

Announcements:
**CFPs, conference notices, & current & forthcoming
projects and publications of interest to neo-Victorian scholars**

(compiled by *Marie-Luise Kohlke & Sneha Kar Chaudhuri*)

NOTE: Beginning with the fourth issue of *Neo-Victorian Studies* (to be published summer 2010), we are inviting brief 1-2 paragraph reports from organisers or participants of recent international symposia, conferences and/or conference sessions, which specifically addressed neo-Victorian issues. NVS is especially keen to publish reports on events outside Europe and North America, to facilitate a more comprehensive overview of neo-Victorian scholarship worldwide.

CFPs: Journals, Special Issues & Collections

Neo-Victorian Gothic:

Horror, Violence, and Degeneration in the Re-Imagined Nineteenth Century (Edited Collection)

Contributions are invited for the third volume in the forthcoming Neo-Victorian Studies series by Rodopi. This collection will explore the subversive potential, but also the ideologically conservative implications, of recycling the Gothic genre in contemporary historical fiction, film, and further aesthetic media that re-imagine the nineteenth century in Britain, its colonial territories, and other geographical settings. In her recent study of Gothic postmodernism, Maria Beville argues that it is terror which constitutes “the potent link between the gothic and the postmodern” (*Gothic-postmodernism*, 2009). Perhaps, then, neo-Victorianism might be said to revive the spirit of terror in order to link our postmodern “culture of death”, our obsession with terror and even with terrorism (Baudrillard, *Symbolic Exchange and Death*, 1993), back to the angst-ridden uncertainties occasioned by Victorian socio-political and cultural metamorphoses. What is the purpose of the contemporary revival of the nineteenth-century fascination with the irrational, the mysterious and the monstrous, and what questions does it raise for subjectivity and/or ontology? To what extent is

Beville correct in claiming that contemporary Gothic gives birth to a new “literature of excess”, aimed not so much at historical representation, but rather the exploration of the *limits of representation* and the celebration of the *unrepresentable* as the sublime? Does such neo-Victorian writing promote particular kinds of cultural memory and cultural imaginaries over others and, if so, why? This volume will further explore how the neo-Victorian Gothic interacts with alternative traditions of representation, such as realism and postcolonialism, as well as psychoanalytical, gender and queer theory. Please send 300 word proposals for 8,000-10,000 word chapters, plus a short biographical note, to the series editors: Marie-Luise Kohlke at m.l.kohlke@swansea.ac.uk and Christian Gutleben at Christian.GUTLEBEN@unice.fr. Possible topics may include, but need not be limited to:

- Gothic spaces: prison tropes, asylums, and nightmare cityscapes
- postcolonial Gothic and the monsters of imperialism
- Steampunk and the Gothic
- tropes of the Doppelgänger or double
- textual adaptations & ‘Gothicising’ historical figures
- neo-Victorian vampires, criminals, and other monsters
- the occult; spiritualist Gothic; neo-Victorian hauntings
- versions of the neo-Victorian Gothic sublime
- gender politics & Gothic sexualities
- narrative manipulation and reader expectation/response
- neo-Victorian Gothic and the limits of representation

Proposals due: 31 July 2010

Submissions due: 31 March 2011 (for 2012 publication)

Nostalgia in the 21st Century

(Special Issue of *Consumption, Markets and Culture*)

Nostalgia is an area of topical enquiry that generates interest across academic disciplines and among many non-academic users and organisations. Over the years definitions of nostalgia have shifted from the medical to the cultural realm and from spatial imaginings of a lost place to temporal imaginings of a lost era. This special issue will explore how nostalgia shapes the behaviour of a broad array of cultural producers and consumers and underpins or connects with a range of trends in

contemporary culture, including the heritage industry and neo-Victorianism. It will investigate the significance of technological advancements and the digital media environment for the concept, and consider how nostalgia is linked to social transformation, identity politics, and cultural memory, but also, more problematically, to the preservation of sanitised pasts. Enquiries and completed papers should be sent to Kathy Hamilton at kathy.hamilton@strath.ac.uk. Manuscripts should be formatted according to 'Instructions for Authors' on the journal website: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/gcmcauth.asp>. Possible further topics include but are not limited to:

- The role of technology in shaping and disseminating nostalgia
- Retro consumption
- The relationship between nostalgia and taste
- Nostalgia and material culture
- Perspectives on nostalgia in film, art and media
- Collective memory
- Urban nostalgia – architecture, cultural and sporting events
- Nostalgia and heritage marketing
- Diaspora – nostalgic evocations of the homeland
- Nostalgia and Sustainability
- Nostalgic desires for authenticity

Full CFP: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/nostalgia/callforpaperscmcspecialissue/>

Submissions due: 31st July 2011

Robert Browning among the Victorians – and After

(Browning Bicentenary issue of *Victorian Poetry*, Summer 2012)

This issue will explore Robert Browning as a quintessentially Victorian poet, deeply rooted in the period's culture, participating in its political, intellectual, and religious debates, but also significantly influencing – if not always duly acknowledged by – later authors. Browning has also lent himself well to twentieth-century critical theory, having been claimed by approaches as wide-ranging as Deconstruction, New Historicism and feminism. How do we assess him 200 years after his birth, in an age when a variety of critical theories coexists with a strong interest in broader issues of Victorian culture? This issue may be of interest to scholars working on neo-Victorian bio-fictions of the poet or adaptations of his works and style. Please address proposals and inquiries to one of the editors: Mary Ellis

Gibson at megibson@uncg.edu and Britta Martens at Britta2.Martens@uwe.ac.uk. Subjects may include, but are not limited to:

- Browning and contemporary poetics
- Browning among the modernists
- Postmodern theory reframing Browning's poetics
- Historicisms, old, new, and revisionist Browning in the empire
- Browning in Europe
- Rereading Browning's religious casuistry
- Browning's (sexual) politics
- Reassessing the dramatic monologue
- Browning on the stage

Full CFP: <http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/35372>

Submissions due: 1 November 2011 (for 2012 publication)

CFPs: Upcoming Symposia & Conferences

8-10 July 2010

Locating Stevenson, 6th Biennial Stevenson Conference

University of Stirling, Scotland, UK

Robert Louis Stevenson is a major figure in the Victorian literary canon whose works have attracted contemporary writers and critics alike. This conference will interest scholars exploring contemporary adaptations of Stevenson's texts in fiction, film, and cyberspace, and the use of Stevenson's biography, his novelistic themes and techniques in neo-Victorian literature.

Full CFP: <http://www.rls2010.stir.ac.uk/call-for-papers/>

Conference Website: <http://www.rls2010.stir.ac.uk/>

Proposals due: 1 May 2010 (300 words to scott.hames@stir.ac.uk)

11 September 2010***Steampunk! The Popular Version of Neo-Victorianism*****Victorian Steampunk Society****Lincoln Castle and Lawns, Lincoln, England, UK**

This One-Day Conference aims to explore the rising popularity of Steampunk and to consider its place in the wider field of Neo-Victorianism and Neo-Victorian Studies. The conference takes place alongside the 'Weekend at the Asylum' festival, which will attract up to one thousand active steampunks to the beautiful and historic City of Lincoln, providing the opportunity to meet and talk to some of the leading figures active in the field. Possible topics include: Steampunk literature, film and other media; Steampunk aesthetics; Steampunk and neo-Victorianism; nostalgia, re-enactment, and remembrance.

Full CFP: <http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/36278>

Proposals due: 1 May 2010 (250 words to John Naylor at majortinker@aol.com)

28-30 October 2010***Oceania and the East in the Victorian Imagination*****Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of Western United States (VISAWUS), Honolulu, Hawaii, USA**

This interdisciplinary conference will focus on the complex relationships between the Victorians and the 'East', including India, China, Malaya and the East Indies, as well as Australia, New Zealand, and the South Sea Islands, and on how the colonial powers perceived and, in turn, were perceived by the 'East'. Scholars investigating issues of place, imperialism, and exoticism in neo-Victorian literature may find this event useful for exploring to what extent the latter perpetuates/creates new and/or alternative repositories for Western Orientalism and Eastern discourses on Occidentalism and to what extent nineteenth-century events continue to inflect and inform present-day geopolitics and international relations.

Full CFP: www.visawus.org

Abstracts due: 19 March 2010

6-9 January 2011***Adapting Dickens* (MLA panel)****Los Angeles, California, USA**

This panel will explore adaptations of Dickens' novels across time and media, from stage and film to neo-Victorian fiction and contemporary, and even commercial, incarnations and ventures. Organiser: Marty Gould at mgould@cas.usf.edu.

NOTE: Although the deadlines for abstracts for the following symposia and conferences/conference sessions have already passed, they may be of interest to scholars working on the neo-Victorian in relation to the specified topics. (Entries that are only listed, without explanatory notes, were highlighted in an earlier issue of NVS.):

1-4 April 2010***Afterlives of the Nineteenth Century*****American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), New Orleans, Louisiana, USA**

This conference will appeal to neo-Victorianist scholars engaged in researching the varied aspects of contemporary re-imaginings of the period, ranging from Steampunk technologies to text-based theme parks, literary mash-ups to revisionist cinema, and postcolonial negotiations with Victorian antecedents to neo-Victorian inventions. The conference aims to examine the contextual reasons behind the contemporary cultural mania about the Victorians, focusing on adaptive strategies used as, variously, translations of the Victorian into a modern idiom, acts of cultural colonisation, and/or newly-created hybrid, 'creolised' structures.

Full CFP: <http://www.acla.org/submit/index.php>

7-10 April 2010

Correspondence: Travel, Writing, and Literatures of Exploration, c.1750-c.1850

University of Edinburgh and National Library of Scotland, UK

This interdisciplinary conference may be of interest to neo-Victorian scholars analysing recent fictional mimicry of Victorian travel writings. The thematic thrusts of this seminar include the interrogation of the traveller's inscriptive practices, the credibility and veracity of travel writings, correspondences/divergences, material and epistemic transformations between manuscript and print.

Website: <http://www.hss.ed.ac.uk/chb/CorrespondenceCall.htm>

7-11 April, 2010

NEMLA 2010 -- Queer Transformations: From Page to Screen

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

This session seeks to interrogate the various cultural practices used to represent queer sexuality in popular media, and may be of interest to scholars working on queer neo-Victorian literature adapted for film or television. The conference will consider the methodological and ideological differences between adaptations that mute and those that highlight gender or sexual ambiguity; the presentation of social or political consequences of queer-friendly adaptations; possible differences between 'queer', 'gay', and 'lesbian' adaptations; and the pedagogical uses of such adaptations.

Full CFP: <http://www.nemla.org/convention/index.html>

8-10 April 2010

Fashioning the Neo-Victorian: Iterations of the Nineteenth Century in Contemporary Literature and Culture

Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany

The notion of the Neo-Victorian has become an increasingly common denominator for cultural products re-iterating Victorian culture, sometimes as a critical engagement, but equally often as a pleasurable appropriation marked by a nostalgic world view. Neo-Victorian texts and films shed light on cultural processes of appropriation. Neo-Victorian works feed on a complex temporal relation: they are shaped by the past, but, being part of the literary landscape of the present, they also configure our understanding of the Victorian heritage. This conference will discuss the purposes and

effects of appropriating the Victorian past and of reiterating it in the citational environment of present discourses, as well as the reasons for its attractiveness to today's cultural markets. A further aim of the conference is to critically reflect on the category and history of the term 'Neo-Victorian' and the emergence of 'Neo-Victorian studies' as a new academic subdiscipline, together with its analytic scope and value.

Conference Website: <http://neovictorian-conference.susannegruss.de/>

8-11 April, 2010

18th- and 19th-Century British Women Writers Conference: Journeys

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA

This conference focuses on the manifold themes, tropes and narrative techniques deployed by Victorian women writers recording forms of travel and journeys and may be of interest to scholars undertaking comparisons with neo-Victorian travelogues. Likely topics covered will include: analyses of travel writing/art, biographical narratives, marriage/honeymoon, continental tours, motherhood/childhood, colonialism and Empire, scientific inquiry, spiritual awakenings, immigration/emigration, memory and/or dreams as forms of travel, and mapping the body.

Website: <http://www-english.tamu.edu/index.php?id=1760>

16-18 April 2010

Fighting Victorians: Disunion, Polemic, Controversy

Princeton University, USA

This conference may be of interest to scholars working on neo-Victorian treatments of violence and conflict in literature and/or film. Likely topics to be covered include the representation of nineteenth-century war in literature; battles of wills on the aesthetic and scientific turf; street violence and domestic violence; international military campaigns and other cultural images of the belligerent Victorians.

Website: <http://web.stonehill.edu/nvsa/nvsa%202010%20cfp.htm>

22 April 2010***Nostalgia in the 21st Century seminar: Material Culture 2: Print and Design*****University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, UK**

This is the second event in a series of seminars exploring the shaping force of nostalgia in present-day culture. It will investigate nostalgic trends in publishing, and perspectives on nostalgia in film, art and the media, featuring presentations by Prof Andrew Higson, Dr Lyn Thomas, and Julian Gorham.

Website: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/nostalgia/seminars/seminar2/>

22-24 April, 2010***Gender, Bodies and Technology*****Women's and Gender Studies, Virginia Tech, Roanoke, Virginia, USA**

This conference is likely to interest scholars exploring the technological production and control of classed, racialised, aged and gendered bodies in neo-Victorianism, especially steampunk. Likely topics include: performance, new media and other creative expressions as sites for enacting/destabilising conventions of embodiment; bio-politics and medical engineering/reproduction, sexual identity and gender; identity and technological design; feminist aesthetics; and issues of technological citizenship.

Full CFP: <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/gbt/>

29-30 April 2010***Victorian Epidemics*****Banff, Alberta, Canada**

This conference of the Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada will bring together specialists in Victorian art history, history, gender studies, science, and literature to contemplate the theme of disease in Victorian England and its colonies. Scholars working on neo-Victorian representations of nineteenth-century plagues (cholera, TB, venereal disease, influenza) and diseased bodies, prostitution and pathology, and disease as a metaphor may find useful intersections with their research.

Full CFP: <http://www.bsbs.org.uk/news/item/3956>

26 June 2010***Queer Manifestations: Literature, History, Theory, Culture***
University of Chester, England, UK

This interdisciplinary event may be of interest to scholars working on representations of queerness and same-sex love in neo-Victorian literature. The conference seeks to explore the burgeoning field of queer studies, with particular emphasis on its impact upon literary histories, theories, and cultures, including genres such as neo-Victorianism. How influential is heteronormativity in culture today, or in the past? Is it true that “queer theory often accentuates the subversive dimensions of lesbian, gay, and transgender acts and identities” or that literary readings always focus upon “secrecy, shame, oppression, and transgression” (Sharon Marcus)?

Conference Website: <http://english.chester.ac.uk/summer/programme.php>

24-26 June 2010***Education and Empire*****National University of Ireland, Galway**

The Sixth Galway Conference on Colonialism may appeal to neo-Victorian scholars examining the interlinking of Victorian empire and education in contemporary fiction. Broader topics for consideration include the exploration of relationships between imperial history and the ideological shaping of ‘native’ educational curricula; the insecurities/failures of imperial and colonial knowledge; and transitions in educational practice, either from pre-colonial to colonial or colonial to post-colonial eras.

Website: <http://www.conference.ie/Conferences/index.asp?Conference=80>

28 June-2 July 2010***Life Writing and Intimate Publics*****University of Sussex, England, UK**

Focusing on the nature, evolution and kinds of life writing as a cultural construct, the 7th Biennial International Auto/Biography Association Conference may interest scholars working on neo-Victorian ‘bio-fiction’ of the ‘eminent Victorians’. Likely topics include: life writing as an aesthetic and social act; the changing face of such representations in the technocratic and globalised world; the relation between oral and folk histories; and the construction of cross-cultural/cross-linguistic relationships.

Website : <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/clhlwr/1-7-1-11.html>

25-27 June 2010

Re-Orienting Victorian Studies

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Asia

This conference may be of interest to neo-Victorian scholars working on adaptations and how these manipulate and re-adjust readers'/viewers' perceptions of the Victorians. Likely topics include the geographical, racial, social, cultural, literary, and political re-orientations achieved or resisted by the Victorians.

Full CFP: <http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/35284>

28-29 June 2010

Women Writers of the Fin de Siècle

University of London, London, UK

This panel will provide scope for scholars exploring neo-Victorian representations of fin de siècle female writers or journalists and their influence on/after-lives in the genre. Likely topics include: the New Woman; the female aesthetic; women poets; women and crime writing; women writers for children; women and life-writing; women playwrights sensation writers; and women journalists.

Website:

<http://ies.sas.ac.uk/events/conferences/2010/FinDeSiecle/index.htm>

8 July 2010

Reading Jean Rhys

King's College, London, England, UK

This conference may be of interest to scholars working on Jean Rhys' *Wide Sargasso Sea* as one of the putative points of origin of the contemporary neo-Victorian novel, as well as subsequent adaptations of her novel and life by later writers and dramatists. The event will address issues of genre, gender, culture, race, modernity, urbanism, and trauma.

Website:

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/humanities/depts/english/events/rhys.html>

8-11 July 2010,

What Happens Now: 21st Century Writing in English – the first decade

University of Lincoln, UK

This conference may be useful in exploring the neo-Victorian's relationship

with other existing and emerging contemporary forms and genres of writing. The principal aim of the conference is to contribute to the process by which the significant and innovative writers and dramatists of the new millennium are discovered and discussed, and to begin to identify new patterns, clusters, trends and paradigms in contemporary prose, poetry and drama, as well as the continuation or re-emergence of older modes and characteristics. Keynote speakers include Iain Sinclair and Will Self.

Full CFP:

http://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/conferences/what_happens_now/index.htm

22-24 July 2010

Victorian Popular Culture: Prose, Stage & Screen

Institute for English Studies, University of London, UK

The 2nd Annual Conference of the Victorian Popular Fiction Association will be developing the themes of adapting the Victorian popular novel and our understanding of the different ways in which a single text might be consumed. The event will further explore contemporary interest in nineteenth-century print culture, and the role of theatrical and, later, television and film adaptations of popular fiction in maintaining the popularity of particular novels and genres. Likely further topics include: the relationship between different editions (serialisation, syndication, the library edition, the cheap edition, e-texts and digitisation); recovering 'lost' authors; the relationship between printed text and dramatisation; the adaptability of particular subgenres (such as the Newgate Novel and the Sensation Novel); the periodical press; science and spiritualism; and breaking the canon.

Full CFP:

<http://ies.sas.ac.uk/events/conferences/2010/VictorianPC/index.htm>

2-4 September 2010

BAVS 2010 Annual Conference: Victorian Forms and Formations

University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK

This conference will be of interest to neo-Victorian scholars who critically scrutinise Victorian forms and formations in the neo-Victorian context. Likely topics include: current debates over the return to form in literary criticism, as well as other disciplines, such as art history, science, and architecture; the formation /reformation of the individual; the fashioning of the body in medical and other discourses; and representations of natural

forms and built environments.

Conference Website: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/bavs/>

7-9 October 2010

Useful & Beautiful: The Transatlantic Arts of William Morris and the Pre-Raphaelites

University of Delaware, Winterthur Museum and Country Estate, and Delaware Art Museum, USA

This conference with related exhibitions, may appeal to scholars researching the representation and aesthetic influence of Morris, the pre-Raphaelites, the Arts and Crafts movement, and/or nineteenth-century socialism in and on neo-Victorianism. The focus will be on transatlantic exchanges and personal, intellectual, political, or aesthetic relationships and influences connecting Morris, his friends, associates, and followers in Britain and Europe with their contemporaries and successors in the Americas.

Full CFP: <http://www.morrissociety.org/U&Bcallforpapers.pdf>

Recent and Forthcoming Critical Publications

***LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*, 20:1-2 (2009)**

The recent volume of *LIT*, guest edited by Rebecca Munford and Paul Young, is a special issue arising from the 2007 conference on 'Neo-Victorianism: The Politics and Aesthetics of Appropriation' at the University of Exeter, UK. It contains ten essays dedicated to neo-Victorian influences in fiction and film, photography, feminism, ethics, social policy, and gender politics.

The Market (Special Issue of Women's Studies Quarterly, forthcoming)

This special issue, guest edited by Mara Einstein and Joe Rollins, may be of relevance to neo-Victorian scholars interested in contemporary re-inventions of Victorian economic history related to the growth, consolidation, and/or decline of imperialism, the slave trade, drug trafficking, the flesh trade, industrialisation, mass consumption, the book trade, etc. The special issue also aims to explore analogies between Victorian trade and modern globalisation and consumerism.

Neo-Victorian Tropes of Trauma:

The Politics of Bearing After-Witness to Nineteenth-Century Suffering (forthcoming 2010)

The first in a 6-volume series of essays on Neo-Victorian Studies (Rodopi), edited by Marie-Luise Kohlke and Christian Gutleben, will analyse the ethics and aesthetics of representing inter- and intra-cultural, nineteenth-century traumas in neo-Victorian fiction. Topics range from exile and colonisation to genocide and civil and international war, as well as covering more domestic societal traumas, such as disease, loss, gender discrimination, and incest. The collection aims to explore crucial intersections between neo-Victorianism, postcolonialism, and trauma theory, including the poet(h)ics of voicing the ‘unspeakable’ or ‘unrepresentable’ and of engaging with notions of ‘Otherness’. Suggesting that our nineteenth-century alter egos may facilitate new understandings of our own predicaments, the collection poses the question: how does neo-Victorian literature make sense of the non-sense of historical horror and its reverberating after-effects in the present?

Reading the (Re)Presented Past:

Literature and Historical Consciousness, 1700-present (forthcoming)

This collection, edited by Nicola Parsons and Kate Mitchell, will interest neo-Victorian scholars exploring changes and continuities in the relationship between readers and authors from the long nineteenth century to the neo-Victorian context. The collection aims to explore the fictional representation of real and imagined readers and reading communities vis-à-vis history, their strategic positioning in relation to the represented past, and the shaping influence of the reader’s own cultural memory in meaning production.

Relocating Victorian Settler Narratives:

Emigrants, Exiles, Returnees in Nineteenth-Century Fiction (forthcoming)

This collection, edited by Tamara Wagner, may be of interest to neo-Victorianists working on contemporary re-inventions of Victorian narratives of settlement and colonisation. Likely topics include the genesis and consolidation of ‘English colonies’ in Europe and elsewhere; ‘the English’

in nineteenth-century American literature or art; Australasia in the British imaginary; the 'lost' colony in the Americas; the transatlantic and the transpacific; cautionary tales of emigration; repatriation; portable domesticity; self-exiles; expatriate communities; and missionary and military settlements.

Victorian Literature and Science (forthcoming)

This second issue of *Victorian Network*, guest edited by Ian Henderson, seeks to showcase new research into the interrelations between Victorian literature and the sciences, which is also an important theme of neo-Victorian fiction. The issue aims to explore forms, aesthetics and poetics shared by literary and scientific discourses; Victorian literature and nineteenth-century popular scientific entertainment; gendered scientific practices in Victorian literature and culture; science as a form of socio-political critique; and the connections between Victorian culture and the imperial sciences.

Neo-Victorian Related Projects, Events and Exhibitions

27 Jan. -30 May 2010

Charles Darwin: Evolutionary Thinking

Dunedin, New Zealand Commemorating 150 years since the publication of Darwin *The Origin of Species*, the exhibition traces the scientist's detailed naturalist observations and how his theory of evolution has shaped scientific thinking since.

Dandies and New Women:

For Lovers of Victorian and Edwardian literature, history, and culture

Marc DiPaolo, author of *Emma Adapted: Jane Austen's Heroine from Book to Film* (Peter Lang, 2007), has created a blog dedicated to British literature, focusing mainly on the Victorian and Edwardian periods. It includes entries on Michael Field, Guy Ritchie's recent *Sherlock Holmes*, and economic hardship in the horror tales of Arthur Machen. Website: <http://dandiesandnewwomen.blogspot.com/>.

Darwin Live at Otago

A 2009 exhibition entitled 'Beetle, Barnacles, Orchids and the Origin of Species: Charles Darwin and his Legacy' can still be seen on-line at <http://library.otago.ac.nz/SpecialCollections/exhibitions.html>.

Nostalgia in the Twenty-First Century: ESRC Seminar Series

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, has launched a new ESRC seminar series focusing on 'Nostalgia in the Twenty-First Century'. Nostalgia is a shaping cultural force in the new millennium that impacts on a wide range of consumer behaviours and cultural productions. The primary aim of the proposed seminar series is to encourage dialogue between different disciplinary approaches in order to promote further enquiry into the uses of nostalgia in contemporary culture. The first seminar on 'Material Culture: Retro' took place on 14 Jan. 2010. Two further seminars are planned for later this year: 'Material Culture: Print and Media (April)' and 'Urban Nostalgia' (September).

Website: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/nostalgia/>

Steampunk Art @ Oxford

This online resource of the recent Steampunk exhibition will interest neo-Victorian scholars working on the historiography of Steampunk and Cyberpunk in literature and other media.

Official Website: <http://www.steampunkmuseumexhibition.blogspot.com/>

10-12 September 2010***Weekend at the Asylum*****The United Kingdom Steampunk Convention, Lincoln, UK**

Run by the Victorian Steampunk Society, the leading event and festival for Steampunks in the UK combines exhibitions, trade stalls, authors and artists, workshops, presentations and live original music.

Website: <http://steampunk.synthasite.com/latest-news.php>

Recent and Forthcoming Novels

NOTE: The following historical novels set in the long nineteenth century have been published since the last NVS issue, or are due out shortly:

Peter Ackroyd, *Parrot and Olivier in America* (a journey of self-discovery to the New World in the early 1800s, told from both the viewpoints of the French aristocratic master, fleeing the Terror and its aftermath, and that of his servant; modelled on Alexis de Touqueville's journey to America)

Tracey Chevalier, *Remarkable Creature* (bio-fiction of Mary Anning, the remarkable but unsung nineteenth-century palaeontologist; perhaps best read alongside Shelley Emling's *The Fossil Hunter: Dinosaurs, Evolution and the Woman Whose Discoveries Changed the World*)

Breena Clarke, *Stand the Storm* (neo-slave narrative about almost-but-not-quite-free 'Sewing Annie' and her children, Gabriel and Ellen, and the changes in their lives wrought by their special skills and the Civil War)

Ann Featherstone, *Walking in Pimlico* (psychological thriller of a murder witness pursued by the killer on his flight from Whitechapel to spa town and pump room, circus, fairground, freak show, and music hall)

— ***The Tyburn Jig*** (young Barney, having watched his father unjustly hanged, seeks sanctuary from pursuers at the London Aquarium and in bohemian circles of theatrical performers, as dark secrets of the establishment come to light; forthcoming)

Charles Finch, *The Fleet Street Murders* (part of the Charles Lenox Mysteries series; amateur sleuth running for parliament investigates the double murders of two Fleet Street journalists)

Barbara Hambly, *Homeland* (epistolary friendship between two young women on opposite sides of the Civil War, sustained by their love of literature as their worlds fall apart)

C. S. Harris, *What Remains of Heaven* (part of the St Cyr Mysteries series; in 1812, the aristocratic sleuth's investigations into the brutal killing of the Bishop of London take him from Smithfield to Whitehall and confront him with his own family secrets)

Steve Havill, *Race for the Dying* (from frontier medicine and fakery to early medical forensics, a young doctor makes his mark in 1891 Port McKinney, Washington)

Joseph Helgerson, *Crows and Cards* (children's fiction following in the footsteps of Tom Sawyer; 12-year old Zeb, sent to St Louis to learn a trade, gets 'adopted' by a card shark)

Robert Hicks, *A Separate Country* (a dying one-time Confederate general entrusts the post-Civil War memoirs of his life in New Orleans to a young man who once tried to kill him; by the author of *The Widow of the South*)

Lee Jackson, *The Diary of a Murder* (e-novel, set in 1860s suburban Islington, tracing the background to a middle-class housewife's murder through the pages of her husband's diary, with echoes of Pooter and Arthur Munby, as well as a hint of sensation fiction; weblink: <http://www.victorianlondon.org/diary/index.htm>)

Marlon James, *The Book of Night Women* (epic and violent tale of Jamaican slavery in the early 1800s, centred on the rebellious slave Lilith, drawn into a secret circle plotting revolt)

Mary Pat Kelly, *Galway Bay* (based on the author's ancestress, an epic tale of a widowed mother's flight from the Great Famine and fight for survival in Chicago in the looming shadow of the Civil War)

Dene Low, *The Entomological Tales of Augustus T. Percival: Petronella Saves Nearly Everyone* (young adult fiction of a Victorian girl's coming-out during mysterious goings surrounding her guardian, a bug-eating compulsive)

Mary Mackey, *The Widow's War* (romantic historical novel; a pregnant abolitionist is trapped into marrying her disappeared fiancé's brother and becomes embroiled in the struggle between pro- and anti-slavery factions in the Kansan Territory)

James McCreet, *The Incendiary's Trail* (a polymath criminal is blackmailed into assisting London police in investigating the grotesque murder of conjoined female twins and freak show exhibits)

Nancy Moser, *How Do I Love Thee?* (bio-fiction of the Victorian poetess Elizabeth Barrett's burgeoning romance with Robert Browning)

Marina Julia Neary, *Wynfield's Kingdom* (in 1830's Bermondsey, an orphaned criminal urchin and his infant charge are adopted by a disgraced physician; growing up and bound by a turbulent love-hate relationship, Wynfield and Diana make the slum their kingdom)

Cornelia Nixon, *Jarrettsville* (retrospective telling of a love affair that ends in murder due to post-Civil War racial tensions and divisive family loyalties)

Iain Pears, *Stone's Fall* (the suspicious death of an armaments manufacturer in 1909 precipitates a retrospective journey into the nineteenth-century beginnings of international global finance and the modern arms race)

Matthew Plampin, *The Gun-Maker's Gift* (in 1853, the inventor Col. Samuel Colt takes his gun-making business to Pimlico, betting on war with Russia, but some of his Irish workers appropriate pistols for more subversive agendas; by the author of *The Street Philosopher*)

Deanna Raybourn, *Silent on the Moor* (third outing of Lady Julia Grey and the private investigator Nicholas Brisbane, this time to the Yorkshire moors to confront Brisbane's past, not least via 'the Sight' inherited from his gypsy ancestors)

Ann Rinaldi, *My Vicksburg* (young adult fiction centred on the titular Civil War battle, as the thirteen-year-old heroine struggles with divided loyalties between doctor father and doctor brother on different sides of the conflict)

Meg Rosoff, *The Bride's Farewell* (in the 1850s, the young Pell Ridley flees her marriage day and her New Forest village home, together with her mute adoptive brother, Bean, and her beloved horse, to build a different life for herself)

Mitsugu Saotome, *Okei: A Girl from the Provinces* (young peasant girl comes of age in late-19th C. Japan at a time of feudal samurai wars and encroaching modernity; first published in Japanese in 1974)

Jacqueline Sheehan, *Now and Then* (modern-day female lawyer and her troubled nephew time-travel unexpectedly to 1840s Ireland)

Alistair Sim, *The Unbelievers* (multiple possible motives, from miners' wage exploitation and forced Highland clearances to love's revenge, surround the murder of Scotland's richest Victorian, vexing investigators)

Dacre Stoker and Ian Holt, *Dracula: The Un-Dead* (supernatural thriller-sequel, co-authored by Stoker's great-grandnephew, resurrecting both Stoker and his characters for vampiric goings-on in early 20th C. London)

Rebecca Stott, *The Coral Thief* (a medical student from early 19th C. Edinburgh has precious specimens stolen on his way to Cuvier in Paris and becomes embroiled with the beautiful Lucienne and her den of thieves)

Brian Thompson, *The Captain's Table* (2nd vol. in the Bella Wallis mystery series; a novelist who exposes wrong-doers, while writing under a male pseudonym, is called on to protect an imperilled heiress to a strand of famous pearls)

Kate Walbert, *A Short History of Women* (chronicle of the lives of five generations of rebellious women, from late 1800s to 2007, who espouse a variety of cause from the suffragist movement to anti-war demonstrations)

Gloria Whelan, *The Locked Garden* (children's fiction and family drama about two sisters, who, following their mother's death, move to Michigan in 1900, where their doctor father oversees an asylum).