

SECTION IX

LIFE: JULY - DECEMBER, 1892

In mid-July Elizabeth went to Bayreuth for the Wagner festival, and Sharp to Loch Goil in the Highlands. Upon his return, he preceded Elizabeth to the house at Rudgwick, which they christened Phenice Croft. By early August they were settled into the beautiful old stone house that would be their home for two years. Shortly after the move, *Flower o' the Vine* appeared in America, and Elizabeth's translation of Heinrich Heine's *Italian Sketches* was published in London.

In mid-August Sharp issued *The Pagan Review*, the first volume of a projected periodical which he edited under the pseudonym W. H. Brooks. Sharp was the sole contributor to this first and last issue, furnishing all of its pieces under various pseudonyms, among them Charles Verlayne, George Gascoigne, James Marzion, and W. S. Fanshawe. Written in a light-hearted spirit, *The Pagan Review* was dedicated to the new spirit of sexual liberation and literary cosmopolitanism. The issue seems to have been well-received by Sharp's friends and associates and a few unknown subscribers. Although he decided he could not continue the project beyond the first issue, he told himself that the one number had served its purpose. When he returned from the West Highlands to Phenice Croft at summer's end, he calmly resigned himself to the project's demise and, with solemn ceremony, buried a copy of *The Pagan Review* in the garden. To friends he expressed his hope for its resurrection at a later time as a quarterly. A framed inscription marked the spot of burial during the remainder of the Sharps' residence in Rudgwick.

In the fall, Elizabeth suffered a recurrence of what she called Roman fever, probably a form of malaria, she has contacted in Italy the previous winter. As she said, "It was deemed imperative that I should not spend the whole winter in England. But we had not the necessary funds. So instead of devoting himself to his dream-work, as he had hoped, my husband laid it temporarily aside and settled himself to write between October and Xmas two exciting boys' serial stories . . . and thus procured sufficient money to enable us to cross to North Africa" *Memoir*, 208). The two pot-boilers were "The Red Rider: A Romance of the Garibaldean Campaign in the Two Sicilies," which appeared serially in the fall of 1892 in the *Weekly Budget*, and "The Last of the Vikings," which appeared serially in 1893 in *Old and*

Young. Following their serial publication, both stories were published in book form by James Henderson and Sons, Ltd., *The Red Rider* in late 1892 and *The Last of the Vikings* in 1893. Although Elkin Mathews rejected the manuscript of *Vistas* (it would be published in 1894 by Frank Murray at the Moray Press in Derbyshire), the year was a successful one both for writings and publications. In addition to the children's romances and two books – *Flower o' the Vine* and *A Fellowe and His Wife* -- numerous poems and articles by Sharp appeared in *Good Words*, *Harper's*, *The Academy*, the *New York Independent*, and the *Atlantic Monthly*. The income from his articles and reviews and from the two stories enabled the Sharps to leave London by ship for the Mediterranean on January 7, 1893.

LETTERS: JULY - DECEMBER, 1892

To Maud Howe Elliott,¹ [July 8 or 9?, 1892²]

16 Winchester Road | Swiss Cottage | N.W.
Address after July 15th | Phenice Croft | Rudgwick | Sussex

Dear Mrs. Elliott

I received so much courtesy and friendliness when I was in New York and Boston (Cambridge) last winter, that — even apart from the exceptional pleasure of seeing you again — it would have given my wife and myself much pleasure if we could have seen you and your husband here. But at present we are only in apartments, having given up our house in town as we have been so much abroad during the last two years: and then, moreover we leave in a few days — my wife going over to Germany to see “Parsifal” etc. at Bayreuth, and I going into Sussex to superintend the arrival of our furniture etc. at a country place I have taken there.

I had just ventured to express to Mrs. Moulton³ how much pleasure it had given me to meet you, when my friend Charles Graham⁴ told me that he was to call on you some evening soon, and that you had kindly invited him to let me be his companion on the occasion.

I told him that next Wednesday was my first free night, and we agreed to go then, and to take our chance of finding you at home.

But I have just recollected hearing you say something to Mrs. Moulton about your going out of town next week: and though I think you specified Thursday, you may be going earlier, or you might not want to be interrupted on Wedny evening.

Otherwise, pray do not trouble to reply to this note, as I am sure you must be glad to lay aside the pen altogether for a while — a luxury which we writing people are seldom allowed to enjoy. I shall regard silence as equivalent to approval of Mr. Graham’s and my joint proposal.

¹Maud Howe Elliot (1854-1948), a daughter of Julia Ward Howe and Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, wrote fiction, art criticism, travel narratives, and biography. Her best work is *Julia Ward Howe 1819-1910*, published in 1915, for which she and her sisters, Laura E. Richards and Florence M. H. Hall with whom she collaborated, won the Pulitzer prize.

²Sharp’s reference to his trip to America in January 1892 and to settling into Phenice Croft establish the date of the letter as early July, 1892.

³Louise Chandler Moulton.

⁴[Identify.]

I did not realize till after we parted that you were Maud Howe the author of the “San Rosario Ranch” and “Atlanta in the South.”⁵ Forgive me if I have not remembered the names exactly, but it must be two years or more since I had the pleasure of reading them, during my first visit to America.

Believe me | Yours very truly | William Sharp

ALS Brown University

To J. Stanley Little, July 10, 1892

Sunday 10 July 92

My dear Little,

Thanks for your letters. I do not expect to get to Rudgwick till early on Friday morning, but if I can manage it will be down by the evening of Thursday. I'll take advantage of your hospitable kindness at the set-off: but I want to come to some arrangement with you.

Meantime will you please oblige me (1) by keeping in your charge any letters or books etc. that come for either of us.

(2) by going at your convenience to the Post-office and telling the Post-official that the quondam⁶ “Laurels” is now Phenice Croft. Further, you might inform the Station Master of the same, in the case of parcels or enquiries. We are giving as address simply ‘Phenice Croft, Rudgwick’, and omitting Bucks Green.

(3) Will you at the same time draw particular attention to the fact that all letters, packets etc., addressed to Mr. W. H. Brooks,⁷ Bucks Green, Rudgwick are to be delivered at Phenice Croft (or kept till called for by me). I enclose a note of authorisation if necessary. *Entre nous*, “W. H. Brooks” is an editorial pseudonym. For obvious reasons, I do not wish to give ‘Phenice Croft’ as Mr. Brooks’ address, but simply “Bucks Green, Rudgwick” or “Rudgwick”.

The best plan would be for me to have a post-bag: in which all letters for Mr. and Mrs. W.S. and Mr. W.H.B. could be put. I think I'd send a boy up in the forenoons.

More about this when we meet.

Elizabeth leaves here tomorrow: I on Wednesday: (for 72 Inverness Terrace W). I'll write or wire as soon as I know my definite movements.

And now about the Shelley address. For several reasons it would be a pleasure as

⁵*The San Rosario Ranch* (1884) and *Atlanta in the South: A Romance* (1886).

⁶ i.e., former

⁷ W. H. Brooks is the pseudonym Sharp adopted as editor of *The Pagan Review*. A periodical he planned to issue from his new home in Rudgwick. For the first and only number of this venture, he wrote all the pieces under different pseudonyms, as well as editing it pseudonymously.

well as an honour — but the truth is that I dare not venture just now on anything of the kind, for physiological reasons. My doctor has just warned me of this vein-trouble that I have not yet satisfactorily got under. The least thing may bring it back — and this must not be, as it might easily become dangerous (‘clotting’). One requisite is — not to stand. Walking does not now hurt me if in moderation: but even a short stand involves pain and discomfiture. And though I may be all right again by the end of the month I really must not risk the danger involved in the fatigue of standing to address.

What I can do, if no suitable person can be had, and if otherwise advisable, would be to write an address, for you or some one to read.

But I do think that special effort should be made to get some prominent Shelleyan. Of the names you suggest, I think much the best to be Stopford Brook.⁸

Thereafter, Dowden⁹:

Thereafter, I should say the Hon. Roden Noel¹⁰ rather than Garnett¹¹ or B. Forman.¹² Garnett is the better man for the purpose of course, but he is not a good speaker and has not the right manner: and B.F. is a Philistine of the Philistines in manner and address.

Thereafter I can think only of Prof. Nichol¹³ as a possibility: or, among young men, of Sir George Douglas.

Why not yourself?

Still, Garnett might do. His is sympathetic in his bad manner, and that is much. B. Forman is a jelly-fish.

The date is an unfortunate one for getting hold of people.

In great haste, | Ever affectly Yours, | William Sharp

ALS Princeton

⁸Stopford Augustus Brooke (1832-1916), an Anglo-Irish clergyman, essayist, critic, and biographer, was influenced by Ruskin. His works include: *Primer of English Literature* (1876), *Poems* (1888), *History of Early English Literature* (1894), and *Studies in Poetry* (1907).

⁹Edward Dowden (1843-1913), Irish essayist, critic, biographer, and poet, was a Professor at Trinity College, Dublin, from 1867 until his death in 1913. His works include *Shakespeare: A Critical Study of His Mind and Art* (1875), *Poems* (1876), *The Life of Percy Bysshe Shelley* (1886), *Introduction to Shakespeare* (1893), *Essays: Modern and Elizabethan* (1910), and *Poems* (1914). See note to Sharp’s letter to Dowden on May 22, 1882.

¹⁰Roden Berkeley Wriothesley Noel (1834-1894), son of Charles Noel, Lord Barham and Earl of Gainsborough, was a poet whose work reflected his leaning towards socialism, his concern with the oppressed, his love of nature, and his philosophical mysticism. His works include *Behind the Veil* (1863), *A Little Child’s Monument* (1881), *Essays Upon Poetry and Poets* (1886), *The People’s Christmas* (1890), and *Collected Poems* (1902).

¹¹Richard Garnett. See note to letter from Sharp to Garnett of early January, 1891.

¹²Henry Buxton Forman. [See note to earlier Sharp letter to Forman.]

¹³John Nichol (1833-1894), a Scottish poet and biographer, was Professor of English Language and Literature at Glasgow University from 1862 to 1889. During his brief period of study at Glasgow University, Sharp was deeply influenced by Nichol. Nichol’s works include *Fragments of Criticism* (1860), *Byron* (1880), *The Death of Themistocles and Other Poems* (1881), *Robert Burns* (1881), and *Carlyle* (1892).

To Edmund Clarence Stedman, August 13th, [1892]

Somewhere on Selsea Bill¹⁴ | Sussex Coast | 13th August

Continuation of letter of 10th¹⁵

Amico Mio,

I had to send off my letter so hurriedly by the last mail that I did not write so fully as I intended. As the August heat became trying we left our Phenice Croft and came off to the remotest part of the sea-coast in this region. I am rather apprehensive lest a remark near the end of my letter wd. be misread by you: for, of course, far from being resentful of your kind mention of me in *Victorian Poets*,¹⁶ I was and am grateful. Only, as I said, that unfortunate classification of me among the Australian poets has been taken ample advantage of by those who honour me by their enmity: to the end that I should always be ranked as a colorist, with all that pertains to such classification. Of course I am now so much better known that in a sense I need mind it no more — yet the very small worry dies hard. Only last week Gosse¹⁷ (who has known of me as a writer, for at least 10 years, and has written me voluntarily more than one flattering letter) protested to a friend that he knew next to nothing of me, and assured him (vide V.P.) that I was only one of many an insignificant band of Australian colonists.

All this is such a small matter that I am half ashamed to trouble you with it. Petty literary malice and jealousy are known to all lands — and I daresay you know Gosse's and others' reputation. Certainly now that the tide has turned I need not bother: and yet dear E.C.S., if in your power in any "definite edition" later on, please either transfer your kind mention of me to another part, or simply strike the passage out.

You will, I am confident, not misunderstand me? I put the small matter before you as a younger man before an elder, for his friendly consideration.

But pray do not dream of writing to me, directly or indirectly, on this point. As I say, I merely draw your attention to a small rectification.

I sincerely hope that the fierce heats you have been experiencing in America have not too severely tried Mrs. Stedman or yourself. Needless to say, I often think of you both, and

¹⁴Selsea Bill is a headland on the Selsea Peninsula, West Sussex.

¹⁵The letter of the 10th may not have survived

¹⁶*Victorian Poets*, revised, and extended by a supplementary chapter to the fiftieth year of the period under review (1887).

¹⁷Sir Edmund Gosse (1849-1928) was a poet, novelist, and literary commentator who wrote with special insight on Restoration comedy and Ibsenite drama. His works include *On Viol and Flute* (1873), *New Poems* (1879), *Firdausi in Exile* (1885), and *In Russet and Silver* (1894).

often wish to see you again.

I have sent to you by this post the first number of a new magazine of a new kind in this country—for which I am responsible: though this is sub rosa.¹⁸ The new movement in letters here is unlike any that has taken place in England before, in the Victorian Age at any rate: though indeed it is a movement that is at hand rather than really forward. “The Pagan Review” is to be the voice of this Neo-Paganism. A hint of our drift is given in my “Foreword,” and it will be more fully expressed in a paper on “The New Paganism” in the October number. I hope your volume on Poetics¹⁹ will have a special article there: for you, certainly, are of those who do not need to count years, but are young always. It would greatly interest me if you would tell me sometime — by a message thro’ Arthur, or your secretary, for I do not expect you to write — what you think of the “Pagan Review” and its contents and aims. I may add, again sub rosa, that I am responsible for a good deal more than the “Foreword”! It is entirely my venture, and though I naturally do not expect to make it pay (and it was not undertaken to this end) I hope its subscription-sale may pay actual expenses. A minimum of 500 copies monthly must be sold: otherwise the “Pagan Review” must join the congested Limbo of premature births. So if you know any one athirst for “Paganism” tell him, her, or them to subscribe (to “W. H. Brooks,” as per editorial note).

By the time you get this — no, a week later — I shall be in Scotland, I hope. My wife cannot go north this year. If all goes well — this ought to be one of the happiest experiences of a happy life.²⁰ I cannot be more explicit: but perhaps you will understand. But even to be in the Western Highlands alone is a joy.

Then I am going to reform, and work hard all winter. I rather doubt if we’ll get away to Greece after all: funds are villainously low for such exploits.

Don’t forget what I said in my last note about your autograph “Ariel” for the Shelley Library.

Ever, dear friend,

Admiringly and Affectionately Yours, | William Sharp

ALS Columbia

¹⁸*The Pagan Review* (see letter #104, notes #2 and 3).

¹⁹The eight papers Stedman published in *The Century Magazine* (see note to June 9, 1892 letter to Mrs. Stedman) were collected in a single volume titled *The Nature and Elements of Poetry* (1892).

²⁰The implication here is that Edith Rinder will be with him for at least part of his stay in the Highlands. The nature of Sharp’s relationship with Stedman was such that he could mention from time-to-time his relationship with Edith. Indeed, some letters imply that both men had mistresses who were known and at least tolerated by their wives.

To Bliss Carman, [August 13?, 1892]

Phenice Croft | Rudgwick | Sussex

My dear old fellow

I wonder where you are just now: anyway, not in New York I hope, where the heat must be intolerable. I am writing this on Selsea Bill, a lonely promontory on the southwest Sussex coast, where we have come for a few days from the above address, to escape the August heat. I hope you like your new post, though I was sorry to hear of your having left the *Independent*.

I sent to you by this post the first number of a new magazine²¹ for which I am directly responsible — though this as present is sub rosa. It appeals to a new sentiment that is arising. I shall be curious to know what you think of “The Pagan Review,” its contents and aims. Please write to me as fully as you can spare time: with any suggestions. And will you contribute later on, when the exchequer provides payment (if it ever does!) It is a pure labour of enthusiasm at present — and though I do not expect to make the venture pay (& it was never undertaken to this end) I hope it may repay its expenses — though to this result there must be a minimum subscription list of 500 copies. If you can help in any way, officially or privately, I frankly ask you to do what you can.

This and the next number will create a good deal of interest I expect. I may confide to you, again sub rosa, that I am responsible for a good deal more than the “Foreword” and editorial notes & Record! Indeed, you would probably recognise one piece at any rate, “The Black Madonna,” though I forget if this is one of the “Vistas” I read to you in New York. But remember that at present I do not wish “William Sharp” to be read into “W. S. Fanshawe”.

I shall be very curious to hear from you. By the way, I have posted two copies: one to you privately, and one for “Current Literature,” where I hope you may be able to do something to draw attention to it. And as I do not know the addresses, will you further oblige me by sending on the copies I send to your care to Edmund Collins²² and Mr. Bower²³

²¹*The Pagan Review* was published officially on August 15, 1892.

²²Joseph Edmund Collins (1855-92) was born Newfoundland, migrated to New Brunswick in 1875, and began to exercise a strong influence on Charles G.D. Roberts in 1880, when the two men were working in Chatham, Collins as the editor of a local newspaper (*The Star*) and Roberts as a teacher at the local Grammar School. Collins moved to Toronto in 1880 to take up an editorial position on *The Globe* and to New York in 1886 to become editor of a new periodical, *The Epoch*, where he continued to promote Roberts's poetry. He became a close friend of Bliss Carman's after he too moved to the city in 1890. By that time, Collins had left *The Epoch* and his life had begun to deteriorate. When writing this letter to Carman, Sharp did not know that Collins had died in a New York hospital on February 23, 1892. After his death, Collins was recognized as the literary father of Roberts, Carman, and their generation of young poets.

respectively — with request to do what they can.

What about your Poems? When is that longed for volume to come out? I have been reading a lot of your privately printed verse lately with renewed and even greater pleasure. I wonder how dear old Roberts²⁴ is. Think of me early in September (from August 30th) in the loveliest of the West Highlands — & in one of the happiest experiences of my life. I can't be more explicit — but you will understand! Thereafter I am going to reform — definitely.²⁵ Ever, dear Carman, Affectionately Your Friend & Comrade (& Fellow Pagan) | William Sharp

ALS Fales Library, New York University

*To Edward Dowden, early September, 1892*²⁶

Phenice Croft | Rudgwick | Sussex

My dear Dowden

Just a line of most cordial congratulation on your appointment as Clark Lecturer at Cambridge – a deserved honour for you and a reputable honour for the University.

Selfishly, too, I am glad: for the chances of meeting you in person are now enhanced.

Cordially Yours | William Sharp

ALS Trinity College Dublin

To Subscribers of The Pagan Review, [September 15, 1892]

On the 15th September, still-born *The Pagan Review*.

Regretted by none, save the affectionate parents and a few forlorn friends, *The Pagan Review* has returned to the void whence it came. The progenitors, more hopeful than reasonable, look for an unglorious but robust resurrection at some more fortunate date. “For

²³ [Identify]

²⁴ Charles G. D. Roberts was a Canadian poet and friend of Carman's. Sharp met both men during his visit to Canada and the United States in 1889.

²⁵ Here Sharp confides indirectly to Carman that he and Edith Rinder would be together in the Highlands after August 30th. As in his letter to Stedman, he follows this confidence by stating his intention to reform after the approaching interlude. These references imply that Sharp, in 1892, thought of Edith Rinder as a beautiful young woman with whom he was having a passionate, but passing affair in the spirit of true “Paganism.” Later their relationship became far more serious and permanently affected their lives.

²⁶ Edward Dowden (see note to Sharp's letter to Little of 10 July 1892) served as Clark Lecturer at Trinity College Cambridge from 1892 – 1896.

of such is the Kingdom of Paganism.”²⁷

W. H. Brooks.

Memoir 207

To Edmund Clarence Stedman, September 28, 1892

Phenice Croft | Rudgwick, | Sussex | 28th September 1892

My dear Poet,

I have just remembered that if I do not send you a birthday greeting today, there will be no chance of its reaching you by the 8th. It must, perforce, be a brief one — for not only am I overwhelmed in work just now (though the extreme and too severe pressure will be over in a day or two) but our sole day-post goes out immediately.

But it does not require many words to send you my love and homage, and to wish for you prosperity and happiness in the coming year. If affectionate goodwill and loyal friendship could secure for you all that makes life best worth living, you would be well “set up”. And I am so glad that towards the end of the year that has gone you have broken into such sweet and high song. It is a good augury. I am hopeful that we shall have much of “Stedman the poet” in your new year. You have had a brilliant and worthy career, and won a high name and place: but there are many who, as myself, believe that you have some “high utterance” to give us yet.

You have had a fortunate life, *amico mio*: and that is much: to me, I admit, the supreme thing. I would rather have lived, as I have done, intensely, and as you have done, than win any mere repute at the expense of the bitter-sweet of varied & keen life.

Well — all happiness and good be yours.

I thank you for your lovely & friendly letter. I feel there is a good leaven of truth, to say the least, in what you say about the “Pagan Review.” But set your mind at rest: the poor thing is dead. There is a possible resurrection for it next year as a quarterly but this is still in nubibus. It has, however, so far accomplished its aim of stimulus among the younger people, and that is good. I return herewith your subscription, with sincerest thanks. Have mislaid it. No time to hunt for it now. Hope to send it by next post.

By the way, keep your P/R. It is already being sought by collectors. I can send you another if you wish.

²⁷ EAS added in the *Memoir*: “And at the little cottage a solemn ceremony took place. The Review was buried in a corner of the garden, with ourselves, my sister-in-law Mary and Mr. Stanley Little as mourners; a framed inscription was put to mark the spot, and remained there until we left Rudgwick” (*Memoir 207*).

I am looking forward greatly to your book of Poetics²⁸: the essays ought to have a wide and deep effect.

My love to you and yours — with cordial greetings from my wife. I hope to write ere long and more fully (but with nothing calling for any reply — for you must conserve your energies) —

Now and always affectionately, | Your friend, | William Sharp
P.S. In the “Shelley Centenary” record — for “popular” distribution throughout the country — published today, with brief biographical notes on the leading signatories — you are entered thus: — “Ed- C- S- An American biographer, essayist, & poet of the highest distinction. Mr. Stedman’s poem ‘Ariel’ was conspicuously successful among the centenary odes in honour of Shelley.”

ALS Columbia

To Thomas A. Janvier, [October, 1892]

Rudgwick, Sussex.

Dear Mr. Janvier,

For though we are strangers in a sense I seem to know you well through our friend in common, Mr. William Sharp!

I write to let you know that *The Pagan Review* breathed its last a short time ago. Its end was singularly tranquil, but was not unexpected. Your friend Mr. Sharp consoles me by talking of a certain resurrection for what he rudely calls “this corruptible”: if so the P/R will speak a new and wiser tongue, appear in a worthier guise, and put on immortality as a Quarterly.

In the circumstances, I return, with sincerest thanks, the subscription you are so good as to send. Also the memorial card of our late lamented friend — I mean the P/R, not W.S. Talking of W.S., what an admirable fellow he is! I take the greatest possible interest in his career. I read your kind and generous estimate of him in *Flower o’ the Vine* with much pleasure — and though I cannot say that I hold quite so high a view of his poetic powers as you do, I may say that perusal of your remarks gave me as much pleasure as, I have good reason for knowing, they gave to him. He and I have been “delighting” over your admirable artistic and charming stories in Harper’s.²⁹ By the way, he’s settling down to a serious “tussle.” He has been “a bad boy” of late: but about a week previous to the death of *The*

²⁸ *The Nature and Elements of Poetry.*

²⁹ “The Passing of Thomas,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*, 85 (Aug. 1892), 439-454; and “The Efferati Family,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*, 85 (Oct. 1892), 763-780.

Pagan Review he definitively reformed — on Sept. 11th in the early forenoon, I believe. I hope earnestly he may be able to live on the straight henceforth: but I regret to say that I see signs of backsliding. Still, he may triumph; the spirit is (occasionally) willing. But, apart from this, he is now becoming jealous of such repute as he has won, and is going to deserve it, and the hopes of friends like yourself. Mrs. Brooks' love to Catherine³⁰ and yourself: Mine, Tommaso Mio,

You know you have . . . | W. H. Brooks.

P.S. Elizabeth A. Brooks was so pleased to receive your letter.

Memoir 204-5

To Robert Murray Gilchrist,³¹ October, 1892

Rudgwick, Sussex, 10:92

My dear Sir,

As it is almost certain that for unforeseen private reasons serial publication of *The Pagan Review* will be held over till sometime in 1893,³² I regret to have to return your MS. to you. I have read "The Noble Courtesan" with much interest. It has a quality of suggestiveness that is rare, and I hope that it will be included in the forthcoming volume to which you allude. . . . It seems to me that the story would be improved by less — or more hidden — emphasis on the mysterious aspect of the woman's nature. She is too much the "principle of Evil", the "modern Lilith." If you do not use it, I might be able — with some alterations of a minor kind — to use it in the P/R when next Spring it reappears — if such is its dubious fate.

Yours very truly, | W. H. Brooks

P.S. It is possible that you may surmise — or that a common friend may tell you — who the editor of the P/R is: if so, may I ask you to be reticent on the matter.

Memoir 206

To Richard Le Gallienne, October 7, 1892

Phenice Croft | Rudgwick | Sussex | 7th Oct: '92

Dear Mr. Le Gallienne,

³⁰Catherine Janvier

³¹Robert Murray Gilchrist (1868-1917) was a prolific writer of fiction and travel books and became a very close friend of Sharp. His works include *Frangipanni* (1893), *Willowbrake* (1898), *The Labyrinth* (1902), *Natives of Milton* (1902), *Beggar's Manor* (1902), *The Dukeries* (1910), *The Peak District* (1910), *Scarborough and Neighborhood* (1910), and *The Chase* (1921).

³²Only one issue was published.

I am at present from home — but expect to return tomorrow. As soon thereafter as practicable, I mean to write to you about your “English Poems,”³³ which I received today.

Meanwhile I send this brief word of acknowledgment — and to thank you heartily for the gift of your book: a large-paper copy, to boot!

You may be sure that it is welcome, and will be valued aright “For the sake of the song that is sung and the singer that sings the song”³⁴

Tonight, I am too busy to write more.

By a coincidence, I was on the point of writing to you today about your promised visit: but I found that both next week-end and that succeeding are impracticable.

But soon thereafter my wife and I hope that Mrs. Le Gallienne and yourself will come to us from a Friday till Monday. I’ll let you know possible dates a little later. We can promise you a pleasant country with innumerable walks — honey and cream and other country fare — books galore, and a writing-room if you wish it, and a hearty welcome.

Our cordial remembrances to you both,

Sincerely Yours, | William Sharp

ALS University of Texas at Austin

To J. Stanley Little, October 8, 1892

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex | Saty Night, Oct.8.92

My dear Stanley

We have just returned here.

On reconsideration I have decided not to take any initiative in the Poet Laureate abolishment scheme.³⁵ In any case, the idea is so much in nubibus at present that I wouldn’t refer to it as a movement already actually started but simply vaguely entertained. So go in for it yourself by all means if you wish — I thank you all the same for considering my possible wishes and determination in the matter. I am actually quite willing that you, instead of W.S., should take up the matter.

If there is any chance of your being here on Sunday we shall no doubt see you: but I shall send this on in case you do not come.

In haste, | Ever Affectly Yours, | William Sharp

ALS Princeton

³³Le Gallienne’s *English Poems* (London: Elkin Mathews & John Lane, [1892]). A privately printed edition of twenty-five copies was also printed in Edinburgh in the same year.

³⁴A reference to Philip Bourke Marston’s *For a Song’s Sake*.

³⁵Tennyson died on Thursday, October 6, 1892. Little had attempted to enlist Sharp in an effort to abolish the Poet Laureateship now that it was vacant.

To J. Stanley Little, October 9, 1892

Sunday Morning | Oct-9-92

Dear Stanley

You will, I know, be very sorry to hear of Woolner's sudden death on Friday night.³⁶
It is strange, coming so abruptly on Tennyson's.

I add this to say — let the Biography affair stand over till you return.

My pen is driven too hard at the moment for aught that can be avoided.

Ever yrs. | W.S.

ALS University of British Columbia

To Alfred Austin, [October 14?, 1892]

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex.

My dear Austin

It was with quick pleasure that I saw you at Westminster Abbey on Wednesday, and noticed, too, how well you were looking.³⁷

It seems a very long time since we met; but what with my absences abroad and in America, and my ever busy life here my opportunities have after all been very few. Still, I should have made a more direct effort to see you.

We have taken a small house in a remote part of Sussex — at first as much with the idea of its being a good pied-à-terre as of its becoming a permanent residence — the rent does not come to much more than what we had to pay for storage etc.: and we thought, too, it would be easier for us financially than to be in London — which I find to be a delusion.

Still, it is quieter: and for some things we deem it more fortunate — though it remains to be seen how the climate will suit my wife — at present, I fear, it does not.

You will, I know, be glad to hear of the success of my novel, à deux, “A Fellowe and His Wife”, and of the literary success of my long delayed “Severn Memoirs.”³⁸

As for yourself, you are I hope not only well but doing that which is so dear to you, “making a sweet song out of the things that be.”

I, in common with everyone, wonder how the Laureateship is to be settled.³⁹ If you, as many think, are to be the heritor, the laurel will go to one who will sustain the high honour

³⁶Thomas Woolner (1825-1892) was a sculptor and poet, a friend of Rossetti, and one of the original Pre-Raphaelite brethren. Sharp's comment refers to Woolner having made two busts of Tennyson.

³⁷Sharp saw Austin at Tennyson's funeral on October 12.

³⁸*The Life and Letters of Joseph Severn* (1892).

³⁹Austin became poet laureate in 1895.

with dignity and beauty.

If Mrs. Austin remembers me, pray give her my best regards.

My wife is from home today, or would join with me in remembrances to you both.

Always Cordially Yours | William Sharp

P.S. Is there any chance of your being in London between the 22nd and 28th?

ALS Yale

To R. Murray Gilchrist, October 22, 1892

Phenice Croft, Rudgwick, | 22:10:92

Dear Mr. Gilchrist,

Although I do not wish the matter to go further I do not mind so sympathetic and kindly a critic knowing that “W.S.” and “W. H. Brooks” are synonymous.

I read with pleasure your very friendly and cordial article in *The Library*. By the way, it may interest you to know that the “Rape of the Sabines” and — well, I’ll not say what else! — is also by W. H. Brooks. But this, no outsider knows. . . . *The Pagan Review* will be revived next year, but probably as a Quarterly: and I look to you as one of the younger men of notable talent to give a helping hand with your pen.

I suppose you come to London occasionally. I hope when you are next south, you will come and give me the pleasure of your personal acquaintance. I can offer you a lovely country, country fare, a bed, and a cordial welcome.

Yours sincerely, | William Sharp.

Memoir 206-7

To Edmund Clarence Stedman, October 28, 1892⁴⁰

Phenice Croft | Rudgwick | Sussex

Just a hurried line, amico mio, to say that all other addresses may be cancelled for the above, which is my “permanent” one. Either that or 72 Inverness Terrace, Bayswater, London. (if you don’t remember the first) will always find me.

William Sharp

ACS Columbia University Library

To Alfred H. Miles, October 31, 1892

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex. | 31:Oct:92

My dear Sir

I have just received and glanced through with great interest the latest two additions to

⁴⁰ Date from postmark.

your admirable series.⁴¹

It has occurred to me that you might care to have the notice of Philip Marston from myself — partly for the obvious reason of our intimacy, partly because I could give some interesting particulars (unknown to anyone else) concerning the posthumous fame he has further achieved. I am glad to know that I have been instrumental in doing such service to that well-loved friend by my critical selection of his best poems in my *Canterbury* volume.

I have written to Messrs. Hutchinson & Co. with a proposal — but on second thoughts do not send it till I have first communicated with you, lest I should be encroaching on what you may regard as your own province. I enclose the letter for you to see: if you consider it beyond your scope, and a matter only for Messrs. Hutchinson's decision, will you kindly forward it to them — or to me, as may be most convenient.

Yours very truly | William Sharp

Alfred H. Miles Esq

ALS University of British Columbia

To J. Stanley Little, [November, 1892]

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex. | Monday

My dear Stanley,

I have no time to answer your letter in detail. It must suffice at present to say that the idea you have a black mark against you at the *Athenaeum* office is, to put it plainly, sheer nonsense. As for Watts⁴² himself, he quite understands — & you need not have a moments thought further on that score.

I do not see that there is the slightest call for you to alter towards your friend. He is no doubt an excellent fellow — though personally I am prejudiced enough not to wish a further acquaintanceship.

I shall leave here tomorrow afternoon and be back by Thursday evening. At the end of the week I suppose you will be back: there are one or two things then I want to talk over with you.

I trust you will find Bosham⁴³ as entertaining as other parts of the Selsea Peninsula.

We are both enjoying the rheumatic damp of happy Budgwick.

⁴¹ *Poets and Poetry of the Century*

⁴²Theodore Watts, later Theodore Watts-Dunton, was on the staff of the *Athenaeum*. The identity of Little's friend who he thinks might have got him in trouble at the *Athenaeum* and with whom Sharp wished no further acquaintance is unknown to me.

⁴³A village in West Sussex.

A rividerla, Camerado egregio, | W.S.

ALS Princeton

To Theodore Watts [-Dunton], [November ?14, 1892]

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex.

. . . of you:⁴⁴ & who have persistently pooh-poohed your good & gracious service to him. For them, naturally, there is “proof” here that Scott⁴⁵ was almost the only true “nurse” & friend,— & that D.G.R. simply made use of you. As to the lies current that you, and others including myself, assisted rather than deplored D.G.R.’s chloral habit, & made out that he was much worse than he was, will gain some colour by the implication in the second allusion to yourself.

I think you know how I love and reverence Gabriel Rossetti’s memory. I am not blind, of course, & I know his faults & weaknesses — but he was a great genius, & as man he won my love, & shall have it till I die. I have glanced thro’ the D.G.R. passages since I wrote to you last, & with deepest pain.

That insultingly cruel epithet to Ruskin suits much of the book only too well. I am amazed Minto⁴⁶ should let pass uncorrected (if he could not suppress, as he ought to have done) so much that ought not to have seen the light.

I feel the outrage of the remarks about Swinburne — one of the greatest poets of our century. The more one knows & rereads his work, & critically & comparatively, the more one admires it & his high attitude throughout. He was my idol in old days, & now again I realise how great a poet he is. And just as the public mind is slowly veering towards that high acceptance of him which is his due — out comes this foolish & spiteful nonsense, which will spread abroad to his detriment! Well, W.B.S. can’t hurt A. C. Swinburne, nor a thousand W.B.S.’s.

My article⁴⁷ — which I must make a long one — will be out on Friday week: that is

⁴⁴ The first and last portions of this letter are missing.

⁴⁵ William Bell Scott (1811-1890) was a Scottish poet and painter. The publication of his posthumous memoirs, *Autobiographical Notes of the Life of William Bell Scott*, in 1892 created a sensation because of his comments on leading writers and artists of his time.

⁴⁶ William Minto (1845-1893), a Scottish critic and novelist, edited the *Autobiographical Notes of the Life of William Bell Scot*. Edmund Gosse and Theodore Watts [-Dunton] were among his protégés. His works include *A Manual of English Prose Literature* (1872), *Daniel Defoe* (1879), *The Crack of Doom* (1886), and *Was She Good or Bad?* (1889).

⁴⁷ Sharp’s review of *Autobiographical Notes of the Life of William Bell Scot* was printed in *The Academy*, 42 (Dec. 3, 1892), 499-500.

the Friday after next.

I will send it to you on Thursday night, if, as I hope I may, I cannot call that . . .⁴⁸

P.S. I enclose a notice on Maeterlinck⁴⁹ which I think one of my best critical articles. It was widely noted in Belgium, France, & America — & indeed here. Please let me have it again.

ALS Brotherton Library, University of Leeds

To J. Stanley Little, [November ?15, 1892]

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex. | Tuesday Night

My dear Stanley

I left via Guildford but not feeling up to the mark, & thinking that E. was feeling very dull owing to the infernal weather, I came back. I'll leave tomorrow at 8:14 & be back probably on Thursday. I shall probably be here on Saty night and Sunday — but it is possible I may be at George Meredith's. If you are here on Friday please look in. Almost certain to be here from Friday onwards — I want to tell you about our “final revised plans” for Jany-Feby: and to see how far you can adapt your plans to suit. We shall leave London on the 2nd Jany. The more I think of it, the more I am sure you shd. have a change too — even if only for a few weeks. You ought to do it every way. Let us talk it over on Friday. I find they must be on a more moderate financial scale, and not so far afield — so Italy now takes the place of Greece etc.

Take care of yourself, my dear fellow, in this cursëd damp. Put me in mind, and I'll give you some Rossetti memoranda for the Selsea paper⁵⁰ — i.e. if, as I suppose you will, you intend to include Bognor.⁵¹ Do not eat too many Selsea lobsters — stand neither yourself nor others too many gins and bitters — smoke not at all — avoid the siren that bewitcheth — and come back whole and flourishing to Kensettian and Phenice-Croftian Budgwick.

Ever yours, | Will S.

Your letter came just as I'm leaving. There's nothing come between us, you silly but dear

⁴⁸ The following page or pages are missing. The one-page postscript that follows in the text appears because of the handwriting to have been attached to this letter.

⁴⁹ Sharp published an article on Maeterlinck in the *Academy* of March, 1892.

⁵⁰ Probably the *West Sussex Gazette*, which published Little's *The Wealden Painters at the Summer Exhibitions*. Little was planning another article on Rossetti.

⁵¹ Bognor is a locality in West Sussex where D. G. Rossetti leased Aldwick Lodge in 1875. He lived there from October, 1875, to July, 1876.

old chap. As for K.G. M's⁵² sin it's not heinous! It is only that it discredits, for me, his testimony in other matters. It wd be absurd to make too much of a little 'gas' otherwise. Be assured I think no more of the matter.

ALS Princeton

To Theodore Watts-Dunton, [November 18, 1892]

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex. | Friday

My dear Watts

I find that the late brève I had calculated on is off for the winter season — so you cannot receive MS.⁵³ till sometime tomorrow forenoon.

It is just possible I may bring it in person.

I simply cannot do this review. I must start afresh. About 9 o'clock I'll sit down to it & write all night if necessary. If at all possible, let me have it again as arranged. If not, I daresay Cotton⁵⁴ will manage if he receives it from me first thing on Tuesday morning: for if you don't post before 5 I can't receive on Sunday. Now that I have finished the book & gone carefully into it, I not only more than ever regret Swinburne's article, but think we have all underestimated the good in the book. There is a great deal of interesting matter, particularly in the letters introduced: and I do not see how the book is to be killed, or that it should be killed. Frankly, the book has far more chance of life than Hake's,⁵⁵ far more genial & generous as the latter is. Once pruned of its misstatements and otherwise carefully revised, it would be extremely entertaining and to future students of the period profoundly interesting & even valuable.

One must be fair all round. It is a damnably difficult thing to do in this instance: but I'll have one more shot any way!

In haste | Sincerely Yours | William Sharp

ALS British Museum

⁵²[Identify.]

⁵³Swinburne had attacked *Autobiographical Notes of the Life of William Bell Scot* for its inaccurate and unfair treatment of his and Watts-Dunton's relations with Rossetti in his later years. Sharp is giving Watts-Dunton, and perhaps through him Swinburne, a chance to review the manuscript of his review of the book and note inaccuracies or suggest additions before he submits it to *The Academy*.

⁵⁴James Cotton, editor of *The Academy*.

⁵⁵Thomas Gordon Hake (1809-1895) was a physician, a poet, and a friend of Rossetti. Sharp refers to Hake's *Memoir of Eighty Years* which was published by Bentley in 1892.

To Kineton Parkes,⁵⁶ November 18, 1892

Phenice Croft, Rudgwick, Sussex

Dear Mr. Kineton Parkes,

I am constrained to break my rule of never writing except on payment, and payment at my own terms, in order to review a remarkable book which I understand will not be sent out to the press in this country, or, at most, not to more than three leading weeklies: although, I expect, it will have a large sale.

I allude to E. C. Stedman's "The Nature and Elements of Poetry." It is a revised reprint of the much noted essays on Imagination, Truth, Beauty, Melancholia, etc. which have been appearing in *The Century*.

I fear that I am too busy to promise the article in time for your December issue -- particularly as it may be a somewhat long one.

But, if you would care for it, let me know what is your last sending-in day.

I hope the *Literary Review* is going well. It deserves to succeed.

With kind regards | Yours very truly | William Sharp

ALS Private.

To Kineton Parkes, November 19, 1892

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex

Dear Mr. Kineton Parkes,

Since I wrote to you I find that it will be impossible for me to write a really adequate review of Stedman's "Nature & Elements of Poetry" at present -- as I do not care to "notice" the book merely, and to do anything more involves closer thought and work than I can afford to add to my other engagements.

But, instead, if you like, I will send you an article on W. Bell Scott's fascinating "Reminiscences" (2 vols. Osgood & co., 36f) -- with its wealth of addenda concerning the poet-painters and painter-poets of that group.

⁵⁶ W. Kineton Parkes (1865-1938, novelist and art critic, was on the staff of the Nicholson Institute at Leek. An expert on the silk industry of Leek, he and his wife were heavily involved in the social and artistic life of the town. From November 1888 to October 1889, he edited *Comus*, and in 1893-4 the *Literary Review*. Parkes's works include *Shelley's Faith: Its Development and Relativity* (1888), *The Pre-Raphaelite Movement* (1889), *The Painter Poets*, ed. for the Canterbury Poets Series (1890) (Sharp was the general editor of this series), *Love a la Mode: A Study in Episodes* (1907), *Potiphar's Wife* (1908), *The Altar of Moloch* (1911), *The Money Hunt: A Comedy of Country Houses* (1914), *Hardware* (1914), and, most significantly, *The Art of Carved Sculpture* (1931).

In haste | With best wishes | Sincerely yours | William Sharp

ALS UWM Library

To Theodore Watts [-Dunton], [November 19, 1892]

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex. | Saturday.

My dear Watts,

I send the Article, as written up to the point where I turn to indicate what is “worthy and of good report” in Scott’s *Memoirs*. Rectify me if necessary anywhere.

What a much more charming book, in spirit, Hake’s is: but it has not the same inherent interest. W. B. S. certainly gives some memorable pictures, and not a few noteworthy data.

If you can manage to post it tonight — before 12 — I will receive MS. again first thing on Monday morning. Sunday, I fear, would run me too close — as the second post does not come till too late for me, as I am going to G. M.⁵⁷ then, as I could not manage it last Thursday.

In haste | (hoping your cold is better) | Yours ever, | William Sharp.

P.S. It has been an infernally difficult review to write. I began, after a third trial, in this more moderate & advisable fashion. I found I could not omit mention of Minto, but have done so pleasantly. Please do not cut out or alter in any way my MS. but jot any suggestions in pencil on a separate slip.

W.S.

ALS Brotherton Library, University of Leeds

*To Edmund Clarence Stedman, November 19, 1892*⁵⁸

Phenice Croft | Rudgwick | Sussex

Just a line of acknowledgment (with sincerest thanks) of books.

I will read the book⁵⁹ carefully before I write, which will be in about a week I expect.

William Sharp

ACS Columbia University Library

⁵⁷ George Meredith.

⁵⁸ Date from postmark.

⁵⁹ Stedman’s *The Nature and Elements of Poetry* (1892).

To the Editor of Blackwood's Magazine, November 28, 1892

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex. | 28 Nov:92

Dear Sir

In reply to your note I hope to be able to submit the Scott etc. Reminiscences article to you by the end of the week at latest: possibly by Wedny or Thursday.

Yours faithfully | William Sharp

The Editor of "Blackwood's Magazine"

ALS NLS

To Arthur Stedman, November 29, 1892

Phenice Croft | Rudgwick | Sussex | 29th Nov:92

My dear Arthur,

Thanks for your note. My wife has already obtained "How to Judge a Picture etc." otherwise: but she would like to have the "Principles".⁶⁰ In the unlikely event of there being any cash to the good will you kindly send her a box of Stubb's long-pointed medium J pens. She cannot get them here, and likes them better than any other. Failing these, there is a maker Esterbrook or some such name, of whose somewhat similar pens I got some in New York.

Please note that until next March our best letter address will be 72 Inverness Terrace, Bayswater, London. On 1st January we leave for two months in Capri and Sicily. Work and financial reasons make it advisable that we do not go abroad this year, but on the other hand we both long terribly for the south, and my wife's health makes it almost imperative that we go.

Is there any good in my looking forward to anything in the way of cash from *Flower o' the Vine*: and if so is there any chance of its being remitted soon? If so, please let the draft be crossed "Union Bank of London, Regent St. Branch, a/c William Sharp." I have had painful experiences in losing cheques.

I must postpone a proper letter for a little while yet. I am in the midst of a great mass of work — and for a fortnight or more will have little "breathing-space." Please tell E.C.S.⁶¹ that I am daily reading a little of his winsome and altogether delightful book on Poetry, and, hope to write to him ere long.

Just finished reviewing for the *Academy* the book of the season in literary circles here

⁶⁰John Van Dyke, *How to Judge of a Picture and Principles of Art: Part I: Art in History; Part II: Art in Theory*.

⁶¹Edmund Clarence Stedman, *The Nature and Elements of Poetry* (1892).

— the late Wm. Bell Scott’s Autobiography. It is full of misstatements and ill-intentioned half-statements but yet by virtue of its letters etc. is a fascinating book. Swinburne is going to slate it unmercifully (and very foolishly) in the December *Fortnightly*⁶². I was dining at his house in Putney the other day: he was very excited over “The Monster”⁶³ to whom he has paid so many affectionate tributes in verse!

Most cordial regards, Arturo Mio, | Yours ever, | W.S.

ALS Columbia

To the Editor of Blackwood’s Magazine, December 5, 1892

Phenice Croft | Rudgwick | Sussex | 5/12/92

Dear Sir,

I find, after all, that it is impracticable for me to send the Scott etc. Remiscences paper to you in time for your January number. My wife’s health involves my going abroad with her soon after Christmas, and the pressure of commissioned articles and other literary work is too great to enable me to undertake an article on chance of acceptance, even for a later number than your next.

If you should wish the article, I think I could do it soon after the 20th inst — from that to the 26th. It would be on different lines (anecdotal, and illustrative of the “P.R.B.”⁶⁴ period) than that taken up in my long review of W. B. Scott’s memoirs in the current number of *The Academy*.

In any case I can do no more than promise to write it if I possibly can — but possibly you may now prefer that the matter be dropped.

In haste | Yours very brief | William Sharp

The Editor, “*Blackwood’s Magazine*”

ALS NLS

To Theodore Watts [-Dunton], [December 7, 1892]

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick | Sussex.

My dear Watts

Thanks for your generous appreciation, though I’m bound to say I don’t see anything particular in the review, except tact — for it was infernally difficult to be just to what is good in the book and yet to blow the counterblast. From what I hear, it has been a good deal noted

⁶² A. C. Swinburne, “The New Terror,” *The Fortnightly Review*, 52 (Dec. 1, 1892), 830-833.

⁶³ William Bell Scott.

⁶⁴ Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood

in the very quarters I wanted it to be — namely among those who bear neither you nor me any good will: and it is admitted that my frank outspokenness knocks the ground from under “Scotts’s” feet as regards D.G.R.,⁶⁵ your relations to him and so forth. Old W.B.S.’s⁶⁶ book proved quite a windfall to some small fry who, from combined envy and malice, delight in detraction. As I know that there are one or two among them who “do the literary stuff” for certain American papers, and who will hold up W.B.S. as a trustworthy authority to show how poor a fellow D.G.R. was, how deserted by his worthiest friends, and how you were only “a minor newcomer”, & so forth, I’ll go out of my way — for I am not given to ‘nobbling’ in any form — to have my article reproduced in America in one or two influential places. As you probably know, there have been some most ungenerous things written about you in America, but in one or two cases I know them to have gone thence from London. Some individual has gone out of his way to send me the “*Republican*” with some silly nonsense about you and your *Athenaeum* work. But I allude to this — not in the spirit of the too kind friend who “thinks you would like to know, you know”— only to show that I do not speak at random.

I was to have written a more detailed article on “Recent Reminiscences” for Blackwood’s — but two days ago I sent word to “beg off”. I am so busy, and have so much more urgent & remunerative work to do before we go abroad.⁶⁷ Still, if I can manage it I may even yet do it for B.’s or elsewhere. The only chance with a book like this is to deal with it promptly: otherwise the harm is done, and it takes years for the much adulterated decoction to clarify.

Herewith I return the A.C.S. paper,⁶⁸ and, as you wish it, your own letter. I was, however, going to destroy the latter, for obvious reasons.⁶⁹

ALS Brotherton Library, University of Leeds

*To W. Kineton Parkes, December 7, 1892*⁷⁰

Phenice Croft | Rudgwick | Sussex

Dear Mr. Kineton Parkes

⁶⁵Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

⁶⁶William Bell Scott.

⁶⁷The Sharps left for Sicily via Florence on January 2, 1893, and from there went on to North Africa.

⁶⁸ Perhaps Watts had sent a copy of the manuscript or proof of Swinburne’s article on the William Bell Scott book (“The New Terror,” *The Fortnightly Review*, 52 (Dec. 1, 1892), 830-833) for Sharp to read while writing his review of the Bell Scott book for *The Academy*.

⁶⁹ The manuscript letter ends here.

⁷⁰ This is an autograph letter card postmarked December 7, 1892 from Horsham and addressed to Kineton Parkes Esq, The Library, Nicholson Institute, *Leek*, Staffs.

Thro' not having heard from you I concluded that either you did not care abt the Scott article or were in no hurry for it. It is now too late for me to undertake it, as I am overwhelmed with commissioned work that must be done before I go abroad abt Xmastide. Blackwoods suggested my sending an article on the subject, but I have had to write & "beg off," as it is impossible to do it for my [sic] Jany number. I'll send you a line later on, àpropos.

In haste, | Sincerely yours | William Sharp

ALS, UWM Library

To J. Stanley Little, [December 8, 1892]

Thursday Night

My dear Stanley

We leave on the 2nd, for Sicily and North Africa. This, from what you tell me, will be beyond your means I know, but why not come with us as far as Florence? We go straight there via Switzerland and the St. Gottherd Pass, stopping one night on the way (Milan): and shall be there a few days. We could give you introductions to friends in Florence, & also in Rome, if you went on there. I think you cd. manage this trip, with say 3 weeks stay abroad, for an inclusive sum of £30. I think you ought to try it — for your art-work's sake as well as for health, & the impulse it wd. probably give you everywhere.

Our trip, alas, requires £50 planted down *before* we leave London!

Please let me know if you think you will come.

I suppose you are having a pleasant time at Bosham?

My Scott article⁷¹ seems to have attracted a great deal of attention. On the other hand, I hear that Minto is going to take up the cudgels.

I had a very pleasant visit to G.M.⁷² the other day.

Elizabeth is a good deal better, partly from slacking off a bit in work, I think.

When are we going to see you again? Can you dine with us on Saturday? Next week I shall be away Tuesday, Wedny, & Thursday.

Love from us both

Yours ever | William Sharp

ALS Princeton

⁷¹ Sharp's review of William Bell Scott's autobiography in the December *Academy*.

⁷² George Meredith.

To Messrs. Williams & Norgate, December 10, 1892⁷³

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex

Dear Sirs

Baron Tauchnitz writes to me that he will forward me 4 copies of my joint-novel “*A Fellowe & His Wife*” on my authorization to the Customs.⁷⁴ Will this note suffice?

Yours very truly | William Sharp

Messrs. Williams & Norgate

ALCS, UWM Library

To Elkin Mathews,⁷⁵ December 11, 1892⁷⁶

Phenice Croft | Rudgwick

Dear Sir,

Thanks — “Vistas” is safely to hand. I am sorry you did not find it in your particular way.

With kind regards, | Yours very truly, | William Sharp

Elkin Mathews Esq.

ACS Princeton

To J. Stanley Little, December 11, 1892⁷⁷

December

My dear Boy

If you should be coming back by tomorrow at any rate look in and see Elizabeth, as she will be alone and rather dull I fear. We are both missing you very much.

In haste, | Affectly Yours | Will

ACS Princeton

To J. Stanley Little, [December 13?, 1892]

Grosvenor Club

Dear S.

I got your letter this morning just as I left. Do you mean that Robinson⁷⁸ is to be with

⁷³ Address on lettercard: 14 Henrietta Street | Covent Garden W.C. | London. Date from postmark on card.

⁷⁴ This novel was written jointly by Sharp and Blanche Willis Howard and published in London and New York in 1892. It was also issued that year in Germany in the Tauchnitz Collection of British Authors, vol 2813.

⁷⁵ Elkin Mathews (b. 1851), a publisher and bookseller, founded The Bodley Head Publishing Co. in 1887 with John Lane. The partnership was dissolved in 1894.

⁷⁶ Date from postmark.

⁷⁷ Date from postmark.

⁷⁸ [Identify]

you Saty-Sunday at Rudgwick? If so I hope to see him.

My dear fellow, I look upon a radical change as *imperative* for you. Art-work alone would repay you. Do all you can to come to Florence. The keen sweet air there, the lovely place, the congenial surroundings, etc. will work like a charm. You can easily do it for £30, going and coming and stay there for say 3 weeks. Beg, borrow, or steal the money!

No time to write abt the excellent W.S.G.⁷⁹ notice.

Yours ever | W.S.

E. is in town, and I understand is going to write you also.

ALS Princeton

*To Edmund Clarence Stedman, December 14, 1892*⁸⁰

So overwhelmed with work and things to see to that I must write to you from Sicily, a fortnight or so hence (i.e. after your receipt of this). We go there to lie in the sunshine and dream dreams, for Jany & Feby.

I take your book with me: and when at Taormina or Syracuse shall write the article upon it for the *Academy*,⁸¹ as by arrangement just made with the editor. Even if I wrote it sooner he could not use it for several weeks, owing to press of matter.

Letter-address till middle of March | C/o Frank Rinder Esq | 32 Goldhurst Terrace | So. Hampstead | London | N. W.

Ever Yours, with best Xmas greetings & affectionate remembrances to you & yours,

William Sharp

ACS Columbia

To J. Stanley Little, [December 17, 1892]

Phenice Croft, | Rudgwick, | Sussex. | Saty.

My dear Stanley

Are you trying for the post of 'oldest inhabitant' of Bosham? When are we to see you again? In your last note you said to me you would be home early in the week. I came down from town yesterday, as much to see you as for any other reason, for E. had work in London, & I have to go up for today.

Will you be here during the coming week? E. will be here till Wednesday inclusive, and I till Friday night or possibly Saty morning.

⁷⁹ Little wrote articles for *West Sussex Gazette*. This may be the piece he was writing on Rossetti.

⁸⁰ Date from postmark.

⁸¹ Sharp is taking Stedman's *Nature and Elements of Poetry* with him to Sicily. He has arranged with Joseph Cotton, Editor of the *Academy* to review the book there. Sharp may have written and published a review of Stedman's book, but I have not located it.

If we don't meet this week I'm afraid we can't see you till the Spring. Every afternoon & evening during our short stay in London I at any rate am pre-engaged.

As it is at once considerably less expensively, & more restorative for E., we are now going to the Mediterranean by sea. Is your coming also really out of the question? You ought to make every effort.

In haste | Ever yrs. Affectionately | William Sharp

ALS Princeton

To Edward Dowden, [December 20?, 1892]

72 Inverness Terrace | Bayswater | London | W.⁸²

My dear Dowden

Except on the printed page I don't often hear of or from you now – but now as ever I look for all manner of 'high things' from you.

Is there any chance of your being in London between the 28th inst and Jany 6th? I wish there were. On the 7th my wife and I go away again for a time.⁸³ We are born wanderers, and I in particular have fared far and wide within the last 12 years. We work like slaves for a time, & then go off rejoicingly. This time we are set upon seeing what is left of ancient Carthage and of sojourning at Tunis and Tripoli and elsewhere along Moorish Africa -- & then to Sicily (the Greek past).

Will you accept from me with my most cordial good wishes for Xmas and 1893 the accompanying vol. An American firm recently volunteered to bring out an Amer. Edn. of my two last vols of verse in one vol. So I revised & added to them naturally, gave the double vol a new name, *Flower o' the Vine*: and they added a photograph, which I don't think much of (must have been borrowed, for they never got it from me) & a memoir-introduction by Thos, Janvier – the ablest of the new men oversea. The book I am glad to hear has gone (to me) surprisingly well.

You like ourselves are always busy – so I need not say anything about work.

Cordially yours | William Sharp

ALS Trinity College Dublin

⁸² The Phenice Croft address on the stationery is crossed through and "Permanent address after March" is written next to it. The Sharps would be away from England until March, and they would use the address of EAS's mother to receive mail while away.

⁸³ The Sharps originally planned to travel overland via the Goherd Pass, Milan, and Florence, leaving on

To Arthur Stedman, [December 23, 1892]

Many thanks for letter.

By the time this reaches you I shall be at the village of Sidi-Boda-Said (ancient Carthage) or at any rate in the Tunis part of North Africa.

The only book I take with me is "Nature and Elements of Poetry" which please tell E.C.S. I shall review there for "The Academy."

Please note that my letter address till after mid-March is | C/o Frank Rinder Esq | 32 Goldhurst Terrace | So. Hampstead | N.W. | which I dare say I have already told you. Shall write to you from Africa or Sicily.

All happiness be yours in 1893.

W.S.

I have cause for nothing but gratitude for everything to do with "Flower o' The Vine."

ACS Columbia

January 2nd. Their decision to travel by ship delayed their departure until the 7th.