When wrongful attribution leads to bibliographic confusion: The case of Henry Man as ‘The Trifler’.

In 1777 George Cumberland wrote to his younger brother Richard of the burdens of working in an office:

"The necessary employment to earn a competency, create of themselves, more than I have Philosophy always to bear ... thus harrased [sic] I am drove sometimes almost to despair. I cannot quit those pursuits, which in my own esteem are well worthy the attention of a rational being, nor can I foresee a time when I shall be free in the uninterrupted pursuit of them. These ... circumstances have ... Injured my memory, and decreased my health." --- Cumberland Letters pp 137 – 138.

But Cumberland did not have to bear the irksome tedium of the office for long. In 1784 he had the good fortune of inheriting from a Mrs. Mole enough financial independence to resign his position at the Royal Exchange Assurance, never having to step foot in an office again. He made good use of the lengthy time allotted him, he died in 1848 aged 94, traveling the continent and introducing the ideas of Greek and Roman art to his fellow country men, as well as befriending William Blake, and coming up with the idea of establishing a national gallery.

Not nearly so fortunate, nor so productive, was George’s shorter-lived and much more obscure cousin, Henry Man (1744 –1799), who was forced to support himself and his family by dint of office work most of his life. At this he succeeded well enough to occupy the position of Deputy Secretary to the South Sea House; a post he held until his death aged 53.

There are few records of Henry Man’s life and character. The most extensive is found in the introduction to ‘The miscellaneous works, in verse and prose, of the late Henry Man’ (1803) [MWHM] posthumously published in 1803 where we gather from the editors’ introduction that as a child his:

‘... native genius, assisted by a retentive memory, soon raised him to the head of the upper class. His understanding was strong and vigorous, his conception quick, and the facility with which he accomplished whatever task was set him gave him a decided superiority over all his school-fellows.’

Although an obviously clever boy, his experience at school was not a happy one:

‘... the severity of the master for which the vivacity of the pupil was by no means adapted, forced him to quit the school at an earlier period than he otherwise would have done, and with a rooted disgust for all literary acquirements beyond the English language...’ [MWHM]
His school boy experience prompted Man to publish a series of essays entitled ‘Some cursory thoughts on learning’ which appeared in The Morning Chronicle between June and September of 1774. In these he strongly advocated allowing the natural genius of the child to flourish and express itself with minimal interference from the school master.

In 1760 Man, in spite of his obvious scholastic aptitude, was placed ‘... as a clerk in a respectable mercantile house in the city.’ [MWHM]. The need for early employment arose as a result of Henry’s father, John, abandoning his wife and five children.

Historians such as Clementina Black have speculated as to what may have caused Man senior to leave his family.

‘Mr. Man had disappeared - under what circumstances I have not the smallest idea, but in those days the press gangs, Algerian slavery and very indifferent postal facilities the fact was not necessarily by any means discreditable ...’ [Cumberland Letters]

The reason for John’s disappearance was neither so illogical nor so creditable for we know now that he had fled to Cardiff to avoid his debtors, which he succeeded doing until his death in 1783. Responsibility therefore devolved to Henry as the eldest son to provide for his mother and five siblings.

John Man’s desertion also had the effect of delaying George Cumberland’s ability to leave his office. The reason for this is to be found in the marriage settlement drawn up between George’s father, George Cumberland, and his mother Elizabeth Balchen. John Man had been appointed one of the trustees of the settlement along with Elizabeth’s uncle, Henry Balchen. After five years had elapsed since John Man was last heard of, the children of the marriage, the brothers Cumberland, attempted to have the trust broken and the monies released to them by the remaining trustee. However Henry Balchen could only act on this request if his niece, Mary Man (Elizabeth’s sister), were to declare herself a widow.

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1The editors of MHWM wrote that ‘...we have been prevented from inserting in this collection many valuable Essays, Letters, and Poems, which we are confident came from his pen, but, from this distance of time since their first public appearance, we have not been able to recover. ’ This perhaps explains why only fourteen of the original twenty ‘Lectures on Education’ essays were reprinted in MHWM. Recently, in 2001, the missing six have been recovered thanks to the use of microfilm that permitted a careful reading of the Morning Chronicle for 1774. Likewise between February and June of 1786 Man published five short essays in the Gentleman’s Magazine (Vol LVI), using his pseudonym ‘The Trifler’, although these essays were not reprinted in his ‘Miscellaneous Works’. 
Disappearing husbands were quite common in the eighteenth century and to accommodate this occurrence a statutory declaration could be made, after five years, by which an abandoned wife could declare herself widowed. But persuading Mrs. Man to do this would prove a daunting task for the Cumberland brothers. At one point George attempted to have his cousin John Man, son of John and Mary, persuade his mother to swear herself a widow:

‘... went this morning to Mile End to persuade Mrs. Man to oblige us by swearing etc. (John having told me, how he had now explained to her all we wanted and that she would comply). I met him just by the house and he went back with me to lend his assistance, but instead of agreeing, she broke out into complaints that I and my Mother had treated her with disrespect, in not calling on her, before letting her Uncle know etc., etc., and in the end bounced out of the Room, and John and I out of the House of course, I am much beholden to John for the pains he takes to serve us in this affair, and sorry it has rendered his time in London so disagreeable.’ [Cumberland Letters p. ]

Richard Cumberland in reply to the above wonders whether their aunt’s behavior may be:

‘... such that I cannot account for it in a more charitable way, than by supposing her a little disordered in the head.’ [Cumberland Letters, p.133].

The brothers’ failed attempts at breaking the trust under the marriage settlement were soon overtaken by events and Mrs. Mole’s legacy was all that was needed to set George free. Meanwhile his less fortunate cousin Henry remained in the counting house, but even so, he still managed to employ his leisure hours by writing:

‘...verses on every little occasion that offered, ... and from the facility with which he composed them, might almost have been considered an improvisator, indeed he was the readiest at an impromptu of any man we ever knew.’ [MWHM]

And, as a result of all this natural genius, improvisation and productivity, there was published in 1771:

‘... a small duodecimo volume called “The Trifler”, in which are many pieces of very considerable merit, but, having been circulated only among a few friends, are not so generally known as they deserve to be.’ [MWHM]

It was to prove an unfortunate use of ellipsis on the part of the editors of MWHM that the full title of ‘The Trifler’ was not spelled out as: ‘The muse in miniature, a series of moral miscellanies, humbly attempted by the Trifler’, or at least not to refer to it by some other means such as ‘The Muse in Miniature’.

Sir Leslie Stephen, in his monumental Dictionary of National Biography, deemed Henry Man worthy of mention, albeit slight, and included the fact that: “… in 1770 he published a small volume called ‘The Trifler’, containing essays of a slight character”.
Stephen, following the editors of MHWM, also refers to the ‘The muse in miniature’ as ‘The Trifler’. He has also made two slight errors. The first is the year and the second is that ‘The Trifler’ consisted only of poems. Of one of these, Thomas Frognal Dibdin writing many years after their publication commented:

‘...there is a short poem upon "Delicacy," which is, in parts, as original as it is sweet and tender.’

More than ten years after entering the counting-house, Henry finally managed to escape from London and for a brief time settled in Reading during the summer of 1775 where:

‘...he wrote many pleasing little poems for the amusement of his friends; but his principal work was a comi-tragedy of one act, called Cloacina, and published in 1775. This was a satire on some of the best writers of that time, in which the peculiarities of their styles were imitated with a fund of humour, and in harmony of verses that deserved a much better subject.’

Also in 1775 Man managed to produce a work entitled ‘Bentley, or the Rural Philosopher’ in which he: ‘... introduced many opinions peculiar to himself, in opposition to the general maxims of life.’ and which was translated the same year into the German as ‘Bentley, der Philosoph auf dem Lande: eine Erzählung.’

At the approach of winter 1776, Henry Man reluctantly returned to London, a place he had written about as follows:

It is not the Life of Nature, it is not the Life of learning, of Philosophy, it is not the Life of Heaven, but the sorry existence of Art, of Fraud, of Misery, of Riches, of Trade. And as the Eternal will judge one on the last Day, I think my Soul not safe in it.

Despite these fears Henry Man settled down in Fenchurch Street and in May the following year he married a young lady, Eleanor Thompson, on whom he had for a long while settled his affections. His cousin Richard writing to his bother George observed of the match that it was: ‘A good one -- because it is as equal as anything of this kind can be, 'tis a toss up which has the best of the Bargain’. [C. L. p. ]

However the marriage was not without its problems as this letter from Henry to his wife (Nellie) suggests:

When as a single man, I had no silver candlesticks to think of, no wife, no Peter, no possessions; I then slept well in all corners of the creation, and never troubled my head with home -- indeed, home was the least agreeable object of my thought at that time,

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2 Harvard’s copy is catalogued as: ‘CLOACINA Horace Walpole's copy, with his ms. date of acquisition "May 1st." ...& his identifications throughout ... in a volume with Walpole's arms on covers, his ms. table of contents inside front cover, and labeled on spine: Poems. Geo. 3. Vol. 14.’ Walpole’s ‘identifications’ take the form of filling in the blanks of the names of various public figures that Man lampoons.
though now, with reason, I confess it to be the greatest. As it is, I think much of what I enjoy, and much more of what I have left behind me. Sometimes I want to shut the front door, sometimes to dance my boy, sometimes to kiss my wife, and sometimes to smoke my darling pipe in the nursery. Well, be it so. Perhaps our present anxieties bring future profit; at least I think, with the Poet, that we live, my dear, too much together, and this tour will remedy the evil.

With wife and child it became even more necessary for him to fix upon a living and so in 1780 he accepted an appointment in the South Sea House, and was ‘... the same year elected Deputy Secretary; so high was his character he had in so short a period obtained, as well among the governors of the house in general.’ [MWHM]

It was while working at the South Sea House as young clerk that Charles Lamb came upon Henry Man whom he later recalled in his ‘Essays of Elia’:

‘Whom next shall we summon from the dusty dead, in whom common qualities become uncommon? Can I forget thee, Henry Man, the wit, the polished man of letters, the author, of the South Sea House? who never enteredst thy office in a morning, or quittedst it in mid-day -- (what didst thou in an office ?) -- without some quirk that left a sting! Thy gibes and thy jokes are now extinct, or survive but in two forgotten volumes, which I had the good fortune to rescue from a stall in Barbican, not three days ago, and found thee terse, fresh, epigrammatic, as alive. Thy wit is a little gone by in these fastidious days -- thy topics are staled by the "new-born gauds" of the time -- but great thou used to be in Public Ledgers, and in Chronicles, upon Chatham, and Shelburne, and Howe, and Burgoyne, and Clinton, and the war which ended in the tearing from Great Britain her rebellious colonies, -- and Keppel, and Wilkes, and Sawbridge, and Bull, and Dunning, and Pratt, and Richmond, -- and such small politics³.

Thomas Frognal Dibdin encountered Man when Dibdin was a young boy boarding at a school in Reading run by Henry’s brother John. Dibdin writes in his 'Reminiscences' (pp. 54-55) as follows:

My master [John Man] happened to give me a copy book which possessed (as it was then the fashion) a picture, or engraving, more taking than that of my comrades, I instantly set about copying it but was too poor to have any thing beyond a slate pencil [...]. My master's brother, a very original character, Mr.

³ In a letter dated 20th January 1825 to Sarah Hutchinson, Charles Lamb wrote: “I have lately picked up an epigram which pleased me. Two Nobel Earls, whom I quote / Some folks might call me Sinner / The one invented half a coat / The other half a dinner / The plan was good, as some will say / And fitted to console one / Because in this poor starving day / Few can afford a whole one.” This epigram can be found in MWHM, and hence in one of the ‘two forgotten volumes’ that Lamb refers to as having bought in the Barbican in the Essays of Elia. (The two Earls refer to Spencer and Sandwich. The Earl of Spencer around 1795 popularized a short jacket for men which was quickly modified for women.)
Henry Man, Secretary of the South Sea House, came now and then from London to pay us a visit. He used to notice me very much knowing the peculiarity of my situation; and seeing me fond of drawing, asked me if I should like to have some colours? I jumped with joy at the proposal, and asked for blue, red, and yellow.

Dibdin then goes on to note that:

This original character [Henry Man] lived in Fenchurch Street. He was rather a wag than a wit - but was very much above the ordinary inhabitants of his locality. He had a small, dark, brilliant eye what Thomson calls a “roguish twinkling, in each eye” and a dry, but droll tone of voice. His pen was in constant exercise, upon topics not always connected with matters of the "South Sea." The speculators in lotteries at a time when Bonaparte was elbowing all the neighbouring potentates used to employ him to write lottery puffs, to be placarded in large letters in the streets.

Not permitted to give free reign to his talents in his own lifetime, one might expect the catalogue record of Man’s literary output to properly reflect what little in the end he was permitted to produce. But, unfortunately, the libraries of the world such as the British Library, Harvard, Princeton, and others have all consistently failed to catalog Man’s works correctly, and our purpose here is to finally set the record straight.

As we have seen, Man published in 1771 *The muse in miniature...*, a slim volume of poems containing in its title Man’s pseudonym, *The Trifler* (echoing Johnson’s ‘Rambler’) and which the editors of MHWM and Leslie Stephen referred to as just *The Trifler*. For this work there exists only one catalogue record, Princeton library’s, where the author is wrongly recorded as Henry Maun. Since many of the poems that appeared in this collection were later republished posthumously in MHWM, there is no doubt that Henry Man was the author of the *The muse in miniature...*.

In 1775 a book was published entitled: *The trifler: or, a ramble among the wilds of fancy, the works of nature, and the manners of men...*4, a somewhat favorable review of which appeared in The Critical Review or Annals of Literature by a Society of Gentlemen in 1777:

‘Sensible of the taste of the times, the author of the Trifler has clothed his reflections in a pleasing variety of little incidents which keep the reader's attention awake.’

and the review concludes with:

‘Among the numerous Volumes of amusement which fill our Monthly catalog we seldom have met with any such so much merit the Trifler’.

Having published two volumes of the *The trifler; or a ramble...* in 1775 and a further two in 1777, the author of those volumes permitted over fifteen years to elapse before

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4 This book was translated into the German and published in Leipzig in 1778 as ‘Der Tandler oder Streifereyen in die Wildnisse de Einbilungs-kraft, in die Werk der Natur und menschliche Sitten.’
once more publishing, in 1791, a work by the title: "The history of Sir Geoffrey Restless, and his brother Charles. By the author of the trifler: or a ramble ...".

In the preface to 'Sir Geoffrey Restless' the author takes great solace in 'The Critical Review's' favorable notice of his earlier work ('The Trifler') and so he draws extensively upon it in his Preface to the 'Sir Geoffrey Restless' as follows:

"He [The author of 'The Trifler'] displays an uniformly generous heart, free from prejudices, and endowed with a great fund of sensibility. The beauties of nature afford him rare pleasure, and always difficult, his breast a happy serenity; whilst the love of mankind gives life and vigour to all his pursuits, and endears his maxims to the virtuous reader."

Greatly encouraged by this review, 'the author of the Trifler' produced in 1791 not one novel but two; the second bearing the somewhat odd title 'Flights of Inflatus; or, the sallies, stories, and adventures of a wild-goose philosopher. By the author of The Trifler'. Note that the titles of both of these works ('Sir Geoffrey... ' and 'Flights of inflatus') contain the phrase 'the author of The Trifler', an obvious reference back to the earlier works of 1775 and 1777.

It is clear then that who ever authored the works in the years 1775, 1777 ('The Trifler: or, a ramble ...') and in 1791 ('Sir Geoffrey Restless’ and ‘Flights of inflatus’) was one and the same person but who was he? Was he Henry Man the author of ‘The Muse in Miniature’ and whose pseudonym, according to Halcket and Laing, was ‘The Trifler’?

The answer should lie among the records of the catalogs of the great libraries and indeed a search of the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) reveals that Henry Man is listed as the author of first two works ‘The Trifler; or, a ramble ...’ and ‘Sir Geoffrey Restless’. The author of ‘Flights of inflatus’ is catalogued circuitously as: 'The author of the trifler' but with no reference to Henry Man. It is safe to conclude from these records that Henry Man is the intended author of each of the three works.

However, there is one library catalog record, namely Harvard’s, which questions the attribution of Henry Man as the author of Sir Geoffrey Restless. A note on the back of the catalogue record (the actual physical card) for that work reads:

"Erroneously attributed to Henry Man, who was also author of a work with title ‘The trifler’.”

The note goes on to state that the rightful attribution of authorship for ‘Sir Geoffrey restless...’ is Edward Nicklin (1775 – 1791).

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5 Halcket and Laing ‘Dictionary of anonymous and pseudonymous English literature
6 ESTC, the English Short Title Catalogue, contains bibliographic records for books, pamphlets, broadsides, songs and ephemera (such as advertisements) published in Great Britain or her dependencies in any languages and for materials published in English published throughout the world from 1473-1800
The authority given for Harvard’s note is John Langford’s book ‘A Century of Birmingham Life’ published in 1868 in which, Langford presents some of the figures whose contributions to Art and Industry have promoted Birmingham as an industrial and cultural center during the course of the eighteenth century. But not all of those that Langford mentions are held up for praise, instead ridicule and scorn are reserved for some. One of these less fortunate scions of Birmingham is Edward Nicklin, who receives Langford’s most cutting approbation:

During this period Mr. Edward Nicklin published four volumes of a work under the title the “Trifler; or a Ramble among the Wilds of Fancy, the Works of Nature and the Manners of Men”. This work is now very scarce. This is not a subject of regret as it is utterly worthless. The author had a rather elevated idea of his own abilities; for he charges five shillings a volume for his very thin book; each volume could be read in less than half an hour, and ill repays the reader for that small space of time. Portions of the work read like the productions of a lunatic, and not of an inspired lunatic. One short, very short extract may be given as a sample of Mr. Nicklin's power, or rather weakness. After writing of the divisions of a day and its meals, he continues “These words, like the pulsations of the heart, beat as regular as a clock; except in those variations which are discernible in both. __ Now in the lazy they are slow --- and sure ---(breakfast --- dinner --- supper --- and bed). In the miserable they are at unequal distances; and are doubtful (breakfast ------ dinner --- supper --- etc). But in the busy and the merry, they are as quick as thought (breakfast, dinner, supper – breakfast --- dinner --- supper) – O there is hardly room for bed to creep in at any rate! --- except now and then, by way of amusement, or so ---.” We regret to have to say it of a local work, but with the greatest desire to say a good word, for this early specimen of Birmingham literature we have found it impossible. To his other faults Mr. Nicklin adds that of an indelicacy and his attempts at wit are almost as bad as bad can be. After a bit of lugubrious reflection he concludes one of his volumes with this sentence “God bless me! this looks so much like a dying speech, I don’t half like it” We are afraid that his readers would have liked it better had it been the dying speech of Mr. Nicklin himself. (Volume 1 p. 253)

Further support of Nicklin’s candidacy as author comes from his relationship to the Birmingham area. A search of baptismal records on the International Genealogical Index has produced an Edward Nicklin baptized on 18th October 1732, whose place of birth is given as Sutton Coldfields in Warwickshire. In all three works discussed above the author makes frequent reference to local landmarks around the area of Sutton Coldfields, Birmingham, and Warwickshire. Sir Geoffrey is a local Warwickshire knight. Henry Man, on the other hand, diligently at work in the South Sea House in the City of London, was born and raised a Londoner and probably did not travel extensively enough to write works of fiction that included reference to details of the countryside around Birmingham.

As we have seen, whoever wrote ‘Sir Geoffrey... ’ also wrote ‘Flights of inflatus’ and who ever wrote those two works also wrote ‘The Trifler ...’. Assuming that Harvard is correct to disassociate Henry Man from ‘Sir Geoffrey Restless’, then all three titles attributed to Henry Man in the ESTC must now not be and instead Edward Nicklin’s name should be restored as rightful author of all three works.
It can now be seen how both the editors of MHWM and Sir Leslie Stephen when referring to the ‘Muse in Miniature’ as ‘The Trifler’ may have contributed to the general confusion, causing others to believe that they were referring to ‘The Trifler; or a ramble ...’ or perhaps even the two other works ‘by the author of the Trifler’. Added to this are Halcket and Laing’s entry for Henry Man, not Nicklin, in their dictionary as ‘The Trifler’.

Given Langford’s damning and dismissive comments, perhaps it is not regrettable that Man did not author the three works associated with him. At the same time one can reasonably expect to have Man’s first work ‘The Muse in Miniature’ properly attributed to him and thereby the record will finally be set straight.

The confusion between the author who calls himself ‘The Trifler’ (Henry Man) and the author whose work ‘The Trifler’ and subsequent works ‘by the author of the Trifler’ (Edward Nicklin) requires extensive recataloging of the records for these works. Unfortunately Harvard’s note on the back of its card catalog has not made its way to the ESTC where Harvard’s record for ‘Sir Geoffrey …’ still indicates Henry Man as author, although HOLIS has made the break. Even Edward Nicklin’s own hometown library, the Birmingham Central Library, records Henry Man as author of its copy of ‘Sir Geoffrey Restless’.

The confusion reigning among the catalog records of the various library holdings of Man and Nicklin’s works is perhaps understandable given the fact that even in Man’s own life time when he wrote:

‘... it was in a playful strain, to please himself and a circle of friends, without study or previous meditation; and as he seldom corrected any of his works, so when they were committed to press, he gave himself no more concern for them. ...There are many Jeux d’Esprit now wandering in the world without a parent, of which he was the author ...[and]...we have heard many persons repeat Epigrams which we knew to be his, and heard them attributed to others. [...] He chose to be unknown as an Essayist.’

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7 This may well have been written in anticipation of criticism the editors expected when they published the ‘Miscellaneous Works’ [MWHM. In a letter dated 5 October 1803 Henry Man (Henry Man’s nephew) wrote to George Cumberland ‘I entirely agree with you in your remarks on my late uncle’s works and the only circumstance to be urged in justification of the intrusion of so many of his most trifling pieces is a very great want of matter to complete the volumes. .... if we had not had recourses to their[the subscribers to MHWM] trifling materials which we found scattered in a variety of places we should not have been able to make up two volumes as we did. At all events it was a means of stopping one plan of complaint’
**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WORKS OF HENRY MAN (1747 - 1799).**

1771. *The muse in miniature, a series of moral miscellanies, humbly attempted by the Trifler.* Published in London and printed for the author by E. Moore, No 16, Old Broad Street, Consisting of viii, 146 pages. Verse. [On Microfilm ‘The Eighteenth Century’ reel 8859, no. 09].

1775. *Cloacina; a comi-tragedy.* Published in London and printed for George Kearsly, (A dramatic satire on various literary and political figures, including Johnson and Chesterfield). [On Microfilm ‘The Eighteenth Century’ reel 1004, no. 1]. (Note the handwriting on this copy is that of Horace Walpole).

1775. *Mr. Bentley, the rural philosopher: a tale.* In two volumes. Published in London and printed for W. Goldsmith.

1775. Bentley, der Philosoph auf dem Lande: eine Erzählung. Published in Leipzig, Germany Bey [By] Weidmanns Erben und Reich, 284 p. (A copy of this is at Harvard University on microfilm).

1777. *Mr. Bentley: or, the rural philosopher. A tale.* In two volumes... Published in Dublin and printed for W. Whitestone, (successor to the late Mr. Ewing), 274 Pages. [On Microfilm ‘The Eighteenth Century’ reel 3516, no. 02].

1780. *The elders: A farce in two acts* [41] leaves. [On Microfiche ‘Three centuries of drama: English, 1737-1800’ by Readex]. (Also in our possession is a photocopy copy of the original handwritten version which was made by the Huntington Library).

1797. Henry Man is supposed to have had some articles published in Volume One (1797) of the following journal: *The Spirit of the public journals: Being an impartial selection of the most exquisite essays and jeux d'esprits, principally prose, that appear in the newspapers and other publications.* Published in London, and printed for James Ridgway, Vol. 1 (1797). 8

1802. *The miscellaneous works, in verse and prose, of the late Henry Man.* Published in London by J. Nichols, 1802.

**The following items are about Henry Man and/or his works.**

*Dibdin, Thomass Frognall; Reminiscences of a Literary Life.* Published: London J. Major, 1836. (Describes Henry Man as ‘more of a wag than a wit’).

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8 This publication continued up to Volume 18 (1814); a new series began with Volume 1 (1823)- Volume 3 (1825). The title varies slightly. Publication was suspended 1815-1822. The 1st series (1797-1814) was edited by Stephen Jones, the new series by C. M. Westmacott, illustrated by George and Robert Cruikshank and others.)


Location Register of English Literary Manuscripts and letters: Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, Volume II, K-Z. Edited by David C. Sutton. Published by the British Library, 1995. Pages 624-625. (Refers to two letters from Henry Man to William Pitt the Younger and one to Walter Sterling held by the Public Records Office in London (PRO 30/8/155/2/172-175). Copies of these may be got through the PRO). We have not got a hold of these yet.

Biographica Dramatica; or, a companion to the playhouse: containing historical and critical memoirs, and original anecdotes of British and Irish dramatic writers .... Vol. 1, Part 1 (Reprinted by AMS Press of New York in 1966) pages 431-452. Contains quite a detailed description of the Man himself, his life and works based entirely on The Introduction of MWHS.)

America in English Fiction (1760-1800): The influence of the American revolution. By Robert Bechtold Heilman. Published in Baton Rouge, Louisiana by the Louisiana State University Press, 1937. (This work makes brief references to Edward Niklin's 'The History of Sir Geoffrey Restless ...' and 'Flights of Inflatus' which are wrongly attributed to Henry Man. It is somewhat abstract and scholarly. Pages 267 and pages 411-414.


Works attributed to Henry Man but are NOT by him.

The following are attributed to Henry Man but in fact were written by Edward Nicklin. The British Library (and many others) catalog ‘The Trifler’ and the other works listed below as by Henry Man, but they are all the product of another writer, Edward Nicklin. 1775. The trifler: or, a ramble among the wilds of fancy, the works of nature, and the manners of men ... Vols. 1 and 2. Published in London and printed for R. Baldwin, 1775-77. Notes: Vols. 1 and 2.

1777 The trifler: or, a ramble … Vols. 3 and 4 Published in London and printed for R. Baldwin.


1791. The history of Sir Geoffrey Restless, and his brother Charles. By the author of the Trifler. Published in Birmingham and printed by E. Piercy, for W. Lowndes, London. [On Microfilm ‘The Eighteenth Century’ reel 3517, no. 07].
1791. Flights of Inflatus; or, the sallies, stories, and adventures of a wild-goose philosopher. By the author of The trifler. Published in London and printed for C. Stalker and sold by J. Holl, & W. Smart, Worcester; Sharp, Warwick; Walford, Stratford; Luckman, Coventry; Sandford, Shrewsbury; and Swinney, Birmingham, Two Volumes. [On Microfilm ‘The Eighteenth Century’ reel 65, no. 4]

(Note: The Critical Review or Annals of Literature by A Society of Gentlemen', London, Volume 44, 1777, contains an anonymous review of ‘The Trifler: or a ramble among the Wilds of Fancy ... ’ page 64.)