

**Lecture Notes: Readings 1a/b: From *Household Words* and *Bentley's Miscellany***

**I. On *Bentley's Miscellany* and *Household Words***

Both liberal reformist (Reform Act of 1832)  
Both published in London and aiming at a broad middle-class audience  
Both literary miscellanies (social as well as literary content; entertainment format)  
Both under the influence of Charles Dickens initially  
*HW* weekly, 2d, double-column; *BM* monthly, 2s., single-column

**Sources**

*The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals, 1824-1900*. Ed. Walter E. Houghton et al. 5 vols. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1966-89. (New Edition on CD-ROM, with additional material from *Victorian Periodicals Review*. London: Routledge, 1999.)  
Lohrli, Anne. *Household Words: Table of Contents, List of Contributors and Their Contributions*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1973.

**II. Towards a general sociology of Victorian periodicals**

- a. Defining formal characteristics of periodicals
  - Seriality
  - Miscellaneity
- b. Motives for periodical publication
  - Speed
  - Economy
  - Pleasures of repetition and expectation
- c. Periodicals and Print Capitalism
  - Commodities (brand = title of periodical NOT name of author)
  - Communities (subscription as voluntary association)
- d. Other factors underlying Victorian periodical boom
  - Technological
  - Education & Literacy
  - Taxation and free trade
- e. Classification according to:
  - 1) Periodicity (A, Q, M, W, D, ...)
  - 2) Format (Size of page, Number of pages, Cover, Papers, Type-face, Page-format, Illustration, ...)
  - 3) Affiliation (Class, Gender, Region, Denomination, Party, Profession, ...)

**Source**

Graham Law, "Periodicalism", in *The Victorian World*, ed. Martin Hewitt (London: Routledge, 2011)