

Dr. Halbert

English 102

22 June 2014

Annotated Bibliography

Type 1 Annotations:

Layton, Irving. "Dracula differs only in choice of food in our murderous quest for immortality."

The Globe and Mail 21 July 1979: n. pag. *LexisNexis Academic*. Web. 18 June. 2014.

- Layton writes about how similar mankind is to the character of Count Dracula. He touches upon our collective desire for immortality and how desperate we are for it. He also references how the vampire mythos changes to suit modern sensibilities.
- Quote: "If there's a collective unconscious, sexuality and death are its fetal twins. As much as humans try to forget or ignore their inescapable conjunction, somewhere in their psyches there lurks an awareness of it."

Lanken, Dane. "Though He's Long in the Tooth, Dracula's Bite Is Still Popular After Thousands

of Stakes Driven into His Heart, He Still Lives in Our Imaginations." *The Globe and*

Mails 4 October 1978: n. pag. *LexisNexis Academic*. Web. 18 June. 2014.

- In this article, Dane Lanken details the journey vampires have to become what they are today. From being a red ape like creature to the alluring, mostly human looking incarnation of today, he also mentions interesting tidbits of vampire history; such as villagers disinterring graves to slay the vampires that lay in wait during the 1730s.

- Quote: “Dracula remains the most fascinating of characters, a legend so bold and so intimately tied to human fears and fantasies that it would take a good deal more than a stake to drive him from our imagination.”

Pikula, Tanya. “Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* and Late-Victorian Advertising Tactics: Earnest Men, Virtuous Ladies, and Porn.” *English Literature in Transition* 55.3 (2012): 283-302. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 21 June. 2014.

- This article seeks to dissect the relationship, if any, between advertisements in Victorian era England and the story of Dracula.
- Quote: “Although it seeks to purge Britain of destabilizing influences by repeatedly reaffirming traditional ideologies of gender, class, and race, its descriptions of vampire-otherness are in fact thoroughly structured by the language and plot codes of the Victorian pornographic industry” (284).

Schaffer, Talia. “‘A Wilde Desire Took Me’: The Homoerotic History of Dracula”. *ELH* 61.2 (1994): 381-425. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 22 June 2014.

- “A Wilde Desire Took Me” details how the trial of Oscar Wilde effected Bram Stoker, as “a closeted homosexual” and old friend. It makes the claim that the trial was the inspiration for *Dracula*. The article also details Stoker’s love of Walt Whitman.
- Quote: “The crisis of the closet in 1895 makes *Dracula* a horror novel; but *Dracula*’s happy ending only shows that the closet is no longer a crisis but a state of complex, lived social relations whose inescapability – constitutes Jonathan Harker’s hope of happiness” (382).

Type 2 Annotation:

Pikula, Tanya. "Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Late-Victorian Advertising Tactics: Earnest Men, Virtuous Ladies, and Porn." *English Literature in Transition* 55.3 (2012): 283-302. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 21 June. 2014.

I think the intended audience for this article could range from scholars with specific interests and college students. I'd like to throw general public in there but I do believe some of the language could be a little tough for some people to digest. I think the central claim of the article was that there was some sort of relationship between the rising trend of using women and their bodies to sell products and the story of *Dracula* in the Victorian era. On pages 287 and 288, the author says, "If we read Stoker's *Dracula* as a product of this tempestuous cultural movement, we realize how the patterns and tactics cited shaped the novel's explicitly traditional arguments, its displacement of eroticism onto foreign figures and its simultaneous (and contradictory) commercial exploitation of sex." That is what was going on then, ladies magazines would send contradictory messages to women to get magazines sold.

I find this article to be an interesting one. I've always been interested by marketing tactics and Victorian era England, so it fits two requirements. Today, women are still bombarded with the same contradictory messages from advertisements. "You're ugly, buy our make up!" "50 ways to please your man." Followed by something promoting chastity on the same magazine cover. I personally thought objectifying women to sell products was relatively new but the article cites an ad for Brooke's Soap from 1890.

I think when Tanya Pikula uses examples from other scholars, she does so in a way that she can build upon them and use them to drive her point home. I don't think she was undercutting anyone, personally. It helps to create a web of credibility, it shows that there are

more people who hold to this idea. Which is important if you want the reader to take your stance seriously. She doesn't go overboard with it though.

While reading this article, I didn't find myself being bombarded with questions but I really enjoyed it overall. As previously stated, I really enjoy reading about marketing tactics and Victorian era England, this article was a nice blend. It also cites the "immoderate desire" of Mina Harker and Lucy Westenra to consume as the reason they were easy targets for Dracula, comparing him to an "advertising mastermind", so it definitely provided a new spin on the tale that I was unaware of before. It doesn't fail to touch upon the erotic aspects of *Dracula* as well. I think that the quote, "One might wonder if sexually inflected readings of *Dracula* have more to do with a twenty-first-century-hyper-sexuality than with any inherent erotic tensions within Stoker's text.", does a great job letting the reader know what the main focus of the article will be on. It also doesn't leave out the idea of *Dracula* being an erotic text.

Four More Annotations:

Gelder, Ken. *Reading the Vampire*. London: Routledge, 1994. eBook.

Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*. 1897. Intro. Brooke Allen. New York: Barnes & Noble Classics, 2003.

Print.

Whitelaw, Nancy. "Bram Stoker: Author of Dracula." (1998): 8-25. *Biography Reference Center*. Web. 18 June. 2014.

Zibart, Eve. "An Elegant Monster Still in His Prime; The Vampire; Good Evening, Count Dracula – For a Man in His Late 500s, You're Still Absolutely Hypnotic." *The Washington Post* 8 July 1979: n. pag. *LexisNexis Academic*. Web. 18 June. 2014.