



The Literary London Society

LLS Newsletter – Autumn 2013

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1. [General News](#)

The Literary London Society is pleased to announce the publication of the Autumn 2013 issue of the *Literary London Journal*, the articles and reviews in which reflect a diverse interest in the field of literary London studies in terms of both period and genre. Contributors include Peter Howell (St. Mary's University College, UK), John Williams (Independent, UK) and Bettina Schötz (Dresden University of Technology, Germany), among others, while topics range from the figure of the female revenant in Peter Ackroyd's fiction, the tensions between gay men's domesticity and a more public sub-culture in novels from the 1950s and 1960s, and new writing about the experience of Polish migration to London following the expansion of the EU in 2004. See [News about the Journal](#) for further details or visit [the Journal's webpage](#).

The Society is also delighted to announce the theme of next year's conference (23-25 July 2014): 'Ages of London'. Topics that might be addressed include, London life writing; historical fiction; time travel and futurological visions; archaeological, historiographical and mythical accounts of London; and technological, economic and demographic change. See below for the Call For Papers.

2. [Conference](#)

Proposals are invited for papers, comprised panels and roundtable sessions, which consider any period or genre of literature about, set in, inspired by, or alluding to central and suburban London and its environs, from the city's roots in pre-Roman times to its imagined futures. While the main focus of the conference, due to take place at Senate House on 23-25 July 2014, will be on literary texts, we actively encourage interdisciplinary contributions relating film, architecture, geography, theories of urban space, etc., to literary representations of London. Papers from postgraduate students are particularly welcome. Also, while papers on all areas of literary London are accepted, the conference theme in 2014 is 'Ages of London'. Topics that might be addressed are:

- London life writing: diaries, auto/biographies, memoirs
- Institutionalised memory: museums, memorials, heritage – and their discontents
- Life stages: youth, adulthood and old age in the capital
- Intergenerational relations: education, inheritance, conflict
- Historical fiction
- Archaeological, historiographical and mythical accounts of London and its locales



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- Time travel and futurological visions
- Growth and decline; dereliction and regeneration
- Technological, economic and demographic change
- Rethinking literary, historical and architectural periodization

Please submit all proposals for 20-minute papers, comprised panels and roundtable sessions through [the Literary London Society website](#).

Deadline for submissions: 1 March 2014

For further information please contact Dr Martin Dines at m.dines@kingston.ac.uk

3. [News about the Journal](#)

Beginning with Peter Howell's essay on Pimlyco; or Runne Red Cap, 'Tis a mad world at Hogsdon (1609), the articles in the latest issue of the *Literary London Journal* reflect a wide-ranging interest in the field of literary London studies in terms of both period and genre. In it, John Williams uncovers characteristics that are familiar to readers of more recent London fiction, from Dickens to Sam Selvon, in Walter Scott's novel *The Fortunes of Nigel* (1822); David Ashford, similarly bridging different periods, explores the relation between Nicholas Hawksmoor's churches and contemporary psychogeographical literature; David Charnick examines the figure of the female revenant in Peter Ackroyd's fiction, concluding that the dead are 'an active force maintaining the human continuum in the face of linear time'; while Martin Dines uncovers the tensions between gay men's domesticity and a more public sub-culture in novels from the 1950s and 1960s.

Bettina Schötz explores the meaning of community in several of Hanif Kureishi's short stories set in London and elsewhere. Nora Plesske and Joanna Rostek provide a fascinating look into new writing about the experience of Polish migration to London following the expansion of the EU in 2004 and place it within the context of earlier migration literature by the Windrush generation and by earlier London-based Polish émigré writers, including Joseph Conrad.

In regards to reviews, Adam Hansen discusses Robert O. Bucholz and Joseph P. Ward's *London: A Social and Cultural History, 1550-1750*. Nicolas Tredell reviews Andrew Whitehead and Jerry White's *London Fictions* (a collection of essays on well-known and lesser-known narratives from the late 19th century to the present). And Adele Lee examines Anne Witchard's *Lao She in London*, about the often-overlooked Chinese author of *Mr Ma and Son: Two Chinese in London* (1929), whose novel is set in London's early Chinatown, and whose relation to Modernism deserves further exploration.

We move to the post-war period as Kenneth M. Flanagan reviews Simon Rycroft's *Swinging City: A Cultural Geography of London 1950-1974* which looks at the global impact of this period of London history. Michael Perfect reviews Laura Colombino's *Spatial Politics in Contemporary London Literature: Writing Architecture and the Body* while Clare Chambers assesses Graham MacPhee's new book on Postwar British Literature and Postcolonial Studies. In two separate reviews, Simon Goulding considers Tony Murray's *London Irish*



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Fictions: Narrative, Diaspora and Identity and Kit Caless and Gary Budden (eds.), *Acquired for Development By... A Hackney Anthology*.

We end with what we hope will be a yearly feature in the Autumn issue as Lisa Robertson offers a round-up of this year's Literary London Conference, organised by Martin Dines.

If you are interested in submitting a paper for the next issue or proposing a special issue, please contact the editor, Susan Fischer: journal@literarylondon.org.

Or, if you would like to write a review for the journal, please contact Susie Thomas: reviews@literarylondon.org. Susan also welcomes reviews on films, exhibitions or plays about London.

4. [The Reading Group](#)

The Literary London Reading Group, which meets at Senate House Library in London on an almost monthly basis to “explore those processes that contribute to creation and destruction of an imagined city and its fictional territories,” has put together a fantastic schedule for this year. Participants so far have heard Richard Dennis' (UCL) talk on “Tales from the Underground: Short Stories from London's First Underground Railways, c.1870 – 1914” and Emily Gee (English Heritage), Terri Mullholland (Oxford) and Emma Short (Newcastle) present on “Gimme Shelter: Panel on Women's Housing in London, 1880 – 1945”

Full details this year's exciting and innovative sessions, which promise to have a more poetic bent, can be found posted on [our website](#).

Next session: **Thursday, 16 January 6.00-7.30pm** – Senate House, Room 234

Alex Fitch (Panel Borders): “It's Dark in London: Alan Moore's From Hell and Psychogeography in Graphic Novels”

Feel free to [contact](#) the organisers, Peter Jones and Lisa Robertson, with any questions or if you'd like to sign up for the mailing list.

5. [Events/Conferences of interest to LLS people](#)

- Literary Footprints: A Celebration of London's Literary Heritage

Over 40 walks on the theme of London's Literary Heritage. Visit <http://footprintsoflondon.com/> for details.

- London Metropolitan Archives (LMA): home to an extraordinary range of documents, images, maps, films and books about London.



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We run a wide variety of talks, guided tours, film screenings, exhibitions and other events, and you can find out more about these as well as the latest updates from the archives on our [News and Events Page](#).


LMA is free to use and open to everyone. Whether you're tracing your family history or researching the history of your neighbourhood, if you're interested in London or Londoners, LMA is the place to visit.

6. [Publications of Interest to LLS members](#)

- *Shades of Light: A Triumph of City* by M A Coghill

'**Shades of Light**' is an exploration of a city poetic. Read a section, read a poem or read the whole: Love, Discipline, Death, Fame, Time and Eternity. Writing poetry about crowded urban life requires focus on people, location, time and city space. How is the right – or rite – of survival interpreted? Who wins – the city or the city dwellers? In this poem the poet projects a city world - something strange, something familiar. The city with all its energy and activity – lines crossing, junctions - are combined with people, buildings, energy and above all, the travelling through.

Publisher: City of Poetry

<p style="text-align: center;">Shades of Light A Triumph of City by M.A.Coghill</p> 	<p>'Your gps is out there and lonely...' 'the luminous carapace defies the -serried stygian giants...' 'old bricks worn air worms round old corners...'</p> <p>'this is an intense reading task' 'what is it – dust in our eyes or the sands -of time?'</p> <p>'the dawn, the light, the shadows, it's all here'</p> <p>'I read this on the way to work, it has haunted me all day'</p>
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