

THE PORTAL

News from the Armstrong Browning Library

*"A wondrous
portal opened
wide..."*

Number 57 • Fall 2010

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*This man decided not
to Live but Know—*

*Bury this man there?
Here—here's his place,
where meteors shoot,
clouds form,*

*Lightnings are loosened,
Stars come and go!
Let joy break with the
storm....*

"A Grammarian's Funeral"
—RB

Benefactors Day Celebrates ABL Supporters

Benefactors Day, a tradition that began in 1999 under the directorship of Dr. Mairi Rennie, marks the anniversary of the Brownings' wedding month and provides a venue for the Library to thank its gracious donors. Exhibit cases proudly show off the acquisitions that their generous gifts over the past year have made possible, and donors and supporters of the ABL are honored with a special program featuring a guest lecturer. This year's Benefactors Day is set for 3:30 p.m., September 30.

Guest lecturer, Dr. David R. Sorensen, professor of English at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, is a senior editor of the Duke-Edinburgh edition of *The Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle* and co-editor of *Carlyle Studies Annual*. He will speak about the two most famous Victorian marriages, between Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle, and Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. His theme, "Selective Affinities: The Browning and Carlyle Marriages," will explore the ways in which these two couples mirrored and shaped Victorian notions of marriages and how they were interpreted in the 20th century.

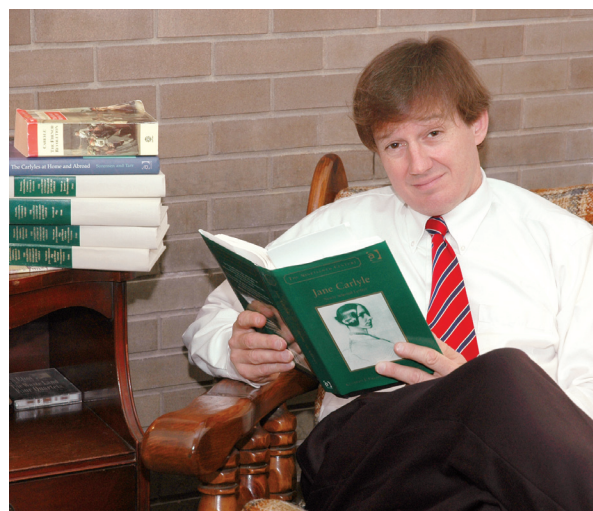
"The Carlyles and Brownings came to embody the worst and best features of Victorian marriage," says Sorensen, "and to a startling degree, they continue to influence modern notions of what marriage should and should not be."

Sorensen, a guest speaker at the ABL last November, spoke on the influence of Carlyle's work on English poetry and, particularly, on Robert Browning's dramatic monologues. He has previously edited (with K.J. Fielding) a selection of Jane Welsh Carlyle's letters (2004) and a collection of essays entitled *The Carlyles at Home and Abroad* (2004). He is co-editor of the forthcoming Strouse variorum edition of Carlyle's *The French Revolution*. In 2009, he received the Tengelmann Award for Distinguished Teaching and Research from Saint Joseph's University. He also received four grants totaling \$670,000 from

the National Endowment for the Humanities (1999-2012) for the Carlyle Letters Project, which includes the creation and maintenance of *Carlyle Letters Online*, an open-access Web site that houses the first thirty-five volumes of the collected letters.

Preceding the lecture, KT Sullivan, a New York cabaret and Broadway headliner, will perform Elizabeth Barrett's "Sonnet 21" and Robert Browning's love poem "Now," both set to music by composer and pianist Elizabeth Sullivan, her mother. KT Sullivan has received the Mabel Mercer Award for Lifetime Achievement and the Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs Outstanding Female Vocalist Award. Named by *Irish America* magazine as one of the top 100 Irish-Americans, she is married to fellow Irish-American Steve Downey, who also happens to be the president of the New York Browning Society. Sullivan's latest recording, *Timeless Tunes*, with Jon Weber is available through CDBaby.com.

A reception will follow the program. This event is free and open to the public.



Dr. David Sorensen, professor of English and Associate Director of the Honors Program at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, will speak at the 2010 Benefactors Day.

Different and Better



One of the bonuses of being associated with the Armstrong Browning Library for all these years is the chance to visit with the wonderful people who come into the building—some for the first time, some for old time's sake. Just last month one of our former student workers came in to show her daughter the place she had considered “home” during the '70s. It was so good to see Bridget Gardner Davis again and to meet her daughter Haley—a freshman at Baylor this fall. I'm pleased that many of our former workers return quite often to show friends and family through the building or keep in touch in a variety of ways.

Sometimes the people coming through are former students of A.J. Armstrong. Being able to visit with John A. Wood and his wife, Pat, and to hear many of their Baylor tales was a real treat. At last, a first-hand account of the 1952 theft of the bronze clasped hands of the Brownings is available in his book, *God's Errand Boy: Fishing on the Other Side* (2009). He presented a copy to the Library, and now we know “the rest of the story.” If anyone has a particular memory to share or has saved some Armstrong memorabilia, please let me know. We are always happy to add these recollections and materials to the Armstrong Archive.

Recently President Ken Starr formed an Institutional Task Force to “assess how we [Baylor] can more effectively tell our story and communicate what's different and better about Baylor to various audiences, whether they are potential students, prospective faculty, friends or donors.” When I saw the phrase “what's different and better about Baylor,” naturally, the first thing I thought of was the Armstrong Browning Library, its wealth of collections, and the magnificent building in which it is housed. With the help of our friends and colleagues, old and new, we can easily promote the Armstrong Browning Library as one of Baylor's existing strengths.

Rita S. Patteson
Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An Opportunity

Quoting from a letter written by Dr. A. J. Armstrong in July, 1952: “Now our problem is that after dedicating the Library in a blaze of glory we came to the chagrined realization that having expended \$2,000,000 on it we had practically not a penny left for landscaping the block on which this magnificent building stands. ... [A]n outstandingly lovely portion planned for the grounds [is] to be known as the Garden of Contentment. We have in mind to include beautifully designed benches where people can sit and meditate and absorb the beauty of the garden much as in the Marrs McLean Foyer of Meditation in the building. ... It will be a place of loveliness that will give inspiration to many thousands throughout generations to come....”

Look forward to seeing more information about how you can help make this dream a reality!

Clearing the Air

Phase One of the HVAC project began in July. The work is part of a comprehensive plan to protect the archives and cultural artifacts in the Armstrong Browning Library and entails updating the air handlers and controls, creating more access points to the ducts on the third floor, cleaning coils, and installing a desiccate storage system for humidity control. Soon the 7th Street exit door will be sealed, making the book stack area even safer. In the next phase, some major movement of storage areas and collection materials will take place. In the end, the environment will be more evenly controlled throughout the entire building.

Visiting Scholars for 2010-2011

During the 2010-2011 academic year, fellowships have been awarded to the following five people: Dr. Scott Lewis, Wedgestone Press, London, England, researching the life of A. J. Armstrong; Dr. Pamela Corpron Parker, Whitworth University, Spokane, Washington, focusing on completing her book *A Woman's Place: Literary Tourism and the British Woman of Letters*, which contains a chapter about Elizabeth Barrett Browning; Dr. Marjorie Stone, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, looking into the Joseph Milsand Archive and into the development of a scholarly digital archive on the works, contexts, and reception history of EBB; Dr. Fabienne Moine, University of Paris X, Nanterre, France, returning to further her research on women poets of the 19th century; and Dr. Herbert Tucker, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, as he presents the May Browning Day lecture.

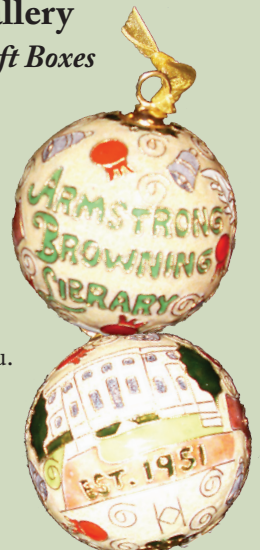
Armstrong Browning Library Gift Gallery ABL Commemorative Holiday Ornaments & Gift Boxes



Cost:
Ornaments-\$25.00 each
Gift Boxes-\$27.00 each
Plus Shipping & Handling
(Texas residents add 8.25% tax)

To order, please call
Kathryn Brogdon at (254) 710-4960
or email Kathryn_Brogdon@baylor.edu.

Visit the ABL Gift Gallery
Weekdays, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



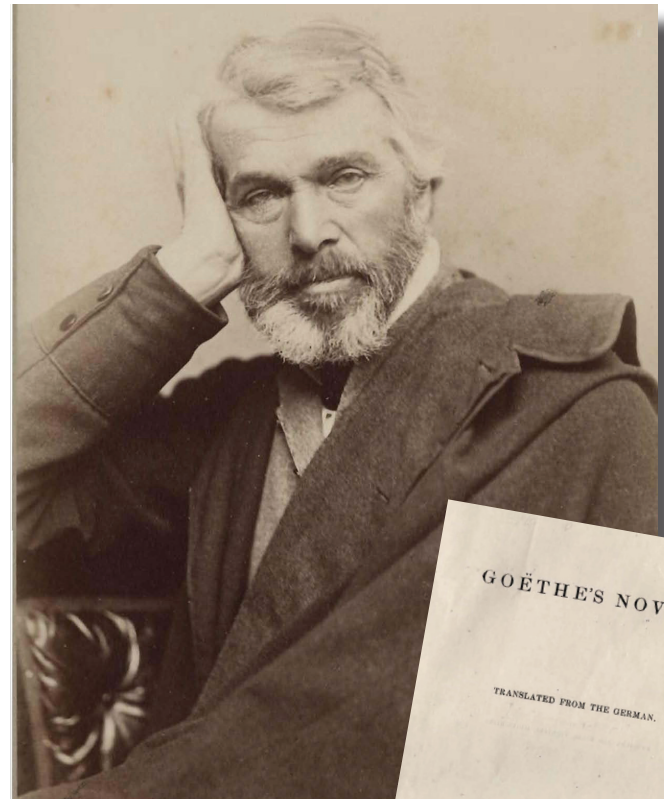
ACQUISITIONS SPOTLIGHT

In November 2009 the Armstrong Browning Library purchased a collection of nearly 400 volumes by and about the 19th-century Scottish-born social critic, historian, and essayist Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881). The collection comes from the personal library of Professor Rodger L. Tarr, an eminent Carlyle scholar who is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Illinois State University. In addition to editing a number of books on Carlyle and others, Professor Tarr is the author of the definitive *Thomas Carlyle, A Descriptive Bibliography* (1989).

Carlyle published widely on topics as varied as mathematics, German literature, politics, biography, theology, literary criticism, and history. He became a major influence on the intellectual life of his time, both in Britain and in the United States. Among his most important works are *Sartor Resartus* (1836), on social philosophy; *The French Revolution* (3 volumes, 1837); and *History of Frederick the Great* (6 volumes, 1858-65). He became a good friend of Robert Browning and, afterwards, with Elizabeth Barrett Browning, an early admirer of his work. Carlyle was also a close friend of American poet and essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882). After meeting in the 1830s, the two began a correspondence that lasted a lifetime.

The newly acquired Rodger Tarr Carlyle Collection includes several important rarities, distinctive autograph and association material, and a long run of editions of *Sartor Resartus*. A particular high-point in the collection is a small unauthorized edition of Carlyle's translation of a story by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. This rare item, titled *Goethe's Novel: Translated from the German*, was published in London by Edward Moxon in 1837. A search of the OCLC WorldCat database reveals that this title is held by only four other libraries.

Paired with ABL's existing Carlyle holdings of approximately 140 titles, the acquisition of the Rodger Tarr Carlyle Collection builds another real strength for the ABL, similar to its collections of Arnold, Milsand, Ruskin, Dickens, and Emerson. Because of the interactions between the various writers, these collections are



Thomas Carlyle's translation of *Goethe's Novel* (1837) is just one of the almost 400 volumes in the newly acquired Rodger Tarr Carlyle Collection.

not only important in their own right but, in combination, offer additional research depth for the students and scholars who study 19th-century literature and culture at the Armstrong Browning Library.

Save the Dates

September 30: Benefactors Day, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Dr. David R. Sorensen, Professor of English and editor of *Carlyle Studies Annual* (St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia), will discuss the Browning and Carlyle marriages; and KT Sullivan will perform a setting of Elizabeth Barrett's "Sonnet 21" and Robert Browning's "Now." Reception following. Free and open to the public.

October 11: Baylor Chamber Singers and Chamber Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m. Dr. Alan Raines, Associate Professor of Ensembles – Music will direct Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact the School of Music at (254) 710-6532.

October 23: Baylor Homecoming at the ABL. Open House with refreshments, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

November 18: Baylor Early Music Ensemble Concert, 5:30 p.m. Dr. Jann Cosart will direct students performing music from the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque eras. Free and open to the public.

December 5-7: Baylor Chamber Singers Concerts, 3 p.m. Sunday, and 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. Dr. Alan Raines, Associate Professor of Ensembles – Music will direct. For ticket information, contact the Baylor University School of Music box office at (254) 710-3571.

February 12, 2011: Valentine Celebration, 4-6 p.m. Saturday. *Broadway Love Songs* with Dave Tanner. Our third annual Valentine celebration! Reception following in the Cox Reception Hall. Ticket information to follow.



BAYLOR
UNIVERSITY

ARMSTRONG BROWNING LIBRARY

One Bear Place #97152 Waco, TX 76798-7152

Location: 710 Speight Ave. Waco, TX 76706
Phone: (254) 710-3566 Fax: (254) 710-3552
Web site: www.browninglibrary.org
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Become a Guardian Angel Today

The patron organization for the Armstrong Browning Library is called The Guardian Angels, in reference to Robert Browning's poem, "The Guardian Angel: A Picture at Fano." Browning was inspired to compose the poem after viewing Guercino's painting of the same name that hangs in Fano, Italy. In 1946, Dr. A.J. Armstrong, founder of the Browning Collection at Baylor University, initiated this organization of supporters and friends. The Guardian Angel organization is open to anyone interested in helping to build the Library's collections, which are used by Browning scholars from around the world. Your membership ensures the continued growth of the Armstrong Browning Library and its programs.

Benefits of Guardian Angel Membership:

- receive invitations to all of the Library's events
- be a special guest at Benefactors Day
- receive the Library's bi-annual newsletter
- receive a 10% discount in the ABL Gift Gallery

Cost:

- Annual Membership—\$50.00
- Lifetime Membership in The Guardian Angels—\$1,000.00

To become a member or renew your membership, indicate "Guardian Angel Payment" on the note line of your check made payable to BAYLOR UNIVERSITY and mail to: Christi Klempnauer, Armstrong Browning Library, One Bear Place #97152, Waco, TX 76798-7152



L'Angelo Custode by Guercino
(Giovanni Francesco Barbieri), 1640
Civic Museum, Fano, Italy