

Dear Marvin Malone,

I am preparing an article on how little magazines choose their names and wonder if you could enlighten me on the true history and meaning of the name "The Woodworm Review"?

Many Thanks/ V, Navasky, 80 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C. 10011

12/3/65

Dear V. N.,

Why Wormwood? As in The Wormwood Review?

The one common denominator about little magazines is the fact that while nobody subscribes, everyone gets upset when the mag folds for lack of funds. Everybody begins to think about how much life, how much zip, how much balls, etc. the late departed little mag had.

i.e. "Absence makes the heart grow fonder."

But then Dorothy Parker corrupted that lovely thought into:

"Absinthe makes the heart grow fonder."

And what is absinthe? An alcoholic liquor made from common wormwood (Artemisia absinthium) -- romantically associated with the decadent twenties ... now banned because it produces mental deterioration and madness with chronic use.

ergo: "Wormwood makes the heart grow fonder."

Ah ha, how's that?

I would state definitely that we are not a pro De Gaulle publication as is in "Wormwood and De Gaulle"

but then it takes a lot of gall to produce any little magazine -- let alone a magazine called Wormwood, and yet...

The apocalypse will be heralded by the appearance of the star named Wormwood as I recall the Bible says. Yes, things do appear to be going downhill fast since we started publishing four years ago.

Then perhaps

inspiration from the fact that the first issue was published about 1 mile from our local Wormwood Hill? Or that Artemisia grows in my front yard and is beautiful and that I am interested professionally in drug plants as a pharmacologist and pharmacognosist?

or maybe, simply

as Webster says "anything bitter" and the tone of the mag is rather bitter and ironic (or perhaps you haven't read it lately? The price is \$3.50 for 4 issues).

Probably all these things.

When does the next issue of Monocle come out?

Faithful subscriber of Monocle and continuing editor  
of Wormwood, Yrs. Marvin Malone

The following cheered, seared, feared and sneered at little magazines currently seem to be exchanging with Wormwood. Each has a distinctive flavor. Sample them,

Action Poétique, 16 Rue des Capucins, Honfleur (Calvados) CCP Rouen, 2201 05V

American Dialog, 853 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y. 10003

France

American Weave, 4109 Bushnell Rd., University Heights 18, Ohio

Approach, 114 Petrie Ave., Rosemont, Pa. 19010

Beloit Poetry Journal, Box 2, Beloit, Wisconsin 53512

Black Cat Review, 333 W. Highland Ave., San Bernardino, Calif.

Black Sun, 150 Crbin Pl., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11235

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Blitz, 2004 First St., La Grande, Oregon  
Border, 2601 So. Phoenix, Ft. Worth, Arkansas 72903  
Burning Deck, Creamery Road, Durham, Conn. 06422  
Canyon Cinema News, 263 Colgate Ave., Berkeley, Calif.  
Cardinal, 1326 South Cicero Ave., Cicero, Illinois 60650  
The Croupier, 2438 Wickstrom S.W., Seattle, Washington 98116  
Cyclic, 2820 Ekers Ave., Montreal 26, Quebec, Canada  
Damascus Road, 417 Grant St., Allentown, Pa. 18102  
December, Box 274, Western Springs, Illinois  
Descant, Dept. English, Texas Christian Univ., Fort Worth 29, Texas  
Desert Review, 917 Idlewilde Lane, S.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico  
cuende, c/o Goodell, Placitas, New Mexico  
Dust, Box 123, El Cerrito, Calif.  
Eco Contemporaneo, CC Central 1933, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Elizabeth, 103 Van Etten Blvd., New Rochelle, N.Y.  
Epos, Crescent City, Florida  
Este Es Press, P.O. Box 1492, Taos, New Mexico  
Exit, 22 Bostock's Lane, Risley, Derbyshire, England  
Floating Bear, 35 Cooper Square, New York 3, New York  
Folio, 4167 Cliff Road, Birmingham, Alabama  
The Free Lance, 6005 Grand Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44104  
From a Window, Box 3446, College Station, Tucson, Arizona 85700  
Future City, 14 St. Michaels Place, Brighton Sx, England  
The Goliards, P. O. Box 2672, Tampa, Florida 33606  
The Goodly Co, 724 Minor Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan  
Gooseberry, Studio 427, 5511 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44103  
Goosetree Press, P.O. Box 278, Lanham, Md. 20801  
The Grande Ronde Review, P.O. Box 536, La Grande, Oregon 97850  
Grist, 1237 Oread, Lawrence, Kansas  
Hardware c/o Bleedow, 323 East 53rd. St., N.Y., N.Y. 10022  
Hors Commerce Press, 22526 Shadycroft Ave., Torrance, Calif. 90505  
The Human Voice, Olivant Press, P.O. Drawer 1409, Homestead, Fla. 33030  
Icarus, 3 Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland  
Iconolatry, 71 Ryehill Gardens, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham, England  
Imago, c/o Dept. of English, Univ. of Alberta, Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
Inferno Press, 209 Post St., San Francisco, Calif.  
Input, 24 Olsen St., Valley Stream, N.Y.  
Interim Books, 102 West 14th. St., N.Y. 11, N.Y.  
Iq, 336 Luther St., Detroit, Michigan 48217  
Joglars, 292 Morris Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906  
Le Journal des Poetes, Maison Intern. de la Poesie, 147 Chaussee de Haecht,  
Kauri, Apt. 4W, 362 East 10th. St., N.Y., N.Y. 10009 / Bruxelles 3, Belgium  
Kayak, 2808 Laguna St., San Francisco, Calif. 94123  
Lines, 335 West 85th. St., N.Y., N.Y. 10024  
Literary Times (Chicago), Box 4327, Chicago, Illinois 60680  
Marrhannah Quarterly, 13814 Strathmore, East Cleveland, Ohio  
Message:65, 46 Rue Richer, Paris 9e, France  
Micromegas, 1425 Buresh Ave., Iowa City, Iowa  
Midwest, 409 West State, Geneva, Illinois  
Moonstones, 517 7th. St., Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14301  
Motive, Box 871, Nashville, Tenn. 37202  
Move, 7 Ryelands Crescent, Larches Estate, Preston Lancs, England  
Mt. Adams Review, 2344 Ashland Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

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mummy, 3632 26th. St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110  
My Own Mag, 37 Salisbury Rd., Barnet, Herts, England  
The New Era, Box 1000, Leavenworth, Kansas 66048  
Northeast, Box 353, Temple, Maine  
Ole, c/o Blazek, 449 South Center, Bensenville, Ill. 60106  
Penny Poems From Midwestern University, c/o English Dept., Wichita Falls, Texas  
Perstare, c/o Ian Singer, 750 Grand Concourse, Bronx 51, N.Y.  
Plumed Horn, (El Corno Emplumado), Apartado Postal num. 13-546, Mexico 13, D.F.  
Poesia De Venezuela, Apartado Postal 1114, Caracas, Venezuela  
Poesie Vivante, 11 Rue Hoffmann, Geneve, Switzerland  
Poet & Critic, 210 Pearson Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50010  
Poetmeat, 11 Clematis St., Blackburn, Lancs, England  
Poetry Newsletter, c/o Depew, 315 East 9th. St., N.Y., N.Y. 10003  
Poetry Northwest, Parrington Hall, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98105  
Poetry Review, c/o Duane Locke, Univ. of Tampa, Tampa, Fla. 33606  
Prism International, c/o Dept. Creative Writing, Univ. of British Columbia,  
 PS, 2679 South York St., Denver, Colorado / Vancouver 8, Canada  
Radar, Krystyna Tarasiewicz, Smolna 40, Warsaw 43, Poland  
Radix, V.B., P.O. Box 16, Tufts Univ., Mass. 02153  
Reactions, Hirondelles 13, Bienne, Switzerland  
The Resuscitator, 35 Gregory's Tynning, Faulton, Nr. Bristol, England  
Salted Feathers, 112 Washington, Pullman, Wash. 99163  
Semina 10426 Crater Lane, Los Angeles 24, Calif.  
Seven Poets Press, 537 East 5th. St. (5-A), New York 9, N.Y.  
The Small Pond, RFD 3, Box 101-A, Auburn, Maine 04210  
The Smith, Room 535, 15 Park Row, New York, N.Y. 10038  
Sortie, 2626 Milburn Ave., Baldwin, N.Y. 11510  
South & West, 2601 S. Phoenix, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901  
The Southern Review, Drawer D, Univ. Station, Baton Rouge, La. 70803  
Spero, Fenian Head Centre Press, 1517 Jonquil Terrace, Chicago, Ill. 60626  
Theo, 309 Court St., Utica, New York  
Tlaloc, Location Press, Flat A, Grosvenor Court, 3 Grosvenor Rd., Leeds 6,  
 England  
Trace, P.O. Box 1068, Hollywood 28, Calif.  
Vagabond, Gollierstr. 5, 8 Munich 12, Germany  
Verb, 1323 E. 14th. Ave., no. 15, Denver, Colorado 80218  
Voices, 716 Holland Ave., Saginaw, Michigan  
Volume 63/Poetry Biannual, Board of Publications, Univ. Waterloo, Waterloo,  
 We Magazine, c/o Greenwald, Northview House, New Paltz, N.Y./ Ontario, Canada  
Wild Dog, 39 Downey St., San Francisco, Calif. 94117  
Wantling Enterprises, 423 Lakewood, Peoria, Ill. 61614  
Wild Hawthorn Press, Gledfield Farmhouse, Ardgay, Ross-shire, Scotland  
Work, 1252 West Forest, Detroit, Mich. 48201  
Writers' Notes & Quotes, 142 W. Brookdale Pl., Fullerton, Calif. 92632