

**CONCERNING CATS:
A BOOK OF POEMS
BY MANY AUTHORS**

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Concerning Cats: A Book of Poems by Many Authors by Graham R. Tomson

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GRAHAM R. TOMSON

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Concerning Cats:

*A Book of Poems by many
Authors*

Selected by

GRAHAM R. TOMSON

AND

Illustrated by

ARTHUR TOMSON

CAMEO SERIES

T. Fisher Unwin Paternoster Sq.
London E.C. MDCCCXCII. ~~1931~~

Still sometimes turn, with retrospective gaze,
To count the sweets of less luxurious days,
When you were wont to take your simple ease
Couched at my feet or stretched along my
knees :

When never cloud our loving-kindness knew,
(Though now and then, alas ! I punished you),
Still were you fain, conciliating, bland,
With velvet cheek to chafe th' avenging hand.
Still would you watch, did I but chance to
roam,

Supine upon the threshold of our home
Until, my brief-paced aberrations o'er,
With purrings deep you welcomed me once
more.

O dearly-loved ! Untimely lost !—to-day
An offering at your phantom feet I lay :
Purr fond applause, and take in gracious kind
This little wreath of various verses twined ;
Nor, though Persephone's own Puss you be,
Let Orcus breed oblivion —of me.

G. R. T.



IN making this selection, which cannot, for diverse reasons, claim to be exhaustive, the Editor has attempted to gather together some of the more interesting of the many poems concerning Cats. Several poems of merit have been necessarily omitted ; some as being likely to strike discordantly upon nineteenth-century ears, some by reason of their similarity to others chosen ; some, again, have been otherwise unavailable. It has, however, been the aim of the Editor to make the collection as varied and as representative as possible.

There are verses old and new ; stately and trifling ; poems in the admirable English of

the eighteenth century ; in the Scotch vernacular ; in Cornish and in Darkie dialect. Several French poems have been included in their original form, as being too excellent to leave out, too subtle to translate. There are eulogies, elegies, apostrophes, legends—poems from Pussy's point of view as well as from that of her patrons.

Also, there are a few Nursery Songs, for, putting aside all question of literary merit, the cat (both as hero and heroine) plays too important a part in the rhymes and romances of childhood (and, therefore, among our earliest impressions) for so essential a share of her individuality to be ignored in a volume primarily designed for the greater honour and renown of Puss-dom. The English Nursery Rhymes are taken from a chap-book ; the Scotch from *Chambers's Popular Rhymes of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1842) ; "Mother Tabbykins," from *Child World*, by the Authors of "Poems written for a Child" (1869). The verses entitled "A Cat may look upon a King" are from a collection of broadsheet ballads printed in Dublin in 1732. "Sad Memories" is included by the generous

permission of Mrs. Calverley. Thanks are also due to Dr. Garnett, Mr. Frederick Locker-Lampson, Mr. Edmund Gosse, and Mr. Cosmo Monkhouse, whose poem of "The Cat and the Canary," written many years since, is here printed for the first time.

