

## 20<sup>th</sup> Century African American Literary and Cultural Periodicals

Periodical literature constitutes a vital component of African American print culture. Periodicals provide, in the words of scholar Brent Edwards, a principal site for the construction of the “fact” of blackness, that attempt “to intervene in conditions of great suffering and social upheaval” and address “the exigencies of crisis and advocacy.” They offer, as Edwards notes, a “prompt language” where significant literary production can be found. And as P. Gabrielle Foreman observes, African Americans have used their publications as “the principal public advocate for education and literacy [highlighting] the connection between knowledge, economic advancement, self-determination, and personal fulfillment.”

This list offers a checklist of key literary and cultural periodicals produced during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. An asterisk (\*) indicates at least one issue may be found in Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University, and can be requested through the Library catalog, [discoverE](#). The list is organized by first year of publication.

\*Southern Workman (Hampton, VA, 1872-1939)

\*Spelman Messenger (Atlanta, 1885-date)

\*Colored American Magazine (Boston, 1900-09), ed. Walter W. Wallace, Pauline Hopkins

The Negro Music Journal (Washington, DC 1902-03)

Colored Home Journal (Pittsburgh, 1903- ), eds. Thomas Ewell and Joseph Garner [1 issue?]

\*McGirt’s Magazine (Philadelphia, 1903-07), ed. James E. McGirt

The New Citizen (Columbia, SC, 1904), ed. I. Nathaniel Nesbitt [1 issue]

\*Voice of the Negro (Atlanta, 1904-07), ed. J. W. E. Bowen, J. Max Barber

Alexander’s Magazine (Boston, 1905-09), pub. Charles Alexander

The Moon Illustrated Weekly (Memphis, 1905-06), ed. W. E. B. Du Bois

Sylvester Russell’s Review (Orange, NJ, 1906-07), ed. Sylvester Russell

\*The Horizon: A Journal of the Color Line (Washington, DC, 1907-10), ed. W. E. B. Du Bois

Paul Jones Monthly Magazine (Topeka, KA 1907-36?), ed. Paul Jones

Western Lever (Des Moines, IA, 1908-09), ed. Julian Dean Pettigrew

Colored People’s Magazine (Atlanta, 1910)

\*Crisis (1910-date), ed. W. E. B. Du Bois

\*Kelly Miller's Monographic Magazine (Washington, DC, 1913) ed. Kelly Miller [4 issues]  
\*New Era Magazine (Boston, 1916), ed. Pauline Hopkins [2 issues]  
\*The World of Ideal Thought (Spartanburg, SC, 1916), ed. Rev. Marion W. Miller [1 issue?]  
Champion Magazine (1916-17), ed. Fenton Johnson  
Half Century Magazine (Chicago, 1916-25), ed. Katherine Williams-Irvine  
Stylus (Washington, 1916-29) [3 issues]  
\*Messenger (1917-28), A. Philip Randolph and Chandler Owen  
\*The Favorite Magazine (Chicago, 1918-20?), ed. Fenton Johnson  
\*The Editorian (St. Louis, MO, 1919)  
\*The Rainbow (New York, 1919-20?) ed. Aubrey Howard Bowser  
Brownies' Book (1919-20), ed. W. E. B. Du Bois, Augustus Dill  
Competitor (Pittsburgh, 1920-21), ed. Robert L. Vann  
\*Music and Poetry (Chicago, 1921), ed. Nora Douglas Holt [1 issue]  
Kelley's (New York, 1922), ed. William M. Kelley [1 issue?]  
\*The Howard Review (Washington, DC, 1923-25), eds. D.W. Woodward, E. E. Just, Alain Locke, et al.  
\*Opportunity (1923-49), ed. Charles S. Johnson  
Reflexus (Chicago, 1925), ed. John McKinley [1 issue]  
\*FIRE!! (New York, 1926), ed. R. Bruce Nugent [1 issue]  
American Life Magazine (New Orleans, 1926-28) Dillard U.  
\*Voice of the Negro (New York, 1927), ed. Hubert H. Harrison  
\*Black Opals (Philadelphia, 1927-28) [4 issues]  
\*Harlem (New York, 1928), ed. Wallace Thurman [1 issue]  
Saturday Evening Quill (Boston 1928-30) [3 issues]  
\*The Bronzeman Magazine (Chicago, 1929-33), ed. Perry C. Thompson  
\*Abbott's Monthly (Chicago, 1930-33), ed. Harry Bacon  
\*Shadows (Cleveland, 1932?), Cleveland Writers' Club [1 issue?]  
\*Challenge: A Literary Magazine (New York, 1934-37), ed. Dorothy West [7 issues?]  
The Dawn (Baltimore, 1935), ed. T. J. Sellers [1 issue]

Metropolitan (New York, 1935), ed. Bertha Meeks Riley [1 issue?]

\*Race: Devoted to Social, Political and Economic Equality (1935-36) [2 issues]

Mirror (1936)

\*49<sup>th</sup> State Compass (Chicago, 1936) National Movement for the Establishment of a Forty-ninth State

\*Brown American (1936-45) ed. Joseph V. Baker, Philadelphia

\*New Challenge (1937), ed. Dorothy West

Arts Quarterly (New Orleans, 1937-39) Dillard U.

African: A Journal of Literary and Social Progress (1938), ed. Claude McKay [2 issues?]

\*Phylon (Atlanta, 1940- ) Atlanta University, ed. W. E. B. Du Bois

\*Negro Youth (New York, 1941), ed. Samuel W. Daniels

\*Negro Quarterly (New York, 1942-46), ed. Angelo Herndon [4 issues]

\*Negro College Quarterly (Wilberforce, OH, 1943-45) [Previously Wilberforce University Quarterly]

\*Negro Story (1944-46) [9 issues]

\*Negro Digest (series one, 1942-51; series two 1961-70) [later Black World]. Series 2 ed. by Hoyt Fuller

\*Midwest Journal: A Magazine of Research and Creative Writing (Jefferson City, MO, 1948-56)

\*Inter-Racial Romances (Fort Worth, TX, 1949)

\*Harlem Quarterly (New York, 1949-50) [3 issues], ed. Benjamin A. Brown

\*Freedom (1951-55), eds. Louis Burnham, Paul Robeson, Richard Moore, James Baldwin

\*Three Hands (Washington, DC, 1950-54), ed. Joachim M. Ardanuy [7 issues?]

\*Free Lance: A Magazine of Poetry and Verse (Cleveland, 1952- ), eds. Russell Atkins and Casper Jordan

\*Negro Review (Atlanta, 1953-54), ed. Paul F. X. Brown

\*Negro Theatre Spotlight (New York, 1954-55) eds. S. Green and H. Cruse [11 issues]

\*Yugen: A New Consciousness in Arts & Letters (1958-62) eds. LeRoi Jones and Hettie Cohen [8 issues]

\*The Urbanite: Images of the American Negro (New York, 1961), ed. William M. Santos [4 issues]

\*Liberator (New York, 1961-71), Ed. Daniel Watts

Dasein: A Quarterly Journal of the Arts (Washington, DC, 1961-69) [Howard University]

\*Freedomways: Quarterly Review of the Freedom Movement (1961-85), eds. Ernest Kaiser, Esther Jackson, and others

\*Umbra (New York, 1963-74) eds. Tom Dent, Calvin Hernton, David Henderson & others [5 issues?]

\*Soulbook (1964-76) San Francisco State College [9 issues]

\*Black Dialogue (San Francisco, 1965-70) ed. Arthur A. Sheridan [8 or 9 issues]

Liberator (1965-66) ed. Ed Spriggs

\*Blackbird (Chicago, 1966), ed. Eugene O. Cozzi

\*Journal of Black Poetry (1966-73), ed. Joe Goncalves [continues as Kitaba Cha Jau]

\*Chickory (Baltimore, 1966-83?), eds. Sam Cornish, Jerry Morton

\*Journal of the National Conference of Artists (Jefferson City, MO, 1967-), ed. James D. Parks

\*Inner City Voice (Detroit, 1967-71) ed. John Watson

\*Black American Literature Forum (1967-91) [formerly Negro American Literature Forum, later African American Review]

\*Soul Force (Atlanta, 1968-1973) ed. J. E. Lowrie

\*Black Culture Weekly (New York, 1968-69) [3 issues?]

\*Uptown Beat (New York, 1968- 70?) [East Harlem Writing Center]

\*Black Theater (New York, 1968-72), ed. Ed Bullins [6 issues?]

\*Beau –Cocoa (New York, 1968-73), ed. Lloyd Addison

\*Nkombo (New Orleans, 1968-74), ed. Tom Dent and Kalamu ya Salaam [9 issues?]

\*Pound (Tougaloo, MS, 1968-74) Creative Writing Workshop, Tougaloo College

Vibration (1968-?, Cleveland), ed. Glenn Hawkins, Noman Jordan and Don Freeman

\*WATU: Journal of Black Poetry/Art (Ithaca, 1968-)

\*Soul Force (SCLC) 1968-73

\*The Cricket: Black Music in Evolution (Newark, NJ, 1969), ed. LeRoi Jones [3 issues?]

\*Together (Riverside, 1969) University of California, Riverside, Black Student Union [1 issue]

\*The Conch (Buffalo, 1969-81) [A sociological journal of African cultures and literatures]

\*Phat Mama: Her Black Mind (New York, 1970), ed. Ntozake Shange [1 issue?]

- \*Rhythm (Atlanta, 1970-71), ed. Donald Stone, A. B. Spellman
- \*The Feet: The Monthly Black Dance and Arts Maganews (New York, 1970-73), ed. Carole Johnson
- \*Black World (Chicago, 1970-76), ed. John H. Johnson [continuation of Negro Digest]
- \*Black Creation (New York, 1970-75) ed. Fred Beauford
- \*Yalodé: A Journal of Black Sister Poets (Miami, 1971), ed. Feni Folari
- \*Black Review (1971-72)
- \*Proud Black Images (Columbus, OH, 1971-72)
- \*Nommo: The Journal of the OBAC Workshop (Chicago, 1971-75?) ed. Hoyt Fuller
- \*Mwendo (Cedar Rapids, IA, 1972-75?) [Quarterly Black Literary Magazine, Coe College]
- \*Hoo-Doo (DeRidder, LA, 1972-1980), ed. Ahmos Zu-Bolton [7 issues?]
- \*Yardbird Reader (Berkeley, CA, 1972-76), ed. Ishmael Reed [annual volume]
- \*RA Magazine (Bryn Mawr, PA, 1973), ed. Rikki Lights [1 issue?]
- \*Dark Waters (Seattle, 1973-75?)
- \*Hoo Doo (Galveston, TX), ed. Ahmos Zu-Bolton
- \*Confrontation: A Journal of Third World Literature (Athens, OH, 1974- ), ed. Quincy Troupe
- \*Hambone (Santa Cruz, CA 1974- ) ed. Nathaniel Mackey
- \*Kitaba Cha Jau (1974-76) [formerly Journal of Black Poetry]
- \*Cosmic Colors: A Black Music Magazine (Harlem, 1975), ed. George Edward Tait [1 issue]
- \*Soul Singer (New York, 1975-?)
- \*National Entertainment Plus Magazine (Detroit, 1975?-), ed. Karen D. Byrd-McCord
- \*Obsidian: Black Literature in Review (New York, 1975-date), ed. Alvin Albert
- \*Black Forum (Bronx, NY, 1976-78), ed. Horace Mungin
- \*Callaloo (1976-date) ed. Charles Rowell
- \*OO-sh' Bop: A Journal of Creative Black Culture (1977) [1 issue]
- \*Omowe: Journal of Contemporary Literature (Washington, DC, 1977-?)
- \*Y'Bird (Berkeley, CA, 1977-78), ed. Ishmael Reed [2 issues?]
- \*First World: International Journal of Black Thought (Atlanta, 1977-80), ed. Hoyt Fuller
- \*Black River Journal (New Orleans, 1977-80?), ed. Thomas C. Dent

- \*People Going Places—Doing Things (Atlanta, 1977-94?) Pub. Al Stewart
- \*The Black Review (Baltimore, 1978), ed. Mel Watkins
- \*Pot Likker (Atlanta, 1977- ) eds. Ebon Dooley, Akua Kamau
- \*The Black Writer (Chicago, 1980-81?), ed. Reginald Carroll Hayes
- \*Rainbow (Chicago, 1981)
- \*Artist and Influence (New York, 1981-2011), ed. James V. Hatch [annual, 30 issues]
- \*Quilt (Berkeley, CA, 1981-86), ed. Al Young and Ishmael Reed
- \*The Langston Hughes Review (Providence, RI, 1981- ), ed. George H. Bass
- \*Colorlines Magazine (Milwaukee, 1982-83) ed. Debra Kenner
- \*Multiples (Missoula, MT, 1982-85?), ed. W. R. Borneman, Paul S. Piper
- \*Presstime (New Brunswick, NJ, 1982-85), ed. Horace Mungin
- \*Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women (Atlanta, 1984-95), ed. Patricia Bell-Scott
- \*Black Masks (Bronx, NY, 1984-date), ed. Beth Turner
- \*Black/out (Washington, DC, 1986-)
- Shooting Star Review: Black Cultural Quarterly (Pittsburgh, 1987), ed. Sandra Gould Ford [1 issue]
- \*Black Arts New York (New York, 1987-95?) [Harlem Cultural Council monthly publication]
- \*Catalyst: A Magazine of Heart and Mind (Atlanta, 1986-91?), ed. Pearl Cleage
- \*Talking Drums: The Journal of Black Dance (Los Angeles, 1989-93?), ed. Ernest L. Washington
- \*Konch (Oakland, 1990-91), ed. Ishmael Reed; continues as online journal
- \*Mamaroots: An Afracentrik Spiritual & Cultural Quarterly Forum (Oakland, 1990-91)
- \*Drumvoices Review (Edwardsville, IL, 1991- ), ed. Eugene B. Redmond [17 issues]
- \*Artistic Pedigree (Washington, DC, 1991-), ed. Preston Jenkins
- \*Big City Bulletin (Irving, TX, 1993) [subject, Big City Comics] [1 issue?]
- \*Black Poet Magazine (Baltimore, 1993), ed. Reginald L. Timpson [1 issue?]
- \*Quarterly Black Review of Books (New York, 1993-95), pub. Max Rodriguez
- \*Womanist Theory and Research (Athens, GA, 1994-2002?), ed. Barbara McCaskill and Layli Phillips
- \*Black Renaissance Noire (New York, 1996- ), ed. Manthia Diawara

\*Cave Canem (New York, 1996-2007)

Sources: Abby Arthur Johnson & Ronald Maberry Johnson, *Propaganda & Aesthetics* (U. Mass. Press, 1991) and James P. Danky, *African American Newspapers and Periodicals* (Harvard U. Press, 1998)

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