



The History of Ancient Art, Vol. 1 (Classic Reprint)

Johann Joachim Winckelmann

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The greatest connoisseur and teacher of the beautiful in plastic art was born neither beneath the delicious sky of the South, nor in the lap of wealth. Providence, which, for the accomplishment of its purposes, strikes out ways peculiarly its own, called him from the humble dwelling of a cobbler at Stendal. In this city, which lies in a valley surrounded by heights, and traversed by the Tjchte, in the ancient territory of Brandenburg, Winckelmann saw the light, on the 9th of December, 1717, - his birth occurring only a year later than that of John James Barthélemy, at Cassis, in Provence, the amiable author of the Travels of Anacharsis the Younger, and the acute archaeologist. It would seem as if these two congenial, lofty spirits were born within a circumscribed period of time, to throw a lustre on the age in which they lived.

Winckelmann received, at his baptism, the two surnames of John Joakim, though he made use at a later period only of the former, either because

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