

Editors' Note

In a review of Varnhagen Von Ense's memoirs in 1838, Carlyle endorsed the view of Samuel Johnson—"or perhaps another"—that "there was no man on the streets whose biography he would not like to be acquainted with. No rudest mortal walking there who has not seen and known experimentally something, which, could he tell it, the wisest would hear willingly from him" (*Works* 29: 89). In number 29 of *Carlyle Studies Annual* readers will have an unprecedented opportunity to "hear" about the Carlyles from a range of unfamiliar biographical perspectives. David R. Sorensen introduces early draft fragments of Carlyle's essay-turned-pamphlet *Shooting Niagara* that are held at the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Duke University. The fragments throw light on an especially turbulent and troubled phase of Carlyle's life after the death of his wife and the beginning of his involvement in the Governor Eyre controversy in August 1866. Brent E. Kinser introduces a second major archival revelation, Carlyle's memoir of his journey to the Netherlands in August 1842, written in the same month that he began to compose *Past and Present*. The manuscript, held by the British Library, is here published for the first time in a complete form, with Carlyle's text, excisions, errors, punctuation, and spelling presented as they appear in the original manuscript. The document offers a compelling account of a signal moment in his life, when a change of physical environment prompted him to contemplate British and European history from a new vantage point.

Sorensen and Owen Dudley Edwards follow these primary materials and continue their panoptic assessment of Carlyle the historian in two related studies. Sorensen examines a curious example of "fearful symmetry" in the rivalry that existed between Carlyle and Lord Acton, who wrestled with the

influence of the “Sage of Chelsea” throughout his career. In a review essay devoted to recent studies of Thomas Babington Macaulay and James Anthony Froude, Edwards explores Carlyle’s prodigious impact on the evolution of Victorian historical consciousness.

Carlyle realized that it was not merely memoirs that served to “impart . . . how it stands . . . in that inner man of thine, what lively images of things past thy memory has painted there, what hopes, what thought, affections, knowledges do now dwell there” (*Works* 29: 89). Objects too could divulge this “inner” world with startling clarity and purpose. Marylu Hill confirms this verity in her deft discussion of Carlyle’s writing table, and its “natural-supernatural” links to Oscar Wilde and Virginia Woolf. Jane Welsh Carlyle’s private sphere is illuminated in an article by Rosa Coles, who provides a meticulously detailed and richly evocative study of Jane’s beloved “folding screen,” located in the first-floor drawing room at the Carlyle House, Chelsea. As Coles demonstrates, the screen not only sheds light on Jane’s tastes and preoccupations, but it also offers an extraordinary glimpse of her social-cultural milieu. Keeping with our usual practice of featuring essays that are unrelated yet still curiously relevant to the Carlyles, we have published Ronald C. Wendling’s incisive and provocative study of Coleridge’s influence on Sigmund Freud.

In “Miscellanies,” Barbara B. Blumenthal provides a valuable and interesting summary of the photographic treasures contained in the Mortimer Rare Book Room at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts. Of the five images of Jane in the Mortimer collection, three photographic prints of her are of particular significance because Carlyle inscribed comments on them. Two of these are part of a series of portraits made by Robert Scott Tait of *Chelsea Interior* fame in 1855. David Southern introduces and transcribes a newly acquired letter from Carlyle to Moncure Conway that fills in crucial gaps in information about their friendship. Melinda Creech details a checklist of Carlyle manuscripts held by the Armstrong Browning Library at Baylor University. Of particular interest is her reference to 115 letters from John A. Carlyle to John Forster, which have not yet been used by Carlyle scholars. Two reviews round out the issue: Paul Kerry on Edward Adams’s *Liberal Epic: The Victorian*

Practice of History from Gibbon to Churchill (2011) and John M. Ulrich on volume 40 of the Duke-Edinburgh edition of *The Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* (2012).

The year 2013 yielded a large and wide-ranging amount of new work on the Carlyles. Sorensen and Kinser's edition of *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History* for Yale University Press's "Rethinking the Western Tradition Series" was published in late summer. The volume recently has been thoughtfully and extensively reviewed by Paul Dean in the May 2014 edition of *The New Criterion*. Other notable publications include Rob Breton, "Utopia and Thomas Carlyle's 'Ancient Monk,'" *English Language Notes* 51.1 (2013): 211–22; Joanny Moulin, "Thomas Carlyle: Extreme Right Ferment," *Études Anglaises* 66.1 (2013): 97–110; Jeremy Noël-Tød, "The Hero as Individual Talent: Thomas Carlyle, T. S. Eliot and the Prophecy of Modernism," *Review of English Studies* 64 (2013): 475–91; and Rachel Worth, "Clothing the Landscape: Change and Rural Vision in the Work of Thomas Hardy," *Rural History* 24.2 (2013): 5–25. Previously omitted titles include Ursula DeYoung, *A Vision of Modern Science: John Tyndall and the Role of the Scientist in Victorian Culture* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2011); Michael D. Lewis, "Pictures of Revolutionary Reform in Carlyle, Arnold, and *Punch*," *Nineteenth-Century Contexts: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 34.5 (2012): 533–52; David McAllister, "'A Subject Dead is Not Worth Presenting': *Cromwell*, the Past, and the Haunting of Thomas Carlyle," *Ravon* 59–60 (April–October 2011); and Marcus Waithe, "The Pen and the Hammer: Thomas Carlyle, Ebenezer Elliott, and the 'Active Poet,'" in *Class and Canon: Constructing Labour-Class Poetry and Poetics 1780–1900*, ed. Kirstie Blair and Mina Gorji (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2012): 116–35. The important special issue of *Studies in the Literary Imagination* (45), *Thomas Carlyle and the Totalitarian Temptation*, ed. Tom Toremans and Tamara Gosta (2013), will be reviewed in Number 30 of *Carlyle Studies Annual*.

The 2013–14 program of the Carlyle Society of Edinburgh offered its usual richly eclectic mix of themes and speakers: David Purdie (12 Oct. 2013), "Carlyle's Countryside: The Literature of the South-West"; G. Currie (26 Oct. 2013), "Carlyle and the Utility of Religion"; G. Carruthers (9 Nov. 2013), "Burns and Carlyle"; Stephen Hillier (30 Nov. 2013),

“On Edinburgh Lectures”; Aileen Christianson (14 Dec. 2013), “Jane Welsh Carlyle’s Last Year”; Stuart Johnson (25 Jan. 2014), “Republishing Carlyle”; Lindsay Levy (15 Feb. 2014), “Cataloguing the Abbotsford Library”; and David R. Sorensen (15 March 2014), “Carlyle and Napoleon III.” The Carlyle Society Papers for Session 2013–2014, No. 26 (Edinburgh, 2013) published Malcom Ingram, “Carlylese”; Lowell T. Frye, “‘Leaving Blair’s Lectures Quite Behind’: Thomas Carlyle’s Rhetorical Revolution”; David Edward, “Johnson, Boswell and the Patriarchal Life”; David R. Sorensen, “‘Still a Despotism, but an Enlightened Despotism’: Acton, Carlyle, and the Legacy of Frederick the Great”; and Aileen Christianson, “The Carlyles and Photography, 1860–1865.”

Carlyle conference activity remained brisk in 2013. At the annual meeting of the British Association for Victorian Studies at Royal Holloway College, University of London, 29–31 August 2013, Carlyle was featured as part of a panel entitled “Auditorium Mathematics and Writing the Human,” chaired by Alice Jenkins (Glasgow), that included Tim Armstrong (Royal Holloway), Courtney Salvey (Kent), and Sorensen. At the annual meeting of the North American Victorian Studies Association in Pasadena, October 24–26, Jane Welsh Carlyle was featured as part of a panel entitled “Corroborating Evidence or Reconstructing Reality: Negotiations of Authenticity in Victorian Shared Life-Writing,” chaired by Linda Peterson (Princeton), that included Lynn Lindner (St. Louis), Marion Thain (New York University), and Sorensen. Another panel, entitled “Irony and Contradiction,” chaired by Jonathan Farina (Seton Hall), featured talks by Deborah Elise White (Emory), “Irony and History in Carlyle,” and Daniel Wright (Toronto), “The Uses of Contradiction: Thomas Carlyle, Emily Brontë, and Us.” The Carlyle House in Chelsea will be hosting a presentation in May 2014 to celebrate the publication of the Yale University Press edition of *Heroes and Hero-Worship*. Speakers will include Sorensen, Kinser, and Professor Clive Wilmer, Master of the Guild of Saint George, poet, lecturer, and Emeritus Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge.

The relentless pressures imposed by the cruel logic of the “dismal science” continue to challenge the editors of this journal. We are especially grateful to the following individuals at Saint

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As always we reserve deepest thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for our loyal, indefatigable, and beloved friend and colleague David Southern, Managing Editor of the *Carlyle Letters* at Duke University Press, who bears Sisyphean burdens with fortitude, professionalism, dignity, and Carlylean humor.