

The Burney Journal

Volume 21 (2026)

Article #1

Editor's Note

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Recommended Citation

Coulombeau, Sophie. "Editor's Note." *The Burney Journal*, vol. 21, 2026, pp. 6-10. doi: 10.26443/10.26443/tbj.v21i.794.



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The four research articles in Volume 21 of *The Burney Journal* address, cumulatively: Frances Burney's religious sympathies, radical pedagogy, and proto-feminism in her prose fiction and nonfiction; gender as performance in Sarah Harriet Burney's *Tales*; and the ways in which the newspaper collections of Charles Burney Jr. are presented and mediated in the twenty-first century. As such, the *Journal* continues to showcase scholarship addressing a range of Burneys and their works, promoting original critical perspectives on Frances's semi-canonical fictions while also providing a platform for the discussion of lesser-known texts, biographies, legacies, and practices relating to other members of this extraordinary family. Volume 21 also contains two longform book reviews of recent publications which address Frances Burney's works and reception, and provides, in the shape of our regular *Year In Burney Studies* feature, a bibliography of all Burney-related publications that made their entrance into the world in 2025.

In "Are we not all creatures of one Creator?' Frances Burney and Catholic Suffering," Jodi L. Wyett argues that Frances Burney's writing dating from the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars is deeply interested in, and critical of, the sectarian persecution of Roman Catholics. In *Brief Reflections Relative to the Emigrant French Clergy* (1793) and *The Wanderer* (1814), Wyett shows how Burney draws parallels between the disenfranchisement and suffering of women and of Roman Catholics. Such parallels, she suggests, function to encourage empathy regardless of difference, and to contribute to the burgeoning rhetoric of human rights that enables humanitarian

activism and action. In this twenty-first-century moment, when refugees are facing increased hostility and appalling treatment in both the United Kingdom and United States, Wyett's reading reminds us that Frances Burney is, among other things, an activist author who speaks to the present in powerful ways.

Another contribution which brings a Burney's eighteenth-century activity into conversation with the present moment is Clematis Delany's "This Day is Published": The Making of Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Burney Newspapers Collection Part II, Gale Primary Sources." As Acquisitions Editor at Gale Cengage, Delany offers insights into the process of digitizing the *Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Burney Newspapers Collection*, the important collection of early modern media originally founded by Charles Burney Jr. She covers the process stage by stage—identifying documents, imaging, generating metadata, and incorporating the material into an existing platform—while reflecting on the challenges of such a task, the capabilities of the resulting resource, and the opportunities it presents to users. We're pleased to be including in this Volume an original research article by a specialist in the library, information, and e-resource sector who works with Burney-related materials: this is something of which we'd like to do more in the future, so we warmly encourage potential contributors to get in touch with their submissions or ideas.

In "Avoid every species of particularity": Universality in Frances Burney's *Camilla* (1796)," Jordan Green reads Burney's third novel as a critique of contemporary polarized ideals of female character formation, which she relates to organizing principles of "particularity" and "universality." While scholars including Margaret Doody, Stephanie Hershinow and Kristen Pond have argued that Dr. Marchmont's advice

to Edgar enforces an over-particular ideal of female virtue, Green suggests that Burney presents Mr. Tyrold's universalist cultivation of Camilla as equally harmful, since his advocacy for a sort of female behavior calculated to appeal indiscriminately is tantamount to encouraging disguise, dissimulation, and even deceit. Though Marchmont's approach was perceived by contemporary reviewers and readers of *Camilla* to be more poisonous to moral behavior and marital happiness than that of the Tyrolds, this article contends that critiques of both approaches to female education are firmly embedded within Burney's narrative and are crucial to her almost Wollstonecraftian pedagogic purpose.

Feminist revisionism is also crucial for the final research article in this Volume, Lucy-Anne Katgely's "Gender-Bending Heroism in Sarah Harriet Burney's *Tales of Fancy*." Katgely argues that, in her depictions of the characters Viola and Blanch in *The Shipwreck* (1816) and *Country Neighbours* (1820), Sarah Harriet Burney offers the reader depictions of female heroism that challenge societal expectations around gendered virtues. Reading moments at which Burney's female characters undertake forms of physical exertion—especially acts of rescue in moments of crisis—which, at the time, were almost exclusively coded as male, Katgely shows how Burney begins to imagine heroism as fluid, constructed, experimental, and educable, rather than fixed in relation to one's sex. Building on Lorna Clark's pioneering arguments for Sarah Harriet Burney's nascent "proto-feminist" vision, Katgely positions heroism as a terrain on which Burney unsettles gender boundaries in a manner that anticipates twenty-first-century theories of gender as performance.

Following positive feedback from readers about the

Journal's decision to start publishing longform book reviews, the first of which appeared in Volume 20, this Volume contains reviews of two recently published books which address Frances Burney's writing. In the first, Alison Daniell reflects on Zoe McGee's *Courting Disaster: Reading Between the Lines of the Regency Novel* (Manchester University Press), which considers how consent is treated within *Evelina* (1778), *Cecilia* (1782), and *Camilla* (1796), alongside many other eighteenth-century novels, and asks what relevance such texts might have for the #MeToo movement today. In the second, Alicia Kerfoot reviews Megan Peiser's *British Women Novelists and the Review Periodical* (Johns Hopkins University Press), which, alongside other authors including Charlotte Smith, addresses Frances Burney's ambivalent negotiations with her critics across her career. Here at the *Journal* we are acutely aware of how important it is for scholars, especially but not exclusively early career researchers and first-time authors, to receive thoughtful, fair, and rigorous reviews of their publications—and how difficult it can be to secure these. We are therefore proud to be opening up this new space, in addition to the long-established and venerated platform of the *Burney Letter*, to support colleagues working in our field. The editorial team is already thinking about (and in some cases, reading) some fascinating books which are earmarked for review in Volume 22. We strongly encourage readers to suggest titles to be reviewed in future Volumes (self-nominations are very welcome), and to put themselves forward as reviewers.

If Kerfoot and Daniell's reviews give us close-up insights into the health of Burney studies at the present moment, Deborah Barnum's *Year in Burney Studies 2025* offers a complementary "bird's eye" perspective. This painstaking

bibliography enumerates more than fifty articles, book chapters, volumes, programmes, theses, and dissertations that address the lives and works of Frances Burney and her family over the calendar year 2025. It is always heartening to see such a range of activity, and an important act of service to the field to promote Burney-related scholarship which, in an age of budget cuts, is often difficult to find even with the privilege of university affiliation and associated library subscriptions. As always, we remain indebted to Deb for this valuable feature.

This is my second run as General Editor of *The Burney Journal*. Once again, it has been a great pleasure to work alongside the contributors and reviewers, Managing Editor Ashley Schoppe and Associate Editor Alicia Kerfoot, and our printer Rich Hardiman, to bring this volume to press. In production news, this is the first volume of *The Burney Journal* to be produced as well as published online using the new Open Journals System (OJS) portal, and I am grateful to Robin Desmeules and Jennifer Innes for their support as the editorial team continues to get to grips with its technicalities. Since some of this volume's articles began life as papers at the Annual Conference of the Burney Society, I would also like to thank the organizers of that conference, on both sides of the Atlantic, for their vision and labour in creating an environment in which new Burney research can flourish. Similar thanks must go to the organizers of Burney panels at other conferences, such as the Annual Meetings of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

We warmly welcome submissions for Volume 22 (to be published in June 2027), the submission window for which will be open from 1 August until 30 September 2026.