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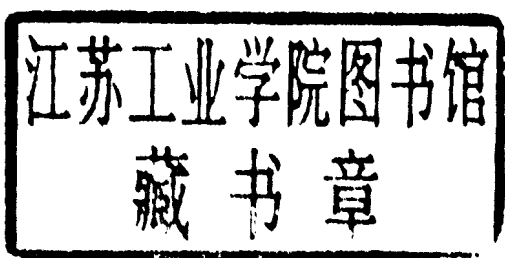


WILKIE COLLINS

Edited by Jenny Bourne Taylor

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JENNY BOURNE TAYLOR



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with Martin Ryle, *George Gissing: Voices of the Unclassed* (2005). She has also edited Wilkie Collins's *The Law and the Lady* (1992) and Mary Elizabeth Braddon's *Lady Audley's Secret* (1998).

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NOTE ON REFERENCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

Although *The Woman in White* and *The Moonstone* have remained in print since they were first published, until recently it has been difficult to obtain much of Collins's work (the AMS press 30-volume edition is not annotated and is hard to locate). However, many texts have come back into print in the past few years: in the Oxford World's Classics series, in the excellent Broadview editions and in the reprints by Alan Sutton Publishing. Yet there is still no authoritative edition of Collins's work and in general this *Companion* makes parenthetical references to chapter numbers (e.g., ch. 3) when quoting from texts. There are, however, some important exceptions. Collins characteristically breaks with the conventional chapter format in his major works, so when quoting from the following texts, page numbers will be used (e.g., p. 65) to refer to the following Oxford World's Classics editions:

Basil ed. Dorothy Goldman (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990)
This is a facsimile of the 1862 edition.

The Moonstone ed. John Sutherland (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999).

No Name ed. Virginia Blain (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986).

The Woman in White ed. John Sutherland (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998).

The edition of the short stories used is Julian Thompson (ed.) *Wilkie Collins: The Complete Shorter Fiction* (London: Robinson, 1995).

The following short references will be used for frequently cited critical material and letters:

B&C William Baker and William M. Clarke (eds.), *The Letters of Wilkie Collins*, 2 vols., (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1999).

- BGL&L* William Baker, Andrew Gasson, Graham Law and Paul Lewis (eds.), *The Public Face of Wilkie Collins: The Collected Letters* (London: Pickering and Chatto 2005).
- CH* Norman Page (ed.), *Wilkie Collins, The Critical Heritage* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1974).
- Peters Catherine Peters, *The King of Inventors: A Life of Wilkie Collins* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991).

CHRONOLOGY

- 1824 Born at 11 New Cavendish Street, St Marylebone, London, on 8 January, elder son of William Collins and Harriet Collins (*née* Geddes).
- 1826 The family moves to Pond Street, Hampstead.
- 1828 Brother, Charles Allston Collins, born.
- 1829 The family moves to Hampstead Square.
- 1830 The family moves to Porchester Terrace, Bayswater.
- 1835 Starts school at Maida Hill Academy.
- 1836–8 The family visits France and Italy.
- 1838–40 Attends Mr Cole's private boarding school in Highbury.
- 1840 The family moves to 85 Oxford Terrace, Bayswater.
- 1841 Apprenticed to Antrobus & Co., tea importers.
- 1843 First signed publication, 'The Last Stage Coachman', appears in the *Illuminated Magazine* in August.
- 1844 Travels to Paris with Charles Ward.
Writes first novel, 'Ioláni, or Tahiti as it was; a Romance'.
- 1845 'Ioláni' submitted to and rejected by Chapman and Hall.

- 1846 Enters Lincoln's Inn to study law.
- 1847 William Collins dies.
- 1848 The family moves to 38 Blandford Square, using drawing room for amateur theatricals.
Memoirs of the Life of William Collins Esq., RA published by Longmans in November.
- 1849 Exhibits a painting, *The Smugglers' Retreat*, at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.
- 1850 *Antonina, or the Fall of Rome* published by Bentley in February.
The family moves to 17 Hanover Terrace.
Collins goes on a walking tour of Cornwall with artist Henry Brandling in July and August.
- 1851 *Rambles Beyond Railways* published by Bentley in January.
Collins meets Charles Dickens for the first time in March, and acts with him in Edward Bulwer-Lytton's *Not So Bad As We Seem* in May.
'The Twin Sisters', Collins's first contribution to *Bentley's Miscellanies*, published in March, and his first contribution to Edward Pigott's radical journal the *Leader* published in September.
- 1852 *Mr Wray's Cash-Box; or, The Mask and the Mystery* published by Bentley in January.
'A Terribly Strange Bed', Collins's first contribution to *Household Words*, appears in April.
Goes on tour with Dickens's company of amateur actors in May.
Basil published by Bentley in November.
- 1853 Stays with Dickens in Boulogne from July to September; tours Switzerland and Italy with Dickens and Augustus Egg from October to December.
- 1854 *Hide and Seek* published by Bentley in June.
Stays with Dickens in Boulogne in July and August.

- 1855 Collins's first play, *The Lighthouse*, performed by Dickens's theatrical company at Tavistock House in June.
Sails to Scilly Isles with Pigott in September.
- 1856 *After Dark*, a collection of short stories, published by Smith, Elder in February.
Visits Paris with Dickens from February to April.
A Rogue's Life serialised in *Household Words* in March.
Joins staff of *Household Words* in October.
- 1857 *The Frozen Deep* performed by Dickens's theatrical company at Tavistock House in January.
The Dead Secret serialised in *Household Words* from January to June and published in volume form by Bradbury & Evans.
The Lighthouse performed at the Olympic theatre in August.
The Lazy Tour of Two Idle Apprentices, based on Dickens's and Collins's walking tour in the north of England, serialised in *Household Words* in October.
Collaborates with Dickens on 'The Perils of Certain English Prisoners'.
- 1858 *The Red Vial* produced at the Olympic theatre in October.
Collaborates with Dickens on *A House To Let* for the Christmas number of *Household Words*.
- 1859 Starts to live with Caroline Graves and her daughter Harriet.
Lives at 124 Albany Street in January and February then moves to 2a Cavendish Street in April.
The Queen of Hearts (collection of short stories) published in three volumes by Hurst & Blackett in October.
The Woman in White serialised in *All the Year Round* from November to August 1860.
Moves to 12 Harley Street in December.
- 1860 *The Woman in White* published in volume form by Sampson Low in August.
- 1861 Visits Whitby in North Yorkshire with Caroline Graves.

- 1862 Resigns from staff of *All the Year Round* in January.
No Name serialised in *All the Year Round* from March to January 1863 and published in volume form by Sampson Low in December.
 Begins to suffer seriously from rheumatic gout.
- 1863 *My Miscellanies*, a collection of journalism from *Household Words* and *All the Year Round*, published by Sampson Low in November.
 Visits German spas and Italy for his health with Caroline Graves.
- 1864 *Armada* serialised in the *Cornhill Magazine* from November to June 1866.
 Moves to 9 Melcombe Place, Dorset Square, in December.
- 1866 *Armada* published in volume form by Smith, Elder in May.
The Frozen Deep produced at the Olympic theatre in October.
- 1867 Moves to 90 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, in September.
No Thoroughfare published as the Christmas number of *All the Year Round*; the dramatised version opens at the Adelphi theatre on 26 December.
- 1868 *The Moonstone* serialised in *All the Year Round* from January to August; published in volume form by Tinsley in July.
 Harriet Collins dies.
 Forms liaison with Martha Rudd ('Mrs Dawson'), and attends the marriage of Caroline Graves and Joseph Clow.
- 1869 *Black and White* written in collaboration with Charles Fechter, and produced at the Adelphi theatre in March.
 Collins's and Martha Rudd's daughter, Marian Dawson, born.
- 1870 *Man and Wife* published in volume form by S. F. Ellis in June.
 Dickens dies.

- 1871 Collins's and Martha's second daughter Harriet Constance Dawson born.
The Woman in White produced at the Olympic theatre in October.
Poor Miss Finch serialised in *Cassell's Magazine* from October to March 1872.
Miss or Mrs? published in the Christmas number of the *Graphic*.
- 1872 *Poor Miss Finch* published in volume form by Bentley.
The New Magdalen serialised in *Temple Bar* from October to July 1873.
- 1873 *Miss or Mrs? and Other Stories in Outline* published by Bentley in January.
Dramatic version of *Man and Wife* performed at the Prince of Wales's theatre in February.
Charles Allston Collins dies.
Tours America and Canada, giving readings of his work, from September to March 1874.
The New Magdalen published in volume form by Bentley and the highly successful dramatic version is performed at the Olympic theatre in May.
- 1874 *The Frozen Deep and Other Stories* published by Bentley in November.
Collins's and Martha Rudd's son, William Charles Dawson, born.
The Law and the Lady serialised in the *Graphic* from September to March 1875.
- 1875 Copyright in most of Collins's work transferred to Chatto & Windus.
The Law and the Lady published in volume form by Chatto & Windus in February.
- 1876 *Miss Gwilt* performed at the Globe theatre in April.
The Two Destinies serialised in *Temple Bar* and published in volume form in August.

- 1877 Dramatic version of *The Moonstone* performed at the Olympic theatre in September.
- 1878 *The Haunted Hotel* serialised in *Belgravia* from June to November.
- 1879 *The Haunted Hotel and My Lady's Money* published by Chatto & Windus in volume form.
The Fallen Leaves serialised in *The World* and in *Canadian Monthly* and published in volume form by Chatto & Windus in July. The planned sequel to *The Fallen Leaves* never appeared, owing to the novel's poor reception.
A Rogue's Life published by Bentley in April.
- 1880 *Jezebel's Daughter* published in volume form by Chatto & Windus in March following syndication by Tillotson & Son of Bolton.
- 1881 *The Black Robe* published in volume form by Chatto & Windus in April.
 Starts to employ A. P. Watt as his literary agent.
- 1883 *Heart and Science* serialised in *Belgravia* and provincial newspapers and published in volume form by Chatto & Windus in April.
 Collins's play *Rank and Riches* produced at the Adelphi theatre in June – a disaster.
- 1884 'I Say No' published in volume form by Chatto & Windus in October, following serialisation in *London Society*.
 Becomes Vice-President of Society of Authors, founded by Walter Besant.
- 1886 *The Evil Genius* published in volume form by Chatto & Windus in September, following serial syndication by Tillotson & Son.
The Guilty River published in *Arrowsmith's Christmas Annual*.
- 1887 *Little Novels* published by Chatto & Windus.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1888 *The Legacy of Cain* published in volume form by Chatto & Windus in November, following serial syndication by Tillotson & Son.
 Moves to 82 Wimpole Street, Marylebone.
- 1889 Collins dies at 82 Wimpole Street on 23 September, following a paralytic stroke. He is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery.
- 1890 The final third of Collins's last novel, *Blind Love*, completed by Walter Besant following Collins's detailed scenario, and the novel is published in volume form by Chatto & Windus in January.
- 1895 Caroline Graves dies and is buried with Collins.
- 1919 Martha Rudd dies.

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