

## RSVP 2012 Conference

Conference Co-Chairs and Organizers  
Kathryn Ledbetter, Texas State University  
Carol MacKay, The University of Texas at Austin  
Linda K. Hughes, Texas Christian University

Program Committee:  
Alexis Easley, University of St. Thomas  
Linda K. Hughes, Texas Christian University  
Paul Fyfe, University of Florida

We wish to thank the following institutions and persons, whose support and advice helped to make this conference a success:

Dan Lochman, Chair, English Department, Texas State University-San Marcos  
Eugene Bourgeois, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Texas State University-San Marcos  
Andrew Schoolmaster, Dean, AddRan College of Liberal Arts, Texas Christian University  
Thomas Staley, Director, The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin  
Elizabeth Cullingford, Chair, Department of English, The University of Texas at Austin  
Randy Diehl, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, The University of Texas at Austin  
Alan Tully, Chair, Department of History, The University of Texas at Austin  
William Roger Louis, Director, The Program in British Studies at The University of Texas at Austin  
University Bookstore, Texas State University-San Marcos  
Rich Oram, The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin  
Our many hard-working student "Conference Assistants."

Conference webpage, program, and promotional materials designed by Kathryn Ledbetter.



September 14-15, 2012

## Sentiment and Sensation in Victorian Periodicals

A T & T Conference Center

The University of Texas at Austin



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TEXAS  
AT AUSTIN



TEXAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
SAN MARCOS

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## ABOUT RSVP

The Research Society for Victorian Periodicals, familiarly known as RSVP, is an interdisciplinary and international association of scholars dedicated to the exploration of the richly diverse world of the nineteenth-century press, both its magazines and its newspapers. Members of RSVP are involved in the study of British literature, and the history and culture of Britain and its empire, as well as in the emerging fields of book history and media history.

For over 40 years, RSVP's distinguished journal, the *Victorian Periodicals Review*, has carried articles, reviews, and research guides on a wide-ranging variety of topics. Through *VPR* as well as through its lively and collegial annual conference, the Society aims to stimulate the study and discussion of the roles played by the Victorian press and its proprietors, editors, illustrators, publishers, authors, and readers in shaping nineteenth-century culture.

### History

RSVP was founded in December of 1968 at the Modern Language Association conference in New York by an interdisciplinary group of scholars led by Michael Wolff, who became its first president. Most of its founding members belonged to the informal scholarly collective engaged in research for Walter Houghton's *Wellesley Index of Victorian Periodicals* and were eager to give a permanent organizational embodiment to the intellectual energy and enthusiasm generated by that remarkable project.

The 1960s witnessed an enormous upsurge of interest in interdisciplinary scholarship, particularly in the area of Victorian Studies. The vast range and number of Victorian periodicals was being recognized as an ideal resource for such scholarship since there existed periodicals touching on virtually every conceivable aspect of Victorian life. RSVP's official organ, *Victorian Periodicals Review*, in fact came into existence even before RSVP itself.

Commencing as the *Victorian Periodicals Newsletter*, the first number appeared in January of 1968 under the founding editorship of Michael Wolff. The journal began as a sort of intellectual clearinghouse for information, ideas, and projects relating to Victorian periodicals and evolved with the development of the interdisciplinary studies it represented into its present form. Its present title was adopted in 1978. For an excellent, detailed account of the founding of both *VPR* and RSVP, see N. Merrill Distad, "The Origins and History of Victorian Periodicals Review, 1954-84." *Victorian Periodicals Review* 18.3 (Fall 1985), 86-98.

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## SENTIMENT AND SENSATION IN VICTORIAN PERIODICALS

Our conference addresses the discourse of sentiment and sensation in the newspaper and periodical press that variously promoted or targeted readerships, established journalistic networks or brands, and shaped, responded to, and/or addressed cultural and ideological concerns. Suggested themes in our Call for Papers included but were not limited to:

Physiology and psychology in the press	Gender and periodical genres
The serialization of sensation fiction	Sentimental or sensational illustration
Sport or theatrical sensations	Entrepreneurialism and fame
Affect, cognition, and readerly sensations	Sensational formatting and headlines
Sentimental poetry or fiction in periodicals	
The rhetoric of sentiment/sentimentality	
The feeling of print or the materiality of periodicals	
Major scandals, legal cases, crimes, or controversies	

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## The Gale Dissertation Research Fellowship in Nineteenth-Century Media

The Gale Dissertation Research Fellowship in Nineteenth-Century Media is awarded to the best dissertation research that makes substantial use of full-text digitized collections of 19th-century British magazines and newspapers. The Fellowship is made possible by the generosity of the publisher Gale, part of Cengage Learning. Winners of the Fellowship receive a prize of \$1500 (USD) and one year's passworded subscription to selected digital collections from Gale, including *19th Century UK Periodicals* and *19th Century British Library Newspapers*.

A call for the 2012 Gale Dissertation Research will be made later this year.

## The Rosemary VanArsdel Prize

Graduate students are invited to submit essays for the 2013 VanArsdel Prize for the best graduate student essay on, about, or extensively using Victorian periodicals. The winner will receive \$300 and publication in *Victorian Periodicals Review*. Submissions should be 15-25 pages, excluding notes and bibliography. Manuscripts should not have appeared in print. Send e-mail submissions to [vpr@rs4vp.org](mailto:vpr@rs4vp.org) by May 1, 2013. Submissions should be formatted as Word files in Chicago style with identifying information removed. In an accompanying e-mail, applicants should include a description of their current status in graduate school.

## Ashgate / RSVP Travel Awards, in memory of Barbara Quinn Schmidt and Josef Altholz

These awards are designed to help defray the cost of travel to the RSVP conference for graduate-student members of the Society (or prospective members). Please send inquiries to president @ [rs4vp.org](mailto:rs4vp.org).

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## RSVP Awards and Prizes

The Curran Fellowship  
The Robert L and Vineta Colby Scholarly Book Prize  
The Ashgate / RSVP Travel Awards  
The Rosemary VanArsdel Prize  
The Gale Dissertation Research Fellowship in Nineteenth-Century Media

### The Curran Fellowship

The Curran Fellowship is a travel and research grant intended to aid scholars studying 19th-century British magazines and newspapers in making use of primary print and archival sources. Made possible through the generosity of Eileen Curran, Professor Emerita of English, Colby College, and inspired by her pioneering research on Victorian periodicals, the Fellowship is awarded annually in the form of two grants of \$2,500 each.

The Curran Fellowship is open to researchers of any age from any of a wide range of disciplinary perspectives - literary scholars, historians, biographers, economists, sociologists, art historians, and others - who are exploring the 19th-century British press as an object of study in its own right, and not only as a source of material for other historical topics. Applicants' projected research may involve study of any aspects of the periodical press in any of its manifold forms, and may range from within Britain itself to the many countries, within and outside of the Empire, where British magazines and newspapers were bought, sold, and read during "the long nineteenth century" (ca. 1780-1914). Enquiries can be addressed to president @ rs4vp.org.

### The Robert L and Vineta Colby Scholarly Book Prize

The Colby Book Prize was endowed in 2006 in memory of Robert Colby by his wife, Vineta Colby, also a distinguished scholar and long-time member of RSVP. In 2011, following Vineta's death, the Board of Directors of RSVP unanimously voted to re-name the prize to honor both Robert and Vineta Colby for their many fine contributions to the study of Victorian periodicals. The annual prize is given to the book published during the preceding year which made the most significant contribution to the study of nineteenth-century periodicals. The winner receives a monetary award of up to \$2,000, and is invited to speak at the following year's RSVP conference.

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## Conference Program Friday, September 14, 2012

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**8-5:30 Registration (Break Area)**

**8-9 Continental Breakfast (Break Area)**

**9-10:30 Welcome and Robert L. and Vineta Colby Lecture, Room 104**

Introduction: Joanne Shattock, University of Leicester  
Lecture by Joel Wiener, CUNY, author of *The Americanization of the British Press, 1830s-1914* and winner of the 2012 Robert L. and Vineta Colby Scholarly Book Prize.  
Lecture co-sponsored by The University of Texas Institute for Historical Studies

**10:30-10:45 Coffee Break (Break Area)**

**10:45-12:15 Concurrent Panels**

Panel 1, Room 104: Children's Periodicals  
Moderator: Annemarie McAllister, University of Central Lancashire

Richard Fulton, Windward Community College,  
"Sensationalizing the Military in Mid-Victorian Boys' Adventure Magazines"

Michelle Elleray, University of Guelph, "British Boys and Blackbirding: Rescuing Pacific Islanders in the *Boy's Own Paper*"

Meghan Rosing, Lehigh University, "'Our Cot': Sympathetic Sensations between Child Readers and Child Patients in *Aunt Judy's Magazine*"

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Friday, September 14, 2012 (continued)

Panel 2, Room 107: New Approaches to Research  
Moderator: Jennifer Phegley, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Dallas Liddle, Augsburg College, "Portable Document Formats: The Development of the Nineteenth-Century Newspaper as Information Delivery System"

Laurel Brake, Birkbeck, University of London, "Sensation! in Reviews in the 'Sixties and 'Seventies"

Chris Manno, Texas Christian University, "William Michael Rossetti at the Vortex of Periodical Criticism: A Digital Archive of Criticism and Rhetorical Modes."

Panel 3, Room 108: Authors I: Braddon  
Moderator: Marie Martinez, Texas Christian University

Melissa Couchon, Texas Christian University, "Stifling Sensation: *Lady Audley's Secret* as an *Un-Sensational* Novel in *Robin Goodfellow* and *Sixpenny Magazine*"

Anne-Marie Beller, Loughborough University, "Penny Serial to Triple-Decker: M. E. Braddon's Revision of *The Outcasts* for 'Polite' Consumption"

Natalie Houston, University of Houston, "Making Numbers Meaningful: Visualizing Mary Elizabeth Braddon's Presence in Victorian Periodicals"

**12:15-2 Lunch on your own**

**2-3:30 Concurrent Panels**

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Saturday, September 15, 2012 (Continued)

Hazel MacKenzie, University of Buckingham, "Letting Sleeping Dead Children Lie: Death, Sentimental Poetry and Periodical Structures in *Household Words*"

Panel 21, Room 102: Sensation Journalism VI: Scandal  
Moderator: Florence Boos, The University of Iowa

David Latané, Virginia Commonwealth University, "The London Press and the Case of Maria Foote"

Heather Freeman, Vanderbilt University, "Piracy and Plagiarism, or 'the uncertain trade of brain-selling'"

Amanda Nydegger, Milligan College, "Sensational Facts Make Sensational Stories: *The Times* and Birmingham Gaol in Charles Reade's *It Is Never Too Late to Mend*"

Panel 22, Room 203: Authors III: Gaskell  
Sentiment, Sensation, and Melodrama: Elizabeth Gaskell and the Art of Pathos in Victorian Periodical Literature  
Moderator: Caroline Reitz, John Jay College, CUNY

Sarah McNeely, Texas Christian University, "'No Jot of Hope or Heart Abated': Elizabeth Gaskell's Sentimental Contributions to *Howitt's Journal*"

Jessica Queener, West Virginia University, "Sentiment vs. Sensation: Dickens vs. Gaskell"

Lindsay Lawrence, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, "Reportage and Sentimental Heroines on Trial: Female Criminals in the Periodical Press and Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton*"

**5:30-6 Final Words, Room 203**

Patrick Leary, President of the RSVP

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Saturday, September 15, 2012 (Continued)

Panel 18, Room 203: Hybrid Forms  
Moderator: Alexandra K. Wettlaufer, The University of Texas at Austin

Mary McCulley, Texas Christian University, "Travelling through Florence and between Genre Forms: *Romola* as Sensational Travel Narrative"

Anne DeWitt, Princeton University, "The *Elsmere* Sensation: Debating the Theological Romance"

Meegan Kennedy, Florida State University, "The things I have seen in tapioca pudding!": George Henry Lewes, the Microscope, and the Visions of Natural History"

Panel 19, Room 103: Publishing Roundtable

Alexis Easley, Editor, *Victorian Periodicals Review*

David Latané, Former Editor, *Victorian Institutes Journal*

Sally Mitchell, Editor, Praeger Victorian Life and Times Series

Joanne Shattock, Editor, Ashgate Nineteenth-Century Series

Mary Elizabeth Leighton & Lisa Surridge, Co-Editors, *Victorian Review*

**3:30-3:45 Coffee Break (Break Area)**

**3:45-5:15 Concurrent Panels**

Panel 20, Room 101: Poetry

Moderator: Sandro Jung, Ghent University

Linda Peterson, Yale University, "Sentiment and Sensation in the Victorian Poetic Debut"

Rebecca Mitchell, University of Texas-Pan American, "George Meredith's Poetry: Picturing Englishness in *Once a Week* and *Modern Love*"

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Friday, September 14, 2012 (continued)

Panel 4, Room 104: Annuals and Pocket-Books

Moderator: Kathryn Ledbetter, Texas State University

Sandro Jung, Ghent University, "G. W. Fulcher's *Ladies Memorandum Book*, and *Poetical Miscellany* (1825-89) and the Politics of Sentiment"

Brian Maidment, University of Salford, "Suppressing the Sensational—the Struggle for a 'Rational' Almanac in Early Victorian Britain"

Barbara Onslow, Independent Scholar, "Sentiments of the Season: Hope, Charity, and Fun in Victorian Christmas Annuals"

Panel 5, Room 107: Sensation Journalism I: Stead

Moderator: Jeffery Patterson, The University of Texas at Austin

Marysa Demoor, Ghent University, "Steadiment and Steadation in the *Review of Reviews*"

Jim Mussell, University of Birmingham, "When Sensation is Justifiable: W.T. Stead, Sensation and the Form of the Newspaper"

Karen Steele, Texas Christian University, "'Featherbrained': Femininity, Fame, and the New Journalism"

Panel 6, Room 108: The New Woman

Moderator: Melissa Smith, University of Texas at Austin

Katherine Malone, Temple University, "Reviewing for the *English Woman*: Marion Hepworth Dixon and the Changing Character of a Magazine"

Marianne Van Remoortel, Ghent University, "Emily Faithfull's Compositors: Female Employment at the Victoria Press"

Efrat Pashut, Tel Aviv University, "The Sensational Bicycle: Sensationalism in the Victorian Periodical *Cycling*"

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Friday, September 14, 2012 (Continued)

**3:30-3:45 Coffee Break (Break Area)**

**3:45-5:15 Concurrent Panels**

Panel 7, Room 104: Sensation Journalism II: Sensational Consumption

Moderator: Jerome Bump, The University of Texas at Austin

Liam Young, University of Alberta, "Sensational Eating: The Popularization of Trichinosis and other Horrors in the Vegetarian Press"

Julie Kraft, Indiana University, "Crimes of the Stomach: Food Adulteration and Delinquency in the Victorian Press"

Annemarie McAllister, University of Central Lancashire, "Drunkenness and Misery or the Happy Home?: Illustrated Periodicals of the Band of Hope"

Panel 8, Room 107: Illustrations of Sentiment and Sensation  
Moderator: Rachel Johnston, Texas Christian University

Mary Elizabeth Leighton & Lisa SurrIDGE, University of Victoria, "Ocular Sensations: Illustration and Sensation Fiction in the Periodical Press"

Sharon Aronofsky Weltman, Louisiana State University, "Sweeney Todds: The Satirical Afterlife of Sweeney Todd in Victorian Periodicals"

Carol MacKay, The University of Texas at Austin, "Beyond the *Cornhill Magazine*: The Life and Afterlife of Anne Thackeray Ritchie's *Miss Angel*"

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Saturday, September 15, 2012 (Continued)

**2-3:30 Concurrent Panels**

Panel 16, Room 101, Authors II: Collins Round the Year 1868: The Personal and the Political During the Serialization of *The Moonstone*

Moderator: Iain Crawford, University of Delaware

Carolyn Vellenga Berman, The New School, "Sensation after Emancipation: Slavery in *All the Year Round*"

Erin Van Laningham, Loras College, "The Story of Myself: *The Moonstone* and the Memoir"

Caroline Reitz, John Jay College, CUNY, "'There is a medium in all things': Charles Dickens Conducts *The Moonstone*"

Panel 17, Room 102, Sensation Journalism V: Sexualities  
Moderator: Joanna Thaler, The University of Texas at Austin

Sarah Bull, Simon Fraser University, "*Reynolds's Newspaper's* 'Astounding Revelations': George Bedborough's Trial, 'Semi-Scientific' Pornography, and Free Speech"

Lauren Harmsen Kiehna, University of Kansas, "Honour and Fair Fame: Theresa Longworth Yelverton, Respectability, and the *Times*"

Charles Upchurch, Florida State University, "Everyday Affairs: Mainstream Reporting of Sex between Men in Mid-Victorian London"

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## Saturday, September 15, 2012 (Continued)

Panel 14, Room 102: Sensation Fiction II

Moderator: Kathleen Zvarych, The University of Texas at Austin

Jacob Ptacek, The University of Texas at Austin, "Serialized) Murderers: Dickens and Ainsworth at Work in *Bentley's Miscellany*"

Kellyanne Ure, Texas Tech University, "The Sensational Truth: Realism and the Magazine Serialization of *The Woman in White*, *Lady Audley's Secret*, and *Hard Cash*"

Troy Bassett, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, "Truly a Newspaper Novel: The Use of Sir Travers Twiss's Libel Case (1872) in Joseph Hatton's *Clytie* (1873-74)"

Panel 15, Room 203: Sensation Journalism IV: Investigative and Undercover Journalism

Moderator: Cole Wehrle, The University of Texas at Austin

Alexis Easley, University of St. Thomas, "The Man of Letters as Criminal: Sir Gilbert Edward Campbell and Henry Labouchere's *Truth*"

Iain Crawford, University of Delaware, "Writing against Type: *Household Words* and the Unsentimental, Anti-Sensational Journalism of Harriet Martineau"

Jillian Richardson, University of Alberta, "Popular Sensations in the Press: The Undercover Reporter and the Music Hall Performer"

### **12:30-2 RSVP General Business Meeting and Luncheon, Tejas Dining Room**

Serve yourself at the buffet and come to the RSVP reserved dining area. All conference attendees are encouraged to attend.

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## Friday, September 14, 2012 (Continued)

Panel 9, Room 108: Imperialist Sensations

Moderator: William Meier, Texas Christian University

Sigrid Cordell, University of Michigan, "The New Woman and the *Wide World*: Rewriting Imperial Adventure in the Periodical Press"

Anna Peak, Temple University, "Inventing Inscrutability: Sentiment, Sensation, Progress, and the Chinese Language in the *Saturday Review*"

Mary Ellis Gibson, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, "The Afterlife of Sati: The Surprising Longevity of Immolation Poems in Victorian Periodicals"

### **5:30-6:30 Wolff Lecture, Room 103**

Introduction: Brian Maidment, University of Salford

Wolff Lecture by Margaret Beetham, Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science, University of Salford

"Anti-sensation? The Angel Abroad: Missionary Wives and Bad Mothers."

Sponsored by Andrew Schoolmaster, Dean, AddRan College of Liberal Arts, Texas Christian University

### **6:45-9 Texas BBQ & Bluegrass Party, Courtyard** **\$25 ticket is required for admission, either pre-paid or purchased on site.**

Co-Sponsor: The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Bluegrass music from "Ranch Road 12." Service bar available. In case of rain, event will be held in the Tejas Dining Room.

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Saturday, September 15, 2012

**8-noon Registration (Break Area)**

**8-9 Continental Breakfast  
(Break Area)**

**9-10:30 Concurrent Panels**

Panel 10, Room 101: Reviewing  
Moderator: Solveig Robinson, Pacific Lutheran University

Julie Codell, Arizona State University, "Inducing Sentiment,  
Socializing Feeling: Art Criticism in the Press"

Joanne Shattock, University of Leicester, "Oliphant, Braddon  
and the Demands of Popular Fiction"

Isabel Seidel, University of Aberdeen, "'At every page there  
is some offence against good taste or good feeling':  
Geraldine Jewsbury and Margaret Oliphant"

Panel 11, Room 102: Sensation Fiction I: Transatlanticism  
Moderator: Carol MacKay, The University of Texas at  
Austin

Molly Leverenz, Texas Christian University, "*The Moonstone*  
in America: *Harper's Weekly* and Transatlantic  
Introspection"

Jennifer Phegley, University of Missouri-Kansas City, "'An  
Age of Sensation . . . Across the Atlantic': Defining  
Sensationalism in the English and American Press"

Elizabeth Anderman, University of Colorado at Boulder,  
"Serialization, Illustration, and the Art of Sensation"

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Saturday, September 15, 2012 (Continued)

Panel 12, Room 203: Sensation Journalism III: Crime  
Moderator: Karen Steele, Texas Christian University

William Meier, Texas Christian University, "Scene of the  
Explosion: Picturing the Fenian Dynamite Campaign  
in Illustrated Periodicals, 1881-85"

Alice Smalley, The Open University, "'The material of the  
dirty little newsvendors in London and the  
country': Sensational Illustrations in *The Illustrated  
Police News*"

Siobhan Craft Brownson, Winthrop University, "The  
Tichborne Case and the *Illustrated London News*"

**10:30-10:45 Coffee Break (Break Area)**

**10:45-12:15 Concurrent Panels**

Panel 13, Room 101: Reform  
Moderator: Allen MacDuffie, The University of Texas at  
Austin

Florence Boos, University of Iowa, "*The Oxford and  
Cambridge Magazine*: Romantic Sensations, Reformist  
Sentiments"

Janice Carlisle, Yale University, "Ballet Girls on  
Fire: Theatrical Accidents and the Victorian Press"

Tanushree Ghosh, University of Nebraska at Omaha,  
"Liberal Publics and their Victims: Late-Victorian  
Journalism and the Reformist Melodramas of George  
Sims and Andrew Mearns"

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