



# *The Southern Quarterly*

A Journal of Arts & Letters in the South  
**Information for Contributors**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**The Arts in the South.** SoQ defines "the arts" broadly, including literature, painting, sculpture, music, dance, film, and popular culture. We also publish studies of Southern culture informed by such disciplines as history, folklore, anthropology, political science, and geography. SoQ defines "The South" as anything south of the Mason Dixon Line, including the Caribbean, to the larger Global South.

**Articles.** Each issue of *The Southern Quarterly* contains 3-6 articles that explore what the South meant, or means, today. We publish articles that are based on solid documentation, that are grounded in literary or critical theory, and that make an original and important contribution to the study of the American South. Articles should not exceed 20-25 double-spaced typescript pages in length, including all documentation.

**Archival Documents.** We welcome submission of important unpublished documents, including letters, literary works, memoirs, etc.

**Original Poetry.** The SoQ publishes 4-6 poems about the South in each issue. Please do not submit more than 5 poems at any one time; no poem should be more than 40 lines. We do not consider work that has been submitted elsewhere or previously published. Poems must deal with the South as defined above.

**Review Essays.** SoQ publishes thoughtful review essays on one or more recent non-fiction books or films that contribute to the study of Southern culture. We do not review volumes of poetry or fiction. Usually, the Book Review Editor or the Film Review Editor will solicit reviews. However, scholars who are interested in reviewing for SoQ should contact the Managing Editor to indicate their areas of expertise. Solicitation of a review or the submission of an unsolicited review does not guarantee publication.

Reviews are generally 1,300-1,800 words. In addition to describing the work being reviewed, they should include analysis that places the work in a larger context. This might include discussion of the work in the context of the author/filmmaker's previous works, work by other authors/filmmakers, and/or the work's potential impact on the study of Southern culture or a specific field within that study.

**Interviews.** A hallmark of our journal, the interviews that we regularly publish have included those with Ernest J. Gaines, Robert Morgan, Fred Chappell, Lewis Nordan, Beth Henley, and Dr. Chris Chapman on celebrated African American artist Lois Mailou Jones.

**Portfolios.** SoQ also publishes portfolios of original artwork or photography. Artists and photographers interested in having their portfolios featured in SoQ should send digital images of 300 dpi or better. Recent portfolios include "The Mississippi Delta Hot Tamale Trail" (photographs); the paintings of Ulrick Jean-Pierre; "A Guided Tour through Hell: A Photographic Essay of Emmett Till's Mississippi Delta"; and "Survivors of Katrina: Portraits" (drawings) by Paul McCall.

**Special Issues.** SoQ solicits proposals for special issues which may include essays from conferences. We have published special issues on such diverse topics as the African American church, Southern food and drink, country music, southern cemeteries, contemporary visual art, Southern women playwrights, and Southern film, as well as individual Southern artists and writers. Most recently, special issues have focused on Hurricane Katrina, the South in the Atlantic World, Poetry in the South, the Legacy of Emmett Till, the Tennessee Williams Centennial, and United States Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey.

## SUBMISSIONS

SoQ does not consider multiple submissions or work that has been approved elsewhere. Please submit your materials through our online system at [www.usm.edu/soq](http://www.usm.edu/soq) by clicking on the "submit article" link on the left side of the screen.

**Formatting.** Please consult *The Southern Quarterly* Style Guide for proper formatting of submissions.

**Notification.** Please allow at least 3-4 months to review your manuscript before querying us about it.

**Peer Review.** As a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal, SoQ submits articles and interviews to readers for their recommendation for revision, acceptance, or rejection.

**Proofs.** You will receive page proofs of your work to review for errors and to make *minor* changes in the text before final production.

## PAYMENT

**Payment.** All contributors receive one copy of the issue in which their work appears. Up to ten (10) additional copies of SoQ are available for purchase by all contributors at 40% discount.

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The process of obtaining permission for copyrighted materials can take a significant amount of time, so contributors should pursue permissions as soon as possible.

In order to reduce the need to seek permission to use these materials, authors should try to refrain from quoting long passages and consider:

- Why do I need to quote the copyrighted work? Would paraphrasing the material work just as well?
- Would quoting a smaller passage suffice, or is it necessary to the sense of my essay that I quote a larger passage? (Larger passages should not be used just to make the essay more entertaining to read. The passage should be relevant to the point you are making.)
- Would anything be lost to the sense of the essay if the quote is eliminated or reduced?
- Bottom line: If the entirety of the quote is integral to the comment or criticism, then the author should leave it in. If the author can reduce or

eliminate the quotes without losing the sense of the essay, then that is what should be done.

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**Once you have obtained the appropriate permission, please send this documentation to:**

Diane DeCesare Ross

Managing Editor, *Southern Quarterly*

email: [diane.ross@usm.edu](mailto:diane.ross@usm.edu)

## **ILLUSTRATIONS**

Upon acceptance of one's work for publication, contributors must provide a source for digital images of **300 dpi** or better of any **integral** illustrations to be included. JPEG format is preferred. The author's manuscript will not be published if permission for integral illustrations cannot be obtained. It is the responsibility of the contributor to provide as much information as possible about the source of the image to the Managing Editor so that the appropriate permissions can be pursued.

Contributors should also provide caption information, as follows:

- Figure number (if referenced in the essay)
- Title/subject
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- Source of photograph (person or institution, collection, URL, etc.)
- Any other attribution information required by the copyright holder or owner of the image.

Note that the process of locating and obtaining permission for images can take a significant amount of time, so it should begin as soon as possible.

## **INFORMATION NEEDED FROM EACH CONTRIBUTOR**

Upon acceptance of their work for publication, contributors will be asked to provide the following information:

- Name as it is to appear in the journal
- Email address
- Phone number
- Preferred mailing address
- Institutional affiliation
- A short biographical note to be published in the journal. Four to five sentences should suffice.

As noted earlier, contributors will also be asked to sign and return a permission to publish form and to provide documentation of permission to incorporate copyrighted materials in their submission.