Grayswood Press is an independent publishing company founded in 2000. It publishes academic and general books and magazines primarily on 19th and early 20th century novelists and writers. All publications are produced and printed to a high standard. The main publication is *The Dickens Magazine* which is issued twice a year. See below for further information on this and other publications and how to order.
Collected Works of George Gissing on Charles Dickens

George Gissing (1857-1903), together with Thomas Hardy and George Meredith, is one of the three major late-Victorian novelists. This three-volume set represents the first complete compilation of Gissing’s works and miscellaneous writings on Charles Dickens. For too long, Gissing’s writings on Dickens have been unfairly overshadowed by those of G K Chesterton, despite the fact that Chesterton described him as “the soundest of the Dickens critics, a man of genius.” It seems only fitting one hundred years after his death to publish his complete writings on his illustrious predecessor, whose reputation he himself helped to revive.

Volume One - Essays, Introductions and Reviews


The bulk of the book is made up of the ten surviving Introductions Gissing wrote for Methuen’s ‘Rochester Edition of the Works of Charles Dickens’. ... In a series of informative appendices the editor has included the Introductions by Temple Scott and B W Matz to ‘Critical Studies of the Works of Charles Dickens’ and ‘The Immortal Dickens’ respectively. Chesterton’s handsomely complimentary tribute to Gissing’s acute appreciation of Dickens is also given ... Coustillas’ apparently effortless and comprehensive ‘Introduction’ is a model of its kind. The editor is at home at Wakefield as much as in Siena or in Arcachon, and his grasp of the facts (literary, biographical or bibliographical) marshalled in support of his elucidation of Gissing’s and Dickens’s achievements at times verges on the intimidating. But who would not love to be intimidated by such a modest display of knowledge?


... Even with all the addenda I was still worried that volume one would be noticeably slimmer than volumes two and three. I mentioned this to Pierre and asked if he could make his proposed “Introduction” a bit longer. ... Exactly six days later I received an essay of 15,000 words including 75 detailed references! A remarkable achievement! And what an essay – fully comprehensive in its biographical and bibliographical scope, with no detail too small to be left out – and arranged and written in such a gripping way that one finished it with regret that it could not be even longer. I still look back on this essay as one of the finest from Pierre’s extensive portfolio. A writer at the very height of his considerable powers and with total command of his subject.

**Volume Two - Charles Dickens: A Critical Study**


In a ‘Preface’ to this definitive edition of Gissing’s splendid critique, Simon James ... points out that a number of small mistakes and errors in quotation, mostly due to the limited English-language library resources at Siena, have now been corrected, and that with the help of Helene and Pierre Coustillas and Piet Kropholler, an extensive set of notes has been compiled, which together with his own ‘Introduction’ and David Parker’s ‘Afterword’ makes this into the most comprehensive and authoritative text on Gissing’s monograph on Dickens.


**Volume Three - Abridgment of Forster’s Life of Dickens**


In her perceptive and comprehensive introduction to this new edition of the ‘Abridged Life’ Christine DeVine argues that Gissing’s focus on Dickens the writer invites the reader to examine closely the writing process and to empathize with Dickens’s difficulties and successes as a writer. In the new portrait of Dickens that emerge we encounter the very writer who had inspired Gissing from his earliest years. ... We can only conclude that [Gissing] fully vindicated himself and produced a work that is as informative and readable today as it was in 1902.


**Isabel Clarendon** by George Gissing


ISBN: 978-0-9546247-6-7 Cloth £24

After the harsh realities pictured so memorably in Demos and The Nether World Gissing offers the readers here a picture of wealthy upper-class life in country surroundings. He mirrors a world concerned with idle social pleasures and amorous intrigue, a world ruled by money concerns, totally unaware of its own fragility and futility and which is destined to become a troubled Eden. The story shows considerable narrative and structural skill and is regarded by a number of leading critics as one of Gissing’s best works. This new edition provides a reset text and comes with an authoritative Introduction together with a full set of Notes and Appendices.

It is good to have a new, annotated edition of ‘Isabel Clarendon,’ which has long been one of the scarcest works in Gissing’s oeuvre. ... [In his Introduction] Coustillas is right to identify the frailties of contemporary reviewers of the novel ... His own work, though for this splendid new edition shows how much criticism can achieve by respect for accuracy, assiduous scholarship and patient, long-term commitment.


Roman en demi-teinte, comme la vie de son auteur dans le milieu des années 80, ‘Isabel Clarendon’ est pourtant du pur Gissing et mérite donc, à ce titre, d’être pris en considération par qui chercherait à
mieux comprendre le credo artistique du jeune écrivain. ... Le roman illustre bien également, il est important de le souligner, ce que Gissing va nommer “the dramatic mode of presentment”: méthode qui consiste, explique-t-il dans une autre lettre fondatrice, à suggérer plutôt qu’à dire, à offrir des épisodes plutôt que des vies. “The old novelist is omniscient; I think it is better to tell a story precisely as one does in real life,—hinting, surmising, telling in detail what can so be told, and no more....”  
Remercions donc Pierre Coustillas et Grayswood Press de nous permettre d’assister à la mise en œuvre de cette esthétique dans ‘Isabel Clarendon’

Christine Huguet, Cahiers victoriens et édouardiens 74, Octobre 2011

Three Novellas: Eve’s Ransom; Sleeping Fires; The Paying Guest by George Gissing
ISBN: 978-0-9546247-7-4  Cloth £24

This publication offers a novelty in Gissing studies and brings together three of his shorter works. In Eve’s Ransom, we follow the fortunes of a disgruntled industrial draughtsman who tries to win the favours of an equally dissatisfied young woman. In Sleeping Fires, a work of unusual power, Gissing takes us to Greece, where his leading character encounters a young man who dramatically alters the course of a humdrum, comfortable existence. The Paying Guest is a satirical comedy of suburban life and provides a highly amusing survey of some middle-class pretensions at the turn of the century.

At first sight it is easy to see that the Grayswood volumes are the most handsome editions of Gissing’s works ever produced.... The critical material includes a substantial introduction by Coustillas, and each novella, appropriately presented in order in which it was brought before the public, is followed by a bibliographical note, a list of contemporary reviews and of recent articles. The text of ‘Eve’s Ransom’ also contains two illustrations by Walter Paget from the serialisation which ran in the ‘Illustrated London News’ ... To conclude, this is a splendid edition of three captivating novellas.


‘Sleeping Fires’ ... together with ‘Eve’s Ransom’ and ‘The Paying Guest’, all from 1895, attest to his [Gissing’s] strength in writing shorter fiction, his insight into the Woman Question and, in the latter case, his deftness at handling comedy. This edition of ‘Eve’s Ransom’ is particularly timely and will be of particular interest in light of the publication ... of ‘Eve’s Ransom: George Gissing and the Challenge of the Late Victorian Novel’, a collection of essays that focusses on Gissing’s work and is edited by Maria Teresa Chialant.

Tom Ue, Variants: The Journal of the European Society for Textual Scholarship, 9, 2012
Collected Short Stories of George Gissing

Between 1898 and 2008 about a dozen varied and incomplete collections of short stories by Gissing appeared, many of these now very scarce. With this first collected edition, readers and critics will have access to all 115 stories published chronologically in three volumes. Each volume has a detailed introduction by the editor, Pierre Coustillas, who also provides full bibliographical notes to each story. Gissing is now recognised as a major contributor to the genre as can be seen and fully appreciated now in this first collected edition.

Collected Short Stories: Volume One by George Gissing
Edited and Introduced by Pierre Coustillas, 2011, xxxvii + 310pp. (with five illustrations)
ISBN 978-0-9546247-8-1 Cloth £20

This volume consists of 35 stories, written between 1873-1884. There is a great variety on display, ranging the from the early ‘Sins of the Fathers’ through to the later moving stories such as ‘Phoebe’ and ‘Mutimer’s Choice’. Here we see the early Gissing, full of pathos and passion. In between we have stories that touch on fantasy, fable, mystery, humour, tragedy, crime, the supernatural and melodrama. A veritable mix of themes and stories that are vastly different to his later more mature works. However, all these stories are full of interest, very readable and with plenty of biographical elements embedded that show the multifaceted interests and energy of a very young author.

Collected Short Stories: Volume Two by George Gissing
Edited and Introduced by Pierre Coustillas, 2012, xviii + 402pp. (with six illustrations)

Volume Two offers a total of fifty-one pieces of varying length – including twenty-six sketches commissioned to deal specifically with London and general English “types” – all published between January 1893 and March 1896. This short period of concentrated writing produced highlights such as the working-class stories ‘Lou and Liz,’ ‘Fleet-footed Hester,’ ‘A Lodger in Maze Pond’ and the bleak masterpiece ‘The Day of Silence.’ These stories and sketches are remarkable for the variety of their subject matter and they demonstrate that Gissing was able to develop his artistry within a constricted canvas as successfully as in the broader narrative of the three-volume novel.

Collected Short Volume Three by George Gissing
Edited and Introduced by Pierre Coustillas,  2012, xvii + 344pp. (with five illustrations)

ISBN: 978-0-9572231-0-3  Cloth  £20

Volume Three covers the latter half of 1896 through to Gissing’s death in 1903. Twenty-nine stories are featured and all of the very highest quality. Gissing had perfected the art of the short story and among these are acknowledged masterpieces such as ‘A Poor Gentleman,’ ‘A Daughter of the Lodge’ and ‘Christopherson’, not to mention equally excellent but lesser-known pieces like ‘The Schoolmaster’s Vision,’ ‘The Light on the Tower,’ and ‘The Ring Finger.’ They show Gissing’s mastery of gentle mordant irony and bring to a fitting conclusion this first collected edition of his short fiction.

With the publication of these volumes Grayswood Press has completed one of the highlights of the publishing year. A total of 1,056 pages of Gissing’s short stories is now available for the first time in an edition by the foremost Gissing scholar of our day. ... Volume One contains a general introduction on Gissing’s short fiction, an introduction to Volume One, a childhood story entitled ‘The Grandfather’s New Year’s Story,’ the American short stories, and the earliest stories Gissing wrote on his return from the States. ... The short period covered by Volume Two (1893-1896) demonstrates Gissing’s impressive range of subject matter, together with an obvious delight and remarkable confidence in the genre that he had perhaps neglected for too long. ... Quite remarkable is the great number of short stories in Volume Three that were to be translated ... A sure sign of his world-wide popularity as a writer of short fiction. It is to be hoped that this fine edition, with some attractive original illustrations will [likewise] find it way over the world.


The Collected Short Stories provides the unique, well-crafted response of an honest man to the time and place in which he found himself. Abstaining from the canting pieties of his era, sardonic about the working class, especially its women, cynical about democracy, about human nature, and human potential (prejudiced as they are, “A Free Woman” and “A Son of the Soil” can still shock, more than a century later), depicting some of his characters with fascinated loathing and others with compassionate respect, Gissing told the truth as he saw it. Vivat!


An Introduction to the Novels of Charles Dickens by Alan S Watts, 2013, vi + 78pp.

ISBN: 978-0-9572231-1-0  Paper  £10

A short and useful survey of all the novels of Dickens, incorporating many of the illustrations and including all the covers of the original monthly part editions. For those readers unfamiliar with Dickens the summaries, samples of the stories, and the pictures chosen will give a flavour of the contents and should hopefully entice them to seek out and read the books for themselves. Experienced Dickens readers, on the other hand, will find this book a helpful aide memoire and summary of the various novels.
**Collected Essays** by George Gissing


ISBN: 978-0-9572231-4-1 Hardback £20
ISBN: 978-0-9572231-3-4 Paper £12

The twenty-one essays published in this collection feature the most substantial uncollected examples that remain of the occasional pieces that Gissing wrote throughout his career. They include papers and articles dating from his student days at Owens College, Manchester, through to later essays published in both Britain and America. All these essays highlight the eclectic taste and enquiring cultured mind of one of the leading late-Victorian writers who is better-known for his pioneering novels and short stories.

... one can discern a development from the expansive fluency of his student essays to the terse ironies of his later ones. What remains constant is sincerity of tone and evidence of keen and voracious reading. 'Collected Essays – George Gissing', perhaps the culminating achievement of Coustillas's distinguished career as an editor, should fascinate anyone interested in late Victorian culture, as well as prove invaluable to all students of Gissing.


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**The Gissing Journal: A History and Index of First 50 Years**

Compiled and Introduced by Markus Neacey, 2016, ix + 296pp.

ISBN: 978-0-9572231-6-5 Hardback £24

The Gissing Newsletter and Gissing Journal remain a treasure trove of high quality and eclectic articles on a range of topics associated with George Gissing, his writings, and his circle of friends and acquaintances. Few readers will have access to all these publications and those that do will have a huge task to track down all the articles on any one topic. Following a comprehensive historical survey (35pp), this book provides three Indexes: Subject (160pp), Author (57pp) and Annual Index (39pp). This is an invaluable source of reference to the casual reader and scholar alike and a book that no serious student of Gissing can afford to be without.

[The book] is a model of its kind. In his introduction to the volume Neacey traces the development of the Gissing Journal. ... Coustillas’s 44-year service as editor and author is rightly allocated centre-stage in this lucid, synoptic account. ... It is the Subject Index, of course, which sets the greatest challenge to any indexer but also offers the greatest scope to “makes sense” of the material. ... the grouping of items under these capacious subject headings is the index’s most valuable feature and compelling evidence of Neacey’s knowledge, diligence and judgement in the process of the selection.

Evil and Its Variations in the Works of Elizabeth Gaskell: Sesquicentennial Essays (with many illustrations)

[In association with Osaka Kyoiku Tosho]

Edited and Introduced by Mitsuharu Matsuoka, 2015, xxv + 538pp.
ISBN: 978-4-2712103-9-9 Cloth £20

Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865) is recognised as one of the major Victorian novelists. Her work is often thought of as relatively gentle, but these 32 essays by an international group of leading scholars show that the representation of both social prejudices and personal evil is ubiquitous in her works. This substantial book includes authoritative essays on all her works, ranging from Mary Barton (1848) to Wives and Daughters (1864-66), including The Life of Charlotte Brontë (1857), the short stories, and the letters.

... This is certainly an appropriate volume to commemorate Elizabeth Gaskell and her work. She might have been surprised by the geographical diversity of her admirers but she would have appreciated it. She was an experienced traveller throughout Europe where her work was translated in her lifetime, a tradition that has flourished. As we all know, she had many American friends. She never reached the United States but her work certainly did, often as soon as it was published in this country. I have on my shelves the two volumes of the first American edition of The Life of Charlotte Brontë. ... Its author would have appreciated that, I suspect. Congratulations to Mitsuharu Matsuoka and his team.


List of Magazines

The Dickens Magazine ISSN 1476-1335

The Dickens Magazine is an ongoing project to publish a series of magazines focusing on each of the major works of Charles Dickens. Leading scholars and independent writers bring fresh light to these timeless classics. Among the many contributors are Dickens experts Professors Michael Hollington, Bert Hornback, Monica Flegel, Nathalie Vanfasse, Joel Brattin, and Drs Isabel Vila Cabanes, Gillian Piggott, Gareth Cordery, Joanne Eysell and Anita Fernandez Young. The main contributors to each series are the members of the editorial board listed below:

The Dickens Magazine is edited by Professor Philip V Allingham (Canada) and Alan S Watts (UK)

The following Dickensian authorities and academics are serving or have served on the Editorial Board:
Dr Philip V Allingham – Professor of English Education at Lakehead University, Canada and contributing editor to the Victorian website

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Alan S Watts – Former Honorary General Secretary and Former President of The Dickens Fellowship

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Each series of between two and six issues provides in-depth information on the selected work and is profusely illustrated with a wide variety of lesser known and rare pictures and photographs. Some of the many topics covered include the following:

- Historical background
- Social background
- Synopsis of the plot
- Analysis of the plot and the major themes
- Analysis of the main characters
- Analysis of the main illustrations
- Textual analysis
- Biblical allusions
- Geographical background
- Contemporary and later views and reviews

In addition to full coverage of each of the novels *The Dickens Magazine* also provides a host of related Dickensian information such as the following examples:

- The Dickens family
- Dickens’s residences
- novelists who influenced Dickens
- novelists influenced by Dickens
- Contemporary novelists
- Eminent Dickensians of the 19th and 20th centuries

To date eight series have been produced: Each issue varies in length from 32pp to 42 pp.
Series One – *Great Expectations* six issues £36
Series Two – *Hard Times* four issues £24
Series Three – *A Tale of Two Cities* four issues £24
Series Four – *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* four issues £24

Series Five – *Martin Chuzzlewit* four issues £24
Series Six – *David Copperfield* four issues £24
Series Seven – *A Christmas Carol* 2nd edition two issues £18
Series Eight – *Oliver Twist* three issues £24

‘The Dickens Magazine’ fulfils a valuable function; one that is not filled either by ‘The Dickensian’ or ‘The Dickens Quarterly’. Dr Alan Dilnot (Australia)

A most interesting magazine and masterly production. Carl Johnson (England)

On behalf of all the members of The Dickens Fellowship, York, may I thank all those concerned, for a brilliant series of magazines which is greatly enjoyed by all. Janet Parker, Hon Sec (York, England)

**Ordering Information**

To order any of the books and/or magazines send an email with your request to grayswood.press@tiscali.co.uk

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