

Back From Jerusalem:

The Life and Times of
Emma Hardinge Britten,
Spiritualist Propagandist

Marc Demarest
The Emma Hardinge Britten Archive

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Module 8

1875-1877

Emma Hardinge Britten, Occultist

1875-1877: Emma Hardinge Britten, Occultist

- October 1875

New York Herald Tribune
October 2, 1875
Page 8

G. W. CARLETON & CO., Publishers, New York.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ADVANCED THINKERS and STUDENTS OF OCCULT SCIENCE.
ART MAGIC; OR, MUNDANE, SUPER-MUNDANE, AND SUB-MUNDANE SPIRITISM. The subscription list to this magnificent work is still open, and a few more names can yet be received. This will be the first, and it is believed only publication in existence which will give an authentic and practical description of **art magic**, natural magic, modern spiritism, the different orders of spirits in the universe related to or in communication with man, together with directions for invoking, controlling, and discharging spirits, and the uses and abuses, dangers and possibilities of magical art. Circulars of this rare book, with the conditions of publication, &c., will be sent on application to the Secretary,

Mrs. BRITTEN,
206 West Thirty eighth st., New York.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS.

RESOLVED, That this Convention recognize the PUBLISHERS' WEEKLY as the established organ of the entire trade, and recommend it to publishers as the medium through which they should make their "first announcement" of books they propose to publish, and the full title of all books immediately on publication.—AMERICAN BOOK TRADE ASSOCIATION.

J. W. BOUTON, New-York.

Monumental Christianity; or, The Art and Symbolism of the Primitive Church as Witnesses and Teachers of the One Catholic Faith and Practice. By John P. Lundy, Presbyter. With over 200 illustrations throughout the text, and several large folding plates. 1 vol. Demy 4". pp. 500. \$7.50; hlf. mor., \$10; full mor. or tree calf, \$15. (Nov. 1.)

EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN, 206 West 38th street, New-York.

****Art Magic**; or, Mundane, Super-Mundane, and Sub-Mundane Spiritism. \$5. (500 copies.)

J. H. COATES & CO., Philadelphia.

The First Volume of the English translation of "L'Histoire de la Guerre Civile en Amerique." By M. le Comte de Paris. 8". With maps and battle-plans.

Amateur Trapper and Trap-Maker's Guide. By Stanley Harding. Large 16". Bds., 75 c.; pap., 50 c. (Oct.)

PORTER & COATES, Phila.

The American Centenary. By Benson J. Lossing. With nearly one hundred engravings on steel.

Losing Game. By Mrs. Bloomfield H. Moore. (International Series of Novels.)

A. D. F. RANDOLPH & CO., New-York.

Lessons at the Cross.

The Puritans and Queen Elizabeth; or, The Church, Court, and Parliament of England, from the Reign of Edward the Sixth to the Death of the Queen. By Samuel Hopkins. With an introductory Note by Mark Hopkins, D.D.

A. WILLIAMS & CO., Boston.

Publishers' Weekly
October 9, 1875
p. 558

1875-1877: Emma Hardinge Britten, Occultist

Our enemies profit to this day by our mistakes...

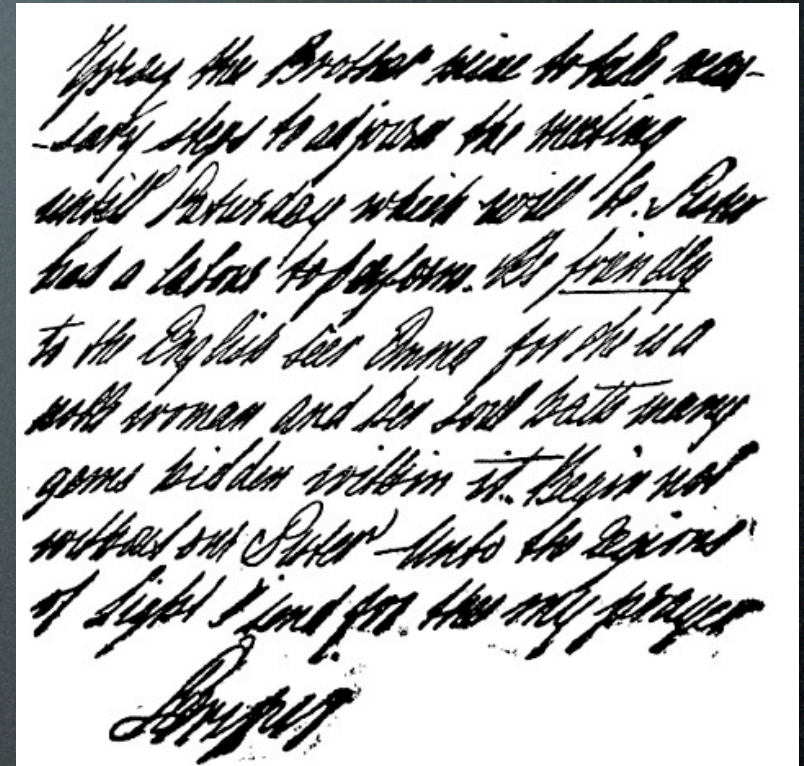
The cycle of “Adepts,” used as sledge-hammers to break the theosophical heads with, began twelve years ago with Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten’s “Louis” of Art Magic and Ghost-Land [sic], and now ends with the “Adept” and “Author” of The Light of Egypt....

HPB, The Key to Theosophy (1889)

1875-1877: Emma Hardinge Britten, Occultist

- That there was a rivalry between HPB and EHB is certain -- from EHB's perspective at least
- I believe Art Magic was a product of that rivalry
- It is a curious fact that HPB was singularly gentle, kind and complementary toward EHB, at least in public and in print, throughout her life
- And it is a curious fact that EHB waited until HPB was dead to savage her
- Neither Judge nor Olcott had much respect for Emma, in spite of Serapis' plea to Olcott....

Serapis to HSO, Fall of 1875

A handwritten letter in cursive script on a white background. The text is written in dark ink and is slightly slanted to the right. The signature 'Serapis' is at the bottom.

I pray thee, Brother mine, to take necessary steps to adjourn the meeting untill (sic) Saturday which will be. Sister (that is, HPB) has a labour to perform. Be friendly to the English seer Emma for she is a noble woman and her soul hath many gems hidden within it. Begin not without our Sister. Unto the regions of Light I send for thee my prayer.

1875-1877: Emma Hardinge Britten, Occultist

- Art Magic (1876)
- Extremely odd circumstances of publication, even given the subject matter and historical period
- The first textbook of the (first) Theosophical Society?
- A race against HPB?
- The second work (in terms of publication history) by the author of Ghost Land?

An European gentleman, now sojourning in the United States of America for a brief season, gives notice to all thinkers interested in spiritual existence, or occult science, that having spent 40 years in the practical and theoretical study of art magic, partly acquired in the East and West Indies, Egypt and Arabia, and partly studied out from rare and almost unattainable works in France, Germany, Bohemia, the British dominions, &c., he is now prepared to share the fruit of his labours and researches with a few interested and worthy students, and for this purpose he will publish a work under conditions which he cannot change or transgress; these are :—

"1st.—The work in question cannot become a marketable commodity, but may be exchanged for a ratio of the cost of publication.

"2nd.—The work may be published for limited distribution in any country where a sufficient number of students are found to ensure the cost of publication.

"3rd.—The requisite number of subscribers being obtained, a protective copyright is to prevent any further publication.

"4th.—The work is not to be published or sold by any professional firm, nor submitted for review to professional critics.

"5th.—After the requisite number of copies are drawn off to defray the expense of publication, the types, plates, vignettes, &c., are to be cancelled utterly."

These are the five conditions under which the publisher feels compelled to issue his work, and without the limitations of which it will never see the light. To these he adds the following stipulations of his own:—

He will give no name, token of identity, nor personal response of any kind to enquirers.

He will publish only through a friend. The friend selected has accepted the office of medium for the work, and is Emma Hardinge-Britten.

All subscriptions are to be paid for only according to the custom of the country, C. O. D., but the promises of the subscribers are to be sent, with name and address, during the next three months, to the author's secretary, *pro tem.*, Emma Hardinge Britten, 206, West 38th Street, New York.

The work will be entitled Art Magic; or Mundane, Sub-Mundane, and Super-Mundane Spiritism.

This will be the first, and it is believed only publication in existence which will give an authentic and practical description of art magic, natural magic, Modern Spiritualism, the different orders of spirits in the Universe known to be related to, or in communication with man; together with directions for invoking controlling, and discharging spirits, and the uses and abuses, dangers and possibilities of magical art.

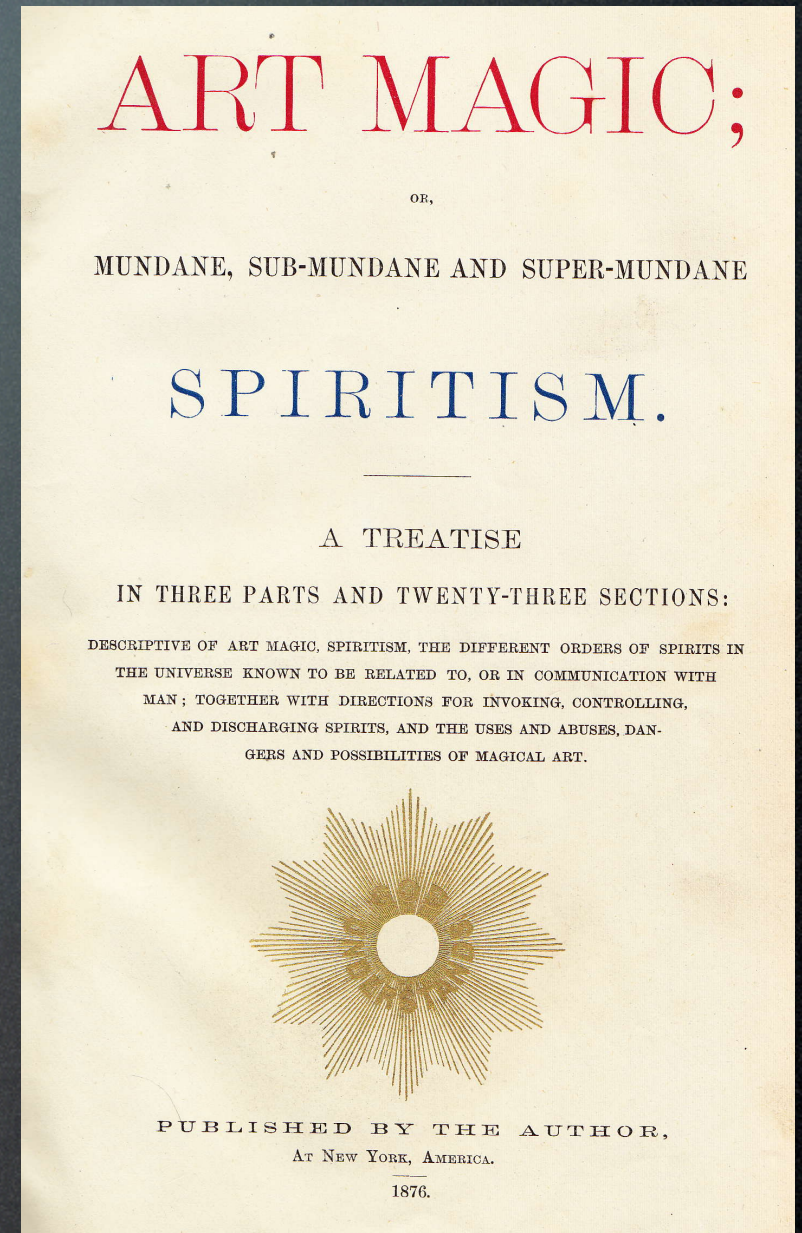
Signed for the author and publisher,

EMMA HARDINGE-BRITTEN, Secretary, *pro tem.*

"By magnetism the imponderable, all-pervading life element termed Astral fluid is communicated from one body to another. By psychology the power of one mind subjugates and controls that of another, and it is in these two spheres of operation that all the marvels of magic transpire."

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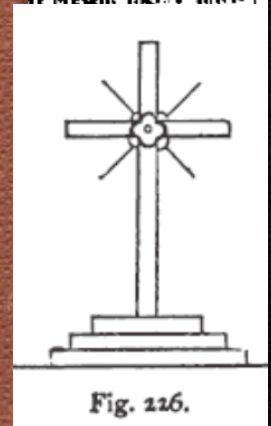
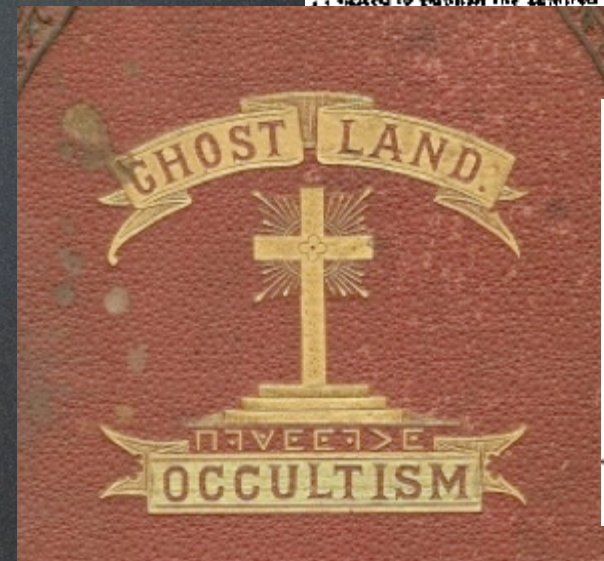
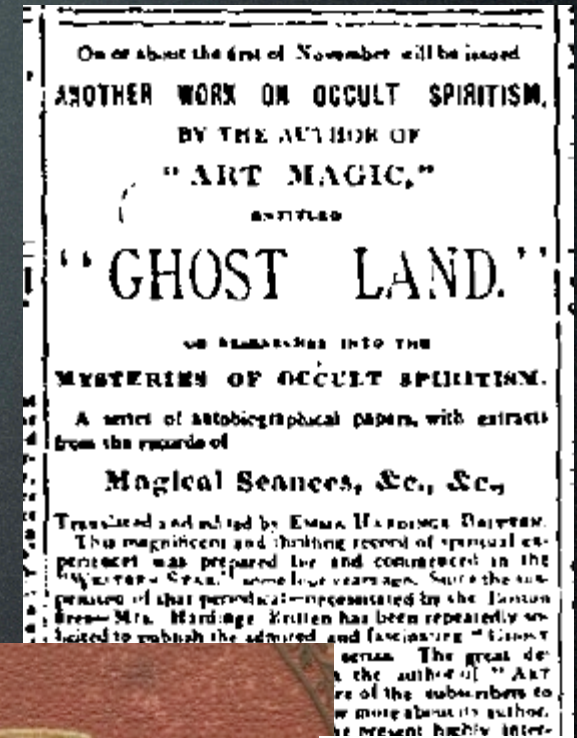
- Art Magic (1876) -- a melange of disguised material from other sources
- Knit together with an overriding metaphor: magnetism and psychology are the twin pillars of the temple of Spiritism -- the (Masonic) temple of Spiritism
- The book bears some structural resemblance to Melville's Moby-Dick (1851) -- it begins as one book (anthropology and history of religions), but ends as quite a different book (practical occultism)
- Nevertheless, the book is a bellwether in the renaissance of western occultism, and widely....mined...by succeeding generations of occultists, including the HBoFL



1875-1877: Emma Hardinge Britten, Occultist

- Art Magic is in the hands of its US subscribers in January (?) of 1876, and its European subscribers in April, after which Emma and William return to Boston (and begin advertising their galvanic medical practice again)
- And Ghost Land (the first of two promised volumes) arrives, hot on its heels, in November of 1876
- GL is now more than just a collection of provocative stories about various occult practices -- it represents the bona fides of the author of Art Magic.
- Louis de B_____, the protagonist of Ghost Land, is the author of Art Magic

The Spiritual Scientist, November 23, 1876



Jennings, 1871

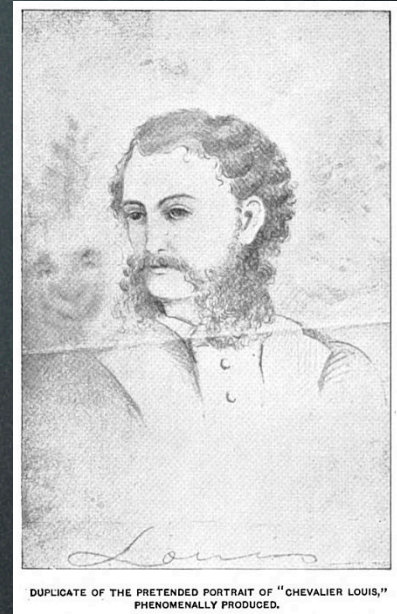
The Jennings Rose Cross and the Mark Mason Cipher on the cover of the first edition of Ghost Land

1875-1877: Emma Hardinge Britten, Occultist

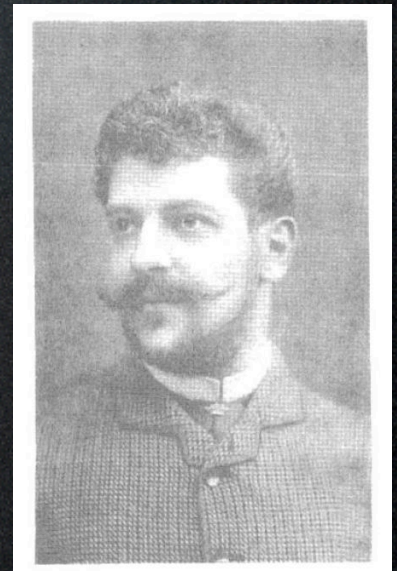
- Who was Louis De B_____?
- Who wrote Ghost Land?
- Marie, Countess of Caithness is on her honeymoon with her second husband, Earl Caithness, his daughter, and her son, the Duc de Medina Pomar, in the US, from October 1872 until April of 1873
- MCC meets with both Elizabeth J. French and Emma during this visit, and Emma's acquaintance with her may date back to the late 1860s in London...
- If Emma had a collaborator, was it the young Duc?
- And was the young Duc just a cut-out for Caithness herself?

"I knew it only represented our poor sufferer as he then was, not as he generally appears, still he entreated me to send it as it was for his Madonna (emphasis original) -- as he calls you -- because he had made such a great exertion to have it taken, and only for you."

EHB to MCC, discussing a drawing of Louis e B_____, as transcribed in HSO's Old Diary Leaves.



HPB's drawing of Louis De B_____



The Duc de Medina Pomar, novelist, son of Marie, Countess of Caithness

1875-1877: Emma Hardinge Britten, Occultist

Boston Daily Advertiser, January 15, 1877

- In January of 1877, Emma begins a series of lectures based on Art Magic, in Boston; they run from January through March and are well-attended and spirited. Emma does not always defend the positions taken by the author of Art Magic
- In May, the Theosophical Society buries Baron de Palm, and Emma participates (and Olcott is disgusted with her, I think)
- In September, Emma and William are in Cleveland, and then Salt Lake City, "on her way to California"
- They take ship for Sydney, Australia on the steamer City of Sydney in late January 1878, and arrive there on February 15..... to almost instant controversy.

READINGS ON SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

A series of Sunday evening readings and discussions on "Spiritual Science" was opened in the New Era hall, 174 Tremont street, last evening, conducted by Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten. The readings are to be, according to the announcement, from a 'rare and celebrated work recently published and now translated into Russian, German and Hindostanee, entitled "Art Magic." As the title indicates, the book deals with the philosophy of spiritualism going down to the foundation principles and showing the relation of ancient magic to modern spiritualism. The particular topic of last evening was the "Rosicrucian theory of the solar universe," the substance of which, as far as the meaning could be gleaned from the somewhat vague and mythical expressions in which it was set forth, that spirit antedates matter the soul antedates the body. After reading from the book, Mrs. Britten made a short address and gave the subject to the meeting for discussion. Speakers were not wanting, but the discussion rather wandered from the special topic, as perhaps was natural, considering its deep and transcendental nature. Judge Ladd, Mr. Gillespie, Mr. Weatherbee and other spiritualists, including a lady, participated, and most of the subjects which engage the minds of modern thinkers were touched upon. Evolution, Darwinism, the nature and relations of matter and forces, and even "prenatal influences," were made to have some bearing on the subject. One gentleman—Mr. Gillespie—had the hardihood to suggest that it would be more profitable for the meeting to discuss the questions what made men so bad, and

are very satisfactory."

EMMA HARDINGE-BRITTEN IN CALIFORNIA.

Mrs. Emma Hardinge-Britten gave a splendid address to a crowded audience last evening at Pacific Hall on "The Spiritual Origin and Destiny of the Human Race." Concerning the value of her theories we must leave the Darwinians and their opponents to be the judges, but there can be no question as to the brilliancy of her oratory, the magnetic effect she produces upon her listeners, and the vast range of information she brings to bear upon every subject she touches. Emma Hardinge-Britten is truly a phenomenon, of whom her spiritualistic allies may be justly proud. Her Sunday services are well conducted and crowded by a respectable and intelligent class of listeners.—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

The aristocratic wing of the San Francisco Spiritualists are evidently jubilant over the success of their free meetings at Pacific Hall. Whether the large audiences who attend on the ministry of their renowned oracle, Mrs. Emma Hardinge-Britten, are attracted by her brilliant oratory, or merely because they can hear fine lectures, with nothing to pay, remains to be proved. Certain it is, that this lady's tone of generous sympathy, pure morality, and sound logic, are doing much to redeem her cause from the well-deserved odium in which it was held before her coming to the city.—*Daily Evening Post*.

Medium & Daybreak, February 1, 1878