

## Editors' Note

REFERRING TO TEUFELSDRÖCKH'S VOLUME ON CLOTHES, the Editor in *Sartor Resartus* describes it as a "mad banquet, wherein all courses had been confounded, and fish and flesh, soup and solid, oyster-sauce, lettuces, Rhine-wine and French mustard, were hurled into one huge tureen or trough, and the hungry Public invited to help itself." Number 28 of the *Carlyle Studies Annual* presents the appearance of a similar kind of "mad banquet," with an ambitious range of overlapping topics "hurled into one huge tureen." In an illuminating essay, Francis O'Gorman focuses on the dangers of re-reading intellectual history in the light of present concerns, and of violating historical understanding by the loose application of "influence." Dinah Birch reflects on the meaning of "value" in Victorian culture and society, and prompts a new understanding of the word by exploring its complex associations with religious conceptions of feeling and sympathy. In a tribute to Norman Hampson, one of the great interpreters of the French Revolution in the twentieth century, Owen Dudley Edwards reminds readers of the uniquely humane and skeptical qualities that Hampson brought to the study of the past—qualities that link him directly to Carlyle. An unpublished letter from Hampson to David R. Sorensen, included in a postscript to Edwards's essay, offers vivid confirmation of Hampson's droll incisiveness as a thinker. Ian Campbell sheds new light on the Rev. J. A. S. Barrett of Peebles, whose friendship with Alexander Carlyle is charted through a meticulous study of previously unpublished letters and papers. Campbell's assessment of Barrett's importance is confirmed by the inclusion of five previously unpublished Carlyle manuscript fragments that were given to Isaac W. Dyer by Alexander Carlyle's executors at the behest of Barrett. Taking an unusual approach to Carlyle's *Reminiscences*, Chene Heady demonstrates how the book's defiant

tone and texture were shaped in response to the popular reception that greeted the author's rectorial address in Edinburgh in 1866. Clayton Carlyle Tarr, uninhibited by questions of influence, makes a convincing case for reading Louisa May Alcott's work, especially *Little Women*, in relation to her evolving attitudes to Carlyle. In the section "From the Past," David R. Sorensen introduces James Fitzjames Stephen's remarkable 1865 essay in *Fraser's*, in which he attempts to reconcile Carlyle's doctrines with Benthamite liberalism. In "Miscellanies," David Southern transcribes nine new Carlyle holographs from the Montague Collection at the New York Public Library. The "mad banquet" is rounded off with three reviews: David McAllister on volumes 38 and 39 of the *Collected Letters*; Francis O'Gorman on Lars Spuybroek's startling new study, *The Sympathy of Things: Ruskin and the Ecology of Design*; and Brent E. Kinser on O'Gorman's landmark Oxford World's Classic edition of Ruskin's *Praeterita*.

The year 2012 marked the publication of volume 40 of the *Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* (Duke UP), ed. Ian Campbell, Aileen Christianson, David R. Sorensen et al., introduced by Jane Roberts, and *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History*, ed. Sorensen and Kinser (Yale UP, Rethinking the Western Tradition Series), introduced by Sorensen, with essays by Sara Atwood, Owen Dudley Edwards, Christopher Harvie, Kinser, Terence James Reed, Sorensen, and Beverly Taylor. Three more volumes of the Carlyle Letters (volumes 36–38 of the *CL*) were published in the *Carlyle Letters Online* (ed. Kinser). In addition, thanks to a generous grant from the Delmas Foundation, hyperlinks have been inserted in the *CLO* to enable its readers to interact with the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. In July the National Endowment of the Humanities awarded the Carlyle Letters Project a three-year grant totaling \$270,000 to assist with the publication of volumes 41–43. Other recent important scholarly studies of the Carlyles and their circle include Edward Adams, *Liberal Epic: The Victorian Practice of History from Gibbon to Churchill* (U of Virginia P, 2011); Juliette Atkinson, *Victorian Biography Reconsidered: A Study of Nineteenth-Century 'Hidden Lives'* (Oxford UP, 2010); Ciaran Brady, *Froude: An Intellectual Biography of a Victorian Prophet* (Oxford UP, 2013); Ian Campbell, "Our Hero?" *American Interest* 7.5 (May 2012): 90–97; Joshua Eleoma, "Thomas Carlyle's Death Mask Revisited,"

*German Life and Letters* 65.3 (July 2012): 295–317; Ian Hesketh, *The Science of History in Victorian Britain* (Pickering & Chatto, 2011); Geraldine Higgins, *Heroic Revivals from Carlyle to Yeats* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012); Daniel Robert Koch, *Ralph Waldo Emerson in Europe* (Tauris, 2012); Deborah Logan, ed. *Harriet Martineau: Further Letters* (Lehigh UP, 2012); Steven Petersheim, “Naked as a Pair of Tongs: Twain’s Philosophy of Clothes,” *Papers on Language and Literature* 48.2 (2012): 172–96; and Sorensen, “A Failure of Faith: Herbert Grierson, Thomas Carlyle, and the British Academy ‘Master Mind’ Lecture of 1940,” *British Academy Review* 21 (January 2013): 39–43 and “‘The Unseen Heart of the Whole’: Carlyle, Dickens, and the Sources of *The French Revolution* and *Tale of Two Cities*,” *Dickens Quarterly* 30.1 (March 2013): 5–25. Forthcoming publications include the Strouse edition of Carlyle’s *The French Revolution*, ed. Mark Cumming, Mark Engel, and Sorensen, and a special issue of *Studies in the Literary Imagination*, entitled *Thomas Carlyle and the Totalitarian Temptation*, ed. Tom Toremans and Tamara Gosta.

The 2012–2013 program of the Carlyle Society of Edinburgh offered a varied range of themes and speakers: Will Christie, “Carlyle, Jeffrey and *Sartor*” (29 Sept.); Malcolm Ingram, “Carlyle and Carlylese” (13 Oct.); Sheila McIntosh, “The Carlyles’ London” (1 Dec.); David Edward, “Johnson, Boswell, and Patriarchal Society” (26 Jan.); Ian Campbell, “David Masson and Carlyle” (9 Feb.); and Sorensen, “Carlyle, Acton, and the Ghost of Liberty” (9 March). At the annual meeting of the British Association of Victorian Studies in Sheffield, Carlyle was featured as part of Ruskin-Carlyle panel addressed by Simon Dentith, Lucey Hartley, and Sorensen. In January 2013 the Birkbeck College Forum for Nineteenth-Century Studies hosted a seminar in Gordon Square on Carlyle, Dickens, and *A Tale of Two Cities* with David Paroissien and Sorensen. On the horizon in 2013, the Browning Society of New York will be hosting a luncheon featuring a joint talk by Scott Lewis, co-editor of *The Brownings’ Correspondence* and author of *Boundless Life: A Biography of Andrew Joseph Armstrong* (Baylor UP), 2013, and David R. Sorensen entitled “Carlyle, Browning, and Modern Hero-Worship.” The Carlyle House in Chelsea will be hosting a presentation in May entitled “Carlyle, Ruskin, and the Crisis of Capitalism,” featuring talks by Dinah Birch, Owen Dudley Edwards, Francis O’Gorman, and Sorensen.

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