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The Brontës in Brussels

By MacEwan, Helen.

Peter Owen. 1 Paperback(s), 2014. soft. Book Condition: New. In 1842, five years before they became popular authors, Charlotte Brontë and her sister Emily arrived in Brussels to "improve their languages," as the British say; "I could acquire a thorough familiarity with French, I could improve greatly in Italian, and even get a dash of German," Charlotte wrote to her aunt. Emily stayed for a year, Charlotte for two, and though this is a little-known episode of their lives, it is a fascinating one; two of Charlotte's novels *Villette* and *The Professor* were based on this pivotal time, during which she fell in love with her married teacher Constantin Heger. Illustrated throughout with photographs, period art works, engravings, maps, and document images, this book chronicles the sisters' life in Brussels and provides detailed information on places with Brontë connections. It also includes extracts from *Villette* demonstrating how the novel reflects Charlotte's experiences in Brussels, translations of four of the sisters' French essays and of Charlotte's highly emotional letters to her teacher and a Brontë walking tour with maps and historical information on the Brontës' Brussels. 218.

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