



Writing Women

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

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BWBA Presents First Award for Contributions to the Study of British Women Writers

As part of the organization'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 BWBA 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 annual 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.

We inaugurated this first award at the 2008 BWWC in Bloomington, Indiana, by presenting it to the two individuals who best represent the spirit of this award: Pamela Corpron Parker and Cindy LaCom.

In 1991, a group of graduate students in the Northwest were troubled by the lack of scholarship on early women writers at British studies conferences. And, further, they saw that almost no scholarship on the non-canonical writers was being presented at regional, much less national, conferences. On a shoestring budget and in less than a year, the first British Women Writers Conference was born.

Since that first ambitious undertaking, Pam and Cindy have continued to guide and shape this association and conference. They have identified promising graduate students to carry the torch of organizing and sponsoring the conference; they have tirelessly fielded queries about how to conduct fundraisers and grant writing; they have established the by-laws of the association and its conference to ensure an ongoing scholarly exchange between senior scholars, junior scholars, and graduate students. And, on a more personal level, the generosity and warmth of Pam and Cindy have long been a model of the more human side of academia and of women's contributions to the discipline, and a professional ethic that demands not just rigorous scholarship, but the nurturing of the scholarship of others.

Since the first conference, we have had fifteen more with another all ready planned for next year; nearly one and half thousand scholars have attended these conferences; countless books, essay collections, special journal issues, and articles have begun as BWWC conference papers.

For all of this, and more, we present the first Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Association Award for Contributions to the Study of British Women Writers to Pamela Corpron Parker and Cindy LaCom. Congratulations!

—Troy J. Bassett and Lisa Hager

Call for Nominations

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.

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The BWWA is asking for nominations for the next recipient of this award. To nominate an individual, please submit a letter explain how she or he best fulfills the spirit of the award and why she or he deserves to be recognized. Please send nomination letters to <bwwa@ipfw.edu> by December 20, 2008.

New Journal Launched: *The Latchkey*

We are delighted to announce the launching of *The Latchkey*, a new online journal devoted to the concept of the New Woman, covering the lives and writings of New Women authors and figures, the representation of the New Woman in literature, culture, art, and society, proto-feminism and early feminist journalism, and current innovative scholarship on the New Woman. While the term “New Woman” originated in England, the cultural phenomenon extended beyond Britain and we wish to explore its presence (or reasons for its absence) and influence in other countries and across disciplines.

We plan to offer a much needed scholarly platform for inquiry, information, and exchange to academics, independent scholars and doctoral students working on these topics, and aim at covering both canonical and non-canonical New Woman figures and aspects. Among the items of interest to be included are relevant publication and conference announcements, reviews of books and plays or films, abstracts of current articles and doctoral theses, and a teaching forum for the informal exchange of ideas and course designs. Once we have established our reader base, we plan call for and publish scholarly articles, which will be blind peer reviewed.

The Latchkey is affiliated with *The OScholars* <www.oscholars.com>, a scholarly website committed to examining the many social, literary and cultural expressions of the *fin de siècle* in cosmopolitan fashion. After an initial email announcement, we have had an enthusiastic response from scholars on both sides of the Atlantic. If you would like to be on our alerts, please contact us at <oscholars@gmail.com> with LATCHING ON in the subject line and your full name and,

if appropriate, institutional affiliation in the body. We also welcome offers from anyone who would like to take an active role.

—Lisa Hager
(Georgia Institute of Technology)

Invitation to the 2009 BWWC: University of Iowa

We cordially invite you to submit your abstracts to the seventeenth annual Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Conference hosted by the University of Iowa from April 2-5, 2009. This conference, entitled “Fresh Threads of Connection,” will explore surprising connections in the study of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British women writers—whether those connections are ones we generate through our research or discover to have existed in the past. We’ll examine surprising connections between people (whether individuals or cultures), within and between texts and genres, and in the juxtapositions that scholars construct among texts, theories, and disciplines.

To begin this discussion, Thursday evening will feature a roundtable entitled “Refreshing Conceptions of the Other” during which Florence Boos, Shuchi Kapila, and Devoney Looser will present how their research and teaching might help revitalize scholarship on “the other.” These scholars will also help us to discover what threads of connection can be drawn between their individual projects as well as between the different categories used to label female others such as age, religion, class, and race.

On Friday evening, we’ll convene in the Senate Chamber of the gold-domed Old Capitol Building, Iowa’s historic first capitol preserved as a museum, for Lynda Joy Sperling’s interdisciplinary keynote on women’s literature and art. In keeping with our theme, Old Capitol will host a joint exhibit entitled “Fresh Threads of Connection

Between Nature and Art.” The first exhibit, “Bovine Portraits,” sponsored by the University of Iowa Museum of Art, will be the first exhibit survey in the United States to focus on the popular eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British genre of large animal portrait painting. An English Garden setting will welcome visitors to the joint exhibit “Literary Portraits: British Women Writers,” sponsored by the University of Iowa Pentacrest Museums. This exhibit will feature ten eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British women writers, including a room dedicated to Beatrix Potter. In addition to early editions of these authors’ works, the exhibit will include manuscripts, letters, portraits of the authors, and relevant passages as interpreted by contemporary critical perspectives.

On Saturday afternoon Alison Booth will deliver a keynote address at the conference luncheon. Saturday evening will feature a lecture on Romantic theatre given by Judith Pascoe to be followed by a night of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century entertainment planned in conjunction with the University of Iowa’s Theatre and Music departments.

The Sheraton, our conference hotel, is nestled in the heart of downtown Iowa City just blocks away from University of Iowa’s campus. From the front door of the Sheraton, guests can walk out onto a pedestrian mall, the center of Iowa City’s picturesque downtown. Most importantly, the Sheraton is within easy walking distance of our on-campus exhibits, Old Capitol lectures, theatrical entertainment, and a multitude of restaurants, coffee houses, galleries, and shops that our conference participants can enjoy throughout the weekend.

Abstracts for the conference will be due by October 1. For further information and updates, visit our website at www.uiowa.edu/~englgrad/bwwc where you can also view our call for papers. Contact

Anna Stenson <anna-stenson@uiowa.edu>
with any questions. We look forward to
seeing you in Iowa City!

—Anna Stenson
(University of Iowa)

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.