



Contents and Abstracts

The Shandean Volume 31 (2020)

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The marbling on the cover of *The Shandean* Volume 31 (2020) is from the 2020 Folio Society Limited Edition of *Tristram Shandy*, with a tipped-in hand-marbled leaf by Jemma Lewis on page 173.

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Articles:

- **Melvyn New, William Blake Gerard 1960-2020**
- **Allan Ingram, Richard Terry 1962-2020**
- **Robert G. Walker, Jonathan Odell and Laurence Sterne: A Transatlantic Connection**
Students of early American literature, especially those who like satire, may be familiar with Jonathan Odell (1737-1818), Anglican priest, physician, and Loyalist poet. Students of Laurence Sterne probably will not be. Yet there are a series of remarkable conjunctions between the two writers, showing Sterne's reach to the colonies, as well as Odell's ability to maintain contact with the London literary world despite living most of his life on another continent. This essay examines the influence Sterne had on Odell, especially on his satiric poetry. There is no claim within that the two men's politics were similar. In fact, that is unlikely. But their taste in literature was indeed coincident - an appreciation of Swift and Pope, for example - and that was reflected in Odell's alluding to various well-known components of Sterne's canon in his poetry, and especially in his repeated selection of Yoric[k] as a pseudonym and persona.
- **Melvyn New, John Baldessari and Laurence Sterne; and a Postscript**
The death of John Baldessari in January 2020, the foremost twentieth-century American artist to illustrate Sterne's writings, prompts a re-examination of his work and that of several other modern visual artists and their encounters with Sterne, notably Martin Rowson and Michael Winterbottom, along with comments on the most recent illustrator, Tom Phillips, for the new Folio Society edition of *Tristram Shandy*.
- **Austin Long, Grubstreet Icarus: Staples Steare, Book-Trade Opportunism, and Sterne**
- **Sentiments on the Death of the Sentimental Yorick. Edited with explanatory notes by Austin Long**
The full text of the second pamphlet response to the death of Laurence Sterne is here introduced, transcribed, and annotated. The introduction features a biography of the obscure but fascinating bookseller behind the pamphlet, Staples Steare, whose career as a publisher of radical Wilkite materials briefly soared in 1768 before ending in disaster. This essay proposes some connections between Steare's provocative political activities and his opportunistic Sterne publication, and opens up critical avenues for reading the text.

- **Paul Goring, The Evolution of ‘A Sentimental Journey, by a Lady’ in *The Lady’s Magazine***

This article reassesses the long serial publication ‘A Sentimental Journey, by a Lady’ (1770-1777) and attempts to liberate it from Robert Mayo’s damning judgment in the early 1960s, which, together with problems of accessibility, has led to the serial being largely unread. The article serves, in part, as an introduction to the little-known work while its main purpose is to chart the relationship between Sterne’s fiction and the narrative produced by the ‘Lady’ as it developed across seven years of monthly publication. It shows how the early embrace of Sterne as an inspiration was largely jettisoned in the later phases of the serial. Without claiming that ‘A Sentimental Journey, by a Lady’ is a great work, the article suggests that it deserves better than condemnation and neglect and that acknowledging it as a popular and enduring part of 1770s literary culture can enrich our understanding of both Sterneana and early magazine fiction.

- **Will Ramsay, Sexual Ethics and Stoic First Movements in *A Sentimental Journey***

This essay argues that Laurence Sterne uses the Stoic theory of first movements to defend sexual feeling in *A Sentimental Journey*. In support of this thesis, the essay provides a short overview of Stoicism in eighteenth-century Britain, expounds the Stoic theory of first movements and its reception in later European thought, shows the presence of the theory in some of Sterne’s favourite writers, and provides a reading of ‘The Conquest’, the key chapter in Sterne’s defence of sexual desire.

- **Ildiko Csengei, Writing War in the Age of Sterne: The Seven Years’ War and *A Sentimental Journey***

This essay proposes to read *A Sentimental Journey* as a piece of war-writing, in the context of first-hand accounts of life during the Seven Years’ War written by soldiers, civilians and travellers. While Sterne’s account focuses on Yorick’s mental and emotional journey, I will read a range of primary sources from the period to uncover what the novel strives to suppress: the immediate experience (physical and emotional) of war on those who participated in it or observed it, as well as the state of Europe (especially England and France) during this time of conflict.

- **Helen Williams, The Good Humour Club or Doctors’ Club and Sterne’s *Political Romance***

This essay argues that Sterne’s satire in *A Political Romance* pokes fun not just at the disagreement between lawyer Francis Topham and Dean of York John Fountayne, as is well known by Sterne scholars, but also at the role of a convivial club in that disagreement. Through analysing an early manuscript minute book of an eighteenth-century gentleman’s club previously unknown to scholars, the Good Humour Club of York (c.1724-1800), it will be demonstrated that nine of the club’s ninety-nine identified members were known to Sterne and that four of those were central to the pamphlet wars which climaxed with Sterne’s *Political Romance* in 1759. Sterne’s self-reflexivity in the *Romance*, through which he deconstructs his own satirical project and creates the self-consciousness perceived by scholars as anticipating the humour of *Tristram Shandy*, can be seen as a response to, and a satire of, the Good Humour Club’s involvement in local ecclesiastical affairs.

Sterneana:

This year’s marbling, Maria in Cornwall, Greg Jenner, eBay, Liam Williams, David Damrosch, John Stedman, Elizabeth Wordsworth, Octavia Gregory, a Shandean Rake, Tom Stoppard, Perry Mason, James Joyce, and the *New Lady’s Magazine*.

Notes:

- **Marcus Walsh, The Trade in Knowledge in *Tristram Shandy***

The trend to discussion of literature in the light of historical and material cultures, while enlightening in itself, runs counter to some significant aspects of Sterne's own humanist and literary positions. Sentimental commerce is a central theme of *A Sentimental Journey*, and at some points of *Tristram Shandy*. In the latter, however, Sterne takes a less positive view of material commerce, and is suspicious of the reduction of human experience, learning, and understanding to the quantifiable and fungible objects of trade. Commerce and trade are persistent and developed tropes in Sterne's discussions of the obsessions of Toby and, especially, of Walter Shandy. In this regard, as so often, Yorick is regularly presented as a necessary and humane counterpoise

- **Peter de Voogd, Italian Letters**

The identity of the anonymous first Italian translation of Sterne's *Letters of Yorick to Eliza* has long been a mystery, which is solved in this note.

- **Richard Wallis, Lydia Sterne Meets Marquis de Sade**

Two Sterne letters make one wonder about a meeting about which one would like to know more.

Reviews:

Amelia Dale, *The Printed Reader*, by Melanie Holm

Alex Eric Hernandez, *The Making of British Bourgeois Tragedy*, by Carly Yingst

John Owen Havard, *Disaffected Parties*, by Daniel Reed

Andrew Franta, *Systems Failure*, by Jakub Lipski

Briefly Noted:

Philip Wylie, *Finnley Wren*

Simon Webb, *An Introduction to Tristram Shandy*

2019 Sterne Scholarship:

Bibliography compiled by Brian Norton.