

CTF Library Newsletter

December 2024



Welcome to the December issue of the CTF Library newsletter!

Welcome to a slightly shorter Christmas edition of the newsletter. Term is over, and Advent and preparation for Christmas has begun for many of our members.

This month we're highlighting a wonderful selection of 19th and early 20th century Christmas carols, from the collection of hymnology enthusiast Edward Alfred Elias (1875/76-1941). If you are in Cambridge, you can explore a display of these carols in Westminster College Library until early January (or check out displays of Advent and Christmas reading up at Westcott and Westminster). For those unable to travel to Cambridge, we've selected our favourite of their beautiful bindings and illustrations to explore below, along with some traces of past Christmas-gift giving and an unusual addition to the carolling canon. Find out more on pp. 3-4.

For everyone still hard at work over the holidays, we have an exciting update on our online journal subscriptions: we now provide access to over 900 journals in over 20 languages. Read more on p. 5

Finally, make sure to note our library team holiday dates - we'll be out of the office from 23rd December to 2nd January. We wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year!

Jane and Grace
The Library Team



The Library team
are on holiday
23rd December -
3rd January!

We will respond to
any queries after
we return.

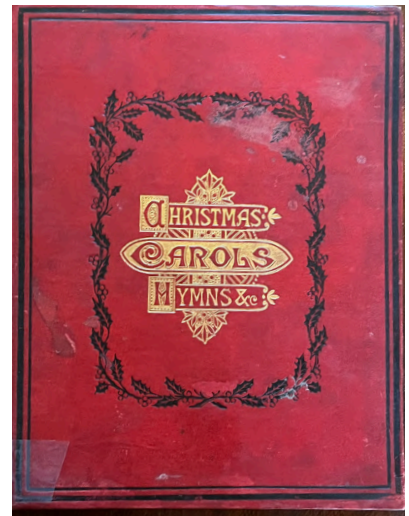
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New online
journals, Atlas
PLUS - p. 5

Christmas carols in the Elias Hymnology Collection




**CHRISTMAS SONGS
AND EASTER CAROLS**
BY PHILLIPS BROOKS

JOY

CHRIST
RISEN

NEW YORK: E. P. DUTTON & COMPANY: MDCCCIV



O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O LITTLE TOWN of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent hours go by.
 Yet in thy dark street shineth
 The everlasting Light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee to-night.

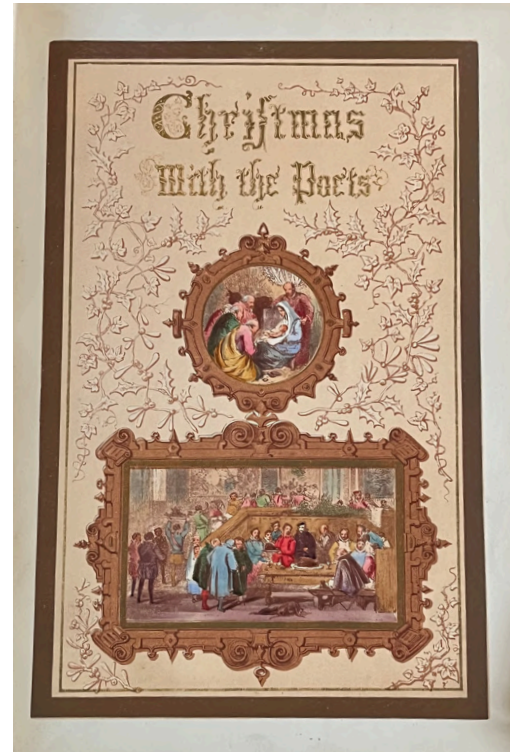
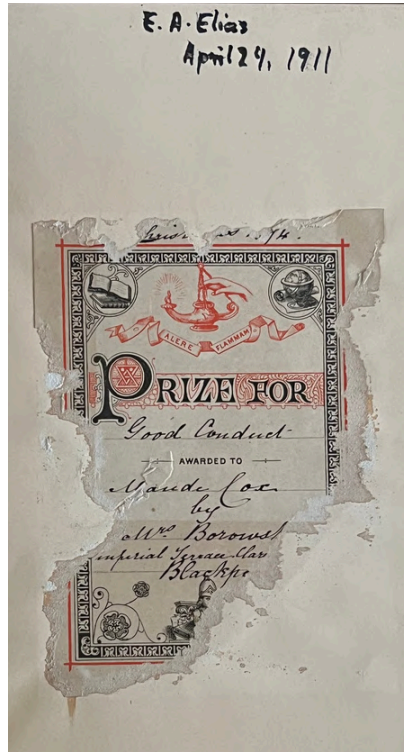
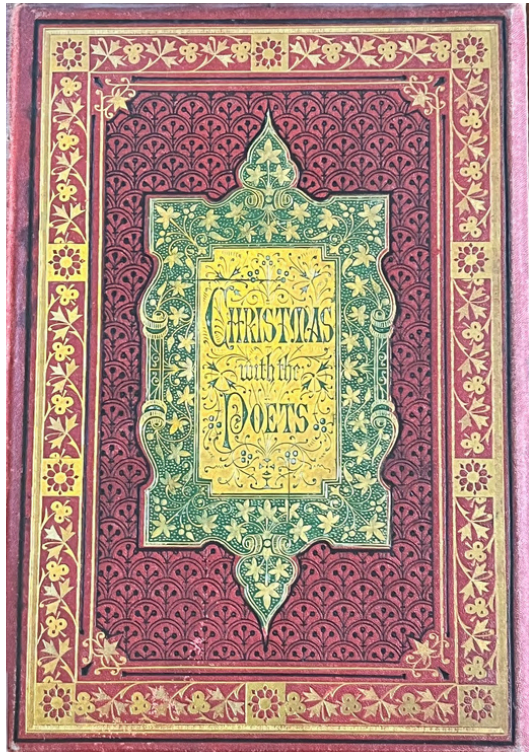
68 IF CHRIST WERE BORN IN BURNLEY

MAURICE LEAH
(E.R.),

1 If Christ were born in Burn-ley This Christ-mas night, This Christ-mas night; I

Among the more familiar tunes, this carol by Albert F. Bayly in the 1940s urges singers to imagine Christ was born in Burnley - or indeed to substitute their own hometown. Bayly was a Congregationalist minister in Burnley 1946-50 [1][2].

Any readers finding this unusual, notes this volume's later editor, should remember "that this is the essence of one form of the traditional carol. Those who live in places whose names do not fit the rhythm may sing "In my town.", p.88



***Christmas with the Poets*, edited by Henry Vizetelly, with illustrations by Myles Birket Foster (1869).**

This beautiful book encapsulates the Victorian Christmas tradition, offering a view of British customs throughout history, fromwassailing and the Lord of Misrule, and with extracts from Shakespeare and Tennyson. This copy was awarded to a Maude Cox from Blackpool, as a school prize for good conduct at Christmas 1874. With its colourful gilt binding and tinted illustrations, this certainly would have been a grand reward for a schoolgirl to receive. It was collected by Elias in 1911.

The Elias Collection

Edward Alfred Elias (1875/76-1941) was an ardent collector of hymnbooks, hymnology, church music and religious poetry. Born in Liverpool to a Presbyterian family, Elias's collection focuses on Presbyterian psalmody and hymnbooks, but also contains materials from a broad swathe of locations and denominations. The collection was offered to Westminster on Elias's death in 1941 [1].

Find out much more about the Elias Collection in [this blog post](#) by Helen Weller, the Westminster Archivist.

To browse more Christmas carols in the Elias collection, visit classmark EL 512 in Westminster College Library.

By Jane Sinnett-Smith and Grace Collingwood

References

1. <https://hymnsforworship.org/albert-bayly/>
2. https://hymnary.org/person/Bayly_Albert
3. Helen Weller, 'The Elias Library of Hymnology at Westminster College, Cambridge', 2022 <https://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022-BLOG-Elias-Library-of-Hymnology.pdf>



Christmas carol display, Westminster College Library

December Library Team Updates

New online journals - Atlas PLUS

We have upgraded our online journal subscription package!

All CTF members now have access to the Atlas PLUS package, which includes more than 721 full-text online journals (or over 250,000 articles) in many diverse areas of religion and theology.

This upgrade has significantly increased our journal holdings in key subject areas for our users:

- Biblical Studies, contextual and systematic theology, ethics, missiology, ministry and pastoral theology
- Specialist denominational studies
- Ecumenical and interfaith studies
- Studies in Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism

Our journals are now also more global than ever before: published in more than 20 languages across over 40 countries worldwide.

[Search or browse the full Atlas PLUS database here](#) (Hedwig login required).

Did you know?

All CTF members have access to over 900 online journals, and you may have access to 1000s more through your validating university.

Explore all journals on offer for you (Hedwig login required):

- [ARU students](#)
- [Durham Common Awards students](#)
- [Cambridge students](#)
- [Staff](#)
- [Independent students, visiting scholars, external members](#)



Advent and Christmas books on display at Westminster Library

Thank you for reading!

Contact us:	library@theofed.cam.ac.uk
Or browse all library resources:	<u>Library and Digital Resources on Hedwig</u>
