

Heterotopic Clashes in David Lodge's *The British Museum Is Falling Down* and Peter Ackroyd's *Dan Leno and The Limehouse Golem*

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Abstract

David Lodge's The British Museum is Falling Down and Peter Ackroyd's Dan Leno and the Limehouse Golem represent a famous British institution as more than a setting, inviting redefinitions of the museum as an institutional cultural site, as a heterotopia of time acquiring sometimes unexpected cultural and ideological uses. The paper examines the ways in which the fictional rendition of the British Museum signals important cultural changes in Lodge's narrative set in the 1960s, while in Ackroyd's novel it sets the same institution in a Victorian setting, achieving effects created by the apparently unexpected combination of Gothic elements and poststructuralist perspectives on subjectivity.