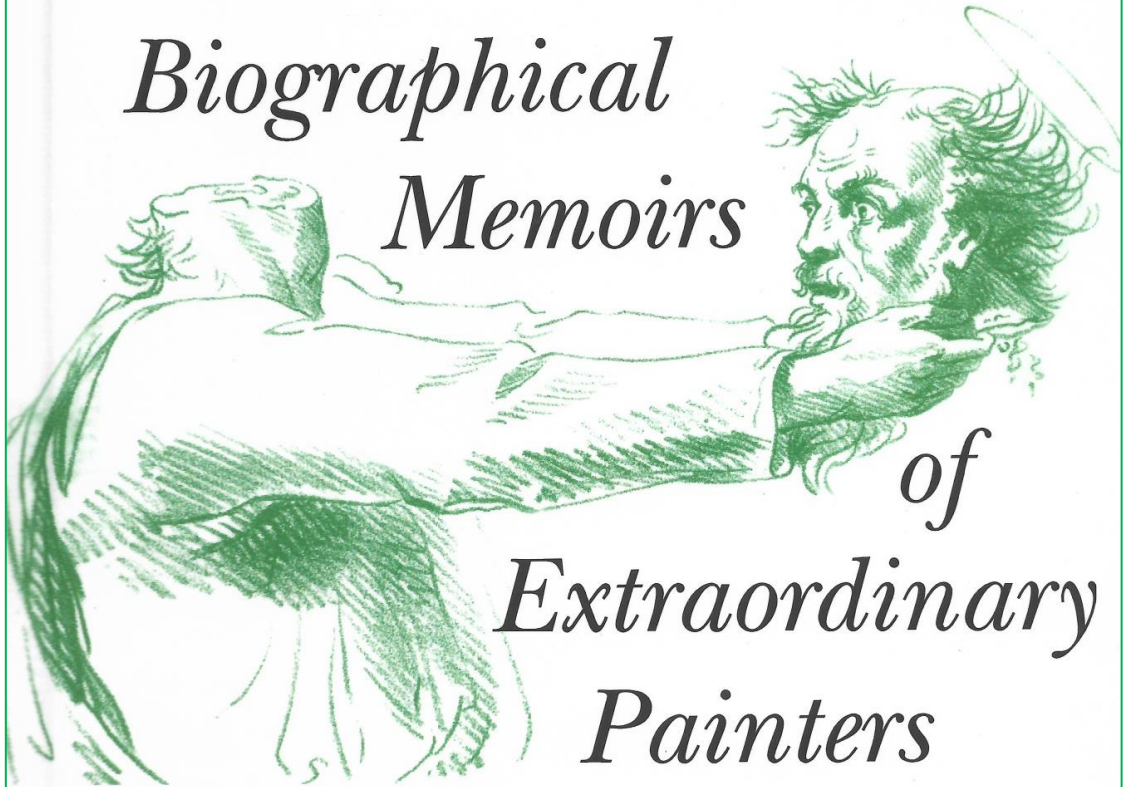


*Biographical
Memoirs*



*of
Extraordinary
Painters*

WILLIAM BECKFORD

NEW EDITION WITH INTRODUCTION
AND NOTES BY

ROBERT J. GEMMETT

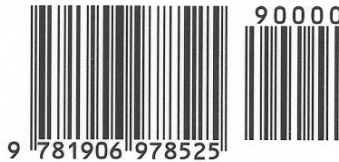
This is a new edition of William Beckford's first published work, **Biographical Memoirs of Extraordinary Painters**, with an introduction by Robert J. Gemmett, as well as annotations, illustrations and a bibliography.

This unusual book reveals Beckford's extensive knowledge of art as a critic and connoisseur and his satirical talent as a novelist. Through the vehicle of a satire reminiscent of Voltaire, he criticizes the excesses of schools of painting, particularly the Dutch and Flemish, to minute detail and empty virtuosity, while his extended parody of prominent biographies of artists, fostered by such writers as Vasari and Horace Walpole, becomes a incisive commentary on the history of art and art criticism to the end of the 18th century.

His insights also recognize the emergence of a rising nationalistic sense of an English art history influenced by the Northern Gothic style of art and the rise of new Romantic style of painting that radically diverged from the classical and Renaissance periods.

Robert J. Gemmett, Professor Emeritus of English, State University of New York, lives in Rye, New Hampshire. He is the author of numerous books and articles of Beckford's life and works, including his most recent book *William Beckford's Fonthill Architecture, Landscape and the Arts* (2016)

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