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## **Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century British Women Writers**

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*Eighteenth &  
Nineteenth Century*

**BRITISH  
WOMEN  
WRITERS**



*Mezzanine Exhibit Area  
Thomas Cooper Library  
University of South Carolina*

This special exhibition, selected from the University's Department of Special Collections, marks the occasion of the fifth Conference on Eighteenth & Nineteenth Century British Women Writers, to be held in Columbia on March 21st-24th 1996.

The exhibition covers a full chronological spectrum, from Margaret Cavendish's *Poems and phancies*, 1664, and Ann Finch's "The Spleen" in its first edition of 1701 to an inscribed volume by 'Violet Fane' from 1896, where she describes herself semi-ironically as "an obscure poet."

Many of the "collector's high points" of literature by women are displayed, including first editions of Wollstonecraft's *Vindication*, Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*, and Rossetti's *Goblin Market*, as well as first editions by Austen, Charlotte and Ann Bronte, George Eliot and other well-known names.

But the exhibition also draws items from the Special Collections department's strong holdings in such areas as the early nineteenth century literary annual, Scottish poetry, and Victorian fiction, to represent some of the once famous, less known and recently-recovered women writers of the period.

An interesting facet of the exhibition is the way it illustrates the changing physical form in which writing by women was presented to the reading public over two centuries that saw dramatic change in methods of book production.

*More detailed information about each item and about the writers is given on the exhibit display cards. The exhibition has been curated by Roger Mortimer, who, with Patrick Scott, prepared the display descriptions. This brochure and exhibit list has been prepared for the conference by Patrick Scott.*



The exhibit starts with the cases on the left of the mezzanine staircase, as you come up from the main library entrance, and is arranged in five islands or groups of cases along the mezzanine exhibit area.

### ISLAND 1:

#### From Margaret Cavendish to Anna Seward

Margaret Cavendish, *Poems and phancies*, 1664.

Aphra Behn, *All the histories and novels*, 6th ed., 1718.

Behn, *Oroonoko*, adapt. Southerne, 1696.

Ann Finch, "The Spleen," in *New miscellany*, 1701.

Ann Laetitia Barbauld, *Poems*, 1773.

Grizel Baillie, in *Tea-table miscellany*, ed. Ramsay, 1740.

Maria Edgeworth, *The modern Griselda*, 2nd ed., 1805.

Fanny Burney, *Camilla*, 1796.

Mary Wortley Montagu, *Letters*, 1784.

--the vellum binding is by Edwards of Halifax..

Anna Seward, *Monody on Major Andre*, 1781.

Seward, *Memoirs of the life of Dr. Darwin*, 1804.

*Illustrative items in the upright case include original drawings by George Romney and Richard Westall.*

### ISLAND 2:

#### From Jane Austen to Joanna Baillie

Jane Austen, *Sense and sensibility*, 1811.

Austen, *Pride and prejudice*, 1813.

Anne Radcliffe, *The Italian*, 1797.

Maria and Richard Edgeworth, *Practical education*, 1798.

Jane Austen as book subscriber

--from Burney's *Camilla*, 1797.

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A vindication of the rights of women*, 1792.

Wollstonecraft, *Posthumous works*, 1798.

William Godwin, *Memoirs of the author of A vindication*, 1798.

Ann Grant of Laggan, *Poems*, 1803.

Joanna Baillie, *A series of plays*, 1821.

Baillie, *Metrical legends*, 1821.

*Illustrative items in the upright case include an original drawing by Richard Westfall, and a rare 1800 printed broadsheet and a holograph letter, both by Joanna Baillie.*

### ISLAND 3:

**From Caroline Lamb to Fanny Kemble**

Caroline Lamb, *Glenarvon*, 2nd ed., 1816.

Mary Shelley, *History of a six weeks tour*, 1817.

Shelley, *Frankenstein; or the modern Prometheus*, 1818.

*Forget-me-not*, 1827.

*Literary Souvenir*, 1829

*Friendship's Offering*, 1836.

*Friendship's Offering*, 1844.

Felicia Hemans, in *Forget-me-not*, 1826.

Caroline Lamb, in *The bijou*, 1828.

Laetitia Landon, in *The cabinet of modern art*, 1837.

Mary Howitt, in *Forget-me-not*, 1836.

Mary Russell Mitford, in *The Amulet*, 1826.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *The seraphim*, 1838.

Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*, 1857.

Frances Trollope, *Domestic manners of the Americans*, 1832.

Fanny Kemble, *Journal of a residence on a Georgia plantation*, 1863.

*Illustrative items in the upright case include an original watercolor by Thomas Unwins and, in reproduction, William Holman Hunt's "The Lady of Shalott."*

### ISLAND 4:

**From the Brontes to Elizabeth Gaskell**

*Poems by Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell*, 1846.

Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*, New York, 1848.



- Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*, 1847.  
E. Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*, New York,  
1848.  
C. Bronte, *Villette*, 1853.  
Anne Bronte, *Agnes Grey*, 1847.  
Elizabeth Gaskell, *The life of Charlotte  
Bronte*, New York, 1857.  
Hannah Rathbone, *The diary of Lady  
Willoughby*, 1844.  
--the revival of Caslon type.  
Grace Aguilar, *The vale of cedars*, 1850.  
Elizabeth Gaskell, *Mary Barton*, 1848.  
Gaskell, *Ruth. A novel*, 1853.

#### ISLAND 5:

##### From George Eliot to Violet Fane.

- George Eliot, *Adam Bede*, 1859.  
Eliot, *The mill of the floss*, 1860.  
Eliot, *How Lisa loved the king*, Boston, 1869.  
Eliot, *Daniel Deronda*, in the original eight  
parts, 1876.  
Mary Elizabeth Braddon, *Like and unlike*,  
1888.  
Anna Maria Hall, *Midsummer eve*, 1870.  
Christina Rossetti, *Goblin Market and other  
poems*, 1862.  
Adelaide Anne Procter, *A chaplet of verses*,  
1862.  
Augusta Webster, *Yu-Pe-ya's lute*, 1874.  
Dora Greenwell, *Poems*, 1867.  
--inscribed to Mary Howitt.  
Violet Fane, *Under cross and crescent*, 1896.  
--inscribed to Lady Lindsay.

*In the upright case are enlargements of D. G.  
Rossetti's illustrations for Goblin Market.*

The Department of Special Collections, University of South Carolina Libraries, preserves and makes available for research rare books and special collections. Its strengths include:

- \* English and American literature
- \* the Lord Collection on the Civil War in America
- \* the history of science
- \* the G. Ross Roy Collection on Robert Burns and Scottish poetry
- \* the Matthew J. Brucoli Collection on F. Scott Fitzgerald
- \* the Tarr Collection on Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle
- \* the English bible
- \* the history of the book
- \* nineteenth-century children's literature

During 1996, the department is also involved in two other major literary celebrations, for the Robert Burns bicentenary conference in late March, and the F. Scott Fitzgerald centenary conference in September.

Relevant to the present exhibit in the department's growing series of published exhibit catalogues is *Gifts of Love: Literary Annuals of the Early Nineteenth Century*, by Kitty Ledbetter and Lisa McDavid (1994). A few copies are still available for interested researchers, on request. USCAN, the library's on-line catalog, includes analytical entries to individual authors and contributions for the department's extensive annuals collection.

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