

CALL FOR PAPERS  
**THE VICTORIANS INSTITUTE**

**OCTOBER 1-3, 2010**  
**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA**

**“BY THE NUMBERS”**

The Victorian Quantification of Everything; or  
From Zero to NINES in Under Two Centuries

Co-sponsored by the UVa Department of English and by NINES (<http://nines.org>)

Keynote lecturer: **Daniel Cohen**, George Mason University; author of *Equations from God: Pure Mathematics and Victorian Faith*, 2007; and director of the Center for History and New Media (<http://chnm.gmu.edu>).

Let us count the ways in which Victorians turned, and in mounting numbers too, towards arithmetizing, computing, serializing, tallying, ordinating, enumerating – in a word, quantifying – both what they knew and the media they told it by.

- \* chapter and verse: seriality up and down the scale
- \* “for the numbers came”: prosody, measure, quantity
- \* a tale of two tellers: recounting and accounting
- \* stats, lies, and actuaries
- \* whatever happened to numerology?
- \* census and consensus
- \* standardization and quantification
- \* visual display of numerical data
- \* higher mathematics in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: Babbage, Boole, and beyond
- \* the third R: numeracy in education
- \* poly-math fantasy: Flatland, Wonderland, and. . .
- \* ratio redux, or Pythagoras on Picadilly, Leonardo in London, Victorian Vitruvius: proportion in Victorian music, art, and architecture

Papers on these and innumerable other aspects of the conference theme will be discussed in the warm collegiality of the Victorians Institute on what we suppose with moderate to high probability will prove a balmy Piedmont weekend at the University of Virginia.

**PLEASE SUBMIT 1-2 PAGE PROPOSALS to [Victorians.Institute@gmail.com](mailto:Victorians.Institute@gmail.com)  
by MARCH 19, 2010.**

**More information available at the conference website:**  
<http://www.nines.org/VIC2010>