

Editions of the *Hymnal Noted*

Prepared by Joe Herl (2011)

For a discussion of the various editions, see the appendix to Thomas Helmore, *The Accompanying Harmonies to the Hymnal Noted*, available at Hathitrust. The date on the title page of this edition (1852) cannot be correct, as one of the books listed in the appendix (Mone, *Lateinische Hymnen des Mittelalters*) was not published until 1853. In addition, the complete accompaniment edition was not advertised as being available until 1858, which is probably the real publication date.

Brief summary of the information in the appendix: The book appeared in a words-only edition, words with melody, and words with organ accompaniment (prepared by Helmore). Each edition was issued as Part I, Part II, and a combined or complete edition. The words-only edition also had a version with Bible references in footnotes, a version with the hymns arranged in church-year order, and a “cheap” version in 32°.

Summary of publication dates of the *Hymnal Noted* (from advertisements in *The Musical Times*):

	Words Edition	Melody Edition	Accompaniment Edition
Part I	Entire: June 1851 Cheap ed.: July 1853	4 hymns*: December 1850 Entire: June 1851	8 hymns**: October 1851 Entire: April 1852
Part II	Cheap ed.: May 1855	May 1856	March 1858
Combined I & II	Cheap ed. in church-year order: May 1855 Scripture ed: May 1855	April 1857	March 1858

*Conditor alme siderum, Te lucis ante terminum, Lucis creator optime, Vexilla regis prodeunt

**Coelestis urbs Jerusalem, Conditor alme siderum, Te lucis ante terminum, Lucis creator optime, Vexilla regis prodeunt, Jam lucis orto sidere, Nunc sancte nobis spiritus, Hymns for Easter

Some (most? all?) hymns in the melody and accompaniment editions were available as separately priced single sheets before the bound volumes were published. A specimen page of the melody edition appeared in the June 1851 issue of *The Musical Times*. It was printed from the same plates as the 1851–56 edition available in Google Books.

Notices concerning the *Hymnal Noted* in *The Musical Times*

December 1, 1850, p. 96

Advertisement for individual hymns of *Hymnal Noted* now ready:

Conditor alme siderum

Te lucis ante terminum

Lucis creator optime

Vexilla regis prodeunt

February 1, 1851 and each month through May 1, 1851, p. 187

Now Publishing, under the sanction of the Ecclesiological (late Cambridge Camden) Society.

I. A Hymnal Noted; or Translations of the Ancient Hymns of the Church, set to their proper melodies.—Edited by the Rev. J. M. NEALE, M.A., and the Rev. THOMAS HELMORE, M.A.

II. ACCOMPANYING HARMONIES TO THE HYMNAL NOTED. By the Rev. T. Helmore.

III. THE WORDS OF THE HYMNAL, in a separate form.

Several Hymns Noted and Harmonized are now ready, price 1d. per leaf; and others will appear, from time to time, during the present year.

A detailed Synopsis gratis on application.

June 1, 1851, p. 190 (repeated in the July issue)

“Now ready, Part I., price 2s. 6d. sewed.”

The Hymnal Noted and *The Words of the Hymnal* are noted as ready, and *The Accompanying Harmonies to the Hymnal Noted* is “in course of publication.” A specimen is given of Hymn 1 “O lux beata Trinitas” and Hymn 2 “Somno refertis artubus.” The page appears to have been printed from the same plates as my photocopy.

July 1, 1851, p. 225

Notice of a lecture on hymnody by Neale and Helmore using the *Hymnal Noted*, with a choir of 40 voices that had taken place during the past month. “A large and attentive audience were much interested in the specimens offered to them, and on the invitation of the lecturer, joined heartily in singing the latter hymns, much pleased at the ease with which they were able to sing from the simple notation employed. The immediate adoption of the ‘Hymnal Noted,’ by several congregations, and for private family use, is expected to result from the meeting.”

October 1, 1851, p. 275 (repeated in the November issue, also in December with the addition “The remaining Harmonies in progress.”)

The words and melody edition are advertised as “now publishing.” The following hymns from Helmore’s accompaniment edition are ready:

Coelestis urbs Jerusalem

Conditor alme siderum

Te lucis ante terminum

Lucis creator optime

Vexilla regis prodeunt

Jam lucis orto sidere

Nunc sancte nobis spiritus

Hymns for Easter

Each hymn is priced separately.

April 1, 1852, p. 370

“Will be ready on the 7th April. HARMONIES TO THE HYMNAL NOTED, Edited by The

Rev. THOMAS HELMORE, will be Published on 7th of April, price 6s. 6d., purple cloth, red edges.”

May 1, 1852, p. 388 (repeated in June issue)

The accompaniment edition is advertised as “just published.”

May 1, 1853, p. [186]

“Veni, creator spiritus” reprinted, apparently from the accompaniment edition. It takes up the entire page. A notice on p. 189 reports a meeting of the Ecclesiological Society at which that hymn was sung from the *Hymnal Noted*.

August 1, 1853, p. 237

Noted as published during the last month: *Hymnal Noted*, the Words of, 32mo., price 2d., or 13s. 4d. per Hundred for distribution.

August 1, 1853, p. 240

Advertisement for several editions of the book: (1) standard melody edition; (2) accompaniment edition; (3) words edition, price 6d; (4) words edition, in a cheap form, price 2d. (or 13s. 4d. per 100 for distribution).

February 15, 1854, p. 350 (repeated March 1, March 15, May 1, June 1)

The same four editions advertised, followed by four paragraphs explaining the philosophy of the book.

May 1, 1855, p. 394

Advertisement:

I.—A HYMNAL NOTED: or translations of the Ancient Hymns of the Church, set to their proper melodies.— Part 1, price 2s. 6d. (Part 2, in the press.)

II.—ACCOMPANYING HARMONIES TO THE HYMNAL NOTED.—Part 1, price 6s. 6d. (Part 2, in a forward state.)

III.—THE WORDS OF THE HYMNAL, in a separate form.—Part 1, price 6d.

IV.—THE WORDS OF THE HYMNAL, in a cheap form, Part 1, price 2d. Part 2, price 4d.

V.—THE WORDS OF THE TWO PARTS combined in the proper sequence of the whole course of the Church’s Year. Cheap edition, cloth, price 8d.

VI.—THE WORDS OF THE TWO PARTS combined, with the addition of Scripture References. Cloth, price 1s. 6d.

May 15, 1855, p. 12

“The royal banners forward go” noted as being sung at a meeting of the Ecclesiological Society on May 2.

July 15, 1855, p. 78

Report of the July 9 Ecclesiological Society meeting, which included the singing of three hymns from the *Hymnal Noted*: “Come, Holy Ghost” (34¹); “The Lamb’s high banquet we await” (29¹); and the sequence “Dies irae” (46).

January 1, 1856, p. 170

Repeat of the advertisement of last May 1, with item I, Part 2 still “in the press” and item 2, Part 2 still “in a forward state.”

May 1, 1856, p. 237

ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The first meeting of this Society was held in the Lecture-room of St. Martin’s Hall, on the 24th of April, and was well attended, the audience being more numerous than at any meeting of the previous season. The music performed was under the direction of the Rev. T. Helmore; and the choir consisted of the children of Her Majesty’s Chapel Royal, and several ladies and gentlemen who are many of them accustomed to Church Music, and, having attended the weekly rehearsals of the Society, were, without the aid of an instrument, enabled to perform the following selection of music to the apparent satisfaction of all present:—

[14 items listed, including three hymns from the *Hymnal Noted*]

June 1, 1856, p. 253

DURING THE LAST MONTH, Published by J. A. NOVELLO. . . .THE HYMNAL NOTED, Part 2, by the Rev. THOMAS HELMORE. In paper cover, price 2s. 6d.

April 1, 1857, p. 35

Repeat of the advertisement of May 1, 1855, except that item I is now: A HYMNAL NOTED: or translations of the Ancient Hymns of the Church, set to their proper melodies.—Parts 1 and 2, 2s. 6d. each., or the two parts bound in one volume, whole cloth, price 5s.

Item II : Part 2 is still “in a forward state.”

March 1, 1858, p. 212

COMPLETION OF A HYMNAL NOTED. Advertisement as last year, except for item II, which now reads: ACCOMPANYING HARMONIES TO THE HYMNAL NOTED.—Part 1 and 2, in cloth, price 6s. 6d. each; or the two Parts, bound in one volume, cloth, 10s. 6d.