



Carlyleana at Auction

IN RECENT ISSUES OF THIS JOURNAL, THE EDITORS HAVE frequently thanked Melvin Schuetz of the Armstrong Browning Library at Baylor University for his steadfast scrutiny of catalogs from manuscript dealers and auctions and for his dependable and salient reporting of newly discovered Carlyle letters and related matter that crosses his desk. His findings have informed those Carlyle scholars specifically involved with collecting the letters of TC and JWC, via breaking news of various pieces of Carlyleana as they appear on the market. Moreover, his interest and dedication has culminated in his gracious acceptance of a station on the advisory board of the *Carlyle Studies Annual*, and we honor, on the inside front cover of this issue, his overdue presence among the keen scholars whose advice keeps this journal current.

It is well beyond the scope of this column to give all of the details that Schuetz has provided in the past year, and so this will be a condensation of the high points of his correspondence, noting that he also forwarded to the editors of this journal an amplified report of Browning and Carlyle letters and ana that he gathered in his duties for the Armstrong Browning library. This more inclusive list suggests that there might be developed on *The Carlyle Letters Online* site—newly migrated to the Center for Digital Humanities at Cooper Library, University of South Carolina, under a team directed by Colin Wilder—a page or department dedicated to tracking continuing evidence of uncollected Carlyle letters alongside queries and corrections from readers. The following is to document the copious leads that Mr. Schuetz has supplied over the past year.

Rosebery's of London offered in August 2015 a Julia Margaret Cameron sepia tint photograph of TC, described as an albumen print mounted on board, 31.5 by 25 centimeters. The photograph is of TC's right profile and is identical in every particular to the print, dated early June 1867, in the possession of the National Portrait Gallery, London, that appears on page 211 of the forthcoming volume 44 of *The Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle*.

Steve Bartrick Antique Prints & Maps offered a print, originally published in *Art Journal*, 1882, of a C. O. Murray engraving of TC in his backyard garden at 5 (later 24) Cheyne Row, Chelsea, based on a watercolor by Helen Allingham.



Image courtesy of antiqueprints.com

Baumann Rare Books of New York, Philadelphia, and Las Vegas listed in their October 2015 catalog, for \$9,800, a presentation copy of *Secret Strategical Instructions of Frederick the Second for His Inspectors General*. Translated from the German by Captain C. H. Smith (Coventry, UK: R. Pratt et al., 1811), inscribed by TC: “To Major Genl. Sir Colin Campbell G.C.B &c &c, with many kind regards, T. Carlyle, Chelsea, decr 1853.” The visit of General Campbell is not remarked upon in the chronology, notes, or index of *CL* 28 that covers the year 1853. Sir Colin Campbell (1792–1863; *ODNB*) is mentioned frequently in the *CL* with a particular remark in the footnote for Anthony Sterling in *CL* 9: 103.

A TC holograph translation from Goethe sent to an unnamed correspondent, 27 May 1865, appeared as lot 11 in Bonham’s auction 22509 in New York on 9 December 2015. This rendition of Goethe’s poem, which differs slightly from a version published in Rodger L. Tarr and Fleming McClelland, *The Collected Poems*

of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle (Greenwood, FL, 1986), is included in the appendix to *CL* 44: 236 (2016). This particular TC translation in holograph was previously sold by Sotheby's as lot 560 in a 28 October 1981 sale.

The Edinburgh auction house Lyon and Turnbull offered the following TC letter to I. McKinnell, otherwise unidentified, in sale 455, lot 161.

Chelsea, 12 Novr, 1855—

Sir,

With many thanks for the honour done me, I am sorry to answer that it will not be in my power to attend your grand meeting on the 7th next.

I have the honour to be

Your obed^t Serv^t

T. Carlyle

I. M'Kinnell Esq.

Secy &c &c

McTears Auctioneers of Glasgow, Scotland, offered a bronze medallion of TC by Scots sculptor Thomas Stuart Burnett in February 2015. The medallion was reoffered by Lyon and Turnbull of Edinburgh, January 2016.



Image courtesy of McTears, <http://www.mctears.co.uk/>

From a May 1998 Christie's catalog, Melvin Schuetz noted a TC letter to Richard Owen (1804–92; *ODNB*, naturalist and pale-

ontologist) that is not in the *CL* or *CLO*. The letter is described as follows: “Autograph letter signed (‘T. Carlyle’) to Mr Owen, 2 pp., 8°, 5, Gt Cheyne Row, Chelsea, 18 Dec, 1850, wanting to consult with Owen on Friday evening for tea but cannot dine out twice a week because his ‘Dyspepsia rules supreme, and perpetually tyrannises.’ He adds ‘We have done little in the Assyrian way, either my wife or I; and independently of Layard’s or Nebuchadnazer’s by Bull, we should both of us much court the acquaintance of any authentic magatherium [*sic*: megatherium], or antique Bull of God Almighty’s Sculpturing.” Schuetz observes that TC’s letter to his brother John A. Carlyle, 21 December 1850 (*CL* 25: 312–13) “quotes from Owen’s wife about the very circumstances of the 18 Dec. letter.”

Mr. Schuetz continued with a slew of Carlyle items from older catalogs, asking if we have them or if they will appear as additions to the *CLO*. In the first and most of the following instances, no; in the second, yes, eventually, thanks to his intercession.

He cited Kaminski Auctions of Beverly, Massachusetts, from 26 September 2009 and a letter to the Colin Mackenzies with whom the Carlyles were friendly. The catalog misdates the letter to July 1844, but it was written on 15 February of that year.

5. Cheyne Row, Chelsea
15 feby, 1844

My Dear Sir,

Since we were so unlucky as to miss you the other day, perhaps you will come down to us on Saturday Evening when we are perfectly disengaged and shall be very happy to see Mrs Mackenzie and you. Tea is at 7 o’clock.

Believe me Yours very truly

T. Carlyle

Somehow, this letter was collected at that time and remains enfolded in place and flagged within the office copy of *CL* 17, awaiting inclusion in the online edition.

Two TC letters to the Quaker intellectual Caroline Fox (1819–79; *ODNB*), one dated 14 July 1847 and the other dated 28 February 1849, both from the collection of the late book and manuscript dealer Michael Silverman, were offered by Bonham’s as lot 31 in auction 18992. The Bonham’s site illustrates only the first pages of these letters, and in each case TC closed these letters upside down in the top margin of the first page.

Chelsea, 14 july, 1847

Dear Miss Caroline,

I am greatly delighted with my Cromwell Medal, which arrived safe yesterday, and had a warm welcome from me. It is an excellent likeness,— much resembles the best Bust I know of Oliver, and the Mark of his dead Face too,— I doubt not it is by Symons, and, in addition to its other worth for me, deserves the best praises from judges of Art. Many thanks to you, and to your kind friend the Dellwyns. . . . I have sent the Piece to be carefully framed under glass; with a fit historical label on the back of it;

...

imagine;—and indeed know always how it is that a good man has to bring “not peace into this world but a sword,”— not to his joy, I suppose! — My Wife sends many regards to you all. Yours always truly, T. Carlyle

To this pious Quaker, TC quoted Jesus of Nazareth on the subject of peace and weaponry (see Matthew 10:34). Nearly two years later he wrote:

Chelsea, 28 feby, 1849—

Dear Miss Fox,

I have seen your gigantic countryman, Burnard, a man of some considerable faculty, I do conceive; one whom, if I ever had the chance, I could like very well to forward on his way. He has not yet attempted the Liskeard Bust, for indeed the materials, namely the Mark of the Face

...

the said Miss Caroline,— who is hereby requested to inform me with all brevity and precision what is on the reverse of the same. Miss Caroline’s sincere Friend, T. [Carlyle]

According to Bonham’s, in this second letter TC “enquires after her ‘Swansea Medallion’ and asks ‘. . . has it any chance to be the Medal of Dunbar Battle, which is said to be somewhere in existence yet?’” Apparently the letter is quite long, perhaps eight pages. Bonham’s identifies Burnard as Cornwall sculptor Neville Northey Burnard (1818–78; *ODNB*).

Heritage Auctions offered, 12 and 13 October 2006, the follow-

ing TC letter to an unidentified correspondent.

Chelsea, 10 June, 1844—

Dear Sir,

I know who you are; and approve very cordially of your good Projects: but it is unfortunately altogether inconsistent with my present line of work to assist in them in the way you suggest.

Believe me / Yours very truly

T. Carlyle

Swann Auction Galleries offered in 1997 a letter from TC to his friend Allen Cunningham concerning Cunningham's poem "Maid of Elvar." Dated 28 July 1832 and written in Craigenputtoch, Scotland, it is quoted and presented thus: "It gives me great pleasure to discern the most indubitable poetic character in this your last performance; a rich mellow music breathes thro' it . . . your talent improves as it grows older . . . however, the form you have chosen seems unworthy of the spirit. The narrative part is nowise what I like best. . . . I pray much you would forget there was or had ever been such a man as Walter Scott. . . . I am scribbling trifles, mostly fit only for the fire. . . . Considerable electioneering goes on here; in which I take neither charge nor interest. It is even doubtful whether I shall expend the necessary three and sixpence to qualify myself for an Elector at all."

Also from Swann Galleries and in 1997, a letter that is cited in *CL* 11: 31, TC to an unidentified correspondent, 22 February 1839, sold at Anderson Auction Company, New York, NY, 14 October 1904, for which the *CL* gives only a smattering of content, is amplified with a further smattering of quoted text from the original, described as two quarto pages, viz: "to one who lives by doing work the offer of honest work to do, whether accepted or not, is always welcome. . . . Translation, if properly paid for, is not a kind of labour I dislike. . . . [M]any years ago the rate for translating 'Wilhelm Meister' was 3 guineas per sheet. . . . Now as Goethe's German is most likely a little harder than L'Ardeche's French . . . One other condition is primary and indispensable: that my name . . . were kept strictly and altogether secret."

Bonham's lots 27, 28, and 30 from auction 18992 mention three heretofore uncollected Carlyle letters that were copied, transcribed to the extent available from catalog content, and enfolded in the office copies for future inclusion in the *CLO*.

These involve a JWC letter to Edward Sterling, postmarked 12 June 1852, asking him to adopt a black cat, a letter formerly in the collection of the late Michael Silverman; a TC letter dated 26 May 1868, also formerly in the collection of Michael Silverman and described in CSA 23: 203 with a provenance of earlier dealers, a letter beginning "There are two little Parcels of Book, intended for Edinburgh by yr earliest Bundle thither . . ."; and the third, TC to Julia Sterling, conjectured by Bonham's to have been written 28 November 1851, on stationery with an 1849 watermark.

Chelsea, Friday

Dear Julia,

Mrs. Carlyle is unfortunately out of sorts this morning; taken with an ugly cold since last night, and for the present confined to bed. She is extremely sorry that, after all the trouble and negociation you have had, there is now no possibility of seeing you here tonight; and she has commissioned me to begin the day with sending you this bit of bad news,— lest, by delaying you on some other project for the evening, it became still more unlucky. For myself, I send compliments to Edward and to you all, and am, Dear Julia, Yours always,
T. Carlyle

On 8 March 2004, in sale 6973, Christie's placed for sale the Halsted B. Vander Poel Collection of English Literature, of which lot 159 contained TC's letter to his publisher Chapman and Hall, a letter dated 4 March 1845 largely concerning proofs of his *Life of Schiller*. This letter was acquired by the Armstrong Browning Library, and a complete transcription with provisional headnote is folded into the office copy awaiting an upload to the *CLO* to replace the entry in *CL* 19:11 that simply states "[Contents unknown]."

Chelsea, 4 March, 1845—

Dear Sir,

I only yesternight got the first Proof of Schiller, which I have returned; and with it the whole Book, duly read over, and put into the final shape I wish it to stand in. Robson, I hope, will not trouble me much more with it; being himself a trustworthy correct man, who understands well what is said to him.

You,— for your part,— must give me £100 for 2,000 Copies of this Book; so much ready cash on the day of publication. Pray answer me as to that, and we will let the matter end there if you like.

For the rest, I find there is a medal of Schiller; and doubt not my Berlin friend will send it me in the course of a few weeks,— or we shall get it otherwise if there be haste. Furthermore I have a Print of Schiller's House in Weimar, and of the little Gardenhouse in Jena (which latter I shewed you) where he used to write his plays in the dead of night: I doubt not, a couple of wood cuts, representing these two objects, wd be welcome to various readers, and might get a place in the Text somewhere: but I know not the cost, the &c of such things; and indeed will, with much resignation, allow you to settle as you please in regard to all that.

——— And now for the subject of Cromwell's Letters.

The Introduction proves longer than I expected, but not worse (thank Heaven): it will not be done yet for three days; but there is above a good sheet of it quite ready,— of which having told Robson yesternight, and also of my haste to be forward, he this night sends his Boy for the Papers; and has got them; and will call with them tomorrow upon you. With whom, and in regard to which, pray make the best arrangement human wit can!

I am in great haste; and add no more.

Yours truly

T. Carlyle

Catalog 27 from UpCountry Letters contained three items related to the Carlyles: another instance of the Simon Brodie doggerel that TC often supplied with his autograph to ardent fans; a letter from Robert Hogg to TC dated 6 February 1872, reporting the death of the Reverend Thomas Alexander, “seized with apoplexy in a cab,” to which TC made a barely legible note, “This wretch printed my [indecipherable]”; and a letter in Italian from Giuseppe Mazzini to Luigi Mariotti (assumed name of one Antonio Carlo Napoleone Gallenga, 1810–95), postmarked 10 August 1840, in which Mazzini describes the Carlyles (“notissimo”) and mentions in particular JWC (“buonissimo”).

A German auction house, Van Vliet, listed a TC letter to Geraldine Jewsbury, 13 April 1859, which appears in *CL* 35:

71 and 73, transcribed from a published version that contains at least six errors including the signature R. Carlyle and Mr for Hy (Henry) Drummond. With the holograph now in hand, the *CLO* can correct the letter and update its headnote. Fred Kameny, formerly a managing editor in the books division at Duke University Press, also gave us notice of this holograph letter at auction.

Mr. Schuetz noted that a copy of William Allingham's *The Music Master* (1855), presented by the publisher G. Routledge and Company to JWC, appeared at auction from Leonard Roberts, Bookseller, of Vancouver with the asking price of 1500 Canadian dollars. JWC in turn gave the book to a friend, daughter of her late father's medical partner, with the inscription, "Jane Howden with Jane Carlyle's love. 5 Cheyne Row, Chelsea, 15th December 1856." Schuetz correctly observes that this discovery will require a change to footnote 13 that accompanies JWC's letter of 23 February 1856 to William Allingham (*CL* 31: 37–39).

Stargardt Autographenhandlung of Berlin offered a TC letter to Eduard Hitzig, dated 10 March 1838. Mr. Schuetz finds that Hitzig (1780–1849, born Isaac Elias Itzig) was an author and civil servant, a friend of E. T. A. Hoffman, and a regular attendee of the salons of Rahel Varnhagen. Of Jewish heritage (as was Madame Varnhagen), Hitzig was "lampooned" by Heinrich Heine (also of Jewish heritage, although he converted to Christianity in 1825) for his change of name. Given that Woodhouse was an apostle of the Catholic Apostolic Church, the circumstances of this introduction attest to a more ecumenical moment in European intellection before the cataclysmic events of the twentieth century, to which TC has been attached, rightly or wrongly, by latter-day historians.

London, 10th March 1838

My dear Sir,

Allow me to present to you Mr F Woodhouse, an English Stranger in whom I am reservedly interested. He is travelling Southward and Eastward as far as Venice, and would fain know what is worthiest among German product, especially among German men, the noblest sort of products. Pray, for my sake and for his own, forward him as you can.

It is long that I have heard nothing of you, tho' officially you are my President. I send you always, in speech or in thought, my hopes and good wishes.

Believe me ever

Yours with true regard

Thomas Carlyle

Schuetz further observes that TC wrote to Karl Varnhagen von Ense on the same day concerning Francis Valentine Woodhouse (1805–1901), for which see *CL* 10: 47, and footnote 20 to TC's letter to his brother John A. Carlyle, 9 March 1838 (*CL* 10: 40–46). TC's letter is addressed "Seiner Hochwohlgebohren / Herrn Criminal-Director Hitzig" to which another hand has supplied the particulars of the address in Berlin. Apparently Francis Woodhouse hand-delivered this letter of introduction.

On the Live Auctioneers site, specific auction house and date not known, there was offered a first edition of TC's French Revolution with a holograph note:

Mr Carlyle, with many thanks and respects, does himself the honour to accept Sir Robert Peel's Invitation for the 13th june.

Chelsea (5 Cheyne Row)
6 june 1850

Sir Robert Peel (1788–1850; *ODNB*), statesman and former prime minister, suffered a riding accident on 29 June 1850 and died soon after of his considerable injuries. TC's heartfelt account of Peel and his death is recounted in several letters in early July 1850 (see *CL* 25: 109–10 and 114–15; see also Froude, *Carlyle* 4: 47–49). As Brent Kinser has observed, TC discussed this dinner with Peel in a letter to his mother (*CL* 25: 95, and footnotes 5 and 6).

Mr. Schuetz noticed a TC letter attached to a copy of TC's *Past and Present* and made inquiries of the seller, Lighthouse Books of St. Petersburg, Florida. The bookseller initially provided a scan of the first page only:

Thursday Evg 31 jany

Dear Sir,

Here are a few mere Names of persons whom I want you to send copies to. No 1 looks handsome enough in its clean coat: I wish to Heaven we send the last No out as handsomely!

The Robsons have not yet returned me above half the

slips of No 2: I want to . . .

Later, Lighthouse Books provided, via Schuetz, the letter *in toto*, for which the editors return grateful thanks.

Thursday Evg 31 jany

Dear Sir,

Here are a few mere Names of persons whom I want you to send copies to. No 1 looks handsome enough in its clean coat: I wish to Heaven we send the last No out as handsomely!

The Robsons have not yet returned me above half the slips of No 2: I want to see it all together before beginning to finish it off,—which I think will then be easy. There is also a considerable mass of No 3 in readiness for them;—and it will well beseem me to stand to my work!

Any of the criticisms that are merely or mostly idle nonsense or empty praise or ill-nature I had much rather not see: but if you fall in with any that either in the way of censure or otherwise appear to have some weight it may be well if you let me see them (or some of them), which I *shd* perhaps not otherwise do.

I got home again today, and must endeavour to get to my tools again tomorrow.

Yours always truly

T. Carlyle

The letter, written in TC's firm and legible handwriting of the 1840s or not much later, is almost certainly to one of the Chapmans of his publisher, Chapman and Hall. The Robsons were TC's long-suffering typesetters, poor fellows. There has been some discussion about whether TC wrote "mere" or "more" in the first line. For a hilarious account of typesetters dealing with TC's manuscripts, see William Edwin Adams, *Memoirs of a Social Atom* (1903).

James Cummins Bookseller offered for \$550 a first edition of TC's *The Early Kings of Norway; also an Essay on the Portraits of John Knox* (London: Chapman and Hall, 1875). Inscribed on the flyleaf is a dedication signed by TC but otherwise written by an amanuensis, almost certainly TC's niece Mary Aitken, who became in 1879 Mary A. Carlyle: "T. J. E. Boehm Esq., with my kindest thanks and regards / T. Carlyle / Chelsea, 4 May 1875." The sculptor Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm (1834–90; *ODNB*), cre-

ated the prominent statue of TC at the foot of Cheyne Row on the Chelsea Embankment. The *ODNB* entry by Mark Stoker expands the association: “Boehm’s most famous work is his life-sized statue of Thomas Carlyle (1875; bronze version of 1882, Chelsea Embankment Gardens, London). A close friendship arose between sculptor and sitter, which led to Boehm’s undertaking research for Carlyle on portraits of John Knox. There are close links between the Carlyle and Jean-Antoine Houdon’s *Voltaire* (1778, Comédie-Française, Paris), a work which Boehm greatly admired. In the portrait Boehm fulfils his belief in treating modern dress *con amore*, while his truthfulness to life and dislike of classical affectation made him the perfect artist for Carlyle. The statue was unanimously praised at the 1875 Royal Academy show and won a silver medal at the Paris Universal Exhibition in 1878.”

On 10 May 2016, Mr. Schuetz communicated, “Here is a short Carlyle social note, which I do not find listed in the *CLO*” with a link to a Dickens site. At the top, in another hand, is the number 87. The note, undated and signed only “T. C.,” implies familiarity rather than formality, and indeed it might have been to Charles Dickens and might also have escaped the Dickensian bonfires that obliterated almost all of the letters to Dickens from the Carlyles and others. However, the identity of the recipient is conjecture at best.

My dear Sir,

Unluckily we are engaged for Saturday night, but John is prompt for “any other night”: me I think tomorrow will suit best, for I am not very well today. At six o’clock then, unless this headache of mine worsen instead of bettering.

Yours always

T. C.

In July, a Carlyle autograph appeared on the Sotheby’s site: “‘It never smokes but there is fire.’ T. Carlyle / Chelsea, 17 July 1867—.” Also of great interest was a July 2016 auction that featured Carlyle’s copy of Isaac Newton’s *Principia Mathematica*, which realized an astonishing \$353,912 (£266,500).