

The Richard Stein Essay Prize 2025

The INCS Essay Prize, originally established in 2003, was named the Richard Stein Essay Prize in 2017 in honor of Richard Stein, Professor Emeritus at the University of Oregon, for his role as a principal founder of INCS and for his long and crucial service to developing and nurturing our organization. In 1985 he recognized something we now take for granted: the need for a collaborative organization devoted to the interdisciplinary study of the nineteenth century. His books and articles as well as his teaching at Harvard, Berkeley, and Oregon have focused on the connections among Victorian literature, visual culture, and other arts. Some publications include *Victoria's Year: English Literature and Culture, 1837-1838* (Oxford University Press, 1987); *The Ritual of Interpretation: The Fine Arts as Literature in Ruskin, Rossetti, and Pater* (Harvard University Press, 1975); "Illustrating Bleak House" in *Approaches to Teaching Dickens's Bleak House*, ed. John Jordan and Gordon Bigelow (MLA, 2008); "National Portraits," in *Victorian Prism*, ed. James Buzard, Joseph Childers & Eileen Gillooly (University of Virginia Press, 2007); "John Ruskin," in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literary History* (2006); "Dickens and Illustration," in *The Cambridge Companion to Dickens*, ed. John Jordan (Cambridge University Press, 2001).

This \$500 prize recognizes excellence in interdisciplinary scholarship on any nineteenth-century topic. We encourage INCS members both to submit their own work and to nominate essays written by other scholars of the nineteenth-century; essays must have been published in some form during the calendar year of 2024. To be eligible for the prize, authors must be current members of INCS. If potential contestants are not current members of INCS, they may become members at the time that they apply for the prize. Membership is always for the calendar year.

The winning essay and runner up will be announced in late October or early November 2025, and celebrated at the 2026 joint INCS/INCSA/NCSA conference in Washington, DC (July 21-24). In addition to the \$500 prize, the winner of the Stein prize will be invited to assemble a panel for the 2026 meeting.

Please send a copy of the nominated essay (.pdf preferred) to Professor Nancy Rose Marshall, University of Wisconsin, at: marshallnancyrose@gmail.com.

The 2025 Stein Prize deadline is July 15, 2025. In the case of an essay that appeared only online, a durable link is acceptable in lieu of a .pdf.

Guidelines and Eligibility Rules for the Competition

- Only current INCS members are eligible for the current competition. Membership is for the calendar year.
- Articles that appeared in print in a journal or collection in the relevant year (2024) are eligible. If the date of publication is not in that year, but the article *appeared* in that year, it is eligible. Essays published in online, peer-reviewed journals are considered to be "in print," and are thus eligible.
- The essay must make a significant contribution to the field of nineteenth-century studies.
- Current INCS board members are not eligible for this competition.

- Former INCS board members are not eligible until five years have elapsed since their board service.
- Scholars who are not yet INCS members but wish to have their essays considered may join INCS for the year of the essay's nomination up until approximately a week before judging commences.

Specific questions about the 2025 Richard Stein Essay Prize may be directed to Professor Nancy Rose Marshall, University of Wisconsin, at: **marshallnancyrose@gmail.com**.