



The 'Felix and Felicitas' Papers of Marcus Clarke:

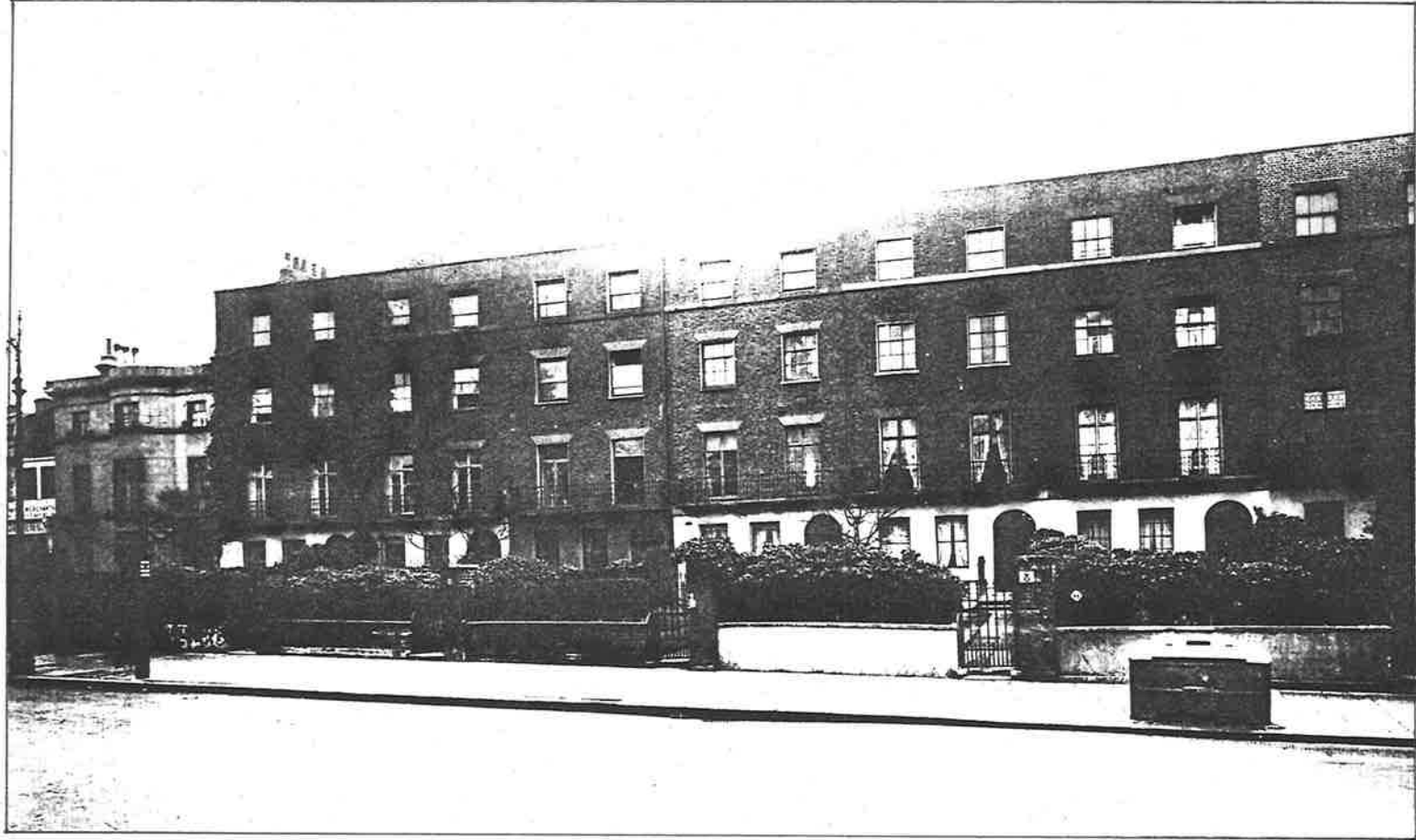
An Annotated Edition with an Introduction

by

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A thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Arts
in the Department of English, University of Adelaide

May, 1987.



The Birthplace of Marcus Clarke

11 Leonard Place, Kensington

24 April 1846

The house forms one of a row probably built early last century when Kensington was an aristocratic and almost rural suburban neighbourhood. The front faces the busy high street and from the first floor windows commands a view of the fine trees and lawns of Holland House across the road, whilst from those at the back one looks down upon the modest little garden at the rear of the house itself. For a London middle-class residence the situation is a choice one, the noise of the traffic in Kensington High Street being diminished by the strip of garden in the front. The late Mrs. Marcus Clarke took away with her a small root of the ivy growing in the front court which, on her return, she planted on her husband's grave in Melbourne Cemetery.

Cyril Manley Hopkins, 1926.

Facing:

Leonard Place, Kensington, c. 1927.

Number 11 is the second terrace house from the left.

Photograph by courtesy of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Central Library.

To Peter Abbott-Young

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Summary

The 'Felix and Felicitas' Papers, now in the Mitchell Library, relate to a novel by Marcus Clarke left unfinished at his death in 1881. They comprise the following items:

- A. Six chapters in print, with an incomplete printed synopsis.
Chapter 7, and part of Chapter 8. Original MS.
- B. Summaries and notes. Original MS.
- C. Correspondence between Clarke and his sister-in-law Rose Lewis.
Love-letters, in two separate bundles, altered to conform to the novel's plot; all said to be copies in Clarke's hand, although some of his appear to be originals.
- D. Letter from Clarke to F.F. Bailliere, 2 Oct. 1876, giving a synopsis of his plot. Original MS.
- E. 'Explanatory Preface.' An incomplete draft by Hamilton Mackinnon.
Original MS.
- F. Copies of Chapter 7, and most of the love-letters, in another hand.

Two other related documents are included in this edition. One is a version of Item D for the London publisher Bentley, with Bailliere's covering letter attached. The other is an MS. in Clarke's hand, hitherto described as an unused emendation to His Natural Life, now identified as one of the love-letters.

I have rearranged these documents into a roughly chronological order. Clarke's love-affair with Rose Lewis is thought to be reflected in the novel; but it was over early in 1873, well before work on 'Felix and Felicitas' began. I have therefore placed the letters, tentatively reordered as a continuous correspondence, first; and the unfinished novel fragment last.

The novel was to be set in contemporary English 'Society'; and was to show how an adulterous affair, begun idealistically, might end in an

anti-climax, destroyed by poverty and ennui. It was to be 'full of music and art' and witty talk.

In preparation Clarke made almost 300 extracts from a variety of works; most were traced, and each note annotated. A proportion were interwoven by Clarke in the completed chapters; and these places have been noted.

The only publication in which the Papers have been treated at any length is Brian Elliott's Marcus Clarke (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1958); but, beyond a brief critical commentary on Clarke's completed chapters and synopsis, he concentrates mainly on the love affair, as being the origin of the novel, and the correspondence which resulted. He assumes, however, that Clarke himself altered the letters to conform to his story. I disagree with him on this point; and have tentatively identified the editorial hand as that of Hamilton Mackinnon.

My Introduction gives an account of the work done; the editorial decisions made; and notes associated material located elsewhere. It charts, as far as is practicable where little dated material exists, the genesis and progress of the novel, as well as the history of attempts to publish the fragment posthumously. Valuable evidence of Clarke's working methods is discussed in some detail; and certain improvements in his literary skills noted. However, I do not claim to have attempted a thoroughgoing critical analysis of 'Felix and Felicitas.'

Declaration

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university; and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference is made in the text or notes.

Signed .

Acknowledgements

My thanks must go first to my supervisor Mr Tim Mares of the English Department, University of Adelaide. It was he who persuaded me that I ought to get 'Felix and Felicitas' out of my system and, having once launched me, sustained what was at times a rather frail craft by his encouragement and perceptive criticism.

I owe a very great debt to librarians whose sympathetic understanding of my needs was to make the work, so often dependent on their good offices, a pleasure. It would be invidious to mention individuals where all were helpful; but I am especially grateful to the Librarians and staff of the following institutions:

In South Australia: The Barr Smith Library of the University of Adelaide, which purchased microfilm for my use and assisted me generally, especially through its reference and inter-library loan services; the State Library of South Australia; and the Library of Flinders University.

In New South Wales: The Mitchell Library, whose Librarian gave me permission to use the original 'Felix and Felicitas' documents and to reproduce Clarke's printed chapters and three pages of the manuscript.

In Victoria: The State Library of Victoria and its La Trobe Library; the Library of Monash University; the Parliamentary Library; and the Library of the High Court.

In London: The Library of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, which allowed me to reproduce the photograph of Clarke's birthplace as the frontispiece to this thesis.

Thanks are also due to the staffs of the Australian Archives in Canberra, and the Public Records Office in ^{er}Lavington and Melbourne.

I was heartened by the sympathetic interest shown by Dr. Brian Elliott, Professor L.T. Hergenhan of the University of Queensland, Dr. Harold Love of Monash University, Mr. Ian F. McLaren, whose Bibliography of Clarke was to become a vade mecum; and Mr. John Holroyd of Melbourne, whose special knowledge of Australian books has been a help to many.

A list of those members of the English Department in Adelaide who lent me their moral support might again be invidious; but I must mention Emeritus Professor John Colmer who had supervised my earlier work on Clarke before I abandoned it in favour of 'Felix and Felicitas.' The advice of Mr George Turner, Dr. Michael Tolley and Dr. Robert Sellick often proved helpful; and I owe a great deal to Ms. Robin Eaden who suggested several improvements to my bibliography; all errors or omissions being, of course, my own. I acknowledge also the comradely support of my fellow post-graduate students, notably Margaret Hood, Mark Leahy, and Dr. Peter Otto; and the cheerful encouragement of Shirley Bowbridge and her staff in the departmental office.

Under the chairmanship, first of Professor K. Ruthven, and later of Dr. Alan Brissenden, the Department of English gave welcome financial support to my visits to Melbourne and Sydney; and my work was also assisted by a Commonwealth Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

Last, but not least, I must acknowledge the support of my family. My children Nicholas, Gabriel and Martin, my daughters-in-law Joan and Cathryn, my son-in-law Tony, and my grandchildren Christopher and Carly all submitted, without complaint, to my attention's being diverted for some years from their lives and interests; and I am especially grateful to Nicholas, who devised a computer programme for my bibliography.

It is difficult to speak adequately of the sense of support derived from the wholehearted encouragement of my husband Peter. Not only did he purchase a word-processor for my use but, in a very busy life, he did not disdain to be a 'hewer of wood and drawer of water' in the time-consuming matter of bringing books from the Library, and relieving me of almost all domestic chores. From his own past experience as a Faculty Secretary he was able to spread calm when the mechanics of thesis production seemed too daunting; and indeed without his ever-present strength it is doubtful if this thesis would have been completed. It is therefore dedicated to him with my gratitude.

Legend and Abbreviations

Legend

- [] Editorial additions and commentary
- [ML+number] Mitchell Library pagination of Volume 1 of the Papers
- [2ML+number] ----- pagination of Volume 2 of the Papers
- (number) Internal page-references
- Hopkins Cyril Manley Hopkins's 'Biographical Notice of the Life and Work of Marcus Clarke.' Hopkins paginated each chapter separately; and all references indicate this, e.g. (2, p. 2). Where it might not be clear that the reference is to him I have included his name; e.g. (Hopkins, 2, p. 2).
- < > Doubtful readings and editorial insertions in transcription
- # . . . # Editorial Annotations to Clarke's Notes
- *, or * . . .* Single word or text thought to be in the hand of Hamilton Mackinnon. It should be noted throughout that where, for the sake of brevity, reference is made to Mackinnon's 'hand,' such reference means 'tentatively identified as Mackinnon's hand.'
- / Line-breaks on page-headings of the original documents; except, occasionally, where Clarke separates his notes by a similar mark.
- ✱ A mark by which Clarke drew particular attention to a note.

Abbreviations

- ADB Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 4
(Melbourne: Melbourne Univ. Press, 1972).
- DNB Dictionary of National Biography (London, 1885-
1900); and 1st Supplement (London: Smith Elder,
1901).
- OED The Oxford English Dictionary and its
Supplements, 4 vols (Oxford: Clarendon Press,
1972-86).
- Austral Edition The Austral Edition of the Selected Works of
Marcus Clarke, ed. Hamilton Mackinnon
(Melbourne, 1890).
- B.L. Cat. British Library Catalogue.
- Burke, or A General and Heraldic Dictionary of the
Burke's Peerage Peerage and Baronetage of the United Kingdom ...
(London, annually from 1826).
- Catalogue of V.P.L. The Catalogue of the Public Library of Victoria
2 vols (Melbourne, 1880).
- Debrett Debrett's Illustrated Peerage of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland ...
(London, annually from 1864).
- McLaren Ian F. McLaren, Marcus Clarke: An Annotated
Bibliography (Melbourne: Library Council of
Victoria, 1982).
- Memorial Volume The Marcus Clarke Memorial Volume, ed. Hamilton
Mackinnon (Melbourne, 1884).
1884).

The Papers	The 'Felix and Felicitas' Papers of Marcus Clarke.
The Notes	Clarke's notes and summaries for 'Felix and Felicitas' taken as a whole.
The Sands and McDougall <u>Directory</u>	<u>Sands and McDougall's Melbourne and Suburban Directory</u> , (Melbourne, 1863-1901; and under various titles before and after these dates).