



PROJECT MUSE®

---

## Primitive Minds

Anna Neill

Published by The Ohio State University Press

Neill, Anna.

Primitive Minds: Evolution and Spiritual Experience in the Victorian Novel.

Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 2013.

Project MUSE., <https://muse.jhu.edu/>.



➔ For additional information about this book

<https://muse.jhu.edu/book/27531>



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*S* began writing this book nearly a decade ago when I was new to the fields of nineteenth-century literature and evolutionary science. For that reason, I am deeply indebted to the Victorianist friends and colleagues who encouraged and guided me and who read (sometimes multiple) drafts of portions of the manuscript. I owe a great deal especially to Dorice Elliott, Talia Schaffer, and Pamela Thurschwell. Other readers and advisors who helped me enormously include Sebastian Black, Byron Caminero-Santangelo, Marta Caminero-Santangelo, Joseph Carroll, Santanu Das, Vicky Eden, Jocelyn Harris, Linda Hughes, Michael Neill, Phil Wedge, and anonymous reviewers. The students in my 2008 graduate seminar, “Evolution and the Victorian Novel,” responded generously to my prodding about some of the issues discussed here and gave me much to ponder. The English Departments at the University of Otago and University College London, and the Department of Humanities and Western Civilization at the University of Kansas, all kindly hosted me as a speaker on the book’s topic and gave me wonderful feedback. I am also grateful to Dawn McGinnis at the Clendenin History of Medicine Library at the University of Kansas Medical Center for her considerable help and support in the early phases of the project.

Portions of several chapters of this book have already appeared in print, and I would like to thank Cambridge University Press and Johns Hopkins University Press for their permission to reproduce the material here:

Chapter 2: “Evolution and Epilepsy in *Bleak House*.” Reprinted with permission from *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500–1900* 51, no. 4 (Autumn 2011).

Chapter 3: Copyright © 2008 by the Johns Hopkins University Press. This article, “The Primitive Mind of *Silas Marner*,” first appeared in *ELH* 75.4 (2008), 939–62. Reprinted with permission by the Johns Hopkins University Press.

Chapter 4: “The Savage Genius of Sherlock Holmes,” first published in *Victorian Literature and Culture* 37, no. 2 (2009).

The project was supported by the University of Kansas General Research Fund awards 2301445, 2301247, and 2301023. The Hall Center for the Humanities at KU generously assisted me with grant proposals related to the project. I am also grateful to Joanne Wilkes and the University of Auckland English Department for hosting me as an Honorary Research Fellow during the final writing stages. During that time, too, I was privileged and honored to be working in the private study of the late Dame Judith Binney.

I also owe tremendous thanks to Sandy Crooms and the other editorial, production, and marketing staff at The Ohio State University Press, especially Maggie Diehl, Juliet Williams, and Laurie Avery.

Finally, I owe perhaps the greatest debt to my family, especially my son, Connor, and to the dear friends in Lawrence and elsewhere who anchored me during the difficult years that this book tries indirectly to describe.