

Finding a Forgotten Artist:  
The Life and Work of  
*Alice Mary Chambers*

Thomas McLean

13 November 2020

The University Club



Pre-Raphaelite works at the DPAG:  
Edward Burne-Jones and William De Morgan





Edward Burne-Jones, *Portrait of Lady Gwendolen Gascoyne-Cecil* (1895), sold at Christie's in 2015 for £ 92,500.



Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *A study of Mrs Frederick Leyland*, sold at Christie's in 2015 for £62,500.

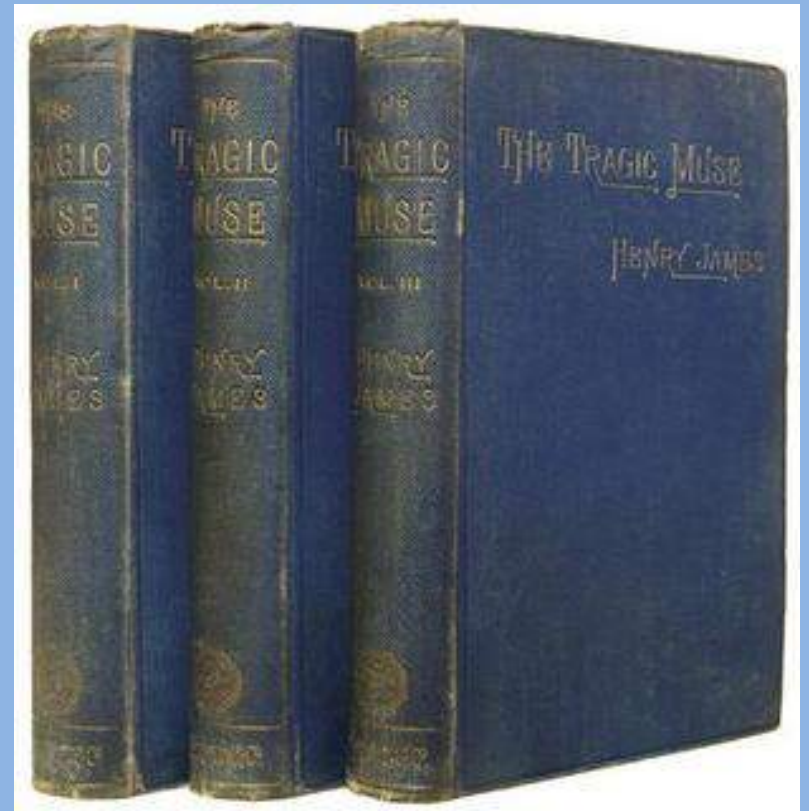




# Mary Anderson (1859-1940), actress



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# Pre-Raphaelite Women Artists



Marie Spartali Stillman, *Madonna Pietra degli Scrovegni*, 1884;  
Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK



Evelyn De Morgan, *Night and Sleep*, 1878;  
Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton, UK



# Alice Mary Chambers, artist

- Born 1854 or 1855 in Harlow, Essex
- Only surviving daughter of John Charles Chambers (1817–1874) and Mary nee Upton Chambers (c1815–1873)
- After periods in Perth, Scotland, and Harlow, JC Chambers becomes curate for St Mary's, Crown Street, and warden of the House of Charity, Soho, London in 1856

# John Charles Chambers (1817–1874)

*Chambers turned St Mary's into a model for managing a parish along ritualist lines. He was one of the earliest ritualist priests to demonstrate a particular concern for ministry in poor areas of London.*

Jeremy Morris, ODNB

*Mr. Chambers gave his life for his people; he worked heart and soul among them; he was indeed the sinners' friend, and the helper of many a poor struggling soul.*

Memories of a Sister of S. Saviour's Priory. London: A.R. Mowbray, 1912.

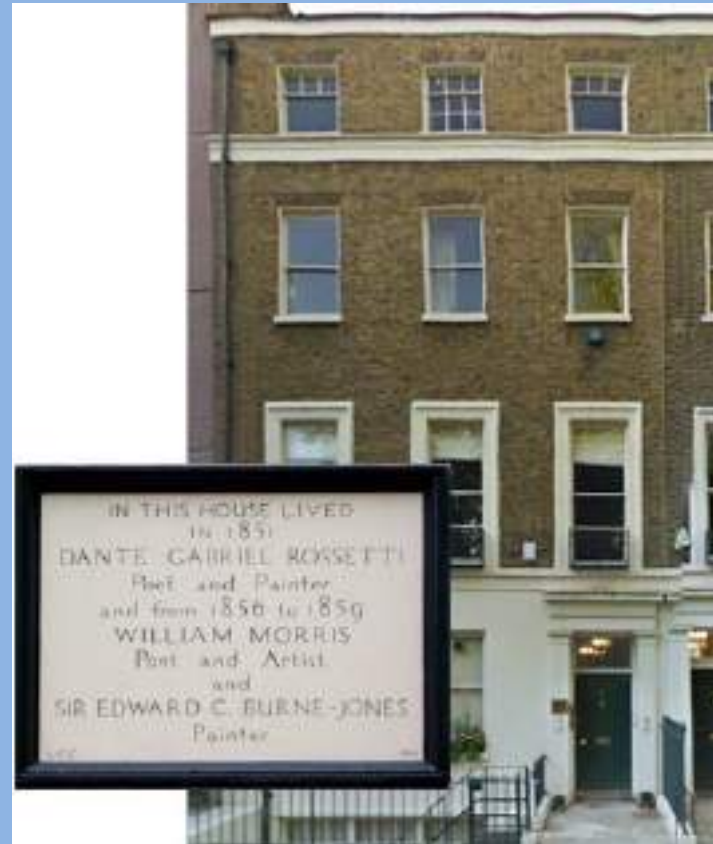




# 17 Red Lion Square



“Contemplation,” 1874



No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES		NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
		Occu- pied	Un- occupied (U.) or Building (B.)						
154	17 Red Lion Sq			Miss Mary Charles		Single	26	Artist & Drawing Party	Hampstead
157	do			Miss Hall	Wife	Married	51		Hampstead

# Works by Alice Mary Chambers



# Charles Augustus Howell (?1840–1890)



Max Beerbohm, *Rossetti and His Circle*, “Mr. \_\_\_ and Miss \_\_\_  
nervously perpetuating the touch of a vanished hand,”





# Charles Augustus Howell (?1840–1890)



It was Miss Chambers, a very faithful and good friend, who made all arrangements for the subsequent sale [of Howell's estate], and to her were addressed the anxious letters from more than one quarter making discreet enquiry after indiscreet correspondence. She also made all arrangements for the funeral [...].

Helen Rossetti Angeli,  
*Pre-Raphaelite Twilight* (1954)

# DG Rossetti, plaster cast (death mask)



“It was given to me by a friend of Mr Rossetti’s about 25 years ago, and I have never had a suitable place for it; & being now about to warehouse my belongings for a considerable time I should really be glad to find it a home.”

TO PARISHES.

**CANHAM.**—On the 12th May, at 10, Claremont-gardens, Surbiton, **GEORGE WALTON CANHAM**, late of Coutts' Bank, aged 80. Funeral at Surbiton Cemetery. Service at St. Mark's Church on Monday, 17th, at 3.30.

**CHAMBERS.**—On the 4th May, suddenly, at Pomona House, New King's-road, **Fulham**, **ALICE MARY CHAMBERS**, daughter of the late Reverend John Charles Chambers, of St. Mary, Soho, London.

**COLEY.**—On Wednesday, the 12th May, at 589, Finchley-road, Hampstead, from acute pneumonia, **GEORGE**, the beloved husband of **MARY MARYSON**













# Epilogue: Eana B Jeans (1890–1986)

