

The Browning Institute, Inc.

The Tragi-Comedy of Pen Browning by Maisie Ward. 1972. 192 pages including 32 pages of illustrations. \$8.50

Maisie Ward tells this story relaxedly and reminiscently, drawing freely on the testimony of those who knew Pen and those whose families preserved impressions of him. She enriches the narrative by her own recollections of the tone of social and family life at the close of the period in which Pen lived. The reproductions of his works suggest that Pen combined some talent with considerable uncertainty about the direction it ought to take. Rightly judging that Pen does not qualify for a full-length biography, Miss Ward has appropriately given us this sensitive, shrewd, and charitable essay.

—*The Times Literary Supplement*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Letters to Mrs. David Ogilvy, edited by Peter N. Heydon and Philip Kelley. June 1973. 256 pages. \$7.95

These 38 letters by Elizabeth Barrett Browning are the first major series of letters to come to light since 1937. In November, 1971, they were suddenly offered for sale at Sotheby's in London by a descendant of Mrs. Ogilvy's daughter, Marcia. Describing the correspondence, Mrs. Ogilvy says, "Her letters were written in minute scratches no thicker than the hairs on a daisy stalk . . . but if the writing was thin, the thoughts and feelings were stout and strong." Intimate and highly revealing, these letters inform Elizabeth's valued friend about her travels, plans and actions. They express her love of Robert Browning and his care for her, her devotion to their son Pen, her thoughts on literary efforts of fellow authors, etc.

IN PREPARATION

A Check-List of The Letters of The Brownings, edited by Philip Kelley and Ronald Hudson.

This much-needed census of the correspondence of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning will list over 12,000 letters written by the poets and over a thousand letters addressed to them giving present location where known and a cross-index of collectors and collections.

The Brownings at Casa Guidi, by Edward C. McAleer.

This essay depicts the domestic life of the Brownings during the whole of their marriage. Particular emphasis is given to their years at Casa Guidi, their social life there, and its furnishings. The essay draws extensively on unpublished material.

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