



Writing Women

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

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BWBA Presents Second Award for Contributions to the Study of British Women Writers to Teresa Mangum

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 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 annual award—called the Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Association Award for Contributions to the Study of British Women Writers—is given to the important individuals in our field in order to show our deep gratitude for their example and inspiration to all scholars. Two years ago, the first award was presented to two individuals who best represent the spirit of the award, Pamela Corpron Parker and Cindy LaCom, the founders of the British Women Writers Conference.

Chosen from a strong field of outstanding nominees, this year's award also goes to an individual who also best represents the spirit of the award: Teresa Mangum.

As both a scholar and a teacher, Teresa is paving the way for the future of the academy and the future of the study of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literature by women. She has single-handedly spearheaded the University of Iowa's initiative for civic engagement in the classroom and in research. While many universities find these projects led by the social sciences or service-oriented disciplines, she demonstrates and invites work in the humanities, particularly with regards to her own research interests in nineteenth-century fiction and periodicals by women. In addition to designing her own innovatively interactive courses—including projects that send students studying animals in literature to a local animal shelter, and ones that ask students studying gender in Victorian fiction to participate in theatrical performances by nineteenth-century female playwrights—Teresa has also organized a campus-wide week-long interdisciplinary conference for graduate students to design their own projects that is in its fourth year.

Though a comprehensive list of her scholarship is too much to list here, her publications also demonstrate her professional commitment to promoting British women writers from the nineteenth century. Her book *Married, Middle-brow, and Militant: Sarah Grand and the New Woman Novel* (University of Michigan Press) in 1998 was the first biography of this important woman writer. Her recent work includes co-editing a special issue of *Philological Quarterly*, a chapter in the 2008 *Other Mothers* collection titled “Elderly Mothers and Middle-Aged Daughters in Charles Dickens’ *Dombey and Son*,” and a 2007 article in *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies* titled “New Strategies for New (Academic) Women.”

Teresa has also contributed to the British Women Writers Association as a long-time attendee, presenter, and panelist. Her paper, titled “She Loved To Go A Wandering: The New Woman and Empire,” was part of the plenary discussion on “The New Woman’s Work” with Professors Ann Ardis and Sally Mitchell at the Kentucky conference. Most recently, she served as the faculty advisor for the University of Iowa conference last year. In the words of her nominator, “She has encouraged many graduate students to attend the BWWC—and she has inspired me and many others to be BWWC lifers!”

For all of this, and more, we present the second Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Association Award for Contributions to the Study of British Women Writers to Teresa Mangum.

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. We encourage you to submit abstracts related to our conference theme, “Curiosities,” in all its rich interpretations. Over the course of the conference weekend, we hope to investigate how the concept of curiosity influenced not only eighteenth- and nineteenth-century women’s personal and professional pursuits, but how it continues to drive our own scholarship today.

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 an excellent lineup of daily panel sessions, our special events will begin. Thursday night includes a plenary panel that will address some timely curiosities regarding the relationship between form and gender. Speakers Caroline Levine (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Sandra Macpherson (Ohio State University), and Robyn Warhol (Ohio State University) will consider questions of “feminist formalism,” followed by opportunities for interactive discussion between our conference participants and the panelists.

Friday morning will begin with another special panel presentation: a roundtable featuring Noah Comet (Ohio State University-Mansfield), Elizabeth MacDaniel (Clarion University), Cassandra Parente (Ohio State University-Marion), and Kate Singer (Mt Holyoke College) will offer a comprehensive array of insights into navigating the academic job market. This is just one of the professionalization-related events and opportunities we have built into

the conference weekend. 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. Therefore, we particularly encourage those of you interested in this publishing opportunity to submit paper proposals that examine some aspect of women's non-fiction prose writing.

Other highlights of the conference will include presentations by our distinguished keynote speakers, Helen Deutsch (University of California, Los Angeles) and Sharon Marcus (Columbia), and a Saturday afternoon luncheon and awards ceremony. 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, within the West Reading Room (which boasts views of our university's finest architectural and natural attractions), conference attendees will enjoy musical entertainment, desserts, and an exhibit—our own “Cabinets of Curiosities”—courtesy of the university's extensive Special Collection Holdings.

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.

Abstracts are due November 1, 2010—see the attached call for papers on page 5. Please visit our conference website for more details <<http://bwwc2011.osu.edu>>,

including a link to our own conference blog, <<http://bwwc2011.wordpress.com>>, where you can begin a dialogue with past and future BWWC participants about everything from organizing panel proposals to finding a potential roommate during your conference stay.

We look forward to receiving your proposals, and hope to see you in Columbus in 2011!

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

Report from the 2010 BWWC: Texas A&M University

To all of our guests and participants who attended the Eighteenth Annual BWWC at Texas A&M University in College Station, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your excellent company and engaging presentations.

The papers at this year's conference were extraordinarily thought-provoking and insightful. They ranged in topic from birthing rabbits and courtly fashion, to medical geography and cottage gardens. We were delighted that we had participants from all over the United States and the world.

We would like to thank all of our invited speakers, Kate Flint, Felicity Nussbaum, Erika Rappaport, Mary Fissell, Jillian Heydt-Stevenson, Betty Joseph, Maura Ives, Lisa L. Moore, Sonia Hofkosh, Elsie Mitchie, and Eileen Cleere for their presence at the conference, their ongoing engagement with other conference participants, and their compelling presentations.

We are also deeply indebted to our faculty advisors for their unflagging support and good cheer over the two years of planning that went into making this conference such a success: Susan Egenolf, Margaret J.M. Ezell, Mary Ann O'Farrell, and James M.

Rosenheim. We could not have done it without you!

Thanks, too, to our generous sponsors without whose support this conference would not have happened at all: the Department of English, the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, the Office of Graduate Studies, the College of Liberal Arts, the Sara and John Lindsey Chair of Liberal Arts, the New Modern British Studies Working Group, the Early Modern Studies Working Group, Loupot's Bookstores, and the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Finally, we would like to thank the British Women Writers Association for creating this wonderful opportunity for graduate students to participate in and engage with the scholarly community.

We hope you all enjoyed your trip to College Station and our southern hospitality. We look forward to meeting you at a future BWWC!

—Elizabeth Talafuse, Meghan Parker,
Courtney Beggs, Jessica Durgan,
Amishal Modi, Gina Opdycke Terry,
Lacie Osbourne, Debbie Pfuntner,
& Anne-Marie Womack.
(Texas A&M University)

Special Issue of *Philological Quarterly*

A special issue of *Philological Quarterly* (volume 88, number 3, Summer 2009) entitled “Unexpected Encounters: Rewriting Women in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries” and edited by Teresa Mangum, Laura Capp, and Anna Stenson features expanded versions of five papers presented at the 2009 BWWC at the University of Iowa. The theme, “Unexpected Encounters,” aims at examining the adversity women writers faced in Britain and their responses to these difficulties. The five essays are: “George Eliot’s *Romola*: A Historical Novel ‘Rather Different in

Character” by Kelly E. Battles, “The Bonnet’s Brim: The Politics of Vision in Frances Trollope’s *Domestic Manners of the Americans*” by Sara R. Danger, “Discoursing of Xantippe: Amy Levy, Classical Scholarship, and Print Culture” by Linda K. Hughes, “Hester Thrale Piozzi’s Foul Copy of Literary History” by Celia Barnes Rasmussen, and “Original Letters of the Celebrated Mrs. Mary Robinson” by Sharon Setzer. Our congratulations to all involved in this wonderful collection.

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.



Curiosities

The 19th Annual British Women Writers Conference

Call for Papers

The theme for this year's conference is "Curiosities." We encourage submissions that consider how the concept of curiosity—in its dual meaning of intellectual pursuit and particular material objects—influenced the lives and work of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century women writers, and continues to drive our scholarship today. We welcome interdisciplinary approaches to this topic, and are especially interested in both the ways in which women of this period expressed curiosity about their world through science, politics, philosophy, travel, religion, and art, and the ways in which these same questing, curious women became the subjects and objects of inquiry themselves. We encourage proposals for panels and individual papers that consider, but are not limited to, the following issues:

Curious Explorations

- Travel writings/art; ethnographies
- Colonialism and Empire
- Immigration and emigration
- Adventure stories
- Self-exploration: memoir, autobiography, biography
- Imaginative Exploration: fantasy, dreams

Curious Bodies

- Maternity; Sexuality; Race and ethnicity
- Women and disability
- "Freak" studies
- Bodies on display: actresses, dancers, "public women"

Morbid Curiosity

- The Gothic
- Supernatural investigations; spiritualism; afterlife
- Scandal; roman à clef
- Bluebeard Tales: the "dangers" of female curiosity

Shameful Curiosities & Curious Feelings

- Suspense and Sensation
- Affect; Desire; Disgust
- Forbidden Texts/ Banned Books
- Pornography

Curiosity vs. Privacy

- Voyeurism and eavesdropping
- Gossip
- "Private" Genres: letters, diary, closet drama
- Epistolary novels
- The private sphere
- Private legacies: wills, estates, inheritance

Cabinets of Curiosities

- Collections and collectors
- Women and/as commodities
- Domestic objects
- Consumerism; shopping; possessions
- Exhibitions and museums

Curious Inquiries

- Science and medicine; The Case Study
- Education/the pursuit of knowledge
- Philosophical and religious investigations
- "The Woman Question"
- Journalism
- Crime and investigation: women's crime fiction; mystery writing; the female detective
- Experimentation (artistic, scientific, personal)

Individual proposals should be two pages: a cover sheet including name, presentation title, university affiliation, address, e-mail address, phone number, and brief biographical paragraph; and a 500-word abstract.

Panel proposals should include a coversheet—including panel title, presenters' names, presentation titles, university affiliations, addresses, e-mail addresses, phone numbers, brief biographical paragraphs, and the name of a moderator—followed by separate abstracts (500-word) that describe the significance of the panel topic and each presentation.

Please do not include any identifying information on the abstracts. Proposals must be submitted electronically as an attachment in .doc or .rtf format by Nov. 1, 2010 to the conference e-mail address at: bwwc2011@gmail.com.