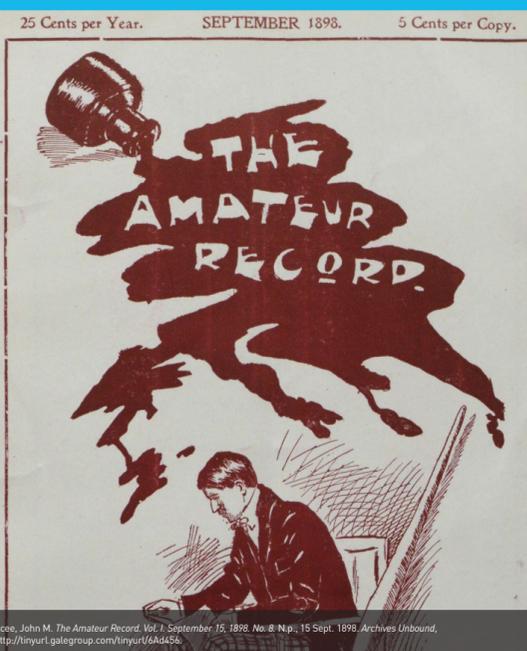


YOUTH CULTURE FINDS ITS VOICE

ADOLESCENT JOURNALISM IN THE 19TH CENTURY

Amateur Newspapers from the American Antiquarian Society

This extensive collection is an indispensable digital archive that offers students and researchers the opportunity for thorough analysis of amateur newspapers and periodicals from the 19th century. Comprising 3,900 individual titles, it provides an abundance of resources for researchers looking to make connections with the era, and provides compelling insights into the ways teens and young adults viewed the world around them in the 1800's.



The Amateur Record

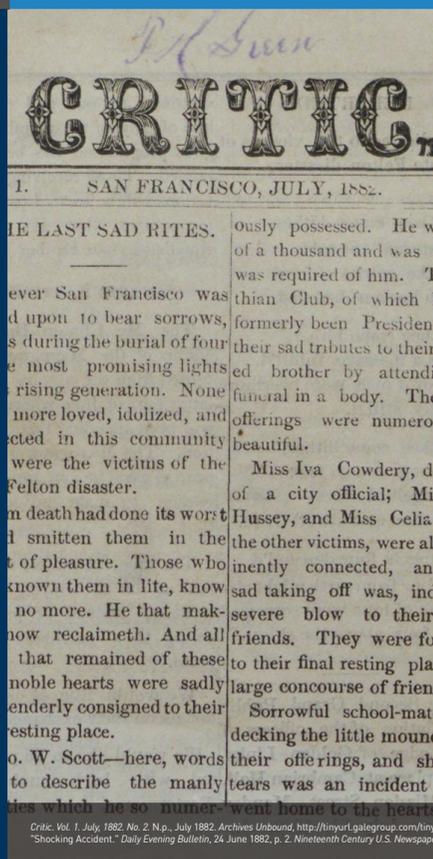
Published out of Atlanta, Georgia this issue includes poems, short stories, and literature reviews. In an article titled "Amateur Journalism in the South", an author writes about the great importance of amateur newspapers to the youth and extols its many virtues. Amateur journalism was central to the lives of many young people and serves as an enduring record of their thoughts on the world.

“There is nothing so instructive and at the same time satisfying to the young as amateur journalism. It has been aptly said “that amateur journalism is a powerful engine of intellectual culture” as an institution for the unlimited expression of opinions, ideas and convictions, it is unsurpassed and as an educator of the highest merit, it is unequalled.”

CRITIC

This issue of the San Francisco based "Critic" was a somber memorial to a group of young people who were killed in a tragic accident when a moonlight stagecoach ride went awry. The disaster was also reported on in several traditional newspapers, offering a point with which to compare the differences in coverage of events, and revealing fascinating insight into how young people were influenced by traditional news sources and vice versa.

“If ever San Francisco was called upon to bear sorrows, it was during the burial of four of the most promising lights of its rising generation. None were more loved, idolized, and respected in this community than were the victims of the late Felton disaster. Grim death had done its worst—had smitten them in the midst of pleasure. Those who had known them in life, know them no more.”



SHOCKING ACCIDENT.

Party of San Franciscans Thrown Over a Precipice near Felton.

Four Persons Killed and Others Seriously Injured--Full Particulars.

News was received in this city this morning of a dreadful accident which happened about midnight last night to a party of young San Franciscans, who had been camping near Felton, in Santa Cruz county.

PARTICULARS OF THE ACCIDENT--THE CAMPING PARTY.

The details at hand tell the following particulars: About three weeks ago a large party of young people left this city to spend a vacation at Camp Felton, which is near the town of Felton, among the redwoods of Santa Cruz county. A large number of persons were already there, and this addition made the population of the camp about 250 all told. The camp is situated in the heart of one of the most picturesque regions of the State, about one mile from what is called the Big Tree Grove, and seven miles and a half from the town of Santa Cruz. All went well at the camp until last night.

A FATAL MOONLIGHT RIDE. A ride and dance by moonlight to Santa Cruz had been proposed, but this was objected to by

THE BANGOR BOYS.

A Live and Active Amateur Journal.

VOI. 2. OCTOBER, 1886. NO. 2.

Civilized and Barbarians. No doubt there is some difference between ourselves and barbarians. Whether this difference is to our credit or not let us make a few inquiries and see. Suppose we take the Chinese, for instance. They are, at least, half civilized. Let us compare their civilization with ours. One argument against the Chinese coming to America is that many of them are opium-eaters. We do not have much of that in our own country,—neither would China if she could help it. They took up arms against it, and their Emperor protested against it, but England forced it upon them. It is true that opium costs 400,000,000 Chinamen \$36,000,000 yearly. It is also true that rum costs 50,000,000 Americans \$800,000,000; and did any one ever hear of our rulers protesting against its importation? did any one ever read of the great American nation rebelling against rum? Not yet, most assuredly. It appears then, we have not gained much by this comparison. Let us try another. The Chinese women have a very foolish custom of binding up their feet when young, and not allowing them to grow. No such foolish custom as this exists in America. Oh, no! Our high-toned American women are not so foolish. They lace up their waists tightly, instead of their feet. It is true that this custom makes narrow-gauge chests, and that the owners can hardly breathe; that their livers are squeezed out of shape, and their ribs crooked in, and their lives shortened; but then they can walk—or rather, waddle. These disciples of Confucius are very silly, of course, to worship their ancestors. There seems to be little

The Bangor Boys

This monthly amateur publication from Maine includes social commentary, amateur newspaper trade news, as well as advertisements for products such as medicinal sarsaparilla and life insurance. In the lead article of this issue author E.F. Studley pens a satirical comparison of the "barbarous" Chinese to "civilized" Americans, juxtaposing opium consumption in China with rum drinking in America. Writing like this was common in amateur newspapers, and provides insight into how teens in the 19th century viewed other countries around the world.

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The West Coast Edition of the East Coast Earbender

This cleverly named newspaper was published in W. Hempstead, New York at an unspecified date. Much of the paper's content is comprised of short stories that amount to gossip about other amateur journalists, and offers fascinating and entertaining insight into the social scene of "amateurdom." The introduction to the paper is emblematic of the often humorous—sometimes absurd—style of writing that can be found in many of the newspapers in the collection.

“Due to the fact that the western portion of the United States is nearer Japan, and because Japan is an enemy of ours, the west coast does not deserve as large an issue as the East coast. However, one might say that West Coast Earbender is printed, while the East Coast E. B. [that usually stands for Earbender] is only mimeographed. That is due to the fact that the Eastern half of the United States is nearer Germany than the Western half, and because Germany is an enemy of ours, the east coast does not deserve a printed edition as the West Coast gets.”

THE WEST COAST EDITION OF EAST COAST EARBENDER

Editor Tom Erhard
34 Buckingham Rd., W. Hempstead, N. Y.

Here is what the western half of the United States of Brazil has been clamoring for! This is being issued just to please all green-eyed sharks residing to the windward of the Great Divide.

As the reader has by this time no doubt realized that the Earbender is smaller than usual, he will most logically want to know the reason whereof. Read on, MacDuff:

Due to the fact that the western portion of the United States is nearer Japan than the eastern half, and because Japan is an enemy of ours, the West Coast does not deserve as large an issue as the East Coast.

However, one might say that the

Erhard, Tom. The West Coast Edition of East Coast Earbender. N.p., n.d. Archives Unbound, <http://tinyurl.com/tinyurl/6AcuX>.

GAIN A DEEPER PERSPECTIVE

Though many amateur publications from the period were short-lived, they provide a broader understanding of the 19th century as a whole, and allow researchers to compare the political and social issues facing young adults of the time with those confronting society today.

To learn more about this one-of-a-kind collection contact your Gale rep today.

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