



Thursday, April 15, 2004

## Claude Baillargeon

### **Assistant Professor of Art and Art History**

Claude Baillargeon organized and curated the spectacular Meadow Brook Art Gallery exhibition "Dickensian London and the Photographic Imagination." An important and original undertaking, this exhibition coincided with the 2003 Dickens Symposium at Oakland University and displayed images of London from Dickens' era. It also demonstrated how photographers explored themes, such as the Victorian fascination with spiritualism and mysterious visions, and social concerns similar to those in Dickens' novels.

By negotiating a special arrangement with the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, Baillargeon enabled Oakland University to borrow rare 19th-century images of London for this exhibition. Baillargeon and Natalie Bell Cole, associate professor of English, authored the essays in the accompanying catalogue and John Martin, an English major and university research scholar, worked with Cole to contribute an essay.

With special insight from Baillargeon and Cole, the theme and realization of this exhibition represented a productive interdisciplinary effort between English and Art and Art History departments.

#### **SUMMARY**

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