Creative Communities Workshop 3: Regional and National Networks
Chawton House Library, 24-25 January 2014

Programme

Friday 24 January
10.30 – 11.00 Registration/Coffee
11.00 – 11.15 Welcome
11.15 – 11.45 Introductions
11.45 – 13.15 Seminar: Community and Material Cultures of Print and Place (Emma Clery)
13.15 – 14.00 Lunch
15.15 – 15.45 Coffee
15.45 – 17.30 Panel One
    ‘Returning to Norwich: John Sell Cotman and the Management of a Regional Art World’ (Sarah Moulden)
    ‘The Nitrous Oxide Experiments in Bristol’ (Matthew Ward)
    ‘Transpennine Enlightenment: The Lit Phils as Regional Network’ (Jennifer Wilkes)
17.45 Coach to Alton
18.15 – 19.30 Pub/Check in
19.30 Dinner

Saturday 25 January
9.30 – 10.00 Coffee
10.00 – 11.15 Panel Two
    ‘Jane Austen and the “far-famed Isle of Wight”’ (Jane Darcy)
    ‘Exploring Creative Communities Using Archive Sources: Some Hampshire Case Studies’ (Sarah Lewin)
11.15 – 11.30 Coffee
11.30 – 13.00 Seminar: Edinburgh Literary Culture (Simon White)
13.00 – 13.45 Lunch
13.45 – 15.00 Paper: ‘Some Nineteenth-Century Labouring-Class Poetry Networks’ (John Goodridge)
15.00 – 15.15 Coffee
15.15 – 15.45 Summing Up and Future Projects
15.45 – 16.15 Meeting of the Network Advisory Group
Community and Material Cultures of Print and Place (Emma Clery)

Questions

1. The material cultures of print, writing and reading, are foregrounded in three of the articles, but this has not traditionally been the case in studies of creativity in the period. Is the focus on materiality integral to a community-orientated perspective on cultural history?

2. How should gender figure in accounts of creative communities? To what extent are the material factors discussed by the authors gender-specific?

3. Is Williams’s model of co-existing but separate communities within a single place (using a materialist class analysis as the basis) still relevant to research on creative communities?

4. How can we relate localised cultures of print to the idea of a national ‘imagined’ community (see Benedict Anderson)?

Group 1: Will Bowers, Anna Fleming, Cassandra Ulph, Simon White, David Worrall

Group 2: Jane Darcy, Felicity James, Matthew Ward, John Whale

Group 3: Stephen Bygrave, Jeremy Davies, Gregory Dart, Sarah Lewin, Jennifer Wilkes

Group 4: Jeff Cowton, Laura Davies, John Goodridge, David Higgins, Sarah Moulden

If you can read all four texts in advance of the seminar, that’s great; but if not, please read the text for your group.
Edinburgh Literary Culture (Simon White)

Group 1: Will Bowers, Jane Darcy, John Goodridge, Felicity James, Cassandra Ulph

1. What is the dynamic of Edinburgh literary culture of the 1810s and 20s, and how does it differ from London literary culture of the time?
2. Do Duncan’s allegorical readings of Hogg work?
3. What was Hogg’s relationship with Blackwood’s?

Group 2: Stephen Bygrave, Anna Fleming, David Higgins, Sarah Lewin

1. How did Hogg see himself as an author?
2. How does Hogg construct a local / regional identity in ‘Memoir of the Author’s Life’ and in his writing in general?
3. What does Wilson’s review tell us about the relationship between Blackwood’s and Hogg?

Group 3: Emma Clery, Jeff Cowton, Laura Davies, Matthew Ward, John Whale

1. What is the effect of literary tourism in general, and in Scotland in particular?
2. What does Hogg believe to be the ‘Scott effect’ on Scottish culture, and is he right to worry about it?
3. How do issues of class impinge on the question of literary tourism?

Group 4: Gregory Dart, Jeremy Davies, Sarah Moulden, Jennifer Wilkes, David Worrall

1. What were the Edinburgh periodical wars about?
2. How is Blackwood’s distinctive and distinctively Edinburgh / Scottish?
3. What role did the ‘Noctes Ambrosianae’ play in shaping Blackwood’s identity?

If you can read all the texts in advance of the seminar, that’s great; but if not, please read the text(s) for your group.
Delegates

Will Bowers (UCL)
Professor Stephen Bygrave (University of Southampton)
Professor Emma Clery (University of Southampton)
Jeff Cowton (Wordsworth Trust)
Dr Jane Darcy (UCL)
Dr Gregory Dart (UCL)
Dr Jeremy Davies (University of Leeds)
Dr Laura Davies (University of Southampton)
Anna Fleming (University of Leeds and the Wordsworth Trust)
Professor John Goodridge (Nottingham Trent University)
Dr David Higgins (University of Leeds)
Dr Felicity James (University of Leicester)
Sarah Lewin (Hampshire Archives)
Sarah Moulden (UEA and the Norwich Castle Museum)
Dr Cassandra Ulph (University of Leeds)
Matthew Ward (University of St Andrews)
Professor John Whale (University of Leeds)
Dr Simon White (Oxford Brookes University)
Jennifer Wilkes (University of York)
Professor David Worrall (Nottingham Trent University)