



VICTORIAN
PERIODICALS
REVIEW



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

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Source: *Victorian Periodicals Newsletter*, No. 4, [Vol. 2, No. 1] (Apr., 1969), pp. 36-47

Published by: The Johns Hopkins University Press on behalf of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals

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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to Professor W. E. Fredeman of the University of British Columbia, Rossetti's attribution is also authenticated in an unpublished portion of the PRB Journal for 29 March 1850.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

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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

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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