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Project Title: **Early-Nineteenth-Century Popular Literature in Britain and America**
This project involves publishing on line three kinds of popular texts: 1) Mary Shelley's
Frankenstein, including texts by which it was influenced; 2) gift books—the literary
annuals—that flourished in Britain and America between 1800 and 1850, containing
stories, poems, and plays; 3) and finally primary texts and literary criticism of poetry
written by the self-named "poetess."

Scholarly Rationale:

Over the next three years, my assistant Zach Weir and I will be working with Jack
Lynch and Stuart Curran (the Penn Frankenstein), Katherine Harris (The Forget-Me-Not
Archive), and Mary Waters (*British women writers and the profession of literary
criticism, 1789-1832* [NY: Palgrave, 2004), publishing online editions that I have
grouped together under the title, "Early-Nineteenth-Century Popular Literature":

The Poetess Archive
http://www.muohio.edu/womenpoets/poetess
edited by Laura Mandell and Katherine Harris (CUNY) and, eventually, Mary Waters

The Bijou Gift Book [the first in a series of gift books in Miami's collection to be digitized]
http://www.muohio.edu/anthologies/bijou
edited by Laura Mandell

Forget Me Not: A Hypertextual Archive of Ackermann's Literary Annual
http://web.gc.cuny.edu/womenstudies/FMN%20Hypertext
edited by Katherine Harris (CUNY)

Frankenstein
http://www.english.upenn.edu/knarf/frank.html
edited by Stuart Curran (Univ. of PA)
HTML editor, Jack Lynch (Rutgers)
TEI editor, Laura Mandell

Curran's *Frankenstein* edition links to huge numbers of contemporaneous texts
read by Shelley or relevant to her work; Harris's *Forget-Me-Not* Archive is indexed in
numerous ways, by author, title, publication date, and includes information about gift-
book editors and their transactions. The *Poetess Archive* is a bibliography not just of
works by the Poetess but also of literary criticism, the reception history of poetess poetry,
from 1800 up to our own time. Thus, these sites will collectively depict the historical
contingencies of publishing history. Some of those contingencies have to do with critical
reactions – who reviewed what and why; who published what and why. Some have to do
with different versions of texts, as can be seen in the Penn Frankenstein's project of
collating 1818 and 1831 editions, as well as in the Poetess Archive's ultimate goal of
comparing versions of poems and criticism appearing in the annuals to other versions
found in "definitive" editions published at the time and in later anthologies. Questions
about the divergence of scholarly- from middle-class taste are pressing to us at this
historical moment, as can be seen in Janice Radway's essay, for instance, in the most

recent issue of *Critical Inquiry* (31.1 [2004]: 203-227). The development of aesthetic taste through separation of high from low traditions can be seen in the reception history of popular texts, the history of literary criticism surrounding it, to be sure, but also in the history of the impact of various versions of literature on the arbiters of taste who spoke for and to an educated elite or an anxiously self-shaping middle class.

Editorial Principles

This site is "codicological" as D. C. Greetham has defined it, "describ[ing] each [in this case, printed edition] (. . . multiple copies) rather than reconstructing an ideal version" of the text (*Textual Scholarship: An Introduction* 153). Dealing with print editions of texts rather than manuscripts, this site will participate in what D. F. McKenzie has called descriptive biography. Describing and picturing gift books as objects themselves, then including texts, etchings, paintings, and even music, all the while demonstrating their interrelatedness through links, these sites will be set up to provide awareness of multimedia contexts for every printed poem and prose piece. In addition – and especially if NINES is able to bring other projects under its fold such as Perry Willett's Victorian Women Writers and Nancy Kushigian's British Women Romantic Writers, we may be able to employ the NINES tool JUXTA to allow for comparing gift-book versions to versions appearing in single-author publications. Our goal is to provide a rich enough bibliographic description so as to make visible the significance of variations; the NINES wrapper will make them usable with NINES tools.

To Address at NINES

After attending the Advanced TEI workshop at Berkeley this past November, I have the following needs: 1) to create templates for various kinds of documents to insure that enough is being included in the TEIheader and coding, and enough excluded for maximum efficiency; 2) to work with people in the workshop to determine how much of the interface should be TEI encoded, and how much in HTML that was coded directly – that is, not generated by a TEI master and transformed by an XSLT; 3) to think carefully about the best way of interlinking documents in TEI, given that the most important feature of these sites is their linking of documents one to another. These problems can best be worked out in conjunction with finding out more about the NINES schema.

Current State / Schedule / Miami's Support

The Penn Frankenstein (to be published by Romantic Circles) is almost complete in HTML, and simply needs to be transformed; we hope to have by summer 2005 program for transferring its HTML texts into TEI. The Bijou and other portions of the Poetess Archive will be completely TEI-encoded by February 15, 2005, but many more texts need to be put into it: we hope to have, after summer 2005, a full set of templates for TEI encoding texts on its wish-list, a project that will take three years given Miami's current level of support in student labor. Librarians at Miami's King Library are making image files that meet DLF standards of all the gift books in our collection (pictures and page-images) as well as in Harris's collection for the Forget-Me-Not Archive. Harris's archive will be transferred to Miami during Spring 2005, without, we hope, injuring its interface: it contains much well-linked historical information but needs to be further enriched by adding to the site more TEI-encoded texts, the literature included in Ackerman's annuals (typing and coding to be done this summer). We have all the server space we need for these projects, as well as expert technological help at Penn, Romantic Circles, and Miami.