

**Zeitschrift:** Der Kreis : eine Monatsschrift = Le Cercle : revue mensuelle  
**Band:** 27 (1959)  
**Heft:** 10

**Artikel:** The loves of a poet  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-570276>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 03.04.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## The Loves of a Poet

The life of *Edward Fitzgerald* (1809—1883), author of the renowned paraphrase of the «Ruby'iyat of Omar Khayyam», was dominated by male friendships. Peter Polnay in a charming biography («Into an old Room», Secker & Warburg, 1956) says: «Friendship for him was akin to love. If love proved to be the greatest achievement of the human heart, then Fitzgerald's was a triumphant heart.» He retained his school-day and university friends — of whom the greatest was the «gay, glib, and facetious» Thackeray, the «Old Thack» who liked calling him «Yedward» and «Teddibus».

After two memorable holidays in the Paris of 1830, 'Yedward' wrote «O Willy be constant to me». Later he wrote «our letters have been so warm that we shall expect each minute to contain a sentence like that.» The future adapter of Omar Khayyam described in a «jingle» the day which turned all his sorrow to glee «when I first saw Willy, and Willy saw me.» Thackeray, «socially not much engaged», replied «Write me a letter soon for the warm weather is coming, and I am growing *romantic*.» To Mrs. Brookfield he acknowledged that he had cherished a «noble affection» for Fitzgerald during twenty years: «when we first became friends I had not learned to love a woman.» Fitzgerald never did, and, in 1852, he burnt most of Thackeray's letters lest they might fall into «unwise hands». Yet he added «as I grow older I don't grow colder» and, from his hermitage, followed the career of England's Poet Laureate to its untimely end.

De Polnay thinks that Fitzgerald was «a homosexual from the purely mental and emotional angle.» The emotions were «rampant in his mind; and all his loves were male». He was decidedly not a soulful effeminate... his pastimes were mainly robust, and so was his sense of humour.»

In 1831 he met William Kenworthy Brown, the second of his three great loves, described as «a charming average person of no intellectual inclinations», but dapper and handsome in his hunting-kit. Auburn-haired and spruce he was a foil to the untidy Fitzgerald. With his beauty and innocent warmth he brought great happiness to a lonely soul. Happily married he died of a hunting accident and, just before the end, murmured «old fellow Fitz».

Fitzgerald himself then married, but his union to «a portly plain-looking woman with masculine features» came to predictable disaster. Once more he sought friendship from a simple Sussex sailor «a man of the finest Saxon type with that complexion which Montaigne calls 'vif, male et flamboyant', blue eyes, and strictly auburn hair which any woman might long to possess.» Furthermore he was «a moving statue of strength and pliancy — like one of the Elgin Marbles in a Guernsey, which is a fine dress for a fine figure.» To these physical charms he added in Fitzgerald's estimation «a large simple soul and dignity of manner: much more the gentleman than gentlefolks — — — very much more ladylike than the ladies.»

Poor Joseph Fletcher, known affectionately as «Posh» could hardly live up to such an ideal. The too-uneven friendship came to grief, and Fitzgerald, finally severed from human ties which had fringed idolatry, prepared himself for death.

Casimir.

---

# JUVENTUS

Revue de langue française, illustrée, paraissant le 1er de chaque mois.

Abonnement	France	Etranger
6 mois	1.500	2.500
1 an	3.000	4.500

envoi sous pli fermé.

Tous renseignements à JUVENTUS — 90, rue des Archives — Paris 3<sup>o</sup> — France.  
Spécimen sur demande contre 6 coupons réponses internationaux ou 3 timbres français à 85 francs.

---

## *ONE The Homosexual Magazine of America*

Fiction, poetry, essays, scientific research, legal reports, written for readers of all ages and for acceptance in every home.

Six dollars per year, 1st class (scaled); ten dollars for 2 years; single copies 50 cents. Airmail rates on request.

Write to ONE, Inc., 232 South Hill Street, Los Angeles 12, California, USA.

.....

## *Mattachine Review (from U.S.A. in English)*

Magazine of distinction which seriously examines and discusses human sex problems, especially homosexuality, with emphasis on legal, medical, social, religious and cultural aspects. Published monthly by MATTACHINE SOCIETY, INC., Office of Publication: Room 312, 693 Mission Street, San Francisco 5, California, U.S.A. Foreign subscription rate: Dollars 5 per year. Single issue. 60 cents.

---

---

## *Kameradschaftliche Vereinigungen und Zeitschriften des Auslandes:*

angeschlossen an die «Stiftung Internationales Komitee für sexuelle Gleichberechtigung», ICSE; Sekretariat: Damrak 57, Tel. 34596, Postbus 1564, Amsterdam. — Organ: Newsletter.

**Deutschland:** Gesellschaft für Reform des Sexualrechts e. V., Grunewaldstrasse 78/I, Berlin-Schöneberg.

Int. Freundschaftsloge (IFLO) Postfach 1399, Bremen.

Organ: IFLO-Bundesbrief.

Verein für humanitäre Lebensgestaltung (VhL), Kettenhofweg 46, Frankfurt a. M.

**Dänemark:** Forbundet af 1948, Postbox 1023, Kopenhagen K. Organ: PAN.

**Holland:** Cultuur- en Ontspanningscentrum (COC), Postbus 542.

Amsterdam C. Central-Büro: Damrak 57, Tel. 34596. Organ: Vriendschap.

Clublokal: «De Schakel», Korte Leidsdwarstraat 49, Tel. 64511.

**Norwegen:** Det Norske Forbundet av 1948, Postboks 1305, Oslo.

**Schweden:** Riksförbundet för sexuellt likaberättigande, Postbox 850, Stockholm I.

**USA:** One Inc., 232, South Hill Street, Los Angeles 12, Calif.

Mattachine Society, 693 Mission Street, San Francisco 5, Calif.

**Belgien:** Centre de Culture et de Loisirs, boîte postale 1, Forest 3, Bruxelles.

Tous les réunions: 29, rue Jules Van Praet, 1er étage. (Près de la Bourse).

*Sonstige Zeitschriften und Vereinigungen, dem ICSE noch nicht angeschlossen:*

**Deutschland:** Der Weg, Verlag Rolf Putziger, Umlandstrasse 149, Berlin W 15.

**Frankreich:** Arcadie, 74, Blvd. de Reuilly, Paris 12