

Call for Papers--The Victorians Institute, 2008

DISRUPTING VICTORIAN STUDIES: Inconvenient Facts, Shocking Discoveries, Surprising Events, Forgotten Voices, Unknown Writings, Mangled Texts

University of South Carolina, Columbia, October 3-4, 2008

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 texts that, if taken seriously, would disrupt or complicate the versions of Victorianism that we, our colleagues, editors or students have come to expect. We invite proposals for 20 minute papers that report such disruptive discoveries, on any author or on any aspect of Victorian culture, and then briefly relate in what ways the discovery upsets conventional professional expectations. Papers might focus on some specific but unanticipated Victorian oddity, strangeness, quirk, scandal, or outrage; some unknown or little-known piece of writing by an author we all know too well; some long-ignored writer; or some long misprinted or misread passage or text.

Proposals (2 page maximum) should include proposer's name, proposed title, 1-2 page abstract, 2-3 line bio note, and contact information. Proposals may be sent by July 30, 2008, to Patrick Scott, Department of English, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208 or (preferably) emailed to scottp@gwm.sc.edu.

This year's keynote speaker will be Ian Duncan (Berkeley), whose books include *Modern Romance and Transformations of the Novel: the Gothic, Scott, and Dickens* and the recently-published *Scott's Shadow: the Novel in Romantic Edinburgh*. The 2008 planning committee includes Patrick Scott, William B. Thesing, Anthony Jarrells, and Rebecca Stern. The Institute is cosponsored by Cosponsors are the Department of English and Thomas Cooper Library. Most events (beginning midday on Friday October 3 and concluding about 5:30 p.m. on Saturday October 4) will be held in Thomas Cooper Library.

The University of South Carolina's flagship campus is in Columbia, the state capital. A block of rooms has been reserved at the recently-renovated Courtyard by Marriott, 630 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201, close by the library. To get the conference rate, book before September 3 and say you are attending the Victorians Institute (www.marriott.com/caecd or tel: 1-803-799-7800). Columbia is at the intersection of I-20, I-77, and I-26, and Columbia Metropolitan Airport has direct flights from many major cities, as well as connections through Charlotte and Atlanta.

Founded in 1971, and sponsoring its own 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>.

Deadline for proposals: July 30, 2008

Contact for proposals: scottp@gwm.sc.edu