This hybrid conference aims to examine the intersections between nineteenth-century humour, under all its definitions and expressions, and the digital. In line with the ongoing Punch's Pocket Book Archive project, which will ultimately create a fully searchable, open-access archive from a complete collection of Punch's Pocket Book – some thirty-nine volumes representing approximately 5,000 pages—the conference will investigate the migration of jokes, squibs, spoofs and parodies, verbal and visual, from the pages of comic periodicals to 21^{st} century screens, opening new lines of inquiry into the distinctiveness of computerized Victorian humour



HYBRID CONFERENCE

"We are Amused": VICTORIAN HUMOUR IN THE DIGITAL AGE



November 7-8, 2024

MRSH (Maison de la Recherche en Sciences Humaines)

Salles: SH027, SH028 et amphithéâtre

Université de Caen Normandie Campus 1 - Esplanade de la Paix - CAEN

Responsables scientifiques:

Françoise Baillet (ERIBIA), Bethany Qualls (ERIBIA), Clare Horrocks (Liverpool John Moores) et Sonja Lawrenson (Manchester Metropolitan)











PROGRAM

DAY 1: THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER

MRSH Lecture Hall and Zoom

- 9:45: Welcome and refreshments, registration
- 10-10:30: Conference opening

Punch's Pocket Book Archive Project: A brief introduction (Françoise Baillet, Université de Caen Normandie)

- 10:40-12:00 Keynote by Dr Bob Nicholson (Edge Hill University, UK) "Pickings From Punch: Reprinting Humour in the Transnational Press"
- 12:00-13:30: Lunch (provided for presenters)
- 13:30-14:50: Panel 1: Mockery as Method?

Chris Woodyard (Independent scholar) – "I never before shaved a live man, sir.": Grim Humor in the Nineteenth-Century United States Press"

Susie Beckham (University of York) – "Laughing at the Pre-Raphaelites: John Burley Waring's Pre-Raffaelleite Chorus (1857)"

Elliott Andrews (University of Leicester) – "Humorous Procrastinators: Linley Sambourne's Illustrated Letters"

Chair: Bethany Qualls (Université de Caen Normandie)

14:50-15:10: Break

15:15-17:00: Pocketbook Making Workshop (SH 207 and online via Zoom) **A Brief History of Pocket Books with DIY Bookbinding Session**

19:30: Conference dinner, Le Mancel

DAY 2: FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER

MRSH Lecture Hall and Zoom

• 10:00: Welcome and refreshments

Craig Howes (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) – "Extending the Footprint—Experiments in Planned Endurance in Victorian Comic and Satiric Periodicals"

Nora Moroney (University of Cambridge) – "Finding Humour in Seriousness: George Bernard Shaw and the Highbrow Press"

Lou Burnard (Independent scholar) – "Digital Lacy and the Victorian sense of humour"

Chair: Sonja Lawrenson (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK)

- 10:30-11:50: Panel 2: Is it all just an act?
- 12:00-13:30: Lunch (provided for presenters)
- 13:45-15:00: Keynote presentation by Pr James Mussell (University of Leeds, UK) "Endings: Seriality, Sustainability, and Carrying on"
- 15:00-15:15: Break
- 15:15-16:45: Punch's Pocket Book online: A Roundtable
- 17:00: Closing remarks

