

MIDWEST VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

2013 Newsletter



Executive Board: Julie Codell, President; Christina Bashford, Vice-President and incoming President; Julie Melnyk, Treasurer; Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, Executive Secretary; Emily Cody, Web Designer; Members: Christopher Ferguson; Cynthia Huff; Charles McGuire; and Mary-Catherine Harrison. Past Presidents: Florence Boos, Thomas Prasch.



Dear MVSA members,

I am honored to be the new MVSA president and look forward to working with our excellent board and membership. I wish to thank Florence Boos for her excellent leadership these past 2 years. We look forward to an excellent conference next year and I hope to meet all you then. As a long-time participant in MVSA, I much appreciate this organization's commitment to interdisciplinarity. I have degrees in art history and literature and work across disciplines, and I hope we can continue to bring in members and officers who represent many disciplines to enrich our conference offerings, as well as scholars working in many new fields in everything from material culture to neurology and culture. MVSA is a very welcoming organization, so please encourage your colleagues to attend or participate in our conferences. I am happy to answer any questions about MVSA and our conferences, so please feel free to contact me. Thanks, Julie Codell

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/>



2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: DETROIT MICHIGAN “Victorians and Violence”

APRIL 11-13, 2014 (SAVE THE DATE!)

We invite papers on the various forms of violence seen by, written about, or perpetrated by Victorians! Send a 300-word abstract and a 1-page (only) CV in Word by October 31, 2013, to conferencesubmissions@midwestvictorian.org



2013 Conference Re-Cap:

Victorian Belief/ Victorian Doubt

**Midwest Victorian
Studies Association
Annual Conference**

Hyatt Regency

**Cleveland, Ohio
April 12-14, 2013**



FRIDAY, APRIL 12th



REGISTRATION, 10-4 p.m. Lower-Level Lobby, Hyatt Regency.

WELCOME, 11 a.m.-11:15 a.m., MVSA President Florence Boos (University of Iowa)

SESSION ONE, 11:15 a.m.- 12:45 p.m.—Burlington Room

Religion and Secularism

Moderator: Jenny Swartz (Lake Erie College)

1) Micael Clarke (Loyola University)

“The Idea of a Secular Society in Victorian Literature”

2) Brian Eschrich (Indiana University)

“A Scrupulous Scepticism”: Models of Epistemic Virtue in Late-Victorian Philosophy

3) Mark Knight (University of Toronto)

“Re-telling the Story of Victorian Doubt: Samuel Butler’s *The Way of All Flesh*”



SESSION TWO, 1 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.—Burlington Room

George Eliot

Moderator: Emily Cody (Ohio State University)

1) Simon Calder (University of Minnesota)

“Thoughts in Aid and Interrogation in Faith: Feurbach, Hennell, and Eliot”

2) Robert Koepp (Illinois College)

“Mode of Belief or Evidence of Doubt? George Eliot and the ‘Religion of Favourable Chance’”

3) Dwight Lindley (Hillsdale College)

“George Eliot, John Henry Newman, and the Unknown”

SESSION THREE, 2:45 p.m.- 4:15 p.m.—Burlington Room

Women, Poetry, and Religion

Moderator: Julie Codell (Arizona State University)

1) Alisa Clapp-Itnyre (Indiana University East)

“Weary I am—O give me strength’: Doubt--and Faith--in the Brontë Sisters’ Hymn Experiences”

2) Stephanie L. Johnson (The College of St. Scholastica)

“Ghostly Relics: Christina Rossetti and Victorian Death Culture”

3) Michelle Taylor (University of Iowa)

“God Spelled Backwards: Dog as Divinity in Michael Field’s *Whym Chow: Flame of Love*”

4) Anna Stenson Newnum (University of Iowa)

“Dora Greenwell’s Presentist Theology and Advocacy for the Mentally Disabled”



JANE STEDMAN LECTURE, 4:30-5:15 p.m.—Burlington Room

Timothy Larsen, McManis Professor of Christian Thought, Wheaton College,
author of *Crises of Faith: Honest Faith in 19th-Century England* (2006)

and *A People of One Book: The Bible and the Victorians* (2012)

“The Bible and Belief in Victorian Britain”

Reception: 5:30-6:15 p.m.—Superior Avenue Room, The Arcade (hotel restaurant)



6:15-7pm Dinner 7pm: Bur pick-up, Hyatt Entrance

Tour of Exhibition of British Drawings, Cleveland Museum of Art: docent-led tours 7:30-9pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 13th

Hyatt Regency

SESSION FOUR, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.

Beyond Christianity

Moderator: Mary Beth Tegan (St. Xavier University, Chicago)

1) Erin Louttit (University of St. Andrews)

“Bards of the Buddha”

2) Lindsay Dearing (The University of Central Oklahoma)

“It is folly to suppose it:’ Grace Aguilar’s Talmudic Apologia”

3) Sharon Cogdill (St. Cloud State University)

“For Isis and England: The Golden Dawn as a Social Network”



SESSION FIVE “A”, 10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Fictional Faiths at Midcentury

Moderator: Cynthia Huff (Illinois State University)

1) Christine Colon (Wheaton College)

“Wrestling with their Father’s Faith: Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Respond to Patrick Brontë’s Christianity”

- 2) Jessica Hughes (University of Notre Dame)
 “The Problem of Jesus: The Incarnation, Character and Dickens’ *The Life of Our Lord*”
- 3) Karen C. Gindele (Indiana University South Bend)
 “Superstition as Imaginative Critique in *Armada*”

SESSION FIVE “B”, 10:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Alternate Beliefs

Moderator: Christopher Ferguson (Auburn University)

- 1) Thomas Prasch (Washburn University)
 “All the strange facts’: Alfred Russell Wallace’s Spiritualism and Evolutionary Thought”
- 2) Elizabeth Sanders (University of Iowa)
 “A Profound Duplicity:’ Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Hyde, and Religion Without Belief”
- 3) Kja Isaacson (University of Ottawa)
 “Scientific Systems of Belief in H. G. Wells’s *The Time Machine*”



12 noon -1:30 p.m.: LUNCH & Business Meeting

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. SECOND PLENARY

Julie Melnyk, of the University of Missouri-Columbia,
 and author of *Women’s Theology in 19th-Century Britain* (1998)
 and *Victorian Religion: Faith and Life in Britain* (2008)
“Faith and the Feminine”



SESSION SIX “A”, 2:45 p.m – 4:15 p. m.

Digital Victoriana

Moderator: Florence Boos

- 1) Michael Kramp (Lehigh University)
 “The Victorian Imagination of Africa: the iPad and Multimedia Archival Contributions”
- 2) Dana Wheelles (University of Virginia)
 “Using NINES for Research”
- 3) Katherine F. Montgomery (University of Iowa)
 “Digital Pedagogy: Data Visualization and Uncertainty in Oscar Wilde”

SESSION SIX "B", 2:45 p.m.- 4:15 p.m.

Missionaries and Pilgrims

Moderator: Gretchen Frank (Illinois State University)

1) Winter Jade Werner (Northwestern University)
"Jane Eyre and the Battle Over the Christian Moral Imagination"

2) Emily Madsen (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
"Missiary Work: Unitarian Missionaries and India"

3) Katherine Haldane Grenier (The Citadel)
"Public Acts of Faith and Devotion': Pilgrimages in Late 19th century England and Scotland"



SESSION SEVEN, 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Biblical Texts and Holy Books

Moderator: Christina Bashford (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

1) Eric Reisenauer (University of South Carolina)
"Gog, in the Land of Magog: Russophobia, Biblical Prophecy and British Belief During the Crimean War"

2) Lynn M. Alexander (University of Tennessee at Martin)
"Holy Dying: The Influence of Jeremy Taylor on the Victorian Deathbed Scene"

3) Miriam Elizabeth Burstein (SUNY Brockport)
"Two sayings of man's past, into which man's present has breathed new meanings': *Robert Elsmere* and the Challenge of Proof-texting"

4) Michelle Meinhart (University of Cincinnati)
"Feminine Accomplishment, Religious Virtue, and Musical Philanthropy: Lady Katrine Cowper's 'Hertingfordbury Choir' Book"

Dinner: 6 p.m....on your own with conference-goers (see Suggestions in Conference Folder)

SUNDAY, APRIL 14th

SESSION EIGHT, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Religion and the Imagination

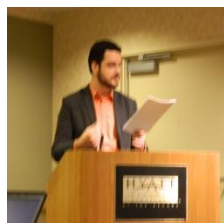
Moderator: Keith Welsh (Webster University)

1) Barbara Barrow (Washington University in St. Louis)
"The 'Immeasurable All': Matthew Arnold, Deep Time, and the Reinvention of the Sacred"

2) Laura Wallace (The Graduate Center of the City University of New York)
"Beethoven's Titan Mace': the Romantic Philosophy of Music as a Language of Faith in Robert Browning's Poetry"

3) Christine Choi (University of Toronto)
"But the principle was the same': Questions of Faith Inheritances in the Romances of George MacDonald"

- 4) Andrew Willson (Yale University)
“Literary Exercise: Reading, Doubt, and Health in *Father and Son*”



SESSION NINE, 10:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

Controversies and Dissent

Moderator: John McBratney (John Carroll University)

- 1) Joseph Stubenrauch (Baylor University)

“A Woman and Her Watchers: Clergymen, Surgeons, and the Uncertainties of a Female Charlatan’s Body”

- 2) Lawrence Poston (University of Illinois at Chicago)

“History or Hagiography: Newman’s Other Froude

Farewell Remarks, Arnstein Award,



and Burgan Award (best graduate-student paper): as given by Keith Welsh, to Michelle Taylor for “God Spelled Backwards”



*Lunch on your own with conference-goers
Noodles, Downtown Cleveland*



Our thanks to the conference organizers: John McBratney (John Carroll University), Kirsten Parkinston (Hiram College)—pictured here—and Jenny Swartz (Lake Erie State)!