ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON - CONFERENCES

Participants and Papers – Compiled by Richard Dury


1) Matthew Wickman (Brigham Young University), ‘Stevenson and the Ruins of Experience’ [focussing on Stevenson as an important figure in the light of Benjamin’s concern about the ‘decay of experience’].

2) Nancy Gish (University of South Maine), ‘Jekyll, Hyde, and Modernism’ [starting from contemporary theories of hysteria and dissociation; questioned narrow moral interpretations of the text]

3) Tony Hasler (Saint Louis University), ‘Frontier Creatures: The Imaginary Characters of Weir of Hermiston’ [the ‘stone’ of history in Weir is both central and erased, leaving ‘weaving’ as a pervasive metaphor]

4) Caroline McCracken-Flesher (University of Wyoming), ‘Cross-Channel Stevenson: David Balfour and the Problem of Scottish Return’ [though the protagonist of Kidnapped has difficulty and reluctance about ‘coming home’ to Scotland, this can produce a productive anxiety about places and origins]

Another session at the same convention, ‘A Celebration of the Life and Work of David Daiches (1912-2005)’ included:

5) Caroline McCracken-Flesher, ‘“One City” of Fragments: Robert Louis Stevenson’s Second (Person) City through David Daiches’ Personal Eye’.
RLS2006: ‘Transatlantic Stevenson’ Saranac Lake, NY, USA; 18-20 July 2006; Hotel Saranac

Session 1
1) Nicolas Rankin (independent scholar), ‘Stevenson’s Fables’

2) R. L. Abrahamson (University of Maryland University College), “The Fables Dramatised”

Session 2a
3) Julia Reid (University of Liverpool), ‘“This Bewitched and Tempest Broken Tenement”: Stevenson, Degeneration, and Hereditary Determinism”
4) Mark Dunphy (Lindsey Wilson College), ‘Robert Louis Stevenson: Diagnosis of Leaves of Grass as a 19th-century Health Spa”

Session 2b 5) Steven Koskela (University of Minnesota), ‘A Modern Cosmopolis and The Wrecker’

6) Rory Watson (University of Stirling), “The Unrest and Movement of our Century: A Postmodern Wrecker?”

7) Richard Walker (University of Central Lancashire), “Bibles, Bombs, Books and the Art of Terror”

Session 3a 8) Mary Hotaling (Historic Saranac Lake, Executive Director), ‘Trudeau, Tuberculosis, and Saranac Lake’

9) Bob Stevenson (Ohio State University School of Dentistry), ‘Stevenson’s Dentist - Unsung Hero’

Session 3b 10) Tim Hayes (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), “Apologetic Mythology: Imperial Stories and the Preservation of Identity in The Ebb Tide”

11) Joris Verdonk (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium), ‘Stevenson and “The Beach at Falesa”’
Session 4 12) Linda Dryden (Napier University, Edinburgh), ‘Stevenson and Travel Writing in Reverse’

13) Cinzia Giglioni (Università Statale, Milano), ‘Robert Louis Stevenson gets Lost in the South Seas’

Keynote address

14) Jenni Calder (independent scholar), ‘I Should Like to Be an American: Scots in the USA’

Session 5 15) Richard Dury (Università di Bergamo), ‘Stevenson in Italy and in Italian’

Session 6: Plenary session 16) Roger Swearingen and Nicholas Rankin, ‘A Conversation about The Master of Ballantrae’

Session 7a 17) Kristen Guest (University of Northern British Columbia), ‘Jekyll and Hyde and Economic Man’

18) Andrea White (California State University at Dominguez Hills), ‘Allegories of the Self and of Empire: Jekyll and Hyde’

Session 7b 19) Hilary Beattie (Colombia University), ‘Mutual Influence of Stevenson and Henry James’

20) Wendy Katz (Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, NS), ‘Stevenson and the Children of Israel: The Discourse of Race’

21) Barry Menikoff (University of Hawaii), ‘From the Baroque to the Plain Style: or, I Lost Henry James and Found Robert Louis Stevenson’

Session 8a 22) David K. Rathbun (independent scholar), ‘“An Artificial Series of Impressions”: “Incident and Observation in The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’

23) Anne Stiles (UCLA), ‘Robert Louis Stevenson, Jekyll and Hyde and the Double Brain’

Session 8b 25) Gordon Hirsch (University of Minnesota), ‘The Fiction of Lloyd Osbourne: Was this “American Gentleman” RLS’s Literary Heir?’

26) Richard Ambrosini (Università Roma III), ‘The Wrong Box: A Metanarrative Reading’

Session 9a 27) Dennis Denisoff (Ryerson University), ‘The Progress of Anxious Adults in Stevenson’s Poetry’

28) William B. Jones, jr. (independent scholar), ‘“Hello, Mackellar”: Classics Illustrated Meets The Master of Ballantrae’

Session 9b 29) Caroline McCracken-Flesher (University of Wyoming), ‘Cross-Channel Stevenson: David Balfour and the Problem of Scottish Return’

30) Marilyn Simon (University of Manitoba), ’Division, Destruction, and the Limits of Rationality: Exploring Scottish and American Paradoxes through The Master of Ballantrae’

31) Jason Pierce (Mars Hill College), ‘Jekyll and Hyde: London or Edinburgh?’

**RLS2004: ‘Stevenson and Conrad, Writers of Land and Sea’** Edinburgh, Scotland; 7-9 July 2004; Pollock Halls (see also conference notes by Richard Dury)

1) Richard Ambrosini (University Roma III), ‘History, Criticism, Theory, and the Strange Case of R. L. Stevenson and Joseph Conrad’
2) Elayne Fitzpatrick, ‘Conrad, RLS and the Peter Pan Connection’

3) Mary Leighton (University of Victoria, Canada), ‘Robert Louis Stevenson and Andrew Lang at School: The Hidden History of English Studies’

4) Wendy Katz (Saint Mary’s University, Canada), ‘The Idea of the “Gentleman” in Treasure Island and Lord Jim’

5) Deaglan O’Donghaile (Trinity College Dublin), ‘Conrad, the Stevensons, and the Imagination of Urban Chaos’

6) Marialuisa Bignami (Università di Milano), ‘Satan or Accomplice? The Double in Stevenson and Conrad’

7) Oliver Buckton (Florida Atlantic University), ‘“Like Buridan’s Donkey”: The Trials of (Re)writing Samoan History in A Footnote to History and David Balfour

8) David Farrie (University of Leeds), ‘“Such Turbulent Human Material”: Text-Building in Robert Louis Stevenson’s In the South Seas’


10) Robbie Goh (National University of Singapore), ‘The Geopolitics of Criticism: The Sea as Liminal Symbol in Stevenson and Conrad’

11) Jane V. Rago (University of West Virginia), ‘Affairs in
12) Juergen Kramer (University of Dortmund), ‘Unity in Difference—A comparative reading of Stevenson’s ‘Beach of Falesá’ and Conrad’s Heart of Darkness’

13) Gail Houston (University of New Mexico), ‘“(B)ankruptcy at my heels”: Stevenson and the Bankerization of Identity’

14) Stephen Donovan (Blekinge Institute of Technology), ‘Pleasant Spectres: R. L. Stevenson and Spiritualism’

15) Stephen Arata (University of Virginia), ‘Observing The Wrecker’

16) Tania Zulli (Università ‘G. de Annunzio’, Pescara), ‘“The voices talked and whispered”: Stevenson, Conrad and the languages of colonialism’

17) Martin Danahay (University of Texas), ‘Doubles on Land and Sea: From Religion to Therapy’

18) Michela Alliata (Università di Venezia), ‘“The Naked Man from the Sea”: Identity and Separation in “The Secret Sharer”’

19) Gordon Hirsch (University of Minnesota), ‘The Commercial World of The Wrecker’

20) Ralph Parfect (King’s College London), ‘Stevenson’s America: “A Sort of Promised Land”’

21) Susan Barras (Royal Holloway College, London), ‘The
22) Laurence Davies (Dartmouth College, USA), ‘Telling them Apart: Doubles in Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and “The Secret Sharer”’

23) Richard Jackson, ‘The Correspondence of R. L. Stevenson and S. R. Crockett’

24) Daniel Balderston (University of Iowa), ‘A Projected Stevenson Anthology (Buenos Aires, c. 1950)’

25) Vincent Guigueno (Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées), ‘Engineering the words: RLS and the Bell Rock Lighthouse’

26) Hilary Beattie (Columbia University), ‘Dreaming, Doubling, and Gender: The strange case of “Olalla”’

27) R. L. Abrahamson (University of Maryland), “I Never Read Such an Impious Book”: Re-examining Stevenson’s Fables’

28) Bill Gray (University College Chichester), ‘A Fantastic Tale Teller: Stevenson and the Literary Fantastic’

29) Richard Dury (University of Bergamo), ‘The Strange Language of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’

30) Liz Farr (University of Plymouth), ‘Towards an Aestheticist Stevenson’

31) Ann Colley (SUNY College, Buffalo), ‘Conrad, Stevenson and Cannibalism’
32) Monica Bungaro (University of Birmingham), ‘Cross-Cultural Encounters in Stevenson’s In the South Seas, Letters from Samoa and Conrad’s Heart of Darkness

33) Jason Harris (University of Michigan), ‘Robert Louis Stevenson: Folklore and Imperialism’

34) Nathalie Jaëck (University of Bordeaux), ‘Stevenson and Conrad’s “logbooks” and “paperboats”: attempts in textual wreckage’

35) Nancy Bunge (Michigan State University), ‘Explaining Evil: Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and Heart of Darkness’

36) Roslyn Jolly (University of New South Wales), ‘The Ebb-Tide and The Coral Island’

37) Katherine Linehan (Oberlin College, Ohio), ‘The Devil Can Cite Scripture: Intertextual Hauntings in Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’

RLS 2002: ‘Robert Louis Stevenson, Writer of Boundaries’ Gargnano, Lake Garda, Italy; 26-29 August 2002; Palazzo Feltrinelli. (see also conference notes by Richard Dury)

1) Jenni Calder, “Figures in a Landscape: Scott, Stevenson and Routes to the Past”

2) Barry Menikoff (University of Hawaii), “Robert Macgregor of Balquhidder: A Study in Historical (Re)construction”
3) Caroline McCracken-Flesher (University of Wyoming), “Burking the Scottish Body: RLS and the Resurrection Men”

4) Jean-Pierre Naugrette (Université de Paris III, la Sorbonne Nouvelle), “The Master of Ballantrae, Or the Writing of Frost and Stone”

5) Manfred Malzahn (United Arab Emirates University), “Voices of the Scottish Empire”

6) Ilaria Sborgi (Università di Firenze), “Colonial Laboratories: Stevenson’s Unfinished Autopsy of the Other”

7) Oliver Buckton (Florida Atlantic University), “Cruising with R. L. Stevenson: Leisure and Literary Labor in the South Seas”


9) Ralph Parfect (King’s College, London), “Violence in the South Seas: Stevenson, Imperialism and Aggression”

10) Ann C. Colley (University of Buffalo), “Lighting up the Darkness: Stevenson’s Metaphor in the South Seas”


12) Richard J. Walker (University of Central Lancashire), “Pious Works: Aesthetics, Ethics and the Modern Individual in R. L. Stevenson’s Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde”

13) Jane Rago (West Virginia University), “‘No Gentleman but Wishes to Avoid a Scene’: A Men’s Narrative of Perversion and Containment in Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde”
14) Dennis Denisoff (Ryerson University), “Where the Boys Are: Ageist Masculinity in Stevenson’s Stories”


16) Michela Vanon Alliata (Università di Venezia), “‘Markheim’ and the Shadow of the Other”

17) Liz Farr (University of Plymouth), “Stevenson and the (Un)Familiar: The Aesthetics of Biography”

18) Nathalie Jaëck (Université Michel de Montaigne-Bordeaux III), “The Temptation of Myth: Stevenson’s Stories as Textual Matrices »


20) Daniel Balderston (University of Iowa), “Stevenson in Buenos Aires: A Rereading of Bioy Casares’s El sueño de los heroes”


22) Ann Lawson Lucas (University of Hull), “The Pirate Chief in Stevenson, Salgari and Calvino”

23) Olena M. Turnbull (University of Tulsa), “‘I am a kind of farthing dip’: Robert Louis Stevenson and Nineteenth-Century Theories of Evolution”

24) Julia Reid (St. Anne’s College, Oxford), “‘Our civilised nerves still tingle with ... rude terrors and pleasures’: Stevenson,
Romance, and Evolutionary Psychology”

25) Stephen Arata (University of Virginia), “Art and Pleasure, Literature and Reading”

26) Robert L. Abrahamson (University of Maryland University College — European Division), “Living in a Book: RLS as a Model of Engaged Reading”

27) Glenda Norquay (John Moore’s University, Liverpool), “Trading Texts: Negotiations of the Professional and the Popular in the Writings of Stevenson”

28) Francesca Cuojati (Università Statale di Milano), “The Black Arrow/La freccia nera (1968): A Stevensonian Episode in the History of Italian TV Drama”

29) Stephen Donovan (Royal Holloway College, University of London), “Stevenson and Popular Entertainment in the Late Nineteenth Century”

30) Gordon Hirsch (University of Minnesota), “Tontines, Tontine Insurance, and Victorian Commercial Culture: Stevenson and Osbourne’s The Wrong Box”

31) Robbie Goh (National University of Singapore), “Stevenson and the Property of Language: Narrative, Value, Modernity”


Part of the “RLS 2000: Robert Louis Stevenson in Literature and Popular Culture” events, sponsored by The Central Arkansas Library System, Main Library, 101 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 USA, 9-12 November 2000 (see Festivals). The Library had a display

1) Jenni Calder (Royal Museum of Scotland), “‘The Eyeball of the dawn’: Can We Trust Stevenson’s Imagination?’

2) Barry Menikoff (U. Hawaii), ‘Destiny in an Autograph: On the Road with David Balfour’


4) Katherine Linehan (Oberlin College), “Closer than a Wife”: The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll’s Significant Other’

5) Richard Ambrosini (U. Milano Statale), ‘The Art of Writing and the Pleasure of Reading: Robert Louis Stevenson as Theorist and Popular Author’

6) Jason A. Pierce (Mars Hill College), “‘The Damned Thing in Boards with a Ticket on Its Behind”: Stevenson’s First Book, An Inland Voyage’

‘Robert Louis Stevenson et Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Aventures de la Fiction’ 11-17 September 2000, Cerisy-la-Salle (Normandy) (see also conference notes by Richard Dury)

(Stevenson papers)

1) Jean-Pierre Naugrette (U. Paris Sorbonne), ‘Stevenson/Doyle: en regard, au miroir’ [Stevenson/Doyle: facing each other, mirrored]

2) Claude Lepaludier (**), ‘Olalla de Robert Louis Stevenson ou la nature humaine, paradigme incertain’ [Olalla, or: the uncertainty of human nature].
3) Roger Bozzetto (U. Aix-en-Provence), ‘L’impossible portrait du monstre’ [The impossible portrait of the monster: Martin’s Mary Reilly and Naugrette’s Le crime étrange de Mr Hyde]


5) Natalie Jaëck (U. Bordeaux Montaigne), ‘Pathologies de la dissolution: échappatoires chimiques et musicales chez Dr Jekyll et Sherlock Holmes’ [Pathologies of dissolution: chemical and musical escape for Jekyll and Holmes]


7) Hélène Crignon (U. Brest), ‘Florizel et Holmes: un scandale en Bohême’ [Florizel and Holmes: a Scandal in Bohemia]


9) Lauric Guillard (**), ‘Stevenson, Doyle le mythe de la “wilderness”‘ [Stevenson, Doyle and the myth of the wilderness]

10) Christian Chelebourg (U. La Réunion), ‘Fantastique et relique chez Doyle et Stevenson’ [Fantastic and relic in Doyle and Stevenson]

11) Alain Cohen (U. San Diego), ‘Dr Jekyll et Mr Hyde de Robert Mamoulian: figures de la transgression’ [Robert Mamoulian’s Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde: transgressive configurations]

12) Gilles Menegaldo (U. Poitiers), ‘Quelches versions excentriques du mythe de Jekyll/Hyde au cinéma: de Terence Fisher à Stephen Frears’ [Some unusual versions of the
Jekyll/Hyde mythe: from Terence Fisher à Stephen Frears

13) Jacques Goimard (***) , ‘Stevenson et ses doubles à propos du *Maître de Ballantrae*’ [Stevenson and his doubles: *The Master of Ballantrae*]

14) Jean-Pierre Picot (***) , ‘Cartes, plans et schémas: cartographies de l’imaginaire chez Doyle, Stevenson *et alii*’ [Maps, plans and diagrams: cartography of the imaginary in Doyle, Stevenson and others]

15) Jean-Baptiste Para (*L’Europe* literary revue), ‘Stevenson en Italie’ [Stevenson in Italy]

‘Stevenson, Scotland and Samoa: an International Literary Conference’ 10-14 July 2000, University of Stirling, Scotland (See also Conference notes by Richard Dury)

1) Catherine Kerrigan (U. Guelph, rtd.), ‘Heroes and Hysterics: Stevenson’s Constructions of Masculinity’


3) Robert Crawford (U. St. Andrews), ‘ “My bed is like a little boat”: Stevenson’s Journey into Masculinity’

4) Barry Menikoff (U. Hawaii), ‘ “This highland business”: Stevenson as a Historian’

5) Vincent Giroud (Beinecke Library, Yale U.), ‘EJB and RLS: the History of the Beinecke Stevenson Collection’

6) Toshiro Nakajima (Konan U.), ‘Colonialism and Postcolonialism in Stevenson’s Samoa’ [Atsushi Nakajima’s *Hikari-to-Kaze-to-Yume*]
7) Sudesh Mishra (U. Stirling), ‘The Imp of Capital’

8) Dick Ringler (U. Wisconsin-Madison), ‘Zen and the Art of Stevenson’s Fables’

9) Steven Arata (U. Virginia), ‘Close Reading and Contextual reading in Stevenson’

10) Linda Dryden (Napier U.), ‘Jekyll and Hyde: Duality and the fin de siècle city’

11) Richard Walker (U. Central Lancashire), ‘“He, I say - I cannot say, I”: Modernity and the Crisis of Identity in Stevenson’s Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’


13) Richard Ambrosini (U. Milano Statale), ‘“Fantastic Elements” and “Human Tragedy” in The Master of Ballantrae’

14) Rory Watson (U. Stirling), ‘“You cannot fight me with a word”: The Master of Ballantrae and the wilderness beyond dualism’

15) Glenda Norquay (John Moores U., Liverpool), ‘Ghost Writing: Stevenson and Dumas’

16) Liz Farr (U. Plymouth), ‘Late 19th-century tropes of vagrancy and the picturesque in the work of Robert Louis Stevenson’

17) Michael Millgate (U. Toronto), ‘On not writing a biography of Robert Louis Stevenson’

18) Oliver Buckton (Florida Atalantic U.), ‘“Faithful to his map”: Profit and the Art of Travel in Robert Louis Stevenson’

19) Ralph Parfect (King’s College, London), ‘From the Pentland
Rising to the Battle of Matautu: Stevenson and War’

20) Kirsti Wishart (U. St. Andrews), ‘Kidnapped in Samoa: David Balfour and the unsuccessful anthropologist’

21) Julia Reed (St. Anne’s College, Oxford), ‘Superstition and folklore in Stevenson’s Scottish and Pacific Writings’

22) Liam Connell (U. Sussex), ‘Location and Stevenson’s South Seas Writing’

23) Olena Turnbull (U. Tulsa), ‘“All of life that is not merely mechanical is spun of two threads”: Women Characters in Robert Louis Stevenson’s Catriona’

24) Douglas Mack (U. Stirling), ‘Can the subaltern speak?: Stevenson, Hogg and Samoa’

Yale University 1994 Centenary Conference:

1) Catherine Kerrigan (U. Guelph), ‘Stevenson’s Last Novels’

2) R. Maxwell (**), ‘The Use and Uselessness of Money in The Wrecker’

3) Vanessa Smith (**), ‘In the South Seas’

4) S. Shatto (**), ‘Far Voyages and Foreign Places’

5) Ian Duncan (U. Oregon), ‘Stevenson’s Transparency’

6) J. Hollander, ‘On A Child’s Garden of Verses’

7) P. Fielding (**), ‘Stevenson and “primitive” writing’

8) Carol Anderson (U. Glasgow), ‘Stevenson and Calvino’


1) Robert Crawford (U. St. Andrews), “‘My bed is like a little boat’: Stevenson’s Voyage into Masculinity’

2) Carol Anderson (U. Glasgow), ‘Stevenson and Calvino’

3) Aileen Christianson (***) , ‘Virginibus Puerisque: Wise Words for the Young or a Young Man at Play?’

4) Ian Duncan (U. Oregon), ‘Stevenson’s Transparency’

5) Alison Lumsden (***) , ‘Through the Crucibles of other Men’s Minds: R.L. Stevenson’s Familiar Studies of Men and Books’


7) Lesley Graham (***) , ‘In The Footsteps of RLS: Travellers after Stevenson in the Cevennes’

8) Vincent Giroud (Beinecke Library, Yale), ‘The Stevenson Collection at the Beinecke Library’

9) Wendy Katz (St. Mary’s U.) & Lilian Falk (***) , ‘George Hutchison, a Canadian Illustrator of Robert Louis Stevenson’s Treasure Island’