

Editors' Note

THOMAS CARLYLE ONCE DESCRIBED HIS BELOVED FATHER as “living and life-giving,” which also serves as an apt description of the contributors, subscribers, and supporters of the *Carlyle Studies Annual*. It is through their generosity that we have been able to complete Number 23. We are especially indebted to William Madges, Dean of the College of the Arts and Sciences at Saint Joseph’s University, who has committed long-term funding to the journal, and to Scott Higgins, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at Western Carolina University for his generous and continuing support. Many other individuals deserve to be mentioned, including our indefatigable contributing editor, David Southern, whose tenacity in pursuing archival leads has yielded a rich offering of previously unpublished letters and manuscript material in the Miscellanies section of this issue. We would also like to thank Carmen Croce and Thomas Malone at Saint Joseph’s University Press, as well as the President of Saint Joseph’s, Fr. Timothy Lannon, SJ and the Provost, Dr. Brice Wachterhauser. Also to be thanked are Robert Kehrberg, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Elizabeth Addison, Chair of the Department of English at Western Carolina.

Keeping with the tradition of our first issue, we have reserved substantial space for previously unpublished Carlyle manuscripts. Number 23 features a transcription and a digital reproduction of a landmark document, Carlyle’s MS notes for “The Diamond Necklace,” held by the Department of Special Collections, Beinecke Library, Yale University. In addition, Brent E. Kinser introduces a newly uncovered Jane Welsh Carlyle letter to the American activist Rebecca Buffum Spring,

who also provides us with a remarkable first-hand account of her interactions with the Carlyles. Also featured are essays by the late Ruth apRoberts and David R. Sorensen on the urgently topical theme of Carlyle and Islam. Their interest in the subject originated in a discussion they had in Riverside, California, at the apRoberts home, shortly before Ruth died in March 2006. With characteristic drollness, she arranged a wager with Sorensen, betting that one of them might “have something to say that is new about the subject, with a margarita going to the winner.” We suspect that she would be satisfied with the result, and happy to share her reward with her opponent. The issue also includes important essays by Owen Dudley Edwards, on Carlyle and Catholicism, and by Stuart Wallace, on Carlyle and John Stuart Blackie. Both Edwards and Wallace throw fresh light on previously “dark and untenanted” aspects of Carlyle’s spiritual and intellectual development. Number 23 is rounded out with an abundance of important reviews on a wide variety of recently published work relevant to the life and times of the Carlyles.

Sadly, we must also acknowledge the death of another distinguished Carlylean, Georg Bernhard Tennyson. We begin with Rodger L. Tarr’s elegiac tribute, which reminds us of what we have lost and of our collective indebtedness to a man whom Tarr eloquently recalls as “a towering figure, a daunting force to be reckoned with.” We dedicate this issue to his memory. To echo TC’s words on the death of his father, “All rushes on . . . his life is as a Tale that has been told. Yet under Time does there not lie Eternity?”