

Curran Fellowship report

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First of all, I would like to thank the *Research Society for Victorian Periodicals* for awarding me the Curran Fellowship. By allowing for an extensive research stay at the British Library, it has greatly contributed to the empirical basis of two chapters of my PhD-thesis, which I will publicly defend on January, 19th 2019.

During my research stay at the British Library of two weeks at the end of January 2017, I studied two sets of sources, which are part of the research for two chapters of my thesis, concerning the transnational dissemination of illustrations of the Crimean War (1853-1856) and the Paris Universal Exhibition (1867). The first set of sources consisted of sixteen British provincial illustrated newspapers published in the year 1855 (see table 1 below). All these publications had similar titles leading me to wonder if they were part of a syndicate of provincial illustrated newspapers in the 1850s. Furthermore, I wondered if this syndicate produced its own illustrations or if they bought them from a foreign publication, which was common practice at the time. Contrary to my expectations, the illustrations were, as far as I could demonstrate, not bought from a foreign source, but produced by a London-based wood engraver. Although all sixteen titles were discontinued within a year, I still think this early example of the syndicalisation of visual news, the earliest one I know of, is highly relevant for the history of the press. The research did not fit within the transnational perspective of my thesis, but I hope to write an article about it in the near future.

The second set of primary sources consisted of the volumes of nine illustrated newspapers from France, the German states, Italy, Norway, Poland, the Netherlands and Russia from 1867 (see table 2 below), which could all be found in the British Library. This research was vital for the fourth chapter of my thesis, which focuses on the transnational dissemination of images of the Paris Universal Exposition of 1867. In total I studied the transnational connections between 31 European and American illustrated newspapers during the exposition.

I expected to find that the nine illustrated newspapers of table 2 bought most of their images of the Universal Exposition from foreign sources. This was indeed the case. For example, the Parisian *l'Univer Illustré* bought its images from the *Illustrated London News* and the German *Illustrirte Zeitung*. The research stay at the British Library allowed me to complete the overview of the transnational connections between all the known European and American illustrated newspapers published in 1867

Besides these intended outcomes, the research stay also enabled me to tie up some loose ends of other chapters of my research. For example, concerning the important role of Henry Vizetelly as a major node in the transnational trade of illustrations of the news and a legal battle between John Cassell and George Stiff concerning a copyright of French images.

The most important outcome of the research stay is my thesis. I hope to publish a monograph based on my thesis later this year. Furthermore, I have presented my research at several international conferences (see list below). I still hope to write an article based on one of the chapters of my thesis later this year.

I am deeply grateful to the RSVP for supporting my research by awarding me the Curran Fellowship. Looking back at the last four year, the research stay at the British Library has proven to be a milestone in the primary research for my thesis and, more generally, my development as scholar.

Conference presentations

-T. Smits (April 2018). “John Cassell vs George Stiff. Copyright, piracy, and images of the news in the mid-1850s”, Paper presented at Image, Copyright, and the Public Domain in the 19th Century, Winterthur Museum, Delaware, United States.

-T. Smits (December 2017). “Transnational producers of illustrated news, 1842-1860. Frank Leslie, Thomas Armstrong, and Walter George Mason”, Paper presented at The Transnational American Periodical, British Library, London, United Kingdom.

-T. Smits (May 2017). “French images in British Victorian illustrated newspapers. Henry Vizetelly, the Illustrated London News, and the transnational trade images of the news, 1842-1872.” Paper presented at NAVSA/ASVA La Pietra conference, Florence, Italy.

-T. Smits (July 2017). “French images of the Crimean War in Britain. The dissemination of L’Illustration’s images of the Crimean War in the British Cassell’s Illustrated Family Paper, 1853-1856.” Paper presented at the Annual conference of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals, Freiburg, Germany.

-T. Smits (May 2017). “Transnational illustrations of the news. Foreign illustrations of the news in Dutch illustrated newspapers, 1842-1870.” Paper presented at the Transnational Journalism Conference, Dublin, Ireland.

Title	Published between	Available online
The Illustrated Bridport News.	30/6/1855 – 22/12/1855	No
The Illustrated Scarborough Mercury.	21/6/1855 – 22/12/1855	No
The Illustrated Western News.	18/6/1855 – 24/9/1855	No
The Illustrated Berwick Journal.	16/6/1855 – 22/12/1855	Yes (BNA)
The Illustrated Derbyshire Chronicle.	30/6/1855 – 22/12/1855	No
The Aberystwyth Chronicle and Illustrated Times.	09/6/1855 – 22/12/1855	No
Midland Counties Illustrated News.	16/6/1855 – 25/8/1855	No
The Illustrated Hull Mercury.	16/6/1855 – 22/12/1855	No
The Illustrated Heywood Advertiser and General Family Newspaper.	23/6/1855 – 22/12/1855	No

The Illustrated Cheltenham Herald, and Family Newspaper.	16/6/1855 – 22/9/1855	No
The Illustrated Usk Observer and Raglan Herald.	07/7/1855 – 22/12/1855	Yes (WNO)
The Illustrated St. Neots Chronicle, and Pictorial Weekly Newspaper.	30/6/1855 – 3/11/1855	No
The Illustrated Malvern Advertiser, Visitors' List, and General Weekly Newspaper.	23/6/1855 – 30/10/1855	No
The Illustrated Barnstaple & Bideford Times and North Devon Advertiser.	30/6/1855 – 5/10/1855	No
The Illustrated North Wales Chronicle, and Advertiser for Denbighshire, Flintshire, Anglesey, etc.	19/ 6/1855 – 19/10/1855	No
The illustrated Glasgow news and pictorial weekly newspaper for Glasgow and vicinity	30/6/1855 – 17/10/1855	No

Table 1: Provincial British illustrated newspapers published only in 1855.

Title	Published in	Published between
<i>L'Univer Illustré</i>	Paris	1858-1912
<i>Das Buch für Alle</i>	Stuttgart	1866-1944
<i>Il Giornale Illustrato</i>	Florence	1864-1869
<i>L'Universo Illustrato</i>	Milan	1865-1870
<i>Illustrerad Tidning</i>	Stockholm,	1855-1867
<i>Ny Illustrerad Tidning</i>	Stockholm	1865-1900
<i>Kłosy</i>	Warsaw	1865-1890
<i>Illustrirovanniaia Gazeta</i>	St. Petersburg	1863-1873
<i>Het Geillustreerd Nieuws</i>	Amsterdam	1866-1879

Table 2. Nine European illustrated newspapers published in 1867 which cannot be found online, but are available in the British Library.