



## Periodicals in the Humanities

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IN 1958, THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY COUNCIL of the Humanities was given a grant of \$335,000 by the Ford Foundation to undertake a critical analysis of humanistic scholarship in the United States in the period from 1935 to 1960. Such a study was considered necessary because new ideas and directions have emerged in particular branches of the humanities during the past twenty-five years to such an extent that it is often difficult for individual scholars to realize the changes in the whole corpus of research.<sup>1</sup>

The Princeton Report, when published, may prove to be as influential as was the 1945 Harvard Report,<sup>2</sup> which affirmed the value of the humanities in a technological society threatened with an over-emphasis upon science. For the purpose of the present discussion, the humanities will be considered as including only language, literature, and philosophy, since history and the fine arts are being treated in separate articles. The area of creative writing presents special problems which can be dealt with only briefly in a later part of this article.

Some of the new directions of scholarship are indicated in the report of the Commission on Trends in Education at the December 1959 meeting of the Modern Language Association of America.<sup>3</sup> Humanistic studies are found to be holding their own among intelligent young men and women, in spite of the attractions of scientific studies, but the humanities themselves are being affected by science. Faith in "quantification," and in the use of more rigorous methodology, are exemplified by the increasing application of the findings of descriptive linguistics to literary studies and by the largely descriptive and statistical nature of much of the new criticism. Humanistic scholars are showing interest in the use of machine techniques for the compilation of bibliographies and concordances. Concentration is on the contemporary, with interest centering around interdisciplinary

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curricula, area studies, and comparative literature. Traditional literary criticism is being supplanted by a kind of criticism which encourages the multiple interpretation of works of art—anthropological, psychological, and sociological, as well as historical and linguistic.

Without some knowledge of the activities of the great foundations which support humanistic research, it is impossible to understand what is going on in the field of periodical publication. The foundations follow the trends, and help to create them. In 1950, the Rockefeller Foundation announced a thorough review of its program in the humanities.<sup>4</sup> New fields of interest were to be, first, language, logic and symbolism, with emphasis upon problems centering on the interplay of thought and language, particularly the problems of meaning; second, intercultural understanding. The intercultural programs dealing with Far Eastern, Slavic, and Latin American cultures were felt to be firmly established, and interest was to be transferred to other areas. In 1952 the Foundation made a three-year grant, subsequently renewed for another three years, to the Modern Language Association, for inquiries into the role that foreign languages and literatures should play in American life. A grant was made to Princeton University for advanced seminars in criticism. The 1959 appropriation for the humanities equalled, for the first time, the appropriation for the social sciences.

The Ford Foundation, hitherto not interested in the humanities as such, began in December 1955 a program designed to give more emphasis to this field.<sup>5</sup> Attention was focused upon two problems: assistance to scholarly publication and release of the scholar's time for research. Grants were made to University presses, and funds were appropriated for fellowships to individuals, to be given through the American Council of Learned Societies. Subsequent activities include support of centers for area studies, notably, the Center for African Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles.

The Modern Language Association initiated its Foreign Language Program with the Rockefeller grant of 1952. This program will be continued and expanded by federal funds supplied through the National Defense Education Act of 1958,<sup>6</sup> which provides for the establishment and support of centers for foreign language studies in institutions of higher learning, and for the establishment of training institutes for teachers of foreign languages in the secondary schools. Twenty-four languages are designated as "critical," including six of first priority: Arabic, Chinese, Hindustani, Japanese, Portuguese, and

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Russian. Early in 1959, the Association received a grant from several cooperating organizations to establish a Center of Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C.

The American Council of Learned Societies in 1959 published a survey entitled *Problems of Scholarly Publication in the Humanities and Social Sciences*.<sup>7</sup> Among the seventy-five learned journals studied, nineteen were in the field of modern language and literature. Of these, five began publication after the war: *Comparative Literature* (University of Oregon, 1949-), *Modern Fiction Studies* (Purdue University, 1955-), *Nineteenth Century Fiction* (University of California, Los Angeles, 1945-), *Romance Philology* (University of California, Berkeley, 1947-), and *Yale French Studies* (Yale University, 1949-); all reflect the growing interest in foreign and comparative language and literature. The survey found concern for the future among editors of learned journals in expanding of interdisciplinary fields of scholarship, in which the number and variety of trained authors is advancing more rapidly than the vehicles for their work can be expected to expand.

The need is not being fully met in spite of the proliferation of university-sponsored quarterlies since the war. The level of scholarship in new periodicals varies so widely that many could be more aptly described as literary reviews than as learned journals. Some publish poetry and fiction and prefer critical articles of general literary interest to articles of specialized scholarship.

Nevertheless, new periodicals are being published at such a rate that it is difficult for scholars to keep up with the available vehicles for publication in their fields. To provide this information, two guides have recently appeared: the Byrd and Goldsmith *Publication Guide for Literary and Linguistic Scholars*,<sup>8</sup> and the Gerstenberger and Hendrick *Directory of Periodicals Publishing Articles in English and American Literature and Language*.<sup>9</sup> Both give the field of specialization for each periodical listed, and are of value to the librarian who is selecting new titles as well as to the scholar wishing to submit an article for publication. The Gerstenberger *Directory* is international in coverage; of the 386 entries, 138 represent periodicals which began publication in the United States since the war. Most of these welcome articles in foreign and comparative literature.

In spite of their international flavor, the new periodicals are dominated by university departments of English. Naturally enough, literary scholarship in this country is predominantly in the English and

American fields. Of 550 manuscripts submitted to *PMLA* in 1960, 416 were in these fields, although the editors consistently encourage the submission of articles in foreign and comparative literature. Only 46 of the 416 could be printed. This supports the statement in the A.C.L.S. survey that the greatest difficulty in finding publication lies in the areas of English and American language and literature.

Periodicals devoted to studies of a single author represent an expanding field. Among the new titles in this category are the *James Joyce Review* (New York, 1956-), [F. Scott] *Fitzgerald Newsletter* (University of Virginia, 1958-), *Melville Society Newsletter* (Colorado State College, 1945-), *Baker Street Journal* (Morristown, N.J., 1946-), *Shakespeare Newsletter* (Kent State University, 1951-), *Shakespeare Quarterly* (Washington, D.C., 1950-), *Keats-Shelley Journal* (Harvard University, 1951-), *Emerson Society Quarterly* (Hartford, Conn., 1955-), and *Walt Whitman Review* (Wayne State University, 1954-). The newsletter format in which many of these are issued is gaining popularity. Newsletters are usually produced by some kind of nonprint process; characteristically, they contain from one to three short articles, a few brief book reviews, some bibliographical notes, and news items of interest to members of the sponsoring organization. Many of the special discussion groups of the Modern Language Association now issue their own newsletters.

An indication of the growing interest in what were formerly considered the more "exotic" languages is the 140 per cent increase in membership in the Linguistic Society of America in the past decade. During the same period the Modern Language Association increased 70 per cent and the American Philological Association 30 per cent. This expansion is not reflected in a corresponding increase in major new journals, although there have been a few notable additions: *Studies in Linguistics* (University of Buffalo, 1946-), *General Linguistics* (University of Kentucky, 1955-), and *Anthropological Linguistics* (Indiana University, 1959-). One reason for this slow expansion is probably the fact that scholars in these fields have a wide range of distinguished European journals available for their publications. Moreover, the total number of trained specialists in this country is still small. It is significant that, although centers, institutes, and programs of African studies have been established at a large number of American universities, African languages are at present being taught at only four: Duquesne, UCLA, Howard, and Michigan.

New publications in philosophy are also slow to appear, even

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though the A.C.L.S. survey showed that the difficulties of publishing articles in this field are almost as great as in the field of English and American literature, and that a larger proportion of the total number of manuscripts in philosophy consists of articles rather than books. Only two important new philosophical journals have appeared in the United States since the war: *Philosophical Studies* (University of Minnesota, 1950-) and *Review of Metaphysics* (Yale University, 1947-). The content of these journals illustrates the current philosophical interest in language and meaning. The *Review of Metaphysics* proposes for discussion such problems as the meaning of "implies" in "ought implies can"; what is gained and/or lost in making an idea clear; what, if anything, has been learned by playing "the language game." The "language game" is played in the new journals of semantics, notably *General Semantics Bulletin* (Lakeville, Conn.: Institute of General Semantics, 1949-) and *Journal of Communication* (University of Illinois, 1950-). It is played with a vengeance in *MT-Mechanical Translation* (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1953-) "devoted to the translation of languages with the aide of machines."

The intercultural and linguistic trends can be observed in the new indexes to current periodical literature which have appeared since the war, and in changes in coverage of the older indexes. In 1950, *American Bibliography*, published by the Modern Language Association, began to include East European languages; in 1956 the index changed its title to *Annual Bibliography* and began to include periodicals published abroad. The first postwar volume of the Modern Humanities Research Association's *Year's Work in Modern Language Studies*, published in 1951, included, for the first time, Scandinavian and Slavonic languages. The Permanent International Committee of Linguists, with the support of UNESCO, began publication of the *Bibliographie linguistique* in 1949; the *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature* was started at the University of North Carolina in 1951.

In 1947 the *Bulletin analytique* of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique inaugurated a philosophical bibliography which is an example of truly exhaustive international coverage of the periodical literature of a field.<sup>10</sup> There are 208,040 annotated entries in the 1959 volume, representing articles from almost 4,000 periodicals. More selective is the *Repertoire bibliographique de la philosophie*,<sup>11</sup> which began publication in 1949, and is notable for its extensive coverage of book reviews.

Other important new indexes are the *American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies* (Indiana University, 1957-), the *Bulletin bibliographique* of the Société Internationale Arthuriennne (Paris, 1949-), and the *International Guide to Medieval Studies* of the American Bibliographical Service. (New York, 1961-). Several sections of the Modern Language Association now publish their own current bibliographies. Of these, the most successful has been *French VII Bibliography; Critical and Biographical References for the Study of Contemporary French Literature*.<sup>12</sup>

The problem of the indexing of scholarly book reviews has not yet been solved. The *Index to Book Reviews in the Humanities* (1960-)<sup>13</sup> is inadequate and erratic in coverage and imprecise in its definition of humanities. Only the field of philosophy is at present well covered; in language and literature, dependence must still be placed upon the somewhat limited coverage provided by the special subject bibliographies published in a number of learned journals, such as the bibliographies of the Romantic Movement, and of English literature from 1660 to 1800 in *Philological Quarterly*, of the Renaissance in *Studies in Philology*, of nineteenth-century England in *Victorian Studies*, and the bibliographies that appear in *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *American Literature*, *Middle East Journal*, and *Journal of Slavic Studies*.

Periodicals which publish creative writing must receive very cursory treatment in this article. Publication of the work of modern creative writers is not considered the function of scholarly journals. The great literary reviews of fifty years ago have disappeared or changed their character; the *Atlantic Monthly* and *Harper's* now publish little fiction or poetry. Yet the short story is considered the characteristic American art form. Creative writers must, for the most part, publish in popular general magazines of mass circulation or in little reviews and magazines. A certain amount of distinguished imaginative writing appears in the mass-circulation magazines, but the unconventional young writer, or the established writer in an experimental mood, must usually turn elsewhere.

It is difficult to classify the magazines which publish creative writing. Small circulation and freedom from commercial pressure are supposed to be the distinguishing characteristics of the "little" magazine. Such magazines as the *Partisan Review* and the *Kenyon Review* are not now generally considered little magazines; yet in 1961 the circulation of the former was only 4,800, of the latter, 3,500. *New World Writing* (New York, New American Library, 1951-59) and

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*discovery* (New York, Pocket Books, Inc., 1952-55), two publications which had many of the characteristics of the little magazine, and which, until they ceased publication, seemed to offer a new promise in the field of creative publishing, achieved circulations of well over 100,000, through newsstand distribution. The typical little magazine of today has a circulation of well under 1,000; 200 to 300 is not an uncommon figure.<sup>14</sup>

The 1950's compare favorably with the supposed "golden age" of the 1920's in the number of little magazines published. However, the "littles" of today are generally considered less lively than their earlier counterparts. Undeniably, they are more eclectic, characteristically devoted to publishing good writing of all schools, rather than to promoting a particular aesthetic, political, or sociological theory. The charge is made that they have become institutionalized; the university-sponsored literary quarterly, which has a certain degree of permanence, now represents about one-third of their number. Even though many famous writers were first published in little magazines, and in spite of the fact that editors of popular magazines and of commercial presses continue to read these magazines in search of new talent, their very right to exist is debated. The editor of the highly esteemed *Furioso*, which ceased publication in 1953, complained not because the circulation was small, but because it did not consist of interested readers; the major portion consisted "of publishers looking for new talent, and of contributors (as many as 2,500 a year) who needed the magazine's address and a slight working knowledge of what the editors liked to print."<sup>15</sup> Opinions on the value of these magazines range from J. B. May's "life-versus-death"<sup>16</sup> to N. Algren's "I don't believe that little mags have any effect on American literature whatsoever."<sup>17</sup>

For the librarian, the chief problems are to find out what is being published in the field, and what the library should buy. A number of bibliographical aids are now available. The first systematic survey, Hoffman, Allen, and Ullrich's *The Little Magazine; a History and a Bibliography*<sup>18</sup> was published in 1946. An informal supplement to this is J. B. May's *Twigs as Varied Bent* (Corona, N.Y., Sparrow Magazine, 1954). The *Index to Little Magazines*<sup>19</sup> was started in 1948; its coverage has increased from thirty-one titles in the first issue to fifty-one in 1958-59. Since 1952, the magazine *Trace*<sup>20</sup> has been the indispensable guide to the field, reporting little magazine births and deaths, noting trends, and reviewing individual issues of old and new

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magazines. In 1960, *Trace* expanded its regular "Chronicle" into the annual *International Guide*.<sup>21</sup> The purchase of the Marvin Sukov collection of little magazines by the University of Wisconsin in December 1958 will undoubtedly give impetus to research in the field.<sup>22</sup>

During the past decade, there has been a growing interest among literary magazines in the publication of foreign literature in translation. The *Atlantic Monthly* has published special supplementary sections on Japan, Spain, and other countries. The *Literary Review* (Farleigh Dickinson University, 1957-) frequently devotes an entire issue to translations of the literature of a single country; the issue for Winter 1960/61 contains the first anthology of Turkish literature to be published in this country.

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