



10th Edition, 7 January 2013

# Finding English Verse, 1650-1800

## *First-Line Indexes and Searchable Electronic Texts*<sup>1</sup>

by [James Woolley](#)

*A simple first-line index of this material proved invaluable in investigating connections between sources and allowing me to frame questions about the nature of transmission, authorship, and reception.*

—Harold Love, *English Clandestine Satire*

### Introduction

Although in medieval libraries, manuscripts were often cataloged by their incipits, the indexing of verse by first lines is, except in songbooks, relatively new. Not until the 1880s did the British Museum Department of Manuscripts construct its massive first-line index, the earliest of the great indexes of manuscript verse.<sup>2</sup> In 1890, Lord Crawford could still claim that arranging his bibliography of ballads by first line was an “innovation.”<sup>3</sup> Since that time, the British Museum index, and Margaret Crum’s of verse in Bodleian manuscripts, became the best known of the first-line indexes. Beginning in 2009, those and other indexes of great importance were combined in a single freely-accessible *Union First-Line Index of English Verse*. Many additional first-line indexes also offer access to otherwise hard-to-find resources.

The first line provides a convenient handle for identifying a poem, and unlike a title, a poem’s first line usually remains stable from version to version. For a period when verse circulated anonymously, first-line indexes may lead one to a copy of a poem that is attributed, annotated, or otherwise usefully contextualized. These indexes facilitate locating many early texts of a poem so as to trace its transmission, textual history, and reception. First-line indexes thus can help one

---

<sup>1</sup> Originally published as “First-Line Indexes of English Verse, 1650-1800: A Checklist” in the *East-Central Intelligencer* (now *Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer*), ns 17.3 (Sept. 2003): 1-10. An updated version was published on *BibSite* in 2004, with further updates in 2004, 2005, 2006 (twice), and 2010 (three times); see the Revision History at the end. The new title and the section on Searchable Electronic Texts appeared for the first time in the Feb. 2010 revision.

<sup>2</sup> W. H. Kelliher, “Some Notes on the Handwritten Index of English Poetry, 1500-1800, in British Library Manuscripts Acquired before 1893,” in Kelliher, “Index to English and Anglo Latin Verse,” vol. 5 (*see full listing under “Indexes to Manuscript Verse”*).

<sup>3</sup> *Bibliotheca Lindesiana: Catalogue of a Collection of English Ballads* (1890; rpt. New York: Burt Franklin, n.d.), 1:[vii].



assess the character of a particular manuscript or printed miscellany or periodical. They may even be pressed into service as quotation dictionaries, since many memorable verse passages occur at the start of poems.<sup>4</sup> The researcher willing to trace a poem, an author, or a collection through the indexes listed here has a good chance of learning something new.

Searchable electronic texts offer a different, and increasingly useful, means of finding English verse. This checklist now lists important electronic textbases separately and offers a separate word of advice on how to search them.

Accordingly, after several news items, this checklist will turn to four main topics:

1. The *Union First-Line Index of English Verse*
2. Indexes to Manuscript Verse
3. Indexes to Printed Verse (or printed and manuscript verse combined)
4. Searchable Electronic Texts

The second and third sections attempt to list first-line indexes with at least 1000 lines; the fourth section lists textbases with at least 1000 poems. I have ordinarily excluded single-author indexes, not because they are unimportant but because they are normally part of easily located critical editions. Some single-author indexes are, to be sure, important beyond their authors because they index a wide range of doubtful attributions, e.g., John Butt's index in *The Twickenham Edition of the Poems of Alexander Pope*, vol. 6, or Harold Williams's in *The Poems of Jonathan Swift*.

Traditionally, literary historians and music historians have proceeded on separate tracks, with separate ranges of bibliographical resources. But because many a poem has been made into a song, ballad, or hymn, I have interfiled indexes of vocal music with indexes of poems.

Michael Londry has published an important discussion of first-line indexes, with commentary on many of the ones listed here: "On the Use of First-Line Indices for Researching English Poetry of the Long Eighteenth Century, c. 1660-1830, with Special Reference to Women Poets," *Library* 7th ser. 5.1 (2004): 12-38;  
[library.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/5/1/12?ikey=mfL2PniyFz4lsAM&keytype=ref](http://library.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/5/1/12?ikey=mfL2PniyFz4lsAM&keytype=ref).

### *Searching First-Line Indexes*

In searching an electronic first-line index, one should choose keywords from salient first-line words whose spelling is stable; avoid words likely to have been blanked or contracted. In searching a conventional first-line index, ascertain the alphabetizing principles that shaped it, especially whether initial articles are indexed or ignored. In searching *any* first-line index, notice whether old spellings are treated as if modernized, whether abbreviations and contractions are treated as if expanded, and whether sorting is word by word or letter by letter. Consider whether the index includes non-English as well as English verse and whether it indexes excerpts as well as complete poems. Remember, too, that all first-line indexes are incomplete: entire manuscripts

---

<sup>4</sup> See Anthony W. Shipps, *The Quote Sleuth: A Manual for the Tracer of Lost Quotations* (Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1990), 73-79, 167-72. Shipps's bibliography of general first-line indexes valuably supplements the present checklist.



or printed volumes may escape the indexer, and the indexer may easily overlook individual poems, especially in untidy manuscripts.

### *Searching Fully-Searchable Electronic Texts*

In searching an electronic textbase, it is obviously possible and often desirable to go beyond the first line in choosing search terms. Make allowances for the sort of errors likely to have been introduced by optical character recognition (OCR) or keyboarding, as the case may be.<sup>5</sup> One may want to use two or even more search strings, and they need not be from the first line. In general, the search string(s) should avoid

- the first word of the poem (likely to be printed using a display capital, which OCR is in turn likely to misinterpret)
- proper nouns or any other word likely to be printed in italics or small caps (both subject to OCR errors)
- words whose spelling was unstable in the period and likely to vary from text to text
- words with initial or medial s (i.e., long s), subject to OCR or transcription errors
- words with ligatures, e.g., AE, ae, ct, oe, ff, ft, ss, st, etc., subject to OCR errors
- words or phrases with punctuation, which might differ from text to text: hyphens, for instance, or apostrophes (note verb endings in -ed/'d and the like)

It will require practice and perhaps also luck to pick search strings that avoid these recognition difficulties and yet are not so common that they yield an inconveniently large number of hits. Some textbases offer search tips well worth considering. An example would be *ECCO*'s "Help" on "Searching," and especially the "Search Tips" listed under that heading. In desperate cases, try to imagine how the search term might have been erroneously recognized.<sup>6</sup>

## News

### *Bodleian Integrated Broadside Ballads Archive, in Progress*

This JISC-funded project, in progress since 2011, is designed, in the words of the project website, "to integrate existing resources for the study of the English folk song and printed ballad

---

<sup>5</sup> See Sayre Greenfield, "ECCO OCR Troubleshooting," *Early Modern Online Bibliography* [earlymodernonlinebib.wordpress.com/](http://earlymodernonlinebib.wordpress.com/). Simon Tanner, Trevor Muñoz, and Pich Hemy Ros provide an instructive analysis of OCR errors in "Measuring Mass Text Digitization Quality and Usefulness: Lessons Learned from Assessing the OCR Accuracy of the British Library's 19th Century Online Newspaper Archive," *D-Lib Magazine* 15.7/8 (2009) [www.dlib.org/dlib/july09/munoz/07munoz.html](http://www.dlib.org/dlib/july09/munoz/07munoz.html). Their title notwithstanding, they give special attention to *17th-18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers*.

<sup>6</sup> With the goal of finding misrecognized instances of the name "Swift" in *17th-18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers*, I got at least one hit on each of the following search terms: "Awift," "Bwift," "Fwift," "Gwift," "Jwift," "Nwift," "Pwift," "Rwift," "Shift," "Smift," "Swiff," "Swifl," "Swill," "Swilt," "Swip," "Swipt," "Swiss," and "Twift." To be sure, all these make up a minuscule fraction of the hits for "Swift" (searched 13 Feb. 2010).



tradition. Resources to be clustered are from the three partners in the project: 1) a corpus of nearly 30,000 ballads, many of them unique survivals, printed between the 16th and 20th centuries, in Bodleian Library collections; 2) nearly 5,000 largely pre-1700 ballads from the University of California Santa Barbara's online resource [EBBA the English Broadside Ballad Archive](#); and 3) the Roud Broadside and Folk Tune Indexes, comprehensive indexes of the song tradition and references to songs, based at the [Vaughan Williams Memorial Library](#). As part of this project, the Bodleian site will introduce Image Matching to search visual images on the ballad sheets." The website, [ballads.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://ballads.bodleian.ox.ac.uk), provides fuller information on this project, due to be completed in 2013.

#### *Index to Gentleman's Magazine Verse*

In July 2012, Emily Lorraine de Montluzin launched *The Poetry of the Gentleman's Magazine, 1731-1800: An Electronic Database of Titles, Authors, and First Lines* at [www.gmpoetrydatabase.org](http://www.gmpoetrydatabase.org). The database, described as "an ongoing project," indexes 12,365 *Gentleman's Magazine* poems and attributes 4,763 of them to authors. The index immediately takes its place as one of the largest electronic first-line indexes. The index is accompanied by helpful introductory material. From the extensive list of eighteenth-century periodicals that published verse, we can at last check one off as fully indexed—that one being surely the most voluminous publisher of periodical verse in the entire period.

#### *Digital Miscellanies Index, in Progress*

[Abigail Williams](#) (University of Oxford) is preparing an online index to over a thousand eighteenth-century printed poetical miscellanies. Based to a significant degree on the Harding Collection in the Bodleian Library, the index will be searchable by author, title, first line, publisher, theme, format, and ESTC number. The project is being supported by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust, and a beta version of the index is slated for release in early 2013. See [digitalmiscellaniesindex.org/](http://digitalmiscellaniesindex.org/) and [digitalmiscellaniesindex.blogspot.com](http://digitalmiscellaniesindex.blogspot.com).

#### *Index to 1701-1750 Printed Verse, in Progress*

[Carolyn Nelson](#) has begun adding eighteenth-century printed verse to the *Union First Line Index*. In December 2012, the *Index* grew by 17,825 first lines from books and periodicals published 1701-1710. Nelson gathered these new lines from *ECCO*, *ESTC*, Foxon, and *Eighteenth-Century Journals I-II*; thus poems not represented in those sources remain to be indexed. As with *STC* and *Wing*, when *ESTC* lists a source in multiple editions or issues, the *Union Index* references only the first of these.

The new records should be of keen interest to eighteenth-century specialists. It is hoped that a 1711-1720 installment will be added in 2014.



## 1. *Union First Line Index of English Verse, 13th-19th Century*

[Carolyn Nelson](#) has compiled a freely accessible online index including over 250,000 first lines, mostly from the period 1500-1800: [firstlines.folger.edu](http://firstlines.folger.edu). The *Union First Line Index* is the obvious first-resort first-line index for the pre-1800 period.

The index was published in December 2009 under the auspices of the Folger Shakespeare Library and Heather Wolfe, the Folger's Curator of Manuscripts. In its initial release, the *Union Index* listed the manuscript holdings of the Bodleian, the British Library (pre-1895 accessions), the Folger, Harvard, the Huntington, Leeds (Brotherton Collection, 17th-18th century only), Yale's Osborn Collection, Sherlock's manuscript sources for Rochester's poetry, and the manuscript sources indexed in Steven W. May and William A. Ringler, Jr., *Elizabethan Poetry: A Bibliography and First-Line Index of English Verse, 1559-1603* (London: Thoemmes Continuum, 2004). Subsequently, records from Edwin Wolf 2nd's index of Rosenbach Company manuscripts handled were incorporated. And in February 2010, Hilton Kelliher's first-line index of British Library manuscript verse accessioned since 1895 was incorporated.

In June 2010, Nelson's index to verse in Wing-period (1641-1700) printed sources, including periodicals—over 80,000 first lines in all—was added to the *Union Index*, and the original name of the index (*Union First-Line Index of Manuscript Poetry*) was updated. In December 2012, another 9,751 Wing records were added. The Wing records are based on the second edition of Donald Wing's short-title catalog, 3 vols. (1982-94, with additions from the Chadwick-Healy CD-ROM version, 1995), and on Nelson and Matthew Seccombe's catalog of English periodicals 1641-1700 (1987).

In June 2011, Nelson added another 52,000 first lines to the *Union Index*, representing all verse in *STC* (*Short-Title Catalogue*) imprints, 1603-1640. In December 2012, in addition to the Wing updates mentioned above, Nelson added 17,825 first lines for verse from imprints 1701-1710. (See *Index to 1701-1750 Printed Verse*, above.)

In short, the *Union Index* now incorporates the manuscript indexes listed below under British Library, Crum, Huntington, Kelliher, Nelson, Pickering, Seng, Sherlock, Wolf, and Yeandle, as well as ESTC-scope printed verse 1603-1710, with more to come. *Users should bear in mind that in most cases the original individual indexes provide fuller information and therefore remain useful.* The *Union Index* should be considered a finding aid to the indexes on which it is based.

The searchable fields in the *Union Index* include first line, last line, title, author, author's gender, names, translations, musical settings, date, library<sup>7</sup>, reference numbers (Crum, Osborn, or Elizabethan Verse [May and Ringler] numbers), and shelfmark (or STC/Wing/ESTC numbers). The ability to sort the index on any of these fields means, among other things, that with a shelfmark or STC/Wing/ESTC number sort, the user can easily generate a rough table of contents for the verse in any indexed manuscript or printed volume (at least for the first printed edition<sup>8</sup>).

---

<sup>7</sup> Although the *Index* facilitates limiting a search to one or more "specific major repositories," additional limiting terms can be entered as keywords, e.g., Wingper (Wing-era periodicals), Rosenbach.

<sup>8</sup> Where an *STC*, Wing, or *ESTC* title was published in multiple editions or issues, Nelson indexes only the first; a reader will need to search the title in the *ESTC* to discover subsequent instances. Even when a book was reissued with a new title, she has attempted to avoid duplicative entries.



The sources can be identified and located through *EEBO* (for *STC* and *Wing*) and *ECCO* or *ESTC*. (It may be necessary to drop the leading zero in such searches, so that, for example, *Wing G0730* becomes *G730* or *ESTC T075664* becomes *T75664*.)

Users should review the “Search Instructions” carefully (under “Information”). In particular, note that in the basic (“Keyword”) search interface, the asterisk wildcard (\*) is necessary to truncate search terms, while in the Advanced search interface, search terms are automatically treated as truncated, with one exception: *the “keyword” field continues to require wildcard truncation in the Advanced interface.*

Phrase searching is possible, but it may be inadvisable: some first lines include punctuation and others do not, and the search engine reads all marks literally. Consider the following first lines from three texts of the same poem:

Hear me, ye nymphs and every swain,  
Hear me ye nymphs and every swain,  
Hear me you nymphs and airy swains

To retrieve all three of these records (but only these) in a single query, you could use the advanced interface to search for First Line “hear”, First Line “nymph”, and First Line “swain”.

## 2. Indexes to Manuscript Verse

Bavarian State Library. *See* RISM

Bodleian Library, Oxford. *See* Crum

British Library [British Museum]. Department of Manuscripts. First-line index of (mostly English) poetry; includes last lines as well. *Included in the Nelson/Folger Union First Line Index*. 17 vols. (now rebound as 34), unpublished; compiled in the 1880s and later expanded to include accessions up to 1894. Some 17,000 entries. Of exceptional importance. The user should if possible consult W. H. Kelliher’s “Some Notes on the Handwritten Index of English Poetry, 1550-1800,” in vol. 5 of his own continuation, listed below. Kelliher has suggested to me that the compilers of the 1880s index unfortunately missed some 10 percent of the verse in the 1166 manuscripts they were indexing and that a substantial amount of manuscript verse exists in manuscripts they missed. A 1963 film of this 1880s index is variously cataloged in American libraries as “Index of Initials of English Poetry,” “English Poetry First and Last Line Index,” “First-Line Index of English Verse in the British Library,” or the like.

British Library [British Museum]. “Index of First Lines and Titles of [music manuscript] Acquisitions post Hughes-Hughes Catalogue.” A file of roughly 2500 slips formed evidently in the early twentieth century, and labeled “not complete.” The index is available for consultation by application at the music enquiries desk in the Rare Books and Music Reading Room. In the same box, there is a separate first-line index of some 600 items in the Bunting Collection (MSS Add. 41508-10).



- British Library [British Museum]. *See also* Hughes-Hughes; Kelliher; Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Catch Club: RISM; *Union First Line Index of English Verse*
- Crum, Margaret. *First-Line Index of English Poetry, 1500-1800, in Manuscripts of the Bodleian Library, Oxford*. 2 vols. New York: Modern Language Association, 1969. *Included in the Nelson/Folger Union First Line Index*. A most important listing of nearly 23,000 items by first line, with several useful supplementary indexes; covers acquisitions up through April 1961. Corrections are recorded in an interleaved copy (R.Ref.751), and later acquisitions are indexed in a two-drawer card file "First Line Index," both normally kept in Duke Humfrey's Library in the Bodleian, though currently (January 2013) the interleaved copy is shelved in the Special Collections Reading Room in the Radcliffe Science Library and the card drawers are in the Special Collections Reading Room reserve.
- Folger Shakespeare Library. *See* Yeandle; *Union First Line Index of English Verse* (above)
- Harvard University Library. *See* Seng; *Union First-Line Index of English Verse* (above)
- Hughes-Hughes, Augustus. *Catalogue of Manuscript Music in the British Museum*. 3 vols. London: British Museum, 1906-09. About 28,000 first lines and titles in three indexes. An unpublished supplement is listed above, under "British Library."
- Huntington Library. *First Line Index of Manuscript Poetry in the Huntington Library*. Intro. William Pidduck. Microfiche. Marlborough, Wilts.: Adam Matthew Publications, 1992. *Included in the Nelson/Folger Union First Line Index*. About 2500 items, representing manuscripts 1500-1850, with the bulk coming from the seventeenth century. A small number of the cards, contributed mainly by W. J. Cameron and mainly handwritten, add locations of other MS or printed texts of a given poem. A ten percent sample of the microfiche compared against the card index in March 2009 suggested that the card index had not been added to since 1992. However, unlike the microfiche, the card drawers, which can be requested in the Ahmanson Reading Room at the Huntington, include an author index of several hundred items, reflecting both attributions in the manuscripts themselves and attributions noted by Cameron. *See also* *Guide to the First Line Indexes of Manuscript Poetry in the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Huntington Library* (Marlborough, Wilts.: Adam Matthew Publications, 1998).
- Huntington Library. *See also* Huntington Library in the Printed Verse section, below; *Union First Line Index of English Verse* (above)
- Jorgens, Elise Bickford. *English Song, 1600-1675: Facsimiles of Twenty-Six Manuscripts and an Edition of the Texts*. 12 vols. New York and London: Garland, 1986-89. The first-line index in vol. 12 lists about 1550 lines.
- Kelliher, W. H. "Index to English and Anglo-Latin Verse Composed between 1500 and 1800 in British Library Manuscripts Acquired 1894-2000." 2002, with subsequent revisions incorporating acquisitions up to 2009. *Included in the Nelson/Folger Union First Line Index*. Over 12,000 first lines listed in 5 typescript volumes, shelved in the reading room of the British Library Department of Manuscripts. Vols. 1-3: index of first (and last) lines; vol. 4: indexes of authors, including authors of works translated; vol. 5: a valuable index of "contents and associated names," i.e., "proper names of persons, places, institutions, literary works and fictional characters that form the subjects of or are closely associated with the poems concerned"; also, notes on the pre-1895 British Library [British Museum] index (listed above) and a supplement to it. All told, a crucially important extension of the earlier index.



Leeds University Library. *See* Pickering

Lindsay, Alexander. *Index of English Literary Manuscripts*, III (1700-1800). Part 4, Sterne-Young. London: Mansell, 1997. The important “First-Line Index,” pp. 579-646, provides a cumulative index to “Parts” (volumes) 1-4 of “Volume” (part) III, that is, to the eighteenth-century portion of the *IELM*, with 6300 first lines.

[Londry, Michael](#). Unpublished first-line index, in progress, to the privately-held Hilda Londry Collection; *not seen*. The index is expected to list well over 2500 first lines from commonplace books and manuscript miscellanies of the long eighteenth century.

Love, Harold. “First-Line Index to Selected Anthologies of Clandestine Satire.” *English Clandestine Satire, 1660-1702*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2004. 303-414. About 3750 lines, indexing “the principal scribal sources of clandestine satire and the broader field of libertine and state verse, and ... the most important printed source—the original *Poems on Affairs of State* series in the four-volume set of 1702-7” (303). An electronic first-line index and indexes to individual sources are at [www.arts.monash.edu.au/english/resources/clandestine-satire](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/english/resources/clandestine-satire). *See* Sherlock for a draft of these electronic indexes. A microfilm series, *English Clandestine Satire, 1660-1704: Popular Culture, Entertainment and Information in the Early Modern Period*, includes most of the manuscripts that Love indexes: 24 reels (Marlborough: Wilts.: Adam Matthew Publications, 2006). The Sherlock draft is incorporated in the *Union First Line Index of Manuscript Poetry*.

[Nelson, Carolyn W.](#) *First-Line Index of English Poetry 1500-1800 in Manuscripts of the James M. and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Yale University*. Edited by many hands under the direction of Stephen Parks, curator; continued by Marc Greitens; completed by Carolyn W. Nelson. New Haven: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, 2005. *Included in the Nelson/Folger Union First Line Index*. Indexes about 22,500 poem texts. A splendid achievement, listing all complete poems (and some incomplete ones) in all manuscripts described in Osborn Collection finding aids as including verse. The small amount of Yale manuscript verse not in the Osborn Collection is not indexed.

Nelson, Carolyn W. *Union First Line Index of English Verse*. Described separately, above.

Noblemen’s and Gentlemen’s Catch Club. The unpublished “General Index” to its printed and manuscript music, listing some 2600 first lines, is British Library Music H.2788.kk; the 20 (presently uncataloged) manuscript volumes of “Catches Canons & Glee’s” are British Library Music H.2788.p-z, aa-ii. There is unfortunately no concordance to shelfmarks for the club’s printed volumes, also indexed here, though these volumes are believed to be in the British Library as well; *see* Pamela J. Willetts, *Handlist of Music Manuscripts Acquired, 1908-67* (London: British Museum, 1970), 94. On the Noblemen’s and Gentlemen’s Catch Club, *see also* the Boston Public Library entry under “Indexes to Printed Verse.”

[Pickering, Oliver](#). *BCMSV* (= Brotherton Collection Manuscript Verse, i.e., *Leeds Verse Database*). Online catalog of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century manuscript poems in English from the Brotherton Collection at the University of Leeds, listing over 6700 poems as of November 2006: [www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/bcmsv/intro.htm](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/bcmsv/intro.htm). *Included in the Nelson/Folger Union First Line Index*. Access by first two lines, last two lines, attribution (as given in the manuscript), author (as attributed by the cataloger), title, date, length, verse form, and content. The fully searchable contents notes on each poem are “a particular feature of the





data base.” First lines can be conveniently searched in the “start” field of the advanced search option, which accepts as keywords one or more of the first three words of the poem in modernized spelling. Images of some manuscripts are available at this website. The Brotherton poetry manuscripts have been published as *Literary Manuscripts: 17th and 18th Century Poetry from the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds* (Marlborough, Wilts.: Adam Matthew Digital, 2006); see [www.amdigital.co.uk/Collections/Literary-Manuscripts-Leeds.aspx](http://www.amdigital.co.uk/Collections/Literary-Manuscripts-Leeds.aspx).

RISM [Répertoire internationale des sources musicales / The International Inventory of Musical Sources / Internationales Quellenlexikon der Musik]. Online catalog: [opac.rism.info](http://opac.rism.info). About 700,000 records of music manuscripts, mainly 1600-1850, in over 800 libraries and archives in 32 countries. Many vocal works are indexed by first line and therefore can be searched using salient first-line words. RISM (a project of the Academy of Science and Literature, Mainz) has produced the catalog in collaboration with the Bavarian State Library and the State Library of Berlin. The online catalog replaces RISM Series A/II: *Music Manuscripts after 1600*, 16th ed., on CD-ROM or DVD (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2008). This was the last edition on CD-ROM; it is/was also available, with somewhat fewer search options, as part of the online “International Inventory of Musical Sources after 1600,” issued by EBSCO; see [www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=1121](http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=1121).

RISM [Répertoire internationale des sources musicales / The International Inventory of Musical Sources]: United Kingdom and Ireland. *Music Manuscripts (1600 to 1800) in British and Irish Libraries*. 2007–. 55,832 records are currently in the public database at [www.rism.org.uk](http://www.rism.org.uk), with another 11,000 records in the pipeline, according to the database editor, Sandra Tuppen. A project of Royal Holloway College, University of London, and the British Library; directed by David Charlton. Many first lines are entered in the titles field.

Rosenbach Museum and Library. See Wolf

Royal Holloway College. See RISM

Seng, Peter J. *English-Language Manuscript Verse in the Houghton Library: First-Line Index*. Ed. Katherine Chase, Diane Booton, et al. Houghton Library, Harvard College Library, 2005: [nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL.Hough:h01423](http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL.Hough:h01423). Included in the *Nelson/Folger Union First Line Index*. According to the Houghton finding-aid, “This index includes manuscripts in the Library’s collection that were cataloged at the time Peter Seng compiled it (about 1980). It has not been maintained.” This electronic index is a significant revision of Seng’s unpublished “Index to English Language Manuscript Verse. Houghton Library, Harvard,” 1986-88, available in various printouts at the Houghton, the Beinecke, the British Library (Department of Manuscripts reading room), and Connecticut College. Over 12,000 first lines.

Sherlock, Meredith, with Harold Love. “Indexes to Source Manuscripts” used in Love’s edition *The Works of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester* (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1999): [www.arts.monash.edu.au/english/resources/rochester-edition/manuscript-index.php](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/english/resources/rochester-edition/manuscript-index.php). Between them, these indexes list about 2200 lines. Included in the *Nelson/Folger Union First Line Index*. See Love, above.

State Library of Berlin. See RISM

Trinity College Dublin Library, Manuscripts & Archives Research Library. “Verse: Cumulative First-Line Index.” An unpublished file of about 3700 slips in a single alphabet. William O’Sullivan began the index, probably in the 1960s, and it remains a work in progress: separate



first-line indexes for a number of other manuscripts, totaling roughly 4000 more slips, are in a group entitled “First Line Indexes of Poems for Typing (before cumulation).”

University of Nottingham Library, Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections. An electronic index to an estimated 4500 poems in the Portland (Welbeck) Literary Manuscripts is part of the online manuscripts catalog [mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk](http://mss-cat.nottingham.ac.uk) (to search first lines, choose “More search options”).

Wolf, Edwin 2nd. First-line index, unpublished, in the Rosenbach Museum and Library, Philadelphia, compiled from manuscripts handled the Rosenbach Company, 1930-49. *Included in the Nelson/Folger Union First Line Index.* Most of the indexed manuscripts are of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century verse and are now in the Folger, with some few still in the Rosenbach Library and others at Princeton, Yale’s Osborn Collection, Chicago, the Huntington, Harvard, and the Morgan. About 4000 cards, filed alphabetically by *last* word of the first line.

Yale University Library. *See* Nelson

[Yeandle, Laetitia]. *First Line Index of Manuscript Poetry in the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington DC.* 3 reels of microfilm. Marlborough, Wilts.: Adam Matthew Publications, 1998. *Included in the Nelson/Folger Union First Line Index.* Some 10,000 entries indexing English verse, nominally pre-1700 though some eighteenth-century verse is in fact included. *See Guide to the First Line Indexes of Manuscript Poetry in the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Huntington Library* (Marlborough, Wilts.: Adam Matthew Publications, 1998). Many of the indexed pre-1700 manuscripts have been published on microfilm by Primary Source Media (now Gale Cengage). A small cardfile of additions to this index is maintained in the library. Also in the library is an index of post-1700 manuscript verse in English (about 2500 entries), along with briefer indexes to manuscript verse in French, German, Italian, Latin, Spanish, and Welsh; this post-1700 index is not complete but includes only those manuscripts cataloged by Yeandle. The additions and post-1700 cardfile are both incorporated in the *Union First Line Index.*

### **3. Indexes to Printed Verse (or printed and manuscript verse combined)**

Adkins, Nelson F. *Early American Periodicals Index to 1850.* New York: Readex Microprint, 1964. Part C includes a first-line index to poetry (cards C151-290) listing upwards of 80,000 poems, about 10 percent of which are from eighteenth-century periodicals. There are separate author and title indexes to poems, as well as a much smaller index to songs (cards E8-11). The index is not easy to use (or indeed easy to find, since the microcard technology is obsolete), but it does provide another point of access to American periodical verse 1728-1850. *See* the review in Robert Balay, *Early Periodical Indexes: Bibliographies and Indexes of Literature Published in Periodicals before 1900* (Lanham and London: Scarecrow Press, 2000), 31-32.

Backus, Edythe N. *Catalogue of Music in the Huntington Library Printed before 1801.* San Marino: Huntington Library, 1949; first-line index, 381-773, with prefatory guide, 10-22. Has an estimated 11,500 lines. Excludes publications without musical notation; includes magazine



music. An interleaved copy of Backus at the Huntington has only one correction (p. 558) and no additions.

Birmingham Central Library. See *Eighteenth-Century Journals*

Bodleian Library *Broadside Ballads: The Allegro Catalogue of Ballads*. 1999, 2005.

[www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ballads/ballads.htm](http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ballads/ballads.htm). Indexes and provides a scanned image of 30,000 broadside ballads. Can be searched by words in the first line; access also by title, subject, author, printer or publisher, tune, shelfmark, date, and "iconclass."

Bodleian Library. *SOLO* [the Oxford University libraries' online catalog] [solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk). Provides first-line access to single-sheet songs, though this material is not fully entered into *OLIS*; the main card catalog of printed music, which sometimes lists songs under their first lines, may be consulted in Duke Humfrey's Library. In *SOLO*, search first-line words as if they were title words.

Bodleian Library. See also Harding; Haslewood; *Eighteenth-Century Journals*; *Internet Library of Early Journals*

Boston Public Library. *Catalogue of the Allen A. Brown Collection of Music in the Public Library of the City of Boston*. 3 vols. plus supplement. Boston: Trustees [of the Boston Public Library], 1910-16. First lines of vocal music are included in this single-alphabet index; includes some manuscripts, mostly grouped under the heading "Manuscripts," but see the Supplement entry for "Catch Club, London."

Boys, R. C., and Arthur Mizener. Index, unpublished, of poems in the miscellanies listed in Arthur E. Case's *A Bibliography of English Poetical Miscellanies*. 35,000 slips at the Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas; commonly known as the Boys-Mizener Index. Although a remarkable achievement, this index does not cover every book listed in Case. On the other hand, it covers some volumes within Case's scope but not in Case. Mizener indexed the pre-1700 miscellanies; Boys indexed those published 1700-1750. Mizener regarded his section as virtually complete, while Boys estimated that his part of the project was 85-90 percent complete.<sup>9</sup> As they found miscellanies not in Case, Boys and Mizener interpolated additional numbers into Case's numbering system. Many of these new numbers are listed in an unpublished (dittoed) paper by R. C. Boys: "Mizener and Boys First-Line Index—Poetical Miscellanies: Preliminary List of Miscellanies (1700-48) Added to Case's *Bibliography*, Not Including Those Collections Which Had Editions Earlier than 1700 (see Mizener's list for these)," which is filed with the Spencer finding aid "English Poetical Miscellanies not in Case." The added sigla for pre-1700 miscellanies may be decoded conjecturally with the aid of the ESTC. The Boys-Mizener index must be used along with Boys's annotated copy of Case (Spencer C6101), to which is appended Boys's usefully annotated copy of his "A Finding-List of English Poetical Miscellanies 1700-1748 in Selected American Libraries," *ELH* 7.2 (June 1940): 144-62. The Spencer Research Library *does not necessarily hold the miscellanies indexed*, though its collection of English poetical miscellanies is substantial.

British Library. *Explore the British Library* (the main BL online catalog): [catalogue.bl.uk/](http://catalogue.bl.uk/). First lines of separately published songs may be searched as titles.

---

<sup>9</sup> Spencer Research Library "Catalogue IV," quoting correspondence from Boys and Mizener. They donated their respective sections of the index to the Spencer in 1968.



British Library. Certain important collections of early song sheets are arranged alphabetically by first line, and such collections can serve as first-line indexes, e.g., the nine substantial volumes classed as G.306-14.

British Library. *See also* Chappell; Parkinson; *Eighteenth-Century Journals*

Butler, Anthony, with Tracey Caulfield, Felicity Henderson, and Harold Love. *Restoration Theatre Song Archive*. 2005, 2008.

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/english/resources/restoration-theatre-song-archive/index.php>.

Indexes 2200 songs from first editions of English plays 1660-1703; searchable by first line, author, composer, title of play, and year. For many of the songs, a score can be viewed and a sound file can be played.

Cambridge University Library. *See* University Library, Cambridge

Cattling, J. MS first-line index (1748) of a collection of sheet ballads and songs. The collection, said to have had more than a thousand items, is apparently no longer extant; the index is in three alphabets; 81 leaves. Houghton Library MS Eng 1516, Harvard University Library.

Chappell, W., and J. Woodfall Ebsworth. *The Roxburghe Ballads*. 8 vols. Hertford: Ballad Society, 1869-95. The Roxburghe collection, originally formed for Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, is in the British Library and includes nearly 1500 printed ballads, mostly from the seventeenth century with some earlier and later. The individual volumes have indexes of first lines, titles, tunes, and burdens in a single alphabet. Vols. 4-8, "Illustrating the last years of the Stuarts, in their political and social history," add ballads from other collections and attempt a tighter chronological and political focus, emphasizing the post-1660 period. There is no index to the entire set, unfortunately, and the reader is advised to spend some time with the introductions to the various volumes.

Chetham's Library, Manchester. *See* Snape; *Eighteenth-Century Journals*

Corry, Mary Jane, [Kate Van Winkle Keller](#), and [Robert Keller](#). *The Performing Arts in Colonial American Newspapers, 1690-1783: Text Database and Index*. Annapolis: Colonial Music Institute, 2010. [www.colonialdancing.org/PacanNew/Index.htm](http://www.colonialdancing.org/PacanNew/Index.htm). This on-line index replaces a CD-ROM (New York: University Music Editions, 1997). The database includes a first-line index of some 12,000 lyrics.

Crawford and Balcarres, James Lindsay, Earl of. *Bibliotheca Lindesiana: Catalogue of a Collection of English Ballads of the XVIIth and XVIIIth Centuries, Printed for the Most Part in Black Letter*. 1890. Rpt. in 2 vols. New York, Burt Franklin, n.d. Indexes more than 1400 ballads, mostly from the period 1660-1689 (1:xiii). Since 1988, the Bibliotheca Lindesiana collection of ballads has been deposited in the National Library of Scotland as the "Crawford English Ballads" collection.

Danchin, Pierre, ed. *The Prologues and Epilogues of the Eighteenth Century: A Complete Edition*. Thus far 8 volumes have been published, covering 1701-1776; vols. 1-4: Nancy: Presses Universitaires de Nancy, 1990-1993; vols. 5-6: Paris: Messene, 1997; vols. 7-8: Paris: Messene, 2001. The first-line indexes in vols. 2, 4, and 6 together list 1500 first lines. Vols. 7-8 are scarce (*not seen*).

Danchin, Pierre, ed. *The Prologues and Epilogues of the Restoration, 1660-1700*. Part four: indexes. Nancy: Presses Universitaires de Nancy, 1981. The first-line index, pp. 95-113, lists 1200 items.



- Day, Cyrus Lawrence, and Eleanore Boswell Murrie. *English Song-Books, 1651-1702: A Bibliography with a First-Line Index of Songs*. London: Bibliographical Society, 1940. Limited to printed works containing both words and music, excluding single sheets and sacred music; despite the title, coverage for later editions of items first published before 1703 extends to 1730. The first-line index (163-400) lists 4150 items.
- [de Montluzin, Emily Lorraine](#). *The Poetry of the Gentleman's Magazine, 1731-1800: An Electronic Database of Titles, Authors, and First Lines*. 2012. [www.gmpoetrydatabase.org/](http://www.gmpoetrydatabase.org/). Over 12,000 poems are indexed, more than a third of them with attributions.
- Dodge, Robert K. *A Topical Index of Early U. S. Almanacs, 1776-1800*. Bibliographies and Indexes in American Literature 26. Westport: Greenwood, 1997. The 25 annual indexes list over 3200 first lines from these almanacs.
- Duke University. *See Maddox*
- Elias, A. C. Jr. A first-line index to verse in Irish periodicals 1725-1751; about 3300 items drawn primarily from the microfilm series *Irish Newspapers in Dublin Libraries*. The index, comprehensive for the material it indexes, is on cards and lists the first two lines and the title of each poem, with notes on attribution and occasion. In an homage to Flann O'Brien, Elias attributed his index to Jams O'Donnell; see [Elias], "A First-Line Index of Poems in Irish Periodicals to ca. 1760," *East-Central Intelligencer* ns 8.1 (Jan. 1994): 19-20. The index is among the uncataloged Elias papers in the University of Pennsylvania Rare Book and Manuscript Library.
- Ellinwood, Leonard, and Elizabeth Lockwood. *Dictionary of North American Hymnology*. Ed. Tina Schneider; formerly ed. Paul R. Powell and Mary Louise VanDyke. Grand Rapids: Christian Classics Etherial Library and Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2009-. [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org). This resource offers "a comprehensive bibliography and index of 1,876 hymnals published in the United States and Canada from 1640 to 1978"; it includes more than 1,000,000 first lines, with first lines linked to the bibliography of hymnals. Access also by author, year published, title, refrain, keywords, and in many other ways. This on-line index replaces an earlier CD-ROM version (Boston: Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, 2003), An even earlier version, edited by Ellinwood, was published on 179 reels of microfilm as *Dictionary of American Hymnology First Line Index* (New York: University Music Editions, 1984).
- Ellis, Frank H. Scholarly working papers, ca. 1970-1985. Smith College Library MS 46. Photocopies, filed by first line, of manuscript and early printed texts of some 2000 mostly political poems, 1697-1714, *not* edited in Ellis's edition *Poems on Affairs of State: Augustan Satirical Verse*, vols. 6-7. The Ellis papers also include a file drawer of first-line indexes, some brief and others substantial, to various manuscript and printed collections of verse.
- English Short Title Catalogue* (ESTC). [estc.bl.uk](http://estc.bl.uk). Songs and single-sheet poems normally have their first lines quoted in the notes field; under "Advanced Search," search words in the line in "Notes." *ESTC* searches can use the genre terms "poems" and "verse," among others. *ESTC* records contain links to digital surrogates, thus far mainly those in *EEBO* and *ECCO*.
- Folger Shakespeare Library. "Music: Single Songs First Line Index": card index to song sheets, largely of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and uncataloged music, mostly of the twentieth century. About 3700 first lines in all.
- Folger Shakespeare Library. *See also Union First Line Index to English Verse*, above



- Foxon, D. F. *English Verse, 1701-1750: A Catalogue of Separately Printed Poems*. 2 vols. London: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1975. First-line index of about 6400 items (2:1-60); Foxon excludes American imprints, broadside ballads, slip songs, chapbooks, engraved sheets, and libretti (1:xii-xiii).
- Greene, John C. *The Belfast Newsletter Index, 1737-1800*. 2004. [www.ucl.ac.uk/bnl/](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/bnl/). Records over 1000 poems, most searchable by keywords in their first lines. Many of the poems were reprinted from contemporaneous periodicals, so a listing here is a hint of what may be found elsewhere. See Greene, "Belfast Newsletter Index Database, 1737-1800," *East-Central Intelligencer* ns 14.1-2 (Feb. 2000): 16-17. The *Belfast Newsletter* itself is available on microfilm.
- Halliwell-Phillipps Collection. *See* Snape
- Harding, Walter N. H. Index, unpublished, to his voluminous collection of rare miscellanies and songbooks bequeathed to the Bodleian Library, Oxford, in 1976. The "ante 1800" portion of the index includes an estimated 48,000 cards. Harding's collection and index include single sheets and some periodical verse. The index can currently (January 2013) be seen in Duke Humphrey's Library. Codes used in the index are listed in a loose-leaf notebook kept by Harding and, somewhat more legibly, on index cards transcribed by someone else. Occasionally a code seems not to have been recorded in the notebook, and occasionally the same code seems to have been used for two different books. Some poems are indexed by volume title rather than code; perhaps no codes were ever assigned for these volumes. On the Harding collections, see Walter N. H. Harding, "British Song Books and Kindred Subjects," *Book Collector* 11 (Winter 1962): 448-59; A. Hyatt King, *Some British Collectors of Music, c. 1600-1960* (Cambridge: University Press, 1963), 82-83; Jean Geil, "American Sheet Music in the Walter N. H. Harding Collection at the Bodleian Library, Oxford University," *Notes* 34.4 (June 1978): 805-14; and Helene Elizabeth Solheim, "Walter N. H. Harding and the Harding Drama Collection at the Bodleian Library, Oxford" (unpublished PhD dissertation, Univ. of Washington, 1985), especially the introduction. *See also* the description of Abigail Williams's *Digital Miscellanies Index*, above.
- Harvard University Library. *See* Cattling
- Haslewood, Joseph (1769-1833). Compilation of English songs, 1720-1830 but with emphasis on the late 18th century, clipped mainly from newspapers, magazines, and songbooks. 5 volumes, arranged alphabetically by first line, very roughly 3500 songs in all. Bodleian Library, Douce ballads 5-9. Haslewood's note in vol. 1: "5 vols. 4to. A collection partly formed many years since, before any of the modern volumes of copious collections were in circulation. It was intended to form an universal repository of the songs existing in our vernacular tongue with all due rejection decency might dictate."
- Hunter, David. *Opera and Song Books Published in England, 1703-1726: A Descriptive Bibliography*. London: Bibliographical Society, 1997. Includes an index of about 2300 first lines from the 180 publications described, 473-500.
- Huntington Library. "Song Index (without music)." A card index of about 9500 first lines, with an accompanying title index. Clearly designed as complementary to Backus's index of songs *with* music; apparently prepared in the 1950s by Mary Isabel Fry; not currently maintained. Indexes poems, mostly in English, mostly from 1600-1900, mostly from Huntington books and manuscripts. The cards give a Huntington call number which (in the case of printed



items) leads easily to fuller information in the Huntington online catalog. Some cards also give the number of stanzas and the number of lines and identify the author and/or composer. The index occupies 16 drawers along the central hallway.

Huntington Library. *See also* Backus; Huntington Library in the Manuscript Verse section, above

[Joncus, Berta](#), in collaboration with Michael Burden and Vanessa L. Rogers. *Ballad Operas Online*. Oxford Digital Library, 2009–. [www.odl.ox.ac.uk/balladoperas/](http://www.odl.ox.ac.uk/balladoperas/). An online catalog of over 200 ballad operas, listing about 3500 first lines and also searchable by author, composer, title, ESTC number, air title, character played, subject, date of premiere, date of publication, publisher, venue of premiere, and in other ways.

Julian, John. *A Dictionary of Hymnology, Setting Forth the Origin and History of Christian Hymns of All Ages and Nations*. Revised ed. London: John Murray, 1907, and several times reprinted. Includes indexes listing about 27,000 first lines (1307-1504, 1730-60).

Kallich, Martin. *British Poetry and the American Revolution: A Bibliographical Survey of Books and Pamphlets, Journals and Magazines, Newspapers and Prints, 1755-1800*. 2 vols. New York: Whiston Publishing Co., 1988. Indexes over 5000 poems by title or first line.

[Keller, Robert M.](#) *Early American Songsters, 1734-1800: An Index*. Annapolis: Colonial Music Institute, 2008. Web-based bibliography: [www.danceandmusicindexes.org/Lowens1/index.htm](http://www.danceandmusicindexes.org/Lowens1/index.htm). Listing over 1200 songs, the index covers “all of the known songsters currently available,” a songster being “a collection of three or more secular poems intended to be sung.” Click on “Browse Authors, Composers, Performers” to see the listing of first lines.

[Keller, Robert M.](#) *Early American Songsters, 1734-1820: An Index*. Annapolis: Colonial Music Institute, 2009. CD-ROM (*see* [www.colonialmusic.org/EAS-cdr.htm](http://www.colonialmusic.org/EAS-cdr.htm)). Indexes nearly 36,000 songs. For the period 1734-1800, this index incorporates the web-based *Early American Songsters, 1734-1800* but adds songs from several sources that the earlier index does not treat. Keller estimates that about half the sources indexed in the 1734-1820 index are available online in Digital Evans I and II. The “Text Index” includes song titles, first lines, burdens, refrains, and for theater songs, the play or opera title. In the “Source Index” it is possible to see a complete table of contents for each source. A name index of authors, composers, and performers is also available.

[Keller, Robert M.](#), Raoul F. Camus, Kate Van Winkle Keller, and Susan Cifaldi. *Early American Secular Music and Its European Sources, 1589-1839: An Index*. Annapolis: Colonial Music Institute, 2002. Web-based bibliography: [www.colonialdancing.org/Easmes/](http://www.colonialdancing.org/Easmes/); also published on CD-ROM. Merges and enlarges Kate Van Winkle Keller and Carolyn Rabson, *National Tune Index: Eighteenth-Century Secular Music* (New York: University Music Editions, 1980) and Raoul F. Camus, *National Tune Index: Early American Wind and Ceremonial Music: 1636-1836* (New York: University Music Editions, 1989). Includes 75,000+ entries from a wide range of printed and manuscript materials. “All American imprints of secular music to 1800 are included.”

Kroeger, Karl. *American Fuging-Tunes, 1770-1820: A Descriptive Catalog*. Music Reference Collection 41. Westport, CT, and London: Greenwood, 1994. Includes a first-line index listing over 700 song texts (over 1300 instances), all from printed sources (208-17). Fuging is a kind of sacred choral music.



- Kroeger, Karl, and Marie Kroeger. *An Index to Anglo-American Psalmody in Modern Critical Editions*. CD-ROM. Middleton, WI: A-R Editions, 2001. Can be searched by first line. Indexes some 2,000 items between 1535 and 1820.
- Leeds University Library. See *Eighteenth-Century Journals*
- Lemay, J. A. Leo. "A Calendar of American Poetry in the Colonial Newspapers and Magazines and in the Major English Magazines through 1765." *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* 79 (1969): 291-392; 80 (1970): 71-222, 353-469. First-line index, 80:410-442. The *Calendar* was also separately published (Worcester: American Antiquarian Society, 1972). About 2100 entries.
- Lethbridge, Stefanie. *Index Britischer Lyrikanthologien 1557-2007 / Index of English Poetry Anthologies, 1557-2007*. 2007. [ibl.uib.uni-freiburg.de](http://ibl.uib.uni-freiburg.de). Lists over 15,000 first lines from 176 anthology volumes, about 55 of them published 1650-1800. There are interfaces in both English and German, and the index is searchable by first line, poem title, poem author, anthology title, anthology editor, and anthology imprint ("bibliography"). A table of contents can be produced for each anthology. The project has received funding from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.
- Library of Congress. See Sonneck
- Liverpool John Moores University Library. See *Eighteenth-Century Journals*
- Maddox, Aileen. "First Line Index of All Verse by John or Charles Wesley in Editions They Published during Their Lifetime." Online listing of 4662 entries. Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition; last updated 2010. [divinity.duke.edu/initiatives-centers/cswt/research-resources/wesley-studies-resources](http://divinity.duke.edu/initiatives-centers/cswt/research-resources/wesley-studies-resources) (click on "First Line Index of John and Charles Wesley's published verse (xls)").
- Magdalene College, Cambridge. See Weinstein
- McDonald, Gerald D., Stuart C. Sherman, and Mary T. Russo. *A Checklist of American Newspaper Carriers' Addresses, 1720-1820*. Worcester, MA: American Antiquarian Society, 2000. First-line index of 1000 poems soliciting gratuities from newspaper subscribers.
- National Library of Scotland. See Crawford
- Nelson, Carolyn W. Indexes to *STC*, *Wing*, and *ESTC* verse. Described above, under *Union First Line Index of English Verse*.
- New York Public Library for the Performing Arts (Lincoln Center). Vocal music index, unpublished. This card index analyzes printed collections of music and also indexes sheet music; it includes a significant amount of pre-1800 music, some of it otherwise uncataloged. The index is currently maintained and occupies 1149 drawers in the third floor special collections reading room.
- Newberry Library. See Sole
- Olson, Wm. Bruce. *Broadside Ballad Index: Contents Listing of Most 16th and 17th Century Broadside Ballad Collections, with a Few Ballads and Garlands of the 18th Century*. 2003. [www.csufresno.edu/folklore/Olson](http://www.csufresno.edu/folklore/Olson). Some 3770 first lines indexing published collections and some manuscripts; tends to exclude political ballads and other items not clearly meant to be sung, so that the collections treated are not indexed in their entirety. Useful cross-references.
- Opie, Iona and Peter Opie. *The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes*. 2d ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1997. Has a full bibliography of early texts of each poem and a 1200-item first-line index.





- Osborn, James M. An unpublished index, on cards, to 205 British periodicals (1681-1800); it includes a first-line index to over 7000 poems. The Osborn index is what remains of an unfinished subject index to eighteenth-century British periodicals in the British Museum, the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and the Yale University Library compiled during the late 1930s and early 1940s. The index is owned by [James E. Tierney](#), Department of English, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO 63121, and serves as the foundation for a much more comprehensive electronic subject index of pre-1800 British periodicals that he is now compiling. This electronic index, however, will not include first lines. See further Tierney, "A CD-ROM Subject Index to Pre-1800 British Periodicals," *East-Central Intelligencer* ns 5.3 (Sept. 1991): 8-13.
- Parkinson, John A. "18th Century Song Collections: A Classified Index." Unpublished typescript, undated (latter part of the 20th century). Indexes about 9000 items from more than 100 songbooks having songs by more than one composer, 1702-99. Access by "title" (which is usually the first line); there are also indexes by composer and, for songs taken from operas, by opera. Available on the open shelves of the British Library Rare Books and Music Reading Room, MUS 782.42. Parkinson was a member of the British Library's Music Library staff.
- Ram, Titia. *Magnitude in Marginality: Edward Cave and "The Gentleman's Magazine", 1731-1754: Containing a First-Line Index of All the Poems, with Notes and References on Authorship*. Overveen: Gottmann & Fainsilber Katz, 1999. First-line index with 5000 items (183-491).
- Rollins, Hyder E. *An Analytical Index to the Ballad-Entries (1557-1709) in the Registers of the Company of Stationers of London*. Foreword Leslie Shepard. Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1924; Hatboro: Tradition Press, 1967. Over 3000 items. The first-line index excludes those ballads indexed under their first lines in the main (title) index.
- [Roud, Steve](#). *Broadside Index* (London: English Folk Dance and Song Society, in progress: [library.efdds.org/](http://library.efdds.org/)). With "no well-defined parameters," this index includes about 141,000 "references to songs which appeared on broadsides, chapbooks, songsters, and other cheap print publications, up to about 1920." At the same website, the companion *Folk Song Index*, also by Roud, includes about 164,000 "references to songs that have been collected from oral tradition in the English language from all over the world." A bibliography of sources used (some 100,000 so far) is also in progress. The indexes are maintained by the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library of the English Folk Dance and Song Society.
- Rubin, Emanuel Leo. "The English Glee from William Hayes to William Horsley." 2 vols. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Pittsburgh, 1968. Vol. 2 includes among its numerous indexes a first-line index of some 2500 glees, mostly from the period 1760-1800; each entry includes a musical setting for the first line, as well as the composer, arranger, poet, title, and published source.
- Rubin, Emanuel. *The English Glee in the Reign of George III: Participatory Art Music for an Urban Society*. Warren, MI: Harmonie Park, 2003. The "Title Index" (447-77) includes about 2200 first lines.
- S., E. "State Poems." *Notes and Queries* 5th ser. 6 (1876): 401-02, 422-23, 441-42, 463-65, 484-86, 531-33. Indexes nine collections of political verse published 1683-1707; 1100 first lines.
- Schnapper, Edith B. *The British Union-Catalogue of Early Music, Printed before the Year 1801: A Record of the Holdings of Over One Hundred Libraries throughout the British Isles*. 2 vols.



- London: Butterworths Scientific Publications, 1957. Though the catalog, widely known as *BUCEM*, is arranged by composer, anonymous songs are indexed by first line. There is a separate title index of vocal works (2:1105-78), and in this index, first lines are used for untitled songs. Thus first lines must be checked both in the main alphabetical listing and in this "title" index.
- Simpson, Claude M. *The British Broadside Ballad and Its Music*. New Brunswick: Rutgers Univ. Press, 1966. The "Index of Titles, First Lines, Tune Names, and Refrains of Ballads" from 1550 to 1740 includes about 2500 first lines.
- Smith College Library. See Ellis
- Smyth, Adam. *Index of Poetry in Printed Miscellanies, 1640-1682*. 2001, 2005. [extra.shu.ac.uk/emls/08-1/smyth.htm](http://extra.shu.ac.uk/emls/08-1/smyth.htm). An index to 4600 poems in 41 miscellanies.
- Snape, Anne C. An index to the ballads, poems, and songs, mostly from the early eighteenth century, in the Halliwell-Phillipps Collection in Chetham's Library, Manchester; about 1300 first lines. In the microfilm series *Proclamations, Broad sides, Ballads, and Poems, 1357-1830: The Halliwell-Phillipps Collection* (London: Mansell Publishing, 1990), reel 7; see also the similarly titled printed reel guide (London and New York: Mansell, 1990).
- Sole, W[illiam]. "A Compleat List of Brittish Songs That Have Been Composed within the Last Two Centurys—Together with Some of More Remote Antiquity, with Critticisms on the Poetry & Musick of Each Song; also Notes Crittical & Explanatory." Bath, 1778[-90]. Newberry Library Case MS V 8045.8. Indexes 3000 songs from numerous eighteenth-century anthologies and other printed sources.
- Sonneck, Oscar George Theodore. *A Bibliography of Early Secular American Music (18th Century)*. Rev. and enlarged by William Treat Upton. Washington: Library of Congress Music Division, 1945. Rpt. New York: Da Capo Press, 1964 with a preface by Irving Lowens. Original preface is dated 1902, 1905. The first-line index (537-70) includes about 1400 items. Presumably supplanted by Keller et al.
- Sonneck, Oscar George Theodore. Library of Congress *Catalogue of Opera Librettos Printed before 1800*. 2 vols. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1914; rpt. New York: Johnson Reprint Corp., 1968. Includes an aria index by first line, 2:1641-1674.
- Temperley, Nicholas. *The Hymn Tune Index*. 2001, rev. 2006. An online database of "all hymn tunes printed anywhere in the world with English-language texts up to 1820, and their publication history up to that date." [hymntune.music.uiuc.edu/default.asp](http://hymntune.music.uiuc.edu/default.asp). This is an ongoing update of Temperley's *The Hymn Tune Index*, 4 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998), which includes an index of roughly 11,000 "text incipits" (i.e., the first two lines), 2:351-581. In the printed version, it is necessary to search the incipits by "text code," the first letters of the first six words with normalized spelling; e.g., All people that on earth do dwell = APTOED (see explanation at 1:102-03).
- University Library, Cambridge. The Madden Collection of 16,000 eighteenth- and nineteenth-century broadside ballads (mostly 1750-1850) is supported by a title index, but in a substantial proportion of cases, the first line serves as the title. The Madden Collection has been published on microfilm (Woodbridge, CT: Research Publications, 1987) with an index, useful despite some errors: *Madden Ballads: Temporary Title List to the Microfilm Collection* ([Woodbridge, CT: Research Publications, 1991]). The index can be electronically searched in [microformguides.gale.com/Data/Download/3033000A.pdf](http://microformguides.gale.com/Data/Download/3033000A.pdf); an introduction by Robert S.



Thompson is available at [microformguides.gale.com/Data/Introductions/30330FM.htm](http://microformguides.gale.com/Data/Introductions/30330FM.htm) (look under “British Studies, Eighteenth Century” > “Madden Ballads” > “Collection Information”).

University Library, Cambridge. See also *Eighteenth-Century Journals*; *Internet Library of Early Journals*

University of Kansas Library. See Boys

University of Leeds Library. See *Eighteenth-Century Journals*

University of Pennsylvania Library. See Elias

University of Texas at Austin. See *Eighteenth-Century Journals*

Weinstein, Helen. *Catalogue of the Pepys Library at Magdalene College, Cambridge*. Vol. 2, parts i-ii: *Ballads*. [Cambridge]: D. S. Brewer; Wolfeboro, NH: Boydell & Brewer, 1992, 1994. Vol. 2.ii includes an index of 2100 first (and second) lines, plus indexes of titles, tunes, music, refrains, etc.

[Wilkinson, C. H.] Unpublished index to D’Urfey’s compilations *Songs Compleat* and *Pills to Purge Melancholy* (about 1100 lines). Worcester College Oxford MS 303. The same manuscript includes first-line indexes for *Le prince d’amour* (1660), *Holborn Drollery* (1673), and *The Marrow of Complements* (1655). G. Thorn-Drury’s (briefer) first-line indexes to other seventeenth-century anthologies are in Worcester College MSS 262 and 263.

Worcester College Library, Oxford. See Wilkinson

#### 4. Searchable Electronic Texts

*American Periodicals Series Online, 1740-1900*. ProQuest, 2003? Fully searchable digitization of the microfilm series of the same name; includes 89 periodicals 1741-1800. Searches can be limited to poems and further limited by date; see [www.proquest.com/products\\_pq/descriptions/aps.shtml](http://www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/aps.shtml).

*British Periodicals*. ProQuest, 2006-. Digitization of the microfilm series *Early British Periodicals*, *English Literary Periodicals*, and *British Periodicals in the Creative Arts*, along with some other titles, amounting, ProQuest says, to over 5 million pages; for information see [www.proquest.com/en-US/catalogs/databases/detail/british\\_periodicals.shtml](http://www.proquest.com/en-US/catalogs/databases/detail/british_periodicals.shtml).

*Early American Imprints, Series I, Evans: 1639-1800*. Fully searchable online facsimiles of more than 37,000 titles included in the original Readex microform series, plus an additional 1,000 not so included. Searches, by keyword, can be limited to a wide range of genres including the general term “poems,” and can be further limited by date. Chester, VT: Readex; for information, see [www.newsbank.com/readex/product.cfm?product=247](http://www.newsbank.com/readex/product.cfm?product=247).

*Early American Newspapers, Series I, 1690-1876*. Fully searchable online facsimiles of 1.5 million pages “focusing largely on the 18th century”; searches, by keyword either in “headline” or “full text,” can be limited to “poetry.” Chester, VT: Readex, 2006. Also available in the Readex Web product *America’s Historical Newspapers*: [www.newsbank.com/readex/product.cfm?product=10](http://www.newsbank.com/readex/product.cfm?product=10).



*ECCO: Eighteenth Century Collections Online*. Gale Cengage, 2003–, with additions incorporated in *ECCO II*. The enlarged *ECCO* is said to digitize everything filmed in the microfilm series *The Eighteenth Century*, at least for works by some 20 authors deemed major. For other authors, only one edition of each work was intended to be digitized. For general information, see [gdc.gale.com/products/eighteenth-century-collections-online/](http://gdc.gale.com/products/eighteenth-century-collections-online/).

*ECCO-TCP: Eighteenth Century Collections Online/Text Creation Partnership*. In progress? Currently a collection of 2231 “highly accurate” SGML/XML encoded texts from *ECCO*: [quod.lib.umich.edu/e/ecco/](http://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/ecco/). Introduction: [www.textcreationpartnership.org/tcp-ecco/](http://www.textcreationpartnership.org/tcp-ecco/). Searches may be limited to verse.

*EEBO-TCP: Early English Books Online/Text Creation Partnership*. In progress, 1999–. [www.lib.umich.edu/tcp/](http://www.lib.umich.edu/tcp/). A textbase of over 44,000 fully searchable transcriptions of texts, 1473-1700, that have been digitized in ProQuest’s *Early English Books Online*. The e-texts have links to their digitized sources in *EEBO*; that is, in subscribing libraries, *EEBO* users automatically access the *EEBO-TCP* e-texts. When complete, *EEBO-TCP* is intended to hold transcripts of some 69,000 of the titles in *EEBO*. Titles selected for encoding are limited to first editions of texts by authors listed in the *New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature* and to anonymous titles listed there.

*Eighteenth-Century Journals: A Portal to Newspapers and Periodicals, c. 1685-1815*. Digitized serials (originals and collected reprints) from the Bodleian Library, Oxford; the University of Texas at Austin; the British Library; the University Library, Cambridge; Chetham’s Library, Manchester; the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds; Birmingham Central Library; and Liverpool John Moores University Library. Adam Matthew Digital, in progress. For information, see the description at [www.amdigital.co.uk/Collections/Eighteenth-Century-Journals-Portal.aspx](http://www.amdigital.co.uk/Collections/Eighteenth-Century-Journals-Portal.aspx).

*Google Books*. Google Inc. [books.google.com/](http://books.google.com/). Over 20 million books have been scanned, most pre-1800 volumes of which, being out of copyright, should be fully searchable and viewable. Although the scanning accuracy and OCR accuracy are open to criticism, searching is not limited, as it is in *EEBO* and *ECCO*, to texts in ESTC-scope, and the “exact phrase” searching is superior to *ECCO*’s because there are no stop-words (that is, every word is indexed). *Google Books* is also significant because it digitizes holdings of important libraries that did not contribute to *ECCO*. Ben Pauley’s highly promising *Eighteenth-Century Book Tracker* [www.easternct.edu/~pauleyb/c18booktracker/](http://www.easternct.edu/~pauleyb/c18booktracker/) includes an audio tutorial “Full-Text Search Quirks in *Google Books*”: [www.easternct.edu/~pauleyb/c18booktracker/node/2213](http://www.easternct.edu/~pauleyb/c18booktracker/node/2213).

*Internet Library of Early Journals*. Bodleian Library, Oxford, 1996-98. [www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej](http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej) Reproduces the *Gentleman’s Magazine*, 1731-50, from preservation microfilm of (mostly) University Library Cambridge copies.

*Literature Online*. ProQuest Information and Learning Company. 2002. [lion.chadwyck.com/](http://lion.chadwyck.com/). This Chadwyck-Healey full-text database includes some 30,000 poems from the period 1650-1800.

[Radcliffe, David Hill](#). *Spenser and the Tradition: English Poetry, 1579-1830: A Gathering of Texts, Biography, and Criticism*. A highly useful textbase of poems by or attributed to Spenser or in his manner; also “poems in Spenserian stanzas, British pastorals, imitations of Milton, Collins, and Gray”; burlesques; much periodical verse. In progress; currently over 4000 poems from 1650-1800 are included in the main file, with over 1000 others included



(not always in full) in the commentary file. The two files are searchable in a variety of ways, though perhaps most conveniently using the keyword search facility with a salient word or phrase from the first (or other) line: [spenserians.cath.vt.edu/](http://spenserians.cath.vt.edu/).

*17th-18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers*. Gale Cengage, 2008–. Fully searchable digitization of microfilms of the Burney Collection at the British Library. According to Gale, the collection holds “approximately 1270” titles (mostly newspapers and other serials but also newsbooks, pamphlets, broadsides and other items) totaling some 2.6 million documents; see [find.galegroup.com/bncn/bbcn\\_about.htm](http://find.galegroup.com/bncn/bbcn_about.htm).

## Acknowledgments

In this 10th edition, I am indebted to Jenny Batt, Rob Hume, Steve Karian, Jennifer Keith, Bob Keller, Kate Van Winkle Keller, Michael Londry, Jim May, Steve May, Mary Ann O’Donnell, Adam Smyth, Abby Williams, and above all, Carolyn Nelson—not forgetting the librarians in the libraries holding both the indexes and the verse indexed.

## Revision History

- 2 Jan. 2004: added entries for Ellinwood; Julian; Ram. Revised entries for Kelliher; RISM; British Library Public Catalogue. Revised several URLs.
- 25 Jan. 2004: added entry for E. S., “State Poems.”
- 12 Oct. 2004: added reference to Londry article and entries for *ECCO*, *EEBO-TCP*, RISM’s UK and Ireland database, Parkinson, and Rubin’s *English Glee in the Reign of George III*; revised entries for Trinity College Dublin, *Bodleian Library Broadside Ballads*, Bodleian Library *OLIS*, *British Library Integrated Catalogue* (formerly *British Library Public Catalogue*), Olson, Pickering, Roud, and May and Ringler.
- 15 June 2005: added Folger printed music index, Harvard ballad index, Love, and Univ. of Nottingham online manuscripts catalog; updated Harding, Parkinson, Sherlock, and Yeandle (Folger manuscripts) entries, and several URLs.
- 26 Nov. 2005: added Snape; updated Olson, RISM, Roud, Seng (Harvard manuscripts) and University Library, Cambridge (Madden Collection).
- 19 Dec. 2006: announced Nelson’s union index; added *American Periodicals Series*, Butler, *Early American Imprints*, *Early American Newspapers*, and Londry manuscript collection; updated *Bodleian Library Broadside Ballads*, Ellis, English Short Title Catalogue, Love, Nelson (Osborn index), Olson, Pickering (Leeds), RISM (UK and Ireland), Seng (Harvard),



Sherlock, University Library Cambridge (Madden Collection), University of Nottingham, and Yeandle (Folger).

- 19 Feb. 2010: added the Nelson/Folger union index; announced the Nelson Wing index project and the Williams Digital Miscellanies project; added Danchin (both titles), Dodge, Duke University, *Eighteenth-Century Journals*, Haslewood, Maddox, Newberry Library, University of Pennsylvania, and Sole; updated Backus, Bodleian Library, British Library pre-1895 index, Crum, *EEBO-TCP*, Elias, Ellis, Harding, Huntington, Kelliher, Osborn, Pickering, Radcliffe, RISM series A/II, RISM UK/Ireland, Roud (indexes now available online), Smyth, and University of Nottingham.
- 15 March 2010: updated Nelson/Folger union index, index to Wing verse, Londry.
- 22 Aug. 2010: added Boston Public Library, Joncus, Keller (two new items), RISM online catalog; updated Corry, Danchin, *Digital Miscellanies Index*, Elias; URLs updated; announced Nelson Wing Index and Nelson STC index.
- 7 Jan. 2013: revised the introduction; made the *Union Index* one of four main parts of the checklist, with advice on search strategies; added de Montluzin, *EECO-TCP*, *Google Books*, Lethbridge; updated or corrected Bodleian, British Library, Butler, Cattling, Corry, Crum, *Digital Miscellanies Index*, *ECCO*, *EEBO-TCP*, *Eighteenth-Century Journals*; Ellinwood, *ESTC*, Nelson, Ram, RISM, Smyth, Temperley, Trinity College Dublin, *Union Index*, University of Nottingham, Williams, Wolf; URLs updated; announced *Bodleian Integrated Broadside Ballads Archive*, Nelson index to 1701-1750 printed verse.

Finding English Verse, 1650-1800: First-Line Indexes and Searchable Electronic Texts A revised and enlarged checklist of first-line indexes and fully searchable texts. Historical Broadside Broadside from the 18th century to 1989. The Internet Library of Early Journals This page is "a digital library of 18th and 19th Century journals," including Gentleman's Magazine, Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, and Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society.