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DIG540: Omeka Collection Proposal and Plug-in Schema
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Omeka Plugin for Modern Priscilla Magazine Circa WWI Archive

Collection:

Modern Priscilla Magazine Archive

For about a decade, I have invested in an obscure collection of historical ephemera in the form of domestic history pulp magazines. Domestic history refers to a branch of history not overly documented: the history related to the running and integration of a household. As this was sometimes the domain of the woman, much of my collection of domestic history comes in the form of women's magazines from the pulp era. Pulps referred to the paper-quality on which they were printed (not intended to last beyond a few years), and so my collection of pulp magazines spanning the decades between 1870 and 1930, with their fraying, newsprint pages, are on the cusp of extinction in spite of my best archival efforts.

At the same time, magazines and their contents are subject to an intense array of complex and tangled copyright laws preventing them from public display on the web without first exploring expensive copyright searches for each individual item of content in a single issue (and I have hundreds). I would love to archive this for posterity, committing the work to a digital but private space until such time as they enter the public domain completely as my fear of copyright infringement precludes a full archival process of the magazines in their entirety.

Having said that, a lot of data can be gleaned from simply reviewing the cover art of a historical magazine and the Table of Contents. Where I have one collection of a single publication that spaces from 1870 to 1930 (missing only a few), we could glean from the cover images a certain inference of historical context (who is the cover model? is it in color? what is she wearing (WWI nurse's uniform, for instance?) what color is her hair (if color)? what diversity of ethnicity is demonstrated? Is it culturally affluent demonstration? What's the cover price? has inflation affected the cover price exponentially or only periodically? who wrote articles for each issue? can we cross-reference these authors against other magazines of the time in this golden-age of publishing and the dream of printing one's story?)

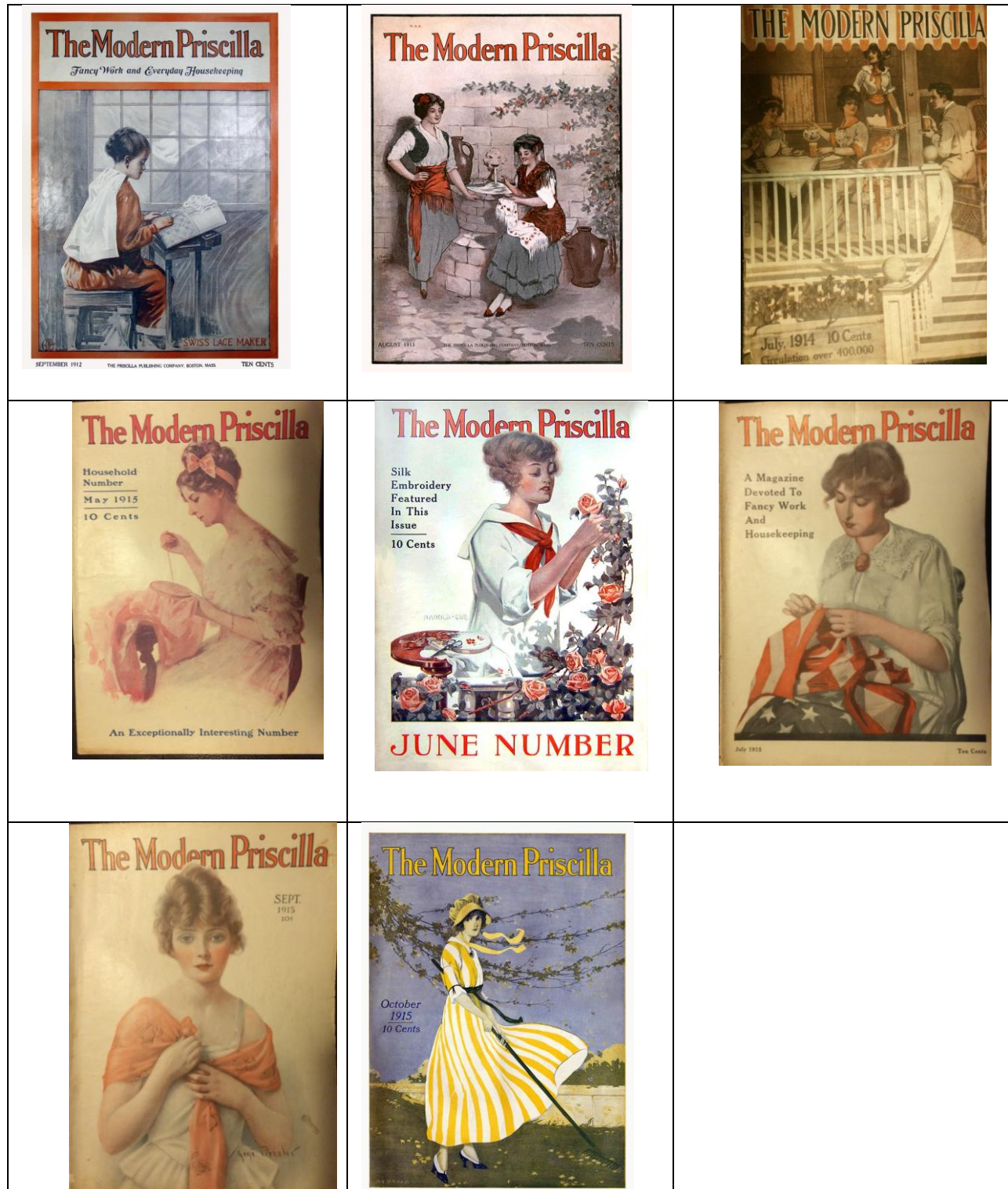
My collection is incomplete, though my archive of 61 issues span from September 1910 to January 1930 (the last issue came out July of 1930 before the magazine closed for business, merging into Needlecraft magazine (for which I also have approximately 60 issues in my collection)). For the purposes of this collection, though, I would limit my archive to the issues of *Modern Priscilla* only that came out just before and crossing through start of WWI (1914-1918), specifically the following:

1. September, 1910
2. September, 1911
3. January, 1912
4. September, 1912
5. August, 1913
6. July, 1914
7. May, 1915
8. June, 1915
9. July, 1915
10. September, 1915
11. October, 1915

I have selected these issues as I believe their contents illustrate a change in focus for domestics during the time period as the early issues (1910-1913) focus on detailed needlework patterns, extravagant gifts for the “hope chest,” recipes for rich foods, and cover images that show women engaging in the “modern Priscilla” arts (needlework, sewing, fabric-painting) as a kind of pass-time; whereas the early WWI issues (1914-1915) take a dramatic turn toward more conservative needlework patterns, fewer “gift” ideas, recipes that focus primarily on preserves (jams, aspics, jellied foods), and cover images that show variations of the American flag or stalwart women whose smiling faces are now much more serious.

Cover images:





Site banner:

(image of the first cover-banner of Modern Priscilla, published in Lynn, MA in 1897)



Form Mock-Up for Magazine Data Entry:

The Modern Priscilla Index

Add an issue of Modern Priscilla to the database

Magazine title:

Publication date:

Table of Contents:

With the Editors - page 2
A Luncheon Cloth of Perennial Beauty - page 5
Snow Crystal Doilies - page 6
Blue and White "Willow Pattern Linens" - page 7
Etc...

Cover art URL:

Output goes here

Required Plug-Ins and Content:

1. Omeka Standard Installation
2. Plug-in: Digital Object Linker (to connect to cover art images from public domain sites)

3. Plug-in: Exhibit Builder (for dynamic exhibition)
4. Plug-in: Getty Suggest (the ToC should be dynamic; Getty Suggest could connect other aspects of the magazine's contents that might be found in the public domain or within Getty)
5. Plug-in: Neatline Time (to allow for integration of a cover-art timeline of the periodicals)
6. Plug-in: Contribution (given that others may contribute biographical data or connect content in these issues to other material on the web through comments, I'd like to install this plug-in (or modified aspects of it) to ensure a recaptcha addition and to help identify anyone who contributes to the form data)

Schema:

Organizing periodicals is hardly a new concept. Thus, there are several schemae that can support this project. Creative Work's Periodical schema at <https://schema.org/Periodical> has all the required components for the purposes of this collection (with some modification):

1. Publisher
2. Publication
3. Date Created
4. Author (if image art illustrator's name is found)
5. Image (URL or JPG upload)
6. Description (alt text of image)
7. Mentions (to list Table of Contents)
8. Table of Contents (links out to OCR-scanned, readable text)

Custom Plug-In:

(to be built)

I consulted with a Copyright Librarian whose expertise is in instructional copyright or fair use of content for instructional purposes. Her advice was that magazines printed before 1923 were entirely in the public domain, but that the contents of those magazines could have been resubmitted for individual copyright ownership by the content-creator and thus extended beyond the "cut-off" date for copyright (life + 75 years). Additionally, where this is a magazine, some of the contents may include trademarks owned by current/modern-day businesses which advertised in these magazines prior to 1923, but for which the trademark may still be owned by the company. For example, Coca Cola TM is a company which has existed long enough o potentially appear in pulp magazines, which means that the use of those trademarks (in printing old advertisements) could be a form of trademark infringement.

Because I cannot guarantee that the content I hope to post is 100% public domain (though it very likely is), I need to build a custom plug-in that would allow for page-level take down notices to be posted by a web visitor who has reason to believe the content is copyrighted outside of the public domain. This would be a form as a matter of "public service" to the site holder (me) where good Samaritans or copyright-holders can kindly request that materials from the magazines be taken down. Because the goal is to post individualized content (that is, a single story from an issue would reside on a single page

with navigation back/next to the other stories/contents of the magazine in order), I would need to include this plug-in on the base “page” of every area of the collection.

Required Form Elements and Functionality:

Element:	Functionality:	Notes:
Captcha	Form validation	Because this form essentially empowers an “average visitor” to temporarily take down a single page of my site’s content, I need to ensure it’s a “real person” and not a bot or web spider (modified from “Contribution” plug-in)
Comment	Text entry explaining request	User must enter at least 200 characters explaining why s/he thinks this contribution is an infringement of copyright
Email Address (social login)	“Force sign-in” to Google or Facebook to capture email	User must elect to sign-in with Facebook to contribute the take-down request (adapted from WP plug-in for social login: https://wordpress.org/plugins/oa-social-login/)
Reference to copyright holder	Text entry pointing to potential copyrighted resource	User can enter a formatted reference (to a URL or to a text-based resource) to indicate the potential source of infringement
On Submit	Click	Sends an email message to site holder to moderate the contribution <i>and</i> temporarily returns a 404 message to web visitors