

Materiality and Visual Culture in Victorian Literature

English 606

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Fall 2022, Tuesdays, 5–7:45



Interior of the Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations (the “Crystal Palace Exhibition”), London 1851

In Victorian Britain, industrialization brought about the consumer- and visually-oriented society in which we still live. How do writers conceptualize the *literary* in this economy? How does the book itself as a material object figure into the idea of *literature*, and how do Victorian writers grapple with the meanings attached to things in this new, materially crowded world?