



# Writing Women

*A Newsletter for the 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-Century British Women Writers Association*

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## Invitation to the 2011 BWWC: The Ohio State University

The Ohio State University is pleased to invite you to the nineteenth annual Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Conference, to be held March 31–April 3, 2011 in Columbus, Ohio. In response to our call for papers this past fall, we received an extraordinary number of abstracts from scholars working in various fields across several different countries, each with a unique perspective on the “Curiosities” in and around eighteenth- and nineteenth-century women’s writing. With panel topics including detective fiction, scientific experimentation, poetic innovations, the occult, economics, and everything in between, this year’s conference promises to offer three days of stimulating and inspiring interdisciplinary discussion.

The conference events will kick off Thursday, March 31st at The Westin Columbus, a celebrated hotel that has been a landmark in Ohio’s capital city since it first opened its doors in 1897. After the excellent lineup of panel sessions, our special events will begin. Thursday night features a welcome ceremony, followed by plenary panel that will address some timely curiosities regarding the relationship between form and gender. Speakers Caroline Levine (University of Wisconsin at Madison), Sandra Macpherson (Ohio State), and Robyn Warhol (Ohio State) will consider questions of “feminist formalism,” followed by opportunities for interactive discussion between our conference participants and the panelists.

Friday morning will begin with a special roundtable session, featuring three presentations related to various issues of professionalization and pedagogy. One roundtable will offer a comprehensive array of insights into navigating the academic job market. Another, featuring editors and representatives from several different journals, including *Narrative* and *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*, will address a range of questions and issues facing scholars who anticipate publishing their work in the near future. The third roundtable will focus on pedagogical issues, particularly concerning how to incorporate the vast holdings of new online databases into undergraduate classrooms. After an afternoon of our more traditional panels, Friday will also end with a presentation by the first of our distinguished keynote speakers, Sharon Marcus (Columbia), who will delve into that “curious” figure of the

nineteenth-century actress with her talk, “The Double Lives of Sarah Bernhardt.”

Saturday’s highlights include our afternoon luncheon and awards ceremony, held in the Westin’s Grand Ballroom, and a keynote address by Helen Deutsch (University of California, Los Angeles) entitled “Truth and Beauty: Women, Disability and Literary Form.” The conference will come to a close Saturday with an evening on Ohio State’s beautiful campus, inside our newly-renovated, state-of-the-art Thompson Memorial Library. There, on the eleventh-floor of the building (which boasts 360-degree views of our university’s finest architectural and natural attractions), conference attendees will enjoy desserts, an exhibit—our own “Cabinets of Curiosities”—courtesy of the university’s extensive Special Collection Holdings, and a special performance of authentic Regency-era dances and live music from Times Past Vintage Dance Troupe.

We encourage our 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 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.

Please visit our conference website <<http://bwwc2011.osu.edu>> for more details, including our full schedule of presentations and events, and links to our conference blog <<http://bwwc2011.wordpress.com>>, where you can begin a dialogue with past and future

BWWC participants about everything from collaborative scholarly opportunities to sharing travel and accommodation costs during the conference weekend. Also, please email us at <[bwwc2011@gmail.com](mailto:bwwc2011@gmail.com)> with any questions.

We look forward to seeing you in Columbus this spring!

—Meghan L. Burke  
Eugenia Gonzalez  
Lis Lindeman Ravert  
Kara Spaulding  
(The Ohio State University)

### **Announcement of the 2012 BWWC: University of Colorado, Boulder**

2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the BWWC, and we are pleased to announce that it will be held June 7-10 at the University of Colorado in Boulder! The conference theme is “Landmarks,” and keynote speakers will include Dr. Lisa Moore from the University of Texas at Austin and Dr. Jill Matus from the University of Toronto. The official call for papers and the conference website will be available by the beginning of April 2011, and deadline for proposals is January 15th, 2012. We look forward to seeing you in Colorado!

## Travel Awards Presented for 2011

Each year, the BWWA presents travel awards to graduate students to assist them in attending the annual conference. This year, for the first time, we have added travel awards for contingent faculty. The awards are based on the quality of the submitted abstract as well as distance and cost of travel to the annual conference. The five recipients of this year's 2011 BWWA travel awards to the conference at Ohio State University are:

- Andromeda Hartwick, graduate student at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, for her paper "Curiously Criminal Identification: Charlotte Charke and Eighteenth Century Criminal Biography"
- Laura Johnson, graduate student at Harvard University, for her paper "Materiality and Miniature in Charlotte Brontë's Glass Town"
- Kristen Pond, contingent faculty at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, for her paper "Translating Private Sorrows into Sympathetic Communities: Charlotte Smith's Poetry as Funerary Monuments"
- Courtney Weiss Smith, contingent faculty at Transylvania University, for her paper "Anne Finch's Curious Empiricism"
- Sarah Wieger, graduate student at Cornell University, for her paper "'A love for things that have no feeling': Dorothy Wordsworth's Significant Others"

Congratulations to all our recipients!

## New Journal: *Aphra Behn Online*

The *Aphra Behn Online: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts 1640-1830* is an online, annual publication which serves as a forum for interactive scholarly discussion on all aspects of women in the arts between 1660-1830, including literature, visual arts, music, performance art, film criticism, and production arts. The journal features peer-reviewed articles encompassing subjects on a global range and is intended for scholars and students. The online format will be comprised of four divisions: Scholarship (3-4 essays); Pedagogy (3-4 essays); New Media Applications/ Women on the Web (1-2 essays); and Reviews (4-5 essays).

While the publication is open-access, it is associated with the Aphra Behn Society and its biannual conference. The journal, hosted by the University of South Florida, will make use of the Digital Humanities to ensure that all visual and auditory aspects of the paper can be easily accessed by the readership. The journal's first issue will be available in March 2011; for more information, please visit <http://www.aphrabehn.org/aphraonline/>

## Buy your BWWA Notecards Here!

Following the success of our notecard sale in contributing to BWWA Graduate Student Travel Award fund last year, we will be selling notecards again at the 2011 BWWC at the Ohio State University. 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/YGXJX52>. As of this moment, Fanny Burney, Mary Shelley, and Elizabeth Gaskell lead the voting!

## **From the Editor**

Looking ahead, next year's conference in Colorado will be our 20<sup>th</sup> conference! In recognition of this event, we are soliciting members to reflect on your conference experiences. What are your favorite conference moments? How has the conference helped you professionally? If you were involved in a past conference, where are you now? Please send us your emails at <bwwa@ipfw.edu> to include in next year's newsletters.

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.