

Winners of the 2009 Article Prize

Winner: Amy Woodson-Boulton, “‘Industry without Art is Brutality’: Aesthetic Ideology and Social Practice in Victorian Art Museums,” *Journal of British Studies* 46 (January 2007): 47-71.

Amy Woodson-Boulton’s elegant and well-crafted article situates the study of the politics of culture in unfamiliar terrain: namely, in three detailed and deeply local studies of the provision of art institutions in Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester. Here, Woodson-Boulton ably demonstrates how even the single idea of aesthetic uplift could play out very differently in these three sites. Attentive to the nuances of the interplay between class formation and aesthetic education as they manifested themselves in these diverse settings, Woodson-Boulton offers new insights into the highly charged relationship between cultural history and urban history.

Honorable Mention: Molly McClain, “Love, Friendship and Power: Queen Mary II’s Letters to Frances Apsley,” *Journal of British Studies* 47 (July 2008): 505-527.

Molly McClain’s astute and original reading of the correspondence between Queen Mary II and Frances Apsley draws on a wide range of unpublished and little-known sources in order to make sense of this highly individual – yet also political – relationship between two early modern women. Bringing her subjects vividly to life, McClain offers an insightful portrait of the affective regimes of the court, exploring in compelling detail the complex thicket of emotional intimacy, sexual ambiguity, and political influence.