

**The
Victorian Studies Association
Newsletter**



Ontario, Canada.

THE VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Edited for the Victorian Studies Association of Ontario

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THE
VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

REPORTS OF CONFERENCES

Victorian Studies Association of Ontario

The Annual Conference was held at the Glendon College campus of York University on Saturday, 7 April, 1973. A paper by Jack Simmons (Leicester) on "The Impact of Railways on Victorian Society" was chaired by R.W. Greaves (Kansas); a paper by Michael Collie (York) on "Pre-Freudian Psychology and the Naturalist Novel" was chaired by Martha Vicinus (Indiana). Alan Thomas (Scarborough) introduced a showing of his video tape programme on Victorian Photography, and an exhibition of nineteenth-century printing machinery was mounted under the direction of Michael Laine (Toronto).

At the business meeting Michael Laine, as Secretary-Treasurer, presented a statement of the Association's financial situation. Richard Helmstadter (Toronto), as President, reported on the Association's prospects and plans and announced that Ann Robson (Toronto) had agreed to take over from Michael Laine the duties of Secretary-Treasurer (subscriptions and enquiries should be directed to Professor Robson at the Department of History, University of Toronto, Toronto M5S 1A1). William Whitla (York) was elected to the committee in place of Sidney Eisen at the expiry of the latter's three-year term.

Reports of the two papers were not available at the time the Newsletter was prepared but we hope to have summaries of them in the next issue.

Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada

The Association's second Annual Conference was held at the University of Victoria on October 5th and 6th. The theme was "The Victorians and the Arts." Over fifty delegates gathered to hear papers on topics ranging from Victorian cottages to Beardsley's illustrations.

Professor Florence Riddle of the University of Victoria began the conference with an analysis of the image of art in Victorian poetry. Her major texts were Arnolds's "Tristram and Iseult," Tennyson's In Memoriam, Hopkins's sonnet on Purcell, and Browning's "Fra Lippo Lippi." Marian Norman of the University of Alberta followed with a discussion of Morris's views on the relationship of art to work and society. She explored this through a study of Morris's interpretation of Icelandic legends in "The Story of Sigurd the Volsung." Victoria's Velma Gooch turned to the significance of pattern and colour in her examination of Morris's use of imagery and design both in his poetry and in his art.

George Ford from the University of Rochester, one of the two guest speakers, provided an intriguing analysis of the cottage as a governing image in Victorian poetry and fiction. Citing such diverse authors as Macaulay, Kingsley, Tennyson, and Lawrence, Ford masterfully illustrated the changing literary and social meanings of the cottage. The conflict between the pastoral image of the cottage as a symbol of continuity and its representation as an outmoded, inefficient form of life received particular emphasis.

On the second day the conference moved from the university to Maltwood Museum, with its collection of Victorian, Pre-Raphaelite, and Art Nouveau objects. Alberta's Muriel Whitaker began with an examination of Beardsley's illustrations to the 1892 Dent edition of Malory's Mort d'Arthur. With slides to supplement her talk, she emphasized the discrepancies between Malory's text and Beardsley's representations. Peter Noel-Bentley of Manitoba investigated Thomson's use of Dürer's Melancholia engraving in the City of Dreadful Night, indicating how it summarizes the poem's themes. William Hall of UBC discussed the function of Veronese's The Marriage at Cana in uniting various themes and characters in Henry James's The Wings of the Dove.

Lionel Stevenson, visiting professor at UBC and the second guest speaker, gave a detailed survey of visual and verbal equivalents in Pre-Raphaelite art and poetry. Noting the empirical bias of the Victorian intellect, he studied the themes and techniques of Pre-Raphaelite painters and poets to show the unity of their work. Substantial comparisons of illustrations and quotations confirmed the link between the elements of particularity, colour, pattern, proportion, and rhythm. Swinburne is unique, argued Stevenson, because he has no painterly quality in the sense of offering visual images in his poetry. He is an abstractionist. With this stimulating paper the conference came to an end. Preparations are already underway for a third conference, to be held at the University of Manitoba in October 1974. (Ira Bruce Nadel, British Columbia)

Research Society for Victorian Periodicals

The fifth annual conference of RSVP was held in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress, on October 12-14, 1973. Ontario participants included H.W. McReady (McMaster), John North (Waterloo), Hans de Groot, Peter Morgan and Alan Thomas (Toronto). Sessions considered science and technology and the periodicals, bibliography, and the influence of periodicals on popular taste. Specifically, Terry Parssinen (Temple) spoke on early Victorian mesmerism and phrenology, and George Basalla (Delaware) on "the iconography of technology" as illustrated in Punch. J. Don Vann (N. Texas) proposed a guide to the use of Victorian periodicals and Rosemary Van Arsdel (Puget Sound) waxed enthusiastic over the foundation of the Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada and a regional bibliography of periodicals. John North spoke of the progress of his gigantic Waterloo Directory of Victorian Periodicals, listing over twenty thousand titles. Linda Jones (California) spoke of the New Monthly Magazine; Norbert Sildon (W. Chester) of "Individualist Periodicals and the Crisis of Late Victorian Liberalism"; Charlotte Watkins (Howard) of the relation between Browning's The Inn Album and the periodicals; and Alan Thomas of the depiction of the poor, chiefly in the Illustrated London News and The Graphic. (Peter Morgan, Toronto)

Five-College Victorian Studies Conference

We hope to have in our next issue a report of the William Morris conference being held at Amherst College and the University of Massachusetts, November 2-4, 1973.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Victorian Studies Association of Ontario

Our annual conference will be held at the Glendon College campus of York University on Saturday, 6 April 1974; the chief speakers will be Morse Peckham (South Carolina) and Trevor Lloyd (Toronto). Full details will be sent to members in due course. Non-members should write to: Professor Ann Robson, Department of History, University of Toronto, Toronto M5S 1A1.

The Victorian Counter-Culture

A conference under this title is to be held at the University of South Florida, Tampa, from 27 February to 2 March 1974; Phyllis Grosskurth (Toronto) will be giving one of the papers. Those interested should write to: Willie Reader, The Victorian Counter-Culture, Department of English, University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla 33620.

MEETINGS, LECTURES, EXHIBITIONS

Nineteenth-century Buildings

On the occasion of a visit by Mrs Fawcett of the Victorian Society several members of the VSA attended a meeting at Hart House on 15 October 1973 to discuss the possibility of organizing a Victorian Society in Canada. It was decided instead to proceed with discussions already initiated in Ottawa and Montreal toward the foundation of a Society for

the Study of Architecture in Canada. It was felt that the scope of the latter Society would be broader chronologically and geographically than a Victorian Society. The emphasis on architecture is by no means intended to exclude research and publication in related areas; it is hoped, indeed, that the Society will be interdisciplinary. Those interested should contact Mr Martin Weil, 400 Stewart Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6L2. Any Toronto members especially interested in the preservation of nineteenth-century buildings in the city might like to get in touch with Professor Douglas Richardson, Department of Fine Art, University of Toronto. Professor Richardson was at the 15 October meeting, and could also supply further information of the discussion that occurred there.

British Writers

Paul Beam (Waterloo) reminds members of the exhibits on British writers available from The British Council, The British High Commission, 80 Elgin St., Ottawa 4. Those interested should contact Mr K.T. Wallace at the High Commission (phone: Ottawa 237 1530). The only charge made for the loan of the exhibit is the cost of its shipment back to Ottawa or on to its next destination.

Reading

Tony Van Bridges gave a reading from the works of G.K. Chesterton on 28 September 1973 at the University of Waterloo.

Lecture

On 10 April 1973 Professor Martha Vicinus gave a lecture entitled "Victorian Women: Stereotypes of Femininity" to an audience of graduate and undergraduate students from English and History at the University of Toronto.

Toronto Group

The first 1973-74 meeting of the group was held at Dick and Carol Helmstadter's on Thursday, October 25th, when Albert Tucker introduced a discussion of Outcast London by Gareth Jones. A lively exchange of views ensued, and it was striking that the book and the materials it presented seemed quite as interesting and suggestive to the students of literature as to the historians.

The next meeting will be held on December 6th, when Lovat Dickson, the publisher and author, will talk about H.G. Wells as Victorian, taking Kipps as his central text. Members of the Toronto group will receive full details shortly; other interested members of the Association should write or telephone either Dick Helmstadter or Ann Robson. Needless to say, a preparatory reading or re-reading of Kipps is strongly recommended.

A third meeting is planned for early 1974, when Richard Schiefen will introduce a discussion of Victorian religious novels.

COURSES AND PROGRAMMES

Toronto-York Victorian Studies Option

This year the Victorian Studies Option in History and English at York and Toronto has attracted an encouragingly increased number of students, and judging from inquiries already received the number of candidates for the Option will be up again next year. Fourteen students are currently enrolled in the Option, with fifteen and one auditor in the interdisciplinary seminar. There are two students from History and two from English at Toronto, three from History and seven from English at York. Both the total enrollment and the backgrounds of the students suggest that the Option is in healthy condition in its second year.

The interdisciplinary seminar is being lead this year by Norman Feltes (English, York) and Richard Helmstadter (History, Toronto); the subject is "Religion in Victorian Culture and Society." Thus far there have been sessions on Evangelicalism as an historical phenomenon, on Adam Bede, on the place of the Established Church in early nineteenth-century society, on Coleridge's Constitution in the Church and State, on Barchester Towers and The Warden, on the Oxford Movement, Newman's Apologia, and Tractarian poetry. Mr Feltes and Mr Helmstadter will be happy to give more detailed information about the seminar and about the Option to anyone who asks for it.

Students interested in enrolling in the Option should apply in the normal way for admission to the department of their major discipline at one of the two universities, mentioning their interest in the Option. Further information about the Option itself may be obtained by writing to Professor Feltes at 125 Atkinson College, York University, Downsview, Ontario, or to Professor Helmstadter at the History Department, University of Toronto, Toronto 5.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Marcia Allentuck (C.C.N.Y.) has a Senior Research Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and is working on the interrelationships between literature and the fine arts during the Victorian period. Two of Professor Allentuck's articles in this field appear in the February 1973 issue of Apollo; one is on Rossetti and the Moxon Tennyson and the other is on the Holman Hunt picture of Henry Wentworth Monk (now in the National Gallery in Ottawa) and its relation to Ruskin. In the Trinity term 1974 Professor Allentuck will be a Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford.

Arline Golden (Buffalo) has an article in the Summer 1973 issue of ELH, "'The Game of Sentiment': Tradition and Innovation in Meredith's Modern Love."

Phyllis Grosskurth (Toronto) has been commissioned by the London Library to edit the Memoirs of John Addington Symonds. These will be released for publication in 1976. Professor Grosskurth has been elected for a three-year term to the Delegate Assembly of the M.L.A.

Nikita Lary (York) has recently published Dostoevsky and Dickens: A Study of Literary Influence (London and Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1973).

Trevor Lloyd (Toronto) has completed work on his study of the finances of the Liberal Party, 1899-1906. He has recently purchased an apartment in an appropriately Victorian part of Bayswater.

Norman Mackenzie (Queen's) gave a paper at the Sixth Conference on Anglo-Irish Studies, March 1973, on "Hopkins, Yeats, and Dublin in the Eighties." He is currently working on an annotated edition of Hopkins for the Folio Society.

Juliet McMaster (Alberta) has an article in the March 1973 issue of American Literature, "The Portrait of Isabel Archer."

Kerry McSweeney (Queen's) has recently published two articles in the Victorian field: "Swinburne's 'By the North Sea,'" Yearbook of English Studies, 3 (1973), and "The Pattern of Natural Consolation in In Memoriam," Victorian Poetry 11 (Summer 1973).

Jane Millgate (Toronto) has recently published Macaulay (London and Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1973).

Gary Paterson (Western) contributed an article to the Spring 1973 issue of The Antigoniish Review on "The Religious Thought of Lionel Johnson." He is at present working on a bibliography of secondary materials relating to Lord Alfred Douglas.

Ann Robson (Toronto) has taken over as Secretary of the Association. Her article, "The Founding of the National Society for Women's Suffrage," appeared in the March 1973 issue of the Canadian Journal of History.

Alan Thomas (Toronto) has now completed his series of twelve video tapes entitled Victorians. For titles of the individual tapes and information about obtaining them please see the separate announcement in the Communications section.

Joseph Sigman (McMaster) published an article "Diabolico-Angelical Indifference: The Imagery of Polarity in Sartor Resartus" in Southern Review (Adelaide) 5, iii (September 1972), 207-224.

Edgar Wright (Laurentian) is spending his sabbatical year in Canterbury, England. He is working on Victorian attitudes to language and considering the views both of philologists and literary men in the period.

REQUESTS, QUERIES, COMMUNICATIONS

"Victorians": A Video Tape Series

Professor Alan Thomas reports the completion of "Victorians," a series of 12 Video tapes prepared under his direction by the Instructional Media Centre of the University of Toronto. Inquiries about the purchase or rental either of the series as a whole or of individual programs, available both in video tape and U-matic cassette form, should be directed to the distributors, Software Distribution, 705 Progress Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario. The titles are as follows: "From the Backwoods," "With the Governor-General" (these both have Canadian settings), "Voices from the Ranks," "Queen Victoria," "The Poaching Life," "The Country Curate," "The Attachment" (a genteel Victorian love affair), "The Railwaymen," "Going on Stage," "La Vie de Bohème," "Arts and Crafts," and "Street Child." The programs are based largely on Victorian photographs and their approach is described as "popular and non-specialist," for use at "a variety of levels from high school onward."

Victorian Periodicals Newsletter

The Victorian Periodicals Newsletter, founded in 1968 and edited first at Indiana University and subsequently at the University of Massachusetts, has moved to Toronto and will now be edited by Hans de Groot and Peter Morgan, both from the English Department at University College (Toronto M5S 1A1). Professor Michael Wolff of the University of Massachusetts (the former editor of Victorian Studies) will remain Advisory Editor and will be joined in that capacity by Professor Richard Helmstadter of the Department of History, University of Toronto (and President of the Victorian Studies Association of Ontario).

The editors are interested in receiving historical, critical or bibliographical material relating to Victorian periodicals in the form of articles, notes, queries or statements about work in progress. They wish to see the Newsletter perform a double function: that of a periodical in which serious articles in the field can be published and that of an informal clearing-house where views and information can be exchanged. Book reviews which in the past have appeared from time to time will now become a regular feature. The Newsletter will continue to appear at quarterly intervals.

Readers intending to subscribe (\$3 for individuals, \$5 for institutions; all cheques to be made out to the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals) should write to Professor S.F.C. Niermeier, Department of English, University College, Toronto M5S 1A1. Members of RSVP (annual membership \$5) receive VPN automatically. Free examination copies will be sent on request.

Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada

The Editor has received a copy the second number of the Association's Newsletter from its Editor, Professor C. Gordon-Craig, Department of English, University of Alberta. In addition to notes on the activities of members, lists of Victorian theses, etc., the Newsletter contains brief articles or notes on Mrs Gaskell, Trollope, and George Eliot, and a listing of Victorian periodicals in the University of Alberta Library.

Victorian Studies Handlists

The Editor has received, and will gladly make available to any interested member, copies of the following handlists edited at the University of Leicester by Lionel Madden and Diana Dixon:

4. A Catalogue of Periodicals Printed in Bristol, 1820-1840, compiled by Andrew Hart, 1972.
5. Social Reform and Social Structure in Victorian England: A Handlist of University Theses, compiled by Peter Bell, 1972.
6. Local Newspapers and Periodicals of the Nineteenth Century: a Checklist of Holdings in Provincial Libraries, compiled by Diana Dixon, 2 pts., 1973.

These are the last in the present series of Handlists; copies of these, and of no. 3 (on Ebenezer Elliott), may be obtained from the University of Leicester Victorian Studies Centre, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH.

THESES ON VICTORIAN SUBJECTS

McMaster

Maureen Shaw: "Hardy and the Heroine." M.A. thesis completed 1973, supervisor Dr Michael Ross.

Queen's

Keith Wilson: "The Personal Voice of Thomas Hardy." Ph.D. thesis completed 1973, supervisor Professor J.P. Matthews.

VICTORIAN NOTES

Mill on Women and Other Poets

John M. Robson

One of the aspects of John Stuart Mill's poetic theory that has attracted critical attention is his account of the characteristics that mark out poets as a class from other human beings. (See, e.g., Seamus Cooney, "Mill, Poets, and Other Men," Victorian Newsletter, 17 [1960], 23-4.) In my research into Mill's use of the term "human nature" (see my forthcoming "Rational Animals and Others," in the proceedings of the Mill Centenary Conference), another way of looking at the class characteristics emerged: the poet shares, in Mill's description, essential characteristics with women.

In brief, the differences between poets and others are in degree, not in kind, of mental and physical constitution. ("Thoughts on Poetry and its Varieties," Dissertations and Discussions, I [London, 1859], 88 and passim.) James Mill welcomed Priestley's excision of the embarrassing physiological part of Hartley's associationism, and John Mill in the main follows his father's lead, but he does make some suggestive comments on physical characteristics, or marks. For example, he says that the "poetic temperament is usually, perhaps always, accompanied by exquisite senses"; Shelley, the type of the "natural" poet, had an "original fineness of organization," and a susceptible "nervous system," which made "the impressions of his external senses deep and clear" (ibid., 87). The mental differences are mainly in the mode of association, with synchronous rather than successive being specially the mark of the poet, as distinguished from the man who loves science and abstract truth. (See System of Logic, Collected Works, VIII [Toronto, 1973], 857-8, where Mill is quoting, with obvious approval, from James Martineau. Cf. "Thoughts on Poetry," 81-2, where similar comments are made, and also "Bain's Psychology," Dissertations and Discussions, III [London, 1867], 131, where the distinction between association by resemblance and by

contiguity [or adhesion] is used to distinguish between, on the one hand, "the inductive philosopher, the poet and artist, and the inventor and originator generally," and on the other, the person of "memory, mechanical skill, facility of acquisition in science or business, and practical talent so far as unconnected with invention." It will be noted that the earlier comments, dating from the 1830s, reflect Mill's views of his own, unpoetic "nature" [see Autobiography (New York, 1924), 103ff.].)

Mill stresses the importance of cultivation and education, saying that the natural temperament "will not of itself make a poet, no more than the soil will the fruit; and as good fruit may be raised by culture from indifferent soils, so may good poetry from naturally unpoetical minds" ("Thoughts on Poetry," 79; cf. 89, and also Subjection of Women [London, 1869], 133, where there is reference to music). So, not believing that the differences between poets and others are absolute, Mill compares the two classes in terms of deficiencies that need to be overcome or compensated for; that is, a qualitative difference in "natures" is indicated or implied.

This implication casts sharper light on Mill's reaction to his experience in the early '30s, and helps bring into relief the romantic context--in both senses--of the terms "exquisite senses," "finer nature," "impassioned natures," and "intense sensibility" ("Thoughts on Poetry," 87, 93, 81). The contrast James Martineau draws in the passage quoted in the Logic is between those with "great original susceptibilities" and those with "mediocrity of sensibility," the former "sensitive constitutions" having "vivid impressions" and--significantly for Mill--moral enthusiasm, while the latter are likely to suffer from a deficiency of taste and of fervour, as Mill believed he himself did. Not surprisingly, there is a difference in "capacity of natural feeling," with, once again, the poetic natures having the advantage. This strength is related to their ability to sympathize with, to understand, and to give verbal embodiment to examples of individual and group human nature: poetry is a mode of knowing others as they in themselves are.

Turning now to the differences between women and men, a matter of great personal as well as theoretical fascination for Mill, one finds most of his direct comments in

The Subjection of Women. His central argument there is that, on the evidence available, no one can determine what the original and elemental differences are, or even if there are any; female character, as observed, is so much the result of social and cultural conditioning that its basis is totally obscured. As he says in the Logic, "A long list of mental and moral differences are observed, or supposed, to exist between men and women: but [if] at some future, and, it may be hoped, not distant period, equal freedom and an equally independent social position come to be possessed by both, ... [these] differences of character [will be] either removed or totally altered" (868; the variants from edition to edition are interesting). Mill implies here and in the Subjection that one should, in effect, apply his Method of Residues to determine what original differences there may be between male and female nature, but his own purpose is not to make this determination, but to promote equality of conditions for the sexes. As a consequence, his remarks in the Subjection must generally be taken as applying to women (and men) as they appear to be, not as they basically are or might be; furthermore, he uses what I should rather see as irony than inconsistency in arguing that women are not only the same as men, but also superior, having more good qualities and fewer bad.

Granting all this, Mill would seem to be suggesting that in one explicable respect at least there is an original difference: women tend to the practical, men to the speculative. As in the distinction between poets and others, so here the question is one of averages and tendencies, and balances and correctives can be applied. (Men and women, like Bentham and Coleridge, are completing counterparts.) But the tendencies as described by Mill seem to me very marked, and linked to essential differences. Women's practicality results from their powers of rapid and correct "insight into present fact, and ... into the minds and feelings of those with whom they are in immediate contact" (Subjection, 164; cf. 105--6). They have "quickness of observation," and of apprehension and thought; they see individuals rather than groups, and have a "lively interest" in the present feelings of people (ibid., 107ff.). Also they apparently have a "greater nervous susceptibility" (ibid., 111; cf. Logic, where "nervous sensibility" appears

from the 3rd ed. on); though this, Mill as usual hastens to say, is not really a sexual characteristic, it does result in practical behaviour associated with women, who are observed to be, in intellect, more mobile, less persistent, and less single-minded (Subjection, 117).

In the Subjection Mill goes on to concede without comment that women have smaller bodies and less physical strength, but asserts that they have a "greater average fineness of quality in the brain and nervous system..." (120). Since this quality is abstract and its presence therefore hard to verify, he mentions an unproved hypothesis that at least, he says, fits observed facts, namely, that men have on the average a larger brain, and women have a greater activity of cerebral blood circulation: so it is that men's mental operations are slower; they are less prompt to think, less quick to feel; their minds can bear more work, and persist more in one mental mode, but are less flexible in changing modes; they are less easily mentally exhausted, but slower to recover from such exhaustion (ibid., 121-2).

What is hinted at here in isolating activity, movement, fineness, and flexibility, is brought out more clearly in another passage in the Subjection where Mill dilates upon those "in both sexes, in whom an unusual degree of nervous sensibility is constitutional...." Such a constitution--and this is the only passage explicitly making this point that I have found in Mill--"like other physical conformations, is hereditary...." Transmitted to both sons and daughters, it is probably "inherited by a greater number of women than of men" (112-13). Persons of this type are capable of being "raised...above themselves," feeling "lofty" and "sustained excitement"; they have "spirit." From such arise "the executive department of the leadership of mankind," the "great orators, great preachers, impressive diffusers of moral influences." "Strong feeling is the instrument and element of strong self-control"; when so cultivated, "it forms not the heroes of impulse only, but those also of self-conquest" (113-14).

It thus appears to me that though the qualities and abilities are not precisely similar, if one is to separate out classes of mankind on the basis of natural endowments and the benefits resulting from them, there will be a significant overlap between the class of poets and that of

women. On the average, that is, and always as compared to others who differ in degree, not in kind.

Victoria College
University of Toronto

A Scotland Yard Instrument for Examining MSS.

Norman Mackenzie

During my visit to Oxford in December I was delighted to discover that my last spell in the Bodleian had resulted in the construction of a machine for Bodley which may one day become standard equipment in research libraries. Because of my interest in forensic document examination, I persuaded the keeper of Western MSS. in 1970 to permit a senior librarian to take me (with a Hopkins MS. normally kept on display to visitors) down to the Forensic Document Examination Laboratory of Scotland Yard. Here the instrument which proved most useful was one of their own invention, by means of which it is possible to gain optically within a few seconds the effect of six infra-red photographs taken through different filters. When I returned to Oxford in December I found that an improved version of this Infra-red Image-inverter had just been completed by the Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, and was ready for trial in the Bodleian. I was given a private room in which to use it. The machine employs white light, thus avoiding damage to valuable MSS. which could result from a hot red source. By means of a cathode tube with a high voltage it converts this into a greenish light, magnified through a low-powered microscope lens. Viewed without a filter, obliterations and dense black blots can be penetrated without difficulty: I could, for instance, see the shape of a period below the blacker ink used to convert it into a comma. Five filters mounted on a revolving disk can be interpolated in succession: each is designed to transmit only light of a specified wavelength. When a MS. has been written in one ink and edited in ink of

a different chemical composition, the two can be differentiated visually by viewing them first through one filter (which will accentuate the ink strongest in its wavelength and dim down, or perhaps completely obscure, the other), and then through another filter which will reverse the contrast.

During a discussion with Professor John Matthews, now at work on the Disraeli papers, I found that he was confronted with many pages of Disraeli's diary which had been deliberately obliterated. No one has so far managed to make a transcription. If the MSS. can be taken to Bodley, the new machine can be tried out on them.

My own problem lay in establishing the text of poems where the prime authority is a transcript made by Robert Bridges which Hopkins subsequently edited and touched up, fortunately using a different ink and a pen which often left distinctive tracks visible under sufficient magnification. I found the Infra-red Image Inverter a superb help. This is something which the new University of Toronto Research Library may want to investigate and make available to editors of literary texts.

Queen's University

Professor Mackenzie reports (October 1973) that he has recently been asked by the British Museum Library to send them details of the machine described in his note so that they can have an instrument made for the use of their readers.

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