

Professor Hart
Engl 396: English Avant-Gardes

Research Project on the *New Age*

Due by 12 noon, Friday November 9

Your next assignment is a research report on A.O. Orage's weekly magazine, the *New Age*. Your job in this assignment is to conduct original research on a theme or personality associated with the *New Age* between 1907-22. The result of this research should be a 3-5 page report that answers an empirical question about the magazine.

How to conduct your research?

The MJP should be your starting-point: not only the archive of *New Age* issues but also the collection of biographical essays and critical and historical books you can link to from the green frame at the top of most pages. For instance, the MJP contains a searchable full text of Wallace Martin's history, *The New Age Under Orage* (1967), meaning that you can all use this text without squabbling over scarce library copies.

You should make good use of the MJP's search engine. You can use this to search by contributor name (e.g., "Lewis") or title (e.g., "Readers and Writers"). You can also search the full text of the archive by keyword (e.g., "vortex"); but be careful what you wish for—an overly common keyword will bring back hundreds of hits. Avoid searching under subject; I've rarely had any success with this.

After the MJP, your next stop should be the UIUC English Library. If you're interested in, say, Ezra Pound's literary journalism, the English Librarians will be able to direct you to biographies, critical studies, and other journals to which Pound contributed. You can also make hay with the footnotes to Robert Scholes's essay on the MJP site and the notes to Ann Ardis's chapter in the course reader.

Finally, remember that you don't need to go overboard: you're writing a short report, not a doctoral dissertation. However, I do want to see evidence that you have all gone beyond the resources you can download to your computer monitors.

What to research?

Think of your report as the answer to a question. The following queries are good places to start, but they are only suggestions. You should feel free to generate your own question out of your reading in the *New Age*.

1. Is there a critical consensus about Orage's editorial policies and reputation?
2. Did the *New Age* have a consistent editorial line on the social value of art and literature and the social responsibilities of artists and writers?

3. Ann Ardis describes the *New Age* as motivated by partisan support for “Guild Socialism.” What is Guild Socialism?
4. What evidence is there (other than that she presents herself) for Ardis’s description of the *New Age* as a partly anti-modernist journal?
5. What did the writers of the *New Age* have to say about *Blast* and the Vorticist avant-garde?
6. What role did the *New Age* play in the aesthetic and intellectual career of Wyndham Lewis or Ezra Pound?

Format

- Circa 3-5 pages
- Typed; double-spaced; 12-point font; margins set at no more than 1 inch.
- Proofread: this means (a) spell- and grammar-check; (b) read your paper out loud
- Use a consistent form of citation, whether footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical citations plus list of works cited.
- For general information on formatting and punctuation of quotations, see:
<http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/wworkshop/MLA/bibliographymla.htm>

N.B.

Please note the extended deadline of Friday November 9. This will allow you to ask me questions in class on Wednesday November 7 and still have time to complete your work.