

MORE *LETTERS OF CHRISTINA ROSSETTI*: FIVE NEW
UNPUBLISHED AND FOUR UNCOLLECTED LETTERS

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This essay presents five unpublished letters and four uncollected letters from Christina Rossetti to various correspondents, and also identifies the recipients of two previously published letters. Most of the letters gathered here show Rossetti conducting the day-to-day business of a Victorian writer and engaging with her professional network of editors, composers, and literary peers. This is especially true of the unpublished letters, which include three previously identified correspondents (John Ingram, William Rounseville Alger, and Frederick Langbridge) and two new recipients who were members of Rossetti's extended social and artistic circle (T. Walton Gillibrand and Robert Partridge Burcham). Rossetti's literary stature, as well as her family concerns, are the primary focus of the four uncollected published letters. These include a letter to the editor of *The Athenaeum*; a response to a request from autograph collector John T. Page; a note of thanks to Emma Clapham, an appreciative reader of Rossetti's devotional writing; and an affectionate response to a dinner invitation from Dante Rossetti. No other letters from Rossetti to Gillibrand, Burcham, Page, or Clapham are extant. Lastly, I close with an update and correction of Rossetti's 1885 letter to Jeanette Gilder regarding the publication of "A Christmas Carol" ("In the bleak mid-winter") that I first published here in *The Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies*, ns 15 (Spring 2006).

Part one introduces the unpublished letters. Most of Rossetti's previously published correspondence with John Ingram – known for his editorial and biographical scholarship on Edgar Allen Poe – focusses on his efforts to persuade her to contribute a volume to his Eminent Women biography series (*Letters* 3:17 and *passim*). In the letter included here, Rossetti's professional diplomacy is evident as she navigates Ingram's request to review her latest book while also responding to Ingram's unauthorized publication of a facsimile of her signature. Her letter to the Unitarian minister and author William Alger, prompted by the arrival of Alger's wife and daughter in London, is the second