Publishing in Literary Magazines

JoAnna Novak
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<td>Book review</td>
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<td>Interviews</td>
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<td>Essays</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book of poetry</td>
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What are literary magazines?
WHY SHOULD YOU (TRY TO) PUBLISH IN THEM?
Some Motivators

- To establish yourself as a working writer
- To share your work
- To gauge your work’s doneness
- To get editorial feedback on your work
- To make a cultural contribution with your work
- To contribute to the wider literary community (with your work)
- To build artistic and editorial connections
- To [insert unique, deep-seeded psychological motivator—i.e., prove yourself/use your voice/stake a claim/etc.]
I. Who submits to literary magazines?

II. When should you submit to literary magazines?

III. Where do you learn about literary magazines?

IV. How do you submit to literary magazines?

V. What do literary magazines mean when they say ...

VI. What happens when I get published? (Or don’t get published...)
Who submits to literary magazines?

WRITERS AT ALL STAGES OF THEIR CAREERS
When should you submit to literary magazines?

◦ Your work is/feels DONE (i.e., rewritten, revised, edited, copyedited, proofread, polished, etc.)
◦ Your work is/feels RELEVANT
◦ Your work is/feels UNCOOPERATIVE and you know you’ve done everything in your power to get it to cooperate
◦ Your work is/feels ready to be OFF YOUR PLATE
Where do you learn about literary magazines?
Acknowledgments pages

Annual anthologies
  - Pushcart Prize
    - Clifford Garstang’s Rankings
  - Best American Essays/Short Stories/Poetry

Word of mouth

Social media (useful rabbit holing!)

Indie bookstores

Databases
  - Poets and Writers
  - Entropy: Where to Submit
  - NewPages
  - Duotrope
  - Submittable’s Browse Opportunities page
HOW DO YOU SUBMIT TO LITERARY MAGAZINES?
Submission 411

Choose
Choose a literary magazine

Read
Read the guidelines

Prepare
Prepare the submission

Prepare
Prepare the cover letter

Click
Click 'Submit' or lick the envelope
NOT ALL LITERARY MAGAZINES ARE CREATED EQUAL.
2021 Literary Magazine Ranking – Fiction

by Cliff | Posted on December 10, 2020

Below is the 2021 Literary Magazine Ranking for Fiction. For a discussion of the rationale and methodology for the ranking, please go here.

If you find the list useful, please consider purchasing one or more of my books.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magazine</th>
<th>2020 Rank</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  Paris Review</td>
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<td>2  One Story</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>2  Ploughshares</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>4  Conjunctions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5  Gettysburg Review</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>43.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6  Three Penny Review</td>
<td>5</td>
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PLEASE SEND TO: NOON, C/O DIANE WILLIAMS 1392 MADISON AVENUE PMB 298 NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10029

NOON WELCOMES SUBMISSIONS.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE NECESSARY SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE. WE DO NOT ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS.

WHILE WE WELCOME UNSOLICITED MANUSCRIPTS, WE CANNOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR LOSS OR DAMAGE. ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE IN ENGLISH. SIMULTANEOUS SUBMISSIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE, SO LONG AS WE ARE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY IF THE MANUSCRIPT IS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION ELSEWHERE.
Thanks so much for your interest, and we look forward to reading your work. Please be familiar with the magazine and our mission before you submit.

For 2021, there will be no submission fees thanks to our generous donors.

In your cover letter, we encourage you to include information that you would like us to know, such as whether, if we choose to publish it, this submission will be your first publication.

If a department is not listed below, that means it is not currently accepting submissions.

Just a few additional things:

- Upon publication, contributors will be paid a $25–$100 fee, depending on department and number/length of works published.
Ecotone, the literary magazine dedicated to reimagining place, welcomes work from a wide range of voices. We are particularly interested in place-based work by people historically underrepresented in literary publishing and in place-based creative writing and art by Black, Indigenous, people of color, women, with disabilities, gender nonconforming, LGBTQIA+ voices, and others. We welcome the works of emerging writers. Please review our complete guidelines before submitting. We strongly encourage writers to read work we’ve published before sending their own. A selection of writing and art from recent issues is featured on our website, where you can also order a copy of the magazine.

Upcoming submissions schedule: Ecotone will be open to submissions by post and via Submittable, from January 1 to February 10, 2023. In addition, from January 11 to January 23, 2023, we will open to on-line Submittable submissions from EPIC writers only.

Postal submissions: We are committed to receiving submissions by post for many reasons, among them to offer a few time-option, and so that people who are incarcerated are able to send work. Long live the USPS! All manuscripts and all correspondence regarding submissions sent to our physical address should be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE). For a response, no replies will be given by email to submissions sent through the mail. We assume no responsibility for delay, loss, or damage. We have no preference regarding the use of staples versus paper clips, though we like to contemplate the contents of each. We adhere strictly to postal laws. Any invalid submission (postmarked outside the listed submission period) will be recycled unread. Submissions sent within the United States may be posted to the editor of the appropriate genre, at the following address:

(David) Editor, Ecotone
Department of Creative Writing
University of North Carolina Wilmington
601 South College Road Wilmington, NC 28405 2153

Online submissions: During open mailing periods, you may send one submission in one genre at ecotone-submissions.com. There’s $6 to use the online system. If you are not a subscriber to the magazine. On completion of your submission, we’ll send you a discount for $3 off a year’s subscription (or renewed) to the magazine. Current Ecotone subscribers, in thanks for your support of the magazine, have saved the fee to be Submittable. If you’re a current subscriber and wish to send work via Submittable, please choose the appropriate subscriber category, and follow the instructions there. Subscriptions will be renewed, as is our right as the editor of each magazine. Writers outside the United States, please use the online submissions system to send your work.

If you’re a past contributor to Ecotone, please mention it in your cover letter (and check the appropriate box if sending via Submittable). Please wait two years (four issues) after publication before sending new work. If you’ve never been published, any work in the genre to which you’re submitting, please let us know that as well.

Reporting time is generally six to eight months, although sometimes longer due to the volume of submissions received. We continue to reply to submissions and will be in touch as soon as we can.

Withdrawals: If you send work via Submittable, do not email the editors to withdraw part or all of your submission; instead, withdraw in Submittable, or for partial withdrawals, add a note to your submission.

Queries and revisions: Do not query us about your submission unless there is a need—for instance, if the work you submitted will appear in a forthcoming collection. Should you need to be in touch, please do via Submittable (or by post if you sent work by post) rather than emailing editors. This will allow us to keep track of your message. We will read the version of your work that you initially submitted. We do not consider revisions to submissions once sent.

Please submit only once per reading period, either poetry, nonfiction, or fiction.

Simultaneous submissions are accepted, provided that you let us know that you are submitting simultaneously and notify us promptly if the manuscript is accepted elsewhere. Withdrawals for past submissions only may be sent by email. Previously published work is not accepted. We do not read work from recent (within the past fifteen years) or current UNC Wilmington students.

Prose: Send one prose piece of no more than 10,000 words (ca. thirty double-spaced pages), in a standard font. Note that most work we run is shorter than this upper limit. We are also interested in brief prose works (minimum 2,000 to ca. 3,000 words), one per submission. Prose should be typed and printed on one side of the page. Send a brief cover letter with your submission, including the title(s) of the piece(s) you are sending, a word count, a short bio, and your contact information. Do not include your name in the filename or the file itself.

The editors are particularly interested, for upcoming issues, in nonfiction that engages deeply, and personally, with the natural and social sciences—ecology, natural history, sociology, and other fields, in both Western and non-Western contexts. We like to see fiction that is deeply rooted in place, and/or that engages

Poetry: Send three to five poems at a time. If submitting online, include all poems in a single document. Poemas should be typed, single-spaced, on one side of the page. Send a brief cover letter with your submission, including the title(s) of the piece(s) you are sending, a short bio, and your contact information. Do not include your name in the filename or the file itself. If you sent work via Submittable, do not email the editors to withdraw part or all of your submission; instead, withdraw using Submittable, or for partial withdrawals, add a note to your submission.

As ever, we are interested in work that considers place, environment, and identity in fresh and expansive ways. The editors are particularly interested, for upcoming issues, in poetry that engages with the social and natural sciences, and poetry that uses form, meter, and/or other poetic constraints to innovative and expansive ends. Work in the French repeating forms (rondsoule, ballades, rondelets, and the like) as well as newer forms (golden shovels, fibs, etc.) is especially encouraged,
Submission
Formatting Checklist

◦ Flawless grammar and spelling
◦ Standard serif font
◦ Page numbers
◦ One poem per page
◦ Titles on all poems
◦ Contact information (in header)
◦ Cover letter separate or in submission file
◦ File format (.doc, .docx, or .pdf)
◦ Market appropriate
Cover Letter Formatting Checklist

- **SALUTATION**: Addressing appropriate editors.
- **INCLUDE THE TITLE OF WORK AND THE GENRE**.
- **PROVIDE A PROFESSIONAL BIO**.
- **NOTE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (E.G., RESPONDING TO A PARTICULAR CALL OR ISSUE)**.
- **THANK THE EDITORS FOR READING YOUR WORK**.
Dear Poetry Editors,

Please consider these five poems—“Amino,” “Cartography,” “Excursion,” “N is for Nature,” and “Surrender”—for publication in The Southern Review.


I appreciate you spending time with my work.

All best,
JoAnna
SUBMISSION MANAGERS
JoAnna Novak

My Submissions

Submissions: Oct 2017 – Dec 2018

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<th>All Submissions</th>
<th>Active</th>
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Sort by date:
Decoding Literary Magazine Speak

- Slush pile
- Reading period
- Simultaneous submission
- Blind submission
- SASE
- Previously published vs. unpublished
Publication
What to Expect from Them and You

◦ Them: acceptance letter, a sense of when the work will be published
  ◦ You: respond, letting editor know your work is still available
  ◦ You: promptly withdraw piece from other publications

◦ Them: Editorial requests—heavy, light, or nonexistent edits; an up-to-date bio; ancillary content (i.e., interviews, podcast recordings)
  ◦ You: respond to edits in a timely manner

◦ Them: Payment (in rare cases)
  ◦ You: celebrate

◦ Them: Social media promotion
  ◦ You: share, connect with other writers
Dear Miss Plath,

I'm sorry we decided against these poems. We like the second section of AMNESIAC very much, but cannot see any relation to the first section. Perhaps we're being unfair. But would you think over the possibility of printing the second section alone under that title? If you would care to resubmit it that way, we'd be happy to consider it again.

Thank you for sending these poems to us, and we hope to see others.

Sincerely,

Howard Moss
Tiers of Rejections

Standard Rejection
- Form response
- Signed by genre editor or managing editor

Encouraging Rejection
- Kinder form response
- Signed by genre editor or managing editor

Personalized Encouraging Rejection
- Kinder form response
- Comments specific to your work
- “We were close”
- “Please try us again”
- Signed by specific editor
Low hanging fruit ... ?
Other Ways to Publish in Literary Magazines

REVIEWS

INTERVIEWS

BLOG CONTRIBUTIONS
"A FEW LAST RULES"
READ YOUR DREAM PUBLICATIONS.
Always have work out.
NURTURE EDITORIAL RELATIONSHIPS.
Questions?