

**The
Victorian Studies Association
Newsletter**



Ontario, Canada.

THE VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Number 5, March 1970

Ontario, Canada

Edited for the Victorian Studies Association of Ontario

Editor: Jane Millgate, Victoria College, University of
Toronto, Toronto 5, Ontario

Associate Editor: Robin Biswas, English Department
York University, Downsview, Ontario

CONTENTS

Editorial	2
Conferences	2
Meetings, Lectures, Exhibitions	3
News of Members	6
Requests, Queries, Communications	9
Library News	12

EDITORIAL

This issue brings the first change in the editorship of the Newsletter since its establishment in March 1968. It has been guided through its early issues by Dr Edgar Wright and Dr F.A. Peake, of Laurentian University, and to their energy and devotion all members of the Association are deeply indebted.

The new editor is Mrs Jane Millgate, of Victoria College, University of Toronto; Dr Robin Biswas, of York University, becomes Associate Editor. No radical change in policy is planned, but it is hoped that the Newsletter will become an increasingly important forum for the exchange of information and ideas about every aspect of Victorian Studies in Ontario, and even further afield. Members are urged to write to either of the editors about recent publications, work in progress, library holdings, forthcoming events, or any other items of interest.

* * * * *

CONFERENCES

Ontario Victorian Studies Conference

The annual conference of the Victorian Studies Association of Ontario will be held in Toronto on Saturday, March 28th. Speakers will include Professor Brian Harrison, who is spending this year at the University of Michigan, and Professor John M. Robson, of Victoria College, University of Toronto. Details of the conference are being sent to members, but anyone wishing for further information may contact the President of the Association, Dr Albert Tucker, Glendon College, Toronto 12.

Dickens Conference at the University of Alberta

A Dickens Centennial Conference is being sponsored by the English Department of the University of Alberta on

October 1st and 2nd, 1970; the convener is Dr R.D. McMaster. Although the titles of the papers are not yet known, the contributors will be: Philip Collins, Steven Marcus, J. Hillis Miller, Syvlvère Monod, John M. Robson, and Ian Watt. Further information may be obtained from Professor J.D.W. Crowther, English Department, University of Alberta, Edmonton 7.

Dickens Festival at York University

York University is planning to hold a Dickens Festival in the Fall. Detailed plans are not at present available, but we understand that the emphasis will be on festive as much as on conference activities. Further information should be available shortly from Professor D.E.S. Maxwell, Winters College, York University, Downsview, Ontario.

* * * * *

MEETINGS, LECTURES, EXHIBITIONS

Toronto--The Novel as Evidence

A group of people in Toronto, drawn on the whole from the departments of English and History at York and Toronto, have begun a series of meetings which they hope will lead them to a fuller understanding of the character of interdisciplinary studies in Victorian culture. The first meeting was held 25 January in Albert Tucker's quarters in Glendon College. The subject for the evening was the novel as history and literature, with specific reference to Middlemarch. Elliot Rose provided a short and stimulating introduction which was rooted in historians' territory, rather than in neutral interdisciplinary ground. He pointed out that literary historians and ordinary historians read Victorian

novels from different academic perspectives. While ordinary historians are uncertain how to use literary material as evidence, literary historians sometimes treat novels too uncritically as a major descriptive source for their understanding of the society in which the novels were written. This could lead to several sorts of difficulties. The novelist, for example, might simply have got things wrong. If anyone based his understanding of the Church on Trollope's Barchester books his understanding of the Church would be seriously defective. Middlemarch he cited as an example of a more subtle kind of difficulty. When John Prest set out to write his History of Coventry in the Industrial Revolution, he hoped to make much use of Middlemarch, since the town of Middlemarch is almost certainly modelled after Coventry. Prest was in fact able to make very little use of Middlemarch. The questions about Coventry society which he considered the most important were not those asked by George Eliot; his History of Coventry bears little relation to her study of provincial society. Rose suggested that the works of some minor novelists, intelligent and accurate and of second class status, could be useful as a quarry for certain sorts of minor social data. The ways in which novels, minor or major, might constitute evidence which bears on major historical questions are as yet insufficiently explored. The task of exploration might best be undertaken by historians and literary historians working together.

The introduction was followed by a long and lively discussion, which in turn was followed by good wine and good food. (R.J. Helmstadter)

By the time this issue of the Newsletter appears a second meeting of this kind will have been held, at Professor Richard Helmstadter's house, on February 23rd. Professor W.J. Keith, of University College, University of Toronto, is to introduce a discussion on the situation of the rural writer (e.g., Borrow, Hardy, Jefferies) in a predominantly industrial age. It is hoped to continue this series of meetings in the Fall. Anyone wishing to receive information about future meetings should send their name and address to Mrs Anne Pilgrim, English Department, York University, Downsview, Ontario.

Waterloo

Mr Paul Beam (University of Waterloo) sends an enthusiastic report of a performance given at Waterloo on January 19, 1970, by Patrick Crean, of the Stratford Festival Theatre. Entitled "The Sun Never Sets," the performance is described in a programme note as "A nostalgic, sometimes critical, always revealing look at the last glory of the British Empire through the eyes of one of its most eminent representatives, Rudyard Kipling." Mr Beam writes that Crean "did a first-rate job. . . . I can safely recommend it for any university audience. His agent is a Mrs Dilly Moore in Toronto but he can be contacted directly through the Stratford company."

Mr Beam also reports: "The University of Waterloo will be displaying the Victorian photography exhibit, Victoria's World, prepared by the University of Texas, from March 9 to 26 and any classes or general groups interested in viewing it in the Theatre of the Arts Gallery are most welcome. Please contact the Department of English if any special facilities are required."

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Queen's University

Professor Norman MacKenzie has supplied the following information about colleagues at Queen's:

Professor John Matthews has completed for publication his book The Constant Quest, a study of the Idylls of the King as a Victorian version of epic.

Dr Kerry McSweeney has written articles on Swinburne for publication in Victorian Poetry and Studies in English Literature this year; an article on Swinburne's Tristram of Lyonesse appeared in the Queen's Quarterly, Winter 1968. He is currently working on a study of Swinburne and Whitman.

Mr Mel Wiebe has recently come upon a hitherto unrecognised trial edition of the "Elaine" and "Guinevere" Idylls, and is now examining it. He is also finishing an article on Maud, showing it to be in some measure an effort to correct the public impact created by In Memoriam.

Professor Norman MacKenzie has recently passed the proofs of a chapter on Hopkins to be published shortly in the Sphere History of English Literature. With the aid of a research grant from the Canada Council, he visited Dublin and the West Coast of Ireland during the summer in connection with his graduate work on Yeats and Hopkins; he also did further work in the Bodleian Library on the Hopkins MSS. His Oxford English Texts edition will set out the successive readings of the drafts as the poems move towards their final shape. He has been made a Vice-President of the new Hopkins Society, which is expected to have an international membership of over three hundred scholars by the time its first Bulletin is published early in 1970.

VICTORIAN THESES AT ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES

M.A. Theses Recently Completed at Queen's University

Irene Busterd, "The Natural World of G.M. Hopkins"

Bron Dyson-Bonter, "A Choice of Madness: A Study of Alice's Adventures as myth reflecting the Victorian dilemma"

Jean McKibben, "The Arthuriads of Malory, Tennyson, and White"

Eleanor Neelands, "Tennyson and the Idea of Progress"

William Owen, "The Evolutionary Utopia: A Study of the Changing Patterns of the Utopian Form in the Late Nineteenth Century"

Blair Ross, "Colossal Derelict: An Approach to Sordello Through Browning's Theory of Knowledge"

Helen Stewart, "Arnold on the Doctrine of Work"

Keith Wilson, "The Fantasy Novels of George MacDonald: A Study of Phantastes and Lilith"

M.A. Theses Recently Completed at York University

Terry Donnelly, "A Human Figure Among Them: Objectivity in the Poems of Thomas Hardy"

Janet Macbeth, "A Critical Reading of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass"

Margot E. Northey, "A Question of Belief: Mystical and Rational Elements in Tennyson's Poetry"

Daphne Pau, "A Critical Study of Textual Revision in The Ordeal of Richard Feverel with a View to Establishing a Definitive Text"

Geoffrey Tannasse, "Tennyson's Religious Philosophy of God and Immortality in In Memoriam"

Ruth C. Winter, "The Woman Figure in Tennyson's Poetry"

Theses in Preparation at Queen's University

Irene Busterd, "The Early Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins" (Ph.D.)

Carolyn Chiddicks, "Charles Kingsley and the Vision of Childhood: A Study of the Water Babies as a response to Darwinism" (M.A.)

Mili Clark, "The Cypher as Symbol of the Imagination: Hopkins, Coleridge, Milton, and Shakespeare" (M.A.)

Neil Henry, "John Ruskin" (Ph.D.)

David Keppel-Jones, "Some Aspects of the Aesthetic Theory of John Ruskin" (Ph.D.)

David Nelson, "The Political Novels of Benjamin Disraeli" (M.A.)

Carol Priddle, "Hopkins and Dylan Thomas: A Comparative Stylistic Analysis" (M.A.)

Blair Ross, "Robert Browning: The Evolution of His Style" (Ph.D.)

Theses in Preparation at York University

- E. Friesen, "The Shattered Mirror: A Study of Oscar Wilde's Writings" (M.A.)
- H. Haas, "Some Aspects of Tragedy in Late Victorian Fiction, 1870-1900" (M.A.)
- R. Kohn, "Christina Rossetti: Her Poetry as Art, with Particular Emphasis on the Themes of Love and Death"
- L. Somers, "The House of Life: Dante Gabriel Rossetti's Monument" (M.A.)
- A. Stovel, "George Meredith and his Publishers" (M.A.)
- E. Waight, "'Earnest of a Heaven': A Study of Browning and Music"
- R. Williams, "'The Glory and the Good of Art': Browning's Concepts in Relation to Ruskin" (M.A.)

Members are requested to send the editors information about Victorian theses completed and in preparation in their own universities. It is hoped to make this a regular feature in the newsletter.

* * * * *

REQUESTS, QUERIES, COMMUNICATIONS

Macaulay

Thomas Pinney (Department of English, Pomona College, Claremont, California 91711) writes that in collecting the letters of Thomas Babington Macaulay for an edition he has yet to find any in Canada.

"Macaulay had no regular correspondents outside Great Britain, and he never crossed the Atlantic. But his remains, like those of all the other notable Victorians that I know of, must be scattered all over the world. He seems to have been faithful in acknowledging the letters he received from admirers; these began to come in at least as early as 1843 on the publication of his collected Essays, and probably earlier, with the publication of the American piracy of the essays in 1840. I put it as a faint wish rather than as a genuine hope, but I would be particularly happy to learn of letters earlier than 1840, and especially of letters from the period 1824-1830, the largely undocumented years between the time that Macaulay left the university and the time that he emerged into public life. He certainly corresponded with Francis Jeffrey during those years, and with William Empson, later Jeffrey's son-in-law. Unhappily, after Empson's death the executors returned to Macaulay his letters to both Empson and Jeffrey, and it is almost certain that Macaulay then destroyed them. I have found a few unimportant notes to Empson, but nothing at all to Jeffrey. The embarrassing truth is that I have not found the MS of a single letter to anyone outside Macaulay's family in the period 1824-1830, and very few even to the family. Yet he must have written to such people as Winthrop Mackworth Praed, Charles Austin, Henry Malden, Thomas Flower Ellis (the earliest letter to Ellis at Trinity College, Cambridge, is 1830), Derwent Coleridge, and others whom he knew at Cambridge, on the Northern Circuit, at John Stuart Mill's London Debating Society, and in the set of young men writing for Brougham's Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. Any clues about letters to these people I would receive with the thankfulness inspired by uncovenanted grace, but all information about any of his letters is welcome."

The Guardian

Sara Keith writes of a recent periodical "find":
"Though it is rather unlikely that anyone else should have any interest in The Guardian, a somewhat acrimoniously High Church weekly newspaper, I was looking for it, and church sources turned up a file of it in the Anglican Synod Office in Kingston. The National Library in Ottawa was not aware that there was a file in Canada. I undertook to catalogue it for the Synod Office in return for their letting me consult it, and the holdings include vol. 11, pt.2-- vol. 42, pt.2 (July 1856-December 1887). The file lacks the half-yearly volumes for July-December 1860, January-June 1866, July-December 1869, the indexes for 1863 and 1877, and various odd numbers; but it includes the volumes for July-December 1891 and January-June 1893."

Publishers' Circular

Miss Keith would be glad to hear of a file of the Publishers' Circular closer to Toronto than the ones recorded in the Union List of Serials as existing at the New York Public Library, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Wisconsin.

British Booksellers and the Victorian Period

Professor Edgar Wright (Laurentian University) writes that he has received from Professor Philip Collins (University of Leicester) a copy of a directory of British booksellers in the Victorian Period which has been prepared by Miss Kate Hoare, Assistant Bibliographer at the Leicester Victorian Studies Centre. Professor Wright has kindly offered to supply, at cost, a xerox copy of the directory (87 typescript pages) to any member of the Association who writes to him at the Department of English, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario,

or interested members might like to write direct to the Victorian Studies Centre at Leicester.

* * * * *

LIBRARY NEWS

Queen's University

The Douglas Library has recently added to its shelf-full of Dickens first editions those of twenty-three further novels, along with portfolios of contemporary illustrations of Dickens' characters and scenes. Included is a set of proof etchings for the first edition of Sketches by Boz, illustrated by George Cruikshank. A special find was that of three holograph Dickens letters hitherto unknown to the editors of the Dickens Letters. Several of the editions (e.g., Little Dorrit, Barnaby Rudge, and Dombey and Son) are in their original periodical form. The Douglas Library also holds sets of Household Words and All the Year Round.

University of Toronto

The Library of Victoria College has recently rediscovered, and provided the provenance for, Sketches from Nature, a bound portfolio of small sketches done between 1845 and 1854 by Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort. Many of the Queen's drawings were done from the vantage-point of the royal yacht, and show indications of a steady pencil and a sure eye. Notable are the views and attempts at views of Osborne, the Queen economically using both sides of the paper on several occasions, but the artistic prize of the collection might be considered to be a pencil sketch of the gillie, MacDonald, from the hand of Albert.

The portfolio is one of several preserved by the Queen and distributed as mementoes in the years following her death; it was presented to Victoria College by George V in recognition of the College's record in the Great War. Also presented were a silver mug which the Queen had used as a child and a Royal Standard which had flown over Osborne and which had covered her coffin when she was taken from Osborne to the mainland; it passed into the hands of one of the ladies-in-waiting, where it remained until George V requested that it be given to the College in 1921. On October 10, 1921, the Toronto Mail and Empire announced that the standard was to be hung in Burwash Hall: "There, amid Gothic windows and timbered ceilings reminiscent of the Old Land, it will stay as a permanent reminder of the first and subsequent royal patrons of Victoria. . . ." And there it remains. (Michael Laine)

The sketch-book will be on display during early March in the E.J. Pratt Library of Victoria College.

University of Waterloo Periodical Holdings in the Victorian Period

Athenaeum: no. 2358-3035, Jan. 1873-Dec. 1885 (London)

Blackwood's Magazine: v. 1-44, 1817-1838; v. [45-46], 1839; v. [47-48], 1840; v. 50-51, 1841-1842; v. [52], 1842; v. [53], 1843; v. [57], 1845; v. [59], 1846; v. [69], 1851; v. [73-75], 1853-1854; v. [78-82], 1855-1857; v. [86], 1859; v. 87-93, 1860-1863; v. [94], 1863; v. 95-98, 1864-1865; v. 102, 1867; v. 105-120, 1869-1876; v. 122, 1877; v. 124, 1878; v. 126, 1879; v. 129-130, 1881; v. 132-135, 1882-1884; v. [166], 1894; v. [187], 1910; v. [190], 1911; v. 197-208, 1915-1920; v. 225-226, 1929; v. 228-232, 1930-1932; v. 234, 1933; v. 239-241, 1936-1937; v. 246, 1939; v. 249-264, 1941-1948; v. 285-287, 1959-1960; v. [288], 1960; v. 289-1961-

American edition: v. 70-71, 1851-1852;
v. 73-86, 1853-1859; v. 94, 1863; v. 96-
104, 1864-1868; v. 121-123, 1877/78;
v. 125, 1879; v. 128-129, 1880/81; v. 131-
142, 1882-1887.

Chamber's Edinburgh Journal (continued as Chamber's
Journal of Popular Literature, Science & Arts):

v. 1-12, 1832/33-1842/43; n.s. v. 1-20, 1844-
1853; ser. 3, v. 1-20, 1854-1863; ser. 4,
v. 1-20, 1864-1883; ser. 5, v. 1-14, 1884-
1897; ser. 6, v. 1-13, 1897-1910; ser. 7,
v. 1-21, 1911-1931; ser. 8, v. 1-15, 1932-
1946; ser. 9, v. 1-2, 1947-1948.

Cornhill Magazine: v. 1-24, 1860-1871; v. 27, 1873;
v. 29-30, 1874; v. 37-41, 1878-1880; v. 46-47,
1882-1883; n.s. v. 5-17, 1885-1891; ser. 3,
v. 18, 1905; v. 20-24, 1906-1908; v. 26-29,
1909-1910.

The Dome: v. 1, 1897/98, no. 1-5, New ser.: v. 1-
6, 1898-1900.

Edinburgh Review: v. 1-131, 1802/03-1870; v. 133,
1871; v. 135-136, 1872; v. 138-139, 1873-
1874; v. 142-168, 1875-1888; v. 246, no. 502,
1927; v. 247, 1929; v. 248, no. 505, 1928;
v. 249-250, 1929; Indexes to v. 1-20, 1802-
1812; v. 51-80, 1830-1844.

The Examiner: June 1861-Feb. 1876,
4 reels microfilm.

Household Words: v. 1-19, 1850-1858/59
Suppl: The household narrative of current
events. 1850.

The Idler: v. 1-15, 1892-1899.