Brief Notices / Notices abrégées


A new title in the University of Toronto’s Studies in Book and Print Culture series, Dean Irvine’s *Editing Modernity* explores and expands the history of the little magazine and of literary modernism in Canada. Challenging the masculine bias of little magazine histories that focus on the modernist literary culture of the 1940s, Irvine discusses a broad range of women writers and editors who participated in the production of magazines as diverse as the *Woman Worker* (1926–29), *Masses* (1932–34), *here and now* (1947–49), and *Contemporary Verse* (1941–52), and also examines the relations between the feminist editorial collectives of the 1970s and their modernist and leftist forerunners. Irvine’s extensive archival research and his careful attention to the material culture of little magazines produce new readings of the work of well-known poets such as Dorothy Livesay and P.K. Page and of their lesser-known contemporaries.


*Book Trade Connections* is the latest collection of essays in the Print Networks series, which since 1997 has seen the publication of nine volumes on the history of the British book trade proceeding from an annual conference with the same name. Twelve contributions make up the present volume, ranging from ballads in Stuart England to the twentieth-century romance writer, Marguerite Jervis. The keynote paper is a reflection by John Feather on the “others” of the British book trade – the many authors, readers, and publishers outside of the London publishing nucleus whose diverse activity over the centuries
has affected the book in Britain in more ways than mainstream histories might indicate. In her introduction, Catherine Armstrong points to ephemera as a theme of the volume: Angela McShane examines the typography of broadsides; Eddie Cass and Paul Smith explore chapbook “mumming plays” (folk plays); Susannah Randall looks at the increase of newspapers during the Popish Plot; Stephen Brown presents a biography of the eighteenth-century newspaper publisher, Peter Williamson; and Lisa Peters surveys reaction to the Boer Wars in the North Wales press. One essay that stands out is Johanna Archbold’s, which argues that inexpensive Irish periodicals played an important but hitherto neglected role in Irish politics around the 1798 rebellion, being generally eclipsed in historians’ eyes by newspapers. Essays by Victoria Gardner (on John White), James Caudle (on Boswell), Frank Felsenstein (on public libraries), and Elaine Jackson (on Marguerite Jervis) round out this volume on the various threads that can link players in the book trade.