

Editors' Note

THE EDITORS ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT NUMBER 25 OF *Carlyle Studies Annual* (2009). This issue includes a wide range of eclectic essays, reviews, and manuscripts from its contributors, newcomers and veterans alike. In the opening article, Janet Ray Edwards throws fresh light on the intricacies of “coterie speech,” the private language of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle that so intimately reveals the depth of their communicative expression in the context of the rhythms and the patterns of Scottish experience and nineteenth-century culture. Owen Dudley Edwards follows with a sweeping review essay of Christopher Harvie’s path-breaking study of an alternative “Great Tradition,” one forged consciously and unconsciously by the communities of the people who lived and toiled along the shores of the “Inland Sea.” Jude V. Nixon provides a clear context for “Igdrasil, from the Norse,” an unsigned manuscript attributed to Carlyle that has not appeared in print since its initial publication in the pages of *Igdrasil: The Journal of the Ruskin Reading Guild* (1890). David R. Sorensen explores John Tyndall’s attempt to enlist Carlyle as the true defender of Charles Darwin’s legacy in the nineteenth century. Ian Campbell probes Carlyle’s use and abuse of memory in *Reminiscences*. Finally, Ronald Wendling seeks to refute Carlyle’s caricature of Coleridge as muddled and abstract, instead positioning the sage from Highgate as an idealist preoccupied with practicality.

The editors have for this number established a new section of the journal, *Libris*, intended to provide scholars with rare, new, or difficult to find repositories of important archival material. Number 25 features two valuable, largely unknown research sources published here for the first time: Rodger L. Tarr’s

remarkable collection of rare Carlyle books and pamphlets, recently acquired by the Armstrong Browning Library at Baylor University, and the vast Columbia Carlyle Photograph Albums, which contains many hundreds of photographs of Carlyle, Jane Welsh Carlyle, members of the family, celebrities, views, and interiors. Further, Tarr prefaces the bibliography of ABL materials with a reminiscence of his passion for collecting Carlyle materials.

The *Miscellanies* section again offers a rich harvest of unpublished letters & manuscripts. Brent E. Kinser presents letters unknown to Carlyle scholars that relate to John Linnell's portrait of Thomas Carlyle; David Southern offers a newly found letter from Carlyle to Ford Madox Brown that arranges a visit to view his painting *Work*; Terry L. Meyers clarifies the manuscript versions of two letters from Carlyle to Beverley Tucker that were known only in previously published form. David Taylor provides a letter from Vernon Lushington to Elizabeth Browning that is of great interest to both Carlyle and Browning scholars. David Southern introduces newly discovered letters from John Aitken Carlyle to the New York financier Charles Butler that serve to emphasize the importance of this remarkable American to Carlyle and his family. Reviews of Philip Kelley and Sandra Donaldson's *Florentine Friends: The Letters of Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning to Isa Blagden, 1850–1861* by Beverly Taylor, of *The Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* (volume 37) by Marylu Hill, and of Christopher Stray's *An American in Victorian Cambridge: Charles Astor Bristed's "Five Years in an English University"* by David Southern round out an issue that runs, as Carlyle might say, "stirring and whirling, in ways new, untried."

On the horizon, readers of the *Carlyle Studies Annual* can anticipate the publication in 2010 of the first installment of a major new collection of letters discovered by David R. Sorensen in the ING (Barings Bank) archive in Moorgate, London. These are the long sought-after letters of Lady Harriet Ashburton to Thomas Carlyle, over 180 in total, written between 1843 to 1856 and unknown both to James Anthony Froude and to all subsequent biographers. For the editors of this journal at least, "the Age of Miracles" has decidedly not yet come to an end.

To devote a moment to the year in review, 2009 marked yet another period of lively and sustained interest in Thomas

Carlyle, Jane Welsh Carlyle, and their circle of friends. The Carlyles were featured at a number of major international conferences, including the Université de Nantes's "L'Héritage de Darwin dans les cultures européennes," at the Natural History Museum in Nantes (3–4 April) and the Catholic University of Belgium/Leuven's "Matters of State: Bildung and Literary Intellectual Discourse in the Nineteenth Century," in Leuven (23–25 April). The second anniversary of the publication of the *Carlyle Letters Online* occurred in September, by which point more than 1 million readers had accessed the site. On 4 November the Armstrong Browning Library hosted an exhibit and a lecture to celebrate the acquisition of the Tarr Collection of 282 rare primary and secondary Thomas Carlyle publications mentioned earlier in this note.

Scholarly work on the Carlyles continues to appear in abundance. In December, volume 37 of the Duke-Edinburgh edition of the *Collected Letters* was published by Duke University Press, covering October 1860–61. Further, the Press has recently announced the publication of volumes 33–35 of the *CL* in the *Carlyle Letters Online*. The Carlyle Society of Edinburgh published Ian Campbell's "Carlyle Tyrannus" (May 2009), and in its papers for the session 2009–10 included essays by Malcolm Ingram, "The Carlyles and Opium," Tom Toremans, "A Typical Romantic': Carlyle and Coleridge Revisited," and Ian J. Deary, "Intelligence and Civilisation: Thomas Carlyle and Godfrey Thomson on the Role of Intelligence in Governance and Political Involvement." David R. Sorensen published a series of articles on Carlyle and the Romantic tradition, including "Supernaturalisme naturel: la rédemption du passé dans *The French Revolution* de Carlyle," *La Revue LISA/LISA e-journal* VII. 3 (2009): 442–51; "'Doom-trumpet' in Elysium: The Death-Birth of the Pastoral Tradition in Carlyle's *The French Revolution*," *New Versions of Pastoral. Post-Romantic, Modern, and Contemporary Responses to the Tradition*, ed. David James and Philip Tew (Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2009), 31–43; and "'Fulgurances de Splendeur': Carlyle et John Tyndall II. Les limites du romantisme en science et en histoire," *Le sujet romantique et le monde: la voie anglaise*, ed. René Gallet et Pascale Guibert (Caen, 2009), 241–54. Sorensen also engaged in an epistolary debate with the British historian Tristram Hunt, in "Carlyle and Hitler: The

True Meaning of Carlyle's Accomplishment," *London Times*, 18 April 2009. In 2010 Carlyleans can look forward to the publication of a volume of essays selected from the Carlyle Resartus conference, held at Villanova in 2007, edited by Paul Kerry and Marylu Hill, to be published by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, as well as the Strouse Edition of Carlyle's *The French Revolution*, edited by Mark Cumming, Mark Engel, and David R. Sorensen, published by the University of California Press.

As always, there are many people who deserve special thanks from the editors for their support of this journal. At Saint Joseph's University, we are again especially grateful to President Timothy J. Lannon, to Provost Brice Wachterhauser, and to Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, William Madges. We would also like to thank Carmen Croce and Thomas Malone at Saint Joseph's University Press for their encouragement and professional expertise. At Western Carolina University, special thanks are due to Wendy Ford, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and to Brian Gastle, Chair of the Department of English, for their continuing support of Dr. Kinser's research. Thanks are also due to James Brack at Saint Joseph's University Press for his role in the final production stages and to Jason Melvin at Western Carolina for his patient technical assistance. Simply thanking our comrade-in-arms at Duke University Press, David Southern, does an immense disservice to the importance of his role in producing this journal and to the value we place upon his friendship.