ENGLISH X NEWS

The following papers will be presented at the annual meeting of the MIA Victorian group in New York:

1. "The Present State of Dickensian Studies" by Edgar Johnson (CCNY). (25 minutes)

2. "Spontaneous Combustion" by Gordon S. Haight (Yale). (15 minutes)

3. "The World View of Bleak House" by J. Hillis Miller (Johns Hopkins). (20 minutes)

Carl Litzenberg, chairman of the group, will preside.

The group's luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 28, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Hotel Martinique, 32nd Street and Broadway. The all-inclusive price is $3.25. Requests for reservations should be sent NOW to William E. Buckler, 737 East Building, New York University, Washington Square, New York 3, New York.

LIBRARY NOTES

1. The Brotherton Collection, the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds.

(Contributed by K. J. Fielding, Malayan Training College, Liverpool)

In accordance with the wishes of Lord Brotherton, his private library, now known as the Brotherton Collection, was presented to the University Library by his residuary legatees in 1935. It was Lord Brotherton's wish that it should be made available to all accredited students, and as it contains many letters and papers of the Victorian period, a general account of some of its contents may be useful.

Probably the most valuable section is the correspondence of Edmund Gosse. This has already been described in A Catalogue of the Gosse Correspondence ... (1867-1922), Leeds, 1954, which gives most of the necessary information. On a somewhat arbitrary selection, the most important Victorian literary correspondents represented in the Gosse papers are Matthew Arnold (5, 1882-85); Robert Browning (7, 1872, 89); Austin Dobson (345, 1874-1921); Edward Dowden (35, 1877-1911); Thomas Hardy (80, 1886-1927); Frederic Harrison (56, 1896-1922); R. H. Horne (44, 1876-82); Ibsen (3, 1891-99); Henry James (249, 1882-1915); Charles Kingsley, to Philip Henry Gosse (16, 1854-58); Andrew Lang (264, 1877-1911); George Moore (126, 1887-1926); Coventry Patmore (50, 1881-96); Pinero (27, 1893-1907); J. A. Symonds (67, 1875-1893); Arthur Symons (50, 1890-1908); Watts-Dunton (66, 1879-1903). This is the only part of the Brotherton Collection for which there is yet a printed catalogue.

The Brontë manuscripts are also of first importance. These include the letters of Charlotte Brontë to Miss Ringrose (16, 1848-51) and to a number of other correspondents, and many letters and manuscripts of Patrick Branwell Brontë.
Bramwell's original letters to Joseph Bentley Leyland (see Transactions of the Brontë Society, Part xxxv, 1925) are in the collection, and many miscellaneous manuscripts of his verse and prose written in childhood and youth. There is also a certain amount of Brontëana, chiefly gathered by C. K. Shorter, which sometimes overlaps his extensive collection (also in the library) of original letters, notes and biographical records relating to Mrs. Gaskell. This is accompanied by a large collection of Shorter's own correspondence.

Of almost equal importance is the Watts-Dunton Swinburne collection, which comprises many of Swinburne's manuscripts, published and unpublished, and an extensive correspondence with D. G. and William Rossetti, members of the Swinburne family, and various literary friends and acquaintances.

A large collection of the letters and manuscripts of the rationalist Edward Clodd (1840-1930) includes a considerable correspondence with the more or less obscure. But there are several letters from Grant Allen, Sir Walter Besant, Sir James Frazer and Thomas Hardy (1900-1923); some from William Archer, Augustine Birrell, Edmund Gosse, Prince Peter Kropotkin, George Meredith, G. B. Shaw (one, 1917), Watts-Dunton, H. G. Wells (in 1904), and W. B. Yeats; and there is a large group from Clodd to C. K. Shorter.

A collection of letters to George Augustus Sala is fairly extensive, but has little of interest left in it, except a few letters from Richard Bentley and Shirley Brooks. There is also a typescript copy of Shirley Brooks's diary (1865-1873, not consecutive).*

The correspondence of Henry Arthur Jones also covers a fairly wide field, but its main interest is confined to theatrical figures such as William Archer, Wilson Barrett, Pinero, Forbes Robertson, Ellen Terry and Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree.

Also of theatrical interest is the Bram Stoker-Henry Irving collection. This is an accumulation of letters from celebrities and minor figures of all kinds to both Stoker and Irving. It includes a series from Hallam, Lord Tennyson (1891-1906), which is of no more than second-rate interest.

George Borrow is represented by a number of letters and manuscripts; William Morris by the original manuscript of his translation with Magnusson of The Story of Olaf the Holy; there are some letters of Tennyson and Matthew Arnold; some drafts for letters prepared by John Stuart Mill; some manuscripts of James Sheridan Knowles; and some fragments of Landor. An extensive collection of miscellaneous autographs includes the letters and papers of many other authors and literary figures of the period.

The most recent accession to the Library is still incompletely arranged. This is an important collection of the letters and papers of the Novello family, and Charles and Mary Cowden Clarke. It was presented by the Contessa Bona Gigliucci and Donna Nerina Medici di Marignano Gigliucci, the grandchildren of Clara Novello Gigliucci. As well as a fairly wide correspondence it includes sketches and musical transcripts, and is accompanied by several hundred printed books, many of which were presentation copies or include manuscript notes. Leigh Hunt figures prominently among the correspondents with more than seventy letters to Vincent Novello and other members of the family (1816-47) and over fifty to Charles and Mary Cowden Clarke (1814-56). There are also several from Charles Dickens and Douglas Jerrold. Many of these were published in the Cowden Clarke's Recollections of Writers.

*The originals were used by G. S. Layard in his A Great 'Punch' Editor (Brooks), London, 1907. I should be very interested to know of their present whereabouts, and most grateful for any information about Brooks's other diaries which Layard was unable to trace.--K.J.F.
2. Victorian Manuscripts at the University of Texas Library

(Contributed by Oscar Maurer, University of Texas)

The University of Texas Library is particularly rich in manuscripts of the major Victorian poets, to whom this brief report is limited. In addition to the manuscripts listed below, the Wrenn and Aitken collections also contain first editions, and many variant issues, of all these poets' published works, as well as memorabilia, letters addressed to the poets, presentation copies, and association items. Assembled mainly by T. J. Wise, the Wrenn collection naturally contains a complete run of Wise's fabrications, in some of which he inserted pieces of genuine manuscript to enhance their plausibility (and price).

Thanks are due to Miss Fannie E. Ratchford, Curator of Rare Books, and to Mrs. Gertrude Reese Hudson, for help in preparing this report.

Tennyson is represented by 20 manuscript pieces, including proof sheets of an early version of "The Holy Grail" and of Moxon's Selection for the Miniature Poets series (1865), both with corrections and revisions by the poet. Privately printed "author's proof" copies of The Cup (1881) and The Promise of May (1883), with annotations and revisions in Tennyson's hand, are especially interesting because Wise, apparently ignorant of the existence of these unique issues, forged copies of both. There are also early manuscripts of "The Coming of Arthur" and "Pelleas and Ettarre," portions of three other Idylls, and six letters, 1871-1890.

The Library has 53 pieces of manuscript by Robert Browning. There are 49 letters, 1840-1880--to Domett, Kingsland, Furnivall, and others--four manuscripts of prose pieces, and several corrected proof sheets. In addition there are letters of Browning interest from Domett to Furnivall, and from Browning's son. Among 32 pieces by Elizabeth Barrett Browning are 15 letters (nine to Mrs. Brotherton on the question of spiritualism) and 15 manuscript poems; most of the latter are juvenilia, but an interesting draft of "The Cry of the Children" is included.

The largest collection of Victorian manuscripts in the Library is that of Swinburne, which totals 78 pieces. Of these 23 are letters, 1858-1900; and 53 are manuscript poems, including a corrected first draft of 11 stanzas of "Hertha" and the complete manuscript (and corrected proof) of "A Song of Italy." Other items of Swinburne interest are letters exchanged by Wise and Edmund Gosse while Wise was issuing his "private" selection of Swinburne's correspondence, and corrected galley proofs of several of these pamphlets.

The Rossettis are represented by 41 pieces, including 20 letters by D. G. Rossetti. There are five letters by Christina Rossetti, and the complete manuscript of A Pageant and Other Poems, consisting of 56 short poems, c. 1890. William Rossetti, the faithful chronicler, is represented by 15 letters to Wise and others, mostly dealing with his brother's and sister's work.

In addition to the items listed above, the Library also has manuscripts of these writers, cut up and dispersed by Wise in accordance with his unfortunate custom in order to "authenticate" his fabrications and appeal to his transatlantic customers. Some of these fragments have genuine textual and critical value; but they present a difficult problem to scholars, who are tempted to regard this aspect of Wise's marketing technique as ultimately more objectionable than his forgeries.
In the New Yorker a couple of months ago, Dwight Macdonald began a joint review of the Hansons' book on "Chinese" Gordon and Philip Henderson's on Samuel Butler by remarking, "Whatever one thinks of the age of Victoria—and only lately have we emerged from the exaggerated scorn that often follows a period of excessive respect—it produced an extraordinary number of Personalities."

Whether he realized it or not, Mr. Macdonald was here merely paraphrasing Esme Wingfield-Stratford's remark, made twenty years ago, that "With all its faults, and they were many, the Victorian age was one conspicuously rich in character—and characters." Nobody, probably, will take issue with the idea. But what interests us in Mr. Macdonald's sentence is the clause between the dashes, which strikes us, in 1954, as a resounding cliche. The standard attitude toward the Victorian period, down to the time when the wave of post-Stracheyism had spent itself, was (despite the considerable weight of evidence to the contrary in Strachey's own books) that it was an age of intolerable, indeed pitiful decorum, stuffiness, conformity, prudery, hypocrisy—et cetera, et cetera. Nowadays the favorite cliche on the subject is an outright denial of the older one: the decorum, stuffiness, conformity...formerly attributed to the Victorians have been grossly exaggerated. The Victorians were, as a matter of fact, so individualistic, so fixed in their determination to follow their own intellectual, social, or moral whims, that they were a race of Characters.

Like most cliches, both the older and the current ones have plenty of truth in them; it is simply a matter of emphasis. But the significant thing is that lately authors and publishers alike have discovered the lucrativeness of producing books about off-beat Victorians. It would be easy, no doubt, to find in the popular demand for such books evidence of our own chafing under the yoke of what is so widely proclaimed as the Necessity for Conformity. It could be argued that in reading about the unfettered lives of certain selected Victorians, about their blithe unconcern at their own multifarious peculiarities, we find a vicarious outlet for our own frustrations in an age of mass-produced personalities. Whether or not this is the explanation, it is plain that recent publishing seasons have given us a rich harvest of Personalities from the Victorian age: Lady Burton...Lord Melbourne...Whitwell Elwin (The "Rev" of Lady Emily Lutgens' much-praised A Blessed Girl)..."Chinese" Gordon...Lord Cardigan...Isambard Kingdom Brunel...the list could be extended indefinitely. In 1954 the reader of current books, far from rejecting a newly published biography of a Victorian figure as a guarantee of dullness, welcomes it as a promise of escape into an age of colorful, charmingly eccentric men and women who seemingly were free to do pretty much as they wanted.

So far as public relations are concerned, we teachers of Victorian literature probably should welcome this trend. Thanks to it (among other factors), year by year the stigma that used to be attached to the Victorian period in the popular mind becomes less apparent. Year by year, too, we accumulate a larger store of anecdotes to add spice to our lectures. (And probably each of us maintains his own private file of more or less forgotten Victorian characters on whom a lively book, or at least a magazine-length sketch, could be written.) There is no longer an excuse for anyone to think of the Victorian age in terms of the images in which Virginia Woolf presented it in Orlando.

Yet there is some danger that concentrating the spotlight on the vivid personalities whom the Victorian era produced will obscure the fact that the same age—and often the same people—produced a literature whose vitality, breadth, wealth of ponderable ideas, and sheer worth as art are still largely unrealized by the literate public. The recent revival of interest in Ruskin is a case in point.
Every lay reader of the book reviews, if not of the books themselves, is au courant with the latest revealed secrets of the Ruskin nuptial chamber and of Ruskin's tragic psychosexual constitution generally. But how many readers know, or have been persuaded to care, about what in the long run is infinitely more important—the man's literary art, and his ideas, and their influence on both contemporary and later art criticism and programs for the betterment of society?

That is where we, as teachers and writers, come in. The present bullish market in Victoriana gives us our opportunity, if only we can find ways to take advantage of it. Who but we are equipped to redress the balance—to lead a new revival, this time of interest in the literature of the Victorians? And how can we do it? Well, for one thing, by teaching our courses to the hilt; by enabling our students, undergraduate and graduate alike, to understand that Victorian literature is as meaningful to us in the present day as that of any past age, and more so than that of most; by revealing to them the various ways by which an exploration of a Tennyson poem, a Dickens novel, a Carlyle essay, can be as rich an experience in reading and responding as they will ever have. And for another thing, by reaching for a wider public in our writing. This, to be sure, is far more easily said than done. The same publishers who issue colorful books about Victorian men and women turn down books about Victorian literature with almost indecent alacrity. But surely that is as much the fault of the writer as it is of the subject. If books on Victorian fiction and poetry are nowadays regarded in commercial circles as fit only for university presses, neither the public nor the publisher is wholly to blame. The answer may well be that in general we have failed to write as well as we should, failed to present our material in that rare but not impossible manner which lies between the "popular" and the stolidly academic.

These, then, are prosperous times for things Victorian. The public's long-standing adverse reaction at the very mention of the word "Victorian" has worn off; the climate of opinion at long last is favorable to our mission. Specialists in Victorian literature have never been more numerous or more productive, and never have they worked to better purpose than in the last few years. The bibliography in each issue of this news letter has listed scores of items which have substantially expanded our understanding of Victorian ideas and Victorian literary art. But we shall have much to answer for if, while the boom lasts, we are remiss in our primary duty, which is not to preach to the already converted, in the small confines of the scholarly journals, but to spread an intelligent and sympathetic knowledge of Victorian literature to as many readers as we can possibly reach—by whatever means lie at our disposal.

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How many more volumes on Victorian subjects, written by American scholars, are now in Ceylon than were there a year ago? The question sounds like a riddle, but nobody has won fabulous riches on a TV program for giving the correct answer. The correct answer, as a matter of fact, is, and doubtless will remain, uncertain; but if it could be learned, it would provide an index of our generosity and/or gullibility as compared with that of our colleagues in other areas of literary scholarship.

During the past year, an indeterminate number of scholars have received courteous, hand-written air letters from a gentleman in a town in Ceylon, explaining that he has been wanting for some time to read one's book on this or that, but it is not available in that far-off corner of the world, nor do the English booksellers seem able to supply it. Might one have a relative or friend who no longer needs his copy, or could one obtain for him a good working copy for a dollar or so in some second-hand bookstore?
The average writer of scholarly books is not so overwhelmed by fan mail that his day is not made a little brighter by a bit of evidence that his reputation exceeds the narrowly parochial. The usual recipient of such a letter, not wishing to embarrass friends whose fame supposedly has not reached halfway around the world, refrains from trumpeting the news. Refrains, that is, until some accident of conversation reveals that his has not been a singular honor; and, with cherished illusions falling into shreds around him, "trumpet" would not be quite the word to describe his admission that at least he has not been overlooked. For it turns out, usually, that nearly everybody in one's department who has published a book on a literary subject in the last twenty or thirty years has had a similar letter. And further investigation reveals that the Ceylonese gentleman's letters have winged to numerous other universities as well.

This much, at least, may fairly be deduced: (1) The man is not only industrious but immune to writer's cramp; (2) he plays no favorites, since his requests for "working copies" run the whole gamut of studies in linguistics and literature; (3) he is an assiduous reader of the Directory of American Scholars; (4) he is persistent (one man we know, who tossed the first letter in the wastebasket, has just received a second, beginning, in effect, "Since evidently my earlier letter did not reach you..."); and (5) judging from the number of air-letter sheets expended, the campaign must pay off.

But, as some character is bound to exclaim fairly early in every detective story, What about the motive? Three theories have been advanced, ranging from the charitable to the cynical; (1) The writer is genuinely eager to build up a substantial--indeed comprehensive--library of scholarly works for his own personal use; (2) he is trans-shipping the books he receives to a second-hand dealer in England; (3) he is operating, or planning to operate, a bookshop in Ceylon. A serious objection to this last theory, however, is that acting as a large-scale purveyor of the fruits of American academic scholarship to the inhabitants of a Ceylonese town would seem to be scarcely more promising a venture than peddling air-conditioning units to Eskimos. But maybe scholarly books are more marketable in Ceylon (population: 6 million) than in the United States (population: 160 million).

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This is the last issue of the Victorian News Letter to be put together by the present editor, who has held his post for three years. To his successor, as yet unnamed, he extends his best wishes for a prosperous tenure; to his readers, his thanks for their messages of encouragement; and to his contributors, who have been principally responsible for whatever value the VNL has possessed during its career to date, his sincere gratitude for making the sheet worth putting in the mails.
A PROJECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NINETEENTH CENTURY FICTION

Robert A. Colby (Queens College) writes:

At the conference on Minor Victorian Fiction held at the MLA meeting last December, it was pointed out that there is still no single, comprehensive listing of the considerable number of novels that were published in England during the nineteenth century. Such a compilation certainly seems basic to any thorough study of this literature. A full bibliography should aid us to get a configuration of the fiction of the nineteenth century, to set the major novelists in relationship to their lesser contemporaries, to determine who were the most popular writers, to chart literary vogues and to document publishing history.

With these interests in mind, I have set out to compile as complete a bibliography of nineteenth-century fiction as possible. I am now working from the English Catalogue, Lowndes, Allibone and the British Museum Catalogue. Later I expect to consult other sources, such as Mudie's Catalogues, the reviews and advertisements of contemporary periodicals, and the catalogues of the Parrish and Sadleir collections for additional bibliographical data. At least two kinds of lists seem to be called for: one chronological, one alphabetical by author. When a sufficiently large list is ready, I hope to circulate it among interested scholars who are near major libraries, for checking, so that we eventually have not merely an enumerative bibliography, but a union locating list for American libraries as well. Possibly it may also be decided to include other pertinent data, such as plot summaries (particularly for scarce items) and publishing history. This promises to be a long-term undertaking, so that it is certainly impossible to name any "target" date now.

I should be very much interested in hearing from anyone who has suggestions for bibliographical sources to consult or, particularly, who knows of special collections that have been catalogued. Suggestions as to procedure and organization of material are also welcome.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS: A SELECTED LIST

(Compiled by Francis G. Townsend (Ohio State))

GENERAL

Art


Bibliography

W. G. Briggs, "The Early Editions of Mangnall's Questions," The Library (March) pp. 53-55. Longmans' records show that editions of this famous schoolbook grew steadily in size until in the middle of the century one edition ran to 10,000 copies.


Criticism


Keith Rinehart, "The Victorian Approach to Autobiography." MP (February), pp. 177-186. In 1805 John Foster contended that a man's memoirs should stress his moral development. Carlyle's "Biography" contended that the combination of moral and esthetic values with fact made autobiography more interesting than fiction. Newman showed the artistic possibilities of the form. With Leslie Stephen's essay "Autobiography" the emphasis is at last on esthetic value.

Kathleen Tillotson, Novels of the Eighteen-Forties. Cumberlege. Rev TLS (July 23), p. 472. Part I provides a stimulating survey of English taste and conventions in fiction during the 1840's; Part II examines in detail four novels of the period: Dombey and Son, Mary Barton, Vanity Fair, and Jane Eyre.


History

Asa Briggs, "Crimean Centenary." VQR (Autumn), pp. 542-555. Brilliantly portrays Matthew Arnold's old friend Roebuck, who pressed for a committee to investigate British failures. When the report came in, "Roebuck complained that there was so much corruption behind the scenes that it was impossible to put his finger on it:..." But the members of Parliament eventually turned on him. "Evidently delights in casting charges upon everybody," said one, 'and indulging that abundant vituperation which is evident in his nature.' 'Is it prudent,' he went on to ask, 'to exaggerate the difficulties of constitutional government by severity of scrutiny and too great animadversion on failures?'


**Philosophy and Theology**


Oscar J. Fehes, "European Progress and the 'Superior' Races: As Viewed by a fin-de-siecle Liberal, Charles H. Pearson." JMH (April), pp. 312-321. In his *National Life and Character* (London, 1893), Pearson angered but fascinated his contemporaries by forecasting the twentieth century rise to power of the Asiatic and African races, and the settling down of the white races to a comfortable but static existence under State Socialism.

T. H. Goudge, "Some Philosophical Aspects of the Theory of Evolution." TQ (July), pp. 386-401. The Darwinians' unfortunate use of such loaded words as "struggle" and "competition" led to philosophical errors now apparent. The modern evolutionist does not envision nature as "red in tooth and claw."


**Politics and Economics**


Robert Miliband, "The Politics of Robert Owen." JIII (April), pp. 233-245. Owen well understood the social and economic problems created by the Industrial Revolution, but politically he was still a man of the Enlightenment, sure that by pure reason he could bring the governments of Europe to adopt reform, and the privileged classes to abandon the baubles of wealth in return for nobler things.


**Social**

Leslie Elton, *The Elder Statesmen of India*. Allen & Unwin. Studies of four 19th-century elected who rejected conformity and headed for the desert. Four Victorians are included: Isabel Arundel (Lady Burton) and the Honorable Jane Digby.


**Authors**

Aroni


Walter E. Bowerman, "Melville's Reading of Aronci's Poetry." TLS (June), pp. 35-38. When Melville moved to poetry, he made a careful study of Matthew Aronci. The marked difference of Aronci's poetry show that he was most closely engaged by "Esopoche". These poems which attracted Melville most were those which portrayed the spiritual climate of the sixteenth century.


**Brodsky**


Brownings


Butler

Philip Henderson, Samuel Butler: The Incarnate Bachelor. Indiana University Press.

Carlyle


Marjorie P. King, "'Illudo Chartis': An Initial Study in Carlyle's Mode of Composition." MHR (April), pp. 164-175. Publishes for the first time "Illudo Chartis," the first chapter and part of a second of a fictional autobiography. This is obviously the first version of Sartor Resartus, with a Scottish instead of a German setting.

Alan Lang Strout, Writers on German Literature in Blackwood's Magazine: With a Footnote on Thomas Carlyle." The Library (March), pp. 35-45. Points out that Lockhart's satirical thrusts against things English disguised as things German may have inspired another Scotsman.

Clough


Collins

Robert P. Ashley, "Wilkie Collins and the American Theater." NCF (March), pp. 241-255. Wilkie Collins was a clever adapter of his own novels, but no amount of skill can turn such complicated novels into entirely satisfactory plays. Only one, The New Magdalen, enjoyed great popularity in the United States.


"The Manuscript of Wilkie Collins' Poor Miss Finch." PLC (Spring), pp. 164-165. This manuscript has just been added to the Parrish Collection.
John Davidson


Dickens

K. J. Fielding, "Miss Burdett-Coutts: Some Misconceptions." NCF (March), pp. 314-318. Miss Burdett-Coutts contributed heavily to religious and charitable causes, but not to some listed by biographers. Furthermore her unhappy marriage definitely curtailed her benefactions.


John H. Hagen, Jr. "Structural Patterns in Dickens's Great Expectations." ELH (March), pp. 54-66. The novel is divided into three stages, Chapters 1-19, 20-39, 40-59, corresponding to Boyhood (Innocence), Youth (Illusion), Maturity (Wisdom). The four subdivisions of the first stage provide problems which are answered in order by the four subdivisions of the third stage. Within these subdivisions Dickens gains his most powerful effects by subtle repetition. Pip, at different stages of his development, is thrust into the same locales. The constancy of the scene stresses the variability of the character. (Compare Stange, below.)

Gwendolyn B. Needham, "The Undisciplined Heart of David Copperfield." NCF (September), pp. 81-107. The theme of the novel is the disciplining of David's heart. The Strong episode, Chapters 16, 19, 36, 42, and 45, is carefully timed to display David's own deepening understanding of life.

G. Robert Stange, "Expectations Well Lost: Dickens' Fable for His Time." CE (October), pp. 9-17. Great Expectations has three phases, a dialectic progression. In the first Pip is innocent, and acts instinctively. In the second phase of his expectations, he becomes knowing, and acts "rationally." After his symbolic death, he rises to a synthesis of innocence and knowledge. Some of Stange's comments en passant provide excellent material for classroom use.

Disraeli


Eliot

Albert J. Fyfe, "The Interpretation of 'Adam Bede'." NCF (September), pp.134-139. The difficulty of teaching Adam Bede to modern college students lies in their belief that it is a sentimental Victorian sermon, warning young women about the wages of sin. An understanding of the stern philosophy behind the novel forestalls such a misinterpretation.


Barbara Hardy, "The Moment of Disenchantment in George Eliot's Novels." RES (July), pp. 256-264. When an Eliot heroine or hero awakes to the drabness of real life, the accompanying image is usually a room bathed in merciless light, a feminine image of the fiercely limited quality of a woman's (or man's) life.
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This image is autobiographical, occurring first in the letter of 4 June 1848, to Sara Hennell.


Martin J. Svaqic, "Religion in the Novels of George Eliot." JEGP (April), pp. 145-159. Eliot emphasized doing, and felt that right action is a product of feeling. She regarded doctrinal thought as futile. Hence a paradox--Eliot's characters rely on feeling, but their creator is completely blind to all forms of feeling which depend on doctrine, from simple prayer to the mysticism of St. Theresa of Avila.

Jerome Thale, "River Imagery in 'Daniel Deronda'." NCF (March), pp. 300-306. Follows the metaphor of life as a river through the novel.

Mrs. Gaskell

Annette B. Hopkins, "A Letter of Advice from the Author of Cranford to an Aspiring Novelist." PLB (Spring), pp. 142-150. The text of a hitherto unpublished letter, dated Sept. 25, 1862, in which Mrs. Gaskell advises an unknown correspondent on how to run a home and still find time to write.

Gissing


Hardy

Ernest F. Amy, "Laying a Ghost: A Note on Hardy's Plagiarism." NCF (September), pp. 150-153. Offers a simple explanation of Hardy's "plagiarism" of a passage in The Trumpet Major from Gifford, and of a passage in The Return of the Native from Desperate Remedies. Mrs. Hardy told Amy that these passages were copied from a notebook and not cancelled when first used. She added that she had destroyed the notebooks.


Hopkins


Lockhart


Mahony

Mill


Moore


Morris

Curtis Dahl, "Morris's 'The Chapel in Lyoness': An Interpretation." SP (July), pp. 482-491. Finds a coherent, significant symbolism in the poem, which is a drama of salvation by grace. One more illustration of the fact that close study of textual history is as rewarding in Victorian literature as in that of earlier eras.

Newman

Newman's Doctrine of University Education. University College, Dublin. Five lectures delivered at the centenary of the College's opening.

Rossetti


Ruskin

Joan Evans, John Ruskin. Oxford University Press.

Stevenson


Tennyson

Herbert Bergman, "Whitman and Tennyson." SP (July), pp. 492-504. Although Whitman noted the aristocratic ideals and conservative technique of Tennyson, he felt that the poet laureate's idealism and his strictures on democracy were valuable for Americans.

William E. Buckler, "Tennyson's Lucretius Bowdlerized?" RES (July), pp. 269-271. Critics have generally accepted the omission of 11. 186-191 of Lucretius in Macmillan's Magazine as an example of bowdlerism. An unpublished letter from David Masson to Alexander Macmillan, dated March 27, 1868, indicates that the omission was based as much on critical as on moral grounds.
E. J. Chiasson, "Tennyson's 'Ulysses' -- a Re-interpretation." Tq (July), pp. 402-409. Suggests that the poem is not a "glean" poem, but a dramatic portrayal of the kind of character whose views were ruinous to society, in Tennyson's opinion. Ulysses becomes an example of superbia.

G. Robert Stange, "Tennyson's Mythology: A Study of Demeter and Persephone." EIJH (March), pp. 67-80. Tennyson anticipated the reinterpretation of mythology which is characteristic of our time. To this poem he gave a modern (i.e., Victorian) application, as was his custom. Here as elsewhere, the "modern" relevance injected by Tennyson is today the outworn part of the poem.


Thackeray

John A. Lester, Jr., "Thackeray's Narrative Technique." PMLA (June), pp. 392-409. Carlyle remarked that narrative is linear; action is solid. Thackeray evolved a method of handling chronology that enabled him to recreate in fiction the solidity of action.

Gordon N. Ray, "Dickens versus Thackeray: The Garrick Club Affair." PMLA (September), pp. 815-832. Attributes the famous feud to the impudence of Yates, to the sensitivity of Thackeray, and, above all, to the fearful compulsion which drove Dickens to protect his own self-respect regardless of the cost to others.

PROJECTS -- REQUESTS FOR AID

Brownings. Gertrude Reese Hudson is editing the correspondence between Browning, Lowell, and Story for the Keats-Shelley Association. TLS (July 23), p. 473.

Court and Society Review. Henry Kuttner (Univ. of Southern California, 3518 University Ave., Los Angeles 7), who is doing research on H. Rider Haggard, would like to locate a file of this periodical, edited in England by Henry Barnett, which contains the issue of March 30, 1887.


Dickens, Charles. Arthur R. Adrian is collecting material for a biography of Georgina Hogarth. TLS (March 12), p. 169.

Elgar, Edward. Percy M. Young is working on a biographical and critical study of Sir Edward Elgar. TLS (July 30), p. 487.

Haggard, H. Rider. Morton N. Cohen (c/o R. N. Swift, 72 Darrow St., Apt. 3-N, New York 14, N.Y.) desires information regarding the whereabouts of Haggard's personal papers or letters, as well as recollections of anyone who knew Haggard personally.

Mill, John Stuart.  John C. Rees wants to know the location of the manuscript of Mill's essay 'On Social Freedom.' TIS (February 26), p. 137.

Morris, William.  A. R. N. Roberts is working on an anniversary volume for the L. C. C. Central School of Arts and Crafts, and is interested in tracing the influence of William Morris upon it. TIS (June 18), p. 393.

O'Connor, Feargus.  Kathleen Scammell is working on a life of Feargus O'Connor, the Chartist leader.


Tremenheere, H. S.  A. Gray-Jones requests information concerning a surviving copy of H. S. Tremenheere's privately printed Memorials of My Life. Apparently the great libraries have no copy of this Victorian autobiography which is mentioned in DNB. TIS (March 26), p. 201.