

Victorian Work and Workers




Conference on

Victorian Work and Workers

18-20 April 1986

Yale Center for British Art
Albertus Magnus College
New Haven, Connecticut



Sponsored by the Northeast Victorian Studies Association,
the Yale Center for British Art, the British Studies Program
in Yale College, and Albertus Magnus College.

No smoking is permitted
in the Yale Center for British Art.

Dear Fellow Victorians:

Welcome to the twelfth annual conference of the Northeast Victorian Studies Association. We are most delighted to be able to meet at the Yale Center for British Art and Albertus Magnus College to try to deconstruct Victorian Work and Workers.

Nothing inspired many Victorians more than the possibility of earning fortune and fame by work. Yet we also know that one persistent Victorian aspiration was never to work at all. One is reminded of the colloquy between Noddy Boffin and Eugene Wrayburn in *Our Mutual Friend* about the work bees do in rendering their lives purposeful.

Appropriately, our present conference offers us a chance to examine the work Victorians did and the work we do in examining their workers. I know that we will most certainly come to better understand *what* the Victorians did, and I hope that we can also come to appreciate *why* they did it. But, no matter. At least we have our work . . .

Warmest thanks to Linda Peterson, Frank Turner, and Mary Davis for all their efforts in planning this conference, and thanks also to the Program Committee and all the participants for insuring that this year's conference will be a great success.

Wilfred Dvorak
President
Northeast Victorian
Studies Association



FRIDAY, APRIL 18,
AT THE YALE CENTER
FOR BRITISH ART AND
ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE

1:30-4:30 pm, Registration
Yale Center for British Art

2:00-3:00 pm, Tour
Victorian Collection,
Yale Center for British Art

3:00-4:45 pm, Representations of Work and Workers

Yale Center for British Art
Moderator: Duncan Robinson,
Yale Center for British Art

Panel:
Lee M. Edwards,
Hudson River Museum
"The Heroic Navy and Hubert
von Herkomer's *On Strike*
Renée V. Overholser,
Graduate Center, CUNY
"G.M. Hopkins: Workers and
the 'Undenized'"
George P. Landow,
Brown University
"The Art of Labor and
the Labor of Art"

4:45-5:45 pm, Wine and Cheese
Reception, Entrance Court,
Yale Center for British Art

6:00 pm, Dinner
Your choice

8:00-9:30 pm, Slide Lecture

Albertus Magnus College
Campus Center

Moderator: Mary Davis
Albertus Magnus College

Speaker:
Susan P. Casteras, Curator
Yale Center for British Art
"Images of Women Workers
in Victorian Painting"

SATURDAY, APRIL 19,
AT THE YALE CENTER
FOR BRITISH ART

9:00-10:00 am, Registration
Coffee and Danish
Fellows Lounge, Branford College

10:00-11:45 am, High Culture, Mass Culture

Yale Center for British Art
Moderator: Alice H. R. Hauck,
Providence College

Panel:
Jonathan Rose,
Drew University
"Toward an Intellectual History of
the Victorian Working Class"
Michael Brooks,
West Chester University
"Ruskin's Doctrine of Work and
the Nature of Building"
Anne Humpherys,
Lehman College, CUNY
"Popular Fiction and Politics:
The Language and Structure of
Political Journalism in *Reynolds Weekly Newspaper*"

12:00-2:00 pm, Luncheon
and Business Meeting
Law School Dining Hall

2:00-3:30 pm, Laboring Hands

Yale Center for British Art
Moderator: Virginia Shields Walker,
New York University

Panel:
Michael Wolff,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
"And what do *you* do?: Work and
Gender in *Middlemarch*"
Will Lee,
Yeshiva University
"Savage Hands, Grotesque Machines:
Figurative Interpretations of
Victorian Workers"
Elisabeth G. Gitter,
John Jay College, CUNY
"Women's Hands and Handiwork in
the Victorian Imagination"

SATURDAY, APRIL 19,
AT THE YALE CENTER
FOR BRITISH ART

3:15-3:45 pm, Coffee Break
Yale Center for British Art

3:45-5:15 pm, Masters and Servants

Yale Center for British Art
Moderator: Coral Lansbury,
Rutgers University, Camden

Panel:
Martha Westwater,
Mount Saint Vincent University
"Servants and Handmaids: Workers
in the Upper Middle Class
Victorian Home"
John J. Woods,
Rosemont College
"Gladstone, the Oak Farm Mines,
and the Industrial Crisis of 1842"
Joseph Kestner,
University of Tulsa
"The Earliest Seamstress Narratives"

5:45-6:45 pm, Cocktails
President's Room
Woolsey Hall

7:00-9:00 pm, Banquet
President's Room
Woolsey Hall
Work Songs and Ballads:
Sandy and Caroline Paton,
Folk Legacy Records

SUNDAY, APRIL 20,
AT ALBERTUS MAGNUS
COLLEGE

8:30-9:30 am, Refreshments
Aquinas Hall, Albertus Magnus

9:30-11:15 am, Workers, Movements, and Rights

Aquinas Hall, Albertus Magnus
Moderator: Zelda Boyd,
California State University

Panel:
Jules Law,
Princeton University
"Water Rights and the Social
Construction of Work in
The Mill on the Floss"
Mary Ann K. Davis,
St. John Fisher College
"The Work of Ebenezer Elliott,
Bread Tax Bard"
William B. Thesing,
University of South Carolina
"Woman and the Muse: The Life-
blood of Samuel Smiles' Workers"
Claire Hirshfield,
Pennsylvania State University
"Workers Against War: Trade Unions
and the Peace Movement in the
Late Victorian Era"

11:30-12:00 noon, Summing Up
Albertus Magnus College
Gerhard Joseph,
Lehman College, CUNY
Wilfred Dvorak,
University of Rhode Island

12:00 noon, Lunch
Your choice

3:00-4:00 pm, Concert
Library Court,
Yale Center for British Art

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to those who have worked to make this conference possible:

NVSA OFFICERS:

Wilfred Dvorak
President
Judith Wilt
Vice President
Earl Stevens
Secretary-Treasurer

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Mary Davis, Chair
Robert Caserio
Rhoda Flaxman
Alice Hauck
Anne Humpherys
Gerhard Joseph
Marian Levine
Adrienne Munich
Linda Peterson
Jonathan Rose
Linda Shires
Carole Silver
Frank Turner

ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Linda Peterson, Chair
Owen Schur
Frank Turner

YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

Duncan Robinson,
Director
Constance Clement,
Assistant Director
Barbara Mulligan,
Program Coordinator
Susan Casteras,
Assistant Curator
Linda Friedlaender,
Docent

ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE

Sister Julia McNamara, O.P.
President
Sister Joan Franks, O.P.
Academic Dean

STUDENT AIDES

Debbi Carroll (URI)
Celina Patterson (Yale)
Karen Sherman (Yale)
Regina Silvia (URI)

PROGRAM

Fred Strebeigh

MAP

Hank Misura

Funds for printing this program were provided by British Studies at Yale.





WENDY KOLMAR
DEPT OF ENGLISH
SWB 27
MADISON, NJ
07940