

Woman Behind the Painter

The Diaries of Rosalie, Mrs. James Clarke Hook

Rosalie Hook, Edited by Juliet McMaster



Woman Behind the Painter:
The Diaries of Rosalie Hook
Edited by Juliet McMaster
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The wife of the prominent Victorian painter of seascapes, James Clarke Hook (1819-1907), Rosalie was a trained artist and brought her artist's sensibility, her humour, and her talent for relationships to the project of writing a diary of their travels to Italy in the two turbulent years of the Risorgimento leading up to 1848. Rosalie's subsequent diary records the life of a busy professional couple in the thick of running a country home with studio, annual trips to the bracing coastal sites where Hook painted, and their relations with such famous contemporaries as Samuel Palmer and Millais. Juliet McMaster provides a fascinating introduction on their professional and personal lives. The book is illustrated throughout by Hook's vivid sketches and by many of James's and Rosalie's paintings.

About the Editor

A long-time literary critic and author of highly readable books on Jane Austen, Dickens, Thackeray, and Trollope, Juliet McMaster now redirects her exploration of Victorian England to the art scene. Here she has a rich inheritance, for as a descendant of the prominent marine painter James Clarke Hook, R.A. (1819-1907), she has access to incomparable archives of diaries, paintings, and sketchbooks still in the family. Retired from her years of teaching in the English Department at the University of Alberta, she is still an energetic researcher and much sought after as a keynote speaker. She has recently co-edited The Child Writer from Austen to Woolf for Cambridge University Press, a collection inspired by her brainchild the Juvenilia Press.

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