

THE CORNER
SHELF



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

News and Alerts

Special Hours for Reading
Week February 18 - 26:

•Sat., Feb 18 - Tues., Feb 21 -
Closed

•Wed. - Fri. - 8:30am - 4:30pm

•Sat., Feb 25 - 10am - 5pm

•Sun., Feb 26 - 12 noon - 7pm

The **Food for Fines** campaign in December resulted in \$545 in fines forgiven. Once again there was a considerable amount of food for the **Concordia Student Food Bank**. Thanks to those who donated!

January is Hobby Month and February is Black History Month.

Chinese New Year is Jan. 23rd - it's the Year of the Dragon. Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Groundhog Day is Feb. 2nd - let's hope he sees his shadow!

Feb 15th is National Flag of Canada Day.



What's Inside

- Charles Dickens' 200th Birthday
- Avoid Fines - It's Easy!
- Steampunk
- Library Hours
- Cool Web Stuff
- Featured E-Resource



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CHARLES DICKENS' 200TH BIRTHDAY

A great amount of romance and myth surrounds the Victorian Era and many people are drawn to novels set in this intriguing time. If you are a fan of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, you may be impressed by Victorian culture, associating it with mysteries and adventure. If you read Charles Dickens (born February 7, 1812), the picture in your mind may be one of poverty, squalor, and restrictive class hierarchies. Which author's interpretation is correct? What was it really like for citizens of this period?

Objects, whether used in daily life or on special occasions, reveal information about the people who created and handled them. **Victorian Things** by *Asa Briggs* uses artifacts to explain life and death in the 1800s. Trinkets made of human hair (mementos of deceased relatives) and recurrent images of death in art and home décor



demonstrate that death was an ever-present danger for people of this era.

Cholera was just one of the diseases claiming countless lives in London as the city grew to contain over 2 million people within a ten mile perimeter. **The ghost map : the story of London's most terrifying epidemic—and how it changed science, cities, and the modern world** by *Steven Johnson* explains how John Snow solved the mystery of cholera contagion and influenced the development of all modern cities.

Clearly sanitation was a tremendous challenge and preoccupation for Victorian people as they fought to prevent illness.

The great stink of London : Sir Joseph Bazalgette and the cleansing of the Victorian capital by *Stephen Halliday* and

The Great Stink by *Clare Clark* both plumb the depths of Victorian sewage. *Clare Clark's* book is a



novelization of the historical information.

Admittedly, some of my favourite Victorian topics to read about are the terrible yet thrilling crime stories of Sherlock Holmes or Jack the Ripper. *Shirley Jackson's* book **The Diary of Jack the Ripper** debates whether or not a diary that surfaced in 1992 reveals the identity of this notorious serial killer. **Black swine in the sewers of Hampstead : beneath the surface of Victorian sensationalism** by *Thomas Boyle* delves into the "brutal and bawdy" aspects of Victorian society and literature, highlighting the Victorian fascination with crime, scandal and perversion resulting, perhaps, from the strict social and moral codes imposed at the time.

Crime, romance, drama, or scholarship - whatever you fancy - drop by the library and find it in our Victorian themed book display.

Jenna Innes
Information Services Assistant

AVOID FINES - IT'S EASY!

Signing out library materials is similar to a contract - you are agreeing to return the item on time and in the same condition that it was when you signed it out. When you borrow a book you will receive a 'date due' slip that lists what you've signed out and the date the item is due back. Reminder emails (heads up and

overdues) are automatically sent to your student email - the best practice is to check it every day.

My Account on the library website (<http://library.concordia.ab.ca/services/myaccount.php>) will help you track your checkouts, renewals, holds and fines. Sign in with your barcode number and

pin (last 4 digits of your student ID number).

If you have any difficulty using My Account, or questions about fines, please visit us at the Circulation Desk, phone 780-479-9338 or email us at circle@concordia.ab.ca.

Don't wait for Food for Fines - avoid a fine in the first place!

STEAMPUNK

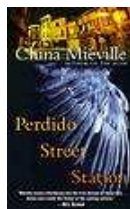
What is it? **Steampunk** is a speculative fiction subgenre which is loosely defined as a marriage of Victorian visual elements with traditional components of science fiction, and a dash of punk sensibility thrown in for good measure. A steampunk book can cross over into other genres like mystery, fantasy, adventure or romance.

Here are some suggestions from our library if you want to explore steampunk.



Boneshaker (FIC PRI) by Cherie Priest is continued in a sequel titled **Dreadnought**.

Leviathan (FIC WES) by Scott Westerfield is the first in a trilogy and is continued in **Behemoth** and **Goliath**.



Perdido Street Station (FIC MIE) by China Mieville was nominated for several awards and won, among others, the *Arthur C. Clarke Award* in 2001.

The Windup Girl (FIC BAC) by Paolo

Bacigalupi is another award winner. In 2010 it won both the *Hugo* and *Nebula Awards* for Best Novel.



Finally, I suggest watching **Howl's Moving Castle (PN 1997 H38 2006)**, an animated adventure based on the award-winning book by Diana Wynne Jones.

Here's a great article:

<http://www.rantingdragon.com/top-20-steampunk-books-an-introduction-to-the-genre/>

Happy Reading!

Weekly New Books List: <http://catalogue.library.ualberta.ca/newbooks/library/index.cfm?Libraryfilter=21>

Concordia Library on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Concordia-Library/155004017870032>

Concordia Library News and Events Blog: <http://cucalibrarynews.blogspot.com/>

Concordia Library on Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/concordialibrary/>

Concordia Library on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/libraryCUCA>

COOL WEB STUFF

🔗 **MessMyPhoto** www.messmyphoto.com/home.aspx is an Art Editor. It's free and no registration or download is required. Just select a photo from your computer or Facebook and apply artistic effects - here's a picture of my new kitty with the night vision effect. Some other effects are Abstract, Cartoon, Stencil, Oil Paint, Water Color, etc., etc. It's easy to use and provides basic photo editing features like Rotate, Zoom, Invert Colors and Undo Effects. You can save to your computer, upload to Facebook, or print. This is a very new site and the developer requests feedback and promises more features in the future.



🔗 For a unique Bible-related online tool try a little website created by John Dyer: **bib.ly** <http://bib.ly/>. It creates shortened links to Bible verses and you can also insert popups on your website using a Wordpress or Drupal plugin. A bookmarklet is available as well. Most Bible reference links take visitors to a specific website but when your friends click on a bit.ly link they are taken to a page that lets them choose the Bible website they prefer for reading. You can specify a translation, but they get to choose the website or software they like best.

🔗 Ever played Tetris? Of course you have! **Torus** www.benjoffe.com/code/games/torus/ is like Tetris but it's round, and it's in 3D, and it spins, and it's very tricky to master. Choose from 3 games: Traditional (unlimited time, speed increases), Time Attack (3 minutes, speed constant), and Garbage (clear down to 3 lines as fast as possible). Use the arrow keys and spacebar to manipulate and move the blocks. Good luck!

Any feedback or suggestions would be *mutch* [sic] appreciated. Contact me at 479-9335 or jan.mutch@concordia.ab.ca.

FEATURED E-RESOURCE



In partnership with one of our e-book providers, Concordia is pleased to announce that students will be able to download many of our e-books onto their tablet, e-reader or their computer. You will need to sign up for a free account within **ebrary**. Once your

account is set up you have several options available for you. First of all, you can download up to 100 pages of any e-book (in ebrary) as an unprotected PDF file.

Alternatively (although I must admit that it is more complex to set up) you can also download entire books to your mobile device for 14 days (they will auto-delete). If you are interested in downloading e-books to your mobile device you can go to ebrary's

Library Hours

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Monday - Thursday | 7:45 am - 9 pm |
| Friday | 7:45 am - 5 pm |
| Saturday | 10 am - 5 pm |
| Sunday | 12 Noon - 7 pm |

Closed Statutory Holidays

****Check the website for details****



Nelson Knight

Collection & Information
Services Assistant



Nelson Knight

Collection and Information
Services Assistant

Nelson keeps the collection up to date and organized, as well as providing research assistance at the Info Desk. If you need it, and you can't find it, just find Nelson and he'll track it down.

Super Power

Obscure knowledge of the past
and I ROCK Google

Sidekick

The Invisible Man (No, I'm not
talking to myself all the time)

Vulnerability

Tangents and Graphic Novels

<http://concordialibrary.ab.ca>

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