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CROWE, JOSEPH ARCHER (1825-1896)

Born in Sloane Street on 20 October 1825, the son of historian and journalist Eyre Evans Crowe and Margaret Archer, Crowe spent his childhood in France with his family from 1826-43. His youth was spent in the stimulating company of Parisian artists and writers, and he later recalled hiding during the 27 July 1830 revolution as his journalist father was out witnessing events to report for the British press. A decade later, Crowe began his training as an artist in the atelier of painter Paul Delaroche where his elder brother Eyre Crowe was already apprenticed. Abandoning his studies after a year, Crowe returned to London in 1843 where he started his career in journalism as crime reporter for the *Morning Chronicle* (1843-5), where his father before him had worked as a correspondent. Crowe pursued a parallel career in art history, often collaborating with Giovanni Battista Cavalcaselle with whom he wrote many important texts, such as *The Early Flemish Painters* (1857). Supporting his art historical work through his special correspondence, Crowe worked for the *Daily News* as an assistant Paris correspondent from 1845-6 and as a London reporter from 1846-8. He was appointed Paris correspondent from 1849-52. During this time, he was also appointed editor of the *Bombay Gazette* and *Bombay Standard*. The *Illustrated London News* sent Crowe to cover the war in India (c. 1855-6) and the Crimea where he was a special correspondent and artist (1856-7). On his return from the Crimea, Crowe was offered the post of overseeing a school of design in Bombay but when he relocated there in 1857, the role did not materialise. He also wrote for *The Times* as assistant correspondent during the Indian Mutiny, contributing articles as Bombay correspondent from February to May 1859, and travelling with the Austrian army in the Austro-Franco war during which he was present for the Battle of Solferino in 1869. Crowe's correspondence was typified by his narration of anecdotes, though his scholarly attention to detail was seen in both his journalistic and art historical work. Crowe's career followed a diplomatic course after his marriage in 1861 to Asta von Barby, and the birth of their three sons and four daughters. He was involved with French diplomacy at Leipzig during the Franco-Prussian war, and between 1872 and 1880 was Consul General for Westphalia and the Rhenish Provinces. He officially entered diplomatic service in 1880, after which he was the Commercial Attaché to the British embassies at Berlin and Vienna, before moving to Paris and becoming Commercial Attaché for Europe between 1882 and 1895. He maintained his interest in art and design, writing several books on this topic as well as his autobiography *Reminiscences of Thirty Five Years of My Life* (1865). He was created a CB in 1885, and knighted five years later. Crowe died on 6 September 1896, shortly after his retirement from the Foreign Office, at the home of his brother-in-law in Baden. **AD**

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- Crowe, Joseph A. *Reminiscences of thirty-five years of my life*. 2nd ed. London: John Murray, 1895.
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