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 20th 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?]
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
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-Ir vine
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
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?]
*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]

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

Mirror (1936)

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


*New Challenge (1937), ed. Dorothy West


*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?]


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


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

Dasein: A Quarterly Journal of the Arts (Washington, DC, 1961-69) [Howard University]
*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
*Chickory (Baltimore, 1966-83?), eds. Sam Cornish, Jerry Morton
*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]
*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
*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]
*Rhythm (Atlanta, 1970-71), ed. Donald Stone, A. B. Spellman
*Black Creation (New York, 1970-75) ed. Fred Beauford
*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
*Hambone (Santa Cruz, CA 1974- ) ed. Nathaniel Mackey
*Kitaba Cha Jau (1974-76) [formerly Journal of Black Poetry]
*Soul Singer (New York, 1975-?)
*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]
*Omobwe: Journal of Contemporary Literature (Washington, DC, 1977-?)
*Y’Bird (Berkeley, CA, 1977-78), ed. Ishmael Reed [2 issues?]
*Pot Likker (Atlanta, 1977-) eds. Ebon Dooley, Akua Kamau
*The Black Writer (Chicago, 1980-81?), ed. Reginald Carroll Hayes
*Rainbow (Chicago, 1981)
*Quilt (Berkeley, CA, 1981-86), ed. Al Young and Ishmael Reed
*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-)
*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
*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?]
*Black Renaissance Noire (New York, 1996-), ed. Manthia Diawara
*Cave Canem (New York, 1996-2007)


Randall K. Burkett
Research Curator, African American Collections

March 31, 2018