



The book of wedding days was dedicated to HRH the Princess of Wales, and commemorates the silver wedding day (March 10, 1888) of the future Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. Appropriately, there are selections from a few women authors, notably 'Mrs Browning' (Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 1806-61) and 'Mrs Hemans' (Felicia Hemans, 1793-1835), whose works feature as often in the volume as those of John Milton and Alexander Pope.

A group of Victorian poets notable for their absence from the selection are the Pre-Raphaelites and Aesthetics such as the Rossettis and William Morris (1834-96), although Walter Crane was closely associated with William Morris through Socialist circles. Like Felicia Hemans, Crane was born in Liverpool, but his family moved almost immediately to the south-west, and later to London, where he met Morris and followed him through successive memberships of the Social Democratic Federation, the Socialist League and the Hammersmith Socialist Society. There are discussions of Crane's designs for the Socialist cause in his correspondence with John Bruce Glasier, held at Liverpool: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/glasier.html>. Crane also collaborated with Morris on designs for publications of the Kelmscott Press, for example, *The story of the glittering plain* (1896). The private press collections at Liverpool include all the Kelmscott publications: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/privpress.html>

Words of wisdom for the royal couple

The book of wedding days: quotations for every day in the year. (1889). SPEC JUV.509:13

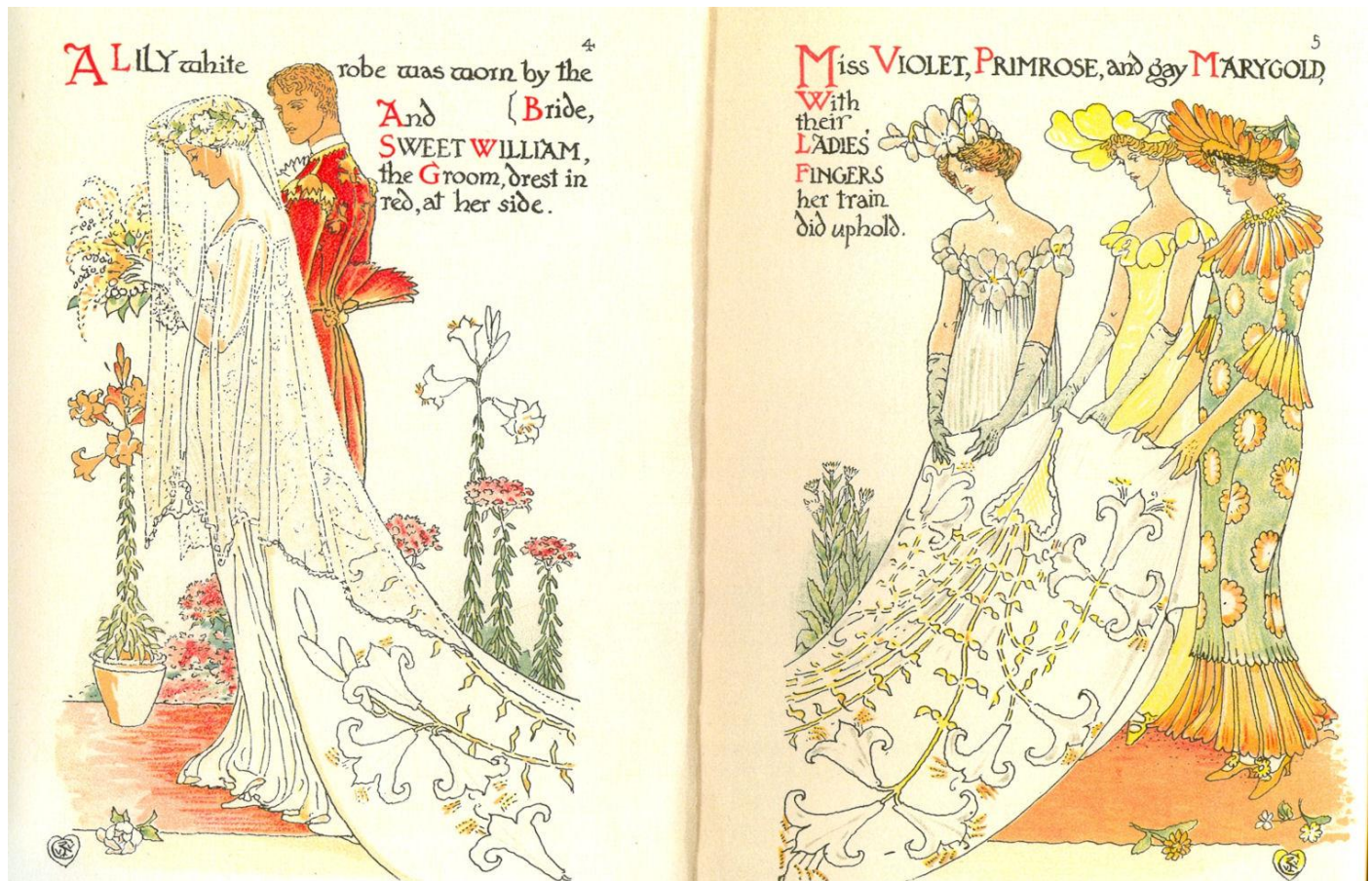
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The book of wedding days, published by Longmans in London and New York in 1889, was compiled by K. E. J. Reid, May Ross and Mabel Bamfield, and has ornate decorations for each page by Walter Crane (1845-1915).

The selection of suitable literary quotations reflects Victorian taste: by far the most popular authors in the book are Shakespeare and Thomas Moore (1779-1852). The entry for April 29 features them both: from Shakespeare, there is a verse from the song 'It was a lover and his lass' (*As You Like It*) ending aptly with 'Sweet lovers love the spring', followed by a quatrain from the Irish poet and songwriter Thomas Moore:

'I swear by all I ever swore,
That from this hour I shall not love thee more.'
'What! Love no more? Oh, why this altered vow?'
'Because I *cannot* love thee *more* than *now*!'





This is one in a series of flower books by Walter Crane, which followed his first, and most successful, work in the genre: *Flora's feast: a masque of flowers* (1889) 'penned and pictured' by Crane. Its success encouraged Crane to produce *Queen Summer: or, the journey of the lily and the rose* (1891), *A floral fantasy in an old English garden* (1899), and *A flower wedding* (1905). The verse narrative of *A flower wedding* follows the courtship of Miss Meadowsweet by young Lad's Love (Sweet William), as described by 'two wallflowers' and the illustrations draw on a rich variety of costume styles from Classical Greece, through Mediaeval, Tudor, Victorian, and Aesthetic to Edwardian. Each page has Crane's heart-shaped monogram at the foot of each page – a sketch of a crane encircled by the letter C. The Children's collections at Liverpool contain copies of all of these flower books (<http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/children/index.html>). Copies of *Flora's feast* and *Queen Summer* were bought on publication by Crane's Liverpool contemporary, William Noble, a keen book collector (he was also a subscriber to the Kelmscott Press publications), who bequeathed his collections to the University: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/noble.html>.



References:

University of Liverpool, Special Collections & Archives website: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/index.html>
Children's collections: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/children/index.html>
Private press collection: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/privpress.html>
William Noble collection: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/noble.html>
Glazier papers: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/colldescs/glazier.html>

Alan Crawford, 'Crane, Walter (1845–1915)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Oct 2007 [http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/32616, accessed 1 April 2011]

Walter Crane (1845–1915): doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/32616