

17, Hanover Terrace,  
Regent's Park, N.W.1.

22. 3. 40

My dear Spielmann

J. J. Wise, who is far  
and away the best living Swinburne  
expert, tells me that there is  
no shadow of doubt that the  
MS. of "The Garden of Proserpine"  
is wholly in Swinburne's hand-  
writing. It is imperfect, lacking  
the two last leaves, which sh<sup>d</sup>.  
have been pointed out. This  
MS. is one of a number of  
MS. of the 1866 <sup>volume</sup> which originally  
belonged to Howell, who left



Them with Ellis as security  
for a loan, which Howell never  
repaid. Ellis sold them to  
Fairfax Murray.

Wise says that you  
are mistaken in supposing  
that Watts-Dunton copied  
Swinburne's M.S. for the  
press. He never did so. Besides,  
at the time that "The Garden  
of Proserpine" was printed,  
Swinburne had never seen or  
heard of Watts. I confirm  
Wise's statement, and if you

will look at my "Life of  
Swinburne" you will see  
that he had the habit of  
sending his original drafts  
(in the Putney days) to press.  
Nearly all the original  
M.S., of which I have  
examined scores, have the  
compositors' initials ~~of~~ on  
them.

I hope this will  
settle your difficulty. What  
made you start your theory?  
With kindest regards  
Sincerely Y<sup>r</sup> Edmund Gosse