

Submissions Newsletter #16, Fall 2012 Fiction Writing Dept./Publishing Lab

Welcome to the *Student-Curated Edition* of the Submissions Newsletter. Student researchers from Jotham Burrello's Fiction Writers and Publishing class read through publications and rated them. Handy, right? Read their full market sheets at

http://www.colum.edu/Academics/Fiction_Writing/Publishing_Lab/Market_Pages/Online_markets.php

Remember to always read a few stories before submitting to any publication.

Last Chance

FIRST INKLING

The Essentials:

1. This upcoming issue, they will publish at least one Columbia Fiction Writing student. *Guaranteed*.
2. They're a new magazine dedicated to publishing "the best college and university writing in English." That means they ONLY publish college/university students, guys.
3. They pay. If your work is selected for publication, you're awarded \$100 and get the chance to win the Sammy Award, which is \$750.
4. Though they publish a variety of forms, they've got their eyes peeled for top-notch Creative Nonfiction. Keep under 6000 words.

Deadline: December 4th!!!

Cover Letter: *Mention you are a Columbia College Fiction Writing student* in your cover letter.

Where? Submit to Editor Ian Blake Newhem at his personal email ian@newhem.com

Read Before You Submit: Check out First Inkling, Issue 1 in both the Publishing Lab and Fiction Office.

Link: <http://www.firstinkling.com>

Fiction Writers and Publishing Students Recommend:

Magazine: AGNI

Researcher: Cassie Sheets

What They Publish: Short fiction, essays, reviews, interviews, and poetry

Cassie's Rating: 6. AGNI is a competitive market for emerging writers. Most of the contributors have a long list of credits to their name. They also publish 50% poetry, which makes the market for prose tighter. However, they're a quality print journal with good distribution, and they pay contributors.

Link: <http://www.bu.edu/agni/index.html>

Magazine: CALYX

Researcher: Cassie Sheets

What They Publish: Creative Nonfiction, fiction, interviews, book reviews, poetry, and art by women

Cassie's Rating: 6.5

Why? This is likely not the place an emerging writer would send her work; most of the contributors have a long, impressive list of credits to their names, and the small amount of prose in each issue makes this market even more competitive. However, it is a journal that should be on any emerging women writer's radar. The prose, poetry, and visual art is exciting, the interviews are satisfying, and book reviews will add to the ever growing To Read list writers have.

Link: <http://www.calyxpress.org/journal.html>

Story Week Reader 2013

The Story Week Reader is now accepting submissions for its 9th annual edition, published in conjunction with the 2013 Story Week Festival of Writers.

We're looking for works of fiction, creative nonfiction, one-act plays, and stories in graphic form, all under 750 words (graphic form stories limited to two pages).

Deadline: December 31st

Visit us at

http://www.colum.edu/Academics/Fiction_Writing/Publishing_Lab/SWR/Guidelines.php for more details.

Magazine: Corium

Researcher: Catherine Peterson

What They Publish: Short fiction, very short fiction (1000 words or less), poetry, art

Catherine's Rating: 7

Why? Corium Magazine is fairly new, so it is in search of new work every issue—hence its policy on having an author who has published on their website wait two consecutive issues before submitting again. There is a slighter chance of acceptance, but the quality of work reflects that standard. Additionally Corium seems like a good launching point for material, as you are able to submit without the constraints of a dormant reading period. The magazine's website is incredibly easy to navigate and stylized minimally. The website also states that often times the editors are available to respond with feedback.

Link: <http://www.coriummagazine.com>

Magazine: Corvus Magazine

Researcher: Christina Booth

What They Publish: flash fiction, short stories, and poetry. All genres accepted, especially pieces that acknowledge the existence of non-white and LGBT characters.

Christina's Rating: 7

Why? Corvus is a great compilation of stories that range from every known genre there is without any falling victim to overused tropes and tried literary clichés. There is plenty hope here for any emerging writers because many of the published authors are as green, ambitious, and previously unpublished as the next struggling undergraduate. A close attention to originality makes for a rather sophisticated, diverse publication although a lack of gripping site design and outdated site postings and user comments might suggest an oftentimes dead space.

Link: <http://www.corvumagazine.com>

Magazine: Devilfish Review

Researcher: Jessica Scott

What They Publish: Fiction, Flash Fiction, Book Reviews

Jessica's Rating: 8

Why? Devilfish Review seems very open to and encourages emerging writers to submit to them and the fact that they are also willing to read genre alongside literary fiction and takes book reviews opens up more publishing opportunities. The fiction in the third issue was strong. The site design is clean, straightforward, and easy to navigate and the submission guidelines are clear and specific.

Link: <http://devilfishreview.com/>

Magazine: From the Depths

Researcher: Mikaela Jorgensen

What They Publish: Fiction, flash fiction, penny fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, interviews with their contributors

Mikaela's Rating: 9

Why? This journal focused on horror and dark fiction in their fall issue, though this isn't necessarily the norm. This online journal is a great place for emerging writers to start publishing. The range of experience in the writers From the Depths has published is vast. The journal is very professional in communication, appearance, and content.

Link: http://www.hauntedwaterspress.com/From_the_Depths/From_the_Depths.html

Magazine: Midwestern Gothic

Researcher: Jessica Scott

What They Publish: Fiction of up to 10,000 words as well as poetry and photography. They are looking specifically for pieces set in or prominently featuring the Midwest.

Jessica's Rating: 6.5

Why? There is no doubt that the quality of the writing in the pieces chosen by Midwestern Gothic high. They do say that they are open and eager to publish emerging writers, but the contributors seem to have a good amount of credits to their names. I think a well written, highly revised piece from a fledging writer would have a chance, but it would have to seriously stand out to get the attention.

Link: <http://midwestgothic.com/>

Magazine: PANK magazine

Researcher: Cassie Sheets

What They Publish: "We will read whatever you want to send us." All stories must be original and previously unpublished. Fiction in PANK's online literary magazine is almost always under 1000 words. PANK online is about equal parts poetry and fiction.

Cassie's Rating: 8

Why? PANK publishes a range of writers, from emerging to those with a few publications or a novel. They consistently publish quality work in a variety of styles, from plainspoken to experimental (verging more on prose-poetry). Their site is easy to navigate, with a well-organized archive of work, and is visually appealing. Some of the stories offer audio versions read by the author, making the work accessible to everyone while engaging an Internet audience. The addition of a print publication is also encouraging for writers who may hope to see their work on the physical page.

Link: <http://www.pankmagazine.com>

Magazine: Passages North

Researcher: Kelly Barwick

What They Publish: Fiction, Flash Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, Hybrids, Spoken-Word, Writers on Writing

Kelly's Rating: 7

Why? Passages North has a clean and professional looking layout. The stories are high quality and of a good variety. Since they only publish annually, there is less opportunity to be accepted.

Link: <http://passagesnorth.com>

Magazine: Shimmer

Researcher: Jessica Scott

What They Publish: Contemporary fantasy short stories; occasionally ventures sci-fi and horror. Their stories tend to be "tinged with sorrow (though we're not adverse to the occasional funny tale)."

Jessica's Rating: 6

Why? While I enjoyed the stories in Shimmer, most of the contributors seem to have a few science fiction or fantasy publishing credits to their name, so any emerging writer submitting to them would need to have a piece of work that is well polished. On the plus side, getting a story in Shimmer would be looked at for anthologies and they pay their contributors.

Link: <http://www.shimmerzine.com/>

Magazine: Vestal Review

Researcher: Catherine Peterson

What They Publish: Flash fiction

Catherine's Rating: 4

Why? From prior issues of Vestal Review it is clear that the publication includes a different set of contributors each issue, which is encouraging to emerging writers with few clips. However, most issues only include five to eight pieces, which suggests that there is either heavy competition to get published, or the journal has yet to produce a bigger volume of voices. While Vestal Review has a decent legacy of producing flash fiction since 2000, its website is not cutting-edge in terms of design, and I was able to cite several editorial mistakes. Most of the writing is of quality, but at such a slim rate of acceptance, it leaves one expecting more.

Link: <http://www.vestalreview.net>

Magazine: Wigleaf

Researcher: Cassie Sheets

What They Publish: Flash fiction (under 1000 words.) Two stories are published per week for nine months of the year (September - early May). From early May to August, their annual publication The Wigleaf Top 50 (Very) Short Fictions of the year is released.

Cassie's Rating: 8

Why? Wigleaf's clean web design and quality writing make it stand out in the vast world of online publications. The frequency of publications keeps one returning to their site on a regular basis, and the archives organize and preserve past contributors' work. Though many contributors are experienced writers,

emerging writers or writers with just two or three credits under their belt are also welcome. Though much of the fiction is traditionally narrative, Wigleaf also publishes more experimental, poetic prose.

Link: <http://www.wigleaf.com>

Magazine: Word Riot

Researcher: Kelly Barwick

What They Publish: Short Stories, Flash Fiction, Novel Excerpts, Stretching Forms (Experimental), Creative Nonfiction, Poetry, Reviews, and Interviews

Kelly's Rating: 9

Why? It's a well designed website and there is a wide variety of ways to be published. It does publish a limited amount with each issue so they must be highly selective.

Link: <http://wordriot.org/>

New Author Interview

Are you an emerging writer? (Yes!) Are you curious about children's and Young Adult literature? (Yes!) Are you interested in learning about the importance of agents? (Yes!)

Check out the Publishing Lab's new interview with [Laurie Lawlor](#), who's been in "the business" since 1986, has published over thirty books for children and young adults and teaches Young Adult Fiction and Writing for Children at Columbia College Chicago.

For more market leads, author interviews and videos, visit us at:

http://www.colum.edu/Academics/Fiction_Writing/Publishing_Lab/index.php