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MacMillan Publishing releases *America and the British Imaginary in Turn-of-the-Century Literature* by Brook Miller

Summary: Miller's research and writing on varied British literary representations of America and Americans around the turn-of-the-century have received excellent reviews.

(December 22, 2010)-Palgrave Macmillan, the publishing company's Education division, has released Brook Miller's new book, *America and the British Imaginary in Turn-of-the-Century Literature*. A reception will be held in Miller's honor, a University of Minnesota, Morris associate professor of English, on Thursday, January 27, 2011, from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. at LaFave House, 305 College Avenue, Morris.

Miller researched varied British literary representations of America and Americans around the turn-of-the-century for the book. His work has received excellent reviews.

"Miller makes an especially donative intervention into the burgeoning field of transatlantic studies where culture, richly conceived, is registered as an issue of pedagogy and performance," states Ian F.A. Bell, professor of American Literature at University of Keele. "He mounts a powerful challenge to the binaries of 'high' and 'mass' art, to existing notions of national affiliation and difference within what is acknowledged as one of those transitional decades where cultural energies are most vibrant. Sprightly traversing travel narratives, journalism and novels, both canonical and noncanonical, Miller negotiates matters of race and transformations in the economy to present a substantial diet of well-nuanced transnational understandings. Both fresh and accessible, with lively writing and well-judged research, we have here one of the most expressive contributions to a debate of increasing importance."

Miller focused his research on new readings of the works of authors Joseph Conrad, Bram Stoker, Rudyard Kipling, Henry James, and a variety of lesser-known figures. He demonstrates that domestic and international pressures upon Britain made America and the idea of national character subjects of intensive political and popular scrutiny. Changes in Anglo-American relations had an impact upon evolving ideas about British identity.

A Universitywide 2010 Imagine Fund award assisted Miller in the completion of *America and the British Imaginary in Turn-of-the-Century Literature*. The grant will continue to assist his research on his next book exploring representations of selfhood in modern British fiction. Both projects have impacted his teaching and the discussion of literary versions of the self with Morris students in courses and outside of the classroom, generating useful contemporary viewpoints.

Miller earned a doctorate at Indiana University in 2003. He teaches British Modernism, Cultural Nationalism and Irish Literature, Virginia Woolf and the Modern Moment, and Literary Theory. He is also the author of "The Impersonal Personal: Value, Voice, and Agency in Elizabeth Bowen's Literary and Social Criticism," published in *Modern Fiction Studies* "The Paradoxes of Nationhood: the Urban American Crowd and British Subjectivity," published in *Conference Proceedings for the America and Britishness Conference* by Oxford Scholars Press and "Democracy, Commodification, and the United States in The Apple Cart," published in *Shaw: The Annual of Shaw Studies*.

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