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# JOAQUIN MILLER

## NEWSLETTER

Volume III Number 7 ISSN 1536-2140 © 2007 Margaret Guilford-Kardell

December 2007

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### Hallelujah Time!

“At long last,” with this issue of the *Joaquin Miller Newsletter* Vol. III No. 7 Scott McKeown and I [MGK] can announce our dreams come true.

On the Internet you can now find on [www.joaquinmiller.com](http://www.joaquinmiller.com) not only our whole bibliography/study guide that will lead you through Joaquin Miller's life and his work, but you now also will have the *Joaquin Miller Newsletter*.

Our first feedback is from Nick Sheedy, an Oregon historian, who says, “WOW! I found the extensive bibliography at your website very interesting. I especially like the chronological organization tracing Miller's life and career as it developed.”

We will entertain queries re Joaquin Miller or his work addressed to [joaquinmillerinfo@comcast.net](mailto:joaquinmillerinfo@comcast.net) which queries will be responded to in later editions of the on-line *Joaquin Miller Newsletter* (see [www.joaquinmiller.com](http://www.joaquinmiller.com)).

Our first query comes from W. A. Manahan, who is trying to read a letter written by Joaquin Miller in 1901 to “Dear Gentle Cousin Ruth.” Several of us are trying to verify “who Ruth really was.”

And already we have additions to our bibliography:

Robert Chandler of the Wells Fargo Room in S.F. sends us a Xerox copy of Burrell, Rex. “Joaquin Miller and his Influence on the Oakland Hills.” *Alameda County Historical Society Quarterly* 33.1 (January 2007): 1, 3-9 which includes 6 postcard pics from the Edmund Clausen coll. [See Aug. 2006 Newsletter.]. Some of the pictures were new even to MGK. But the ones of the women and Henry Meade Bland were probably in 1910 at the same occasion chronicled in an article sent to us from Dennis Freeman of the College of the Siskiyouos.

Dennis Freeman's Xerox copy was of un-numbered pages from the January 1911 copy of *The Pacific Short Story Club Magazine* of January 1911 which has two great pictures of Miller and his friend Henry Meade Bland with Bland's Short Story Club from the San Jose Normal School. Obviously the women are the presidents of the various branches and other members on a 1910 outing at Miller's “Hights.” The accompanying story mentions that subscription to their magazine is “35 cents annually.” Ah for the good old days!

[DF] also sends us a Xerox copy of Miller's “Mr. Tennyson's Fairies” as it appeared in the 1911 reprint of The Saalfield Publishing Company's own 1905 *Kindergarten Gems For Home and Kindergarten*. This great story for children, which does not today appear in any curriculum, is one of those stories MGK included in “Joaquin Miller's Young Americans” which appears destined at this moment never to reach print form.

For the following see Poets' Corner Home Page. News and Recent Additions for Joaquin Miller's *In Southern California* first published in *Overland Monthly* 9. 1 (July 1872): 26.

### *In Southern California*

WHERE the cocoa and cactus are neighbors,  
Where the fig and the fir tree are one;  
Where the brave corn is lifting bent sabres  
And flashing them far in the sun,  
Where maidens blush red in their tresses  
Of night, and retreat to advance,  
And the dark, sweeping eyelash expresses  
Deep passion, half hush'd in a trance;  
Where the fig is in leaf, where the blossom  
Of orange is fragrant as fair,—  
Santa Barbara's balm in the bosom,  
Her sunny, soft winds in the hair;

Where the grape is most luscious; where laden  
Long branches bend double with gold;

Los Angelos leans like a maiden,  
Red, blushing, half shy, and half bold.

Where passion was born and where poets  
Are deeper in silence than song,

A love knows a love, and may know its  
Reward, yet may never know wrong.

Where passion was born and where blushes  
Gave birth to my songs of the South,

And a song is a love-tale, and rushes,  
Unchid, through the red of the mouth;

Where an Adam in Eden reposes,  
I repose, I am glad, and take wine

In the clambering, redolent roses,  
And under my fig and my vine.

Joaquin Miller

<http://www.theotherpages.org/poems/2000/m/miller52.html>

For those just interested in journalism in 1897 do read *The Year That Defined American Journalism* 1897 by W. Joe Campbell. New York: Routledge 2006 with unfortunately nary a mention of Miller who had more than 24 books, articles or poems published that year.

**Flash:** Daily the internet is discovering more Joaquin Miller. Six different readings of *Columbus* are now available through <http://librivox.org/>. Of course two of the readers mispronounce Joaquin. Surely some of you Miller fans can read more Miller aloud for LibriVox and you know the difference between using Ajax and A[h]jax as one of my Mexican friends calls it. No matter how they pronounce Joaquin the public is again finding

Joaquin Miller and it was the public who read him in the beginning. So they are finding him again despite the scholars who have so long denied his appeal to the people whom he understood.

For everyone who has contributed in so many ways to our efforts to make Joaquin Miller available to all we say THANK YOU.

We look forward your queries, your Miller discoveries, and your Miller articles.

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