The Carlyle Collection of Rodger L. Tarr
Armstrong Browning Library,
Baylor University

The following bibliography of items held in the Carlyle Collection of Rodger L. Tarr, recently acquired by the Armstrong Browning Library, Baylor University, does not nor is intended to serve as a definitive container list for the archive. The librarians at the ABL will make the official list of items in the Tarr Collection available to scholars in May 2010. In addition to its service as an introduction to an important new collection, the list provided here as an appendix to Professor Tarr's preface is intended to reflect the results of his life as a collector, a way of life worthy of remembrance in these less than Halcyon days of E-Bay and Google-driven collecting. The editors thank the librarians of the ABL for their kind support of our presentation of this material.


Primary Materials


*Collectanea Thomas Carlyle*. As above, in rarer Binding A.


*Goethe’s Novel*. London: Edward Moxon, 1837. First Edition, unauthorized, one of the rarest Carlyle items. Only two other copies found, both at the Beinecke Library. This is by far the best copy of the three. Tarr A9.1.


Jane Welsh Carlyle: Letters to Her Family, 1839–1863. Ed. Leonard Huxley. London: John Murray, 1924. Tarr G5.1.a. Note: Stunning Presentation and Association Copy. Pasted inside the front cover: “To B. W. Bell / in token of her kind and deep interest in this Book. / from / Mary R. Chrystal / May 10th 1924.” There is an asterisk beside Mary Chrystal’s name and written below it is: Miss Chrystal was the daughter of “Babbie” of the Letters & it was Bell who advised their publication.” Written on the front free end paper: “The Corrections in this book were / sent to me by the late Alex. Carlyle / With whom I became very friendly. / G. W. Bell.” There are numerous corrections throughout the text by Alexander Carlyle, the nephew of Carlyle.


Letters Addressed to Mrs. Basil Montagu and B. W. Proctor by Thomas Carlyle. Privately printed, 1881. 1 of 50 copies in original wrappers, address to Lady Strachie on the back cover with half-penny stamp present.


Letters of Jane Welsh Carlyle to Joseph Neuberg, second copy as above.


Montaigne and Other Essays Chiefly Biographical. Ed. S. R. Crockett. London: James Gowans, 1897. Tarr A53.1.b. Note: Large Paper Copy, 1 of 60 for sale. Very rare. I have seen only two other copies.


Shooting Niagara: And After? London: Printed for Sale by the Carlyle House, 189?.


The Squire Papers [Appendix to Cromwell’s Letters and Speeches]. London: Chapman and Hall, 1849. First Edition. Tarr A19. Note: the Squire Papers are forgeries and resulted in considerable embarrassment to Carlyle. I have seen only one other copy, which was not in this superb condition. One of the rarest Carlyle items.


**Thomas Carlyle Table Talk.** Liverpool: Cope’s Tobacco Plant, 1890. Binding: wrappers. Note: fine copy of Cope’s Smoke Room Booklets, no. 5.


Secondary Materials


Borg, James M. W. *Rare Book Catalogue containing Carlyle material*, 1982. Rare.


*Chronica Jocelini de Brakelonda*. Londini: Sumptibus Societatis Camdenensis, 1840. First Edition. Binding: original cloth. Note: This is one of the rarest Carlyle items. The Corrigendum is present. This very rare chronicle inspired him to write *Past and Present* (1843). I have never seen another copy in such a pristine binding.


Clare, Maurice. *A Day With Thomas Carlyle*. 2nd copy, as above.


Duval, Kulgin D. *Scott and His Scotland: A Catalogue to Mark the Bicentenary of the Birth of Sir Walter Scott*. Pitlochry, Scot.: n.p., 1971. Binding: large paper. Note: This catalogue transformed pricing for rare books, raising prices considerably from what books previously had been fetching. Prices for Carlyle material, for example, more than doubled. Rare.


Richardson, W. L. *A Visit to Carlyle’s Annandale*. Chicago, IL: Privately Printed, 1913. Note: A fine copy marred only by the previous owner’s signature.


The Armstrong Browning Library's Victorian Collection is now available online. Check out some of the letters and manuscripts relating to theater, art, and music in this blog post by Melinda Creech. Feb. On October 4-5, 2018, the Armstrong Browning Library at Baylor University jointly hosted “Rhyme and Reform” with the University of Strathclyde and the University of Manchester. Oct. 25.