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The oldest of twelve children, Elizabeth was the first in her family born in England in over two hundred years. For centuries, the Barrett family, who were part Creole, had lived in Jamaica, where they owned sugar plantations and relied on slave labor. Educated at home, Elizabeth apparently had read passages from Paradise Lost and a number of Shakespearean plays, among other great works, before the age of ten. By her twelfth year, she had written her first "epic" poem, which consisted of four books of rhyming couplets. Two years later, Elizabeth developed a lung ailment that plagued her for the rest of her life. Doctors began treating her with morphine, which she would take until her death. While saddling a pony when she was fifteen, Elizabeth also suffered a spinal injury. Despite her ailments, her education continued to flourish. Throughout her teenage years, Elizabeth taught herself Hebrew so that she could read the Old Testament; her interests later turned to Greek studies. Accompanying her appetite for the classics was a passionate enthusiasm for her Christian faith. She became active in the Bible and Missionary Societies of her church. Two years later, her mother passed away. He moved his family to a coastal town and rented cottages for the next three years, before settling permanently in London. While living on the sea coast, Elizabeth published her translation of Prometheus Bound , by the Greek dramatist Aeschylus. Elizabeth bitterly opposed slavery and did not want her siblings sent away. During this time, she wrote The Seraphim and Other Poems , expressing Christian sentiments in the form of classical Greek tragedy. Due to her weakening disposition, she was forced to spend a year at the sea of Torquay accompanied by her brother Edward, whom she referred to as "Bro. She continued writing, however, and in produced a collection entitled simply Poems. This volume gained the attention of poet Robert Browning , whose work Elizabeth had praised in one of her poems, and he wrote her a letter. Elizabeth and Robert, who was six years her junior, exchanged letters over the next twenty months. Immortalized in in the play The Barretts of Wimpole Street, by Rudolf Besier , their romance was bitterly opposed by her father, who did not want any of his children to marry. Her father never spoke to her again. Critics generally consider the Sonnetsâ€™one of the most widely known collections of love lyrics in Englishâ€™to be her best work. Admirers have compared her imagery to Shakespeare and her use of the Italian form to Petrarch. She expressed her intense sympathy for the struggle for the unification of Italy in Casa Guidi Windows and Poems Before Congress In Browning published her verse novel Aurora Leigh, which portrays male domination of a woman. In her poetry she also addressed the oppression of the Italians by the Austrians, the child labor mines and mills of England, and slavery, among other social injustices. Although this decreased her popularity, Elizabeth was heard and recognized around Europe. Elizabeth Barrett Browning died in Florence on June 29, Selected Bibliography The Battle of Marathon: A Poem Poems:

2: Elizabeth Barrett Browning's five best poems | Books | The Guardian

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Idylls of the King, a cycle of twelve narrative blank verse poems, retells the Arthurian legend. The Library also owns thirty-six letters written by Tennyson to various other Victorian correspondents, and three manuscripts. Over books related to Tennyson are owned by the ABL, many of them rare editions. The collection also contains a voice recording of Tennyson. Letter from Alfred, Lord Tennyson to Mrs. Tennyson says that he knows Mrs. Coventry and Emily Augusta Patmore named their second son Tennyson and asked the Tennysons to be his godparents. This is an early autograph draft, substantially longer than the version published in Poems The poem was published in as the epilogue to The Idylls of the King. Idylls of the King. This copy is signed by Julia Margaret Cameron, famous photographer and friend of Tennyson. Cameron and Tennyson were neighbors on the Isle of Wight. Cameron produced her own copy of Idylls of the King, which included photographs of staged scenes from the poems and a photograph of Tennyson. A Selection from the Works of Alfred Tennyson. This volume is a first edition inscribed by Tennyson on the half-title to his favorite sister: On his bookplate inside the front cover he has written: Ballads and Other Poems. London and New York: Thank you, your email will be added to the mailing list once you click on the link in the confirmation email. Your Email Please prove that you are not a robot.

3: Elizabeth Barrett Browning - Poet | Academy of American Poets

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Edit Browning, the only son of Robert Browning a man of fine intellect and character, who worked in the Bank of England, was born in Camberwell. In his childhood he was distinguished by his love of poetry and natural history. After being at private schools and showing a dislike to school life, he was educated by a tutor, and later studied Greek at University College London. His first publication was *Pauline*, which appeared anonymously in 1831, but attracted little attention. *Paracelsus* in 1833, though having no general popularity, gained the notice of Carlyle, Wordsworth, and other men of letters, and gave him a reputation as a poet of distinguished promise. In 1846 he married poet Elizabeth Barrett, a union of ideal happiness. His subjects were often recondite and lay beyond the ken and sympathy of the great bulk of readers; and owing, partly to the subtle links connecting the ideas and partly to his often extremely condensed and rugged expression, the treatment of them was not seldom difficult and obscure. Consequently for long he appealed to a somewhat narrow circle. As time went on, however, and work after work was added, the circle widened, and the marvellous depth and variety of thought and intensity of feeling told with increasing force. Critics became more and more appreciative, and he at last reaped the harvest of admiration and honour which was his due. Many distinctions came to him. He died in the house of his son at Venice, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. He was keenly susceptible, from earliest infancy, to music, poetry, and painting. At 2 years and 3 months he painted in lead-pencil and black-currant jam-juice a composition of a cottage and rocks, which was thought a masterpiece. So turbulent was he and destructive that he was sent, a mere infant, to the day-school of a dame, who has the credit of having divined his intellect. About 1825 he had completed a little volume of verses, called *Incondita*, for which he endeavoured in vain to find a publisher, and it was destroyed. It had been shown, however, to Miss Sarah Flower, afterwards Mrs. Adams, who made a copy of it; this copy, 50 years afterwards, fell into the hands of Browning himself, who destroyed it. He later said that these verses were servile imitations of Lord Byron, who was at that time still alive; and that their only merit was their mellifluous smoothness. Of Miss Eliza Flower elder sister of Sarah Flower, his earliest literary friend, Browning always spoke with deep emotion. Although she was 9 years his senior, he regarded her with tender boyish sentiment, and she is believed to have inspired *Pauline*. He was at this time at the school of the Rev. Thomas Ready in Peckham. In the question of his education was seriously raised, and it was decided that he should be sent neither to a public school nor ultimately to a university. In later years the poet regretted this decision, which, however, was probably not unfavorable to his idiosyncrasy. He was taught at home by a tutor; his training was made to include "music, singing, dancing, riding, boxing, and fencing. From 14 to 16 he was inclined to believe that musical composition would be the art in which he might excel, and he wrote a number of settings for songs; these he afterwards destroyed. He now formed the acquaintance of 2 young men of adventurous spirit, each destined to become distinguished, Joseph Arnould and Alfred Domett; both then lived at Camberwell. Domett early in his career went out to New Zealand, in circumstances the suddenness and romance of which suggested to Browning his poem of "Waring. While he was at University College, his father asked him what he intended to be. The young man replied by asking if his sister would be sufficiently provided for if he adopted no business or profession. The answer was that she would be. The poet then suggested that it would be better for him "to see life in the best sense, and cultivate the powers of his mind, than to shackle himself in the very outset of his career by a laborious training, foreign to that aim. Silverthorne paid for it to be printed, and the little volume appeared, anonymously, in January 1831. The poet sent a copy to W. Fox, with a letter in which he described himself as "an oddish sort of boy, who had the honour of being introduced to you at Hackney some years back" by Sarah Flower Adams. Fox reviewed *Pauline* with very great warmth in the *Monthly Repository*, and it fell also under the favourable notice of Allan Cunningham. Mill read and enthusiastically admired it, but had no opportunity of giving it public praise. With these exceptions *Pauline* fell absolutely still-born from the press. He was still occupied with certain religious speculations. In the winter of 1831, as the guest of Mr.

Benckhausen, the Russian consul-general, he spent 3 months in St. Petersburg, an experience which had a vivid effect on the awakening of his poetic faculties. In the early part of he paid his first visit to Italy, and saw Venice and Asolo. Fox helped him to find a publisher, Effingham Wilson. The press in general took no notice of this poem, but curiosity began to awaken among lovers of poetry. About the Browning family moved from Camberwell to Hatcham, to a much larger and more convenient house, where the picturesque domestic life of the poet was developed. What do you say to a drama on Strafford? It was played by Macready and Helen Faucit, but it only ran for five nights. Vandenhoff, who had played the part of Pym with great indifference, cavalierly declined to act any more. Browning was not in the least discouraged, although, as Mrs. Of the business relations between Browning and Moxon the poet gave the following relation in , in a letter still unpublished, addressed to F. Moxon was kind and civil, made no profit by me, I am sure, and never tried to help me to any, he would have assured you. The latter did not act in it, and treated it with contumely. Browning gave the leading part to Phelps, and the heroine was played by Helen Faucit. There followed a quarrel between the poet and Macready, who did not meet again till In the autumn of Browning set out on his third journey to Italy, taking ship direct for Naples. He formed the acquaintance of a cultivated young Neapolitan, named Scotti, with whom he travelled to Rome. At Leghorn Browning visited E.. Browning was now at the very height of his genius. It was through Kenyon that Browning first became acquainted with Elizabeth Barrett Moulton Barrett, who was already celebrated as a poet, and had, indeed, achieved a far wider reputation than Browning. Miss Barrett was the cousin of Kenyon; a confirmed invalid, she saw no one and never left the house. She was six years older than he, but looked much younger than her age. He was induced to write to her, and his first letter, addressed from Hatcham on 10 Jan. Their earliest meeting, however, took place at Wimpole Street, in the afternoon of Tuesday, 20 May, She withdrew, but he persisted, and each time her denial grew fainter. He visited her three times a week, and these visits were successfully concealed from her father, a man of strange eccentricity and selfishness, who thought that the lives of all his children should be exclusively dedicated to himself, and who forbade any of them to think of marriage. In the whole matter the conduct of Browning, though hazardous and involving great moral courage, can only be considered strictly honourable and right. The happiness, and even perhaps the life, of the invalid depended upon her leaving the hothouse in which she was imprisoned. Her father acted as a mere tyrant, and the only alternatives were that Elizabeth should die in her prison or should escape from it with the man she loved. Pancras Church, where they were privately married. Saturday she stole away at dinner-time with her maid and Flush, her dog. At Vauxhall Station Browning met her, and at 9 p. In that city they found Mrs. Jameson, and in her company, a week later, started for Italy. They passed by sea from Marseilles to Genoa. Early in October they reached Pisa, and settled there for the winter, taking rooms for six months in the Collegio Ferdinando. The health of Mrs. Browning bore the strain far better than could have been anticipated; indeed, the courageous step which the lovers had taken was completely justified; Mr. Barrett, however, continued implacable. The poets lived with strict economy at Pisa, and Mrs. Browning benefited from the freedom and the beauty of Italy: Early in Browning began to prepare a collected edition of his poems. In October Father Prout joined them for some weeks, and was a welcome apparition. Sorrow greatly depressed the poet at this time, and their position in Florence, in the disturbed state of Tuscany, was precarious. The following months, extremely quiet ones, were spent in Casa Guidi, the health of Elizabeth Browning not being quite so satisfactory as it had previously been since her marriage. On 2 May they started for Venice, where they spent a month; and then by Milan, Lucerne, and Strassburg to Paris, where they settled down for a few weeks. At the end of July they crossed over to England, after an absence of nearly five years, and stayed until the end of September in lodgings at 26 Devonshire Street. It was on this occasion that Carlyle travelled with them from London to Paris. They were received by Madame Mohl, and at her house met various celebrities. They walked out in the early morning of 2 Dec. In February Browning was induced to contribute a prose essay on Shelley to a volume of new letters by that poet, which Moxon was publishing; he did not know anything about the provenance of the letters, and the introduction was on Shelley in general. However, to his annoyance, it proved that Moxon was deceived; the letters were shown to be forgeries, and the book was immediately withdrawn. The Brownings saw George Sand 13 Feb. Robert walked the whole length of the Tuileries Gardens with her on his arm 7 April ; but

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missed, by tiresome accidents, Alfred de Musset and Victor Hugo. They went to see Kenyon at Wimbledon, and met Landor there. They left Rome on 22 May, travelling back to Florence in a vettura. It was here that, on 27 Sept. Here too was written the address to E.

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