

Carcenet Press and Contemporary Poetry Publishing

This paper looks at the material production practices and the culture of production in contemporary poetry publishing. The Manchester-based Carcanet Press will be offered as a case study to suggest how the production and circulation of poetry books have developed since its foundation by Michael Schmidt and Peter Jones in 1969. I consider the impact of increased digitisation and electronic production methods in the context of the relations between publishers, authors and readers. This research draws on a range of archival material, including publicity material, letters from printers, designers and binders, and letters from poets, agents, editors and translators. The correspondence include poets such as John Ashbery, W.H. Auden, Philip Larkin and Anne Sexton.

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