



RSAA DIGEST

(Romantic Studies Association of Australasia)

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RSAA NEWS

WEBSITE DOWN

Due to technical difficulties, the RSAA website is currently down. It should be up and running again very soon. In the meantime, if you haven't already, now is a good time to update your details. A form was circulated to the mailing list a few months ago (if you didn't receive it, please contact me). Please send completed forms to me at eliasgreig@gmail.com. This is particularly important for early-career members who may have moved institutions, changed emails, specialisations, etc., or, worst of all, may not be listed at all.

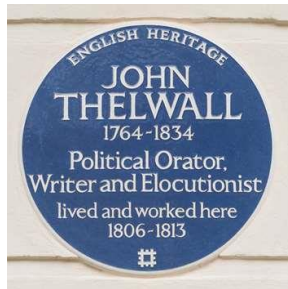


JOHN THELWALL'S BLUE PLAQUE

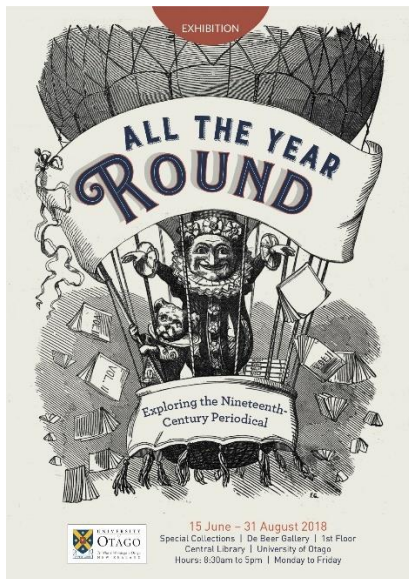
Thelwall scholar and friend of the RSAA, Professor Judith Thompson, along with English Heritage and the John Thelwall Society, recently celebrated the unveiling of a Blue Plaque commemorating Thelwall's life



at the site of his first Institution for Elocution and Oratory, 40 Bedford Place, London. Hearty congratulations to Judith and the John Thelwall Society on this happy event – a wonderful achievement and major contribution to the richness and visibility of the period.



ALL THE YEAR ROUND



Dr Tom McLean (Otago) and Dr Grace Moore (Melbourne) have co-curated the exhibition “All the Year Round: Exploring the Nineteenth-Century Periodical” in the University of Otago Special Collections. Though the exhibition focuses on the Victorian era, it also includes a copy of *The*

Loiterer (with perhaps the first publication by a teenage Jane Austen), famous (and infamous) reviews of Keats and Wordsworth, and periodical publications from Anna Barbauld, James Hogg, and Jane Porter. The exhibition runs from 15 June to 31 August 2018, and an online version will follow. A short interview with the curators and a gallery of images can be found here:

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/standing-room-only/audio/2018649674/victorian-popular-press-dr-tom-mclean-and-dr-grace-moore>



SOUTHEM PROJECT

The SouthHem project continues to go from strength to strength, gearing up to host what looks to be a fascinating conference in July, details for which can be found on their website: <http://www.ucd.ie/southhem/>

SouthHem invites all members of the RSAA (and everyone else, too) to visit the website for further details of exciting new research, and also to engage with SouthHem’s notably lively blog, which can be read here: <http://southhem.org/>



CONFERENCE REPORTS

NONE RECEIVED

If you’re attending one of the many conferences on the calendar this year, we’d love to hear from you with a conference report.





CALLS FOR PAPERS

SCOTLAND AND THE SOUTH SEAS: WRITING THE WIDE PACIFIC

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF SCOTTISH LITERATURES (IASSL)
CONFERENCE,
CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU,
28-30 JUNE 2019

The English Department at Chaminade University of Honolulu is honoured to host the International Association for the Study of Scottish Literatures Conference, 28-30 June 2019. The conference, titled "Scotland and the South Seas: Writing the Wide Pacific", takes its inspiration from Robert Louis Stevenson's travels and writing in and about the Pacific. From Aotearoa to Alaska, Scotland to Samoa, and all points in between, this conference will focus on how Scottish and Pacific literary works were inspired and influenced by cultural exchanges between Scotland and Polynesia.

Michelle Keown articulates some of the links, both real and imagined, between Indigenous writers in the Pacific and Scotland, which date back to the mid-nineteenth century. The conference committee therefore welcomes proposals for papers that explore such areas of cultural exchange, or significant figures in Polynesia, who inspired, or were inspired by Scottish associations. We similarly invite papers exploring Scottish writing in or about the Pacific.

The conference will begin on Friday morning 28 June and finish on Sunday 30 June. We encourage participants to arrive earlier or leave later than the conference to explore Hawaii. Most of your afternoons will be clear to enjoy Waikiki and Honolulu. Our plenary speakers include Dr. Roslyn Jolly, Associate Professor and Honorary Research Associate, University of New South Wales; and Dr. Penny Fielding, Grierson Professor of English Literature and Head of the Department of English Literature at Edinburgh University.

Please send abstracts of 300 words or less,
to both Dr. Richard Hill at
richard.hill@chaminade.edu,
and Dr. Allison Paynter at
Allison.paynter@chaminade.edu by 31st
August 2018.



LITERATURE AT SEA: STORMS, SHIPWRECKS, AND SURVIVAL

MIAMI, FLORIDA, USA,
17-24 DECEMBER 2018

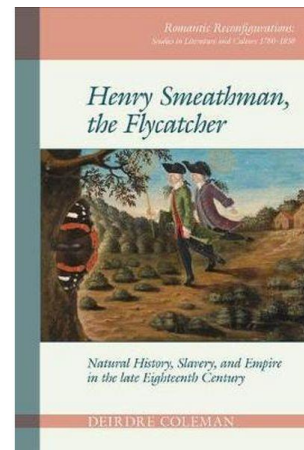
Abstracts are invited for a conference sponsored by the Troy University English Department on storms, shipwrecks, and survival, broadly defined. Proposed papers may focus on the literature of any country and any literary period, but please keep in mind that the conference language will be English. Please visit the conference web site at: <http://spectrum.troy.edu/conference> to submit a 250-word abstract by 18 July 2018. You will need to create a free EasyChair account to submit your abstract (linked at the aforementioned URL). Questions about the conference may be addressed to bprobertson@troy.edu.

This conference is scheduled to take place aboard the MSC *Armonia*, which will be sailing from Miami, Florida, USA, 17-24 December 2018, with port calls at Montego Bay (Jamaica), George Town (Grand Cayman), Cozumel (Mexico), and Havana (Cuba). When possible, presentation times will be arranged so as not to conflict with port visits. Because of the logistics involved in securing the conference venue and lower prices, we will make decisions on submissions on a rolling basis starting immediately. Conference Organizing Committee: Ben P. Robertson, Katona D. Weddle, Shannon Thompson, Ekaterina V. Kobeleva



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Deirdre Coleman,
*Henry Smeathman, the Flycatcher:
Natural History, Slavery and Empire in the Late
Eighteenth Century*
Liverpool University Press, 2018



- First full biography of the natural history collector, Henry Smeathman.
- New perspectives on European life on the West African coast in the 1770s.

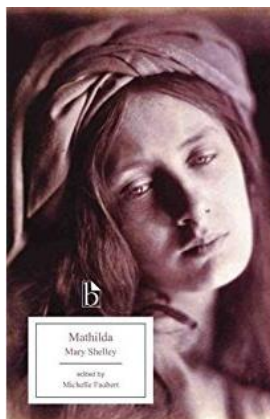


This book enriches our understanding of Romanticism and colonialism by telling the story of Henry Smeathman (1742-86), natural historian and sentimental traveller whose extraordinary life in West Africa and the West Indies provides us with vivid, eye-witness accounts of Atlantic slavery, the Middle Passage, and the difficulties of collecting in the tropics.

‘This is a well-researched and engaging interpretive biography [...] Smeathman is an intriguing figure whose life story deserves to be told, especially as it is contextualized by Coleman, whose marvellous eye for detail matches that of her subject.’ – Alan Bewell, Professor of English, University of Toronto.



Michelle Faubert, ed.
Mary Shelley, *Matilda*
Broadview, 2017



Mary Shelley's *Mathilda*, the story of one woman's existential struggle after learning of her father's desire for her, has been identified as Shelley's most important work after *Frankenstein*. The two texts share many

characteristics, besides authorship and contemporaneity: both concern parental abandonment; both contribute to the Gothic form through themes of incest, insanity, suicidality, monstrosity, and isolation; and both are epistolary. However, *Mathilda* was not published until 1959, 140 years after Shelley wrote it—in part because Shelley's father, William Godwin, suppressed it. This new edition encourages a critical reconsideration of a novella that has been critically stereotyped as biographical and explores its importance to the Romantic debate about suicide.

Historical appendices trace the connections between *Mathilda* and other works by Shelley and by her mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, while also providing biographical documents, contemporary works on the theme of incest, and documents on suicide in the Romantic era.

‘The editor writes with a clear sense of hope that the text may find new readers thanks to this publication. I share her optimism [...] Overall a superb edition that I hope will indeed breathe new life into the oft-forgotten *Mathilda*’ — Anna Mercer, *Romantic Circles*



Shane Greentree

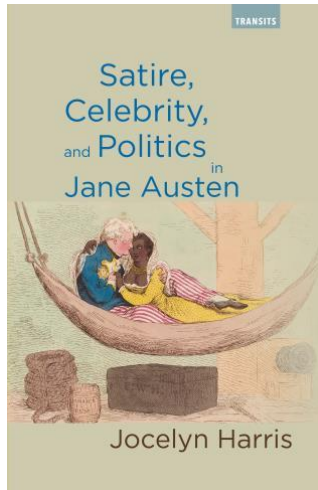
‘Rioting in Intellectual Luxury: The Innovations and Influence of Mary Hays's ‘Catherine Macaulay Graham’, *Women's Writing*, Vol. 25 no. 2 (2018), 235-252.

- Blog Post for Australian Women's History Network: ‘Defending the Character and Conduct of Mary Wollstonecraft, 1797-1803’
<http://www.auswhn.org.au/blog/defending-mary-wollstonecraft/>





Jocelyn Harris



The paperback edition of *Satire Celebrity, and Politics in Jane Austen* is now available. 30% discount from Rowman & Littlefield until Dec. 2018, promo code UP30AUTH18.

For reviews, see:

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781611488395/Satire-Celebrity-and-Politics-in-Jane-Austen>



Tom McLean

‘A Privileged Past: British Migrants in Post-War Australia’, *The Migrationist*, 11 January 2018.

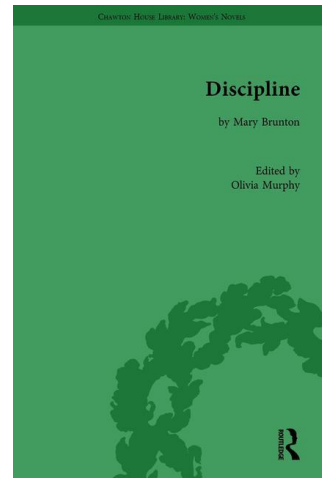
<https://themigrationist.net/2018/01/11/a-privileged-past-british-migrants-in-post-war-australia/>



Olivia Murphy, ed.

Mary Brunton, *Discipline*

Chawton House Library: Women's Novels Series, Taylor and Francis 2018



FROM DR MURPHY: ‘The second novel by Scottish writer Mary Brunton (1778-1818) *Discipline* (1814) is a racy follow-up to *Self-Control*. With bratty heiresses, stern-but-sexy abolitionists, ne’er-do-well aristos and proud, Jacobitical Highlanders, *Discipline* is the racy Evangelical novel you’ve been waiting for – at least if you’re Jane Austen, who once struggled to get her hands on a copy. This new edition can now be yours, or your institution’s, in hardback or e-book formats.’



Sue Thomas

‘Early West Indian Evangelical Life Narrative’ in *Literary Histories of the Early Anglophone Caribbean: Islands in the Stream*, ed. Nicole Aljoe, Brycchan Carey and Tom Krise (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), 37-59.

- ‘Catastrophic History, Cyclonic Wreckage and Repair in William Gilbert’s *The Hurricane* and Diana McCaulay’s *Huracan*’, in *Tracking the Literature of Tropical Weather*:



Typhoons, Cyclones and Hurricanes, ed. Anne Collett, Russell McDougall, and Sue Thomas (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), 227-250.

- 'Reading the Imperial Imaginary of 'A Leaf from an Unopened Volume'', in *Charlotte Brontë from the Beginnings: New Essays from Juvenilia to Major Works*, ed. Judith Pike and Lucy Morrison (Abingdon: Routledge, 2017), 72-84.

- 'New Light on Louis Asa-Asa and the Publication of His Slave Narrative', in *Notes and Queries*, vol. 64, no. 4 (2017), 604-607.

