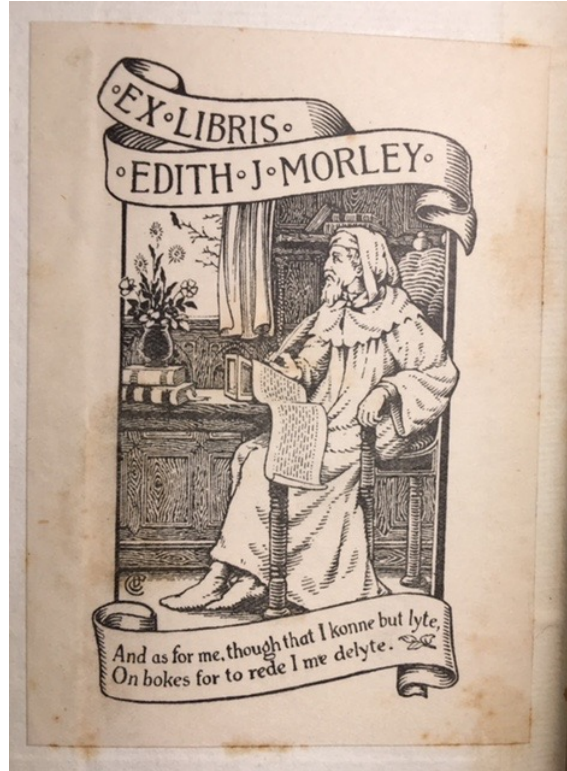


Mosher's 'Old World' *Kasidah* on Edith J. Morley's bookshelves

It was with enjoyment that I found a copy of the Mosher publication of Richard Burton's *The Kasidah of Hâjî Abdû El Yezdî* (Mosher Press, 1906, fifth edition) offered for sale by the Francis Edwards Bookshop in Hay-on-Wye, England. The small volume carries the Ex Libris of Edith J. Morley. In checking with the Reading University Library's Special Collections, Morley also owned at least one other Mosher publication, *The Germ* (1898) inscribed from Mable N. Howlett to Professor Morley.

The Oxford University educated Edith J. Morley (1875-1964) is described as "the first female professor in Britain or Ireland" by *The Irish Times* (March 8, 2016). Her memoir, *Before and After: Reminiscences of a Working Life* written back in the 1940s and now edited by



Barbara Morris, has only recently been published by Two Rivers Press of Reading in the U.K. The memoirs chronicle Edith Morley's struggles with male-dominated Victorian society and its restrictions on young women. Part-time lecturer at both King's College and Reading University, in 1908 she was appointed Professor

of English Language at University College, Reading thereby becoming "the first woman appointed to a chair at a British University-level institution" (*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*). Besides her memoirs, Edith Morley's other publications included *The Works of Sir Philip Sidney* (1901), *Women Workers in*

Seven Professions: A Survey of Their Economic Conditions and Prospects (1914), *Blake, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Lamb, Etc. Being Selections from the Remains of Henry Crabb Robinson* edited by Morley (1922), *The Life and Times of Henry Crabb Robinson* (1935), and *John Cunningham, 1729-1773* (1942). She was also a Fabian (joined around 1906), a champion of women's rights and women's suffrage, and assisted Belgian Jewish refugees during World War II for which she was awarded membership in the Order of the British Empire. In 2014 she was presented as a role model during the University of Reading's celebration of International Women's Day, and her papers, correspondence (1914-1939), and lecture notebooks (1893-1914), and photographs are held at the University.

So it is that this volume is placed in the large sub-collection of famous owners or otherwise important association copies in the Mosher Collection here at the Bishopric.

Philip R. Bishop
July 5, 2016