Index of Contributors to *Crucible* Magazine, 1932-1943

*Crucible* was a Canadian literary magazine that ran from March 1932 to April-May 1943. Though originally published out of Toronto, members of its editorial committee hailed from all across Canada, including Montreal, Vancouver, and Saint John. Its professed mission was to welcome writers who were making “an honest endeavor to express their real selves” and to encourage those who were in the process of “becoming” real (1.1: 1). This mission of transformation through experimentation was to be facilitated by a spirit of “co-operation,” which the editors of *Crucible* considered to be the “keynote of [their] changing economic system” as well as their own undertaking (1.1: 1). There is something distinctly Canadian about this sense of congeniality, and *Crucible* certainly strove for a Canadian identity: “Let it speak for you and for Canada,” invite the editors in its last issue (9.1: 23)—and, speak it did for over a decade. Poetry, short stories, reviews, jokes, and articles covering topics ranging from Canadiana to womanhood—and whatever else lies in between—can be found within its pages.

Unfortunately, this magazine ceased to speak in 1943. So, why produce an index of contributors to *Crucible* in 2014, seventy-one years after this magazine met its demise? First, *Crucible* has been largely left out of historical surveys of Canadian little magazines, and turning our attention to *Crucible* now can provide us with an alternative perspective on Canadian culture through the 1930s and 1940s. Further, we cannot overlook the fact that *Crucible* was edited by two women: Hilda and Laura Ridley. As Dean Irvine points out in *Editing Modernity: Women and Little-Magazine Cultures in Canada, 1916-1956*, Hilda Ridley “should now be recognized (albeit belatedly) as one of the first woman editors of a modern literary magazine in Canada” (206). While the Ridley sisters are relatively obscure figures today, their groundbreaking foray into Canadian magazine culture made possible the formation of a community of women writers.
whose work could now be seen all across Canada, and beyond. The Ridley sisters were pioneers not only for their own efforts as editors, writers, and marketers; they were also champions of poetry authored by women. Irvine estimates that approximately 75% of the poems printed in *Crucible* were penned by women writers (14). To continue overlooking *Crucible* is to ignore a significant repository of Canadian women’s voices echoing throughout this time period.

Although many of the writers featured within the pages of *Crucible* have faded into obscurity, some remain well known. Celebrated woman poets P. K. Page and Anne Marriott contributed to *Crucible* alongside notable men such as satirist Stephen Leacock and former prime ministers Sir Charles Tupper and William Lyon Mackenzie King. Likewise, *Crucible*’s literary reviews provide fresh perspectives on other Canadian writers including Nellie McClung, Irene Baird, Mazo de la Roche, and Morley Callaghan. In retrospect, much of the writing in *Crucible* does not seem as avant-garde as its editors believed at the time, but it nevertheless gives us a unique window into the history of Canadian little magazines.

This index is arranged by contributor. Works attached to known pseudonyms or initials are grouped together beneath the most complete name: for example, editor Hilda Ridley appears as *Hilda Ridley, Hilda M. Ridley, “H. R.” and “H. M. R.”* depending on how she chose to sign her work, but all these entries can be found under *Ridley, Hilda M.* Spelling inconsistencies (such as *Today* versus *To-day*) have also been left as they originally appeared.

Canadian libraries holding issues of *Crucible* were identified using library referencing tools and webpages—see the appendix following this index for the specific locations of each issue. Regrettably, this index remains incomplete; the Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory (CWRC) team at Simon Fraser University suspects that there may be more missing issues from volumes 7 and 8, but these absences are mysterious in themselves. While we have not yet located
some of the issues within volumes 7 and 8 that had turned up in our search results (namely, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.1, and 8.4), I am not convinced that these numbers actually exist, since there appears to be no break in continuity between 7.1 and 8.2 (7.1 is Winter 1941 and 8.2 is Spring 1941). Yet, if this is the case, why is there no issue 8.1? This confusion could very well be a result of mislabeling, an occurrence earlier discovered in this print run: Crucible published two different issues numbered 6.4 (Summer 1940 and Autumn-Christmas 1940, the latter appearing in this index as 6.4*). As for the enigmatic issue 8.4, it might not exist either; it falls within the year 1941, during which time the Crucible editorial staff was “tied-up with the war effort” (9.1: 34).

If anyone who happens upon this index has information about or access to these supposedly missing issues, we at CWRC would appreciate it if you would let us know so that the appropriate contributors can be included here in this index.

Finally, I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude to: CWRC for supporting this research; Dr. Carole Gerson for taking me on as a research assistant; Nancy Blake, Interlibrary Loans Officer at Simon Fraser University, for tracking down many of these volumes; Karyn Huenemann for her additional detective work, mentorship, and assistance in formatting this index; Lucinda Walls at the Stauffer Library at Queen’s University for pointing out that there are two different versions of issue 6.4 and for sending me the one we did not have; and to Ashlee Joyce, a graduate student at the University of New Brunswick Fredericton, for her help in gathering the final data within issues 3.3, 3.4, and 4.2, which are held by the Harriet Irving Library at the UNB.

—Nicholas L. Beauchesne

December 2014
Index to *Crucible* Magazine, 1932-1943


Anonymous. [Information on Kathryn Munro]. 4.3 (Spring 1937): 2. Review.


Anonymous. [Untitled]. 2.2 (Summer 1933): 1. Article.


Anonymous. “Books of To-day: The Judas Tree by Neil H. Swanson, Writers’ and Artists’ Year Book, 1933, and Poetry Year Book, 1933-4 by the Canadian Authors’ Association (Montreal).” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 8. Review.


Anonymous. “Canadian Calendar Contest Results.” 5.2 (Spring 1938): i. Article.


Anonymous. “Personality Sketches: A Canadian Philosopher-Poet; A Poet with Wide
Anonymous. “Personality Sketches: A Poet, Journalist and Cultivator of Roses.” 4.2 (Winter
Article.


Anonymous. “Some Books of To-day: Romantic Quebec by Blodwen Davies, Benefits Received by Alice Grant Rosman, Mad Sir Peter by Frank Dilnot, and Some Canadian Essays edited by Norris Hodgins.” 1.3 (Autumn-Christmas 1932): 15. Review.


Arnett, Laura Vivian Belvadere. “Hearts in Mirror.” 1.2 (Summer 1932): 6. Story. (as L. V. Belvadere Arnett)


“Futility.” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 5. Poem.
“The Drama in Canada.” 8.2 (Spring 1941): 4-5. Article.


   “Peter Pan Page.” 2.1 (Spring 1933): 10. Article.
   “Peter Pan Page.” 2.3 (Christmas 1933): 7. Article.


Brand, Claire. “All the King’s Horses.” 5.2 (Spring 1938): 7. Story.

   Article.
   “We Hear That—: I Believe in People by Archer Wallace.” 3.4 (Summer 1936): 8.
   Review.


“Friendship.” 5.2 (Spring 1938): i. Poem. (as Kathryn Colquhoun)
“If Thoughts Are Things.” 5.1 (New Year 1938): 6. Poem. (as Kathryn Colquhoun)
“Moon-Moth.” 3.2 (Winter 1936): 6. Poem. (as Kate Colquhoun)
“The Dawn Birds Are Calling.” 4.3 (Spring 1937): 1. Poem. (as Kathryn Colquhoun)


“Parenthesis.” 2.4 (Spring 1934): i. Poem.


 “Poetry as Exploration.” 8.3 (October 1941): 2. Article.
 “Swimmer.” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 5. Poem.


 “Our British Letter.” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 2; 2.3 (Christmas 1933): 2; 2.4 (Spring 1934): 2; 3.1 (Autumn 1935): 2; 3.2 (Winter 1936): 5; 4.1 (Autumn 1936): 5; 4.3 (Spring 1937): 5; 4.4 (Michaelmas 1937): 3-4; 5.1 (New Year 1938): 7-8; 5.2 (Spring 1938): 3-4; 5.3 (Summer 1938): 5; 5.4 (Christmas 1938): 5; 6.1 (Spring 1939): 5; 6.2 (Christmas-New


“Portrait by Prophecy.” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 5. Poem.


**Earle, Kathleen.** “Phoenix.” 8.2 (Spring 1941): 7. Poem. (as Kathleen J. Earle)

**Ebbs-Canavan, Frances.** “Lilies in the Uplands (To Marjorie Pickthall, April 19th, 1922).” 5.2 (Spring 1938): i. Poem.


   “To Dorothy Sproule.” 5.1 (New Year 1938): i. Poem.


   “Hypatia.” 2.3 (Christmas 1933): 12. Poem. (as F. C. Estabrooks)


   “The Song of Time.” 5.4 (Christmas 1938): 2. Poem. (as Desmond Fitz-Gerald [sic])


   “Surrender to Summer.” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 6. Poem.
   “To a City.” 1.1 (Spring 1932): 5. Poem.

   “Song of Lamentation.” 5.2 (Spring 1938): 9. Poem. (as Ethel Frame)

   Poem.


“Books of To-day: The Yellow Briar by Patrick Slater.” 2.4 (Spring 1934): 8. Review.


“Night Garden.”” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 1. Poem.
Graham, H. Isabel. “A Tribute (to the Late Howard Angus Kennedy).” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 4. Poem.


   “Need for a Day.” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 6. Poem.
   “You Shall Walk Free.” 6.1 (Spring 1939): i. Poem. (as Lillian Collier)


“The ‘New Woman’ of Mexico.” 8.2 (Spring 1941): 16-17. Article.


“At the Zoo.” 1.2 (Summer 1932): 10. Poem.


Howard, Margaret M. “The Pen Corner.” 1.2 (Summer 1932): 11; 2.1 (Spring 1933): 9; 2.2
   (Summer 1933): 7; 2.3 (Christmas 1933): 5; 3.1 (Autumn 1935): 7; 3.2 (Winter 1936): 7;
   “The Pen Corner.” 1.3 (Autumn-Christmas 1932): 11-12; 1.4 (Mid-Winter 1933): 9; 2.4
   (Spring 1934): 7; 3.2 (Winter 1936): 7; 3.3 (Spring 1936): 7; 3.4 (Summer 1936): 7; 4.1

   “Tea for Two.” 2.4 (Spring 1934): i. Poem. (as S. Berthe Husband)
   “This England.” 6.3 (Spring 1940): 18. Poem. (as S. Berthe Husband)
   “To An Old Farm House.” 3.4 (Summer 1936): 3. Poem. (as S. Berthe Husband)

Hutton, Muriel Glen. “Books of To-day: Breath of the Spirit by Sister Maura.” 5.2 (Spring
   “Books of To-day: Busman’s Honeymoon by Dorothy L. Sayers.” 4.4 (Michaelmas
   “Books of To-day: Hearken unto the Voice by Franz Werfel.” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 9.
   Review.
   “Books of To-day: The Mother by Pearl Buck.” 2.4 (Spring 1934): 8-9. Review. (as
   Muriel Hutton)

“How I Started As a Writer.” 1.2 (Summer 1932): 8. Article.
“‘Ode to Spring.’” 2.1 (Spring 1933): 2. Poem.

“Teach Me to Love.” 4.3 (Spring 1937): 5. Poem.


Laurence, Elsie Fry. “Books of To-day: With the West in Her Eyes by Kathleen Strange.” 4.4
   (Michaelmas 1937): 10. Review. (as Elsie Fry Lawrence [sic])
   “Poor Wise Men.” 1.1 (Spring 1932): 1. Poem. (as Elsie Fry Lawrence [sic])


   Poem.
“God’s Almoner (For Amy Redpath Roddick).” 5.1 (New Year 1938): 8. Poem.
“Pheasant in Profile.” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 8. Poem.
“Prayer (To a Mother in Paradise).” 4.3 (Spring 1937): 2. Poem.


“In the Library.” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 7. Poem. [not the same as “In the Library,” 2.3 (1933): 7]
“In the Library.” 2.3 (Christmas 1933): 5. Poem. [not the same as “In the Library,” 2.2 (1933): 5]


**MacLeod, Margaret Turner.** “Waves.” 1.4 (Mid-Winter 1933): 7. Poem.


**Mainer, R. Henry.** “‘Mother Tell Me Where?’ (a Lullaby).” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 5. Poem.

**Maltby, Mary.** “Address to a Domestic Cat.” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 6. Poem.


“Lines to some MSS.” 2.3 (Christmas 1933): 10. Poem.


“Canadian Urge.” 6.3 (Spring 1940): 8. Poem. (as Helen E. Middleton)
“Miss England.” 8.3 (October 1941): 1. Poem. (as Helen E. Middleton)
“Seagulls at Twilight.” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 10. Poem. (as Helen E. Middleton)


“Postlude.” 8.2 (Spring 1941): 3. Poem. (as Robina Monkman)


“Carman in the Spring.” 3.3 (Spring 1936): 1. Poem. (as McLeod Orford)
“Instinctive Behavior in Bird Life.” 4.3 (Spring 1937): 4. Article. (as McLeod Orford)
“Rudyard Kipling.” 3.3 (Spring 1936): 4. Poem. (as McLeod Orford)


“To Specialize or ?”” 1.2 (Summer 1932): 4. Article.


**Reid, Charles Sloan.** “Man.” 2.4 (Spring 1934): i. Poem.


**Rice, Florence E.** “‘Daylight in the Understanding.’” 1.2 (Summer 1932): 5. Poem.


“Another Poets’ Festival at Abbey Dawn.” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 4. Article. (as “H. M. R.”)
“Books of To-day: Up Trail by A. A. Wickenden.” 5.2 (Spring 1938): 8. Review. (as “H. M. R.”)
“In Memoriam: Annie Charlotte Dalton.” 5.2 (Spring 1938): 10. Article. (as “H. M. R.”)
“In Memoriam: Howard Angus Kennedy.” 5.2 (Spring 1938): 6. Article. (as “H. M. R.”)
“Our Bookshelf: Which We Did by Gregory Clark and Writing for Women by Emillie H. Peacocke.” 4.3 (Spring 1937): 8. Review. (as H. R.)
“Some Recent Canadian Books: The Band Plays a March and Other Poems by Elsie Fry Laurence.” 3.4 (Summer 1936): 2. Review. (as “H. M. R.”)
“We Hear That—: Clansmen by Ethel Boileau.” 3.4 (Summer 1936): 8. Review. (as H. R.)
“Where Are Our Strong Mothers?” 6.3 (Spring 1940): 10. Article.

“Books of To-day: Songs by Helena Coleman.” 5.2 (Spring 1938): 9. Review. (as “L. A. R.”)
“Our Bookshelf: This Is the Way We Go to School by Elizabeth Ord Watt.” 4.1 (Autumn 1936): 8. Review. (as “L. A. R.”)


Ritchie, Margaret Wright. “Midnight Express.” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 10. Poem. (as Margaret W. Ritchie)

“I Fly to a Haven of Refuge.” 6.3 (Spring 1940): 11. Article.
“Off the Record.” 4.3 (Spring 1937): i. Article.


Robertson, Vera V. “The Gardener (in Hospital Grounds).” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 5. Poem.

“In Lilac Town.” 3.3 (Spring 1936): 6. Poem. (as H. T. D. Robinson)
“My Sanctuary.” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 6. Poem. (as Helen T. D. Robinson)
“Our U. S. Letter.” 2.1 (Spring 1933): 4; 2.3 (Christmas 1933): 4; 2.4 (Spring 1934): 4;
3.1 (Autumn 1935): 2; 3.2 (Winter 1936): 3; 4.1 (Autumn 1936): 5; 4.3 (Spring 1937): 5;
4.4 (Michaelmas 1937): 3; 5.1 (New Year 1938): 7; 9; 5.2 (Spring 1938): 3; 5.3 (Summer 1938): 5. Articles. (as H. T. D. Robinson)
Reviews. (as H. T. D. Robinson)


“Dickens’ ‘Christmas Carol’: A Study of Old Scrooge, the Principal Character.” 7.1
17.]


“Epilogue.” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 1. Poem. (as Bennett Scott)


“Books of To-day: *Sleep in Peace* by Phyllis Bentley.” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 9. Review.


**Sliter, Dorothy Murray.** “Beauty Evermore (To Robert Holmes).” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 4. Poem.
“Bunty, the Wren.” 5.2 (Spring 1938): 6. Article.


   “Armistice Day (November 11).” 5.2 (Spring 1938): i. Poem.
   “Coronation Day.” 4.3 (Spring 1937): i. Poem.
   “Montreal Authors and Their Work.” 8.3 (October 1941): 4. Article.


   “Ships.” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 5. Poem.


  “Our Little Ways.”” 1.2 (Summer 1932): 6. Article.
  “Perspective’s Jig-saw.” 2.1 (Spring 1933): 3. Article.
  “Realism Distorted.”” 3.3 (Spring 1936): 3. Article.
  “Seasoning.”” 1.4 (Mid-Winter 1933): 10. Article.
  “Seriously Speaking.”” 2.4 (Spring 1934): 5. Article.

  “The Streets of Time.”” 5.2 (Spring 1938): 2. Poem. (as Charles A. Tupper)
  “To a Friend.”” 6.2 (Christmas-New Year 1940): 24. Poem. (as Charles A. Tupper)
  “We Are the Strings.”” 5.4 (Christmas 1938): 2. Poem. (as Charles A. Tupper)

  “Newsprint.”” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 1. Poem.


Varley, Mary. “Farm Solitude.”” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 11. Poem.

  “Settlement of St. Croix Island (June 26, 1604).”” 5.2 (Spring 1938): i. Poem.
  “To Dorothy Sproule.”” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 2. Poem.
   “As Seen by: Arcady and—a Poet.” 6.4 (Summer 1940): 5-6. Article.
   “As Seen by: Dawning of Revolt.” 8.2 (Spring 1941): 6-7. Article.
   “As Seen by.” 6.3 (Spring 1940): 9. Review.
   Review.


Wall, Mary Gordon. “A Budless Author to his Typewriter.” 1.3 (Autumn-Christmas 1932): 5.
   Poem.
   “At the End of the Day.” 2.2 (Summer 1933): 1. Poem.


   “Care-free.” 8.3 (October 1941): 2. Poem.
   “In the Spring (To the Late Robert Holmes, O. S. A.).” 1.1 (Spring 1932): 10. Poem.

**Westmacott, R. B.** “At the End of the Breakwater.” 2.3 (Christmas 1933): 6; 10. Story.


“King George the Sixth.” 8.2 (Spring 1941): 19. Poem.
“With a Song (a Triolet).” 5.3 (Summer 1938): 3. Poem.

**Williams, Flos Jewell.** “Alberta Harvest.” 5.4 (Christmas 1938): 7. Poem. (as Flos Jewel Williams [sic])


## Appendix: *Crucible* Holdings in Canadian Libraries

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* issue is mislabeled

**Abbreviations:**
- AU—Vaughan Memorial Library at Acadia University
- MTA—R. P. Bell Library at Mount Allison University
- MAC—William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections at McMaster University
- QU—W. D. Jordan Special Collections and Music Library at Queen’s University
- TPL—Toronto Public Library
- UC—University of Calgary Special Collections
- UNB—Harriet Irving Library at the University of New Brunswick Fredericton
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