



Jane Porter's later works, 1825–1846

Citation

McLean, Thomas. 2011. Jane Porter's later works, 1825–1846. *Harvard Library Bulletin* 20 (2), Summer 2009: 45-63.

Permanent link

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:42668892>

Terms of Use

This article was downloaded from Harvard University's DASH repository, and is made available under the terms and conditions applicable to Other Posted Material, as set forth at <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:dash.current.terms-of-use#LAA>

Share Your Story

The Harvard community has made this article openly available.
Please share how this access benefits you. [Submit a story](#).

[Accessibility](#)

Jane Porter's Later Works, 1825–1846

Thomas McLean

In recent years, scholars of British Romanticism have rediscovered the life and works of novelist Jane Porter (1775–1850).¹ Porter was born in Durham, spent part of her youth in Edinburgh, and lived most of her adult life in or near London. Her earliest publications included the Gothic novel *The Spirit of the Elbe* (1799) and a didactic work for young people, *The Two Princes of Persia* (1801). Neither was a popular success, and in later years Porter rarely referred to them.² But the three novels that followed made her famous throughout the English-speaking world. *Thaddeus of Warsaw* (1803), *The Scottish Chiefs* (1810), and *The Pastor's Fire-side* (1817) went through numerous editions in Britain and the United States and remained in print for most of the nineteenth century. Porter also produced an edition with commentary of *Aphorisms of Sir Philip Sidney* (1807) and the play “Switzerland,” which was performed once (February 15, 1819) at Drury Lane but never published. But her century-long fame rested on the novels.³ Porter introduced many elements of the historical novel years before Walter Scott published *Waverley* (1814), but recent commentators have also argued that her work offers interesting reinterpretations of eighteenth-century Gothic and sentimental literature.⁴

1 Porter's year of birth is usually given as 1776. Porter was baptized in Durham in January 1776, but in several documents she notes her birthday as December 3, 1775.

2 See Nicholas A. Joukovsky, “Jane Porter's First Novel: The Evidence of an Unpublished Letter,” *Notes and Queries* 235 (March 1990): 15-17.

3 Two works occasionally credited to Porter are not hers: the anonymous *Bannockburn: A Novel*, 3 vols. (Edinburgh: J. Warren, 1821) and the 1822 play “Owen, Prince of Powys,” actually by Samson Penley.

4 There is a growing body of research examining Porter's place in literary history. Recent scholarship includes Devoney Looser, “Another Jane: Jane Porter, Austen's Contemporary,” in *New Windows on a Woman's World: Essays for Jocelyn Harris*, ed. Lisa Marr and Colin Gibson, 2 vols. (Dunedin: University of Otago Department of English, 2005), 2: 235-48; Fiona Price, “Resisting ‘The Spirit of Innovation’: The Other Historical Novel and Jane Porter,” *Modern Language Review* 101 (2006): 638-51; Thomas McLean, “Nobody's Argument: Jane Porter and the Historical Novel,” *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 7, no. 2 (2007): 88-103; and Peta Beasley, “Transporting Genres: Jane Porter Delivers the Historical Novel to the Victorians,” in *Victorian Traffic: Identity, Exchange, Performance*, ed. Sue Thomas (Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008), 213-27.

Thomas McLean 45



Figure 1. Frontispiece. Jane Porter. *The Pastor's Fire-Side: A Biographical Romance*. A new edition, revised. London: George Virtue, 1846. Bequest of Evert Jansen Wendell, 1918. *EC8. P8343.817pc 23 cm.

Porter's quarter-century career as a bestselling novelist ended in 1824 with the publication of *Duke Christian of Luneburg*, which, despite (or perhaps due to) its being written at the request of George IV, did not attain the popularity of its predecessors. She contributed two stories to *Tales Round a Winter Hearth* (1826), a two-volume collaboration with younger sister Anna Maria Porter (1780–1832), and the latter volume in a second sororal collaboration, *Coming Out; and The Field of the Forty Footsteps* (1828). But her literary productivity seems to end there. Fiona Price has provided conclusive epistolary evidence that *Sir Edward Seaward's Narrative*, a best seller of 1831 occasionally attributed to Porter, is in fact the work of her older brother William Ogilvie Porter (1774–1850), a Bristol medical doctor. Porter only edited the manuscript and assisted with its publication.⁵

Porter's unpublished letters, however, offer evidence of a significant and previously undervalued shift in her literary output. After *Duke Christian*, Jane Porter focused her still-considerable energies on shorter works. These included stories for gift books and annuals, essays for military and popular journals, and even political pamphlets. Most were unsigned or signed simply "J. P." or "The Author of Thaddeus of Warsaw." Since no complete Porter bibliography exists, most of these publications are unknown to scholars of the British Romantic era. Taken together, they offer a remarkably rich and varied collection of work in fiction, history, and biography. They also extend Porter's publishing history well into the Victorian era.

To be sure, short stories and articles were always an important part of the Porters' writing. Jane collaborated with Anna Maria and younger brother Robert on a short-lived journal entitled *The Quiz*, which debuted in November 1796 and appeared as a volume in 1797.⁶ The three siblings worked together on a second journal, *The Sentinel*, which lasted only from July until December 1804. In 1811 Porter composed for the *Gentleman's Magazine* a heartfelt obituary on the writer Percival Stockdale, a longtime friend and correspondent for whom Porter served as amanuensis during the composition of his own memoirs.⁷ But Porter's work in shorter prose increased in the mid-1820s, just as her career as a novelist was ending, and she remained quite active as a writer well into the 1840s. Many works appeared in journals edited by friends, among them Thomas Harral, who knew the Porters as early as 1801⁸ and who edited *La Belle Assemblée*, *The Court Journal*, and *The Aldine Magazine*; Samuel Carter Hall, to whose

5 Fiona Price, "Jane Porter and the Authorship of *Sir Edward Seaward's Narrative*: Previously Unpublished Correspondence," *Notes and Queries* 247 (March 2002): 55-57.

6 *The Quiz, A Society of Gentlemen, Vol. 1* (London: J. Parsons and T. Jones, 1797).

7 J. P., "Biographical Account of the late Rev. Percival Stockdale," *Gentleman's Magazine* 81 (October 1811): 384-90.

8 Porter mentions being acquainted with Harral in a diary entry for March 9, 1801. Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D. C., M.b.15.



Figure 2. G. Harlowe. *Anna-Maria Porter . . . Engraved by T. Woolnoth.* London: Fisher, Son, & Co., 1833. Plate size: 23 x 15 cm. Gift of Arthur A. Houghton Jr., 1940. bMS Keats 10 (725).

48 *Jane Porter's Later Works, 1825–1846*

annual *The Amulet* she contributed at least two works; and the military writer Sir John Philippart, who had connections to the *United Service Journal*, where many of Porter's biographical and historical sketches appeared.

An important motivation for Porter's work in the 1820s and 1830s was the career of her peripatetic younger brother. Sir Robert Ker Porter (1778–1842) trained at the Royal Academy under Benjamin West and quickly rose to fame for a series of panoramic paintings produced in London and exhibited in numerous British and American cities. In August 1805, he departed England to paint large-scale works for the Admiralty Hall in St. Petersburg. He described his experiences in *Travelling Sketches in Russia and Sweden* (1809), the first of four works inspired by his travels in Europe and the Middle East. In 1825 he became British Consul for Venezuela, where he worked closely with Simón Bolívar and José Antonio Páez. Though Robert remained in Caracas until early 1841, both he and his sister continually hoped for a promotion or new assignment that would bring him closer to England. Porter used her pen to raise public and government awareness of her brother's achievements. Several of the publications listed below focus on her brother's work in South America, and more no doubt exist, but they are especially difficult to identify since Porter always published such work anonymously. After sending Robert a notice she wrote concerning Páez, she told her brother, "I will never lose an opportunity of setting his character in its fair light; nor a judicious one either, in bringing your name before the Public:—But much caution is necessary for both, for fear of a charge of 'puffing.'"⁹

Jane Porter was quietly active in a number of political and social causes. Due to the sustained popularity of *Thaddeus of Warsaw* (whose hero is a Polish exile in London), Porter was long recognized as a champion of Poland, which had been partitioned off the map in the 1790s by Russia, Prussia, and Austria. Porter avoided publicly commenting on continental affairs, in part because her brother had married a Russian princess and their daughter lived in Russia. Nevertheless, her works helped keep the issue of Polish sovereignty alive in Britain. Porter's friendship with the Throckmorton family of Coughton Court inspired a number of articles addressing the status of Catholics in contemporary Britain. Though a stalwart Protestant, she wrote on behalf of a group of penniless French priests living in London and also described the construction and consecration of a Catholic church in Redditch. Her ideas about the Reform Bill, however, were less expansive, as her conservative 1831 pamphlet *On the Laws and Liberties of Englishmen* makes clear.

Porter also remained active assisting in the publication of others' works. Among her beneficiaries was the anonymous author of the 1834 *Young Hearts: A Novel by A Recluse*. Porter's letters to her brother make clear that the reclusive (and previously

9 Jane Porter to Robert Ker Porter, May 28, 1834. Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas (hereafter cited as Kansas), MS 28 Ph 14666: 6.

unidentified) author was Theodora Peers (1806–1858), the second and youngest daughter of novelist Selina Davenport (1779–1859). The Porters had been close friends of Selina Granville Wheler in the 1790s, though they seem to have parted ways after Selina's disastrous 1800 marriage to the writer Richard Alfred Davenport (1777?–1852). The couple separated around 1810, and Selina supported herself and two daughters through writing, publishing eleven novels between 1813 and 1834. But her financial situation remained strained, and in the 1830s she regularly wrote to Porter requesting monetary assistance. On July 30, 1834, Porter wrote Robert, "I am trying to sell an MSS. novel—(indeed a pretty thing,) for poor Silena:—(It is written by her youngest daughter;) and after a no small hunt, before I could get any publisher even to let it within his doors to read it, I have at last left it with Mess^{rs} Saunders & Otley; who, if they think it, on perusal, at all likely to succeed, seemed inclined to make some proposals about it."¹⁰ Porter composed a 270-word preface and, after the novel's appearance, contacted friends in the publishing world to make sure the work was widely noticed.¹¹

Porter family letters are dispersed among numerous libraries and collections on at least four continents; the research presented here relies mostly on letters at the Huntington Library, the Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, and Houghton Library, Harvard University.¹² As a first step towards a comprehensive Porter bibliography, the following chronological list assembles all of Jane Porter's known writing in the years following *Duke Christian*.¹³ Several of the entries are well known to Porter scholars, but most will be unfamiliar. Twenty of the entries are assigned to

10 Kansas MS 28 Ph 14666: 9.

11 Porter mentions her epistolary effort on behalf of *Young Hearts* in a December 1, 1834, letter to Robert Ker Porter (Kansas MS 28 Ph 14666: 15). A review of *Young Hearts* appears on page 808 of the November 29, 1834, *Court Journal*. For further information on Selina Davenport, see Louise Watkins, "Selina Davenport," *Corinne* 1 (1998). <http://extra.shu.ac.uk/corvey/corinne/Corinne%20authors/1Davenport/index.htm> (accessed July 14, 2010).

12 This article has benefited considerably from the assistance of many librarians and the support of several grants and fellowships, including the 2005–06 Houghton Library Houghton Mifflin Fellowship in Publishing History, the 2005–06 Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library James M. Osborn Fellowship, a 2005 UCLA Thayer Research Fellowship, the 2004 Keats-Shelley Association of America Carl H. Pforzheimer Jr., Research Grant, a 2004 University of Kansas Spencer Research Library research grant, and a 2003 Huntington Library Fletcher Jones Foundation Fellowship.

13 For a very good bibliography of Porter's books, see Caroline Franklin, "Jane Porter," *The Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature*, vol. 4, 3rd ed., ed. Joanne Shattock (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), 986–87. Three of Porter's uncollected stories ("A Scottish Tradition," "Peter the Great and the Shipwreck," and "The South Sea Chief. A Fragment") and all her collected stories are discussed in Linda Mills Woolsey's "Jane and Anna Maria Porter," *Dictionary of Literary Biography, Volume 159: British Short-Fiction Writers, 1800–1880*, ed. John R. Greenfield (Farmington Hills, Mich.: Gale Research, 1996),



Figure 3. *Sir Robert Ker Porter*. Painted by J. Wright. Engrav'd by Freeman. London: Verner, Hood & Sharpe, Poultry, 1809. 84 x 68 mm (oval). Private collection.

Porter for the first time. For most of those works where Porter's name or an identifying epithet (i.e., "The Author of Thaddeus of Warsaw") appear, I make little or no additional commentary. For those works where Porter's name does not appear, I follow the entry with an explanation for the attribution.

Jane Porter's Later Works

1. Jane Porter. "A Tale of Ispahan." In *Friendship's Offering: A Literary Album*, ed. Thomas K. Hervey. London: Lupton Relfe, 1826. Pages 253-78.

Published in November 1825. Porter's tale follows "View of Ispahan," an engraving by Edward Finden after an original sketch by Sir Robert Ker Porter.

2. Jane and Anna Maria Porter. *Tales Round a Winter Hearth*. 2 vols. London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green, 1826.

The preface is dated February 1826. Jane Porter contributed the 27-page sketch which closes the first volume, "My Chamber in the Old House of Huntercombe," and the longer story which takes up all of the second volume, the 458-page "The Pilgrimage of Berenice, A Record of Burnham Abbey."

3. J. P. "A Scottish Tradition: A Leaf from a Winter's Journal in London." In *The Literary Souvenir; or, Cabinet of Poetry and Romance*, ed. Alaric A. Watts. London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green; and John Andrews, 1827. Pages 351-67.

Porter's initials appear at the story's close, along with her place of residence, Esher.¹⁴ The story was reprinted under Porter's name in *The Tale Book: First Series* (Paris: Baudry's European Library, 1834), 336-48.

4. Jane Porter. "Some Particulars Respecting the Life and Character of the Late Miss Bengier." *The Literary Magnet* (July 1827): 41-44.

The poet, historian and novelist Elizabeth Ogilvy Bengier was a longtime friend of Porter.

5. J. P. "Nobody's Address." *Ladies' Monthly Museum* (June 1827): 332-36; (July 1827): 22-28; (September 1827): 145-52; (October 1827): 189-93.

A manuscript copy in Porter's hand of the story's first installment survives at the Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas.¹⁵

265-74. For an excellent consideration of Porter's later years, see Devoney Looser, *Women Writers and Old Age in Great Britain, 1750-1850* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008), 141-67.

¹⁴ The table of contents does, however, list the author as "Miss Jane Porter." This was done at Porter's request: see Jane Porter to Alaric Alexander Watts, August 12, 1826, Houghton Library, Harvard University, Autograph File (*42M-74).

¹⁵ Kansas MS 28 Ph 17521: 11. For a discussion of this story and "A Scottish Tradition," see Thomas McLean, "Nobody's Argument: Jane Porter and the Historical Novel," *Journal of Early Modern Cultural*

6. Jane and Anna Maria Porter. *Coming Out, and The Field of the Forty Footsteps*. 3 vols. London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green, 1828.

Published in late January 1828. Anna Maria's "Coming Out" appears in the first two volumes; Porter's 680-page "Field" appears in the third.

7. H. "Sketch of the Recent Field of War between the Russians and Persians." *Naval & Military Magazine* (March 1828): 233-40.

On January 16, 1828, Porter wrote Sir John Philippart, "I should have time to compose a little account of the present field of warfare, or its local situation &c. between the Russians and the Prince of Persia, if you would consider it in the light of an interesting little tribute to your next Number of your Quarterly."¹⁶ The article (dated "January, 1828") quotes extensively from Robert Ker Porter's 1821 *Travels in Georgia, Persia, Armenia, Ancient Babylonia*.

8. Jane Porter. "A Visit to Captain Franklyn, R. N." *Naval & Military Magazine* (July 1828): 362-64.
9. True Briton. "General Bolivar, Liberator of the South American Independent States." *Naval & Military Magazine* (September 1828): 71-79; (December 1828): 475-81.

In a September 29, 1828, letter to Robert, Porter takes credit for

a little memoirs of the Hero-Liberator, which I threw together, (to give him a lift up, with the folk here, when faction had a little tarnished his name,) and, on Sir J. Philippart's confidential application for such a thing if possible, I gave it to him.—The first part, was published in the last published Number of his work; and the concluding, will be given in the next.—Of course the writer of the memoirs, is anonymous.—I really gave my time, to do that, from a principle of honest speaking, for that great, & then slandered man.¹⁷

10. J. P. "Rambles Round Tunbridge Wells." *The Ladies' Monthly Museum* (October 1828): 211-16; (December 1828): 305-10; *The Ladies' Museum* (April 1829): 187-92; (June 1829): 306-12.

Porter does not mention this work in her diaries or known letters, but the subject, style, and initials are all persuasive of her authorship. Porter stayed in Tunbridge Wells for several weeks in April 1824, and the essay describes a (rather morose) young gentleman's visit to the homes of two of her favorite authors, Edmund Waller and Sir Philip Sidney (see also entry 20 below). A "Biographical Memoir of Miss Anna Maria Porter," which immediately precedes the December 1828 installment of "Rambles," closes by praising her sister, "Miss Jane Porter, whose invaluable contributions have so constantly enriched the pages of the Ladies' Museum" (304).

Studies 7, no. 2 (2007): 88-103.

16 Rare Books Division, McGill University, MS 208.

17 Huntington Library, San Marino, California, Papers of Jane Porter (hereafter cited as Huntington), POR 2086.

11. "Belzoni the Traveller" and "General Bolivar." *Naval and Military Magazine* (December 1828): cxi-cxli.

The Porters' acquaintance with circus-strongman-turned-Egyptian-explorer Giovanni Belzoni dates from at least 1822, when Belzoni traveled to Russia and met Robert Ker Porter.¹⁸ Jane Porter remained in touch with Sarah Belzoni long after her husband's death in December 1823, and here she uses her literary influence to promulgate the widow's attempts to profitably publish a collection of lithographs recording "the great tomb in the royal cemeteries at Thebes." The second notice announces that a "fine full-length portrait of the Liberator, engraved by Reynolds, from an original drawing, sent to this country from South America, by Sir Robert Ker Porter, is about to be published." Porter asked Sir John Philippart "to have it follow (in the same Number) Mrs. Belzoni's Notice, which I sent to you the other day."¹⁹ Both announcements appear in the "Literary Notices" section of the journal; hence the roman pagination.

12. Jane Porter. "Peter the Great and the Shipwreck." In *The Amulet; or, Christian and Literary Remembrancer*. London: W. Baynes & Son, and Wightman & Cramp, 1828. Pages 377-92.
13. Jane Porter, translator. "History of the Siege of Vienna by the Turks in 1683; and of its Deliverance by John Sobieski, King of Poland." By Count A. J. Orchowski. *Naval and Military Magazine* (December 1828): 377-423; *United Service Journal and Naval and Military Magazine* (January 1829): 31-44; (February 1829): 196-205; (April 1829): 393-404.

Porter describes the remarkable circumstances surrounding her translation of Count Orchowski's manuscript in a September 29, 1828, letter to Robert.²⁰ In September 1815, Orchowski mailed his French manuscript to London, hoping it would be translated by one of three Britons who had professed sympathy for the fate of Poland: Jane Porter, the poet Thomas Campbell, or the statesman Sir James Mackintosh. Instead it sat in the Dead Letter Office for some twelve years. A fortuitous stage-coach conversation between a Post Office official, recently put in possession of the manuscript, and one of Porter's neighbors brought the work to Porter's attention. "Maria & I read the MSS, & found it highly interesting; and I also felt a little glow of a sense of the true fame, when I found that my work [*Thaddeus of Warsaw*] had been so approved in Poland, as to have drawn forth such a tribute from one of its own brave, and learned noblemen;—and I could not persuade myself to 'decline' the honour of being its translator." The sisters collaborated on the translation ("she to make the rough-cast translation, and I to go over the whole, to make it my own stile") and offered it gratis first to their usual publishers, Longman & Rees, who feared "it would be too small, to make a volume of any

18 Belzoni had visited the Porters' home and offered to carry letters to Robert in St. Petersburg, Huntington POR 2046. For a recent consideration of Belzoni, see Judith Pascoe, *The Hummingbird Cabinet: A Rare and Curious History of Romantic Collectors* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2005), 110-39.

19 Jane Porter to Sir John Philippart, October 21, 1828, Rare Books Division, McGill University, MS 208.

20 Huntington POR 2086. An abbreviated version of the story appears as an introduction to the translation.

size,” and then to Sir John Philippart, who accepted it for *Naval and Military Magazine*. Porter originally understood that, “being printed in the smallest type of the Mag: Sir John will get it all in at once; with a separate title-page, & separately paged, so that if a person pleases, it can be bound up alone.” In fact the translation appeared over four issues (and one name change) of the journal.²¹

14. P. “The Late Lieut.-Col. Denham.” *United Service Journal and Naval and Military Magazine* (February 1829): 151-55.

The Porters had been longtime friends of Charles Denham, whose brother, the soldier and celebrated explorer Dixon Denham, died suddenly on June 9, 1828, at Sierra Leone. On January 30, 1829, Porter informed Charles Denham that “a little tribute from my (too inefficient) pen, to the Beloved Memory” would shortly appear in the *United Service Journal*. “I have not put my name to it—merely my initial in signature; for I felt it would more strike to my point, of shewing reverence to his well-earned character amongst men, to leave the writer of the tribute undecided as to who it might be.”²²

15. Jane Porter. “The South Sea Chief. A Fragment.” In *The Amulet; or, Christian and Literary Remembrancer*. London: Frederick Westley and A. H. Davis, and Wightman & Co., 1829. Pages 251-63.

16. J. P. “The Empress Dowager of Russia.” *La Belle Assemblée* (January 1829): 45.

Though I have not located an epistolary reference to this memoir, it is almost certainly by Porter. Besides the initials, the identification is strengthened by the fact that Porter composed at least two other works for *La Belle Assemblée* in 1829 (see below).²³ Porter’s brother Robert had been Court Painter to Tsar Alexander I and later married a Russian princess, Maria Shcherbatova, herself a god-daughter of the Empress Dowager. Porter also remained in close contact with several Russian officials in London.

17. The Author of ‘Thaddeus of Warsaw.’ “Bognor Rocks: A Tale of the Coast.” *La Belle Assemblée* (January 1829): 9-15; (February 1829): 56-61; (March 1829): 104-9.

18. Jane Porter. “The Ball at Holyrood House: An Anecdote of the Year 1745.” *La Belle Assemblée* (September 1829): 105-7.

This anecdote from Scottish history also includes a poem by Anna Maria Porter.

19. “Literary Anecdote of the Late King.” *La Belle Assemblée* (August 1830): 62-63.

Though unsigned and not mentioned in the letters, this article is very much in Porter’s style and includes much information that only she would know. Written shortly after the death of

21 A collected edition was printed by Gunnell & Shearman (London, 1829).

22 Young Research Library Special Collections, UCLA, 715 f.6. There is a draft of Porter’s article at the Huntington Library, POR 114.

23 In an introductory note, “To Our Subscribers,” the editor of *La Belle Assemblée* names “Miss Porter” as among “the high accession of literary talent which our *Ninth Volume* presents.”

George IV, it is less an anecdote of royalty and more an apologia for Porter's decision to portray heroically an ancestor of the deceased king in her last multivolume novel, *Duke Christian of Luneburg*, and to dedicate the novel to the king.

20. Jane Porter. "The Youth of Sir Philip Sidney." In *The Iris: a Literary and Religious Offering*, ed. Thomas Dale. London: Sampson Low; Hurst, Chance, & Co., 1831. Pages 303-12.
21. The Author of Thaddeus of Warsaw. "Precis of the Constitution of Poland of 1791." *United Service Journal and Naval and Military Magazine* (February 1831): 228-32.
22. P. *On the Laws and Liberties of Englishmen; Britons Ever Shall Be Free!* London: Roake and Varty, 1831. 15 pages.

In April 1831, Porter wrote her brother of her concerns about the mood of reform sweeping Britain:

I have fought a little, but under the Rose—that is incognito—on the side of our old, venerable, and true Mother & queen, The British Constitution.—I hastily wrote off a brief MSS—on the subject—and, giving it in a quarter, whence I knew it would be published (if the Committee for such, approved it,)—it has been sent forth on its crusade—& I inclose you two or three of them.—I cast the Title-page so, as to catch Radical readers,—as well as the saner whigs, &c.

Porter does not name the pamphlet, but in July 1831, Robert Ker Porter sent the Venezuelan official Dr. Miguel Peña a copy of this pamphlet and identified his sister as the author.²⁴ This may have been one of Porter's most widely read works: fourth, fifth, and sixth editions of the pamphlet survive in various special collections.

23. Jane Porter, new introduction and notes. *Thaddeus of Warsaw*. By Porter. London: Colburn and Bentley, 1831. xxii, 440 pages.
24. Jane Porter, new introduction and notes. *The Scottish Chiefs*. By Porter. 2 vols. London: Colburn and Bentley, 1831. xxxii, 376, 397 pages.

Porter's two most popular novels appeared in volumes 4, 7 and 8 of Henry Colburn and Richard Bentley's Standard Novel Series. In addition to her new introductions and notes, Porter also revised considerable portions of both novels.

25. Jane Porter, editor and preface. *Sir Edward Seaward's Narrative of his Shipwreck, and Discovery of Certain Islands in the Caribbean Sea: With a Detail of Many Interesting and Extraordinary Events in His Life, between 1733 and 1749: As Written in His Own Diary*. [By William O. Porter]. 3 vols. London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown and Green, 1831.

Early reviewers assumed Porter was not simply the editor but also the author of this *Robinson Crusoe*-style narrative. As noted earlier, the actual author was her elder brother. Porter added a six-page preface.

²⁴ Jane Porter to Robert Ker Porter, April 6, 1831, Kansas MS 28 Ph 14663: 8; Robert Ker Porter to Dr. Miguel Peña, July 25, 1831, Lilly Library, Indiana University, Robert Ker Porter Private Correspondence.

26. P. “Peculiar Effects of Gallant and Noble Authors; with Observations on the Earl of Munster’s History of the Campaign of 1809.” *La Belle Assemblée* (November 1831): 188-91.

In an October 28, 1831, letter to publishers Colburn and Bentley, Porter returns a copy of *Memoirs of the Late War* (2 vols., London: Colburn and Bentley, 1831) and notes that “one of the reviews she has made of the work, will appear next month in *La belle Assemblée*.”²⁵ Munster’s account of the 1809 campaign in Portugal and Spain is one of three narratives included in *Memoirs*.

27. Jane Porter. “The Moral History of Woman, with a Particular Reference to the Female Character in England.” *Royal Lady’s Magazine, and Archives of the Court of St. James’s* (January 1832): 7-15; (February 1832): 59-67; (March 1832): 114-22.
28. Jane Porter. “Southsea Beach.” *Royal Lady’s Magazine, and Archives of the Court of St. James’s* (April 1832): 186-92.

On December 7, 1831, Porter wrote Robert that she had just sent off the first of a series of articles to appear in “a new work called ‘The Royal Lady’s Magazine.’ . . . My subject is “The Moral History of Woman, from the Earliest Times”—and, I think, to compass the matter as I wish, it will give me the required space in the Mag: for not only two months, but for four; and that makes it still more worth my while; as it will then have put twenty guineas into my pocket, by the beginning of next April.”²⁶ *The Royal Lady’s Magazine* first appeared in January 1831, and its contributors included James Hogg, Julia Pardoe and Mary Mitford. Three segments of the series appeared in the magazine, along with “Southsea Beach,” an unrelated article on George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. But when payments for these articles failed to appear, Porter first wrote the editor George Glenny, and then asked Charles Denham to visit Glenny’s Strand office on her behalf. By the end of September Porter finally received payment, but in the meanwhile Glenny seems to have dropped the series. A segment on the “Camp and Court of King Arthur”—promised at the end of the third segment and also offered to Glenny in a July 1832 letter from Porter—never appeared.²⁷

29. From a Correspondent at La Guisa [*sic*] in South America. “Tapir.” *The London Literary Gazette; and Journal of Belles Lettres, Arts, Sciences, &c.* (June 2, 1832): 350.

While living in South America, Sir Robert Ker Porter became a corresponding member of the London Zoological Society, and he regularly sent the Society descriptions of unusual animals he encountered. His most ambitious contribution, however, was a shipment in 1832 of three South American mammals. On June 4, 1832, Porter wrote her brother,

25 Dunedin Public Library, Dunedin, New Zealand, Alfred and Isabel Reed Collection.

26 Kansas MS 28 Ph 14663(2): 10.

27 Jane Porter to George Glenny, July 18, 1832, Houghton Library, Harvard University, Autograph File (*42M-85); Jane Porter to Charles Denham, September 30, 1832, Houghton Library, Harvard University, Autograph File (*42M-87). My thanks to William K. Finley at the Walter Clinton Jackson Library, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, for his assistance regarding the *Royal Lady’s Magazine* and for his first noticing “Southsea Beach.”

Your next subject, is your Pet animals, to come in The Mercer [i.e., a sailing vessel] to Falmouth; and your wish, that a little avant Courier of them, should appear in some Proper Periodical.—I have not found “The Court Journal,” lately, very punctual in putting in what I used to send; hence I have written the one you suggested about them, for “The Literary Gazette”—I dispatched it to [Owen] Rees; and he answered me, that I [sic] had lost no time in forwarding it to M^r [William] Jerdan for insertion.—Therefore I doubt not it is in before now, but, as I do not see the L: G—while wandering about, I cannot tell you in which number—but you may [be] sure it will be in.²⁸

Porter most likely intended her imaginary correspondent to be writing from La Guira (La Guaira), the Venezuelan port city from which Robert Ker Porter’s “favourite tapir with two other rare animals of the fox and peccary kinds” departed South America for new homes in the Regent’s Park.

30. Jane Porter, new introduction. *The Pastor’s Fire-side*. By Porter. 2 vols. London: Colburn and Bentley, 1832. xv, 343, 334 pages.

The Pastor’s Fire-side appeared as volumes 18 and 19 in the Standard Novels Series. Porter closes her July 1832 introduction with an apology for her inability to add new notes to this edition. Her younger sister Anna Maria had passed away on June 21, 1832.

31. “No. XVIII. Miss Anna Maria Porter.” In *The Annual Biography and Obituary*, 1833. London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, Green, & Longman. Pages 273–80.

On September 30, 1832, Porter informed Charles Denham of her intention to write this obituary of her sister.²⁹ The memoir includes a long letter written by Jane Porter to Miss Lefanu (a niece of Richard Brinsley Sheridan) and “Stanzas to the Memory of Miss A. M. Porter,” by Porter’s friend Julia Pardoe.

32. P. J. “No. XXV. Miss Elizabeth Spence.” In *The Annual Biography and Obituary*, 1833. London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, Green, & Longman. Pages 367–71.

Editor Walter Henry Watts wrote Porter, “I am much obliged to you for the interesting little Memoir of Miss Spence; and I am glad to say that it has arrived just in time for insertion in the forthcoming volume of ‘The Annual Biography and Obituary.’”³⁰ The author Elizabeth Spence, another longtime friend of Porter, had died on July 27, 1832.

33. The Author of “Thaddeus of Warsaw.” *A Fragment of Poland*. London: J. & G. Nichols, Printers, [1833]. 6 pages.

In the summer of 1833, Leicester and Elizabeth Stanhope asked Porter “to write a little Tale or Tract, for them to print” on behalf of “the Polish Cause.” Because of her brother’s ties to Russia—Robert’s wife had passed away in 1826, but their daughter remained in St. Petersburg—

28 Huntington POR 2088.

29 Houghton Library, Harvard University, Autograph File (*42M-87).

30 The Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations, MSS Misc 2363.

Porter had avoided taking part in the many pro-Poland events that occurred in London after the 1831 Russo-Polish War. As she explained (somewhat apologetically) to Robert, she told the Stanhopes that “from Particular circumstances of my own, my name as Miss Porter, must not be ostensibly used at all, in this business; but what ever I could do, on my own principles, as The Author of Thaddeus of Warsaw, I was willing to bring forward. . . The Committee respectfully acceded to my conditions; printed the little tract—which sold for two shillings each.—I trust, dearest Brother, that you will not blame what I have done.”³¹

34. Alfred. “Aquatic Fete, The Eighteenth of July, on the Thames.” *The Court Journal: Gazette of the Fashionable World* (July 27, 1833): 514-15.

In the same letter quoted above, Porter tells Robert of writing an article for the *Court Journal* on “an aquatic excursion, on the 18th of July.” The article describes an expedition on the Thames led by “the Lord Mayor of London, with the Lady Mayoress and a party of their friends,” ending in a dinner at Pope’s Grotto in Twickenham. Others present included the artist Sir David Wilkie, Lord John Churchill, and the physician Sir Andrew Halliday.

35. Paragraph beginning “A splendid Roman Catholic chapel, or rather church (its large dimensions amply qualifying it for that appellation) has recently been erected on the summit of a hill near the manufacturing town of Redditch, in Warwickshire.” *The Court Journal: Gazette of the Fashionable World* (January 11, 1834): 19 (column 3).³²
36. “A Village Consecration.” *The Court Journal: Gazette of the Fashionable World* (March 29, 1834): 209.
37. “Consecration and Opening of the Roman Catholic Church on Mount Carmel, near Medditch [sic].” *The Court Journal: Gazette of the Fashionable World* (May 3, 1834): 297.

Porter describes the writing of these three pieces in a May 3, 1834, letter to Robert, which recounts her travels with an old family friend, Sir Charles Throckmorton:

Thursday (the 24th of April) we were to be up with the lark, to accompany Sir Charles an hour’s drive to Mount Carmel, (near Red-Ditch,) to be present at the Consecration and opening of the New Roman Catholic Church just erected there.—In one of the former Court-Journals of some months ago, you might read a notice I wrote of its building.—Sir Charles was so pleased with that, I wrote also the account of the Consecration of Throckmorton Burial Ground, which you would see in your last packet of Court-Journals.—I could not then, but follow them up with a description from my pen also, of the solemnity at Mount Carmel of the 24th—You will find it in the Court Journal of May 3d.³³

31 Jane Porter to Robert Ker Porter, August 5, 1833. Kansas MS 28 Ph 14665: 10.

32 The paragraph immediately following, on the death of “Abbas Mirza, the late Prince Royal of Persia,” notes that “Sir Robert Porter, in his account of his travels in Persia about fifteen years ago, introduced us very agreeably to the society of this amiable, but now no more, *heir to the throne of Cyrus!*” This paragraph is most likely also by Porter.

33 Kansas MS 28 Ph 14666: 5.

38. Jane Porter. "A Fragment on Sculpture." In *Angelo's Pic Nic; or, Table Talk*. London: Printed for John Ebers, 1834. Pages 303-6.

On July 22, 1834, Porter sent famous fencer Henry Angelo a "little literary contribution to his 'Pic Nic volume.'" As recompense for the shortness of her work, Porter also sent Angelo "some lively and tasteful verses (original) of an accomplished friend of hers."³⁴ Whitelaw Ainslie's "The Progress of Sculpture" immediately follows Porter's contribution (306-11).

39. Review of *The Court of Sigismund Augustus; or, Poland in the Sixteenth Century*. By Alexander Bronikowski. Done into English by a Polish Refugee. 3 vols. London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, Green, and Longman, 1834. *The Court Journal: Gazette of the Fashionable World* (August 2, 1834): 537; (September 13, 1834): 633; (November 8, 1834): 760.

On December 1, 1834, Porter informed Robert that "all the reviews of 'The Court of Sigismund Augustus' in the Court Journal, are written by me—in respect to the really noble Polish refugee Count Krasinski, the Translator.—It was all I could do for him—and the work is worthy."³⁵ The Polish exile Count Valerian Krasinski was a conservative Protestant who published a number of religious and historical works in English. He and Porter remained in correspondence for the rest of her life.³⁶

40. "French Distress and British Humanity." *The Court Journal: Gazette of the Fashionable World* (August 16, 1834): 562.

On August 25, 1834, Porter wrote Robert, "In another of The Court Journals, you will find another little mite from my pen, called 'French Distress & British Humanity.'—It was excited by an account Lady Macdonald gave me of the poor people it describes." In the article Porter encourages Britons to aid "about forty aged French priests" who lived in poverty in London. Porter was pleased that her request "has produced to them, benevolences already of more than £30."³⁷

41. A Spectator. "New Chapel and Burial-Ground of the British Protestant Residents at Caracas, the Capital of Venezuela, in South America." *Saturday Magazine* (October 18, 1834): 151-52.
42. P. I. "Religious Toleration in South America." *Fraser's Magazine for Town and Country* (November 1834): 523-29.

The establishment of a Protestant Cemetery was one of Robert Ker Porter's major achievements as British Consul General in Caracas, and Jane was anxious that her brother's efforts should receive attention in Britain. The *Saturday Magazine* article includes an engraving of the cemetery made after a drawing by Robert Ker Porter. "I fear the artist has rather injured than improved the perspective of the columns," Porter wrote her brother on October 30, 1834. "But it

34 Fales Library, New York University, Fales Manuscript Collection.

35 Kansas MS 28 Ph 14666: 15.

36 Nineteen of his letters to Porter survive at Houghton Library, Harvard University. See bMS Eng 1256, Box 2.

37 Kansas MS 28 Ph 14666: 11.

will not much matter, the view being altogether so pretty & sacredly interesting.—With regard to the account, the Editor of the Work would not grant space for a longer one; therefore I much shortened my original MS.” In the same letter Porter informs her brother that “the Article on ‘the Toleration & Cemetery’ for Fraser’s Mag: I have corrected in Proof; therefore hope it may be published in Novr.”³⁸

43. Jane Porter, preface. *Young Hearts: A Novel by A Recluse*. [By Theodora Peers]. 3 vols. London: Saunders and Otley, 1834.

Porter’s preface is dated November 1834.

44. The Author of Thaddeus of Warsaw. “The Old Lady: A Fragment.” In *The Ages of Female Beauty*, ed. Frederic Montagu. London: Charles Tilt, 1838. Pages 58-62.
45. “Lady Throckmorton.” *The Aldine Magazine of Biography, Bibliography, Criticism and the Arts* (March 1839): 184-86.

On April 25, 1839, Porter told Robert of “a new work” called *The Aldine Magazine*, “of which our worthy old acquaintance Mr. Harral is the Editor; and I wrote a little biography of the late Lady [Catherine] Throckmorton, (who died at Northampton, while I was last at Coughton;) and it most highly gratified Sir Charles.”³⁹

46. Jane Porter, new introduction and notes. *The Scottish Chiefs*. By Porter. 2 vols. London: George Virtue, [1840]. 488, 481 pages.

Porter’s lengthy “Retrospective Preface to the Illustrated Edition” (1: 12-51) is dated May 1840. See final entry below for more on Porter’s publications for George Virtue.

47. “Memoir of the Late Sir Robert Ker Porter, K.C.H.” *The United Service Magazine and Naval and Military Journal* (October 1842): 261-66.

Robert was finally given leave in 1841, and after a few months in Britain he and Porter traveled to St. Petersburg to visit Robert’s daughter. However, on May 4, 1842, as Porter and her brother were preparing to depart Russia for England, Robert died suddenly. Devastated, Porter returned to England in early June, and in early July promised Sir John Philippart “a brief memoir” of her brother. She sent the manuscript in mid-September. In later years Porter wrote of her desire to write a full-length biography of her brother, but this is the only memoir I have so far identified as her own.⁴⁰

48. Jane Porter, new introduction and notes. *Thaddeus of Warsaw*. By Porter. London: George Virtue, 1845. 607 pages.

38 Kansas MS 28 Ph 14666: 14.

39 Kansas MS 28 Ph 14671: 7.

40 Jane Porter to Sir John Philippart, July 2 and September 16, 1842. Rare Books Division, McGill University, MS 208. Porter almost certainly wrote the paragraph that appeared some months later in the same journal, announcing the publication of a print of her brother: *Colburn’s United Service Magazine and Naval and Military Journal* (July 1843): 460.

49. Jane Porter, new notes. *The Pastor's Fire-side*. By Porter. London: George Virtue, n.d. [1846]. viii, 859 pages.

Porter's last years were troubled by financial insecurity and poor health. After returning from Russia, she lived mostly in Bristol with her only surviving sibling, William Ogilvie Porter. She died there on May 24, 1850. A stone tablet in Bristol Cathedral, inscribed the following year, commemorates the Porter family. Porter's major literary achievements of the 1840s were the new, illustrated editions for George Virtue of her three most popular works. These editions included new introductions and notes, and extensive revisions and additions to the texts. Porter wrote the new introductions for *Scottish Chiefs* and *Thaddeus of Warsaw*, but the new introduction to *Pastor's Fire-side* was written by "a Friend of the Author's" and signed "S. B." This was probably Sarah Booth, a longtime Bristol friend. The appendix to *Pastor's Fire-side* includes "Descent of Philip Duke Wharton," written by Porter's "long-esteemed friend," the antiquary Thomas Streatfeild (847-48), "Gibraltar," signed "J. P." (849-50), and "Sketch of the Past and Present State of Gibraltar" (851-59), signed "F. C.—" Houghton Library owns a presentation copy inscribed to "her kind friend, Sir David Davies," in which Porter has identified this last author: "Miss Fanny Cathcart.—A Niece of the late Gen^l Lord Cathcart; an old friend [of] my lamented Brother Sir R. K. Porter."

th - 1847.'"/>

a little "Easter-offering" from
 a venerable "Pastor's - Fire-side,"
 to that of her kind friend, Sir David
 Davies, M.D. - K. C. G. H. - &c. &c. &c.
 With many Blessings to Him and His,
 attached to it, from his ever gratefully,
 Sincere Friend,
 Jane Porter
 Bayswater -
 March 12th - 1847.

Figure 4. Inscription by Jane Porter on the original front flyleaf (volume rebound). Jane Porter. *The Pastor's Fire-Side: A Biographical Romance*. A new edition, revised. London: George Virtue, 1846. Bequest of Evert Jansen Wendell, 1918. *EC8. P8343.817pc 23 cm.

Harvard Library Bulletin 63

Contributors

THOMAS MCLEAN is Lecturer in English at the University of Otago in New Zealand. He is the editor of *Further Letters of Joanna Baillie* (2010). In 2005-2006, he held the Houghton Mifflin Visiting Fellowship in Publishing History at Houghton Library, Harvard University.

LAURENCE SENELICK is Fletcher Professor Oratory at Tufts University, where he is also Director of Graduate Studies in drama. He is Honorary Curator of Russian Theatre in the Harvard Theatre Collection. In recognition of his scholarship, he received the St. George medal of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the advancement of Russian art and theatre. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2010. Among his recent publications are *The American Stage: Writing on Theater from Washington Irving to Tony Kushner* (2010), *Theatre Arts on Acting* (2008), and *A Historical Dictionary of Russian Theatre* (2007).

Contributors' notes for the essays in "Life is in the transitions" appear at the end of each piece.