England's Yellow Peril: Sinophobia and the Great War


As England suffered heavy casualties at the front during World War One, the nation closed ranks against outsiders at home. England sought to reaffirm its racial dominance at the heart of the empire, and the Chinese in London became the principal scapegoat for anti-foreign sentiment. A combination of propaganda and popular culture, from the daily paper to the latest theatre sensation, fanned the flames of national resentment into a raging Sinophobia. Opium smoking, gambling and interracial romance became synonymous with London's Limehouse Chinatown, which was exoticised by Sax Rohmer's evil mastermind Fu Manchu and Thomas Burke's tales of lowlife love. England's Yellow Peril exploded in the midst of a catastrophic war and defined the representation of Chinese abroad in the decades to come.
Review of Michelle J. Smith and Rebecca-Anne C. Do Rozario, “Race, Species, and the Other: Beauty and the Beast in Victorian Pantomime and Children's Literature”

Sink Street: the Sapphic world of pre-Chinatown Soho

London's avant garde and China's literary revolution: Huang Zunxian's Great London Fog

Ernest Fenollosa

'Beautiful, baleful absurdity': Chinoiserie and Modernist Ballet

Purple clouds and yellow shadows: sickly vapours and perilous hues at the fin de siècle

Harriet Monroe, Amy Lowell and Witter Bynner: the scramble for Chinese poetry


Thomas Burke, Limehouse nights: tales of Chinatown (1916)

Sax Rohmer

Lao She in London

A threepenny omnibus ticket to "Limey-housey-causey-way": fictional sojourns in Chinatown

Aspects of literary Limehouse: Thomas Burke and the “glamorous shame” of Chinatown

"Curious kisses": the Chinatown fantasies of Thomas Burke

Book review: Wilkie Collins: a literary life

Bedraggled ballerinas on a 'bus back to Bow: "the fairy business"

Book review: Victorian vulgarity: taste in verbal and visual culture

Review: Modern painters: the Camden Town Group, Tate Britain 13 February - 5 May 2008

Special section: London and the Camden Town Group

'A fatal freshness': mid-Victorian suburbophobia
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Chinoiserie wonderslands of the fin de siècle: twinkletoes in Chinatown

Book review: Formal investigations: aesthetic style in late Victorian and Edwardian detective fiction

Bloomsbury, Limehouse and Piccadilly: a Chinese sojourn in London

Book review: Recalling London: literature and history in the work of Peter Ackroyd and Iain Sinclair

Thomas Burke: "Son of London"

A threepenny omnibus ticket to "Limey-housey-causey-way": fictional sojourns in Chinatown

Book review: The language of the eyes: science, sexuality, and female vision in English literature and culture, 1690-1927

"Thomas Burke, the 'Laureate of Limehouse': a new biographical outline

Aspects of literary Limehouse: Thomas Burke and the "glamorous shame" of Chinatown