

THE FAMILY of the BARRETT

GEORGE LYMAN KITTREDGE

"I have read your book with the keenest interest and congratulate you on a great achievement. If you had done nothing but discover, collect and organize so vast an amount of material, I should call the result an invaluable one, as a contribution to literary and social history. But your service to the world goes far beyond mere learning and scholarship. You have made your dreams personal life and move and have authentic being, and you have shown (throughout) that kind of imagination which sees the truth and that gift of style which makes the whole, as you rightly term it, "a colonial romance."

"I feel personally grateful to you for setting the character of E.B.B.'s father in the light of truth and for summing it up in the phrase 'exaggerated paternalism'."

"I have learned much from your book and have enjoyed learning it."

SIR FREDERIC KENYON

Director and Principal Librarian of the
British Museum
(1909-1930)

"Your book arrived some days before your letter, and I have been reading it whenever I had time with great interest. I am amazed at the amount of research you have conducted into the history of the Barrett family in Jamaica. You have established for all time the family antecedents of Mrs. Browning, and her future biographers will be grateful to you for having done this work once and for all . . ."

GENERAL SIR EDWARD ALTHAM

Grandson of Edward Moulton-Barrett

"As a descendant of the Barretts, I do indeed thank you with all my heart for the immense labour, thought and time you must have devoted to the production of the book, for its evident aim at scrupulous fairness of judgment in the personal and moral issues involved, and for the record of the family's share in the development of Jamaica during the first two centuries of existence as a British dependency. . . . It is a pleasure and a pride to possess such a thorough and clear history of my maternal ancestors."

FANNIE RATCHFORD

(Author of *THE BRONTE'S WEB OF CHILDHOOD*)

"I've never read a book more beautifully and forcefully stamped with careful, intelligent scholarship. And I've never seen your equal in compressing into meaningful form a confusing mass of multiplied and complicated details. . . . I feel a sense of personal triumph that such a stupendous masterpiece should come from a woman. . . ."

THE INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA

Kingston, Jamaica
7th October, 1939

Dear Miss Marks:

I am very pleased indeed to write saying that the Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica has decided to offer you the Silver Masgrave Medal.

It is in the power of the Board to award two of these medals each year, and the award is made for:

"Distinguished merit for promoting Literature, Science or Art in connection with the West Indies, especially Jamaica."

The Board feels that your book: *THE FAMILY OF THE BARRETT* is a most important contribution to West Indies literature and we would all be very pleased indeed if you would signify your acceptance of this medal.

I remain, with best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Philip M. Sherlock, Secretary

LANGTON HALDANE-ROBERTSON

M.R.S.L., F.S.A. (Scot.), A.C.C.S.

Historical Archivist to the Island Record Office

"Starting with a literary interest, you have, in the pursuit of your investigation, plumbed deeply into the history of Jamaica. The judgment is inescapable that you have become a considerable authority on the history of the British settlement and its development in the West Indies. In addition to its importance to literary history, *THE FAMILY OF THE BARRETT* is in respect of this other subject also a consummate work.

"Unquestionably, the finest thing with a background of and concerning Jamaica that has ever been written."

The Wrenn Library
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

Illustrated Browning Lectures

by

JEANNETTE MARKS

Author of *"The Family of the Barrett"*

"Rapt attention" "Rare treat" "Inspiring address" "Fascinating and scholarly"

AMAZING RECORDS

These lectures are based on amazing records which the author and lecturer uncovered on the Islands of Jamaica, St. Kitts, Dominica and on other Caribbean Islands as well as in England, Scotland and Cornwall. . . . For eight centuries the ancestors of Elizabeth Barrett and for two centuries those of Robert Browning lived in one or more of these countries. The lectures give a remarkable revelation of the hitherto unknown backgrounds and destinies of both poets.



Awarded to
"Jeannette Marks, Literature, 1939"

LECTURES

I

The Treasure Islands of the Brownings
Adventures in Research

II

Happy Children
The Home Life of the Barretts

III

Edward Moulton Barrett On Trial

IV

Robert Browning and the Tar Brush

V

Adventures in Discrimination



The Silver Masgrave Medal
British West Indies

"We should all be ready to say that if the secrets of our daily lives and inner souls may instruct other surviving souls, let them be open to men hereafter, even as they are to God now
E.B.B. to R.B.

THE LETTERS OF ROBERT BROWNING AND
ELIZABETH BARRETT, VOL. I, PAGE 481

Jeannette Marks

During the years of research which began in 1925, Jeannette Marks has formed a remarkable collection of Barrett-Browning material. This collection follows the fortunes of the two families from the will of Thomas Barrett of Cornwall, dated 1490, to Cornwall in Jamaica and back to England again. It includes the will of George Goodin Barrett, Elizabeth Barrett Browning's great uncle (from which came the title, *The Family of the Barretts*); letters of Robert Browning's great-grandfather John Tittle; the sketch book of Robert Browning, Senior; a hitherto unknown set of *Juvenilia*, E.B.B.'s personal album; and scores of other interesting items—in all many hundreds of family documents. Here also is the Barrett Deed Book, which on the death of Charles John Barrett came to his daughter Arabel and thence to the J. M. Collection. With the Deed Book came the antique crystal seal of Cinnamon Hill great house. The pictures in the collection include photographs of the various Jamaican estates of the Barrett Family.

TERMS

Single lectures	\$75.
Course of two lectures (one day or consecutive days)	\$100.
Course of three lectures (given within one week)	\$175.
Course of five lectures (given within ten days)	\$300.

ADDRESS
JEANNETTE MARKS
WESTPORT, ESSEX COUNTY,
NEW YORK
TELEPHONE WESTPORT 1-1

From COMMENTS ON LECTURES GIVEN 1940-1942

LOS ANGELES BROWNING SOCIETY

May 1, 1941

Dear Miss Marks,—

What a delightful memory you have left us! Surely we needed no flowers Tuesday to leave a pleasing aroma in the Dobey lecture-room Your lecture let us into the secrets of research, avoiding all mention of the weariness and disappointments which must often have attended your way. It was all very interesting.

. . . . We are glad to have known so pleasantly our Honorary Member

Sincerely yours,

Harriet B. Blakelee

BOSTON AUTHORS' CLUB

May 13, 1940

Dear Miss Marks,

Rarely has the Boston Authors' Club been so enthusiastic over a speaker as they all—without exception—were over you. You must have felt their rapt attention. It was all a delight and we are all grateful that you gave it to us

With appreciation for your memorable visit and lecture, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Constance Grosvenor Alexander

(Chairman of the Literary Committee)

WASHINGTON BRANCH A.A.U.W.

December 6, 1942

Dear Miss Marks,

The Washington Branch of the A.A.U.W. expressed its appreciation of your superb lecture "An Adventure in Research" by remaining in their seats when you gave them the opportunity of leaving before the end of the lecture. In spite of the transportation problem and the fact that it was approaching the dinner hour, they stayed on to hear the very last of your story of the Brownings. Members are still telling me how much they enjoyed your lecture and what a delightful afternoon you gave them. We all thank you for a rare treat.

Yours sincerely,

Anna F. Toye

(Mrs. F. Garald), Program Chairman

SAINT MARGARET'S SCHOOL

WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT

December 2, 1941

Office of the Principal

Dear Miss Marks:

Despite the fact that our girls have practically no contact with Browning until the latter part of their senior year, so that their acquaintance with him is decidedly limited, all the girls were genuinely appreciative of your fascinating and scholarly talk to them.

I must admit I wondered whether your theme would be slightly beyond their appreciation, but there is no question whatever about that now. It is quite remarkable, it seems to me, that you so brought this material together that it was within the ability of even these young people to be so enthusiastic as they were

Believe me, with very much appreciation of your evening with us,

Very sincerely yours,

Alberta C. Edell

Those fantastic myths which have surrounded the Barretts of Wimpole Street are now dispelled. When Jeannette Marks began her study of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, her point of view was the usual one—Oedipus complex, tuberculosis, tyrannical father. But she had become convinced that behind the brief references to Barrett ancestry and influence in the Browning biographies lay more information.

So she went to Jamaica, visited the various vast estates which had once belonged to the Barretts, and delved into old official records which gradually disclosed a strange tale of strife and adventure. She had not even guessed that not only as Barrett history was set in Jamaica, so was an important part of the Robert Browning past. Generation after generation of Barretts play a part in this great family chronicle, and the forces with which they had to deal—earthquake and hurricane, slave insurrections, pirates, rum and miscegenation, black magic and all the problems of life in the colony of Jamaica—are made vividly real. And throughout one sees the influences that were leading up to Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning.

The stirring records culminate in a new interpretation of Elizabeth Barrett's strange personality and of her father, while Robert Browning emerges a newly vitalized figure.

LECTURES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

The lectures and their illustrations are based on the Barrett-Browning treasures, including some secondary Barrett-Browning and other letters, rare documents and hitherto unknown illustrations.

About 30 illustrations are used with each lecture. These pictures are new in the study of the Brownings, and represent the results of travel and search, and of pictures and papers. The miniatures, portraits, estate pictures and estate maps are in part gifts from General Sir Edward Alban and Lady Alban, Major Moulton-Barrett, Arabel Moulton Barrett and the Institute of Jamaica.