The group of young painters and writers who coalesced into the Pre-Raphaelite movement in the middle years of the nineteenth century became hugely influential in the development not only of literature and painting, but also more generally of art and design. Though their reputation has fluctuated over the years, their achievements are now recognized and their style enjoyed and studied widely. This volume explores the lives and works of the central figures in the group: among others, the Rossettis, William Holman Hunt, John Everett Millais, Ford Madox Brown, William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones. This is the first book to provide a general introduction to the Pre-Raphaelite movement that integrates its literary and visual art forms. The *Companion* explains what made the Pre-Raphaelite style unique in painting, poetry, drawing and prose.

Elizabeth Prettejohn is Professor of History of Art at the University of York.

*A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book.*
THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
THE PRE-RAPHAELITES
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I owe special thanks to Jerome McGann, who gave valuable advice in the planning stages of this volume, and to Charles Martindale whose support was untiring throughout. Louise Hughes joined me at a crucial moment to help with the minutiae of editing, and I am grateful for her good humour and resourcefulness. I would like to thank all those at Cambridge University Press who have helped with the volume, in particular Linda Bree and Maartje Scheltens for their great patience as well as their skill and expertise. Thanks to Jamie Carstairs, Juliet Edwards, Karin Kyburz, the Courtauld Institute of Art and the Faculty of Arts Research Fund at the University of Bristol for help with the illustrations, and to Richard Shone for advice and permission to quote from The Burlington Magazine. Many others have given generous advice and support of various kinds, including Jason Rosenfeld, Rachel Sloan, Sam Smiles, Alison Smith, Julian Treuherz and numerous colleagues at museums and galleries with Pre-Raphaelite holdings.
ABBREVIATIONS

DGR Correspondence  
*The Correspondence of Dante Gabriel Rossetti*, ed. William E. Fredeman and others, 9 vols. (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2002–10). The first two digits of the letter number (given in parentheses) indicate the year of writing (for example, letter 48.7 is the seventh extant letter from 1848).

Germ  
*The Germ: Thoughts towards Nature in Poetry, Literature and Art: Being a Facsimile Reprint of the Literary Organ of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, Published in 1850* (London: Elliot Stock, 1901). Page numbers are to the facsimile text of the magazine except where the (separately paginated) ‘Introduction by William Michael Rossetti’ is specified.

Hunt  

PRB  
‘Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood’ or ‘Pre-Raphaelite Brother’.

The Rossetti Archive  

Ruskin  
LOUISE HUGHES

CHRONOLOGY

1819  Birth of John Ruskin
1821  Birth of Ford Madox Brown
1825  Births of James Collinson (PRB), Thomas Woolner (PRB)
1827  Births of William Holman Hunt (PRB), Maria Francesca Rossetti
1828  Births of Dante Gabriel Rossetti (PRB), Frederic George Stephens (PRB)
1829  Births of John Everett Millais (PRB), William Michael Rossetti (PRB), Elizabeth Eleanor Siddall
1830  Birth of Christina Georgina Rossetti
1833  Birth of Edward Burne-Jones
1834  Destruction of the Palace of Westminster by fire; birth of William Morris
1837  Accession of Queen Victoria; birth of Algernon Charles Swinburne
1839  Birth of Jane Burden (later Morris)
1840  Birth of Simeon Solomon
1842  National Gallery (London) acquires Jan van Eyck’s Portrait of Giovanni Arnolfini and His Wife (1434)
1843  Ruskin, Modern Painters, Vol. I; Wordsworth becomes Poet Laureate; competitions begin for decorative art at the new Palace of Westminster (~1847)
CHRONOLOGY

1845 The Great Famine, Ireland (–1852); D. G. Rossetti begins translating Dante and early Italian poets

1846 Ruskin, Modern Painters, Vol. II

1848 Year of European revolutions; Chartist demonstrations and petition; formation of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood; Hunt and D. G. Rossetti compile the list of Immortals (see Appendix 2); Marx and Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party

1849 First PRB paintings appear at exhibition: D. G. Rossetti’s The Girlhood of Mary Virgin (Figure 6) at Free Exhibition, Hunt’s Rienzi Vowing to Obtain Justice for the Death of His Young Brother, Millais’s Isabella (Figure 10) and Collinson’s Italian Image-Makers at Royal Academy (all signed with ‘P. R. B.’ initials); W. M. Rossetti begins to keep the P. R. B. Journal; D. G. Rossetti and Hunt tour France and Belgium

1850 The Germ published January–May; second PRB exhibition season: Rossetti’s Ecce Ancilla Domini! at National Institution, Millais’s Christ in the House of His Parents (Figure 4) and Hunt’s A Converted British Family at Royal Academy; Hunt, Rossetti and Stephens paint outdoors in Kent; W. M. Rossetti begins career as art critic for The Critic, then The Spectator; Tennyson becomes Poet Laureate

1851 Great Exhibition at the new Crystal Palace in Hyde Park; Brown’s Geoffrey Chaucer (Figure 12) at Royal Academy; Ruskin writes to The Times in defence of the PRB; Hunt and Millais paint outdoors at Ewell, Surrey

1852 Opening of the new Palace of Westminster; Brown begins important modern-life paintings: Work (–1865), The Last of England (–1855), An English Autumn Afternoon (–1854, Figure 13); Hunt’s The Hireling Shepherd (Figure 8), Millais’s Ophelia and A Huguenot (Figure 11) at Royal Academy; Woolner emigrates to Australia to prospect for gold

1853 Crimean War begins (–1856); Burne-Jones and Morris become friends as undergraduates at the University of
Chronology

Oxford; Millais paints Ruskin’s portrait at Glenfinlas in Scotland, and is elected Associate of the Royal Academy

1854

Hunt tours the Middle East (–1856) and shows *The Awakening Conscience* and *The Light of the World* at the Royal Academy; Working Men’s College founded (teachers will include Ruskin, Rossetti, Brown and Burne-Jones)

1855

Exposition Universelle, Paris, includes important works by Brown, Hunt and Millais; Burne-Jones and Morris travel to France in the Long Vacation and decide to become artists; W. M. Rossetti writes art criticism for new American periodical, *The Crayon* (succeeded by F. G. Stephens in 1856)

1856

The *Oxford and Cambridge Magazine* publishes twelve issues

1857

Matrimonial Causes Act conditionally allows women to divorce; Pre-Raphaelite Exhibition, Russell Place, with seventy-one works by PRBs and associates including Siddall; W. M. Rossetti helps to organize an Exhibition of British Art which introduces Pre-Raphaelite art to the United States; Ruskin, *The Elements of Drawing*; publisher Edward Moxon’s edition of Tennyson’s *Poems* includes illustrations by Hunt, Millais and D. G. Rossetti; project to decorate the Oxford Union (under D. G. Rossetti’s leadership, with paintings by Burne-Jones, Morris and others) brings Algernon Charles Swinburne into Rossetti’s circle

1858

Founding of the Hogarth Club (–1861); William Morris, *The Defence of Guenevere, and Other Poems* (dedicated to D. G. Rossetti)

1859


1860

Publication of *Essays and Reviews*, which controversially presents a view of the Bible based on scientific, linguistic and historical investigation; Hunt shows *The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple* in a special exhibition at the
CHRONOLOGY

German Gallery; marriages of Elizabeth Eleanor Siddall and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Georgiana Macdonald and Edward Burne-Jones; Stephens becomes regular art critic for *The Athenaeum* (–1900); Ruskin, *Modern Painters*, Vol. V (the last); Swinburne, *The Queen-Mother and Rosamond* (dedicated to D. G. Rossetti)

1861 American Civil War (–1865); death of Prince Albert; abolition of serfdom in Russia; independent kingdom of Italy established; founding of Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co. (‘the Firm’); D. G. Rossetti, *The Early Italian Poets* (dedicated to Elizabeth Siddall, now Rossetti)

1862 London International Exhibition, with exhibit by ‘the Firm’; death of Elizabeth Eleanor Siddall (now Rossetti); Christina Rossetti, *Goblin Market and Other Poems* with two illustrations by D. G. Rossetti; Swinburne reviews Baudelaire in *The Spectator*; D. G. Rossetti moves to Tudor House, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, with W. M. Rossetti and Swinburne as lodgers

1863 Ernest Renan, *Vie de Jésus*, a biography of Christ casting doubt on his divine status; Alexander Gilchrist, *Life of William Blake, ‘Pictor Ignotus’* (completed by the Rossetti brothers and Anne Gilchrist)

1864 Burne-Jones elected Associate of the Old Water-Colour Society

1865 Abolition of slavery in North America; birth of W. B. Yeats; Brown holds solo exhibition of *Work* and other paintings, for which he writes his own catalogue; Dudley Gallery formed by a committee of artists; Swinburne, *Atalanta in Calydon*

1866 Christina Rossetti, *The Prince’s Progress and Other Poems* with two illustrations by D. G. Rossetti; Swinburne, *Poems and Ballads* (dedicated to Burne-Jones)

1867 Morris, *The Life and Death of Jason*; W. M. Rossetti, *Fine Art, Chiefly Contemporary* (dedicated to Frances Mary Lavinia Rossetti)
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<td>D. G. Rossetti, <em>Poems</em> (dedicated to W. M. Rossetti); Burne-Jones resigns from Old Water-Colour Society following objections to the male nude in his <em>Phyllis and Demophoon</em></td>
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<td>1871</td>
<td>Paris Commune; Rome becomes capital of a united Italy; Swinburne, <em>Songs before Sunrise</em> (dedicated to Giuseppe Mazzini); Ruskin founds School of Drawing at Oxford</td>
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<td>Christina Rossetti, <em>Sing-Song</em> with illustrations by Arthur Hughes</td>
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<td>1873</td>
<td>Solomon arrested and tried for sodomy; D. G. Rossetti begins <em>Proserpine</em> (~1877, Figure 7); Morris, ‘Love Is Enough’; Walter Pater, <em>Studies in the History of the Renaissance</em></td>
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<td>1874</td>
<td>William Michael Rossetti and Lucy Madox Brown marry</td>
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<td>Morris, <em>The Story of Sigurd the Volsung and the Fall of the Niblungs</em></td>
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<td>First exhibition of Grosvenor Gallery, with important work by Burne-Jones including <em>The Beguiling of Merlin</em> (Figure 18; D. G. Rossetti declines to exhibit); Ruskin, <em>The Laws of Fésole</em></td>
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<td>Exposition Universelle, Paris, including Burne-Jones’s <em>The Beguiling of Merlin</em> (Figure 18); Frederic Leighton elected President of the Royal Academy (~1896); Swinburne, <em>Poems and Ballads: Second Series</em></td>
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1880  First Anglo-Boer War (–1881); Swinburne, The Heptalogy

1881  Death of James Collinson; Christina Rossetti, A Pageant and Other Poems; D. G. Rossetti, Poems: A New Edition and Ballads and Sonnets

1882  Death of Dante Gabriel Rossetti; memorial exhibitions in the winter of 1882–3 reveal his paintings to the public; Morris, Hopes and Fears for Art; Swinburne, Tristram of Lyonesse and Other Poems; birth of Virginia Woolf

1883  Swinburne, A Century of Roundels (dedicated to Christina Rossetti)

1886  Hunt paints The Lady of Shalott (–1905, Figure 1)

1888  Morris, Signs of Change and ‘A Dream of John Ball’; first exhibition of the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society

1889  Swinburne, Poems and Ballads: Third Series (dedicated to William Bell Scott)

1890  Death of Vincent van Gogh; Morris, News from Nowhere

1891  Morris founds the Kelmscott Press

1892  Death of Thomas Woolner

1893  Death of Ford Madox Brown; Christina Rossetti, Verses

1894  Death of Christina Georgina Rossetti; Swinburne, Astrophel and Other Poems (dedicated to Morris)

1895  Radio communication begins; Oscar Wilde imprisoned for homosexual offences

1896  Deaths of John Everett Millais, William Morris; Christina Rossetti, New Poems (collected by W. M. Rossetti); Swinburne, The Tale of Balen

1898  Death of Edward Burne-Jones

1899  (–1902) Second Anglo-Boer War

1900  Death of John Ruskin

1901  Death of Queen Victoria; accession of Edward VII; facsimile edition of The Germ published