

PALÆOGRAPHY

NOTES UPON THE
HISTORY OF WRITING
AND THE
MEDIÆVAL ART OF ILLUMINATION

BY
BERNARD QUARITCH

Extended from a Lecture, delivered at a *Conversazione* of the Sette
of Odd Volumes, at the Galleries of the Royal Institute of
Painters in Water Colours, 12th December, 1893

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*** One Hundred and Ninety-nine Copies of this book have been privately
printed for my personal friends.*

This is Copy No. 190.

This Volume is

Dedicated to my excellent Friend

BROTHER ALEXANDER T. HOLLINGSWORTH,

ARTIFICER, and PRESIDENT OF

The Odd Volumes, 1893-94,

AND TO

THE BRETHREN OF THE SETTE

WITH WHICH

I have been united since 1878 in O. V. bond,

BY

BERNARD QUARITCH,

Librarian to the Sette.

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Foreword

OF the books which preceded the invention of Printing, a much larger quantity is still extant than the world in general would suppose, but they are nevertheless so widely scattered and so seldom immediately accessible, that only a very long experience will enable any one to speak or to write about them in other than a blundering fashion. So many qualifications are required, that it may seem presumptuous in me to treat upon a matter bristling with difficulties and uncertainties. The brief but admirable outline of its history which Mr. Maunde Thompson has lately published is likely to mislead the inexperienced into a belief that a science defined with so much clearness and apparent ease may as easily be mastered. No one knows better than that accomplished scholar how hard it would be to supply sure and definite criteria for the guidance of palæographical students in all the branches of their fascinating pursuit. My excuse must be that the observations which appear in the present opusculum may be useful to some who are unable for various reasons to give the necessary fulness of