

## SIMEON SOLOMON: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC STUDY

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The life and work of the Victorian artist Simeon Solomon are ideal subjects for the burgeoning research in multiculturalism for his Judaism, in gender/gay studies for his homosexuality, and in new art historicism for his aestheticism and symbolism. Solomon was born in 1840 to an upper-class Jewish family. His siblings Abraham and Rebecca were both highly regarded artists whose works also have undergone re-evaluation in the past few decades. Although by the age of eighteen he already had established an artistic career focusing on Jewish subjects, his artistry flourished after he became enthralled with the Pre-Raphaelites and was taken under the tutelage of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones, and Algernon Charles Swinburne. He made three trips to Italy in the late 1860s; on the last trip he wrote an early draft of the prose poem that would be privately published in 1871 as *A Vision of Love Revealed in Sleep*. In 1873 Solomon was arrested for homosexual practices. He served a brief, six-week sentence, but was branded a pariah by his former circle of friends. Solomon spent the remainder of his days living in the streets of London. He died at St. Giles Workhouse in 1905 after suffering from the effects of prolonged alcoholism.

His death inspired such writers as Robert Ross and Julia Ellsworth Ford to salvage Solomon's career and glorify his artistry, but their efforts met with little success. Later portrayals of Solomon only proved to be sentimental or judgmental accounts of the tragic life of a Pre-Raphaelite. Starting in the 1960s, Lionel Lambourne and others began to write more sympathetic views of Solomon and his Jewishness. Since the inception of gay studies in the 1970s, interest in Solomon's homosexuality has come to the foreground.

Until now, there has been no single annotated bibliography on Solomon. Starting when reviews were written on his second contribution to the Royal Academy, this new bibliography covers most works from 1860 through 1998. Not comprehensive, it should be considered a bibliographical guide to his original publications and the critical resources in English on his life and work. In addition to the resources annotated here, it is advisable to consult the biographies and collected letters of others involved in Solomon's life, especially Oscar Browning,

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