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Celia Thaxter's Library

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ment: “We had these little red roses out at the lighthouse island, when I was a child, & we always loved them deeply. My bush has three buds on a stalk this morning, & more coming. May the little offshoot thrive & bloom its best for you!” In her mind it was as though she had granted the spinster a lovely child to warm her heart and keep the passing hours bright.

The depth and diversity of Mrs. Thaxter’s response to the world are barely suggested by the foregoing letters, extensive as they are. Her resources were vital, flexible, and seemingly fathomless. In any situation she could call upon the fittest means of human communication. And her veracity was not strained by her versatility — she reacted artlessly, intuitively. John Albee most acutely revealed the roots of her endowment: “she knew how to play all the parts belonging to woman. She could make a musician play his best, the poets and scholars say their best — bring forward the modest, shut the door on the vulgar, and disengage one talent from another and give to each its opportunity . . . . a poet with poets, an artist with artists . . . [she was] equally at home in the kitchen, . . . or with spade and trowel in her island gardens, or with fishermen and their wives and children, or as a nurse to the sick.”31 Or at a score of other arts and occupations.

Celia Thaxter was by any informed standard a multicolored spirit.


CELIA THAXTER’S LIBRARY
Compiled by DOROTHY M. VAUGHAN

[EDITOR’S NOTE: The books listed below are now at Champernowne Farm, home of Celia Thaxter’s granddaughter, Miss Rosamond Thaxter. These and others were formerly in several bookcases in the Thaxter Cottage on Appledore Island, not all acquired by Mrs. Thaxter but eventually a part of her insatiable program of reading. At the time of her death they were divided equally between her sons John and Roland. Roland’s half of the bequest was burned in a warehouse fire in Portsmouth, where they had been temporarily stored. The following indexed volumes are survivors of the depredations of time, the forgetfulness of borrowers, and the eliminations for space. Notwithstanding these regrettable depletions, they provide an excellent graph of Mrs. Thaxter’s favorites and friendships.]
I  BOOKS INSCRIBED TO AND BY CT


Adams, Oscar Fay (ed.). August (D. Lothrop & Co.: Boston, c1886). "For Mrs. Thaxter with the editor's regards. 1886."

Alden, H. M. God in His World; An Interpretation (Harper & Brothers: New York, c1890). "For Celia Thaxter; in remembrance of happy hours on her beautiful Island, & with the most loving regard from her friend H. M. Alden. August 15, 1892."


Andersen, Hans Christian. Improvisatore; or Life in Italy, from the Danish of Hans Christian Andersen, by Mary Howitt (Richard Bentley: London, c1847). "Celia Laighton."


---. Asolando; Fancies and Fact (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, c1890). "To Celia Thaxter, my friend of many years, Annie Fields, 1890."


Burnet, J. B. Two Friends (Ticknor & Fields: Boston, 1863). "Mrs. Celia Thaxter, with respects of Mr. J. B. Burnet. Shoals, Sept. 8th, / 63."

Clarke, Mary Cowden. Life and Labours of Vincent Novello, by his daughter, Mary Cowden Clarke (Novello & Co.: Lon-
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don, n.d.). "To charming Celia Thaxter from her friend and admirer, Mary Cowden Clarke. Christmas-Day 1880, at Villa Novello, Genoa.”


---. *Legend of Jubal, and Other Poems* (James R. Osgood: Boston, 1874), from advanced sheets. “Celia Thaxter from A. F. with her love.”


---. *Ballads and Other Verses* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, c1881). “With cordial regard of JTF. A welcome home again to C. T. 1881.”


manuscript copy of Whittier's sonnet "The Story of Ida" in his handwriting.


The Poet and His Master (Scribner: New York, 1878). "Celia Thaxter, from RWG. May, 1878."

Lyrics and Other Poems (Scribner: New York, 1885). "Celia Thaxter from her friend, R. W. Gilder, Nov. 1885."

Gilman, Caroline. The Sibyl; or the New Oracles from the Poets (Wiley & Putnam: New York, 1848). "Miss Celia Laighton, from Mrs. Lucy Thaxter."

Goldschmidt, M. The Flying Mail, bound with Old Olaf by Magdalene Thoresen, and The Railroad and the Churchyard by Bjornstjerne Bjornson, translated by Carl Larsen (Sever, Francis Co.: Boston, 1870). "Celia Thaxter, with best wishes of the season from her fd, John G. Whittier. 12 mo. 1870."


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Marston, Philip Bourke. *Garden Secrets*, with biographical sketch by Louise Chandler Moulton (Roberts Brothers: Bos-
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Ruskin, John. *Queen of the Air*; being a study of the Greek myths of cloud and storm (John Wiley & Son: New York, 1872). "Celia Thaxter from J. Albee, 29 June 1875."


Sladen, Douglas B. W. *Australian Lyrics* (Griffith, Farran, Okeden & Welsh: London, 1885). "To the Poetess Celia Thaxter from her humble admirer, Douglas Sladen."

Poems (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1890). "Celia Thaxter from Clara Kathleen. Shoals, Augt. 1890."

Poetry of Exiles (Griffith, Farran, Okeden & Welsh: London, 1885). "To the Poetess Celia Thaxter from her humble admirer, Douglas Sladen."

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6
Stodart, J. R. *Artist's Married Life*; being that of Albert Durer. Translated by Mrs. J. R. Stodart (Miller: New York, 1867). “Celia Thaxter from L D W. And thus to know how to live required perpetual Genius for Life is the highest of all the arts.”


-- -- --. *Birds in the Bush* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1888). “Mrs. Thaxter with the kind regards of Bradford Torrey.”

-- -- --. *Foot-Path Way* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1892). “Celia Thaxter with kind regards of Bradford Torrey.”


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---. Saint Gregory's Guest, and Recent Poems (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1886). "To Celia Thaxter, with the love of her old friend, John G. Whittier. Amesbury 7 mo. 1886."

Woodman, Abby Johnson. Picturesque Alaska; Journal of a Tour Among the Mountains, Seas and Islands of the North-west, from San Francisco to Sitka (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1889). "Celia Thaxter from her friend John G. Whittier. Amesbury, May 9, 1889."


---. Spiritual Combat, to which is added, the peace of the soul, and the happiness of the heart, which dies to itself, in order to live with God. (Catholic Publication Society: New York, n.d.). "The Christian Buna to Celia Thaxter, Apple-dore."

II Books Inscribed by Others


Addison, Joseph. The Spectator, with a historical and biographical preface by A. Chambers (Little, Brown & Co.: Boston, 1864), 8v. "Jany 1st, 1866. A New Year's Gift to the Honorable E. B. Stoddard and his accomplished wife, Mrs. M. E. D. Stoddard, from Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Davis. For correctness in style and elegance of diction Joseph Addison is unsurpassed. I. D."


Allingham, William (ed.). The Ballad Book, a selection of the choicest British ballads (Sever & Francis Co.: Cambridge, Mass., 1865). "John Thaxter, from his father, a birthday gift, 1865."

Atlantic Souvenir for 1831 (Carey & Lea: Philadelphia, 1831). "Christmas Gift to Mrs. M.H.E. Davis. Mrs. Mary E. D. Stoddard — My Dear Daughter. I gave this book to your mother when you were a little infant. I now give it to you thinking you would be interested in it. Isaac Davis. 1882."


Fields, James T. *Yesterdays With Authors* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1882). “To John Thaxter, on his birthday, Nov. 29, 1881, from his mother's and his friend Annie Fields.”

Furness, W. H. *Verses*; translations from the German and Hymns (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1886). “L. G. Ware from Horace Furness, 1886.”


Kirkland, Mrs. C. M. *Garland of Poetry for the Young;* a selection in four parts (Charles Scribner & Co.: New York, 1868). “Mary Gertrude Stoddard from Mabel Blake, April 23, 1851.”


*Comic Almanack* . . . merry tales, humorous poetry, quips and oddities, by Thackeray, Albert Smith, Gilbert A’Beckett, and Brothers Mayhew, with many hundred illustrations by George Cruikshank and other artists (John Cam-
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III Uninscribed Books

Arnold, Edwin. Poems (Roberts Brothers: Boston, 1883).
------. Song Celestial or Bhagavad-Gita, translated from Sanskrit text (Roberts Brothers: Boston, 1885).
Ballads; Scottish and English (William P. Nimmo: Edinburgh, n.d.).
Bulfinch, Thomas. Age of Fable (S. W. Tilton: Boston, 1881).
Burroughs, John. Locusts and Wild Honey (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1885).
------. Whitman; A Study (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.: Boston, 1896).
------. Birds and Poets, With Other Papers (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.: Boston, 1898).
Clarke, James Freeman. Light on the Hidden Way (Ticknor & Co.: Boston, 1886).
Clarke, Mary Cowden. *The Trust and the Remittance* (Roberts Brothers: Boston, 1874).


Deland, Margaret. *The Old Garden and Other Verses* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1886).


Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Essays, First and Second Series* (Ticknor & Fields: Boston, 1866).


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- - - - -. *Tales of a Traveller* (G. P. Putnam; Hurd & Houghton: New York, 1865).
- - - - -. *Wolfert’s Roost, and Other Papers* (G. P. Putnam; Hurd & Houghton: New York, 1866).

- - - - -. *The Mate of the Daylight, and Friends Ashore* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1884).
- - - - -. *Betty Leicester; A Story for Girls* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1890).
- - - - -. *Strangers and Wayfarers* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1890).
- - - - -. *The Life of Nancy* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1900).

Khayyam, Omar. *The Rubaiyat* (four different editions).
Linton, W. J. (ed.). *Rare Poems of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* (Roberts Brothers: Boston, 1883).
- - - - -. *Evangeline; A Tale of Acadie* (Ticknor, Reed & Fields: Boston, 1850).
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Pierce, Gilbert A.  Dickens Dictionary (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1872).
Shakespeare, William.  Works, edited, with a memoir of the poet, by Richard Grant White (Little, Brown & Co.: Boston, 1865), 12v.
Tennyson, Alfred.  Enoch Arden (Ticknor & Fields, Boston, 1865).
Weiss, John.  Wit, Humor, and Shakespeare (Roberts Brothers: Boston, 1879).
Wilde, Oscar.  Poems (Roberts Brothers: Boston, 1881).
The Crab Catchers

Lone space of tranquil sea
Under deep and brooding skies
Where the clouds lie peacefully,
Where the white gull floats and flies

With what joy on such a day
Gratitude pulsates lightly here!
Sweet, the dews caressing sun
And the warm winds whisper sweet

Just to live, I see and hear
That is quite enough delight.
Winds caress and charm the ear.
Sky and sea to fill the sight.

Just to live, such this may bring
Why should they spring away
From the smaller living thing
To help the beauty of the day?

Ask my lips: 'tis sheer despair

Telling how I may not live
Among the plans I have kept.
Latin - in fenu et teneb
Verse your naked feet on our
As you understand stand - unexpected
That they just to pay a debt
One of them obliging
Remember your importance
Save your griefs, prayers a debt
Wert you find them preserve court?

Why so the foolishly join
Such unnecessary pain!
Is your song own his Clarke line
Why thus within eternal
Screams can be excepted
Death must be exalted

Are you among those ever deserve
Are their winds and helpless
As you know
Sinking there is outrage home?

All the summer days I term
Floating and careless Cry
All the pieta's quiet channel
Glad does this earth destroy

Fain am I to turn away
On the edith away now back again,
Varis the half pains the day
And this woman must unique raise

Hereing in their conduct they
Whatever days in eye and
Continuing the mutual mourning singing
Tortur might be

Dying children every one
Think a little
Over the heads plural

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