

Harris Library

This catalogue was digitised by The National Archives as part of the National Register of Archives digitisation project

NRA 35054



The National Archives

2476212

C O N T E N T S

F R A N C I S T H O M P S O N

Manuscripts	Page 1
Letters	Page 6
Collected Editions	Page 8
Poems - Editions	Page 8
Poems - Individual works	Page 13
Poems - Published in other works	Page 15
Prose Works	Page 16
Periodical Literature	Page 19
Reviews and Criticisms	Page 22
Miscellanea	Page 62
Biographies and Criticisms - Books	Page 63
Biographies and Criticisms - Periodicals	Page 67
Bibliographies	Page 72
 ALICE MEYNELL	 Page 73
WILFRID MEYNELL	Page 74
EVERARD MEYNELL	Page 75
COVENTRY PATMORE	Page 75

F R A N C I S T H O M P S O N

M A N U S C R I P T S

AMPHICYPELLON. Wrought and upbrimmed for Two Sisters. With an inscription.

Seventy-four exercise book sheets.

A fair copy, written in ink, with a small number of corrections. There are also several verses in the manuscript which were omitted from the published version.

This poem was probably composed during 1890. It was first printed for private circulation as Songs wing to wing: an offering to two sisters, and then immediately published as Sister songs.

For Thompson's reasons for his choice of title and the subsequent change in title, see two of his letters to Wilfrid Meynell.

B O D Y A N D S P R I T E

Two exercise-book sheets.

Three eight-line stanzas.

Appeared in Health and holiness, an essay published in 1905. Thompson wrote: "A poet I know has put, after his own fashion, the case between body and spirit," followed by the text of the poem. Wilfrid Meynell has added a note in the Collected edition of 1913, stating "The verses are Thompson's own."

C A R M E N G E N E S I S

Six exercise-book sheets.

Seventeen six-line stanzas.

First published in The Dublin Review for October, 1910.

This manuscript was presented by Wilfrid Meynell, at the suggestion of John Thomson, to the town in which Thompson was born.

CECIL RHODES

Eight exercise-book sheets.

One hundred and thirty lines, written in ink, except sheet six which has been written in pencil and partly written over in ink. The verso of sheet six bears a pencil copy of the lines appearing on sheet seven, and the first line of sheet eight.

This ode, produced in less than three days at the request of the editor, Mr. Lewis Hind, was printed in The Academy for April 12th, 1902.

COMMONPLACE BOOK

Thirty-one leaves and covers, containing transcriptions of poems and cuttings of printed works.

The cover contains part of an essay on cricket in which he bemoans the deplorable standard of the players of the day compared with the Lancashire team of his early days.

COMMONPLACE BOOK

Unbound exercise-book of thirty-two leaves in which the poet has copied poems which interested him.

Among the poets copied are Donne, Cowley, Suckling, Greene and Southey.

CRICKET NOTES AND VERSES

Six leaves of an exercise-book.

Three pages contain part of an essay on cricket in which he deals with the development of the "prepared" wicket compared with the "rough unhandled" fields of the early days of the game, and claims that "W.G." and "Ranji" were no better than many of their predecessors, but had a "billiard-table" wicket on which to develop new strokes and run up enormous scores.

The remaining pages contain a rough draft of the "Rime o' bat of O my-sky-'em" and other verses on cricket.

One page contains some notes for Thompson's prose work on St. Ignatius Loyola.

DAISY

Four foolscap sheets (1 blank).

Fifteen four-line stanzas.

First published in Merry England for March, 1890, and subsequently in The child set in the midst, by Modern Poets, 1892 and then in Poems, 1893.

This poem was written in 1889 at the Premonstratensian Monastery of the Franciscans at Storrington on the Sussex Downs. The "Daisy" of the poem was a Storrington child.

This manuscript is a clean copy and has only slight differences in punctuation from the published version.

A DEAD ASTRONOMER

One exercise-book sheet.

Thirteen lines in two stanzas.

A clean copy written in ink.

Father Perry died in December 1889 during an astronomical expedition and tributes to him had appeared in the Press.

This poem was published in Merry England for April 1890 and subsequently in New Poems, 1897.

"DIES IRAE, DIES ILLA" (July 16 '98: Mote Park and Old Trafford)

One exercise-book sheet.

Two four-line and two eight-line stanzas.

An unpublished cricket poem.

THE HERETIC'S TRAGEDY

Four exercise-book leaves in exercise-book covers.

Ten eight-line stanzas.

A transcript, in an early hand, of Browning's poem.

THE INTOXICATION OF GENIUS

One exercise-book sheet.

A juvenile diversion by Thompson, with a letter from Wilfrid Meynell testifying to the "undoubted genuineness of the drawing. In freakish moments, few and far between, Thompson thus disported himself with his pen."

MIDDLESEX v. YORKSHIRE, May 28-31, 1899.

1. Two exercise-book sheets.

Seventy-one lines in couplets.

2. Exercise-book of ten leaves containing pencil draft and unpublished lines of this poem.

This exercise-book also contains some two pages of other poetry and part of an essay on the "modern child" and its disbelief in fairy tales.

E. V. Lucas wrote of this poem "It was never intended for print: it was merely a versified memorandum for the writer's own amusement."

OF HER AURA

One exercise-book sheet.

A sonnet (number V) in the sequence "Ad amicam," written for Katherine D. King, and published (in a slightly different text) in Works, 1913, Vol. II, p. 175.

For the text of other unpublished poems inspired by Miss King, see Appendix C (pp. 692-696) of M. Danchin's "Francis Thompson: la vie et l'oeuvre d'un poète."

PROLOGUE: THE SINGER SAITH OF HIS SONG

Four exercise-book sheets.

Fifteen four-line stanzas.

Three only of the stanzas have been published, (the first, third and thirteenth) in Works, 1913, Vol. II, p. 228.

RIME O' BAT OF O MY-SKY-'EM.

Six exercise-book leaves.

Eighteen four-line stanzas.

First published in The Cornhill Magazine for July, 1908 in an article by E. V. Lucas Francis Thompson's cricket verses. Lucas wrote "The piece is a tour de force, an imitation of Fitzgerald's Omar."

SHELLEY

Eight exercise-book sheets.

These leaves largely contain introductory comments on the attitude of the Catholic Church to poetry, and the omission of poetry from the curriculum of catholic schools. The greater part of this introduction was omitted from the published version of this famous essay.

It first appeared in The Dublin Review for July 1908, and in book form a year later.

SISTER SONGS

See AMPHICYPELLON.

TO M.M.M.

Three exercise-book sheets.

Fourty-four lines in four stanzas.

A clean copy, written in ink and signed.

The poem was published as To Monica: after nine years in The Monthly Review for August, 1901.

TOM O'BEDLAM'S SONG (Written round selected stanzas from the well-known song in Wit and Drollery, extracted in Disraeli's Curiosities of Literature).

Four leaves of typescript.

Eight ten-line stanzas.

There is an endorsement by Thompson at the foot of the first leaf: "Note. - the italicised portions are those belonging to the original poem." the word "Ital" has been written against the first half of stanza one and the whole of three and four.

Printed in The Dome for May, 1898 but not subsequently reprinted.

LETTERS

FRANCIS THOMPSON TO JOHN LANE. Not dated.

A one-page letter written from Pantasaph, N. Wales, probably dated 1893. It states that his poems are enclosed and apologises for the delay. The poems are probably those for his first volume, published in 1893.

FRANCIS THOMPSON TO JOHN LANE. Not dated.

A four-page letter, again from Pantasaph, N. Wales, but from Ivy Cottage instead of Bishop House.

The letter is sent with "the First Part of my poem; in which I have made all the alterations I want."

He says that Wilfrid Meynell has the Second Part, to which he desires three changes to be made. This probably refers to Sister Songs, which is in two parts and was published by John Lane in 1895.

FRANCIS THOMPSON TO KATHARINE TYNAN
July 15, 1892.

An eight-page letter in which Thompson thanks Miss Tynan for favourable notices on his Cardinal Manning and The Making of Viola verses.

He goes on to discuss his choice of metre and tells how he has tried to employ an early alliterative metre of pre-Elizabethan days. He acknowledges the beautiful effect achieved by Miss Tynan and Swinburne, but alleges that George Meredith has mis-construed its object and "thereby stereotyped it in the most obvious and mechanical fashion."

Thompson tells how he was introduced to Miss Tynan's poetry through a copy of Merry England, which he purchased for twopence at a time when he was "struggling for mere existence, and a penny spent on aught but the necessities of life was a plank withdrawn between me and starvation." The poet closes with an apology for his absentmindedness. He had forgotten that he had recently changed his lodgings and had written his address as 31 Elgin Avenue, Paddington, before altering it to 1 Fernhead Road, Paddington, E.

FRANCIS THOMPSON TO WILFRID MEYNELL. Not dated.

A single page letter with no address.

Refers to an unidentified poem, about which Thompson says somewhat poignantly "if intensity of labour could make it good, good it would be" and goes on "one way or the other it will be an effectual test."

FRANCIS THOMPSON TO WILFRID MEYNELL. Not dated.

A six-page letter, written from 31 Elgin Avenue.

This letter was sent with the manuscript of Sister Songs.

Thompson discusses the poem and Mr. Blackburn's opinion of it, and goes on to give his reasons for his choice of title, Amphicypellon.

FRANCIS THOMPSON TO WILFRID MEYNELL. Not dated.

A three-page letter, written from Pantasaph.

Thompson agrees to the change in title from Amphicypellon to Sister songs, but insists on retaining "An offering to two sisters."

FRANCIS THOMPSON TO WILFRID MEYNELL. Not dated.

A single-page letter dated Wednesday on printed stationery "2 Whitehall Gardens, S.W."

Thompson mentions a proposed visit to Wilfrid Meynell and an article on De Quincey. He reviewed Confessions of an English opium-eater under the title A monument of personality in The Academy for 29 April 1899.

Corrected Page proof of the poems "Above & Below".
A Garden Scene and Far Niente.

Autograph letter, signed, to Wilfred Meynell.
4 leaves + 2 double leaves. Not dated, from 28 Elgin Avenue.
[c.1900].

A letter written in the depths of despair and poverty in which
F.T. speaks of his intended parting from the Meynells so as no
longer to be a burden to them.

Poem "Song of the Hours". Culled from Merry England, January
1890.
Corrected and partly revised by F.T.