

April 25, 2003

To the Kirkland Travel Grant Awards Committee:

Thank you for awarding me the Kirkland Doctoral Fellowship. This award has enabled me to complete my coursework and exams by the end of my second year as a doctoral candidate. I am applying for the Kirkland Travel Grant so that I may have the opportunity to further pursue the dissertation work that I have now begun by traveling to London in order to do the necessary archival work for my dissertation. Here, at the University of Florida, I have made good use of our holdings in sensation fiction and New Woman fiction and have been able to study several ignored texts by authors like Rhoda Broughton and George Egerton. I have also spent a great deal of time working with nineteenth-century periodicals, namely *Punch* and *Blackwood's Magazine*, in the University's Rare Books Special Collection.

In addition to the research that I have been able to do here, I need to do research in London's libraries and other nearby archives as I flesh out my study of the relatively forgotten 1870s. Since my project is very much concerned with how particular authors were categorized in and positioned themselves in relation to the genres of sensation fiction and New Woman fiction, research work in the more extensive archives of the British Library's manuscript collection and its Newspaper Library is critical to my dissertation. The British Library's manuscript collection contains letters and/or literary manuscripts by writers central to my dissertation, including Thomas Hardy and Margaret Oliphant. The Newspaper Library's collection would enable me to study in detail the particular social and political conversations taking place in the popular press during the 1870s. While in London, I will also take a trip to the Broughton archives, part of the Cheshire and Chester Archives, where a large collection of Rhoda Broughton's letters are housed. The research trip to London that this grant will make possible will enable me to contextualize my arguments within vital nineteenth-century primary sources and make a more informed case for the connections between sensation fiction and New Woman fiction in the 1870s. Please let me know if I can provide any addition information.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hager