CFP: Transatlanticism and The Blithedale Romance
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Guest editors: Derek Pacheco and Michael Demson

We invite submissions that address all aspects of “Transatlanticism and The Blithedale Romance.”

In The Blithedale Romance, Hawthorne famously derides Brook Farm’s utopianism by likening it to Charles Fourier’s outlandish prophecies of seas-transmuted-into “limonade à cèdre.” For all its satire, however, the novel is positively awash, so to speak, in British and European literary, social, and intellectual currents—from pastoral aesthetics, to prison reform, to fantasies of agricultural improvement, to name a few. For example, Hawthorne’s wry allusion to Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey’s unrealized utopian Pantisocracy opens up questions about the extent to which he understood his own experience of Brook Farm in terms of the agrarian thought permeating transatlantic Romanticism. Indeed, that such preoccupations would drift across the Atlantic ocean’s temporal and geographic expanses exemplifies what Elisa Tamarkin has called the “irreducible ‘fluidity’ of the Atlantic world.” In what further and diverse ways, then, can we consider The Blithedale Romance as a novel of the Atlantic world?

We hope for a broad range of topics, from the transcendental to the material, from the circulatory to the rhizomatic. Topics might include, but are not limited to

- Blithedale’s reviews/reception/circulation/reputation in Europe
- Radicalisms
- Anarchism and the commune
- Transatlantic idealisms
- Transatlantic feminisms
- Transatlantic topography
- Cottage, farmstead, and plantation
- Labor: divisions, subordination, and violence
- Peasants, farmers, landownders
- Pastoral, anti-pastoral traditions
- Sustainability and/or primitivism
- Revolutions of 1848 revised
- Participants at Brook Farm

Abstracts of approximately 300-500 words by 15 March 2016 with a two-page cv (please send to demson@shsu.edu). Full essays (6,000-9,000 words) would be due by 15 July 2016.

Please address any questions to dpacheco@purdue.edu or demson@shsu.edu