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Pre-Raphaelite Books and Illustrations in Library Exhibition at National Gallery of Art, Washington February 17–August 4, 2013



William Morris, 1834-1896, *The Well at the World's End*, Hammersmith: Kelmscott Press, 1896, Mark Samuels Lasner Collection, on loan to the University of Delaware Library

Washington, DC—Artists of the Pre-Raphaelite circle were deeply engaged with integrating word and image throughout their careers. ***Pre-Raphaelites and the Book*** showcases 35 volumes and illustrations from the Gallery's Library and the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection, on loan to the University of Delaware, from poetry by Dante Gabriel Rossetti and William Morris to wood engravings and material related to the Kelmscott Press. On view from February 17 through August 4 in Gallery G-21 on the Ground Floor of the West Building, the installation has been organized to complement ***Pre-Raphaelites: Victorian Art and Design, 1848–1900***.

The Pre-Raphaelites involved themselves not only in book design and illustration, but were also highly regarded poets in their own right. John Everett Millais and Edward Burne-Jones were sought-after magazine and book illustrators, while Rossetti devoted himself equally to poetry and the visual arts.

In 1891, after years of publishing his works elsewhere, Morris founded the Kelmscott Press to print books "with the hope of producing some which would have a definite claim to beauty." He designed all aspects of the books—from typefaces and ornamental elements to layouts, where he incorporated wood-engraved illustrations contributed by Burne-Jones. Beautifully illustrated books from this press are displayed alongside Morris' elaborate ornament designs and his own manuscript illumination inspired by medieval volumes.

The installation also includes rare copies of *The Germ* and *The Oxford and Cambridge Magazine*—short-lived periodicals with poetry, illustrations, essays, and short stories created to promote the ideas of the Pre-Raphaelites—as well as the Moxon Tennyson, an illustrated edition of Alfred Tennyson's poetry that was among the first commissions of the Pre-Raphaelite artists. A selection of pencil and ink caricatures by Burne-Jones depicting his family life and other members of the circle is also on view.

In addition to works by the Pre-Raphaelites, influential volumes by critic and later Pre-Raphaelite advocate John Ruskin are included, such as *Modern Painters* and *The Stones of Venice*.

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit www.nga.gov/renovation (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt) at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on [Twitter](http://twitter.com/ngadc) at twitter.com/ngadc.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

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