

The research summary

Marzena Kubisz

The title of the project: *“In the service of the helpless”: (R)evolutions of Vegetarian Periodicals for Children 1893-1914*

The research I have carried out thanks to the Curran Fellowships is a continuation of a project I started in 2019. With the financial support of the award, I was able to complete it and prepare a manuscript of the monograph for publication.

My project brings to light three little-known periodicals for vegetarian children which have not been explored yet: *The Daisy Basket* (1893-1894), *The Children's Garden* (1900-1905) and *The Children's Realm* (1906-1914). They were excluded from the history of the juvenile press in Britain and not embraced by any accounts of the cultural history of vegetarianism. The aim of the project was to compile the history and specifics of vegetarian magazines for children and to outline the history of the children's vegetarian movement based on these magazines. Given the scattering of information on children's participation in the vegetarian movement, the magazines represent a unique and rich, hitherto under-researched source of knowledge on the activities of young vegetarians at the turn of the 19th century.

I used the funds I was awarded to carry out two research trips: to the British Library in London and the archives of the Vegetarian Society, Hale, Manchester.

The research I carried out at the British Library allowed me to trace the history and specifics of the *Children's Realm*, a vegetarian periodical for children that was published between 1906 and 1914. After researching this magazine and analyzing its history, structure and contents, I was able to look at the vegetarian press from the perspective of its evolution. My research at the British Library allowed me to carry out an analysis of the transformations that Victorian children's vegetarianism underwent, which were evident in the shape and character of individual magazines. I was able to situate my study of child vegetarianism within the broader context of Victorian gender, ecological awareness and socio-materiality of a meat-less diet and show how vegetarian magazines for children had changed over two decades.

A visit to the archives of the Vegetarian Society in Hale, Manchester was equally fruitful. I owe a great deal to the archive management, who made their collections available to me even though, due to a delay in moving, the archive was inaccessible to visitors. The invaluable assistance of Anthony Byatt, Director of Finance and Operations, meant that I could use materials required for my research. These included, in particular, the *Vegetarian Messenger*, the *Vegetarian* and the *Young Vegetarian*.

Working with 'adult' vegetarian magazines has allowed me to build a broader context for children's magazines. I was particularly interested in 1893 to 1906, during which the three magazines I analyzed were produced. Among the research issues I undertook was an attempt to establish how the birth of the children's vegetarian movement was portrayed in the adult press and what the relationship was between

the adult and children's vegetarian press. Working with adult magazines also allowed me to complete the picture of Victorian vegetarian literature published in magazines.

While working in the archives, I also started researching the vegetarian magazine *The Young Vegetarian* 1927 - 35, which will allow me to add another piece to the history of the children's vegetarian movement. I have also prepared an outline for my next research project, focusing on the literature published in Victorian vegetarian magazines.

The results of my research will be published by Routledge in the monograph titled *Children's Vegetarian Culture in the Victorian Era*.

I want to thank The Research Society for the Victorian Periodicals immensely for the financial assistance that enabled me to complete my study. Continuing my research at the British Library and working with the journals available in the Vegetarian Society's archive were crucial to the finalization of the project. This support for scholars researching Victorian journals is invaluable and ensures the continued development of knowledge about the subject.

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The financial report for The Curran Fellowship Award 2023

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The award: 4,500 \$

Expenses:	
Train tickets	-
• Gliwice – Cracow – Gliwice • Gliwice – Cracow – Gliwice	80 \$
Flights	-
• Cracow – London – Cracow	500\$
• Cracow- Manchester - Cracow	650\$
Subsistence	1000\$
Rent	-
• Accomodation in London	890\$
• Accomodation in Hale, Manchester	980\$
Local transport	400\$
Total Expenses:	4500\$