Literary London: Imagining the City

Drs. Chris Hodgkins and Hope Howell Hodgkins

Wednesdays 10:00-11:30: March 22-April 26, 2023
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Haywood Duke Room

Please find weekly readings and photos at the “Literary London” link to the Atlantic World Research Network, https://awrn.uncg.edu/

Caesar, Gallic Wars (actions at Thames)
Tacitus, Agricola (Queen Boudica’s revolt)
Langland, Piers Plowman (London Gluttony in Passus 5—ll. 296-384)
Chaucer, Canterbury Tales (Departing London in General Prologue—ll. 1-42, 749-860)
Kipling, “Song to Mithras”; Stewart, The Crystal Cave (London Mithraeum)

3/29: 2. Renaissance, Reformation, & Civil War
More, Utopia (Debate about Empire around Archbishop’s table in Lambeth—Book I)
-----, History of Richard III (Jane Shore, Edward IV’s London mistress)
Foxe, Acts and Monuments (Deaths of Anne Askew at Smithfield, Lady Jane Grey in the Tower)
Shakespeare, Richard III (Wooing Lady Anne; the Princes in the Tower); Henry IV Part I (Hal
at the Boar’s Head Tavern in Eastcheap), Hamlet (on playing, and on boy actors)
-----, Devotions upon Emergent Occasions (Meditation 17, City bells “For whom
the bell tolls”)
Milton, Areopagitica (Defending a Free Press in Parliament), Sonnets “To the
Lord General Cromwell,” “On the New Forcers of Conscience Under the Long
Parliament,” The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates
(Anonymous) The Moderate #288 (execution of Charles I at Whitehall Palace)
Defoe, Journal of the Plague Year (The Great Plague begins)
Pepys, Diary (The Great Fire)
4/5: 3. Eighteenth Century & Romantic London
Pope, *The Rape of the Lock* (Cantos 1-2, 5—London’s great mock-epic)
Johnson, “London” (London the new Rome—in corruption)
-----, *Dictionary of the English Language* (Preface; Anthology of definitions)
-----, *A Brief to Free a Slave* (London the seat of empire)
Boswell, *Life of Johnson* (Boswell meets Johnson; Johnson meets John Wilkes)
Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale”; “On Seeing the Elgin Marbles” (Keats’s garden; British Museum)
Wordsworth, “Composed upon Westminster Bridge,” “To Toussaint l’Ouverture” (London bridges and Romanticism)

4/12: 4. Victorian London
Idealized and Fallen Women: Dickens, *Oliver Twist*; C. Rossetti, “In an Artist’s Studio”; Dowson, “Cynara”; Hardy, “The Ruined Maid”; Kipling, “The Widow at Windsor” (Pre-Raphaelite art; Foundling Museum; Nancy's Steps)
Conan Doyle, *Study in Scarlet* (London fog and transport)

4/19: 5. Wartime London
World War II: Bowen, “The Demon Lover”; Eliot, “Little Gidding” from *Four Quartets* (Hauntings of history; the Blitz)
Churchill, To the House of Commons, June 4, 1940 (“we shall fight on the beaches”); June 18, 1940 (“Their finest hour”)

Larkin, “MCMXIV”; Adcock, “Miss Hamilton in London”
Pym, *Excellent Women*; Ali, *Brick Lane*
Agard, “Toussaint L’Ouverture Acknowledges Wordsworth’s Sonnet,” “Chilling Out Beside the Thames”; Herxheimer, “London”