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An invitation to join

# THE BROWNING INSTITUTE



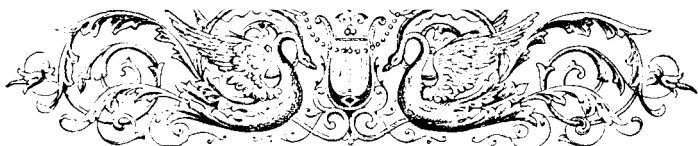
After Elizabeth's death in their Florentine apartment on 29 June 1861, Robert Browning commissioned the above painting, *Salon at Casa Guidi*, by his friend George Mignaty. Since the painting (now in the Goewey Collection of Mills College Library) provides a remarkably detailed record of the room's appearance in 1861, it is one of the chief sources of evidence being used by the Browning Institute, which owns Casa Guidi, in plans for restoration. Today the Browning rooms are open once more to the public, and by joining the Browning Institute you can contribute to the restoration of Casa Guidi as a museum and study center.

Members (except Student Members and Foreign Members) receive a free copy of *Browning Institute Studies*, and all members are placed on the mailing list of *Through Casa Guidi Windows: The Bulletin of the Browning Institute*. In addition, members are entitled to discounts on other publications of the Institute.

The Browning Institute is a nonprofit organization chartered in the State of New York. A copy of the last annual report of the Institute filed with the New York Department of State may be obtained upon request by writing to the Office of Charities Registration, Department of State, Office Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, N.Y. 12242, or to The Browning Institute, Inc. at the address below.

The following categories of membership are available: Life Membership, \$1000; Sponsor, \$250; Contributing, \$100; Sustaining, \$30; REGULAR, \$17.50; Library, \$17.50; Student, \$3; Foreign (except Canada), \$5; Browning Societies and cultural organizations, \$1 per active member; Corporate, \$250 (minimum). Dues and contributions are tax-deductible.

Send dues and contributions to: *The Browning Institute, Inc.*, Box 2983, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163.



# *The Browning Collections*

## *A Reconstruction*

### *With Other Memorabilia*

The Library, First Works, Presentation Volumes, Manuscripts, Likenesses, Works of Art, Household & Personal Effects, and Other Association Items of Robert & Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

*Compiled by*

PHILIP KELLEY & BETTY A. COLEY

*An Indispensable New Tool for Browning Scholarship*

In 1913 it took Sotheby's of London six days to auction away the vast collection of possessions accumulated by Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning and by their son, Pen, who had died in the previous year. The "bible" of that sale was Sotheby's meticulously drawn-up catalogue known as *The Browning Collections*. Compiler-editors Kelley and Coley, in their *Reconstruction*, began with that catalogue and went on to develop a definitive list of primary Browning source material.

Besides breaking down large Sotheby lots into separate items, they have searched the world for Browning-related books and objects that were not included in the sale. The result is an amazing picture of the Brownings' wide-ranging interests, literary connections, and way of life.

The listing includes books and magazines which made up the Brownings' library, autograph manuscripts, proofsheets, likenesses of the poets, works of art, furniture, household items, and personal effects. Also included are works of the Brownings' son, who was a talented artist and sculptor—plus manuscripts

and drawings by Robert Browning, Sr., scholarly father of the poet, who was a tireless sketcher. Cited too are Browning works owned by other famous personages, given in many instances by the Brownings themselves. In all, nearly 7,000 items are listed. Half of these have been located in 237 collections.

Each listing in the new publication gives an identification of the item, inscription if any, editorial comment if needed, provenance information, and present location if known.

Added to all this are background materials on the Brownings, first-line indices of manuscripts, exhaustive appendices for cross-reference, and a 60-page index. Thirty-two plates illustrate over 200 items.

If you want to know where to find Browning's copy of Arnold's *Empedocles on Etna*, or Susan B. Anthony's cherished copy of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Aurora Leigh*, this book will tell you. These are two small examples from a virtually endless list of facts made available to the Browning enthusiast.

This work is an indispensable new research tool—one whose uses will take many years fully to realize and exploit.

ISBN 0-911459-05-7 | LC 83-60809 | 6" x 9" | hardback | Iviii + 708 pages | 32 plates

Printing limited to 700 copies. \$85.00; non-library members' price, \$68.00.

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