

# VICTORIAN WATERS



Sponsored by the Northeast Victorian Studies Association  
and  
Rhode Island College  
Providence, RI 02908

April 30, May 1-2, 1993

**WELCOME to RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE!** We are pleased to host this the 19th annual meeting of the NORTHEAST VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION. Rhode Island College is the oldest of the three public institutions of higher education in Rhode Island. Since its establishment in 1854, the College has been a leader in providing educational opportunities for public and community service. Its location gives ready access to the metropolitan area of the State, including the major urban centers. The College has a long history as an institution for educating teachers, and in recent decades has broadened its curriculum to include professional programs in nursing, social work, management, accounting, and industrial technology, as well as programs in the Performing Arts.

Again, we are pleased to serve as the sponsoring institution for your important scholarly explorations of VICTORIAN WATERS. We hope that the accommodations and facilities will enable all to have successful, stimulating intellectual discussions.

John Nazarian.  
President, RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE



at Nancy ARMSTRONG Desire Domesticity

ARE  
IS VICTORIAN STUDIES more interdisciplinary  
than (say) Romanticism <sup>Studies in</sup> - or do we just  
move back and ~~revisit~~ <sup>revisit</sup> those events  
which we want to discuss?

M WOLF's Desire to Turn to study the Culture  
which excluded him & from which he had  
emigrated, as part of the motive for  
the creation of Victorian Studies

Dear Fellow Victorians:

Welcome to the nineteenth annual conference of the Northeast Victorian Studies. Though there have been gatherings of the Victorians in the Northeast several times in the early seventies, NVSA itself began officially in 1975 at a conference on THE VICTORIAN FAMILY at Assumption College. In the course of the subsequent years many of us have published books first outlined at NVSA; we have fallen in love, celebrated tenure and promotion together, and tried out our wildest ideas about the marvelous complexities of the Victorian period with sympathetic but hard-headed colleagues. Most important we have every year heard several papers by new scholars in the field--current graduate students or new assistant professors. Many of us delivered our first professional papers at NVSA. Our conferences have covered topics as diverse as VICTORIAN CRIME AND PUNISHMENT (1977), VICTORIAN MYTHOLOGIES (1979), BRITAIN IN THE 1880'S (1981), VICTORIAN WORK AND WORKERS (1986), EVOLUTION AND REVOLUTION (1991), and finally last years at Rutgers we gathered to discuss VICTORIAN SPACE AND PLACE.

In 1985 we delved into VICTORIANS AND THE SUPERNATURAL (complete with a lecture on the realities of ectoplasm) at Rhode Island College. We are delighted to be here once again to submerge ourselves in the deeps of waterways, the unconscious, tea and gin, and death by drowning, among other liquid adventures.

This year we are reinstating an old favorite--the Friday night readings--and trying out a new format, a Saturday afternoon panel discussion on the state of Victorian studies today. As always, we will be awash in good fellowship, good talk, and good times. Cheers! to all those returning and especially to those coming for the first time.

Thanks to Joan Dagle for chairing the Program Committee and to all the committee members who helped put together what is, once again, a first-rate collection of papers. My special thanks to Earl Stevens for his long service to NVSA, in particular this time as head of local arrangements.

Anne Humpherys, President  
Northeast Victorian Studies Association



CH 117 Found Drowned

Augustus Egg -

Coleridge's description of Ophelia

## VICTORIAN WATERS

19th Annual Northeast Victorian Studies Association Conference  
April 30-May 2, 1992 Rhode Island College

**FRIDAY REGISTRATION: 2:00-3:30pm** IN THE LOBBY OF THE OMNI BILTMORE  
ALL FRIDAY SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE BILTMORE

Friday, April 30

**3:30-5:30pm Foul Waters** - L'Apogee Salon #3

Moderator: **Maureen Reddy**, Rhode Island College

"Dirty Puddles and Dust Mountains: Wet and Dry Representations of Excrement in the Victorian City," **Ellen Handy**, Bard College

"'Tried to Feel Spiritual': The Victorian Turkish Bath," **Catherine Barnes Stevenson**, University of Hartford

"Miasma and Social Space: Streams of Contagion," **Emilie Babcox**, Rutgers University

**3:30-5:30pm Sinking and Swimming** - L'Apogee Salon #7

Moderator: **Renee Overholser**, Hunter College

"'From her melodious lay to muddy death': Images of Ophelia 1837-1901," **Kimberly Rhodes**, Columbia University

"The Waterpower of Grace Darling: Fame and Femininity in a Myth of Female Heroism," **Flavia Alaya**, Ramapo College

"The Realism of the Unreal: Grandcourt's Drowning in Daniel Deronda" **Jonathan Loesberg**, The American University

6:00pm - Dinner: Your Choice. (Please consult the list of restaurants in your registration materials)

8:00pm - Victorian Readings at the John Hay Library, Brown University,  
Main Reading Room, 20 Prospect Street.

**SATURDAY, May 1, 1993**

on RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE CAMPUS

**SATURDAY REGISTRATION:** Lobby CLARKE SCIENCE, Room 125 - 9:00-9:30am

**9:00-9:30am - Coffee and refreshments**

**9:30-11:30am Water Marks** - CLARKE SCIENCE, Room 125

Moderator: **Jonathan Rose**, Drew University

"'Another Country': Bogs, Vampires and the Preservation of the Past," **Nicholas Daly**, Brown University

"Mysteries of the Deep," **Harriet Ritvo**, MIT

"Geology and Prophecy: The Ocean World of Hugh Miller," **James G. Paradis**, MIT

**11:30am-1:30pm - Luncheon and Business Meeting, FACULTY CENTER**

See MARK Kinsley, TRAVELS in West  
AFRICA - especially her picture

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1993, continued

**1:45-3:45pm Water Rites - CLARKE SCIENCE, Room 125**

Moderator: **C. Murray Smart**, University of Arkansas

"Never into the Drink: Liquidating Boundaries in a Transgressive School Story," **Beverly Lyon Clark**, Wheaton College

"Men Over the Water: Masculinities in Imperial Battle Art,"

**Joseph Kestner**, University of Tulsa

"Regenerating Waters vs. Generous Works: Victorian Views on Immersion," **Meaghan M. Byrne**, University of Delaware

**1:45-3:45pm Watery Realms - CLARKE SCIENCE, Room 128**

Moderator: **Lenore Beaky**, LaGuardia Community College *Victorian Suicide*

"Fishy Waters and the Women Who Knew Them," **Barbara T. Gates**, University of Delaware

"Wilkie Collins' Haunted Venice: Myth and Reality," **Piya Pal-Lapinski**, University of Massachusetts

"Victorian Waters: The Northwest Passage," **John Batts**, University of Ottawa

**3:45-4:00pm - Coffee and refreshments**

**4:00-5:30pm Testing the Waters - CLARKE SCIENCE, Room 125**

Moderator: **Anne Humpherys**, Lehman College

Panelists: **Gerhard Joseph**, Lehman College and CUNY Grad. Cntr

**Adrienne Munich**, SUNY, Stony Brook

**Casey Finch**, New York University

**Lauren M.E. Goodlad**, Columbia University

**6:00-7:00pm Cash bar, FACULTY CENTER**

**7:00-Banquet, FACULTY CENTER**

**8:30pm - WICKFORD EXPRESS, "SEA CHANTIES"**

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**Sunday, May 2**

**9:00-9:30am Coffee, Mann Hall**

**9:30-11:30am Blood, Sweat, and Tears - MANN HALL, Room 193**

Moderator: **Virginia Walker**, Suffolk County Community College

"The Waters of Indeterminacy in Romola," **Susan M. Bernardo**, Wagner College

"Salt-Water Economies: Fanny Price and Mary Prince," **Cynthia Northcutt Malone** and **Madhuchhanda Mitra**, College of St. Benedict

"Climacteric Bodies: Mrs. Threadneedle and the Financial Panics of 1847 and 1857," **Susan Walsh**, University of New Hampshire

"'The Sight and Sound of the Mother-Like Sea': Feminine Desire and Gaskell's Sylvia's Lovers," **Deborah Morse**, College of William and Mary

**12:00m - Hot Lunch, Donovan and depart at 12:30 PM for tour of Blithewold Gardens at Portsmouth, RI**

After the tour we will return to Omni Biltmore.

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AFRICA - especially her picture

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3:45-4:00pm - Coffee and refreshments

Testing the Waters - CLARKE SCIENCE, Room 125

On Saturday at 4:00 - 5:30 PM joining the Session Testing the Waters (CLARKE SCIENCE, Room 125) will be Dr. George Levine, Director, Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture, Rutgers University.

7:00-Banquet, FACULTY CENTER

8:30pm - WICKFORD EXPRESS, "SEA CHANTIES"

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ESPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR  
THEIR SUPPORT IN BRINGING THE 19TH ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE OF NVSA TO RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE  
April 30 - May 2, 1993

### NVSA OFFICERS

Anne Humpherys, President  
Jacqueline Jaffe, Vice President  
Earl E. Stevens, Secretary-Treasurer

### PROGAM COMMITTEE

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Zelda Austen  
Lenore Beaky  
Alice Beckwith  
Richard Currie  
Wilfred Dvorak  
Casey Finch  
Anthony Giffone  
Lauren M. E. Goodlad  
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Joellen Masters  
Alexandra Mullen  
Adrienne Munich  
Renee Overholser  
Maureen Reddy  
Jonathan Rose  
C. Murray Smart  
Earl E. Stevens  
Herbert Sussman  
Virginia Walker  
Judith Wilt

### LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Alice Beckwith  
Joan Dagle  
Earl E. Stevens

### AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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Lorraine L'Heureux, Assistant Director, Office Services  
Cheryl Petrarca and Paula Del Fiore, English Department  
Graduate Assistants  
Natalie DiRissio, Secretary, English Department

### SPECIAL THANKS at Rhode Island College to

Dr. John Nazarian, President  
Dr. John J. Salesses, Vice President of Academic Affairs



Tourist?  
Explorer?  
Visitor?

NOTES

(we) Dealing with the  
Foreign - Journey is out (of England)  
but also into (The Heart of Darkness), etc.

Note that the Diff between English/British & ~~the~~  
Colonial Lit would depend upon this sense of  
whether the Journer is going out from ourselves  
or being visited upon us. That is, we make  
us and Them become important opposites  
because who are we? & Can't the colonial go on  
voyages? If he visits England, what happens  
to the native culture?

Harriet Ritvo on classification of animals  
(J H Huxley "Man's Place in Nature") by James Partridge

Hugh Miller - wrote on the Old Red Sandstone  
Not well known at the time Lyell published 1832  
Footprints of the Creator

Miller's imagery challenged traditional  
images of the creator's world

Check Title  
Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation 1844  
Charles Darwin  
Thesis: Earlier forms of life are embryonic  
forms of the later, more complex forms  
Vehemently responded to by Hugh Miller's  
Footprints of the Creator

Ruskin's idea of reading the stones of  
Venice as ~~if~~ we read books taken  
from the way geologists read rocks



FLOWING METAPHORS  
An Evening of Victorian Poetry,  
Fiction, and Song

Northeast Victorian Studies Association  
19th Annual Conference



Friday, April 30, 1993

8:00 p.m.

John Hay Library

OVERTURE - Will Lee

"Etiquette" by W.S. Gilbert  
Jonathan Rose

Two Somewhat More Serious Drowning Scenes  
From "The Last Conflict," Book 7 Chapter 5,  
*The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot  
Virginia Shields Walker  
From "The Tempest," Chapter 55 of *David Copperfield*  
by Charles Dickens  
Anthony Giffone

"The Melancholy Long Withdrawing Roar"  
"A Seaside Walk" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
"Neap-Tide" by Algernon Charles Swinburne  
"A Sea Dirge" by Rev. Charles L. Dodgson  
a.k.a. Lewis Carroll  
Hartley Spatt

From *The Dickens Murders*, an historical novel by  
John Conlon

Arthurian Waters  
The Birth of Arthur from the Great Deep  
From "The Coming of Arthur," 1:358-389  
Bedivere's Return of Excalibur to the Lady of the Lake  
From "The Passing of Arthur," 11:301-314  
The Return of Arthur to the Great Deep  
From "The Passing of Arthur," 11:433-469  
Gerhard Joseph

Victorian Warblers  
"A Musical Instrument" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
Will Lee  
"A Toccata of Galuppi's" by Robert Browning  
John Bicknell

"WHERE LIFE'S CRYSTAL RIVER FLOWS":  
FROM GENNESARETH TO THAMES AND BEYOND  
Parlour songs and excerpts from oratorios

Richard Miratti, Baritone  
Gordon Clark Ramsey, Pianist

"The Holy City"\*  
Music by Stephen Adams [Michael Maybrick]  
Text by F.E. Weatherly

"In the Gloaming"  
Music by Annie Fortescue Harrison  
Text by Meta Orred

"The Stranger of Galilee"\*  
Music by Mrs. C.H. Morris

"Crossing the Bar"  
Music by Joseph Barnby  
Text by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

"No Night There"\*  
Music by Hart Pease Danks  
Text by John R. Clements

"Invictus"\*  
Music by Bruno Huhn  
Text by William Ernest Henldy

SURPRISE! Text by Francis Thompson

\* Drawn from the Miratti-Ramsey cassettes of Victorian  
and Edwardian music on the AFKA label

ENCORE - Virginia Shields Walker

