



## **Editorial**

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*The Literary London Journal*, Volume 15 Number 1 (Spring 2018)

Special Issue: 'Fantastic London: Dream, Speculation and Nightmare'

This issue of the *Literary London Journal* includes two essays that were first delivered as conference papers at the Literary London Society's Annual Conference of 2017. The conference theme was 'Fantastic London: Dream, Speculation and Nightmare' and it saw a number of papers that offered imaginative and thought-provoking responses to the conference call. The two articles contained in this issue, in particular, offer distinctive approaches to the theme.

### **Articles**

Simon Goulding's 'Senate House: Utopia, Dystopia in Charles Holden's Architecture and its Place as London Literary and Visual Landmark' provides a fascinating account of the history behind the planning and development of Senate House. Goulding examines how the building has carved its space on the London landscape, both physically and in the cultural imagination. He identifies the original and far more ambitious plans for the building and its subsequent use as housing the Ministry of Information during the Second World War and then goes on to discuss literary manifestations of the building in work by several novelists including Nicholas Brake, Graham Greene, George Orwell and Evelyn Waugh.

In 'English History as Jack the Ripper Tells It: Psychogeography in Alan Moore's *From Hell*', Ann Tso identifies Moore's Ripper as a kind of nationalistic psychogeographer, keen to impose an essential Englishness on the London streets. In Moore's book, the Ripper is identified as the royal surgeon William Gull, and Tso shows how Gull's imposition of a unified national consciousness is interrogated through Moore's ironic narrative.

## Reviews

David Charnick reviews Petr Chalupský's book *A Horror and a Beauty: The World of Peter Ackroyd's London Novels* (Prague: Karolinum Press, 2016); Simon Avery and Katherine M. Graham, eds., *Sex, Time and Place: Queer Histories of London, c.1850 to the Present* (London: Bloomsbury, 2016) is reviewed by Martin Dines; and Simon Gould reviews of Kieron Pim's *Jumpin' Jack Flash. David Litvinoff and the Rock'n'Roll Underworld* (London: Jonathan Cape, 2015).

We have two reviews from Nicolas Tredell: one of Mark Ford's *Thomas Hardy: Half a Londoner* (Cambridge, MA and London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2016); and one of Rowan Moore's *Slow Burn City: London in the Twenty-First Century* (London: Picador, 2016).

In addition, Martin Kindermann reviews Ben Judah's *This is London. Life and Death in the World City* (London: Picador, 2016); and to round off this issue, we have Heather Scott's review of our 'London and Globe' conference of 2016.

## Conference Reviews

Two reviews of the 2017 'Fantastic London: Dreams Speculation and Nightmare' Conference can be found on the Literary London Society webpage:

Francis Gene-Rowe, 'Dialectics at a Standstill: A Response to the 2017 LLS Conference'

Mary Yihuei Wang, 'A Review of the 2017 Literary London Annual Conference: To Look into the Past, to Think of the Present, and Survey the Future'  
<http://literarylondon.org/annual-conference/conference-archive-2/2017yihueiwangreview/>

## To Cite this Article:

Bentley, Nick, 'Editorial'. *The Literary London Journal*, Volume 15, Number 1 (Spring 2018): 1–2. Online at <http://www.literarylondon.org/london-journal/spring2018/bentley.pdf>.