

THE CURRAN INDEX

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The *Wellesley Index* is such an enormous achievement -- spanning 40 periodicals, almost 90,000 articles, and over 11,000 identified authors -- that it is tempting to consider it representative of contributions to Victorian periodicals as a whole. However, that would be an overreach, because the *WI* does not include dailies, weeklies, regional publications, or many specialized or ephemeral monthly periodicals. Moreover, even within its specified domain of scholarly quarterlies and "major" monthlies, the *WI* left out a great deal.

One major omission was the failure to incorporate verse. Victorian miscellanies -- periodicals such as *Blackwood's Magazine*, *Fraser's Magazine*, *Bentley's Miscellany*, the *Cornhill*, *Macmillan's Magazine*, and the *New Monthly Magazine* -- featured interspersed poetry and prose. Houghton and his associates questioned the lasting value of Victorian periodical poetry and consequently excluded it from consideration. Now, after Linda Hughes' influential article, "What the Wellesley Index Left Out: Why Poetry Matters to Periodical Studies," *Victorian Periodicals Review*, 40 (2007), 91-125, periodical verse's value is indisputable. If verse is ignored, our understanding of the construction and presentation of miscellanies, the contributors to these periodicals, and the values and interest of the Victorian reading public will be substantively incomplete.

Eileen Curran recognized this deficiency, and in 1999 she published in *Victorian Periodicals Review* an extended bibliographical study of verse in *Bentley's Miscellany*. Others are also addressing this shortfall, perhaps most notably in Alison Chapman's *Victorian Poetry Network* and in the *Periodical Poetry Index*, co-directed by Natalie Houston, Lindsay Lawrence, and April Patrick. With this update the *Curran Index* enters the fray with its own contributions: a bibliography of verse in the *New Monthly Magazine*

from 1821 to 1850 and, stimulated by an initial listing kindly provided by David Latané, a first installment bibliography of verse in *Fraser's Magazine* in the years 1831-1840.

As listed in an associated separate file, bibliographic information has been provided for over 1700 separate poems or groups of poems published in *NMM*. Since many of those poems were subsequently reprinted in volumes with named authors, we have been able to attribute 73% of these verses to 159 specific contributors. Almost 28% of these contributors were women; in contrast, the *Wellesley Index* reported that only 13% of its identified contributors were women, so that either by virtue of the nature of the writing (poetry vs. prose), or through editorial practices, the *NMM* was a favorable environment for women poets. Some frequent contributors are now well known: Felicia Hemans, Thomas Campbell, Letitia Landon (L.E.L), Thomas Hood, Leigh Hunt, and Bryan Waller Procter (Barry Cornwall). Other frequently encountered names might be more surprising. The humorists James and Horace Smith together contributed almost 200 verses, and their niece Maria Abdy, a prolific poet and story writer who has almost disappeared from literary history, contributed almost 50 works. Cyrus Redding, the active subeditor during the 1820s, contributed over 100 poems. And there is evidence that poems cited by recent biographers of Leigh Hunt and Theodore Hook as being particularly representative of their respective principals were, in fact, written by others.

Our separately reported analysis of verse in *Fraser's Magazine* during the magazine's first decade enumerates almost 400 poems. Of these only 55% have been traced to one of 51 specific authors; this lower attribution rate is associated with the nature of this poetry. The occasional and most often political 1830s verse in *Fraser's* was less frequently reprinted in author-specific volumes. In striking contrast to the *NMM*, only 18% of *Fraser's* contributing poets were women, raising the questions whether women of the day simply didn't write much political poetry, or whether the Fraserian circle was less open to female contributors. Further, the most frequent known verse contributors to the 1830s *FM* – William Maginn, James Hogg, John Abraham Heraud, Robert Macnish, Thomas Powell, Bryan Waller Procter – were male, and the percentage of published poems written by women was even lower, less than 8%.

Sometimes the limitations of pages and resources forced the *Wellesley Index* team to drop periodicals they would have liked to include. The *Metropolitan Magazine* – a monthly in competition with *Fraser's Magazine*, *Bentley's Miscellany*, the *New Monthly Magazine*, and other periodicals of the 1830s and 1840s -- was not included for these reasons. The March 2014 *CI* update included a file listing 2120 articles printed in the *Metropolitan*, with a 61% attribution rate connecting these articles with 169 authors. This file is now being reviewed and a revised version will be reported in a subsequent *Curran Index* update.

The Wellesley team also initially intended to include the *Church Quarterly Review*, the voice of high church Anglicanism in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. However, Walter Houghton set the bar for inclusion in the *Wellesley Index* at an attribution rate of roughly 75%. When it was clear that nothing close to that rate was likely to be realized for the *CQR*, Josef Altholtz, who was investigating that periodical, instead published his results in “The Church Quarterly Review,” *Victorian Periodicals Review*, Vol. 17, No. 1/2 (Spring - Summer, 1984), pp. 52-57. Although this information is therefore available to those who carefully seek it out, it is an “orphan,” in that it is not associated with a larger collection of periodical bibliographic information. Further, while high attribution rates would obviously be better, limited information on contributors can still be valuable. Even a 10 or 20% attribution rate may give a useful sense of the nature of the contributors to a given periodical. Moreover, if one is interested in the work of a specific author – in the case of the *CQR*, say William Gladstone or Charlotte Yonge – it may be important to know at least some of the articles that author contributed to a periodical even if other contributions remain hidden. Accordingly, bibliographic data for the *CQR* has been incorporated into the *Curran Index*. As a probably not unexpected point of information, 23 of the 43 known contributors to the high church *CQR* were educated at Oxford, while only 11 were associated with Cambridge.

Although the primary focus of the *Curran Index* over the last year has been addressing writings and periodicals which were not included in the *Wellesley Index*, a few of our more traditional additions and corrections are included in the following. The interesting

and carefully documented papers by Thomas McLean and Troy Gregory cited below demonstrate the continuing vitality of attribution scholarship.

Fraser's Magazine

FM 752 Religious Toleration in South America. 10 (Nov 1834), 523-529. *Add: Jane Porter*. See Thomas McLean, "Jane Porter's Later Works, 1824-1846," *Harvard Library Bulletin* 20.2 (Summer 2009): 45-62.

New Monthly Magazine

NMM 1440 Recollections of a Göttingen student (Part I). 26 (Dec 1829), 515-523.
Replace information after page numbers with: Thomas James Arnold. See Essaka Joshua and Eleoma Joshua, "William Weir, Thomas James Arnold, and the Attribution of Articles in the Wellesley Index and the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography," *The Scottish Historical Review* 86.2 (October, 2007): 319-327. (The name of this author was erroneously reported as Thomas Jane Arnold in the March 2013 *CI*.)

NMM 1450 Recollections of a Göttingen student (Part II). 28 (Jan 1830), 12-20.
Replace information after page numbers with: Thomas James Arnold. See *NMM* 1440. (The name of this author was erroneously reported as Thomas Jane Arnold in the March 2013 *CI*.)

NMM 1468 Recollections of a Göttingen student (Part III). 28 (Feb 1830), 145-154.
Replace information after page numbers with: Thomas James Arnold. See *NMM* 1440. (The name of this author was erroneously reported as Thomas Jane Arnold in the March 2013 *CI*.)

NMM 1480 Recollections of a Göttingen student (No. IV). 28 (Mar 1830), 245-254.
Replace information after page numbers with: Thomas James Arnold. See *NMM* 1440. (The name of this author was erroneously reported as Thomas Jane Arnold in the March 2013 *CI*.)

NMM 1491 Recollections of a Göttingen student (No. V). 28 (Apr 1830), 340-348.
Replace information after page numbers with: Thomas James Arnold. See *NMM* 1440. (I regret that I previously erroneously reported the name of this author as Thomas Jane Arnold.)

- NMM 1503** Recollections of a Göttingen student (No. VI). 28 (May 1830), 423-435.
Replace information after page numbers with: Thomas James Arnold. See *NMM* 1440. (The name of this author was erroneously reported as Thomas Jane Arnold in the March 2013 *CI*.)
- NMM 1539** Recollections of a Göttingen student (No. VII, concl.) 29 (Aug 1830), 117-120. *Replace information after page numbers with: Thomas James Arnold.* See *NMM* 1440. (The name of this author was erroneously reported as Thomas Jane Arnold in the March 2013 *CI*.)
- NMM 4132** The richest commoner in England (chaps. i-ii), 82 (March 1848), 269-280.
Robert Smith Surtees. The *Wellesley Index* initially attributed this series of articles to Surtees, but Richard Altick questioned the basis for that attribution (*VPR* 23 (1990) 67). Now, however, Troy Gregory's textual analysis (*VPR* 47 (2014) 296-302) makes a strong case for restoring the attribution to Surtees.
- NMM 4148** The richest commoner in England (chaps. iii-iv), 82 (April 1848), 409-417.
Robert Smith Surtees. The *Wellesley Index* initially attributed this series of articles to Surtees, but Richard Altick questioned the basis for that attribution (*VPR* 23 (1990) 67). Now, however, Troy Gregory's textual analysis (*VPR* 47 (2014) 296-302) makes a strong case for restoring the attribution to Surtees.
- NMM 4163** The richest commoner in England (chaps. v-vi), 82 (May 1848), 1-11.
Robert Smith Surtees. The *Wellesley Index* initially attributed this series of articles to Surtees, but Richard Altick questioned the basis for that attribution (*VPR* 23 (1990) 67). Now, however, Troy Gregory's textual analysis (*VPR* 47 (2014) 296-302) makes a strong case for restoring the attribution to Surtees.
- NMM 4184** The richest commoner in England (chaps. vii-ix), 83 (June 1848), 205-218.
Robert Smith Surtees. The *Wellesley Index* initially attributed this series of articles to Surtees, but Richard Altick questioned the basis for that attribution (*VPR* 23 (1990) 67). Now, however, Troy Gregory's textual analysis (*VPR* 47 (2014) 296-302) makes a strong case for restoring the attribution to Surtees.

- NMM 4203** The richest commoner in England (chap. x), 83 (July 1848), 357-367.
Robert Smith Surtees. The *Wellesley Index* initially attributed this series of articles to Surtees, but Richard Altick questioned the basis for that attribution (*VPR* 23 (1990) 67). Now, however, Troy Gregory's textual analysis (*VPR* 47 (2014) 296-302) makes a strong case for restoring the attribution to Surtees.
- NMM 4214** The richest commoner in England (chaps. xi-xiii), 83 (August 1848), 452-463. **Robert Smith Surtees.** The *Wellesley Index* initially attributed this series of articles to Surtees, but Richard Altick questioned the basis for that attribution (*VPR* 23 (1990) 67). Now, however, Troy Gregory's textual analysis (*VPR* 47 (2014) 296-302) makes a strong case for restoring the attribution to Surtees.
- NMM 4239** The richest commoner in England (chap. xiv), 84 (September 1848), 116-122. **Robert Smith Surtees.** The *Wellesley Index* initially attributed this series of articles to Surtees, but Richard Altick questioned the basis for that attribution (*VPR* 23 (1990) 67). Now, however, Troy Gregory's textual analysis (*VPR* 47 (2014) 296-302) makes a strong case for restoring the attribution to Surtees.
- NMM 4250** The richest commoner in England (chap. xiv, concl.), 84 (October 1848), 205-214. **Robert Smith Surtees.** The *Wellesley Index* initially attributed this series of articles to Surtees, but Richard Altick questioned the basis for that attribution (*VPR* 23 (1990) 67). Now, however, Troy Gregory's textual analysis (*VPR* 47 (2014) 296-302) makes a strong case for restoring the attribution to Surtees.

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Arnold, Thomas James (not Arnold, Thomas Jane!)

Recollections of a Göttingen student, **NMM** 1440, 1450, 1468, 1480, 1491, 1503, 1530; Dec29—Aug30

Porter, Jane

Religious Toleration in South America, **FM** 752; Nov34

Surtees, Robert Smith

The Richest Commoner in England, **NMM** 4132, 4148, 4163, 4184, 4203, 4214,
4239, 4250; Mar48—Oct48.