The Prose Writings of Robert Louis Stevenson: An Index and Finding-List, 1850-1881, Part II

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PART II

1878

New Arabian Nights: The Suicide Club, The Rajah’s Diamond. March-September 1878. MS. chapter outlines, Yale. “Latter-Day Arabian Nights,” seventeen weekly installments, London, 8 June–26 October 1878, excepting the issues of 24 August, 21 September, and 5 October; each installment signed Robert Louis Stevenson. New Arabian Nights (1882), in which publication the present general title was adopted and the two subtitles “The Suicide Club” and “The Rajah’s Diamond” were adopted for the stories published, respectively, from 8 June through 27 July and from 3 August through 26 October 1878. Tusitala 1. Stevenson received £44/12/0 altogether for the stories and later remarked that the collection was “the first book that ever returned me anything, and it also established my name.”


Why Am I a Banker?; Bohemia (Considerations on); On Money. Planned mid-1878. MSS. untraced if written. Unpublished. Stevenson lists these titles among fourteen “Essays” (most of them eventually included in Virginibus Puerosisque) in his notebook for An Inland Voyage (Yale). In subject, all appear to anticipate “Lay Morals,” begun in April 1879.

[Novel Solicited by Leslie Stephen.] June 1878–February 1879. MS. untraced. Unpublished. Leslie Stephen to Stevenson, 7 June 1878: “I cannot help thinking that if you would seriously put your hand to such a piece of work you would be able—I will not say to rival the success of Waverley

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or Pickwick but—to write something really good & able to make a mark in the Cornhill. Of course you must have thought of this; but a little push from outside may help the thought to develop itself. . . . You might start a few chapters & then let me see whether I thought them available for Cornhill purposes” (Beinecke Collection 5562). Stevenson appears to have responded favorably to Stephen’s request, whether beginning a new novel or reworking an earlier effort is unknown, and their correspondence on the matter continues intermittently through the fall and winter. Nevertheless, it does not appear that Stevenson actually submitted any of the work he did on this project.


A Mountain Town in France. September 1878. MSS., Huntington (11 folio and quarto leaves); Yale (2 additional folio leaves); Yale (23 pencil sketches). The Studio, Winter 1896–97, pp. 5–16, 17, including four of Stevenson’s pencil sketches. Tusitala 17.

Hamerton notified Stevenson that he had accepted C. Kegan Paul's offer of £30 down and a royalty of 2s. per copy; Stevenson read proofs in March or April; and *Travels With a Donkey* was published 2 June 1879 in an edition of 750 copies. An additional printing of 500 copies, adding "Second Edition" to the title page, was made immediately. Sales were excellent, Stevenson reporting to his mother in July: "My new book sold 450-60 last week, The Ind. V. has sold 485 altogether. They hope to have a 2nd edition of the donkey. Trench (Paul's pardner) told me it was the only book of theirs that was selling at all" (Brick Row Book Shop, 1921, 39).

The Gospel According to Walt Whitman. Published October 1878. MS. untraced. *New Quarterly Magazine*, 10 (October 1878), 461-81; signed Robert Louis Stevenson. *Familiar Studies of Men and Books* (1882). Tusitala 27. See also the entry of Stevenson's "Walt Whitman" (September 1873) above.


Deacon Brodie. October 1878–January 1880. MS. notes on scenery and characters, Yale. *Deacon Brodie, or, The Double Life: A Melodrama, Founded on Facts in Four Acts and Ten Tableaux* (London: privately printed to secure copyright, 1880). Published in revised form, 1888, from which version later editions derive. Tusitala 24, revised text. See the entry of Stevenson's earliest draft of this play, written late 1864, above. Rewritten by Stevenson and W. E. Henley from an earlier draft by Stevenson, October 1878–January 1879; offered to Henry Irving but not accepted. Revised for copyright publication by Henley, November–December 1879; a copy inscribed to Henry James is dated 26 January 1880. Further revised and offered to Charles Warner and the manager of the Princess's Theatre, Walter Gooch, February–March 1880; again rejected; offered then to the playwright and actor John Clayton and also rejected. First produced by Haldane Crichton's company, Pullan's Theatre of Varieties, Bradford, 28 December 1882.

The Late Sam Bough, R. S. A. Late November 1878. MS. draft of the first half of this essay, Yale. *The Academy*, 30 November 1878, pp. 530–31; signed Robert Louis Stevenson. Tusitala 28.

The Pavilion on the Links. November 1878–November 1879. MS. untraced. *Cornhill Magazine*, 42 (September 1880), 307-27; and 42 (October 1880), 430–51; both installments signed R.L.S., the first containing the opening four chapters, the second the balance. *New Arabian Nights* (1882), in which publication Stevenson dropped the first paragraph of the story as originally published and 400 words from the sixth chapter. Tusitala 1.
Begun as a story for London and finished a year later in Monterey; accepted, to Stevenson's surprise, by Leslie Stephen for the Cornhill Magazine, December 1879; publication was delayed chiefly because of the story's length and Stephen's expectation of a novel from George Meredith requiring immediate serialization. Stevenson comments on the inspiration for this story at the end of "The Education of an Engineer" as originally published, Scribner's Magazine, 4 (November 1888), 640.

Covenancing Profiles. Late 1878. MS. outline, Yale. Unpublished. In his notebook for An Inland Voyage Stevenson outlines a book of 185 pages about various Scottish Covenanters from Walter Pringle to Patrick Walker; in spite of his continuing fascination with the Covenanting period, however, Stevenson appears to have gone little further than gathering notes toward this book.

1879


Rogue Denzil. January–February 1879. MS. list of characters and outline, Yale. Unpublished. One of several plays planned or drafted while Stevenson, and Henley were at Swanston, January 1879, and during the following spring. See their joint letter to Colin in E. V. Lucas, The Colvins and Their Friends (1928), pp. 108–9.

Hester Noble. January–February 1879; May 1880. MS. untraced. Henley mentions in a letter to Stevenson their having completed a "rough draft" of this play "at Swanston" in January 1879, and Stevenson apparently worked further on the plot in San Francisco a year later and corrected a complete revision by Henley in May 1880, but nothing further seems to have come of this collaboration. See their letters, Beinecke Collection 4713, 4735, and 4988.

An April Day: or, Autolycus in Service. February 1879; early 1883. MSS., Anderson 1914, 1, 364, 365: two complete drafts of this three-act farce with a third version of the first act. Unpublished. Apparently begun by Stevenson as a short story, "Autolycus at Court," in November 1874 (Letters, I, 213); revived as a dramatic collaboration between Stevenson and Henley at Swanston and actually begun by Henley in February 1879. Early in 1883 Stevenson writes to Henley that he is again at work on
“Autolycus at Service” under the title of “An April Day,” rewriting it “with a literary, not a dramatic, finish.” But it is unclear whether a short story or a closet-drama is being described. (Beinecke Collection 3164).

Lay Morals. March 1879; October 1883. MS. paragraph-outline of first two chapters, Yale; draft of introduction and part of third chapter, Silverado Museum, St. Helena, California; complete draft as published, including a second version of fourth chapter, Yale, Edinburgh Edition, 21 (1896), 313–77. Some of Stevenson’s draft material appears in Hitherto Unpublished Prose Writings (1921), pp. 49–59; reprinted in confusing and inaccurate order, Tusitala 26. On Stevenson’s two separate efforts with this work see especially Balfour, Life, I, 162, 209, and 2, 215. Stevenson appears to have drawn on his Speculative Society talk, “Two Questions on the Relations Between Christ’s Teaching and Modern Christianity” (12 November 1872), and possibly on thoughts developed for the essays entered as “Why Am I a Banker?” (planned mid-1878).

What Was on the Slate. Before April 1879. MS. untraced, probably destroyed. Unpublished. See Letters, 2, 59, 106. Stevenson refers apparently to a story, or perhaps a play, originally written early in 1879 and in February 1880 “damned utterly” by himself and Fanny as “too morbid, ugly, and unkind.”

Some Aspects of Robert Burns. May–June 1879. MS. untraced, Cornhill Magazine, 40 (October 1879), 408–29; signed R.L.S. Familiar Studies of Men and Books (1882). Tusitala 27. See also the entry of Stevenson’s article on Burns submitted to the Encyclopaedia Britannica (Summer–Autumn 1875). It is not known whether Leslie Stephen was aware of this earlier effort when he asked Stevenson, 8 May 1879, for a review of John Campbell Shairp’s study in the English Men of Letters series (1879). Stevenson received £20 for this essay.

The Story of a Lie. July–August 1879. MS. untraced. New Quarterly Magazine, 25 (October 1879), 507–55; signed Robert Louis Stevenson, A separately printed issue of this story (Hayley and Jackson, 1882) is probably a forgery by Thomas J. Wise. Tusitala 14. C. Kegan Paul apparently commissioned this story in May 1879, offering Stevenson £50 for its publication in his New Quarterly; Stevenson worked on it intermittently over the next few months, finishing it aboard the S. S. Devonia shortly before he arrived in New York, 17 August 1879.

The Amateur Emigrant. September 1879–June 1880. MS., Yale. Galley proofs of part of this MS. marked by Stevenson, Colvin, and C. Kegan Paul, Yale. Proof sheets of “Across the Plains” as published in Longman’s Magazine (1883), Anderson 1914, 1, 639. Set in type for publication by C, Kegan Paul & Co., April 1880, but withdrawn. “Across the Plains,” Longman’s Magazine, 2 (July 1883), 285–304; and 2 (August 1883), 372–76; each installment signed R. L. Stevenson. This publication includes only the second part of the work as written, according to Sidney
Colvin "abridged and recast" by Stevenson in 1883; slightly abridged from this version in *Across the Plains with Other Memories and Essays* (1892). "From the Clyde to Sandy Hook," Edinburgh Edition, 3 (1893), 1-106. This publication includes for the first time the first part of the work as written, abridged by Stevenson himself shortly before his death in 1894, together with the second part as previously reprinted. Tusitala 18. Stevenson's manuscript, conflated with the Edinburgh Edition text for undeleted passages, has been published by James D. Hart, ed., *From Scotland to Silverado* (1966), pp. 1-147. This edition takes no cognizance of Stevenson's 1880 galley proofs, on which he accepted many of the revisions proposed by Colvin and Paul, except to remark that at Silverado he worked "painfully over excision and rewriting of the first part" (p. xlii); it is inaccurate in many details of transcription; and in accepting the revised Edinburgh Edition readings for all passages except those actually excised, it makes detailed literal comparison of the two versions impossible. Although useful in making many passages of the manuscript available in print, this edition cannot be considered definitive or critical.


*A Vendetta* in the West. Begun October 1879. MS., "three parts written and then given up and destroyed" (Colvin). Unpublished. Begun October 1879 and by mid-November completed to the extent of 85 of approximately 140 intended pages. In February 1880 Henley was anxious to begin negotiating newspaper rights to the novel; Stevenson still hoped to complete it during the summer of 1880; but after his return to Great Britain in August 1880 he appears to have worked on it no more. See *Letters*, 2, 82, 84–85, 95–100, 105, 107, 116.

*Padre Dos Reales*. Late November 1879. MS. untraced, probably destroyed. Two hundred copies of this broadsheet, 121 words of text berating the parsimony of Padre Angelo Casanova of Monterey, were printed in San Jose by Crevoile M. Bronson, publisher of *The Monterey Californian*, and were posted late one November night by Stevenson and his friends. See his account of the mischief, *Letters*, 2, 86. Three copies survive, in the Widener Library, Harvard University; in the Huntington Library;
and pasted in one of Mrs. Thomas Stevenson's scrapbooks, Monterey State Historical Monument Stevenson House Collection, The text is reprinted in Hart, ed., From Scotland to Silverado (1966), pp. xxvii-xxviii; a facsimile appears in the Sotheby Catalogue of the 1923 Lloyd Osbourne sale at which one of the extant copies was offered.

Henry David Thoreau: His Character and Opinions. December 1879-January 1880; signed R.L.S. MS, untraced. Cornhill Magazine, 41 (June 1880), 665–82. Familiar Studies of Men and Books (1882). Tusitala 27. Stevenson had been planning to write on Thoreau since finishing his essay on Burns, July 1879, and he spent the fall in Monterey reading for it. The essay was written in San Francisco during December and January; by 23 January it had been sent off; and on 15 June 1880 Stevenson wrote to Charles Baxter that it had brought him £18/18/0.

1880

Memoirs of Himself. Early 1880; augmented later, MSS.: (A) “Book I—Childhood,” 23 pp. at the beginning of a 72-page quarto notebook, Widener Collection, Harvard University. (B) Book II and a fragment of Book III, quoted in Balfour, Life, I, 83–84, and a different portion in G. S. Hellman, “Stevenson and the Streetwalker,” American Mercury, 38 (July 1936), 349, untraced. (C) Book III, “From Jest to Earnest,” and a fragment of Book II, Anderson 1914, 1, 336; 13 pp. quarto comprising the last 2 pp. of Book II and the whole of Book III; later sold by A. S. W. Rosenbach, untraced thereafter. (D) Additional material dictated in Samoa, first published in Vailima Edition, 26 (1923), 224–37, untraced. Except in the scattered sources indicated, only MSS. (A) and (D) have been published or collected, the first privately printed in 1912 and reprinted thereafter, the last in the Vailima and later collected editions. Both appear, awkwardly joined together, in Tusitala 29.


[California in the 1850's and 1860's.] Early 1880. MS., Yale. Unpublished. Seven pages of reminiscences of life in San Francisco and the Mother Lode mining country during the 1850s and 1860s, apparently by a man who came to California as a young boy in December 1851 with his parents, written down by Stevenson probably early in 1880 in San Francisco.

“Essays” projected for a collection outlined in his notebook for *An Inland Voyage* (Yale). But not until he was in San Francisco, more than a year later, does he appear to have returned to this subject.


Benjamin Franklin and the Art of Virtue. January–February 1880; November 1881, MS. untraced, possibly never written. Unpublished. See *Letters*, 2, 105–6 and 2, 175, in which Stevenson asks Gosse, 9 November 1881, “Benj. Franklin—do you want him?” Gosse presumably was acting for R. W. Gilder of the *Century Magazine*. Stevenson’s copy of Franklin’s autobiography (3 vols., 1874–75), marked but without marginalia, is held as Beinecke Collection 2330.


A House Divided. February–June 1880. MS. untraced. Unpublished. On 12 February 1880 W. E. Henley wrote to Stevenson proposing nihilism as a dramatic subject; in late February, Stevenson conveyed through Colvin his enthusiasm. “Tell Henley I have a new play for him: drama in 3 acts: A House Divided: three thrilling situations: the last ghastly; he had better be reading up Nihilism, as hard as he is able” (Beinecke Collection 4733, 3045). But on 15 June 1880, having received a draft of this play from Stevenson, Henley conveyed his considerable disappointment (Beinecke Collection 4737), and the project was apparently dropped.

The Forest State; The Greenwood State. February 1880. MS. untraced. Unpublished. See *Letters*, 2, 105–6. This play, mentioned under both titles, reworks Stevenson’s “Semiramis,” one of his “Stylistic Imitations and
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Exercises" (Late 1860s and 1870s), and was itself further reworked for the novel, Prince Otto (1885).

Fate of the House. Projected Spring 1880. MS. list of characters, Yale. Unpublished if written. Except for this list in a notebook Stevenson kept during the spring of 1880 no record of this composition, probably a projected dramatic collaboration with W. E. Henley, survives.

[Nathaniel Hawthorne.] Projected Spring 1880. MS. untraced if written. Unpublished. On Stevenson's projected "blast" against Henry James's Hawthorne (1879) see Letters, 2, 117 and Stevenson's brief doggerel sent to W. E. Henley in 1882, quoted in Janet Adam Smith, ed., Collected Poems (2nd ed., 1971), p. 476. Stevenson apparently proposed the subject to Leslie Stephen in the late spring of 1880 but was persuaded to abandon the idea by Stephen's polite demurral, 16 June 1880 (Beinecke Collection 5565). Stevenson and James were not at this time the intimate acquaintances they ultimately became.


Scotland and the Union; The Transformation of the Scottish Highlands. Late summer 1880, winter 1880-81. MS. notes, Yale. Unpublished. The fullest record of Stevenson's research appears in his long letters to his father asking for books and outlining his plans; see especially Letters, 2, 134-5, 130-40, 173-74, and Beinecke Collection 3458-3460. Although, as Colvin notes, Stevenson "read much, but composed little or nothing, and eventually the history went to swell the long list of his unwritten books," the pertinence of this research to his Scottish historical novels is obvious.

Virginibus Puerisque. Collected and completed, late 1880; published early April 1881. MSS. untraced except for both parts of "Virginibus Puerisque" and "On Falling in Love," sold as British Red Cross, 1918, 2201. Virginibus Puerisque and Other Papers (London: C. Kegan Paul & Co., 1881). Tusitala 25. Except for Stevenson's dedicatory letter to W. E. Henley, his appended note to "Ordered South," and the second part of the title essay— all of these probably written at Davos in late 1880—and "Some Portraits by Raeburn," which was written but not published in October 1876, all of the essays in this collection had been published in periodicals during the preceding five years. None was significantly revised for publication in book form. Negotiations with C. Kegan Paul for the
publication of this collection were apparently completed in early December 1880, Stevenson writing to his mother on 12 December: "I only got £20 for Virg. Puer, I could take Paul by the beard and knock his head against the wall." Sales of the collection were poor, and this fact led, by a complicated series of transactions not complete until 1884, to Stevenson's adopting Chatto and Windus instead as his regular publishers.

[Essays Planned at Davos.] Winter 1880–81. MS. list, Yale. Unpublished and unwritten except for the essay mentioned in the next entry. On five MS. pages Stevenson lists by title and briefly outlines the following five essays: "The beginnings of a soul," "Health Resorts," "Simoneau's Inn," "Relations of children," and 'My Russians." Only the third was written; see the next entry.


1881


Colonel Jean Cavalier. June 1881. MS. note of title, notes, draft paragraph, Yale. Unpublished. Stevenson's interest in Jean Cavalier, commander of the Camisards, dates from the writing of Travels With a Donkey, 1878–79, and on 6 June 1881 he sends Edmund Gosse a detailed request for source books. The title "Colonel Jean Cavalier" appears in a note-
book list of "Studies" planned at Davos during the winter of 1880–81; six pages of notes about Jean Cavalier from various sources, taken at this time or earlier, appear in another notebook; one paragraph introducing a historical essay on Jean Cavalier appears in a third notebook. But the project appears to have gone no further.

Thrown Janet. June 1881. MS. untraced. Cornhill Magazine, 44 (October 1881), 436–43; signed R.L.S. The Merry Men and Other Tales and Fables (1887). Tusitala 8. Leslie Stephen accepted the story for publication on 23 June 1881; Stevenson received proofs 1 August; but the story had long been in his mind. See especially C. O. Parsons, "Stevenson's Use of Witchcraft in Thrawn Janet," SP, 43 (July 1946), 551–71, for comments on Stevenson's debt to Wodrow's Analeceta, which Stevenson had been studying since the mid-1860s, and Sinclair's Satan's Invisible World Discovered (1685), a copy of which he acquired in mid-June 1871 at Kirkcudbright. "The Story of Thrawn Janet" is listed among the stories planned by Stevenson in 1868–69 for "A Covenanting Story-Book."

The Merry Men. June–July 1881. MS. draft outline, Yale. Cornhill Magazine, 45 (June 1882), 676–95; and 46 (July 1882), 56–73; unsigned, The Merry Men and Other Tales and Fables (1887). Tusitala 8. Of the several "crawlers" which Stevenson wrote at Kinnaird Cottage, Pitlochry, during June and July 1881, this was the third begun. "Thrown Janet" was written and sent immediately to Leslie Stephen; "The Body Snatchers" begun but laid aside; and just before leaving for Braemar, 1 August 1881, Stevenson could list for Sidney Colvin the titles of six such stories, one written by his wife and two still "in germis," which he hoped might soon be collected (see Letters, 2, 163, 150–51). W. E. Henley read and highly approved of a draft of "The Merry Men" in July, but the story was apparently further revised at Davos during the winter of 1881–82 before Stevenson submitted it for publication.

The Body Snatcher. June–July 1881. MS., Yale. Pall Mall Christmas "Extra"—No. 13 (December 1884), pp. 3–12; signed R. Louis Stevenson. Tusitala 11. Although initially laid aside "in a justifiable disgust, the tale being horrid," a draft of this story was complete by 1 August 1881 (see Letters, 2, 163, 151). It was not published until 1884, however, when it was offered through Edmund Gosse to Charles Morley of the Pall Mall Gazette, Stevenson's "Markheim" having proved too short for the Christmas annual number. See Gosse's remarks introducing this story in the Pentland Edition, 3 (1906), 293–94; Letters, 3, 21–22, 27–28; and the letters reproduced in the Catalogue (1915) of the Widener Collection, Harvard University.

account of various events in Davos. Stevenson, the defendant, faints at the end.

The Travelling Companion. Begun August 1881, MS, destroyed by Stevenson. Unpublished. Although listed on 1 August 1881 in a letter to Sidney Colvin as "in germis," and twice listed among various published and unpublished stories in a notebook kept by Stevenson at Davos (Yale), it is unclear how much work was done on this story until it is again mentioned in Stevenson's correspondence in October and November 1883. At this time he calls it "an unpleasant tale," but he appears once more to have laid it aside. It is not mentioned again until June 1885, when he tells Colvin: "O! the Trav. Comp. won't do; I am back on it entirely: it is a foul, gross, bitter ugly daub ... a catrion tale!" (Letters, I, 95; see also Letters, 2, 163 and Beinecke Collection 3463). Apparently "The Travelling Companion" soon became "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," written in 1885 not long after Stevenson had returned to the former story, and as Stevenson writes in "A Chapter on Dreams" (1888; 30, 51–52) he eventually destroyed it.

Treasure Island. September–October 1881, MS. untraced except notebook entries of characters and scenes, Yale. "Treasure Island; or, The Mutiny of the Hispaniola. By Captain George North." Young Folks, 19–20, seventeen weekly installments, 1 October 1881–28 January 1882, Treasure Island (London: Cassell and Company, Limited, 1883); published 14 November 1883 in an edition of 2,000 copies. Stevenson received £100 initially, "a sight more than Treasure Island is worth" he told Henley shortly after negotiations had been completed in late April or early May 1883, and Cassell and Company continued paying royalties through 1944. (Stevenson received 12/6 per column, approximately £10 for the whole. For publication in Young Folks.) For publication in book form, Stevenson made hundreds of word changes, deletions, and revisions in the text, and he divided the novel into the six parts which it now has. As originally published it consisted of six chapters, titled "Prologue.—The Admiral Benbow," followed by the remaining twenty-eight chapters called "The Story." Tuisitala 3. Treasure Island was begun as an amusement for Stevenson's stepson Lloyd Osbourne. Stevenson began writing at Braemar in late August or, by his own account in "My First Book" (1894), "on a chill September morning," and he proceeded initially at the rate of a chapter a day, reading each as it was completed to his parents, wife, and especially his stepson Lloyd, in the afternoons. Fifteen chapters were thus completed and in September placed with James Henderson of Young Folks by Alexander Hay Japp, who had been invited to Braemar to discuss his criticisms of Stevenson's essay on Thoreau but left carrying the early manuscript pages. At this point Stevenson found his progress halted; proofs of the opening chapters were arriving as he tried to proceed with the novel at Weybridge in late September; but it seems unlikely that more than nineteen or twenty chapters were complete before he and his family returned to the Continent in October. The novel was
finally finished at Davos in late October or early November 1881, according to Stevenson's wife "intermittently" but according to Stevenson "in a second tide of delighted industry, and again at the rate of a chapter a day" as the early chapters were being published. "Had it not been appearing as a serial," Stevenson's wife remarked, "I doubt it would ever have been finished" (see Tusitala, 3, xxi, xxxi). The editor James Henderson suggested altering the title from "The Sea Cook" as originally submitted, to Treasure Island in correspondence with the name on Stevenson's map, and Stevenson readily agreed; see his remarks in J. A. Hammerton, ed., Stevensoniana (2nd ed., 1907), pp. 59–60.

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