



MIDWEST VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

2010 Newsletter

by Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, MVSA Executive Secretary

MVSA Statement:

Victorianists studying and working in the midwestern or southern United States will want to make a home in this long-standing scholarly organization. At heart is its interdisciplinary focus, which guides its choice of officers, its conference themes, and conference entertainment. Conferences are single-track to allow for a collegial exchange of ideas while conference sites in the Midwest are chosen to be intimate, aesthetically pleasing, and of historical interest. Graduate students are particularly welcome as attendees and presenters at MVSA conferences: conference fees are adjusted to make attendance more affordable, MVSA annually awards the Bill and Mary Burgan Prize for an outstanding paper by a graduate student at the conference, and the prestigious Arnstein Prize supports interdisciplinary dissertation research. News of our conferences and other MVSA matters will be found on our website at <http://www.midwestvictorian.org/>

Diverse Victorians University of Iowa April 23-25, 2010



Thanks to MVSA President Florence Boos' tireless work, the MVSA 2010 conference was a memorable conference. The theme for the conference was "Diverse Victorians" which included papers on racial and ethnic differences; Great Britain's "four nations"; class formation and class identity; and discourses of normality and abnormality, among many other topics.

In keeping with the theme, our plenary address was "Going Native in Nineteenth-Century History and Literature" given by one of MVSA's founder Patrick Brantlinger, author of *Rule of Darkness: British Literature and Imperialism, 1830-1914*, *The Reading Lesson: The Threat of Mass Literacy in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction*, and other works.

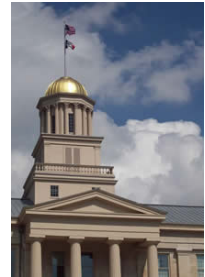


Other special features included a concert of Victorian songs by baritone opera and concert singer Stephen Swanson and pianist Alan Huckleberry, "A Concert of Victorian Songs."



Saturday's evening entertainment was a program of Scottish dancing led by Anne Stapleton of the Stapleton School of Highland Dance in which conference participants joined in some of the dances!

All of Saturday's events were held in the beautiful Old Capital Building in the middle of the University of Iowa campus.



PROGRAM:

At Home and Abroad

- 1) Melissa M. Purdue (Minnesota SU), "The Search for a 'New Man' in Colonial New Woman Fiction"
- 2) John McBratney (John Carroll U),
"All Independent, Queer an' Odd': The Colonial in Kipling's S. African Verse"
- 3) Alisha R. Walters (U of Toronto), "Racial Diversity and British Nationality in Wilkie Collins's *Armada*"
- 4) Mary-Catherine Harrison (U of Detroit Mercy), "Elizabeth Gaskell's Empathy Across Difference"



Victorian Musical Diversity: Instruction, Opera, and Dance

- 1) Judy Barger (Little Rock, AR), "Musical Diversity in Magazines for Boys and Girls"
- 2) Alison Mero (Indiana U), "Musical Diversity in Victorian English Opera"
- 3) Megan Early Alter (U of Iowa), "Fascinating Rhythms and Rewritten Refrains in Hardy"

Performing Difference: Bodies on Display

- 1) Roberta M. Marvin (U of Iowa), "Coming to Terms with Jenny Lind in Victorian England"
- 2) Cheryl A. Wilson (Indiana U of Penn), "Beyond the Ballroom: Diversifying Victorian Dance"
- 3) Linda H. Peterson (Yale U), "*Atalanta in Calydon*: Disrespecting Artemis, Dissing Gender Diversity"

Diversity Down Under

- 1) Julie M. Barst (S Dakota SU), "Diversifying the Mother Nation: Hybrid Identities in Australia's 1st Fiction"
- 2) Dorice W. Elliott (U of Kansas), "Squatters and Settlers in 19th Century Anglo-Australian Novels"
- 3) Terra Walston (UIUC), "Settler modernity, Utopia, and a 'Greater Britain' in Spence's *Handfasted*"

Spiritual and Spatial Diversity in Victorian Britain

- 1) Joseph Stubenrauch (IU Bloomington), "Evangelical Geographies: Religious Tourism & Souvenirs in Early Victorian Britain"
- 2) Christopher J. Ferguson (Auburn U), "Sacred and Secular Sites in the Victorian City"
- 3) Timothy Larsen (Wheaton U), "Mary Carpenter, Unitarian Education, and Biblical Lands"

Difference on Display

- 1) Meredith L. Collins (Temple U), "Extremes of Diversity: Victorian Uses of Enfreakment"
- 2) Christa M. Tiernan (U of Wisconsin) "On Exhibit: Marie Broc and Victorian Museum Visitors with Disabilities"
- 3) Fanny Robles (Université Toulouse) "Staging Diversity: The Cultural Impact of Victorian Ethnic Shows"

Carols, Hymns and Ballads

- 1) Christina Bashford (UIUC), "Christmas Carols and the Victorian Construction of Cornish Identity"
- 2) Charles E. McGuire (Oberlin), "From Slave Choir to Congregational Psalmody: British Missionary Musical Control in Late Victorian Madagascar"
- 3) Ellen L. O'Brien (Roosevelt U), "The Politics of Crime in Irish Broadside Ballads"

Outsiders Inside

- 1) Barak Levy-Shilat (London School of Economics), "Moses Montefiore: Charisma and Leadership in the British Jewish Community"
- 2) Heather M. Rubens (U of Chicago),
"Lucien Wolf: British journalist and Jewish Advocate"
- 3) Stoyan V. Tchapravov (Des Moines) "Representing 'The Other Within': George Borrow's Gypsies"