

New Magazines & Newspapers for 2012

By Hugh M. Crane

It seems that the Great Recession (or the Eensie-Weensie Depression) may be catching up with the magazine publishing industry. Last year we planned to add 29 new titles to our collection. New to the library, that is; we usually like a title to have a small track record before we place a bet on it. However, we didn't add that many because a few went out of business between the time we chose them and the time we placed our order. This year we were able to add 13 magazines; let's hope next year is luckier.

Afar – This bimonthly for international travelers was recommended by a patron and received a mixed review in *Library Journal*. The patron noted that it “goes a step beyond ‘National Geographic Traveler’ and really delves into the people and places it covers.”

ArtAsiaPacific – Another patron suggestion, supported by our bible, Cheryl LaGuardia's *Magazines for Libraries*. The entry notes that “full-color imagery predominates” and that “regular departments showcase happenings...and exhibition reviews in Asia and major U.S. cities.”

Benjamin Shepherd's Wall Street – We said goodbye to few a titles in 2011, and one of them was the once-popular “Louis Rukeyser's Mutual Funds.” Without Louis's sardonic wit, the newsletter went into decline and ceased publication in October. Subscribers were offered the new title to fill out subscriptions. It remains to be seen whether Ben can become another Louis, but at least the scope of his monthly is wider.

Color – Re-launched in 2011, with some fanfare from *The Boston Globe*, this full-color glossy describes itself as “the premier all-inclusive monthly magazine that highlights topics of interest around New England and New York's professionals of color.”

Common Ground – This is the monthly newspaper of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO. We have no other print subscriptions to union publications at this time, so it fills a need. It also provides national and Rhode Island coverage, as well as an entertainment page.

[Edible Boston](#) – A quarterly magazine focused on local food. The staff member who recommended it praised its “excellent recipes for seasonal produce and other foodstuffs.” Winner of the James Beard Publication of the Year for 2011.

Flying – A staple at half a dozen Minuteman public libraries. A monthly, published since 1927, it has been designated as a basic periodical in its subject area by *Magazines for Libraries*. At \$14.00 a year, how could we go wrong?

France-Amerique – The struggle to find a replacement for *Champs Elysees* goes on, with only partial success. *Le Figaro* publishes this French-language weekly for ex-patriates. But there's no CD.

Frieze - The subtitle of this British title, published eight times per year, tells its story: *Contemporary Art & Culture*. Its coverage is European; its scope includes performing arts.

MacLife – A monthly providing instruction for all Mac users, with reviews of relevant hardware and software, according to Ulrichsweb.com, our other bible. No doubt similar to *Macworld*, to which we have subscribed for many years. Not to be confused with *McLife*, published by the Hamburglar.

Sew Stylish – Here’s a good, practical magazine for beginner-to-intermediate craftspeople. (Isn’t that everyone?) It is produced by the reliable Taunton Press, which already provides us with *Fine Homebuilding* and *Fine Woodworking*. *Fine Cooking* is available at the Boudreau and Collins branches.

Vibe – *Magazines for Libraries* dubs this a basic title also. Librarians will be using it as an order source for hip-hop CDs. Its field is not just music, but a lifestyle. This monthly is another re-launch; not as attractive as back in the day, but still well written.

Washington Monthly – One of the few titles here that we have brought back after cancelling. This non-partisan bimonthly (Wait, not actually monthly?!) also offers a partial archive online, where readers will also find the popular blog *Political Animal*.