

**THE UNKNOWN MADONNA AND
OTHER POEMS: I. - POEMS IN
MANY LANDS.
SECOND SERIES; II. - IN EXCELSIS;
III. - TRANSLATIONS FROM HEINE**

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The Unknown Madonna and Other Poems: I. - Poems in Many Lands. Second Series; II. - In Excelsis; III. - Translations from Heine by Rennell Rodd & W. B. Richmond

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RENNELL RODD & W. B. RICHMOND

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THE
UNKNOWN MADONNA

AND OTHER POEMS

I.—POEMS IN MANY LANDS. SECOND SERIES

II.—IN EXCELSIS

III.—TRANSLATIONS FROM HEINE

BY

RENELL RODD

AUTHOR OF "POEMS IN MANY LANDS" AND "FEDE"

WITH A FRONTISPIECE BY W. B. RICHMOND, A.R.A.

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Jan 6, 1931

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TO MY CHIEF

SIR EDWARD MALET

I DEDICATE THESE POEMS.

BERLIN, 1888.

I have to acknowledge the courtesy of Messrs. SCRIBNER and Messrs. MACMILLAN for permission to reprint the poems on pages 9 and 17.

R. R.

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THE UNKNOWN MADONNA.

I KNOW that picture's meaning,— the unknown,
Called School of Umbria ; it stands alone ;
Those prayerful fingers never worked to fame,—
A master's hand, though silence keeps his name.
But for the meaning, gaze awhile and plain
The thought he worked in warms to life again :
Love made those features living, such a face
Smiled once,—on whom ? Say in a lofty place
He could not climb to,—in those eyes' blue deeps
The reverence of unreached ideals keeps
The human memory, not a face of dreams,
And coldly beautiful, but one that seems
Caught in the likeness that a lover's eyes
Devoutly worshipped to idealize ;
And since creation is akin to prayer
He made that face God's Mother, and set her there
Among the lilies by the hill-side town.