ABSTRACTS

Fan Wang, Rooms of Their Own: Scholars’ Studios in Late Imperial China and Cao Xueqin’s Story of the Stone

The kind of scholar’s studio that has been rendered familiar in existing scholarship is a profoundly discursive, culturally legible space. My article seeks to bring to the fore a different kind of studio, one that is thoroughly entangled in the practical everydayness of its owner’s lived reality. It is an event that unfolds in time, an enactment performed into being through the mundane, quotidian interactions between a scholar and his surroundings. In the second part of my article, I explore how these two competing ways of seeing and thinking about space inform the literary representations of studios in The Story of the Stone.

Bradford K. Mudge, Gazing Games: Portraits and Satire in Rowlandson’s Connoisseurs

This essay reads Thomas Rowlandson’s well-known satiric print, Connoisseurs, first by recognizing two of the four connoisseurs and analyzing the visual narrative of which they are a part, and then by tracing the significance of the two paintings depicted. The goal is to push an understanding of Rowlandson’s own comic take on the “gazing game” past the routine entanglements of biography and allusion into a richer appreciation for the art-historical moment and for exactly the kind of connoisseurship being mocked. To that end, the essay pays particular attention to Rowlandson’s own imitations after old masters and to auction records that provide valuable clues about the artist, his colleagues, his patrons, and the paintings that were most desirable among wealthy collectors of the day.

Chris Roulston, Interpreting the Thin Archive: Anne Lister, Eliza Raine, and Telling School Tales

This essay analyzes the queering of female intimacy in girls’ boarding-school culture during the Regency period by examining the relationship between the now-famous diarist, Anne Lister, and her boarding-school intimate companion, Eliza Raine. Although Lister’s diaries are voluminous, they are preceded by Lister’s short years in boarding school, of which there is scant archival documentation. Yet the boarding-school years are not only when Lister had her first serious relationship with another girl, the biracial Eliza Raine, but they appear in later diary entries and correspondence as a kind of founding narrative for both women. Furthermore, Raine’s unique history provides us with important threads linking institutional structures, empire building, race and sexuality, and offers key insights into girls’ boarding-school culture in the long eighteenth century.

Simon Lewis, “The Scum of Controversy”: Recantation Sermons in the Churches of England and Ireland, 1673–1779

Recent studies of Anglicanism during the long eighteenth century have illuminated the fundamental role played by sermons, both as evangelistic and political tools. Virtually no scholarly attention, however, has been devoted to the preaching and publication of recantation sermons in post-Restoration England and Ireland. By exploring these sermons, this paper highlights the changing ways in which former Catholic and Dissenting clergymen represented their experiences of conversion. Also, by analyzing the reception of these sermons, it elucidates popular perceptions of clerical converts. Finally, by exploring discussions of “popery” in these sermons, it illuminates the paradoxical nature of anti-Catholicism during this period.
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