

THE CURRAN INDEX

December 2015

Gary Simons

Since the last update in March 2015 there have been major additions to the [*Curran Index*](#); the *CI* now itemizes and indexes over 7,500 contributions to nineteenth-century periodicals and traces many of these articles to one or more of almost 1,000 individual contributors.

Partial listings have been introduced or extended for two important religious periodicals. In March we incorporated Josef Altholtz's bibliographic analysis of the [*Church Quarterly Review*](#), the voice of high church Anglicanism in the last quarter of the nineteenth century; now that listing has been substantially enhanced. Additionally, Russell Wyland has kindly provided some early listings for the [*British Critic*](#), as a forerunner to our planned inclusion of a several-decades-old 1824-1843 listing by Esther Houghton which has never been published.

The identification and analysis of an additional collection of letters by Frederick Marryat has supported the revision and substantial improvement of our earlier listings of the [*Metropolitan Magazine*](#), a miscellany of the 1830s and 1840s.

In 1991 Eileen Curran published a Wellesley-like analysis of the [*Foreign Review*](#), a publication studded with distinguished contributors like Southey and Carlyle. With this update her analysis has been incorporated into her namesake index. On several occasions the late Eileen Curran also announced her intention of publishing an attribution analysis for the [*Foreign and Colonial Quarterly Review*](#), a mid-1840s periodical distinguished by contributions from Gladstone and other prominent literary and political personalities. Unfortunately, she did not live to bring that project to completion. Using her surviving notes as a starting point, we have incorporated a baseline for this periodical into the *Curran Index*.

Professor Curran also separately published a study of verse in [*Bentley's Miscellany*](#) up to 1854 – a study which has been extensively revised and augmented in previous *Curran Index* updates. All of this information, with new corrections and additions, has now been brought into the *CI*. We are also pleased to report that an unpublished listing of verse in *Blackwood's Magazine* by Eileen Curran has been discovered among her files and papers. At some point this will also be brought into the *CI*.

To accompany the *Bentley's* verse listings, our prior listing of verse in the [*New Monthly Magazine*](#) has been extended from 1851 to 1854. This added much verse by women and some interesting Crimean War poetry to the index. Additionally, our earlier listing of verse in [*Fraser's Magazine*](#), which had only gone up to 1841, has similarly been extended to 1854 – thereby adding verse by Coventry Patmore, Charles Kingsley, Frederick Tennyson, Arthur Hugh Clough, George Meredith, William Allingham, and many others to the *CI*. Lastly, a start has been made on adding verse from the *Metropolitan Magazine*. All told, the *Curran Index* now provides extensive coverage of verse in the early Victorian London monthlies.

The table below summarizes the current article counts per periodical in the *Curran Index Database*:

| Periodical | Prose | Verse |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Bentley's Miscellany</i> | 382 | 954 |
| <i>British Critic</i> | 25 | |
| <i>Calcutta Review</i> | 133 | |
| <i>Church Quarterly Review</i> | 214 | |
| <i>Foreign Review</i> | 131 | |
| <i>Foreign and Colonial Quarterly Review</i> | 184 | |
| <i>Fraser's Magazine</i> | 106 | 671 |
| <i>Metropolitan Magazine</i> | 2120 | 204 |
| <i>New Monthly Magazine</i> | 78 | 1810 |

| | | |
|-------------------|------|------|
| Other Periodicals | 510 | 8 |
| | 3621 | 3647 |

A major effort has been made to ascertain and provide extended biographical information regarding the contributors of articles listed in the *Curran Index Database*. As of this update, 985 contributors, including 462 which were not listed in the *Wellesley Index*, have been identified. As a further point of reference, approximately half of the 985 contributors are not listed in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

The indispensable Volume 5 of the *Wellesley Index* was a comprehensive bibliographical listing by author that covered all attributed articles detailed in Volumes 1-4. With this update we have provided a similarly [comprehensive multi-periodical *Curran Index* bibliography](#).

The volume of new attributions arriving with this new edition is so large that inserting them into their proper places within the existing webpages that have always made up the *Curran Index* has proved impractical. Instead, we are making all of this new information available in easily accessible and printable PDF files that in most cases include all existing *Curran Index* attributions for a particular periodical. This system is a transitional one. With the support and guidance of the [Research Society for Victorian Periodicals](#) (RSVP), the plan is for the *Curran Index* to be redesigned and reconfigured in the near future from its current format into a fully and flexibly searchable online database. Stay tuned for updates about these exciting new developments.

As always, questions, comments, and suggestions about anything having to do with the *Curran Index* or attribution research are most welcome. Please send these to simons@victorianresearch.org.

G.S.