



To: Patrick Leary, President Research Society for Victorian Periodicals
From: Michelle Tusan, Associate Professor of History, University of Nevada Las Vegas
Re: Curran Fellowship Final Report

October 11, 2011

A Curran Fellowship helped fund a crucial research trip to England during the summer of 2010. This led to the completion of my current book project and two additional publications. Specifically, the Fellowship furthered my research in Victorian periodical source material located in Britain and related to my proposal, "How Victorians Invented the East: The Periodical Press and the Eastern Question." I used it to augment a small competitive grant from my university that on its own would not have covered the cost of a research trip to England. The Curran Fellowship made it possible to finish the research I needed to do in London and Oxford. During the weeks that I was in England, I examined the philanthropic journals the Friends of Armenia and Ararat along with the papers of the organizations that ran them held at the British Library. I also examined private papers held at Friends Library in London which contain important archival information on Quaker involvement in the Eastern Question as covered in their periodical, The Friend. At Oxford, I consulted the private papers of Lord Bryce, a key figure in my research who published extensively in the press on the Eastern Question. Access to the British newspaper library made it possible to read full runs of minor missionary, political and advocacy periodicals not available in the United States.

This research trip was highly successful. My forthcoming book scheduled to appear in the Berkeley Series on British Studies in 2012, Smyrna's Ashes: Humanitarianism, Genocide and the Birth of the Middle East, (University of California Press) relied on research performed during the term of my fellowship. In addition to contributing to the now completed book project, the research done with the help of a Curran Fellowship produced two articles. The first explored the Victorian mission press' engagement with the Eastern Question entitled, "Gleaners in the Holy Land: Women and the Missionary Press in Victorian Britain," Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies, 6.2 (Summer 2010). A formal acknowledgement of the Curran Fellowship appears at the end of the article. The second was a review essay, "Britain and the Middle East: New Perspectives on the Eastern Question," History Compass 8:3 (March 2010): 212- 222.

I am grateful for the support of a Curran Fellowship and the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals for selecting me to receive this award. Both the grant money and the honor attached with the Fellowship provided an important boost to my research and writing. My special thanks go to Eileen Curran for her continued generous support of this award.

Sincerely,



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