

Peter Orlando Hutchinson's DIARY OF A DEVON ANTIQUARY

THE ILLUSTRATED JOURNALS
& SKETCHBOOKS 1871-1894

Compiled and Edited by Jeremy Butler

Peter Orlando Hutchinson spent all his adult life in Sidmouth, Devon. The son of a doctor and a man of adequate means, he was able to pursue a wide range of interests extraordinary even by Victorian standards. Everything interested him, from fishermen's tales to international politics, and into his diary went such details as precise astronomical measurements, the latest methods of preserving telegraph poles, the design of an iron-clad gunboat he proposed to the government, and the result of testing explosive shells of his own design on Sidmouth beach.

His many talents matched his interests whether performing on the flute or French Horn in public concerts in Exeter, carving decorative stonework for the newly restored Sidmouth church, or building his home the Old Chancel, out of discarded fragments of churches in the vicinity.

His pioneering geological observations and archaeological researches are now of special value, particularly his mapping of Bronze Age burial mounds of south-east Devon, many of which have now disappeared. Above all, it is as an artist and inveterate recorder of what he saw and heard that makes Hutchinson's diaries and sketchbooks such a valuable and interesting addition to the literature of Devon. It is these that are brought together and published in this superbly illustrated book.

The text for this work is based on Hutchinson's five-volume diary now held in the Devon Record Office, supplemented here and there with extracts from letters and other manuscript sources. The illustrations come from six volumes of sketchbooks, also held in the DRO. These contain hundreds of watercolours, many of which are miniature masterpieces. Other watercolours and fine pen-and-ink sketches are taken from the diaries, from manuscripts sent to the Society of Antiquaries in London, from Hutchinson's manuscript history of Sidmouth (in the West Country Studies Library), and elsewhere, totalling over 450 illustrations.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

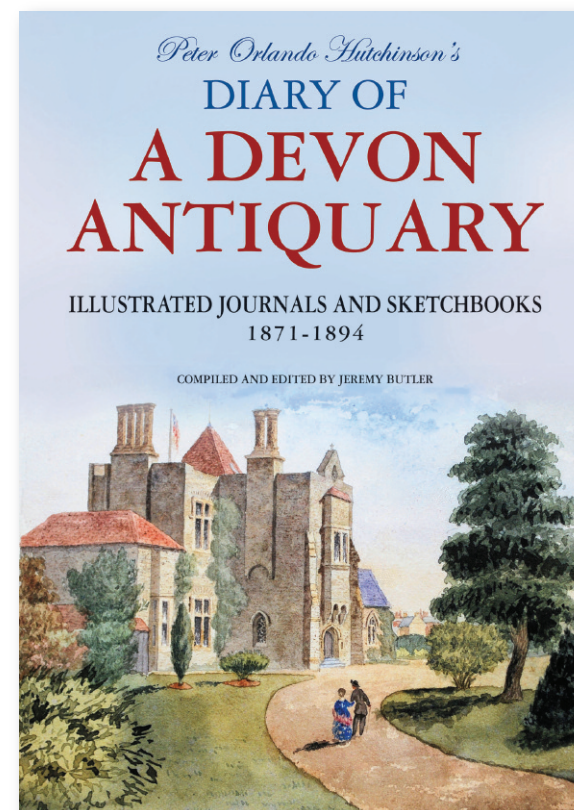
Jeremy Butler is best known for his five-volume work *The Dartmoor Atlas of Antiquities* long held to be the premier archaeological study of that landscape.

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Above: Dartmouth Quay. October 2, 1847.

Left: Fossil elephant's tooth, found on Sidmouth beach in Jan. 1871

Below: Example of a double-page spread.



The sea, Westerntown, behind Marine Place. Dec. 4. 1876.



Schooner 'Sarah', laden with pipe clay, driven on shore a mile east of Sidmouth, Oct. 15, 1877.