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This book explores both the culture these rich offerings fomented and the asylum's place in the fabric of nineteenth-century life, reanimating a time when the treatment of the insane was a central topic in debates over democracy, freedom, and modernity. The book explores the creative lives of patients and the cultural demands of their doctors.

Rusert,Britt. 2010. Theaters of Madness: Insane Asylums and Nineteenth-Century American Culture. *American Literature* 82(1): 188-190.

The author divides his study into six chapters, each with a topic, including the simultaneous emergence of nineteenth-century public debate about improving the treatment of insanity and the movement to abolish slavery; cultural activities in asylums directed toward humanizing the patients; bardolatry in British and American medical circles; discussions of Emerson, Hawthorne, Poe, and Melville ...

1/9/2009 · Lawrence B. Goodheart, *Theaters of Madness: Insane Asylums and Nineteenth-Century American Culture*. By Benjamin Reiss. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008. xii, 237 pp. Cloth, \$50.00, ISBN 978-0-226-70963-5.

"Theaters of Madness" explores both the culture these rich offerings fomented and the asylum's place in the fabric of nineteenth-century life, reanimating a time when the treatment of the insane was a central topic in debates over democracy, freedom, and modernity. Benjamin Reiss explores the creative lives of patients

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23 Benjamin Reiss, *Theaters of Madness: Insane Asylums and Nineteenth-Century American Culture* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008), 4. 24 Grob, *Mental Institutions in America*, 88. 25 Reiss, *Theaters of Madness*, 4; Grob, *Mental Institutions in America*, 66.

Rusert, Britt. 2010. *Theaters of Madness: Insane Asylums and Nineteenth-Century American Culture*. *American Literature* 82(1): 188-190.

Theaters of Madness: Insane Asylums and Nineteenth-Century American Culture. In the mid-1800s, a utopian movement to rehabilitate the insane resulted in a wave of publicly funded asylums—many of which became unexpected centers of cultural activity. Housed in magnificent structures with lush grounds, patients participated in theatrical ...

Benjamin Reiss, *Theaters of Madness: Insane Asylums and Nineteenth-Century American Culture* (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2008), pp. 237. £34.50 hb. ISBN: 0-226-70963-9. £14 pb ISBN: 0-226-70964-7. When Dickens first toured America in 1842, he decided to visit many of the country's

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public charity institutions.

In the nineteenth-century asylum, there was a concern of patients being overexposed to certain cultural artifacts, which were blamed as a cause of insanity rather than a cure (31). This "madness" given voice in print also had to walk another line: asylums did not want to publish fully "mad" pieces or else their efforts at moral and mental reform would be perceived as ineffective.

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Reiss refers to the French model of using cultural activities in asylums, f.ex., Philippe Pinel's staging of plays to educate patients, and Marquis de Sade's theater performances at Charenton. He ends with a discussion of patient narratives that depict some horrific abuses tolerated in nineteenth-century asylums; the degree of these abuses is familiar to us from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* ...

Review of Theaters of Madness: Insane Asylums and Nineteenth-Century American Culture by Benjamin Reiss

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The connections between specific asylum sites and other civic landscape projects such as regional and city infrastructure, city parks, and rural cemeteries are emphasized here to show how New York State asylum landscapes were an important part of statecraft and the larger nineteenth-century American landscape design culture.

Her path-breaking research was subsequently followed by Jim Mills's discussion of Indian mental illness in his *Madness, Cannabis and Colonialism: The 'Native-Only' Lunatic Asylums of British India, 1857-1900*.² However, all this research does not specifically address the problem of female mental health and to date Ernst's

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4/5/2014 · Levin, Len, and Ruthann Gildea. "Bibliotherapy: Tracing the Roots of a Moral Therapy Movement in the United States from the Early Nineteenth Century to the Present." *Journal of the Medical Library Association* (2013): 89. Academic OneFile. Web. 20 Apr. 2014. Shore, John. "I Was in an Insane Asylum." *Patheos*. N.p., 29 Jan. 2011. Web. 14 ...

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