

Skip Fox
Engl. Dept.
Univ. Southwestern LA
Lafayette, LA 70504-4691
e-mail: wxf8424@usl.edu

A Brief Bibliography on Little Magazines

Acquisition:

The International Directory of Little Magazines and Small Presses. Paradise: Dustbooks, 1965-. This is the workhorse of the field but it has too many entries to use as a guide for acquisitions unless you know what you're doing (the types of poets you want to see in a little magazine, etc.) It will provide subscription information and some information on the contents of each magazine. (See list on p. 4 for suggested titles.)

Small Press Distribution (1814 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702). It focuses on small presses but includes a list of a few issues of little magazines every quarter. SPD's selection process insures the librarian that he or she is seeing some of the best experimental titles. There are biases, however: toward the well produced or "slick" magazine and toward L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry or a literature influenced by current French literary theory. Each issue listed is given a description, chiefly listing the writers in the issue. Free quarterly catalogs with yearly complete catalogs.

AM Here Books (P.O. Box 574, Philo, CA 95466). A source for out-of-print little magazines. A highly reputable and efficient source for scarce copies of little magazines as well as small press poetry. Free monthly catalogs.

Guide to Books on Little Magazines:

Harner, James L. *Literary Research Guide: A Guide to Reference Sources for the Study of Literatures in English and Related Topics*. 2nd ed. New York: Modern Language Association, 1993. The section on littles (91-95) is selective but intelligent.

Books on Little Magazines:

Hoffman, Frederick J., Charles Allen, and Carolyn F. Ulrich. *The Little Magazine: A History and Bibliography*. 2nd ed. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1947. The standard in the field.

Anderson, Elliott, and Mary Kinzie, eds. *The Little Magazine in America: A Modern Documentary History*. Yonkers, NY: Pushcart, 1978. Also published as a special issue of *Tri-Quarterly*. Signed articles on little magazines and interviews with editors of little magazines. The appendix is "An Annotated Bibliography of Selected Little Magazines."

Chielens, Edward E., ed. *American Literary Magazines: The Twentieth Century*. Historical Guides to the World's Periodicals and Newspapers. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1993. Signed profiles of 76 magazines, mostly little magazines, and an appendix listing the major collections of little magazines in U.S. and Canada.

Indexes of Little Magazines:

Sader, Marion, ed. *Comprehensive Index to English Language Little Magazines, 1890-1970: Series One*. 8 vols. Millwood: Kraus, 1976. Indexes 100 of the approximately 5,000 little magazines. There never was a "Series Two."

Index to Little Magazines. A number of these with varying editors and publishers (Swallow, Whitson, & Johnson Reprint) covering 1900-1967. Indexes less than 200 little magazines.

Guide to Collections of Little Magazines:

Appendix in Chielens, above.

Fox, Willard. "Two Rooms: A History and Analysis of Little Magazines Collections at Buffalo, New York, and Madison, Wisconsin." *Literary Research: A Journal of Scholarly Method and Technique* 11.2-3 (1986): 141-58. Specifically on two collections but contains a *Consumer's Reports*-type listing of 13 other major collections.

Standard sources like Ash's *Subject Collections: A Guide to Special Book Collections*. . . .

Reviews:

The Small Magazine Review. (Avail. through Dustbooks, P.O. Box 100, Paradise, CA 95967. \$20/year.) "A Monthly Review of Literary & Other Periodicals." Not very discriminating.

Small Press: The Magazine of Independent Publishing. Reviews a few little magazines in each issue. Some discrimination, but quality of assessment varies.

TapRoot Reviews. (Avail. through Burning Press, P.O. Box 585, Lakewood, OH 44107. \$10/year for 4 issues.) Not very discriminating.

Occasionally little magazines, themselves, will list and/or review other little magazines. (In fact, the *International Directory*, above, has its origins in *Trace*, a British magazine of the 1950s and 1960s.)

Basic Design for an Index of Little Magazines

A series of screens, one "behind" the other:

1. List every little magazine title with variants. Basic physical description (# of pages; size; notice of illustrations; cover stock; letterpress, offset, xeroxed, or mimeographed, etc.) Number of issues with date of each noting variant physical information, title information, place of origin, etc. What libraries own whole run or individual issues.
2. Basic table of contents for each issue noting author and title of each piece and whether it is a poem, play, short story, interview [with who], essay, review [of what], etc.
3. Extended table of contents with description/annotation of each piece (# of lines in the poem, skeletal plot outline of story or play, annotation of essay [with notice of writers, artists, musicians, etc. covered], brief summary of review, etc.)

With software which would make searching the index by author, subject of review, figure (literary or otherwise) mentioned in essay, etc.

Little Magazines in Libraries & Useful Additions

(for addresses &c, see *The International Directory*, p. 1)

"Little" Magazines Often
Picked up by Libraries

American Poetry Review
Beliot Poetry Journal
Chicago Review
Cimmarron Review
Denver Quarterly
Georgia Review
Granta
Iowa Review
Kansas Quarterly
Kenyon Review
Little Review
Literary Review
Massachusetts Review
Michigan Quarterly Review
Midwest Quarterly
Mississippi Review
New Letters
Nimrod
North Dakota Quarterly
Ohio Review
Parnassus: Poetry in Review
Partisan Review
Pennsylvania Review
Ploughshares
Poet & Writers Magazine
Poet Lore
Poetry
Prairie Schooner
Southern Review
TriQuarterly
Virginia Quarterly Review
Yale Review

Current Little
Magazines of Note

Abraxas
Acts
Avec
Beat Scene
Black Ice
Blue Fish
Callaloo
Carbuncle
City Lights Journal
Conjunctions
Contact II
Coyote's Journal
Crazyhorse
Cream City Review
Croton Bug
Exquisite Corpse
Fell Swoop
Five Fingers Review
Formalist
Ghost Dance
House Organ
Invisible City
Kalliope
New American Writing
Notus
o·blēk
Open 24 Hours
Paintbrush
Poetry East
Poetry Flash
Puerto Del Sol
Shiny
Sparrow
Spectacular Diseases
Sulfur
Talisman
Third Rail
Underground Forest
Wormwood Review
Xanadu
Yellow Silk
Zyzyva