



The Literary London Society

LLS Newsletter – Spring 2014

Contents

1. [General News](#)
 2. [Conference](#)
 3. [Journal](#)
 4. [Reading Group](#)
 5. [Publications of interest to LLS members](#)
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1. [General News](#)

Some of you may have seen reports in the Times Higher Education Supplement and the Guardian suggesting that the Institute of English Studies (IES) might be closed. Since the IES is the location of our [Conference](#) and [Reading Group](#), we were alarmed by these reports, which had seemed to come out of the blue. On investigation, it turned out that the School of Advanced Study (the school within the University of London that is home to the IES) is facing a funding shortfall, and management had recommended closing the IES and merging some of its book history activities into the Institute of Historical Research. When this news was made public in mid-May there was unsurprisingly an outcry from the academic community. A petition was set up which quickly received more than 3500 signatures. The Literary London Society wrote to the SAS expressing our strong opposition to closure.

Within a few days, Professor Roger Kain, the Dean of the School of Advanced Study, issued a letter indicating that the IES would be spared for the moment. His letter confirmed that “we need time to explore a wider range of options regarding the structure of SAS” and that “in the meantime, we will continue to run the Institute of English Studies and Institute of Musical Research in their current form.” This looks like a victory for the moment, but Professor Kain also warned that funding would remain an issue into the future. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) would be approached in the hope of reversing the cuts, and Professor Kain expressed the hope that the academic humanities community “will be fully supportive of our efforts to reverse the HEFCE cuts.”

For the moment, then, the IES is safe. We will continue to work with them to run our Conference and Reading Group. And we will continue into the future to support them in whatever way we can as they build a secure future. If there is any news, we will of course share it with our members.

Brycchan Carey
President, The Literary London Society

2. [Conference](#)

[Registration](#) is now open for the LLS conference due to take place at Senate House on **23-25 July**. This year the conference, which focuses on the theme ‘**Ages of London**’, will be larger than before. In 2012 we ran 19 panel sessions altogether; in 2013 it was 28; this year it will be 38. In response, we will run an additional two parallel sessions on Wednesday afternoon at 2.15-3.45pm and 4.15-5.45pm. The opening plenary starts at 6.15pm.



The Literary London Society

We are delighted to confirm that plenary speakers are Lynne Segal, David Skilton (Cardiff University), Mark Ford (University College London) and Bernandine Evaristo.

Topics that will be addressed include:

- 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 and neohistorical fiction
- Archaeological, historiographical and mythical accounts of London and its locales
- Time travel and futurological visions
- Growth and decline; dereliction and regeneration
- Technological, economic and demographic change
- Rethinking literary, historical and architectural periodization

The draft programme is available online [here](#).

Also, don't forget the LLS will be on the lookout for the next recipient of **The President's Prize** for the best paper by a postgraduate. Last year's winner was Eleanor Dobson (University of Birmingham) for her paper "The Egyptianised metropolis: Bram Stoker's *The Jewel of the Seven Stars* and London's West End." Congratulations Eleanor!

For further information about the conference please contact the organiser, Dr Martin Dines, at m.dines@kingston.ac.uk

3. [News about the Journal](#)

[The Literary London Journal](#) is the free, online, open-access journal of the Literary London Society. Founded in 2003, it is the first and only journal to provide a common forum for scholars and students engaged specifically in the study of London and literature. From the start, *The Literary London Journal* has aimed to publish the best new research relating to London and literature. All articles are peer-reviewed.

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. Susie also welcomes reviews on films, exhibitions or plays about London.

4. [The Reading Group](#)

The Literary London Reading Group is a Postgraduate initiative that meets at Senate House on an almost monthly basis to "explore those processes that contribute to creation and destruction of an imagined city and its fictional territories."



The Literary London Society

The next session: **Tuesday 24 June**, 6.00-7.30pm - Senate House, Room 234

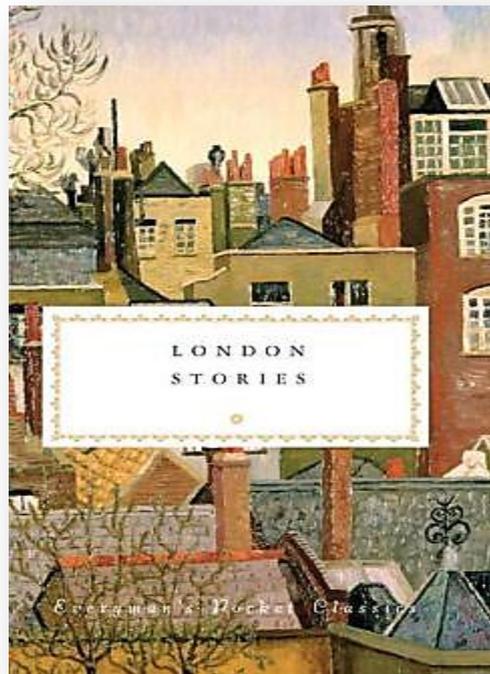
Speakers: Simon Avery (Westminster) and Katherine M. Graham (Westminster), Queer London Research Forum

Topic: Jonathan Kemp's *London Triptych* (2010)

Full details this year's sessions, which promise to have a more poetic bent, can be found posted on [our website](#). Or feel free to [contact](#) the organisers, Peter Jones, Lisa Robertson and Mary Coghill, with any questions.

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

Jerry White, ed., *London Stories*, Everyman's Pocket Classics, 2014. ISBN 978-0375712463



Cover blurb: "Acclaimed historian Jerry White has collected some twenty-six stories to illustrate the extraordinary diversity of both London life and writing over the past four centuries, from Shakespeare's day to the present. These are stories of fact and fiction and occasionally something in between, some from well-known voices and others practically unknown. Here are dramatic views of such iconic events as the plague, the Great Fire of London, and the Blitz, but also William Thackeray's account of going to see a man hanged, Thomas De Quincey's friendship with a teenaged prostitute, and Doris Lessing's defense of the Underground. This literary London encompasses the famous Baker Street residence of Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and the bombed-out moonscape of Elizabeth Bowen's wartime streets, Charles Dickens's treacherous River Thames and Frederick Treves's tragic



The Literary London Society

Elephant Man. Graham Greene, Jean Rhys, Muriel Spark, and Hanif Kureishi are among the many great writers who give us their varied Londons here, revealing a city of boundless wealth and ragged squalor, of moving tragedy and riotous joy.”