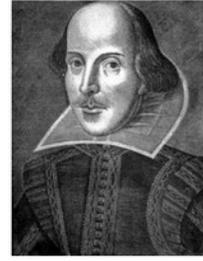


Napoleon III and other members of the Bonapart family used to visit the Rossetti family occasionally.



Seven year old Dante Gabriel bragged to his aunt about William, Maria and him knowing several scenes of Shakespeare's Richard III by heart.



Christina tried to write a biography about Mrs. Radcliffe, the gothic novelist but could not find enough information to write it.



Christina Rossetti applied to volunteer with Florence Nightengale but was turned down. Her aunt Eliza was accepted but worked as a storekeeper with the nurses rather than as a nurse herself.

Christina's Grandfather, Gaetano Polidori was present at the fall of the Bastille and was disgusted with the event. Handed a sword to kill any aristocrats he might meet, he passed the sword on to someone else as quickly as he could.



Shyness and a scheduling conflict led to Christina turning down an opportunity to meet Tennyson, whose poetry influenced her own poetry, and her brothers art. Gabriel Dante Rossetti did illustrations for several of Tennyson's poems.



Christina wrote two antiwar poems during the Franco-Prussian war in 1870.



Christina donated a poem, *The Royal Princess*, to a book published as part of a relief effort for textile workers in Lancashire who were unemployed due to the cotton shortage created by the American civil war. Christina's older brother William said they were both abolitionists, and Christina said the civil war was perhaps the only just war.



Charles Dodgson (aka Lewis Carroll) was a friend of the Rossetti family. He offered to show Christina around Oxford but she could not accept for health problems. *Alice in Wonderland* was an inspiration for Christina's children's story *Speaking Likenesses*, and a reviewer commented that Christina's tale would be more original had "Alice never been to Wonderland."



Emily Dickinson was a contemporary of Christina's, and goblins started to be appear in Emily's poems after Christina's poem "Goblin Market" was published. Christina read Emily's poems after Emily died and her poetry was published. Both poets were influenced by Elizabeth Browning.



Socialist and artist William Morris was part of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood which the Rossetti brothers were part of. Gabriel Dante went into business with Morris, and painted many pictures of Morris' wife Janey, whom he loved. William Morris was part of the arts and craft movement reacting to the industrial revolution.



12 year old Christina took an interest in her brother William's school assignment to write an original composition in verse about China. It was 1842 and the opium war was still on. Christina wrote "The Chinaman."



Augusta Webster, feminist and writer, was elected to the London School Board in 1879 and 1885. She traded books of verses with Christina Rossetti, and Christina wrote in a letter to Augusta that "the fact of Priesthood being exclusively man's, leaves me in no doubt that the highest functions are not in this world open to both sexes: and if not all then a selection must be made and a line must be drawn somewhere... many who have thought more and done much more than myself share your views, - and yet they are not mine. I do not think the present social movement tend on the whole to uphold Xtianity..." After Augusta's death William Rossetti published a book of her poetry.



John Ruskin, a writer and artist, was one of the Pre-Raphaelite group. He also provided an annuity to Elizabeth Siddal (who eventually became Gabrielle Dante Rossetti's wife). Maria Rossetti had a romantic interest in him during her late 20s.