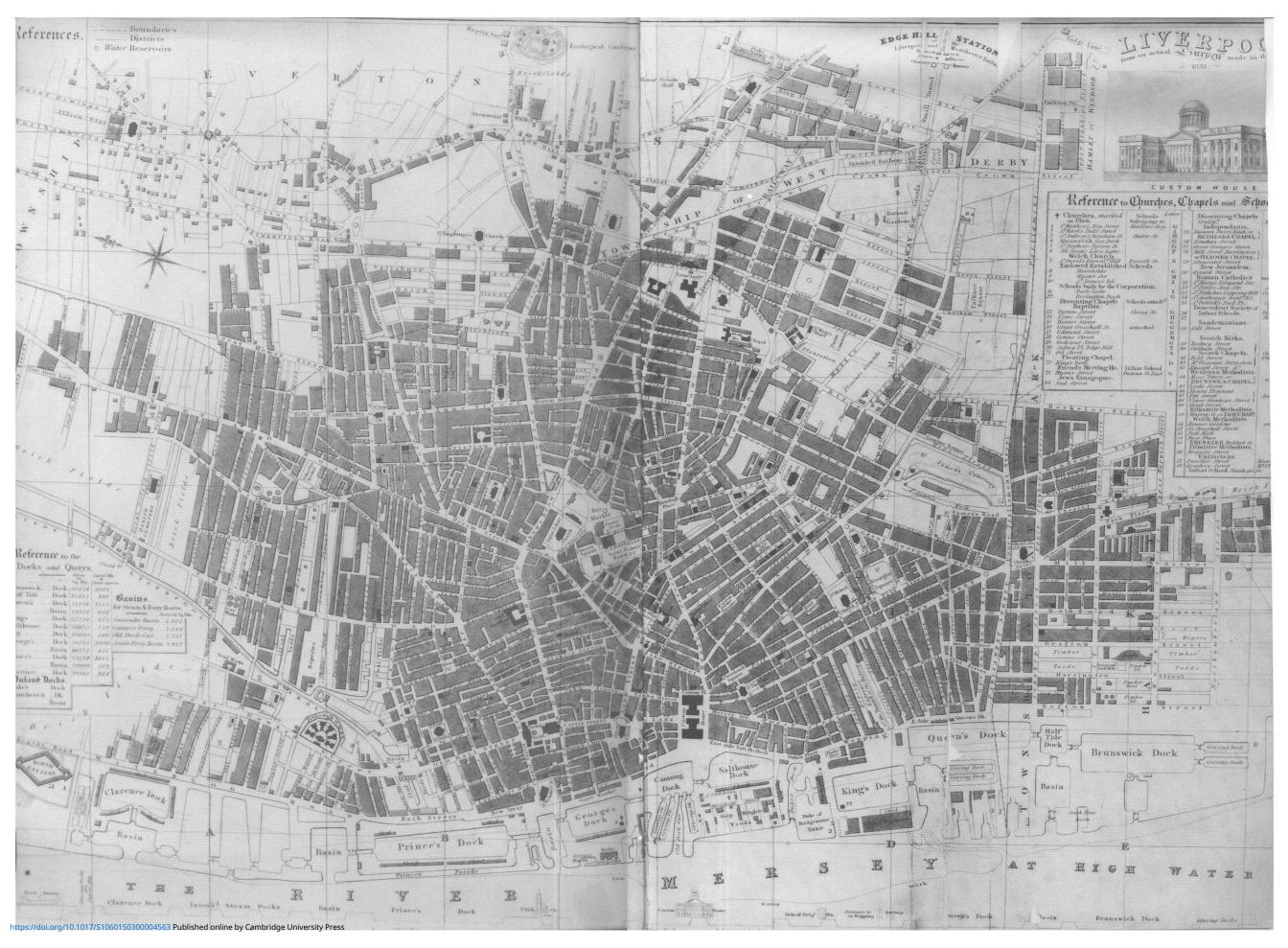
Victorian Literature and Culture

Volume 25, Number 1, 1997





VICTORIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Volume 25, Number 1

ADVISORY BOARD

Richard D. Altick Isobel Armstrong Nancy Armstrong Nina Auerbach Houston A. Baker. Jr. Gillian Beer Harold Bloom George Bornstein Patrick Brantlinger Jerome H. Buckley Susan P. Casteras Thomas J. Collins Dwight Culler David J. DeLaura Sandra M. Gilbert Edward Guiliano John Holloway Margaret Homans Ian Jack Gerhard Joseph Joseph Kestner U. C. Knoepflmacher Cecil Y. Lang Robert Langbaum George Levine

Jane Marcus Jerome I. McGann Michael Meredith Dorothy Mermin J. Hillis Miller Linda Nochlin Mary Poovev Robert Prever Harriet Ritvo Marlon Ross Clyde de L. Ryals Hilary M. Schor E. Warwick Slinn **Richard Stein** Margaret Stetz **Donald Stone** Herbert Sussman John Sutherland G. B. Tennyson Michael Timko Herbert Tucker Martha Vicinus Robert Viscusi Michael Wheeler Patricia Yaeger

VICTORIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Volume 25, Number 1

EDITORS

JOHN MAYNARD ADRIENNE AUSLANDER MUNICH

Associate Editor: Sandra Donaldson Managing Editor: Abigail Burnham Bloom Review Editor: Winifred Hughes Assistant Review Editor: Annette T. Snape Special Effects Editor: Jeffrey Spear Assistant Editor for Pictures: Renée Overholser

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS 1997

VICTORIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE is a publication of Cambridge University Press. It is published through the generous support of New York University, the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and the University of North Dakota. The editors gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to our editorial assistants: Corinne Abate, Megan Abbott, Catherine Henderson, Maria Jerinic, and Traci Kelly; and our interns and staff members: Rabia Alladin, Melissa Bradshaw, Kim Canfield, Karen Dovell, Chat Ewing, Matthew Herman, Nicole Jones, James Keller, Benjamin Kim, Jodi Lustig, Christopher Nagle, Mark Roma, Mark Shaiman, Carey Snyder, and Laura Valdez.

Manuscripts and editorial correspondence can be addressed to either editor: Adrienne Munich, Department of English, SUNY/Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794 (516 632 9176; fax: 516 632 7568); John Maynard, Department of English, NYU, 19 University Pl., Rm. 235, N.Y., NY 10003 (212 998 8835; fax: 212 995 4019).

Please submit two copies of manuscripts; articles should be double-spaced throughout and follow the new MLA style (with a list of Works Cited at the conclusion). Chapters of books submitted for the *Works in Progress* section may follow the author's chosen style in the book project.

Correspondence concerning review essays should be addressed to Winifred Hughes, 50 Wheatsheaf Lane, Princeton, NJ 08540 (609 921 1489).

Suggestions for reprints of Victorian materials, texts, or illustrations, and also bibliographic or other kinds of summary work should be addressed to Jeffrey Spear, Department of English, NYU, 19 University Pl., Rm. 200, N.Y., NY 10003 (212 998 8820; fax: 212 995 4019).

Publishing, Subscription, and Advertising Offices: Cambridge University Press, 40 West 20th Street, New York. NY 10011-4211, USA (for the United States, Canada, and Mexico); and Cambridge University Press. The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU, England (for U.K. and elsewhere).

Victorian Literature and Culture is published biannually. Annual institutional subscription rates: US \$72.00 in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, UK \pounds 45.00 elsewhere. Individual rates: US \$28.00 in the US., Canada, and Mexico; UK \pounds 19.00 elsewhere.

Copyright © 1997 Cambridge University Press.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission in writing from Cambridge University Press. *Photocopying information for users in the U.S.A.*: The Item-Fee Code for this publication (1060-1503/97 \$7.50 + .10) indicates that copying for internal or personal use beyond that permitted by Sec. 107 or 108 of the U.S. Copyright Law is authorized for users duly registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) Transaction Reporting Service, provided that the appropriate remittance of \$7.50 is paid directly to: CCC, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 09123. Specific written permission must be obtained for all other copying.

Printed in the United States of America.

Periodicals permit pending at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to: *Victorian Literature and Culture*, Journals Department. Cambridge University Press, 110 Midland Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573-4930.

THE EDITORS TO OUR READERS

With this issue, *Victorian Literature and Culture* celebrates a special birthday. We have now been publishing for twenty-five years. As you will see, we also had a delightful birthday present: publication with Cambridge University Press. Henceforth we shall appear in two issues yearly. We hope you like as much as we do our new soft cover with its striking Gustave Doré rendition of steamboats departing near the Houses of Parliament. If we may allegorize just once on what we expect will provoke no end of further readings, we feel comfortable appearing beneath a picture suggesting the conjunction of the hegemonic (Big Ben in his Victorian youth) and the demonic (those smokestack paddlewheels filled with such intent passengers). In these changing times, we hope to wear our new dignity with our *fin de siècle* intensity.

We were gratified to have so many good submissions for this silver anniversary volume and hope you will be too. For future volumes we continue to welcome direct submissions on all subjects in Victorian literature and culture. We look for excellent studies of individual authors or groups of authors; scholarly investigations of historical and textual issues; new approaches to literature by innovative critical or theoretical methods; interdisciplinary studies of the relations between social and cultural phenomena and literature and the arts.

For our Works in Progress section, we also welcome submissions of chapters from longer works that will not be published in book form for some time. For our Special Effects section, we welcome proposals for publication of unknown Victorian texts or illustrations and also bibliographic or other kinds of summary work. We would also entertain proposals from individuals or groups seeking to present a cluster of articles on a single subject or approach.

We don't usually exercise the liberty of editorializing; so we do want to take this opportunity to thank our so interesting and genial co-editors, along with our many helpful editorial assistants and interns for making our joint venture such an educating and happy one.

Adrienne Munich

John Maynard

CONTENTS VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1

Bleak House, Political Economy, Victorian Studies KATHLEEN BLAKE	1
Textual Seductions: Women's Reading and Writing in Margaret Oliphant's "The Library Window" TAMAR HELLER	23
Turning the Inside Out: Morals, Modes of Living, and the Condition of the Working Class JOHN B. LAMB	39
The Opium Trade and <i>Little Dorrit</i> : A Case of Reading Silences WENYING XU	53
Darwin's "Eye of Reason": Natural Selection and the Mathematical Sublime GARY WILLINGHAM-MCLAIN	67
Aubrey Beardsley's "Japanese" Grotesques LINDA GERTNER ZATLIN	87
The Architecture of Empire: "Oriental" Gothic and the Problem of British Identity in Ruskin's Venice DARYL OGDEN	109
WORKS IN PROGRESS	
Law, Equity, and Conscience in Victorian England SIMON PETCH	123
The Sati, the Bride, and the Widow: Sacrificial Woman in the Nineteenth Century SOPHIE GILMARTIN	141
Signs of Intimacy: The Literary Celebrity in the "Age of Interviewing" RICHARD SALMON	159

VICTORIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

REVIEW ESSAYS

Poets, Critics, and God-Talk JUDITH WILT Contemporary Biographers of Nineteenth-Century Novelists	181
	191
FREDERICK R. KARL	

viii