



Pre-Raphaelite Poetry

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“

Raise me a daies of silk and down

”

Christina Rossetti

in her poem, “Birthday”

The Pre-Raphaelite Movement became the first avant-garde movement of Britain.

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood

In 1848 (some say 1849), a few young artists and men of letters united to oppose the conventional or academic approach to art, and, as an act of homage to the simple sincerity of the early Italian painters, called themselves 'the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood'

About this time, Ruskin in his 'Modern Painters' had protested against the academic traditions

The occasion of the founding of the 'Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood' was a book of engravings which Holman Hunt and D. G. Rossetti saw at the house of Edward Millais, of certain Italian frescoes.

As the name suggests, this brotherhood identified themselves artistically with the painters before **Raphael** (1483-1520)

D. G. Rossetti was the leader
of this group

Other Painters

- Holman Hunt
- Edward Millais
- Burne Jones

Later, Christina Rossetti, Swinburne, George
Meredith and William Morris
joined
the group

Features

- The pre-Raphaelites obliterated the frontier between poetry and painting
 - They “painted their poetry and wrote their pictures”
 - Their main creed was art for art’s sake

The painters gradually turned their eyes
from the hideousness of the contemporary
industrial scene

By the Fifties, decorative neo-medievalism,
subjectivity, dreaminess and realistic detail
became the dominant style

Coleridge's supernaturalism, Keats's sensuousness,
Shelley's mysticism, Wordsworth's concern for 'the
meanest flower that blows'-

all merge into the poetry of the Pre-Raphaelites

Robert Buchanan accused these artists of
immorality in an article entitled

‘The Fleshly School of Poetry’
in 1871

THANK YOU