

Who Said What: Discovering the Authors of *The Young Idea*

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Abstract

The newspaper “The Young Idea” was a handwritten newspaper that circulated on the H.M.S. “Chesapeake” from the years 1857 to 1859. This newspaper was not formally published, meaning it was written by men who worked in the British Navy as their profession. It was written by certain men aboard the ship and originated as a way to have fun and record their time aboard the H.M.S.

did it to protect the women who could have come in contact with his facsimile.

Results

To have a proper article to perform this research on, the facsimile and Bampfield's journal were both reread. There was an article that had been in Bampfield's journal that had not appeared in the facsimile. While there were other, smaller examples, this one seemed the best to look at because of how long it was and the fact that there were many components to it.

objection that they shall know, that there are the most terrible details in the back-ground of outrage perpetrated upon English men, and English women” (Bampfied n.p.). This quote comments on there were horrible things done to innocent people in India whose crime was living there.

The whole article is very morbid and morose. It could easily be viewed as too upsetting for a woman to handle. Women, as Ellis has commented on them, are believed to be inferior in all ways to men (Ellis). Emotional inferiority must also be included in this statement. Because of the depressing content of the article, it is easy to assume that women would not be able to handle this one specific article. Also, because women from this time period are meant to be sweet and pitiable (Rigby), this article would make them far too emotional and unable to handle such a subject.

Conclusion

It is reasonable to suggest that McArthur edited the journal in the way he did to protect women from the vulgarities written in the original document. He wanted to make sure that, with the removal of graphic and morbid scenes, the women would not be harmed in any way. If he did not care, he would not have deleted an article that captured such emotion and frustration from the point of view of the soldier about a battle that was truly horrible.

While this research was much more answerable, the original question has not been forgotten in all of this. There are other, more complex ways to answer what the education levels of the men who contributed were. Transcribing and coding the Muster Logs for the ship could be one way to decipher this question. The Muster Logs were the logs of all the men who worked aboard the H.M.S. “Chesapeake.” From this, sailors who worked with McArthur could be determined and then their literacy level could be speculated on.

References/Literature Cited

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