

AMERICAN FICTION, 1911-1920

From the holdings of the William S. Charvat Collection of American Fiction at The Ohio State University Libraries

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This varied collection provides comprehensive coverage of sources from the period 1650 to 1850, which witnessed the birth of American literature and the evolution of new and distinctive styles. Included are verse, short stories, prose fiction, satirical plays and humorous writings by native or naturalized American authors from this period.

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American Poetry, 1609-1870 Based on the Harris Collection of American Poetry and Plays, Brown University

MARC RECORDS *American Poetry: 1609-1870* provides students and scholars of literature with approximately 9,600 titles that serve not only as a thorough sampling of poetry from this period, but also as a reflection of the culture, lifestyles and sentiment of Americans throughout the country's formative years.

Complete Collection: 426 reels in three segments

Archives of the Federal Writers' Project

Printed and Mimeographed Publications in the Surviving Federal Writers' Project Files, 1933-1943 (excluding state guides)

Archives of the Federal Writers' Project presents the Federal Writers' Project publications of all 47 states involved, which ran from 1933 to 1943. Forming the most complete collection of publications from all participating states, this archive contains more than 450 individual items, many of which are typed or mimeographed and received only limited circulation.

35 reels

The Continent

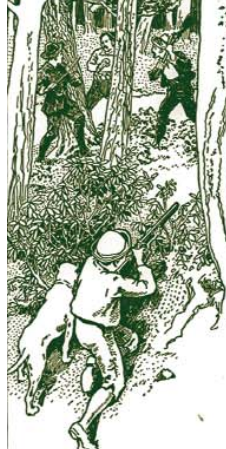
Published from 1882 to 1884, "The Continent" was an illustrated weekly magazine that featured contributions from major American writers of the day.

130 fiche

Southern Literary Messenger, 1834-1864

"Southern Literary Messenger" was the leading belletristic journal of the Old South for three decades (1834-64).

535 fiche



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Japan

Yushodo Co. Ltd.
29, San-ei-cho,
Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo
160-0008 Japan
Tel: +81 3 3357 1411
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tive, less filtered by an aesthetic mold that modulates expression, is linked in a far more visceral sense to everyday concerns. Although fiction of this nature may at times appear jejune, sentimental or even repugnant, it nonetheless accurately records popular sentiment on contemporary matters. ...

“The broad record of American writing thus provides a mixed record to the scholar seeking an overview of American fiction during this period: an uplifting and, yet, just as commonly disheartening portrait of the United States, rife with the slang and jargon, trends and styles, and hopes and ambitions of the complex and diverse people passing from an era of political progressivism into an era that concluded with a war destined to reshape the literary imagination and political reality of the next several decades to come.”

— Geoffrey D. Smith, Professor and Head Rare Books and Manuscripts Library and Curator, William S. Charvat Collection of American Fiction, The Ohio State University Libraries



Range of Materials

American Fiction, 1911-1920 offers 2,962 first editions of adult American fiction published from 1911 to 1920. Based on “American Fiction, 1901-1925: A Bibliography” by Geoff Smith, this collection comprises roughly three-quarters of all American adult fiction published within the United States during this decade.

In this collection, advanced students and scholars in a variety of disciplines will find novels vital to the study of:

- The historical, cultural, and social importance of the many issues that swept the period before, during and after World War I
- The fabric of the decade’s daily life, as recorded within the colorful language and the varied traditions and customs captured by its authors
- World War I
- The most prominent social domestic issue: women’s rights, in particular, the right to vote
- The dynamic clash between proactive and reactive forces over the early 20th-century feminist movement,

including works with birth control and divorce themes

- The fiery, often nativistic, nationalism that counterbalanced the growing strain of American progressivism
- The hardships and triumphs of African-American life during this difficult period
- The struggle of many new Americans to maintain their own manners and customs even as they assimilated into traditional Anglo-American culture
- Labor issues: union drives, strikes, boycotts, protests and riots and the dismal living conditions of workers: slums, child labor abuses and the general mistreatment of workers
- International events which coalesced into antisocialist (or more commonly, anti-Bolshevik) fiction
- Continuing tension between agrarianism and urbanization, including the plight of failed farmers or the conflict between farmers and developers
- Regional or “local-color” works
- The gentrification of genre fiction, from the pulp mills of dime novels and penny dreadfuls to the main lists of respectable publishing houses
- American pioneers in science fiction and Western fiction — the latter a unique American creation
- The emergence of the Hollywood novel as well as traditional stories of various professionals — doctors, lawyers, businessmen
- The darker side of American life: violent crime, prostitution, drug addiction, alcoholism and child abuse
- Much more

Contents

Unit 1: [Anonymous]-Dorothy Donnell Calhoun

Unit 2: Harvey Reeves Calkins-Louis Dodge

Unit 3: Anna Mooney Doling-Maccown Greenlee

Unit 4: Jackson Gregory-Aunt Jemimy [pseud.]

Unit 5: C.A. (Charles Augustus) Jenkins-Elwin Lorraine

Unit 6: G.W. (George William) Lose-Clarence Edward Mulford

Unit 7: Mulier-Nina Wilcox Putnam

Unit 8: Kate Milner Rabb-B.M. Bower

Unit 9: B.M. Bower-Lucille Van Slyke

Unit 10: Virginia Terhune Van de Water-X.Q. Zuss

Complete Collection: 502 reels in ten units





*Introduction to the Collection: An Excerpt
from Women to War: A Decade of Change
in American Fiction, 1911-1920*

“Evolution in literary style or insight was not the only change afoot within the world of American fiction during this period. A new generation of popular writers had a profound influence on the events of this decade; the study of their works tells us far more about the social, economic, political and religious life of that era than the more refined lucubrations of their highbrow colleagues. During this period, there is a distinct change in national sentiment from ebullience to melancholy. A close examination of the fiction of this pivotal decade thus makes it particularly clear that while the United States of 1911 was still a decidedly 19th-century culture in terms of national attitudes and aspirations, by 1920, the post-World War I nation was experiencing a painful birth into a 20th-century cultural reality.

“Prior to the advent of the European War, as Americans then called it, the United States was a buoyant and optimistic nation. Deep in the heart of the Progressive Era, many Americans had benefited from the expansion in international trade and the flurry of domestic reforms. Notwithstanding the naiveté of treating this as an idyllic period, in retrospect, the 1910s was an era of hope and promise to many Americans, compared to the next three decades, during which the United States lived under the clouds of World War I, the Great Depression and World War II. This decade was not only a prosperous one, but an inventive one as well: the automobile had gained popularity; the Wright brothers’ primitive flying machine had quickly become a viable form of transportation; homes were electrified; and motion picture houses were flourishing. National political and economic interests had expanded dramatically in Central and South America, the Pacific and the Far East. The names Rockefeller, Vanderbilt and Carnegie had become synonymous with American success, and people from many nations were migrating to the United States in search of fortune and

freedom. Moreover, reformers and trust-busters of the early 20th century had demonstrated that, despite the conspicuous wealth of the new millionaire class, the United States was still a democracy and American citizens, through their government representatives, could curtail abuse by this new class of oligarchs of the nation’s public and economic institutions. Workers’ rights, women’s rights and children’s rights were dominant issues during the Progressive Era, and although minority rights had yet to emerge as a national concern, the migration of African-Americans to the industrial north and the influx of new immigrants from eastern, central and southern Europe and Asia guaranteed that the face of the United States, particularly in urban areas, was destined to change....

“By the end of the war, many writers had forthrightly addressed the feelings of disillusionment, alienation and resentment of a world that had betrayed a commitment to the ethical advancement of humanity. Looking across the decade, one can trace the rise of a progressive spirit gone awry, a spirit that begins with certainty and hope and concludes in ambiguity and loss. Although it is nearly impossible to write of this decade without attending to the overarching shadow of World War I, no scholar can ignore the historical, cultural and social importance of the many issues that swept the period before, during and after the war — from women’s suffrage and immigration to racial conflict and the struggles of labor. The fabric of the decade’s daily life is recorded within the colorful language and the varied traditions and customs captured by its authors.

“The roster of prominent writers from 1911 to 1920 includes Sherwood Anderson, Mary Austin, Willa Cather, Theodore Dreiser, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sinclair Lewis, Jack London and Upton Sinclair, yet the issues of everyday life addressed from a popular point of view are found in the work of lesser-known writers. Indeed, popular writing on contemporary issues frequently serves scholars well in their analysis of the historical, political and social interpretation of a period because the narra-



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Collection Overview

William S. Charvat, distinguished professor of American literature in the Department of English at Ohio State University, was a pioneer in the analysis and interpretation of American literary culture. Under his guidance, the American fiction collection at the Ohio State University Libraries (OSUL) became not only the most significant single research book collection of OSUL, but one of the best research collections of its kind in the nation.

Established in the late 1950s, the collection was officially named the William S. Charvat Collection of American Fiction upon Charvat's death in 1966. Charvat recognized early on the importance of a broad-based approach to the study of American literature, and that, in addition to having the works of major canonical writers always at hand, scholars needed access to those lesser lights better known for their local-color fiction, popular genre writing and treatment of disreputable, if not repugnant, subjects within the realm of fiction. Charvat believed that a comprehensive library collection of a particular area within a national literature, if not an entire national literature itself, was an indispensable resource for the scholarly community.



Get the facts on *American Fiction, 1911-1920*
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