

The Remarkable Lushington Family: Reformers, Pre-Raphaelites, Positivists, and the Bloomsbury Group by David Taylor. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020. xiv, 359 pp. + 26 b/w illus. ISBN 978-1-7936-1715-6. \$115.00.

In 1953, to quote the title of the final chapter in David Taylor's *The Remarkable Lushington Family*, the "last of the Lushingtons" died. Susan Lushington, the youngest of three childless sisters, left behind a family archive stretching back four generations around which Taylor weaves his social, intellectual, and artistic history of the family. Members of what Noel Annan called the "intellectual aristocracy," Lushingtons were widely respected citizens whose networking skills placed them at the centre of numerous dramas. Taylor sketches Susan's great grandparents, Sir Stephen and Hester, before devoting five chapters to Susan's grandfather the Rt. Hon. Stephen Lushington (1782-1873), ten chapters to Susan's father Vernon, five to Susan's sister Katherine (Kitty), and a concluding chapter to Susan herself. Whether or not this family was as "remarkable" as Taylor claims, he brings their accomplishments and personalities to life, illuminating a range of cultural developments and adding texture to the Pre-Raphaelite milieu.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Lushington distinguished himself in matrimonial law, education reform, and antislavery advocacy. As an attorney to Lady Byron, he likely knew the "Byron secret" – concerning incest that the poet did or did not commit with his half-sister Augusta Leigh – but if so, Stephen took the information to his grave. He advised Queen Caroline on matters of civilian law during her divorce from the unpopular George IV. Rumoured to have committed adultery and barred from the coronation, shortly after which she died, the queen was widely regarded as a wronged woman. Stephen spoke on her behalf in the House of Commons and served as her executor, rushing home amid these duties to attend his own wedding.

Stephen and his wife Sarah had ten children; after she died, he moved to Ockham Park, previously occupied by the first Earl Lovelace, husband to the poet's daughter Ada Byron. Lovelace had started an industrial school there, which may have led to Stephen being one of the original proprietors of University College London. Lovelace opened Ockham's pulpit to the heterodox theologian F.D. Maurice, a founder of the Christian Socialist movement who had been dismissed from his King's College professorships for denying the concept of eternal damnation. It is fitting, then, that University College was dubbed "the godless institution of Gower St." for accepting students unable to attend Oxbridge as non-confessing Anglicans. Ockham also sheltered the escaped American slaves William and Emma Croft, who became students there. This principled stance anticipated Stephen's work as an MP: he joined the Antislavery Society and celebrated the Slavery Abolition Act 1833 for