

# VICTORIAN TASTE

MVSA 2017



"INTERIOR OF THE GROSVENOR GALLERY – WEST GALLERY,"  
*THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS*, 1877.

APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> TO 30<sup>TH</sup>  
OBERLIN COLLEGE

# MIDWEST VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION



## Conference Venues

Friday's daytime events will be held in the Kohl Building.

Friday's talks will be in Clonick Hall, within the Kohl Building.

Saturday and Sunday breakfast will be in the Sky Bar in the Kohl Building.

Saturday's seminars and talks will be on the second floor of Bibbins Hall.

Saturday's lunch will be held in the Klutznick Commons in Peters Hall.

Friday and Saturday evenings' concerts will be held in Bosworth Hall in Fairchild Chapel.

Sunday's talks will be on the second floor of Bibbins Hall. Breakfast and lunch on Sunday will be in the Sky Bar, Kohl Building.

## Registration

Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 7:45 AM to 11:45 AM

## Friday and Saturday Dinner

Group dinner reservations for Friday and Saturday are available—please sign up at the registration table.



## Conference Highlights

### Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

All Friday events will be held in Kohl Building, with the exception of the concert.

12:00 to 3:00	Registration
1:00 to 1:15	Opening Remarks
1:15 to 2:45	Plenary Panel: A Treat for the Ears: Defining Musical Taste
3:00 to 4:30	Panel 1
5:00 to 6:00	Jane Stedman Plenary Lecture: Candace Bailey
6:00 to 7:00	Welcoming Reception
8:00 to 9:00	Collegium Musicum Oberliniense Concert: The Victorians' Musical Taste (Performance 1), Bosworth Hall, Fairchild Chapel

### Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

7:45 to 8:15	Registration and Breakfast, Sky Bar, Kohl Building
8:30 to 11:45	Registration, Bibbins Hall, Second Floor Hallway
8:00 to 10:00	Seminars, Bibbins Hall, Rooms 223 and 224
8:30 to 11:45	Conference Sessions, Bibbins Hall, Rooms 223 and 224
12:00 to 1:30	MVSA Luncheon, Business Meeting, Klutznick Commons, Peters Hall
	Presentation of Arnstein Award
2:00 to 4:00	Conference Sessions, Bibbins Hall, Rooms 223 and 224
4:00 to 4:15	Refreshments
4:15 to 5:45	Conference Sessions, Bibbins Hall, Rooms 223 and 224
5:45 to 7:30	Dinner in Oberlin on your own
8:00 to 9:30	Collegium Musicum Oberliniense Concert: The Victorians' Musical Taste (Performance 2), Bosworth Hall, Fairchild Chapel

### Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>

7:45 to 8:15	Breakfast, Sky Bar, Kohl Building
8:30 to 12:15	Conference Sessions, Bibbins Hall
12:20 to 12:30	Presentation of the Burgan Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, Final Remarks, Sky Bar, Kohl Building
12:30 to 2:00	Discussion and light luncheon after the close of the conference

## Schedule of Events

### Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

All Friday events will be held in the Kohl Building.

12:00 to 3:00  
Clonick Foyer  
Kohl Building

#### **Registration**

1:00 to 1:15  
Clonick Hall

#### **Welcome, Charles Edward McGuire, Oberlin Conservatory**

#### **Opening Remarks, MVSA President Christina Bashford**

1:15 to 2:45  
Clonick Hall

#### **Plenary Panel: A Treat for the Ears: Defining Musical Taste**

Chair: Erin Smith, Case Western Reserve University

*Aladdin* vs. *Oberon*; or, the Question of British Musical Taste

Christina Fuhrmann, Ashland University

Pathos, Bathos, and Musical Taste: The Gladstones' Social Sphere

Phyllis Weliver, Saint Louis University

Displaced Savior: Sigismund Neukomm and Musical Taste at the British Festival, 1829-1855

Charles Edward McGuire, Oberlin Conservatory

2:45 to 3:00  
Clonick Foyer

#### **Refreshment Break**

3:00 to 4:30  
Clonick Hall

### **Panel 1: Feasts for the Victorian Eye**

Panel Chair: Lindsay Wells, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Too Sentimental for Victorian Taste?: The Question of Suitable Subject Matter in Henry Peach Robinson's *Fading Away*

Anna Isbell, University of Iowa

“A New Type of Beauty:” Loie Fuller, Aesthetics, and Taste

Lara Karpenko, Carroll University

Towards a Victorian Phenomenology of Perception: Brewster's *Letters on Natural Magic* and the Taste for Optical Illusions

Amanda Shubert, University of Chicago

4:30 to 4:45  
Clonick Foyer

### **Refreshment Break**

5:00 to 6:00  
Clonick Hall

### **Jane Stedman Memorial Plenary Lecture**

Colliding Values: Women's Cultural Production in Victorian England and the Antebellum South

Candace Bailey, North Carolina Central University

Introduced by Christina Bashford, President, MVSA

6:00 to 7:00  
Sky Bar  
Kohl Building

### **MVSA Reception and Welcome to Oberlin**

Andrea Kalyn, Dean, Oberlin Conservatory

8:00 to 9:30  
Bosworth Hall  
Fairchild Chapel

### **Collegium Musicum Oberliniense Concert: The Victorians' Musical Taste (Performance 1)**

Musical Director: Steven Plank, Oberlin Conservatory

**Sign-up sheets for group dinners on Friday and Saturday will be at the registration table.**

**Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 to 8:15

Sky Bar, Kohl Building

**Registration and Breakfast**

8:30 to 11:45

Bibbins Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Registration**

8:00 to 10:00

Bibbins Hall 236

**Seminar: Liberalism, Sociability, and Musical/Literary Taste\***

Seminar Leader: Phyllis Weliver

Department of English, St. Louis University

A Taste for Academia: *Robert Elsmere* and the Mentally Feeling Scholar

Jordan Bunzel, Indiana University

French Devils and British Roasts: The Politics of Food Preparation in *David Copperfield*

Elizabeth Corsun, Transylvania University

“Wise and ignorant alike:” Sound Physiology and Musical Responsiveness in Bertha Thomas’s *The Violin-Player*

Shannon Draucker, Boston University

Liberating Salome

Cheryl Wilson, Stevenson University

\*Session for Seminar Participants Only

8:00 to 10:00  
Bibbins Hall 232

**Seminar: Victorian Poetry in Good and Bad Taste\***

Seminar Leader: Julie Carr,  
Department of English, University of Colorado

Nineteenth-Century Elegies for Children  
Melissa Valiska Gregory, University of Toledo

A Taste for Politics: Ekphrastic Poetry in the Anti-Slavery Movement  
Mary-Catherine Harrison, University of Detroit Mercy

The Politics of Bad Rhyme  
Natalie Kopp, Independent Scholar

*Aurora Leigh*: Interrogating Genre and Gender  
Nicole Peters, University of Washington

Tea Time: Taste and Temporality in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"  
Clayton Tarr, Michigan State University

\*Session for Seminar Participants Only

8:30 to 10:00  
Bibbins Hall 223

**Panel 2: Defining "Good" Taste**

Panel Chair: Florence Boos, University of Iowa

Victorian Taste in Art: Public Taste, Ekphrasis, and the Nation  
Julie Codell, Arizona State University

A Taste for the Subject of "Taste:" Aesthetic Fascination in the Culture of the Victorian Working Class  
Christopher Ferguson, Auburn University

"Living among Horrors:" Henry Cole's 'Chamber of Horrors,' or How to Instill Good Taste  
Thomas Prasch, Washburn University

10:00 to 10:15  
Bibbins Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hallway

**Refreshments**

10:15 to 11:45  
Bibbins 223

### **Panel 3: Reforming Victorian Foodways**

Panel Chair: Kurt Koenigsberger, Case Western Reserve University

Coffee and Controversy: The Science of Reform in 1850s Britain

Sarah Cook, Vanderbilt University

So Much Depends upon the Finnan Haddie: How Victorians Fashioned a Taste for Scottish Fish

Heidi Hakimi-Hood, Texas Christian University

“The Penchant for Flesh:” Pig-Killers, Slaughter Reform, and the Victorian Plant-Based Diet

Anna West, University of Detroit Mercy

10:15 to 11:45  
Bibbins 224

### **Panel 4: Consuming Taste in the Literary Marketplace**

Panel Chair: Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, Indiana University East

“This is not a sensation novel:” Authenticating Popular Taste in Mary Elizabeth Braddon's *The Doctor's Wife*

Matthew Connolly, Ohio State University

“Compel the Brutes to Buy:” J. M. Langford, George Eliot, and Gossip

Grace Stevens, Loyola University Chicago

Playing to Taste: Staging the Irish Question in Dion Boucicault's *The Shaughraun* (1872)

Heather Edwards, Ohio University

12:00 to 1:30  
Klutznick Commons  
Peters Hall

### **Luncheon**

Business Meeting

Presentation of Walter Arnstein Award



2:00 to 4:00  
Bibbins 224

### **Panel 5: Exotic Tastes**

Panel Chair: Sharleen Mondal, Ashland University

A Good Cuppa, Empire, and English Home Comfort  
Deirdre McMahon, Drexel University

What Is “Victorian Taste?”: Ruskin, Monstrosity, and  
Indian Art  
John McBratney, John Carroll University

Anxiety, Enchantment, and Bad Taste: The British  
Reception of *The Japanese Village* in 1885  
Wendy Williams, Texas Christian University

4:00 to 4:15  
Bibbins Hall  
Second Floor Hallway

### **Refreshments**

4:15 to 5:45  
Bibbins 223

### **Panel 6: A Taste for Education**

Panel Chair: Melissa Gregory, University of Toledo

Feasting on Morality: Teaching Sympathy and  
Constructing Class through the “Banquet that is  
Shakespeare”  
Katherine Nesbit, University of Iowa

Nostalgic Graffiti: Writing on the University  
Rachelle Stinson, York University

Good Taste/No Taste/Creative Taste: What to Make  
of Dickens’ Authorial Palate?  
Lydia Craig, Loyola University Chicago

4:15 to 5:45  
Bibbins 224

**Panel 7: (Dis-) Embodied Taste**

Panel Chair: Marisa Mercurio, University of Toledo

A Taste for Walking: Victorian Women and Political Embodiment

Amanda Adams, Muskingum University

Fashioning Change with Melodic Appeal: Lady Nairn's "Caller Herrin"

Anne Stapleton, University of Iowa

"A Feeble Utterance of Man's Admiration of Something Outside of Himself:" The Ethics of Ruskin's Realism

Thomas Albrecht, Tulane University

5:45 to 7:45

Dinner in Oberlin on Your Own

8:00 to 9:30  
Bosworth Hall  
Fairchild Chapel

**Collegium Musicum Oberliniense Concert:  
The Victorians' Musical Taste (Performance 2)**

Musical Director: Steven Plank, Oberlin Conservatory

**Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**

7:45 to 8:30

Sky Bar, Kohl Building

**Breakfast**

8:30 to 10:30

Bibbins 223

**Panel 8: Everybody Has a Hungry Heart:  
Victorian Souls and Spirituality**

Panel Chair: Joseph Heidenescher, University of Toledo

“Crowded Let His Table Be:” A Taste of Christ in a Hungry Community

Lesa Scholl, Emmanuel College, University of Queensland

A Powerful Beauty and Reserved Sublime: Christina Rossetti’s Rhetorical Taste in “The Lowest Room”

Mary McCulley, Cedarville University

Curating the “Beautiful Soul” in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *De Profundis*

Carrie Dickison, Wichita State University

“My Taste Was Me:” Gerard Manley Hopkins and the Bitter Taste of Being

Brett Beasley, Loyola University Chicago

10:45 to 12:15

Bibbins 223

**Panel 9: The Uses of Realism: Ethics, Humor,  
and Authority**

Panel Chair: Sean Burlingame, University of Toledo

Paradox of Character: Humor and Realism in Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Ruddigore*

Laura Fiss, Michigan Technological University

Keeping it Real: Documenting Condition-of-England Fiction

Lynn Alexander, University of Tennessee at Martin

12:20 to 2:15  
Sky Bar  
Kohl Building

**Conference Retrospective and Final Remarks  
Presentation of the Burgan Award for Best  
Graduate Student Paper  
Discussion over light lunch (RSVP)**

**We are grateful to Oberlin Conservatory, Dean Andrea Kalyn, the  
Conservatory Deans' Office and the Division of Musicology for  
their generous support of this conference.**



**Please join us for next year's MVSA conference,  
"Victorian Health and Wellness,"  
at St. Louis University, April 20-22, 2018**