

**THE POEMS OF
ROSAMUND
MARRIOTT WATSON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649757916

The Poems of Rosamund Marriott Watson by Rosamund Marriott Watson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ROSAMUND MARRIOTT WATSON

**THE POEMS OF
ROSAMUND
MARRIOTT WATSON**

POEMS



Frances and Marriett Watson

THE POEMS
OF ROSAMUND (Ed.)
MARRIOTT WATSON

///

LONDON: JOHN LANE THE BODLEY HEAD
NEW YORK: JOHN LANE COMPANY MCMXII

TO
H. B. & R. B.
MARRIOTT WATSON

INTRODUCTION

ROSAMUND MARRIOTT WATSON passed from this earthly life on the Twenty-ninth of December, 1911. She had prepared, for issue in the spring of this year, a volume of new poems, which was already in the publisher's hands. But that mortal change in her life seemed to demand and urge a larger, a completer appeal on behalf of her genius. It became desirable to put on record determinately, perhaps definitively, the full body of her poetical work. This volume, then, comprises all in that kind which she would deem worthy of preservation. And yet I am not sure that this is exactly true; for the first section of this book consists of the contents of a very early volume, "Tares," published anonymously when the writer was only a girl; and I do not think that she herself set a high value on this. I have, however, included it here, partly because it seems fit to inaugurate the corpus of her poetical work with these juvenilia, and partly also out of respect for the judgment of many literary friends who have esteemed these poems so greatly as to wish them retained in the collected edition.

The arrangement of the book is chronological; that is to say, the different sections are printed here in sequence, as they appeared in the original volumes, and under their several titles. In all they cover a period of nearly thirty years. Outside the anonymous volume the first work emerged to the public under the auspices of Mr. Andrew Lang, at "The Sign of the Ship," in *Longman's Magazine*. This was her earliest welcome, at least in this country. But very soon the knowledge and appreciation of her work extended, and she was an honoured guest in many magazines and journals, both here and in America, principally the *National Observer*, under Mr. W. E. Henley's editorship, *Macmillan's*, *Harper's*, *Scribner's*, and *The Athenæum*. The first-fruits in book-form of this poetic work was "A Bird-Bride," published in 1889. There followed "A Summer Night" (1891), "Vespertilia" (1895), and "After Sunset" (1904). "Marpessa" has never before been reprinted from the pages of the magazine in which it appeared in 1889.

The last section, "The Lamp and the Lute," is that which was to have been published separately this spring, and appears as arranged by the author. She had prefixed to this the dedication which I have transferred to the front of the collected poems, knowing that this would be, and indeed is, her desire.

Some poems in this part were included in "The Heart of a Garden" (1906), and are here reprinted

by the kind permission of Messrs. Alexander Moring, Ltd.

It is not for me to proffer here my opinion of my wife's poems, if only for the reason that I should be considered to approach the witness-box with prepossessions. My faith in their beauty and their immortal quality is ardent. And having said so much I stand aside, content to leave them to the judgment of her contemporaries, and, as I hope and surely believe, to the appreciation of posterity.

H. B. MARRIOTT WATSON,

SHERE, *May 5th*, 1912.