

# VICTORIAN UNDERWORLDS

NORTHEAST VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
11-13 APRIL 2008



## NVSA CONFERENCES

- 1975 The Victorian Family. Assumption College
- 1976 Pasts and Futures. Ramapo College
- 1977 Crime and Punishment. Boston College
- 1978 Victorians and the World Abroad. Hofstra University
- 1979 Victorian Mythologies. Rhode Island College
- 1980 Victorian War and Violence. University of Pennsylvania
- 1981 Britain in the 1880s. University of Hartford
- 1982 Victorians and Money. Drew University
- 1983 Loss and Failure in the Victorian World. Boston College
- 1984 Framing the Victorians. Hofstra University
- 1985 The Victorians and the Supernatural. Rhode Island College and Brown University
- 1986 Victorian Work and Workers. Yale Center for British Art
- 1987 Victorian Food, Fun, and Games. Wheaton College
- 1988 Victorian Others. Scranton College
- 1989 Evolution and Revolution. Rhode Island College
- 1990 Disguises, Dreams and Deceptions. Princeton University
- 1991 Victorian Endings. University of Rochester
- 1992 Victorian Space and Place. Rutgers University
- 1993 Victorian Waters. Rhode Island College
- 1994 Victorian Interiors. New York University
- 1995 Victorian Beasts and Beauties. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 1996 Victorian Spectacles. Villanova University
- 1997 Victorian Anxieties. University of Hartford
- 1998 Victorian Worlds: Anthropologies, Ethnicities, Geographies. Smith College
- 1999 Victorian Memory. Yale Center for British Art
- 2000 Victorian Breakdowns. The Graduate Center. CUNY
- 2001 Victorian Nocturnes. Brown University
- 2002 Victorian Origins and Excavations. Queen's University (Canada)
- 2003 Technologies and Media in the 19th Century. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2004 The Sacred and the Profane. Cornell University
- 2005 Victorian Collaboration. American University
- 2006 Victorian Fatigue. Drew University
- 2007 Victorian Cosmopolitanism. Harvard University

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

*Rod Moleverer  
in Paul Clifford*

- 12:30-4pm Registration  
University College, Foyer  
15 King's College Circle
- 1-2pm; 2-3pm Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library Tour  
(Please meet at the Registration Desk 15 minutes prior to the start of the tour.)  
*what is the cause of surprise?*
- 3:15pm Welcome: University College, Room 179  
*mailed discourse*
- 3:30-5pm Uncovering the Underclass  
University College, Room 179  
*theory of mind*  
*craniology  
carpenter  
physiology  
mesmerism*
- Sarah Gates (St. Lawrence), Moderator  
*theory of the mind*
  - Aaron Worth (Boston), "Mindreading in the Underworld" *Mayhew*
  - Barry Faulk (Florida State), "Walter Sickert's Music Hall Scenes and the Late Victorian Social Explorer" *detachment*
  - LaMont Egle (Michigan-Ann Arbor), "The Fashionable Prig: Newgate Novels and their New Hero" *masculinities*
- 5:15-6:15pm Special presentation  
University College, Room 179  
Ludwig Maria Vogl-Bienek (Trier)  
"Casting Light into Poverty's Shadow: The Magic Lantern and the Poor in Victorian Britain"
- 6:30-8pm Opening Reception  
University Art Centre, University College
- 8pm Dinner on your own or group reservation at Il Fornello  
*For those taking part in the group reservation, directions are available at the registration desk.*



# SATURDAY, APRIL 12

8-9am Registration & Continental Breakfast  
University College, Foyer & Croft Chapter House

9-10:45am Keynote Panel  
University College, Room 179

Seth Koven (Rutgers), Moderator

- Deborah Nord (Princeton)
- David Pike (American)
- Jenny Bourne Taylor (Sussex)

10:45-11am Refreshment Break  
University College, Croft Chapter House

11am-12:30pm Below the Fold  
University College, Room 179

Jason Rudy (Maryland), Moderator

- Matthew Rubery (Leeds), "Broken Vows and Lost Bow-Wows: Reading the Victorian Agony Column"
- Jill McMillan (Guelph), "Patient Writing and *The New Moon*, 1844-1916"
- Natalie Neill (York), "Underground Perils: Victorian Tunnel Stories"

12:30-2pm Lunch  
University College, Croft Chapter House

# SATURDAY, APRIL 12 continued

2:15-3:30pm Session A: Underworld Mental States  
University College, Room 179

Gage McWeeny (Williams College), Moderator

- Benjamin Morgan (Berkeley), "The Pleasures of Sinking: Decadent Self-Loss as Sublime Immersion"
- Michael Tondre (Michigan-Ann Arbor), "George Eliot's 'Fine Excess': *Middlemarch*, Energy, and the Afterlife of Feeling"
- Jennifer Judge (York), "The 'Seamy Side' of Human Perfectibility: Satire on Habit in Bulwer-Lytton's *The Coming Race*"

2:15-3:30pm Session B: Underworlds of Empire  
University College, Room 140

Anna Henchman (Boston), Moderator

- Mary Ellis Gibson (North Carolina-Greensboro), "The Colonial Poet in the London Demi-Monde"
- Charn Jagpal (Alberta), "'We of the Bazaar lead the World by the Nose': Nautch Girls and Female Seduction in Flora Annie Steel's *Voices in the Night*."
- Dan Shea (Houston), "King Charles's Mines: England's Buried Treasures and the Turn from Empire in H. Rider Haggard's *Colonel Quaritch, V.C.*"

3:30-4pm Refreshment Break  
University College, Croft Chapter House



A 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 a 1975 conference, "The Victorian Family," in Worcester, hosted by Assumption College. At that conference the organization of NVSA was proposed, adopting as its primary task the sponsorship of a yearly conference. The next year, at a conference at Ramapo College on "Pasts and Futures," the NVSA constitution was approved; Maurianne Adams became the first president and Robert Keane the secretary-treasurer. The 1977 conference, "Crime and Punishment" at Boston College, saw the approval of the genesis of the Victorian Studies Bulletin and the election of Flavia Alaya (president), Carole Silver, and Robert Keane as the organization's officers.

Highlights from succeeding conferences include the 1984 meeting at Hofstra which focused on a reconsideration of Walter E. Houghton's landmark study, *The Victorian Frame of Mind*, twenty-seven years after its publication. The next year's conference, "The Victorians and the Supernatural," hosted by Rhode Island College and Brown University, featured a memorable spiritualist demonstration by a member of the London Psychical Research Society. In 1988, the meeting "Victorian Others" at Scranton College climaxed in a descent into a real coal mine. In 1991, at the University of Rochester conference on "Victorian Endings," we honored George Ford, a long-time supporter of NVSA, for a lifetime of contributions to Victorian studies. In 1992 at the Rutgers conference, "Victorian Space and Place," the Saturday night entertainment was a professional production of "Princess Toto" by W.S. Gilbert and Frederic Clay, adapted and directed by Nina daVinci Nichols.

In 1989 the Coral Lansbury Award, to help support the travel of a graduate student giving a paper, was established in memory of our third president, and in 1993 another such award in memory of George Ford. In 1995 Glenn Everett designed and continues to manage the NVSA website, valuable in itself and for its comprehensive set of links to Victorian sites on the web. The family of Sonya Rudikoff established a NVSA prize in 1999 for the best first book of the year in memory of Sonya, a long-time member of the organization.

The organization tried to hold conferences in both the northern reaches of the northeast and the southern end, but not until 2002 did we get to Canada. The format of the annual conferences has largely remained unchanged: a three-day conference, Friday afternoon through Sunday morning. Friday night always includes a reception and Saturday night a banquet and entertainment (highlights of which have been two Victorian balls). The Saturday business lunch has over the years become a highlight with a lively debate over choosing the next year's conference topic, initially presided over by Michael Wolff and subsequently by Jonathan Rose. Starting in 1996, the Sunday afternoon tour of a local site became a Friday afternoon visit to special collections in the different colleges and universities.

In 1996 at the Villanova conference on "Victorian Spectacles," NVSA began a new tradition, a Sunday morning roundtable on teaching Victorian literature and culture. In 1998 at Smith College ("Victorian Worlds: Anthropologies, Ethnicities, Geographies"), another new tradition began when Christopher Herbert was invited as a keynote speaker, delivering a talk on "Frazer and the Sacredness of the Image." The organization subsequently turned the Saturday morning session into an invited panel addressing issues in the discipline such as "Future Directions for Victorian Studies" (1999, speakers including James Eli Adams, Helena Michie, and Herbert Tucker); "Interdisciplinarity at the Breaking Point" (2000, speakers Amada Anderson, Lynda Nead, and Judith Walkowitz); "Periodization and the 19th Century" (2001, Jay Clayton, George Levine, Susan Wolfson, and Ruth Yeazell), "Knowing the Past" (2002, Chris Bongie, Richard Dellamora, Kate Flint, Carolyn Williams), (2003, Leo Marx, Leah Price, Herbert Sussman, and Ron Thomas), "Sacred and Profane" (2004, Suzy Anger, Ellis Hanson, and Pamela Thurschwell), "Victorian Collaborations" (2005, Tim Alborn, Amanda Anderson, and Barbara Gates), "Victorian Fatigue" (2006, George Levine and Jeff Nunokawa), and "Victorian Cosmopolitanism" (2007, Antoinette Burton, James Buzard, and Bruce Robbins).



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

- 1999 Yopie Prins, *Victorian Sappho*. Princeton University Press
- 2000 Alison Winter. *Mesmerized: Powers of Mind in Victorian Britain*. University of Chicago
- 2001 Jonah Siegel, *Desire and Excess: the Nineteenth-Century Culture of Art*. Princeton University Press
- 2002 Nicholas Dames, *Amnesiac Selves: Nostalgia, Forgetting, and British Fiction, 1810-1870*. Columbia University Press
- 2003 Priya Joshi, *In Another Country: Colonialism, Culture, and the English Novel in India*. Columbia University Press
- 2004 Alex Woloch, *The One vs. The Many: Minor Characters and the Space of the Protagonist in the Novel*. Princeton University Press  
Honorale Mention: Andrew Warwick, *Masters of Theory: Cambridge and the Rise of Mathematical Physics*. University of Chicago Press
- 2005 Seth Koven, *Slumming: Sexual and Social Politics in Victorian London*. Princeton University Press
- 2006 Suzy Anger, *Victorian Interpretation*. Cornell University Press
- 2007 Patrick R. O'Malley, *Catholicism, Sexual Deviance, and Victorian Gothic Culture*, Cambridge University Press

## PUBLISHERS ON DISPLAY AT NVSA 2008

Ashgate  
 Broadview  
 Cambridge University Press  
 Columbia University Press  
 Cornell University Press  
 Duke University Press  
 Johns Hopkins University Press  
 Ohio State University Press  
 Pickering & Chatto Publishers  
 Princeton University Press  
 SUNY Press  
 University of Virginia Press

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### NVSA Officers:

President: Jonah Siegel, Rutgers University  
 Vice President: Suzy Anger, University of British Columbia  
 Secretary-Treasurer: Joan Dagle, Rhode Island College  
 VP for Information Services: Glenn Everett, Stonehill College  
 Historian: Anne Humpherys, CUNY

### NVSA Advisory Board (2008):

James Eli Adams, Aviva Briefel, Carol Engelhardt, Anne Humpherys, Gerhard Joseph, Jonathan Loesberg

### NVSA Program Committee:

Suzy Anger (Chair), Barbara Black, Amanda Claybaugh, Joan Dagle, Pamela Fletcher, Debra Gettleman, Terri Hasseler, Anna Henchman, Gerhard Joseph, Wendy Kolmar, Seth Koven, David Kurnick, George Levine, Jonathan Loesberg, Tricia Lootens, Jill Matus, Gage McWeeny, Lisa Rodensky, Jason Rudy, Jonah Siegel, Herbert Tucker

### 2008 Conference Site Coordinator:

Jill Matus

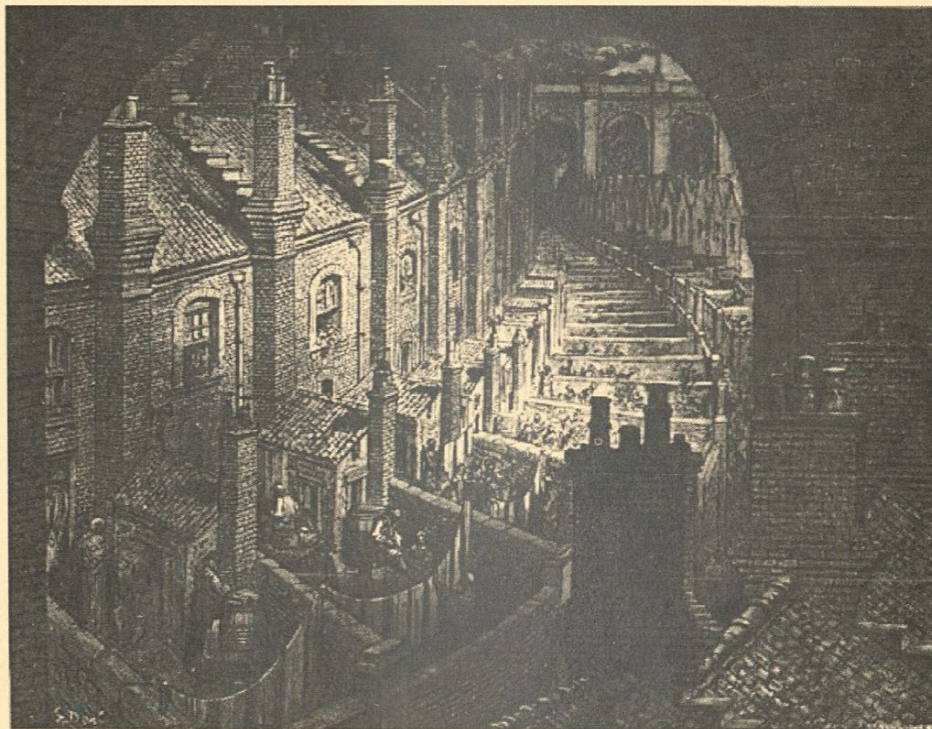
### Local Arrangements:

Pamela Gravestock, Cathy Baillie  
 Fiona Coll, Emily Simmons, Alicia Walters

Special thanks to Anne Dondertman for coordinating a tour of the Thomas L. Fisher Rare Book Library's Victorian collection and to the Free Biscuit Theatre Company for providing the banquet entertainment.

Thank you to the Office of the Vice-President and Provost, the School of Graduate Studies, the Faculty of Arts & Science, University College, and the Department of English, University of Toronto for their generous support of this conference.





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