

GREAT MASTERS  
IN PAINTING & SCULPTURE



MICHAEL  
ANGELO



LORD RONALD  
SUTHERLAND  
GOWER

N6923  
.B9  
.G6





1020053698

The Great Masters  
in Painting and Sculpture  
Edited by G. C. Williamson

MICHAEL ANGELO BUONARROTI



THE GREAT MASTERS IN PAINTING  
AND SCULPTURE.

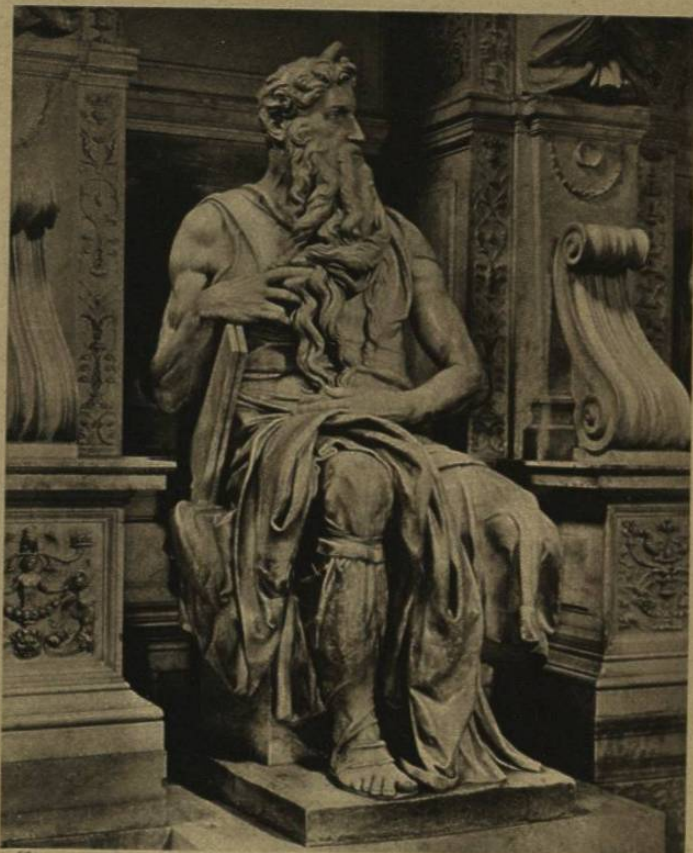
Edited by G. C. WILLIAMSON, Litt.D.

LIST OF THE SERIES.

- BOTTICELLI. By A. STREETER.  
BRUNELLESCHI. By LEADER SCOTT.  
CORREGGIO. By SELWYN BRINTON, M.A.  
CRIVELLI. By G. McNEIL RUSHFORTH, M.A.  
DELLA ROBBIA. By the MARCHESA BURLAMACCHI.  
ANDREA DEL SARTO. By H. GUINNESS.  
DONATELLO. By HOPE REA.  
GERARD DOU. By W. MARTIN, Ph.D.  
GAUDENZIO FERRARI. By ETHEL HALSEY.  
FRANCIA. By GEORGE C. WILLIAMSON, Litt.D.  
GIORGIONE. By HERBERT COOK, M.A.  
GIOTTO. By F. MASON PERKINS.  
FRANS HALS. By GERALD S. DAVIES, M.A.  
LUINI. By GEORGE C. WILLIAMSON, Litt.D.  
MANTEGNA. By MAUD CRUTTWELL.  
MEMLINC. By W. H. JAMES WEALE.  
MICHAEL ANGELO. By LORD RONALD SUTHERLAND GOWER, F.S.A.  
PERUGINO. By GEORGE C. WILLIAMSON, Litt.D.  
PIERO DELLA FRANCESCA. By W. G. WATERS, M.A.  
PINTORICCHIO. By EVELYN MARCH PHILLIPPS.  
RAPHAEL. By H. STRACHEY.  
REMBRANDT. By MALCOLM BELL.  
RUBENS. By HOPE REA.  
SIGNORELLI. By MAUD CRUTTWELL.  
SODOMA. By the CONTESSA LORENZO PRIULI-BON.  
TINTORETTO. By J. B. STOUGHTON HOLBORN, M.A.  
VAN DYCK. By LIONEL CUST, M.V.O., F.S.A.  
VELASQUEZ. By R. A. M. STEVENSON.  
LEONARDO DA VINCI. By EDWARD McCURDY, M.A.  
WATTEAU. By EDGUMBE STALEY, B.A.  
WILKIE. By LORD RONALD SUTHERLAND GOWER, F.S.A.

*Others to follow.*

LONDON: GEORGE BELL AND SONS.



*Alinari, photo.*

*Moses.*

*From the Statue in the Church of San Pietro in Vincoli, Rome.*

*From the Statue in the Church of San Pietro in Vincoli, Rome.*

# MICHAEL ANGELO BUONARROTI

BY  
LORD RONALD SUTHERLAND GOWER, F.S.A.



LONDON  
GEORGE BELL AND SONS

1908

13607



*Marble photo.*

*Moses*

*From the Statues Engraving Co.*

*From the Statue in the Church of San Pietro in Vincoli, Rome*

# MICHAEL ANGELO BUONARROTI

BY  
LORD RONALD SUTHERLAND GOWER, F.S.A.



LONDON  
GEORGE BELL AND SONS

1908

13607



BIBLIOTECA

First Published, September, 1903.  
Second and Cheap Edition, March, 1908.



ACERVO GENERAL

129191

## PREFACE

TO write worthily of so supreme a world-genius as was Michael Angelo is given to few. But to one who, since his earliest appreciation for what is greatest in art, has ever revered that mighty master, it may be allowed to add a tribute of homage by this little monograph to Michael Angelo Buonarroti.

If further preface is needed, I perhaps cannot do better than give the following words written to me by the veteran artist, G. F. Watts, R.A., O.M., on returning the proofs which he had kindly read.

RONALD SUTHERLAND GOWER.

"July 24, 1903.

"My only disagreement with you would be in the estimate of his comparative excellence in sculpture and painting. He called himself sculptor, but we seldom gauge rightly our own strength and weakness. The paintings in the Sistine Chapel are to my mind entirely beyond criticism or praise, not merely with reference to design and execution, but also for colour, right noble and perfect in their place. I was never more surprised than by this quality, to which I do not think justice has ever been done; nothing in his sculpture comes near to the perfection of his Adam or the majesty of the Dividing the light from

darkness; his sculpture lacks the serene strength that is found in the Adam and many other figures in the great frescoes. Dominated by the fierce spirit of Dante he was less influenced by the grave dignity of Greek philosophy and art than might have been expected from the contemporary and possible pupil of Poliziano. In my estimate of him as a Sculptor in comparison with him as Painter I am likely to be in a minority of one! but I think that when he is thought of as a painter his earlier pictures are thought of, and these certainly are unworthy of him, but the Prophets and Sibyls are the greatest things ever painted. As a rule he certainly insists too much upon the anatomy; some one said admirably, 'Learn anatomy, and forget it'; Michael Angelo did the first and not the second, and the fault of almost all his work is, that it is too much an anatomical essay. The David is an example of this, besides being very faulty in proportion, with hands and feet that are monstrous. It is, I think, altogether bad. The hesitating pose is good and goes with the sullen expression of the face, but is not that of the ardent heroic boy!

"This seems presumptuous criticism; and you might, considering my aspirations and efforts, say to me, 'Do better!' but I am not Michael Angelo, but I am a pupil of the greatest sculptor of all, Pheidias (a master the great Florentine knew nothing of), and so far, feel a right to set up judgement on the technique only."

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS . . . . .	ix
SHORT BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	xi
I. EARLY YEARS . . . . .	1
II. THE TOMB OF JULIUS . . . . .	20
III. LATER YEARS . . . . .	28
IV. MICHAEL ANGELO AS SCULPTOR . . . . .	43
V. MICHAEL ANGELO AS PAINTER . . . . .	58
VI. MICHAEL ANGELO AS ARCHITECT . . . . .	75
VII. MICHAEL ANGELO AS DRAUGHTSMAN . . . . .	81
VIII. MICHAEL ANGELO AS POET . . . . .	90
IX. CONTEMPORARY PORTRAITS OF MICHAEL ANGELO IN SCULPTURE AND PAINTING . . . . .	96
X. THE INFLUENCE OF MICHAEL ANGELO . . . . .	104
CATALOGUE OF THE WORKS OF MICHAEL ANGELO:	
Paintings . . . . .	107
Drawings and Sculpture . . . . .	108
DRAWINGS BY MICHAEL ANGELO: THE BRITISH MUSEUM	113
INDEX. . . . .	129

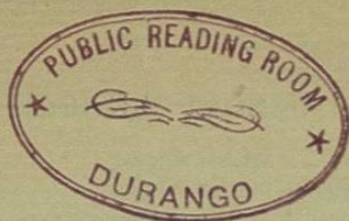


## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	TO FACE
	PAGE
Moses . . . . .	<i>San Pietro in Vincoli, Rome</i>
	Frontispiece
Michael Angelo Buonarroti . . . . .	<i>Museum of the Capitol, Rome</i> 1
Marble Mask of a Faun. Attributed to Michael Angelo	
	<i>Bargello Museum, Florence</i> 6
Marble Statuette of an Angel	
	<i>Church of San Domenico, Bologna</i> 8
David . . . . .	<i>Accademia, Florence</i> 12
The Deposition. From the bas-relief in marble	
	<i>Bargello Museum, Florence</i> 14
Tomb of Julius II. . . . .	<i>San Pietro in Vincoli, Rome</i> 20
Sacristy, San Lorenzo, Florence. . . . .	30
Night . . . . .	<i>Sacristy, San Lorenzo, Florence</i> 30
Madonna and Child . . . . .	<i>Sacristy, San Lorenzo, Florence</i> 32
Michael Angelo's Tomb. Designed by Vasari	
	<i>Santa Croce, Florence</i> 38
Bronze Bust of Michael Angelo. <i>Ashmolean Museum, Oxford</i>	40
Madonna and Child. Marble bas-relief	
	<i>Casa Buonarroti, Florence</i> 42
Combat between Centaurs and Lapithae. Marble bas-relief	
	<i>Casa Buonarroti, Florence</i> 42
Marble Statue of St. John the Baptist. Attributed to Michael Angelo . . . . .	<i>Accademia, Florence</i> 46
Pietà. From a cast of the original at St. Peter's, Rome . . .	46
Head of David . . . . .	<i>Accademia, Florence</i> 48
The Dying Adonis . . . . .	<i>Bargello Museum, Florence</i> 50
Wax model for Statue of Guiliamo de' Medici	
	<i>National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh</i> 50

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	TO FACE PAGE
Tomb of Giuliano de' Medici . . . . .	<i>San Lorenzo, Florence</i> 52
Tomb of Lorenzo de' Medici . . . . .	<i>San Lorenzo, Florence</i> 52
Pietà . . . . .	<i>Cathedral, Florence</i> 56
Madonna and Infant Christ, St. John the Baptist and Angels	<i>National Gallery, London</i> 58
The "Doni" Madonna . . . . .	<i>Uffizi Gallery, Florence</i> 60
The Entombment of our Lord. Attributed to Michael Angelo	<i>National Gallery, London</i> 60
Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel . . . . .	62
The Erythrean Sibyl . . . . .	<i>Sistine Chapel, Rome</i> 64
The Cumaean Sibyl . . . . .	<i>Sistine Chapel, Rome</i> 64
The Creation of the Sun and Moon . . . . .	<i>Sistine Chapel, Rome</i> 66
The Last Judgement . . . . .	<i>Sistine Chapel, Rome</i> 68
The Three Fates. Attributed to Michael Angelo	<i>Pitti Gallery, Florence</i> 74
Interior of the Cupola of St. Peter's, Rome . . . . .	76
The Laurentian Library, Florence . . . . .	78
Descent from the Cross. Study in black chalk. Formerly in the Warwick Castle Collection . . . . .	<i>British Museum</i> 82
Anatomical Study . . . . .	<i>British Museum</i> 82
Study in pen and bistre. From the Malcolm Collection	<i>British Museum</i> 84
Study in red chalk for the figure of Lazarus in Sebastiano del Piombo's painting in the National Gallery	<i>British Museum</i> 84
Study, apparently for the fresco of the Creation of Adam in the Sistine Chapel. Drawn in black chalk. From the Malcolm Collection . . . . .	<i>British Museum</i> 86
Study for the figure of Christ, in a composition of the Resur- rection. Black chalk. From the Malcolm Collection	<i>British Museum</i> 86
Medal of Michael Angelo by Leone . . . . .	<i>British Museum</i> 98



## SHORT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BURLINGTON FINE ARTS CLUB. Catalogue of Exhibition of  
Michelangelo Drawings. London, 1870.
- CIAMPI, S. Lettera di Michelangelo. Florence, 1834.
- CONDIVI, ASCANIO. Le Vite di Michelangelo Buonarroti scritte  
da Giorgio Vasari e da Ascanio Condivi con aggiunte e  
note. Berlin, 1887.
- DAELLI, G. DE. Carte Michelangiolesche inedite.  
Milan, 1865.
- DUPPA. Life of Michel Angelo. London, 1806 and 1816.
- FAGAN, L. The Art of Michel Angelo in the British Museum.  
London, 1883.
- FEA, CARLO. Michelangelo come architetto di San Pietro,  
Roma. Rome, 1822.
- GAZETTE DES BEAUX ARTS. Seven essays in book form.  
Paris, 1876.
- BLANCE, C. Le Génie de Michel-Ange.
- GUILLAUME, E. Sculpteur.
- MANTZ, P. Peintre.
- GARNIER, C. Architecte.
- MEZIÈRES, A. Poète.
- GONSE, L. Les Fêtes du centenaire de Michel-Ange.
- MONTAIGLON, A. DE. La Vie de Michel-Ange.
- " " Essai de Bibliographie.
- GOTTI, A. Vita di Michel Angelo narrata coll' aiuto di nuov.  
documenti. Florence, 1875.
- GUASTI, CESARE. Le Rime di Michelangelo.  
Florence, 1863.

- HOLROYD, C. Michel Angelo. London, 1903.  
 MAGHERINI, G. Michelangiolo. Florence, 1875.  
 MARTINOLLI, F. Vita di Michelangelo. Florence, 1875.  
 MILANESI, G. Le Lettere di Michelangelo. Florence, 1875.  
 MILANESI, G. Les Correspondants de Michel-Ange. Paris, 1890.  
 MUNTZ, E. La Fin de la Renaissance. Paris, 1895.  
 OLLIVIER, E. Michel-Ange. Paris, 1892.  
 PASSERINI, LUIGI. La Bibliografia di Michelangelo Buonarroti. Florence, 1875.  
 PERKINS, C. C. Raphael and Michelangelo. Boston, 1878.  
 PIACENZA, G. Vita di Michelangelo. Turin, 1812.  
 RICHTER, J. P. Die neue Dokumente über Michelangelo, Lützow's Zeitschrift für Bildende Kunst XI. Leipsic, 1876.  
 ROBINSON, SIR C. An Account of the Drawings at Oxford. Oxford, 1870.  
 SCHEFFLER, LUDWIG VON. Michelangelo : eine Renaissance Studie. Altenburg, 1892.  
 SPRINGER, A. Raffaël und Michelangelo. Leipsic, 1895.  
 SYMONDS, J. A. Sonnets of Michelangelo. London, 1878.  
 SYMONDS, J. A. The Life of Michelangelo. London, 1893.  
 VARCHI, B. Sonnetti due in lode di Michelangelo. Florence, 1555.  
 VASARI, G. Vita di Michelangelo. Florence, 1568.  
 WILSON, C. H. Life and Works of Michelangelo. London, 1881.  
 ZOBBI, A. Discorso storico artistico intorno Buonarroti. Florence, 1864.