

Rebecca W. Crump, Christina Rossetti: A Reference Guide. 172 pp.
Boston, G. K. Hall & Co., 1976. \$19.00

This is a much needed beginning to the work of sorting, putting in order, what has been written about one of the fine, gifted poets in English, whose verse has been, if not neglected, then sadly taken at minimal value over the years (with few exceptions). Mrs. Crump points to a past disproportion between biographical interpretation and critical attention given to Christina Rossetti, with the emphasis heavily on the biographical. However, she cites examples of serious critical consideration becoming more frequent of late. It is a carefully organized and eminently usable bibliography, listing all but the most casual and brief treatments of its subject. It includes "reminiscences, memorials, sketches, essays, parodies, chapters of books, reviews of Christina's works, introductions from selective editions of Christina's poetry, introductions from the major anthologies of Victorian poetry which include Christina, and reviews of works about Christina which include comments on her." (Intro. pp. ix-x) The material is arranged chronologically by years, under the sub-headings "Books" and "Shorter Writings." Each entry is briefly described, with often a short, illustrative quotation. The writer (who, the reviewer understands, is currently working on a first critical edition of the poems of Christina Rossetti) points toward "what remains to be done -- a comprehensive examination and evaluation of Christina's literary accomplishments." (Intro. p. ix) The present work of scholarship provides a sound, necessary and extremely helpful basis upon which she and others may build in the future toward that goal.

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