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*The Thematic Structure of American Periodicals in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

(Diplomová práce)

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Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto diplomovou práci vypracovala samostatně  
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## 1. Introduction

This MA thesis will explore the thematic structure of American periodicals in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in particular the thematic structure of the following magazines: *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* (1850–1899), *The North American Review* (1815–1900), and *The Atlantic Monthly* (1857–1901).

The primary aim of this thesis is to discuss and analyze the major themes/topics of American periodicals in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and to explore the possible influence of editors and/or publishers (and in the broader sense the influence of the whole reading public) on the selection and presentation of particular themes in the magazine articles. In addition, the thesis will explore the development of public opinion presented in the magazines and the occurrence of cultural plurality in the articles of the three above mentioned magazines.

The major topics for the thematic analysis were selected according to the criterion of frequency, i.e. that this MA thesis primarily deals with the topics that were present in a significant number of issues in all the three magazines for an extensive period of time. In particular, the thesis will explore the social status and role of women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; beliefs and prejudices of Americans as they developed, changed, and were reflected in the 19<sup>th</sup> century periodicals; influence of and fascination with different cultures, especially the fascination with the East; and last but not least, the perception and interpretation of the most important events and issues presented in the selected magazines.

The magazine articles which constitute the main body of this MA thesis are only a representative specimen of the articles published throughout the century and they were selected for analysis because they accurately demonstrate and/or summarize the public opinion as it was manifested in the nineteenth-century periodicals. The articles dealing with the two major themes – women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the fascination with the East – were numerous, and therefore at the end of each part I mention only few articles (apart from the analyzed ones), which most fittingly describe the particular situation or phenomenon, or else bring an interesting information to the reader.

## 2. Magazines Overview

### 2.1 Development of Periodicals

The 19<sup>th</sup> century in the United States of America was a considerably rich period concerning all the spheres of the publishing industry (i.e. books, pamphlets, and periodicals such as newspapers and magazines). The progress of periodicals was rapid especially due to substantial technical developments such as cheaper papermaking, stereotyping, the iron press, the application of steam power, mechanical typesetting and typesetting, new methods of reproducing illustrations, wide distribution of printed materials by railroads, improvements in general education and the consequent rising literacy rates, growing interest in national literature and social issues, and many other factors.

The production and distribution of the periodicals in the 19<sup>th</sup> century became much easier, and above all they became popular among people of all classes thanks to their very specific nature. A periodical was not similar to the traditional “closed-form” books; on the contrary, a periodical was a complex multilayered social text involving all the spheres of public life, i.e. politics, economics, culture, literature, social and racial issues, etc. Nineteenth-century America witnessed what the famous American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson called the “silent revolution” of periodical press primarily caused by a rapid transformation of the American literary marketplace and profound social changes. Newspapers and magazines quickly became an essential part in the everyday lives of people of all classes, and as a new pervasive reading material played, in fact, one of the most important roles in both communication and entertainment.<sup>1</sup>

There were about twenty-five major American magazines<sup>2</sup> at that time, most of them being published on a (bi-)monthly basis. However, this MA thesis will only deal with three selected magazines – *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*, *The North American Review*, and *The Atlantic Monthly*, since all the three of them were published for an extensive period of time, widely read and moreover, they are generally considered by literary critics and scholars to be among the representative types of American periodicals, being published even nowadays.

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<sup>1</sup> For complex analysis of socio-historical context see Kenneth M. Price and Susan B. Smith, *Periodical Literature in Nineteenth-century America* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1995) 3–6.

<sup>2</sup> The list of them can be found on the website of the Library of Congress: <<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/moahtml/snctitles.html>>.

Before analyzing and discussing the main subject of this MA thesis – the thematic structure of American periodicals in the 19<sup>th</sup> century – I would like to present to the reader a brief overview of the selected periodicals. This chapter will primarily discuss the magazines from the socio-historical perspective. It will present the basic structure and focus of each magazine, its historical development, publishers, editors, notable contributors, and other relevant facts.

## **2.2 *Harper's New Monthly Magazine***

*Harper's New Monthly Magazine* is a well-known monthly magazine of literature, politics, and culture. It was first launched in June 1850 by the New York City publisher Harper & Brothers, and it is the second oldest published magazine in the United States of America.

Among notable contributors of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* were for example Horatio Alger, William Dean Howells, Jack London, Herman Melville, Theodore Roosevelt, and Mark Twain. Editors: Henry J. Raymond (1850–1856), Alfred H. Guernsey (1856–1869), Henry Mills Alden (1869–1919).

*Harper's New Monthly Magazine* continues to be published even nowadays under a shorter title *Harper's Magazine*. However, this thesis covers only the 19<sup>th</sup> century, therefore the volumes published after the year 1900 will not be taken into consideration. In particular, the thesis deals with 98 volumes (588 issues) of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* from the years 1850–1899.

## **2.3 *The North American Review***

*The North American Review* was the first literary magazine in the United States. It was founded in Boston in 1815 by journalist Nathan Hale. Until the founding of *The Atlantic Monthly* in 1857, *The North American Review* was the most significant magazine in New England. The first editor was William Tudor (1779–1830), a member of Boston Anthology Club. *The North American Review* was published quarterly. The most important contributors included John Adams, William Cullen Bryant, Alexander Hill Everett, Edward Everett, and Daniel Webster.

In the beginning *The North American Review* published mainly poetry, fiction, and miscellaneous essays. However, in the 1820s, it became more focused on social and cultural issues in general. Its editors commented on all the spheres of public life, including the most controversial affairs. One of the most beneficial



deeds of *The North American Review* editors was the promotion of the improvement of the general education and school reforms.

Editors: William Tudor (1815–1817), Jared Sparks (1817–1818), Edward Tyrrel Channing (1818–1819), Edward Everett (1820–1823), Jared Sparks (1824–1830), Alexander Hill Everett (1830–1835), John Gorham Palfrey (1836–1842), Francis Bowen (1843–1853), Andrew Preston Peabody (1853–1863), James Russell Lowell (1863–1872), Henry Adams (1872–1876), Allen Thorndike Rice (1877–1889), Lloyd Brice (1889–1896), David A. Munro (1896–1899).

*The North American Review* continues to be published under the same title even nowadays. However, this MA thesis covers only the period of 19<sup>th</sup> century, therefore the volumes published after the year 1900 will not be taken into consideration. To be more specific, it should be stated that this thesis deals with 171 volumes (529 issues) of *The North American Review*, which were published during the years 1815–1900.

#### **2.4 *The Atlantic Monthly***

*The Atlantic Monthly* is a literary and cultural magazine founded in 1857 in Boston by a group of prominent writers including Harriet Beecher Stowe, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and James Russell Lowell.<sup>3</sup> In a few years it achieved a national reputation and could be considered the foremost magazine of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Apart from literary works, it published articles on major issues in contemporary political, economical, and social affairs. Editors: James Russell Lowell (1857–1861), James T. Fields (1861–1871), William Dean Howells (1871–1881), Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1881–1890), Horace E. Scudder (1890–1898), Walter Hines Page (1898–1899).

*The Atlantic Monthly* continues to be published even nowadays simply as *The Atlantic*. However, this thesis covers only the 19<sup>th</sup> century periodicals, therefore the volumes published after the year 1900 will not be taken into consideration. In particular, this thesis deals with 86 volumes (524 issues) of *The Atlantic Monthly* published from 1857 to 1900.

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<sup>3</sup> James Russell Lowell was the first editor (1857–1861).

For basic information concerning the magazines selected for this MA thesis see the tables below:

<b>Title of periodical</b>	<b>Founded in (date, city)</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Volumes*</b>	<b>Issues*</b>
<i>Harper's New Monthly Magazine</i>	1850, New York	1850–1899	98	588
<i>The North American Review</i>	1815, Boston	1815–1900	171	529
<i>The Atlantic Monthly</i>	1857, Boston	1857–1900	86	524

<b>Title of periodical</b>	<b>Periodicity</b>	<b>First editor</b>	<b>Number of editors*</b>
<i>Harper's New Monthly Magazine</i>	monthly	Henry J. Raymond (1850–1856)	3
<i>The North American Review</i>	quarterly	William Tudor (1815–1817)	13
<i>The Atlantic Monthly</i>	monthly	James Russell Lowell (1857–1861)	6

\* in the period covered by this MA thesis, i.e. the 19<sup>th</sup> century

### **3. Women in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century America**

This chapter will explore the social status and the role of women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as perceived by the society and reflected in the magazine articles of those times. The newspapers and magazines were, of course, written for both men and women, nevertheless, the hidden gender inequality presented in the topics selected by the article writers and editors, as well as the way American periodicals dealt with the concept of womanhood, needs to be duly discussed and analyzed.

#### **3.1 Role of Women in the Society**

Women of all classes in 19<sup>th</sup> century America were (politically) powerless and (economically) highly dependent on men. In general, the social status and role of women was mainly shaped by economics and the religious beliefs based on the traditional notion of female inferiority and fragility. This inequality of women was evident among all classes. Although the expectations of women across the classes were quite different, their status and role within the society remained more or less the same. Women's behavior was not only dictated by their husbands (or other male members of the family, i.e. fathers and/or brothers), but above all by the society and its deeply rooted prejudices.

Women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were expected to remain subservient to their fathers and husbands, because they were considered too sentimental and not reasonable enough to be left without the supervision of men. They had even limited control over their personal property after marriage, and their job opportunities were severely limited<sup>4</sup> as well. The proper role of a woman was the one of supportive wife and loving mother. The only socially acceptable way to become a wife and mother was, of course, through marriage. Marriage was, therefore, the proper state in which women were allowed to realize their potential.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century could become nurses or teachers, however, occupations such as doctors, lawyers or engineers were forbidden for them.

<sup>5</sup> For more information about marriage and the role of women in the society see Catherine Lavender, "The Cult of Domesticity and True Womanhood," *Women's Studies Program*, The College of Staten Island, web, 20 Jan. 2013, <<http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/386/truewoman.html>>.

### **3.2 Women and womanhood**

Due to the cult of female purity, women were viewed as fragile creatures that should stay at home at all times to be protected from the evils of the outside world. Traditionally, it was believed that women were essentially different in character from men; the characteristics of the feminine mind were described as tenderness and simplicity. In general, women were supposed to be patient, pure, and passive human beings without any deeper intellectual interests or opinions of their own. Purity and submissiveness were the most valuable of women's virtues.

The passivity of women and their corresponding role in the family was primarily shaped by the so-called Cult of Domesticity<sup>6</sup>, which ideas were based on the belief that the role given to a woman by God was the one of wife, mother, and household keeper. Her only task was to keep neat and peaceful home by performing the daily duties assigned to all women by Nature and/or God. In general, we may claim that based on the Cult of Domesticity, the view of women was reduced to only one perspective (we may call it a perspective of duty). Obeying the husband and taking care of the family was the only issue that mattered. Thus, domestic sphere was considered the true realm of all women, since it was the only place which suited their gentle nature. From the traditional point of view, a woman doing anything else than running a household and taking care of children, would destroy the natural order of the Universe. Women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were seen as delicate and weak from both the psychological and the physical point of view. Therefore, it is obvious why home was considered to be the only proper place for them – it corresponded to their fine and delicate nature, and helped to maintain their tender mentality in perfect state.

The aforementioned ideal of true womanhood and the attitudes towards women and their duties could be found everywhere in media, i.e. in newspapers, magazines, advice books, religious journals, and even in popular fiction and poetry. All of the above mentioned media created a very specific image of women and womanhood in general. The cardinal virtues of an ideal woman were as follows: piety, purity, submissiveness, and domesticity.

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<sup>6</sup> For more information about this phenomenon see Catherine Lavender, "The Cult of Domesticity and True Womanhood," *Women's Studies Program*, The College of Staten Island, web, 20 Jan. 2013, <<http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/386/truewoman.html>>.

### **3.3 Topics Related to Women**

The major topics presented in the articles dealing with women were quite similar in all the three selected magazines. Women (and the miscellaneous issues related to them) were primarily discussed with respect to the private sphere, i.e. the marital life, family and household. The magazine articles from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century focused especially on the difference between men and women (mainly from the point of view of psychology); the role of both married and unmarried women in the society; and last but not least on the duties of a woman as loving and selfless wife and caring mother, not forgetting her duties in the household.

Moreover, many of the magazines in the 19<sup>th</sup> century regularly published articles advising men how to choose a suitable (i.e. nice and submissive) wife, and also articles advising women how to manage the household and make it a perfect place for her husband and family. The magazines were not only publishing the matter-of-fact articles about the substantial differences between men and women, but also miscellaneous short stories, which even if they were written in a lighter mood, still presented female characters as fragile and submissive creature that should be protected from the outside world by being kept in tranquility of the home.

Nevertheless, the thematic structure of the selected magazines substantially changed with time, which may be nicely demonstrated on the topics concerning women. The theme of women and womanhood was developing together with the development of feminism, and the focus of the magazine articles was slowly shifting from the issues of marriage and household duties towards the more important issues of women's education, property rights, and suffrage.

### **3.4 *Harper's New Monthly Magazine***

This section will deal with the theme of women and womanhood in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as it was presented in the articles of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*. It is divided into five parts according to topics discussed in the magazine articles; in particular the topics of woman as a mother and woman as a wife, and topics that include advice for men, marriage, and emancipation.

#### **Woman as a Mother**

This part is primarily based on two representative works, both of them presenting the woman's main role in the society – the role of a mother. “The Mother's First

Duty” was published in June 1850 (vol. 1, issue 1), and “Sensitive Mother” was published in September 1853 (vol. 7, issue 40).

“The Mother’s First Duty” is a short essay describing two different types of mother’s behavior, the first one being based on authority and the second one based on affection, i.e. pursued for the sake of a child. The author states that upbringing based on authority proceeds from reasoning, whereas the second type emerges from natural affection. The article advises mothers not to treat their children with great severity, because affection and confidence are far more effective, and therefore it is the first duty of the mother to encourage and strengthen this principle.

“Sensitive Mother” is a model short story presenting a family life of a selfish oversensitive mother and her devoted daughter who, even if being in love, refuses to get married because her mother is ill and needs to be taken care of. The short story describes the characteristics a mother should not possess and states that love is not a duty and should not be enforced in any case. The mother in the short story is depicted as a weak, moody, self-absorbed person, who does not care at all about her daughter’s future happiness, and whose unforgivably selfish behavior leads in the end to her daughter being alone for the rest of her life. The short story, in fact, resembles a traditional fable; it clearly presets a moral, the narrator points out and criticizes the wrong behavior of the mother, and thus indirectly emphasizes the basic qualities a good mother should possess.

### **Woman as a Wife**

This part will discuss and analyze two magazine articles which present the topic of woman as a wife, in particular the articles “My Wife, and My Theory about Wives” published in November 1855 (vol. 11, issue 66), and “Wanted – a Healthy Wife” published in June 1856 (vol. 13, issue 73).

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, being a wife was even more important for a woman than being a mother, because to be married and not to have any children was considered unfortunate, whereas to be a mother without a husband was socially unacceptable (unless, of course, the woman was a widow), therefore it was desirable for a woman to find a husband. Nevertheless, the analyzed articles show that it was not a woman who decided about her future husband. On the contrary, it was always a man who chose which woman he would marry.

“My Wife, and My Theory about Wives” is written in a semi-serious style. The author of the article states at the very beginning that he is a believer in the

theory of so-called matches made in Heaven, however, only a few lines after this statement, he admits that the theory does not actually work, and claims that most men do not marry their wife but wife of somebody else.<sup>7</sup> It may sound quite unusual but it is clear from the rest of the article that the author intended to say that most men do not marry a woman suitable for them, because they do not recognize the right woman, which is the core of problems in married life.

The author of the articles highly emphasizes the importance of choosing a suitable wife and urges all men to cultivate their apperception to be able to recognize the right woman, when they meet her, and thus prevent their marriage from being unhappy. Whether or not the women also realize the fact that most of them marry a wrong man is not clear, because the female perspective in the article is absolutely omitted. In fact, the author presents women only as a set of individuals designated for men to choose from, i.e. he objectivizes them.

The article “Wanted – a Healthy Wife” begins with a description of the popular delusion of young men that in getting a wife, they get a companion for life, which is, according to the author, not true. The author states that the 19<sup>th</sup> century is a calculating age of practical men, who reduce every thing to figures, even women. Although the author doubts whether or not the women have been reduced to such a fraction of humanity, as the arithmeticians declare, he also claims that it is unquestionable that a woman is not that whole quantity Nature intended her to be, i.e. she is weaker and more delicate than a man, and therefore, not a full-blown companion for life.<sup>8</sup>

Furthermore, the author claims that American women are the unhealthiest women in the world, and that the short life of many young wives is a significant problem in the society. In fact, the author claims that vigorous and perfectly healthy woman is an exception to the general experience.<sup>9</sup> It is definitely worth noticing that the author admits that the cause of this serious problem may be, that women have so often be spoken of as the weak sex, that they have been finally persuaded that weakness is an essential part of their nature, and furthermore, that the restricted life of American woman has much to do with her ill-health. The author summarizes his ideas by stating that American women are “beautiful, delicate, and fragile as the

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<sup>7</sup> Anon., “My Wife, and My Theory about Wives,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 11.66 (1855): 779, web, 20 Feb. 2013.

<sup>8</sup> Anon., “Wanted – a Healthy Wife,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 13.73 (1856): 75, web, 20 Feb. 2013.

<sup>9</sup> Anon., “Wanted – a Healthy Wife,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 13.73 (1856): 76, web, 20 Feb. 2013.

lilies of the field.”<sup>10</sup> The core of the problem consists, according to the author, in adopting a fashionable form of life from Europe which is not in conformity with the natural habits and tastes of American people, and especially American women.<sup>11</sup>

In the second part of the article, the author is not entirely consistent, because on the one hand, he claims that American women are weak because they have been persuaded to be so, and therefore have to stay at home not to destroy their delicate nature, and on the other hand, he claims that the remedy to this situation is that a woman stays at home and takes an intellectual interest in her husband’s affairs, which would make her a better wife and a healthier woman in general. This in fact means that the problem (a woman staying at home because she is fragile, and therefore becoming even more fragile) and the remedy (a woman should stay at home because it supplies all she needs for the healthy development of her mind and body) are one and the same. The author eventually seems to completely forget what he wrote only few paragraphs earlier and suggests that young ladies should develop their faculties in responding to the claims of domestic life and engage in those occupations which can be best pursued in the tranquility of home, which is in my opinion a prejudice deeply rooted in the collective mind of the nineteenth-century society in the United States.

The last part of the article is no less negative when it comes to women’s thinking and rationality. The author claims that a majority of American women deliberately disobey some of the most important laws of health care and nutrition, for instance they sit too much, and move too little. However, he also suggests that it is not reasonable to expect that women should soil their elegant minds with so a coarse study as that of anatomy or physiology, which again shows a discrepancy in the author’s opinions. On the one hand, the author declares that American women should know more and mainly care more about their health, but on the other hand, he says that studies such as medicine and related fields are not suitable for women, which seems to be kind of a vicious circle.

### **Advice for Men**

Advice for Men is naturally a part dealing with magazine articles advising men how to find a suitable wife. In this part, I will present only one article – “Whom Shall

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<sup>10</sup> Anon., “Wanted – a Healthy Wife,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 13.73 (1856): 77, web, 20 Feb. 2013.

<sup>11</sup> Anon., “Wanted – a Healthy Wife,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 13.73 (1856): 77, web, 20 Feb. 2013.



We Marry?” published in November 1854 (vol. 9, issue 54) – since it develops all the important issues find elsewhere in *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*.

“Whom Shall We Marry?” is an article considering the possibilities of men when they want to find a wife. If the reader expects the article to be about love and attraction, he or she will be deeply disappointed. The author uses a terse business language and writes in the matter-of-fact style. He begins with stating that the mere presence of a rich man – the author uses the term “a wealthy purchaser” – in the market is sure to attract to him a large and eager crowd with an infinite number of commodities of female charms, and that a love-match is “an anomaly in these days of finance,”<sup>12</sup> and therefore, it would be inappropriate to speak about love in connection with the cool, calculating process of choosing a wife.

The author of the article claims that American women are certainly the prettiest in the world, and if Americans were Muslims (the author uses the word “Turks” which is highly inaccurate) instead of Christians, it would be quite easy to furnish the female department, i.e. to establish a harem. America is, according to the author, a country remarkable for the general average of female good looks and uniformity of physical excellence, and American men are *buying* (sic!) the finest specimen available in the market, and the author of the article is not far from discussing the actual bidding price.

We [the Americans] are buying up the finest specimen of the animal, selecting the most perfect forms, the best proportioned limbs, the finest sculptured features, the most delicate complexions, and the highest grace of movement. [...] A pretty woman, between fifteen and twenty, is held at so enormous price, that none but the lucky heir of a fortune can hazard a bid.<sup>13</sup>

We may appreciate the author’s confidence in the unique beauty of American women, nevertheless, the comparison of woman to an animal, and associating the pursuit of a wife to buying in the cattle market does not sound quite right. Nevertheless, by these harsh statements the author perhaps tries to draw the attention of the society to a very serious problem – the unnaturalness of a partner selection in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>12</sup> Anon., “Whom Shall We Marry?” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 9.54 (1854): 766, web, 24 Feb. 2013.

<sup>13</sup> Anon., “Whom Shall We Marry?” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 9.54 (1854): 766, web, 24 Feb. 2013.

Not only the author of the article sees all women as mere products to be displayed, evaluated, and finally bought by men, but he is also xenophobic, claiming that America is flooded with foreign humanity, which dilutes or even completely destroys the pure beauty and high standards of the American land and society. The author says that “the deformed figure, the irregular features, the rough skin and raw complexion, the large-spreading foot, the thick fleshy hand, are foreign importations.”<sup>14</sup> Even though, the foreigners rapidly assimilate in habit of life, the author claims that they will be readily recognized, especially women, from true Americans. “English, German, or Irish woman, need not hoist a national flag. She will be recognized at once by her ugly build.”<sup>15</sup>

The major part of the article discusses money in relation to women, claiming that if a woman has two suitors, she will naturally marry the one who is richer, even though she may love the other one, which leads to many unhappy marriages all around the country. The author describes women as selfish and wealth-seeking creatures who love to display their charms and seduce men. Moreover, he claims that the lack of character of American women is a significant danger to the society.<sup>16</sup> The article ends with the author’s statement that he tried to help the inexperienced young man to answer the question “Whom Shall We Marry?” however, he was unable to finish the task, since it seems there is not much choice.

Articles advising men how to find a suitable wife: “Important to Husbands” (vol. 10, issue 60, May 1855), “Young Man’s Counselor” (vol. 2, issue 8, Jan. 1851), “Satisfaction of a Gentleman” (vol. 5, issue 30, Nov. 1852).

When dealing with the magazine articles advising men how to find a good wife, I would also like to mention the articles advising women. However, the articles intended for the female readers do not give the advice how to find a loving husband, but how to take care of the household and family, which is apparent even from the titles. I will mention only few articles which, however, represent the whole category of articles published in *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*: “How to Make Home Unhealthy” (vol. 1, issue 5, Oct. 1850), “The Light of Home” (vol. 1, issue 6, Nov. 1850), and “Mr. Simpkin’s Experiment in Housekeeping” (vol. 11, issue 62, July 1855).

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<sup>14</sup> Anon., “Whom Shall We Marry?” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 9.54 (1854): 767, web, 24 Feb. 2013.

<sup>15</sup> Anon., “Whom Shall We Marry?” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 9.54 (1854): 768, web, 24 Feb. 2013.

<sup>16</sup> Anon., “Whom Shall We Marry?” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 9.54 (1854): 769, web, 24 Feb. 2013.

## **Marriage**

As obvious from the title, this part is exploring the topic of marriage and marital life as presented in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*. It will discuss two short stories dealing with this particular topic. The selected short stories are: "The Marriage Settlement" published in February 1851 (vol. 2, issue 9) and "Tragedy in Married Life" published in January 1855 (vol. 10, issue 56).

It is undeniable that this part is to a certain degree interconnected with all the preceding parts as there is no marriage without a husband and a wife, and furthermore, building a family and the related role of a mother and father is what naturally follows the marriage. Nevertheless, the role of woman as mother and wife will not be the focus of this part, since it was already discussed and analyzed in the preceding parts.

"The Marriage Settlement" is a short story about a girl who inherited money from her uncle, and is about to marry a man who has less money than she does. Her father is against the marriage, because he does not like mercenary marriages and thinks that both the spouses should bring more or less the same property to make the marriage even. Finally, he agrees to the marriage but makes his daughter to promise him that the property she inherited will stay in her possession and that she will preserve it for her children. The marriage is happy at the beginning as they live very moderately. However, after some time the husband starts thinking about investing his wife's money because he is absolutely confident he would double it. His wife, bearing in mind the promise she gave to her father, is against investing the money since it is in the bank earning small but steady interest. This naturally ends in an argument leaving the husband angry and the wife sad and worried. Since the husband was too proud to admit the failure in persuading his wife, he tried to invest the little money he had and got involved in very dubious trades, losing all the money and being close to insolvency. This left him no choice but to ask his wife to pay up his debts telling her that she must choose between her property and his disgrace. However, she answers that it is not a choice between husband and property, but between him and her children's future, and therefore she will keep the money for them. The husband issued a bankruptcy, survived it, and started all over again, while the education of their children was secured by the savings of his wife.

The presented short story is interesting in two aspects. The first one is that it does not completely follow the general rules concerning the distribution of roles in

the society, and, moreover, it does not describe the characters in the stereotypical way, i.e. the wife is depicted as a reasonable down-to-earth person with high principles, whereas the husband is described as an ill-tempered man with extremely high ambitions and bad judgment. This is in contrast with the typical notion of women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, because women were usually described as weak, non sensible and delicate creatures that need the protection and wisdom of the men.

The second interesting fact concerns the property rights of women, especially married women. The short story was published in 1851, only few years after the Married Women's Property Act (coming into effect in 1848), which expanded some of the rights of married women. However, the more extensive version – the Act Concerning the Rights and Liabilities of Husband and Wife – was published only a decade later, in 1860, which means that the short story was quite ahead of time. It is, in fact, the only short story (written by a man) analyzed in this section that describes the woman as an equal partner of a man. Or *almost* equal. We cannot forget, of course, that even the woman in the story was at home taking care of the household, while her husband was working, because in the mid-nineteenth century, it was still impossible for a woman to get involved in the business affairs, invest money, etc.

“Tragedy in Married Life” is another short story dealing with the topic of marriage. The plot is quite simple. A man meets a beautiful, young, and tender woman, and wants to marry her. However, his best friend advises him not to do it, because he thinks women are never the same before and after marriage, claiming that “taking a wife is like buying railways shares – you judge by the prospectus, or the report of the Directors,”<sup>17</sup> adding that marriage is even more hazardous than speculating in the money market, because if you buy a wife and she turns out to be a bad speculation, you cannot easily sell her off.

The friend is proven to be wrong this time, as the young wife is modest, selfless, and loves her husband dearly. After some initial troubles caused by the husband's jealousy, they finally manage to have a calm and happy life, thus avoiding the tragedy predicted by the friend. The only *tragedy* here is actually the fact that the men in the short story see the young woman as a product for sale, and cynically compare the marriage to speculations in the money market. However, the

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<sup>17</sup> Anon., “Tragedy in Married Life,” *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* 10.56 (1855): 216, web, 26 Feb. 2013.

denouement of the short story clearly proves that the economic approach to the sacred institutions such as marriage is wrong and does not pay off.

To highlight the importance of marriage for a woman in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, I would like to mention the article “Autobiography of a Single Woman” published in February 1857 (vol. 14, issue 81), which describes the hardship and despair of a woman, who grew up without a mother, took care of her younger brothers and sisters, and did not get married, because she was considered quite ugly. Although she was very intelligent, she did not have a stable job, being only a governess or a teacher for short periods of time. This example illustrates that finding a husband was of foremost importance to every woman in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Articles discussing marriage published in *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*: “Married Man” (vol. 1, issue 1, June 1850), “The Every-Day Married Lady” (vol. 1, issue 6, Nov. 1850), “Low Marriage” (vol. 14, issue 80, Jan. 1857), “Love after Marriage” (vol. 15, issue 88, Sep. 1857), “How I Came to Be Married” (vol. 15, issue 90, Nov. 1857), and “The Wedding Gown” (vol. 93, issue 554, July 1896).

### **Emancipation**

The last but not least is the part dealing with emancipation, it will present three articles, in particular “Woman’s Emancipation” (subtitled “A Letter from a Strong-Minded American Woman.” published in August 1851, vol. 3, issue 15), “Education of American Women” published in November 1857 (vol. 15, issue 90), and “Woman’s Offices and Influence” published in October 1851 (vol. 3, issue 17).

The reader may ask what a main objective of the nineteenth-century woman was. The answer is quite simple and was already mentioned in the previous parts – her main objective was to find a husband who could support her and any children she may have. Her main job/duty was to take care of the household. In general, women had fewer rights than men, which was sanctioned not only by law, but also by the church, history, traditions, and above all the prejudices of the society. Due to this injustice and inequality the nineteenth-century society experienced a rise of feminism, a movement demanding equal political, economic, and social rights for women. The first wave of feminism promoted women’s property rights, education, employment and primarily the right to vote. All these topics are included in the magazine articles discussed in this part.

“Woman’s Emancipation: A Letter from a Strong-Minded American Woman.” is a short illustrated letter from an American female (the author does not

like the term “Lady”) who lives in Boston. The illustration at the beginning of the letter shows women wearing trousers and smoking cigars and pipes, which symbolizes the emancipation of women in America, who should be able to do (or even wear) the same things men do. The author says that she realizes the difficulty of estimating and understanding the rapid progress of ideas in the society, however, she also demands the elimination of prejudices in the United States, claiming that their progress is “the progress of all – of man, woman, and child”<sup>18</sup> under the influence of democratic institutions. This means that a woman should not be consigned to the “slavish duties of the house” but she should have the same privilege as any man, i.e. traveling alone, choosing any occupation she wants, studying the university, delivering lectures, editing newspapers, etc.<sup>19</sup>

“Education of American Women” is an article describing the progress and history of the debate on female education in the 19th century. It starts with stating that it is not very flattering that women’s education has been established in the society only recently and after a fierce battle. It was a very difficult task to persuade the society that woman is an intellectual and moral being, and deserves the same education as man. According to the author, the majority of men still look upon female education as a strange phenomenon and seriously doubt whether it can be a source of happiness and strength to women.

However, the author claims that the 19<sup>th</sup> century is a transition-period of what woman was and what woman is, and the necessity of presence of cultivated women in the society is growing, thus slowly establishing the equilibrium in the modern society. Nevertheless, the entire framework of the American society must be reconstructed, so that a woman could also find her sphere of action somewhere else than in the domestic circle.<sup>20</sup>

“Woman’s Offices and Influence” is an article written by a professor at the University of Michigan, and I chose it to be mentioned here, because it is in absolute contrast with the preceding articles, yet written in the same year as “Woman’s Emancipation” (1851). Although the author admits that a woman has

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<sup>18</sup> Theodosia E. Bang, “Woman’s Emancipation: A Letter from a Strong-Minded American Woman,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 3.15 (1851): 424, web, 22 Feb. 2013.

<sup>19</sup> Theodosia E. Bang, “Woman’s Emancipation: A Letter from a Strong-Minded American Woman,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 3.15 (1851): 424, web, 22 Feb. 2013.

<sup>20</sup> Theodosia E. Bang, “Woman’s Emancipation: A Letter from a Strong-Minded American Woman,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 3.15 (1851): 424, web, 22 Feb. 2013.

rights, he adds that she has no right to be a man.<sup>21</sup> The actual offices of a woman are easily to be determined, at least according to the professor. The first and the most important of the offices is to make home happy, which is followed by cultivation of the spirit of cheerfulness in the family. Furthermore, the woman should not be absorbed in the political affairs and no one who loves the woman and thinks of her as delicate, refined, sensitive, peaceful, and pure, can bear the thought of her mind being soiled with politics. The author claims that woman's ambition has conquered her judgment and delicacy, which lead her out of the fitting sphere, where she used to be happy in her quiet retirement, performed best her offices, and fulfilled her duties. However, the author states that there is still hope that a woman will have good sense enough to discern the wisdom of God and stay in the sphere which her physical and psychological organization prescribes. This article is a very good example of why the progress of women's emancipation was such a long and difficult task.

Magazine articles discussing the women's emancipation and the disputes it produced in the society: "Men and Women (vol. 1, issue 1, June 1850), "Rights and Wrongs of Woman" (vol. 9, issue 49, June 1854), "Our Ladies" (vol. 15, issue 85, June 1857), "Money-Making for Ladies" (vol. 65, issue 385, June 1882), "A Rebellious Heroine" (vol. 93, issue 553, June 1896), and "Her Prerogative: A Story." (vol. 93, issue 555, Aug. 1896).

### **3.5 *The North American Review***

This section will present the articles from *The North American Review*, in which the theme of women and their role in the society could be found. This section is divided into four parts according to topics discussed in the magazine articles; in particular the topics of marriage, divorce, labor, and suffrage.

#### **Marriage**

This part explores the topic of marriage and marital life. It will discuss three articles dealing with this topic: "The Property Rights of Married Women" (vol. 99, issue 204, July 1864), "Why Women Marry" (vol. 152, issue 412, March 1891), and the article "Marriage and Divorce" (vol. 139, issue 332, July 1884) which will connect this part to the subsequent one.

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<sup>21</sup> Anon., "Woman's Offices and Influence," *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* 3.17 (1851): 654, web, 22 Feb. 2013.

“The Property Rights of Married Women” does not question the equality of women and men. The author of the article discusses in detail the financial aspects of marriage and the status and rights of American women in comparison with their husbands. The principal idea of the article is that a large number of domestic difficulties have their origin in the inequality of laws regulating the pecuniary relations during marriage. Moreover, the author of the article describes and analyzes marriage legislations in other developed countries such as for instance England, France, Austria, Germany and Russia, and highlights those beneficial provisions, which should be incorporated into the U.S. Constitution.

The change of legislation concerning the property rights of married women in the USA was made only recently, starting in 1848 with the Married Women’s Property Act, which was followed by the Act Concerning the Rights and Liabilities of Husband and Wife (1860). However, according to the author, one part of the problem was not solved properly. The legislation does not state how to protect and secure interests of those women who have a rapacious or intemperate husband. The fundamental point in every marriage legislation should be the moral and social unity of husband and wife, but at the same time both the spouses should possess separate legal existence in order to secure their equality before the law and promote harmony in the marital life.

“Why Women Marry” is an essay describing, as the author puts it, the sad fact that the majority of women love brutes, adore strength and masculine power, and need a husband that inspires respect or even fear, because a woman cannot love a man unless he is superior. This situation does not only apply to housemaids and nurses, but also to gentle educated women. The author claims that what women really want is a husband similar to Rochester, the famous character from the Charlotte Bronte’s novel.<sup>22</sup> However, the author also states that women who missed their destiny, i.e. marriage, now have a second chance – higher education, which is, according to the author, almost as good as the marital life.

Magazine articles presenting the topic of marriage: “Unhappy Marriages in Fiction” (vol. 148, issue 391, June 1889), “Married Women in Fiction” (vol. 152, issue 413, Apr. 1891), “A Study in Wives” (vol. 161, issue 467, Oct. 1895),

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<sup>22</sup> John Sherwood, “Why Women Marry,” *North American Review* 152.412 (1891): 293, web, 23 Feb. 2013.



“A Study in Husbands” (vol. 162, issue 470, Jan. 1896), “Does the Ideal Husband Exist?” (vol. 162, issue 471, Feb. 1896).

“Marriage and Divorce” is a magazine article which will introduce one of the most frequently discussed topics of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century – the divorce. Nevertheless, this article primarily advocates marriage as the traditional value, which should be maintained even in the modern society, and states that whoever voluntarily lives outside of marriage is at war with Nature and Order, because without marriage, there can be no family, which is the fundamental unit of every civilized society. The author of this article presents the divorce from the negative perspective stating that it not only destroys natural order but also dishonors parentage. The author also claims that when considering the subject of divorce individuals should be subordinate to the interests of society and the divorce should be prohibited, because otherwise the public morals and family life will be deeply injured. The article ends with the author’s statement that marriage is “an institution divine in nature and origin, [...] best adapted to preserve individual happiness, create family,”<sup>23</sup> and therefore, should be supported by wise laws of good government, whereas, whatever impairs its unity and the general well-being of the society (as divorce does, according to the author) should be restrained by law.<sup>24</sup>

### **Divorce**

This part will present a series of articles dealing with the topic of divorce, which emerged in the 1880s. The articles about the divorce were numerous; especially in the last two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were tens of articles dealing with this topic. This part will discuss only the following four representative articles, which however, summarize the general notion of divorce: “Is Divorce Wrong?” (vol. 149, issue 396, Nov. 1889), “The Question of Divorce” (vol. 149, issue 397, Dec. 1889), “Women’s Views of Divorce” (vol. 150, issue 398, Jan. 1890), and “Final Words on Divorce” (vol. 150, issue 399, Feb. 1890).

The title of the first article is “Is Divorce Wrong?” and the answer as presented in the magazine is definitely yes. The article is written by four authors with an introduction by the editor of *The North American Review*, who outlined the main issues to be discussed. These issues are as follows: principle of divorce, possibility of divorced people to marry again, effect of divorce on the family,

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<sup>23</sup> Noah Davis, “Marriage and Divorce,” *North American Review* 139.332 (1884): 40, web, 21 Feb. 2013.

<sup>24</sup> Noah Davis, “Marriage and Divorce,” *North American Review* 139.332 (1884): 41, web, 21 Feb. 2013.

and the prohibition of divorce and its contribution to moral purity of the society. The article still presents the divorce as a negative thing, or to be more accurate, three out of four authors of the article do, the fourth one is neutral.

The ideas presented by the first three authors are predominantly the same. All of them claim that the subject of divorce needs to be thoroughly discussed in its moral, social, and religious aspects, nevertheless, instead of actually discussing the subject, they rather present the divorce as an evil affecting the integrity of the family and its increase in the last twenty years as a social problem, which stems from the moral corruption and encourages hasty marriages and equally hasty separations. The last of the authors advocates the motto that change calls for change, and even though he believes that marriage is a sacred institution, he claims that if there could be no divorce, no mistake could be corrected, and that it is not right to force a suffering wife to stay with a cruel husband who may destroy her life and happiness.

The series continues with the article “The Question of Divorce” in which the authors can be divided into two groups, one of them claiming that marriage is a contract for life, a vow before God and no authority was given the right to cancel it, and moreover, that the remarriage, which is a highly discussed topic in the contemporary society, is forbidden by the text of Holy Scripture. Whereas the second group advocates the opposing opinion that divorce for proper causes can save the integrity of the family, especially the welfare of children and the abused wife/husband, and that the only necessity is a careful administration of legislation dealing with marriage and divorce.

“Women’s Views of Divorce” differs from the preceding articles in one very important aspect, which is obvious even from the title, – it is written by women. The authors of this article are naturally not against divorce, however, they realize and admit that marriage is necessary to the existence of family and that divorce should not be granted for trivial causes, i.e. it should be granted only if the continuance of the wedded life is intolerable if not impossible, such as the case of marital infidelity, drunkenness, cruelty or failure to provide to the family. Nevertheless, the general legal equality between husband and wife should be established, since it is mostly women who suffer in unhappy marriages not being able to protect themselves, because the husbands usually control all the property, etc. The article is written from the pragmatic point of view stating that unhappy

marriage is a great mistake with serious consequences and divorce is a proper remedy. As for the integrity of the family and its possible destruction by the divorce, the authors of the article claim that parental and maternal love does not die with the conjugal love and that parents will not stop taking care of their children each on his/her own.

“Final Words on Divorce” summarizes the opinions from the preceding articles. The reader will notice that men in general see the divorce as a beginning of endless complications and a threat to moral purity of the society, whereas women see the divorce as a remedy to unhappy marriage and a possibility to save themselves and their children from an abusing husband. Nevertheless, both female and male authors of the presented articles justify the divorce only as the last expedient and final hope, when there is nothing else to be done to save the relation.

### **Labor**

This part explores the topic of labor and working women as presented in *The North American Review*. In particular, it will analyze and discuss the following articles: “Woman’s Work and Woman’s Wages” (vol. 135, issue 309, Aug. 1882), “The Industrial Value of Woman” (vol. 135, issue 312, Nov. 1882), and “Working Women” (vol. 144, issue 364, March 1887).

“Woman’s Work and Woman’s Wages” was written by C.W. Elliot in 1882 but still presents the old-fashioned notion of women, i.e. that they are too delicate and therefore should stay at home. The author claims that no married ladies want to or are expected to work, but the actual core of the problem is that there is insufficient work for women who are willing to work or must work, because they are single. The reason why there is insufficient work for women is, according to the author, that women cannot compete with men in the hard work, because it would ruin their health, and that they cannot even compete with them in the brain-work, because a man can do more thinking than a woman, considered they have equally good bodies and brains,<sup>25</sup> which means that women cannot become doctors, lawyers or politicians. Because a woman cannot do the man’s work, her wage is systematically rated down, which makes her helpless and driven into misery. The author of the article claims that women’s delicacy and incapability is the main

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<sup>25</sup> C. W. Elliot, “Woman’s Work and Woman’s Wages,” *The North American Review* 135.309 (1882): 147–148, web, 24 Feb. 2013.

reason why their working conditions are so bad, which then results in the degradation of all women. The article was subject to much comment and harshly criticized among others for its shallowness and discriminating ideas. The article, which criticizes the author's opinions the most, is "The Industrial Value of Woman" by Julia Ward Howe, published three issues later. Mrs. Howe criticizes the author because of two his statements. The first one is that women are less valuable than men, and therefore the amount of wages actually paid to them is correspondingly lower, and the second is that child-bearing and house-work should be absolute objects of a girl's education, which is a prejudice women were trying to eliminate for decades.

"Working Women" begins with a brief statistics showing that in 1887 there were about 2.6 million women who earn their own living, and of this number 2.2 million were classed in the following occupations: laborers (chiefly found in the Southern states), seamstresses, domestic servants, and teachers, which are – with the exception of the last one – the most menial and worst paid of employments. Although the article is quite short, it presents several alarming features of the contemporary society. According to the author, the core of the problem is not only in the low rates of wages and the subsequent women's inability to save money or even provide for the immediate wants and needs; it is in the prevailing state of public ignorance regarding the evils of working women's conditions.

Magazine articles discussing the possibilities of women's employment in comparison with the traditional notion of women as housekeepers are: "Shall Women Practice Medicine?" (vol. 134, issue 302, Jan. 1882), "Woman as an Inventor" (vol. 136, issue 318, May 1883), "Is Housekeeping a Failure?" (vol. 148, issue 387, Feb. 1889), "Trade-Unions for Women" (vol. 153, issue 417, Aug. 1861), "The Tyranny of the Kitchen" (vol. 157, issue 443, Oct. 1893), and "Women and the Labor Movement" (vol. 166, issue 497, Apr. 1898).

### **Suffrage**

This part will present articles dealing with the topic of women's suffrage. However, the subject of suffrage and the related involvement of women in politics was so widely discussed that there is not enough space in this MA thesis to cover all the articles. To introduce the topic I will analyze two representative articles: "Woman Suffrage in Practice" (vol. 158, issue 451, June 1894) and "Why Women Should Have the Ballot" (vol. 163, issue 476, July 1896).

“Woman Suffrage in Practice” is an article written by two governors. The governor of Colorado advocates the right of women to vote, however, at the same time, he sees the problem in women being elected to offices, which would seriously defy the Nature. The governor of Nebraska claims that most people think that the participation of women in active politics is against their innate delicacy and that granting women the right to vote would be a difficult duty, not a privilege for them. Nevertheless, he states that if it is a general wish of women to have the voting rights, he will not oppose it.

The author of the article “Why Women Should Have the Ballot” claims that he was seeking for many years a good, sound reason why women should not vote, and finally found one – it is because they are *women*. Even though the author came across many reasons such as claiming that women are weak or foolish, have other duties to attend to, and moreover are protected by men’s votes, the real and only reason is that they are women. The author introduces certain classes of persons that cannot vote, specifically foreigners, convicts, paupers, idiots and *women*.<sup>26</sup> The reason why the first four cannot vote is quite obvious, it is mostly for the good of society or because they are not citizens of the USA. However, this does not apply to women, who are rightful citizen of the United States and intelligent human beings, and therefore, should be entitled to equal rights, including the right to vote.

The articles about women’s suffrage and involvement in politics were numerous: “The Woman Question” (vol. 129, issue 275, Oct. 1879), “Woman in Politics” (vol. 137, issue 321, Aug. 1883), “Woman as a Political Factor” (vol. 139, issue 336, Nov. 1884), “Female Suffrage” (vol. 143, issue 358, Sep. 1886), “Woman’s Political Evolution” (vol. 165, issue 492, Nov. 1897), “A Comparative View of the Woman Suffrage Movement” (vol. 166, issue 495, Feb. 1898), and “The Progress of the American Woman” (vol. 171, issue 529, Dec. 1900).

### **3.6 *The Atlantic Monthly***

This section will deal with the issues of women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as they were perceived and presented in the articles of *The Atlantic Monthly*. It is divided into

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<sup>26</sup> John Gibbon, “Why Women Should Have the Ballot,” *The North American Review* 163.476 (1896): 91–92, web, 24 Feb. 2013.

three parts according to topics discussed in the magazine articles; in particular the topics of women's education, labor, and rights.

### **Education**

This part explores the topic of women's education as presented in the following articles: "Ought Women to Learn the Alphabet?" (vol. 3, issue 16, Feb. 1859) and "Sociology in the Higher Education of Women" (vol. 70, issue 421, Nov. 1892).

"Ought Women to Learn the Alphabet?" is an anonymous article written in semi-serious style deliberately ridiculing of the most discussed topics of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – women's education. The author uses as an example an ironical tract by the famous French satirist Sylvain Maréchal, who submitted to Napoleon a proposal forbidding women to learn alphabet, because according to the satirist, a woman who knows the alphabet lost a portion of her innocence not mentioning the fact that a woman should be merely pretty and ignoramus, because knowledge never makes a female attractive.<sup>27</sup>

The author of the article claims that Maréchal touched the root of the matter, because woman's inferiority in the past was, to a great extent, a legitimate thing, in other words any new position would take her from the (domestic) sphere where she belongs. However, the author says that he uses the alphabet only as an example, whereas the whole women's question (i.e. suffrage, property rights, education of girls in public schools, etc.) is a subject for serious discussion, because it is doubtful whether women already know too much or too little.

"Sociology in the Higher Education of Women" covers the recent and rapid development in the higher education of women and introduces several questions this remarkable change produced, such as for instance: What are all these women going to do? and What will be the effect upon society? One of the profitable effects was the improvement of general education because of college-trained women, who recently started teaching in both primary and secondary schools. However, according to the author, most of the educated women will inevitably become wives and mothers. The main point of the author is that the education, although important, should be a secondary concern for women, so that they stay focused on the family. Moreover, the author claims that even colleges should make their curriculum applicable for the future lives of women, not to let young women attend the same

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<sup>27</sup> Anon., "Ought Women to Learn the Alphabet?" *The Atlantic Monthly* 3.16 (1859): 137, web, 21 Feb. 2013.

lectures which are offered to young men. The best solution would be, according to the author, to establish special colleges for women with one major only – the education of life, including courses on family and its practical importance, the whole range of domestic science, sociology and courses concerned with the role of women in the society, etc. The primary aim of such colleges would be to encourage women to find new interest in common domestic duties. The reader will notice that even at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (the article was published in 1892) women were still perceived as bound to the domestic sphere and it was difficult for them to justify their longing for education and knowledge.

### **Labor**

This part will discuss articles dealing with the topic of women's working opportunities. The articles selected for analysis: "Women in Organizations" ( vol. 46, issue 275, Sep. 1880), "Among Lowell Mill Girls: A Reminiscence" (vol. 48, issue 289, Nov. 1881), and "A Struggle for Shelter" (vol. 17, issue 102. Apr. 1866).

"Women in Organizations" advocates the exceptional skills of women when it comes to organizing. The author claims that woman is a natural organizer, as the order of home and domestic life testifies, and it is unnecessary to prove her capability of earning her livelihood, because in 1870 there were about 1.6 million women engaged in agriculture, manufactures, and trade. Some women organized cooking or dress-making schools to help other women, other engaged in more specific branches such as telegraphy or type-setting. Another growing organization run by women is training schools for nurses, which are highly appreciated in the society. And there is no church, mission or charity without women. It is obvious, according to the author, that if women can manage all the mentioned activities, they possess the necessary imagination and effectiveness, and thus deserve the opportunity to express their opinions by a vote.

"Among Lowell Mill Girls: A Reminiscence" is a memoir written by Lucy Larcom, an American poet, who worked in the cotton mill in Lowell to support her family since she was twelve years old, and later wrote a lot about the conditions of working women in the society. In the article, Larcom gives an account of her childhood and adolescence in Lowell and her job in the local mill, where chiefly young women were hired to work. As a girl's opportunities for earning money were few and the amount received was small, most of young women were grateful for the job in the mill. However, as they worked twelve to fourteen hours, it was not easy

to progress in their education. Still most of the girls were eager to study and tried at least to read books during or after work. Among other things, Larcom describes an ordinary day in a life of mill-girl which started at five o'clock in the morning and her occupation after the work finished (mostly domestic tasks), and finally the accomplishments of the young women and their loyalty to each other based on the principle of common humanity.

“A Struggle for Shelter” depicts two interrelated problems of young unmarried women. The first one is how to get an occupation, and the second is how to get a shelter. The author says that for most women it is easier to find a husband than to find a job. Moreover, if a woman is single but lucky enough to have a permanent employment, the problem of getting a shelter remains as most boarding houses do not let rooms to ladies, all this because of the simple fact that the society thinks of single women as of something weird.

Articles developing the topic of working women: “The Chimney-Corner for 1866: Is Woman a Worker?” (by Harriet B. Stowe, vol. 17, issue 101, March 1866) and “Woman’s Work in the Middle Ages” (vol. 18, issue 107, Sep. 1866).

### **Women’s Rights**

This part will explore the topic of women’s rights as presented in the following articles: “The Woman Thou Gavest with Me” (vol. 25, issue 147, Jan. 1870) and “Woman Suffrage, Pro and Con” (vol. 65, issue 389, March 1890).

“The Woman Thou Gavest with Me” is a short essay written by Henry James, discussing the women’s movement and the position of a woman in the society. James claims that to solve the woman’s question we need to decide whether woman expresses a final phase of human nature or rather a complementary one, and he immediately gives us his opinion based on the reading of Genesis that man was created in God’s image, male *and* female, both possessing specific individuality. This in fact means that woman is not merely a sexual counterpart and diminutive of man, because sex is attribute of matter, not of mind, and that if a woman is dependent upon man for her protection, man is dependent upon her for all the spiritual qualities which lift him above the brute. James concludes the essay with the statement that woman is standing for all that is divine in nature and for the



dignity of human race, and therefore the agitation on behalf of women's rights is thus the agitation on behalf of the humanity itself.<sup>28</sup>

“Woman Suffrage, Pro and Con” is trying to eliminate the confusion of truth and nonsense which the discussion of women's right and suffrage produced in the society. The author introduces two contrasting points of view of this subject. The suffragists claim that woman is the superior of the man, the possessor of moral qualities, and the reason why he denies her the suffrage is that she would reform him with it, and man does not want to be reformed, adding that the right to vote is inherited in manhood and that ballot is a sacred right of *every* human being, and men should not monopolize it. Whereas, the opponents affirm that women have less information on political subjects than men as their power are rather of domestic than political sort, and that the division of the duties between the sexes is the necessary result of the physical difference, which means that the participation of women in politics would not result in a moral revolution, but it would rather prove the misapplication of emotional qualities of women where there is a need of rationality of men. While the former group claims that since many women are qualified enough to do the man's work, they should have the same social status, the latter argues that to the majority of women, the suffrage would be only a burdensome duty, and even the author does not come to clear conclusion whether women should have the right to vote or not.

### **3.7 Development of the Presented Topics**

#### ***Harper's New Monthly Magazine***

The articles dealing with the themes related to women and womanhood in general were frequently published in this magazine. In the first decades after the magazine was founded, there was at least one article (or a short story) in each issue dealing with the above mentioned topics of marriage, the role of a woman in the society etc., sometimes even two or three of them.

However, with spreading of the emancipation ideas, the prejudiced articles and short stories presenting women and men as unequal were less and less common. By the end of the century, these articles were no more to be found, and the focus

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<sup>28</sup> Henry James, “The Woman Thou Gavest with Me,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 25.147 (1870): 71, web, 22 Feb. 2013.

slowly changed from the description of an ideal woman to the actual problems of women such as education, suffrage, and property rights. Nevertheless, even in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the magazine still published from time to time short stories, which pictured women in the stereotypical way.

#### ***The North American Review***

The theme of womanhood and related matters were not present in the articles of this magazine until the late 1870s. However, in the two last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the topics dealing with the women's issues (especially education, employment, and suffrage) were very frequent; there was at least one article in every other issue.

In contrast to *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, there were almost no articles advising man how to find an ideal wife or articles advising women how to take care of the household and the family. Furthermore, the articles in *The North American Review* were written in more pragmatic and matter-of-fact style, dealing even with the progressive topics such as divorce or job opportunities for women.

#### ***The Atlantic Monthly***

In the comparison with the other two magazines, *The Atlantic Monthly* was considerably poor as for the articles dealing with the women's issues. Until the late 1860's there were only few articles concerning women, however in the last three decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the magazine articles dealing with women's suffrage, labor, and education were more common. Moreover, *The Atlantic Monthly* frequently published reviews of books, essays, short stories, and poetry written by female authors (e.g. Margaret Fuller, Nora Perry, Harriet H. Robinson, Julia Ward Howe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, etc.).

## **4. Fascination with the East**

This chapter will explore the fascination of the Americans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the Eastern countries. We may even call this fascination an obsession. In this chapter, I will explore the Western obsession with the East solely within the scope of its manifestation in the media, in particular in the magazines selected for the close reading and thematic analysis presented in this MA thesis.

At the very beginning, it should be stated that the interest of the nineteenth-century readers in the Eastern cultures (sometimes also referred to as Orientalism) was immense primarily because the transfer of cultural elements from the East to the West (and vice versa) has a long tradition. In general terms, we may claim that there can be no culture without intercultural exchange (both on the conscious and the non-conscious level), and therefore, this particular interest of American readers in topics related to the Eastern cultures is no surprise. However, this thesis will not merely work with the “generally known” facts. On the contrary, it will analyze the articles in the selected magazines and present the result concerning the frequency, types, and contents of the articles about the East, and last but not least the difference between particular magazines and the development of presented topics in time.

### **4.1 *Harper's New Monthly Magazine***

This section will explore the fascination by topics related to Eastern cultures as they were presented in the articles of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*. It is divided into four parts according to the geographical areas predominantly discussed in the magazine articles; in particular: the Muslim world, Japan, China, and India.

#### **The Muslim World**

This part will discuss the magazine articles dealing with the fascination of travelers and writers by the Islamic culture, in particular, it will deal with the topics of Islam and its holy places, harems, bazaars, and other features and habits related to the culture and traditions of the Muslim world. The articles for discussion: “Women in the East” (vol. 1, issue 1, June 1850), “Moorish Domestic Life” (vol. 1, issue 2, July 1850), “The Bedouen, Mohammad Alee, and the Bazaars” (vol. 4, issue 24, May 1852), and “The Holy Places of Islam” (vol. 85, issue 510, Nov. 1892).

“Women in the East” and “Moorish Domestic Life” are two short articles describing the life of the Eastern women. The author of the first article describes the life in harem in an extremely idealized way claiming that women in the East are inferior beings, but it is the inferiority of a beautiful flower that lives a kind of fairy life or as in a long dream.<sup>29</sup> The author of the second article is a traveler who came to visit his friend, a wealthy man, who has two beautiful daughters, however, both the girls cannot leave the house and the adjacent gardens. They are being educated to become perfect wives and dream about their future husbands. The life of the Eastern girls and women is in both articles described as restricted but comfortable, and the authors seem to think that harem is a perfect place for a woman.

The article “The Bedouen, Mohammad Alee, and the Bazaars” is divided into three parts, which correspond with the title of the article. The first part describes Bedouens and their nomadic life in the desert. However, according to the author, there are not many pure Bedouens left and they are certainly not the dreamy savages as often describes in the works of fiction. Bedouens are mild and peaceful children of the desert, best described as melancholic, sober and introvert, living in the romantic vision of desert, oasis, palms, and camels, with the moon and stars above and no worries in their heads.<sup>30</sup> The second part of the article describes Mohammad Alee, a famous master of Egypt, who had the genius of statesman and the courage of soldier. He made his way by military skill and wanted to make Egypt an independent and strong empire. The last but no less interesting part describes the traditional bazaars in Egypt, the living mazes of the crowd where children can play and shopping goes actively on until very late at night. The Eastern life as represented by the bazaars is pictured as an intense and delightful mosaic, which enchants every foreigner.

“The Holy Places of Islam” is an article depicting the fascinating journey of the great caravans of pilgrims who travel every year from Cairo, Damascus, and other Muslim cities to fulfill their religious duty, the Hadj. The author describes two main pilgrimage sites of Islam. The first and the most important one is Mecca where the sacred ceremony in Kaaba, the religious center of the Muslim world, takes place. The second one is Medina where the mosque containing the Prophet’s

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<sup>29</sup> Anon., “Women in the East,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 1.1 (1850): 10, web, 27 Feb. 2013.

<sup>30</sup> George W. Curtis, “The Bedouen, Mohammad Alee, and the Bazaars,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 4.24 (1852): 755, web, 27 Feb. 2013.

tomb could be found. The author does not only describe the holy places, related ceremonies, and the life of ordinary people during the pilgrimage in comparison with the rest of the year, but above all he admires the appealing architecture of Muslim cities and towns, the beauty and ingenuity of Islam mythology, and the adherence to various traditions handed down from generation to generation.

Articles presenting the Muslim world: “Glimpses of the East” (vol. 1, issue 2, July 1850) describing the Turkish bath and the slave market at Constantinople, “Adventure in a Turkish Harem” (vol. 1, issue 3, Aug. 1850) depicting in detail the life in a harem and its peculiarities, “An Arabian Day and Night” (vol. 90, issue 535, Dec. 1894) recounting the journey with the caravans through the Sahara Desert and the hospitality of people who live there, and “Arabia – Islam and the Eastern Question” (vol. 91, issue 544, Sep. 1895) dealing with the history of the religion, the life of Mohammed, different tribes who live in the region, Koran, Islamic literature and culture, traditional greetings and proverbs, and last but not least the long-lasting disputes Muslims have with Christians and Jews.

## **Japan**

The magazine articles analyzed in this part will deal with Japanese nation, culture, habits, and other traditional features specific for this part of the world. The following articles will be discussed and analyzed: “An American in Japan in 1858” (vol. 18, issue 104, Jan. 1859), “The Present and Future of Japan” (vol. 46, issue 276, May 1873), “Early Summer in Japan” (vol. 89, issue 532, Sep. 1894), and “Autumn in Japan” (vol. 90, issue 539, Apr. 1895).

The author of the article “An American in Japan in 1858” describes his journey to Japan, particularly to Nagasaki and Dejima, in 1858, the year when the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and Japan was signed, which finally opened several Japanese cities to American trade. The author characterizes Japanese as calm, timid, dignified, polished in manners, and well informed people, always acting with the typical Eastern politeness, which makes them, according to the author, the nation of the East *par excellence*.<sup>31</sup> Cities and towns are pictured as well-organized and orderly, and everything in Japan (streets, shops, markets, houses, gardens) as neat and clean. The Americans are mostly object of curiosity, which proves that the theory of fascination by distant cultures

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<sup>31</sup> Anon., “An American in Japan in 1858,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 18.104 (1859): 223, web, 27 Feb. 2013.

works both ways; however, some Japanese are still averse to foreigners penetrating the country.

The author of “The Present and Future of Japan” claims that he wrote the article to eliminate the universal ignorance upon the subject of Japan and its progress and transformation in the recent decades. For a long period, there was a lack of information concerning Japan due to its isolation, and the whole subject was veiled in mystery. However, the author states that Japan is rapidly changing, and the interest of the American society and the political leaders should change as well.<sup>32</sup> Although, the author claims that the subject of Japan is neglected, the articles concerning Japan in the nineteenth-century magazines were quite common. Nevertheless, it is true that most of the articles were fascinated by various aspects of Japanese culture and the life in Japan in general, neglecting the political point of view, which author emphasizes.

“Early Summer in Japan” and “Autumn in Japan” are two articles written by Alfred Parsons, who spent several years in Japan and wrote many magazine articles praising the culture and traditions of the Eastern countries. The selected articles describe the life of ordinary people during the two mentioned seasons. The former may be called a season of tea, because that is when the most valuable leaves are gathered. The author was surprised that although everybody in Japan drinks tea at all hours of the day, it was introduced with Buddhism from China and it was not grown here until the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. Another interesting fact is that there are no large factories and each family makes its own brand of tea.<sup>33</sup> Another fascinating phenomenon connected with early summer is the one of ponds full of lotus flowers, whereas autumn is related to another flower – lily. However, the author spent most of the autumn season in the cities, and therefore the descriptions of nature are fewer, but the reader might be interested in the description of life in the city in comparison with the countryside. In a simplified way, we may claim that a city means railroads, harbors, temples, and festivals, whereas country side is in the author’s memories represented by rice-fields and ponds. To sum it up, I would like to mention two objects of the author’s greatest admiration, something he never got used to, because

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<sup>32</sup> E. H. House, “The Present and Future of Japan,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 46.276 (1873): 858–859, web, 10 March 2013.

<sup>33</sup> Alfred Parsons, “Early Summer in Japan,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 89.532 (1894): 522, web, 10 March 2013.

of its beauty and exceptionality – Japanese gardens and Oriental politeness.<sup>34</sup> Parsons lived in Japan for many years and it is obvious from the texts of his articles that he was fascinated by the nobility of Japanese culture and traditions, and especially by the way people in Japan think and behave.

Further articles dealing with fascination by Japan and its culture: “John Bull in Japan” (vol. 21, issue 123, Aug. 1860) describing Japanese nature, culture, industry, government, fashion, habits, etc., “Japanese Ivory Carvings” (vol. 76, issue 455, Apr. 1888) depicting the ivory carvings as a perfect example of Japanese skills and presenting the use of mythology in the fine arts, “Some Wanderings in Japan” (vol. 90, issue 540, May 1895), another article inspired by the incredible beauty of Japanese nature written by Alfred Parsons, permanent contributor of *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* dealing with the Eastern cultures.

### **China**

This part will deal with the traditional Chinese culture as presented in the articles of *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*, particularly in: “The Edible Bird’s-Nests of China” (vol. 2, issue 9, Feb. 1851), “A Journey through China” (vol. 11, issue 61, June 1855), and “In the Garden of China” (vol. 91, issue 542, July 1895).

“The Edible Bird’s-Nests of China” is one of the most unusual articles about Chinese habits and traditional meals, describing edible nests, a curious dish, and at the same time an article of expensive luxury, which is considered to be aphrodisiac. The edible nests resemble fibrous isinglass and are principally brought from Java and Sumatra; after being obtained, they are separated from the feathers and dirt, carefully dried and packed, and then they are fit for the market, the best of them being worth four thousand dollars, which means that the majority of the nests is sent to Peking, for the use of the court, because common people cannot afford them. The author had a chance to taste them and claims they are palatable and deserve special notice among the various articles exposed for sale in China.<sup>35</sup>

“A Journey through China” is a review of a book of travels called *A Journey though the Chinese Empire* by M. Huc, who spent fourteen years in China, had thoroughly acquired knowledge of the language and the rules of Chinese society, which is why he is able, according to the reviewer, to “see the people he is

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<sup>34</sup> Alfred Parsons, “Autumn in Japan,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 90.539 (1895): 767, 780, web, 10 March 2013.

<sup>35</sup> Anon., “The Edible Bird’s-Nests of China,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 2.9 (1851): 397, web, 14 March 2013.

describing, in their everyday dress – living, talking, eating, drinking, and sleeping, as they do it at home”<sup>36</sup> without formality and restraint. The book is praised in the review for its lively style and among all for its novelty, because the author not only describes the life and traditions in different provinces of China, but above all, things which were not described in the previous books and articles, i.e. the political institutions, the cult of the Emperor, penal code of China, prisons, the army, etc.

“In the Garden of China” is an article written by Julian Ralph, who tried during his journey to depict what is typical for China, which is, according to him, an impossible task, because China means a dozen of different countries and as Mr. Ralph puts it “after reading eight different books, you will have eight different accounts of China.”<sup>37</sup> There are many kinds of China and the customs vary in each of the provinces. Nevertheless, there are few things that travelers agree on, for instance most of them think that Chinese women are not pretty, but still prettier than the women in Japan, the funeral customs are believed to be the same, whereas the marriage customs vary from province to province, most travelers are astonished by the vastness of the land and fascinated by the beauty of the nature. However, it seems that there are many Chinas and each writer has its own account of what is typical for the country.

Selected articles describing China and its peculiarities: “The Chinese Prince of Kung” (vol. 32, issue 191, Apr. 1866) depicting the career and personality of the Emperor’s son, “House-Boating in China” (vol. 91, issue 541, June 1895) and “Every-Day Scenes in China” (vol. 91, issue 543, Aug. 1895), both describing a marvelous journey of Julian Ralph in a house-boat.

## **India**

The magazine articles selected for this part will present India and its traditions. The discussed articles are: “Sketches in the East Indies” (vol. 11, issue 63, Aug. 1855), “Tiger-Hunting on Foot in India” (vol. 16, issue 96, May 1858), and “The Mohammadans in India” (vol. 71, issue 422, July 1885).

“Sketches in the East Indies” describes a trip to Pinang Island, sometimes also called the Gem of the Eastern Seas and characterized by “the luxuriance of

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<sup>36</sup> Anon., “A Journey through China,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 11.61 (1855): 81, web, 14 March 2013.

<sup>37</sup> Ralph Julian, “In the Garden of China,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 91.542 (1895): 188, web, 14 March 2013.



vegetation, lofty hills and refreshingly cool quay.”<sup>38</sup> The author pictures both the positive and the negative sides of the island’s society, the positive ones being the typical Eastern hospitality and the effort to please, and the negative for instance poverty and ignorance. Whereas the society on the island has some drawbacks, the Nature is described as perfect both from the point of view of travelers/painters (beautiful sceneries) and the native people who work in agriculture and use the natural resources in everyday lives (coffee and spice plantations, cocoa-nuts for export, abundance of bamboo to make houses, etc.), simply said the island is described as the Eastern Paradise, which draws travelers from around the world.

“Tiger-Hunting on Foot in India” is a sketch describing a brave lieutenant, who hunts the Royal Bengal tiger on foot, which is generally considered the most dangerous thing you can do in India. The article brings some interesting information about the hunting methods, for instance the fact that a hunter has two valuable friends in the jungle – the peacock and the monkey, both of them being very noisy if the tiger is in the vicinity. Using peacocks and monkeys as guides, the lieutenant became an expert in tiger-hunting. During five seasons of hunting he killed sixty-eight tigers, and the natives tell stories about him, in fact, he became part of their legends.

“The Mohammadans in India” is an essay written by Francis Marion Crawford, introducing the two main religions in India, Hinduism and Islam, describing their history in India and stating the differences in customs, architecture, and the common way of life of Hindus and Muslims. Crawford claims that the most striking distinction between these two religious groups is the architecture. He compares Hindu temples to the Greek ones, stating that both the styles prefer horizontal, massive and heavy structures with thickly-carved pilasters. On the other hand, Mohammadan buildings are compared to the Gothic churches, because they tend to the pointed, the graceful, the light, and the use of springing arch.<sup>39</sup> Which architecture is, according to the author, better is not only obvious from the title, but above all from the following quotation: “It would indeed be hard to conceive of anything more magnificent, more beautiful than the splendid monuments of the

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<sup>38</sup> Anon., “Sketches in the East Indies,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 11.63 (1855): 724, web, 14 March 2013.

<sup>39</sup> Francis Marion Crawford, “The Mohammadans in India,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 71.422 (1885): 168, web, 14 March 2013.

Muslim empire in the northern India.”<sup>40</sup> The author is absolutely fascinated by the Muslim architecture and the reader will notice from the text, that he perceives the conquest of India by Mohammadans as one of the most important events in the Indian history.

Further articles presenting both the traditional and nontraditional features of the Indian culture: “Ghosts and Sorceresses of India” (vol. 7, issue 42, Nov. 1853), a short article comparing magic and sorcery in Europe and India, claiming that devils and ghosts in India are more practical, closer to Nature, and therefore more dangerous than the European ones, and “Pig-Sticking in India” (vol. 61, issue 366, Nov. 1880) describing the pig-sticking as a fascinating tradition and valuable sport developing manly qualities.

#### **4.2 *The North American Review***

This section will explore the general interest in topics related to the Eastern cultures as they were presented in the articles of *The North American Review*. It is divided into four parts according to the geographical areas most frequently discussed in the magazine articles; in particular: the Muslim world, Egypt, China, and India.

##### **Muslim World**

This part will discuss the magazine articles dealing with the fascination by the Muslim world and the related topics. The articles selected for analysis: “Ali Bey’s Travels” (vol. 3, issue 8, July 1816), “Was Mohammed an Imposter or an Enthusiast?” (vol. 63, issue 133, Oct. 1846), and “Arabian Days’ Entertainments” (vol. 88, issue 182, Jan. 1859).

As the title indicates, “Ali Bey’s Travels” describes the travels of Ali Bey el Abassi, a Spaniard disguised as a Persian. Thanks to his disguise Ali Bey had during his travels the opportunity to see and visit places, which are otherwise forbidden for Christians, for example the great Mosque at Cairo, the sacred House of God at Mecca, and above all the immense Mosque at Jerusalem, built on the site of the Solomon’s Temple and considered one of the most beautiful and impressive buildings in the Muslim world. Ali Bey pictures not only the architectural wonders of the Islamic culture, but also the fascinating rituals and traditions related to them.

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<sup>40</sup> Francis Marion Crawford, “The Mohammadans in India,” *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 71.422 (1885): 168, web, 14 March 2013.

“Was Mohammed an Imposter or an Enthusiast?” is an essay with provocative title and very challenging contents. The author questions the orthodox notion of Mohammed and explores the success of the founder of Islam, who had the power to influence thousands of human destinies. In the first place, it should be understood that we know very little with certainty concerning the Prophet, but the author of the article tries to present the facts about life of Mohammed in Mecca and Medina, his family, work as a merchant, and his meditations on God and various religious issues. These meditations were formative for the Mohammed’s teachings, but the author poses a question whether in a negative or a positive way.

Twenty years of such questioning and deep meditations might produce an impostor or and enthusiast, a liar or a self-deceiver. Which was Mohammed? [...] Was it insanity or inspiration? [...] And what could he gain for himself?<sup>41</sup>

The author continues to ask such questions for several pages and finally gives us the answer. Mohammed was “a monomaniac, a self-deceived enthusiast,”<sup>42</sup> and anybody can learn a lesson from the life of this noble man, who was a perfect example of honesty and determination.

“Arabian Days’ Entertainments” is a review of a book of the same title, translated from German. The book is claimed to be a “collection of stories hardly less weird, wild, rich, and fascinating than those of the *Arabian Nights* [...] thoroughly Oriental in tone and coloring.”<sup>43</sup> The author of the review claims that the book will be appreciated by both young and old for its fascinating horrors and dazzling visions of the Orient, which is now in fashion.<sup>44</sup> Indeed the books about the Orient were in fashion, as obvious from the numerous reviews published in all the three magazines.

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<sup>41</sup> Anon., “Was Mohammed an Imposter or an Enthusiast?” *The North American Review* 63.133 (1846): 501, web, 16 March 2013.

<sup>42</sup> Anon., “Was Mohammed an Imposter or an Enthusiast?” *The North American Review* 63.133 (1846): 511, web, 16 March 2013.

<sup>43</sup> Anon., “Arabian Days’ Entertainments,” *The North American Review* 88.182 (1859): 281, web, 16 March 2013.

<sup>44</sup> Anon., “Arabian Days’ Entertainments,” *The North American Review* 88.182 (1859): 281, web, 16 March 2013.

The articles dealing with the Muslim world were the most frequently published articles dealing with a different culture: “Account of Persia” (vol. 3, issue 8, July 1816), “Fate of Dr. Seezen” (vol. 4, issue 10, Nov. 1816), “Extracts from Malcolm’s History of Persia” (vol. 4, issue 12, Mar. 1817), “Singular Article of Mahometan Law” (vol. 5, issue 13, May 1817), “Constantinople” (vol. 16, issue 38, Jan. 1823), “The Life of Ali Pasha” (vol. 18, issue 42, Jan. 1824), “Laborde’s Journey in Arabia” (vol. 44, issue 95, Apr. 1837), “Robinson’s Travels in Arabia” (vol. 53, issue 112, July 1841), “Mahomet and His Successors” (vol. 71, issue 149, Oct. 1850), “La Vie Arabe” (vol. 84, issue 175, Apr. 1857), “George Sale’s Translation of the Koran” (vol. 95, issue 196, July 1862).

### **Egypt**

This part will present the magazine articles dealing with the topic of Ancient Egypt, its monuments and curiosities, not taking into account the later spreading of Islam, which connects Egypt to the previous part dealing with the Muslim world. The following articles will be discussed: “Egyptian Antiquities” (vol. 29, issue 65, Oct. 1829), “Hieroglyphics” (vol. 32, issue 70, Jan. 1831), and “Boat Life in Egypt and Nubia” (vol. 85, issue 177, Oct. 1857).

“Egyptian Antiquities” proves the revived interest of scholars in the history of Egypt after the hieroglyphic discoveries made by Champollion. The article begins with a brief but comprehensive summary of Egyptian history and the succession of Egyptian Pharaohs. The author analyzes Egyptian chronicles, which authority was confirmed by the recent Champollion’s discoveries, then the hieroglyphics themselves, and finally gives an overview of Egyptian mythology and gods. Although the article may be rather difficult for a layman, because of all the names of kings, little-known cities and temples, and abundance of dates, it is definitely a valuable source of information about Ancient Egypt and proves the interest of the reading public, or at least the interest of scholars and writers, in Egyptology.

It is not surprising that the article “Hieroglyphics” deals with the hieroglyphic system presented by Champollion. However, in the 1830s Champollion’s works were not yet translated into English, and therefore, the article allowed the American readers to get acquainted with the subject. The most problematic thing about hieroglyphs and the main reason why it took so long to decrypt them is, according to the author, the fact that “the same sign is sometimes

phonetic, sometimes figurative, sometimes symbolic,”<sup>45</sup> which means that the sign may stand for a letter, an animal/plant or certain quality of the pictured animal. After some time, the simplified alphabetical version superseded the ancient symbolical and idiosyncratic writing, which made the communication with other nations (especially Greeks and Romans) much easier. However, the Egyptian literature was illegible until the recent discoveries of Champollion, which were thoroughly described in this article, including examples of hieroglyphic inscriptions.

“Boat Life in Egypt and Nubia” is a review of William C. Prime’s book of travels, which provides a description of “a dreamy, meditative, half-poetical life on the mystic river”<sup>46</sup> and the Egyptian monuments on the one hand, and illustrates the common life of Egyptians in its proper colors on the other. *Boat Life in Egypt and Nubia* is claimed to be a bestseller, which (together with the numerous reviews of books of travels dealing with this subject) proves the general interest of the American readers in books dealing with Egypt. Reviews to compare: “McCoan’s Egypt as It Is” (vol. 125, issue 259, Nov. 1877), a review of book of travels giving a surprising account of life in Egypt, and “Klunzinger’s Upper Egypt” (vol. 126, issue 260, Jan. 1878), a review of book dealing with the beauties of the Nile Valley.

### **China**

This part will explore the topic of China as presented in the articles of *The North American Review*, particularly in: “Chinese Maxims” (vol. 4, issue 12, March 1817), “Chinese Manners” (vol. 27, issue 61, Oct. 1828), and “Life in China” (vol. 85, issue 177, Oct. 1857).

“Chinese Maxims” is an anonymous article presenting the specimens of habits of thinking among Chinese and the great difference between the social status of men and women in China, which is manifested by the selected maxims. The most peculiar maxims from the article are:

A man should hear his wife and not believe her. The more a man loves his wife, the more he increases her waywardness. To cultivate virtue is the science of men, and to renounce science is the virtue of women.  
The snares of women and of fools are the most difficult to avoid. The

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<sup>45</sup> Anon., “Hieroglyphics,” *The North American Review* 32.70 (1831): 99, web, 16 March 2013.

<sup>46</sup> Anon., “Boat Life in Egypt and Nubia,” *The North American Review* 85.177 (1857): 560, web, 16 March 2013.

tongue of women is their sword, and they never let it rust. A woman never praises without slandering.<sup>47</sup>

The author took the maxims from M. Amyot's *Memoirs sur les Chinois* and presents them as objects of curiosity, claiming that the Chinese notion in regard of sex differs from the one prevailing in the civilized Western world. Whether this statement is true or not, I leave upon the reader, however, after reading the magazine articles in chapter 3 Women in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century one might think that Chinese women were not the only beings considered inferior.

"Chinese Manners" begins with an analysis of a Chinese novel, in which the main hero, learned and virtuous man, marries two beautiful young ladies. The author of the article seems to be shocked by the occurrence of such an immoral behavior in a decent society such as the Chinese one, and claims that the double marriage frequently afforded to personages in Chinese novels is ruinous both to the writer and the reader, and moreover, injurious in its effect on polite literature.<sup>48</sup> The literature of China is extremely rich and the mentioned novel only gives an account of romances, nevertheless, according to the author, it faithfully represents the manners of the country where it was written and the plot is kept within the sphere of real life.<sup>49</sup> The author continues to analyze the novel and comments on the Chinese manners as they are presented in the quoted extracts. He claims that every nation has "its particular habits and modes of thinking, which are necessarily described in its novels,"<sup>50</sup> and therefore we can acquire knowledge of any nation's habits and manners by a simple analysis of its novels. For example, in China, the two predominant ideas in the world of fiction, as in that of real life, are promotion and marriage<sup>51</sup> and everything people in China do is somehow related to those ideas, which are surprisingly quite similar to the concerns of people in the Western cultures.

"Life in China" is a review of William C. Milne's book of travels and it is claimed to be "one of the most interesting of the numerous books about China."<sup>52</sup> I do not quote this sentence to emphasize that the book was interesting but to prove

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<sup>47</sup> Anon., "Chinese Maxims," *The North American Review* 4.12 (1817): 359–360, web, 16 March 2013.

<sup>48</sup> Anon., "Chinese Manners," *The North American Review* 27.61 (1828): 530, web, 16 March 2013.

<sup>49</sup> Anon., "Chinese Manners," *The North American Review* 27.61 (1828): 526, web, 16 March 2013.

<sup>50</sup> Anon., "Chinese Manners," *The North American Review* 27.61 (1828): 536, web, 16 March 2013.

<sup>51</sup> Anon., "Chinese Manners," *The North American Review* 27.61 (1828): 537, web, 16 March 2013.

<sup>52</sup> Anon., "Life in China," *The North American Review* 85.177 (1857): 557, web, 17 March 2013.

that books and articles about China were numerous in the 19<sup>th</sup> century thanks to the fascination of the American reading public with the distant cultures. Nevertheless, Milne's book is special in many aspects, mainly because it is based on a daily journal of his observations and experiences, which he kept for many years, and it introduces a discussion of common notions of foreigners about China and the Chinese, which vary from description of Chinese as quite an insidious people to the assertion that they are among the most honest, intelligent, and tolerant nations in the world.

Further articles presenting the life in China as perceived by the travelers: "Cochin China" (vol. 18, issue 42, Jan. 1824), an authentic account of the kingdom of Cochin China, "The Chinese Repository" (vol. 43, issue 92, July 1836) describing a periodical of identical title published at Canton, and "American Diplomacy in China" (vol. 89, issue 185, Oct. 1859).

### **India**

The magazine articles selected for this part will present India and its culture. The representative articles for discussion: "Dubois' Manners and Customs of India" (vol. 9, issue 24, June 1819) and "Three New Routes to India" (vol. 83, issue 172, July 1856).

"Dubois' Manners and Customs of India" is a review of the book by Mr. Dubois. However, whereas the majority of reviews in the magazine were 1–2 pages long, this one has almost twenty pages and is not very favorable. The author of the review says that Mr. Dubois is claimed to be a French Abbé, who lived in India for so many years that he was received into their society, although he speaks in the book about their hatred and contempt for all the foreigners.<sup>53</sup> Furthermore, the book is described by its editor as "the most comprehensive and minute account of the manners of the Hindus,"<sup>54</sup> but the author of the review finds it merely "a collection of anecdotes of all sorts, scraped together from every corner of the earth."<sup>55</sup> The author quotes from the book and examines Dubois' descriptions of Indian religion, mythology, literature, and customs, compares them with the knowledge from other books dealing with this topic, and finds Dubois' account of India everything but

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<sup>53</sup> Anon., "Dubois' Manners and Customs of India," *The North American Review* 9.24 (1819): 36, web, 17 March 2013.

<sup>54</sup> The editor's name is not mentioned in the article and the author does not give any source for the statement.

<sup>55</sup> Anon., "Dubois' Manners and Customs of India," *The North American Review* 9.24 (1819): 37, web, 17 March 2013.

comprehensive and minute, and certainly not instructive enough for the American reading public, which already knew a lot about India and its culture.

“Three New Routes to India” gives the history of commerce and the importance of discovering new sea routes to India, because of the immense interests of the Western world in the local commodities. Furthermore, the article compares the merchandise from India with those from Arabia, since both the countries and their products were considered to be perfect specimens of the Orient. Therefore, it is obvious that trading with India and Arabia was a very lucrative business especially due to the solid demand for Oriental goods in the nineteenth-century market.

Magazine articles dealing with India, its history and culture: “Salem East India Marine Society” (vol. 6, issue 17, Jan. 1818), “Canals of Irrigation in India” (vol. 77, issue 161, Oct. 1853), “British India, its Races and History” (vol. 86, issue 179, Apr. 1858), a comprehensive account of Indian history and culture, “India and the East India Company” (vol. 82, issue 171, Apr. 1856), and “Despotism in India” (vol. 88, issue 183, Apr. 1859) illustrating that even a noble civilization such as India has its problems.

### **4.3 *The Atlantic Monthly***

This section will explore the fascination by topics related to the Eastern cultures as they were presented in the articles of *The Atlantic Monthly*. It is divided into four parts according to the geographical areas discussed in the magazine articles; in particular: the Muslim world, Egypt, China, and Japan.

#### **Muslim World**

This part will discuss the magazine articles dealing with the fascination of travelers and writers with the Muslim world and its culture. Articles for discussion: “Persian Poetry” (vol. 1, issue 6, Apr. 1858) and “Saadi” (vol. 14, issue 81, July 1864).

“Persian Poetry” is an article depicting the differences between the Western and the Eastern poetry. Life in the East is fierce, short, hazardous, in extremes, and rapidly reaching the best and the worst, which is the main reason why Persian poetry and the Oriental poetry in general stand in violent contrast with the poetry of the Western nations.<sup>56</sup> The temperament of the people agrees with this life in extremes, and as poetry (and religion) is all their civilization, they are extremely

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<sup>56</sup> Anon., “Persian Poetry,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 1.6 (1858): 724, web, 19 March 2013.



sensible to its pleasures.<sup>57</sup> The favorite topics of Persian poets are steady friendship, lasting love, celebration of the life in desert, and contemplative topics such as the respect for Allah and the uniqueness of the true religion. The author of the articles praises Persian poets for lively imagery and the play of wit and joy which is the basic quality of every Eastern poem.<sup>58</sup>

The Oriental poetry was one of the subjects which fascinated the readers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Several Oriental poems were published in *The Atlantic Monthly*, all of them anonymous and dealing with the above mentioned topics, for example: “Achmed and his Mare” (vol. 3, issue 17, Mar. 1859), “Abdel Hassan” (vol. 5, issue 27, Jan. 1860), “The Song of Fatima” (vol. 6, issue 35, Sep. 1860), and “An Arab Welcome” (vol. 10, issue 60, Oct. 1862). Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote a short essay called “Saadi” concerning the Oriental poetry, which was also published in *The Atlantic Monthly*.

In “Saadi,” Emerson praises the Oriental poetry and complains that there is no good translation of an Eastern poet in the United States, but only fragments of the two hundred Persian bards collected in various journals and anthologies.<sup>59</sup> The main reason why the Oriental poetry is neglected by the publishers is, according to Emerson, due to the Oriental rhetoric not pleasing the Western taste at first sight and due to its seemingly monotonous imagery.<sup>60</sup> However, Emerson claims that the Eastern poets, and especially Saadi, exhibit perpetual variety of situation and an equal depth of experience with any Western poet, and therefore Eastern works should draw curiosity of good readers.<sup>61</sup>

Emerson considers Saadi’s works to be a typical example of the Oriental poetry, praises him for his wit and moral sentiment, and claims that Saadi is the poet of friendship, love, self-devotion and serenity, and that a translation of his poems may add to his genius a new audience in America.<sup>62</sup> Emerson concludes his essay with the statement that the Persians definitely deserve to be called “the French of Asia” because of their superior intelligence, refined sense of poetics, and high esteem for men of learning.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> Anon., “Persian Poetry,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 1.6 (1858): 724, web, 19 March 2013.

<sup>58</sup> Anon., “Persian Poetry,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 1.6 (1858): 728, web, 19 March 2013.

<sup>59</sup> Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Saadi,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 14.81 (1864): 33, web, 19 March 2013.

<sup>60</sup> Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Saadi,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 14.81 (1864): 33, web, 19 March 2013.

<sup>61</sup> Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Saadi,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 14.81 (1864): 34, web, 19 March 2013.

<sup>62</sup> Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Saadi,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 14.81 (1864): 35–36, web, 19 March 2013.

<sup>63</sup> Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Saadi,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 14.81 (1864): 37, web, 19 March 2013.

For further reading about the Islamic culture and its particularities: “Mohammed, and his Place in Universal History” (vol. 24, issue 145, Nov. 1869) describing the life of the Prophet and the origins of Islam, and “The Marriage of Ibrahim Pasha” (vol. 70, issue 421, Nov. 1892), an episode at the court of the famous Sultan Murad III.

## **Egypt**

This part will present the magazine articles dealing with the topic of Ancient Egypt and its culture. The following articles will be discussed: “The Sphinx’s Children” (vol. 5, issue 32, June 1860) and “Egypt under the Pharaohs” (vol. 45, issue 269, Mar. 1880).

“The Sphinx’s Children” is a horror tale by Rose Terry Cooke full of poetic descriptions of the Sphinx, the life in the Nile valley, the desert, and Egyptian mythology and mysterious symbols. “The Sphinx’s Children” is only one of many literary works based on the fascination with Ancient Egypt. Elements of Egyptian culture and well-known Egyptian images and symbols, the mummy for example, are to be found in various literary works. The idea of a mummy reviving from the dead was an essential element of many (horror) short stories in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, developed for example in Edgar Allan Poe’s “Some Words with a Mummy” (1845) or Louisa May Alcott’s “Lost in a Pyramid or the Mummy’s Curse” (1869).

“Egypt under the Pharaohs” is an article by Francis Henry Underwood, an assistant editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*. Although the history of Egypt can never be fully known, Underwood claims that its memorials are more profoundly interesting than the remains of any other ancient civilization,<sup>64</sup> and that’s why he praises Dr. Brugsch, celebrated authority on the subject of Egypt, for his comprehensive analysis of this ancient civilization, on which he built the article while using Dr. Brugsch’s knowledge of dynasties of Egyptian kings, gods and goddesses, various religious ceremonies, rituals from the Book of the Dead, mathematical knowledge of the Egyptians, construction of pyramids, temples, etc.

The ruins of Egypt, beyond all other on the planet, show grandeur of design with adequate skills and boundless energy in execution, and since the Egyptians were people with an overpowering desire for immortality, their buildings are the landmarks of their history, and the awe-inspiring sublimeness of these monuments

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<sup>64</sup> Francis Henry Underwood, “Egypt under the Pharaohs,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 45.269 (1880): 315, web, 21 March 2013.

is obviously one of the fundamental reasons for fascination of the Western world by Ancient Egypt and its culture.<sup>65</sup>

Articles presenting information about Ancient Egypt: “The Sphinx” (vol. 3, issue 20, June 1859), “Pharaohs, Fellahs, and Explorers,” “Three Essays on the History, Religion, and Art of Ancient Egypt” and “In Cairo” (vol. 69, issue 415, May 1892), “To Cleopatra’s Mummy” (vol. 81, issue 485, Mar. 1898).

## **China**

This part will explore the topic of China and its culture as presented in the articles of *The Atlantic Monthly*, particularly in: “Confucius and the Chinese; or, the Prose of Asia” (vol. 24, issue 143, Sept. 1869) and “A Pilgrimage to the Great Buddhist Sanctuary of North China” (vol. 75, issue 452, June 1895).

“Confucius and the Chinese; or, the Prose of Asia” is an article written by James Freeman Clarke, an American theologian and writer. Clarke qualifies the Chinese mind as prosaic and the writing of Confucius and his successors as prose, because in comparison with the romances of Arabia and the poetry of Persia, there is no more aspiration, no more flights of fancy, but the worship of order, decency, propriety and peaceful commonplaces; in fact, everything in writings of Confucius is calm, serious, and moral.<sup>66</sup> In the article, China is described as a very unusual and interesting country and Chinese customs as completely different from ours, but the most essential peculiarity, according to the author, is the high value, which they attribute to knowledge.<sup>67</sup> It is therefore obvious that every scholar in China is obliged to know the whole system of Confucius and all his moral doctrines. The government in China is based on literary aristocracy and the permanence of Chinese political institutions is believed to result from the influence of literary class, since literature is naturally conservative and knowledge is the road to power and wealth.<sup>68</sup> According to the author, Confucius is the most important among teachers and masterminds worldwide, his influence greater than that of any other man, except for the writers of the Bible, and his reverence for parents, love of order, regard for

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<sup>65</sup> Francis Henry Underwood, “Egypt under the Pharaohs,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 45.269 (1880): 316–320, web, 21 March 2013.

<sup>66</sup> James Freeman Clarke, “Confucius and the Chinese; or, the Prose of Asia,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 24.143 (1869): 336, web, 21 March 2013.

<sup>67</sup> James Freeman Clarke, “Confucius and the Chinese; or, the Prose of Asia,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 24.143 (1869): 336, web, 21 March 2013.

<sup>68</sup> James Freeman Clarke, “Confucius and the Chinese; or, the Prose of Asia,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 24.143 (1869): 340, 341, web, 21 March 2013.

knowledge, and deference for literary men are fundamental principles underlying all Chinese institutions. To conclude, Clarke states that Chinese might not be a truly poetical nation, but they enjoy “a degree of order, peace, and comfort unknown elsewhere in Asia.”<sup>69</sup>

“A Pilgrimage to the Great Buddhist Sanctuary of North China” is an article written by William W. Rockhill, famous American diplomat, who spent many years in China and visited among others the most famous shrine commonly known as the Great Wu-t'ai Shan. The article describes not only the above mentioned sanctuary and the situation in China concerning religion, but also the inspiring journey of the author throughout China, the boredom of Peking and other big cities in comparison with the beauties of the countryside, the Great Wall and various impressive monuments, the relations of Chinese with the nomadic Mongols and other nations, and furthermore, it presents a subtle analysis of the traditional Chinese culture from the point of view of an American. In the article, Rockhill describes the different mentality and behavior of Chinese in comparison with the people in the Western world, their kindness and hospitality in everyday lives, and humility when it comes to religion and knowledge of the ancestors.

Further articles about China, its culture and relations with the rest of the world: “Up the Grand Canal of China” (vol. 34, issue 203, Sept. 1874) depicting the wonders of China in an epistolary form, “China and the United States” (vol. 59, issue 355, May 1887) dealing with the Chinese question and the relationship between the two countries, “China and the Western World” (vol. 77, issue 462, Apr. 1896) written by Lafcadio Hearn<sup>70</sup> and dealing with the relations between China, Japan, and the Western world represented by United States.

## **Japan**

The magazine articles discussed in this part deal with Japan and the cultural features specific for this country. Two representative articles will be analyzed: “Japan” (vol. 5, issue 32, June 1860) and “The Japanese Smile” (vol. 71, issue 427, May 1893).

“Japan” describes the cultural background of the country, which after more than two hundred years of seclusion opened to the Western world and became a topic of universal interest, because of the mystery, with which they surrounded

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<sup>69</sup> James Freeman Clarke, “Confucius and the Chinese; or, the Prose of Asia,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 24.143 (1869): 348, web, 21 March 2013.

<sup>70</sup> International writer, reporter, translator, and teacher, who lived in Japan and widely traveled in China.

themselves, and the extraordinary habits and character of the people. The author claims that common people in the United States make only a little distinction between China and Japan, while on close examination, the imagined attractions of China disappear and the old interest in this country is transformed to its worthier neighbor.<sup>71</sup> According to the author, the origin of Japan is obscure, and the date of the settlement of the islands unknown. Its existence was first announced to the Western world by Marco Polo, returning from his Asiatic travels; after that various European nations (the Dutch, the Portuguese, the English) were trading with Japan, but this liberal period ended in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, because of the efforts to impose changes, which was unbearable for the conservatively thinking Japanese. The period of seclusion partly ended in the 1858 and the United States were the first to enter into commercial relationship with Japan, which is, according to the author, extremely beneficial, because Japan is a noble civilization with traditional culture, immense resources and exceptional knowledge.<sup>72</sup>

“The Japanese Smile” is an article by Lafcadio Hearn, who belongs to the permanent contributors of *The Atlantic Monthly*, focusing on the topics of the Orient, especially on the traditional cultures of Japan and China. In the article, Hearn tries to disprove the vague belief that the East is more serious than the West. He claims that Japanese are far less serious than generally believed, and happier, perhaps the happiest people in the civilized world.<sup>73</sup> Nevertheless, the Japanese smile is probably the reason for mutual misunderstanding. Whereas the Japanese speak of the “angry faces” of the foreigners, the foreigners speak with strong contempt of the “Japanese smile” which they suspect to signify insincerity, but there is neither defiance nor hypocrisy in the smile; Japanese simply smile under extraordinary circumstances – in moments of pain, shame, disappointment.<sup>74</sup>

The key to the mystery of the most unaccountable smile is Japanese politeness, the smile is regulated by etiquette and it is a small detail of courtesy, because to look seriously or even unhappy is considered very rude in Japan.<sup>75</sup> Lafcadio Hearn concludes the article with a statement that Japanese, those “gentle,

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<sup>71</sup> Anon., “Japan,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 5.32 (1860): 722, web, 21 March 2013.

<sup>72</sup> Anon., “Japan,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 5.32 (1860): 730–733, web, 21 March 2013.

<sup>73</sup> Lafcadio Hearn, “Japanese Smile,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 71.427 (1893): 634, web, 21 March 2013.

<sup>74</sup> Lafcadio Hearn, “Japanese Smile,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 71.427 (1893): 635, 636, web, 21 March 2013.

<sup>75</sup> Lafcadio Hearn, “Japanese Smile,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 71.427 (1893): 640, web, 21 March 2013.

kindly, sweet-hearted folk, who smile at life, love, and death alike, are the best people in the world to live among.”<sup>76</sup>

Selected magazine articles presenting the fascination with the Japanese culture: “A Japanese Doctor and his Works” (vol. 28, issue 170, Dec. 1871) describing the traditional Japanese medicine, “The Genius of Japanese Civilization” (vol. 76, issue 456, Oct. 1895), another of Lafcadio Hearn’s articles dealing with Japan, and “Out of the Street: Japanese Folk-Songs” (vol. 78, issue 467, Sep. 1896) presenting several folk songs as one of the typical features of Japan.

#### **4.4 Development of the Presented Topics**

The articles and reviews of the books of travels dealing with or related to the fascination with the East presented in the selected magazines were quite similar as for the geographical areas of the East they described, so was the frequency of the particular topics in the magazines. The most discussed of the Eastern cultures in all the magazines was the Islamic culture, closely followed by the traditional culture of China. The amount of articles dealing with Japan and India was more or less the same, thus securing them the third place. The fourth place undoubtedly belongs to Ancient Egypt and its antiquities. From time to time, the topics related to the Holy Land and namely Jerusalem appeared in the selected magazines, but usually as part of longer articles dealing with Arabia, whose authors visited Palestine in the course of their travels and mentioned it mostly for comparison.

Whereas the interest in the Muslim world and China was quite constant throughout the century, the fascination with Japan was more visible in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century after the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and Japan was signed. On the other hand, articles concerning Ancient Egypt began to be popular much earlier, in the 1820s and 1830s, due to the publication of Champollion’s translation of Rosetta Stone hieroglyphs (1822).

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<sup>76</sup> Lafcadio Hearn, “Japanese Smile,” *The Atlantic Monthly* 71.427 (1893): 642, web, 21 March 2013.

## 5. Conclusion

This MA thesis explored the thematic structure of American periodicals in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It discussed the selection and presentation of particular themes and the development of the public opinion related to these themes presented in the magazine articles of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, *The North American Review*, and *The Atlantic Monthly*. Two major themes/topics were selected and analyzed based on the criterion of frequency, i.e. that this MA thesis dealt with themes that were present in a significant number of issues in all the three magazines for an extensive period of time. Two frequently discussed themes arising from the thematic analysis of more than three hundred and fifty volumes (which approximately equals to one thousand six hundred issues) were the social status and role of women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the fascination of the American writers/readers with different cultures, especially with the East.

The major topics presented in the articles dealing with women were quite similar in all the three selected magazines. Women and the miscellaneous issues related to them were primarily discussed with respect to the private sphere, i.e. the marital life, family, and household. The magazine articles from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century focused especially on the difference between men and women (mainly from the point of view of psychology); the role of both married and unmarried women in the society; and last but not least on the duties of a woman as loving and selfless wife and caring mother.

Furthermore, many of the magazines in the 19<sup>th</sup> century regularly published articles advising men how to choose a suitable wife, and also articles advising women how to manage the household. The magazines were not only publishing the matter-of-fact articles and essays about the substantial differences between men and women, but also miscellaneous short stories, which even if they were written in a lighter mood, still presented the female characters as fragile and submissive creature that should be kept in tranquility of the home.

Nevertheless, the thematic structure of the selected magazines substantially changed with time, which may be nicely demonstrated on the topics concerning women. The theme of women and womanhood in general was developing together with the development of feminism, and the focus of the magazine articles was

slowly shifting from the issues of marriage, household duties, and the presentation of an ideal woman towards the more important issues of women's education, property rights, working conditions, and suffrage.

As for *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, the articles dealing with the themes related to women were largely represented. In the first decades after the magazine was founded, there was at least one article, essay or a short story in each issue dealing with the above mentioned topics of marriage, the role of a woman in the society etc., sometimes even two or three of them. All of them presenting women as inferior to men. However, with spreading of the emancipation ideas, the prejudiced articles and short stories presenting women and men as unequal were less and less common. By the end of the century, these articles were no more to be found, and the focus slowly changed from the description of an ideal woman to the actual problems of women such as education, suffrage, and property rights. Nevertheless, even in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the magazine still published from time to time the short stories, which pictured women in a stereotypical way.

In *The North American Review*, the theme of womanhood was often omitted in the beginning and the articles dealing with the women's question were not very frequent until the 1870s. However, in the two last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the topics dealing with the women's issues (especially education, employment, and suffrage) were very frequent; there was at least one article in every other issue, and sometimes *The North American Review* published the whole series dealing with the progressive topics such as for instance the divorce. The topic of divorce was highly discussed since the 1880s. In contrast to *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, there were almost no articles advising man how to find an ideal wife or articles advising women how to take care of the household and the family. Furthermore, the articles in *The North American Review* were mostly written in more pragmatic and matter-of-fact style.

In the comparison with the other two magazines, *The Atlantic Monthly* was considerably poorer as for the articles dealing with the women's issues. Until the late 1860's there were only few articles and essays concerning women, however in the last three decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the magazine articles dealing with women's suffrage, labor, and education were more and more common. The distribution of topics was quite similar to *The North American Review* and



differed from *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* in not publishing the advising articles for men and women. Furthermore, *The Atlantic Monthly* differed from the other two magazines in one important point, it frequently published reviews of books, essays, short stories, and poetry written by female authors (e.g. Margaret Fuller, Nora Perry, Harriet H. Robinson, Julia Ward Howe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, etc.), which also marked a significant difference between the first and the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The next major topic presented in this MA thesis was fascination of the Americans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the Eastern countries, which was explored solely within the scope of its manifestation in the media, in particular in the magazines selected for the close reading and thematic analysis presented in this MA thesis. The interest of the nineteenth-century readers in the Eastern cultures was immense primarily because the transfer of cultural elements from the East to the West (and vice versa) has a long tradition.

The magazine articles, essays, sketches and reviews of the books of travels dealing with or related to the fascination with the East published in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, *The North American Review*, and *The Atlantic Monthly* were quite similar as for the geographical areas of the East they described, and so was the frequency of the particular topics in the selected magazines. The most discussed and admired of the Eastern cultures in all the magazines was the Islamic culture, closely followed by the traditional culture of China. The amount of articles and sketches dealing with Japan and India was more or less the same, thus securing them the third place. The fourth place undoubtedly belongs to Ancient Egypt and its antiquities. From time to time, the topics related to the Holy Land and namely Jerusalem appeared in the selected magazines, but usually as part of longer articles dealing with Arabia, whose authors visited Palestine in the course of their travels and mentioned it mostly for comparison.

Whereas the interest in the Muslim world and China was quite constant throughout the century, the fascination with Japan was more visible in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century after the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and Japan was signed. On the other hand, articles concerning Ancient Egypt began to be popular much earlier, in the 1820s and 1830s, due to the publication of Champollion's translation of Rosetta Stone hieroglyphs (1822).

The two topics selected on the basis of the thematic analysis of the magazine articles were interconnected in several points. First point was the frequency. Although the magazines published miscellaneous articles and essays dealing with various topics from the spheres of culture, literature, society, politics, etc., the women's question and the fascination with the East were among the most frequent comprehensive topics published continuously for an extensive period of time.

Moreover, both the topics were very complex, penetrating to all the spheres of the public life, thus the women's question was not only the matter of politics (suffrage) and society (the role of women, education), but also the matter of literature (female authors), etc. The same applies to topic of the fascination with the East; the authors of the articles dealing with this fascination did not only admire and describe the culture of the Eastern countries, but also the political situation, literature (mythology, traditional narratives), religion, architecture, and various aspects of the life in the East. The most discussed difference in comparison with the Western world was the Eastern hospitality and kindness, and for many writers surprisingly advanced state of civilization and the deep knowledge and humility of the people in the Orient.

Another interesting fact is that the topic of the East was related to the topic of women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the general role of a woman in the society, because the travelers/writers frequently described, analyzed, and compared the position of women in the Eastern and Western civilizations. The women in the Islamic culture were described as inferior beings, living kind of a fairy tale life in harems, whereas Japanese and Chinese women were described as timid and hard-working, but once again inferior to men, which demonstrates that the status of women in the East and the West was not as different as generally supposed.

## 6. Summary

Tato diplomová práce zkoumá tématickou strukturu amerických periodik 19. století, konkrétně tématickou strukturu těchto časopisů: *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* (1850–1899), *The North American Review* (1815–1900) a *The Atlantic Monthly* (1857–1901). Tato práce se soustředí především na výběr a prezentaci jednotlivých témat a na názory veřejnosti ve spojitosti s nimi. Tato diplomová práce zkoumá a analyzuje dvě základní témata – roli a postavení žen v 19. století a fascinaci východními kulturami.

Témata, která se objevovala ve spojitosti s ženami, byla ve všech vybraných časopisech velmi podobná. Ženy a obecné pojetí ženství bylo probíráno především z pohledu soukromého života, tj. manželství, rodiny a domácnosti. Články z první poloviny 19. století se zaměřovaly zejména na rozdíl mezi mužem a ženou, na pozici vdaných a svobodných žen ve společnosti, a také na roli ženy jako manželky a matky. Dále byly v časopisech 19. století publikovány články radící mužům jak najít vhodnou ženu a také články radící ženám jak se starat o domácnost a rodinu. V tehdejších časopisech nevycházely pouze věcné články, týkající se rozdílů mezi muži a ženami, ale také povídky, které často prezentovaly ženy jako křehké a poddajné bytosti.

Nicméně tématická struktura vybraných časopisů se v průběhu století značně změnila, což je dobře viditelné právě na tématu žen. Téma ženství a jeho pojetí se vyvíjelo spolu s vývojem feminizmu, a zaměření článků se pomalu přesouvalo od manželství, povinností v domácnosti a popisu ideální ženy k důležitějším otázkám, jako jsou například vzdělání, pracovní podmínky a právo žen volit.

Množství článků, zabývajících se ženami, které vyšlo v *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, bylo značné. Minimálně jeden článek, esej či povídka v každém čísle, někdy i dva a více. V prvních desetiletích od založení časopisu se články soustředily především na téma manželství a roli ženy jako manželky a matky. Nicméně spolu s rozšířením myšlenek emancipace se změnilo i zaměření článků, které se postupně začaly zabývat otázkami volebního práva a vzdělání žen.

Na rozdíl od předešlého časopisu se články o ženách v *The North American Review* zpočátku příliš neobjevovaly. To se změnilo v průběhu sedmdesátých let a v posledních třech desetiletích tohoto století bylo článků zabývajících se ženskou

otázkou velké množství. Týkaly se především vzdělání, pracovních příležitostí a volebního práva žen. V *The North American Review* vycházely také články pojednávající o pokrokových tématech, jako byl například rozvod. Narozdíl od *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* zde nevycházelo příliš mnoho článků, které by radily mužům jak nalézt vhodnou manželku. Obecně vzato byly články v *The North American Review* praktičtější a zabývaly se i ožehavými společenskými tématy.

Na rozdíl od dvou předchozích časopisů byly články o ženách v *The Atlantic Monthly* zpočátku mnohem méně frekventované, to se týkalo zejména období do šedesátých let 19. století. Poté se začaly objevovat články zabývající se vlastnickými právy žen a také jejich vzděláním. Skladba článků byla podobná jako u *The North American Review*. Dále byl časopis *The Atlantic Monthly* důležitý z hlediska publikování recenzí knih, esejů, povídek i poezie ženských autorek jako jsou například Margaret Fuller, Julia Ward Howe nebo Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Druhým tématem, o kterém se v této diplomové práci pojednává, je fascinace východními civilizacemi, která byla zkoumána výhradně z hlediska jejího projevu ve vybraných časopisech. Zájem čtenářů o východní země a kultury byl v 19. století nesmírný, především proto, že přenos kulturních prvků z Východu na Západ a opačně má dlouhou tradici.

Články, eseje i recenze cestopisných knih, v nichž se objevovala fascinace Východem, a které vycházely ve třech zmíněných časopisech, byly velmi podobné z hlediska zeměpisných oblastí, které popisovaly, a také z hlediska četnosti výskytu v jednotlivých časopisech. Nejobdivovanější z východních kultur byla kultura islámská, následovaná tradiční čínskou kulturou. Množství článků pojednávajících o Japonsku a Indii bylo téměř stejné, čímž si tyto dvě země zajistily pomyslné třetí místo. Čtvrté místo nepochybně patří Starověkému Egyptu a jeho památkám. Čas od času v časopisech vycházela také pojednání popisující Svatou zemi a konkrétně Jeruzalém, avšak většinou pouze jako součást rozsáhlejších článků, ve kterých autor uvádí Svatou zemi ve srovnání s kulturou arabského světa.

Zatímco zájem o tradiční islámskou a čínskou kulturu byl v průběhu 19. století neměnný, fascinace Japonskem byla v časopisech o mnoho zřejmější až v druhé polovině tohoto století, po podepsání japonsko-americké smlouvy o přátelství a obchodu v roce 1858. Na druhou stranu články zabývající se Starověkým Egyptem byly populární již ve dvacátých a třicátých letech 19. století. Za tento výrazný zájem vděčí Starověký Egypt především francouzskému

archeologovi a zakladateli egyptologie, J. F. Champollionovi, který v roce 1822 rozluštil hieroglyfy pomocí trojjazyčné Rosettské desky.

Dvě výše zmíněná témata, vybraná na základě tématické analýzy časopisových článků, mají několik společných znaků. Prvním z nich je četnost. I přesto, že se v časopisech objevovalo nepřeborné množství článků a esejů zabývajících se tématy z kultury, literatury i politiky, otázka postavení žen ve společnosti a otázka fascinace Východem patřila k nejdiskutovanějším tématům.

Navíc obě tato témata zasahovala do všech sfér veřejného života. Tak například ženská otázka nebyla záležitostí čistě politickou (volební práva) a společenskou (vzdělání), ale také záležitostí literární (ženské autorky). Stejně tak se autoři obdivující východní civilizace nezabývali pouze kulturou, ale také politickou situací, literaturou, mytologií, architekturou a různými aspekty každodenního života lidí na Východě.

Další zajímavostí je i fakt, že téma fascinace Východem a téma žen v 19. století je propojeno obecnou rolí žen ve společnosti, jelikož také cestovatelé a spisovatelé často popisovali, hodnotili a porovnávali postavení žen ve východních civilizacích. Tak například ženy v muslimských zemích jsou brány jako méněcenná stvoření, zato však žijí pohodlný, ba téměř pohádkový život v harémech, zatímco ženy v Japonsku a Číně jsou popisovány jako velmi pracovitě a pro společnost nepostradatelné, přesto však podřízené muži, což názorně demonstruje fakt, že postavení žen v 19. století bylo téměř shodné jak ve východním tak západním světě.

## 7. Bibliography

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## **Anotace**

Tato diplomová práce zkoumá tématickou strukturu amerických periodik 19. století, konkrétně tématickou strukturu těchto časopisů: *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* (1850–1899), *The North American Review* (1815–1900) a *The Atlantic Monthly* (1857–1901). Tato práce se soustředí především na výběr a prezentaci jednotlivých témat a na názory veřejnosti ve spojitosti s nimi. Tato diplomová práce zkoumá a analyzuje dvě základní témata – roli a postavení žen v 19. století a fascinaci východními kulturami.

## **Annotation**

This MA thesis explores the thematic structure of American periodicals in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in particular the thematic structure of the following magazines – *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* (1850–1899), *The North American Review* (1815–1900) and *The Atlantic Monthly* (1857–1901). It discusses the selection and presentation of the particular themes and the development of the public opinion related to them. This MA thesis explores and analyzes two major themes – the social status and role of women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the fascination of Americans with the East.