

## Editors' Note

*The lightning-spark of Thought, generated, or say rather heaven-kindled, in the solitary mind, awakens its express likeness in another mind, in a thousand other minds, and all blaze-up together in combined fire; reverberated from mind to mind, fed also with fresh fuel in each, it acquires incalculable new light as Thought, incalculable new heat as converted into Action.*

**I**N THIS PASSAGE FROM HIS GREAT ESSAY “CHARACTERISTICS” (1831), Carlyle comments upon the galvanic power of original thinking, and in a wondrous variety of ways, this issue of *Carlyle Studies Annual* demonstrates the “incalculable” impact of Carlyle’s own writings, as they continue to be “reverberated from mind to mind.” Carol Anita Tarr catches the “Natural Supernatural” aspect of this electric influence in her startling essay on Carlyle and J. M. Barrie, the creator of *Peter Pan*. From different vantage points, Lowell T. Frye and Owen Dudley Edwards explore Carlyle’s troubled and yet oddly fruitful relations with the legacies of Byron and Macaulay. Unearthing fresh links between Dickens and Carlyle, Katherine Inglis proposes a Sartorean “retailoring” of *Our Mutual Friend* that anticipates the bicentennial of the novelist’s birth. Acknowledging another notable milestone—the 300th anniversary of the birth of Frederick the Great—John Clubbe analyzes the rich literary and historical dimensions of Carlyle’s epic history of the Prussian ruler. Elsewhere in this issue, archival evidence reinforces the case for challenging supposedly inviolable biographical certitudes. The second and final installment of the letters of Harriet, Lady Ashburton, reveals the extraordinary depth and complexity of her friendship with Thomas, as well as the poignancy of her tenacious efforts to establish closer ties between herself and

Jane. Letters from the Isaac W. Dyer Collection at Bowdoin College, Maine, throw fresh light on the earlier stages of the Froude-Carlyle controversy as it evolved in the remarkable and previously unpublished correspondence of Dyer, Waldo H. Dunn, and Charles Frederick Harrold. In *Miscellanies*, David Southern unearths new correspondence between John Ruskin and the Victorian composer and choral master John Pyke Hullah, explores the relationship between Ruskin and the young critic Harry Quilter, revisits Ruskin's reputation among his contemporaries in the letters of Thomas Woolner to Emily Tennyson, and offers a previously unpublished letter from TC to JWC that shows the strength of their own relationship and clarifies the nature of their friendship with Harriet Martineau. Reviews of recent collections of essays on Carlyle and Ruskin, and of volume 37 of the *Collected Letters* round out an issue that resounds with "reverberation."

The year 2011 marked the publication of a several important scholarly studies: Volume 39 of the *Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* (Duke UP), ed. Ian Campbell, Aileen Christianson, David R. Sorensen et al., introduced by Brent E. Kinser; Justin Prytash's "Rhizomatic Subjects: Thomas Carlyle, Charles Kingsley, and the Origins of Victorian Identity," *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 66.2 (Sept. 2011): 141–69; Tom Toremans's, "Sartor Resartus and the Rhetoric of Translation," *Translation and Literature* 20.1 (2011): 61–78; Kinser's *The American Civil War in the Shaping of British Democracy* (Ashgate); and *Carlyle Society Papers*, New Series No. 24 (Edinburgh, 2011), which includes "John Aitken Carlyle, Lynchpin of the Carlyle Family" (Jane Roberts), "The Political and Personal Drama of 1844: Jane Welsh Carlyle, Giuseppe Mazzini, and the British Government's Secret Opening of his Mail" (Kathy Chamberlain), and "Tracing Genealogy for the Carlyle Letters" (Liz Sutherland). Students and scholars will welcome the appearance of an online annotated bibliography on Thomas Carlyle, by Sorensen and Kinser, in the new *Oxford Bibliography in Victorian Literature*, ed. Juliet John (Oxford). This extensive and detailed record, which provides a comprehensive review of criticism, will be updated annually to take account of recent contributions. Meanwhile, three more volumes of the *Collected Letters* (36–38) were encoded in preparation for publication

(2012) in the *Carlyle Letters Online*, ed. Kinser (Duke), which recorded over 800,000 hits for 2011. The Carlyles themselves were not solely confined to scholarly venues. On 18 August 2011 the BBC's "Woman's Hour" program featured a visit by Louise Adamson to the Carlyle House, Chelsea, maintained by the National Trust, where she conducted an interview with the curator, Linda Skippings, about the life of Jane Welsh Carlyle. The program can be accessed at <[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0138523](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0138523)>. On the horizon in 2012, Edinburgh University will be hosting a conference in July to celebrate the publication of 40 volumes of the Duke-Edinburgh edition of the *Collected Letters*. Long-awaited editions of Carlyle's *French Revolution* (California UP) and *Heroes and Hero-Worship* (Yale UP) are near completion, and a special issue of *Studies in the Literary Imagination* entitled *Thomas Carlyle and the Totalitarian Temptation*, ed. Tom Toremans and Tamara Gosta, will be published in December.

The specter of economic distress that continues to haunt both Europe and America may focus fresh attention on the writings of Carlyle and his contemporaries, but it also presents challenges to the editors of journals such as this. The editors are especially grateful to the following individuals at Saint Joseph's University for their generous financial support and encouragement: Interim President John W. Smithson and President-Elect, Fr. C. Kevin Gillespie, S. J.; Provost Dr. Brice Wachterhauser; Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. William Madges; and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Paul Aspan. Thanks are also due to Carmen Croce at the Saint Joseph's University Press for his invaluable advice and guidance. At Western Carolina University, thanks are due to Jason Melvin of the Coulter Faculty Commons for his patient assistance with the technical labyrinths of InDesign and Photoshop and to Brian W. Gastle, Chair of the Department of English, both for his friendship and his supportive advocacy. As always, we reserve deepest thanks and appreciation and gratitude for our indefatigable friend and beloved colleague David Southern at the Duke University Press, who bears huge burdens with heroic fortitude, professionalism, and humor.