

## VICTORIAN ORIGINS AND EXCAVATIONS

AWFUL CHANGES.

MAN FOUND ONLY IN A FOSSIL STATE—REAPPEARANCE OF ICHTHYOSAURUS.



A Lecture.—"You will at once perceive," continued PROFESSOR ICHTHYOSAURUS, "that the skull before us belonged to some of the lower order of animals; the teeth are very insignificant, the power of the jaws trifling, and altogether it seems wonderful how the creature could have procured food."

The Department of English,  
Queen's University  
Kingston, Ontario  
April 19-21, 2002

*The Northeast Victorian Studies Association Annual Meeting*



## President's Welcome

Looking backwards in its theme, "Origins and Excavations," this year's NVSA also looks forward to having its first conference in Canada, where there actually once was a Victorian period. The conference takes its usual broad view of its themes, looking at actual excavations, but also Victorian ideas about origin and authorship and the origins of the human sciences. The papers range in subject matter from Gilbert and Sullivan's Patience through a discussion of art forgeries to papers on genetics and memory. Recent NVSA conferences have concerned themselves with Breakdowns, Memory and Anxieties and somewhere or another, we probably look at the origins of each of those concepts here. In short, so many origins that I don't know where to begin.

But I suppose I could begin by noting that we've taking to showing Friday night movies. This isn't entirely an origin. Some of you may remember programs on D.W. Griffiths' films on Victorian sources and Ernst Lubitsch's "Lady Windemere's Fan" a few years back. Ever the innovators, though, this year we leap in to the age of talkies and show "Zero Patience," which will also be the subject of one of the weekend's papers, so you won't want to miss it.

Our Keynote panels have been so successful in recent years that this year we will lead off Saturday morning with a discussion on "Knowing the Past." Some of you will note that this is the title of a collection of essays, published this fall by and edited by Suzy Anger. It wasn't her idea to do this. We just believe in looking close at hand for our origins. In any case, we will surely get diverse views on this topic from Chris Bongie, Richard Dellamora, Kate Flint and Carolyn Williams—and as always from all of you, who we hope will chime in. And if the panel doesn't wake you up, the usual melee that occurs at the Business Luncheon, at which we will set the topic for next year, should certainly do the trick. In another inauguration, for the first time, the Banquet at the end of Saturday will not be followed by entertainment. The program committee decided that we have become quite rowdy enough to entertain ourselves over the years. Also at the banquet, we will award the third annual Sonya Rudikoff award for the best first book in Victorian Studies to Jonah Siegel's Desire and Excess: the Nineteenth-Century Culture of Art. Since Jonah will be on hand, you can

always try to embarrass him by making him sign his book. The award jury would also like to give honorable mention to Rick Rylance for Victorian Psychology and British Culture, 1850-1880.

On Sunday we will end with a final panel, a teaching roundtable and a wrap-up. Since, in a conference on origins, there will be no paper on Darwin, we made up for that original lack by giving the teaching roundtable the theme of teaching Darwin. Wrap-ups are of course unpredictable but, since last year we almost renamed the organization, you probably will want to hang around to see what Anne Humpherys and Jonah Siegel have in store for us.

Jonathan Loesberg, President  
Northeast Victorian Studies  
Association

## PUNCH'S FANCY PORTRAITS.—No. 54.



CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN, LL.D., F.R.S.

IN HIS DESCENT OF MAN HE BROUGHT HIS OWN SPECIES DOWN AS LOW AS POSSIBLE—I.E., TO "A Hairy Quadruped furnished with a Tail and Pointed Ears, and probably Arboreal in its habits"—which is a reason for the very general interest in a "Family Tree." He has lately been turning his attention to the "Politic Worm."



## CAPSULE HISTORY OF THE NORTHEAST VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The Northeast Victorian Studies Association grew out of an interdisciplinary Five-College Victorian Studies Seminar, a group of scholars from Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, Smith, and the Amherst campus of the University of Massachusetts, initiated by Michael Wolff who had joined the University of Massachusetts faculty in 1970. In April 1971, Michael Wolff and Maurianne Adams (then at Smith) put together a conference on "England in the 1870s: A Decade of Conflict." Many of NVSA's most faithful members as well as a number of its future officers were part of that conference.

Other conferences, one on poverty, one on William Morris followed, and it was decided to hold the 1975 conference in Worcester. At that conference, "The Victorian Family," hosted by Assumption College, NVSA was proposed, and, later on, formally organized, adopting as its primary task the sponsorship of a yearly conference. Maurianne Adams became the first president and Robert Keane, the first secretary-treasurer.

The 1976 meeting, the first true NVSA conference, on "Pasts and Futures" was held at Ramapo College and was followed by one in 1977, on "Crime and Punishment" that saw the approval of the NVSA constitution, the genesis of the *Victorian Studies Bulletin*, and the election of Flavia Alaya, Carole Silver, and Robert Keane as the organization's officers.

"Victorians and the World Abroad" (1978), hosted by Hofstra University, was followed by "Victorian Mythologies" (1979), sponsored by the University of Rhode Island. Will Dvorak succeeded Robert Keane as Secretary-Treasurer, and NVSA was recognized as a non-profit corporation by the State of New York.

The 1980 conference at the University of Pennsylvania investigated "Victorian War and Violence", while the 1981 meeting on "Britain in the 1880s" at the University of Hartford also saw the election of Coral Lansbury as President and Gerhard Joseph as Vice President.

The 1982 conference at Drew University on "Victorians and Money" was followed by "Loss and Failure in the Victorian World" at Boston College and the in 1984 Hofstra hosted "Framing the Victorians," a reconsideration of Walter E. Houghton's landmark study, *The Victorian Frame of Mind*, twenty-seven years after its publication.

Rhode Island College and Brown University sponsored the 1985 meeting on "The Victorians and the Supernatural" at which there was a memorable spiritualist demonstration by a member of the London Psychical Research Society. New officers were elected: Wilfred Dvorak became president; Judith Wilt, vice president; and Earl Stevens, secretary-treasurer.

Entering its second decade, the 1986 conference at the Yale Center for British Art was on "Victorian Work and Workers"; the following year (1987), during a beautiful spring weekend at Wheaton College, the topic was "Victorian Pleasures: Food, Fun, and Games." In 1988 at the University of Scranton we looked at "Victorian Others" and climaxed the conference with a descent into a real coal mine. Jonathan Rose was elected president and Jacqueline Jaffe vice president. The next year, 1989, Providence College hosted discussions of "Evolution and

Revolution. At this conference we established the Coral Lansbury Award, in memory of our third president, to help support the travel of a graduate student giving a paper. In 1990 at Princeton University, the subject was "Disguises, Dreams and Deceptions" and in 1991 at a conference on "Victorian Endings" at the University of Rochester we honored George Ford, a long-time supporter of NVSA, for a lifetime of contributions to Victorian Studies.

The following year (1992) at Rutgers University we looked at "Victorian Space and Place" and had as Saturday night entertainment a professional production of "Princess Toto" by W.S. Gilbert and Frederic Clay, adapted and directed by Nina Davinci Nichols. Anne Humpherys was elected president, Glenn Everett as vice president, and Joan Dagle as secretary-treasurer. In 1993, after many years of unsuccessful lobbying at the Saturday business lunch where the topics for the next year are chosen, the perennial second choice "Victorian Waters" made it to the top for a third conference at Rhode Island College where NVSA also established a second Graduate Student Travel Award in memory of George Ford. A panel discussion of Gerhard Joseph, George Levine, Adrienne Munich, Casey Finch and Lauren Goodlad on "Testing the Waters" a discussion by senior scholars and graduate students about the state of Victorian Studies resulted in lively debates.

In 1994 NVSA was at New York University for a look at "Victorian Interiors" and after the annual banquet, all joined hands and hearts in the pleasures of a real Victorian ball. In the 1995 conference at MIT, we examined "Victorian Beasts and Beauties," while Glenn Everett and James Paradis demonstrated multimedia projects in Victorian Studies and resources for Victorianists of the World Wide Web, including our own NVSA homepage, designed and managed by Glenn Everett, who became a Communications Officer for NVSA.

In 1996, the start of the third decade of NVSA, we met at Villanova University to look at and talk about "Victorian Spectacles." One new event was a Sunday morning teaching roundtable this one on "Teaching the Long Victorian Novel." Rhoda Flaxman was elected president and James Buzard vice president. In 1997 NVSA returned to the University of Hartford to contemplate "Victorian Anxieties." In 1998 we were at Smith College and the geographical roots of NVSA to consider "Victorian Worlds: Anthropologies, Ethnicities, Geographies." Another first for the organization was a special invited lecture on "Frazer and the Sacredness of the Image" by Christopher Herbert.

In 1999 NVSA returned to Yale Center for British Art for a conference on "Victorian Memory." This conference inaugurated a new event, a tour of special Victorian collections, this one at the British Arts Center. That year, NVSA also instituted another new feature, a keynote panel discussion among invited speakers, this one on future directions for Victorian Studies. Speakers included James Eli Adams, Helena Michie, and Herbert Tucker. This year the family of Sonya Rudikoff, a long time NVSA member, established the Sonya Rudikoff prize for the best first book of the year. The first two winners were Yopie Prins for *Victorian Sappho*, Princeton University Press (1999); *Mesmerized: Powers of Mind in Victorian Britain*, University of Chicago Press (2000). The 2001 winner will be announced at this conference.

In 2000, the meeting was at the Graduate Center, CUNY, for "Victorian Breakdowns." At that conference, in addition to the invited panel discussing "Interdisciplinarity at the Breaking Point" (Amanda Anderson, Lynda Nead, and



Judith Walkowitz), NVSA members attempted to dance as Victorians did after the banquet. Jonathan Loesberg was elected president and Terri Hasseler as vice president at that conference. Last year's conference "Victorian Nocturnes" at Brown University the keynote panel on "Periodization and the Nineteenth Century" included Jay Clayton, George Levine, Susan Wolfson, and Ruth Yeazell.

#### NVSA PRESIDENTS

1976-1977	Maurianne Adams
1978-1980	Flavia Alaya
1981-1985	Coral Lansbury
1986-1989	Will Dvorek
1990-1992	Jonathan Rose
1993-1997	Anne Humpherys
1998-2000	Rhoda Flaxman
2000-	Jonathan Loesberg

#### WINNERS OF THE NVSA-SONYA RUDIKOFF PRIZE FOR THE BEST FIRST BOOK OF THE YEAR

1999	Yopie Prins, <i>Victorian Sappho</i> . Princeton University Press.
2000	Alison Winter, <i>Mesmerized: Powers of Mind in Victorian Britain</i> . University of Chicago.

2001 Jonah Siegel *Desire*



#### Friday, April 19

##### 1:00-4:00 Registration

Walter Light Hall foyer, (Union St. near Barrie St.)

##### 1:30 or 2:30 Tours of the Disraeli Project, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Watson Hall

##### 3:30 Welcome: Associate Dean Anne Godlewska (Geography)

Walter Light Hall, Room 205

##### 3:45-5:15 Art, Authors, and Originality

Walter Light Hall, Room 205

Chair: Karen Boiko (MIT)

Deb Gettelman (Harvard University)

"A Mouthful of Air": Dickens, Breath, and Spontaneous Generation"

M. Daniel Martin (University of Western Ontario)

"T. P. Prest, J. M. Rymer, and the Spectral Origins of Penny Authorship"

Aviva Briefel (Bowdoin College)

"Fabricating Origins: Victorian Writings on Art Forgeries"

##### 5:30-7:00 Reception and Viewing

Agnes Etherington Art Centre (The House)

##### 7:00 Dinner on your own

##### 9:00 Showing of *Zero Patience*

Walter Light Hall, Room 205



**Saturday, April 20**

**8:30-9:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast**

Walter Light Hall foyer, Union St. near Barrie

**9:30-11:30**

**Keynote Panel: "Knowing the Past"**

*Moderated by Terri Hasseler (Bryant College)*

Chris Bongie (Queen's University)

Richard Dellamora (Trent University)

Kate Flint (Rutgers University)

Carolyn Williams (Rutgers University)

**11:45-1:30**

**Business Luncheon**

The University Club (off Stuart Street)

**1:45-3:15 Session A: WLH 205**

**Excavating Sexuality**

*Chair: Don Ulin (University of Pittsburgh)*

Catherine A. Wiley (Temple University)

"'The Growl of a Roused Lion': J. A. Symonds' Excavation of Lucretius and the Impetus toward Physical Science"

Frederick S. Roden (University of Connecticut)

"Marc-André Raffalovich and Victorian Historicizations of Homosexuality"

Vincent A. Lankewish (Penn State University) and Carolyn Williams (Rutgers University)

"To Those Who Wait: *Patience*, Patient Zero, and *Zero Patience*"

**1:45-3:15 Session B: WLH 210**

**Excavations of History**

*Chair: Carole Silver (Yeshiva University)*

Nancy Marck (Daemen College)

"George Eliot's Florentine Research: The Origins of Ethnography and

the Search for an Authentic Past"

John Ulrich (Mansfield University)

"Articulating the Past: Thomas Carlyle and the 'Fossil Megatherion'"

Meilee D. Bridges (University of Michigan)

"'Thou Thing of Years Departed': The Sublimity of the Historical Relic in Felicia Hemans' 'The Image in Lava'"

**3:00-5:00 WLH 205**

**The Human Sciences**

*Chair: Vanessa Ryan (Yale University)*

Dan Kline (Ohio State University)

"A German Language Mutilated: Arthur Hugh Clough and the Origins of English"

Karen Odden (Independent Scholar)

"'So Unspeakable an Inheritance': Grant Allen, Birth Origins and Eugenics"

Jill Matus (University of Toronto)

"Bulwer-Lytton, Dickens and the Sciences of Memory"

**5:30-6:30 Cash Bar at Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 285 King St. East**

**6:30-8:30 Banquet at Four Points Sheraton**

**Sunday, April 21**

**Continental Breakfast, WLH foyer**

**9:00-10:30 Forum on Teaching Victorian Studies: Darwin's *Origin of Species***

*Moderator: Paula Krebs (Wheaton College)*

Christopher Keep (University of Western Ontario)

Lorraine Jansen Kooistra (Nipissing University)

Will Lee (Yeshiva University)

George Levine (Rutgers University)



## 10:45-12:15 Ruins and Relics

Chair: Tricia Lootens (University of Georgia)

Vanessa K. Warne (University of Manitoba)

"See where in great decay yon temple stands": Representations of India as Ruin in *Fisher's Drawing-Room Scrapbook*, 1832-1839"

Esther T. Hu (Cornell University)

"Britain and Empire: Imperialist Representations of Landscape in Layard's *Nineveh*"

U.C.Knoepfmacher (Princeton University)

"Unwrapping the Mummy: Embalmed Death or Retrieved Origins?"

## 12:30 Conference wrap-up

Anne Humpherys (City University of New York)

Jonah Siegel (Rutgers University)



### THINGS ONE WOULD RATHER HAVE LEFT UNSAID.

"ACH! CRACIOUS LATT, I HOPE ZAT MY LONG CHERMAN LECTURE ON ZE BORTICAL ASPECTS OF ZE BLOCCHE PERIOD DID NOT BORE YOU VERRY MUCH ZIS AFTERNOON!"

"OH, NOT AT ALL, PROFESSOR WOHLGEMUTH. I DON'T UNDERSTAND GERMAN, YOU KNOW."

## SONYA RUDIKOFF NVSA BOOK AWARD

The Northeast Victorian Studies Association is accepting nominations for the Sonya Rudikoff Award for the best Victorian book by a first time author. The Sonya Rudikoff Award was established by the Robert Gutman family in honor of Mr. Gutman's late wife. Ms. Rudikoff was an active member of the Northeast Victorian Studies Association and a recognized scholar. Her book, *Ancestral Houses: Virginia Woolf and the Aristocracy*, was just published posthumously.

A text nominated for this award should be the author's first book. The subject should address Victorian literature and/or culture. Our focus is on Victorian Great Britain and the Empire, though we will consider texts that are transatlantic in focus. We will not, however, consider texts that are strictly American Victorian. Books must have been published during 1998 or 1999. The award winner will receive a cash prize. The winning author will be announced at the April 2001 conference of the Northeast Victorian Studies Association and in *Victorian Studies*.

If you wish to have your book considered, please have your publisher submit five copies for review to the awards committee. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2000. Submit nominated books to Terri Hasseler, Bryant College, 1150 Douglas Pike Road, Smithfield, Rhode Island, 02917. If you have questions, contact Terri Hasseler at [thassele@bryant.edu](mailto:thassele@bryant.edu) or (401) 232-6926.

## NVSA WEB SITE

The NVSA web page (<http://fine.utm.edu/nvsa>) contains information about the Association and includes links to previous conference programs and calls for papers. The annual NVSA call for papers and conference information appear first here. Directions for joining NVSA and subscribing to the NVSA-L list are included. In addition, you will find a list of current conferences relating to nineteenth century Britain and links to an extensive number of Victorian web sites.

*listproc.utm.edu*  
*Subscribe: NVSA-L @ UTM.*



### **NVSA Officers**

President: Jonathan Loesberg, American University

Vice-President: Terri Hasseler, Bryant College

Secretary-Treasurer: Joan Dagle, Rhode Island College

Communications Officer: Glenn Everett, Stonehill College

### **NVSA Program Committee**

Suzy Anger, Chair

Rosemarie Bodenheimer, Boston College

Karen Boiko, MIT

Mary Wilson Carpenter, Queen's University

Joan Dagle, Rhode Island College

Glenn Everett, Stonehill College

Rhoda Flaxman, Brown University

Maria Frawley, University of Delaware

Elaine Freedgood, University of Pennsylvania

Eileen Gillooly, Columbia University

Terri Hasseler, Bryant College

Anne Humpherys, CUNY

Rob Jacklosky, College of Mt St Vincent

Gerhard Joseph, CUNY

Paula Krebs, Wheaton College

George Levine, Rutgers University

Jonathan Loesberg, American University

Tricia Lootens, University of Georgia

Vanessa Ryan, Yale University

Talia Schaffer, CUNY

Jonah Siegel, Rutgers University

Carole Silver, Yeshiva University

Don Ulin, University of Pittsburgh

### **NVSA WISHES TO THANK . . .**

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