



British Association
for
VICTORIAN
STUDIES

Winter 2005

Welcome to the Winter 2005 edition of the BAVS newsletter. In-keeping with its seasonal timing, this issue has several suggestions for how you might make your holidays more 'Victorian'. Holly Furneaux contributes a lively discussion of recent film and television adaptations of novels by Dickens, including the Roman Polanski 'Oliver Twist' and the BBC's 'Bleak House'; further, she invites members to take their Dickens interests outside, into the winter air of London. For those who have already caught up with Victorians on screen and are ready for more visual experience, Ann Sumner invites you to visit the 'Victorian Dreamers' exhibition that she has curated and the events organised in association with it, currently showing in Cardiff. Finally, for seasonal shoppers, Oxford University Press are still offering their special discount rate for BAVS members (see below). We also have notice of the Women's Library's online launch of the archive and museum catalogue, and the ProQuest release of the Nineteenth Century Index. Please note too our call for papers for next year's conference, 'Victorian Cultures in Conflict', to be held at the University of Liverpool and several 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.

Articles:

**Dickens Served Up on Screen: A Reading of Post-Millennial
Festive Filmic Fare**

Christmas is coming and the variety of Dickens versions available for public consumption is certainly fattening up nicely. The great acronyms of British culture, the BBC and the RSC, have both thrown down their hats to catch your festive pennies, whilst, of course, garnering the significant cultural acumen that still attaches to 'doing' Dickens. The Beeb proffer Andrew Davies's fifteen-part *Bleak House*, conveyed by a phenomenal all star cast: Gillian Anderson as a defiant, but palpably damageable Lady D, Charles Dance as the ever ominous Tulkinghorn, and - my personal favourite - Burn Gorman as Guppy, subtly remodelled for the 21st Century as a desperate stalker, as well as a pantheon of other largely home-grown talents including Denis Lawson / Jarndyce, Alister McGowan / Kenge, Johnny Vegas / the combustible Krook and even Matthew Kelly / Old Mr Turveydrop. For those who want to relive the £6 million magic, the DVD will be available in early February (pre-order at www.bbcshop.com). Meanwhile the RSC have temporarily replaced one bard with another in a new stage version of *Great Expectations*, adapted by Nick Ormerod and Declan Donnellan (Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford Upon Avon, 25th November 05 - 4th Feb 06, for tickets call 0870 609 1110). Weighing in too, this year, are other heavyweights of British, and, indeed, European culture: Patrick Stewart with a revival of his 1993 Olivier award winning one-man production of *A Christmas Carol* (from 6th December at the Albery theatre, London) and, of course, Roman Polanski with a luscious film of *Oliver Twist*, with its 'authentic' sense of Victorian London, achieved despite being predominantly shot in Prague.

The sheer volume of re-workings presents a challenge for anyone researching Dickens adaptation, as Juliet John suggests in a meticulous exploration of the intertextuality of the dizzying number of screen *Twists* (paper given at the 'Victorian and Edwardian Popular Culture Seminar Series', Nov 05. See also John's imminently forthcoming article, 'Fagin, The Holocaust and Mass Culture; or, *Oliver Twist* on Screen', *Dickens Quarterly*, Dec 05). Here I want to take a snapshot of a range of post-millennial large- and small-screen versions, taking particular account of gender and sexuality. What is striking about recent translations from text to screen is their radical new attention to Dickens's fracturing and remodelling of the 'traditional' family unit.

Let us begin with the strikingly rent-boy free terrain of Polanski's *Oliver Twist*. The somewhat sanitised feel of this 'retelling' suggests, perhaps, that the director's claims to make this as a film for his children were more than a cynical family box-office draw. Those who expected a visual representation of Larry Wollf's provocative research into the boy-pimping that Dickens would have certainly been aware of while writing this novel may have been disappointed ('"The Boys are Pickpockets and the Girl is a Prostitute": Gender and Juvenile Criminality in Early Victorian England from *Oliver Twist* to *London Labour*', *New Literary History*, 27.2, 1996). As an interesting aside, by surprising contrast the BBC's *Bleak House* does raise the issue of child sex commodification (without challenging its gender however) in the shot of a young girl prostitute as Mr Snagsby accompanies Inspector Bucket to Tom All Alone's. This additional figure is suggestive of the potential fate of all the orphaned/economically unsupported girls of this tale - Little Charley, Esther While avoiding an explicit statement about Fagin's 'trade' in boys (although the Dodger's lascivious first gaze along Oliver's prostrate body is suggestive - see Bill Cohen on the erotically connotative looking-up-and-down between men in *Dickens, Sex Scandal*, 1996) - Polanski's film suggests a more subtle, but perhaps more disturbing, exchange of Oliver's eminently vulnerable body. The film excises the whole of Oliver's mother's plot (no Monks or, thankfully, Maylies either) in an apparently excessive economy that irritated many viewers. This has significant repercussions for Brownlow's 'claim' to Oliver. For readers (like Wollf) suspicious that Brownlow's desire to appropriate Oliver actually looks little different to all those forcible hand-holdings by quasi-fathers that the boy is subjected to elsewhere in the novel (Bumble, Sikes), the film brings the issue of illegitimate paternalism into striking focus. Without the maternal plot to sanction Brownlow's vehemently under-motivated and overdetermined 'interest' in the boy, Oliver merely goes to the highest, most socially and financially empowered bidder. As Sally Ledger argues in a historical context in *Dickens and the Popular Radical Imagination* (forthcoming 2006), the emphasis on fractured families in Dickens's 1838 *Oliver Twist* operates as a specific, melodramatic critique of contemporary political economy, particularly the operation of the New Poor Law, under which relief was only afforded in the workhouse where families were subjected to compulsory separation. Polanski's additional emphasis on the more explicitly suspicious

(il)legitimacy of Brownlow's parenting of Oliver can be seen to operate in a similar way as a critique of economically structured state intervention into families, in an age when adoption is most available to the richest. The designation of adoptive rights by wealth is particularly pronounced in those groups (lesbian, gay, single parent) who are not seen to conform to a familial norm (see Mary Bernstein and Renate Reimann, eds, *Queer Families, Queer Politics*, 2001 and Kath Weston, *Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship*, 1991).

The ongoing serialisation of *Bleak House* makes a similar point about what conservatives call the current 'crisis' in the family, but might more helpfully be seen as the remodelling and diversifying of the 'traditional family'. The Beeb's somewhat safe, if dazzling, effort at 'faithful' adaptation, is most interesting in its extension of this striving for truth to text, into the conditions of reception. In its soap-opera format of two tantalisingly brief thirty-minute weekly episodes (rolled into an hour omnibus on Sundays as a comforting presence for those, like me, for whom winter weekends are somehow incomplete without a serial), the production attempts to re-create the exciting experience of receiving regular installments. As Producer Nigel Stafford-Clark told *The Mirror*, "Dickens wrote *Bleak House* as a monthly serial for popular consumption, complete with multiple storylines and cliff-hanger endings. A twice-weekly half-hour television serial felt like returning it to its natural state." This format, like the periodical, has fascinating intertextual implications (similar to that created by the other illustrative material, adverts etc. for the first readers of the serial), as the surrounding televisual content inevitably impinges upon and shapes interpretation. Consider the impact, for example, for those viewers who followed Esther's additionally scripted pleas that she might find her mother, by turning over to Channel 4's adoption/fostering series *Wanted: New Mum and Dad*, which aired immediately after the Thursday night episodes of *Bleak House*. Particularly resonant for me was Channel 4's surely strategic silence (which frustrated reviewers) on why these children's parents were unable to care for them. More pleasurable was the overlap between the docudrama's effort to prepare one boy for re-homing with "two dads", and the anticipated ending of the Dickens serial, which, if 'faithful' to the novel, will see the infant Richard ensconced at a remodelled *Bleak House* with his "two mamas".

It will be interesting to see how the production copes both with the famous indeterminacy of the closing line of the novel and the radical indeterminacy/ reformation of 'family' that Dickens's ending offers.

A look back to Christmas (of the not so distant) past, in a retrospect on Doug McGrath's 2002 festive film release of *Nicholas Nickleby* starring Charlie Hunnam and Jamie Bell, reveals another 're-make' deeply concerned with familial refashioning. In the director's overview (Oh the joys of DVD!) McGrath dwells upon his transposition of the creation of families of choice in the novel, selecting Smike's declaration to Nicholas, "You are my home" (from chapter thirteen of the novel), as "the most important line in the entire script." McGrath suggests that Dickens's definition of kinship "is something quite unique - it isn't what you think it is, that family stands for family that blood stands by blood, it's much more about the people that you care about and the people that you'd give your blood for." The script adds extra dialogue to that provided in Dickens's chapter thirty-five, when Smike meets Kate. Kate's new toast to "our extended family" and Smike's enthusiastic response, "our family" offers a fulsome endorsement of Dickens's earlier exploration of families of choice.

These Dickens adaptations resonate with an increasing sense that the 'traditional family' is no longer either a practical structure, or a viable ground of political appeal. John Glavin's recent collection *Dickens on Screen* (2003) amply demonstrates that "the Dickens film now shapes Dickens's fiction [. . .] It's these adaptations for the big screen and the small that generate whatever possibilities remain for reading the fiction." Contributor Gerhard Joseph expands this claim with reference to Freud's idea of "screen memory", as viewing experiences are projected as back-formations into reading. This direction of influence certainly seems to be borne out by the massive increase in Dickens book sales. As *Bleak House* rises to fourth position in TV viewing figures, Amazon have reported a 290% increase in sales of the novel. In the light of these new adaptations, it is my hope that critical attitudes to Dickens will be reformed, and that Dickens will no longer be seen as supreme expositor of traditional home and hearth, but rather will take his rightful place as familial critic and pioneer of more inclusive, enabling families of choice.

Post-Script:

As a restorative for those exhausted by all that viewing, London Walks offer a bracing Christmas Day Dickens Walk from Trafalgar Square, which departs from under the Christmas Tree at 2pm (see www.walks.com). Why not warm up afterwards with mulled wine and mince pies, served by costumed staff (including me!) at the Charles Dickens Museum (special opening 24-26th Dec, call 020 7405 2127 for details and booking)?

Thanks:

I am particularly grateful to Juliet John, participants at the Victorian and Edwardian Popular Culture Seminar Series, and all those who have shared their responses to Dickens in his myriad forms with me, as I prepared this piece. I am currently reworking my thesis 'Homoeroticism in the Novels of Charles Dickens' into a book entitled 'Queer Dickens', which emphasises families of choice and includes a chapter on the exploration of such familial remodelling in recent film. I would be delighted to receive any comments/ disagreements/ feedback. Please do contact me at h.furneaux@bbk.ac.uk if you would like to discuss these issues further.

Holly Furneaux

Victorian Dreamers: An Exhibition
National Museum Cardiff
Until 8 January 2006
Free admission

The Pre-Raphaelites and Victorian neo-Classical artists found many patrons among the new wealthy middle classes of northern England and the Midlands. Less well known is the interest shown in their work by Welsh collectors from the Victorian period through to the present day. This is the first exhibition devoted to Welsh collectors of Victorian art and it has enabled the museum to study the contribution of some of the original founders, such as the sculptor William Goscombe John. The exhibition looks at Victorian paintings and works on paper from the National Museum's own collections, once owned by such diverse collectors as William Menelaus (1818-1882), James Pyke Thompson (1846-1897), and Margaret Davies (1884-1963), as well as Sir William Goscombe John (1860-1952), who generously left their collections to the Museum.

In addition, superb examples of Victorian art from contemporary Welsh private collections will be on display, many of which have not previously been seen in public, including Pre-Raphaelite works by Holman Hunt, Millais, Rossetti and Burne-Jones, neo-Classical paintings by Leighton, Moore and Alma Tadema and landscapes by Brett, Watts and Inchbold. Of additional interest is the number of original frames that we have been able to retain. Of the artists featured, Brett is the most popular with present day collectors, and the final gallery of the exhibition shows his work to great advantage. We have also included some noteworthy genre pictures, such as the Cope of The Domestic Chaplain, which is on loan from the Caerphilly Miner's Hospital, and was originally donated to them by the mining contractor Frederick Piggott.

The lunchtime talks that we have organised in conjunction with the exhibition have been very well attended, and have attracted good numbers of people. We hope that BAVS members will be interested in attending some of the other events that we have coming up in the next couple of weeks.

'Before your very eyes – Vanishing Victorians'

Special Christmas Lecture & Show, National Museum Cardiff,
14 December 2005, 6.30-8pm

Edwin Dawes, historian of the Magic Circle and professor Emeritus of Biochemistry at the University of Hull, talks about the top 5 Victorian illusionists and the significant part they played in popularising magic. The evening will conclude with a performance of magic by Alan Shaxon, President of the Magic Circle.

Tickets: Adults £4; Cons £2 ; Family £10 (2 Adults + up to 2 children) in advance from the Events Office, please call (029) 2057 3148

Victorian Christmas Fun Day

National Museum Cardiff
17 December 2005, 12-4.30pm

A host of Victorian inspired activities - storytelling, contortionists, acrobats, magic lantern shows, face painting, workshops and much more.

For further details, please call (029) 2057 3148.

Please visit our website: www.museumwales.ac.uk

Ann Sumner, Curator 'Victorian Dreamers'

The Women's Library launches Archive and Museum Catalogue Online

The Women's Library is delighted to announce the launch of its archive and museum catalogue at:
www.thewomenslibrary.ac.uk/archivemuseumcatalogue

The Women's Library is a cultural centre, housing the most extensive collection of women's history in the UK. With over 60,000 books and pamphlets, 2,500 periodical titles, 400 archive collections and 5,000 museum objects covering issues from health, sexuality and popular culture to politics, history and human rights, there is a wealth of material here and access is free for everyone. As well as the resources for research in the Reading Room there is a lively exhibition and events programme, and a space to relax in the Wash Houses Café. Whether you want to study, browse, or just drop in, there is something for everybody to discover here.

The online archive and museum catalogue offers users the chance to search the contents of over 460 archives as well as the museum holdings of 5,000 objects. Collection level descriptions are available for all the archives (including for uncatalogued material).

Name Authority Records have been used for all the collections. Users can search the name indices, as well as the full text of the biographies and organisational histories. A Place Name search facility is also available. There are also a series of Help pages that we hope will be useful to users. Work on the online catalogue began in 2004, with data now being added on a regular basis. We are currently editing and releasing catalogue entries received from: Access to Archives (A2A); a retro-conversion project for our Personal Papers catalogues supported by London Metropolitan University; and from an AHRC funded museum cataloguing project. This process should be complete by summer 2006.

We are also releasing newly created catalogues.

Use of ISAD(G) and SPECTRUM means that users will be able to search seamlessly for objects (using 'ObjectName')

across both the museum and the archive collections.

The Special Collections team at The Women's Library uses CALM / DServe software provided by DS Ltd. The web pages are designed and supported by the London Metropolitan University Web Team.

The Women's Library also launched a new web site in August 2005. Details of access to the collections, courses, events, education work, fellowships and student prizes, friends and patrons, volunteers can all be found on the site. The pages relating to the collections are better organised to reflect user needs. There are also new collection pages, such as our 'source notes' (subject guides); an online index to our 'Biographical Press Cuttings Collection'; our 'Zine Collection'; as well as the online archive and museum catalogue.

Comments and questions on all aspects of the catalogue are welcome (enquirydesk@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk)

ProQuest releases C19 The Nineteenth Century Index
The bibliographic spine to access publishing output from
the 19th Century

CAMBRIDGE, United Kingdom, 16 November 2005

ProQuest Information and Learning announces the publication of *C19 The Nineteenth Century Index (C19 Index)* creating the bibliographic spine to its digital research collections on this significant century.

C19 Index represents a step forward for academic research enabling for the first time, scholars and students to unlock the full potential of the 19th century's massive publishing output. It brings together content from seven separate Chadwyck-Healey and ProQuest collections, and makes it cross-searchable through a single interface.

C19 Index draws on the strength of established indexes such as the *Nineteenth Century Short Title Catalogue*, *The Wellesley Index* and *Periodicals Index Online* to create integrated comprehensive coverage of over 11 million bibliographic records for books, periodicals, newspapers and government documents published between 1790 and 1919.

The first release includes:

- Books:
 - *Nineteenth Century Short Title Catalogue (NSTC)* - 1.3 million records from 8 source libraries, including 25,000 new records from the British Library, NSTC Series IV
 - *The Nineteenth Century Microfiche Project* - 28,000 bibliographic records
- Periodicals:
 - *Periodicals Index Online* - 3.5 million index records from 900 periodicals, covering 1790 - 1919
 - *American Periodicals Series* - 2.3 million records from 1,100 American magazines, newspapers and journals
 - *The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals* - 90,000 records identifying the authors of 43 key Victorian periodicals from 1824 - 1900
- Official Publications:
 - *19th Century House of Commons Parliamentary Papers* - more than 79,000 records from Chadwyck-Healey's *Subject Catalogues to the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers, 1801-1900* by Peter Cockton
- Newspapers:
 - *Palmer's Index to The Times* - 3.7 million records from 1790 - 1905

Customers who own any of the *C19: Index* collections above can link out to full text in those collections. Price reductions also apply to customers who own any of the component parts.

C19: Index is a dynamic resource which will grow as ProQuest adds additional 19th century digital collections and develops relationships with the academic and publishing communities.

C19 Index is part of ProQuest's growing initiative to digitise important early historical works. Earlier this year, ProQuest announced its digitisation of the *19th Century House of Commons Parliamentary Papers*, which is shortly due to be expanded to include papers from the 20th and 21st Century sessions. ProQuest has also announced its upcoming launch in early 2006 of *British Periodicals*, a digital archive of rare serials from the seventeenth through early twentieth centuries.

If you would like further product information please e-mail marketing@proquest.co.uk

For all media enquiries contact Gina Ghensi, Marketing Communications Manager, gina.ghensi@proquest.co.uk

BAVS Notices:

**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 under-estimate 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

BURSARIES:

There are 10 postgraduate bursaries of £100 available for the 2006 BAVS conference in Liverpool, Victorian Cultures in Conflict. Applicants should send a CV and a proposal of no more than 500 words, by 31 March 2006, to Professor Birch at the above address.

We are looking for two observers who will report on the conference for the BAVS newsletter, and 8 paper presenters. If you want to be an observer, say what interests you about the conference and what makes you a suitable observer. If you want to apply to give a paper, give an account of your paper and say how it relates to the theme of the conference. Applications will be assessed by a panel that includes the President of BAVS, Professor Isobel Armstrong, one committee member, and the chair of the conference organising committee, Professor Dinah Birch. The criteria for selection are the relevance of your proposal to the conference theme, the originality of your ideas and the presentation of your argument. We are looking for fresh and intellectually gripping work. The paper will be

presented in a panel that includes experienced scholars and should be capable of being read side by side with those whose authors have been some years in the academic profession. Bursary-holders will be expected to pay all registration and other fees for the conference in advance, and will receive their bursary cheques at the conference.

In addition, three bursaries of £100 are available for those who have recently submitted doctoral theses, but do not hold an academic post. These are open to paper presenters. Applicants should send a CV and a proposal of no more than 500 words, by 31 March 2006. The criteria for selection, and arrangements for assessment, are as given above.

Preference will be given to those who have not previously held a BAVS conference bursary. It is hoped that applicants will be informed of the outcome of the competition by 14th July 2006.

BAVS funding opportunities:

Conference Grants

The British Association of Victorian Studies offers grants annually towards the expenses of running a conference on Victorian Studies in the UK.

Open conference grant

Two grants of up to £200. We ask for bids from conference organisers of one- or two-day events. The competition is open to academics, graduates and independent scholars. Deadlines for applications are 31 January (from 2006 30 November) and 31 May each year.

Postgraduate conference grant

One grant of up to £250 to support a conference for and organised by postgraduate students. Deadline for applications 1 June each year.

Full details of the application processes, and the criteria on which applications will be judged are available on the Association website

www.bavsuk.org

Completed applications should be sent to Martin Hewitt,
Secretary, Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies, Trinity and
All Saints, Brownberrie Lane, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5HD.

Sponsored by BAVS:

**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.

CALLS FOR PAPERS:

**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

Essay Collection: nineteenth-century American Children's Literature and Cultural Contexts

Submissions are invited for a proposed collection of essays on nineteenth-century American children's literature and cultural contexts. How is the social milieu embedded in

children's fiction or non-fiction? The following topics are suggestions, but the list is not meant to be exhaustive.

Perceptions of race, gender, and class in children's periodicals or children's books (single authors, or multiple authors, popular or canonical); canonical vs. non-canonical children's writers; changing concepts of success (materialism); children and work; children and history (historical events, such as the Civil War, or mythologizing of earlier American history); children and slavery; children and the urban landscape; Transcendentalist or utopian children; children and holidays; changing gender roles (New Woman, etc.); the changing nature of child-rearing manuals; children and morality/religion, or changing concepts of etiquette; children and pets; children on the frontier (myths of the frontier); children's counter-culture to adult culture; children and science/technology; children's fears (as recorded in the many advice manuals, or advice columns, or embodied in cautionary tales); children and vice/punishment; children and violence; children and taboos; children and hero worship; children and adult classics (reading); children's changing position within the family unit; children's health/illness; perceptions of the immigrant child; Native American children; African-American children; the sentimental/Romantic vs. the Realistic child; changing views of education; children's ghost stories; children's icons; children and food; children and global issues (depictions of Africa, China); children and the Gilded Age; intersections between juvenile and adult literature by canonical authors (such as Chopin, Phelps, Davis, Hawthorne); literary or political relationships between and among children's authors and editors of children's periodicals.

Please send inquiries and abstracts (of two pages) via e-mail, by

December 18, 2005, to:

Monika Elbert (elbertm@mail.montclair.edu)

Professor of English

Montclair State Univ.

Montclair, N.J. 07043

Final essays of 5,000-6,000 words will not be due until
March 30, 2006.

Edited Collection: Anarchism and Utopianism

We extend this call for papers to authors from all disciplines interested in exploring the relationship between anarchism and utopianism.

In *Anarchism and Utopianism*, the first ever collection of original essays devoted to an assessment of the relationship between these two important traditions, we aim to fill a significant gap in the scholarly literature and to encourage further reflection on the as yet untapped revolutionary potential of anarchist utopianism. We welcome papers that address any aspect of the subject, whether the focus is philosophical (for example, to what extent and in what precise ways are anarchist and utopian ideas compatible?), literary (anarchism and utopianism in the work of Morris, Wilde, or Le Guin, for instance; what might an anarchist society look and feel like?), historical (the legacy of anarchist utopianism in the Paris Commune, the Spanish Revolution, the May 1968 uprisings, etc.), sociological (anarchist utopian perspectives on work, consumerism, war, gender, sexuality, race, education, art, spirituality, technology, and ecology), anthropological (what can anarchist utopians learn from actually existing stateless and marketless societies? does the idea of primitivism have a role to play in the construction of anarchist utopias?), or political (the relationship of means to ends, and anarchist utopianism as revolutionary practice and vital response to some of the most pressing problems of the contemporary world).

If you are interested in contributing to the volume, please e-mail to both of the editors by **January 7, 2006** an essay title, c. 500-word proposal, and a very brief list of your relevant publications. Note that contributors to the collection may also have the opportunity - subject to the final approval of the USSE conference programme chair - to present their work at the Seventh Annual Conference of the Utopian Studies Society Europe, to be held in July 2006 in the historical port city of Tarragona, Spain.

Dr. Laurence Davis

E-mail: ldavis@oceanfree.net <<mailto:ldavis@oceanfree.net>>

Dr. Ruth Kinna

E-mail: r.e.kinna@lboro.ac.uk

<mailto:r.e.kinna@lboro.ac.uk>

Beyond the Widening Sphere
New Transatlantic Perspectives on Victorian Women.
8 - 9 July 2006, Royal Holloway University of London

Since Martha Vicinus' seminal *Suffer and Be Still* opened the debate in 1972, the field of Victorian women's history has expanded dramatically. Scholars on both sides of the Atlantic have explored the lives of British and North American women in the Victorian period, shedding new light on diverse aspects of their worlds. The social, economic, and cultural lives of working class, middle class and aristocratic women have been examined. A rich and complex picture has emerged, spanning representation and lived experience, fashion, material culture, domestic life, education, philanthropy, imperialism, empire and political participation. The growth of studies of gender and masculinity has added much to this picture, inspiring reflections on the nature of femininity. Scholars of art, history, literature and social geography have all contributed to this burgeoning field. This conference will reflect on the fruits of thirty four years of scholarship, comment on the current state of the field and assess its future development. The conference will draw together a range of disciplinary perspectives, comparing the lives of British and North American women in this period, and allowing scholars from both sides of the Atlantic to exchange their views.

We invite 200 word proposals on papers relating to any aspect of British or North American women's studies in the Victorian period, but papers might address:

- Re-mapping womanhood: women and spatial politics
- Representations of femininities in art and culture
- Women as political actors at colonial, national and local levels
- Rethinking women in relation to men and masculinity

Organised by the Bedford Centre for the History of Women in collaboration with the Centre for Victorian Studies. The closing date for papers is **January 10th 2006**. Proposals and requests for further information should be sent to:

Sarah Wiggins sxwiggins@ualr.edu or Jane Hamlett
j.hamlett@rhul.ac.uk

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. 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

Also, further Braddon information:

Mary Elizabeth Braddon After Lady Audley

Special Session - 2006 MLA Convention, Philadelphia,
December 27-30

We invite abstracts for this special session expand understanding beyond Braddon's initial Victorian sensation fiction success: realism, historical novel, genre, reception, serialization, influence, editorial work, *New Woman*, etc. E-mail abstracts by **10 Mar 2006**.; Albert C. Sears, Ph.D. (asears@silver.sl.edu).

Post-Colonial Victorians?
A Conversation across Borders
Linacre College, University of Oxford, 2 June 2006

The shaping force of Empire on nineteenth-century British and colonial cultures, as well as on the developing cultures of post-colonial states, has been the subject of much of the most exciting recent work in both Victorian and Postcolonial studies. The heavy traffic in themes and motifs, and in genres, narratives and plots between the metropolis and the colonies that is evident across the nineteenth century, and which persists in residual and

reactive ways in post-colonial cultures suggests that there are multiple points of overlap and interaction, of historical continuity and contrast. Despite much shared ground, however, the current constitution of the academic fields of the historicist and British-focused Victorian studies and the more theoretically self-conscious and globally oriented Postcolonial studies has meant that conversations between the two areas have sometimes been difficult or disrupted. In this one-day symposium on metropolitan, colonial and post-colonial cultures, we wish to stage a conversation between Victorian and Postcolonial studies at the present time, to consider areas of overlap and indebtedness, as well as points of contest and disavowal. What are the points of recognition and misrecognition?

At its most obvious level then, we want to address the question, how does Victorian culture look under the lens of Postcolonial theory? In what ways do critical concepts regarding, for instance, race, hybridity, marginality, cosmopolitanism, etc., add to our understanding of Victorian literature and culture? But we also want to reverse the question and interrogate the Victorian colonial legacy in Postcolonial studies: for instance, to what extent do the critical vocabulary and the political strategies of Postcolonial studies draw on concepts which originate in a nineteenth-century colonial context? How far is the analytical work of Postcolonial studies framed by nineteenth-century literary and scientific discourses? How useful has the notion of 'writing back' to the Empire been as either a political tactic or an analytical tool?

We are looking for 250 word proposals for 20 minute papers on any topics relating to the interrelationships between Victorian and Postcolonial Studies. Specific topics might include, but are not restricted to

Repression and resistance within nineteenth-century colonial discourse ● Post-colonial rewritings of nineteenth-century literary texts ● Body, sexuality and/or health in colonial and post-colonial contexts ● Race and/or class in colonial and post-colonial contexts ● Colonial/post-colonial cities / spaces / maps ● Decolonisation and the Victorian heritage ● Migration / mobility / diaspora / settlement / home ● Media / book circulation / networks / reception ● Colonial and post-colonial visual cultures ● Language/ translation

The event aims to bring together scholars from literary, cultural and historical studies, and other disciplines, at different stages of their career. We welcome proposals from established academics as well as graduate students working in these fields. The conference programme will leave ample room for discussion and debate.

Please send proposals to stuti.khanna@ell.ox.ac.uk, or bianca.jackson@ell.ox.ac.uk.

Deadline for submission: **31 January 2006.**

Conference committee:

Stefano Evangelista, Stuti Khanna, Bianca Jackson,
Josephine McDonagh, Emma Reisz.

Trollope and Gender
July 17 - 19 2006
Exeter University, U.K.

Keynote Speakers:

Robert Polhemus, Stanford University

Deborah Denenholz Morse, The College of William and Mary

Mark Turner, King's College, London

Plenary Chair: Regenia Gagnier, Exeter University

From the first gender-sensitive critique of Trollope's women by Morse, through Polhemus's erotically-charged account of Phineas Finn in love to Turner's genderised reading of narrative technique differentiated according to audience, the last two decades have witnessed a diametric shift in how we read Trollope. Today John Stuart Mill's articulation of liberalism sits well with Trollope's open and frank approach to gender and sexuality. We invite papers drawn from re-readings of Anthony Trollope in the light of the most recent thinking in gender studies.

How have perceptions of his presentation of women changed over the last twenty years? How have the latest reframings of Victorian masculinities shaped the reinterpretations of Trollope's men, and how have ideas of queer theory shifted perceptions of those Trollope characters who operate at the margins? In suggesting these possibilities, we do not seek to circumscribe the field of study of the conference; we wish to welcome a wide and diverse view of the significance

of Trollope studies in the twenty-first century.

Topics might include, but are not limited to, the following:

Sex and the City: The Palliser Novels. Queer Trollope.
Erotic Languages.
Feminist Trollope? Money and Gender. Liberalism and Gender.
Vulgar Women.
Celibacy, or Renunciation and its Pains - and Delights.
Foreignness and
Gender. Sex and the Irish Question. Homosocial Bonds.
Trollope's Fallen Women.
Oedipal Trollope. Trollope, Gender, and the Jewish
Question. Unrequited Love.
Family Bonds, - and Bondage. Trollopian Mothers. Child
Erotics. Breeding and
Heredity. Gendered Illustrations - Millais and Others.

Send 200-300 word abstracts by **1st February 2006** to
h.m.markwick@exeter.ac.uk

For more information, go to www.english.ex.ac.uk/trollope-and-gender

VICTORIAN GEOGRAPHIES
Research Society for Victorian Periodicals
Annual Conference, September 14-15, 2006

The Research Society for Victorian Periodicals (RSVP) will hold its annual conference at The Graduate Center, CUNY, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York City, September 14-15, 2006. While papers addressing any aspect of Victorian periodicals will be considered, RSVP particularly welcomes proposals for papers on the topic of geographies, broadly construed. We encourage submission of proposals from any disciplinary perspective.

RSVP hopes to attract work on such wide-ranging topics as borders, spaces, hemispheres, colonies, resources, diasporas, populations, landscapes, environments, cities, regions, migrations, niches, disasters, maps, climates, frontiers, nationalities, and boundaries as they relate to the production, circulation, and consumption of Victorian periodicals.

Two-page (maximum) proposals (for either individual presentations or for panels of three) should be sent to Alexis Easley, Program Chair, via e-mail: maeasley@stthomas.edu.

Please also include a one-page C.V. with relevant publications, teaching experience, and/or coursework. The deadline for submission of proposals is **Feb. 1, 2006**. Final papers should take 15 minutes (20 minutes maximum) to present.

The program will also include a roundtable devoted to methods of teaching periodicals in the classroom. If you would like to participate in this roundtable discussion, please submit a one-page proposal to Alexis Easley at the e-mail address above.

RSVP is pleased to be able to award three grants of \$100 each to graduate students presenting papers at the conference. If you would like to be considered for such an award, please indicate so on a cover letter attached to your proposal. Recipients will be notified in early spring of 2006.

Please check the RSVP website at <http://www.rs4vp.org/> for further information, as it becomes available, on conference registration, plenary and keynote speakers, and related activities. Kindly direct questions about local arrangements to Anne Humpherys at president@rs4vp.org.

Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies

Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies, a journal committed to publishing insightful and innovative scholarship on gender studies and nineteenth-century British literature, art and culture, is currently accepting essays and book reviews for its April 2006 issue. 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.

Possible topics include, but are certainly not limited to:

Gender informed (Feminist/Queer Theory/Masculinity Studies/etc.) readings of literature, authors/artists or works of art ● Gender and empire ● Gender and class ● Gender and medicine ● Gender and law ● Gender and race ● Gender and sexuality ● Gender and humor ● Gender and science ● The body ● Gendered spaces or locations ● "New Woman" writers ● The canon ● Gender and migration / immigration / emigration ● Gender and travel ● Transatlantic connections ● Intersections between written and visual arts ● British literature/art in European context ● Domestic violence ●
Gender and popular fiction

Though we accept submissions year-round, to be considered for our April 2006 issue submissions must be received by **February 5th**.

For submission details, please visit our website at www.ncgsjournal.com

Also:

Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies
Special Summer 2006 Edition
"The New Woman and Sexuality"

Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies is currently accepting submissions for a special summer 2006 issue on "The New Woman and Sexuality." The New Woman of the *fin de siècle* challenged gender norms by pushing for greater career and educational opportunities, by arguing for the necessity of marriage reform and by frankly acknowledging women's sexuality. Some, like Sarah Grand, were proponents of sexual purity while others like Victoria Cross repeatedly pushed the boundaries. In this special issue we hope to spark discussion on this fascinating aspect of New Woman literature that has not yet been fully explored.

Possible topics include, but are certainly not limited to:

Portrayals of female sexual desire ● The New Woman on sexual double-standards ●
New Women challenging Victorian sexual ideology ● Cross-dressing in New Woman literature ● The reception of New Woman literature (charges of "sex-mania" or "erotomania") ● The New Woman on sexually transmitted diseases ● "Punishment" for

sexual relationships in NW literature●Sexuality and the female body●Interracial relationships in New Woman literature●The New Woman on marriage●Sexuality as maternal instinct●The New Woman and homosexuality

We look forward to submissions on a wide variety of New Woman writers, though submissions on the work of Victoria Cross, George Egerton, Menie Muriel Dowie or Netta Syrett are particularly welcome.

To be considered for this special issue, submissions must be received before May 15th.

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.

RUSKIN AND THE IDEA OF INFLUENCE

One-day seminar

13 May 2006

University of Salford

This is the first of three annual seminars forming part of the collaborative AHRC funded project on 'Ruskin, Cultural Tourism and Popular Access', directed by Professors Keith Hanley (Lancaster), John Walton (Central Lancashire), and Brian Maidment (Salford). Proposals are welcome for 20 minute papers on the following topics: Ruskin as educationalist and teacher; Ruskin's audiences; Ruskinian discipleship; Literary acknowledgement of Ruskin in contemporary or later writers; Social or commercial activities carried out on Ruskinian principles; The concept of 'influence' itself as applied to books, ideas or cultural activities; Representations and interpretations of Ruskin in the press; Ruskin's textbooks; 'Elitism' and 'popularisation' in Ruskin. Proposals of between 250 and 350 words should be submitted to the project's Research Associate, Dr. Rachel Dickinson, Ruskin Programme, Bowland College, Lancaster University, LA1 4YT; 01524 593317; r.dickinson@lancs.ac.uk. Deadline for proposals: **10 February, 2006**. Fees for the day (including lunch and coffee breaks) will be £20 (waged) or £5 (student/unwaged).

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/>

Boundaries: critical and creative responses
Department of English and Drama, Loughborough University

June 3rd 2006

10.30 am - 5.00 pm

The conference will be organized around a number of panels, each featuring three twenty-minute papers, scheduled across the day. We hope that the day will be as much about discussion as presentation, so postgraduates who do not wish to present a paper are also strongly encouraged to attend.

We encourage **creative and critical** responses to the idea of boundaries, which may include, but are not limited to, the following interpretations:

Geographical boundaries; Sudden boundaries: Wartime shifts in geographical borders; Cultural boundaries; Boundaries of translation between different languages; Sense/Nonsense; Reason/Unreason; Life, Death and the Afterlife; Exceeding human boundaries: ESP, telepathy, mediumship; Interzones: automata, robots and science fiction; Critical/Creative boundaries; Historical events/fictional depiction; Writing creatively about other cultures; Moral responsibility/creative licence; The literary canon; Literary boundaries: genre; The boundary of the stage in theatre; Transgression of legal boundaries: criminality; Social boundaries: criminals, prostitutes, poets; Class boundaries; The Living space and its boundaries: home, cell, ward; Fluid boundaries: bodies in the world; Gender boundaries; Bodies, starvation and the self; Sexual boundaries; Loving and loathing: emotional boundaries; Indulgent boundaries: the politics of pleasure

250-300 word proposals for 20 minute papers and a brief biographical note should be sent (in Microsoft Word format) by **February 15th 2006** to:

(via email) submissions@boundariesconference.co.uk

(via post) Boundaries Conference Submissions,
Department of English and Drama
Loughborough University, Loughborough, LE11 3TU

Visit the boundaries conference website at:
www.boundariesconference.co.uk

RLS2006: Transatlantic Stevenson
Fourth Biennial International Robert Louis Stevenson
Conference
Saranac Lake, NY, USA July 18 - 20 2006.
Deadline for submissions extended to January 15th 2006

Conference web site:

<http://www.brocku.ca/english/rls2006/index.php>

Plenary speaker: Professor Jenni Calder, 'I Should Like to Be an American': Scots in the USA' There will also be an accompanying exhibition of the some of the Library's rare first editions of Stevenson's works.

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 all aspects of Stevenson and his life, including but not restricted to:

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

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 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

The Edwardians
University of Hertfordshire
24-26 July 2006

This three-day conference to be held at the University of

Hertfordshire, Hatfield offers a forum to scholars and students from a variety of disciplines whose research is concerned with The "Edwardian" period in its broadest sense. The aim of the event is threefold: to review this often overlooked decade, to bring together a variety of approaches to important texts, personalities, themes and events and to include discussion of key issues including definition of the term "Edwardian." The scope of the conference encompasses literature, journalism, drama, the visual arts, historical studies and other allied disciplines.

Proposals for 20-minute papers are invited on any aspect of the conference theme including (but not limited to):

- Edwardians and Victorians: Continuities? Or Changes?
- Figuring modernity
- Nostalgia - the Edwardian era as the last pre-war Golden Age
- Anxieties and Tension - Nationality and Empire; the rise of the United States; the 'great powers' of Europe.
- Impacts of Mass Media (Cinema, Tabloid Press, the continuing developments of the New Journalism)
- Genre and Mode - popular and 'high' cultural forms
- Politics - from women's suffrage to debates about Nationalism
- Technological 'advance' and Scientific Discoveries - and their cultural aftershocks.

Please send an email abstract of 300 words to one of the Conference Organisers at the addresses below by **1 March 2005**.

Dr Ruth Robbins, Leeds Metropolitan University

Email: R.Robbins@leedsmet.ac.uk

Dr Alex Warwick, University of Westminster

E-mail: A.Warwick@westminster.ac.uk

Dr Andrew Maunder, University of Hertfordshire

E-mail: A.C.Maunder@herts.ac.uk

**The Verbal and the Visual in Nineteenth-Century Culture
Two-Day Conference, 23-24 June 2006
Institute of English Studies, Senate House, London**

Keynote speakers: Steven Bann, Kate Flint, Michael Hatt, Brian Maidment, Lynda Nea, Lindsay Smith

We invite proposals for 20 minute papers on the interplay between the verbal and the visual in nineteenth-century culture. Suggestions for panels are also welcome. Topics might include: Ekphrasis; Spectators, Viewers, Readers, Observers; Optics; The Virtual and the Real; Graphic Satire; The Illustrated Press; The Culture of Periodicals; Imaginary Galleries; Narrative Painting; Advertising; New Technologies; Then and Now.

Convened by Birkbeck Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies and University of Exeter Centre for Victorian Studies
Proposals to s.ledger@bbk.ac.uk by **1 March 2006**

NINETEENTH-CENTURY PROSE
Special Issue on John Ruskin

NINETEENTH-CENTURY PROSE seeks essays on John Ruskin for a special issue on John Ruskin for Fall 2007. Articles of any critical approach are of interest. The guest editor hopes for an invigorating mix of new and established critics. Inquiries are welcome.

Please send your completed essay of 20-25 pages by **March 1, 2006** to guest editor Sharon Aronofsky Weltman at the address below. Essays should follow MLA style.

Dr. Sharon Aronofsky Weltman
Associate Professor of English
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-5001
USA
225-578-2857
enwelt@lsu.edu

15th Annual Conference of the Women's History Network
THINKING WOMEN: EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY
1-3 September 2003, Collingwood College, University of
Durham

Individual papers, panels and abstracts are welcomed on the following themes:

Women and education; Women, the humanities and cultural representation;
Women's intellectual contribution to the social sciences;

Women and
scientific endeavour; Thinking women: past representations.

Papers will be considered for special issues of Women's
History Magazine and Women's History Review.

Please submit a 200-word synopsis by **1 March 2006** (first
call) or 1 June 2006 (final call) to:
whn.conference@durham.ac.uk

For further information please visit
www.womenshistorynetwork.org or email
WHN organisers Sarah Aiston, Maureen Meikle and Jean Spence
at: whn.conference@durham.ac.uk

**Citizenship, Nation and Identity
in the long Nineteenth-Century
17th - 18th June**

*Gladstone Centre for Victorian Studies,
St. Deiniol's Library, Hawarden*

An interdisciplinary conference focusing on all aspects of
community in the long Nineteenth-Century

Key-note Speakers

Eugenio Biagini (Robinson College, Cambridge)
Jeremy Tambling (Hong Kong)
Brian Maidment (Salford)
Bertrand Taithe (Manchester)

Possible papers might examine issues surrounding:

- Definitions and expressions of nation, nationality and
nationhood within Britain and abroad.
- Relationships between the community and the individual
- Nation's 'Others'
- Religious and secular identities.

Abstracts should be submitted by **31st March 2006** to Janet
Meredith janet.meredith@manchester.ac.uk.

*Sponsored by the University of Manchester and the Arts and
Humanities Research Council*

**Victorian Periodicals
VanArdsel Prize**

Graduate students are invited to submit essays for the 2006 VanArsdel Prize for the best graduate student essay on, about, or extensively using Victorian periodicals. Manuscripts should be 15-25 pages and should not have appeared in print. The winner receives a plaque, \$300, and publication of the prize essay in Victorian Periodicals Review. Send submissions before **April 1, 2006** to Kathryn Ledbetter, Department of English, 601 University Drive, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas 78666-4616.

**11th Annual Dickens Society Symposium
Queen's University
Belfast, Northern Ireland
11-13 August 2006**

Charles Dickens visited Belfast in 1858, 1867, and 1869, to deliver those public readings which so captivated audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. He gave renditions of such favourites as *The Story of Little Dombey*, *Boots at the Holly-Tree Inn*, *Mrs Gamp*, and *Sikes and Nancy*. He also developed close friendships with the Belfast-born politician and merchant James Emerson Tennent and with Francis Dalziel Finlay, owner and editor of *The Northern Whig*. He enjoyed his sojourns in Ulster, remarking on his 'delightful days' in Belfast, where he was widely recognised and warmly welcomed.

Belfast is the venue for the 11th annual symposium of the Dickens Society of America. This organisation, founded in 1970, aims to conduct, encourage, foster and further support research, publication, instruction and general interest in the life, times and literature of Charles Dickens.

Papers are welcomed on any aspect of Dickens and his works. Final papers must be readable in twenty minutes. Prospective panellists should send a one-page abstract, by post or email, to
Dr Leon Litvack
School of English
Queen's University
Belfast BT7 1NN

Northern Ireland, UK
L.Litvack@qub.ac.uk
Tel. +44-28-90973266

Information and registration forms can be obtained at the conference website:
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/en/dickens>

The deadline for submission of proposals is **31 May 2006**

Further information on the Dickens Society, and its journal *The Dickens Quarterly* may be found at
<http://www.dickensquarterly.org/>

Call for Papers: Teaching William Morris

Where and how are the works and legacy of William Morris being taught in educational institutions across the world? The Summer 2007 issue of the *Journal of William Morris Studies* hopes to address this broad question through a wide range of contributions from practitioners responsible for bringing Morris to life in the classroom. Topics for consideration might include:

- Teaching *News from Nowhere*.
- Teaching Morris's poetry and prose works (anyone teaching *The Earthly Paradise*? *Sigurd*? The Late Romances?).
- Morris in the English Studies / Victorian Studies / Politics / History of Design / Other curriculum.
- Morris in schools.
- Morris and 'alternative' education.
- Examples of using online resources and/or Virtual Learning Environments to teach Morris.
- Are there particular challenges or difficulties associated with teaching Morris in certain contexts?
- Student responses to Morris.
- What do Morris's ideas have to offer the educational systems in which we work?

Responses of between 2500-5000 words welcome.
Deadline: September 15th 2006.
Submissions to the Editor, Dr Rosie Miles @
R.Miles@wlv.ac.uk

Style guidelines can be found at
<http://www.morrissociety.org/jwms.guide.html>

Science and Culture in Nineteenth-Century Britain

General Editor: Bernard Lightman

Pickering and Chatto is pleased to announce a major new series of scholarly works on nineteenth century British science and its cultural and social contexts. The Editor and the Editorial Board invite proposals for new books for publication in the series. Although this will be primarily a monograph series, we are also willing to consider edited collections. Proposals may address any aspect of nineteenth century British science, for example "disciplines" such as geology, biology, botany, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine, and mathematics. Proposals may also focus on themes within the social sciences, natural philosophy, natural history, the alternative sciences, and popular science. In addition they may examine science in relation to one or more of its many contexts, including literature, politics, religion, class, gender, colonialism and imperialism, material culture, visual culture, and print culture. The focus will be on Britain, but we are willing to consider works with a comparative and international dimension that are centered on Britain.

We seek manuscripts of high quality that may perhaps be seen by other publishers as too specialized.

Our plan is to publish a first run of about 400 copies in hardcover. We welcome proposals from senior scholars as well as from recent PhDs who have revised their dissertations extensively for publication. Proposals should be eight to ten pages in length and should include a brief overview of the relevant scholarship in the field, the contribution which your work will make to the field, a breakdown of the contents by chapter, an account of the number and type of illustrations, the length, competing books, and the intended audience. As we are unable to offer contracts on prospective works, proposals should be submitted when the manuscript is complete. Send your proposals to: Bernard Lightman, 309 Bethune College, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M3J 1P3 (lightman@yorku.ca). If the proposal is considered promising then the General Editor will invite you to submit your manuscript for full evaluation.

Members of the Editorial Board: William Brock, Janet

Browne, Geoffrey Cantor, Fa-Ti Fan, Aileen Fyfe, Bruce Hunt, Bowdoin van Riper, Ann Shteir, Sally Shuttleworth, Robert Smith, and Jon Topham.

Victorian Maritime Comment

I gave a paper at the BAVS September 2005 conference, regarding the abolition of privateering in Victorian times. This included glances back to French Revolutionary operations against merchant shipping, and forward to submarine warfare in the first half of the twentieth century.

Since then, French and German colleagues have expressed interest in the idea of a comparative study involving longterm Anglophone comment on such matters - something which would clearly include a substantial Victorian component. For forwarding of suggestions, and for further information on this (as yet tentative) project, please contact me by email.

H.J.K. Jenkins
Society for Nautical Research
hjkpkjenkins@yahoo.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Sponsored by BAVS:

Midlands Interdisciplinary Victorian Studies Seminar Programme 2005/6

In partnership with the Birmingham and Midland Institute
and the British Association for Victorian Studies

Saturday 11th February 2006

Shearer West (University of Birmingham)
'Laughter and Aestheticism'

Hilary Weeks (University of Gloucestershire)
'Architecture Among the Poets: Nineteenth-Century
Architectural Writing'

Seminars run from 2-5 pm and are held at the Birmingham &

Midlands Institute, central Birmingham (a 5-10 minute walk from New Street station) - see www.bmi.org for directions.

For further information, please contact:

Marion Thain (m.thain@bham.ac.uk)/Rhian Williams

(rhianwilliams@blueyonder.co.uk) University of Birmingham

Rosie Miles, University of Wolverhampton

(R.Miles@wlv.ac.uk)

Richard Pearson, University of Worcester

(R.Pearson@worc.ac.uk)

**NEW WORK ON FIN-DE-SIECLE WOMEN WRITERS
A special session at the MLA Convention, Washington DC
Tues December 27th 2005, 8:45-10:00 p.m., Delaware
Suite A, Marriott Wardman Park**

Presiding: Ann L. Ardis, Univ. of Delaware, Newark

1. "The Female Aesthete and the Patriarch in the Novels of Elizabeth von Arnim," Sunie Fletcher, University of Exeter

2. "Looking like a New Woman: Gender and Ekphrasis at the Fin de Siècle," Jill R. Ehnenn, Appalachian State University

3. "Reading the Recovery: Feminist Criticism of the Fin de Siècle," Talia C. Schaffer, Queens Coll., City University of New York

For copies of abstracts, please write to s.m.fletcher@ex.ac.uk.

**RETHINKING VICTORIAN SENTIMENTALITY: A ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM
Saturday 21 January 2006,
Institute of English Studies, Senate House, University of
London.**

This symposium starts at 10.00 am at the above venue. There is no charge for attendance. Speakers Include: Emma Mason, Sally Ledger, Carolyn Burdett, Caroline Arscott, Heather Tilley.

All are welcome.

For further information, please visit the IES website:

**Internationalism and the Arts: Anglo-European Cultural
Exchange at the Fin
de Siècle**

3-day international conference
Magdalene College, Cambridge
3-5 July 2006

Please visit the conference website at:
<http://www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk/internationalism/arts/>

To book, or make further enquiries, please contact Dr Grace
Brockington,
Clare Hall, Herschel Rd, Cambridge CB3 9AL, UK. Tel.:
(0)1223 767 294,
email geb23@cam.ac.uk. Bookings must be made by 16 June
2006, and early booking is advised.

**University of Leicester
Victorian Studies Centre
Spring Seminar Series 2006**

1 February

Professor John Schad (University of Loughborough)
'Hang Thinking: Arthur Hugh Clough and the Thought of
Death'

15 February

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

1 March

Professor John Batchelor (University of Newcastle)
'Ruskin's Better Angel: Pauline Trevelyan, Patron of the
Pre-Raphaelites'

15 March

Dr Suzanne Paylor (Birkbeck College, London)
'Democratic Ideas: Re-Reading Late Nineteenth-Century
Popular Science'

29 March

Dr Angelique Richardson (University of Exeter)

'Culture and Nature at the End of the Nineteenth Century'

Seminars take place at 5.15pm on Wednesdays in Rm. 1315, Attenborough Building, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH

For further details please contact Dr Gowan Dawson (gd31@le.ac.uk; 0116 252 2779).

**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.

For further information, please visit the website:
www.tasc.ac.uk/lcvs/Colloquia/Space.htm

JOURNALS NEWS:

"RSV" ("Rivista di Studi Vittoriani" / "Journal of Victorian Studies")

An international journal dedicated to the study of Victorian literature and culture (general editor Prof. Francesco Marroni), published by Tracce with the contribution of the Dipartimento di Scienze Linguistiche e Letterarie, Università "G. d'Annunzio", Pescara (Italy) and sponsored by the "C. U. S. V. E." ("Centro Universitario di Studi Vittoriani ed Edoardiani" / "University Center of Victorian and Edwardian Studies").

The latest number of "RSV" (n. 17, July 2004) is a special monographic issue titled "George Gissing: New

Explorations into his Fiction" (eds. Pierre Coustillas and Emanuela Ettorre), including essays and contributions by eminent international scholars such as Pierre Coustillas (Professor Emeritus, University of Lille, France), David Grylls (University of Oxford), Francesco Marroni (University of Pescara, Italy), Maria Teresa Chialant (University of Salerno, Italy), Arlene Young (University of Manitoba), Bouwe Postmus (University of Amsterdam). This new special number is an example of the attention George Gissing is currently receiving no longer exclusively in his native country but in the European and non-European academic world. The journal includes a sequence of essays offering a wide range of different critical approaches to Gissing's novels and short stories.

This is the first number of a forthcoming series of monographic issues devoted by the "C. U. S. V. E." to a selection of Victorian poets and novelists, a valuable enterprise planned and edited by Prof. Francesco Marroni. For any information, visit the site: www.unich.it/ or write to f.marroni@unich.it

19

**Online Journal of nineteenth-century studies
Birkbeck College**

Launched at Birkbeck, University of London on 1 October 2005, **19** is a new electronic publishing initiative designed to achieve two main aims: to publicise and disseminate the research activities carried out under the auspices of Birkbeck's interdisciplinary Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies; and to provide practical research and professional development opportunities for the large and active body of postgraduate students currently undertaking research degrees in nineteenth-century studies at the College.

Issue 1 (Autumn 2005) debates 'Interdisciplinarity' and features articles by Regenia Gagnier, Rohan McWilliam, Patrizia di Bello, Michael Allis, James Mussell & Susan Paylor, and Anne Humphries.

For further information please visit: www.19.bbk.ac.uk

NINES online publication

Victorian scholars who are developing online scholarly work - either editorial or critical - will want to know that the initial aggregation of materials for the NINES project was published in December 2005. NINES -- the Networked Infrastructure for Nineteenth-century Electronic Scholarship (see <http://www.nines.org>) -- is an open-access scholar-driven peer-reviewed environment that aggregates scholarly work in British and American literary and cultural studies in the long nineteenth-century. NINES has a suite of editorial and interpretive tools that scholars will find extremely useful - including a powerful collation tool (Juxta), a gamespace for interpretive collaborations (IVANHOE), and a semantic collections and exhibits builder (Collex).

A white paper detailing how NINES works can be found here: [click here](#)

This white paper describes the three tools as well as the structure, electronic as well as institutional, of NINES.

A white paper that gives a more detailed description of Collex is here: [click here](#)

Anyone wishing to incorporate their work into the NINES federation, or looking for further information about NINES beyond what is available on the NINES homepage and the materials listed above, contact Jerome McGann (jjm2f@virginia.edu).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

Louis James, *The Victorian Novel* (Blackwell, 2005)

This inspiring survey challenges conventional ways of viewing the Victorian novel. The author explores the extremely varied and often experimental prose fiction of the period, paying attention to contemporary bestsellers as well as to major literary works. The volume:

- Provides time maps and overviews of historical and social contexts.
- Considers the relationship between the Victorian novel and historical, religious and bibliographic writing.
- Features short biographies of over forty Victorian authors, including Wilkie Collins, Charles Dickens, George

- Eliot, and Robert Louis Stevenson.
- Offers close readings of over 30 key texts, among them Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (1847) and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897), as well as key presences, such as John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* (Pt 1, 1676, Pt 2, 1684).
 - Also covers topics such as colonialism, scientific speculation, the psychic and the supernatural, and working class reading.

For further information: [click here](#)

Robert L. Patten & John Bowen (eds.), *Palgrave Advances in Charles Dickens Studies*

(Palgrave, November 2005)

Palgrave Advances in Charles Dickens Studies is a comprehensive and authoritative guide to the study of one of the most important Victorian novelists. Its editors, Robert L. Patten and John Bowen, are leading authorities on Dickens and the international team of contributors they have assembled contains some of the most exciting critics of nineteenth-century fiction writing today. The book covers the whole range of Dickens's writing and criticism about it, including biographical, theoretical and historical approaches. It is based on up-to-the-minute research and written in a lively and engaging way, and will be essential reading for all students and scholars of this canonical writer.

For further information: [click here](#)

Christine Ferguson, *Language, Science and Popular Fiction in the Victorian Fin-de-Siècle: The Brutal Tongue* (Ashgate: 2006)

Christine Ferguson's timely study is the first comprehensive examination of the importance of language in forming a crucial nexus among popular fiction, biology, and philology at the Victorian fin-de-siècle. Focusing on a variety of literary and non-literary texts, the book maps out the dialogue between the Victorian life and social sciences most involved in the study of language and the literary genre frequently indicted for causing linguistic corruption and debasement - popular fiction. Ferguson demonstrates how Darwinian biological, philological, and

anthropological accounts of 'primitive' and animal language were co-opted into wider cultural debates about the apparent brutality of popular fiction, and shows how popular novelists such as Marie Corelli, Grant Allen, H.G. Wells, H. Rider Haggard, and Bram Stoker used their fantastic narratives to radically reformulate the relationships among language, thought, and progress that underwrote much of the contemporary prejudice against mass literary taste. In its alignment of scientific, cultural, and popular discourses of human language, *Language, Science, and Popular Fiction in the Victorian Fin-de-Siècle* stands as a corrective to assessments of best-selling fiction's intellectual, ideological, and aesthetic simplicity.

For further information: [click here](#)

Christine DeVine, *Class in Turn-of-the-Century Novels of Gissing, James, Hardy and Wells* (Ashgate, 2005)

This book argues that, due to political and ideological shifts in the last decades of the nineteenth century, a new depiction of social class was possible in the English novel. Late-century writers such as Gissing, James, Hardy and Wells question the middle-class Victorian views of class that had dominated the novel for decades. By disrupting traditional novelistic conventions, these writers reveal the ideology of the historical moment in which those conventions obtained, thereby questioning the "naturalness" of class assumed by earlier, middle-class Victorian writers. The book contextualizes novels by these writers within their historical moment with reference to relevant maps, journalism, artwork or photography, and specific historical events. It illuminates the relationship between fiction and history in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century fiction, and especially the relationship between changing depictions of class and the development of realism.

For further information: [click here](#)

John Holmes, *Dante Gabriel Rossetti and the Late Victorian Sonnet Sequence Sexuality, Belief and the Self* (Ashgate, 2005)

In 1870, Dante Gabriel Rossetti published the first version of his sonnet sequence *The House of Life*. The next thirty years saw the greatest flourishing of the sonnet sequence since the 1590s. John Holmes's carefully researched and eloquent study illuminates how leading sonneteers, including the Rossettis, John Addington Symonds, Wilfrid Blunt and Augusta Webster, and their early twentieth-century successors Rosa Newmarch and Rupert Brooke, addressed the urgent questions of selfhood, religious belief and doubt, and sexual and national identity which troubled late Victorian England. Drawing on the heritage of the sonnet sequence, the poetic self-portraits they created are unsurpassed in their subtlety, complexity, courage, and honesty.

For further information: [click here](#)

Joseph Bristow (ed.), *The Fin-de-Siècle Poem: English Literary Culture and the 1890s*

(Ohio University Press, 2005)

Featuring innovative research by emergent and established scholars, *The Fin-de-Siècle Poem* throws new light on the remarkable diversity of poetry produced at the close of the nineteenth century in England. Opening with a detailed preface that explains why literary historians have frequently underrated fin-de-siècle poetry, the collection shows how a strikingly rich body of lyrical and narrative poems anticipated many of the developments traditionally attributed to Modernism. Each chapter provides insights into the ways in which late-nineteenth-century poets represented their experiences of the city, their attitudes toward sexuality, their responses to empire, and their interest in religious belief.

For further information: [click here](#)

Kathleen McCormack, *George Eliot's English Travels: Composite Characters and Coded Communications* (Routledge, 2005)

Presenting fresh biographical information and original insights into George Eliot's writing strategies, McCormack's book explores how this distinguished author's

writings were affected by her travels within England.

For further information: [click here](#)

Lucy Delap & Ann Heilmann (eds), *Anti-Feminism in Edwardian Literature*, 6 vols, (Thoemmes Continuum, February 2006),
Victorian and Edwardian Anti-Feminism series

The pamphlets, fiction and books reproduced in this anthology set illustrate six concepts in the turn-of-the-century anti-feminist debate as they continued into the twentieth century. Vol. 1: Mrs Humphry Ward, *Daphne, or, Marriage à la Mode*; extensive general introduction to set; Vol. 2: Selected essays from Belfart Bax's *Essays in Socialism*, Frederic Harrison's *Realities and Ideals*, and Gasquoine Hartley's *The Truth About Women*; Vol. 3: W.H. Mallock, 'Women in Parliament'; 'The Suffragettes', *Dominica Chronicle* (introduced by Sue Thomas); Ardeshir Ruttonji Wadia, *Ethics of Feminism*; Vol. 4: Ethel Colquhoun, *The Vocation of Woman*; Vol. 5: Marie Corelli, selected essays from *Free Opinions Freely Expressed* and *Woman or Suffragette? A Question of National Choice*; Arabella Kenealy, *Feminism and Sex Extinction*; Vol. 6: Arnold Bennett, *Our Women: Chapters on the Sex-Discord*

For further information: [click here](#)

Tamara S. Wagner, *Occidentalism in Novels of Malaysia and Singapore, 1819-2004: Colonial and Postcolonial "Financial Straits."* (Lewiston, 2005. ISBN: 0773460381)

Was occidentalism ever more than a reaction to orientalism? How did it affect, or effect, the adoption and consequent adaptation of the English novel in Britain's former colonies? Does Occidentalism operate differently in colonial and postcolonial, local and diasporic, traditional and experimental literature, and if so, why and how? As it traces the reshaping of the novel genre in fiction written in or about the former Straits Settlements and British Malaya, roughly what is now Malaysia and Singapore, from the nineteenth century onwards, this study brings together reassessments of

colonial, postcolonial, and diasporic works. It explores the ongoing reformulation of literary and other values in the intersections between orientalist and occidental discourses as they fruitfully clash and thereby enrich locally and globally marketed literature of and about the region. The importance of this simultaneity of commercial and cultural evaluations is exposed as essentially twofold, as the re-representation of intersecting value systems can be seen to feed on and into the marketing of these narratives locally and abroad. A new theory of occidentalism that reveals it to be significantly more than simply a reversal of orientalism emerges from this reading of local and international representations side by side. A substantial part of the book deals with nineteenth-century materials (English-language literature both by resident colonisers and by the various diasporic and mixed communities, especially the Straits Chinese) and the rest considers post-Independence (occidental) reworkings of these literary histories.

FURTHER NOTICES:

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.
Three Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships in
VICTORIAN STUDIES
(ANY DISCIPLINE)**

Cambridge University, in association with the Leverhulme Trust, announces a research project entitled "Past versus Present in Victorian Britain: Abandoning the Past in an Age of Progress". It is intended to appoint three Research Fellows for four years from October 2006. The salary range for the posts will be £20,044 to £25,565 p.a.. Those working on any relevant aspect of 19th-century British culture, including but not limited to History of Science, History, Theology, Classical Tradition, Egyptology, Literature, Cultural Studies, Music, Archaeology, Art, Museology, are invited to apply. Candidates may be at any stage in their academic career but must have completed a PhD before October 2006. Further details and an application form can be obtained from the Secretary to the Appointments Committee, Faculty of Classics, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA (tel: 01223 330515, e-mail: ajm92@cam.ac.uk) or at www.classics.cam.ac.uk/cvsg to whom applications should

be sent by **January 6th, 2006**. Interviews will be held on February 28th and March 1st 2006.
Cambridge University is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

OUP promotion to the British Association for Victorian Society

As a special Autumn promotion, we are offering you the opportunity to purchase Oxford University Press Literature titles at 30% discount (valid until **31st December 2005**). Please visit the OUP/BAVS promotional web page [[click here](#)] to browse the latest publications in our Literature list, and order your books online at 30% discount.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or comments.
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The George Borrow Society

The George Borrow Society was established in 1991. It publishes two substantial Bulletins a year and organizes one or two events annually.

In the next year we plan a visit to St Petersburg 1-8 July 2006 for a Borrow conference being organised in collaboration with Professor Yuri Kleiner, of St Petersburg State University (Borrow lived in St Petersburg from 1833-35 while editing the New Testament in Manchu for the Bible Society). From 29 September-2 October 2006 we are planning a weekend meeting at St Deiniol's, Hawarden.

The annual subscription rate is £15.00, or £10.00 for students. Enquiries should be addressed to Mike Skillman at georgeborrow@blueyonder.co.uk. The Society's website is at <http://www.clough5.fsnet.co.uk/gb.html>. The website includes information about the Society, the Bulletin and a thematic index to the Bulletin is currently in process of development. This covers a wide range of

topics relevant to Victorian Studies.

**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**