

THE GISSING NEWSLETTER

“More than most men am I dependent on sympathy to bring out the best that is in me.”
– George Gissing’s *Commonplace Book*.

Volume VII, Number 2

April, 1971

-- 1 --

The Gissing Exhibition

As announced in our last number, the Gissing Exhibition will be held on the premises of the National Book League, 7 Albemarle Street, London, W1, from June 23rd to July 7th. A detailed catalogue, entitled “The Re-Discovery of George Gissing,” will be available. It will be a substantial publication containing much new information on the author and his works. Among the exhibits visitors will be able to see various letters which have only recently come to light.

Editorial Board

Pierre Coustillas, Editor, University of Lille
Shigeru Koike, Tokyo Metropolitan University
Jacob Korg, University of Washington, Seattle
Editorial correspondence should be sent to the editor:
10, rue Gay-Lussac, 59-La Madeleine, France
and all other correspondence to: C. C. Kohler,
141 High Street, Dorking, Surrey, England.

Subscriptions

Private Subscribers: 12/6 per annum (\$1.50)

Libraries: 25/- per annum (\$3.00)

-- 2 --

Gissing’s Library

Books in the Gissing room at the Château du Chasnay
With some comments

P. Coustillas

The following is a list of books that once belonged to Gissing. They were kept by Gabrielle Fleury until her death in 1954, then passed into the hands of her cousin, Madame Denise Le Mallier. They constituted only a very small portion of the novelist’s library. Other volumes are in the possession of the author’s son and on the private shelves of C. C. Kohler. A good many more must have found their way to private or public libraries. The piecemeal sale of the novelist’s books began some ten years after his death; they appeared off and on in booksellers’ catalogues (a subject I may deal with some day) and in sale-rooms.

- 1 - Ackermann, L. *Pensées d’une solitaire*. Précédées de Fragments Inédits. Paris, Alphonse Lemerre Editeur, 1903. Introduction to the Fragments by Louise Read. Paper.

Louise Ackermann, née Victorine Choquet (1813-1890), was a French poet best remembered for *Premières Poésies* (1862) and *Poésies Philosophiques* (1874). A

pessimist and atheist, she was influenced by Spinoza and Schopenhauer. The present book had originally been published in 1874, preceded by an autobiography. Louise Read, the editor of the 1903 edition, was a friend of Gabrielle Fleury.

- 2 - Ampère, M. J. J. *La Grèce, Rome et Dante*. Etudes Littéraires d'après Nature. Paris, Didier, 1848. On back of end-paper "George Gissing 1885," Leather spine and boards. Gissing bought this book at the time when he was learning Italian and reading *The Divine Comedy* in the original. The *Letters to the Family* contain many references to Dante in the summer and autumn of 1885. However, the volume was probably not read until October 4, 1889, on which day it was mentioned in the author's diary together with Ovid's *Tristia* and Pliny's *Letters*. Ampère's book is quoted in *Born in Exile*, Part III, ch. II. Mr. Warricombe remarks that it is "delightful for odd moments."

-- 3 --

- 3 - Ariosto, Ludovico. *L'Orlando Furioso*. Tomo Primo. Firenze, Presso Leonardo Ciardetti, 1825. Leather. On title-page: "G. R. Gissing 1879."
- 4 - Ariosto, Ludovico. *Commedie in Versi*. Tomo undecimo. Firenze, Presso Leonardo Ciardetti, 1825. Leather.
- 5 - Bashkirtseff, Marie. *Journal de Marie Bashkirtseff*. Tome II. Paris, G. Charpentier & Cie, Editeurs, 1890. Paper. On half-title page "George Gissing" in blue pencil, in Gabrielle's hand.
While staying at Wakefield, Gissing ordered the two volumes from Hachette's on June 18, 1890. What he had read of the book in the reviews of the English translation appealed to him greatly. When he received his copy on June 20, he fell to reading it and was absorbed in it until June 26. He remarked to Bertz that it was "a wonderful and delightful book."
- 6 - Bridges, Robert. *John Keats: A Critical Essay*. Privately Printed 1895. Two hundred and Fifty copies printed. No. 226. Brown cloth. On spine: "Essays on Keats. Robert Bridges. Lawrence & Bullen." On half-title page "George Gissing April 1895."
- 7 - Brock, Mourant, M. A. *Rome: Pagan and Papal*. London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1883. Black cloth.
- 8 - Burn, Robert. *Ancient Rome and its Neighbourhood*. An Illustrated Handbook to the Ruins in the City and Campagna. London, George Bell & Sons, 1895. Red cloth. Signed "George Gissing" on half-title page. A small piece of paper with "George Gissing May 1883" has been pasted on the inside front cover.
The volume contains many notes in ink in Gissing's hand. For instance the blank page between the list of illustrations and the first page of the introduction is covered with notes on building materials apparently transcribed from a book by one Middleton. Or again, p. 114 has this marginal inscription: "The forum of Augustus contained a gallery of statues of greatest generals throughout Rom. History."

-- 4 --

- 9 - Cellini, Benvenuto. *Leben des Benvenuto Cellini*, Florentinischen Goldschmieds und Bildhauers von ihm selbst geschrieben, übersetzt und mit einem Anhang herausgegeben von Goethe. Tübingen. Im Verlag der F.G. Cotta'schen Buchhandlung, 1803. Two volumes. On end-paper of Vol. I: "Eduard Bertz. London, 30. October 1879." Grey boards.
- 10 - Chaucer, Geoffrey. *The Poetical Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*. Edited by Richard Morris. With a Memoir by Sir Harris Nicolas. New & Revised Edition. 6 vols. London, Bell & Daldy. Undated. Green cloth. On title-page of Vol. I: "G. R. Gissing Ap/79."
The Diary for April 1891 shows Gissing reading several of the *Canterbury Tales*. These tales are mentioned casually in *Our Friend the Charlatan* (ch. XI).
- 11 - Conrad, Joseph. *Typhoon and Other Stories*. London, William Heinemann, 1903. Presentation copy: "George Gissing from J. K. Conrad 1903." Grey cloth.

Gissing had met Conrad in the summer of 1901, before going to the East Anglian Sanatorium. Two letters from Gissing to Conrad were published by the First Edition Club in 1926. In the second of these, dated May 9, 1903, Gissing thanked Conrad warmly: "Your gift I value greatly. The book is not only a joy to me: in it I can study the art of writing. Of 'Typhoon' who can speak adequately? It is tremendous. The terror of it haunts me in the night season. I marvel at the power with which you have bodied forth each of those sailor-men, – bits of humanity made only the more true and impressive by that elemental fury which is trying to overwhelm them." Conrad is also mentioned in the *Commonplace Book* and in the letters to Clara Collet and to Edward Clodd.

- 12 - Dante Alighieri. *La Divina Commedia*, Con Argomenti, ed. Annotazioni scelte da migliori Commentatori. Nuova Edizione. Coll' accento di prosodia. 3 vols. Avignone, Presso Fr. Seguin aîné, Stampatore e Librajo, 1816. Leather. In first vol. "George Gissing 1885" in Gissing's hand.

In a letter of August 13, 1885 he wrote to his brother that he had finished reading the

-- 5 --

first three cantos of the *Inferno* and that he hoped to finish the *Commedia* by Christmas. Dante is referred to in many of Gissing's books, for instance *Workers in the Dawn*, *The Unclassed*, *Thyrza*, *A Life's Morning*, *The Emancipated*, *The Crown of Life* and *The Rycroft Papers*.

- 13 - De Quincey, Thomas. *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*, edited by William Sharp. London, Mudie's Select Library. The New Camelot Series. Green cloth. Gissing was reading De Quincey on March 5, 1893 (Diary). The episode of the prostitute, Ann, must have arrested his attention. De Quincey is mentioned in *The Rycroft Papers* (Winter XXII).
- 14 - Dickens, Charles. *Our Mutual Friend*. London, Chapman & Hall, undated. Brown cloth. On half-title page: "George R. Gissing 1882."
- 15 - Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities*. London, Chapman & Hall, 1893. Red cloth. On half-title page: "Bibliothèque de George Gissing" in Gabrielle's hand. Dickens's name appears in many places in Gissing's papers and correspondence, also in some of his novels, like *The Unclassed* (ch. XV of the revised version) and *Our Friend the Charlatan* (ch. VIII).
- 16 - *Deutsches Balladenbuch mit Holzschnitten nach Zeichnungen von Adolf Ehrhardt, Theobald von Oer, Hermann Pfüddemann, Ludwig Richter und Carl Schurig in Dresden. Fünfte Auflage. Leipzig, Georg Wigand's Verlag, 1869. Grey cloth. On endpaper "G. R. Gissing Ap. 1879."*
- 17 - Duchesne, L. *Christian Worship: Its Origin and Evolution. A Study of the Latin Liturgy up to the time of Charlemagne. By Mgr L. Duchesne, Membre de l'Institut. Translated from the third French edition by M. L. McClure. London, S. P. C. K., 1903. Blue cloth, On title-page "George Gissing" in Gabrielle's hand. On endpaper facing the title-page, Gabrielle wrote: "G. G. Nov 03 Last book read by George Gissing Dec. 1903."*

He was reading this book as material for *Veranilda*.

- 18 - Eliot, George. *Adam Bede*. William Blackwood & Sons, 1859. Seventh Edition. Two

-- 6 --

volumes. Brown cloth. On title-page of Vol. I: "G. R. Gissing 1883."

- 19 - Eliot, George. *Felix Holt* (Novels of George Eliot, Volume V). With Illustrations. William Blackwood & Sons. Stereotyped edition. Undated. Brown cloth.
- 20 - Eliot, George. *The Mill on the Floss*. William Blackwood & Sons. Stereotyped edition. Undated. Red cloth. On title-page: "George Gissing May 1883." George Eliot's name appears in various places in the correspondence and in such novels as *Isabel Clarendon* (Vol. II., ch. II and VI), *Denzil Quarrier* (ch. XIV), *In the Year of Jubilee* (Part IV, ch. I and Part VI, ch. V) and *The Whirlpool* (Part III,

- ch. VII).
- 21 - Emerson, R. W. *Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson*. London, George Routledge & Sons, 1883. Brown cloth. On title-page: "George Gissing 1883."
- 22 - Farina, Salvatore. *Carta bollata*. Romanzo. Milano, L. Omodei-Zorini, Editore, 1898. Paper. On title-page: "Bought by George at station of Bellinzona (Ticino), Sept. 1899" (in ink, in Gabrielle's hand).
He had read and enjoyed another novel by Farina, *L'Ultima Battaglia di Prete Agostino*, in January 1890.
- 23 - France, Anatole. *Les Opinions de M. Jérôme Coignard*. Sixteenth Edition. Paris, Calmann-Lévy, 1898. Paper. On half-title page: "George Gissing 1900" in Gabrielle's hand.
- 24 - Fries, J. G. *Guide of English and German Conversation*. Professor in Paris, Aaran, 1836. Im Verlag von H. R. Sauerländer. Leather and boards.
- 25 - Gaskell, Mrs. *Cranford*. With a Preface by Anne Thackeray Ritchie. London, Macmillan & Co., 1898. Green cloth. On half-title page: "George Gissing Xmas 1898," in Clara Collet's hand.
Gissing received the book on Christmas Eve and read it on Christmas Day. He does not seem to have cared much for Mrs. Gaskell's novels.
- 26 - Goethe, Wolfgang. *Italienische Reise*. Leipzig, Druck & Verlag von Philipp Reclam Jun. No date. Brown cloth. On title-page: "George Gissing Paris 1888."
He bought this copy on October 9, 1888 together with a book on Alphonse Daudet

-- 7 --

- and Racine's *Athalie*. Goethe's name occurs in *Workers in the Dawn* (ch. XIV, which consists in Helen Norman's diary), *The Unclassed* (ch. XII of the revised edition), *The Emancipated* (Part I, ch. II), *The Crown of Life* (ch. XXI) and in four sections of *The Ryecroft Papers* (Spring XX, Autumn II, VII and XIX).
- 27 - Graglia, C. *A New Pocket Dictionary of the Italian and English Languages*. In two vols. With considerable additions and compendious Elementary Italian Grammar. London. Advt to the 15th Edn dated 1829. Black cloth. On end-paper: "G.G." in Gabrielle's hand.
- 28 - Hardy, Thomas. *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. A Story of a Man of Character. New Edition. London, Sampson Low, Marston, Searle & Rivington, 1887. Green cloth. Presentation copy: "To George Gissing from Thomas Hardy" on half-title page. Gissing thanked Hardy in a letter dated July 25, 1887 which I published in *English Literature in Transition*, Vol. IX, no. 4, 1966, pp. 199-200. It reads in part: "Thank you very sincerely for sending me your 'Mayor of Casterbridge,' which I shall be very glad to have on my shelves. For, if you will let me say so, your work is not for one reading only; I prize it for its pure English, as well as for those other qualities which have always made your stories such sunny memories to me."
- 29 - Hardy, Thomas. *Life's Little Ironies*. A Set of Tales with some Colloquial Sketches entitled A Few Crusted Characters by Thomas Hardy. London, Osgood, McIlvaine & Co., 1894. Green cloth. On back of half-title page: "George Gissing, St. Leonards. March '94."
Gissing bought this copy on March 2, 1894 and read most of it on the same day.
- 30 - Hardy, Thomas. *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (Thomas Hardy's Works. The Wessex Novels. Vol. I). London, Osgood, McIlvaine & Co., 1895. Green cloth.
This volume, together with the next two, was a present of the publisher, McIlvaine, whom Gissing had met at Hardy's house in September 1895.

-- 8 --

- 31 - Hardy, Thomas. *The Return of the Native* (Thomas Hardy's Works. The Wessex Novels. Vol. VI). London, Osgood, McIlvaine & Co., 1895. Green cloth.
- 32 - Hardy, Thomas. *Jude the Obscure* (Thomas Hardy's Works. The Wessex Novels. Vol.

- VIII). London, Osgood, McIlvaine & Co., 1896. Green cloth.
- 33 - Horace. *The Works of Horace*, translated by Philip Francis, D. D. To which is prefixed the life of the translator. London. Printed for J. Walker & Co. by S. Hamilton, Weybridge, Surrey, 1815. Leather. On title-page "George R. Gissing 1881."
Horace is mentioned a number of times in *The Emancipated*, also in *Workers in the Dawn* (Vol. I, ch. II and Vol. II, ch. II), *Isabel Clarendon* (Vol. II, ch. VI) and *The Crown of Life* (ch. VII).
- 34 - Hudson, W. H. *British Birds*. With a chapter on Structure and Classification by Frank E. Beddard, F. R. S. London, Longmans, Green & Co., 1895. Half-title page torn off. Green cloth. This must have been a presentation copy.
- 35 - Jean-Paul. *Der Jubelsenor*. Ein Appendix von Jean Paul. Leipzig. Brown cloth. On endpaper: "Eduard Bertz London 17 März 1879." A piece of paper inserted reads "G. R. Gissing Oct/79."
- 36 - Johann Heinrich Jung's gennant Stilling *Sämmtliche Schriften*. Zum erstenmale vollständig gesammelt und herausgegeben von Verwandten Freunden und Verehrern des Verewigten; und mit einer Vorrede begleitet von Dr. T. U. Grollmann. Vol. I. Enthält Stilling's Leben. Stuttgart, Druck & Verlag von Fr. Henne, 1835. Leather. At the top of verso of title page "George R. Gissing Sept 1881." This copy is mentioned in *The Ryecroft Papers* (Spring XII).
- 37 - Kant, Immanuel. *Kritik der reinen Vernunft*. Leipzig. On endpaper "Eduard Bertz Tübingen, 11.4.1877" and on opposite page: "G. R. Gissing." With a scarcely legible inscription in Gothic script in Bertz's hand ending with "London, 4 February 1879

-- 9 --

E. B."A translation of the inscription, in a strange hand, is inserted on a slip of paper: "Because we slight cant, dear Friend, we love Kant. Keep 'him' as a token of my distinguished friendship."

- 38 - Lamb, Charles. *The Essays of Elia*. A New Edition with a Dedication and Preface hitherto unpublished. London, E. Moxon, Son & Co., Dover Street, 1869. Green cloth. At top of title-page "G. R. Gissing Ap./79."
We find him reading Lamb at various periods of his life, for instance on August 18, 1889, a few days after finishing *The Emancipated* also on August 5, 1890, when he was trying, so far unsuccessfully, to write *New Grub Street*. In April 1892 he re-read *The Essays of Elia*. Lamb, whom he regarded in 1885 as one of the "really great men" is mentioned in *Workers in the Dawn* (Vol. I, ch. V), in which Arthur Golding sees a whole roast pig exposed to view in a shop-window, "dressed in such a manner as to suggest delights which only Charles Lamb could fitly celebrate." In *Born in Exile* (Part I, ch. III), Godwin Peak goes to the theatre, but he has to wait at the door with other pittites, whereupon Gissing comments: "To be sure, he was in the spiritual company of Charles Lamb, and of many another man of brains who has waited under the lamp." Finally, Lamb appears in the *Ryecroft Papers* (Spring XII) although his name is not mentioned in the index to the first edition, which was compiled by the author.
- 39 - Landor, Walter Savage. *Imaginary Conversations*. With an introductory Note by Havelock Ellis. London, Walter Scott, 1886. Camelot Series. Red cloth. Inside the front cover has been pasted a piece of paper which reads "George Gissing."
Landor, one of his favourite authors, is referred to a number of times in the correspondence with his family and with Gabrielle Fleury. Allusions to him can be found in *Demos* (ch. XXI), *Isabel Clarendon* (Vol. II, ch. IX), *Sleeping Fires* (ch. V) and the *Ryecroft Papers* (Winter XXII). Landor is read aloud by Adela Waltham, quoted by Mr. Meres, mentioned by Langley and by Ryecroft.

-- 10 --

- 40 - Lecky, William Edward Hartpole, M.A. *History of European Morals*. From Augustus

to Charlemagne. Eighth edition. Revised. In Two vols. London, Longmans, Green & Co., 1888. Brown cloth. On half-title page of Vol. I: "George Gissing."

A quotation from Lecky on prostitutes is reproduced in Gissing's *Commonplace Book*.

- 41 - Leopardi, Giacomo. *Le Prose di Giacomo Leopardi con la vita dell' autore scritta da G. Stravelli*. Biblioteca classica popolare vol. VI. Roma, Edoardo Perino, Tipographico Editore, 1888. Paper. On back of half-title page: "George Gissing Naples, Nov. 1888."

- 42 - Meredith, George. *Essai sur la comédie et l'idée de comédie et des exemples de l'esprit comique*. Introduction d'Arthur Symons. Traduits par Henry D. Davray. Paris, Mercure de France, 1898.

This copy was almost certainly given to Gissing by Davray with whom he became acquainted through H. G. Wells. Several letters from Gissing to Davray are in the Berg Collection. Davray reviewed nearly all Gissing's books from *The Whirlpool* to *The House of Cobwebs*. Meredith is mentioned in *The Crown of Life*.

- 43 - Minucius. *Pagan and Puritan. The 'Octavius' of Minucius*. Freely Translated by Arthur Aikin Brodribb. London, George Bell & Sons, 1903. Blue cloth.

- 44 - Morley, Henry. *First Sketch of English Literature*. Cassell, Petter & Galpin. Undated. Brown cloth. On title-page: "G. R. Gissing. In Remembrance of distinguished success. Midsummer 1873. J. W. Lindow Grove."

J. W. was James Wood, Gissing's headmaster at Lindow Grove School, Alderley Edge, Cheshire. See my monograph *George Gissing at Alderley Edge* (Enitharmon Press, 1969).

- 45 - Owen, J. A. and Boulger, G. S., F. L. S., F. G. S. *The Country Month by Month*. A new edition with notes by the late Lord Lilford. London, Duckworth & Co., 1902. Blue green cloth. On half-title page, "George Gissing Feb. 1902." Annotations in pencil and ink in Gissing's hand. They usually concern places where Gissing saw

-- 11 --

plants described in the book. For instance on p. 159: "Wood-spurge. The lane near Exeter." Or, on p. 239: "Viper's bugloss. Overgrown rubbish heap in field by road from Epsom to Ashtead."

Gissing read this book too late to use it, however indirectly, in *The Ryecroft Papers*, but his copy of *The Country Month by Month* contains manuscript notes on plants which are described in Ryecroft's reminiscences. Thus the celandine about which we read on p. 209: "Greater celandine. Lane going up from Burford Bridge to Norbury Park." The significance of this book to Gissing is made clear by an entry in his Diary for April 10, 1902 while he was living at Arcachon: "In afternoon to the shore. Reading idly in *Country Month by Month* – a book which often makes me *ache* with thoughts of England." (*Letters to his Family*, p. 383). The annotations in ink were made with the fountain-pen presented to him by C. N. and A. M. Williamson in December 1901.

- 46 - Palgrave, Francis Turner. *The Golden Treasury of the Best Songs and Lyrical Poems in the English Language*. Selected and Arranged with Notes by Francis Turner Palgrave. London, Macmillan & Co., 1885. On end-paper "Algernon F. Gissing 1885" in Algernon's hand. This was one of Gissing's favourite books.

- 47 - Poe, E. A. *The Poetical Works of Edgar Allan Poe*, with a Prefatory Notice, Biographical and Critical by Joseph Skipsey. London, Walter Scott, 1885. Brown cloth. On half-title page: "George Gissing 1886." Poe is mentioned in connection with "Cain and Abel" in a letter to Algernon of January 2, 1880.
- 48 - Poynter, Edward, J., R. A. *Text-Book of Art Education*. Classic and Italian Painting by Edward J. Poynter, R. A. and Percy R. Head. Edited by Edward J. Poynter, R. A. London, Sampson Low, Searle & Rivington, 1885. Grey cloth. On title-page: "George Gissing 1885." Numerous pencil markings in the margins. On back endpaper names of painters have been listed according to schools: Florentine, Sienese, Umbrian, Paduan, Ferrarese, Lombard.
- 49 - Rabelais, François. *The Works of Rabelais*. Faithfully Translated from the French

-- 12 --

with Variorum Notes, and Numerous Illustrations by Gustave Doré. London, Chatto & Windus, Publishers. Undated. Brown cloth. On half-title page: "George Gissing 1885" and in Gabrielle's hand "En souvenir affectueux à Constance Lloyd. G. F. G. Paris 1 Juillet 1919."

Rabelais appears in the early short story "R.I.P." and in *Denzil Quarrier* (ch. V).

- 50 - Read, Henri-Charles. *Poésies Posthumes*. Paris, Alphonse Lemerre, 1836. Paper.
- 51 - Sharp, William. *Sonnets of this Century*. Edited and Arranged with a Critical Introduction on the Sonnet by William Sharp. London, Walter Scott, 1886. Dark blue cloth. "George Gissing" on endpaper. Gissing once met Sharp at a public dinner in the nineties.
- 52 - Scheffel, Joseph Victor von. *Ekkehard. Eine Geschichte aus dem zehnten Jahrhundert*. Stuttgart, Verlag von Adolf Bonz und Comp., 1879. On half-title page: "George R. Gissing von seinem Eduard Bertz zum 22 November 1880." There follows a long quotation in Bertz's hand, a translation of which has been supplied in a strange hand on an inserted piece of paper:

"The World of to-day serves wrong idols
 Truth keeps silent, Beauty moans and laments.
 Only Un-Nature (Non-Nature) and Lie create pleasure
 God is forgotten, Mammon's monument stands erect.
 Whoever there still sings
 Should, following the Prophets, rage, punish, mourn, pray."

- 53 - Schiller, *Briefwechsel zwischen Schiller und Goethe* in den Jahren 1794 bis 1805. Dritte Ausgabe. Erster Band. Vom Jahre 1794 bis 1797. Stuttgart, Verlag der J. G. Cotta'schen Buchhandlung, 1870. Zweiter Band. Vom Jahre 1798 bis 1805. Green cloth. On end-paper of 1st volume, a dedication in gothic script to Gissing, signed "Eduard Bertz, Tottenham, 1880."
- This correspondence is mentioned in the *Ryecroft Papers* (Autumn II). In *Workers in the Dawn*, Helen Norman reads Schiller and Goethe at the same time (ch. XIV).

-- 13 --

- 54 - Skeat, the Rev. Walter W. *Specimens of English Literature* with Introduction, Notes and Glossarial Index by the Rev. Walter W. Skeat, M.A. Oxford, At the Clarendon Press, 1871. Brown cloth. On half-title page: "G. R. Gissing Owens College / 74." On inside front end-paper "En souvenir affectueux à Constance Lloyd G. F. G. Paris 1 Juillet 1919."
- 55 - Spenser, Edmund. *Complete Works of Edmund Spenser*. Edited from the original Editions and Manuscripts by R. Morris with a memoir by J. W. Hales, M. A. London, Macmillan & Co., 1869. The Globe Edition. Green cloth. On title-page: "George R. Gissing 1877."
The *Letters to the Family* contain various references to Spenser in 1885. In *Born in Exile* (ch. I) Earwaker is awarded an edition of Spenser's works in four volumes.
- 56 - Sterne, Laurence. *The Works of Laurence Sterne*, containing the Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gent., A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy, Sermons, Letters, etc. With a Life of the Author written by himself. London, Routledge & Sons. Undated. Brown cloth. On half-title page: "G. R. Gissing 1879."
Ryecroft re-reads *Tristram Shandy* (Autumn II).
- 57 - Suetonius. *Rome Galante sous les douze Césars*. Nouvelle édition précédée d'une notice. Bibliothèque choisie des chefs d'oeuvre français et étrangers, vol. IX. Paris, E. Dentu, éditeur. Librairie de la Société des Gens de Lettres, 1885. Pasted on fly-leaf a piece of paper reading "Bibliothèque de George Gissing G.F.G."
- 58 - Thackeray, William Makepeace. *The Newcomes*, London, Smith, Elder & Co., 1886. Two volumes. Boards and leather spine.
- 59 - Thackeray, William Makepeace. *Pendennis*. London, Smith, Elder & Co., 1886. Two volumes. Boards and leather spine.
- 60 - Thackeray, William Makepeace. *Vanity Fair*. A Novel without a Hero. London, Smith, Elder & Co., 1886. Two volumes. Boards and leather spine.

-- 14 --

The *Letters to the Family* contain many references to Thackeray, on whom Gissing declined to write a volume for the Victorian Era Series. See also the *Ryecroft Papers*, Spring XX.

- 61 - Tolstoi, Leo. *Qu'est-ce que l'Art?* Traduit du manuscrit original russe par E. Halpérine-Kaminsky. Quatrième édition. Paris, Paul Ollendorf, 1898. Paper. A presentation copy from the translator, who corresponded with Gissing during the summer of 1898. The inscription on the half-title page reads: "Au honoré Confrère et Maître George Gissing | hommage dévoué | E. Halpérine-Kaminsky." See the many references to Tolstoi and his translator in *The Letters of George Gissing to Gabrielle Fleury*. In *The Crown of Life* (ch. XXXV) Irene asks Piers to read her a passage of Tolstoi.
- 62 - Tourguenieff, Ivan. *Liza or a Noble Nest*. Translated from the Russian by W. R. S. Ralston. London & New York, Ward, Lock & Co. Undated. Pictorial cover.
There are many references to Turgenev in Gissing's correspondence, published or unpublished, in his *Commonplace Book* and in his *Diary*. This copy was certainly purchased in the eighties. See also the two letters in the *Times Literary Supplement* of

- July 2 and September 4, 1970. References to Turgenev occur in two early works, *Isabel Clarendon* (Vol. II, ch. VI) and *Thyrza* (ch. XLI).
- 63 - Uhland. *Gedichte und Dramen*. Erster Theil. Stuttgart, Verlag der J. G. Cotta'schen Buchhandlung, 1880. Brown cloth. A presentation copy from Eduard Benz dated "Tottenham, Weihnachten 1880."
Uhland's works are referred to in *Workers in the Dawn* (XIV).
- 64 - Wells, H. G. *Anticipations*. Chapman & Hall, 1902. Red cloth. "To George Gissing with affectionate regards from H. G. Wells."
- 65 - Wells, H. G. *The First Men in the Moon*. London, George Newnes, Limited, 1901. Blue cloth. "To Madame George Gissing with kindest regards from H. G. Wells. Nov. 20th 1901."

-- 15 --

- 66 - Wells, H. G. *Love and Mr. Lewisham*. Harper & Brothers Publishers. London & New York, 1900. Red cloth. "George Gissing with affectionate Regards from H. G. Wells."
- 67 - Wells, H. G. *Mankind, in the Making*. London, Chapman & Hall, 1903. Blue cloth. "To George Gissing with the affectionate regards of H. G. Wells."
Abundant comments on these four books are to be found in the volume of Gissing's letters to Wells.
- 68 - Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass, The Poems of Walt Whitman*. Selected with introduction by Ernest Rhys. London, Walter Scott, 1886. Dark blue cloth. On title-page: "George Gissing 1887."
It was Morley Roberts who introduced Whitman's works to Gissing. See his introduction to the Nash & Grayson edition (1927) of *Thyrza* and ch. XXXV and XXXVII of the same novel.
- 69 - Zangwill, Israel. *Children of the Ghetto*. A Study of a Peculiar People. London, William Heinemann, 1902. Orange cloth.
Gissing met Zangwill at the dinner offered by *Cosmopolis* at the Savoy on June 25, 1896. He had read this novel in a library copy in February 1895, finding it a "powerful" book. He liked Zangwill's stories as Zangwill liked his own.

* * * * *

Henry Ryecroft's "Trick" Again

P. Coustillas

Henry Ryecroft's "Trick," illustrating the relationship between sensation and memory, has been discussed on two previous occasions in the *Newsletter*. Mr. Griffing (January 1970) suggested the influence of Bergson and Mr. Lees (July 1970) established a link between Gissing's repeated use of this literary device with a passage in Walter Pater's "The Child in the House." Both hypotheses are quite plausible. On the one hand, Gissing may very well have been acquainted with Bergson's early books – they were as familiar to French intellectuals (among whom Gissing lived) at the turn of the century as *La Cité Moderne* by Izoulet which was put to good use in *Our Friend the Charlatan*. On the

other hand, it is an indisputable fact that he read Walter Pater (see "Gissing and Walter Pater," October 1970).

The matter was still uppermost in my mind when, in studying a selection from Schopenhauer's works recently, I came across this passage: "It occasionally happens that, for no particular reason, long-forgotten scenes suddenly start up in the memory. This may in many cases be due to the action of some hardly perceptible odour, which accompanied those scenes and now recurs exactly the same as before. For it is well known that the sense of smell is specially effective in awaking memories, and that in general it does not require much to rouse a train of ideas. And I may say, in passing, that the sense of sight is connected with the understanding, the sense of hearing with the reason, and, as we see in the present case, the sense of smell with the memory. Touch and Taste are more material and dependent upon contact. They have no ideal side." The book in question was Arthur Schopenhauer's *Studies in Pessimism*, selected and translated by T. Bailey Saunders (London, Swan Sonnenschein and Co., 1892), which consisted in selections from *Parerga und Paralipomena*, a book which Gissing knew well even before he published *Workers in the Dawn* (1880). The influence of Schopenhauer on him was admittedly so great, as C. J. Francis among others has shown, and it exerted itself at such an early stage in his career, that his attention may have been drawn originally to the connection between sensation and memory by the German philosopher, in the days when he had long literary and philosophical discussions with Eduard Bertz in their lodgings at Islington or Tottenham.

In his excellent study of Schopenhauer (Pelican Original, Penguin Books, 1963), Patrick Gardiner sheds oblique light on the subject: "Schopenhauer thinks that the quality of 'will-lessness' intrinsic to aesthetic contemplation is also characteristic of some kinds of memory-experience: such experiences interested him, as they were later to fascinate Proust. Thus he asks why it is that particular sections or moments of our lives, recovered and recalled from the long-distant past, often come back to us in so strange and enchanted a light and under an aspect quite different from that under which they appeared to us at the

time. The explanation is that when we remember such events it is only the "objective" content of what was originally experienced that returns to us; the "individually subjective" accompaniment, in the shape of anxieties and desires that distorted our apprehension and wrecked our enjoyment, is forgotten and absent. Hence the illusion arises that the scenes and happenings of which we were then conscious lay before us in as pure and undisturbed a form as their images stand before us now in recollection, so that far-off days appear to the eyes of memory as fragments of a 'lost paradise'." It may be added that Gissing, also at an early date in his career, had found an instance of the "trick of mind" that he lent to Ryecroft in a novel which he once admitted he greatly admired, namely *The Ordeal of Richard Feverel*. During the heavily symbolical scene set in the Rhineland forest, Richard all of a sudden smells meadowsweet which rouses the memory of the day when he walked in the Thames Valley in Lucy's company, with meadowsweet in the grass around them. This, together with his finding a tiny leveret (as frail as his new-born son) as he gropes about to seize the flower, suffices to bring him back to Lucy, whom he shamefully deserted some months before. (Mr. Lees quotes this passage in his chapter on Meredith in

Vol. VI of the *Pelican Guide to English Literature*). It may be relevant to conclude these desultory remarks with a *rapprochement* which will speak to the minds of those who are interested in Orwell as well as in Gissing. The influence on Orwell of Bergson's and Proust's ideas on perception and memory has been noticed by Keith Alldrift in his *Making of George Orwell*, and the question occurs: Where did Orwell pick up the "trick" he uses so copiously in *Coming Up for Air*, in which George Bowling, on seeing a poster featuring King Zog's sentimental troubles, is irresistibly reminded of the Biblical King Og and of the church where he heard this name in his childhood – a device which triggers off the exploration of his past? Doubtless in Proust. Yet, Orwell knew his *Ryecroft* inside out, and it may be in *Ryecroft* that he came across the "trick" for the first time.

* * * * *

-- 18 --

Recent Publications

VOLUMES

- *Gissing East and West. Four Aspects*, by Shigeru Koike, Giichi Kamo, C. C. Kohler and Pierre Coustillas. London, Enitharmon Press, 1970, Limited edition: 300 copies. Blue cloth, £1.62½. The four essays are respectively "Gissing in Japan," "Gissing and I," "Gissing from a bookseller's point of view" and "Collecting George Gissing." The booklet contains four plates showing: the title-page of the first Japanese translation of *New Grub Street* (Tokyo, 1969), a group of editions of *Workers in the Dawn*, 1880-1968, Hardy's copy of T. J. Wise's edition of Gissing's letters to Edward Clodd and a collection of Gissing first editions.
- *My First Rehearsal and My Clerical Rival*, by George Gissing. Edited and with an introduction by Pierre Coustillas. London, Enitharmon Press, 1970. Limited edition: 350 copies. Green cloth. £1.50. These two short stories were written during the winter 1879-80. "My First Rehearsal" first appeared in *English Literature in Transition* (1966) but "My Clerical Rival" had not been previously published.

Articles, references in books, etc.

(in chronological order).

- Selig, Robert L., "The Valley of the Shadow of Books: Alienation in Gissing's *New Grub Street*," *Nineteenth Century Fiction*, September 1970, pp. 188-198.
- Hemphill, M. L. and Grivot F., "Soutenances de Thèses: Monsieur Pierre Coustillas," *Bulletin de l'Association internationale des Docteurs (Lettres) de l'Université de Paris et des autres universités de France*. July-October 1970, pp. 27-29, also p. 34. This friendly account unfortunately contains a few errors. See Sylvère Monod's "Gissing Day at the Sorbonne" on the same subject in the *Gissing Newsletter* for July 1970.

- Gerber, Helmut E., "Gissingiana," *English Literature in Transition*, vol. XIII, no. 3, 1970, p. 244. On some forthcoming publications.
 - Korg, Jacob, "Recent Reprints of Gissing's Novels," *Nineteenth-Century Fiction*, December 1970, pp. 375-77. A review of the reprints by AMS Press of New York and of *Isabel Clarendon* (Harvester Press, Brighton). In the same number of the same journal, William D. Schaefer reviewed *George Gissing: Essays and Fiction*, on p. 380.
- 19 --
- Anon., *The Year's Work in English Studies*, Vol. XLIX (dealing with the year 1968 but published in 1970), pp. 18 and 295. Reviewed briefly the main Gissing publications for 1968.
 - Kennedy, Roderick, "Secret of Salvation or Seed of Destruction?" *The Sheffield Star*, January 4, 1971. An article on science starting from Gissing's views on the subject as expressed in *Henry Ryecroft*. Gissing and Einstein are quoted side by side.
 - Holloway, John, "John Holloway on George Gissing," *Spectator*, January 16, 1971, pp. 86-87. A review of *George Gissing: Essays and Fiction*.
 - Anon., "Reviews," *Book Exchange*, January 1971. A review of *George Gissing: Essays and Fiction*.
 - Lees, Francis Noel, "Gissing," *Times Literary Supplement*, March 12, 1971, pp. 296-97. A letter to the editor on Gissing at Manchester.
 - Bradbury, Malcolm, "Our Writers To-Day. Who They Are – How They Live," *Encounter*, February 1971, pp. 16-23, March 1971, pp. 15-26. Gissing appears in several places in this article.
 - Hutchison, B., "George Gissing," *Book Collecting and Library Monthly*, May 1971, p. 14. A review of *Gissing: East and West*.
 - Lucas, John (ed.), *Literature and Politics in the Nineteenth Century*. Essays edited with an introduction by John Lucas. London, Methuen, 1971, Pp. 187-217, 223, 225-30, 234, 235, 271. Examines *Demos* at great length.

* * * * *

Other Publications of Interest to Gissing Scholars

Madame Denise Le Mallier, whose name is well-known to anyone engaged in research on Gissing, recently published a book on her ancestors, entitled *Le Roman des Dufaud*. (Imprimerie Delayance, La Charité-sur-Loire, Nièvre, France). Although neither Gissing nor Gabrielle Fleury is mentioned in the book, it distinctly belongs to Gissingiana.

The last chapter in particular, with the Château du Chasnay and the Château de Tazières as part of the setting. Some characters like the Saglios, the Eustaches and the Martin-Zédés will help Gissingites to recreate an atmosphere which Gissing came to know when he stayed on the banks of the Loire in the autumn of 1900 and again a year later. Had he not stayed in Nivernais, there would have been no section on Sainte-Beuve's *Port-Royal* in the *Ryecroft Papers*.

Despite its title, Mme Le Mallier's book is a thoroughly documented family chronicle, lively, pleasant to read and finely illustrated. As the last chapter is a summary of

-- 20 --

a second volume ready in typescript form but still unpublished, it is to be hoped that this second volume will be printed before long. In any case, the first will help the reader better to understand the world which Gissing entered when he settled in France in May 1899.

Dr. P. J. Keating, of Leicester University, whose contributions to Gissing scholarship include his monograph on *New Grub Street* (Arnold), an article on *The Nether World* and several significant review articles, has published *Matthew Arnold: Selected Prose* (Penguin English Library). He announces two other volumes for this Spring, *The Working Classes in Victorian Fiction* and *Working-Class Stories of the 1890s*, in both of which Gissing will be present. Further details will probably appear in our next number.

Professor Helmut E. Gerber, of Northern Illinois University, whose journal, *English Literature in Transition*, has been since 1957 a very useful companion to Gissing studies, is the general editor of an annotated secondary bibliography series on English Literature in Transition 1880-1920, which will include a volume on Gissing, edited by Joseph Wolff and announced for 1974. As the first volume in the series is now out, we can easily realize how valuable Professor Wolff's volume should be. The Maugham Bibliography just published, edited by Charles Sanders, contains abstracts of 2,355 items covering the period 1897-1968; it has four indexes (titles of secondary works, periodicals and newspapers, foreign languages, primary titles) and is consequently very easy to consult. All university libraries will feel it necessary to buy this series, published by the Northern Illinois University Press.

C. C. Kohler has issued the "first ever bookseller's catalogue to be devoted entirely to George Gissing." He offers all the novels and short stories (with the exception of *The Sins of the Fathers*), non-fiction works, letters, etc., as well as a number of biographical and critical works. The portrait of Gissing on the cover is by Russell. It was taken in 1895.

As recorded in this catalogue, the first three titles that appeared in the Enitharmon Gissing series, that is, *Notes on Social Democracy*, *Gissing's Writings on Dickens* and *George Gissing at Alderley Edge*, are now out of print. However, a second edition of the last two will soon be available.