
Robert McAlmon letters to Edward Titus
1928-1930

Abstract: American author and publisher Robert McAlmon (1896-1956) wrote ten letters to the publisher and magazine editor Edward Titus (born 1880) between 1928 and 1930, concerning several works that McAlmon hoped to distribute through Titus's Paris bookstore.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F152
Title: Robert McAlmon letters to Edward Titus
Inclusive Dates: 1928-1930
Extent: 10 items
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 099 F152, Robert McAlmon letters to Edward Titus, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.
Shelving Summary: Box 7, F152: Shelved in SPEC MSS099 manuscript boxes
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Source: Purchase, April 1977.
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Biographical Notes

Robert McAlmon

American author and publisher Robert McAlmon (1896-1956) was a central figure in the expatriate art community in France during the 1920s and 1930s. His network of authors and publishers was instrumental in the publication and distribution of many modernist classics, including William Carlos Williams's *Spring and All* (1923), Ernest Hemingway's *Three Stories and Ten Poems* (1923) and Djuna Barnes's *Ladies Almanack* (1928).

Shortly after establishing himself in Greenwich Village, Robert McAlmon began working with William Carlos Williams on the short-lived *Contact* magazine, publishing poets Ezra Pound, H. D., and Kay Boyle, among others. He married H. D.'s then-lover, Bryher (Annie Winifred Ellerman), before departing together for Europe. In France, he created the Contact Publishing Company, which specialized in modernist works deemed too controversial for the mainstream commercial market.

Throughout the 1920s, he continued to publish his own work, including the collection of short stories, *Distinguished Air* (1925). Despite a downturn in his career, he remained in Europe during the 1930s with exception of short trips to the United States and Mexico. In 1940, he was able to escape German-occupied France and return to the United States, where he worked at his brother's surgical supply company until he retired in 1951. His early years as a writer are chronicled in his autobiography, *Being Geniuses Together*, which was revised with additional chapters by Kay Boyle in 1968.

Sources:


Edward Titus

Edward Titus (born 1880) owned and operated the Black Manikin Press and a rare bookstore, At the Sign of the Black Manikin, in Paris that attracted many American expatriate authors as well as distributed their works. In 1929, he became the editor of *This Quarter*, a little magazine known for publishing innovative modernist literature, including work by Ezra Pound, Ernest Hemingway, and Kay Boyle. Under his guidance, the magazine became relatively more conservative with an emphasis on prize-winning poems.

Sources:

American author and publisher Robert McAlmon (1896-1956) wrote ten letters to the publisher and magazine editor Edward Titus (born 1880) between 1928 and 1930, concerning several works that McAlmon hoped to distribute through Titus's bookstore.

McAlmon and Titus formed part of the network of modernist writers and publishers living and working in Paris in the 1920s and 1930s. In particular, McAlmon discussed at length the work of American author and illustrator Djuna Barnes (1892-1982), whose Ladies Almanack (1928) was central to their conversation. McAlmon also attempted to promote the work of his friend Ken Sato (1942-2004), specifically his 1928 translation of Saikaku Ihara's Quaint Stories of the Samurai and his novel The Yellow Jap Dogs. McAlmon referenced other books that he hoped to distribute, including Edwin Lanham's Sailors Don't Care (1929).

McAlmon also responded to Titus's requests to publish in This Quarterly and offered updates about his writing process, particularly his revised and expanded edition of Distinguished Air (1925). McAlmon discussed his struggles in the publishing world and finding commercial success, and in the later letters, he described the burgeoning publishing scene in America and his plans to publish in the new little magazines, including Richard Johns's Pagany.
Selected Search Terms

Alternate Title
Pagany.

Personal Names
McAlmon, Robert, 1896-1956--Correspondence.
Titus, Edward W., 1880- --Correspondence.
Barnes, Djuna.
Sato, Ken, 1942-
Barnes, Djuna. Ladies almanack.

Corporate Names
Contact Publishing Company.
Black Manikin Press.

Topical Terms
Authors, American--20th century--Correspondence.
Literature publishing--France--Paris--History--20th century.

Form/Genre Terms
Correspondence.

Occupation
Publishers.
Editors (assembling, revising)
Authors.

Personal Contributors
Titus, Edward W., 1880- , correspondent.
Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.

MSS 110 Archive of Pagany
**Detailed Description of the Collection**

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