

Colby



Colby Quarterly

Volume 2
Issue 14 *May*

Article 5

May 1950

A Neglected Tradition

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Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 2, no.14, May 1950, p.237

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No wonder the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood elected as editor-in-chief of *The Germ* a young man who could write like that at the age of twenty-one.

20. CHRISTINA GEORGINA ROSSETTI (1830-1894): "Dream Land," "An End," and "A Pause of Thought." These poems Miss Rossetti, then only twenty, contributed to *The Germ*, in the pages of which she appeared under the pen-name of Ellen Alleyne. Commenting on this name, William Rossetti later explained: "This was my brother's concoction, as Christina did not care to figure under her own name." The poem, "A Pause of Thought," was, according to William, "written when she was but little turned of seventeen. . . . It seems to show that, even at that early age, she aspired ardently after poetic fame." Well—one hundred years later, she has it. In 1850, as William Rossetti sadly confessed, "people would not buy *The Germ*." In 1950 they pay fifty dollars and more for a set of the four issues. Our set is a gift from the Colby Library Associates.



A NEGLECTED TRADITION

THOSE who visit this mid-century exhibition and inspect the books listed on the preceding pages will—if they heed the advice of one of our Averill lecturers of last year—do more than merely glance at these books; they will read and ponder them, particularly the American quartet. In addition to Hawthorne, "There was Emerson, who remains one of the most marvellous stylists in the American canon. There were also . . . Longfellow [and] Whittier . . . who are still . . . worth studying, if we could but persuade ourselves that lucidity is a quality of mind, not evidence of mental stupidity."—Howard Mumford Jones (quoted from his sage article on "The American Malady," in the *Saturday Review of Literature* for August 6, 1949).

