


A scenic view of a coastline. On the left, a large, dark tree with green foliage stands prominently. The foreground is filled with dry, golden-brown grasses and green shrubs. In the middle ground, a deep blue sea stretches across the frame, meeting a clear blue sky with a few wispy white clouds. The overall atmosphere is bright and serene.

English artists of southern Italy

The story of four English
writers who moved from Italy

Travel around the story of four English artists who had to move in Italy



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- A scenic view of a coastline. On the left, a large, dark green tree stands on a grassy slope. The background shows a vast blue sea meeting a light blue sky with scattered white clouds. On the right side of the image, a list of names is displayed in a black serif font.
- Edard Lear
 - John Arthur Strutt
 - Henry Swinburne
 - Richard Keppel Craven

Edward Lear

Edward Lear (12 May 1812 – 29 January 1888) was an English artist, illustrator, author, and poet, renowned today primarily for his literary nonsense, in poetry and prose, and especially his limericks, a form that he popularised

Lear was born into a middle-class family in the village of Holloway, the 21st child of Ann and Jeremiah Lear. He was raised by his eldest sister, also named Ann, 21 years his senior. Ann doted on Lear and continued to mother him until her death, when Lear was almost 50 years of age.^[1] Due to the family's failing financial fortune, at age four he and his sister had to leave the family home and set up house together. Lear suffered from health problems. From the age of six he suffered frequent *grand mal epileptic seizures*, and *bronchitis*, *asthma*, and in later life, *partial blindness*. Lear experienced his first seizure at a fair near Highgate with his father. The event scared and embarrassed him. Lear felt lifelong guilt and shame for his epileptic condition. His adult diaries indicate that he always sensed the onset of a seizure in time to remove himself from public view. How Lear was able to anticipate them is not known, but many people with epilepsy report a ringing in their ears or an "aura" before the onset of a seizure. In Lear's time epilepsy was believed to be associated with *demonic possession*, which contributed to his feelings of guilt and loneliness. When Lear was about seven he began to show signs of depression, possibly due to the constant instability of his childhood. He suffered from periods of severe depression which he referred to as "the Morbids."^[2]



Lear travelled widely throughout his life and eventually settled in Sanremo, on his beloved Mediterranean coast, in the 1870s, at a villa he named "Villa Tennyson." The closest he came to marriage was two proposals, both to the same woman 46 years his junior, which were not accepted. For companions he relied instead on a circle of friends and correspondents, and especially, in later life, on his Suliot chef, Giorgis, a faithful friend and, as Lear complained, a thoroughly unsatisfactory chef.

Another trusted companion in Sanremo was his cat, Foss, who died in 1886 and was buried with some ceremony in a garden at Villa Tennyson. After a long decline in his health, Lear died at his villa in 1888, of the heart disease from which he had suffered since at least 1870. Lear's funeral was said to be a sad, lonely affair by the wife of Dr. Hassall, Lear's physician, not one of Lear's many lifelong friends being able to attend.

In 1846 Lear published *A Book of Nonsense*, a volume of limericks that went through three editions and helped popularize the form. In 1865 *The History of the Seven Families of the Lake Pipple-Popple* was published, and in 1867 his most famous piece of nonsense, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, which he wrote for the children of his patron Edward Stanley, 13th Earl of Derby. Many other works followed.

Lear's nonsense books were quite popular during his lifetime, but a rumour circulated that "Edward Lear" was merely a pseudonym, and the books' true author was the man to whom Lear had dedicated the works, his patron the Earl of Derby. Supporters of this rumour offered as evidence the facts that both men were named Edward, and that "Lear" is an anagram of "Earl".

Literary works

- *Illustrations of the Family of the Psittacidae, or Parrots* (1832)
- *Tortoises, Terrapins, and Turtles* by J.E. Gray
- *Views in Rome and its Environs* (1841)
- *Gleanings from the Menagerie at Knowsley Hall* (1846)
- *Illustrated Excursions in Italy* (1846)
- *Book of Nonsense* (1846)
- *Journal of a Landscape Painter in Greece and Albania* (1851)
- *Book of Nonsense and More Nonsense* (1862)
- *Journal of a Landscape Painter in Southern Calabria* (1852)

John Arthur Strutt

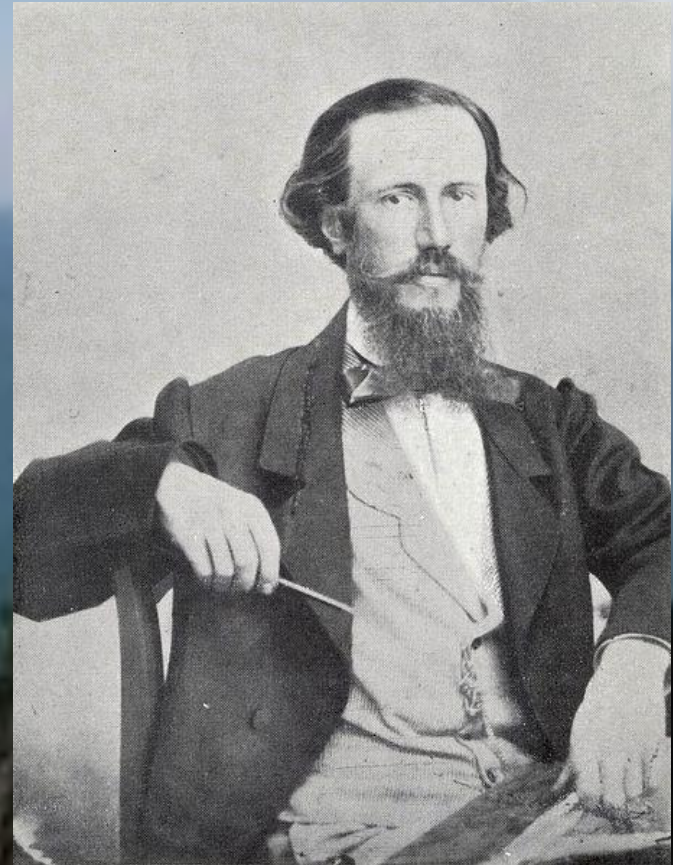
Arthur John Strutt (Chelmsford , 1818 – Rome , 1888), was an English painter , engraver , writer and traveler , son of the landscape painter Jacob George Strutt (1790–1864).

After traveling across Italy, in 1831, in retinue of his father, he moved to Rome, where he definitively established his residence.

In 1841 he traveled on foot through central and South Italy, together with his friend, the poet William Jackson, otherwise unknown, starting from Porta San Giovanni (Rome) and ending in Palermo . The account of this journey was the object of his *A Pedestrian Tour in Calabria & Sicily* published in London, in 1842.

Literary works

- *A Pedestrian Tour in Calabria & Sicily* , TC Newby, London, 1842
- *Calabria Sicilia 1840*



Richard Keppel Craven

Keppel Richard Craven (1 June 1779 – 24 June 1851) was a British traveller and dilettante.

Craven was the third and youngest son of William Craven and Lady Elizabeth Berkeley, daughter of the 4th Earl of Berkeley. His mother divorced when Keppel was only three years old and moved to France with him, but it was under a promise to return him to his father when he was eight years of age. This condition was not fulfilled. They returned to England in 1791 to send Keppel to school at Harrow under an assumed name, where, however, he was soon recognised by his likeness to her, and henceforth was called by his family name.

His father died on 27 September 1791 and his mother in the following month married Christian Frederick Charles Alexander, Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach. Craven was not by these events permanently estranged from his mother; on the contrary, after the margrave's death in 1805 he went to live with her in Naples.



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In 1814 he accepted the post of one of the Chamberlains to Princess Caroline of Wales, without receiving any emolument; but this occupation lasted for a short time only, until the princess departed for Geneva. Six years afterwards he was called on to give evidence at the trial of the unfortunate princess, when he stated that he was in her service for six months, during which time he never saw any impropriety in her conduct either at Milan or Naples, or improper familiarity on the part of Bergamo (DOLBY, Parliamentary Register, 1820, pp. 1269-76).

He published in 1821 *A Tour through the Southern Provinces of the Kingdom of Naples*, and in 1838 *Excursions in the Abruzzi and Northern Provinces of Naples*, in 2 vols. The former of these two works is embellished with views from his own sketches, and the latter with a smaller number from drawings by W. Westall, A.R.A.

Having received a considerable addition to his fortune, he in 1834 purchased a large convent in the mountains near Salerno, which he fitted up as a residence, and there received his visitors with much hospitality. He was for many years the intimate friend and inseparable companion of Sir William Gell; he shared his own prosperity with his less fortunate comrade, cheered him when in sickness, and attended him with unwearying kindness, until Gell's death in 1836.

Another of his highly esteemed acquaintances was Lady Blessington, who arrived in Naples in July 1823; with her he afterwards kept up a correspondence, and some of the letters which he addressed to that lady are given in her *Life* by Richard Robert Madden. He died at Naples 24 June 1851, aged 72, being the last of a triumvirate of British literati, scholars, and gentlemen who resided there for many years in the closest bonds of friendship, namely, Sir William Drummond, Sir William Gell, and the Hon. K. R. Craven. He was buried in the English Cemetery in Naples.

Besides the two works already mentioned, there was published in London in 1825 a book entitled *Italian Scenes: a Series of interesting Delineations of Remarkable Views and of Celebrated Remains of Antiquity. Chiefly sketched by the Hon. K. Craven.*

Henry Swinburne

Henry Swinburne (1743–1803) was an English travel writer.

He born at Bristol on 8 July 1743, into a Catholic family, and was educated at Scorton school, near Catterick, Yorkshire. He was then sent to the monastic seminary of Lacelle in France. He afterwards studied at Paris, Bordeaux, and in the Royal Academy at Turin, devoting special attention to literature and art. The death of his brother, who had devised to him a small estate at Hamsterley in Durham, placed him in independent circumstances. He proceeded to Turin, Genoa, and Florence. He met in Paris his future wife Martha, daughter of John Baker of Chichester, solicitor to the Leeward Islands, who was being educated at a convent of Ursuline nuns. They were married at Aix-la-Chapelle on 24 March 1767. The couple then settled at Hamsterley, where the husband laid out the estate. They passed the autumn of 1774 and the following months until September 1775 at Bordeaux, and then visited the Pyrenees. Swinburne in the company of Sir Thomas Gascoigne travelled through Spain, returning to Bayonne in June 1776. A manuscript describing his journey was sent to Samuel Henley as editor. It was published in 1779 as *Travels through Spain, 1775 and 1776*, illustrated with drawings of Roman and Moorish architecture.



On his return to Bayonne in June 1776 Swinburne, with his family, travelled to Marseilles, and a supplementary volume describing the expedition was issued in 1787. They then sailed to Naples, and travelled in the Two Sicilies, where they stayed for 1777 and 1778, and for the early months of 1779. Their return to England was by Vienna, Frankfurt, and Brussels, and they arrived in London in July 1779, but after a few months in England passed once more through France to Italy (March to July 1780) and then until November in Vienna. They formed acquaintance with literati in each country, and received compliments from the Catholic sovereigns. At Vienna Maria Theresa conferred on Mrs. Swinburne the female order of *la Croix Étoilée*, and the Emperor Joseph II stood godfather to their son of that name. They were in Brussels from February to June 1781, and again crossed to England.

By this time Martha's property in the West Indies had been laid waste. With letters of introduction to the French court, from Vienna, Swinburne went to Paris (1783), and through Marie-Antoinette's influence obtained a grant of all uncultivated crown lands in the island of St. Vincent valued at £30,000. In February 1785 William Pitt offered half that sum for it, and on receiving a refusal passed through parliament a bill to impose heavy taxation upon the unproductive lands in all the West Indian islands. Swinburne then parted with his interest for £6,500. From September 1786 to June 1788 Swinburne was again in Paris, and high in favour with Marie-Antoinette. His eldest son was enrolled among the royal pages, and placed under the care of the Prince de Lambesc.

Swinburne's later years were clouded by misfortune. His eldest daughter, Mary Frances, married on 7 September 1793 Paul Benfield, whose wealth crumbled away as rapidly as it grew, and Swinburne was involved in the ruin. His eldest son died in a storm on his way to Jamaica in 1800.

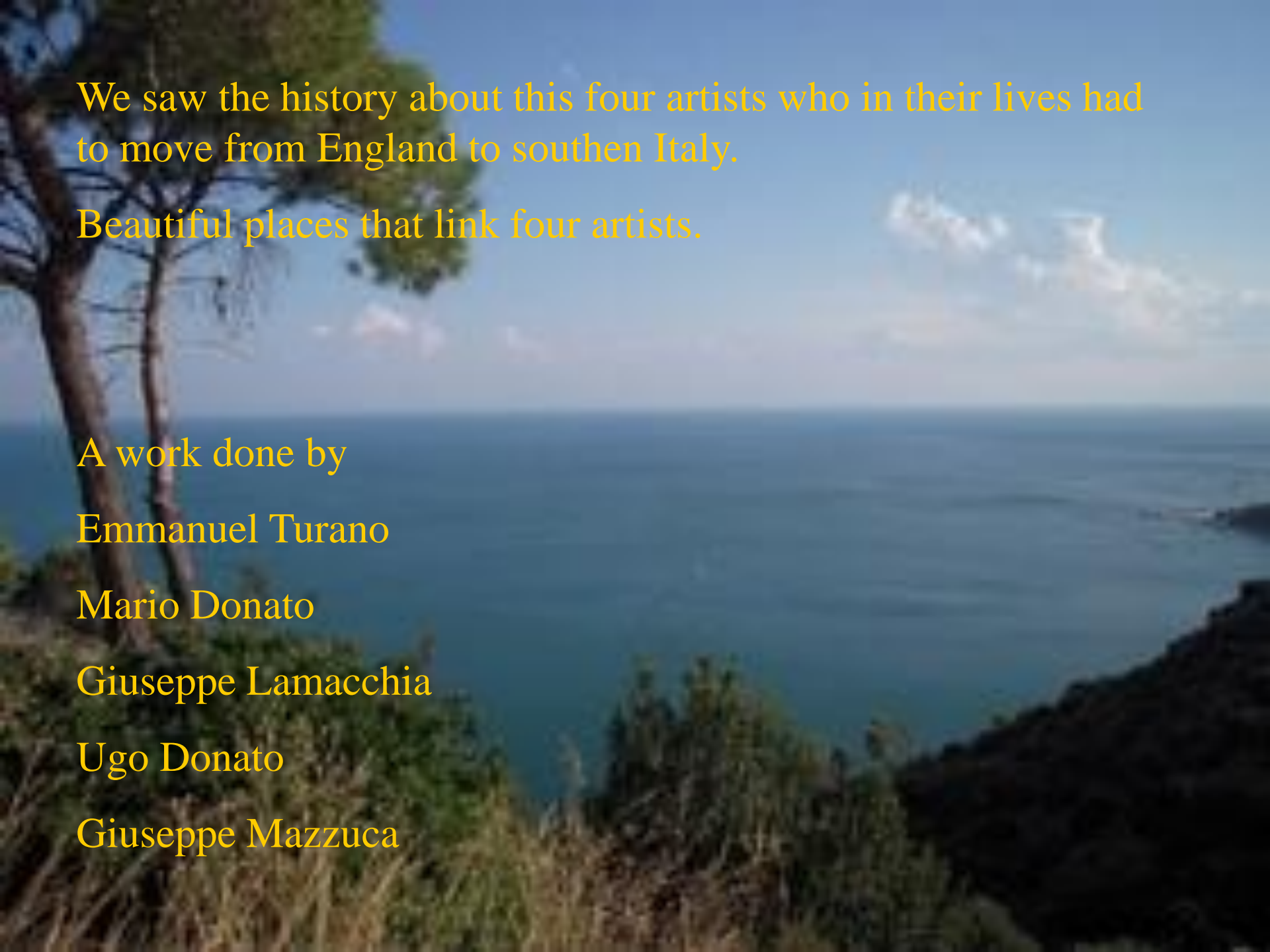
In the meantime Swinburne was sent to Paris in September 1796 as commissioner, to negotiate an exchange of prisoners with France, but, in the face of difficulties arising from the capture by the French of Sir Sidney Smith, was unsuccessful, and in December 1797 was recalled to England. In December 1801 he went out to the lucrative post of vendue-master in the newly-ceded settlement of Trinidad, and also as commissioner to deliver up the Danish West Indian islands to a Danish official. He died from sunstroke at Trinidad on 1 April 1803, and was buried at San Juan, where his friend, Sir Ralph Woodford, raised a monument to his memory.

Works

Travels through Spain, 1775 and 1776 was published in 1779. In 1787 it was reprinted in two octavo volumes, and in the same year a French translation by J. B. De la Borde came out at Paris. Abridgments, with engravings from some additional drawings by Swinburne, appeared in 1806 and 1813. This was the first antiquarian book in England on Spain. The *Travels* are cited by [Edward Gibbon](#) (*Decline and Fall*, chaps, ix. and x.)

The first volume of Swinburne's *Travels in the two Sicilies, 1777-1780*, was published in 1783, and the second came out in 1785, with plates from Swinburne's drawings. A second edition appeared in 1790; a French translation of them by La Borde was issued at Paris in 1785, and in the same year a German translation by J. R. Forster was published at Hamburg. At a later date La Borde translated the supplementary *Journey from Bayonne to Marseilles*.

There were published in 1841, under the editorship of [Charles White](#) two volumes entitled *The Courts of Europe at the close of the last Century*, which consisted of the letters of Henry Swinburne, mostly on foreign life (dating from March 1774, and chiefly addressed to his brother, [Sir Edward Swinburne](#)); many of the anecdotes and statements must be read with caution (*Quarterly Review*, lxxviii. 146-76). They were reprinted in 1895



We saw the history about this four artists who in their lives had to move from England to southern Italy.

Beautiful places that link four artists.

A work done by

Emmanuel Turano

Mario Donato

Giuseppe Lamacchia

Ugo Donato

Giuseppe Mazzuca