

Curriculum Vitae

Russell A. Potter

Professor of English

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I. Education

Ph.D., English, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, 1991.

M.A., English, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, 1987.

B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington, 1983.

II. Positions held

July 2005 - present: Professor of English, Rhode Island College

July 1999 July 2005: Associate Professor of English, Rhode Island College

September 1995 - July 1999: Assistant Professor of English, Rhode Island College

September 1991 - May 1995: Assistant Professor of English, Colby College

III. Scholarship

A. Books

Arctic Spectacles: The Frozen North in Visual Culture, 1818-1875. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press; Montréal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007.

Spectacular Vernaculars: Hip-Hop and the Politics of Postmodernism. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995.

B. Documentary and Media

Invited Participant, *Arctic Listening Post/Climate Commons*, an online multi-media dialogue project by Jane D. Marsching, November 2006 – February 2007.

Historical Consultant, on-camera interviewee (location shoots in Gjoa Haven, Beechey Island, and Resolute, Nunavut), and contributor to companion website for "Arctic Passage: Prisoners of the Ice," an Emmy-award-nominated episode of the PBS series NOVA. Producer: Louise Osmond for ITN Factual/WGBH. Airdate: February 28, 2006 (USA); June 2005 (Australia and New Zealand); March 2005 (UK, under the title "Search for the Northwest Passage").

Interviewee, *Trigger Tonic* rolling video media project, Glasgow, Scotland. Interviewed for online video project in connection with my talk on Harry Smith's Anthology of American Folk Music at the Mitchell Library, June 2002. Trigger Tonic was a project of Anne Marie Copestake, funded in part by the Scottish Arts Council.

C. Contributions to Books

"Showmen and Explorer-Showmen on the Panoramic Stage," in *North by Degree: The Impact of Arctic Exploration*, edited by Robert Peck and Susan Kaplan. Forthcoming in 2010 from the American Philosophical Society Press.

Chapters on "Sir Wally Herbert," "Fridtjof Nansen," and "Roald Amundsen" for *The Great Explorers*, edited by Robin Hanbury-Tenison, forthcoming from Thames & Hudson.

"Distant Visions: The Poles in Western Visual Culture." Catalog essay for the exhibition "To The Ends of the Earth: Painting the Polar Landscape," Peabody Essex Museum, Salem MA, November 2008 - March 2009.

Introduction to Charles Francis Hall, *Narrative of the Second Arctic Expedition*, originally published in 1879. (London: The Long Riders' Guild / Travel Classics, 2009).

"Arctic," entry in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, edited by Peter N. Stearns. (NY: Oxford University Press, 2008).

"History - Spectacle - Resistance," in *The Cultural Studies Reader*, 3rd edition, edited by Simon During. NY: Routledge, 2007.

Foreword to Martin Sandler, *Resolute: The Epic Search for the Northwest Passage and John Franklin, and the Discovery of the Queen's Ghost Ship*. (NY: Sterling Publishers, 2006).

"The Future is History: Hip-hop in the Aftermath of (Post)Modernity," chapter in *The Resisting Muse: Popular Music and Social Protest*, edited by Ian Peddie (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing, 2006).

- "Open Polar Sea," "Sir John Franklin," "Lady Jane Franklin," and "Sir John Ross," entries in *The Encyclopedia of the Arctic*, ed. Mark Nutall (NY: Routledge, 2004).
- "Soul to Hip-Hop," chapter in *The Cambridge Companion to Pop and Rock*, ed. Simon Frith, William Straw, and John Street. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001).
- "Authorship," chapter in *Unspun: The Web, Society, and Culture*, ed. Thomas Swiss & Andrew Herman. (NY: New York University Press, 2001).
- "Arctic Spectacles: Nineteenth-Century Visions of the North." In *Visions of the North: The North in Film*, published in 1999 by Nipissing University, North Bay, Ontario, Canada.
- "Race," chapter in *Key Terms in Popular Music and Culture*, edited by Bruce Horner and Thomas Swiss. (Oxford and New York: Basil Blackwell, 1999).
- "Not the Same: Race, Repetition and Difference in Hip-Hop and Dance Music," in *Mapping the Beat: Popular Music and Contemporary Theory*, ed. Thomas Swiss, John Sloop, and Andrew Herman (Oxford and New York: Basil Blackwell, 1997).
- Entries for "Queen Latifah," "Public Enemy," "Flavor Flav," "Ice Cube," and "Ice T," in the *African-American Culture* volume of *The Dictionary of Twentieth-Century Culture* (NY: Gale Research, 1996).

D. Articles in Periodicals

- "A Most Faithful Delineation of the Polar Regions': Vauxhall as a Field of Ice." Part of a forum on "Victorian Ecosystems," *Victorian Review*, forthcoming in the Fall 2010 issue.
- With Jon Hauss: "Geographica Incognita." *New Orleans Review*, Vol. 25, No. 4, Winter 1999/2000.
- With Douglas Wamsley: "The Sublime yet Awful Grandeur: The Arctic Panoramas of Elisha Kent Kane." *The Polar Record* 35:194 [July 1999].
- "L'objet X: Performing Race in a Postmodern World." *Literature and Psychology*, vol. 41 no. 4 (1995).
- "The Image Explodes: The Ideology of the Eikonic." *Nomad: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the Humanities, Arts, and Sciences*, Number 6 (Spring 1994).
- "Edward Schizophands: The Postmodern Gothic Body." *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 2 no. 3 (May, 1992). <http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/pmc/text-only/issue.592/potter.592>
- "Chaucer and the Authority of Language: The Politics and Poetics of the Vernacular in Late Medieval England." *Assays*, vol. VI, 1991.

"Political Chaucer: Heresy, Sedition and the Vernacular Tradition of Dissent, 1400-1550." *Hwæt!* vol. 1 no. 1 (Fall 1989).

E. Papers, Panels, and Lectures

"Exploration and Sacrifice: The cultural logic of Arctic discovery." Invited paper, "Mistaken Straits': The Quest for the Northwest Passage, 1576-1859," University of Paris-Sorbonne, 3-5 June 2010.

"Those wrecked or stranded ships': Unresolved aspects of the Franklin Expedition." Invited lecture, Shackleton Winter School, Athy, Ireland, October 23rd, 2009.

"This strange and awful grave: The curious career of Landseer's 'Man Proposes.'" Gallery talk, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven CT, June 25th 2009.

Panel participant, Masterpiece lecture: "What is American about American Landscape Painting?" Peabody-Essex Museum, Salem MA, January 24th, 2009.

"Showmen and Explorer-Showmen on the Panoramic Stage: The Arctic in the American Imagination, 1854-1870," invited paper, *North by Degree* Conference on Arctic Exploration, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA, May 22-24 2008.

"The Literary Legacy of Francis Leopold McClintock: *The Voyage of the Fox in Arctic Seas* and its Readers." Invited paper, McClintock Winter School, Dundalk County Museum, Dundalk Ireland, January 18, 2008.

"An Evening of Arctic Novelty," The Velaslavasay Panorama, Los Angeles, California. Illustrated lecture with scenes from an 1857 Moving Panorama of Kane's Arctic Voyages. January 4th and 5th, 2008.

"Victorian Virtual Reality: Arctic Panoramas in the Nineteenth Century." Invited lecture, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine, November 27th 2007.

"The Stern Romance of Polar Exploration: The Franklin Fascination from 1849 to the Present." Public Lecture, Redwood Library and Athenæum, Newport RI, March 25, 2006.

"More instruction and amusement in an hour, than can be gained by months of reading': The Panorama and Visual Truth in the Mid-19th Century." Sight Lines: New England American Studies Association, September 23, 2005, Worcester, Mass.

"Perilous Adventures, Wonderful Discoveries, and Singular Phenomena' -- American Panoramas of the Arctic Regions, 1855-1863," invited paper, International Panorama Council Conference, Hunter College, New York, November 12, 2004.

- Panelist, discussion session on the uses of technology in teaching Victorian Studies, Northeast Victorian Studies Association, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, April 6, 2003.
- "Vernacular Technologies: Folk Music in the Age of Digital Reproduction," Invited lecture, Pearl Union Library Project, Mitchell Library, Glasgow Scotland, June 1, 2002.
- "'The Terrible Aspects of the Frigid Zone' - The Arctic in Nineteenth-Century Visual Culture." Invited lecture, part of a series accompanying the exhibition "Arctic Diary: Paintings and Photographs of William Bradford," Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, February 17 - May 5, 2002.
- "Representing the Arctic Sublime: The Panoramic Voyages of Dr. Kane, 1855-1863," American Literature Association, Boston, Massachusetts, May 26, 2001.
- Introduced talk by Kenn Harper, author of *Give Me My Father's Body: The Story of Minik, The New York Eskimo*, Brown University Bookstore, April 2000.
- Panelist, discussion session following lecture by Dr. S. Allen Counter on the legacy of Matthew Henson and Arctic exploration, Rhode Island College, October 1998.
- "Arctic Spectacles: Visions of the North in Panoramas, 1820-1874." Conference paper, "Visions of the North: The North in Film," Nipissing University, North Bay, Ontario, May 15, 1998
- Invited panelist, First Annual Hip-Hop Festival and Conference, sponsored by Brown University and B-SUCHH. Brown University, April 22, 1998.
- "Canonizing the Vernacular: Can Aural supplements be part of this complete breakfast?" Talk on the new Norton Anthology of African-American Literature," Southern New England Conference on Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island College, October 4, 1997.
- "(Re)Fugees of Language: Vernacular Vectors from Wycliffe to Wyclef Jean," Cultural Apprenticeship (Literacy) session, Middle English Division (Excluding Chaucer), Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C., December 1996.
- "From Blues to Bop to Rap: A Signifying History of Hip-Hop." Conference paper, Sonneck Society for American Music, Worcester, Mass., April 8, 1994.
- "Canons: Traditions, Oppositions, Alternatives" -- panel paper, colloquium on "The Literary Canon: What Should We Teach, and How?" University of Maine, Orono, April 3, 1993.
- "Re-Theorizing the Vernacular." Conference paper, Maine Medievalists' Association, Colby College, Waterville Maine, September 26, 1992.
- "The Politics of Pilgrimage: the Canterbury Tales and its Lollard Readers." Conference paper, NEMLA, Buffalo NY, April 4 1992.

"Reading 'Aftir the lettre': The Anti-hermeneutics of the Vernacular." Conference paper, NEMLA, Hartford CT, April 1991.

"Chaucer, Lollardy, and Lollard Textual Communities in the Fifteenth Century." Conference paper, Columbia Medieval Guild, Columbia University, New York, April 1990.

"Auctores & Copyists: The Deployment of Chaucer's Text 1400-1500." Conference paper, Brown/Yale/U. Conn. Consortium on Medieval Studies Conference, Brown University, May 1989.

F. Selected Reviews

Review of Janice Cavell, *Tracing the Connected Narrative: Arctic Exploration in British Print Culture*. *Times Higher Education Supplement*, December 18, 2008.

Review of *The Polar World*, by Sir Wally Herbert. *The Arctic Book Review*, Vol. 9 Nos. 1 & 2 (Spring 2009).

Review of *Captain Francis Crozier: Last Man Standing?*, by Michael Smith. *The Arctic Book Review*, Vol. 8 Nos. 1 & 2 (Fall 2008). (with author interview)

Review of *Inuit Entertainers in the United States: From the Chicago World's Fair through the Birth of Hollywood*, by Jim Zwick. *The Arctic Book Review*, Vol. 8 Nos. 1 & 2 (Fall 2006).

Review of *The Last Gentleman Adventurer*, by Edward Beauclerk Maurice, *The Arctic Book Review*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Fall 2005).

Review of *Lady Franklin's Revenge: A True Story of Ambition, Obsession, and the Remaking of Arctic History*, by Ken McGoogan. *The Arctic Book Review*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Fall 2005).

Review of *Franklin's Passage*, by David Solway, *The Arctic Book Review*, Vol. 7 no. 1 (Spring 2005).

Review of *The Arctic Fox: Francis Leopold McClintock, Discoverer of the Fate of Franklin*, by David Murphy, *The Arctic Book Review* Vol. 6 no. 2 (Fall 2004). (with author interview)

Review of *A Kayak Full of Ghosts* by Lawrence Millman, *The Arctic Book Review* Vol. 6 no. 1 (Spring 2004). (with author interview)

Review of *Historical Atlas of the Arctic*, by Derek Hayes, *The Arctic Book Review* Vol. 6 no. 1 (Spring 2004).

Review of *John Logie Baird: A Life*, by Antony Kamm and Malcolm Baird, *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*, Vol. 23 No. 4 (2003).

Review of *This Errant Lady: Jane Franklin's Overland Journey to Port Phillip and Sydney, 1838*, by Peneleope Russell, *The Arctic Book Review*, Vol. 5 No. 2 (Fall 2003).

Review of *North Pole Legacy: Black, White, and Eskimo*, by Dr. S. Allen Counter, *The Arctic Book Review*, Vol. 4 No. 1 (Spring 2002).

Review of *The Arctic in the British Imagination, 1818-1914*, by Robert G. David, *The Arctic Book Review*, Vol. 3 No. 2 (Fall 2001).

Review of Michael Eric Dyson, *Making Malcolm*. *MELUS*, Vol. 24 No. 1 (Spring 1999), pp. 272-274

Review of Stephan Oettermann: *The Panorama: History of a Mass Medium*, in *Iconomania* (UCLA Art Department), No. 1 (1998).
<http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/humnet/artist/icono/rapotter/panoram.htm>

Review of Francis Spufford, *I May Be Some Time: Ice and the English Imagination*, in *History Reviews On-Line*, Volume 3 No. 2 (Winter 1998).

Review of Houston A. Baker Jr., *Black Studies, Rap, and the Academy*. *Black Sacred Music: A Journal of Theomusicology*, vol. 8 no. 2 (Fall 1994).

Interview with Public Enemy's Chuck D, *HardC.O.R.E.*, *The Electronic Magazine of Hip-Hop Music and Culture*, vol. 2 no. 5 (September 1994).

"Black Modernisms/Black Postmodernisms" [review essay]. *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 5 no. 1 (September 1994).

"The Black (W)hole of Bataille: A Genealogy of Postmodernism?" [review essay]. *Postmodern Culture*, vol. 3 no. 1 (September 1992).

IV. Teaching

* = courses I have personally developed

§ = Web-enabled and WebCT courses

At Rhode Island College:

ENG 560 – Visual culture from the Victorians to the Moderns * §

ART/MEDIA 542 – Media Culture I * §

ART/MEDIA 543 – Media Culture II * §

ENG 530 – The Vernacular Revolution * §
ENG 460 – Victorian Spectacles * §
ENG 433 – Modern Grammar
ENG 432 – History of the English Language
ENG 355 – British Literature of the Victorian Period §
ENG 350 – The History of Hip-Hop Music and Culture * §
ENG 350 – Popular Culture and Media * §
ENG 350 – Tolkien in Film and Literature * §
ENG 261 – Northern Exposures: Arctic Exploration in a (Post)Colonial Context * §
AFAM 262 – Cultural Issues in Contemporary Africa §
ENG 206 – Backgrounds in British Literature, 1800-present §
ENG 205 - Backgrounds in British Literature to 1800 §
ENG 202 - Introduction to Literary Theory
ENG 161 - Introduction to Western Literature §

At Colby College:

ENG 493 - The Politics and Poetics of the Vernacular *
ENG 493 - Performing the Transgressive Body: Gender and Sexuality *
ENG 415 – Political History of the English Language *
ENG 413 - The Chaucerian Text *
ENG 311 - Literature of the High Middle Ages
ENG 271 - Introduction to Literary Theory

V. Service and Committees

English Department Advisory Committee (departmental governance), 1999-2000; 2002-2003; 2005-2006; 2009-2010.

Secretary, Council of Rhode Island College, 1999-2000; 2005-2007

Member, Media Studies Program Review Committee, 2008

English Department Technology Liaison, 2004-present

English Department, Graduate Committee, 2007-present

Member, Committee on General Education, 2000-2002.

English Department, Hiring Committees for Film Studies, Postcolonial Literature, and American Literature positions.

English M.A. thesis committees, 1999, 2000 (director), 2002 (director), 2004 (director), 2008; M.A. examination committees 1996, 1998, 1999.

Media Studies M.A. thesis committees, 2002, 2004 (2, director of 1), 2005 (2), 2006 (3, director of 2), 2008 2 (director of 1), 2009 (3 (anticipated)).

English Department, Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Instruction, 1998-2006; Chair 2001-2003.

English Department Representative, Committee for the Development of a College Web Policy, 1998.

VI. Editorial

Founding Editor, *The Arctic Book Review* (ISSN 1529-3556), 1999-present.

Contributing Editor and Assistant Approvals Management Editor, The *Citizendium* Project (a planned alternative to the Wikipedia initiated by one of its co-founders), 2006-2007.

Manuscript reviewer for the American Philosophical Society Press, The University of Toronto Press, the University of Alaska Press, *The Polar Record* (Cambridge University), *Victorian Studies* (Indiana University Press) and *Postmodern Culture* (University of Virginia).

VII. Academic Honors

Phi Beta Kappa, Brown University (1991).

High Honors, M.A. examinations, Syracuse University (1987).

Society of Distinguished High School Students (1978).

VIII. Grants and Awards

2008: Rhode Island College Faculty Development Fund, grant for travel to the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge.

2001-2002: Grant, Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, Incentive Fund For Excellence in Technology, "Coordinated Web-based Commons for English 161 (Core I)."

1999: Teaching and Technology Fellow, Rhode Island College.

1998: Rhode Island College Faculty Research Grant, "Arctic Spectacles: Looking to the North in the Nineteenth Century."

1992: Summer grant from Colby College (President's discretionary funds) to develop two new courses addressing the issues of race, class, and gender.

IX. Professional Memberships

Member, Modern Language Association, 1989-1994; 2007-present.

Member, International Panorama Council, 1999-present.

Member, Northeast Victorian Studies Association, 2003-present.

Subscriber, VICTORIA-L, 1997-present

Subscriber, DICKENS-L, 2003-present

Subscriber, POSTMODERN CULTURE listserv, 1992-1996

Subscriber, TECHNOCULTURE listserv, 1991-1993

X. References

Robert Scholes, Research Professor, Brown University (*Robert_Scholes@brown.edu*)

Joan Dagle, Professor of English, Rhode Island College (*JDagle@ric.edu*)

Mary Cappello, Professor of English, University of Rhode Island (*wye101@uriacc.uri.edu*)

Huw Lewis-Jones, Curator of Art, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge University
(*hwgl2@cam.ac.uk*)