

THE LETTERS OF CHRISTINA ROSSETTI: TWO NEW LETTERS

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Antony Harrison's edition of the *Letters of Christina Rossetti*, now complete in four volumes, provides Rossetti scholars with an invaluable and long-anticipated resource. I present two additional letters here, along with a short list of supplementary notes and corrections to Harrison's edition. The new letters, discovered after Harrison's final volume had gone to press, are of interest because they offer new information about the publishing history of two of Rossetti's poems: "An Alphabet from England" and "A Christmas Carol." The first letter, from Rossetti to Mary Mapes Dodge, is tipped in to a copy of the American edition of *Maude: Prose and Verse* (Chicago: H.S. Stone, 1897) held in the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives at Texas A & M University. The second letter is inserted in an extra-illustrated copy of *Representative Poems of Living Poets, American and English* (New York: Cassell, 1886) held in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. In my transcripts of Rossetti's two letters, I retain Rossetti's punctuation, but I have not maintained the line or page breaks of the manuscripts or the indentations of the headings.

Two Letters

In November 1875, "An Alphabet from England" was published in the American periodical *St. Nicholas*. Earlier in the year, Rossetti was visited by Roswell Smith, who in 1873 had founded *St. Nicholas* and appointed Mary Mapes Dodge as the magazine's editor (Farrar 274). In June 1875, Rossetti wrote to Smith, expressing admiration for *St. Nicholas* but doubting that she could find "a suitable piece" to publish in it (*Letters* 2:46); however, in early

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