

Independent Voices – Literary Magazines Overview

Throughout the twentieth century, literary magazines were a primary means for sharing new writing and forming literary communities. “Little magazines,” as they are often called, were usually noncommercial in nature and often committed to certain literary ideals. Nearly every literary movement of the 1950s to 1980s began or evolved in the pages of these magazines.

The more than 150 little magazines represented in Independent Voices—Reveal Digital’s online collection of underground,



alternative, and literary newspapers and magazines from the fifties through the eighties—provide a fertile ground for exploring this vast range of biographical, bibliographic, historical, cultural, and genetic

scholarship and creativity.

Focusing primarily on poetry but also including fiction and criticism, this

collection reflects many often-overlapping groups and communities, including writers



and editors affiliated with the Beat Generation, the Black Arts Movement, Black Mountain, the Deep Image movement, the New York School, San Francisco Renaissance, Surrealism, visual and concrete poetics,

L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E, and

the Kootenay School of Writing.

Through poetry, these writers expressed their concerns around identity, nation, and periphery; the politics of feminism, Black arts, gay and lesbian liberation; ethnopoetics and translation; visual poetry; and experimentations of form and genre, including the “mimeo revolution” that facilitated much of this publishing. These “little magazines” represent new voices finding new forms in print—in short, new readerships interested in new ideas.



“The *Independent Voices* digital collection of literary magazines is the only one of its kind for small press publications of the 1950s, 60s, 70s, and 80s: an inclusively large and remarkably diverse full-text collection of the most interesting and influential magazines of that era. Although once limited to the relatively small number of readers in each magazine’s specific circles of distribution, or to those who had physical access to archives, these texts are now available in digital facsimile to contemporary readers.”

James Maynard & Edric Mesmer
The Poetry Collection of the University Libraries
University at Buffalo

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Key titles include:

- *O-9*. edited by Bernadette Mayer and Vito Acconci, this mimeographed magazine became a space-in-which-to-play for many writers early associated with the New York School or later with L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E
- *Black Mountain Review*. edited by Robert Creeley, the foundational magazine and namesake for the Black Mountain poets, including Creeley, Robert Duncan, Denise Levertov, and Charles Olson
- *British Columbia Monthly*. edited by Gerry Gilbert, an anthology that brought together various experimentation in Canadian writing over several decades
- *Earth's Daughters*. believed to be the "oldest extant feminist arts periodical," founded in and still published from Buffalo, New York
- *El Corno Emplumado*. founded by Margaret Randall and Sergio Mondragon, a bilingual journal out of Mexico, published work from North, South, and Central America
- *HOW(ever)*. published innovative writing by women, as well as criticism focused on under-represented modernist women writers
- *J*. mimeographed magazine by Jack Spicer, published a number of San Francisco poets
- *Outsider*. 1960s literary magazine, published by Charles Bukowski and Jack Kerouac
- *River Styx*. grew out of a 1970s poetry reading radio program in St. Louis to become an award-winning poetry magazine
- *Tish*. credited with developing modernism in Canada, presents diverse engagements with Black Mountain aesthetics

A complete title list is available at:

<http://www.revealdigital.com/literary-magazines-series-titles/>