

Editors' Note

IN HIS ESSAY "CHARACTERISTICS" (1831), CARLYLE SPECULATES that of "our Thinking, we might say, it is but the mere upper surface that we shape into articulate Thoughts,—underneath the region of argument and conscious discourse, lies the region of meditation; here, in its quiet mysterious depths, dwells what vital force is in us." Number 31 of the *Carlyle Studies Annual* (CSA) yields an abundance of meditative "discourse," in which "vital force" predominates. The Armstrong Browning Library correspondence of John Forster and the Carlyles, annotated and transcribed here by the late K. J. Fielding and David R. Sorensen, provides an intimate view of a remarkable friendship that was forged between the two men over a period of thirty years. Forster's devotion to Carlyle is rooted in both love and respect for an artist who awakened him to a rich biographical and historical consciousness of reality. Conversely, Forster's indefatigable efforts to consolidate Carlyle's finances and secure his literary legacy helped to rekindle the Sage's awareness of the beneficent power of his inspiration.

Also in Number 31, Bernard Richards uses Carlyle's recollections of his trips to Paris in 1824 and again in 1851 as the catalyst for an intricate and suggestive exploration of the connections between TC and William Henry Talbot, whose own 1843 trip to the City of Light heralded a new age of photographic iconography. The essay is accompanied by startling images of pre- and post-Hausmann Paris. Peter Caracciolo recaptures the past from a personal and scholarly perspective in his moving tribute to the great literary critic, poet, and memoirist Barbara Hardy. As Caracciolo demonstrates in his detailed and affectionate portrait of Hardy, her influence extended to areas far beyond the confines of her beloved George Eliot and Elizabeth Gaskell, shaping his own path-breaking studies of Wyndham Lewis and Picasso.

Owen Dudley Edwards offers a similarly tender and passionate apologia to his friend and colleague Conor Cruise O'Brien in a review of recent writings on Edmund Burke. Edwards argues that O'Brien's magisterial biography of Burke not only obliged scholars to rethink assumptions about the "Tory" philosopher, but that the book is also deeply germane to the case of Thomas Carlyle, the transplanted Scotsman who navigated questions of British identity in Chelsea.

The migration in July 2016 of the dramatically "retailored" *Carlyle Letters Online* (*CLO*) to its new web platform hosted by the University of South Carolina's Center for Digital Humanities (USC-CDH)—a new "room" in the increasingly sprawling mansion of the Victorian Lives and Letters Consortium (VLLC; tundra.csd.sc.edu/vllc/)—heralds a signal moment in the evolution of the *CSA*, now designated as "A Journal of the VLLC." The purpose of this expansion is to promote and feature fresh scholarly research in the digital humanities in the pages of the *CSA* in the context of the Carlyles and the greater Victorian world. In "Jane Welsh Carlyle's Social Network and the Lexical Construction of Home," Rachel Mann and Travis Mullen, PhD students at USC and project managers for the *CLO*, apply their programming experience to computational analyses of the variant meanings of "home," a concept that figured prominently in the self-identity of a proud Scotswoman. Carlyle's adversarial relationship with the British literary establishment constitutes the central theme of David R. Sorensen's revised version of a public lecture that he delivered at the Athenæum Club in June 2016. From the moment that Lord Ashburton put his name forward for election to the Club through its Rule 2 stipulation in March 1853, Carlyle began a quiet but determined campaign to purge the Athenæum of its "hypocrisies, conventionalisms, worn-out traditional rags and cobwebs." In "The London Library and the Intelligentsia of London," Helen O'Neill, archivist at the London Library, explores how Carlyle's abiding belief in the power of books and literature to ennoble people's lives shaped the ethos and the culture of the institution. The essay forms part of O'Neill's larger plan to employ data text mining in the Digital Humanities to map the role of the Library's membership and collections. In a new section of the *CSA* entitled VLLC, Louisa Yates, Gary Butler, and Brent E. Kinser present a recently

re-discovered notebook in the hand of W. E. Gladstone that will serve as the conceptual blueprint for the reunification of the Gladstone archives in London and in Hawarden, Wales.

The Miscellanies section of *CSA* features an exceptionally rich harvest of important material: Carlyle's previously unpublished letter, now transcribed by Kinser from the previously missing manuscript, to his friend William Graham, 22 April 1835, in which he describes the burning of the *French Revolution*, unearthed by Melvin Schuetz at Armstrong Browning Library; David R. Sorensen's discovery in the Gilchrist family archive at the University of Pennsylvania of a hitherto unpublished letter from Captain Thomas Williams Nesham to Carlyle cited in a famous footnote in *The French Revolution*; David Southern's transcription of the last will of an important figure in the Carlyles' circle, Stauros Dilberoglu; Kinser's detailed study, based on research in the Gladstone archive at the British Library, of the circumstances surrounding William Allingham's efforts to obtain an increase in his state pension in 1865; David Southern's account of materials at auction found by Melvin Schuetz; and K. J. Fielding's poignant and illuminating memoir of his Oxford tutor, C. S. Lewis. Number 31 is rounded out by two reviews: Kathy Chamberlain on the momentous publication of volume 43 of the *Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* (2015), marking the death of Jane and its aftermath; and Rachel Dickinson on *The Cambridge Companion to John Ruskin* (2015), edited by Francis O'Gorman.

Recent scholarly work on the Carlyles continues to extend the boundaries of their significance. Relevant titles include Sarah Olwen Jones, "Staging the Interior: The Public and Private Intimacies of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle's Domestic Lives," *Journal of Victorian Culture* 18.2 (2013): 181–97; Ian Campbell, "David Masson and Thomas Carlyle," *Studies in Scottish Literature* 40.1 (2014): 134–45; Mark-Georg Dehmann, "'New Criticism': Thomas Carlyle und die philologisch-historischen Wissenschaften in Deutschland," *Angermion* 8.1 (2015): 61–85; Julian North, "Portraying Presence: Thomas Carlyle, Portraiture, and Biography," *Victorian Literature and Culture* 43 (2015): 465–88; Reza Sattarzadeh Nowbari, "Theatricality of Revolution in Thomas Carlyle's History of the French Revolution," *International Journal of Arts and Sciences* 8.2 (2015):

29–35; Yaacov Shavit, “Thomas Carlyle Versus Thomas Henry Buckle: Great Men versus Historical Laws,” in *The Individual in History: Essays in Honor of Jehuda Reinhart*, ed. ChaeRan Y. Freeze, Sylvia Fuks Fried, and Eugene R. Sheppard (Lowell, MA: Tauber Institute, 2015), 301–16; June Skye Szirotny, “Thomas Carlyle—Misogynistic or Maligned?” *Notes and Queries* 62.3 (2015): 418; and Fergus Dunne, “Custom . . . Doth Make Dotards of Us All: Peripheral Perspectives on the Centre in Thomas Carlyle’s *Sartor Resartus* and Francis Sylvester Malone’s ‘Prout Papers,’” *Modern Language Review* 111.1 (2016): 38–60.

In August 2015, Duke University Press proudly announced that the National Endowment for the Humanities had awarded the Carlyle Letters Project a three-year, \$275,000 Scholarly Editions Grant in support of the publication of *CL* volumes 43–45, and for the continued development of the *Carlyle letters Online*. By this time the *CLO* had taken its rightful place as the inspiration and model for the Victorian Lives and Letters Consortium (<http://tundra.csd.sc.edu/vllc/>), a resource “devoted to the challenge of creating interactive digital archives of life-writing extending from the coronation of Queen Victoria to the outbreak of World War I.” In October 2015, Kinser and Sorensen traveled to the Armstrong Browning Library at Baylor University, the locale for their first announcement of the VLLC, in order to provide an update on the progress of the project in lectures entitled “The Prelude, or Growth of a Digital Humanities Project,” and “Revisiting the VLLC.” With the roster of archives now expanded to include the Carlyle Letters, the Notebook Diaries of John Ruskin, the Diaries of Michael Field, and the Papers of William E. Gladstone, the VLLC has entered into a crucial new phase of its development. In April 2016, four of the VLLC directors—Kinser, Sorensen, Marion Thain (New York University), and Francis O’Gorman (Edinburgh University)—traveled to the British Library, where on 4 April 2016 they presented the VLLC at “Archival Uncertainties: International Conference on Literary Archives” (<http://www.bl.uk/events/archival-uncertainties-international-conference-on-literary-archives>).

From summer 2015, Kinser and Colin Wilder, director of the VLLC and co-director of the University of South Carolina Center for Digital Humanities (USC-CDH), respectively, began and continued to work with a team of programmers in Columbia

in order to build a new home for the *CLO*. The migration of the *CLO* from HighWire Press to USC-CDH created exciting new possibilities for further development and long-term sustainability of the *CLO*. The new site was launched in early July 2016 and featured a redesigned look and the publication of volume 42 of the *CL*. Earlier in the spring, the Carlyle letters Project had been awarded a \$12,000 NEH matching funds grant by the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. Their generous support will enable Kinser, Wilder, and the USC-CDH team to build new environments for digitized images of the Carlyles' Photograph Albums held in the Rare Books and Manuscript Library at Columbia University and 130 Carlyle letters held in the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Duke University. Thanks to the new partnership between Duke University Press and USC-CDH, the futures of both the *CLO* and the VLLC remains full of "glorious possibilities," as Jane Welsh Carlyle once wrote to "George Eliot" (20 Feb. 1859).

The 2015–16 program of the Carlyle Society at Edinburgh contained an eclectic and informed mixture of themes and speakers: Ian Campbell (Oct. 11), "The Carlyle House"; David R. Sorensen (Nov. 28), "Carlyle and George Orwell"; Mary Hollern (Dec. 5), "Walking with Carlyle"; Kathy Chamberlain (Jan. 16), "Seaforth House: Jane Welsh Carlyle's Inner-Life Drama in Utopia"; Aileen Christianson (Feb. 20), "Going on Holiday with Thomas Carlyle, Mentone, Winter 1866–67"; and Maurice Milne (March 12), "Carlyle and Cagliostro." For 2016–17 the Society itinerary includes Aileen Christianson (8 Oct.), "TC on the Spree: Carlyle's Letters from Mentone"; Andrew Hook (29 Oct.), "The Scottish Enlightenment and American Literary Culture"; Michael Roner (3 Dec.), "Indirection in *Sartor Resartus* and *The Turn of the Screw*"; Joyce Caplan (28 Jan.), "Carlyle and the Libraries"; David Taylor (18 Feb.), "Victorian Doubt: The Conversation"; and David R. Sorensen (11 March), "Carlyle and the Thirty Years' War."

At conferences hosted by the Université de le Havre (June 2015: "Wrongdoing: Realities, Representations, Reactions") and the Université de Lorraine (June 2016: "Mapping Fields of Study: Renegotiations of Disciplinary Spaces in the English-Speaking World"), Sorensen delivered talks on "The Hidden Terrain of Carlyle's *French Revolution*" and "Carlyle, Dickens,

Ruskin and the Victorian Legacy of Anti-Discipline.” At the annual meeting of the British Association of Victorian Studies at Leeds Trinity University, 27–29 Aug. 2015, he spoke on “Time and Temporality in Carlyle’s *Reminiscences*.” At the Carlyle House in Chelsea on 27 May, 2016, the National Trust hosted a series of talks by Sorensen, Kinser, Simon Avery, and Scott Lewis on the theme of “A Tale of Two Marriages: The Carlyles and the Brownings.” On 6–8 July, Keble College, Oxford, hosted a major Carlyle conference entitled “The Oak and the Acorn: Recovering the Hidden Carlyle,” organized by Paul E. Kerry and Marylu Hill, in association with the Centre for Research in Victorian Political Culture at Keble College, Villanova University, and the Brigham Young University London Centre and Wheatly Institution.

The editors of this journal are especially grateful to the following individuals at Saint Joseph’s University for their continued support and encouragement: Mark Reed, President; Jeanne Brady, Provost; Richard Warren, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and Peter Norberg, Chair, Department of English. Thanks are also due to Carmen Croce and Rev. Joseph F. Chorpenning, OSFS, for their invaluable advice and guidance. We are also grateful to the staff of Print Services at Saint Joseph’s University Press, including Randy Kehl, Assistant Manager; Jason Arakelian, Digital Technician; and Jamila Nance, Print Services Assistant. We appreciate greatly their expertise, professionalism, and cooperation. At Western Carolina University, Kinser wishes to thank David O. Belcher, Chancellor; Alison Morrison-Shetlar, Provost; Richard Starnes, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and Laura Wright, head of the English Department, for both their friendship and their support of his work.

The Editors would like to single out the contributions of Melvin Schuetz at the Armstrong Browning Library, who is an inexhaustible mine of advice, information, and insight, and whose knowledge of archives and auction houses worldwide is simply unparalleled. As always, we reserve our final and warmest thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for our beloved colleague and friend, David Southern, Managing Editor of the Carlyle Letters at Duke University Press, who shoulders his Sisyphean burdens, as always, with grace, fortitude, courtesy, professionalism, and Teufelsdröckhian humor.