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0521019591 - Edward Carpenter 1844-1929: Prophet of Human Fellowship

Chushichi Tsuzuki

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PROPHET OF HUMAN FELLOWSHIP

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Edward Carpenter by Roger Fry (1895)

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

Edward Carpenter by Roger Fry (1895), reproduced by permission of the National Portrait Gallery, London *frontispiece*

*Between pages 102 and 103*

- 1a Carpenter in 1857, aged thirteen
- 1b Carpenter in 1875, aged about thirty-two
- 2a Charles Carpenter
- 2b Sophia Wilson Carpenter in 1864
- 3 Charles George Oates (centre), with Mrs Oates and Carpenter
- 4 Albert Fearnough
- 5 Carpenter at Millthorpe in 1905
- 6 Carpenter with George Hukin (left), George Merrill (centre front) and an unidentified friend
- 7 Carpenter with George Merrill
- 8 Carpenter in 1910, aged sixty-six

Illustrations 1 a and b, 2 a and b, 4 and 8 are taken from Carpenter's *My Days and Dreams* (first published by George Allen and Unwin Ltd in June 1916).

Illustrations 3, 6 and 7 are from the Carpenter Collection, and are reproduced by courtesy of the Director, Sheffield City Libraries.

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## PREFACE

Many of the works written about the revived Socialist movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century regard Edward Carpenter mostly as a generous eccentric, who left a lucrative post as a clerical fellow of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, to become something of a recluse at a cottage near Sheffield, where he wrote verse, indulged in sandal-making, and gave the occasional liberal financial contributions to the Socialist organisations. These earlier works did not discuss his homosexuality, either because it was still rather a taboo subject, or because their authors were too intent on the political side of the movement.

Lately there has been a reaction to this, encouraged no doubt by the growing interest in social history and the campaign for minority rights. As a result, Carpenter is seen by some mainly as a pioneer of the campaign for equal status for homosexuals and sometimes also as a champion of the women's cause.

In view of the rich abundance of sources of his life, however, it is possible to present a more balanced account of his career and to give a more coherent view of his thought. His own collection of papers at Sheffield City Library, which includes newspaper clippings of his lectures and his notes as well as his family papers, his letters to some of his close friends, and general correspondence from a great variety of people, many of them of considerable political or literary distinction, forms the core of the material. But there are also his literary works; many letters of his in other collections, some already published; and his own frank account of his sexual life in one of

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Havelock Ellis's volumes on sexual inversion, published anonymously but easily to be traced.

From all these sources, it is possible to offer more definite answers to such questions as: did his homosexuality dictate his conversion to Socialism? What was his attitude towards Marxism? Was he an Anarchist? What contribution did he in fact make to the Socialist movement? What were his links with other literary figures, such as Walt Whitman, J. A. Symonds, Bernard Shaw, Lowes Dickinson and E. M. Forster? Was he a mystic or a faddist? And finally, what sort of a man was Edward Carpenter?

This study would not have been possible without generous help and encouragement from many people. I am very grateful to the Librarian and the Archivist of Sheffield City Library for assisting me over the years while I was working on the great quarry of the Carpenter Collection. Dr Henry Pelling inspired my research, read the manuscript at an early stage and gave me valuable suggestions for improvement. Professor James Joll read it at a later stage and gave me much encouragement when I needed it. I am under special obligations to Mr R. B. Aubry, Professor Maurice Bruce, Mr and Mrs Graham Healey, Mr David I. Masson, Dr Fred Reid and Mr Peter Sutcliffe. I am also indebted to the staff of the following libraries for their co-operation: John Rylands Library (Manchester), Brotherton Library (Leeds), King's College Library (Cambridge), St John's College Library (Cambridge), Cambridge University Library, Sheffield University Library, British Library, British Library of Political and Economic Science, and London Library. I should like to express my thanks to Mr William Davies of the Cambridge University Press who assisted me with efficiency and foresight. The Centre for Japanese Studies at the University of Sheffield invited me to spend a year at Sheffield at the beginning of my research, while St John's College, Cambridge, gave me a free year at Cambridge towards its end. I wish to make grateful acknowledgement of their most generous help.

CHUSHICHI TSUZUKI

*Meguro, Tokyo*