The Thirty-Ninth Victorians Institute
DISRUPTING VICTORIAN STUDIES
Inconvenient Facts, Shocking Discoveries, Surprising Events, Forgotten Voices, Unknown Writings, Mangled Texts

October 3-4, 2008
This year’s topic: What would Victorian studies be like if we took seriously the discoveries that don't fit in? Most active Victorianists come across in their research inconvenient facts, haunting or strange incidents or people or passages that if taken seriously would disrupt or complicate the versions of Victorianism our colleagues or editors or students have come to expect. For this year's Institute, we sought papers that report such disruptive discoveries, on many authors and aspects of Victorian culture, and which explain in what ways the discovery upsets conventional professional expectations.

Keynote Speaker: We welcome as this year's keynote speaker Ian Duncan, of the University of California at Berkeley, author of *Modern Romance and Transformations of the Novel* (1992), *Scott's Shadow* (2007), etc. His address, entitled "The Great Book of Nature: the Novel and the Science of Man," at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, has been designated as the first W. Ormiston Roy Memorial Lecture.

The Victorians Institute: Founded in 1971, and sponsoring its own journal, *Victorians Institute Journal*, since 1972, the Victorians Institute has grown into a major annual forum for Victorian studies, attracting participants not only from its original home region in the mid-Atlantic and south-east, but nationally and internationally. For further information, see [http://www.vcu.edu/vij](http://www.vcu.edu/vij). The current Officers of the Victorians Institute are:

President: Deborah Logan, Western Kentucky University
Vice President: Patrick Scott, University of South Carolina
Secretary: Albert Pionke, University of Alabama
Treasurer: Annette Van, UNC-Greensboro

Council members at large:
Carla E. Coleman, University of South Carolina at Aiken
Devon Fisher, Lenoir-Rhyne College
Brooke McLaughlin Mitchell, Wingate University.

Editors of the Victorians Institute Journal:
David Latané, Virginia Commonwealth University
Deborah Denenholz Morse, College of William and Mary.
PROGRAM
All events are in Thomas Cooper Library (on the mezzanine level) unless otherwise indicated. Please note that two Saturday morning sessions have been switched since the draft program: Religion (originally 7C) is now 8D, and Supernatural & Transcendental (originally 8D) is now 7C. Any late program changes will be posted at the registration table.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
From 9:30 am Registration & coffee (Mezzanine Gallery)

FRIDAY 10:15-10.45 am
Session 1: OPENING PLENARY (Graniteville Room, PP)
Chair: Patrick Scott (Univ. of South Carolina).
Brief greetings: Thomas F. McNally (Interim Dean of Libraries).
* Timothy Albom (Lehman Coll., CUNY): “An Irish El Dorado: The Victorian Rediscovery of Gold in County Wicklow.”

FRIDAY 11.00 am-12:15 pm
Session 2A: Dickens (Conference Room)
Chair: Suzanne Ozment (Univ. of South Carolina at Aiken)
* Lillian E. Craton (Lander Univ.): “Miniatures and Monsters: Extreme Littleness in the Novels of Charles Dickens.”
* Melanie Griffin (Univ. of South Carolina): “Frauds on the Fairies: Fantastical Anxieties in David Copperfield.”
* Laurie Lyda (UNC Greensboro): “Relational Politics in Charles Dickens’s Dombey and Son.”

Session 2B: Two Brontës (Graniteville Room)
Chair: Nancy Henry (University of Tennessee)
* Kitty Elton (Univ. of New Brunswick): “Anne Brontë: The Buried Sister.”
* Kristen Pond (UNC Greensboro): “Silently Disrupting Identity: Lucy Snowe and Unethical Constructions of the Other in Charlotte Brontë’s Villette.”
* Robin Barrow (Univ. of Tennessee): “The ‘Draught and Glow’ of Sexual Violence in Jane Eyre.”
**FRIDAY 1:15-2:30 pm**

**Session 3A: Reading the Unacceptable (Graniteville Room)**
Chair: Alex C. Johnson (South Carolina State Univ.).
* Tabitha Sparks (McGill Univ.): "Recovering Self-Hatred? Frank Danby, Julia Frankau, and the Challenge of Reading a Morally Reprehensible Novel."
* Corri Zoli (Syracuse Univ.): "Victorian Humanitarians: Historicizing the Laws of War and Definitions of Atrocity."

**Session 3B: Across the (Scottish) Border (Conference Room)**
Chair: Jason Pierce (Mars Hill Coll.).
* Chad May (Kansas Wesleyan Univ.): "Sir Walter Scott’s The Monastery: Gothic Disruptions of History."
* Brooke McLaughlin Mitchell (Wingate Univ.): "A Different Kind of Tourism: Clough’s The Bothie and the Highland Clearances."
* Mary Husemann (Black Hills State Univ.): "Rethinking Scots Law in the Novels of Wilkie Collins."

**Session 3C: Victorian Theatre (Staff Lounge)**
Chair: Kimberley Manganelli (Clemson Univ.)
* Marc Cohen (UNC-Chapel Hill): "Madame Céleste: Lower- and Middle Class Acceptance of a French Leading Lady."
* Carla Coleman (Univ. of South Carolina at Aiken): "The Stage as a Profession for Women: Eliza Lynn Linton’s Unexpected Defense of Women’s Work."
* Celeste Pottier (Univ. of South Carolina): "Skeletons in the Closet: Domestic Articulation in J.S. Bowes’s Willful Murder, or Deeds of Dreadful Note."

**Break**
FRIDAY 2.45-4:00 pm

Session 4A: Victorian Science (Staff Lounge)
Chair: Mary Ellen Bellanca (Univ. of South Carolina at Sumter).
* Jill R. Ehnenn (Appalachian State Univ.): “Darwin’s (Queer) Body.”
* Tiffany Tsao (Univ. of California Berkeley): “The Unexpected Taxonomy of Alfred Russel Wallace.”
* Barri J. Gold (Muhlenberg Coll.): “Thermo-Poetics: The Conversation of Energy.”

Session 4B: Victorian Politics (Graniteville Room)
Chair: Robert Lee Oakman III (University of South Carolina)
* Scott Dransfield (Southern Virginia Univ.): “‘A Government that fills us with envy’: Thomas Carlyle’s Manuscript on the Mormons.”
* Michael D. Lewis (Univ. of Virginia): “Eliot, Disraeli and the Workers.”

Session 4C: Rider Haggard & Empire (Dickey Room)
Chair: Suzanne Ozment (Univ. of South Carolina at Aiken)
* David J. Bradshaw (Warren Wilson Coll.): “She-That-Must-Be-Read: Redressing the Overly Determined Approach to Haggard’s Fiction”
* Dan Shea (Austin Peay State Univ.): "Dreams of the Danish Invasion: Rider Haggard, Reverse Imperialism, & the 'English Race,'"
* Leslie Haynsworth (Univ. of South Carolina): “Titans of Empire and Titans of Crime; Detection and Subversion in Grant Allen’s The African Millionaire”

Session 4D: Thackeray & Satire (Conference Room)
Chair: David Latané (Virginia Commonwealth University)
* Gary Simons (Univ. of South Florida): “The (Almost) Unknown Thackeray: Thackeray’s Newspaper Critical Journalism.”
* Melissa Jenkins (Wake Forest Univ.): “Disrupting Satire in Thackeray’s The Newcomes”
* Jennifer L. Martinsen (Univ. of South Carolina): “The Victorian Invention of the Comic Strip: National Identity Reframed.”
Discussant: Peter Shillingsburg (Loyola Univ., Chicago).
FRIDAY 4:30 pm
Session 5: KEYNOTE ADDRESS (Mezzanine Study Area)
Chair: Anthony Jarrells (University of South Carolina).
Brief greetings: William E. Rivers (Chair, Department of English).

--Ian Duncan is Professor of English at Berkeley, where he recently completed a term as department chair. His publications include Modern Romance and Transformations of the Novel: the Gothic, Scott, and Dickens (1992), Scott's Shadow: the Novel in Romantic Edinburgh (2007), and editions or essays on Scott, Hogg, Dickens, Ruskin, Borrow, Darwin, Conan Doyle, and others. Prof. Duncan's is the first W. Ormiston Roy Memorial Lecture; since 1990, with the support of Prof. and Mrs. G. Ross Roy, the library has hosted a succession of scholars as W. Ormiston Roy Visiting Research Fellows.

FRIDAY 5:30 pm-7:00 pm
Reception, Exhibition Opening (Graniteville Room)
Sponsored by the Thomas Cooper Society.
Brief greetings: John Lee (President, Thomas Cooper Society).
Exhibition: "Victorian Writers, Remembered and Forgotten" (Mezzanine Gallery)
--first editions of Victorian authors from Carlyle, Darwin and Dickens to the Brontës, Rhoda Broughton, Robert Louis Stevenson and Robert Bridges, and featuring works by William North (1825-1854).

Dinner groups: see insert in registration packets or ask at the registration table; coordinated by Rebecca Stern (Univ. of South Carolina).
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

From 8:00 am  Registration & coffee (Mezzanine Gallery)
Note: Thomas Cooper Library is open 24/7 during the semester, but you may be asked to show your conference badge to enter the building before 10 a.m.

SATURDAY 8:30-9:10 am
Session 6: A PLENARY ON POETRY (Graniteville Room)
Chair: William B. Thesing (University of South Carolina)
* William Harmon (Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill): “A Generation of Anomalies: Hardy, Doughty, Bridges, and Hopkins.”

SATURDAY 9:15-10:30 am
Session 7A: George Eliot (Graniteville Room)
Chair: Rebecca Stern (Univ. of South Carolina)
* Srdjan Smajic (Furman University): “Ghosts and ‘Ghosts’: Supernatural Realism in Silas Marner.”
* Gay Sibley (Univ. of Hawaii): "George Eliot and the Satire Nobody Wants"
* Nancy Henry (Univ. of Tennessee): “‘Ruffian Geniuses’ in George Eliot’s Romola”

Session 7B: Law (Conference Room)
Chair: Maria Bachman (Coastal Carolina Univ.)
* David Latané (Virginia Commonwealth Univ.): “‘The Mysterious Affair’: the newspaperman and the royal bastard, 1829.”
* Albert Pionke (Univ. of Alabama): “Disrupting Victorian Professionalism: Rituals of the Legal Elite”
* John Lamb (West Virginia Univ.): “That Other Yellow-Back Book: The Ring and the Book and the Yelverton Marriage Case”

Session 7C: Supernatural & Transcendental (Staff Lounge PP)
Chair: David Bradshaw (Warren Wilson College).
* Melissa Edmundson Makala (Charleston Southern Univ.): “Visits from the Battlefield: Ellen Wood's Ghostly Soldiers.”
* Patricia Michael (Holy Name Univ.): “Re-crossing the Bar: A Reassessment of the Victorian Response to Death.”
* Rebecca Welshman (Univ. of Exeter): "Comprehending the Void: Richard Jefferies and Transcendental Ideology in *The Story of My Heart.*"

**Session 7D: Servants & Companions (Dickey Room)**
Chair: William F. Naufftus (Winthrop University).
* Jean Fernandez (Univ. of Maryland Baltimore County): "Literary Drudges: Servant Autobiography and Literacy Debates in the Victorian Age."
* Britt Terry (Univ. of South Carolina): "No More I'll Stoop to Brush the Boot": Social Revolution in *The Enchanted Isle."
* Lauren Wood Hoffer (Vanderbilt Univ.): 'I was at work in your house as a detective': The Companion and the Secrets of the House in *Lady Audley's Secret* and *Anne Hereford*"

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**Break**

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**SATURDAY 10:45 am-12:00 noon**

**Session 8A: Short Fiction (Graniteville Room PP)**
Chair: Siobhan Craft Brownson (Winthrop Univ.)
* Maria Bachman (Coastal Carolina Univ.): "Charles Dickens's 'very odd story . . . with a bit of Diablerie'."
* Paul Marchbanks (California Polytechnic State Univ.): "A Reevaluation of Tone and Voice in George Eliot's *Brother Jacob.*"

**Session 8B: Charlotte Brontë (Student Study Area)**
Chair: Deborah Logan (Western Kentucky University).
* Leila May (NC State Univ.): "*Reductio ad Materialismus*: Overplaying the Materialist Card in *Villette*"
* Kathryn Crowther (Georgia Inst. of Technology): "Reclaiming Charlotte Brontë's *The Green Dwarf.*"
* Abigail Mann (Indiana Univ.): "'Chain[ed] . . . to a putrefying carcase': George Eliot, Charlotte Brontë, and Renunciation."

**Session 8C: Education, Female and Male (Staff Lounge PP)**
Chair: Albert Pionke (Univ. of Alabama).
* Margaret Shear (South Suburban College): “Sarah Stickney Ellis’s The Widow Green and Her Three Nieces in the British Workman: Educating, Empowering, and Liberating Independent Women.”
* Daniel Kline (Ohio Northern Univ.): “Slaves of Greed and Sense: A.H. Clough’s Juvenilia and the Moral Policing of Rugby.”
* Audrey Fessler (Univ. of Wisconsin–Eau Claire): “Minding Charlotte Yonge and Her Intellectual Girls.”

**Session 8D: Religion (Conference Room)**
Chair: Maria LaMonaca (Columbia College)
* David Goslee (Univ. of Tennessee): “James Martineau: Seeing Victorian Culture Double through a Unitarian Lens”
* Devon Fisher (Lenoir-Rhyne Coll.): “St. George and the Pterodactyl: Kingsley’s Sacramental View of Protestant History”
* Tim Carens (Coll. of Charleston): “Idolatry and the Marriage Plot in Yeast and Villette”

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*Brief break to walk to Courtyard by Marriott.*

**SATURDAY 12:15-1:15 pm**
**CONFERENCE LUNCH (at Courtyard by Marriott, Assembly St.)**
Buffet lunch including vegetarian option. Lunch will conclude with a brief Business Meeting: Chair: Deborah Logan (Western Kentucky University), President, The Victorians Institute; Albert Pionke (University of Alabama), Secretary; Annette Van (UNC Greensboro), Treasurer; David Latané (Virginia Commonwealth University), Editor, Victorians Institute Journal.

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*Afternoon sessions in Thomas Cooper Library*

**SATURDAY 1:30-2:20 pm**
**Session 9A: Meet the Editors: Perspectives on Acceptably Disruptive Submissions (Graniteville Room)**
Chair: Julie Wise (Univ. of South Carolina): former Managing Editor, Victorian Studies.
* David Latané (Virginia Commonwealth University): Editor, Victarians Institute Journal.
* Deborah Logan (Western Kentucky University): Editor, Victarians Newsletter.
* John Lamb (West Virginia University): Editor, Victorian Poetry.

Session 9B: Victorian Romanticism (Conference Room)
Chair: Anthony Jarrells (Univ. of South Carolina).
* Mary Ellen Bellanca (Univ. of South Carolina at Sumter): “Disrupting Reception Studies: The Overlooked Victorian Publication of Dorothy Wordsworth.”
* Benjamin Kim (Univ. of Denver): “Felicia Hemans at Rydal Mount in 1830.”

Session 9C: Cultural Commerce (Staff Lounge PP)
Chair: Carla Coleman (University of South Carolina at Aiken).
* Allan Life (UNC Chapel Hill): “William Michael Rossetti as Dealer and Writer.”
* Emily Wicktor (Univ. of Kansas): “Please hand this list to some one who may use it’: An 1892 Catalogue of Victorian Pornography Revealed.”

Session 9D: Robert Louis Stevenson (Dickey Room)
Chair: Patrick Scott (Univ. of South Carolina).
* Jason Pierce (Mars Hill Coll.): "Replaying 'An Old Song': Stevenson's Uncollected Contributions to Henley's London."
* Timothy S. Hayes (Auburn Univ.): “The Deafening Silences of Stevenson’s The Ebb-Tide and Conrad’s Heart of Darkness”

Short break

SATURDAY 2:30-3:45 pm
Session 10A: Margaret Oliphant/M. E. Braddon (Dickey Room)
Chair: Mary Husemann (Black Hills State Univ.)
* Michelle Mouton (Cornell Coll.): “Margaret Oliphant’s Hester and the Pension Reform Act.”
* Samantha Graves (Univ. of South Carolina): "Avoiding type-casting: the unsensational heroines of Braddon's mid-career."
Session 10B: Marriage & the Fin de Siècle (Staff Lounge)
Chair: Leslie Haynsworth (Univ. of South Carolina).
* Emily Harbin (Converse Coll.): “Writing the Eugenic Romance: Emma Brooke, Menie Muriel Dowie, and Eugenic Motherhood.”
* Jessica DeCoux (CUNY Graduate Center): “Marie Corelli, Wormwood, and the Case for a Genderless Decadence.”
* Kate Faber Oestreich (Coastal Carolina Univ.): “How Marriage Reform Disrupts the Fin de Siècle.”

Session 10C: Poetry (& Gender) (Conference Room)
Chair: John Lamb (West Virginia Univ.).
* Evan Horowitz (Univ. of North Texas): “On Some Motifs in Tennyson (and Baudelaire)”
* Julie M. Wise (Univ. of South Carolina): “A New Antigone? Victorian Medeas”
* Lindsey C. Gedelman (Univ. of South Carolina): “Creating the Wilderness Safe: Katherine Bradley and Edith Cooper”

Session 10D: Sensation (Graniteville Room)
Chair: Anita Rose (Converse Coll.).
* Tara MacDonald (Univ. of Toronto): “The Depraved Appetite of the Public”: Amelia B. Edwards and Sensation Fiction.”
* Andrea Bebell (West Virginia Univ.): “Pass the Plum-Pudding’: Resistance and Community Building in Flora Annie Steel’s The Reformer’s Wife.”
* Lisa Hager (Georgia Inst. of Technology): "Thomas Hardy, Victorian Novelist and Narrative Cross-Dresser: Narrative and Agency in Hardy's The Hand of Ethelberta."

Short break
SATURDAY 4:00-5:30 pm
Session 11: FINAL PLENARY PANEL: The Elusive William North, Disruptive Victorian (Graniteville Room, PP)
--a special session marking the first-ever republication, by the University of South Carolina Press, of William North’s extraordinary novel *The City of the Jugglers; or, Free-Trade in Souls* (1850), from Thomas Cooper Library’s copy, one of only two copies known to survive in North American libraries. North’s novel is also being made available on-line by the library’s Digital Projects department.
Chair: Rebecca Stern (University of South Carolina).
Patrick Scott (University of South Carolina): “Introduction: The Elusive William North.”
Allan Life (UNC Chapel Hill): “William North in the Footnotes of Pre-Raphaelitism.”
Lanya Lamouria (Albion College): “William North’s *The City of the Jugglers* (1850) and the Revolutions of 1848.”
Leon Jackson (University of South Carolina): “William North’s *The Slave of the Lamp* (1854) and the New York Literary Scene.”
Edward Whitley (Lehigh University): “William North and *The New York Saturday Press*.”
Response & comment: Rebecca Stern.

Acknowledgements and credits: Thanks are due for sponsorship or other assistance to the Department of English (chair: William E. Rivers), University Libraries (interim dean; Thomas F. McNally), and the Thomas Cooper Society (president: John Lee). The committee also gratefully acknowledges the help given by the staff in Rare Books & Special and other library departments, particularly Elizabeth Sudduth, Jeffrey Makala, and Zella Hilton; the work also of the library’s Digital Projects department under Kate Boyd; and the participation of students and former students from the Nineteenth Century Studies Club, especially Britt Terry, Celeste Pottier, and Catherine England. Members of the 2008 planning committee were Patrick Scott, William B. Thesing, Anthony Jarrells, and Rebecca Stern (all from the University of South Carolina), with Maria LaMonaca (Columbia College).