2003 Conference
The Victorian Periodical Press: Texts and Contexts
Varscona Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta, 19-20 September, 2003

Conference Program

Thursday evening, September 18

Registration and wine reception at Varscona Hotel

Friday, September 19

9:00 – 10:30
Keynote: George Levine (Kenneth Burke Professor of English, Rutgers U): “Darwin, Positivism, and the Human Sciences.”

10:45 – 12:15: Session One

Panel One: “Legal Discourse”
- Elizabeth F. Judge (Ottawa), “Reading Credibility: Witnesses, Characters and the Prisoner’s Counsel Act.”
- Karin Kellogg (Alberta), “Feme (C)Overt: Maria Theresa Longworth and the Yelverton Marriage Case.”
- Monica Flegel (Alberta), “Constructing Child-Protection Histories: Queen Victoria and the NSPCC.”

Panel Two: “Mobile Spirits”
- Alexis Easley (U of Alaska Southeast): “Periodical Journalism and the Practice of Literary Tourism in Victorian London.”
- Jennifer Shepherd (U of Alberta): “Motoring Literature and the New Woman.”
- Maire ni Fhlathuin (U of Nottingham): “Writing in the ‘Contact Zone’: Anglo-Indian Periodicals of the 1830s.”

12:15 – 1:30: VSAWC executive meeting.

1:30 – 3:00: Session Two

Panel Three: “Elizabeth Gaskell”
- Joanne Shattock (Leicester): “Editing Gaskell Today.”
Panel Four: “Periodical Genres”
- Laurel Brake (U of London): “Magazine or Newspaper? The Hybridity of Weeklies.”
- Caroline Sumpter (Open U): “Wastes of Print’ and ‘Wildernesses of Words’: Debate over Periodical Reading in the Victorian Middle Class.”

3:15 – 4:45: Session Three

Panel Five: “Historiography”
- Michael Carignan (Elon): “Analogical Reasoning and Victorian Historical Knowledge.”

Panel Six: “Learned and Vulgar Discourses”
- Gowan Dawson (U of Leicester): “W. T. Stead, T. H. Huxley and the Control of Meaning in the New Journalism.”
- Leslie Howsam (U of Windsor): “History in the Late-Victorian Periodical: Imagining the English Historical Review.”
- Vanessa Warne (U of Manitoba): “Dangerous to Look at or Describe': Thackeray, Immorality and the Literary Annual Industry.”
- Kathryn Ledbetter (Southwest Texas State U): “Amalgamating the ‘Broad Gauge of Fancy with the Narrow Gauge of Fact': The Man in the Moon.”

7:00 Banquet: Michael Wolff lecture. RSVP announced the passing of Josef Altholz, who was to have given this year’s lecture on “Whimsy, Serendipity and Chutzpah: The Improbable Success of RSVP.”

Saturday, September 20

9:00 – 10:30
  Keynote: Clare Midgley (Reader in History and Head of the Centre for Gender Studies, London Metropolitan U): “Beyond—or Before—'Imperial Feminism.’”

10:45 – 12:15: Session Four

Panel One: “Victorians & Visual Culture”
- Grace Kehler (McMaster U): “Still for Sale: Love Songs and Singing Whores from La Traviata to Moulin Rouge.”
- Daniel Martin (UWO): “Reading Visual ‘Up-to-Dateness’ in Bram Stoker’s Dracula.”

Panel Two: “Celebrity and Controversy”
• Judith Law Fisher (Trinity U): Fraser’s Portraits and the Construction of Literary Celebrity.”
• Meaghan Clarke (U of Sussex): “The Academy’s New Clothes or the ‘Fad About the Nude in Art’?”
• Mary Elizabeth Leighton (UVIC): “Staging Immorality: Herbert Beerbohm Tree and the Actor-Management Question in the Late-Victorian Periodical Press.”

12:15 – 1:30: VSAWC and RSVP Annual General Meetings

1:30 – 3:00: Session Five

Panel Three: “Genre”
• Vanessa Warne (U of Manitoba): “The meaning concealed in each strangely carved stone: Letitia Landon and the Reading of Indian Ruins.”
• Kirsten MacLeod (Alberta): “Art for America’s Sake: Aesthetics and Decadence and the Making of American ‘Culture’ in the Little Magazines of the 1890s.”

Panel Four: “Publicity, Privacy and Identity”
• Lisa Surridge (UVIC): “The Serial Novel, the Newspaper, and the Divorce Court: The Public Gaze of the Media in He Knew He Was Right.”
• Caroline Reitz (Saint Louis U): “Amazon.com: In and Around Cranford.”

3:15 – 4:45: Session Six

Panel Five: “Imperialism and Other Myths”
• Elizabeth Galway (Exeter): “God Save the Queen?: Subverting the Imperial Order in Victorian Canadian Children’s Literature.”
• Kristen Guest (U of Toronto): “Faust Updated: Victorian Re-Readings of Dr. Faustus.”
• Stacy Grooters (U of Washington): “Studying Imperial Literacies in Kipling’s Kim.”

Panel Six: “Women’s Work—Personal and Philanthropic”
• Kay Boardman (U of Central Lancashire): “Light Comes to Those Who Dare to Think: Shafts, a Radical Departure in Publishing.”
• Cheryl Cassidy (Eastern Michigan U): “Taking the New Woman to the Mission Site: Louise Manning Hodgkins and the Heathen Woman’s Friend.”