



MIDWEST VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

2011 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/>

Victorian Environments: Spaces, Places, Traces **Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas** **April 15-17, 2011**



The theme for the Midwest Victorian Studies Conference's thirty-fifth annual conference was "Victorian Environments: Spaces, Places, Traces." We heard papers covering the full range of possible meanings of the theme, including, but not limited to: urbanization and the shaping of place; -gendered spaces; built environments; ecology and relations with nature; and gardens and landscapes.

MVSA President Tom Prasch hosted us on his campus of Washburn University in Topeka.



We were pleased to have as our Jane Stedman speaker Tim Barringer, Professor of the History of Art at Yale University and author of *Reading the Pre-Raphaelites* (1998) and *Men at Work* (2005) who skyped in his talk due to inability to travel.

Another special feature of the conference was the poetry reading from *Garden Plots* by Thomas Fox Averill, professor of English and writer-in-resident at Washburn. Roland Quinault gave the plenary talk on Saturday, “The Forgotten Frontier: Encounters on the Welsh-English Border in the Victorian Period”



Perhaps the most however, were the tours of the homes on the National Registrar Tom Prasch and his neighbors and dinner.



memorable aspect of the conference, Potwin neighborhood, Topeka’s Victorian of Historic Places. Throughout the evening, opened up their historic homes for perusal

PROGRAM:

In Transit: The Spaces of Modern Travel 1) Miun Gleeson (U of Missouri-Kansas City) “Derailed: The Destabilizing Effects of the Victorian Railways”

2) Erin Vander Wall (Geo Wash U), “The Train as Spatio-Temporal Dislocation in Gaskell’s *North and South*”

3) Amy Robinson (U of Florida), “The Victorian Country-Town Novel”

From Bedroom to Marketplace: Private and Public Spaces

1) Daniel D. Lewis (SE Comm College), “The Bedroom as Male Space for Anxiety in Dickens’s ‘Lying Awake’”

2) Amber C. Vazquez (Geo. Wash. U), “The Grotesqueness of the Working Class Home in *Hard Times*”

3) Patricia Frick (Otterbein College), “Filth, Fat, and Foam: Dickens’s Marketplaces”

4) Deborah Daley (U of Virginia), “The Space of the New Woman in Amy Levy’s *The Romance of a Shop*”

Thomas Hardy’s Wessex

1) Galia Benziman (The Open U), “Hardy’s Dubious Traces of Home”

2) Sarah Storti (U of Virginia), “After Hardy’s ‘Sketch Map of the Story’: Mapping *The Woodlanders*”

3) Michelle Mattern (U of Virginia), “Hardy’s Wessex, Then and Now: The Evolution of Hermann Lea’s Guidebooks”

Nature’s Places

1) Mary Beth Tegan (Saint Xavier U), “Training the Picturesque Eye: The Point of Views in Jane Austen’s *Persuasion*”

2) Margaret Wright (Stony Brook U), “Protecting the ‘House Beautiful’: Environmental Advocacy in Victorian Literature”

3) Elizabeth Chang (U of Missouri), “The Nosegay, the Clue and *The Moonstone*: Environments of Detection”

Imperial Spaces

1) Stephanie Marcellus (U of S. Dakota), “Haggard’s *A Farmer’s Year*: Imperialist Adventures in Rural England”

2) Hannah Thompson (Washburn U), “Placing Egypt in Amelia Edwards’s Writings”

3) John Reed (Wayne SU), “Getting to Know You: Place in the Island of Dr. Moreau”

Home and Work

- 1) Lynn Linder (St. Louis U), "Depictions of Victorian Marriage in the Diaries of Archer and Caroline Clive"
- 2) Mary-Catherine Harrison (U of Detroit Mercy), "Narrative Contact Zones in Elizabeth Gaskell's Industrial Fiction"
- 3) Liseux Huelman (St. Louis U), "Harriet Martineau's Representations of the Medical Surgery in *Deerbrook*"

Architectural & Burial Spaces

- 1) Laura Golobish (U of Georgia), "Building a Pocket Cathedral"
- 2) Joshua Held (IU Bloomington), "'What their hands have handled': Biblical Intertext, *Corpus Christi*, and Ruskin's 'Lamp of Memory'"
- 3) Ann M. Tandy (U of Minnesota), "Buried Spaces: Premature Burial and the Problem of Undead Bodies and Cultures"

Tourist Sites

- 1) Alan McNee (U of London), "Cold Stony Reality: The Phenomenology of Mountain Climbing in Victorian Britain"
- 2) Rebecca King (Middle Tenn SU), "What the Ruins Said"
- 3) Shannon Sears (Michigan SU), "The Museal Novel and Cognitive Lucre in *The Woman in White*"