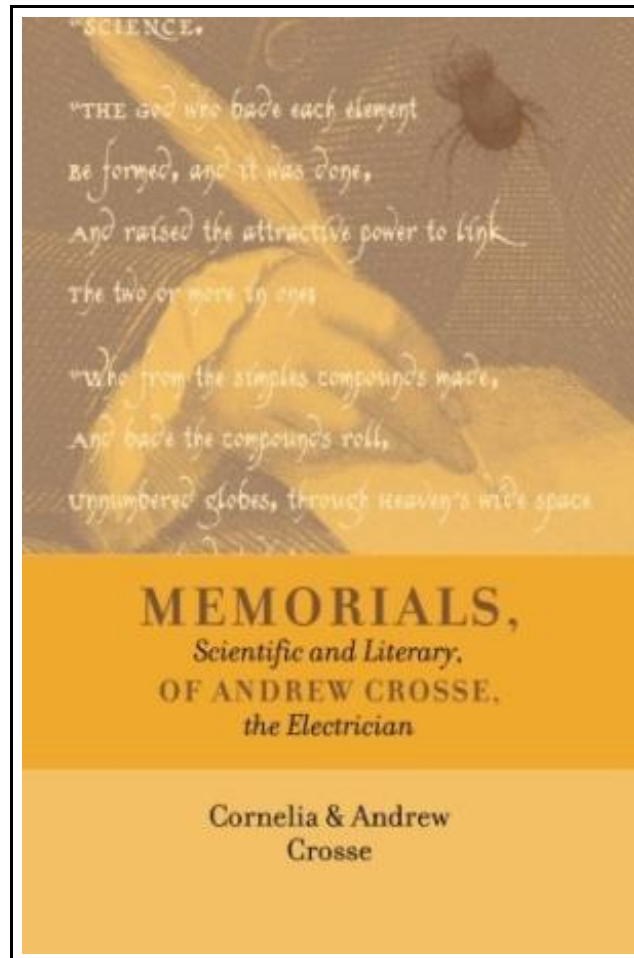


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MEMORIALS, SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY, OF ANDREW CROSSE, THE ELECTRICIAN

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Timaos Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 254 pages. Dimensions: 8.0in. x 5.2in. x 0.6in. The English scientist and poet Andrew Crosse (1784-1855) is today almost exclusively remembered for his mysterious *Acarus electricus*, a form of mites that seemed to have been created during one of his electrical experiments. But this is unfair. Among his friends was the mathematician Lady Ada Lovelace and prominent scientists as Sir Humphry Davy and Michael Faraday, but also romantic poets such as Robert Southey and Walter Savage Landor. These and many other celebrities from the first half of the 19th century occurs in this colorful and vivid memorial, which his widow Cornelia Crosse wrote and published in 1857. Here are depicted not only the life and work of the eccentric and likeable Andrew Crosse; it is also an anthology with examples of his literary output. A typical amateur scientist of the upper classes, Andrew Crosse experimented for his own enjoyment and not for glory. The same applies to his writing; Crosse's poems circulated among friends, but was only occasionally published during his life. In the poems, prose and letters you see his obsession with the riddle of life and death. All this should be seen in a romantic light. During this era, natural philosophers wanted to form a synthesis of science with aesthetics, imagination and breakneck speculations. Romantic science was a concept. Researchers and laymen alike were fascinated by electricity, which was presumed to be the key to the mystery of matter and life. Explaining all mysteries of the Universe was within the boundaries of opportunity, and a gifted philosopher could anticipate the answers with his imagination and intuition. Did Crosse really see the electric mites be born in his laboratory 1837, or was this also a phantasy Robert Southey leaked information about the mites...

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