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REVIEW



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"The Germ" (1850) and "The Oxford and Cambridge Magazine" (1856)

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14. *THE GERM* (1850) AND *THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE MAGAZINE* (1856)

Robert Stahr Hosmon (English, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL 33124)

## I

Before the first number of *The Germ* appeared, the members of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, at the suggestion of Thomas Woolner, voted to publish all contributions to the magazine anonymously. According to William Michael Rossetti, Woolner and the other members of the Brotherhood "entertained a general feeling that to appear publicly as writers, and especially as writers opposing the ordinary current of opinions on fine art, would damage their professional position, which already involved uphill work more than enough" ("Preface" to the Elliot Stock facsimile edition of *The Germ* [London, 1901], p. 9). In an attempt to improve sales of the magazine, however, the Brotherhood agreed to list the contributors, with certain exceptions, to the second and each subsequent issue of *The Germ*. Coventry Patmore remained anonymous; Frederick G. Stephens adopted the pseudonyms "John Seward" and "Laura Savage"; and Christina Rossetti published under "Ellen Alleyn," an invention of Dante Gabriel Rossetti. With these exceptions, the table of contents of the first issue of *The Germ* was reprinted in the February issue with the contributors identified.

All contributors to the four issues of the magazine are identified in Thomas Mosher's reprint of *The Germ* (Portland, Maine, 1898) and in William Michael Rossetti's "Preface" mentioned above. George Tupper is identified as the author of "Swift's Dunces" (No. 3) in Mosher's edition. William Michael Rossetti, however, identifies Alexander Tupper as the author of that essay. According to Professor W. E. Fredeman of the University of British Columbia, Rossetti's attribution is also authenticated in an unpublished portion of the PRB Journal for 29 March 1850.

*THE GERM: THOUGHTS TOWARD NATURE IN POETRY, LITERATURE, AND ART*

No. 1 (January, 1850): [Contributors identified in the second number of *The Germ*]

|                                                                    |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| ETCHING. W. Holman Hunt. . . . .                                   | cover |
| MY BEAUTIFUL LADY. Thomas Woolner. . . . .                         | 1     |
| OF MY LADY IN DEATH. Thomas Woolner. . . . .                       | 5     |
| THE LOVE OF BEAUTY. [a sonnet] F. Madox Brown. . . . .             | 10    |
| THE SUBJECT IN ART, (No. 1). [an essay by John L. Tupper]. . . . . | 11    |
| THE SEASONS. [Coventry Patmore]. . . . .                           | 19    |

DREAM LAND. Ellen Alleyn [Christina Rossetti] . . . . . 20

SONGS OF ONE HOUSEHOLD, (MY SISTER'S SLEEP). Dante Gabriel  
 Rossetti . . . . . 21

HAND AND SOUL. Dante Gabriel Rossetti. . . . . 23

THE BOTHIE OF TOPER-NA-FUOSICH. [a review of Clough's 1848  
 edition] W. M. Rossetti. . . . . 34

HER FIRST SEASON. [a sonnet] W. M. Rossetti . . . . . 46

A SKETCH FROM NATURE. [a poem by John L. Tupper] . . . . . 47

AN END. Ellen Alleyn [Christina Rossetti] . . . . . 48

No. 2 (February, 1850):

ETCHING. [to accompany poem that follows] James  
 Collinson. . . . . cover

THE CHILD JESUS. James Collinson . . . . . 49

A PAUSE OF THOUGHT. Ellen Alleyn [Christina Rossetti] . . . 57

THE PURPOSE AND TENDENCY OF EARLY ITALIAN ART. John Seward  
 [Frederic G. Stephens] . . . . . 58

SONG. Ellen Alleyn [Christina Rossetti] . . . . . 64

MORNING SLEEP. Wm. Bell Scott . . . . . 65

SONNET. ["When midst the summer-roses the warm bees"]  
 Calder Campbell. . . . . 68

STARS AND MOON. [a poetic dialogue by Coventry Patmore]. . . 69

ON THE MECHANISM OF A HISTORICAL PICTURE [Part I: The Design]  
 F. Madox Brown . . . . . 70

A TESTIMONY. Ellen Alleyn [Christina Rossetti]. . . . . 73

O WHEN AND WHERE. Thomas Woolner . . . . . 75

|                                                                                                                                                  |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| FANCIES AT LEISURE. [I: "Noon Rest," II: "A Quiet Place,"<br>III: "A Fall of Rain," IV: "Sheer Waste."] Wm.<br>Michael Rossetti . . . . .        | 76 |
| THE SIGHT BEYOND. [title within facsimile edition of the<br>magazine: "The Light Beyond"] Walter H. Deverell . . .                               | 79 |
| THE BLESSED DAMOZEL. Dante G. Rossetti . . . . .                                                                                                 | 80 |
| REVIEWS: "The Strayed Reveller, and Other Poems." [review<br>of Arnold's anonymously published volume of 1849] Wm.<br>Michael Rossetti . . . . . | 84 |

*ART AND POETRY: BEING THOUGHTS TOWARDS NATURE, CONDUCTED PRINCIPALLY BY  
ARTISTS*

No. 3 (March, 1850):

|                                                                                                                  |       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| CORDELIA: AN ETCHING. [to accompany poem that follows] F.<br>Madox Brown. . . . .                                | cover |
| CORDELIA. W. M. Rossetti . . . . .                                                                               | 97    |
| MACBETH. [a critical essay by Coventry Patmore]. . . . .                                                         | 99    |
| REPINING. Ellen Alleyn [Christina Rossetti] . . . . .                                                            | 111   |
| SWEET DEATH. Ellen Alleyn [Christina Rossetti]. . . . .                                                          | 117   |
| THE SUBJECT IN ART, NO. II. [John L. Tupper] . . . . .                                                           | 118   |
| CARILLON. ["Antwerp and Bruges"] Dante G. Rossetti. . . .                                                        | 126   |
| EMBLEMS. Thomas Woolner. . . . .                                                                                 | 127   |
| SONNET. ["Early Aspirations"] W. B. Scott . . . . .                                                              | 128   |
| FROM THE CLIFFS. [title within the magazine: "From the<br>Cliffs: Noon" ("The Sea-Limits")] Dante G. Rossetti..  | 129   |
| FANCIES AT LEISURE. [I: "In Spring," II: "In Summer," III:<br>"The Breadth of Noon," IV: "Sea-Freshness," V: The |       |

Fire Smouldering"] W. M. Rossetti. . . . . 129

PAPERS OF "THE M. S. SOCIETY" Nos. I, II and III. [authors identified by W. M. Rossetti in his "Introduction" to the E. Stock 1901 facsimile edition of *The Germ*. M. S.=(possibly) Medical Student].

I. An Incident in the Siege of Troy, Seen from a Modern Observatory. [a poem by John L. Tupper]. . . . . 131

II. Swift's Dunces. [an essay by Alexander Tupper] . . 135

III. Mental Scales. [an essay by George I. F. Tupper] . 136

REVIEW: "Sir Reginald Mohun." [*Some Account of the Life and Adventures of Sir Reginald Mohun, Bart. Done in Verse by George John Cayley. Canto 1st. Pickering. 1849*] W. M. Rossetti. . . . . 137

No. 4 (May, 1850):

VIOLA AND OLIVIA: AN ETCHING. [to accompany poem that follows].

W. H. Deverell . . . . . cover

VIOLA AND OLIVIA. [John L. Tupper] . . . . . 145

A DIALOGUE ON ART. Dialogue I. In the House of Kalon. [an essay on the values of art] John Orchard . . . . . 146

ON A WHIT-SUNDAY MORN IN THE MONTH OF MAY. John Orchard . . 167

MODERN GIANTS. Laura Savage [an essay by Frederic G. Stephens] . . . . . 169

TO THE CASTLE RAMPARTS. W. M. Rossetti . . . . . 173

PAX VOBIS. ["World's Worth"] Dante G. Rossetti . . . . . 176

A MODERN IDYL. Walter H. Deverell . . . . . 177

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| "JESUS WEPT". W. M. Rossetti . . . . .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | .179 |
| SONNETS FOR PICTURES. [I: "A Virgin and Child, by Hans<br>Mummeling; in the Academy of Bruges," II: "A Marriage of<br>St. Katherine, by the same: in the hospital of St. John<br>at Bruges," III: "A Dance of Nymphs, by Andrea Mantegna;<br>in the Louvre," V: "'Angelica rescued from the Sea-<br>monster,' by Ingres; in the Luxembourg," VI: "The Same"]<br>Dante G. Rossetti. . . . . | .180 |
| PAPERS OF "THE M.S. SOCIETY":                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |      |
| IV. Smoke. [a poem by John L. Tupper]. . . . .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | .183 |
| V. Rain. [a poem by George I. F. Tupper]. . . . .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | .186 |
| REVIEW: "Christmas Eve and Easter Day." [a review of<br>Browning's 1850 edition] W. M. Rossetti. . . . .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | .187 |
| THE EVIL UNDER THE SUN. [a poem by W. M. Rossetti] . . . . .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | .192 |

## II

All contributions to *The Oxford and Cambridge Magazine* were published anonymously. Temple Scott in *A Bibliography of the Works of William Morris* (London, 1897) made the first attempt to list the contributors to the magazine. Scott's list, however, is not only incomplete, but also inaccurate. Vernon Lushington compiled a list of the contributors to the magazine from memory; his accurate, though incomplete, list is printed in Walter Graham's *English Literary Periodicals* (London, 1930). Neither Scott nor Lushington attempted to identify the individual authors for each selection in the magazine.

H. Buxton Forman, using Lushington's list and a list compiled by William Morris at Forman's request, published a list of contributors with their contributions in *The Books of William Morris* (London, 1897). That list is used here with qualifications and exceptions: 1) "Ruskin and the *Quarterly*" (No. 6) is attributed to William Morris in Forman's list. According to Georgiana Burne-Jones in *Memorials of Edward Burne-Jones* and Cook and Wedderburn, eds. *The Works of John Ruskin*, V, the article was written by Edward Burne-Jones. 2) The story of "The Druid and the Maiden" (No. 11) is only attributed to Edward Burne-Jones in Forman. 3) Forman identifies Georgiana Macdonald (Burne-Jones) as the author

of "The Song of Hiawatha" (No. 1), "The Sacrifice" (No. 5), "Recent Poems and Plays" (No. 12) and "The Porch of Life" (No. 12). The review of Longfellow's work is by Georgiana's brother, Henry J. (cf. *Memorials of Edward Burne-Jones*, I, 122-123). Although there is no evidence regarding the authorship of "The Sacrifice" and the review in the last issue of the magazine, as Mr. Fredeman has pointed out to me, Georgiana was only sixteen in 1856; both selections reflect a mature writing style that would be remarkable in a child of that age. It is highly probable that both were written by Henry J. Macdonald. It is certain only that "The Porch of Life" was written by Georgiana; that poem is signed "G.B.M." in the magazine.

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE MAGAZINE

No. 1 (January, 1856):

|                                                                                                      |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| SIR PHILIP SIDNEY, PART I. The Prelude. [Wilfred Heeley]. . .                                        | 1  |
| ALFRED TENNYSON. AN ESSAY. IN THREE PARTS. PART I. [William Fulford] . . . . .                       | 7  |
| THE COUSINS. [a tale by Edward Burne-Jones]. . . . .                                                 | 18 |
| THE STORY OF THE UNKNOWN CHURCH. [a tale by William Morris]. . . . .                                 | 28 |
| THE RIVALS. [a tale by Richard Dixon]. . . . .                                                       | 34 |
| THE SONG OF HIAWATHA, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. [a review by Henry J. Macdonald]. . . . .       | 45 |
| ESSAY ON THE NEWCOMES. [an essay on Thackeray. By Edward Burne-Jones]. . . . .                       | 50 |
| KINGSLEY'S SERMONS FOR THE TIMES. [a review of Kingsley's 1855 edition. By Wilfred Heeley] . . . . . | 61 |
| WINTER WEATHER. [a poem by William Morris] . . . . .                                                 | 63 |

No. 2 (February, 1856):

|                                                              |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| THE BARRIER KINGDOMS. [a political essay on the Scandinavian |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--|

|                                                                                                         |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| countries by Richard Dixon] . . . . .                                                                   | 65  |
| ALFRED TENNYSON. AN ESSAY. IN THREE PARTS. PART II. " <i>In Memoriam</i> ." [William Fulford] . . . . . | 73  |
| A STORY OF THE NORTH. [a tale by Edward Burne-Jones]. . . . .                                           | 81  |
| THE CHURCHES OF NORTH FRANCE. [an essay by William Morris] . . . . .                                    | 99  |
| THE TWO PARTINGS. A TALE. [William Morris]. . . . .                                                     | 110 |
| SHAKESPEARE'S MINOR POEMS. [an essay on Shakespeare's sonnets. By Cornell Price] . . . . .              | 115 |
| IN YOUTH I DIED. [a poem by William Fulford]. . . . .                                                   | 127 |

No. 3 (March, 1856):

|                                                                                                                                         |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| SIR PHILIP SIDNEY, PART II. <i>The Learner</i> . [Wilfred Heeley] . . . . .                                                             | 129 |
| ALFRED TENNYSON. AN ESSAY. IN THREE PARTS. PART III. " <i>Maud, and Other Poems</i> ." [William Fulford] . . . . .                      | 136 |
| A DREAM. [a tale by William Morris] . . . . .                                                                                           | 146 |
| FOUND, YET LOST. A TALE. [William Fulford]. . . . .                                                                                     | 155 |
| <i>MEN AND WOMEN</i> , by Robert Browning. [a review of Browning's two-volume edition of 1855. By William Morris] . . . . .             | 162 |
| MR. MACAULAY. [an essay on Macaulay's <i>A History of England from the accession of James the Second</i> . By Wilfred Heeley] . . . . . | 173 |
| THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE. [an essay on the Crimean War by Richard Dixon] . . . . .                                                        | 185 |
| A FEW WORDS CONCERNING PLATO AND BACON. [William Fulford]. . . . .                                                                      | 189 |

FEAR. [a poem by William Fulford]. . . . . 191

No. 4 (April, 1856):

CARLYLE, CHAPTER I. His "I believe." [Vernon  
Lushington]. . . . . 193

MR. RUSKIN'S NEW VOLUME. [a review of *Modern Painters*,  
Vol. III, Part IV (1856). By Edward Burne-Jones]. . . 212

FRANK'S SEALED LETTER. [a tale by William Morris]. . . . . 225

OXFORD. [an essay by Godfrey Lushington] . . . . . 234

REMEMBRANCE. [a poem by William Fulford] . . . . . 258

No. 5 (May, 1856):

PROMETHEUS. [an essay by Lewis Campbell] . . . . . 259

UNHEALTHY EMPLOYMENTS. [an essay deploring manufacturing  
conditions. By Cornell Price and C. Faulkner] . . . . 265

THE SACRIFICE. A TALE. [Henry J. Macdonald]. . . . . 271

SHAKESPEARE'S TROILUS AND CRESSIDA. [an essay by  
William Fulford] . . . . . 280

CARLYLE, CHAPTER II. "His Lamp for the Old Years."  
[Vernon Lushington]. . . . . 292

A NIGHT IN A CATHEDRAL. [a tale by William Fulford]. . . . 310

ON POPULAR LECTURES. "Considered as an Irregular Channel  
of National Education." [an essay on the value  
of a lecture. By Bernard Cracroft]. . . . . 316

RIDING TOGETHER. [a poem by William Morris]. . . . . 320

THE SUITOR OF LOW DEGREE. [a poem by William  
Fulford] . . . . . 321

No. 6 (June, 1856):

- THACKERAY AND CURREN BELL. *The Newcomes; Vanity Fair; Our Street; The Perkins's Ball. Jane Eyre.*  
 [Bernard Cracroft] . . . . . 323
- CARLYLE, CHAPTER III. Another look at "The Lamp for the Old Years." [Vernon Lushington] . . . . . 336
- RUSKIN AND THE QUARTERLY. [a response to Lady Eastlake's attack on Ruskin in *The Quarterly Review*, XCVIII (March, 1856), 384-433. By Edward Burne-Jones]. . . . 353
- FROUDE'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND. [a review of James A. Froude's *History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Death of Elizabeth* (1856). By Wilfred Heeley]. . . . . 362
- THE SINGING OF THE POET. [a poem by William Fulford] . . . 388

No. 7 (July, 1856):

- ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF MARSHAL ST. ARNAUD. [an essay by Robert Campbell] . . . . . 389
- GERTHA'S LOVERS. IN FIVE CHAPTERS, [Chapters I-III of a tale by William Morris] . . . . . 403
- A STUDY IN SHAKESPEARE. *Timon of Athens*. [William Fulford] . . . . . 417
- LANCASHIRE AND "MARY BARTON." [an essay by Cornell Price] . . . . . 441
- TO THE ENGLISH ARMY BEFORE SEBASTOPOL. Written in August, 1855. [a poem by William Fulford] . . . . . 451

HANDS. [a poem by William Morris] . . . . .452

No. 8 (August, 1856):

|                                                                                                                                                                              |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| ON POPULAR LECTURES. "Considered as an Irregular Channel<br>of National Education." [a continuation of the essay<br>by Bernard Cracroft in <i>O&amp;C</i> , No. 5] . . . . . | .453 |
| WOMAN, HER DUTIES, EDUCATION AND POSITION. [an essay<br>by William Fulford] . . . . .                                                                                        | .462 |
| "DEATH THE AVENGER" AND "DEATH THE FRIEND." [an essay<br>on the woodcuts of the 19th-century German artist,<br>Alfred Rethel. By William Morris]. . . . .                    | .477 |
| TWO PICTURES. [an essay on Dante Gabriel Rossetti's<br>"Dante's Dream" and Ford Madox Brown's "The Last<br>of England." By Vernon Lushington] . . . . .                      | .479 |
| SVEND AND HIS BRETHREN. [a tale by William Morris]. . . . .                                                                                                                  | .488 |
| GERTHA'S LOVERS. [Chapters IV-V of the tale by<br>William Morris] . . . . .                                                                                                  | .499 |
| THE BURDEN OF NINEVEH. [Dante Gabriel Rossetti] . . . . .                                                                                                                    | .512 |

No. 9 (September, 1856):

|                                                                                           |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| ROBERT HERRICK. [an essay by W. Aldis Wright] . . . . .                                   | .517 |
| LINDENBORG POOL. [a tale by William Morris] . . . . .                                     | .530 |
| CAVALAY, A Chapter of a Life. [Chapters I-V of a<br>tale by William Fulford]. . . . .     | .535 |
| ALEXANDER SMITH. [an essay by William Fulford]. . . . .                                   | .548 |
| THE WORK OF YOUNG MEN IN THE PRESENT AGE. [a general<br>essay by Cormell Price] . . . . . | .558 |

|                                                                              |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| THE HOLLOW LAND. A TALE. [Chapters I and II. By William<br>Morris] . . . . . | 565 |
| THE CHAPEL IN LYONESS. A POEM. [William Morris]. . . . .                     | 577 |
| A YEAR AGO. A POEM. [William Fulford]. . . . .                               | 580 |

No. 10 (October, 1856):

|                                                                                                 |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| TWELFTH NIGHT, OR WHAT YOU WILL. "A Study in Shakespeare."<br>[William Fulford] . . . . .       | 581 |
| THE SCEPTIC AND THE INFIDEL. [Part I of a philosophical<br>essay by Bernard Cracroft] . . . . . | 605 |
| CAVALAY, A Chapter of a Life. [Chapters VI-IX of a<br>tale by William Fulford] . . . . .        | 620 |
| THE HOLLOW LAND. [Chapter III of the tale by William<br>Morris] . . . . .                       | 632 |
| ROGERS'S TABLE TALK. [an essay by William Fulford] . . . .                                      | 641 |
| PRAY BUT ONE PRAYER FOR ME. [a poem by William Morris] . .                                      | 644 |

No. 11 (November, 1856):

|                                                                                                                          |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| THE SCEPTIC AND THE INFIDEL. [The conclusion of the<br>article by Bernard Cracroft in <i>O&amp;C</i> , No. 10] . . . . . | 645 |
| CAVALAY, A Chapter of a Life. [Chapters X-XIII of the<br>tale by William Fulford]. . . . .                               | 664 |
| THE DRUID AND THE MAIDEN. [a tale by Edward<br>Burne-Jones] . . . . .                                                    | 676 |
| CARLYLE, CHAPTER IV. "Carlyle as a Writer." [Vernon<br>Lushington]. . . . .                                              | 697 |

|                                                        |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| THE BLESSED DAMOZEL. [Dante Gabriel Rossetti]. . . . . | 713 |
| CHILDHOOD. [a poem by William Fulford] . . . . .       | 716 |

No. 12 (December, 1856):

|                                                                                                                                                                                                 |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| RECENT POEMS AND PLAYS. [a review of Sydney Dobell's<br><i>England in Time of War</i> and George MacDonald's<br><i>Within and Without, A Dramatic Poem.</i> By Henry J.<br>Macdonald] . . . . . | 717 |
| GOLDEN WINGS. [a tale by William Morris] . . . . .                                                                                                                                              | 733 |
| CARLYLE, CHAPTER V. "His Lamp for the New Years."<br>[Vernon Lushington] . . . . .                                                                                                              | 743 |
| THE STAFF AND [THE] SCRIP. [Dante Gabriel Rossetti]. . . . .                                                                                                                                    | 771 |
| THE PORCH OF LIFE. [a poem by Georgiana Macdonald] . . . . .                                                                                                                                    | 775 |

15. *THE READER: A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND THE ARTS, 1863-67*

John F. Byrne (21 W. 230 Hill Avenue, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137)

Another "most neglected periodical" is *The Reader*. Following Michael Wolff's article on the *British Controversialist*, I offer a brief introduction to a literary and scientific weekly that Walter Graham called "a worthy competitor to *The Athenaeum*."

There is a need to provide more "raw material" from the obscure weeklies, especially in view of the fact that the *Wellesley Index*, as it is planned, will probably not include any weeklies. Information about contributors and contributions is essential source material for anyone who believes that the Victorian periodical should be carefully studied.

*The Reader* is such a source. Its 211 weekly numbers tell us much about England in the 1860's, reflecting, as they do, several different traditions -- the *belles lettres* tradition, coming from the *Spectator* and the *Athenaeum*; the polemical tradition deriving from the journals and tracts of the Christian Socialists; and the scientific tradition, developing out of learned journals and proceedings. Specifically, it isolates for us an audience that was upper-middle-class, highly educated, politically