

PRE-RAPHAELITE ART ONLINE: A SURVEY

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For Pre-Raphaelite enthusiasts there is good news: the Internet loves the Pre-Raphaelites. Just type “pre-raphaelite” in the search box of any standard search engine such as *yahoo.com*, and 40,000 hits are likely to come up. Or try “Dante Gabriel Rossetti” – over 18,000 hits. At *google.com*, “Burne-Jones” yields nearly 30,000 hits. The women painters, predictably, do not fare as well. “Marie Spartali Stillman,” for instance, comes in at only 1,500 and “Evelyn De Morgan” at 2,400, but then “Simeon Solomon” (1,800) and “Ford Madox Brown” (3,000) do not fare that much better. Regardless, there is still plenty of online material to research or to browse for pleasure.

As any regular online user is all too aware, web sites vary tremendously in quality and also have the unpleasant habit of becoming unavailable for various reasons. One of the very best Pre-Raphaelite sites was *The Light of the World: The Life and Times of William Holman Hunt*. However, due to excessive bandwidth use by viewers (mis-use, according to the web-page creator), it has become a password-protected site, which means that the general public no longer has access to it. Other online addresses just disappear, taken down presumably when the creator moved on to a new town or different activities. The sites can also range from the professionally-designed ones for the Tate Britain Gallery to a personal site created by a high-school sophomore, with plenty of commercial sites in-between. This survey will evaluate the most helpful ones that focus on Pre-Raphaelite art and indicate some possibility of longevity.

My own series, titled *Gender, Literature, and Art*, has a number of web pages designed around paintings by Frederick Sandys, Emma Sandys, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and others and includes many examples of Pre-Raphaelite art in the “Brotherhood Gallery” and the “Art-Sisters Gallery,” as well as on the “King Arthur in Literature and Art” pages. Designed primarily for literature students, the pages are linked to many e-texts, study aids, and scholarly articles posted online. However, the most valuable use of my pages is as an aid in