

Laurence Sterne. *A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy and Continuation of the Bramine's Journal. The Text and Notes*. The Florida Edition of the Works of Laurence Sterne. Vol. 6. Ed. Melvyn New and W. G. Day. Gainesville: UP of Florida, 2002. lxxii, 567 pp.

Gabriella Hartvig

A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy and Continuation of the Bramin's Journal is the sixth volume of the scholarly edition of the complete works of Laurence Sterne, a grandiose project by the best of the most distinguished Sterne scholars. The Florida Edition began with the publication of the text of *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman* in two volumes in 1978 and was followed by references to the text, *The Notes*, in 1984. The following two volumes, published in 1996, contained *The Sermons* and *Notes to the Sermons*. The two texts in this bulky sixth volume, as in the earlier volumes, are presented as clean texts with the annotations and textual emendations gathered at the end of the volume. As with most scholarly editions, the notes and appendices fill more than half of the volume. The editors justified their decision of remaining faithful to editorial decorum on the grounds that Sterne should not be shown to readers “as a trickle of text above a sea of commentary” while wishing at the same time that it is still not “really too sanguine to hope that Sterne will still attract lay readers in the twenty-first century” (lxviii). The reason for the dual presentation, as New and Day claim, was that “the two works were intertwined for many months in Sterne’s own mind, and the reading of them should be similarly intertwined in our own” (xlvi). The *Journey* and the *Journal* equally reflect Sterne’s relationships with women, his concerns about illness and his own salvation in the final year of his life.

In the past decades there have been published a number of scholarly editions of the *Journey*, the most recent among them being Paul Goring’s Penguin edition of 2001 with its substantial notes, a most useful guide for students and teachers alike. The editors of the present volume relied on Gardner Stout’s excellent critical apparatus to his edition of the *Journey* in 1967. In the preface, they humbly apologize for correcting his errors: “that we question several of Stout’s textual decisions merely indicates that among editors as among all hobby-horsical entrepreneurs—as Tristram astutely observes—mounting is considerably easier than dismounting” (xxxii). New and Day’s corrections and annotations partly grew out of the results of Sterne scholarship in the past three decades, which owes much to the establishment of the international annual volume of the textual and historical investigation of his works, *The Shandean*, in 1989, its review editor being the co-editor of the present volume, Geoffrey Day. It has always been well known that the seventh volume of *Tristram Shandy* serves as a background to Yorick’s sentimental travels but the editors now also point out that some of Sterne’s sermons in the *Sermons of Mr. Yorick*, which he was working on simultaneously with the final volumes of *Tristram Shandy*, cast further light on the genuine nature of sentimental feelings expressed in *A Sentimental Journey*.

The other text, Sterne’s autobiographical work, *Continuation of the Bramine’s Journal*, better known as *Journal to Eliza*, also brings the reader closer to a more profound understanding of Sterne’s last year. Sterne addressed the *Journal*, the only surviving third part of his diary which covers the period between April 13 and August 4, 1767,

to Eliza Draper, a twenty-two-year-old woman, the wife of a servant of the East India Company. After their short acquaintance in London she had to return to Bombay to her husband. She received the first part of Sterne's journal while her ship lay at anchor off the Downs. Sterne continued his diary in her absence, of which only the final part was found more than half a century later in an attic in Bath by an eleven year old boy whose much later account of it brought the *Journal* to light as late as 1878, the text being published by Wilbur Cross only in 1904, in a collection of Sterne's works (xxvi).

One may perhaps rightly wonder why the editors, if they decided to present the two texts in a single edition, left out Yorick's ten letters which were also addressed to Mrs. Draper and written in the same period. Although they claim that the "*Journey cannot be sufficiently understood without the context supplied by *Bramine's Journal*" (xxvii), the reader would happily see the *Letters from Yorick to Eliza* in this context, too, a procedure that Perry Curtis, the editor of Sterne's letters pursued, when he published the *Journal* among other letters by Sterne from the same period. The *Letters*, which were posthumously published in 1773 also bring to light aspects of Sterne's relationship with Mrs. Draper, therefore the three surviving texts would perhaps be even more demonstrative of the last year of his life when read together. Having the *Letters* also presented in this volume would have filled Hungarian Shandean with special joy because this collection of Sterne's most sentimental feelings, together with the spurious answers of Eliza Draper, known as *Letters Written Between Yorick and Eliza*, was the earliest work by Sterne to be translated by Ferenc Kazinczy and Gábor Döbrentei, and so it enjoyed a greater reputation than his other works in the period of Hungarian sentimentalism. Nevertheless, let us hope that the admirers of Yorick will not have to wait too long for the publication of the seventh volume of the Florida Edition, *The Correspondence*, to be edited by Peter de Voogd. As for the present: those interested in the philological and textual aspects of Sterne's sentimental works can hold this precious volume in their hands with the conviction that it is hardly believable that this edition will ever be bettered. Melvyn New and Geoffrey Day have completed an enormous archival work demanding many years of painstaking research and prepared the volume with an expertise and carefulness that no one was better qualified to undertake. Although it is hardback and maybe somewhat expensive, Hungarian readers would be very grateful if at least one Hungarian library could afford to acquire the Florida Edition series of Laurence Sterne's works.*

Hartvig, Gabriella. *Laurence Sterne Magyarországon 1790-1860.* [Laurence Sterne in Hungary 1790-1860.] Budapest: Argumentum, 2000. 198 pp.

Mária Kurdi

Gabriella Hartvig's book has a very modest title, revealing little about the fact that the author uses a variety of contexts to widen the scope of her study of Sterne's early reception in Hungary. Since knowledge about and response to foreign literature during the decades indicated was much entrenched in the country's semi-colonial situation, international relations and intranational cultural concepts and endeavours, this complex approach is both justifiable and laudable. The chapters of the book register the interplay of a great number of relevant factors and processes, incorporating data, referential