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American Periodicals: Women (Opportunities for Research in the Watkinson Library)

Leonard Banco

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Family Receipts.

Perpetual Bread—Three quarts of unbleached wheat meal, one quart of milk, one gill of sugar, one gill of molasses, and a teaspoonful of salt.

Pepper Soup Cakes—Two pounds of flour, one of butter, one of currants, one of sugar, three eggs, a teaspoonful each of salt, nutmeg, and mace, an hour to bake in a moderate oven.

Flax meal and water in a cream; beat the eggs and add them. Then put in the flour mixture. Bake in pans and powdered sugar and drop the mixture over them in small cakes. Bake in a quick oven.

Pommer Seed Tea is a certain cure for age-worms.

Rose Foot Oil is an efficacious remedy for chilblains.

For Lumbago, eat bread made of unbleached wheat; use daily the cold bath and dasher; and exercise freely in the fresh air.

To Prevent Night Sweats, drink freely of cold sage tea.

Transplant your trees in autumn while the ground is yet open.

To Preserve Roses—Put them in salt, layer after layer, with the points downward.

Literary Notices.

"The Forty Anniversaries of Martha's Life." Another of the series of Buxton's works, recently noted by Messrs. Rudd & Co. Also by the same publishers, Poems on the beauty of scenery and scenes of the first, by "Wholborough."
**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.) and listed in chronological order by date of the title's first issue. All of these guides 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 inquisitive nature has 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

**WOMEN**

**Introduction**

The Watkinson Library has a broad representation of American 19th century magazines published for female readers through which one can trace an evolving progression of the ways in which women’s interests and expectations were constructed and represented. While at first these publications were edited and written mostly by men, it is possible to read a substantial collection of works written and edited by women, some of whom are well known, and others who have been largely forgotten or who wrote anonymously and have not been identified. The traditional domestic roles of keeping house and raising children, discussions of female education, the emerging role of women in the workplace, class differences, and the quest for political rights are particularly evident in these magazines. The influence of religious training and the evolution of the temperance movement as a women’s issue is also reflected in a number of the publications, and much foreshadowing of 21st-century women’s issues is evident.

Dr. Leonard Banco  
Trustee of the Watkinson Library
Porcupine’s Political Censor
Lady’s Magazine: and Repository of Entertaining Knowledge
Philadelphia (June-November, 1792)

This first American periodical for women was written “by a literary society... the mind to improve and yet amuse... submitted... to the perusal of the fair daughters of Columbia.” It meant to “inspire the FEMALE MIND with a love of religion, of patience, prudence, and fortitude.” The frontispiece of the first issue honored Mary Wollstonecraft by depicting the Genius of the Ladies Magazine presenting Liberty with a copy of “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman,” the cornerstone treatise on women’s rights. Standing format included brief articles, poetry, one full-page engraving a month, and snippets of advice. Letters to the editor, many of which were from women and ostensibly authentic, were more likely meant to represent contemporary issues rather than authentic correspondence. Articles include “Scheme for increasing the power of the FAIR SEX” by eliminating public licentiousness by men; “Specimens of Female Literature — Select Letters”; “Thoughts on Old Maids”; and “On Matrimonial Obedience,” which the author thought should be mutual. Standing departments include “Anecdotes,” “Maxims for the Ladies” (”A woman whose ruling passion is not vanity is superior to any man of equal faculties”), “Specimens of Female Literature,” and “Poetry.” Primarily literary in content, the Lady’s Magazine contained no information about what later came to distinguish women’s magazines — the topic of household work. The magazine’s particular interest in female education was manifest by its early publication of “Letter from a Brother to a Sister, at Boarding School” and, five months later, a nine-page review of Wollstonecraft’s “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman,” an advertisement for which can be found on the last page of volume 1.

Lady’s Magazine and Musical Repository
New York (1801)

This magazine devoted to the refined woman included articles on “politeness,” “the triumph of truth,” “the folly of being ashamed of retracting our mistakes,” and “scandal,” as well as poems and songs with music. There are also reports of foreign news, American political news such as Jefferson’s message to Congress, and more mundane issues, such as “domestic occurrences,” marriages, and deaths. Its focus on music predated American magazines fully devoted to the topic by 25 years.

Ladies’ Literary Cabinet
New York (1815–1820)

“A miscellaneous repository of literary productions in prose and verse” edited by Samuel Woodworth, this was one of the two American magazines aimed solely at women during this period. It contains European history and stories, biographies of women, poetry, music, original novels such as Magnanimity, and excerpts from other works, notably Washington Irving’s Sketchbook. One issue mentions the genesis of Byron’s The Vampyre and the publication of Frankenstein. Marriage announcements were also a regular feature.

Ladies’ Literary Portfolio
Philadelphia (1828–1829)

Devoted to literature, poems, short reviews, comments, and original tales, this magazine contains original contributions by N. P. Willis and Mrs. Harriet Muzzy, a poet who was well regarded in her time.
Ladies’ Magazine
Boston (1828–1831)
This magazine was conducted by Sarah J. Hale, which made her the first ever female editor of a magazine in the United States. In 1827, shortly after the success of her first novel (Northwood), the widowed Hale was offered the editorship of the Ladies’ Magazine. She agreed, and from 1828 until 1836 served as editor, though she preferred the title “editress.” Hale hoped the magazine would help in educating women, as she wrote, “not that they may usurp the situation, or encroach on the prerogatives of man; but that each individual may lend her aid to the intellectual and moral character of those within her sphere.” The magazine presented serialized biographies, sketches of American character, moral tales of temperance, poetry, and book reviews, as well as excerpts from books (with citations). It published frequently on the education of girls and women and stated that “the art of playing upon the Piano Forte has become almost a necessary part of female education.”

Godey’s Lady’s Book
Philadelphia (1832–1896, issues lacking)
The magazine was published by Louis A. Godey for its first 48 years (1830–1878). Together with its rival Graham’s Magazine, Peterson’s, and a host of other lesser-known efforts, these magazines enjoyed unequaled popularity. Godey intended to take advantage of the popularity of gift books, many of which were marketed specifically to women. During the first six years of its existence, the magazine included mainly articles clipped from British women’s magazines and hand-colored plates reproducing fashions of the day. Godey, wanting to provide more original content by American authors, bought the Boston Ladies’ Magazine in January 1837 (see above) and invited its editor, Sarah J. Hale, to edit the revamped publication. Hale was the editor of Godey’s from 1837 until 1877 and published only original American manuscripts. In addition to extensive fashion descriptions and plates, the early issues included biographical sketches, articles about mineralogy, handicrafts, female costume, the dance, equestrienne procedures, health and hygiene, recipes and remedies, and the like. Each issue contained an illustration and pattern with measurements for a garment to be sewn at home. Each issue also provided two pages of sheet music for the latest waltz, polka, or gallop, written for the pianoforte. Although the magazine was read and contained work by both men and women, Hale published three special issues that only included work done by women. When Hale started at Godey’s, the magazine had a circulation of 10,000 subscribers. Two years later, it jumped to 40,000 and by 1860 had 150,000 subscribers. In 1845, Godey began copyrighting each issue of the magazine to prevent other magazine and newspaper editors from pirating its texts, a first in America. Edgar Allan Poe had one of his earliest short stories, “The Visionary” (later renamed “The Assignment”), printed in Godey’s in 1834. Among his other works that appeared were “A Tale of the Ragged Mountains” (April 1844), “The Oblong Box” (September 1844), “Thou Art the Man” (November 1844), and “The Cask of Amontillado” (1846). Other contributors included Nathaniel Hawthorne, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Washington Irving, James K. Paulding, William G. Simms, Nathaniel P. Willis, and Frances H. Burnett. A woodcut of the British royal family with their Christmas tree at Windsor Castle, initially published in the Illustrated London News (December 1848), was copied in Godey’s for Christmas 1850. This version removed Queen Victoria’s crown and Prince Albert’s mustache to remake the engraving into an American scene. The republished image was the first widely circulated picture of a decorated evergreen Christmas tree in America. The image was reprinted in 1860 and, by the 1870s, putting up a Christmas tree had become common in the United States. Sarah Hale also used her editorial space and influence to advocate for the establishment of a national Thanksgiving holiday. Hale presented a series of appealing articles in her magazine, featuring descriptions and recipes of food now considered typical of Thanksgiving, such as roasted turkeys, savory stuffing, and pumpkin pies. In 1858, Hale petitioned the president of the United States to declare Thanksgiving a national holiday.

Mother’s Magazine
Utica, New York (1833–1855)
Abigail G. Whittelsey grew up in the prominent Goodrich family of Connecticut. Her father, Samuel Goodrich, was a Congregational minister, and a brother, Samuel G. Goodrich, would become a prolific writer of juvenile literature under the pseudonym Peter Parley. In 1808, she married Samuel Whittelsey (1775–1842), a Congregational minister in New Preston, Connecticut. After a series of moves, they relocated to Utica, New York, where they founded and ran a female seminary. While in Utica, Abigail Whittelsey became involved in the Utica Maternal Association, which provided an opportunity for mothers to learn from one another. In general, maternal associations were one of many evangelical efforts to bring revivalism into the home. In 1833, she assumed the editorship of the group’s new periodical, the Mother’s Magazine, which was the first such publication in the United States. It featured letters, memoirs, essays, and advice. Aimed at educating mothers about their responsibilities and potentialities, the magazine quickly proved a success. “Its design is to embrace physical education, intellectual training, the culture of the affections, the nurture of the social — all
the bearings of maternal intercourse from its earliest watch over the cradle-dream to the full development of that mysterious being, whose destiny is immortality.” Topics of Christian-focused articles included temperance, widows and orphans, religious education, and the prevention of criminal behavior. Publication was transferred to New York City in 1834 when the Whittleseys moved there, and she continued to edit it with Samuel as the publisher. After his death in 1842, Whittlesey continued as the magazine’s editor with the help of a brother-in-law, the Rev. Darius Mead. But in the late 1840s, when a new proprietor tried to make the publication more commercial by adding plates and popular reading material, Whittlesey resigned.

The Microcosm, or the Little World of Home
New Haven (1835–1837)
Initially, The Microcosm declared itself to be “A monthly periodical... devoted to the interests of the wife and mother—designing to embrace all subjects of interest and attraction connected with the domestic circle, prospectively as well as experimentally.” The magazine placed considerable focus on child-rearing and stated that “parents should be interested in the interests of the child.” It promoted the importance of childhood obedience, supported letter writing, and denigrated family superstitions. It opined that “experience should teach wisdom.” Most of the articles were unsigned. After its first year, this largely secular magazine changed its name to The Microcosm: a literary and religious magazine and no longer focused on wives and mothers. Rather, it refocused on instilling religious principles in the young and promoting “the intellectual and moral improvement of young ladies.”

Ladies’ Companion and Literary Expositor
New York (1838–1843)
Ann S. Stephens took the job of editor of the Ladies’ Companion so that she could further her own literary work. The magazine was self-described as “a monthly magazine embracing every department of literature embellished with original engravings and music.” It published original stories, poems, and later, fashion plates. The term “dime novel” originated with Stephens’s Malaeska, The Indian Wife of the White Hunter, which was a reprint of Stephens’s earlier serial that appeared in the Ladies’ Companion magazine in February, March, and April 1838. Mrs. Seba Smith—a poet, fiction writer, editor, lecturer, and women’s rights activist whose career spanned six decades, from the 1830s to the 1880s—also was a major contributor to the magazine. Frances S. Osgood, another contributor, was an American poet and one of the most popular women writers during her time. Known as “Panny,” she was also famous for her exchange of romantic poems with Edgar Allan Poe. Lydia Sigourney and a stable of other regular contributors, some of whom have been forgotten and others rediscovered, likewise submitted regularly.

Ladies’ Garland
Philadelphia (1838–1844; issues lacking)
This publication was “devoted to literature, amusement and instruction.” It contains original essays, female biography, historical narratives, sketches of society, topographical descriptions, botany, moral tales, and anecdotes. The publication was embellished with woodcuts. One source describes it as “an example of the cheap periodical for women.” A considerable part of its content was reprinted from other magazines and books, though Lydia Jane Pierson, Lydia Sigourney, and T.S. Arthur were original contributors. The magazine is very much focused on domestic life, with articles regarding female education, how to choose a good husband, and advice to a young lady after her marriage. There is also a profile of the newly crowned Queen Victoria. An article entitled “Proper Studies for Ladies” states that ladies “of the first rank” ought to “form their taste upon the best authors, and collect ideas from their useful writings.”
The Lowell Offering
Lowell, Massachusetts (1840-1849)

The Lowell Offering was written and published by "females employed in the mills." This monthly magazine was organized by the Rev. Abel Charles Thomas (1807-1880), pastor of the First Universalist Church. From October 1840 to March 1841, it consisted of articles that emerged from improvement circles or literary societies. Later, it became broader in scope and received more spontaneous contributions from Lowell's female textile workers. The Offering had hundreds of subscribers and supporters from throughout New England and the United States and among foreign visitors. Harriet Farley, against her family's and friends' wishes, left Atkinson, New Hampshire, in 1838 to work in Lowell's textile mills. Although working 11 to 13 hours a day and living in a crowded company boardinghouse, she felt a sense of freedom to "read, think and write... without restraint." She was soon contributing articles to the newly formed magazine, and in 1842 along with Harriot F. Curtis became its co-editor. Farley, manager and proprietor, published selections from The Offering under the title "Shells from the Strand of the Sea of Genius" (1847). As its popularity grew, workers contributed poems, ballads, essays, and fiction — often using their characters to report on conditions and situations in their lives. The contents of the magazine alternated between the serious and the farcical. In the first issue, "A Letter about Old Maids" suggested that "sisters, spinsters, lay-nuns, &c" were an essential component of God’s "wise design." There was a "dialog" within a family about a daughter wanting to work in the mills and the potential virtue and risks of doing so. Later issues — particularly in the wake of labor unrest in the factories — included an article about the value of organizing and an essay about suicide among the Lowell girls. There were also poems and short stories. Charles Dickens visited in Lowell 1842 and returned to Boston that evening with back issues of The Lowell Offering. Later he described the journal as "four hundred good solid pages, which I have read from beginning to end." Farley responded to a letter sent from New York claiming "that some of the male proprietors of the factories had the supervision, and suppressed many articles which were written for The Offering." Farley refutes these claims, writing, "No male proprietor, agent, or superintendent, has ever exercised or sought the supervision of the editorial department." Because some readers doubted that The Lowell Offering articles were written by factory women, Farley listed the names of the writers in one issue. She insisted that the writers ordinarily conceal their names from "motives of delicacy." The writers included: Miriam R. Green, or rather Mrs. M. R. G. Kimball, a weaver upon the Massachusetts Corporation; Miss Lucy Larcom, bookkeeper upon the Lawrence Corporation; Miss Josephine L. Baker, weaver upon the Middlesex Corporation; Miss Rachel Hayes, weaver upon the Merrimack Corporation; Miss Eliza W. Jennings, weaver upon the Middlesex Corporation; Miss Harriot F. Curtis, harness knitter upon the Lawrence Corporation; Miss Elizabeth S. Pever, weaver or dresser upon the Merrimack Corporation; Miss Laura Tay, weaver upon the Massachusetts Corporation; and Miss Harriet J. Farley, weaver upon the Merrimack Corporation. The magazine was revived in 1848 as the New England Offering (1848-1850), gathering contributions from working women throughout New England.

Ladies' Pearl and Literary Gleaner
Lowell, Massachusetts (1841-1843)

"Devoted to Moral Entertaining and Instructive Literature," this periodical originating in Lowell comprised a collection of tales, sketches, essays, anecdotes, and historical incidents embellished with engravings and music. The illustrations are, unfortunately, of low quality. The editor was Daniel Wise, a Methodist clergyman and author and editor of children's religious literature. Many of the stories are meant to convey moral or religious messages. Many articles are about women factory workers and address class issues. One continuing topic area concerned women suffering at the hands of intemperate men, which foreshadowed the emerging movement toward the prohibition of alcohol. Original material included contributions by Caroline Orne and Lydia Sigourney, although many stories were imported from England.

Mother's Assistant and Young Lady's Friend
Boston (1841-1852)

The Mother's Assistant gave its subjects a Christian slant — even when the subject was the art of conversation. "Conversation to Young Ladies" was aimed at the younger women reading the magazine and offered examples of what not to do; its model conversationalist is well-read and educated and "thinks three times" before she speaks. She also keeps her ideas "well arranged." The magazine railed against the reading of novels, which "inflames the passions, pollutes the imagination and corrupts the heart." Other articles discuss female piety, the role of the mother in the religious upbringing of her children, the obedience of children, differences between men and women, and conjugal happiness and responsibilities. Child-rearing advice was also provided. In early years, articles were written by clergymen and minor writers; later on, however, contributions were by prominent writers of both sexes, including Lydia Maria Child, William Cullen Bryant, John Greenleaf Whittier, William A. Alcott, Hannah More, and Mary Howitt. Later issues of the magazine also included engravings and hand-colored botanical lithographs.
Ladies' Repository and Gatherings of the West
Cincinnati (1841-1876; issues lacking)
This “monthly periodical devoted to literature and religion” was edited by L. L. Hamline of the Methodist Episcopal church. According to one source, “the material was highly moralized and was well written, largely by ministers.” Articles address science, history, and mental and moral improvement (“self-cultivation”), and many are based upon religious themes. The magazine advocates female education including the proper way to have dialogue between men and women. One example is “Arguing with Women,” a topic that never goes out of style. It also includes poetry and engravings of various scenes.

Ladies’ Wreath
New York (1846-1861; issues lacking)
This magazine, edited by Sarah Towne Smith Martyn, a retired temperance activist, was published monthly. Each issue included 36 pages of text, a steel engraving, and one hand-colored flower print. In 1846, Martyn wrote, “We commenced this work ... without a subscriber, and now our subscription list numbers between six and seven thousand, and is rapidly increasing.” And further, “the expense of getting up our Magazine, in the superior style in which it is issued, and of the plates and flowers, is so great, in proportion to the extremely low price at which it is offered [1 dollar/year], that less than ten thousand subscribers will not support it.” The circulation eventually climbed to 25,000, and she later wrote that this magazine is “emphatically the voice of Woman: giving utterance to truths in her behalf whose value has never yet been adequately appreciated or understood.” The magazine supported women in the labor force, specifically citing the Lowell Mills. To that end, an article titled “A plea for female operatives” stated that “the relative rate of compensation for the labor of the two sexes is so unequal, as to force from every reflecting mind the enquiry ‘where is the justice or propriety of this inequality?’” Contents also include articles such as “Three Ways of Managing a Wife,” “How to Manage a Husband,” “What Makes a Good Lady?” “Sensibility and Sensuality,” “The Women of Modern Italy,” “Physical Education of Children,” and “The Art of Being Happy.” Many of the articles were written by the editor. There is also some music and poetry.

Ladies’ Album
Boston (vol. 8-9, 1847)
Most of the material was written specifically for this monthly publication by women, including Lizzie Walcott (“Virtue and Truth” and “The Gentle Ward”), Rosa Hawthorn (“The Spanish Lady” and “Flirtation”), and Mrs. F. A. W. Newhall (“The Dancing Slippers”). Poems by writers such as Lydia Sigourney, Charlotte Allen, and John S. Adams were included as well as one page of music and a colored botanical plate each month. Engravings were also intermittently published.

Peterson’s Magazine
Philadelphia (vol. 15, 1849–vol. 68, 1884; issues lacking)
In 1842, Charles Jacobs Peterson and George Rex Graham, partners in the Saturday Evening Post, agreed that a new women’s journal to compete with Godey’s Lady’s Book would be a good venture. Peterson launched the Peterson’s National Magazine as a cheaper alternative to Godey’s ($2/year instead of $3) in January 1842. Ann S. Stephens was an early editor and substantial contributor to the periodical. Unlike Sarah Hale and others who entered journalism only after the death of a husband, Stephens established herself as the primary financial provider for her family. While she worked and traveled for business, her husband tended to the children at home. Stephens was immensely popular in the mid-19th century and wrote exclusively for Peterson’s Magazine while she was editing it. The name of the publication had some variation in its early years, but by 1848 it was titled Peterson’s Ladies’ National Magazine, and the Peterson prefix would always remain. Beginning in 1855, it was called, simply, Peterson’s Magazine. Although similar to Godey’s both aesthetically (including colored fashion plates and engraved illustrations) and topically (original fiction, poems, book reviews), Peterson’s made a greater commitment to publishing works by women writers. In addition to Stephens, Peterson’s also published two short stories by Louise Chandler Moulton (“The Second Wife’s Story” and “Nora”). Other examples are “Elsie Gray: or the minister’s daughter” by Clara Moreton, “Love and Pride” by Kate Campbell, and “Pocahontas” by L. Virginia Smith. Emily H. May was another early and frequent contributor. Later, the magazine published more plates devoted to fashion (“Les Modes Parisiennes” in color) and history. In its latter years, the magazine had more black and white fashion plates and music. It is noteworthy that from the beginning, most of the material was original and all of the authors were attributed.
Mrs. Whittelsey’s Magazine for Mothers
New York (1850-1855)
In 1850, after leaving Mother’s Magazine and with assistance from her son Henry, Abigail S. Whittelsey founded and edited Mrs. Whittelsey’s Magazine for Mothers, which adopted a religious orientation toward child-rearing. “Children are now summoned into action earlier in life. They must, therefore, acquire unique knowledge more rapidly and their character must be sooner established than ever before. Fashion and pomp, pleasures and power, now assail them with their temptations increased ten-fold in number and strength.” The magazine advocated the formation of new maternal associations across the nation to promote religious feeling. Although many of the articles were unsigned, some were authored by Lydia Sigourney and Samuel Goodrich. The magazine routinely printed the annual report of the New York City Maternal Association.

Mrs. Stephens’ Illustrated New Monthly
New York (1856-1858)
From 1850 to 1852, Ann Stephens traveled in Europe, and some years after her return conducted her own magazine, Mrs. Stephens’ Illustrated New Monthly. It was published by her husband, and the magazine merged with Peterson’s Magazine a few years later. It was a Victorian literary miscellany, including novels, poems, and historical tales. Among the works were an excerpt from Stephens’s “Lost Jewels,” an illustrated description of the falls of Minnehaha, an excerpt from “Love in 76 — A Tale of the Revolution,” and a brief account of a trip to Hoboken, New Jersey, to enjoy the rustic beauty of Weehawken. Among the content was a review of S. W. Singer’s edition of Shakespeare’s works. The reviewer noted that “the annotator is the most sanguinary and mendacious we ever read.” The anonymous “Story for a Winter Night” is both a ghost story and a Christmas story, despite appearing in the April 1857 issue. Also published were the first 25 chapters of Colonel Orlando Bolivar Willcox’s serial, West Point.

The Mother’s Journal and Family Visitant
New York (1858)
This magazine “focused on Christian mothers and Christian households.” It stated, “a mother’s mission is a limited and an humble one...to make her home happy and train her children for usefulness and heaven.” Eliza Crosby Allen was active in various female societies and a contributor to religious periodicals. In 1840, she became editor, a position she held until her death in 1848, after which her husband, the Rev. Allen, served with others. As editor, Mrs. Allen provided advice to her readers. In addition to those written by the editor, articles were written largely but not exclusively by women and included historical tales; book reviews; a Youth Department with children’s stories; religious stories; and child care advice, ranging from how to bathe children to the importance of religious education.

Mother at Home and Household Magazine
New York (1869; issues lacking)
Edited by Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher, this magazine was very much a product of the extended Beecher Family. The first issue was made available gratis, and the public was urged to pass it around. “The object of this magazine will be to gather from every reliable source the experience and judgment of the wisest and best, and bring the treasure thus gleaned, toward mothers in their efforts to lead their children, from the sweet hours of earliest infancy, gently and wisely, up to maturity.” “The First Born” by Harriet Beecher Stowe was its first article, and “The Wear and Tear of Housekeeping” was by Henry Ward Beecher. Other articles include “How Children Become our Teachers” by E. J. Lee Blunt and a review of various sewing machines then for sale — examined by brand, ease of use, and quality of product. Other regular sections included “Literature and Art;” a “Scrap Basket” of brief news items, and book reviews. Advertising was rather broad for a start-up production, including a full-page ad from Harper & Brothers for the sermons of Henry Ward Beecher. Other ads include those for Sabbath school books, music boxes, and life insurance. The U.S. Life Insurance Company promoted “policies issued to married women and their children on the life of a Husband and Father, free from the claims of his creditors.”

American Cookery
New York (1876)
Through its single year of publication, this magazine struggled with its identity and purpose. It began as “A Monthly Cook- book” focused primarily on recipes contributed by the authors and readers, with the idea that after a year, the individual issues could be bound up as a recipe book. In addition to recipes, it published articles on food science, helpful cooking hints, and short stories and vignettes regarding social activities centered on meals. By its fourth issue, the magazine, continued by Laura E. Lyman, morphed into “A Monthly Dining Room Magazine” rather than a cookbook and contained more substantive articles and fewer recipes. Never finding a substantial audience, the magazine ceased publication after its inaugural year.
The Dining Room Magazine
New York (1876-1877)

The Dining Room Magazine is a large 32-page monthly, edited by Mrs. Laura E. Lyman of the New York Tribune. It included Aunt Kate Hunabee's column, book and journal reviews, children's cookery, cookery for the sick, letters from readers, poetry and prose selections, recipes, a column "to young readers," and references to cooking schools. The magazine featured articles by Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher, Emily Huntington Miller, and Margaret E. Sangster. The advertising, both culinary and non-culinary in nature, is of particular interest.

Arthur's Illustrated Home Magazine
Philadelphia (1879)

For this American monthly periodical published in Philadelphia by Timothy Shay Arthur, editors Arthur and Virginia Francis Townsend selected writing and illustrations intended to appeal to female readers. "To meet the wants of those to whom life is something more than a mere pastime; of those who have common needs and aspirations, and weaknesses and trials of humanity; to whom we might come, not only with pleasant thoughts and pure sweet fancies, but with help, instruction and comfort." Arthur's featured fiction, illustrated articles of nonfiction, religious readings, a mother's department, a boys' and girls' treasury, poetry, housekeeping and temperance departments, and editorial columns. Among the contributors were Mary Tyler Peabody Mann and Kate Sutherland. Content includes many "how to" articles, such as "How Ethel made a pretty room" as well as articles on volunteerism. The magazine is an excellent source for women and children's fashions for middle-class families and contains a selection of current home sewing patterns and wonderful period ads in each issue.

Harper's Bazar
New York (vol. 13, 1880–vol. 28, 1895; issues lacking)

This fashion-oriented sister publication to Harper's Weekly that billed itself as "a repository of Fashion, Pleasure and Instruction" was published weekly and showcased fashion from Germany and Paris in a newspaper format. Its audience was large, loyal, and solidly middle class — according to one observer, if the contents reflected the audience, most readers "had servants and could live in houses costing from seven to ten thousand dollars." The fashions displayed were not only for women but also for their children. In a regular department called "For Our Children," clothing, bags, and baskets with corresponding designs were featured. Among the regular contributors was George Curtis, who wrote a column called "Manners Upon the Road" under the nom de plume of "Old Bachelor." He was later replaced by Thomas Wentworth Higginson, whose column was called "Women and Men." Beginning in 1888, John Kendricks Bang handled the humor department ("Facetiae"), which lasted through the 1890s, and William Dean Howells produced a popular series on "Heroines of Fiction." Stories were serialized, such as "My Love" by E. Lynn Linton and "Sunrise" by William Block. There are many fascinating advertisements, cartoons, and recipes as well as a "Personal" section, which includes social notes such as births, deaths, weddings, honors, etc.

New England Kitchen Magazine
Boston (1894)

Ellen Swallow Richards, founder of the discipline of home economics, established the New England Kitchen as an actual facility. Mary J. Lincoln founded New England Kitchen Magazine after acquiring the right to use the title from Richards. Considered one of the pioneers of the domestic science movement in the United States, she was among the very first to address the scientific and nutritional basis of food preparation. She also wrote a syndicated column, lectured around the country, endorsed food and kitchen equipment, and started her own business, Mrs. Lincoln's Baking Powder Company of Boston. The magazine was "a monthly journal of domestic science" and took its philosophy and many recipes from the Boston Cooking School. The "aim of the magazine is to form a connecting link between home and school kitchens." "Oleomargarine — pro and con" is an example of an article that foreshadowed 21st-century concerns, such as genetically engineered food.

American Kitchen Magazine
Boston (1895-1903)

"A Domestic Science Monthly" was the successor to New England Kitchen Magazine. Articles include "Thanksgiving Notes" by Mary J. Lincoln, "Training Children in Dietetics," "Life among the Lobsters," and others. There are also lengthy articles on infant feeding, cooking for children, kitchen design with floor plans, and book reviews plus numerous recipes and period ads, many illustrated with photos and drawings.
LADIES’ ALBUM.

October, 1847.

[Written for the Album.]

EVENING REFLECTIONS.

BY MISS C. ALLEN.

I gazed on the stars at evening,
When no clouds were on the sky,
And the moon in lustre beaming,
Was quietly passing by.
The breezes had sunk to slumber,
Yet a voice was on the air,
The eloquent tones of Nature
Did notes to my spirit bear.

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