



Writing Women

A Newsletter for the 18th- and 19th-Century British Women Writers Association

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Invitation to the 2010 BWWC: Texas A&M University

We invite you to the Eighteenth Annual Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Conference at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, April 8–11, 2010. In response to our call for papers last fall, we received an impressive number of abstracts from scholars working in several countries and demonstrating a wide variety of critical perspectives. From topics on medicine and fashion to travel and spirituality, the scheduled presentations exhibit an interdisciplinary approach to the conference theme of “Journeys.” With forty-seven different panels, this year’s conference promises to offer stimulating discussion and an engaging intersection of ideas.

At the end of our first day of presentations, we will gather together for a welcome reception followed by a plenary panel, featuring Mary E. Fissell (Johns Hopkins University), Jillian Heydt-Stevenson (University of Colorado), and Erika Rappaport (University of California, Santa Barbara). Addressing subjects such as travel and emigration, the speakers will present interdisciplinary approaches to the conference theme.

Friday afternoon we will move from the Hilton to the sprawling Texas A&M University campus to hear Kate Flint (Rutgers University) present her keynote address, “Emotional Baggage: Reading, Affect, and the 19th-Century Woman Traveler.” Also on Friday afternoon, BWWC participants will have the opportunity to tour Cushing Memorial Library, which houses British and Continental books from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a working reproduction of an eighteenth-century printing press, and extensive special collections, including the science fiction and fantasy research collection, which houses first and very early editions of works such as Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Participants are invited to attend a high tea reception at the rotunda of the elegant Jack Williams Administration Building before Professor Flint’s presentation.

Saturday morning’s events will kick-off with a stimulating roundtable discussion titled “Teaching and Researching British Women Writers in the Digital Age,” featuring Maura Ives (Texas A&M University), Betty Joseph (Rice University), Lisa L. Moore (University of Texas), and Laura M. Stevens (Editor, *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*). Other invited conference panelists include Eileen Cleere (Southwestern University), Sonia Hofkosh (Tufts University), and Elsie Michie (Louisiana State University). Our three-day investigation into

women's journeys will conclude with a keynote address by Felicity Nussbaum (University of California, Los Angeles), titled "Hester Thrale Piozzi's Italy: Cultural Translation." Immediately following Professor Nussbaum's presentation, participants are invited to partake in the annual dinner banquet and awards ceremony as the conference comes to an end.

The conference will be held primarily at the Hilton College Station and Conference Center, located one mile from the Texas A&M University campus. Within walking distance from the Hilton is a wide assortment of dining options for any budget. Home to Northgate Entertainment District, Historic Downtown Bryan, Messina Hof Winery and Resort, and several libraries and museums, such as the Brazos Valley African American Museum, the Bryan-College Station area promises to keep our participants engaged and entertained.

For more information about the conference, including the complete list of presentations, please see our conference website <<http://www-english.tamu.edu/bwwc18>> or email us at <BWWC18@tamu.edu>.

We look forward to seeing you in College Station this April!

—Meghan Parker
and Elizabeth Talafuse
(Texas A&M University)

Announcement of the 2011 BWWC: The Ohio State University

We are pleased to announce that the Nineteenth Annual Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Conference will be hosted by The Ohio State University from March 31–April 3, 2011.

The chosen theme of our conference is "Curiosities," in all its rich interpretations. Viewed alternately as a virtue and a curse, curiosity as intellectual inquiry has particular resonance in the lives and work of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century women writers. The desire to know more not only influenced many women's personal and professional pursuits, but also enabled them to question existing authority and challenge the status quo. Additionally, as the women of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries expressed curiosity about their world through endless arenas like literature, science, politics, philosophy, travel, religion, and art, they often became curious subjects and objects of inquiry themselves. Over the course of the conference, we will encourage an ongoing conversation about this "curiosity" in and of women's writing, and how it continues to drive our own scholarship today.

The conference events will kick off Thursday, March 31st at The Westin Columbus Hotel, a historical landmark in Ohio's capital city that boasts not only luxurious guest accommodations and a variety of meeting spaces, but also endless "curious" stories from its 113-year history that are sure to interest BWWC attendees. Each morning will begin with baked goods and coffee before the usual excellent lineup of daily panel sessions, and each day will be punctuated by other special events, including a Thursday night plenary panel session and Friday and Saturday keynote addresses. In fact, we have just confirmed our two distinguished keynote

speakers, and plan to announce their names at the upcoming 2010 BWWC!

No day will be without a full schedule of events for attendees to enjoy: for example, Saturday's keynote will be accompanied by a luncheon and awards ceremony in the Westin hotel's famed grand ballroom, followed by an evening on Ohio State's beautiful campus. There, we will host musical entertainment, desserts, and an exhibit—our own "Cabinets of Curiosities"—courtesy of the university's extensive Rare Books and Manuscripts Library and other Special Collection Holdings, including those of the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum, the Historic Costumes and Textiles Collection, and the Theatre Research Institute. These events will be held in our newly-renovated, state-of-the-art Thompson Memorial Library, which is located at the heart of OSU campus and surrounded by some of our university's finest architectural and natural attractions.

Because the BWWC is an ideal venue to help young scholars with issues of professionalization, one morning will feature a roundtable discussion regarding various aspects of our profession, led by scholars who have published extensively on the current conditions and possible future of academic careers in the humanities. We believe this session will be of interest to graduate students and young faculty, as well as those who have more experience in academia. We are also extremely pleased to announce that the journal *Prose Studies* has agreed to publish a special issue that would feature papers presented at the 2011 BWWC. Papers that examine some aspect of women's non-fiction prose writing (for instance, female-authored autobiography, biography, sermons, letters and journals, political and philosophical essays, criticism, etc) will be of particular interest. Of course, we will have many more details about these and other similar opportunities as the conference date approaches.

We encourage our 2011 conference attendees to stay at the Westin, where we've arranged for an excellent conference rate to be offered to all BWWC guests. Located in downtown Columbus, the Westin is both close to numerous dining, shopping, and recreation options and features its own attractions, including the literary-themed Thurber Bar (an homage to Ohio-native cartoonist and author James Thurber). Additionally, the Westin is mere blocks away from a number of other vibrant Columbus neighborhoods, from the historic German Village to the popular Short North Arts and Arena Entertainment Districts, all of which we will encourage conference attendees to experience.

We here at Ohio State are very excited to be hosting the conference and to be providing the forum for the exciting intellectual exchanges that the BWWC encourages. Look for our conference website to be up and running very soon and for our Call for Papers to be posted this spring, or feel free to contact Meghan Burke <burke.359@osu.edu> with any questions. We look forward to seeing you in Columbus in 2011!

—Meghan L. Burke
and the OSU Steering Committee

Travel Awards Presented for 2010

Each year, the BWWA presents travel awards to graduate students to assist them in attending the annual conference. The awards are based on the quality of the submitted abstract as well as distance and cost of travel to the annual conference. The three recipients of this year's 2010 BWWA travel awards to the conference at Texas A&M University are:

- Amy Gates, University of Illinois at Chicago, for her paper, "Too deep and still":

Fixing Memory in Felicia Hemans' 'Records of Woman'

- Charlotte Mathieson, University of Warwick, for her paper, "Wandering out into the word": Women Walking in the mid-Victorian novel"
- Laura Olcelli, University of Sydney, for her paper, "Travel, Language and Incomprehension in the accounts of the *Ladies of the Grand Tour*"

Congratulations to all our recipients!

Get Your BWWA Notecards!

Following the success of our BWWA mug sale in contributing to BWWA Graduate Student Travel Award fund, we will be selling notecards at the 2010 BWWC at Texas A&M University from April 8–11, 2010. The notecards will feature three portraits of British women writers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They will be sold in packages of five cards for \$5. To cast your vote for who will appear on the notecards, complete the web survey: <<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5HWDQWL>>. As of this moment, Mary Wollstonecraft, Jane Austen, and George Eliot lead the voting!

BWWA Award to be Announced

As part of the BWWA's ongoing mission to support, encourage, and recognize the important work being done on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British women writers, the board of the BWWA has created an award to recognize outstanding contributions to the study of British women writers. The award seeks to acknowledge, honor, and celebrate the various ways in which the recipient has contributed to the

study of British women writers through teaching, mentoring, service, and scholarship.

This biennial award—called the Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Association Award for Contributions to the Study of British Women Writers—will be given to the important individuals in our field in order to show our deep gratitude for their example and inspiration to all scholars.

The recipient for 2010 will be announced at this year's conference.

From the Editor

In a future issue, we will be featuring information about past conference co-chairs and committee members in a "Where Are They Now" article. If you were involved in a past conference, send us an update on your latest successes to <bwwa@ipfw.edu>.

We encourage all members to pass along information about conferences, publications, and awards so that they can be shared with everyone (shameless self-promotion strongly encouraged!). Submissions may be sent to <bwwa@ipfw.edu> by February 15 for inclusion in the spring issue and by August 15 for inclusion in the fall issue.

Join the BWWA on Facebook

If you are a member of Facebook (<www.facebook.com>), consider joining the 18th- and 19th-Century British Women Writers Association group. This forum allows members to hear information about the conference and other members.