

5. The first mezzotint a portrait of Amelia Elizabeth Widow Regent of Hesse Cassel by Ludwig von Siegen in 1642.

Perhaps I may seek to avoid some of the criticisms to which this sketch is open by stating that the descriptions of the processes which I have given are drawn from standard authorities and not from my personal experiments or observation. To collectors especially those who have had experience I cannot attempt to give any advice but perhaps it may not seem presumptuous if I suggest to any who are beginning, that it is never good policy to buy a poor impression, knowing it to be such, of even a rate print ; one is always dissatisfied with it, and often the expense of a poor impression prevents the purchase of something more desirable : and again, *never cut off the margin about a print* if it is unsightly, mount the print carefully and cover the torn or stained margin with a *passe partout*, because, if the print is of any value, an inch or two of margin may make a wonderful difference, if it should ever come to the hammer. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Kingsford for many of the specimens which I have used to illustrate this paper and to the kindness of the committee of the present Exhibition for the arrangements they have made for my convenience.

This being an introductory paper on this subject, in tracing the history and describing the processes of the principal methods of Engraving I could hardly avoid dealing with dates and technical detail to an extent that must have appeared uninteresting to many : but if this sketch may make it easier for some future lecturer to elaborate his treatments of some particular branch of this subject with adequateness of detail, and awaken your sympathies with the human interest in the personality of the artists you will find your reward for the patience with which you have this evening honoured me.