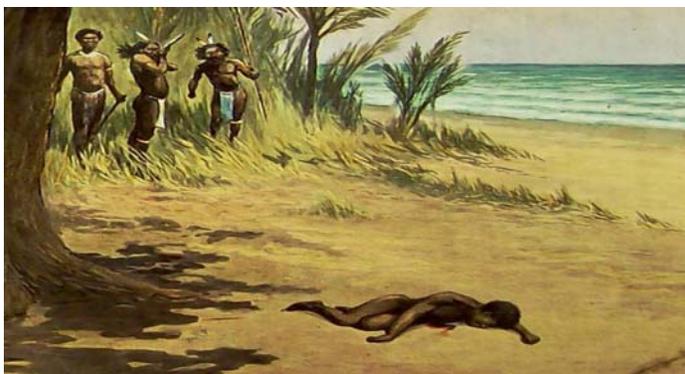


# Unexplored Empire



## MVSA Annual Conference Essex Inn, downtown Chicago, April 18-20, 2008

### --CALL FOR PAPERS--

The Thirty-Second Annual **Midwest Victorian Studies Association** meeting will be held at the Essex Inn, conveniently located in downtown Chicago near theatres and museums. Our local arrangers are Larry Poston and Jim Sack, both of the University of Illinois, Chicago; and Mary Beth Tegan of St. Xavier University. Our theme this year is “Unexplored Empire” for which we are soliciting topics on aspects of the Empire which have been underexplored. These might include addressing the following questions: *Does Atlantic-based imperialism acquire alternative significance relative to imperialism in Asia and Africa? Is there a single “imperialism” or are there multiple, co-existing regimes of empire and imperialism? Do encounters of Victorian Muslims and Christians offer useful frameworks for 21st-century cultural conflicts? Are there any merits to recent claims that empire could entail benefits as well as oppression for those under its sway? What relation do explorations of polar regions bear to imperialism as it is usually understood? What literatures continue to come to the fore? Also, what can we learn about empire from less-explored media such as music, music hall, dance, decorative arts, and hoardings? Finally, how did empire affect culture “at home”?* In keeping with its long interdisciplinary and inclusive tradition, MVSA welcomes proposals and panel submissions from any disciplinary perspective consonant with this broad theme.

We are pleased to have Julie Codell and Russ Wyland giving this year’s keynote addresses. Dr. Codell is Professor Art History, Arizona State University. She has joint appointments with the English Department and the Film and Media Studies Program and is a faculty affiliate of the Center for Asian Research, the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, and Women’s Studies, and board member for the Center for Film and Media Studies. In her keynote, she will consider the concept of “unexplored empire” both for the Victorians and for today’s scholars. Dr. Wyland is Assistant Director, Division of Research Programs, NEH, and will talk about Victorian studies and NEH support. Conference registrants will also have the opportunity to confer with him about projects for which they seek funding.

Victorianists studying and working in the midwestern or southern United States are especially encouraged to attend at MVSA, and to make a home in this distinguished scholarly organization. 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, while the prestigious Arnstein Prize supports dissertation research of an interdisciplinary kind. A new book award for a first book is being inaugurated this year.

Conference news can be found on our NEW website at <http://www.midwestvictorian.org/>

**Submissions:** By **October 31, 2007**, email a 500-word (only) abstract to Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, Assoc. Professor of English, Indiana University East: [aclappit@indiana.edu](mailto:aclappit@indiana.edu) or to [conference@midwestvictorian.org](mailto:conference@midwestvictorian.org). Please mention “MVSA 2008 Paper Submission” in the Re: line and include your own name, title, institution, email and snail mail addresses, a phone number, and the abstract itself in the text and/or attachment. If you do not receive an email confirmation of receipt, please re-submit.