

Collected Poetry and Prose by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Ed. Jerome McGann. New Haven: Yale UP, 2003. xxx, 424 pp. ISBN 0-300-09801-4. \$45.00 cloth, \$22.00 paper.

Jerome McGann's edition enters a competitive field in which several new editions signal a revival in the critical reading of Dante Rossetti. Although Oswald Doughty's once-useful edition (1961) is long out of print, other collections have appeared recently: William Michael Rossetti's edition of his brother's *Complete Poetical Works* (1886) has been reprinted (UP of the Pacific, 2003), as has Rossetti's translation of Dante's *New Life* (New York Review of Books, 2002). Jan Marsh published *Collected Writings* (Dent, 1999), and Clive Wilmer *Selected Poems and Translations* (Carcanet, 1991; Fifield/Routledge, 2002). To these must also be added McGann's own critical monograph, *Dante Gabriel Rossetti and the Game That Must Be Lost* (Yale, 2000) and Marsh's new biography (Dent, 1999). All of this bodes well for Rossetti studies.

To supplement his wondrous online hypertext, *The Rossetti Archive* that will eventually include digital images in colour of every documentary state of all of Dante Rossetti's works in art and letters (and, one hopes, the possibility of comparing textual variants or side-by-side versions), McGann has published a carefully-chosen collection of his poetry, prose, and translations. McGann's texts are drawn from the *Archive*'s "reading texts" that were finally arrived at through an arduous textual process, to which the reader is referred for full textual information and links to manuscript sources and facsimiles, dating, relevant artistic representations, and biographical and interpretive annotation (<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/rossetti>). Hence, the superfluity of the signifier "Rossetti's works" in the *Archive* has the paradoxical gap between it and its signified filled with this supplement, a printed text that substitutes a "reading text" for all of those rare or lost drafts, buried manuscripts, proofs, trial books, notebooks, publications, editions, and collections that the *Archive* is so comprehensively reproducing.

McGann's printed collection contains virtually everything from Rossetti's *Poems* (1870), except one minor poem, "Beauty and the Bird" (a pity – this sonnet would have given the complete *Poems*). As well, McGann's edition prints most of the major poems Rossetti published in the two volumes of 1881, including the completed *House of Life* sonnet sequence ("his masterwork" xxi), along with the songs accompanying it from the 1870 version, all of the longer 1881 poems except "The King's Tragedy," and all the shorter ones except eleven lyrics and ten sonnets. It also includes some of Rossetti's Italian translations from *The Early Italian Poets* (1861): the "Introduction" to the first edition, Dante's *New Life* complete, and eighteen other poems.

Besides the *New Life*, the prose includes Rossetti's "Hand and Soul," his