

SCHOLARLY RESOURCES:

PRE-RAPHAELITE AND OTHER VICTORIAN RESOURCES IN THE
ARMSTRONG BROWNING LIBRARY,
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY,
WACO, TEXAS

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The Armstrong Browning Library (ABL), the world's largest single collection of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, is rivalled only by the significant manuscript holdings of Browning at Balliol College, Oxford, and Eton College in the United Kingdom and by the EBB papers at Wellesley College in the United States. From its inception, the principal focus of the Armstrong Browning Library has been on all aspects of the life and works of the Brownings, their family, and friends. The collection of primary material consists of approximately 12,000 books, including presentation and association copies, biography, and criticism, a wide group of ephemera, and the entire collection of 19th-century periodicals in the Baylor Library system; some 3,000-4,000 letters and manuscripts, plus photocopies of resource materials in other collections; portraits, busts, and other related paintings, drawings and sculptures; and personal memorabilia, items of clothing, and furniture belonging to the Brownings. In addition to primary materials relating directly to the Brownings and their circle, ABL also houses an extensive archive of photographs, a large collection of reference works, representative materials relating to other Victorian authors, such as Matthew Arnold and Ralph Waldo Emerson, and a general 19th-century collection, including minor Victorian poetry, which has been gathered to support the in-house research of visiting scholars, to whom study rooms and short-term fellowships for those pursuing post-doctoral or equivalent research are also available. As a fine, bejewelled binding enhances the contents of a fine book, so, too, the impressive three-story Italian Renaissance-style building, that houses the collection, with its imported marble columns, allegorical bronze doors emulating those by Ghiberti for the baptistry of San Giovanni in Florence, and its 56 stained glass windows illustrating the Brownings' poetry, is an integral element of the overall design and presentation of the Armstrong Browning Library.

Both the library and building reflect the dedication, drive, and singular vision of one man: Dr. Andrew Joseph Armstrong (1873-1954), who came to Baylor as

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