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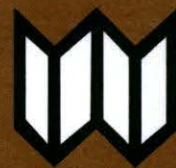
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Opportunities for Research in the Watkinson Library

American Periodicals: *POLITICS*



Series Introduction

A traditional focus of collecting in the Watkinson since we opened on August 28, 1866, has been American periodicals, and we have quite a good representation of them from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries. However, in terms of “discoverability” (to use the current term), it is not enough to represent each of the 600-plus titles in the online catalog. We hope that our students, faculty, and other researchers will appreciate this series of annotated guides to our periodicals, broken down into basic themes (politics, music, science and medicine, children, education, women, etc.), all of which have been compiled by Watkinson Trustee and volunteer Dr. Leonard Banco. We extend our deep thanks to Len for the hundreds of hours he has devoted to this project since the spring of 2014. His breadth of knowledge about the period and his inquisitive nature have made it possible for us to promote a unique resource through this work, which has already been of great use to visiting scholars and Trinity classes. Students and faculty keen for projects will take note of the possibilities!

Richard J. Ring
Head Curator and Librarian

POLITICS

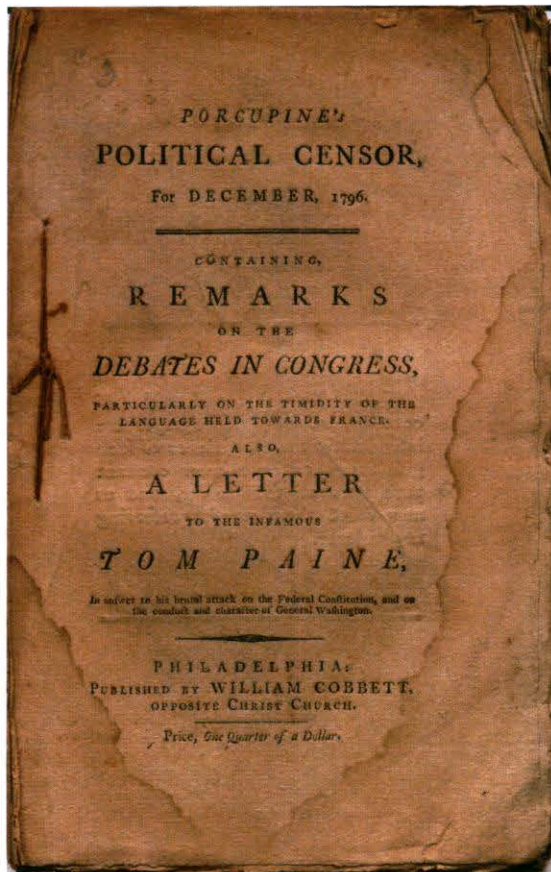
Introduction

The Watkinson holds 28 19th-century American magazines with primarily political content, 11 of which are complete runs. Since we are in New England, the earliest publications support the policies of the Federalists. A particular strength is in abolitionist material (1825–1865) and, perhaps surprisingly, northern Democratic periodicals that supported slavery and state’s rights well before and during the Civil War. There is also an interesting collection of late 19th- and early 20th-century socialist and internationalist periodicals. While these magazines are primarily focused on politics, many of them were more eclectic, especially as a repository for publishing American authors of fiction and poetry. Likewise, the more “general” magazines (i.e., with content overall too general in nature to warrant classifying them into one subject) often contain political and historical material that can be of use to faculty and students pursuing research in the political arena.

Dr. Leonard Banco
Trustee of the Watkinson Library

Porcupine's Political Censor Philadelphia (November 1796–March 1797)

This was one of William Cobbett's many politically combative publications issued during a tense time in American domestic and international affairs. The November 1796 issue contains "observations on the insolent and seditious notes" of the French Minister Adet, whose attempts at direct diplomacy with the American people were met with scorn. The December number thunders on about Congressional timidity, spits vitriol toward France, and lashes out at Thomas Paine for his attack on Washington and the Constitution. The January 1797 issue includes great praise for John Adams, belittlement of Madison, and on Jefferson: "He did not retire merely to wander through the groves, to listen to the oaten reed of the smutty swains, nor to solace his limbs in the silver brooks of his modern Arcadia." Cobbett describes a "Festival of Fools," which included Dr. Priestly, the French minister Adet, and Chief Justice M'Kean of Pennsylvania, and also writes about Franklin, Rittenhouse, and Rush. The March issue, which is quite humorous, includes "Noah Webster's attack on *Porcupine*," "Porcupine's Last Will and Testament," published in response to supposed threats on Cobbett's life, and "An interesting Letter from a Gentleman in Switzerland, to his friend in America, describing the situation of France." The March edition was the ninth and final monthly issue of *Porcupine's Political Censor* before Cobbett turned it into a daily periodical called *Porcupine's Gazette*.



Republican Rush-Light New York (vol. 1, 1800–vol. 1, no. 7, 1801)

This magazine was edited, written, and published by William Cobbett and was a successor to *Porcupine's Gazette*. The content was focused almost entirely on an "action for slander" commenced against Cobbett by Dr. Benjamin Rush, "the noted bleeding physician of Philadelphia." Cobbett lost the slander case, and the \$5,000 ruling against him (a huge sum of money in those days) caused his bankruptcy and led to his return to England. The issue turned, among other points, upon Rush's therapeutic use of frequent bleeding to treat diseases and Cobbett's vociferous public opposition. In the end, Cobbett was right, and therapeutic bleeding was ultimately abandoned. The title of the magazine is a play on words, with "Rush" applying to a type of lighting device, as well as the personification of Cobbett's scorn.

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Connecticut Republican Magazine Suffield, Connecticut (vol. 1, no. 1, 1802–vol. 1, no. 6, 1803)

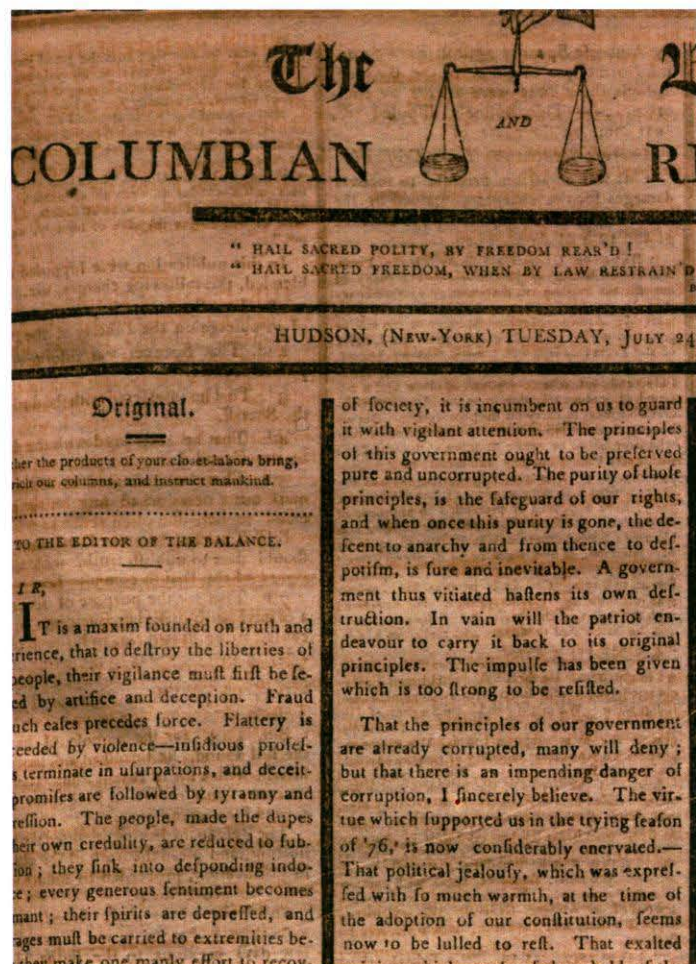
An unusual Republican magazine in the heart of Federalist Connecticut, *Connecticut Republican Magazine* claims to be devoted to the "Truth, a thing to which many of the editors and correspondents of Federal newspapers in the United States pay very little attention." Excerpts from other Republican journals, including the *Aurora*, are present throughout, as well as reprints of the Declaration of Independence, Common Sense, and biographies of Thomas Jefferson and other contemporary political figures. An attack on Aaron Burr begins, "Ambition has guided all of his steps, cunning has marked his career." The magazine repeats the charge that Burr negotiated with Hamilton and the Federalists to secure the presidency for himself in the 1800 election and is critical of Hamilton as a monarchist, as well as Adams. The magazine also published poems addressing political issues, such as abolition of the slave trade.

The Balance, and Columbian Repository

Hudson, New York

(vol. 1, 1802-vol. 7, 1808, complete)

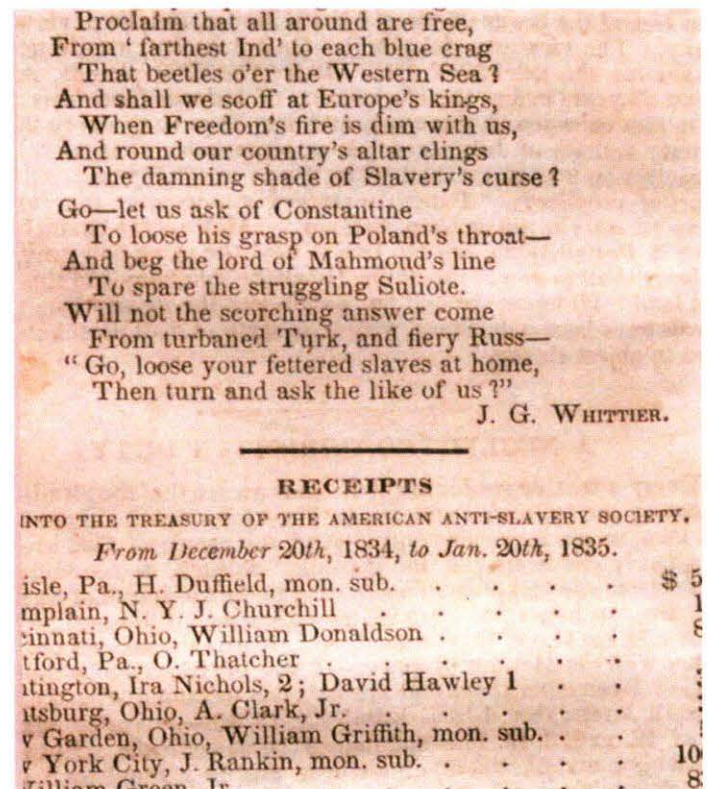
This aggressively Federalist periodical published many speeches, messages, and statements, often for the first time in print. Transcripts of congressional proceedings with full speeches appear, as well as one of the earliest accounts of the Lewis and Clarke expedition — a letter from Lewis to Jefferson. This magazine printed an early transcript of Jefferson's 1802 State of the Union message to Congress as well as the text of President Jefferson's Message to Congress, wherein Jefferson discusses relations with foreign powers (including the Delaware and other Indian tribes), the Louisiana Purchase, the U.S. Navy, and the federal budget. There are many pieces critical of the Republicans, written as news articles but with a clear slant. One such article is aimed at Attorney General Spencer for "outrage on the Liberty of the Press." He draws up, or causes to be drawn up, in his own office, a day or two previous to the sitting of the court, a bill of indictment against the printer for publishing a libel on Thomas Jefferson. Crosswell would later be tried for libel of Jefferson and defended before the Supreme Court by Alexander Hamilton. Interestingly, Hamilton invokes the motives of "the framers of the Constitution" as justification against Jefferson's policies. Overall, this is one of the best contemporary journals addressing the controversial period of the Jefferson presidency.



The Ordeal: A Critical Journal of Politicks and Literature

Boston (January-July, 1809, complete)

Edited by Joseph Buckingham, this Federalist journal included serious reviews of political history as well as satire, advocated for repeal of the Embargo Laws, and published poetry and theater reviews.



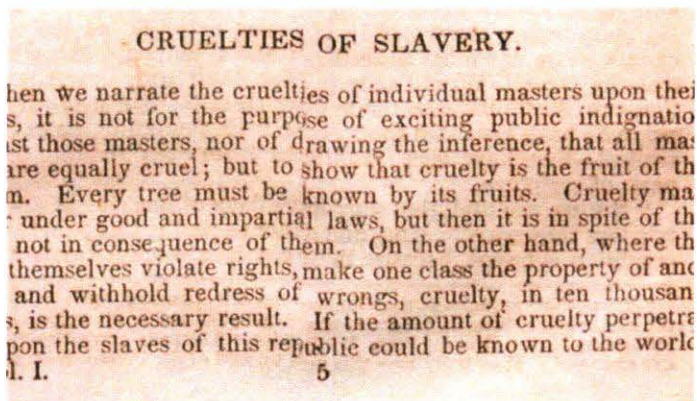
The Examiner

New York (vol. 1, 1813-vol. 5, 1816)

Containing political essays on the most important events of the time, "This paper will be chiefly political ... its politics will be Republican for it will strive to expose the dangerous doctrines and insidious practices ... [which] have been undermining our free system of government. ... Its politics will moreover be Federal in as much as the union of the states affords the greatest security to our Republican institutions ... [we] will not cease to advocate a speedy peace ... the editor will nevertheless delight in describing the exploits of American Heroism ... national gratitude is best displayed in bestowing substantial rewards on brave and honorable men." *The Examiner* opposed the War of 1812 and was morose about the state of the economy. It includes much commentary on political figures, letters in response, speeches, etc.

African Observer **Philadelphia (1827-1828, complete)**

In the prospectus, the following areas of focus are defined: sketches of African history, ancient and modern; history, character, and incidents of slavery among the ancients; the African slave trade; the nature and character of slavery in the islands and on the continent of America including the internal slave trade within the United States; principles of political economy in relation to slave labor and consumption; biographical notices; considerable material on history and accounts of escaped slaves with evidence and testimony against the slaveholders; plans for improving the condition of slaves in the United States; list of African Free Schools in the United States; census of whites and slaves in various states; view of the situation and future prospects for the free population of the United States. This is overall a good source for contemporary primary and secondary material.



The Abolitionist **Boston (1833, complete)**

Its mission was "to promote the abolition of slavery and to improve the condition of free people of color in the United States." A focus was on the biblical sin of slavery and the use of free labor in place of slaves, and it advocated immediate emancipation through letters, poetry, and articles reprinted from other periodicals, including those addressing slavery in Northern states. Opposed to the American Colonization Society, its position was that emancipated slaves remain in the United States. This magazine carried an announcement of the first annual meeting of the New England Anti-Slavery Society and printed Rushton's Expostulatory Letter to George Washington (taking him to task as a slaveholder).

The Examiner, and Journal of Political Economy **Philadelphia (1833-1834)**

The stated purpose of this publication was "to disseminate the great principles of Constitutional Liberty [and] advocate the Republican doctrines of '98, as set forth in the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, and as maintained by Jefferson, Madison, M'Kean, and the other distinguished champions of State Rights and State Remedies." It published many contemporary speeches on both sides of the issue as well as reviews of the history of state's rights with reference to the Constitution, the 1798 Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, etc. Many historical references are used as the basis for contemporary political debate, including extracts from letters and documents by Jefferson, Adams, Madison, and others. "Political inconsistencies" were identified, such as in statements by Daniel Webster, and criticisms proffered on the ability of the judiciary to decide disputes between the federal and state governments, since the judges were not elected and did not represent the will of the people. Overall, it provides great material and is useful in understanding the key political issues of the antebellum period.

The Anti-Slavery Record **New York (vol. 1, 1835-vol. 3, 1837)** **(all published)**

The Anti-Slavery Record was a monthly publication of the American Anti-Slavery Society, founded in 1833 in Newburyport, Massachusetts, in the house of James Forten, an African American abolitionist, and growing to a membership of some 200,000 by 1840. Among its founders was the white abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, Forten's personal friend. Devoted to abolition, its contents include articles on the justification for emancipation using biblical passages, poetry, true stories of runaway slaves, and excerpts from other publications. Woodcuts illustrate many of the stories, and considerable attention is paid to the African American condition and the nature of slaveholders.

Quarterly Anti-Slavery Magazine **New York (vol. 1, 1835-vol. 2, 1837, complete)**

The *Quarterly Anti-Slavery Magazine* contains original and reprinted articles about slavery and the Bible, slavery and the Constitution, and foreign intelligence, including the abolition of slavery by Great Britain, the horrors of St. Domingo, and the influence of slavery on slaveholders. Specific articles include: "American Slavery vs. Human Liberty," by a Kentuckian; "The Church Carried Along; Or, the Opinions of a D.D. on Slavery," by the Rev. Beiah Green, president of Oneida Institute; "The Cause of Freedom in Our Country," by Dr. Charles Pollen; "Slavery and the Constitution," by the Rev. Samuel J. May; "The Rev. F.A. Cox, D.D. and His American Apologists"; and "Land Piracy," by the editors. Our copy contains the autograph of well-known American abolitionist Wendell Phillips.

United States Magazine and Democratic Review

New York (vol. 1, 1837–vol. 40, 1857)

This was a highly regarded journal created to champion Jacksonian Democracy, a movement that had often been disparaged in the more conservative *North American Review*. Its motto, “The best government is that which governs least,” was famously paraphrased by Henry David Thoreau in “Resistance to Civil Government,” better known as “Civil Disobedience.” The magazine featured political essays — many of them penned by editor John O’Sullivan — extolling the virtues of Jacksonian Democracy and criticizing what Democrats regarded as the aristocratic pretensions of their opponents. The journal supported Martin Van Buren in his failed bid for the presidency in the 1840 election and James K. Polk in his successful pursuit of that office in 1844. The magazine published many biographies (Thomas Hart Benton, Joel Poinsett, Nathaniel Macon) and book reviews, such as Davis’s biography of Aaron Burr, and a long critical review of de Tocqueville’s *Democracy in America*. The magazine is also responsible for coining the term “Manifest Destiny,” initially in connection with the annexation of Mexico and later western expansion. The magazine was skeptical of judicial review by the Supreme Court; the editor believed that “a minority is much more likely to abuse power in the promotion of its own selfish interest at the expense of the majority” than the other way around. *The Democratic Review* also promoted the development of American literature. Regular contributors were Nathaniel Hawthorne and John Greenleaf Whittier, with occasional contributions by William Cullen Bryant and James Fenimore Cooper and some of the early work of Walt Whitman, James Russell Lowell, and Henry David Thoreau. It claims the first appearance of Walt Whitman’s short story “Wild Frank’s Return,” which some critics believe reflects Whitman’s relationship with his father. It was an important magazine in the United States for more than two decades prior to the Civil War.

The Diamond **New York (1840)**

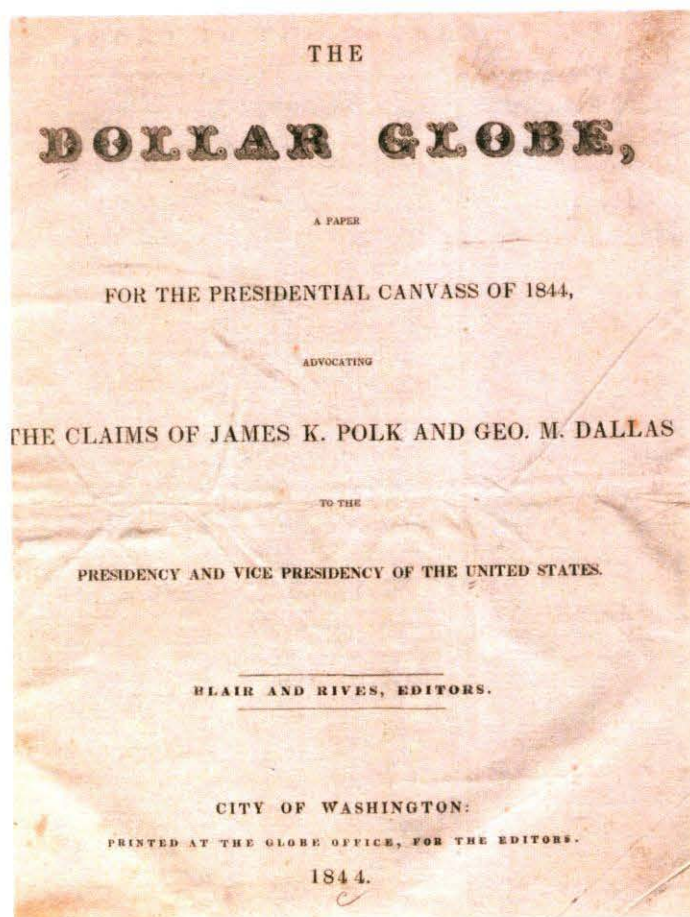
“A depository for sound political principles and those of political economy,” *The Diamond* strongly supported Jackson and Van Buren, excoriating the candidate William Henry Harrison. Other articles were on gold and silver currency, bills of exchange, bank notes, etc. The editors were critical of young lawyers aspiring to politics and were generally anti-speculator and pro-labor.

American Law Magazine **Philadelphia** **(vol. 1, 1843–vol. 6, 1846, complete)**

Various aspects of law in the mid-19th century were covered in this publication, including the application of debt payments, consequential damages, the liability of corporations, novation (the substitution of a new contract or agreement for an old one), and digests of significant English and American cases.

Dollar Globe **Washington, D.C.** **(no. 1, 1844–no. 52, 1845, complete)**

The *Dollar Globe* was founded “for the Presidential Canvass of 1844 advocating the claims of James K. Polk and George M. Dallas to the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States.” The editors saw Polk as the legitimate successor to Jackson (and Van Buren, who withdrew from re-nomination). It includes the proceedings of the Democratic National Convention in great detail, and there is considerable material regarding nativism, opposition to Henry Clay (the Whig candidate), and the U.S. position regarding Mexico. A lengthy letter from Jackson to the paper outlines his support for the annexation of Texas, and political dispatches from all over the United States are included, especially regarding Democrats. There is also material on the Dorr Rebellion in Rhode Island and detailed results of the 1844 election.



The Harbinger

New York (vol. 1, 1845–vol. 5, 1847)

Devoted to social and political progress, this paper was founded at Brook Farm, edited by George Ripley, and connected to a group known as the Phalanx, who were pro-labor, pro-women's rights and proto-socialist. They also opposed slavery and the Mexican War. Contributors included Albert Brisbane, William Henry Channing, Horace Greeley, J.G. Whittier, and James Russell Lowell. Literary works were serialized, including "Consuelo" by George Sand and Charles Fourier's "New Industrial World." There is a report on the famine in Ireland, music reviews, political material opposing slavery, and the war with Mexico, as well as other works on New England transcendentalism.

The Spirit of the Age

New York (1849)

"This weekly paper seeks as its end the Peaceful Transformation of human societies from isolated to associated interests, from competitive to cooperative industry, from disunity to unity. Amidst revolution and reaction it advocates reorganization. It desires to reconcile conflicting classes and to harmonize man's various tendencies by an orderly arrangement of all relations, in the Family, the Township, the Nation, the World. Thus would it aid to introduce the Era of Confederated Communities, which in spirit, truth and deed shall be the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness, a Heaven upon Earth." William Henry Channing, the editor, was born in Boston, and when his father died, responsibility for his education was assumed by his uncle, William Ellery Channing, the preeminent Unitarian theologian of the early 19th century. He became warmly interested in the schemes of Charles Fourier and others for social reorganization. He moved to Boston about 1847, afterward to Rochester, New York, and to New York City, where, both as preacher and editor, he became a leader in a movement of Christian socialism. In 1848, he presided over The Religious Union of Associationists in Boston, a socialist group that included many members of the Brook Farm commune. This magazine by "Christian Socialists" was published by Fowler and Wells, who were better known for their phrenology publications. The magazine contained short stories, poems, news, reprinted excerpts from J.S. Mill's "On the Laboring Classes," discussed relations between man and property, and introduced the idea of "a congress of nations."



Citizen of the World

Philadelphia (vol. 1, 1855)

This pacifist and to some degree proto-utopian socialist magazine was dedicated to "elevation of the lives and the world through the Christian religion." Associated with the "Olive Leaf Mission and Society," the magazine promoted world peace based upon biblical teaching. Articles addressed the financial cost of war and advocated a strike of the workers of the world against war. It considered "free labor" as a Christian responsibility. It wrote on behalf of "Free White Colonies" of impoverished whites of the South and, more than 100 years ahead of its time, suggested the abolition of the "smoke nuisance" [smoking] in 1855. Some of the articles were focused on children.

National Democratic Quarterly Review

Washington, D.C. (vol. 1, 1859–vol. 3, 1861)

The salutation in the first issue states that its purpose is "to publish a work which ... may be eminently useful to the Democratic Party in asserting and defending sound principles. Nothing will ever be printed which will in letter or spirit encourage any departure from the strictest tenets of States Rights Democracy" (this includes support of slavery). Topics of articles include the outbreak at Harper's Ferry, President James Buchanan, the San Juan question, foreign commercial relations, Mexico, the politics of the Republican Party, pro-slavery vs. abolition, and the military establishment in the United States. Interestingly, a case is made for the idea that the Constitution protects slavery and slave ownership under freedom of religion.

The Old Guard

New York (vol. 1, 1863–vol. 3, 1865)

Edited by Charles Chauncy Burr, this “monthly journal devoted to the principles of 1776 and 1787” and “designed to unmask the usurpation, despotism and crimes of the Abolition Administration” was a Northern Copperhead pro-slavery magazine. It was virulently opposed to the Civil War and was anti-Lincoln. Quoting Calhoun, “If [abolition] lives, the nation must die.” The first issue addresses the cost of the war to the Northern states. Another article warns that abolitionists such as Henry Ward Beecher “will turn our country into an African jungle.” In January 1865, it recommends settling the war on the basis of the 1798 Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions; in May, news is published of Lincoln’s murder, which is condemned. In June, with the end of the war, the paper advocates for reunification.

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For illustrated circulars address H. M. MALOY, Electric Appliance Co., 2 Bond Street, New York.

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The New Nation

New York (vol. 1, no. 2, March 21, 1864–vol. 1 no. 26, August 27, 1864)

The New Nation was a political, military, and literary newspaper, primarily devoted to identifying a candidate in the election of 1864 in opposition to Lincoln, who was regarded by the editors as dishonest and ruining the nation through the Civil War. A group of Republican dissidents calling themselves Radical Republicans formed the Radical Democracy Party and nominated John C. Frémont as their candidate for president. Frémont withdrew in September 1864 and endorsed Lincoln. The magazine printed detailed accounts of battles, a multi-issue review of the Constitution, and verbatim accounts of Frémont’s nominating convention and the party platform.

The Radical Review

New Bedford, Massachusetts (vol. 1, no. 1–vol. 1, no. 2, 1877)

The editor Benjamin Tucker described the journal as “a publication for the thorough, fearless and impartial discussion of all sides of all subjects pertaining to human welfare, whether social, economic, scientific, literary, aesthetic or religious.” Content allegedly contained “the most radical thought of our time” and declared “Down with authority!” as their war cry. Topics include science vs. religion, practical socialism in Germany, the influence of physical conditions in the genesis of species (evolution), and American financiers. Contributors included William J. Potter, C.W. Ball, C.W. Earnst, Edmund C. Stedman, Lysander Spooner, Joel H. Allen, Joseph B. Marvin (an article on Walt Whitman), Dyer D. Lam, Stephen Pearl Andrews, John Weiss, and Sydney H. Morse. This magazine ran for only four issues, of which Watkinson has the first two.

Chic

New York (vol. 1, 1880–vol. 2, 1881, complete)

This humorous/satirical political and social magazine in the style of “Puck” for American audiences included full-page, color political cartoons (mostly by Charles Kendrick) and much on the presidential campaign of 1880, as well as theater reviews and comments on society.





The Nationalist

Boston (vol. 1, 1889–vol. 2, 1890)

"In favor of the nationalization of industry and the promotion of the brotherhood of humanity." *The Nationalist* was published by the Nationalist Educational Association, of which Edward Bellamy was president; he contributed "How I Came to Write *Looking Backward*." The Nationalist Movement and the clubs that were organized as part of it were the direct result of the effects of the publication of his book, which was the largest best seller in the 19th century after *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Among other contributors were Edward Everett Hale and Henry Willard Austin.

American Patriot

San Francisco (vol. 1, 1894–vol. 3, 1896)

This nativist, anti-Catholic magazine aimed to be "A fearless defender of America, Americans and American Principles and Institutions." Among the aims were that "true American citizens be elected" without allegiance to foreign power or potentate and all voters be able to speak, read, and write English. The editors advocated for nonsectarian education in opposition to parochial, especially Catholic, schools, opining that teachers must all be American and teach American patriotism. They also advocated a constitutional amendment to prohibit any funding for nonsectarian institutions and desired to increase the time of naturalization to seven years of residency and to suspend immigration entirely for some number of years, after which to permit to enter only those who possessed "good moral character" and who could read and write English. More radically, they stated that only American citizens should be able to own land, and any land currently being owned/used by noncitizens or foreign corporations should be forfeited.

Socialist Spirit

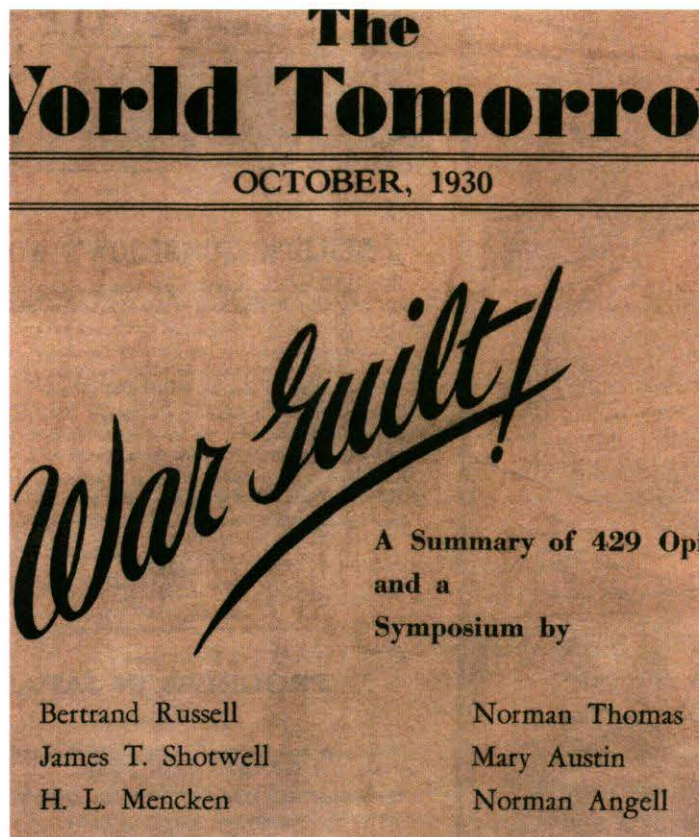
Chicago (vol. 1, 1901–vol. 3, 1903, complete)

Published by "The Fellowship," a group organized for service in the socialist movement, this title contains articles about the great steel strike and the assassination of President McKinley. In 1901, it is noted that "the president of the United States is the most powerful ruler in the world ... this makes our political campaigns for that office feverish and unhealthy." It reports approvingly on Booker T. Washington's dinner with Roosevelt at the White House, in manifest opposition to racism.

The World Tomorrow

New York (vol. 13, 1930–vol. 17, 1934)

The World Tomorrow was a socialist and pacifist journal founded by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, with well-known figures of the day contributing articles. Among the authors were Norman Thomas ("Socialism, the Way Out for America"), Devere Allen, Reinhold Niebuhr, Bertrand Russell, Albert Einstein ("Militant Pacifism"), and surprisingly, Douglas McArthur, who wrote a rebuttal. In a 1931 editorial, the journal posed the question, "Why breadlines in rich America?"



Journal of Calendar Reform

New York (vol. 1, 1931–vol. 25, 1956, complete)

The *Journal of Calendar Reform* was published by the World Calendar Association, which worked with the League of Nations to promote a "World Calendar" with the goal of convincing all nations to agree on a calendar of 12 months, with four quarters of 31-30-30 days, a "Year Day" each year between December 31 and January 1, and a Leap Day every four years between June 30 and July 1. All holidays would be on Mondays (an idea that has been largely adopted for U.S. federal holidays), and each year starts on a Sunday. It was an idea based on international unity that would benefit farmers, clergy, and business. Included were articles on the history of time, various calendars, and an entry by Gandhi, supporting the idea. Unfortunately, despite significant support within the League of Nations and later the United Nations, there was strong opposition, particularly among Muslim nations, and the idea — and the journal — was abandoned.



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