

POEMS AND BALLADS AT 150: INTRODUCTION

L.M. Kilbride

In July 2016 a group of poets and academics gathered at St. John's College, Cambridge, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Algernon Charles Swinburne's *Poems and Ballads*.¹ The alignment of the stars was not exact: the first copies of *Poems and Ballads*, as originally published by Moxon & Co., were sent out at the beginning of July 1866. However, the first review of *Poems and Ballads* by Swinburne's friend Thomas Bendyshe, offering long quotations in support of Swinburne's affinity with classical paganism, appeared almost 150 years to the day in *The Reader*. That same day *The Times* ran articles on the losses of the Bohemian army and the subsequent armistice between Prussia, Bohemia, and Moravia, a cholera outbreak in East London, and Mr. Gladstone's and Earl Russell's failure to comment on the Hyde Park Railings affair. On 31 July, as Rikky Rooksby notes in his biography, William Allingham visited Dante Gabriel Rossetti and noticed on the table a small green book (130). It is impossible to conclude that *the rest is history* because the process by which literary history is made is a practice of continual hearing and re-hearing.

2016 was a year for anniversaries: criticism remembered the Battle of the Somme, the Easter Rising, and the poems written in that volcanic year without a summer, 1816. However, as Swinburne himself knew, anniversaries are not just about getting your dates right. Anniversaries are, as he wrote in his poem on the first anniversary of the battle of Mentana, what 'Give all men heart' ("Mentana: First Anniversary" 90), and it *was* often "men," as Francis O'Gorman demonstrates in his attention to Swinburne's use of martial metaphor. However different the approaches of the critics gathered here, there is something in *Poems and Ballads* which continues to "give [us] ... heart." Yet the question as to precisely what that is cannot be quickly answered and least of all by a roundabout argument in which the fact that there always seems to be something more to say becomes the seal of enduring value. The risk of tautology is especially acute in the case of Swinburne's first collection. Given that it has received the most critical attention and been most widely anthologized, returning to *Poems and Ballads* might be dismissed by some as a waste

Ballad poems from famous poets and best beautiful poems to feel good. Best ballad poems ever written. Read all poems about ballad. Best ballad poems ever written. Read all poems about ballad. Ballad Poems. 1. Bridal Ballad Edgar Allan Poe. 2. Ballad Of The Moon Federico Garca Lorca. 3. The Ballad Of Rudolph Reed Gwendolyn Brooks. 4. The Ballad Of Reading Gaol Oscar Wilde. 5. A Ballad Of The Two Knights Sara Teasdale. Poems and Ballads, First Series is the first collection of poems by Algernon Charles Swinburne, published in 1866. The book was instantly popular, and equally controversial. Swinburne wrote about many taboo topics, such as lesbianism, sado-masochism, and anti-theism. The poems have many common elements, such as the Ocean, Time, and Death. Several historical persons are mentioned in the poems, such as Sappho, Anactoria, Jesus (Galilae, La. "Galilean") and Catullus. Poems and Ballads. Quite the same Wikipedia. Just better. Poems and Ballads. ^ Walsh, John (2012), An Introduction to Algernon Charles Swinburne, Bloomington: The Algernon Charles Swinburne Project, retrieved 5 December 2015. ^ Swinburne, Algernon Charles, Poems and Ballads, pp. viii–viii. ^ Swinburne, Algernon Charles, Poems and Ballads, pp. v. ^ Kim, Hae-In. "Laus Veneris: The Poem and the Painting". Poems and Ballads at Internet Archive. Works by Algernon Swinburne at Project Gutenberg (plain text and HTML). Works by or about Algernon Charles Swinburne at Internet Archive. Works by Algernon Charles Swinburne at LibriVox (public domain audiobooks). Project Gutenberg's Poems and Ballads of Heinrich Heine, by Heinrich Heine. This eBook is for the use of anyone anywhere at no cost and with almost no restrictions whatsoever. You may copy it, give it away or re-use it under the terms of the Project Gutenberg License included with this eBook or online at www.gutenberg.org. Title: Poems and Ballads of Heinrich Heine. Author: Heinrich Heine. Translator: Emma Lazarus.