

## Editor's Note

In the fall of 1963, Newberry College in South Carolina published the first issue of *Studies in Short Fiction*. The journal was the brainchild of Purvis E. Boyette, an assistant professor of English at Newberry who later became a prominent Milton scholar at Tulane University. The journal's founding editor was Frank L. Hoskins, an English professor at the college. Hoskins would serve as the journal's editor until his death in 1976.

In describing the origins of *Studies in Short Fiction*, Hoskins wrote that “where the rest of us imagined gargantuan obstacles between idea and fulfillment and did nothing, courageously [Boyette] took the measure of all obstacles and persuaded his listeners that we not only should but also could indeed publish a quarterly that could very well become a principal outlet for the discoveries and opinions of scholars interested in short fiction.”

The journal was an audacious undertaking for a liberal arts college of only 709 students whose alma mater, in its opening line, proudly proclaims the school to be both small and poor. But Newberry College, then and now, is a school with a sense of mission, and while that mission puts the education of undergraduates first, it also recognizes that the college has a role to play in the world of scholarship. Thus, the school's board of trustees granted to Purvis E. Boyette the money that he requested to launch *Studies in Short Fiction*.

For 36 years, *Studies in Short Fiction* helped to give Newberry College its identity. While there were certainly professors at the college who were making individual contributions to their scholarly fields, *Studies in Short Fiction* announced that Newberry as an institution was committed to the advancement of scholarship. Thus, after the college published its final issue of the journal in 1999, part of the school's mission fell by the wayside.

*Studies in Crime Writing* has been founded in part to fill this void at Newberry College, but also to fill a void in the world of scholarly publishing. This journal hopes to find its niche as an open-access journal focusing on the literary study of crime writing, including noir, thrillers, and true crime, as well as classical and hard-boiled detective fiction. The journal's priorities will always be quality and accessibility. *Studies in Crime Writing* will be rigorously peer reviewed, and it will be free to all. Initially, the journal will appear annually with its publication schedule accelerating as the volume and quality of submissions warrant.

Thank you for reading.

David Rachels  
Newberry College  
United States