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THE BRONTËS AND EDUCATION

All the seven Brontë novels are concerned with education in both senses, that of upbringing as well as that of learning. The Brontë sisters all worked as teachers before they became published novelists. In spite of the prevalence of education in the sisters' lives and fiction, however, this is the first full-length book on the subject. Marianne Thormählen explores how their representations of fictional teachers and schools engage with the intense debates on education in the nineteenth century, drawing on a wealth of documentary evidence about educational theory and practice in the lifetime of the Brontës. This study offers much new information both about the Brontës and their books and about the most urgent issue in early-nineteenth-century British social politics: the education of the people, of all classes and both sexes.

MARIANNE THORMÄHLEN is Professor of English Literature at Lund University, Sweden. She is the author of *The Brontës and Religion* (Cambridge, 1999), as well as of books on T. S. Eliot and the Earl of Rochester, and the editor of *Rethinking Modernism* (2003).

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Working on *The Brontës and Education* I became aware of another debt which had accumulated for years without my realising it. I am the daughter of teachers and grew up in a home where education was always a major concern, but it took this book to make me aware of how much my parents taught me about it. My late father was a legendary sports teacher who was as pleased with the modest progress of clumsy and disabled boys, for whom he devised individual training programmes carefully adapted to their abilities, as with the prizes won by his crack athletes. My mother made the natural sciences fascinating and comprehensible even for me, managing her school laboratories with gentle firmness and rock-solid professional competence, inspiring some of her pupils to choose her beloved chemistry as a career. This book is a late daughterly tribute to Curt and Ella Wahlberg, the best of parents and teachers.

Lund, Sweden, in August 2006
Marianne Thormählen

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Abbreviations and editions

References to the seven Brontë novels are made parenthetically in the running text. Upper-case Roman numerals refer to volume numbers (wherever appropriate), lower-case ones to chapters and Arabic figures to page numbers in the Oxford World's Classics editions listed below:

CHARLOTTE BRONTË

The Professor, ed. Margaret Smith and Herbert Rosengarten, with an introduction by Margaret Smith (Clarendon edition in 1987; issued as a World's Classics paperback in 1991)

Jane Eyre, ed. Margaret Smith, with an introduction and revised notes by Sally Shuttleworth (Clarendon edition in 1975; new World's Classics paperback edition in 2000)

Shirley, ed. Herbert Rosengarten and Margaret Smith, with an introduction by Margaret Smith (Clarendon edition in 1979; issued as a World's Classics paperback in 1981)

Villette, ed. Margaret Smith and Herbert Rosengarten, with an introduction and notes by Tim Dolin (Clarendon edition in 1984; new World's Classics paperback edition in 2000)

EMILY BRONTË

Wuthering Heights, ed. Ian Jack, with an introduction and notes by Patsy Stoneman (Clarendon edition in 1976; new World's Classics paperback in 1998)

ANNE BRONTË

Agnes Grey, ed. Robert Inglesfield and Hilda Marsden, with an introduction and notes by Robert Inglesfield (Clarendon edition in 1988; issued as a World's Classics paperback in 1991)

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, ed. Herbert Rosengarten with an introduction by Margaret Smith (Clarendon edition in 1992; issued as a World's Classics paperback in 1993)

The abbreviation 'Smith, *Letters*', supplemented by the relevant volume number (Roman numerals), refers to Margaret Smith's three-volume edition, published by Oxford University Press, of *The Letters of Charlotte Brontë with a selection of letters by family and friends*. The respective volumes appeared in 1995 (1829–1847), 2000 (1848–1851) and 2004 (1852–1855).

The abbreviation *BST* refers to the *Brontë Society Transactions*.

In the endnotes and bibliography, publishers' names are omitted in respect of books published before 1900.