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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.]


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.”


Clarke, Mary Cowden. *Life and Labours of Vincent Novello*, by his daughter, Mary Cowden Clarke (Novello & Co.: Lon-
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“...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.


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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Jewett, Sarah Orne. *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: Boston, 1875).
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"To Mrs. Celia Thaxter with loving greeting from Louise Chandler Moulton, Christmas, 1887."


---. *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."


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

---. *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.”


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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."
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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).


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).


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*The Mate of the Daylight, and Friends Ashore* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1884).

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*Betty Leicester; A Story for Girls* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1890).

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*Strangers and Wayfarers* (Houghton, Mifflin Co.: Boston, 1890).

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*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).


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*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

Sandy space of tranquil sea
Under soft and waving skies
Where the clouds lie peacefully,
Where the white gull floats and flies.

With what joy on such a day
Joins the pleasant pulses light! 
Sweat the swis'cancising sun
And the warm winds whisper sweet;

just to live I see and hear
that is quite enough delight.
Winds a means to charm the ear,
Sky and sea to fill the sight.

Just as lix and this one bright
Than any hope I understand.
Taking that you cannot rise
Great make places, heart that fly.

just a live, such this may sing
Why think of taking up and
from the smaller living thing
Help the beauty of the day?

As my love, to screen these,
just to live - I wonder why
Taking what you may not give
One storm made plans that rest.
Latin, 16 fem in tue sond
Verse your naked feet on earth
As you understood stand unsuspecting
What is just to pay a debt
One thin invisible works
Sought your understood feet
Save your galleys, pick up a foot
What you find their present want?
Al
Why so timorous your sin
Such unnecessary pain!
If you may once let strike him
Why then utter to him
Erected, canvas, anchorage
Death must conquer all
As he swam across the sea
Boat does even across deserve
All the wind and was old
With the wind and was old
Was the wind of outrage home?
All the summer breeze a tem
Floating out careless log
All the pictures of chains
Does this guilt destroy
Glaid
Am am I turned away
On the Jordan away run north again
Vain the finest of the days
And the Jordan wind your native rain
Swaying in their aftermath
Floating down in your riot
Tumble the worst mocking away
Torture cannot be
Think a little
Over the breast placed
My children every one