

# A *Curran Index* Report: Identifying and Characterizing Contributors to Victorian Periodicals

This report documents and codifies the status and contents (as of August 2016) of the *Curran Index*, a research project and database which has been generously supported in recent years by the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals. A financial accounting of funds expended during 2016 will be separately provided by year end.

The *Curran Index* currently exists in three formulations: (1) a Microsoft Access database, (2) a MySQL database, and (3) an HTML / PDF composite hosted on the *Victoria Research Web*. The first of these has been used to generate the detailed listings incorporated into the body of this report; the second of these is intended as a back end for a future fully searchable on-line database system – a specification for this system has been developed and is included as an appendix; the third, although offering only limited searchability, makes *Curran Index* information readily and freely accessible today to the community of interested scholars.

Besides providing information on the contributions of individual contributors, or the contents of important periodicals, the *Curran Index* databases support a range of queries regarding contributors, articles, and periodicals and allows one to select and sort the data based on gender, age, education, nationality, and other factors. I have presented sample *Curran Index* queries in “Characterizing Contributors to Victorian Periodicals: Querying the Curran Index,” presented at the 2015 RSVP conference in Ghent, and will return to the subject in “Identifying and Characterizing Contributors to Victorian Periodicals: A *Curran Index* Report” at the upcoming RSVP annual conference at Kansas City.

## I Introduction

As the study of Victorian periodicals began to ripen in the 1950s, it became apparent to pioneering scholars like Walter Houghton and Richard Altick that the 19<sup>th</sup> century practice of contributor anonymity was a major roadblock to our understanding of Victorian print culture. One could determine *what* opinions and values were being expressed in reviews and articles, but not *who* were expressing these views, or *which* social, experiential, or cultural situations and perspectives they represented. Accordingly, under the Walter Houghton's leadership, the *Wellesley Index* project began to pierce through this heavy fog of anonymity, at least for certain key monthlies and quarterlies.<sup>1</sup> *Wellesley* scholars sought to delineate the specific prose articles published in a number of carefully chosen

Victorian periodicals and to identify the contributors responsible for these articles. In a pre-computer era this massive task spanned three decades: five large volumes were published under the auspices of the University of Toronto Press, beginning in 1966 and ending in 1989.<sup>2</sup> Each of the first four volumes included both table-of-contents listings and contributor bibliographies; the fifth volume contained cumulative bibliographies for nearly 12,000 contributors. Depending on how one counts mergers and separations, 40 to 43 periodicals and nearly 89,000 articles were indexed. The significance of this project cannot be overestimated – Rosemary VanArsdel has aptly described the *Wellesley Index* as “one of the twentieth century’s great and enduring feats of the collaborative scholarship.”<sup>3</sup>

During the 1990s a series of follow-up studies of additional periodicals and additions and corrections to the *Wellesley Index* by many scholars were published in the *Victorian Periodicals Review*.<sup>4</sup> Professor Eileen Curran, who had played a prominent role in the *Wellesley Index* project, played an even more central role in this continuing scholarship. After the last of her *Wellesley Index* “additions and corrections” articles was published in 2002, Professor Curran, at the suggestion and with the encouragement of Patrick Leary, and with occasional input from other scholars, issued a series of further attribution updates on-line under the auspices of Leary’s *Victorian Research Web* -- a project called (at his insistence), the *Curran Index*. Five editions of the Curran Index were published between 2003 and 2007. While Dr. Curran continued to gather materials for a sixth edition, her health did not permit her to finish the work to her high standards, and so it remained unpublished.<sup>5</sup>

After Dr. Curran’s death in April of 2013, the project, still hosted at VictorianResearch.org, took on a new life under the current editor. .An extensive series of further updates has been issued that has, to date, increased the size of the *Curran Index* by a factor of ten, and greatly expanded its scope.<sup>6</sup> The *Curran Index* has not only continued to correct or complete *Wellesley Index* entries, but, – heavily relying on digital tools and services, has also expanded into new areas: review periodicals emphasizing religious or foreign interests or perspectives; a heretofore largely unexamined major London literary monthly of the 1830s and 1840s; periodical verse (which had largely been left out of the *Wellesley Index*); and the “annuals,” specialized gift-book periodicals popular from the 1820s to the 1850s. The cumulative results of these post-*Wellesley* efforts, current up to August of 2016<sup>7</sup>, are codified in this report, which encompasses 1,538 contributors and 12,354 articles. The material is organized as follows: (1) complete or partial chronological table of contents listings by periodical; (2) a cumulative bibliography by contributor for all articles in the *Curran Index*; (3) a listing of deletions which should be made by those who consult the *Wellesley Index*; and (4) a set of short essays which were originally published with each

on-line *Curran Index* update. An appendix provides a draft specification for a future fully searchable on-line database. Although clearly informed and inspired by its *Wellesley Index* predecessor, the *Curran Index* stands on its own; one can consult, consider, and benefit from the *Curran Index* and from the information in this report without referring back to the older volumes of the *Wellesley*.

Indeed, in many respects the information detailed in this report constitutes a *de facto* sixth volume of the *Wellesley Index*, a new reference point in an on-going collective effort to establish the contributor – contribution – periodical relationships undergirding Victorian periodicals. The work

<b>Table I: Additions and Corrections of Article Entries in the Wellesley Index</b>	
<i>Bentley's Miscellany</i>	382
<i>Fraser's Magazine</i>	106
<i>Blackwood's Edinburgh Mag.</i>	96
<i>Eclectic Review</i> *	88
<i>New Monthly Magazine</i>	78
<i>Temple Bar</i>	40
<i>Westminster Review</i>	37
<i>Dublin University Magazine</i>	34
<i>Quarterly Review</i>	32
<i>British and Foreign Review</i>	31
<i>Tait's Edinburgh Review</i>	27
<i>Ainsworth's Magazine</i>	26
<i>Contemporary Review</i>	24
<i>Foreign Quarterly Review</i>	21
<i>Edinburgh Review</i>	13
Other	49
Total	1,084
*Additions and Corrections to the Eclectic Review are to a VPR article.	

continues: as Eileen Curran herself once wrote to the current editor, "one can never give up the hunt."

## II What is in the *Curran Index*?

### 1) Additions and Corrections to the *Wellesley Index*

Although the *Wellesley* investigators made every effort to be both comprehensive and correct, a project of that magnitude inevitably contained errors and omissions. Over time, further scholarship has shown that some seemingly well-considered attributions of articles were in fact incorrect. Sometimes improved justifications have been found for attributions that were initially presented as only conjectural. And new sources of information have come to light that support the attribution of articles whose contributor(s) were previously unknown.

As shown in Table I, the *Curran Index* contains over a thousand article records either adding to or correcting entries in the *Wellesley Index*. Some of these corrections are minor – although, of course, the devil is in the details – but others are certainly not. It should also be noted that only some of these corrections are included in *Proquest's* current on-line version of the *Wellesley Index*, whereas a complete set of them is included here.

The greatest number of additions and corrections is associated with *Bentley's Miscellany*; many of these are credited to Richard Ford, who discovered and analyzed a great deal of Bentley material that was not available to the *Wellesley* team. However, there are also many additions and corrections for other prominent periodicals, such as *Fraser's Magazine* and *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*. For those interested in discovering who was responsible for which articles in the listed periodicals, the *Curran Index* is an essential supplement to the *Wellesley Index*.

The *Wellesley Index* also included some limited information about contributors, such as birth and death years, and one- or two-word descriptors. Over the years scholars have corrected some of this information and filled in omissions. These corrections are also incorporated into the *Curran Index*.

## 2) Critical Reviews

The quarterly reviews which both formed and expressed critical opinion in the 19<sup>th</sup> century are central to the study of Victorian intellectual and literary history. The *Wellesley* team of scholars indexed the "big three" (the *Edinburgh Review*, the *Quarterly Review*, and the *Westminster Review*) as well as several others, but they did not fully accomplish their goals. In particular, limitations of time and resources hampered their explorations of those quarterly reviews that looked to the world outside the British Isles; while the *Foreign Quarterly Review* and the *British and Foreign Review* were included, many other important reviews were not.

In 1991, Eileen Curran published a *Wellesley*-like analysis of the late 1820s *Foreign Review*, a publication studded with distinguished contributors like Robert Southey and Thomas Carlyle. With this update her analysis has been incorporated into her namesake index. On several occasions she also announced her intention of publishing an attribution analysis for the *Foreign and Colonial Quarterly Review*, a mid-1840s periodical distinguished by contributions from W. E. Gladstone and other prominent figures. Unfortunately, she did not live to bring that project to completion. However, using her surviving notes in the Eileen Curran Papers archive at Colby College as a starting point, the current editor has been able to add a preliminary but substantive entry for this important periodical to the *Curran Index*. As it happens, in addition to political luminaries, a number of familiar 1840s literary figures, including Henry Fothergill Chorley, John Abraham Heraud, Richard Henry Horne, G.P.R. James, George Henry Lewes, Julia Sophia Pardoe, and Thomas Adolphus Trollope wrote for the *Foreign and Colonial*. The inclusion of their writings into this organized index should facilitate analyses of their careers and contributions to periodical literature.

Although the *Wellesley* scholars did not, apparently, contemplate extending their study to periodicals published outside of Great Britain, Dr. Antonietta Consonni has fortunately brought to our attention the existence of records of contributors to the *Calcutta Review*, a quarterly established in 1844 with the goal of being a “first class English periodical in India.” Revising Dr. Consonni's preliminary work on these records, this edition of the *Curran Index* includes detailed article-contributor information for the first ten volumes of the *Calcutta Review*, with more to come in the future. With this addition, a novel and distinctly Anglo-Indian perspective on culture, history, and literature has been brought into the characterization of Victorian periodicals.

<b>Table II: Critical Reviews in the Curran Index</b>				
	# of Articles <sup>1</sup>	Ave. Contributor Age by Article	Articles by Contributors In ODNB	Unique Contributors <sup>2</sup>
<i>British Critic</i> Jan 1814 – Dec 1824	1003 (248)	40.4	90%	92 (35)
<i>Calcutta Review</i> May 1844 - Dec 1848	133 (1)	34.3	58%	43 (6)
<i>Church Quarterly Review</i> Oct 1875 – Dec 1900	1051 (781)	47.5	78%	92 (43)
<i>Foreign Review</i> Jan 1828 – Mar 1830	131 (45)	35.0	57%	38 (22)
<i>Foreign &amp; Colonial Quarterly Review</i> Jan 1843 – Apr 1847	184 (111)	40.5	80%	30 (23)
<sup>1</sup> # of articles (# of articles with unknown origin)				
<sup>2</sup> # of unique contributors (# of unique contributors in Wellesley Index)				

The editors of the *Wellesley Index* also initially intended to delineate the arc of Anglican high church critical thought through the 19<sup>th</sup> century via analyses of the *British Critic* (1793-1843), the *Church of England Quarterly Review* (1837-1858), the *English Review* (1844-1853), the *Christian Remembrancer* (1819-1868), and the *Church Quarterly Review* (1875-1900 and beyond). Unfortunately, these studies were not completed during the course of that project.

Under the auspices of the *Wellesley Index*, Esther Rhodes Houghton produced a lengthy attribution study for the *British Critic*, a pivotal publication in that it eventually became the central critical organ of the *Oxford Movement*. For various reasons this analysis was not included in Volume IV

of the *Wellesley Index*, a decision which the last editor of the *Wellesley Index*, Jean Slingerland, came to regret.<sup>8</sup> However, Esther Houghton's typescript has survived in the archives of the *Wellesley Index* which are maintained at Wellesley College, and is now published for the first time, with additional material. This edition of the *Curran Index* thus at last opens to scholarly view the contents and writers of the *British Critic* as detailed in Houghton's long-buried study. Additionally, thanks to Russell Wyland, we are able to report some early 1814-1823 *British Critic* attributions associated with John Taylor Coleridge and John Keble.

The *Church Quarterly Review* was the dominant high-church critical review in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As Josef Altholz has written, "everybody who was anybody in the high church wrote for this new review."<sup>9</sup> But *who* were these people, and *what* did they write? Altholz, part of the *Wellesley* project team, found a limited marked file and a few summary articles supporting the attribution of 83 articles, which he published in 1984 independently of the *Wellesley*, in the *Victorian Periodicals Review*.<sup>10</sup> With this edition of the *Curran Index* we have built upon Altholz's work to report a far more extensive listing for the *Church Quarterly Review*, now encompassing over 1,000 articles and all issues between 1875 and 1900. Our attribution rate is about 25% -- not great by *Wellesley* standards -- but still constituting a significant addition to our knowledge base. Readers of the *Curran Index* will be able to assign names to those who were presenting and establishing High Church positions on topics such as socialism, evolution, education, missionary activities, treatment of the poor, and contemporary writers.

### **3) Verse in Victorian Periodicals**

One major limitation of the *Wellesley Index* was the decision not to include 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 prose interspersed with poetry, much of it unsigned. Houghton and his associates questioned the lasting value of much of this poetry, particularly when weighed against the enormous difficulty of arriving at plausible attributions for a significant portion of it. Now, after Linda Hughes' influential article,<sup>11</sup> 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 interests of the Victorian reading public will be misconceived.

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*<sup>12</sup> and in the *Periodical Poetry Index*<sup>13</sup>, co-directed by Natalie Houston, Lindsay Lawrence, and April Patrick. As shown in Table III, this edition of the *Curran Index* incorporates an attribution analysis of verse in five prominent London-based monthlies through the year 1854..

<b>Table III: Verse in Monthly Periodicals in the Curran Index</b>					
	# of Poems or Poem Groups <sup>1</sup>	Ave. Contributor Age by Poem	Poems by Women	% Poems by Contributors In ODNB	# of Unique Contributors <sup>2, 3</sup>
<i>Ainsworth’s Magazine</i> Feb 1842 – Dec 1854	447 (81)	35.2	30%	54%	74 (48)
<i>Bentley’s Miscellany</i> Jan 1837 – Dec 1854	954 (154)	37.2	20%	43%	185 (98)
<i>Fraser’s Magazine</i> Feb 1830 – Dec 1854	671 (305)	39.4	16%	75%	102 (64)
<i>Metropolitan Magazine</i> May 1831 – Mar 1850	1479 (300)	42.6	58%	44%	127 (41)
<i>New Monthly Magazine</i> Jan 1821 – Dec 1854	1810 (459)	40.0	30%	83%	167 (89)
<sup>1</sup> # of poems or poem groups (# of poems or poem groups with unknown contributor)					
<sup>2</sup> # of unique contributors (# of unique contributors in Wellesley Index)					
<sup>3</sup> 529 Unique contributors covering all five monthlies.					

Dr. Curran’s earlier *Bentley’s Miscellany* assessment has been heavily revised and extended. Our analysis of verse in *Fraser’s Magazine* was stimulated by an initial listing kindly provided by Professor David Latané. The listings for *Ainsworth’s Magazine*, the *Metropolitan Magazine*, and the *New Monthly Magazine* are entirely new. In *toto*, the *Curran Index* indexes 5,300 poems or verse groups, 75% of which are attributed; the attributed poems are associated with 529 known unique authors. Many of the major poets of the era are represented; however, perhaps even more interesting are the shifting allegiances and contributions of the many workaday Victorian poets whose literary pathways can be traced through these listings.

#### 4) The *Metropolitan Magazine*

The *Wellesley Index* covered the prose of a number of prominent monthly periodicals of the 1830s and 1840s. However, the *Metropolitan Magazine*, although initially considered for inclusion, did not make the final cut. Of course, contributors migrated back and forth among the major competing early Victorian miscellanies, and various features, article concepts, and editorial positions reflected this competitive environment. To understand and fully appreciate the jockeying for position, contributors, and readers among these periodicals, one should include the *Metropolitan*.

<b>Table IV: Summary Aspects of the <i>Metropolitan Magazine</i></b>		
<b>Years</b>	<b>Editors</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
1831-1832	Campbell / Redding	“first writers of the day”; erudite; arts and science, history and fiction, politics
1832-1836	Marryat / Howard	Naval serials; same mix of articles but less expensive writers; more humor
1836-1837	Edward Howard?	Focus on fiction, travel, journalistic professionals, naval fact and fiction
1838?-1841?	James Grant?	Serials by Catherine Gore, Frances Trollope, Harriet Piggott; James Grant; travel writing
1842-1846	?	Light literature; “fine lady writing”; lesser known contributors; Saunders & Otley house organ
1847-1850	James Ewing Ritchie	Kent & Richards; women writers; “a more earnest character and a higher aim”

The *Metropolitan* was conceived as a virtual clone of the 1820s *New Monthly Magazine*; it was a true miscellany, and was a significant although not dominant contender in the marketplace. Its politics were moderately Whiggish – generally pro-reform, but not wedded to any party or any politician. Each issue of the *Metropolitan* had from 8 or 9 to 14 prose articles as well as a number of poems. One of the distinguishing aspects of the *Metropolitan* was that both fiction and non-fiction were often serialized; a second interesting aspect is that it was a chameleon publication, taking on different colorings over time as shown in the above table.

The *Curran Index* now includes a full listing of both prose (2,108 articles) and verse (1,479 poems or poem groups) published in the *Metropolitan* from May 1831 through its final issue in May of 1850;



indeed, this may be the only extended attribution-oriented table of contents listing for a Victorian monthly that includes both verse and prose.

*Metropolitan* contributors included Victorian periodical figures such as John Banim, Dudley Costello, Catherine Gore, James Hogg, Richard Henry Horne, Eliza Linton, David Moir, James Montgomery, Lady Morgan, Sir Charles Morgan, William Pickersgill, John Poole, Samuel Warren, and James White. Any examinations of these authors or their works, or of their various migrations among or interactions with different periodicals and editors, should presumably include the *Metropolitan*. And among authors not included in the *Wellesley Index* one finds in the *Metropolitan* intriguing figures such as Georgina Chatterton, Hannah Clay (best known for her writings in the *Ladies Companion*), Catherine Grace Godwin, James Grant (author of *The Great Metropolis*), Hargrave Jennings, Marion Moss (publisher of the first Jewish women’s periodical), Harriott Pigott, Harriet Anne Scott, and Marianne Young / Postans.

### 5) The Annuals

A new category of periodicals, the Annuals rose to prominence and subsequently fell to decline in the 1820s-1850s. Normally issued at the beginning of November for the holiday market, Annuals were

Table V: Annuals in the Curran Index						
	# of Articles <sup>1</sup>		Ave. Contributor Age by Article	Articles by Women	Articles by Contributors In ODNB	Unique Contributors <sup>2</sup>
<i>The Keepsake</i> 1828-1857	Verse	767 (66)	40.2	41%	62%	279 (119)
	Prose	471 (47)		50%		
<i>The Scottish Annual</i> 1836	Verse	23 (2)	37.6	0%	67%	27 <sup>3</sup> (11)
	Prose	30 (5)		5%		
<sup>1</sup> # of articles (# of articles with unknown origin)						
<sup>2</sup> # of unique contributors (# of unique contributors in Wellesley Index)						
<sup>3</sup> At least 20 of the 27 known contributors were Scottish.						

elaborately bound gift books which typically contained steel plate engravings, poetry, and light fiction.<sup>14</sup>

Annuals were not included in the *Wellesley Index*. Although the Annuals were held in light regard by many critics of the era, it is nevertheless true that almost every major literary figure of the period --

including the Brownings, Carlyle, Coleridge, Dickens, Scott, Tennyson, Thackeray, Wordsworth, and others -- contributed to them. Of course, the great majority of the contributors to the annuals were relative unknowns, and some were then and now rather completely unknown! Most Annual stories or verses were signed, or at least initialed, but the names or initials were often obscure, pseudonyms were often used, and some items were published without any indication as to their author or authors.

The standard bibliographic study of the Annuals is Andrew Boyle's 1967 book.<sup>15</sup> This is an invaluable, though dated, resource. Unfortunately, Boyle often did not find the true identities behind pseudonyms or initials; did not appreciate that certain writers who used different identifying signatures at different times were, in fact, identical; and did not have the benefit of the research into editors' correspondence which has occurred in the last fifty years. Moreover, perhaps because the Annuals' cultural importance was not appreciated by many scholars until recent years, the Annuals were generally not treated in concert with other Victorian periodicals.

Yet to understand the phenomenon of the Annuals (in the same manner as one seeks to understand the prestige and importance of the quarterly reviews, or the popularity and significance of the early Victorian monthly miscellanies), one should not neglect the people who created their copy. Further, the contributors to the London monthlies were, by and large, also contributors to the Annuals. Efforts to consider the roles of these writers, or the composite workings of contributors in the periodical marketplace, should surely consider all these types of periodicals in tandem.

As indicated in the prior table, the *Curran Index* now includes the complete 1827-1856 run of the *Keepsake* (perhaps the most famous Annual) and the *Scottish Annual* (which may be one of the most obscure, as only one issue was published, in Glasgow in 1836). Many additions and corrections have been made to Boyle's *Keepsake* study; further, the analysis of the *Scottish Annual* is entirely new, as Boyle did not examine it. Authors of roughly two-thirds of the articles in each of these annuals were deemed important enough by posterity to be included in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Many of these contributors were not listed in the *Wellesley Index*, and it is noteworthy that nearly half of the *Keepsakes'* contributions were by women.

### III Caveats and Considerations

The *Wellesley Index* did not include a confidence designator for attributions it considered certain or near certain. The editors used the designator "prob." for those considered likely and "possib." for those considered possible, while employing a question mark for those that were only conjectural. We

have folded the conjectural entries into “possib.” Yet one should approach most attributions with some degree of skepticism. Even a number of *Wellesley’s* “certains or near certains” have been disproved over the years, and there is no doubt that the same problem will afflict *Curran Index* entries. Readers beware: use these attributions as appropriate in your scholarship, but always read and evaluate with proper skepticism the provided attribution rationales.

Understandably the *Wellesley Index* scholars sought and featured the use of publisher’s records, marked files, or surviving correspondence to make attributions. The *Curran Index* has also used these techniques, for example in searching the many letters from the editor of the *Metropolitan Magazine*, Frederick Marryat, for clues to contributors to articles, or in reviewing the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary records published as an appendix in an 1863 issue of the *Calcutta Review*. However, many *Curran Index* attributions have been made with the assistance of digital tools that were not available to the *Wellesley* project. In particular, digital technologies like Google and Google Books, the Hathi Trust, the on-line British Newspaper Archive, the Family Search web site, and *WorldCat* have often proved particularly useful. The advertising phrase, “this is not your father’s Oldsmobile,” applies here. Attribution scholarship has taken on a new character in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century digital age.

In some respects the *Curran Index* deviates from *Wellesley’s* practices. Following literary tradition, *Wellesley* generally cited the original author of a translated item as the article’s contributor. Thus, there are numerous listings designating Dumas, Goethe, Hugo, Schiller, and other non-English writers as contributors. Translators were also reported if known, but they were clearly considered secondary. The *Curran Index* reverses that emphasis. Our primary concern is with the men and women who interacted with Victorian periodical editors, the people who generated the copy that, with editorial modifications, was published. They are the people we consider the contributors to the Victorian periodical press. Original non-English authors are included in comments when known, but they are not separately listed as contributors.

Further, the *Wellesley Index* reported minimal information as to the particulars of identified contributors. Initials were often used instead of first and middle names, sometimes introducing uncertainty as to which person with the specified last name was being referenced. Limited descriptors – perhaps two to four or five words – were *sometimes*, but only sometimes, provided as further marks of identification for *Wellesley* contributors. When a common name without clear further specifying information was presented as that of a contributor, the contribution was often still effectively

anonymous. In the absence of other information, who could know what to make of a “T. Smith,” or a “J. Jones”?

In the *Curran Index*, ascertaining the name of a contributor is just the first step, not the last step, of an attribution. In the great majority of cases meat has successfully been put on name bones. In almost all cases full names have replaced initials. Many contributors have been given two or three lines of comment, denoting life situation and activities, and indicating representative non-periodical writings or views associated with the contributor. University educations are specified when available, as are nationalities and full life dates. References are included for those contributors whose biographies are summarized in Frederick Boase’s *Modern English Biography* or the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. With this added information readers should be better able to (1) positively identify a contributor, (2) understand how a contributor’s status, situation, or perspective may have influenced his or her writing, and (3) appreciate how groups of contributors with given backgrounds or characteristics might affect various periodicals.

#### IV Acknowledgments

A project of this type depends on the efforts and assistance of many people. First of these, of course, is Dr. Patrick Leary; Patrick encouraged Professor Curran to begin this work, published her updates on his *Victoria Research Website*, selected the current editor to take up the torch after Eileen’s death, and has been an unfailing source of advice and assistance. Thank you, Patrick. Without you the *Curran Index* would not exist.

I also thank the *Research Society for Victorian Periodicals*. RSVP has provided grant money to support the travel, document orders, and subscriptions essential to the scholarship reported in this index. I appreciate the confidence vested in me by RSVP and its Research Committee.

Further, I wish to acknowledge the kind assistance of Jane Callahan, Archivist at Wellesley College, and Patricia Burdick, Assistant Director for Special Collections at Colby College. These dedicated professionals respectively facilitated examinations of the *Wellesley Index* archive and the *Eileen Curran* archive which yielded important information included in this report.

Last, but far from least, I thank the many individuals who contacted me (and Eileen Curran before me) with inputs regarding periodicals, contributors, and various attributions. Their names are sprinkled throughout the contents of the *Curran Index* in appropriate comment fields, and are too numerous to list here. But these generous scholars have been essential to this project; they have not

only provided significant insights, they have also maintained the *Curran Index* as a collaborative project in the same spirit as its predecessor, the *Wellesley Index*.

Gary Simons

Editor, *Curran Index*

August, 2016

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<sup>1</sup> Walter E. Houghton, "Reflections on Indexing Victorian Periodicals," *Victorian Studies* 7.2 (1963): 192-196; Walter E. Houghton, "The Wellesley Index: Uses and Problems," *Victorian Periodicals Newsletter* 1.1 (1968): 13-15.

<sup>2</sup> Walter E. Houghton, ed. *The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals 1824-1900 Volume I* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1966); Walter E. Houghton, ed. *The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals 1824-1900 Volume II* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972); Walter E. Houghton, ed. *The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals 1824-1900 Volume III* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1979); Walter E. Houghton, Esther Rhoads Houghton, Jean Harris Slingerland, eds. *The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals 1824-1900 Volume IV* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987); Jean Harris Slingerland, ed. *The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals Volume V* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1989).

<sup>3</sup> Rosemary T. VanArsdale "The Wellesley Index Forty Years Later (1966-2006)," *Victorian Periodical Review* 39.3 (2006): 257-265.

<sup>4</sup> Micael Clarke, "A Mystery Solved: Ainsworth's Criminal Romances Censured in *Fraser's* by J. Hamilton Reynolds, not Thackeray," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 23.2 (1990): 50-54; Logan Browning, "The Irregular Publication of 'Regular Habits': Dr. Charles Julius Roberts and *Bentley's Miscellany*" *Victorian Periodicals Review* 23.2 (1990): 60-64; David Finkelstein, "Corrigendum to the *Wellesley Index* Concerning Articles Attributed to Philip Meadows Taylor," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 23.2 (1990): 64-65; Catherine Peters, "Francis Elliot nee Dickinson: Entries in the *Wellesley Index*," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 23.2 (1990): 65-66; Leanne Langley, "The *Wellesley Index*: Additions and Corrections by a Musical Student," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 23.2 (1990): 66-67; Richard D. Altick, "Corrigendum for *New Monthly Magazine* Concerning an Attribution to R. S. Surtees," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 23.2 (1990): 67; Eileen M. Curran, "*The Foreign Review*, 1828-1830," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 24.3 (1991): 119-136; Jonathan Burke Cutmore, "The *Quarterly Review* Under Gifford: Some New Attributions," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 24.3 (1991): 137-142; Eileen M. Curran, Peter Mandler, Yaffa Claire Draznin and Jean O'Grady, "Addenda and Corrigenda," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 24.3 (1991): 146-150; Eileen M. Curran, "But What?," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 26.4 (1993): 183-192; Mary Ruth Hillier, "The *Eclectic Review*, 1805-1868," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 27.3 (1994): 179-283; Robert A. Colby and Christopher Stray, "Corrections to *Wellesley Index*," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 36.1 (2003): 91-93; Jonathan Cutmore, "*Wellesley Index* I's *Quarterly Review* Identification: Was

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<sup>5</sup> Eileen M. Curran, "June 2004 Edition," "December 2004 Edition," "April 2005 Edition," "August 2006 Edition," "December 2007 Edition," *The Curran Index*, publisher Patrick Leary, <http://victorianresearch.org/curranindex.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Eileen M. Curran and Gary Simons, "October 2013 Edition"; Gary Simons, "March 2014 Edition," "March 2015 Edition," "December 2015 Edition," "August 2016 Edition," *The Curran Index*, publisher Patrick Leary, <http://victorianresearch.org/curranindex.html>.

<sup>7</sup> With the exception of Mary Ruth Hillier's attribution study of the *Eclectic Review*; see endnote 4 above.

<sup>8</sup> Jean Slingerland, "Remarks upon R.S.V.P.'s Coming of Age and into Its Property, *The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals*," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 23.2 (1990): 46-50.

<sup>9</sup> Josef L. Altholz, *The Religious Press in Britain, 1760-1900* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1989): 31.

<sup>10</sup> Josef L. Altholz, "'The Church Quarterly Review' 1875-1900. A Marked File and Other Sources," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 17.1 (1984): 52-57.

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<sup>11</sup> Linda Hughes, "What the Wellesley Index Left Out: Why Poetry Matters to Periodical Studies," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 40 (2007), 91-125.

<sup>12</sup> See *Victorian Poetry Network*, <http://web.uvic.ca/~vicpoet/author/alisonc/>

<sup>13</sup> See *Periodical Poetry Index*, <http://www.periodicalpoetry.org/>.

<sup>14</sup> See Katherine D. Harris, *Forget me Not: The Rise of the British Literary Annual, 1823-1835* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2015).

<sup>15</sup> Andrew Boyle, *An Index to The Annuals. Vol I The Authors 1820-1850* (Worcester: Andrew Boyle (Booksellers) Ltd., 1967).