

*This review by Mark Green in Trollopiana, follows Monica's article: "“Jocund William” with Trollope in Brussels’:*

Fans of Trollope or the Brontë sisters might be tempted to dive straight into chapters twelve, thirteen and fourteen of this book, in which their favourite authors make their [major] appearances. However, to do this, and leap straight into the city of Brussels in the 1830s and 1840s and its population of expatriate Brits, many of whom, like the Trollopes, had fled to the continent to avoid debts accrued in the UK, is to miss out on a fascinating tale of not only the Jenkins family and the society in which they and the authors moved, but also of the pains of the researcher attempting to uncover the history submerged beneath the myths that had accumulated around the famous writers [...]

[T]he book's narrative uncovers mercantile shenanigans in Edinburgh, the life of a student at Cambridge in the early 19th century – yes, there was a lot of drinking and sex back then too [...] and the internecine struggles of the various factions of the Anglican clergy [...]. I am sorely tempted to wonder if descriptions of the vicious in-fighting revealed here might have reached the ears of the young Anthony [Trollope] to be recalled years later and reproduced in his Barchester novels.

– Mark Green, *Trollopiana: The Journal of the Trollope Society*, no. 119, summer 2021; [Trollopiana 119 - Trollope Society](#)