

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO



THE VICTORIAN NOVEL

Edited by Deirdre David

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
THE VICTORIAN
NOVEL

EDITED BY
DEIRDRE DAVID



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Cambridge University Press 2001

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2001
Reprinted 2002

Typeset in Baskerville 10/13pt. System 3b2 [CE]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress cataloging in publication data

The Cambridge companion to the Victorian novel / edited by Deirdre David.

p. cm. – (Cambridge companions to literature)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0 521 64150 0 (hardback) – ISBN 0 521 64619 7 (paperback)

1. English fiction – 19th century – History and criticism.

I. David, Deirdre, 1934– II. Series

PR871.C17 2001

823'.809–dc21 00-028928

ISBN 0 521 64150 0 hardback

ISBN 0 521 64619 7 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2003

In *The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel*, a series of specially commissioned essays examine the work of Charles Dickens, the Brontës, George Eliot, and other canonical writers, as well as that of such writers as Olive Schreiner, Wilkie Collins, and H. Rider Haggard, whose work has recently attracted new attention from scholars and students. The collection combines the literary study of the novel as a form with analysis of the material aspects of its readership and production, and a series of thematic and contextual perspectives that examine Victorian fiction in the light of social and cultural concerns relevant both to the period itself and to the direction of current literary and cultural studies. Contributors engage with topics such as industrial culture, religion and science and the broader issues of the politics of gender, sexuality and race. The *Companion* includes a chronology and a comprehensive guide to further reading.

Deirdre David is Professor of English at Temple University in Philadelphia. She is the author of *Fictions of Resolution in Three Victorian Novels* (1982), *Intellectual Women and Victorian Patriarchy* (1987) and *Rule Britannia: Women, Empire, and Victorian Writing* (1996).

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
THE VICTORIAN
NOVEL

CAMBRIDGE COMPANIONS TO LITERATURE

- The Cambridge Companion to Greek Tragedy*
edited by P. E. Easterling
- The Cambridge Companion to Virgil*
edited by Charles Martindale
- The Cambridge Companion to Old English Literature*
edited by Malcolm Godden and Michael Lapidge
- The Cambridge Companion to Dante*
edited by Rachel Jacoff
- The Cambridge Chaucer Companion*
edited by Piero Boitani and Jill Mann
- The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Theatre*
edited by Richard Beadle
- The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Humanism*
edited by Jill Kraye
- The Cambridge Companion to English Renaissance Drama*
edited by A. R. Braunmuller and Michael Hattaway
- The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare Studies*
edited by Stanley Wells
- The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare on Film*
edited by Russell Jackson
- The Cambridge Companion to Ben Jonson*
edited by Richard Harp and Stanley Stewart
- The Cambridge Companion to English Poetry, Donne to Marvell*
edited by Thomas N. Corns
- The Cambridge Companion to Milton*
edited by Dennis Danielson
- The Cambridge Companion to English Restoration Theatre*
edited by Deborah C. Payne Fisk
- The Cambridge Companion to English Literature, 1500–1600*
edited by Arthur F. Kinney
- The Cambridge Companion to English Literature, 1650–1740*
edited by Steven N. Zwicker
- The Cambridge Companion to British Romanticism*
edited by Stuart Curran
- The Cambridge Companion to the Eighteenth-Century Novel*
edited by John Richetti
- The Cambridge Companion to Samuel Johnson*
edited by Greg Clingham
- The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen*
edited by Edward Copeland and Juliet McMaster
- The Cambridge Companion to Oscar Wilde*
edited by Peter Raby
- The Cambridge Companion to Thomas Hardy*
edited by Dale Kramer
- The Cambridge Companion to George Bernard Shaw*
edited by Christopher Innes
- The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad*
edited by J. H. Stape
- The Cambridge Companion to James Joyce*
edited by Derek Attridge
- The Cambridge Companion to T. S. Eliot*
edited by A. David Moody
- The Cambridge Companion to Ezra Pound*
edited by Ira B. Nadel
- The Cambridge Companion to Modernism*
edited by Michael Levenson
- The Cambridge Companion to Virginia Woolf*
edited by Sue Roe and Susan Sellers
- The Cambridge Companion to Henry David Thoreau*
edited by Joel Myerson
- The Cambridge Companion to Walt Whitman*
edited by Ezra Greenspan
- The Cambridge Companion to Mark Twain*
edited by Forrest G. Robinson
- The Cambridge Companion to American Realism and Naturalism*
edited by Donald Pizer
- The Cambridge Companion to Edith Wharton*
edited by Millicent Bell
- The Cambridge Companion to Ernest Hemingway*
edited by Scott Donaldson
- The Cambridge Companion to William Faulkner*
edited by Philip M. Weinstein
- The Cambridge Companion to Eugene O'Neill*
edited by Michael Manheim
- The Cambridge Companion to Tennessee Williams*
edited by Matthew C. Roudané
- The Cambridge Companion to Arthur Miller*
edited by Christopher Bigsby
- The Cambridge Companion to American Women Playwrights*
edited by Brenda Murphy
- The Cambridge Companion to Modern British Women Playwrights*
edited by Elaine Aston and Janelle Reinelt

*The Cambridge Companion to the French
Novel: from 1800 to the Present*
edited by Timothy Unwin

*The Cambridge Companion to the Classic
Russian Novel*
edited by Malcolm V. Jones and
Robin Feuer Miller

The Cambridge Companion to Chekhov
edited by Vera Gottlieb and Paul Allain

The Cambridge Companion to Ibsen
edited by James McFarlane

The Cambridge Companion to Brecht
edited by Peter Thomason and
Glendyr Sacks

The Cambridge Companion to Beckett
edited by John Pilling

*The Cambridge Companion to Victorian
Poetry*
edited by Joseph Bristow

*The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian
Novel*
edited by Deirdre David

CAMBRIDGE COMPANIONS TO CULTURE

*The Cambridge Companion to Modern German
Culture*
edited by Eva Kolinsky and Wilfried van der
Will

*The Cambridge Companion to Modern Spanish
Culture*
edited by David T. Gies

*The Cambridge Companion to Modern Russian
Culture*
edited by Nicholas Rzhevsky

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

NANCY ARMSTRONG is Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Comparative Literature, English, Modern Culture and Media, and Women's Studies at Brown University. Her publications include *Desire and Domestic Fiction* (1987), *The Imaginary Puritan*, with Leonard Tennenhouse (1991), and *Fiction in the Age of Photography* (1999).

PATRICK BRANTLINGER is former editor of *Victorian Studies*. Among his books are *Rule of Darkness: British Literature and imperialism, 1830-1914* (1988) and *The Reading Lesson: the Threat of Mass Literacy in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction* (1999).

JOSEPH W. CHILDERS teaches English literature at the University of California, Riverside. He is the author of *Novel Possibilities: Fiction and the Formation of Early Victorian Culture* (1995) and is co-editor of *The Columbia Dictionary of Modern Literary and Cultural Criticism* (1995).

SIMON ELIOT is Professor of the History of Publishing and Printing at the University of Reading and Associate Director of the History of the Book Research Centre at London University. He is co-editor of volume vi (1830-1914) of the *Cambridge History of the Book in Britain*, editor of the journal *Publishing History*, and associate editor of the *New Dictionary of National Biography*, responsible for the entries relating to the book trade from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.

KATE FLINT is Reader in Victorian and Modern English Literature at the University of Oxford. She is the author of *The Woman Reader, 1837-1914* (1993) and *The Victorians and the Visual Imagination* (2000), as well as numerous articles on nineteenth- and twentieth-century fiction, painting, and cultural history. Her current research is on the place of the Americas in the Victorian cultural imagination.

JOHN KUCICH is Professor of English at the University of Michigan. He is the author of *Excess and Restraint in the Novels of Charles Dickens* (1981), *Repression in Victorian Fiction* (1987), and *The Power of Lies: Transgression*

in Victorian Fiction (1994). He is co-editor of *Victorian Afterlife: Postmodern Culture Rewrites the Nineteenth Century* (2000) and has written numerous essays on Victorian literature and culture.

JEFF NUNOKAWA teaches English literature at Princeton University. He is the author of *The Afterlife of Property: Domestic Securities and Victorian Fiction* (1994) and is completing a book about the social coordinates of the fantasy of manageable desire in the work of Oscar Wilde.

LYN PYKETT is Professor of English at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. She is the author of *The Improper Feminine: The Women's Sensation Novel and the New Woman Writing* (1992) and *The Sensation Novel from "The Woman in White" to "The Moonstone"* (1994). She has edited Braddon's *The Doctor's Wife* for the Oxford University Press Classics Series (1998) and a collection of critical essays on Wilkie Collins (1998). She is currently completing a book on Charles Dickens.

LINDA M. SHIRES, Professor of English at Syracuse University, is the author of books on British war poetry and narrative theory, as well as many articles on Victorian subjects, and editor of Thomas Hardy's *The Trumpet Major* (1995) for Penguin and *Re-Writing the Victorians: Theory, History and the Politics of Gender* (1992). She is currently writing two books, one on Victorian careers and one on Judaism.

RONALD R. THOMAS is Professor of English at Trinity College, Hartford, where he also serves as Vice President and Chief of Staff. He is the author of *Detective Fiction and the Rise of Forensic Science* (1999) and *Dreams of Authority: Freud and the Fictions of the Unconscious* (1990). He has published numerous articles on the novel, photography, and film and is co-editor of the forthcoming *Nineteenth-Century Geographies: Anglo-American Tactics of Space*.

ROBERT WEISBUCH is President of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and Professor of English at the University of Michigan. His published books include *Emily Dickinson's Poetry* (1975) and *Atlantic Double-Cross: American Writers and British Influence in the Age of Emerson* (1989). He co-edited *Dickinson and Audience* (1996) and has published essays on Emerson and James and on issues in higher education.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1801 Union of England and Ireland
- 1805 Battle of Trafalgar; Lord Nelson dies
- 1807 Atlantic slave trade outlawed
- 1812 War with America
Charles Dickens born
- 1815 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo by British and Prussian troops;
Congress of Vienna redraws map of Europe
Corn Law passed, establishing protective tariff on imported grain
- 1818 Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* published
Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* published
- 1819 Peterloo Riot
Stamp Act taxes periodicals
Princess (later Queen) Victoria and Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot) born
Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* published
- 1820 Death of King George III; George IV ascends to the throne
- 1830 Death of George IV; William IV ascends to the throne
- 1832 Passage of the First Reform Bill, doubling the electorate
Charles Lyell's *Elements of Geology* published

- 1833 Slavery abolished throughout the British Empire
- 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act forces able-bodied poor into workhouses in order to receive assistance
Houses of Parliament severely damaged by fire
- 1836 Factory Act limits children under thirteen to no more than forty-eight hours per week in textile mills
Charles Dickens's *The Pickwick Papers* begins serialization (volume publication 1837)
- 1837 Death of William IV; Victoria ascends to the throne, formally beginning the era that bears her name
Benjamin Disraeli elected to Parliament
Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist* begins serialization in *Bentley's Miscellany* (volume publication 1838)
- 1838 Great Western Railway opens
- 1839 Custody of Infants Act gives woman separated from husband right to see and seek custody of children under seven; first legal recognition of women as independent entities under the law
First Chartist petition presented to Parliament
Thomas Carlyle's *Chartism* published
- 1840 Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha
Penny Post established
Thomas Hardy born
- 1841 London Library established
Punch begins publication
- 1842 Mudie's Circulating Library opens
Pentonville model prison opens
London police establish detective department
Chadwick's *Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population* published
- 1843 First telegraph line in service
Factory Act limits women and children under eighteen to a twelve-hour work day

- Charles Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit* begins serialization (volume publication 1844)
- 1845 Irish potato crop fails; beginning of the Great Famine
Benjamin Disraeli's *Sibyl; or the Two Nations* published
Friedrich Engels's *The Condition of the Working Class in England* published
- 1846 Charles Dickens's *Dombey and Son* begins serialization (volume publication 1848)
- 1847 Ten-hour Act limits women and children under eighteen to ten-hour work day in textile mills (maximum of fifty-eight hours per week)
Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* published
Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* published
William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* begins serial publication (volume publication 1848)
- 1848 Revolutionary upheaval in France, Vienna, Berlin, Parma, Rome
Cholera epidemic
Queen's College, Oxford, founded to train and examine governesses, opening higher education to women
Karl Marx's *Communist Manifesto* first printed in London
Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* published
Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton* published
- 1849 Corn Laws abolished
Henry Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor* begins publication in *The Morning Chronicle* (two volumes published 1852; four volumes 1862)
Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield* begins serial publication (volume publication 1850)
- 1850 Public Libraries Act
- 1851 The Crystal Palace Exhibition
William Thompson (later Lord Kelvin) publishes first and second laws of thermodynamics
Cambridge University adds degree in natural sciences

- 1852 New Houses of Parliament open
Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* published and becomes a bestseller in England and America
Charles Dickens's *Bleak House* serial publication begins (volume publication 1853)
- 1853 Cholera epidemic
Charlotte Brontë's *Villette* published
- 1854 Crimean War begins; Earl of Cardigan leads the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava that inspires the Tennyson poem of the same year
Construction of London Underground (the first subway) begins
Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South* begins serialization (volume publication 1855)
Charles Dickens's *Hard Times* begins serialization in *Household Words* (volume publication also 1854)
- 1855 Stamp Tax abolished, making newspapers more widely affordable
Charles Dickens's *Little Dorrit* begins serial publication (volume publication 1857)
- 1857 Indian Mutiny
Matrimonial Causes Act makes divorce available without a special act of Parliament
- 1858 Lionel de Rothschild seated in Parliament despite failure to take Christian oath; opens door for Jewish civil rights in England
Property qualification for election to the House of Commons abolished
- 1859 Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* published
Wilkie Collins's *The Woman in White* begins serialization in *All the Year Round* (volume publication 1860)
George Eliot's *Adam Bede* published
- 1860 George Eliot's *Mill on the Floss* published
John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty* published
Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* begins serialization in *All the Year Round* (volume publication in 1861)

- 1861 Prince Albert dies of typhoid
Louis Pasteur publishes germ theory of disease
Duty on paper abolished, making published material widely affordable
Ellen Price (Mrs. Henry) Wood's *East Lynne* published
- 1862 Mary Elizabeth Braddon's *Lady Audley's Secret* published
Death of William Makepeace Thackeray
- 1864 First Contagious Diseases Act passed, mandating registration, compulsory medical examination, and detainment of prostitutes in garrison towns
Charles Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend* begins serial publication (volume publication 1865)
- 1865 Reform League founded to promote extension of the vote for working-class men
- 1866 Women's suffrage petition presented to Parliament by John Stuart Mill
Last major cholera epidemic
Atlantic telegraph cable completed
George Eliot's *Felix Holt* published
- 1867 Passage of the Second Reform Bill, further reducing property qualification for the vote; Mill's amendment to substitute "person" for "man" defeated
- 1868 Disraeli, then Gladstone, serve as Prime Minister, beginning a long-standing rivalry: Benjamin Disraeli (Conservative) becomes Prime Minister in February, but loses the office to William Gladstone (Liberal) in December. Gladstone holds post through 1874, but is then succeeded by Disraeli, who holds it until 1880. Gladstone regains power until 1885, when Liberal Party splits over Irish Home Rule; he serves a final term from 1892 to 1894
Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone* serialized in *All the Year Round* and then published in volume form
- 1869 Suez Canal opens
Debtors Act abolishes imprisonment for debt

Matthew Arnold's *Culture and Anarchy* published
John Stuart Mill's *On the Subjection of Women* published

- 1870 Education Act makes elementary education available to all children in England and Wales
First Married Women's Property Act: women gain right to their own wages earned after marriage
Home Government Association founded in Ireland
Death of Charles Dickens
- 1871 Trade unions legalized
Charles Darwin's *Descent of Man* published
George Eliot's *Middlemarch* begins serial publication (volume publication 1872)
Anthony Trollope's *The Eustace Diamonds* begins serial publication in *Fortnightly Review* (volume publication 1872)
- 1872 Voting by secret ballot instituted
- 1874 Anthony Trollope's *The Way We Live Now* begins serial publication (volume publication 1875)
- 1876 George Eliot's *Daniel Deronda* published
- 1877 Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India
Transvaal (Boer) Republic annexed to British Empire
Annie Besant and Charles Bradlaugh tried for publishing inexpensive book on birth control. They are acquitted of obscenity charge, but Besant loses custody of her seven-year-old daughter
- 1878 Zulu War; Second Afghan War
Matrimonial Causes Act allows judicial separation for cruelty and assault
University of London opens all degrees and prizes to women
Electric lights installed on some streets in London
- 1879 Charles Stewart Parnell founds Irish National Land League
General public granted unrestricted access to British Museum
- 1880 Elementary education made compulsory from age seven to ten
Employer's Liability Act makes employers liable for injuries to

- workers obeying the orders of superintendents
- First South African War
- Death of George Eliot

- 1881 Irish Land Acts provide some land reforms in Ireland
Flogging abolished in the army and navy
Death of Benjamin Disraeli

- 1882 Married Women's Property Act: women have the right to all their
property earned or acquired before or after marriage
Death of Charles Darwin

- 1884 Third Reform Bill extends franchise to all male householders
Steam turbine for generation of electricity invented

- 1885 Criminal Law Amendment Act raises the age of consent for girls
to sixteen and makes sexual acts between males illegal
Wilhelm Gottlieb Daimler invents the internal combustion engine
Khartoum falls after insurrection in Sudan, General Gordon
killed
H. Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines* published

- 1886 Irish Home Rule bill defeated in the House of Commons
Contagious Diseases Acts repealed
Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* published

- 1887 Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee

- 1888 Matchworkers' strike
"Jack the Ripper" murders five women in London

- 1889 London Dock Strike, the first major success by male unskilled
workers
Cecil Rhodes given Royal Charter for British South Africa
Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act prohibits employment of
children under ten

- 1891 United States Congress passes the Platt-Simonds Bill (also known
as the Chace Act) ending years of literary "piracy" by affording
British authors copyright protection in America

Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* published
Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* published

- 1892 First automatic telephone switchboard
- 1893 Irish Home Rule Bill passed by Commons but defeated in the House of Lords
Miners' strike successfully resists 25 percent paycut
George Gissing's *The Odd Women* published
- 1895 Oscar Wilde's trial results in his conviction and imprisonment
Max Nordau's *Degeneration* published
Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* published
- 1896 Cinema begins at Empire Theatre, London
Both Oxford and Cambridge reject proposals to grant degrees to women
- 1897 Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee
First volume of Havelock Ellis's *Studies in the Psychology of Sex* published
Bram Stoker's *Dracula* published
- 1898 Death of William Gladstone
- 1899 Boer War
School attendance mandatory to age twelve
Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* begins serialization in *Blackwood's* (volume publication 1902)
- 1900 British Labour Party founded
Sigmund Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams* published
- 1901 Victoria dies; Edward VII ascends to the throne
Rudyard Kipling's *Kim* published