

The Matter of Europe: Periodical Culture c.1945-1965

Nottingham Trent University

Abstracts:

A United Europe. The Politics and Practices of *Der Monat*

Dana Steglich (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)

There is little to add to the history of *Der Monat* as a magazine founded, funded and edited by Americans. The US-connection of the German-language magazine is tied to its inception in 1948 and is openly displayed in every issue of its first six years. But where does *Der Monat* stand concerning ‘the Matter of Europe’? While there can be no doubt that *Der Monat* was a medium of re-orientation in post-war Germany and that its intent was to function as a connection to ‘the West’ in a time when the Cold War drew new borders across Europe, how openly and in what way this was reflected in the pages of the magazine itself is still a subject worthy of examination.

In order to shed a little more light on the European-connection of *Der Monat*, I will compare the politics of the magazine as a whole – through surveying the history and the goals of the magazine, its founding and the people involved in it, as well as its readership – and the political content in its pages (relating to Europe) with the magazine’s editorial practices – as far as they are made visible in the magazine itself. By letting the structure and visual design of the magazine, the editorial decisions and the role translation plays speak for themselves, I ultimately will test the magazine’s own claims of being “a forum for open debate and discussion on the basis of free expression of opinion” and intention of making “the largest possible number of different voices from Germany and all parts of the world heard.”

Biography: After working as an editor and a literary agent parallel to attaining a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Comparative Literature at Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Dana Steglich worked for two years as an academic associate for the English Studies department at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and for three years as a Research Fellow in the graduate college *Gegenwart/Literatur* at Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn. Her dissertation on the concept of escapism and the works of Anglo-Irish writer Lord Dunsany (1878-1957) will be published in early 2022. She currently works as a Research Fellow at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz in the DFG- and AHRC-funded research project *Spaces of Translation. European Magazine Culture 1945-1965*.

Exile from Eden: Adam International Review

Dr Chris Mourant (University of Birmingham)

This paper will outline a history of Miron Grindea's long-running bilingual literary journal, published in English and French, *Adam International Review* (1929–95). Building on Cyril Connolly's distinction between 'dynamic' and 'eclectic' editorship, as well as Matthew Philpotts's theorisation of 'editorial habitus', the paper will use the example of Grindea and his magazine to examine the role played by magazine editors in forging international networks, articulating notions of European identity, and cultivating the concept of 'world literature' in the post-war atomic age. Emphasising cultural continuity and advancing an 'active humanism' in the face of Nazism, anti-Semitism and the threat of wholesale destruction brought about by the Cold War, Grindea was idealistic about his editorial mission, and his magazine was successful in providing a platform for intellectuals to promote their visions of Europe and reaffirm the 'values' that were felt to underpin European 'civilisation'. In many ways, however, the magazine was also out-of-step with the times, invariably responding to 'crisis' by finding consolation in the past. In this paper, I will examine the limits to *Adam International Review*. How effective is a 'little magazine' when an editor prioritises archival recovery above the discovery of new work? How useful are international cultural commitments when 'internationalism' has been curated by an individual? And what becomes of a magazine when the personality of its editor dominates?

Biography: Chris Mourant is Lecturer in Early Twentieth-Century English Literature and Co-Director of the Centre for Modernist Cultures at the University of Birmingham. He is the author of *Katherine Mansfield and Periodical Culture* (EUP 2019), co-editor of the essay collection *The Modern Short Story and Magazine Culture, 1880–1950* (EUP 2021), and co-editor of the journal *Modernist Cultures*.

Georges Bataille and Éric Weil at the head of the journal *Critique*: correspondence and antipody

Sylvie Patron (Université Paris Diderot)

Critique, subtitled *revue générale des publications françaises et étrangères* (general journal of French and foreign publications), was founded in June 1946 at Éditions du Chêne (Paris). It is the last of the journals of Georges Bataille, writer, thinker, journal creator. After difficult beginnings, two changes of publishers and a one-year hiatus, it found its balance at Éditions de Minuit from October 1950. It was directed by Georges Bataille, assisted in the early years by the philosopher Eric Weil, emigrated from Germany in 1933, following the coming to power of Adolf Hitler, and that Bataille probably met at the seminary of Alexander Kojève. In accordance with its title and subtitle, *Critique* proposes to critically review the most important works and articles published in France and abroad, in all fields of knowledge. “Without Blanchot, nor without Éric Weil, I would not have been able to produce my journal”, said Georges Bataille in an interview to the *Figaro littéraire* in 1948.

The paper presented here will return to the correspondence exchanged by Georges Bataille and Éric Weil, or at least to what from this correspondence could be found: forty-nine letters from Weil to Bataille, sixteen letters or copies of letters from Bataille to Weil, covering a period of about five and a half years. Although incomplete and truncated, this correspondence proves to be very interesting. Through some of Weil’s letters, the content of Bataille’s letters can be estimated. As a whole, the correspondence is a crucial testimony to the first years of *Critique*. We will be interested in the fabrication of the journal, in its editorial formula, in the material and financial difficulties, and finally in the political difficulties. We will try to determine what is at stake in this exchange between two men, in opposition to each other in every way, as emphasized by the metaphor of antipodes, used by Weil many years later, at the time of Bataille’s death.

Biography: Sylvie Patron is an Associate Professor and Research Supervisor in French language and literature at Université de Paris and the director of the Paris Centre for Narrative Matters (IdEx Université de Paris). She published *Critique (1946-1996). Une encyclopédie de l’esprit moderne* (IMEC Éditions, 1999) and edited Georges Bataille, Éric Weil, *À tête de Critique. Correspondance (1946-1951)* (Nouvelles éditions Lignes/IMEC, 2014). She was the initiator and main organizer of the conference *La revue Critique: passions, passages* (Cerisy-la-Salle, June 14-21, 2019), part of the proceedings of which was recently published under the title *Autour de Critique (1946-1962)* (Otrante, 2021). Another area of her research is narrative theory. In this field, she has published six personal and collective works, some translated into English, Arabic and to be published in Chinese, as well as four edited collections.

Encounter magazine and “Going into Europe”

Professor Jason Harding

Brief Abstract: This paper examines the contents of *Encounter* magazine in 1963, the final year that it received secret indirect funding from the CIA, in order to demonstrate that it was a strongly pro-European magazine, critical of British political isolationism. In particular, this paper examines two symposia from 1963: "Going into Europe" and "Suicide of a Nation?"