

'The Brontës, Authorship and Print Culture', Professor Joanne Shattock

This lecture will explore the Brontë sisters' entry into print and the models of authorship, both Romantic and Victorian, that influenced them. The challenges of being a woman writer, the importance of networks and the role of publishers and mentors will be discussed, as well as the responses to their writing in the reviews and magazines of the mid-nineteenth century, a textual world in which Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë became central figures. We will also look at the impact of contemporary biographers and reviewers on the Brontës' legacy.

Joanne Shattock is Emeritus Professor of Victorian Literature at the University of Leicester. She has published widely on nineteenth-century women's writing and on the periodical press. Her books include *Politics and Reviewers* (1989), the *Oxford Guide to British Women Writers* (1993) and as editor, *Women and Literature in Britain 1800-1900* (2001). She is general editor of *The Works of Elizabeth Gaskell* (2005-6) and *Selected Works of Margaret Oliphant* (2011-6).

Reading List:

Allott, Miriam, ed., *The Brontës. The Critical Heritage*. London: Routledge, 1974.

Bock, Carol A., 'Authorship, the Brontës, and *Fraser's Magazine* "Coming Forward" as an Author in Early Victorian England', *Victorian Literature and Culture* 29 (2001), 54-69.

Gaskell, Elizabeth, *The Life of Charlotte Brontë*, ed. Angus Easson. World's Classics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Ingham, Patricia. *The Brontës*. Oxford World's Classics. Authors in Context. Oxford University Press, 2006.

Peterson, Linda H., *Becoming a Woman of Letters. Myths of Authorship and Facts of the Victorian Market*. See ch. 4. 'Parallel Currents: The Life of Charlotte Brontë as Mid-Victorian Myth of Women's Authorship'. Princeton University Press 2009.

Smith, Margaret ed., *The Letters of Charlotte Brontë with a Selection of Letters by Family and Friends*. 3 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995-2004.

Thormählen, Marianne, ed., *The Brontës in Context*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. See ch. 18 (Peterson) and ch. 32 (Shattock).