

Editors' Note

"The Age of Miracles past? The Age of Miracles is forever here!"

CARLYLE'S EXCLAMATION IN *ON HEROES* SERVES AS AN appropriate epitaph for Carlyle studies in 2010. The chance discovery of letters written by Harriet, Lady Ashburton, to her beloved "Prophet," the first installment of which is published in this issue, reminds us that the Carlyle country contains vast tracts of unknown land waiting to be discovered and tilled. The year 2011 promises to yield more of these "Miracles" with the development of a new online publishing initiative conceived by the editors of the *Carlyle Studies Annual*. The Victorian Lives and Letters Consortium (VLLC), in association with Duke University Press, will create a vast digital archive containing previously unpublished diaries, letters, and journals of major Victorian figures scanned from the collections of some of the world's leading libraries. Instructors, researchers, students, and general readers who become members of the VLLC will be invited to share their expertise and interests in a kind of electronic seminar room, where they will be able to transcribe digitally scanned manuscripts and to contribute biographical and historical information that will result in the creation of peer-reviewed, interactive scholarly editions designed in the manner of the *Carlyle Letters Online*. The editions developed for the project will provide members with comprehensive access to diverse materials in multiple repositories, through which they will be able to search simultaneously. Fittingly, the first writer to join the *CLO* in the VLLC collection will be John Ruskin, the man who affectionately referred to Carlyle as "Papa." The ultimate goal of the project editors will be to create an online, interactive, peer-reviewed scholarly edition of the complete correspondence of Ruskin,

including his diaries, notebooks, letters, and miscellaneous private writings.

In this issue of *CSA*, we look ahead to forging deeper bonds between the Ruskin and the Carlyle scholarly communities with the publication of Sara Atwood's important contribution on Ruskin and Plato, and of Francis O'Gorman's review-essay on Robert Hewison's landmark study, *Ruskin and Venice*. The Harriet Lady Ashburton letters are juxtaposed with a remarkable and hitherto neglected essay by Julia Wedgwood, reviewing Froude's publication of Carlyle's *Reminiscences* in May 1881. The Miscellanies section offers the usual rich harvest of unpublished letters and manuscripts, including David Southern's discussion of the London and Paris address book of the Confederate spy and "martyr" Rose O'Neale Greenhow, and Brent E. Kinser's presentation of newly discovered Carlyle letters and a detailed analysis of Shakespeare's autobiography purportedly annotated by TC, all held in the Folger Library in Washington, DC.

Among recent publications of works relevant to the Carlyles and their circle, of particular note are Will Christie's edition, *The Letters of Francis Jeffrey to Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* (reviewed in this issue by Ian Campbell), and Paul Kerry and Marylu Hill's edition of a new collection of essays gleaned from the Villanova Carlyle conference that occurred in July 2007, *Thomas Carlyle Resartus: Reappraising Carlyle's Contribution to the Philosophy of History, Political Theory, and Cultural Criticism* (Associated University Presses, 2010), which includes essays by Chris R. Vanden Bossche on social agency in *Past and Present*; by Ian Campbell on TC and education; by Marylu Hill on Burke, TC, and the defense of monarchy; by F. S. J. Ledgister on TC, John Stuart Mill, Froude, and J. J. Thomas on British rule in the West Indies; by Lowell Frye on history as biography, biography as history; by Catherine Heyrendt on Carlyle and France; by Hans Mattingly on *Sartor Resartus* at the intersection of literature and cultural criticism; by Jonathan McCollum on the Nazi appropriation of TC; by Aileen Christianson on JWC and her biographers; and by Kathy Chamberlain on JWC's life in the 1840s (the book will be reviewed in *CSA* 27). Also of interest is the publication of David R. Sorensen, "Shattered Majesty: Ruskin, Carlyle, and the Venetian Restoration of Frederick the Great," in *Ruskin, Venice, and Nineteenth-Century Cultural Travel*, ed. Keith Hanley and

Emma Sdegno (Venice: Le Bricole, 2010), and volume 38 of the Duke-Edinburgh edition of the *Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* (Duke UP, 2010), which will be reviewed with volume 37 in *CSA* 27.

The year 2011 holds great promise for the ever-expanding body of work focused upon the Carlyles. Shaden M. Tageldin has recently published "Secularizing Islam: Carlyle, al-Sibā'ī, and the Translations of 'Religion' in British Egypt," *PMLA* 126.2 (Jan. 2011): 123–39, in which she examines a significant Arabic translation of Carlyle's *On Heroes* in the context of post-colonial discourse. Brent E. Kinser's *The American Civil War in the Shaping of British Democracy*, to be published by Ashgate in April, features a chapter in which he seeks to understand Carlyle as an "accidental democrat." Further on the horizon in 2011, Carlyleans and Victorianists can look forward to the publication of the Strouse edition of *The French Revolution*, a special issue of *Studies in the Literary Imagination* entitled *Thomas Carlyle and the Totalitarian Temptation*, edited by Tom Toremans and Tamara Gosta, and volume 39 of the *Collected Letters*. Slated for publication in 2012 is the Yale UP edition of *On Heroes and Hero-Worship* in the series "Rethinking the Western Tradition."

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