

JEROME HAMILTON BUCKLEY
1917-2003

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Jerome Hamilton Buckley died at age 85 on 28 January 2003, and the world of Victorian studies lost one of its founding figures, as well as a writer and teacher whose work exemplified both sweetness and light. He published *The Victorian Temper* in 1951, when the mid-nineteenth century was still a laughing matter among the transatlantic intelligentsia. This wide-ranging reconsideration of the Victorians not only took them seriously as poets, novelists, and essayists, but also as painters and designers. Indeed, Jerry Buckley's interest in and defence of Victorian visual culture and his linking of disparate arts helped to initiate Victorian studies as an interdisciplinary academic field. In the 1960s, while Gurney Professor of English at Harvard, he would further this championing of interdisciplinary approaches with *The Triumph of Time: A Study of the Victorian Concepts of Time, History, Progress, and Decadence* (1966) and, most influentially, with his anthology *The Pre-Raphaelites* (1968). (Before Harvard's Fogg Art Museum thought its magnificent collection of Rossetti and Burne-Jones paintings worth preserving or displaying properly, he borrowed these works from storage and hung them proudly on the walls of his apartment in Leverett House, where he and his wife, Elizabeth, served as Masters.)

But the Victorian about whom he wrote with greatest sympathy was Tennyson, subject of his 1960 study, *Tennyson: The Growth of a Poet*. In 1958, he also produced an edition of Tennyson's poems and, in 1963, of *Idylls of the King*. His fascination with the principles of growth and development – whether in the human personality or in literary texts – led, too, to his 1974 book, *Season of Youth: The Bildungsroman from Dickens to Golding* and to *The Turning Key: Autobiography and the Subjective Impulse since 1800* (1984). At the same time, he selflessly cultivated growth and development among those around him, giving support and encouragement to countless graduate students (first at Wisconsin and Columbia, then at Harvard) and creating several generations of Victorianists, all of whom revered and loved him for his generosity of spirit,