

# LEWIS EVANS, SUN-DIALS AND THEIR MOTTOES

1903

## TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

HERTFORDSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

### I.

ADDRESS.

#### SUN - DIALS AND THEIR MOTTOES

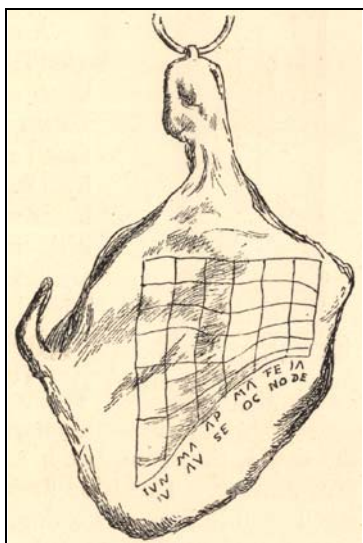
By the President, LEWIS EVANS, F.S.A., F.R.A.S

*Delivered at the Anniversary Meeting at Watford, 24th March, 1903.*

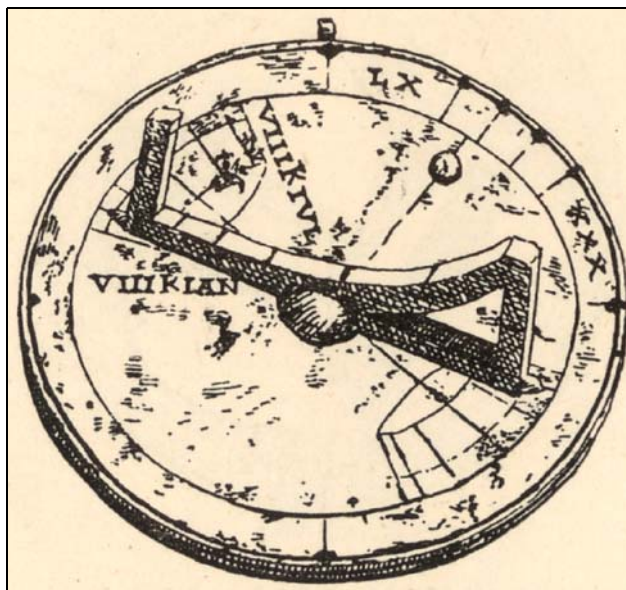
“SUN-DIALS AND THEIR MOTTOES” is a small booklet with the text of Lewis Evans’s talk to the Hertfordshire Natural History Society. In his talk he mainly tells about Portable Dials. It is illustrated with the pictures used in his chapter of *The Book of Sun-Dials* (4th Edition) by Mrs Gatty. His talk ends with some interesting Mottoes, some of which are shown below. His talk begins:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

In addressing you this evening on the subject of Sun-dials I have no intention of going into either the astronomical or the mathematical aspect of dialling: for such matter you may refer to some of the five hundred or so books which have been printed on this art; and I know that you will appreciate my forbearance when you see the size of a volume which explains the art of dialling in a fairly comprehensive manner. It measures 16½ inches by 11 inches by 3 inches, and weighs twelve pounds; and its name is ‘*Ars magna lucis et umbrae*’ (The Great Art of Light and Shade), by Athanasius Kircher, 2nd. ed., Amsterdam, 1671.



*Dial from Herculaneum, held in Naples Museum*



*A Roman Dial*

He goes on to mention several other dialling books including that of Mrs. Gatty.

His first dial as a Roman Dial from Herculaneum in the form of a ham, from around A.D. 79. He also shows a Roman Dial from his own collection.

Here are three of his Mottoes:

“Abuse me not, I do no ill;  
I stand to serve thee with good will:  
A careful, then, be sure thou be  
To serve thy God as I serve thee.”  
Formerly at Oldham.

A dial with a chronogram:

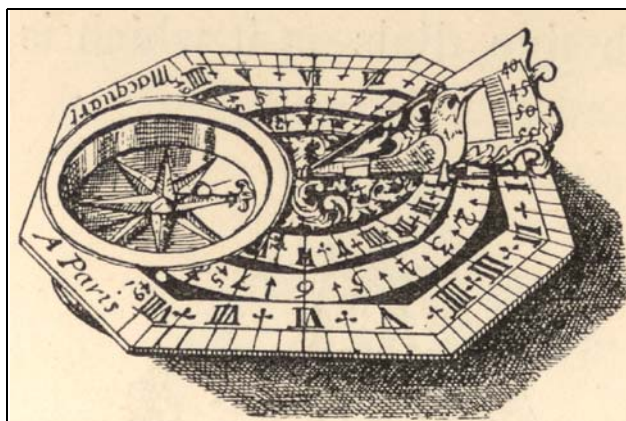
“HI qVI hoC teMpore bene Vtent Vr  
GaVDIIs CœLI perenne frVentVr.”

Those who their time here well employ  
Shall Heaven’s eternal bliss enjoy.

The two lines in this case give the date 1785.

From Barnes Church:

“The night cometh.”



*A French Silver Butterfield Dial*