

# VICTORIAN TRANSFORMATIONS

*The 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the  
Midwest Victorian Studies Association  
Seneca Hotel, Chicago  
April 11-12, 2003*

## FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Conference Registration, Seneca Hotel Statesman's Room (North & South), 12:00-12:50  
*This room is also the site for panel presentations and refreshments*

WELCOME, 12:50-1:00 Susan Thach Dean, MVSA President

PANEL I: Transforming Ideas on Progress and History 1:00-1:55

Chair: David Wayne Thomas, University of Michigan  
"On History, Chaos, and Carlyle"  
Jonathan Taylor, Loughborough University, UK  
"Revising Maine's Definition of Progress after the Reform Bill of 1867"  
Kathy Psomiades, University of Notre Dame

PANEL II: Revamping Personalities and Periods 2:00-3:30

Chair: JoAnna Mink, Minnesota State University  
"Imaginative Transformations: Charlotte Brontë and Discourses of Evangelical  
Methodism" Lee Allen Talley, Rowan University  
"Cotton, Industry, and Empire: The Refashioning of Victorian Studies"  
Kathleen Blake, University of Washington  
"Dr. Arnold, the Transformation of Education, and the Transformation of Dr. Arnold"  
George Mariz, Western Washington University

Refreshment Break, 3:30-4:00

PANEL III: Shape-Shifting: Science, Fantasy, and Myth 4:00-5:00

Chair: LeeAnne M. Richardson, Georgia State University  
"Myth-Making, Anamorphosis, and Transformation in the Work of Aubrey Beardsley"  
Leslie Atzmon, Eastern Michigan University  
"The Discursive Problematics of Narrating a Transformed Body and a Transforming Body  
of Narratives in Late-Victorian Sexology" Sharon Kayfetz, University of Notre  
Dame

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Continental Breakfast, Seneca Hotel Statesman's Room, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

PANEL IV: Refashioning Victorian Life and Lives 8:30-10:00

*Chair:* Melissa Gregory, University of Toledo

"Tea: The Transformation and Subversion of Domestic Space"

Judith Fisher, Trinity University, TX

"Men's Shops and Shopping Men: The Emergence of the Male Consumer and the Commodification of the Male Body, 1860-1910" Brent Shannon, University of Kentucky

"The Provocations of a London Landlady"

Daniel Siegel, University of Alabama-Birmingham

Coffee Break, 10:00-10:15

PANEL V: Metamorphoses in England and the English 10:15-11:45

*Chair:* Patrick Leary, VICTORIA/Victoria Research Web

"Rational, National Show: The Theatrical Career of the Great Exhibition"

Marty Gould, University of Iowa

"Cultural Conversion in George DuMaurier's *Trilby*"

Sarah Felicia Gracombe, Columbia University

"From Ploughman to Englishman: Political Transformation in Late-Victorian England"

Patricia O'Hara, Franklin and Marshall College, PA

MVSA Luncheon, Biggs Restaurant, 1150 N. Dearborn 12:00-2:00

The Arnstein Prize

The Burgan Prize

Business Meeting

Roundtable on the future of MVSA

{MVSA Executive Committee meeting, 2:00-3:00}

Meeting adjourned

The Midwest Victorian Studies Association notes with sorrow the deaths in this past year of members  
Barbara Quinn Schmidt of Southern Illinois University  
and

Jane Stedman of Roosevelt University.

We dedicate this 2003 program to their memory in thanksgiving for the knowledge and wisdom they  
generously shared with us so long and so well.

## MVSA 2003: Presenters and Chairs

**Leslie Atzmon**, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design and Design History at Eastern Michigan University, has published articles in *Design Issues*, *Visual Communication*, and the *Graphic Design Education Association Bulletin*. In 1997, Atzmon was Visiting Scholar in Design History at the School of History and Theory of Visual Culture at Middlesex University, London, England. Her principal areas of research are the impact of Victorian science on late nineteenth-century fantasy illustration, and the history of topography.

**Kathleen Blake**, Professor of English at the University of Washington, has lately published an essay for *The Cambridge Companion for George Eliot* (ed. George Levine). She is currently editing the Modern Language Association volume on teaching George Eliot, working on a book on Love and the Woman Question in Victorian literature, and a study of Lewis Carroll. Her presentation comes from her recently completed book manuscript, "Victorian Literature, Bentham, and Political Economy."

**Judith Fisher**, Associate Professor of British Literature at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, is author of *Thackeray's Skeptical Narrative and the 'Perilous Trade of Authorship'* as well as articles on Thackeray, Dickens, Victorian drama, and J. M. W. Turner. Her research focuses on Victorian prose fiction and the relation between the verbal and the visual in nineteenth-century literature. She is currently working on a scholarly edition of Thackeray's *The Adventures of Philip* as well as a literary history of tea in England from the seventeenth century to 1895.

**Marty Gould**, graduate student at the University of Iowa, holds the Seely Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship in the Department of English, where he is researching Victorian theatrical representations of empire.

**Sarah Felicia Gracombe**, graduate student in the Department of English at Columbia University, is currently working on a dissertation entitled "Anxieties of Influence: Jewishness and English Culture in the Victorian Novel." A fuller version of her paper at this conference is forthcoming in the June 2003 issue of *Nineteenth-Century Literature*.

**Melissa Gregory**, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Toledo, recently received her Ph.D. from Indiana University. She has published on Victorian poetry and the novel, and is currently working on a book manuscript entitled "Domestic Terror in Victorian Culture: Genres of Psychological Violence."

**Sharon Kayfetz**, doctoral student in English at the University of Notre Dame, is interested in questions of genre, narrative, and subject formation between 1850 and 1900 in England. Her dissertation examines the ways in which the discourses of sexology and the novel are mutually implicated in the production of new subjectivities during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

**Patrick Leary**, creator and manager of the VICTORIA discussion list, the Victoria Research Web, and other online resources, holds a Ph.D. in history from Indiana University. A founding and longtime officer of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP), he has published widely on nineteenth-century book and periodical history, and is currently at work on a book about the relationship between oral and print culture in mid-Victorian London.

**George Mariz**, Professor of History and Director of the Honors Program at Western Washington University, does research and publishes in the fields of eighteenth and nineteenth-century European and British intellectual history, occasionally extending his work to the United States. His current projects involve Arnold and histories of education and religion.

**JoAnna Stephens Mink**, Professor of English at Minnesota State University, is the co-editor of four published collections of scholarly essays, including one on feminist collaboration in academics, and the author of articles on Victorian women and Thomas Hardy. Her current research focuses on the relationship between Victorian working-class images in literature and the popular media as well as the connection between landscape and literature.

**Patricia O'Hara**, Chair of the English Department at Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania, writes about representations of rural laborers in late-Victorian fiction, political discourse, and periodical literature.

**Kathy Alexis Psomiades**, Associate Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame, is author of *Beauty's Body: Femininity and Representation in British Aestheticism* and co-editor with Talia Schaffer of *Women and British Aestheticism*. She is currently working on a book project entitled "Primitive Marriage: Victorian Anthropology and the Novel."

**LeeAnne M. Richardson**, Assistant Professor of English at Georgia State University in Atlanta, is currently on leave to finish polishing a manuscript studying late-century imperial adventure novels in conjunction with New Woman novels; she is also undertaking a new project on fin-de-siècle women's poetry.

**Brent Shannon**, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Kentucky, specializes in Victorian literature and gender theory. His dissertation is entitled "Masculinity, Dress, and Consumer Culture in Britain, 1860-1910." He will be completing his degree in May 2003.

**Daniel Siegel**, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Alabama--Birmingham, recently received his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia with a dissertation on the failure of condescension in the nineteenth century. He specializes in Dickens, George Eliot, and Victorian discourses of philanthropy.

**Lee Talley**, Assistant Professor of English at Rowan University in New Jersey, has published on various women writers including Anne Brontë, Jamaica Kincaid, and Jeanette Winterson. She is currently preparing an edition of Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* for Broadview Press and working on an essay about the Brontës and religion.

**Jonathan Taylor**, Lecturer in English and Drama at Loughborough University in Leicestershire, UK, specializes in Romantic and Victorian literature while doing interdisciplinary work on science and literature and music and literature. He has published in *Dickens Studies Annual*, the *Literary Encyclopaedia*, and an essay collection entitled *The Idea of Music in Victorian Fiction*, edited by Sophie Fuller and Nicky Losseff and forthcoming from Ashgate. His book, *Mastery and Slavery in Victorian Fiction*, will be published by Palgrave in early 2003.

**David Wayne Thomas**, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Michigan, writes on literary theory and the Victorian period, and his essays have appeared in journals such as *Mosaic*, *PMLA*, *Raritan*, and *Victorian Studies*. His first book--*Cultivating Victorians: Liberal Culture and Aestheticism*--is forthcoming this year from the University of Pennsylvania Press.

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Special thanks are due to Micael Clarke of Loyola University for her very generous help with local arrangements.

**MVSA Executive Committee 2002-2003--President:** Susan Thach Dean; **Vice-President:** Micael Clarke; **Treasurer:** Julie Melnyk; **Executive Secretary:** Anne M. Windholz; **Past-Executive Secretary:** Robert Koeppe; **Members at large:** Florence Boos, William McKelvy, Thomas Prasch, and James Sack