



12

José María Mesa Villar

Women in Dante Gabriel Rossetti's Arthurian Renditions (1854-1867)

Peter Lang

*Spanish Perspectives on English and American Literature,
Communication and Culture*

Contents

Acknowledgements 7

Introduction

Rossettian Arthurianism and the Medieval Revival 11

I. Tragic Amorous Relationships in the Context
of Arthurian Experience 41

I.1 An Assessment of Guinevere’s Responsibility for
The Rise and Fall of Camelot 41

I.2 Guinevere’s Search for Atonement: *Arthur’s Tomb* 64

I.3 Stepping on Unstable Ground: *Sir Launcelot
in the Queen’s Chamber* 81

I.4 Females as a Reference Regarding the Conflict
between Body and Spirit 103

I.5 Doomed Chivalric Worth and the Dual Value
of the Magic Philtre 129

I.6 *Sir Tristram and La Belle Yseult Drinking
the Love Potion* 149

II. Female Mediating Presences Midway
between the Earthly and the Divine 161

II.1 The Role of Morgan Le Fay as the Main Priestess
of Avalon 161

II.2 Rossetti and the Issue of Human Eagerness
to Grasp the Divine 170

II.3 The Mystical Female as a Symbolic Scale
of Spiritual Perfection 193

II.4	On the Importance of the Guiding Damsel Type to the Progress of Sir Galahad's Fellowship in the Grail Quest	213
II.5	Approaching Beatific Vision: Rossetti and the Attainment of the Grail	240
II.6	Interaction with Angels in Tennyson's <i>Sir Galahad</i>	256
II.7	Yearning to Breathe the Airs of Heaven: Unsex- ing the Grail Hero	270
III.	Female Dependence within the Context of Chivalric Paternalism	283
III.1	Helplessness and Heroism in Rossetti's <i>The Death of Breuze sans Pitié</i>	283
III.2	And Sure in Language Strange She Said I Love Thee True: Woman as a Creature of Instinct	295
III.3	The Entowered Maiden under the Onslaught of Misguidance	314
III.4	The Dead Damsel and the Shadow of Unrequited Love	340
III.5	Salvation, Restriction and Confinement: The Issue of Male Guidance Concerning the Construction of the Female Self	354
III.6	The Maiden and the Beast: Scapegoats in the Wake of Communal Wickedness	362
	Conclusion	433
	Bibliography	445
	List of Images and Credits	457
	Index	463