

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/>

3/22: 1. Roman & Medieval London

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 1* (Hal

at the Boar’s Head Tavern in Eastcheap), *Hamlet* (on playing, and on boy actors)

Donne, “Break of Day,” “The Relic” (London “businessmen,” London crowding)

-----, *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)

Blake, “The Chimney Sweeper,” “London,” from *Songs of Innocence and Experience*; “And did those feet”/”Jerusalem,” from Preface to *Milton* (London poverty)

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 I: **Bridges**, “Trafalgar Square”; **Owen**, “Disabled”; **Flint**, “London, My Beautiful”

1920s: **Eliot**, *The Waste Land*; **Woolf**, *Mrs. Dalloway* (Shellshock, Regent's Park)

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”)

4/26: 6. Postwar & Immigrant London

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”