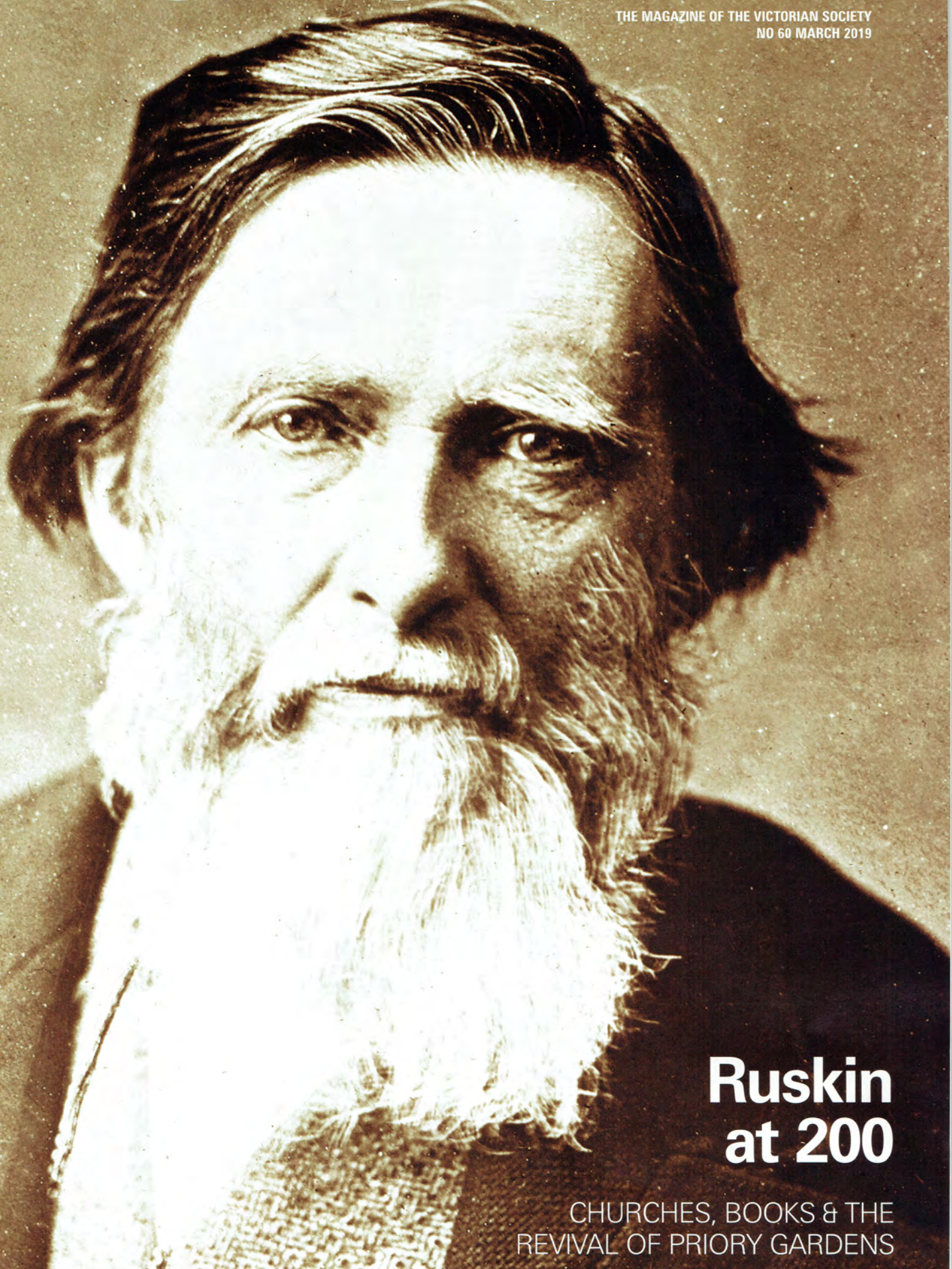


THE VICTORIAN

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Ruskin at 200

CHURCHES, BOOKS & THE
REVIVAL OF PRIORY GARDENS

News



Edited by
Jeremy Musson

What's happening in the world of heritage and the protection and promotion of the architecture and art of the Victorian and Edwardian era



WORLD: GOVERNMENT HOUSE, ANTIGUA

Dr. Barbara Paca, O.B.E., Cultural Envoy to Antigua and Barbuda, writes: 'For Antiguan, the Victorian era was ushered in with a long cycle of drought, earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, and yellow fever. At the same time, Antigua was the only British colony in the Caribbean to proceed to full emancipation of slavery essentially overnight, and, at Government House, it was reported to have occurred with 'the utmost tranquility'. The subject of a major conservation and re-representation project, supported by the World Monuments Fund, Government House is in the capital St. John's, and was mostly built in the early

nineteenth century by twice Governor Lord Lavington. As a member of an old plantation family, he had been invited back to Antigua in 1799 by planters who were nervous about abolition. He lived in a nearby parsonage, but commissioned a new Government House, ¼ mile south of his residence. Four urban properties were merged to form the Government House we see today which remains the official office of the Governor General – currently His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams. Governor Sir George Berkeley commissioned the first known photographs of the Government House in 1875, showing the eastern façade as an open one-storey

structure to the north, with a two-storey structure on the southern end featuring a long screened-in gallery above. More crucial evidence for the restoration of the house is found in the earliest known architectural plans, drawn up in 1879 by the Surveyor of Public Works, showing offices, anterooms, a drawing room, a dining room, a billiards room, and a grand staircase. The west wing is now recognised as the largest building for the accommodation of enslaved persons in the Caribbean region. Interestingly, the slaves who built Government House are among the ancestors of the people who now run the island nation and are leading the effort to restore both Government House and its grounds.'

wmf.org.uk/Projects/government-house/

HOME: HELP DUNFORD HOUSE

Since the 1950s, Dunford House in West Sussex, the home of the Victorian Liberal Richard Cobden – the champion of the agricultural worker, of Free Trade and international peace – has been in the hands of the YMCA and operated for many years as a conference centre, used for educational purposes. The



DUNFORD HOUSE, MIDHURST, SUSSEX, THE BIRTHPLACE AND RESIDENCE OF MR. COBDEN.—SEE NEXT PAGE.

Top: Government House, Antigua (photo: Philip Logan).
Left: Dunford House, West Sussex (photo: private collection).
Above: Jane Cobden, Fradelle & Young (photo: © National Portrait Gallery).