

John R Reed, President (English), Wayne State University (1982); Nicholas Temperley, Vice President and President-elect (Music), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Frederick Kirchhoff, Executive Secretary (English), Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (1982).

(1982)

Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee: Joan Bassin (Art History), Kansas City Art Institute (1984); ~~Rox~~ Florence S Boos (English), University of Iowa (1982); Patrick Brantlinger (English), Indiana University -Bloomington (1984); James E Cronin (History), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (1982).

Honorary Member of the Association: Michael Wolff, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

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In last June's Newsletter, Walter Arnstein initiated a worthwhile practice by offering some presidential reflections. I shall begin mine by saying what a privilege and pleasure it has been to work with Walter and with Larry Poston in the beginning years of the Midwest Victorian Studies Association. ~~Frederick~~ Kirchhoff, Nicholas Temperley, and I shall try to carry on the achievements so far.

The meeting at Bloomington was a clear proof of the interest that MVSA has commanded. It also confirmed the Executive Committee's view that each meeting should incorporate a variety of approaches in presenting worthwhile Victorian information, including individual papers, panel discussions, and appropriate performances. Again this year the Executive Committee hopes that members will not interpret the "Call for Papers" too narrowly, and that they will suggest to Nicholas Temperley, ~~Frederick~~ Kirchhoff, or me imaginative program ideas or the names of promising participants who may be too modest to nominate themselves.

Walter mentioned last year that MVSA might serve as a focus or catalyst for the gathering of information useful to Victorian scholars. I think that we can begin to do this in a modest way by assembling information about significant holdings in our region. At Bloomington we were introduced to the wonders of the Lilly Library. Next year we shall discover some of the treasures of the Newberry Library. These and other libraries are familiar to most of us already, but we all know of less familiar institutions with holdings of interest to us. For example, the Detroit Public Library, across the street from Wayne State University, has an impressive collection of works by Walter Crane and Kate Greenaway in its Rare Book Room. I would like to invite members of MVSA to send information of this kind to me or to ~~Frederick~~ Kirchhoff so that we may gradually assemble it for circulation.

Another more modest venture is to establish a list of persons who have participated in MVSA meetings with their institutional addresses. Such a list, updated each year, might encourage Victorian scholars in various disciplines to maintain the professional connections begun at MVSA meetings.

MVSA is still young, as Walter pointed out last year. But perhaps it is ready to take on some of the responsibilities of maturity.

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John Reed

The Association's FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING was held 28-29 March at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. The theme of the conference was Victorian Popular Culture--a topic that attracted participants from twelve states, three countries, and thirty-two different institutions.

Florence Boos presided over the opening session, which was devoted to three papers on the image of women in Victorian periodicals. Discussing "The New Heroine: Penny Weekly Magazines of the 1870s," Sally Mitchell (Temple University) contrasted working-class heroines with their bourgeois equivalents. Pamela Stent Langlois compared English and French women's magazines of the late Nineteenth Century, and Stephen Elwell (Indiana University) used slides to ~~examine~~ examine the relationship between text and illustration ~~in his~~ in his consideration of "Images of Women and Men in Illustrated Magazine Poetry of the 1860s."

Following a reception in the Lilly Library, which had arranged an extensive display appropriate to the theme of the conference, Donald Gray and Martha Vicinus (Indiana University) gave informative accounts of the Library's London collection and Starr collection of music-hall playbills, and Gail Malmgreen (Indiana State University) explained the background of the Victorian collections at the Lilly and at other research libraries originally assembled by Michael Sadleir.

After a break for dinner, the conference ~~reassembled~~ reassembled for what was for many of us the highlight of this year's MVSA activities--an evening of ~~Songs~~ "Victorian Songs for Every Taste," idiomatically rendered by Phyllis Hurt, ~~Dennis~~ Dennis Michael Davis, and Richard Cohn and introduced and accompanied by Nicholas Temperley. Not only was the music well performed; its range and diversity taught ~~many of us~~ us much about Victorian song.

The first Saturday morning session, at which Richard Price presided,

centered on three papers about Victorian Leisure: Robert Malcolmson (Queen's University) explained the forms of "Popular Leisure in the Victorian Countryside," with particular attention to the decline of traditional rural ~~sports~~ recreations. Christopher Waters (Harvard University) analyzed the response of Robert Blatchford and his Clarion to the "popular amusements" of the 1890s. Peter Bailey (University of Manitoba) used a series of slides to explore the values and attitudes embodied in the ~~penny weekly~~ first decade (1884-1894) of the popular penny weekly Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday.

The fourth session consisted of a single paper, introduced by Joan Bassin. ~~John~~ Jonathan Hill (Saint Olaf College) ~~examined~~ explained the origin of ~~popular~~ Victorian ~~Tableaux~~ Tableaux in painting and their subsequent influence on graphic illustration. Following the customary luncheon and business meeting (Highlighted, as usual, by the Treasurer's Report), we had the pleasure of an address by Richard D Altick (Ohio State University), "English Literature on Victorian Walls," in which Mr Altick examined the relection of literary tastes in popular artwork.

For their highly successful efforts in organizing the conference, we wish to thank ~~the members~~ the 1980 Arrangements Committee—Patrick Brantlinger and Martha Vicinus (Indiana University) and ~~Gail~~ Gail Malmgreen (Indiana State University).

At the close of the 1980 Annual Meeting,

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~~FOUR~~ NEW OFFICERS ~~xxx~~ of the Association ~~have~~ began two-year terms:

John R Reed, President; Nicholas Temperley, Vice-President and

Also,

President-elect; Frederick Kirchhoff, Executive Secretary. Two new

Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee have begun four-year

terms of office: Joan Bassin and Patrick Brantlinger.