December 1964

Celia Thaxter's Library

Dorothy M. Vaughan

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/cq

Recommended Citation
Colby Library Quarterly, series 6, no.12, December 1964, p.536-551

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colby Quarterly by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Colby. For more information, please contact mfkelly@colby.edu.
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." 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.]
Colby Library Quarterly

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-


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."


Heine, Heinrich. *Scintillations*; from the prose works of Heinrich Heine; I. Florentine Nights; II. Excerpts, translated by Simon Andler Stem (Holt & Williams: New York, 1873). "Celia Thaxter, 1874."

---


---

*A White Heron and Other Stories* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1887). "Celia Thaxter, with love from Sarah O. Jewett, Christmas, 1886."


Johnson, Mrs. S. O. ["Daisy Eyebright"]. *Every Woman Her Own Flower Grower*: a handy manual of flower gardening for ladies (Ladies' Floral Cabinet Co.: New York, 1885). "C. Thaxter."


Marston, Philip Bourke. *Garden Secrets*, with biographical sketch by Louise Chandler Moulton (Roberts Brothers: Bos-
Colby Quarterly, Vol. 6, Iss. 12 [1964], Art. 5

Colby Library Quarterly 541

ton, 1887). “To Mrs. Celia Thaxter with loving greeting from Louise Chandler Moulton, Christmas, 1887.”


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.”

----- Proserpina; studies of wayside flowers . . . among the Alps, and in the Scotland and England which my father knew (John Wiley & Son: New York, 1875), Parts I and II. “Celia Thaxter.”


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


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.”


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, Appledore.”

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.”


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.”


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.”


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.”


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.”


546  Colby Library Quarterly


III  Uninscribed Books


---.  *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).


---.  *Whitman; A Study* (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.: Boston, 1896).

---.  *Birds and Poets, With Other Papers* (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.: Boston, 1898).


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).
Gray, Asa. *Gray's School and Field Book of Botany, consisting of Lessons in Botany and Field, Forest, and Garden Botany* bound in one volume (Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co.: New York, 1868).
548 Colby Library Quarterly


---. *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).


Pierce, Gilbert A. *Dickens Dictionary* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1872).
Wilde, Oscar. *Poems* (Roberts Brothers: Boston, 1881).
The Crab Catchers

Solely space of tranquil sea

Under soft and brooding skies

Where the clouds lie peacefully

Where the white gull floats and flies

With what joy on such a day

Guths glad pulses lightly beat!

Sweat the sun's burning ray

And the warm wind whispers sweet

Just to live I see and hear

Earth is quite ample delight.

Winds' waves to charm the ear

Sky and sea to fill the sight.

Just as I've said this one time

When any hope I understand

Taking that given chance to rise

And new phases I want her by

Just a few such days may bring

Why think of other any

From the smaller living thing

Help the beauty of the day?

Ask my lips, 'tis cheer of life

Just to live - I wonder why

Taking what we may not give

On that make pleasant here it's.