Arthur Comfort 1864-1935

Arthur Comfort was born in London on 11 November 1864, where he attended the Graphic School of Wood Engraving, and afterwards worked as an engraver for almost 15 years at The Graphic, a national illustrated journal founded in 1869 by William Luson Thomas. During that time, he achieved some renown for his watercolour paintings, especially of flowers, and his work was exhibited in Brussels and at the Royal Academy in London. He was regarded as one of the few engravers of high rank at the end of the Nineteenth Century in Great Britain along with Messrs Charles Roberst, William Biscombe Gardner and Charles Frederick Ulrich.

He became the chairman of the International Society of Wood Engravers but with the development of half-tone and screen blocks for illustrations, wood-engraving became obsolete, and he left the journal and moved north. Comfort settled in Halifax at Swires Road, and taught art at the local Heath Grammar School, Sowerby Bridge High School and Hebden Bridge Grammar School. He joined the Halifax Art Society and developed some skill with pen and ink sketches and mezzotints.

These drawings of buildings and views around Halifax by Arthur Comfort were originally printed in the Halifax Courier newspaper 1911-12, and then soon after published as an album. A further album of drawings printed in the Courier 1912-13 was published as 'Ancient Halls In and About Halifax' in 1913.

Arthur Comfort died in 1935 aged 71 at the Royal Halifax Infirmary. He was survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.





















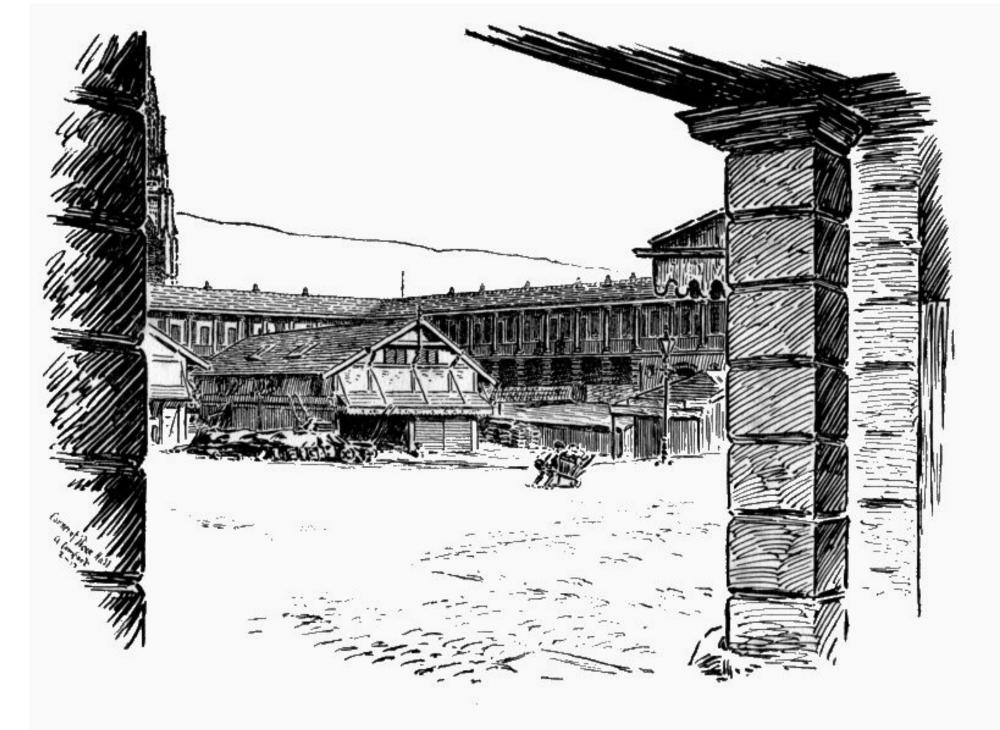












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