

to achieve. Many a man is driven by cruel mastery of circumstance and want to do whatever will yield him a crust of bread, and others never master what they have ability to achieve in these days of emancipation. . . .” When the Union war had nearly closed, Carlyle spoke so stormily against emancipation that Mrs. Carlyle—the only other present—interrupted him. “Carlyle,” she said “you ought not to talk so about his cause to a man who has suffered and made sacrifices for it.” Carlyle, who always took his wife’s reproof meekly, turned to me and said softly, “You will be patient with me. All the worth you have put into your cause will be returned to you personally; but the America for which you are hoping you will never see; and never see the whites and blacks in the South dwelling together as equals in peace.” . . . How often in these last years have I reason to remember that prophecy! (Conway, *Autobiography* 1: 357–58)

David Southern



A Checklist of the Carlyle Letters and Manuscripts Held at the Armstrong Browning Library, Baylor University

SCHOLARS KNOW THE ARMSTRONG BROWNING LIBRARY, LOCATED in Waco, Texas, at Baylor University, as a world-class research library devoted to the study of the lives and works of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. In addition to housing the world’s largest collection of books, letters, manuscripts, and memorabilia related to the Brownings, the ABL houses a substantial collection of primary and secondary materials related to nineteenth-century literature and culture, including works by literary figures who were contemporaries and associates of the Brownings such as Matthew Arnold, Charles Dickens, George

MacDonald, Joseph Milsand, John Ruskin, and, of course, Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle.

The story of the Carlyles and the Brownings is well-told and requires no rehearsal here.¹ Their correspondence remains significant both for its contents and for the identity of the correspondents. Further, the Carlyles were mentioned often in the Brownings' correspondence to other people. A search for "Carlyle" using the in-house database at the Armstrong Browning Library produces 1904 hits in 592 documents. Such a wealth of data suggests the vital part that the Carlyles, especially Thomas, played in the Brownings' lives.

What follows is a checklist of the Carlyleana held in the Browning Collection at the ABL, which includes nine letters from Robert Browning to Thomas Carlyle, one letter from Robert Browning to Jane Welsh Carlyle, one letter from Robert Browning to Mary Aitken Carlyle, and one letter from Mary Carlyle to Robert Browning. Scans of all these letters can be viewed at the *The Browning Letters* page of the *Baylor University Libraries Digital Collections* site: <www.baylor.edu/library/browningletters>.

In addition, the ABL also holds several Carlyle letters not specifically related to the Brownings. These holdings include letters from Thomas Carlyle to Edward Chapman, Alexander John Scott, Joseph Milsand, Leigh Hunt, John Kenyon, Sydney Dobell, G. H. Lewes, Charles Layton, an unknown recipient, and Jonas Milne. There is also a letter from Henry G. Bohn to Thomas Carlyle, one letter from Jane Welsh Carlyle to Frederic Chapman, and one from Anna Jameson to Jane Welsh Carlyle. The ABL also holds 115 unpublished letters from John Forster to Carlyle's brother Dr. John Aitken Carlyle, written between 7 February 1849 and 1 June 1877.



¹ Additional information relating to the relationship of the Carlyles and the Brownings can be found in "Thomas Carlyle (1795–1881)" in *The Brownings' Correspondence*, ed. Philip Kelley and Ronald Hudson (Winfield: Wedgstone, 1987) 5: 365–68; Ryals, Clyde de L. "Carlyle and Robert Browning," *Carlyle Studies Annual* 18 (1998): 9–17; and Kinser, Brent E. "A Very Beautiful Tempest in a Teapot: Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Thomas Carlyle, and the Annotation of Aurora Leigh." *Browning Society Notes* 33 (2008): 21–39.

Letters to the Carlyles

Robert Browning to Thomas Carlyle, 10 June 1850. ALS, 3 pp. Pbd: *The Brownings' Correspondence* [BC], ed. Philip Kelley, et al. 20 vols. Winfield: Wedgestone, 1984-. 16: 133-34.

After stating how much he values their friendship, Browning introduces his American friend, the sculptor and poet William Wetmore Story (1819-1895), to Carlyle and requests an appointment for Story with Carlyle. Browning sends his wife's regards and confides to Carlyle that Story also has a delightful wife.

Robert Browning to Thomas Carlyle, [28 July 1851]. ALS, 1 p. Envelope also. Pbd. *BC* 17: 88.

Browning expresses his eagerness to dine with Carlyle, following a five year hiatus. Hearing that Carlyle will miss their appointment at the house of John Kenyon (1784-1856) the following day because of a trip to the country, Browning proposes to call at Cheyne Row.

Robert Browning to Thomas Carlyle, 22 August 1851. ALS, 4 pp. Envelope also. Pbd: *BC* 17: 149-150.

Browning attempts to clear up some confusion about his and his wife's reminiscences of Margaret Fuller (1810-50) and her husband Giovanni Ossoli (d. 1850) that were to have been contributed to the edition of Fuller's memoirs published by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82).

Robert Browning to Thomas Carlyle, [23 September 1851]. ALS, 2 pp. Pbd: *Letters of Robert Browning Collected by Thomas J. Wise* [LRB], ed. Thurman L. Hood. New Haven: Yale UP, 1933. 43-45.

Browning sends his regrets that he has missed Carlyle and that he will be unable to meet with him in the evening. Browning proceeds to relate the itinerary for his trip to Paris beginning the following Thursday. Carlyle ended up accompanying the Brownings on this trip.

Robert Browning to Thomas Carlyle, [ca. 22 October 1851]. ALS, 4 pp. Envelope also. Pbd. *BC* 16: 133-34.

Now settled in Paris, Browning invites the Carlyles to visit. He also reports on the plights of their mutual friend the Italian revolutionary Guiseppe Mazzini (1805–72) and the condition of the French novelist and memoirist George Sand (1804–76), who was particularly admired by Jane Welsh Carlyle.

Robert Browning to Thomas Carlyle, 23 January 1856. ALS, 4 pp. Envelope also. Pbd: *LRB* 43–45.

Browning apologizes for his lateness in returning the verifications that Carlyle had requested. Apparently, Carlyle had asked Browning to confirm some facts at the Library of the Chamber of Peers while he was in Paris. Browning also asks for a sincere word of criticism of his work [*Men and Women* (1855)] from Carlyle, informing him that there are one or two misprints, and that there is always room for improvement: “I believe no man a real poet or genius of any sort who does not go on improving till eighty and over, I shall begin again and again as often as you set me right.”

Robert Browning to Thomas Carlyle, 17 October 1877. ALS, 1 p. Envelope also. Pbd: *LRB* 180.

Browning asks Carlyle to accept a gift copy of his new translation of *The Agamemnon of Æschylus* (1877).

Robert Browning to Thomas Carlyle, 26 March 1878. ALS, 2 pp. Envelope also. Pbd: *LRB* 183.

Browning invites Carlyle to come to his house to view his son’s painting.

Robert Browning to Thomas Carlyle, 27 March 1879. ALS, 3 pp. Envelope also. Pbd: *LRB* 186.

Browning invites Carlyle to view his son’s paintings at the house of the publisher George Smith (1824–1901) located at 17 Queen’s Gate Gardens, South Kensington.

Robert Browning to Jane Welsh Carlyle, [ca. 1842]. ALS, 1 p. Pbd. *BC* 5: 196.

Browning accepts Welsh Carlyle’s invitation to join her for breakfast.

Mary Aitken Carlyle to Robert Browning, 6 April 1885. ALS, 3 pp. Envelope also. Pbd: "Intimate Glimpses from Browning's Letter File," ed. A. J. Armstrong, *Baylor Browning Interests Series Eight* (Waco, 1934): [3-4].

Mary Carlyle asks for Browning to return the letters written to him by her uncle. She reports to Browning that the letters had been offered to James Anthony Froude, who did not accept them.

Robert Browning to Mary Carlyle, 7 April 1885. ALS, 1 p. Envelope also. Pbd: *LRB* 236-37.

Browning agrees to give Mary Carlyle and Charles Eliot Norton (1827-1908) all the letters in his possession written by Thomas Carlyle. He says they were offered to James Anthony Froude (1818-94), but not seen or needed by him. Browning relates that some of the letters written when he was abroad are missing, but he hopes they will be returned.



Letters from the Carlyles

Thomas Carlyle to [Edward Chapman], 4 March 1845. ALS, 3 pp. Pbd: *CLO* [Contents Unknown]; *CL* 19: 41 [Contents Unknown].

Carlyle discusses details of the publication of his books *The Life of Friedrich Schiller* (1845) and *Oliver Cromwell's Letters and Speeches* (1845).

Thomas Carlyle to [Alexander John] Scott, 16 March 1845. ALS, 3 pp. Unpublished.

Carlyle compliments Scott on his pamphlet dealing with the "old Hebrew Element of our Existence." Carlyle also expresses his "impossible" work of getting Oliver Cromwell's "letters and words made intelligible to men again."

Thomas Carlyle to Joseph Milsand, 24 December 1846. ALS, 3 pp. Envelope also. Pbd: *CLO*; *CL* 21: 119.

Carlyle acknowledges receipt of a copy of an article written by Joseph Milsand, a pseudonym for Antoine Dilmans

(1817–86), published in *La Revue Indépendante* and a note from Milsand. Carlyle also compliments the content of Milsand's article and his use of the English language.

Thomas Carlyle to Leigh Hunt, 17 June 1850. ALS, 4 pp. Pbd: *CLO*; *CL* 25: 97–98. Fair copy of a letter from Carlyle to Leigh Hunt (1784–1859) written in the hand of William Allingham (1824–89) and originally enclosed in a letter from Allingham to John Hunter, 11 August 1860 (see below).

Carlyle offers high praise to Leigh Hunt for his autobiography, writing that “this Book has been like an exercise of devotion to me: I have not assisted at any sermon, liturgy, or litany, this long while, that has had so religious an effect on me. Thanks in the name of all men.”

William Allingham to John Hunter, 11 August 1860. ALS, 3 pp. Pbd: *Letters to William Allingham*, ed. H. Allingham and E. Baumer Williams. London: Longmans, Green, 1911. 212–13. Enclosed with Allingham's copy of TC to Leigh Hunt, 17 June 1850.

Allingham relates that George Craik has asked him to send a copy of Carlyle's letter to Hunt to John Hunter. He describes a visit in London with Thornton Hunt (1810–73), who was planning to compile an edition of the letters of his father, Leigh Hunt. Allingham also reports that he has seen Thomas Carlyle several times and finds him to be “haler in body & more content in spirit than in the days of the apocalyptic Pamphlets [*Latter-Day Pamphlets* (1850)]. He has a rustic red-brown on his cheeks & his beard becomes him.”

Thomas Carlyle to John Kenyon, 26 July 1851. ALS, 1 p. Unpublished.

Written shortly before the Carlyles went to Dr. James M. Gully, Great Malvern, “Worstershire,” for the purpose of undergoing the “Water-Cure.” They arrived at Gully's on the evening of 2 August 1851. Carlyle regrets that he will not be able to meet Browning at Kenyon's house because he is going to “the Country,” traveling by railway “into barbarous places.”

Thomas Carlyle to [Sydney Dobell], [17 October 1851]. ALS, 1 p. ABL holds only the last page of the MS. Pbd: *CLO*; *CL* 26:

209; *The Life and Letters of Sydney Dobell*, ed. Sydney Dobell and Emily Jolly. London: Smith, Elder, 1878. 235–36.

Carlyle ends the letter by extending his kind regards to Mrs. Dobell.

Thomas Carlyle to G. H. Lewes, 8 February 1852. ALS. 2 pp. Pbd. *CLO*; *CL* 27: 35. The editors of the *CL* and the *CLO* identify the addressee as “Charles Eliot Norton?”

Carlyle responds to enquiries about Lewes’s “mournful Poetical Epistle” and expresses his support for the Guild of Literature.

Thomas Carlyle to Charles Layton, 4 February 1854. ALS, 1 p. Unpublished.

Carlyle assures Layton that the work to which he refers, apparently in Layton’s letter to Carlyle, does not exist, and that there was “no treaty anywhere entered into concerning it.”

Thomas Carlyle to Unknown, 16 December 1857. ALS, 2 pp. Unpublished.

Carlyle discourages an unknown author from pursuing a literary career by saying, “I would much advise that you altogether quitted ‘literature,’ and sought out for yourself some more solid and rational employment for your talents than that can ever prove to be. I send you a small Post-office order; and many sincere wishes for a better career.”

Thomas Carlyle to Jonas Milne, n.d. Envelope only. Unpublished.

Addr: Jonas Milne Esq, The Grove, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Henry G. Bohn to Thomas Carlyle, 24 February 1842. ALS, 2 p. Unpublished.

Bohn, a book buyer, disappointed because Carlyle has withdrawn his books from Fraser’s sale, asks if Carlyle would be willing to sell the books at a fair price.

Jane Welsh Carlyle to Frederic Chapman, 2 March [1866]. ALS, 4 pp. Unpublished.

Welsh Carlyle consoles Frederic Chapman (1823–95) on the death of his wife, Clara, and recalls the last time she had seen “Mrs. Chapman,” when she had declined to go with her husband to Edinburgh and instead decided to visit Mrs. Chapman in Bournemouth.

Anna Jameson to Jane Welsh Carlyle, 13 November [ny]. ALS, 4 pp. Unpublished.

Anna Jameson invites the Carlyles to come for “a nice long Evening.”



Manuscripts Related to Thomas Carlyle

Joseph Milsand. “*Les pamphlets par Thomas Carlyle.*” MS, n.d. 52 pp., written in French. Pbd: *Revue des Deux Mondes* (15 June 1850: 1083–1111) with the revised title “*Les pamphlets de Thomas Carlyle: Latter-Day Pamphlets.*”

Joseph Milsand. “*Sur la révolution politique.*” MS, n.d. 6 pp. Unpublished essay on Carlyle, incomplete, written in French, in Milsand’s hand in pencil on the back of a folded packet of pages.

Browning, Robert. “*Terse Verse—being a contribution to Scottish Anthology*” (“*Hail, ye hills and heaths of Ecclefechan!*”). MS, n.d. 1 p. Pbd: Hallam Tennyson, *Alfred Lord Tennyson: A Memoir*. London: Macmillan, 1897. 2: 230. Facsimile pbd. in *Sotheby’s Catalogue*, 21 July 1980, lot 334. This fair copy of some impromptu verses on Thomas Carlyle, comprised of eight lines on one page, was produced for Alfred Tennyson’s amusement.

Terse Verse—being a contribution to Scottish Anthology

Hail, ye hills and heaths of Ecclefechan!
 Hail, ye banks and braes of Craigenputtock!
 T. Carlyle was born in Ecclefechan,
 Jane his wife was born in Craigenputtock:
 She—a pearl where eye detect no speck can,
 He—ordained to close with and cross-buttock
 Cant, the giant—these, O Ecclefechan,
 These your glories be, O Craigenputtock!

Thomas Carlyle, [Simon Brodie's Cow]. MS, dated 12 December 1847. 1 p. 19.2 x 11.6 cm, matted and mounted in 28.6. x 22.1 cm frame. The MS is a quotation that TC often used as a presentation gift of his autograph.

Simon Brodie had a cow;
He lost his cow, and he could na find her:
When he had done what man could do.
The cow came hame and her tail behind her.

T. Carlyle

Chelsea, 12 dec^r, 1847—