



British Association
for
VICTORIAN
STUDIES

Autumn 2005

Welcome to the Autumn 2005 edition of the BAVS newsletter. There are several features to which I would like to draw your attention: we have our postgraduate report on our recently held annual conference, 'Victorians in the Long-View', contributed by Amanda Mordavsky; see also our call for papers for next year's conference, 'Victorian Cultures in Conflict', to be held at the University of Liverpool. We also have articles that introduce current research projects on Gladstone's Library and on the sonnet in the nineteenth century. We also have notice of BAVS-funded conferences and seminars that are forthcoming. We encourage academics and postgraduate students to offer articles for future editions of the newsletter that draw attention to research projects that have recently been recognised by funding bodies; or to offer pieces that review or discuss Victorian elements in art exhibitions, cinema and television productions, theatrical performances, and musical recitals. For further information, and to forward review or research contributions, please contact the editor at rhianwilliams@blueyonder.co.uk.

BAVS Notice:

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIAN STUDIES
7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
VICTORIAN CULTURES IN CONFLICT
7-9 SEPTEMBER 2006, UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Plenary Speakers:

Caroline Arscott
John Belchem
Helen Small

Victorian cultures of every kind were shaped by a range of conflicts – intellectual, political, ideological, and spiritual. This conference will investigate the origins, nature and influence of these disputes. Some areas that papers might address are suggested below, but proposals considering other relevant issues will be very welcome.

- Gender conflicts: despite the recent prominence of gender studies, do we still underestimate the consequences of differing interpretations of femininity and masculinity, with their distinct and sometimes incompatible values?
- Religious conflicts: Victorian religious cultures were diverse and argumentative: was their influence more pervasive than we have yet recognized?
- Generational and domestic conflicts: the old and the young, parents and children, brothers and sisters, would often contend for authority within Victorian culture. What can we learn from exploring these sites of conflict?
- Class conflicts: is it time to re-examine patterns of economic and cultural power in terms of tensions between social classes?
- Regional conflicts: were the cultures of London at odds with those of other regions within

- Victorian Britain? And were those regional cultures at odds with themselves?
- Aesthetic conflicts: paintings, poetry, and fiction reflect deep divisions in the ways in which Victorians defined aesthetic value. What drove such disagreements, and why were they debated with such intensity?
 - Scholarly conflicts: how did scholars and historians understand the evidence of the past, and what do different interpretations of its value teach us about Victorian culture?
 - Scientific conflicts: What do disputed theories in the biological, geological, physical or medical sciences reveal about the deepest preoccupations within Victorian culture?

Proposals for papers (300 words) should reach Professor Dinah Birch, dlbirch@liv.ac.uk, by Friday 14th April 2006

Professor Dinah Birch
School of English
Modern Languages Building
University of Liverpool
Chatham Street
Liverpool, L69 7ZR

Telephone: (+44) 0151 794 2704; Fax: (+44) 0151 794 2730

**** Ten Postgraduate bursaries funded by BAVS are available. Deadline for applications: 31st March 2006 ****

BAVS 2005 Conference Report
Amanda Mordavsky, University of Sheffield

The sixth annual BAVS conference, entitled *Victorians in the Long View: Contrasts and Continuities*, was held at the University of Gloucestershire, a university with strong Victorian connections. The site of the conference, Park Campus in Cheltenham, was built where a Victorian ornamental zoo was originally planned. The beauty of the landscaped park, originally conserved by the Victorians, contrasted with the modern student villas, and this created a setting that seemed to mirror the theme of this conference, forming an ideal location for our meeting.

With this picturesque setting greeting the delegates, the conference commenced, and there ensued three days of discussions, debates and some heated disputes. The opening plenary panel instigated some of this debate with an address that introduced some of the difficulties involved in studying and defining the Victorian period, a topic which repeatedly emerged in the papers and discussions of the various panels. Professor Philip Davis began with some controversial statements: he demanded to know what exactly the conference was about; what is the relationship between literature and history and how can we understand it; and why most research on the Victorian period is limited to the post-1880s. His emphasis was on a need for a return to the middle period, in order to view the Victorians firstly from within their era, and only then to apply the proposed longer view. Dr. Brian Young followed this proposed model with a discussion on Thomas Carlyle's thoughts and writings as they were influenced by both continental Europe and the eighteenth century, thus emphasising the need to understand both Carlyle and Victorians more broadly not only in regard to their predecessors but also in regard to their European counterparts. Dr. Sally Ledger returned to the Regency Period in an effort to understand the Victorian period, particularly with regard to our understanding of melodrama and satire, both central concepts to the long nineteenth century. Finally Professor Martin Hewitt

looked forward from the Victorian period, highlighting the continual intrusiveness of the Victorian period on the twentieth and twenty-first century, emphasizing the dual nature of the Victorian haunting of the present-day and a modern desire to continually engage with the Victorians. This opening panel sparked questions about interdisciplinary and cross-cultural study that continued to surface throughout the duration of the conference.

A seemingly intentional effort was put into selecting keynote speakers who presented diverse research whilst still maintaining this theme of interdisciplinary and cross-cultural studies with regard to the Victorians in the long view. Professor Lynda Nead delivered a fascinating address on modern artists who employ elements of the Victorian period in their work. Through the use of slides and video footage, Professor Nead discussed the development from Doré's contemporary images in *London: A Pilgrimage* (1899) to the modern, racially charged, works of Yinka Shonibare and the public art of Rachel Whiteread's *House*, drawing conclusions about the artists' desires to avoid historicizing, instead prioritizing the present over the past. Whilst the artists demonstrate a certain reverence for the past, their ultimate aim is to avoid repeating history, instead revising it with our present understanding of historical events.

Dr. Peter Mandler's address considered the history of a familiar stereotype of Englishness, tracing the development of this characterization from the eighteenth century through to the present day. He explored a range of engagements with Englishness, citing Emerson's view of the English people as islands, and considering Carlyle's notion of finding national character through the individual. The exploration looked to compare later mobilizations of the 'Victorian' as a form of Englishness with the Victorians' own development of, and familiarity with, stock figures, especially as they demonstrated the changing notion of self-reliance as a national characteristic. This concept of self-reliance changed during the twentieth-century inter-war years, as represented in cartoon figures created by the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express*, in which John Bull became John Citizen and the Little Man. This talk demonstrated that, whereas the Victorians presented a national identity in self-reliance and individualism, the 1930s and 40s presented a stereotype of reliance through group thought. Dr. Mandler concluded by returning to the idea that Victorian conceptions continue to pervade modern-day perceptions and considered whether it is possible ever to 'de-Victorianize' the stereotype of Englishness.

The final keynote speaker, Professor Regenia Gagnier, considered Victorian social change, especially as it can be seen through a move from group-will to individual determination. In so doing, her talk also raised both the difficulties and the necessity of employing an interdisciplinary approach in studying this period. Tracing the development from group choice throughout the nineteenth century to individual choice by the end of the century, she addressed the different understandings of will and how they applied to the late-Victorians. The threat to group choice comes from notions of decadence, which are viewed as anarchic as they ultimately represent the individual's threat to conforming to the larger group. Moreover, the *fin de siècle* presented challenges to Victorian notions of domesticity through the development of domestic choice and the reinvention of the ideals of domesticity, which again presented a threat to the community and group choice.

One issue to arise from Professor Gagnier's lecture was the difficulty of interdisciplinary study, a recurring topic that emerged from the plenary panel. Professor Gagnier described the approach of literature studies, whereby the individual is discussed and represented as the whole, and the approach of the social sciences, which are reliant on statistics and a larger representation of the group. She addressed the need to find a language to unite these disciplines and allow for a less complicated approach to interdisciplinary research and collaboration.

The interdisciplinary approach to Victorian studies was reflected in the range of papers at the conference, which demonstrated the diverse research being conducted both in Britain and abroad. The paper topics ranged from Henry James and the internet to a queer reading of *Nicholas Nickleby* to nineteenth-century feminist interpretations of the Bible. As with any conference, the exciting and interesting range of papers provoked a desire to attend all the

sessions, but unfortunately that is never possible. The papers I attended were mostly those which addressed my own research interests, although I did attend a few sessions that were outside my immediate research area.

One of these panels concentrated on the works of George Eliot, Tolstoy and Dickens. The first presenter, Catherine Brown, discussed the similarities between *Daniel Deronda* and *Anna Karenina* with regard to the novels' dual plots. Whilst concentrating on the specific similarities in plot devices, particularly with regard to the necessity of the heroines' suffering for the heroes' happiness, she also considered how this practice of cross-cultural comparison could be applied to other literature. In the same session Holly Furneaux traced queer readings of Dickens's texts from the nineteenth century to the present-day, with specific concentration on the recent film adaptation of *Nicholas Nickleby*. This queer understanding of Dickens in the texts and film adaptations represents a contrast to the academy view of Dickens as the embodiment of Victorian British identity, but provides the reader and critic with a more diverse way of understanding Dickens. The final paper in this panel, presented by Dr. Britta Martens, considered how Dickens represented British culture in regard to French culture. Dickens manipulated the relationship between British culture and French culture, whereby he sometimes represented French culture as completely foreign to British culture and at other times suggested that French culture better demonstrated the ideal civilised culture.

Another panel of interest was one that addressed art, science, philosophy and literature in regard to both modern and Victorian ideals. Daniel Brown considered the role of the scapegoat as defined by Rene Girard in regard to Victorian art and literature, including William Holman Hunt's *The Scapegoat* and Dickens's *Oliver Twist*, demonstrating that society creates the figure of the scapegoat in times of crisis. One cannot help but draw a parallel between this theory and recent events such as the war in Iraq and hurricane Katrina.

Greta Depledge also considered modern events with regard to vivisection and animal testing. Tracing the anti-vivisection debate back to the nineteenth century, she demonstrated antivivisection sympathies in Collins's *Heart and Science*, which both reacted to vivisection and provided more fuel for the antivivisection debate. Finally, Dr. Jenny Holt addressed the legal boundaries of corporal punishment of children and its root in British Victorian society. The R. V. Hopley case of 1860 allowed for parents and teachers to use 'moderate and reasonable' corporal punishment in disciplining children: a decision which the British government has repeatedly upheld despite the sometimes serious suffering of children.

Closer to my own research was a panel which discussed modern psychological disorders, Arthur Machen and the influence of Darwin and Freud on modern literature. Andrew Mangham, drawing on recent obsessions with plastic surgery particularly on television and in film, considered the Victorian origin of Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD), an obsession with how one looks. In both medical and literary texts, particularly Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *Notes from Underground*, Wilkie Collins's *The Law and the Lady* and Wilde's *The Picture of Doran Gray*, BDD is evident, suggesting the interdisciplinary nature of understanding medical disorders in the nineteenth century. Dr. Nick Freeman considered the parallels between Machen's *The Great God Pan* and *The Three Imposters* with the more recent reaction to 'video nasties': films condemned for their graphic content, whether sexual or violent. Whilst the content of these works is comparable, the reaction they provoked differed. Machen received widely negative reviews, but was not condemned whilst the 'video nasties' were served with an outright ban. Finally Dr. Shelley Saguro considered the nineteenth-century approach to understanding human sexual instinct through the works of Darwin and Freud and then applied these theories to A.S. Byatt's *Angels and Insects*. Byatt's evocation of these nineteenth-century scientists, together with her imitation of nineteenth-century discourse, implies a revision of not only the nineteenth century but also the reader's understanding of the twentieth century.

From a postgraduate perspective, another area of interest was the postgraduate forum. This year's forum addressed the issue of postdoc funding and online journals. The presentation

from Ken Emond from the British Academy and the personal commentary from Professor Hilary Fraser provided postgraduates not only with the practical information but also with insider's tips as how to be successful in this extremely competitive market. Holly Furneaux and Robert Maiden presented the new online journal for nineteenth-century studies entitled *nineteen*, an exciting journal which will provide an interactive forum for readers and contributors, as well as encouraging postgraduate participation.

This sixth annual conference provided a receptive environment for the exchange of ideas and theories about the Victorians, their predecessors and successors. Whilst some panels sparked very heated debates (which unfortunately I could not attend), even these were maintained in the spirit of the academic pursuit of knowledge. The success of this conference, a credit to Professor Simon Dentith and the University of Gloucestershire, sets a high standard for future conferences.

**Gladstone Project
University of Liverpool
Funded by the AHRC**

The University of Liverpool's School of English, in partnership with St Deiniol's library, Hawarden (Gladstone's library), has been awarded the maximum £320,000 from the AHRC's Resource Enhancement Fund, to support a three-year research project beginning on 1 February 2006. The project will employ three full-time employees, one Postdoctoral Research Assistant and two cataloguers. The Postdoctoral Research Assistant will systematically identify Gladstone's 32,000 personal books held at the library and create an electronic database of enhanced records of the books. The cataloguers will complete the online electronic catalogue of the Library's general holdings. The project will be led by Juliet John, a Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Liverpool and the Director of the Gladstone Centre for Victorian Studies in Wales and the North West of England, together with her co-applicant, Patsy Williams, the librarian at St Deiniol's.

St Deiniol's Library was founded by Gladstone in 1889 to allow the public to enjoy his vast collection of books. Following his death in 1898, the present building, designed by John Douglas, was constructed as a permanent home for his library. The Collection, which is a valuable resource for Victorian Studies, continues to grow and now contains over 250,000 volumes of history, theology, philosophy, classics, art, literature, and (contemporary and Victorian) periodicals. Many personal letters and manuscripts written by Gladstone and his family are also housed at the library.

Gladstone's own books, which form part of the general collection at St Deiniol's, have never been systematically identified and listed as belonging to him. Among Gladstone's books are rare copies of works by Shakespeare, Dante, Newman and Tennyson.

As Gladstone is known to have annotated his books profusely, the Postdoctoral Research Assistant will examine annotations, bookplates and handwriting to ascertain which volumes were owned and read by Gladstone himself, recording significant details. The resulting database will provide major insights into his mind and his political, cultural and social attitudes.

Cataloguing the general collections electronically will allow researchers across a range of disciplines to carry out studies that are currently impossible because most of the academic community does not know about the collection and can only currently access partial information about its holdings online. The project in its entirety will benefit those interested in Gladstone's reading, the nineteenth-century 'reading experience', History of the Book, provenance studies, and libraries as cultural institutions – all of which are relatively unexplored areas.

The end of the project in January 2009 will be marked by a conference, 'Reading in the Age of Gladstone', at the Gladstone Centre for Victorian Studies (based at St Deiniol's), timed to coincide with the bicentenary of Gladstone's birth. It is envisaged that an edited collection of essays will emerge from the bicentenary conference.

Gendering the Amatory Sonnet in the Late-eighteenth and Nineteenth Century

Marianne Van Remoortel is a funded researcher at the University of Ghent in Belgium. Under the supervision of Professor Marysa Demoor, she is currently preparing a dissertation on gender, genre and the late-eighteenth and nineteenth-century amatory sonnet. In an attempt to overcome the psychological barrier between Victorian literary studies and the eighteenth century, the project traces the androgynous status of the Victorian amatory sonnet back to a feminization of this predominantly masculine genre from the 1780s onwards. As women entered the literary market, tensions of old inherent to the sonnet (e.g. small form vs. poet's large aspirations, confinement vs. freedom, subject vs. object) were remapped onto the complex gender relations of the age. As a result, when Victorian poets took up the sonnet, they found themselves confronted with the challenges of a genre that was considered fit for both ambitious male poets and modest poetesses, a genre that was fraught with powerful masculine metaphors, while simultaneously evoking associations with hypersentimentality, femininity and even effeminacy. This dissertation examines the ramifications of the sonnet choice for male and female poets, and looks at the various ways in which these poets deal with the amatory sonnet's hermaphroditic qualities. Elizabeth Barrett Browning, for example, takes advantage of the feminized reputation of the sonnet to criticize and reshape the masculine conventions of the genre from within. Augusta Webster and John Addington Symonds completely rebuild the sonnet's universe into a vehicle for the expression of maternal or homosexual love. George Meredith uses the sonnet's amatory premises to carefully deconstruct the illusions of "modern" marital love. Other authors include Charlotte Smith, Mary Robinson and the Della Cruscans, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Christina Rossetti.

*Marianne Van Remoortel
University of Ghent*

CALLS FOR PAPERS:

**Travel, Tourism, and Resorts
27th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY STUDIES ASSOCIATION
Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland, March 16-18, 2006**

Tourism and the rise of resorts reflect nineteenth-century economic, social, and cultural developments which brought about increased time for leisure, sport, entertainment, and vacation activities beyond prescribed hours of "work." While both the nature of the Grand Tour (formally restricted to the wealthy) and desirable destinations for travel evolved over time, sport, leisure, and vacation activities also extended to various levels of society: resort businesses boomed, exotic locales drew tourists, advances in transportation opened new destinations, and tourism became an attractive and widespread diversion. Other travel, however, was inspired by the desire to map space, to explore new territories and gather species of plants or animals there, to engage in

missionary work or to study other peoples, to flee famines, and to migrate to a new home. Travel and tourism altered conceptions of home, nation, and progress as people adapted to (or even resisted) the demands and/or pleasures of their journeys and destinations.

For our 27th Annual Conference, NCSA encourages proposals that explore the meanings of travel, tourism, and resorts from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Possible topics include but are not limited to the following:

Travels through time and space; Travel of the mind/inward; Travel companions/solitary or group travelers; The laws of travel; Economies/Business of travel; Travel destinations—city/walking/boat tours; Tours/Travels with children; Mysterious, quiet, indiscreet travelers; Traveling spectacles; Traveling secrets; Journeys East or West/home or abroad; The Middle Passage; Means/Modes of Travel; Travel innovations and progress
Traveling artists, preachers, teachers, & librarians; The distance we've traveled; Migration, immigration, emigration; Getaways and hideaways; Resort architecture; architecture of sport & leisure; Architectural sites as travel destination; Representation of travel in art & literature; Representation of sport and leisure in art/lit

Papers may come from the fields of architecture, art history, ethnic or race studies, history, literature, medicine, museum or library studies, music, or the social sciences. NCSA was founded to promote interdisciplinarity; proposals which approach the theme of the conference from an interdisciplinary basis are especially encouraged.

The conference will be held in Salisbury, on Maryland's Eastern shore, within thirty minutes of the Chesapeake Bay to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. Plans to tour 19th century sites in Berlin, Maryland, and the summer resort of Ocean City, Maryland (founded 1875), are in development.

Proposals should consist of a one-page, single-spaced abstract (12-point font), with the title of the paper and author as heading; the paper must be able to be presented within 20 minutes. Proposals should be accompanied by a one- to two-page vita. Please send materials to both Program Directors, Heidi Kaufman and Lucy Morrison. The deadline for submissions is **October 14, 2005**. Acceptances will be sent by mid-December, 2005.

Email: kaufman@udel.edu and lxmorrison@salisbury.edu

Post: Heidi Kaufman, 212 Memorial Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716

Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies
Seventeenth Northern Victorian Studies Colloquium
18th March 2006 at Trinity & All Saints, Leeds
Victorian Space(s)

The concept of 'place', once so evocative of stability and permanence, has increasingly come to be questioned, because, as Maclean, Landry and Ward observe, 'no place can ever be wholly abstracted from the social relationships, capital flows, cultural representations, and global forces that later-twentieth-century theorists have come to call 'space'.'

This colloquium aims to bring together those who look at the construction and constitution of 'space' as the Victorians understood and experienced it, especially those spaces relating to the creation of a wider Victorian community. Papers might tackle: Victorian understandings and

explorations of the natural world, literal and literary border crossings, the imposition of new spaces within empire and the processes of colonisation that included 'exploration' and mapping, the institutions that gave rise to new built environments, the transitional spaces, and gendered spaces. In other words, the 'spaces': multiple and contingent that went to make up the Victorian.

Proposals (300 words) are invited for papers that deal with any aspect of the conception of 'space(s)' in the Victorian period, or the interaction between the Victorians and their built and natural environments. Papers that adopt a comparative frame, shifting across the normal boundaries are especially sought, but studies with a narrower focus with an interest in the wider context are also welcome. **Deadline 31st October 2005.**

A selection of papers will be published as Volume VIII of the Leeds Working Papers in Victorian Studies, and distributed to all participants. (Papers for inclusion in the volume of Working Papers will be expected in full by 15th December 2005). Please send proposals to:

Karen Sayer, Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies, Trinity & All Saints, Brownberrie Lane, Leeds, LS18 5HD; e-mail k.sayer@leedstrinity.ac.uk, Tel. 0113 2837212.

The Australasian Victorian Studies Association 2007 Conference 'Victorian Beginnings'

The Australasian Victorian Studies Association 2007 Conference, 'Victorian Beginnings' (celebrating 170 years since Victoria ascended the throne) will be held at the University of Western Australia February 7-11 2007. Our key-note speaker will be renowned scholar Lyn Pykett. AVSA is an interdisciplinary association and welcomes historians, fine art specialists, musicologists, architectural historians, as well as cultural studies and literary specialists, and all who do research in the field of Victorian Studies. There will be a session dedicated to the topic 'Travel and Translation'. Information about the conference and submission of abstracts (**deadline 31 October 2006**) will be available at <http://www.uq.net.au/avsa//index.html> or contact A/Prof. Judith Johnston on judithj@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

Final Call for Papers: "Food and the Victorians"

Victorian Literature and Culture seeks articles for an upcoming special issue on "Food and the Victorians," edited by Ross Forman and Suzanne Daly (to appear Autumn 2007). Essays should follow MLA guidelines and may address any aspect of the production or consumption of food or drink. Interdisciplinary work is welcome. Essays should be approximately 8,000 words in length.

Please send two copies by **November 1, 2005** to:

Suzanne Daly
Department of English
Bartlett Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst MA 01003-9269

Inquiries may be directed to sdaly@english.umass.edu or to rf19@soas.ac.uk.

RLS2006: Transatlantic Stevenson

'Transatlantic Stevenson,' the Fourth Biennial International Robert Louis Stevenson Conference, will be held in Saranac Lake, NY, USA July 18 - 20 2006. Stevenson spent the winter of 1887 - 1888 in Saranac Lake, before he left for his final journey to the South Seas. While in Saranac Lake he was treated by Dr. Edward Trudeau, founder of the Trudeau Clinic, for his lung complaint. The conference is organized in association with the Robert Louis Stevenson Society of America. The conference will be held in the historic Hotel Saranac.

The conference will examine Stevenson in the context of his life, his literary works, the Transatlantic movement of people and cultures, and the development of medical spas and clinics during the nineteenth century. Papers are invited on:

Robert Louis Stevenson
Adaptations of Stevenson's works
Stevenson and Nineteenth Century travel
Nineteenth Century Transatlantic Culture
Nineteenth Century Health Spas and Resorts
Dr. Edward Trudeau and the Trudeau Clinic
Nineteenth-century Scottish migration
Nineteenth century Scottish-American culture

Date Due: **1st December 2005**

Please submit proposals or full papers to the conference organizers. Email submissions are preferred. The contact addresses are:

Professor Martin Danahay
English Department, Brock University, St. Catharines ON CA L2S 3A1 Canada
Telephone : 905-688-5550
Electronic mail: mdanahay@brocku.ca

Professor Ann Colley
Dept. of English, SUNY College at Buffalo, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222-1095
Electronic mail: COLLEYAC@BuffaloState.edu

Electrifying Experimentation: Science in Nineteenth-Century Britain 25 February 2006 University of Sheffield

The departments of English Literature and Philosophy will be hosting a one-day conference on science in nineteenth-century Britain. Papers or panels are warmly invited on all aspects of research broadly relating to science in nineteenth-century Britain. Proposals may focus on areas including, but not limited to, literature, philosophy of science, history of science, sociology, religious studies, art and pedagogy. Postgraduates and academics at the start of their careers are

particularly encouraged to respond. There is an initial publishing interest in this conference; selected papers may be published in an edited collection.

Invited speakers:

Professor Sally Shuttleworth (English Literature, Oxford)
Professor Geoffrey Cantor (History and Philosophy of Science, Leeds)
Professor John Hodge (History and Philosophy of Science, Leeds)
Dr. Gowan Dawson (English Literature, Leicester)
Dr. Gregory Raddick (History and Philosophy of Science, Leeds)

Proposals of 250 words, along with a brief biographical note, should be submitted no later than **12 December 2005**. Please send proposals by email, with the word 'submission' in the subject line, to both conference organizers, Amanda Mordavsky and Simon Fitzpatrick:

A.Mordavsky@sheffield.ac.uk

S.Fitzpatrick@sheffield.ac.uk

Financial support for this conference has been generously provided by the British Society for the Philosophy of Science, the Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies and the departments of English Literature and Philosophy at the University of Sheffield.

Visit the conference website at: www.shef.ac.uk/english/events/electrifying.html

THE LITERARY NORTH **Saturday 20 May 2006**

This conference will reassess the stereotypes of the grim North and the beautiful South in order to investigate literary representations from and about the north of England. With a view to making visible the North of England as a significant trope as well as a vibrant location for literature from the most contemporary to the nineteenth century, this conference will challenge the destructive stereotypes of the North which appear to be gaining momentum.

Attend this conference in Hull, and participate in the discussions about the literature of the moors, dales and wolds, the mills and pits, the council estates and country houses; revisit *Brideshead*; go back to Wigan Pier; reimagine North and South.

Keynote speaker: Professor Cora Kaplan, Southampton University

Proposal for papers are invited on any related topic but which may explore any of the following: regional identity and Englishness; the north-south divide; the North beyond the North East; the realist North; the myth of the north; Northern myths; The Queer North; the Modernist North and Northern Modernists; Georgians of the North; the grim North and northern grit; the political North; genres and Northern writing; social class and the geographies of the North; the gendered North; exploitation and the North; the postcolonial north; the north and multiculturalism

Send abstracts (no more than 250 words) for proposed 20 minute papers by **9 January 2006** to:

Dr Katharine Cockin,
English Dept,
University of Hull,
Cottingham Rd,
HULL HU6 7RX
Email: k.m.cockin@hull.ac.uk
Fax : 01482 465641

Tel : 01482 465611

Victorian Poetry: Special Issue on Elizabeth Barrett Browning

The winter 2006 issue of VICTORIAN POETRY, guest-edited by Marjorie Stone and Beverly Taylor, will be devoted to the work of Elizabeth Barrett Browning to commemorate the bicentenary of her birth. Contributors may consider any aspect of EBB's literary writings, including her correspondence, essays and prefaces, as well as her poetical works. The editors would particularly welcome essays that expand the focus beyond *Aurora Leigh*, considering hitherto neglected works and/or aspects of EBB's poetic practice, cultural contexts, relations with other writers, reception, and place in literary history.

Two copies of essays should be sent by **January 15, 2006**, one to Professor Marjorie Stone, Department of English, 6135 University Avenue, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3H 4P9, the other to Professor Beverly Taylor, Department of English--CB #3520, University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3520. Manuscripts, no longer than 25 double-spaced pages typescript, should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition. Submissions should include telephone numbers and email addresses. Contributors are responsible for securing any necessary permissions and paying related fees.

Victorian Masculinities: A two-day interdisciplinary postgraduate conference at Keele University, 20th-21st April 2006.

Guest speaker: Dr. Colin Cruise (Staffordshire University)

This conference aims to bring together research students from across the humanities who are working on the topic of masculinity in the Victorian period. This could include the construction, representation or discussion of masculinity in visual art, design or literature of the period.

There will also be a workshop on publishing offering students essential advice on how to get their first academic piece published.

Please send abstracts (200-250 words) for papers of 20-25 minutes, or express your interest in chairing a panel, to the conference organisers, Amelia Yeates and Graeme Smart at masculinitiesconference@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Abstract deadline: **20th January 2006**

Further information and a booking form (places will be limited) can be found at the conference website: www.masculinities.bham.ac.uk. Places must be booked by 28th February 2006.

This conference is hosted by the University of Birmingham and generously supported by the AHRC and BAVS.

**MARY ELIZABETH BRADDON
SYMPOSIUM
University of Wales Swansea
22 April 2006**

This one-day conference seeks to draw together scholars working on all aspects of Mary Elizabeth Braddon's life and fiction.

Possible topics for 20 minute papers might include:

Braddon and the literary marketplace; Braddon and the theatre; Braddon's twentieth century fiction; Adaptations of Braddon's novels; Braddon and the sensation school; Representations of gender in Braddon's work; Braddon's literary influences; Braddon's influence on other writers; Autobiographical elements of Braddon's fiction; Braddon's writing as social commentary; Braddon's significance/legacy as a Victorian woman writer

Papers exploring works that have received relatively little critical attention are particularly welcome.

Abstract deadline: **31 January 2006**

To express an interest in this event, ask to be placed on the mailing list, or to submit a 150-200 word abstract, email: braddonconference@ntlworld.com

Conference coordinator: Jessica Cox

CALL FOR PAPERS
**NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ROMANTICISM/
NORTH AMERICAN VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**
Purdue University, Lafayette, IN
31 August - 3 September 2006

For the first time, the two major conferences on the nineteenth century, the North American Victorian Studies Association and the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, will join forces for a conference at Purdue University, to be held August 31 to September 3, 2006 (Labor Day weekend). Featured presenters include Timothy Barringer, Alan Bewell, Ross Chambers, Anna Clark, Julie Codell, Tracy Davis, Mary Favret, Neil Fraistat, Catherine Gallagher, Regenia Gagnier, Elaine Hadley, Andrea Henderson, Sonia Hofkosh, John Kucich, Christopher Lane, Celeste Langan, Thomas Laqueur, Rosemary Lloyd, Deidre Lynch, Ghislaine McDayter, Andrew Miller, Timothy Morton, Daniel O'Quinn, Thomas Pfau, Adela Pinch, Yopie Prins, and Martin Wiener.

NASSR traditionally has a conference theme, which this year is *scientia* and *techne*, by which we intend not only science and technology but also the etymological senses of knowledge and craft. There is no set theme for the NAVSA side of the conference: papers on all aspects of Victorian studies will be accepted; however, we will be particularly interested in papers that speak to the NASSR theme.

Proposals will be due **February 15, 2006**. NASSR proposals should be sent to nassr06@purdue.edu or to one of the special-session organizers listed on the conference web site. NAVSA proposals should be sent to navsa06@purdue.edu or to one of the special-session organizers listed on the conference web site. Papers rejected by special-session organizers will be given a second vetting by the general conference committee. Proposals should be two pages (500 words) with a one-page *curriculum vitae* and should be submitted electronically as an attachment in .doc or .pdf format. All participants must have paid 2006 dues to either NASSR or NAVSA

Questions should be directed to Dino Franco Felluga:

felluga@purdue.edu

For special sessions and other information, go to:

<http://www.purdue.edu/NAVSA/Conferences/2006/>

**Ruskinian Theatre: The Victorian Theatre and the Visual Arts
(Lancaster University, 13-15 July 2006)**

Proposals are invited for papers and respondents for a 2 day colloquium sponsored by the History Department and the Ruskin Programme at Lancaster University, and the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts, University of Birmingham.

This colloquium is part of the AHRC funded project: Ruskinian Theatre: the Aesthetics of the Nineteenth Century London Popular Stage, 1870-1900, which seeks to investigate the interrelationships and influences of John Ruskin's aesthetic and social theories on the popular London stage in the late nineteenth century. Our meeting in 2005 focussed on "Ruskin, Shakespeare, and the Victorian Theatre" and was part of the "Victorian Life Writing" conference at Lancaster University. In 2007, we will meet at the University of Birmingham for a symposium on "Contemporary Issues in Theatre History & Historiography."

In 2006, our focus is on the popular stage as a meeting place for the contemporary arts, particularly for the interconnections between the visual and the performing arts. We are also continuing our investigation of the possibilities of the late nineteenth century popular theatre as a site for aesthetic and ethical education, propaganda, debate, or controversy. We seek to revise the standard narratives of theatre and cultural history in this period which ignore the popular theatre through the focus of standard theatre histories on the 'literary drama' and an emergent Modernist aesthetic.

Plenary speakers are expected to include Professors Jim Davis, Shearer West, Jeffrey Richards, and Kate Newey. We seek proposals and expressions of interest from theatre and art historians, and historians of popular culture and the fin de siècle. We are particularly interested in contributions which rethink the relationship between visual culture and the stage.

Papers are invited which address these themes (either in negotiation with John Ruskin's work, or not), and might cover (but are not limited to):

- * debates over the 'literary' and/or 'legitimate' drama vs the popular and the spectacular
- * relationships of practice between literary theatre, Modernist theatre, and popular and spectacular theatre
- * the relationships between popular theatre and visual culture
- * the concept of a 'National Theatre' and/or a 'National Drama'
- * studies of the interactions of theatre managements and contemporary artists
- * the iconography of actors and actresses
- * the self-representation of women theatre practitioners
- * theatre historiography and visual culture

Proposals should reach the convenors by **30 April 2006**

All papers submitted will be considered for publication as part of the project.

Further enquiries and proposals should be directed to:

Dr Anselm Heinrich, Ruskinian Theatre Research Associate, Department of History, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YG a.heinrich@lancaster.ac.uk

Convenors: Anselm Heinrich, Kate Newey, Jeffrey Richards

HARDY AT YALE

June 14-17, 2007

Yale University, New Haven CT

(Sponsored by The Thomas Hardy Association)

Plenary Speakers:

Dame Gillian Beer

Professor J. Hillis Miller Professor Christopher Ricks

Guest Lecturers:

Dr. Linda Shires
Dr. Keith Wilson
Dr. Ruth Yeazell

Leaders: Masterclass, Symposium

Professor Bill Morgan
Dr. Richard Nemesvari
Dr Birgit Plietzsch

Seminar Leaders:

Professor Suzanne Keen (Virginia and Lee University)
Dr. Angelique Richardson (Exeter University)
Professor Dennis Taylor (Boston College)
Professor William Davis (University of Delaware)
Dr Betty Cortus (Independent Scholar)

For conference details contact:

Rosemarie Morgan	Richard Nemesvari
Department of English	Department of English
Yale University	St. Francis Xavier University
Telephone: (203) 624-6976	Telephone: (902) 867-2159
rosemarie.morgan@yale.edu	rnemesva@stfx.ca

CALL FOR PAPERS

“A Phantom of His Own Figuring”: Thomas Hardy and Fetishism

In his critique and qualification of Marxist constructions of commodity fetishism Jean Baudrillard argues that “if fetishism exists it is...not a fetishism of the signified, a fetishism of substances and values...it is a *fetishism of the signifier*...It is not the passion (whether of objects or subjects) for substances that speaks in fetishism, it is the *passion for the code*, which, by governing both objects and subjects, and by subordinating them to itself, delivers them up to abstract manipulation.” Hardy’s poetry and fiction provide numerous instances in which such a process is both revealed and reproduced through explorations of the abstracted desires that fixate his characters and, at times, Hardy himself. Baudrillard’s decision to use “the [female] body and beauty” to illustrate his theory, and his insistence that the “fascination of this fetishized beauty is the result of this extended process of abstraction, and derives from what it negates and censors through its own character as a system,” connects neatly with some feminist analyses of Hardy

which assert the scopophilic quality of his writing, but it is also possible to contend that he employs the tropes of fetishism to expose the “codes” and “systems” which act as the ideological drives behind late Victorian culture.

Papers and proposals are invited exploring the ways in which conceptualizations of fetishism contribute to the understanding of Hardy and his works. Possible topics might include (but are not limited to):

- Fetishism and obsession in *Far From the Madding Crowd*
- Tess Durbeyfield as fetish
- Class aspiration as fetishism in the novels and short stories
- The fetishized female body in the novels and short stories
- The fetishized male body in the novels and short stories
- Emma Gifford as fetish in *Poems of 1912-1913*
- Fetishized historical figures (Napoleon, Nelson, Wellington)
- Artistic/sexual fetishism in *The Well-Beloved*
- Phantoms and specters as fetishized loss in the short stories and poems
- “Thomas Hardy” as cultural fetish

Proposals should be 300-500 words in length, completed papers should be no longer than 10 double-spaced pages (delivery time maximum of 20 minutes). Electronic submissions are encouraged.

Papers or proposals should be received by **December 15, 2006**, and sent to:

Richard Nemesvari
Department of English
St. Francis Xavier University
Antigonish, Nova Scotia
Canada B2G 2W5
rnemesva@stfx.ca

**Brill Academic Publishers is seeking contributors to
*A New History of the Sermon: The Nineteenth Century.***

Topics that have been proposed thus far include

- The Tractarians’ sermons and other speeches
- Sermons on Darwin
- The Victorian sermon as popular entertainment
- Cardinal Manning and the Catholic pulpit
- British missionary sermons
- American anti-dueling sermons
- American Thanksgiving Day sermons
- The Hicksite Rebellion and Quaker preaching
- Preaching and the Women’s Christian Temperance Union
- American women and the right to preach

Additional contributions are needed on any aspect of preaching in Europe, America, and the

British Empire. The editor is especially interested in essays that complement the above list, as well as papers on topics such as imperialism, African-American preaching, and eschatology and apocalypse.

All essays should be 20-40 pages long and will be due early in the **summer of 2007**. Please address questions or informal expressions of interest to

Robert Ellison
Professor of English
East Texas Baptist University
1209 N. Grove St.
Marshall, TX 75670
903.923.2282
rellison@etbu.edu

FORTHCOMING EVENTS SPONSORED BY BAVS:

Midlands Interdisciplinary Victorian Studies Seminar
Sponsored by BAVS and the University of Wolverhampton

Saturday 10th December 2005

Emma Francis (University of Warwick): 'Why wasn't Amy Levy more of a socialist?: Levy, Clementina Black and Liza of Lambeth'

John Holmes (University of Reading): 'Rossetti's Inclusive Influence: Re-Placing 'The House of Life' in Late Victorian Culture'

Seminars run from 2-5 pm and are held in the Birmingham & Midlands Institute, central Birmingham.

For further information, please contact:

Marion Thain, University of Birmingham (m.thain@bham.ac.uk)

Rosie Miles, University of Wolverhampton (R.Miles@wlv.ac.uk)

Richard Pearson, University College, Worcester (R.Pearson@worc.ac.uk)

Victorian Studies Seminar in Wales

Sponsored by BAVS

The 1st Victorian Studies Seminar in Wales (VSSW) will take place on **Saturday December 10** (10am-5pm) at St. Deiniol's Library (the Gladstone Centre for Victorian Studies) in Hawarden, North Wales.

The event includes:

A Morning Masterclass on Victorian Visual Images presented by Brian Maidment (University of Salford) author of *Reading Popular Prints 1780-1870* (Manchester UP)

The Afternoon Seminar on Victorian Culture featuring papers by David Amigoni (Keele University), author of *The English Novel and Prose Narrative* (Edinburgh UP) and co-editor of *Victorian Culture and the Idea of the Grotesque* (Ashgate)
and

Juliet John (University of Liverpool), author of *Dickens's Villains: Melodrama, Character, Popular Culture* (Oxford UP) and co-editor of *Rethinking Victorian Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan)

This event is FREE. You may attend either for the morning or the afternoon or both. All welcome but places limited. Please contact the seminar chair, Dr Martin Willis (University of Glamorgan) on mwillis@glam.ac.uk

St. Deiniol's Library is a short journey from the North West of England, nr. Chester, Liverpool and Manchester and also easily accessible from across Wales. For further details on travel see the Library website at www.st-deiniols.co.uk

(Refreshments and lunch available in St. Deiniol's excellent café.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Fin de Siècle Seminars University of Oxford

The "Fin de Siècle" seminar, on literature and culture between the years 1870 and 1920, takes place on Thursdays at 5.15pm in the Meyerstein Room (Room 11) at the Faculty of English, University of Oxford, St. Cross Building, Manor Road. Inquiries: anthony.cummins@ell.ox.ac.uk

"FIN DE SIÈCLE" SEMINAR: MICHAELMAS TERM 2005

20 October 'How Aesthetic were the "Aesthetic Eighties"?'
Dr. Nicholas Shrimpton (Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford)

3 November 'The New Hellenism: Oscar Wilde and Archaeology'
Iain Ross (Magdalen College, Oxford)

17 November 'The Writer's Eyes, The Dancer's Body: Representations of dance and dancers in late nineteenth-century literature, poetry and song'
Prof. Alexandra Carter (Middlesex University)

1 December 'Sherlock Holmes and the Final Solution'
Prof. Roger Ebbatson (Loughborough University)

Victorian Births and Deaths

Postgraduate Study Day

Midlands Interdisciplinary Victorian Studies Seminars

Sponsored by University College Worcester

22nd October 2005

John Peek Conference Room

The Birmingham & Midland Institute

A day of academic papers and discussion

PANEL 1: 10.30-11.45

Beth Palmer (Trinity College, Oxford) 'At the Deathbed: Representations of the Doctor in Sensation Fiction'.

David Lawrence (Birkbeck College) 'Death and the Victorian Stage'.

PANEL 2: 12.00-13.15

Jodie Poppleton (Cardiff University) 'The Verge of Extinction: Victorian Romany Ryes and 'The Last Gypsy'.

Sarah Dewis (Birkbeck College) 'Manufactory for the Dead or Pleasure Ground? J.C. Loudon and the Cemetery'.

PANEL 3: 14.15- 15.30

Bertram Troeger (Friedrich-Schiller University) "'As they Lived they Died": Great Puritans and their Victorian Demises'.

Amelia Yeates (University of Birmingham) 'Conception and Creation: Re-birth and Fulfilment in Burne-Jones's *Pygmalion and the Image*'.

PLENARY: 15.30-16.00

There is no registration fee for the study day. If you would like to attend please register by emailing your name and affiliation to birthsanddeaths@nbunting.nildram.co.uk and put 'Registration' in the subject box.

For more information see the website at: www.codescape.ltd.uk/BirthsandDeaths

VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN POPULAR CULTURE

Organised by the English Literature Group at the University of Hertfordshire and the Institute of English Studies, University of London

Wednesdays, 5.30-7pm (unless otherwise stated)

Venue: Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU
Tel: 020 7862 8675

The Victorian and Edwardian popular culture research seminar series is run with the intention of providing a forum for discussion of new work on periodical and magazine history, on popular novels and their readers, on recently re-discovered authors and texts, on reception histories, and on other forms of popular entertainment including theatre and cinema. The seminars are open to all – students, staff, members of the general public. Refreshments will be served.

Full details at: <http://www.sas.ac.uk/ies/events/sems/VandEliterature/Index.htm>

1st seminar: November 9th 2005

Dr Juliet John (University of Liverpool)

“Dickens on Screen”

If you would like to give a paper in this series, please contact Andrew Maunder
(A.C.Maunder@herts.ac.uk)

Into the Light: Photography in Nineteenth-Century Ireland
1st November 2005

Parallax Views: Perspectives on Irish Photography is a forum run by the photography course in the School of Creative Arts at the Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT), Dun Laoghaire to explore all aspects of photographic history and practice in Ireland. A one day conference on photography in 19th century Ireland will take place on the 1st of November 2005.

Photography in 19th century Ireland has received little scholarly attention despite its role in the histories of Irish science and technology, colonialism, tourism, the representation of race and ethnicity and the broader field of visual culture. 'Into the Light: Photography in 19th Century Ireland' seeks to foster research that examines the history of photography in Ireland from a range of perspectives from the history of photography itself, to art history, cultural geography, anthropology, sociology and Irish studies.

Plenary Speaker: Dr. James R. Ryan (University of Leicester) Picturing Empire: Photography and the Visualization of the British Empire.

www.iadt.ie

Simeon Solomon Study Day: A 'Half-Forgotten Genius'
Saturday 19 November 2005

This event will take place at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (the AV Room at Gas Hall) from 10.00 am - 5.45 pm.

Speaking at the Study Day will be Martin Barnes, Colin Cruise, Donato Esposito, Paul Goldman, Elizabeth Prettejohn, Paul Spencer-Longhurst and Julia Weiner.

The event is organised in conjunction with the Department of History of Art, University of Birmingham.

Cost: £30 full, £20 concessions.

Price includes refreshments, lunch and entry to the exhibition.

To book please ring 0121 303 1966, or for further details please contact Victoria Osborne, Curator (Prints & Drawings), tel: 0121 303 4603, email: victoria_osborne@birmingham.gov.uk

Association for Research in Popular Fictions

Open to View: Popular Fiction and Visual Narrative
19 & 20 November 2005

Liverpool John Moores University, UK

Including, 'Nineteenth Century Views Panel' focusing on aspects of visual narrative and culture in the nineteenth century.

ARPF website: www.arpf.org.uk

The Long Nineteenth Century: The Future for Victorian Studies?

26 November 2005

London Nineteenth-Century Studies Seminar

Institute of English Studies, Senate House, University of London

This one-day symposium tests the conceptual and temporal boundaries of the long nineteenth century across a range of subject disciplines. Speakers include Adriana Craciun, Margot Finn, Gareth Stedman Jones, Cora Kaplan and Roger Luckhurst.

For further information, contact David Feldman (d.feldman@bbk.ac.uk), Jim Mussell (jimmussell@hotmail.com) or Ella Dzelzainis (e.dzelzainis@bbk.ac.uk).

JOURNALS NEWS:

The Yearbook of English Studies 36.2 - special issue on Victorian Literature.

Edited by John Batchelor, it comprises 18 new essays covering a wide and diverse range of Victorian literary topics, e.g. Arnold, Beddoes, Browning, Clough, Dickens, Ruskin, Anne Thackeray Ritchie, Swinburne and the Spasmodics, Pater and the 90s, D.G and Christina Rossetti and Victorian Hymns. Contributors include Daniel Karlin, Laurence Lerner, Dinah Birch, Stefano Evangelista, Francis O'Gorman, Elisabeth Jay, Michael O'Neill, Emma Mason, Kirstie Blair, John Sloan, Leonee Ormond and J.R.Watson. Due to be published by the MHRA in **July 2006**, the issue comes as part of a year's subscription for the YEARBOOK payable to MHRA. The subscription is £86 UK, £103 overseas and \$198 USA. Subscribers this year would also receive the first part of YEARBOOK for 2006 (volume 36.1) which is a specialist volume on translation.

Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies

We would like to announce a new peer-reviewed, online journal--Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies. Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies is committed to publishing insightful and innovative scholarship on gender studies and nineteenth-century British literature, art and culture. The journal is a collaborative effort that brings together advanced graduate students and scholars from a variety of universities to create a unique voice in the field. We endorse a broad definition of gender studies and welcome submissions that consider gender and sexuality in conjunction with race, class, place and nationality.

The journal is published twice a year (April/ November) and accepts both scholarly articles and book reviews year-round. We welcome articles of 4,000-8,000 words on gender studies and British literature, art and culture during the long nineteenth century. Submissions should be in

MLA format and must include a brief biographical note which will be posted if accepted for publication. Please send an electronic version of your submission in Word to: Stacey Floyd (sefloy2@uky.edu) and Melissa Purdue (mpurd2@uky.edu). To facilitate the peer review process, please send two files: one with your article absent of all identifying information and another with your brief biographical note.

Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies also plans to publish a diverse range of book reviews including short reviews of single works, multiple book reviews, short review essays (devoted to 2 or more recent books on a single topic), and full-length review essays (assessing recent developments in established or emerging areas of nineteenth-century studies). Scholars interested in reviewing recent publications should contact the Reviews Editor, Lauren Goodlad, at lgoodlad@uiuc.edu

For further information, please visit our website at www.ncgsjournal.com

FORTHCOMING & RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS:

T. R. Wright, ed., *Thomas Hardy on Screen* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, January 2006)

The novels of Thomas Hardy have often been regarded as cinematic in their scope and power, and they have inspired some of the most absorbing adaptations of fiction for the big screen. This collection of essays by prominent international Hardy scholars explores both successful and unsuccessful attempts to transfer Hardy's novels to the screen. It provides a fascinating illustrated history of the interpretation and recreation of Hardy's work, from the silent era to television. The essays highlight the challenging nature of Hardy's work, which finds its most powerful reflection in films by controversial directors such as Roman Polanski and Michael Winterbottom. Adaptations on screen have revived Hardy's reputation for new generations of readers, and have reinforced the continuing relevance of his works. This collection offers a stimulating starting-point both for the study of Hardy's novels as films, and of the ways in which cinema and television adaptations illuminate the novels.

For further information: [please click here](#)

John Schad, *Arthur Hugh Clough* (Northcote House, January 2006)

A new addition to the Writers and their Work series. For more information, please visit the website: www.northcotehouse.co.uk/

Alexis Easley, *First-Person Anonymous: Women Writers and Victorian Print Media, 1830-70* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2004)

First-Person Anonymous revises previous histories of Victorian women's writing by examining the importance of both anonymous periodical journalism and signed book authorship in women's literary careers. Easley demonstrates how women writers capitalized on the publishing conventions associated with signed and unsigned print media in order to create their own spaces of

agency and meaning within a male-dominated publishing industry. Easley provides new insight into the careers of Christian Johnstone, Harriet Martineau, Elizabeth Gaskell, George Eliot, and Christina Rossetti, and recovers a large, anonymous body of periodical writing through which their better known careers emerged into public visibility.

For more information: [please click here](#)

Daniel Hack, *The Material Interests of the Victorian Novel* (Charlottesville & London: University of Virginia Press, September 2005)

Hack argues that the significance and interaction of the physical, economic, and linguistic aspects of writing now conjured by the term *materiality* were a major concern of Victorian fiction and the Victorian discourse on authorship. Combining formalist and historicist critical methods, Hack reads novels by Thackeray, Dickens, Collins, and Eliot as explorations of their own simultaneous status as texts, books, and commodities. Given urgency by the genre's proximity to such debased forms of writing as advertisements and begging letters, these explorations called into question the nature of authorship and such basic novelistic properties as sympathetic identification and fictionality itself.

Daniel Hack is Associate Professor of English at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York.

For more information: [please click here](#)

Jane Jordan, *Kitty O'Shea; An Irish Affair* (Stroud: Sutton, 2005)

Kitty O'Shea (1846-1921) was at the centre of one of the most notorious scandals of the late Victorian Age – a scandal which brought the downfall of Charles Stewart Parnell, the leader of the movement for Home Rule for Ireland, and fatal damage to the movement itself. In 1889 Parnell was named co-respondent in a divorce suit brought by one of his former MPs, Captain Willie O'Shea. The divorce case exposed a ten-year affair between Parnell and Mrs O'Shea. Its detailed evidence shocked Victorian England and Catholic Ireland. What it did not reveal was that Parnell had fathered Katharine's three youngest children, and that for years Katharine had been Parnell's go-between with Gladstone and the British Government – a role that has been consistently marginalised and misrepresented. Why did Parnell risk the political future of Ireland – and his own – by having an affair with a married woman? Was Captain O'Shea duped, as he maintained, or did he connive with his wife's adultery in order to further his own political career? Did Gladstone deal with Katharine, knowing that she was Parnell's mistress? In this compelling new biography, Jane Jordan explores these still unanswered questions.

Dr Jane Jordan lectures in Nineteenth Century literature and Biography at Kingston University.

For more information: [please click here](#)

VICTORIAN STUDIES COURSES:

Dickens and Victorian Culture - MA
University of Kent

This MA examines the nature of the relationship between Dickens and Victorian culture in two core modules, Dickens and Comedy and Dickens and the Condition of England. In each of these we discuss a selection of novels as well as a wide range of Dickens's journalism, and the contemporary reception of Dickens's work. The two other modules broaden the study of Victorian literary and visual culture by exploring thought, fiction and poetry, and the concern with personal, social and cultural health and its relation to domestic and national ideology, in *The National Body: Health, Illness and Disease in Nineteenth Century British Culture*; and by examining the themes of loss of focus and fading vision in major Victorian poetry, aesthetic writing and painting and photography, in *Blindness, Vision and Aesthetic Writing in the Nineteenth Century*.

For further information: [please click here](#)

MLitt in Victorian Literature
University of Glasgow

This course gives you the opportunity to explore a broad range of texts, topics and ideas in Victorian literature and culture and to develop your special interests via option courses and a dissertation.

This course is the only Victorian Master's programme in Scotland. Glasgow's handsome architecture, outstanding museums and art galleries still clearly reflect its Victorian history. The University of Glasgow has excellent research holdings in Victorian literature and a flourishing community of Victorianists across the Arts Faculty.

For further information: [please click here](#)

The Pre-Raphaelite Society

The Pre-Raphaelite Society is dedicated to the celebration of the mood and style of art which Ruskin recognised and preserved by his writings, and to the observation of its wide-ranging influence. In co-operation with societies of similar aims world-wide, it seeks to commemorate Pre-Raphaelite ideals by means of meetings, conferences, discussions, publications and correspondence, and to draw attention to significant scholastic work in this field. First and foremost, however, it is a society in which individuals can come together to enjoy the images and explore the personalities of the Pre-Raphaelites and their followers through the medium of fine art, the appreciation of good design and the excellence of the traditional arts.

Please visit our website: www.pre-raphaelitesociety.org

University of Sydney
Lecturer in English: Victorian Literature
School of English, Art History, Film and Media
Reference No. B35/006280

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Victorian Literature in the Department of English within the School of English, Art History, Film and Media. The Department of English has approximately 30 academic staff, and offers undergraduate and postgraduate education and training in all fields and periods of English language and literature, from the medieval to the contemporary.

The department is seeking a Lecturer who has demonstrable research expertise in literature of the Victorian period. The appointee will be expected to teach undergraduate, Honours and postgraduate units of study and to supervise Honours and postgraduate research students in relevant fields. In addition, he or she will be expected to undertake administration and curriculum development as required, and to pursue an active research program.

Applicants must have a PhD in English, and be able to provide evidence of research publications and current research activity in Victorian literature. Experience in teaching at undergraduate level and ability to contribute in other areas of departmental teaching are essential. Experience in lecturing and in the supervision of Honours and postgraduate students is desirable.

The position is full-time continuing, subject to the completion of a satisfactory probation and/or confirmation period for new appointees. Membership of a University approved superannuation scheme is a condition of employment for new appointees. For further information, contact Associate Professor Anthony Miller, Chair of Department, on (+61 2) 9351 2065, fax (+61 2) 9351 2434, e-mail: anthony.miller@arts.usyd.edu.au or Professor Penny Gay, (+61 2) 9351 2365, fax (+61 2) 9351 2434, or e-mail: penny.gay@arts.usyd.edu.au

Closing: 13 October 2005

President: Isobel Armstrong; Secretary: Martin Hewitt; Treasurer: Karen Sayer; Membership Secretary: Ann Heilmann; Committee Members: Joanne Shattock, Dinah Birch, Lyn Pykett, Simon Dentith, Roger Ebbatson; Student Members: Chrissie Bradstreet & Catherine Brown; Newsletter Editor: Rhian Williams; Webmasters: Holly Furneaux & Robert Maiden 2006 Conference Organiser: Dinah Birch