

A brief survey of *The Marprelate Tracts* with Rolling Delta

A lot of information is available from encyclopaedic sources. There is no need to recall any of the theological and historical implications. The main purpose is rather to look out for authorship indications, and here the seven tracts were downloaded in their original spelling from the Anglican Library (<http://www.anglicanlibrary.org/marprelate/index.htm>), prepared with an introduction by John D. Lewis, Department of Theology, Murdoch University Western Australia. Likewise the features and history of Rolling Delta were explained in detail on many pages on this website so that only just the results of the investigation are displayed. Please look at the following charts that employ a number of reference texts that have been mentioned in connection with the Marprelate controversy.

The Marprelate Tracts, 5000, 250, MFC3-grams (1000), N = 70

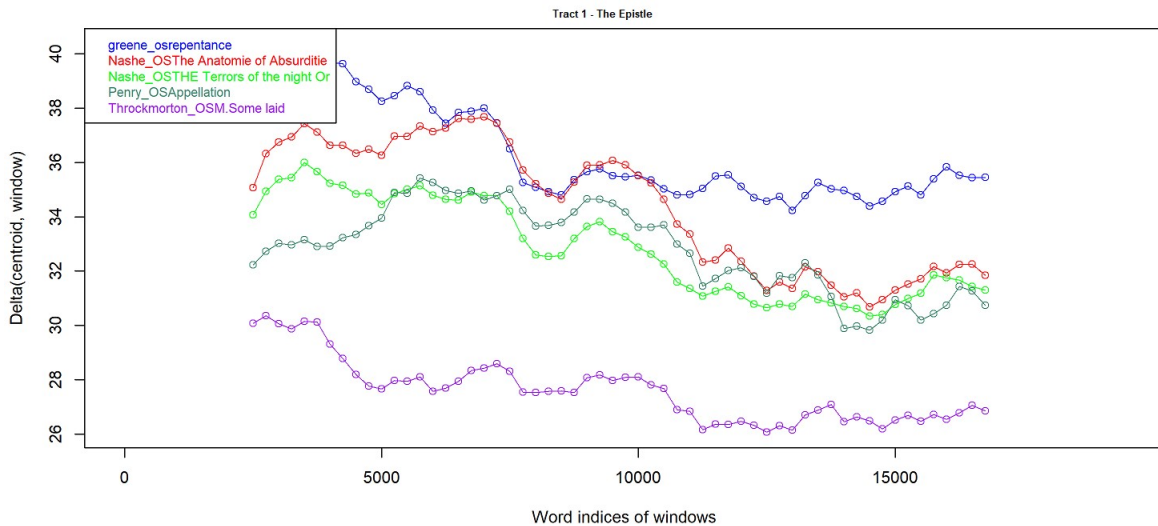


Figure 1 Attribution of reference text author in Tract 1

The Marprelate Tracts, 5000, 250, MFC3-grams (1000), N = 70

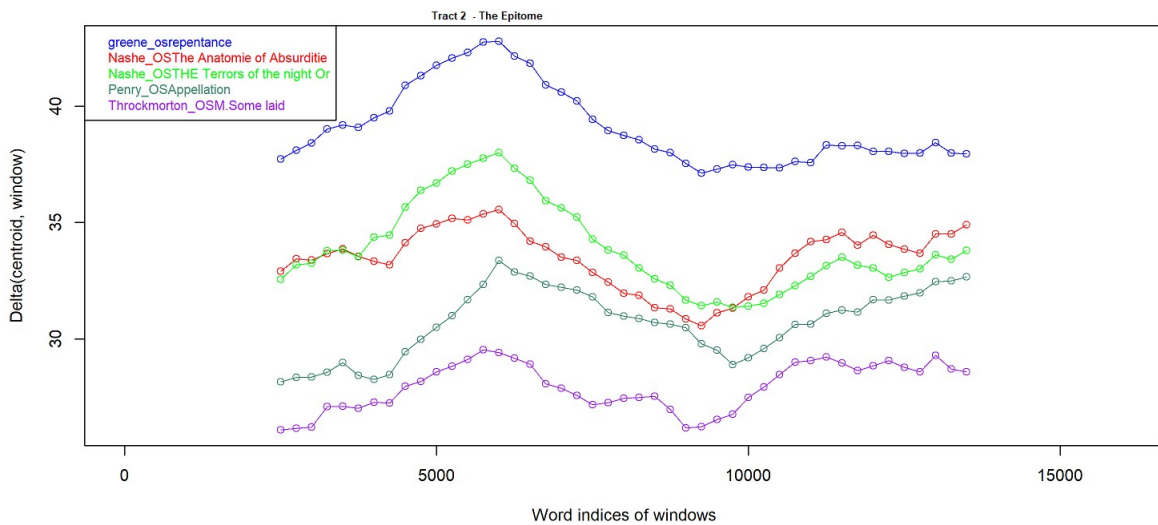


Figure 2 Attribution of reference text author in Tract 2

Tracts 1 and 2 bear the unmistakable style of Job Throckmorton as evaluated with character trigrams in a 5000-word window. But smaller windows also denote their author.

The Marprelate Tracts, 5000, 250, MFC3-grams(1000), N = 70

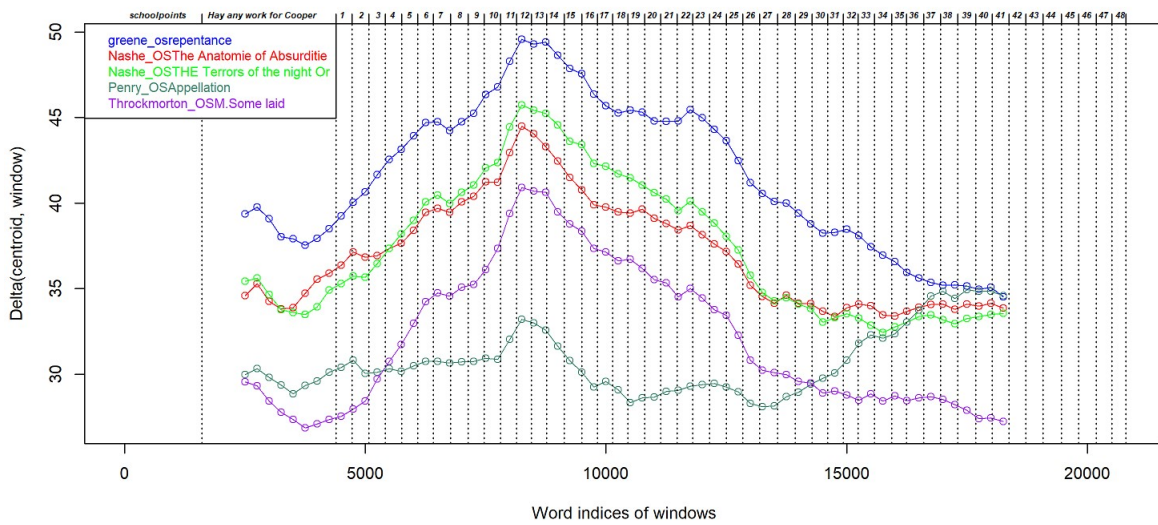


Figure 3 Attribution of reference text author in Tracts 3 and 4

The Marprelate Tracts, 5000, 250, MFC3-grams (1000), N = 70

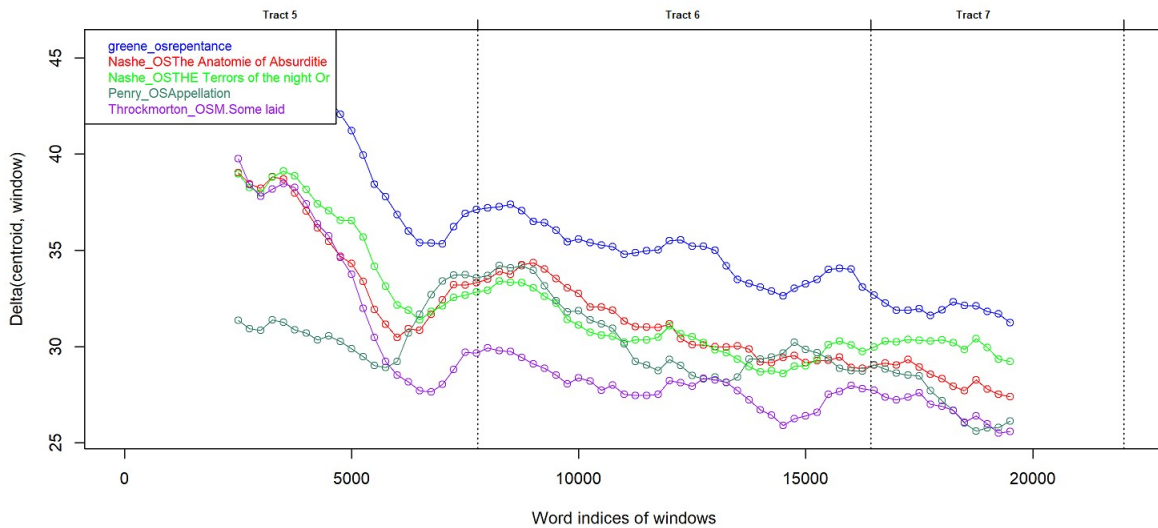


Figure 4 Attribution of reference text author in Tracts 5, 6 and 7

In Tracts 4 the original pages 5 to 29 were written by John Penry whereas the remaining text is Throckmorton's. In Figure 4 Tracts 5 to 7 were collated into one text. Apparently John Penry started writing tract 5, before Job Throckmorton took over and determined stylistically the remaining tracts of the pamphlet. It looks very much as if Leland H. Carlson in his book *Martin Marprelate, Gentleman: Master Job Throckmorton Laid Open In His Colours* (San Marino: Huntington Library, 1981) produced a valid ascription.

(Hartmut Ilseman, 25.09.2017)