringdon Street, E.C.

1899.



ERRATA.

- Page 92, line 13, for *Ἡμετερον Κοσμοτην* read *Ἡμετερος Κοσμη.*
" 96, line 21, for *Patriachal* read *Patriarchal.*
" 105, line 34, for *signum* read *lignum.*

P R E F A C E .

READER,

You have in your hands the fruit of five-and-thirty years of my work in one field of GOD'S fair earth. Of its unripeness and poor savour you cannot be as conscious as am I.

All that can be hoped, is that you may be by it inclined to a more intelligent cultivation of that branch of the Tree of Knowledge, whence, at the call of GOD, Bezaleel and Aholiab plucked the pomegranates, to deck His Tabernacle among men.

Hence, too, unnumbered thousands after them, have gathered the ever-ripening fruit, for the glorious service of the Sanctuary.

I count not myself, by any means, to have apprehended the full increase of the ages; nor, while entering into the labours of others, to have done aught but "glean after them." For this, like Ruth, may I "not be rebuked," since I have tried only to take what lies ready to any man's hand.

Whatsoever it is, I only offer to you what, in all honesty, I have (on the preceding page) already offered to the Giver of all good work, and the Gracious Receiver of all well-meant labour.

*Ad te domine
levavi oculos.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

MY indebtedness to others is well nigh infinite. "What hast thou that thou hast not received?" is ever true, but truest perhaps of all, in matters of art. "Other men laboured, and we have entered into their labours." To write even such a book as that which you, my reader, have in your hands, would have been a hopeless task to any one man, had he not the benefit of his predecessors' work.

Most gratefully do I give thanks to all who have gone before me, whose harvests I have gleaned.

From nineteen centuries of Christian art it would be strange if nothing were gathered; but the field is too wide, and the task too great for one; and I have taken from the basket and the store of many.

It is impossible to give a full acknowledgment of this indebtedness, but at least I can mention a few of those whose greater labours have lightened my lesser toil.

Foremost in the list of modern writers, Husenbeth must be mentioned. His *Emblems of the Saints* is the storehouse to which I have gone oftencast, and from which I have gathered most. Didron's *Christian Iconography*, perhaps, comes next; but besides these two books, I have consulted many others: Parker's *Calendar of the Prayer Book*; Mrs. Jameson's *Sacred and Legendary Art*; Smith's *Dictionary of Christian Antiquities*; Bostell's *Heraldry*; Walcot's *Dictionary of Archaeology*; Brand's *Popular Antiquities*; Twining's *Christian Symbolism*; Viollet le Duc's *Dictionary*; Mazot's *Tableau de la Croix*; Creeny's *Brasses of Europe*; the *Ecclesiologist* of the Camden Society; Palmer's *Early Christian Symbolism*, and a score of other books, have frequently been referred to.

Nor must I omit to state that many parts of the chapters on Temporary Decoration are, more or less, borrowed from a book edited by me in 1882, for the then existing firm of Cox, Sons, & Co., as in that book they were chiefly taken from a former book, published many years ago by Mr. E. Y. Cox.

Several of the illustrations are reproduced from Didron, and others from various standard works: but the majority of the drawings are original, and are the result of more than thirty years' study of ancient work at home and abroad.

For the beautiful frontispiece, I am indebted to Mr. Percy Bacon, of the firm of Bacon Brothers, 11, Newman Street, Oxford Street, W. These artists have for several years executed all the carved and painted work which I have designed as architect.

For the rest, most sincerely I acknowledge myself (consciously or unconsciously) a plagiarist and a borrower. Had it been otherwise, this book would have been, if more "my own," a "still poorer thing."



deo
omnium visibilium auctori
qui
oculos et manus
mihi dedit
opusculum
hoc
refero.



