2006 RESEARCH GRANT: FINAL REPORT

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RESTATEMENT OF PROBLEM RESEARCHED AND BRIEF REVIEW OF
PROCEDURE UTILIZED.

Change of Plans: With the concurrence of Dr. Hamm and the Committee, I changed
plans for my grant. Originally, I planned to present a paper to a conference in England
the funds were granted for that trip. However, the conference was cancelled after I had
already purchased the airline tickets. The funds were re-approved for research at the
British Library in London. I was researching another project: nineteenth-century English
fiction employing either mesmerism or hypnotism a theme or plot device. I had already
obtained and read a number of novels by English authors published between 1870 and
1910. However, at the British Library I accessed novels otherwise unavailable through
Interlibrary Loan:

Fane, Violet, The Story of Helen Davenant, 1889.
Harley, Cecil, The Shadow of a Song, 1893.
Stuart, Esme, In His Grasp, 1887.
Warden, Florence, A Woman’s Face, Date 1890?

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I have read roughly fifty novels for this project and nearly completed the first article
utilizing these materials. I am not certain yet whether this will be a publishable book, but
anticipate that I will at least write several more articles to submit to journals on Victorian
literature. The first (whose draft I append) concerns changes in property law as reflected
in this fiction; the others will explore other Victorian social changes that express
themselves through the imagery of mesmerism/hypnotism deployed by this fiction. For
each article, I will select the novels most appropriate to that theme. I anticipate needing
no further funding for this project, since my research on these novels is essentially
complete.