

SILVER JUBILEE

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It's been twenty-five years since Francis Golfing published the inaugural issue of *The Pre-Raphaelite Review* in 1977. That issue may be as rare now as an 1850 issue of *The Germ* or an 1856 issue of *The Oxford and Cambridge Magazine*. With only a single copy in our office, I am reluctant to risk breaking its spine to photocopy it when libraries enquire about purchasing back issues. The founding editor responded to my repeated requests for an article to commemorate this anniversary issue by writing with a thick-leaded pencil a most gracious letter of decline, a letter that will be preserved forever in the *Journal's* archives. "I have just turned 90--a turn I view with very mixed feelings. I am close to blindness and writing of any kind has become a dreadful chore to me." He recalls his correspondence with Dick Fredeman in the mid 1970s about the prospect of editing this journal: "I greatly admired Dick's work and he, I believe, thought well of my courage in launching the review unsponsored.... I am so pleased to see you take such excellent care of the magazine and hope things will run smoothly in 2001." The letter reminds me of the prefatory note Thomas Hardy wrote for *Winter Words*, his 1928 collection of poems: "So far as I am aware, I happen to be the only English poet who has brought out a new collection of verse on his -- birthday." It was to be Hardy's 88th birthday, a date he fell just short of. Francis Golfing has never missed such dates: he labelled the Spring issue of *The Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies* "May" and the Fall issue "November," and he published them year after year with the punctuality we associate with a news magazine.

In celebrating this twenty-fifth anniversary of his enterprise, *The Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies* has reached a milestone that invites a pause for review and provokes a challenge for renewal. This issue thus looks back and projects forward: it looks back to retrieve important contributions to Pre-Raphaelite scholarship and it projects forward to adapt Pre-Raphaelite paradigms for postmodern scholarship. Retrieved from what are now obscure sources are two articles by creative artists who wrote interdisciplinary studies of Pre-Raphaelitism. The first is reprinted from a 1929 address by Laurence Housman, the artist and writer whose long career

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