



June 2005

Welcome to the June 2005 edition of the BAVS newsletter. In this edition, we look forward to the 6th annual BAVS conference – ‘Victorians in the Long View’ – to be held at the University of Gloucestershire in September with an article that anticipates discussions that might stem from the conference theme: Dr Tess Cosslett considers how reading eighteenth century texts has informed her consideration of nineteenth-century children’s literature. Additionally, Dr Heike Bauer introduces an exciting project that promises to improve accessibility and understanding of texts from the Victorian theatre. Further, please note a feature on another electronic project that is currently underway: the Nineteenth Century Serials Edition. We encourage academics and postgraduate students to follow these examples and 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 notices:

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIAN STUDIES
6TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
VICTORIANS IN THE LONG VIEW: CONTRASTS AND CONTINUITIES
5-7 SEPTEMBER 2005, UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

This conference presupposes that an important way of understanding the Victorian period is by comparison with what came before and after it. Victorian culture, society, economy, literature and art are of course historically specific, but we can best get them into focus by considering them within the longer continuities in which they occur, and by contrast to other related phenomena by which they are preceded or succeeded. We are thus calling for papers which consider Victorian topics comparatively, looking back to the world which came before the later two thirds of the nineteenth century, or forward to the world that followed in the twentieth.

Keynote speakers:

Regnia Gagnier, Peter Mandler, Lynda Nead

Plenary speakers:

Philip Davis, Martin Hewitt, Anne Janowitz, Brian Young

For further information, please contact the conference organiser, Professor Simon Dentith, sdentith@glos.ac.uk or visit the BAVS website: www.bavsuk.org

Articles:

Digitization of Lacy’s Acting Edition of Plays Project

Contacts

Project Director: Dr Richard Pearson (r.pearson@worc.ac.uk)

Postdoctoral Researcher: Dr Heike Bauer (h.bauer@worc.ac.uk)

How did the Victorians entertain themselves? While many of the varied aspects of Victorian literary life have received substantial critical attention, drama, which played such a key role in Victorian culture, remains an understudied area of research. This project aims to increase scholarly awareness of this rich and significant part of Victorian cultural life, specifically focusing on the large body of works

collected in Lacy's Acting Edition of Victorian Plays. Thomas Hailes Lacy, an actor and theatrical publisher, printed a total of 1485 plays performed on the main London stages between the 1840s and the 1870s, intending them for use by minor and provincial theatres. Bound in 99 volumes - a complete run of which is available in Birmingham Central Library- the pieces include original contemporary works as well as revivals of classical texts, for example works by Shakespeare and eighteenth-century playwrights. Many of the plays are short one-act burlesques, but the collection spans the full theatrical range including melodramas, operatic adaptations and five-act tragedies. What makes Lacy's edition particularly valuable is that it provides a year-by-year glimpse at London's theatrical life, reflecting many of the pressing current preoccupations and literary debates.

This AHRB-funded project will provide a full online catalogue of Lacy's Acting Edition, and a selection of the plays. The compilation of the catalogue is now almost complete. It will, in due course, be fully searchable, enabling, for instance, searches on specific playwrights, theatres, and themes. Currently, we are preparing a fully searchable selection of about four hundred plays for online access. We are planning to make available some of the texts online while digitization is in process. For further information, contact us at the email addresses above, and visit the project website at

<http://www.worc.ac.uk/victorian/victorianplays/lacys.htm>

Dr Heike Bauer
University College, Worcester

ncse Nineteenth-Century Serials Edition

Funded by the AHRC, **ncse** is a partnership between Birkbeck College, King's College London, and the British Library. Its remit is to develop an exemplary *edition* of six nineteenth-century newspaper and periodical titles in electronic form. The publications are:

- *Monthly Repository of Theology and General Literature* (1806-38)
- *Northern Star* (1838-52)
- *Leader* (1850-59)
- *English Woman's Journal* (1858-64)
- *Tomahawk* (1867-70)
- *Publishers' Circular* (1880-90).

The edition will feature full-text facsimiles, including adverts and illustrations. Metadata and concept maps will allow sophisticated searching and indexing functions. This resource, developed in collaboration with the Centre for Computing in the Humanities at Kings College London, will facilitate extensive research within titles and across the cluster. Challenging conventional uses of print media by emphasising its interconnectedness, **ncse** provides a new technical and methodological model for electronic editions and a new conceptual framework for researchers.

The project team is lead by Laurel Brake, and its members are drawn from all its partner institutions:

Project team: Laurel Brake (Birkbeck), Isobel Armstrong (Birkbeck), Marilyn Deegan (CCH KCL), Ed King (British Library), Jim Mussell (Birkbeck), Suzanne Paylor (Birkbeck), Harold Short (CCH KCL), Simon Tanner, (CCH KCL), Mark Turner (KCL).

ncse are keen to hear from those working in similar areas, whether in nineteenth-century studies or humanities computing. For further details contact Suzanne Paylor (s.paylor@bbk.ac.uk) or see our website:

www.ncse.kcl.ac.uk

Animals in eighteenth and nineteenth-century children's books

I would be really interested to go to the BAVS conference in September, but unfortunately I'll be out of the country. But, here are some considerations I would like to present, and which I thought might

start the ball rolling on the topic. I'm working on a book about animals in nineteenth-century fiction for children, and it's been enormously informative for me, going back to the eighteenth century with this topic. Things I'd thought were original to the Victorians, turn out to have a long history, and some quite different inflections. For instance, I now see Anna Sewall's Black Beauty (1877) as nearly the end of a long and populous tradition of animal autobiography, beginning with Dorothy Kilner's Life and Perambulations of a Mouse (1783); the strange combination of fantasy, carnivalesque, natural history, and moralising in Charles Kingsley's Water Babies (1863) has antecedents in comic verses for children published at the beg of the nineteenth century, such as 'The Water King's Levee', or 'The Lobster's Voyage to the Brazils' (1808), which also seem to anticipate Lewis Carroll. Kipling's Jungle Books, and the subsequent associated Boy Scout movement, could be traced back to Thomas Day's Rousseauesque Sandford and Merton (1783-89); Beatrix Potter's stories have not only an eighteenth-century setting, but also an intertextual relationship with eighteenth-century texts.

As well as these similarities, there are also illuminating differences. In 1802, Charles Lamb, in a much quoted onslaught complained colourfully to Coleridge:

'Goody Two-Shoes' is almost out of print. Mrs Barbauld's stuff has banished all the old classics of the nursery: & the Shopman at Newbery's hardly deign'd to reach them off an old exploded corner of a shelf, when Mary ask'd for them. Mrs B and Mrs Trimmer's nonsense lay in piles about. Knowledge, insignificant & vapid as Mrs B's books convey, it seems, must come to the child in the shape of knowledge, & his empty noddle must be turned with conceit of its own powers, when he has learned that a Horse is an Animal, & Billy is better than a Horse, & such like: instead of that beautiful Interest in wild tales, which made the child a man, while all the time he suspected himself to be no bigger than a child.

Lamb's outburst has been re-examined and attacked by several recent critics, who point out how it has helped to structure subsequent debates on children's literature within false dichotomies that oppose instruction to amusement, realism to fantasy, morality to subversion. Lamb is clearly wrong in his implicit categorisation of Goody Two Shoes (another eighteenth-century book I hadn't read before) with 'wild tales' and 'old wives fables': the book upholds rationality, and debunks witches and fairies in favour of animals.

But what I want to do here is to look at the specific dialogue about the horse that Lamb criticises. Lamb's example of Billy and the Horse is a parody of a real story in Evenings At Home, published 1792-96 by Anna Barbauld and her John Aikin. Lamb's parody immediately makes a Victorianist think of the incident in Dickens' novel Hard Times (1854) that takes place in Mr M'Choakumchild's school - not in a book for children, but in a scene about children and about education. In the scene in Hard Times, Sissy, a girl who has worked with horses in the circus, is reprimanded because she is 'unable to define a horse', while Bitzer, an inhumanly selfish and mechanical child, gives the 'correct' definition: 'Quadruped. Gramnivorous. Forty teeth, namely twenty-four grinders, four eye-teeth, and twelve incisive. Sheds coat in the spring; in marshy countries, sheds hoofs too. Hoofs hard, but requiring to be shod with iron. Age known by marks in mouth'. Dickens is satirising a purely factual education that takes no account of either experience or fantasy.

If, however, we look at 'A Lesson in the Art of Distinguishing', in Evenings At Home, it is quite different from Dickens' scene, and much less banal than Lamb's parody. In the first place, it follows the account of a legend concerning Flying Fish - the wonderful is not missing from the book. Secondly, it takes place not in a classroom, but outside, while Father and Charles look at an actual horse. Thirdly, the point of the lesson is to introduce the child, very gently, to close observation and principles of categorisation, that will help it to understand the world - it is an 'Art' that is being taught, not just inert, useless facts: 'I have not given you a definition to teach you what a horse is, but to teach you to think' says Father. The dialogue is not without humour:

F[ather]: Are all horses alike, then?

C[harles]: Yes.

F: If they are so much alike, how do you know one horse from another?

C: They are not quite alike.

F: But they are so much alike, that you can easily distinguish a horse from a cow?

C: Yes, indeed.

F: Or from a cabbage?

C: A horse from a cabbage! Yes, surely I can.

More comic and even surreal comparisons follow:

F: I think a salmon could not walk upon the ground, even if it could live out of the water?

C: No, indeed; it has no legs.

F: And a bird could not gallop like a horse?

C: No; it would hop away upon its two slender legs.

Gradually father and son home in on a definition: 'A horse is an animal of the quadruped kind, whole-hoofed, with short erect ears, a flowing mane, and a tail covered in every part with long hairs'. This is like Bitzer's definition, but is arrived at by questioning and observation, and without the Dickensian emphasis on hardness and grinding. Even so, Charles is unimpressed: 'this does not tell us a great deal about him'. Father tries to make 'definition' sound exciting: 'It is a kind of chase, and resembles the manner of hunting in some countries', where the game is gradually enclosed in a smaller and smaller circle. Charles, however, insists on preferring description to definition, and is allowed to recite 'some verses upon the horse' from Pope's *Homer* in illustration. Father concedes that at Charles's age he too preferred descriptions. The dialogue then incorporates its own critique, including both father's abstract ideas, and Charles's concrete experience and down-to-earth objections. Barbauld and Aikin's Charles is almost voicing Charles Lamb's position, opposing poetry to science. The project of the story is not to dichotomise, but to reconcile. Thus Charles will see the value of definition when he grows up but he need not give up his sensuous experience of horses or poetry. The idea that the experience of childhood is nearer to poetry than science is of course a very Romantic one. In all this, the horse itself functions as the object of both scientific categorisation, and poetic description.

The comparison of the two definitions, Bitzer's and Charles's, suggests then an increasing polarisation in the Victorian period between scientific and poetic attitudes to animals, the very split Lamb fears, but one that *Evenings at Home* strives to reconcile.

Tess Cosslett
Lancaster University

Calls for Papers:

Marie Corelli and Popular Women Novelists 1880-1910 30th March – 1st April 2006

Hosted by University of Birmingham, Liverpool John Moores University, Association for Research in Popular Fictions
Mason Croft, Shakespeare Institute, Stratford Upon Avon, England

Call for Papers – Deadline July 1st 2005

In 1898 The Women at Home grouped together twenty-two popular novelists whose books testify "to many sleepless nights caused by the exciting scenes in these novels". This conference aims to examine the collective identity of popular women novelists and consider them as a group influential to the period.

Papers focusing on the following novelists are invited:

Miss Braddon, Mrs Hodgson-Burnett, Miss Rosa Nouchette Carey, John Oliver Hobbes (PMT Craigie), Mrs WK Clifford, Miss Marie Corelli, Miss Sarah Doundney, Miss Betham Edwards, Sarah Grand, Miss Beatrice Harraden, Mrs Lynn Linton, Edna Lyall, Mrs Katherine S. Macquoid, Lucas Mallet (Mrs Harrison), Miss Florence Marryat, Mrs LT Meade, Mrs Molesworth, Ouida, Mrs Louisa Parr, Mrs Oliver Schreiner, Miss Adeline Sergeant, Mrs Flora Annie Stell and Mrs Humphrey Ward

If you are working in this area or would like to nominate another popular writer please send a proposal to Nickianne Moody and Maureen Bell.

N.A.Moody@livjm.ac.uk M.Bell@bham.ac.uk

Website: www.arpf.org.uk

Matthew Arnold: Special Journal Edition

Nineteenth-Century Prose invites submissions for a special issue on Matthew Arnold. We encourage a wide range of topics focusing on prose works by Arnold as well as topics related to broader issues regarding Arnold's influence on literature (including individual authors), literary and cultural studies, religious studies, and education. Arnold's current standing in cultural studies or other academic fields is of particular interest. Interdisciplinary approaches are welcomed. Submissions which discuss both Arnold's poetry and prose are appropriate, but not those which focus exclusively on poetry.

Inquiries, proposals, and submissions should be sent, preferably by e-mail, to guest editor Clinton Machann as soon as possible. Proposals (1-3 pages) are encouraged.

Clinton Machann
Professor of English
4227 TAMU
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-4229
USA
Telephone: 979-845-4898
E-mail: <c-machann@tamu.edu>

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

We encourage a broad interdisciplinary interpretation of the themes which can include, but are not limited to, Victorian conceptions of:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Fertility and Conception | Burial |
| • Maternity and Parenthood | Fin de Siècle/Fin du Globe/ the |
| Pregnancy, Midwifery and Birthing | Death of a Century |
| Childhood and the Nursery | The Living Dead |
| The Traditions and Celebrations of | Death and the Uncanny |
| Childbirth | |
| | Victorian Concepts of the Afterlife |
| The Birth of Ideologies or Literary | Spiritualism and Séance |
| Movements | Literary Afterlives |
| Invention | Writing for Posterity |
| | |
| Re-birth and Regeneration | Death and the Victorian Stage |
| The Birth of a New Century | The Death of the Victorian Novel |
| | Death and the Victorian Novel |
| Birth Control | The Death of Victorianism |
| Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Abortion | The Birth of Modernism |
| Death, Dying and Mourning | |
| Suicide, Murder, Infanticide | |
| Illness and Degeneration | |

Deadline: 250-word proposals for 20-minute papers must be submitted to BirthsandDeaths@nbunting.nildram.co.uk by **26 August 2005**.

For more information see the website: [click here](#)

Into the Light: Photography in 19th Century Ireland

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. As part of its programme of events papers are invited for a proposed one day conference on photography in 19th century Ireland to 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. The conference organisers are interested in receiving proposals of 250-300 words on any aspect of the history of photography in Ireland during the 19th century. Papers examining the representation of Ireland by Victorian travellers and tourists as well as histories of photography from the perspective of the Irish Diaspora are also welcomed.

Plenary Speaker: Dr. James R. Ryan (University of Leicester)

Proposals of 250-300 words for papers of 20-25 minutes are welcomed from any discipline exploring the history, practice and representation of 19th century Irish photography. Proposals should be in the body of the email text (not as attachments please) and should be accompanied by a brief biography and institutional affiliation of the proposed speaker. Proposals should be sent by email to **justin.carville@dliadt.ie** no later than **Friday 2nd September 2005**. Proposals sent by post should be addressed to:

Justin Carville
School of Creative Arts
Institute of Art, Design & Technology
Kill Avenue
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
Website: www.iadt.ie

The Space of Lewis Carroll's Wonderland

Papers are required that consider Lewis Carroll's Wonderland from a variety of theoretical perspectives, especially arguments that engage with spatial and cultural ideas/implications.

A basic premise of this collection is that, since its initial formulation, Wonderland has become increasingly independent from its original texts, acquiring in the process new meanings and cultural uses. Carroll himself sensed that his Alice books created a new type of fairy story; this collection proposes that Carroll's Wonderland has become a nearly universal and indispensable template for imagining and representing aspects of the present and, interestingly, a technologically defined future.

This collection will explore Wonderland from the circumstances of its Victorian conception to its emergence in the late twentieth century as a primary cultural metaphor, a story/space of unusual power and popularity.

Some topics to consider:

Antecedents and origins of Wonderland
Wonderland and Victorian fantasy
Wonderland and modernism, surrealism
Wonderland and literary and cultural spaces
Political uses of Wonderland
Cinematic Wonderlands
Wonderland in scientific discourses/rhetoric
Wonderland and imagining the Cold War
Wonderland and countercultural space
Wonderland and genre-Victorian and contemporary
Wonderland and metafictional and/or science fiction worlds
Wonderland and virtual reality/video games
Illustrating/picturing Wonderland: then and now
Emergence and meanings of adult Wonderland(s)
Cultural value/function of Wonderland compared with literary spaces of Oz, Narnia, Middle Earth, etc.
Internationalization of Wonderland
Wonderland in Japanese culture
Wonderland's influence on children's literature/the construction of childhood

Please send a 500-word abstract by **October 1, 2005** to Cristopher Hollingsworth at chollingsworth@usouthal.edu (MSWord attachment preferred). Submissions should include the author's name, affiliation, surface and email addresses, and a brief CV. If you prefer to use surface mail, send your materials to me at the following address:
University of South Alabama, Department of English, HUMB 240, Mobile, AL 36688-0002

Issue on Victorian Crime Fiction

Clues: A Journal of Detection

(deadline: October 14, 2005)

Published quarterly, the peer-reviewed *CLUES: A Journal of Detection* welcomes scholarly articles on all aspects of mystery and detective material in print, television, and film without limit to period or country covered. The fall 2006 issue will focus on Victorian crime fiction.

Guest editor: Janice Allan, University of Salford (UK)

For the issue, the guest editor would particularly welcome original manuscripts exploring the relationship between crime and the family, crime and the urban environment, surveillance and power, science and politics, issues relating to gender and class, the rise of the detective and the modern police force, questions relating to genre and literary form, or interdisciplinary readings of crime and deviance.

Submission Details. All articles in languages other than English must be accompanied by a short paragraph describing their contents. Submissions should include a short (50-word) abstract and be between 15 to 20 double-spaced, typed pages (approximately 3,300 to 6,000 words) in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect with minimal formatting. Authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts both on disk and in hard copy as back-up or as an electronic submission. Manuscripts should follow the *_MLA Style Manual_* by Joseph Gibaldi (2nd ed., 1998), including parenthetical citations in text and an alphabetized list of Works Cited; and should be accompanied by a stamped return envelope if return of manuscript is desired.

Address submissions to:

Elizabeth Foxwell

Managing Editor, *CLUES: A Journal of Detection*

Heldref Publications

1319 Eighteenth St NW

Washington, DC 20036 USA

E-mail: clu@heldref.org

Visit *CLUES* online at <http://www.heldref.org/clues.php>

Victorian Literature and Culture

Special issue on Food and the Victorians

Articles are sought for an upcoming special issue on Food and the Victorians edited by Ross Forman and Suzanne Daly. Essays should follow MLA guidelines and may address any aspect of the production or consumption of food or drink.

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

Suzanne Daly

Department of English

Bartlett Hall

University of Massachusetts

Amherst MA 01003-9269

USA

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

Electrifying Experimentation: Science in Nineteenth-Century Britain

A One-Day Interdisciplinary Conference

University of Sheffield 25 February 2006

The department of English Literature will be hosting a one-day conference on science in the nineteenth century on 25 February 2006. Papers or panels are warmly invited on all aspects of research relating to science in the nineteenth century. Proposals may focus on areas including, but not limited to, literature, history, history of science, philosophy, biblical studies, art and pedagogy.

Postgraduates and academics at the start of their careers are particularly encouraged to respond. The conference will feature several keynote speakers in the field of nineteenth-century studies as well as a workshop on publishing. The day will conclude with a wine reception.

Proposals of 250 words, along with a brief biographical note, should be submitted no later than **12 December 2005**. Please send proposals by email or post to the conference organizer, Amanda Mordavsky, at the following address:

Email: A.Mordavsky@sheffield.ac.uk

Amanda Mordavsky, Department of English Literature, University of Sheffield, Sir William Empson House, Shearwood Road, Sheffield S10 2TD, UK

For more information, please see the conference webpage: [click here](#)

The Bible in the Nineteenth Century: the Word and its Re-Wordings in British Literature and Thought

The Bible has played a significant part in British culture since the Reformation. It has been a major reference not only in the field of religious experience but also, more broadly, in artistic expression and intellectual reflection. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Evangelical Revival thus placed the Scriptures at the heart of religious practices and certain Romantics reasserted the importance of the Bible in renewing its reading.

Every era, however, and perhaps even every author, appropriates the Bible in its own particular way and, consequently, the interpretation of the Bible may be subjected to a variety of influences due to intellectual developments as well as the evolution of society. What characterises the nineteenth century is the importance of social changes (notably a growing population and the industrial revolution), as well as an enthusiastic, all-embracing intellectual energy which radically transformed existing views on the Scriptures. Science and philosophy, for instance, discussed Man's place in nature, his origin and his destiny. Artists and writers who were inspired by their reading of Biblical texts were led to deal with them in a way that was different from previous generations. As the years went on, new controversies emerged about the authority of the Bible and the question of its inerrancy.

It is therefore interesting to raise the question of the relationship between culture in the broad sense of the term (including literature, philosophy, science, theology, etc.) and the Bible. Following the LISA volumes devoted to "Re-Writings" I and II, this issue will be concerned less with the specifically religious matters then at stake than with the analysis of the evolution of the relationship between the Word and its Re-Wordings in nineteenth-century British literature and thought.

Co-ordinators of this issue: Christophe Duvey, Elise Ouvrard, Frederic Slaby.

Please send your proposals (one A4 page maximum) before **January 30, 2006**, to:

Elise Ouvrard: ouvrard_elise@hotmail.com or Frederic Slaby: fredericslaby@yahoo.fr

Authors are requested to include a short bio-bibliography.

As regards presentation norms, please follow the submission guidelines which appear on the LISA e-journal website: <http://www.unicaen.fr/mrsh/anglais/lisa/english/consignes.php>

14th Annual British Women Writers Conference

March 23-26 2006

The University of Florida

This year's theme, "**(Re)Collecting British Women Writers**," encourages interdisciplinary approaches to eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British women writers, with a special interest in issues related to archival scholarship and memory and how those issues manifest themselves in collections, exhibitions, and canons. We are very pleased to announce that our keynote speakers will be Talia Schaffer, Carolyn Steedman, and Lynne Vallone. We encourage proposals focusing on but not limited to:

Collections and Archives:

- Politics of display and archiving
- Textual and physical collections
- Intersections of written and visual arts
- Collecting in the (pseudo)sciences
- Exhibiting the empire
- The family: children's culture
- Collections and archives in the classroom

(Re)envisioning the Canon:

- Recovering women's writing
- Intersections between canonical and non-canonical writers
- Intersections between male and female writers
- De-marginalizing and de-centering groups, texts, crafts
- Theatrical adaptations of canonical and non-canonical texts
- Women's access to words: female literacies and publishing
- Children's literature in the eighteenth- and nineteenth-centuries
- Transatlantic links in children's culture

Influence and Textual Memory:

- Colony and the empire
- Nation, nationality, and the body
- Life writing: journals and letters
- Travel narratives
- Gendered intertextualities
- Subjectivity, agency, and authorship
- Family as a microcosm or metaphor

The politics of historical representation

For more information on the conference or to submit a proposal, please visit our website at <http://www.english.ufl.edu/bwwc>.

Charlotte Smith and British Romanticism: A Bicentenary Conference
28-29 October 2006
University of Warwick, UK
Plenary Speaker: Stuart CURRAN

Charlotte Smith died on 28 October 1806, famously commemorated by William Wordsworth as a poet 'to whom English verse is under greater obligations than are likely to be either acknowledged or remembered'. This conference seeks to draw together Smith scholars and evaluate her current place in the Romantic canon. Smith's poetry, from *Elegiac Sonnets* on, caught the zeitgeist of a style colored by personal reflection as well as poetical experimentation and innovation and political intervention. Her novels are models of the late-eighteenth-century interest in sensibility, history, and subjectivity. Since the early 1990s criticism of her works has burgeoned, and she is now regularly described as central to the formation of a style of Romantic writing made familiar by Wordsworth. Her complete Works are currently in preparation for publication by Pickering and Chatto, and of her novels, *The Old Manor House*, *Emmeline*, *Celestina*, and *Desmond* are in print.

Abstracts of 300-400 words are now invited for papers of no more than 20 minutes. Special sessions may also be proposed; please include abstracts for all the papers as well as a short (200 words) rationale for the panel itself. Please send abstracts and/or address questions to the conference organizer, Jacqueline Labbe, j.m.labbe@warwick.ac.uk; Dept. of English and Comparative Literary Studies, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK.

Deadline for abstracts: 20 March 2006. Decisions by 22 May 2006.

Conference Committee: Jacqueline Labbe, Michael John Kooy, Emma Mason, Freya Johnston

Victorian Poetry

Special Issue on Algernon Charles Swinburne

To commemorate the centenary of the death of Algernon Charles Swinburne (1837-1909), Terry Meyers and Rikky Rooksby will edit a special issue (Spring 2009) of *Victorian Poetry* dedicated to the life and works of the poet. The editors seek for consideration essays of every sort, critical, biographical, and bibliographic. They set no particular requirements beyond lucidity and interest.

Deadline: **April 5, 2007**. Direct inquiries and other correspondence to Terry Meyers <tlmeyer@wm.edu> or Rikky Rooksby <rikky@oceanview.free-online.co.uk>.

Forthcoming Events:

Land Questions: Social, Cultural and Political Perspectives on the Land in the United Kingdom, 1750-1950

University of Hertfordshire, 2-3 July 2005

The 'Land Question' is a familiar but still relatively under-studied area of modern British history. Often seen merely in its narrow, 'political' light, it has met with less attention than it deserves, this conference aims to rectify this situation by subjecting the land question to sustained, inter-disciplinary attention.

Speakers include: John Beckett, Jeremy Burchardt, Ewan Cameron, Malcolm Chase, Matthew Cragoe, Clare Griffiths, Tony Howe, David Howell, Alun Howkins, Paul Mulvey, Ian Packer, Roland Quinault, Paul Readman, F.M.L.Thompson, Antony Taylor and Michael Turner.

For a full programme and further details of how to register, please contact:

Professor Matthew Cragoe, Dept. of History, de Havilland Campus, University of Hertfordshire, Herts AL 10 9 AB

m.cragoe@herts.ac.uk

MORRIS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The 50th-Anniversary Conference of the William Morris Society

Royal Holloway, University of London

Egham, Surrey, UK: 7-10 July 2005

For further information and a conference programme, please visit the website: [click here](#)

Fifth Music in Nineteenth-Century Britain Conference

Nottingham

7-10 July 2005

The conference will cover all aspects of music in Britain during the 'long' nineteenth century (i.e. up to around 1914). It will include over 60 paper sessions, round tables, study sessions, a keynote address, and a concert.

For further details, visit the conference website: [click here](#) or contact the conference organiser,

Professor Philip Olleson: philip.olleson@nottingham.ac.uk

HENRY IRVING

A LIFE IN THE VICTORIAN THEATRE

An international conference

at the University of Leicester

8 - 10 July 2005.

The centenary of Henry Irving's death provides the opportunity to assess his achievements as an actor-manager and his importance in the cultural life of Victorian and Edwardian Britain and beyond.

Website: www.le.ac.uk/ee/irving

Email: vicstud@leicester.ac.uk

Bookings: lmj4@leicester.ac.uk

The Twentieth Century and the Victorians

11-13 July 2005

Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies, Trinity and All Saints Leeds

Speakers include Cora Kaplan, Gary Day, Rohan McWilliam, Christine Krueger, Frank Trentmann, Suzanne Raitt, Helen Rogers, Ann Heilmann, James Chapman, Julia Stapleton, John Plotz, Malcolm Chase, Ruth Robbins, Patricia de Montfort and Judith Wilt.

For further details, including programme and booking materials, please contact Joy Hamblin,
j_hamblin@tasc.ac.uk,
Trinity and All Saints, Brownberrie Lane, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5HD.

THE HEART OF ENGLAND
Study Day, Newlands Park
15th July 2005

What is Englishness in art? 2005 offers an unrivalled opportunity to question the idea of "the heart of England" and its impact on art, design and the modern landscape. The study day will address art, design and their relationship with English landscape, both real and imagined, from 1800 to the present. It will attempt to locate "the heart of England" in geographical and cultural terms. Confirmed speakers include:

Stephen Calloway (V&A) - the afterlife of Samuel Palmer
Prof. John Mackenzie - exporting Englishness to the Empire
Prof. William Vaughan - Pevsner and the "Englishness of English art"
Mary Greensted (Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery) - locating the Arts & Crafts tradition
Dr. Clare Griffiths (Sheffield) - the War Artists project
Jonny Bell (BCUC) - the legacy of William Kent's landscapes
Greer Crawley (BCUC) - pageantry and performance

The venue, in the heart of the Chilterns, will encourage delegates to focus on the impact of human activity on the landscape. Newlands Park, Chalfont St. Giles provides an ideal setting for this event. The 18th century manor house is one of the campuses of Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College, the organisers of the study day

For further information, please contact Suzanne Fagence Cooper, Research Fellow, V&A Museum: s.fagence@vam.ac.uk
or see our website: [click here](#)

ST DEINIOL'S LIBRARY
The National Memorial to William Ewart Gladstone
THE GLADSTONE UMBRELLA
Friday 15th – Sunday 17th July 2005

Gladstone scholars and enthusiasts are hereby invited to attend the sixth St Deiniol's Gladstone colloquium. The Gladstone Umbrella is an opportunity to spend a weekend in the congenial and inspiring setting of Gladstone's own Library, exploring some of the many facets of this Victorian polymath.

For further details and bookings please contact the Bookings Secretary at St Deiniol's Library, Church Lane, Hawarden, Nr Chester, CH5 3DF; Tel: 01244 532350; Fax: 01244 520643; E-mail: deiniol.visitors@btconnect.com

Visual Delights III: Magic and Illusion
University of Sheffield
15-17 July 2005

This conference is now supported by the new *Journal Early Popular Visual Culture* and features a range of international speakers, performers and participants.

We are now taking bookings and have a limited reservation of on-campus accommodation at £35 per night bed and breakfast. To take advantage of this special rate bookings must be received by the end of May. For further information please contact Leslie Allen (l.a.allen@shef.ac.uk)

The first 60 people to register will also receive a hand printed limited edition magic poster designed by the Bradford Industrial Museum from Great Carmo's Show to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Magic Circle.

Victorian Life Writing: Sources and Resources
The Ruskin Research Programme,
Lancaster University
21 – 23 July 2005.

Plenary Speakers

Philip Davis, Kate Flint, Robert Hewison, George Landow, and Jeffrey Richards.

Discussions and presentations will cover the records of Victorian writers' lives, written both by themselves and others. As well as various kinds of biography, we aim to consider more marginal forms of textuality, including journals, diaries, performance and letters. The presentation and editing of these materials is also of major interest.

For further information:

Email: Lindsey.walker@lancaster.ac.uk

Website: [click here](#)

International Centre for Research in Primary English and Children's Literature
George MacDonald Centenary Conference
July 23rd, 2005

*Keynote speakers: Prof Rod McGillis, Calgary Prof Maria Nikolajeva, Stockholm
Prof David Neuhouser, Indiana*

Friend of Lewis Carroll, John Ruskin, F.D. Maurice and Octavia Hill, George MacDonald is remembered for his fairy tales, his fantasy *At the Back of the North Wind*, two adult fantasies *Phantastes* and *Lilith*, and his theological writing. These works and his other novels, poetry and essays filter the world "through the fine gauze of his imagination" and have influenced other writers such as W.H. Auden and C.S. Lewis and the composer Holst.

Contact: Professor Jean Webb, Graduate School, University College Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester, WR2 6AJ, UK. or e-mail: j.webb@worc.ac.uk for details. Booking form: [click here](#)

CONSECRATED WOMEN:
TOWARDS A HISTORY OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS
OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND

September 16-17 2005, Cambridge

Divinity Faculty, Cambridge University and Margaret Beaufort Institute supported by the Economic History Society and the Royal Historical Society

. Exploring the history of consecrated women from medieval to modern times papers will focus on four themes: material culture in the convent; missionary ministry; oral history methodology; the authorial voice of consecrated women.

. Guest lecturers: Dr Barbra Mann Wall (Purdue University) and Dr Ann Matthews (University of Ireland, Maynooth).

For conference programme and booking form consult: www.margaretbeaufort.cam.ac.uk

Contact: Liz Jacobs, Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, 12 Grange Road,
Cambridge CB3 9DU (+44) 01223 741766, ecj27@cam.ac.uk

**DICKENS DAY
2005**

**Great Expectations
Saturday 24 September**

Birkbeck College, University of London

Speakers include: Barbara Hardy, Andrew Sanders, Sally Ledger, Steven Connor and Michael Slater.

Dickens Day is a prestigious academic tradition, now well into its second decade. Held annually at Birkbeck College, University of London, the one day event brings together foremost Dickens scholars, students and Dickens enthusiasts. This year the conference examines *Great Expectations* through a broad variety of approaches and theoretical positions. Papers will scrutinise narrative, mode of publication, the place of *Great Expectations* in popular culture, adaptation and alternative interpretations. A popular postgraduate panel will suggest new ways of reading the novel, using gendered contemporary discourses of dementia to propose an understanding of Miss Havisham as menopausal, deploying theories of memory and nostalgia to explore childhood in the novel, and interrogating the text's various forms of bodily care, including homoerotic nursing.

The day is very popular so advance booking is recommended. For further information and a booking form please contact Ben Winyard, C/O School of English and Humanities, Birkbeck, University of London, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HX or email: jwiny02@students.bbk.ac.uk

**THE LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY:
A SYMPOSIUM FOR STEVEN MARCUS
OCTOBER 14, 2005
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MAISON FRANCAISE (BUELL HALL)**

Steven Marcus has been for many decades a greatly admired teacher, scholar, and colleague. "The Long Nineteenth Century" has been organized to bring together all of us who wish to celebrate his many accomplishments and to honor the intellectual debt we owe to his work and his example. The program comprises papers that explore cultural and aesthetic issues, topics, problems, and disciplinary questions that currently preoccupy students of the long nineteenth century and that consider in some way Steven Marcus's pioneering efforts in charting the parameters of our current discussion. Speakers include Jonathan Arac, Rita Charon, Arnold Cooper, Andrew Delbanco, Mario Klarer, George Levine, Eric Lott, Deborah Epstein Nord, James Olney, Jonah Siegal, and Patricia Meyer Spacks.

For further information, please visit the website: [click here](#)

**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:

Announcing a new collection, '**Dickens and Sex**'. A special issue of *Critical Survey*, guest edited by Holly Furneaux and Anne Schwan, vol. 17.2, is forthcoming Summer 2005.

This collection explores the still underrepresented topics of sex, erotics and desire in the work of Charles Dickens. Contributors draw upon and suggest new points of convergence between a wide range of theoretical perspectives including cultural phenomenology, materialism, new historicism, critical

race studies, feminist and queer theory. Analysis of a broad range of Dickens's fiction, journalism and correspondence demonstrates Dickens's sustained commitment to exploring a diverse range of sexual matters throughout his career.

Contents

Interiors: Sex and the Body in Dickens

WILLIAM A. COHEN

Bodies, Boundaries and Queer Waters: Drowning and Prosopopœia in Later Dickens

VYBARR CREGAN-REID

'It is Impossible to be Gentler': The Homoerotics of Male Nursing in Dickens's Fiction

HOLLY FURNEAUX

'red-headed animal': Race, Sexuality and Dickens's Uriah Heep

TARA MACDONALD

Undertexts and Intertexts: The Women of Urania Cottage, Secrets and Little Dorrit

JENNY HARTLEY

The Daughter's Desire in *Dombey and Son*

KRISTINA AIKENS

The Limitations of a Somatics of Resistance: Sexual Performativity and Gender Dissidence in Dickens's *Dombey and Son*

ANNE SCHWAN

Announcing the launch of a new online journal for the humanities!
www.nineteen.bbk.ac.uk

Issue One: 1 October 2005

nineteen is the first scholarly refereed web journal dedicated to advancing interdisciplinary study in the long nineteenth century. Based at Birkbeck College, University of London, under the general editorship of Professor Hilary Fraser, **nineteen** aims to extend the activities of the Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies by making the high quality, original scholarship presented at its regular conferences, symposia and other events available to an international audience. Issue One focuses on practices of interdisciplinarity with articles from Anne Humpherys (CUNY), Regenia Gagnier (University of Exeter), Rohan McWilliam (Anglia Polytechnic University), Patrizia di Bello (Birkbeck College), Michael Allis (Royal Academy of Music), Suzanne Paylor and Jim Mussell (Nineteenth-Century Serials Edition Project).

For more information please contact Robert Maidens (bertmaidens@btinternet.com) or Holly Furneaux (h.furneaux@english.bbk.ac.uk)

Books:

Robert D. Aguirre, *Informal Empire: Mexico and Central America in Victorian Culture* (University of Minnesota Press, January 2005).

Behind the ancient artifacts displayed in our museums lies a secret history—of travel, desire, the quest for knowledge, and even theft. Such is the case with the objects of Mesoamerican culture so avidly collected by the Victorians. *Informal Empire* reveals how such objects and the cultures they embodied were incorporated into museum collections, panoramas, freak shows, adventure novels, and records of imperial administrators. With its original insights, *Informal Empire* points to a new way of thinking about British imperialism and, more generally, about the styles and forms of imperialism itself.

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

Paul Barlow, *Time Present and Time Past: The Art of John Everett Millais* (Ashgate, July 2005)

While, during his lifetime, controversy centred around [John Everett Millais's] early Pre-Raphaelite

paintings, in particular *Christ in the house of his Parents* (1850), during the twentieth century the most intense criticism has been directed towards Millais's later works, such as *Bubbles* (1886), which has been widely condemned as sentimental 'kitsch'. These later paintings have been held up as the epitome of the degradation of art, against which avant-garde and Modernist pioneers struggled. [...] This book presents the first comprehensive account of Millais's artistic career from beginning to end. "This book makes a vast intellectual advance on anything written about Millais in the twentieth century, and on most writing on any aspect of Victorian art." Prof. E. Prettejohn

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

Alexandra Carter, *Dance and Dancers in the Victorian and Edwardian Music Hall Ballet* (Ashgate, August 2005)

The Victorian and Edwardian music hall ballet has been a neglected facet of dance historiography, falling prey principally to the misguided assumption that any ballet not performed at the Opera House or 'legitimate' theatre necessarily meant it was of low cultural and artistic merit. Here Alexandra Carter identifies the traditional marginalization of the working class female participants in ballet historiography, and moves on to reinstate the 'lost' period of the music hall ballet and to apply a critical account of that period. [...] This work will appeal not only to those interested in nineteenth century studies, but also to those working in the fields of dance studies, gender studies, cultural studies and the performing arts.

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

Adriana Craciun, *British Women Writers and the French Revolution*
Citizens of the World (Palgrave, August 2005)

British Women Writers and the French Revolution provides an overview of a wide range of British women's writings on the French Revolution, from writers sympathetic to the Revolution like Mary Robinson, Helen Maria Williams, and Charlotte Smith, to anti-revolutionary writers like Hannah More and Jane West. Based on new research in French and British archives and libraries, the book uncovers little-known writings by British women, and argues that these writers developed a distinct antinationalism, in some cases even a feminist cosmopolitanism, in their responses to the European revolutionary crisis.

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

Roger Ebbatson, *An Imaginary England: Nation, Landscape and Literature, 1840–1920* (Ashgate, July 2005)

Roger Ebbatson traces the emergence of conceptions of England and Englishness from 1840 to 1920. His study concentrates on poetry and fiction by authors such as Alfred Lord Tennyson, Richard Jefferies, Thomas Hardy, Q. Rupert Brooke and D.H. Lawrence, reading them as a body of work through which a series of problematic English identities are imaginatively constructed. [...] In the face of gradual imperial and industrial decline, Ebbatson argues, foreign and colonial cultures played a crucial role in transforming Englishness from a stable body of values and experiences into a much more ambiguous concept in continuous conflict with factors on the geographical or psychological 'periphery'.

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

Gail Turley Houston, *From Dickens to 'Dracula': Gothic, Economics, and Victorian Fiction* (Cambridge University Press, July 2005)

Ranging from the panoramic novels of Dickens to the horror of *Dracula*, Gail Turley Houston examines the ways in which the language and imagery of economics, commerce and banking are transformed in Victorian Gothic fiction, and traces literary and uncanny elements in economic writings of the period. [...] This stimulating interdisciplinary book reveals that the worlds of Victorian

economics and Gothic fiction, seemingly separate, actually complemented and enriched each other.

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

William Hughes and Richard Dalby, *Bram Stoker: A Bibliography* (Westcliff-on-Sea: Desert Island Books, 2004), ISBN 1-874287-75-9

This volume contains a greatly expanded listing of critical writings about Stoker's works, as well as full descriptions of the first editions and major reprints/anthologies. It contains a new essay by William Hughes on the reviewing of Stoker's fiction between 1882 and 1912, and a revised biography of the author of *Dracula*. Listing includes all first editions and most subsequent reissues, work in translation, reviews, serial fiction and journalism and the most up to date guide to academic criticism of Stoker currently available.

Juliet Kinchin and Paul Stirton, *Is Mr Ruskin Living Too Long?: Selected Writings of E. W. Godwin on Victorian Architecture, Design and Culture* (White Cockade, 2005)

Both indispensable reference book and perfect bedside reading for all those interested in Victorian architecture, design and culture. Architect, designer, theatre pundit, and all-round Aesthete, E.W. Godwin was also a prolific and influential journalist. This book gives easy access for the first time to his opinionated and extremely entertaining writings across a wide spectrum of key Victorian debates. [...] Godwin's writings come into their own, as extracts arranged round various themes. Each chapter is accompanied by an introductory essay, and helpful notes. Numerous contemporary magazine illustrations and cartoons highlight the text. Includes a full bibliography of Godwin's writings and concise biographies of figures and organisations referred to in the text.

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

Special Notices:

If you are looking for a publisher for a scholarly monograph you may consider LEGENDA. The series was set up by the European Humanities Research Centre of the University of Oxford, and was acquired by Maney Publishing in association with the Modern Humanities Research Association in autumn 2004. Legenda was founded in 1995 by a group of scholars concerned about the increasing difficulty of access to publication in the humanities, and has now published over 100 books.

Full information and advice about how to make a proposal can be found at: www.legenda.mhra.org. MHRA would be happy to see an expansion of the English Literature titles on the Legenda list.

'English' Cemetery Florence

The Swiss-owned, so-called 'English' Cemetery in Florence, Italy, is in great need of restoration. Famous poets, like Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Walter Savage Landor and Arthur Hugh Clough, and sculptors, like Hiram Powers and Joel T. Hart, are buried here. Julia Bolton Holloway encourages interested scholars to register their interest in this historical site, and to participate in appeals to save it.

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

President: Isobel Armstrong; Secretary: Martin Hewitt; Treasurer: Karen Sayer; Membership Secretary: Richard Pearson; Committee Members: Joanne Shattock, Dinah Birch, Lyn Pykett, Ann Heilman, Roger Ebbatson; Associations Co-ordinator: Tony Williams; Student Member: Chrissie Bradstreet; Newsletter Editor: Rhian Williams; 2005 Conference Organiser: Simon Dentith

