

Sources

LETTERS

The Brownings' Correspondence, ed. Philip Kelley, Ronald Hudson, and Scott Lewis, Winfield, Kansas, 1984 – (13 vols so far) is much the most comprehensive collection to date. Most of the material to be covered in the remaining volumes is listed in *The Brownings' Correspondence: a Checklist*, ed. Philip Kelley and Ronald Hudson, Arkansas City and New York, 1978. (Dates of letters in earlier editions should be checked against this usually more accurate list.) See also the usefully annotated *The Letters of Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett Barrett, 1845–1846*, ed. Elvan Kintner, 2 vols, Cambridge, Mass., 1969.

For the period after September 1846 it is still necessary to consult a number of other volumes, some of which will remain useful adjuncts to the larger *Correspondence* enterprise:

The Letters of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, ed. F.G. Kenyon, 2 vols, London and New York, 1897

The Letters of Elizabeth Barrett Browning to Mary Russell Mitford, ed. Meredith B. Raymond and Mary Rose Sullivan, 3 vols, Waco, Texas, 1983

Elizabeth Barrett Browning: Letters to her Sister [Henrietta], 1846–59, ed. Leonard Huxley, London, 1929

Twenty-Two Unpublished Letters of Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning Addressed to Henrietta and Arabella Moulton-Barrett, ed. William Rose Benet, New York, 1935

Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Letters to Mrs David Ogilvy, ed. Peter N. Heydon and Philip Kelley, London, 1974

The Brownings to the Tennysons: Letters from Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett Browning to Alfred, Emily, and Hallam Tennyson, 1852–1889, ed. Thomas J. Collins, Waco, Texas, 1971

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Letters of the Brownings to George Barrett, ed. Paul Landis and Ronald E. Freeman, Urbana, 1958

Other important EBB correspondence after 1846 remains unpublished in collections including that at Wellesley College, Massachusetts, which holds letters to Anna Jameson and John Kenyon amongst others, and the Henry W. and Albert A. Berg collection of the New York Public Library, which has many of the letters to Arabel and all those to Sophie Eckley.

- Letters of Robert Browning Collected by Thomas J. Wise*, ed. Thurman L. Hood, London, 1933
- New Letters of Robert Browning*, ed. William Clyde DeVane and Kenneth L. Knickerbocker, London, 1951
- Robert Browning and Julia Wedgwood: a Broken Friendship as Revealed in Their Letters*, ed. Richard Curle, London, 1937
- Dearest Isa: Robert Browning's Letters to Isabella Blagden*, ed. Edward C. McAleer, Austin, Texas, 1951
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- Learned Lady: Letters from Robert Browning to Mrs Thomas FitzGerald*, ed. Edward C. McAleer, Cambridge, Mass., 1969
- More than Friend: the Letters of Robert Browning to Katharine de Kay Bronson*, ed. Michael Meredith, Waco, Texas, and Winfield, Kansas, 1985. (This is a particularly helpful and carefully researched edition.)

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE BROWNING

(For autobiographical writing by EBB see the essays in *The Brownings' Correspondence* 1. 347–62 and *Diary by E.B.B.*, ed. Philip Kelley and Ronald Hudson, Athens, Ohio, 1967.)

The biographies I have found most useful are:

- Gardner B. Taplin, *The Life of Elizabeth Barrett Browning*, New Haven, 1957. This contains much factual detail, some of it superseded but a great deal not.
- Margaret Forster, *Elizabeth Barrett Browning: a Biography*, London, 1988. Amongst many other interesting features this presents an unusually sympathetic view – as far as that is possible – of EBB's father.
- Julia Markus, *Dared and Done: the Marriage of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning*, London, 1995
- Daniel Karlin, *The Courtship of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning*, Oxford, 1985
- Roy Gridley, *The Brownings and France: a Chronicle and Commentary*, London, 1972
- John Maynard, *Browning's Youth*, Cambridge, Mass., 1977
- William Irvine and Park Honan, *The Book, the Ring, and the Poet: a Biography of Robert Browning*, London, 1975
- Donald Thomas, *Robert Browning: a Life Within Life*, New York, 1982
- Clyde de L. Ryals, *The Life of Robert Browning: a Critical Biography*, Cambridge, Mass., and Oxford, 1993

Shorter items include Michael Hancher and Jerrold Moore, "'The Sound of a Voice That is Still': Browning's Edison Cylinder",

Browning Newsletter 4–5 (1970), and Michael Meredith's 'Browning and the Prince of Publishers', *Browning Institute Studies*, 7 (1979), pp. 1–20, on the relationship between RB and his most dedicated and resourceful publisher, George Smith.

THE POEMS

Because RB has had several periods of popularity or critical attention since his death, his work has been much more thoroughly and extensively edited than most of EBB's, which was decidedly out of fashion for much of the twentieth century. There are, however, several editions of *Aurora Leigh*, of which the most useful for the Chronology has been Margaret Reynolds' (Athens, Ohio, 1992). *Casa Guidi Windows* has been edited by Julia Markus (New York, 1977). The standard edition for most of the poems remains Charlotte Porter and Helen A. Clarke, *The Complete Works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning*, New York, 1900.

Much can be learnt about the history and sometimes the dating of EBB's work from Philip Kelley and Betty A. Coley, *The Browning Collections: a Reconstruction with Other Memorabilia*, Waco, Texas, 1984, which also catalogues the Brownings' extensive library and surviving personal effects.

The completed edition of RB which is most helpful is *Robert Browning: the Poems*, ed. John Pettigrew and Thomas J. Collins, Harmondsworth and New York, 1981.

Still in progress are three more important editions:

The Complete Poems of Robert Browning with Variant Readings and Annotations, ed. Roma A. King, Jr., and others, Athens, Ohio, 1969–; *The Poetical Works of Robert Browning*, ed. Ian Jack and others, Oxford, 1984–; *The Poems of Browning*, ed. John Woolford and Daniel Karlin, London, 1991–.

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Among the more informative of the many other sources are:

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- George Eliot, *Letters*, ed. Gordon Haight, 9 vols, London, 1954–78
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- Eveline M. Forbes, 'A Visit to Balliol in 1879', *The Nineteenth Century* 90 (1921).
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- Edmund Gosse, *Personalia: Robert Browning*, London, 1890
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