

# The Literary London Journal

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## Editorial

Susan Alice Fischer

(Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York, USA)

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The articles and reviews in this year's double issue address a wide range of London-related topics, authors and texts from diverse periods.

### Articles

We begin with a ghost. Sean Gaston argues that the discourses surrounding the 'appearance' of the 'Cock Lane ghost' reveal London's various political and religious conflicts during 1762–1763.

Andrew Allsworth compares the London of George Orwell's *Down and Out in Paris and London* (1933) with Jean Rhys's *Voyage in the Dark* (1934) while Sam Wiseman looks at the novels that form Colin MacInnes's 'London Trilogy' within the context of their representation of ethnic minority, gay and teenage subcultures during the postwar period.

We return to the spectral with Niall Martin's examination of Rachel Lichtenstein and Iain Sinclair's *Rodinsky's Room* (1999) and the different ways the city is 'haunted'.

### Reviews

This section of the journal begins with Andrew Whitehead's review of Matthew Beaumont's *Nightwalking: A Nocturnal History of London, Chaucer to Dickens* (2015), followed by Wendy Kolmar's review of David E. White's 2013 study *From Little London to Little Bengali: Religion, Print, and Modernity in Early British India, 1793–1835*. Next, Adam Hansen considers Nicolas Tredell's *Charles Dickens: David Copperfield/Great Expectations* (2013). Michael Slater reviews a book on Dickensian London: Mary L. Shannon's *Dickens, Reynolds and Mayhew on Wellington Street: The Print Culture of a Victorian Street* (2015).

We move into the twentieth century with Michael Perfect's review of Sarah Davison's *Modernist Literatures: A Reader's Guide to Essential Criticism* (2015). Nicolas Tredell follows with a reading of Wendy Pollard's *Pamela Hansford Johnson: Her Life, Works and Times* (2014) about a significant, yet understudied author who wrote 27 novels, most of which are London-based.

James Heartfield writes about two books set mostly in mid-century Central London. Phil Cohen's *Reading Room Only: Memoir of a Radical Bibliophile* (2013) focuses largely on the author's experiences in Bloomsbury in the 1960s, while Sophie Parkin's 2012 study titled *The Colony Room Club: A History of Bohemian Soho, 1948–2006* explores a cast of characters in Soho's drinking clubs.

Martin Kindermann reviews Tom Chivers and Martin Kratz's *Mount London: Ascents in the Vertical City* (2014), a collection of writings about climbing London's elevations—hills, towers, staircases and other heights—and thus gaining different perspectives on the city. Bettina Jansen discusses Nora Pleßke's *The Intelligible Metropolis: Urban Mentality in Contemporary London Novels* (2014), which addresses a broad range of London novels published between 1997 and 2007.

Mike Freeman writes about James Wilson's novella *Three Bridges* (2014), in which an unnamed narrator's dialogues with three friends, each associated with one of three bridges— Blackfriars, London and Southwark—signifying his attempt to connect with them. Michael Perfect reviews Tamim Sadikali's *Dear Infidel* (2014) about a Pakistani British family in West London in the wake of 9/11. In his review of the London-based Vesna Goldsworthy's *Gorky* (2015), Nicolas Tredell draws out the parallels with F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Suneel Mehmi writes about Paula Hawkins's psychological thriller, *The Girl on the Train* (2015).

Finally, John Keefe reviews a new DVD box set of Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* from the BBC/BFI, and Eliza Cubitt and Peter Jones provide an account of the Margaret Harkness conference that took place in London in November 2014.

We should note that with this issue, we have made a slight change to the formatting. Authors' biographical notes now appear after their articles or reviews, rather than as a separate section. We hope readers will find this more convenient.

## **With Thanks**

Thanks are due to the authors of articles and reviews and also to the anonymous peer-reviewers whose input is vital to the journal. As always our gratitude goes to Susie Thomas, the Books Reviews Editor, for commissioning so many interesting reviews, to Brycchan Carey, the Web Editor, for putting the issue online, and to the Literary London Society and its membership for on-going support.

## **To Cite this Article**

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