

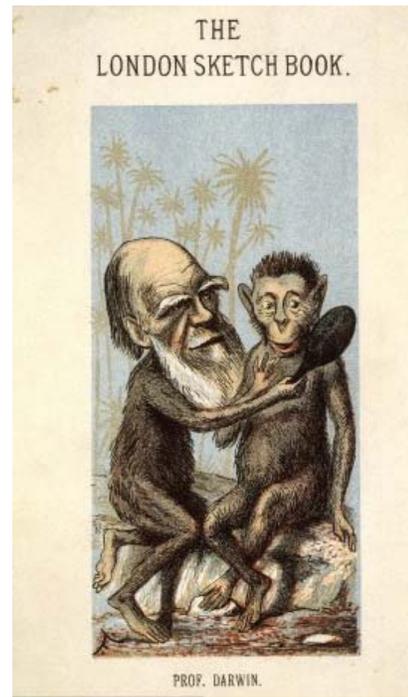
**TIPPING POINTS:
Pivotal Moments in Victorian
Culture**

**Midwest Victorian Studies Association
2009 Conference**

April 17-19, 2009

Indiana University East, Richmond, IN

2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. In commemoration of that epochal event, MVSA invites proposals for 20-minute conference papers that explore events or works that signal profound shifts—"tipping points"—in one or more elements of the artistic, literary, musical, political, social, religious, or intellectual life of Britain and its empire during the long nineteenth century. Because MVSA includes representatives of several disciplines among its active members, our conference is particularly welcoming to interdisciplinary approaches.



Participants may wish to reconsider a moment traditionally thought to be emblematic of such changes (the Peterloo massacre, the Reform Bill of 1832 or 1867, the opening of the Crystal Palace, the publication of the *Origin*) or to make a case for a hitherto unrecognized tipping point (a year, a war, a political or social figure, an educational or religious movement, an act of Parliament, a political protest, a mode or moment of publication, the premier of a musical work or opening of an art exhibition) that marked a sea-change in some aspect, large or small, of Victorian life and thought.

The 2009 conference will be held in Richmond, Indiana. Founded in 1806 and situated along the historic "Old National Road," Richmond was pivotal in the nineteenth-century American expansion to the west. Part of the conference will be held in a nineteenth-century Quaker meeting house (now a historical museum), the rest on the campus of Indiana University East, the newest regional campus of IU. Richmond is situated along I-70 near the Ohio border and therefore accessible to most Midwestern car travelers, as well as convenient to the Dayton, Ohio, airport 36 miles away. We will feature two keynote speakers: Jonathan Smith, author of *Charles Darwin and Victorian Visual Culture* (Cambridge UP, 2006) as well as guest editor of a forthcoming 2009 special issue of *Victorian Studies* entitled "Darwin and the Evolution of Victorian Studies;" and Ivan Kreilkamp, co-editor of *Victorian Studies* and the inaugural winner of the MVSA First Book Prize.

Submissions: By October 31, 2008, please email a 500-word (max.) abstract and 1-page c.v. to conferencesubmissions@midwestvictorian.org. Please include your own name, title, institution, email and snail mail addresses, a phone number, and the abstract itself in the text and/or attachment. If you do not receive an email confirmation of receipt, please re-submit.

About MVSA: Victorianists studying and working in the midwestern or southern United States will want to make a home in this long-standing scholarly organization. Graduate students are particularly welcome as attendees and presenters at MVSA conferences: conference fees are adjusted to make attendance more affordable, MVSA annually awards the Bill and Mary Burgan Prize for an outstanding paper by a graduate student at the conference, and the prestigious Arnstein Prize supports interdisciplinary dissertation research. A new annual award for a first book by a Victorianist in the Midwest was inaugurated in 2008. News of this conference and other MVSA matters will be found on our website at <http://www.midwestvictorian.org/>.