hazel@thebetteredit.com thebetteredit.com

Specialist editorial services for history and genealogy

With three decades' worth of genealogical research and writing experience plus a deep interest in British history, I can polish your research outputs, tidy your exhibition catalogue, help you to tell your family's story, or advise on how to present academic and genealogical references. I particularly welcome commissions in art history, fashion history or family history.

Core services

- Proofreading (*a last thorough check for text and layout glitches*)
- Copyediting (*meticulous technical editing for consistency and clarity*)
- Line editing (*in-depth enhancements for flow and voice*)
- Developmental/structural editing (*holistic revisions with the readership in mind*)
- Editorial project management (*coordination of contributors, workflows, schedules and suppliers*)

Additional services and skills

- Contributor liaison
- Gedcom cross-referencing
- InDesign (intermediate level)
- Multi-author texts
- Palaeography (intermediate level)
- Proof collation
- Referencing and bibliographies
- Style guides: highly versatile (e.g. your house style, *Chicago*, *Hart's Rules*, MLA or bespoke)
- UK and US English
- XML and HTML

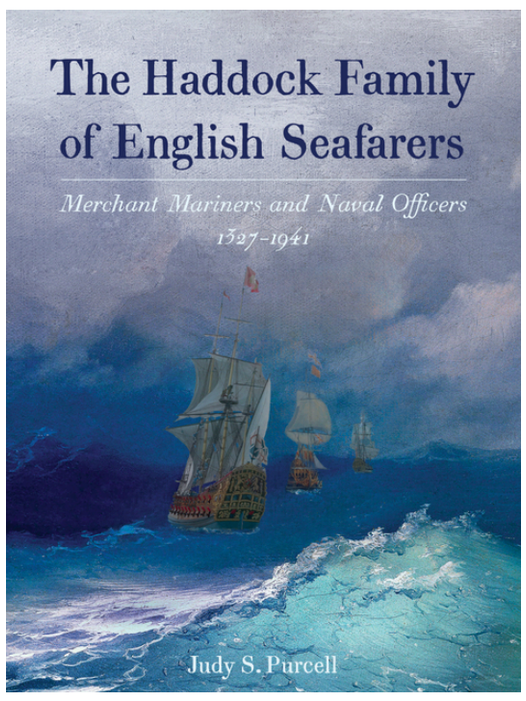
Topics

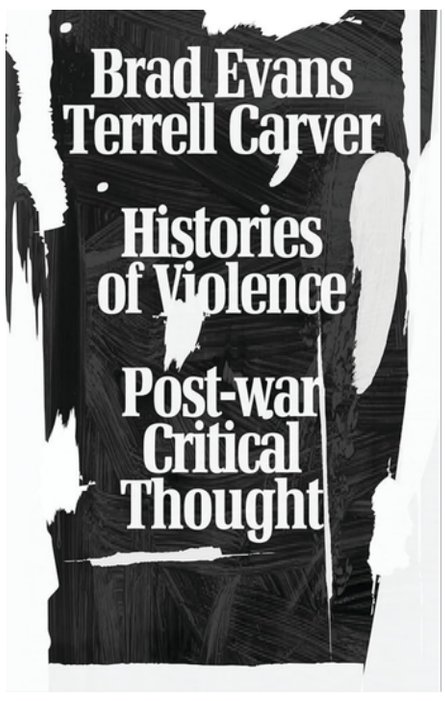
- Anthropology
- Art history (see my website for separate information on my art history services)
- British history
- Family history
- Fashion history
- Genealogy
- Historic houses
- History education
- History of literature
- History of religion
- Local history

Editorial services for UK charities and nonprofits

'Hazel is a gracious, gifted and professional editor with whom it is a joy to collaborate. She is an expert at polishing text and solving complex citation problems – even for a manuscript like mine, which quoted hundreds of diverse naval, historical, and genealogical sources from multiple time periods. I was greatly impressed by her focus, accuracy and responsiveness, and I highly recommend her services.'

Judy S. Purcell on my copyediting of
The Haddock Family of English Seafarers:
Merchant mariners and naval officers, 1327–1941





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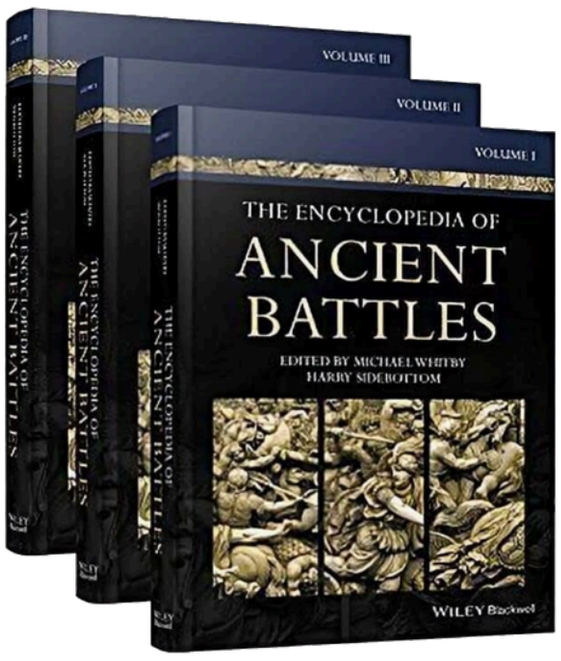
Portfolio (selected)

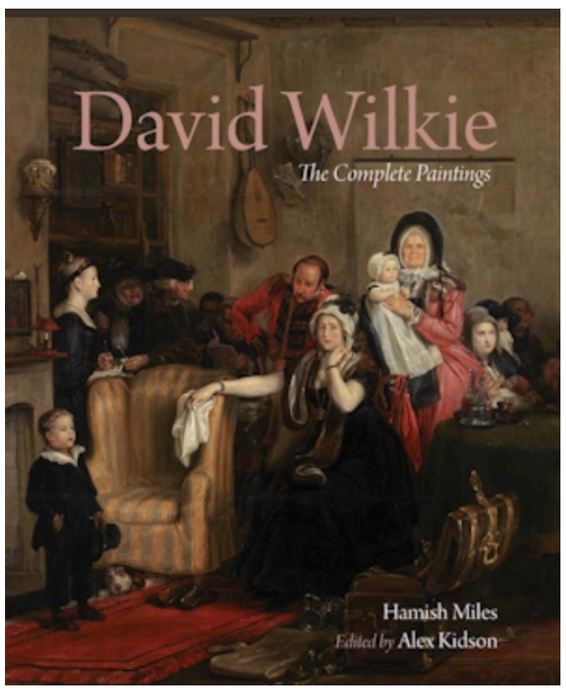
In addition to the examples below, I work on funding applications and other confidential documents.

- Judy S. Purcell, ***The Haddock Family of English Seafarers**: Merchant mariners and naval officers from their origin in 1327 to 1941* (Coracle Group, 2025)
- **Bitesize GCSE History** revision guides across various exam boards (BBC Bitesize, 2022)
- Hilary Callan and Simon Coleman (eds), ***The International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*** (Wiley Blackwell, 2018 and online updates to date)
- Michael Whitby and Harry Sidebottom (eds), ***The Encyclopedia of Ancient Battles*** (Wiley Blackwell, 2017)
- Joel Rasmussen et al. (eds), ***The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth-Century Christian Thought*** (Oxford University Press, 2017)
- Brad Evans and Terrell Carver (eds), ***Histories of Violence**: Post-war critical thought* (Wiley Blackwell, 2016)
- Christopher Wright, ***Lancasters of Pateley Bridge*** (self-published, 2015)
- Aysha Pollnitz, ***Princely Education in Early Modern Britain*** (Cambridge University Press, 2015)



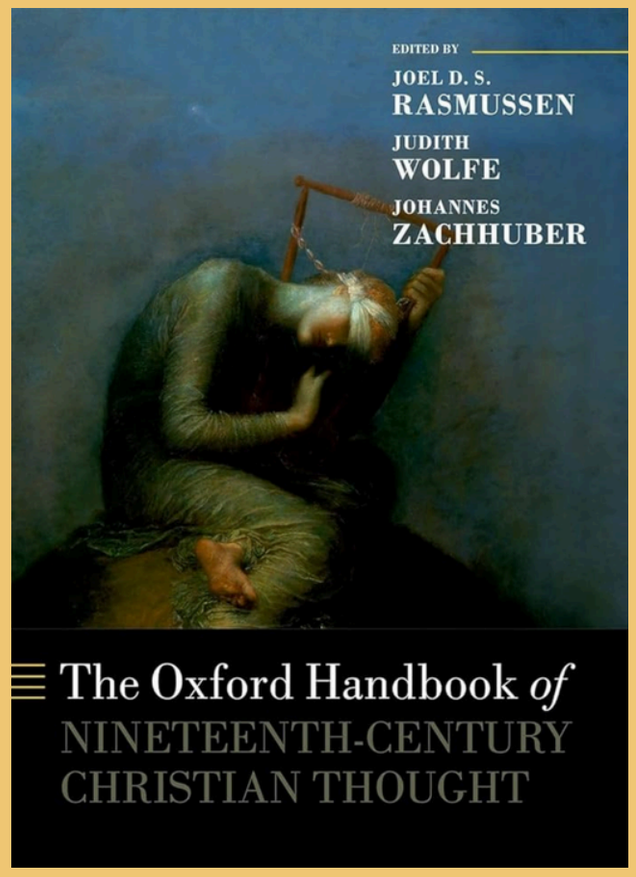
> ‘Thank you very much for all your hard work. You have done a magnificent job with a complex and difficult book.’
>
> Harry Sidebottom on my copyediting and project management of ***The Encyclopedia of Ancient Battles***

> ‘Hazel has worked on some of our biggest and most difficult manuscripts. She negotiates their complexities with clear-sightedness, patience and diplomacy, and the authors are always delighted with the results. I feel complete confidence in putting projects of this nature into her capable hands, and I know that she will bring clarity and precision to even the most challenging situations. It is a great pleasure to work with her, and I look forward to every project I am able to send her way.’
>
> Emily Lees, Senior Editor, **Paul Mellon Centre for British Art**, on my copyediting of various catalogues raisonnés containing extensive historical content

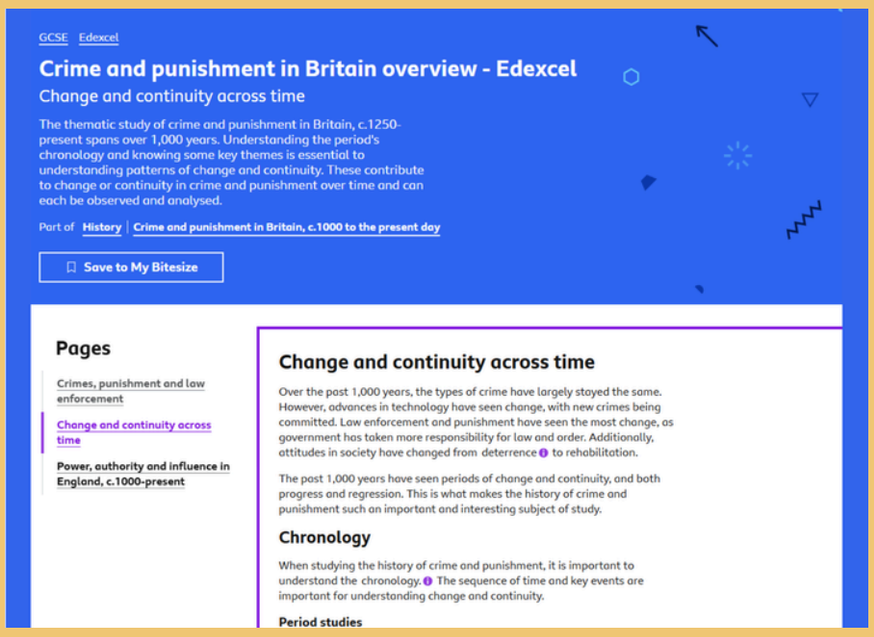


Spotlight on multi-contributor publications

When a publication has multiple contributors, harmonization is always a challenge. If the authors' names will appear with their respective content, tact and care are needed to balance each individual's concerns with the style of the wider publication. Or, if multiple sources are being amalgamated into a single voice, extensive work may be needed to calibrate terminology, tone and editorial choices to the readership.



Having project managed and edited works with over a thousand contributors, I can help you reconcile these competing priorities. My systems can seamlessly track thousands of contributions and associated content through multiple stages of writing, review and editing. And I can collaborate with other editorial suppliers as required, doing the heavy lifting necessary to deliver a tidy, harmonized publication.



Publication types

- Books
- Articles
- Journals
- Catalogues raisonnés
- Encyclopedias
- Exhibition catalogues
- Wall text
- Object labels
- Member- and customer-facing materials
- Digital publications
- Websites

'Hazel has worked as Project Manager on a number of large, multi-volume, print and online reference works produced by my team. She has a deep understanding of the publishing process and an analytical mind. She works closely to the brief, whilst also being unafraid to suggest intelligent improvements to processes and solutions to problems. She is always professional and helpful, striking a good balance between meeting the needs and requirements of the client and delivering a quality product.'

Louise Barnetson, Production Manager, **Wiley Blackwell**

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Indicative rates for 2026/27

My quotations are bespoke to each project. This way, you can be sure of a service that moulds to your priorities and the text's unique features. I am also often happy to negotiate around specific budgets.

However, indicative rates for some of my services are as follows (see page 1 for brief definitions):

- **Proofreading** a 2,000-word exhibition catalogue: £210
- **Copyediting** an 8,000-word journal article: £415
- **Copyediting** a 50,000-word book with 30 illustrations: £2,000
- **Line editing** a 70,000-word book with 50 illustrations: £3,500
- **Copyediting** an encyclopedia of 300,000 words with one image per catalogue entry: £11,000

Please get in touch for a no-obligation quotation.

Prices are subject to VAT where applicable.

Helpful resources

- Which editorial service do you need?
- What does a developmental editor do?
- Copyediting and AI: a manifesto
- Crash guide to writing a research report: editorial checklist
- Are copyeditors responsible for fact-checking?
- How to speed up Microsoft Word with Track Changes
- How to verify and cite quotations: an essential guide
- How to edit interview and survey responses
- How to write a glossary
- Using Trello for editorial projects (free template)
- How to hire a freelance editorial project manager
- How to find your ideal editorial project manager
- How many corrections per page are acceptable on proofs?
- Why giving better-quality feedback to freelancers means better project quality
- Why copyeditors and proofreaders are tacit knowledge superstars
- What is builder-writing? Or, can copyeditors write copy?

ciep Advanced Professional Member

EFA EDITORIAL FREELANCERS ASSOCIATION MEMBER

aCES the society for editing

AAE ASSOCIATION OF ART EDITORS

ASSOCIATION FOR ART HISTORY

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