CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY
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Periodicals are the vehicles of the current output of knowledge in various disciplines of life. Despite the advent of several other media like reports, conference proceedings and theses, periodicals have a prominent role to play in the medium of language for the communication of current knowledge. They keep researchers and others informed of the current developments in the respective areas of specialization, thereby enabling them to keep themselves abreast of the latest trends in the fields of knowledge concerned. Periodicals are, thus, the first published records of original research and development.

Periodicals may be divided into five types:

(a) Newspapers which contain, besides news items and job advertisements, some longer articles,

(b) Trade Journals that deal with company profits, production figures, imports and exports of a particular trade.
(c) House Journals which are produced by firms for the benefit of staff and customers.

(d) Commercial Journals which are produced for a profit by commercial publishers.

(e) Professional and learned society Journals which are meant for the members of the profession or learned society and not published for profit.

Kawatra gives a schematic representation of the generation and publication of information:

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THE GENERATION AND PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION


2. Ibid., p. 69.
As shown in the schematic representation, periodical literature forms the primary source of information. The serials contain more recent facts and opinions than books. Contents of serials may include articles, letters, statistical data, news items, book reviews and job advertisements.

Periodicals are said to perform four important functions:

1. to supply generally the latest possible information on a given subject,
2. to serve as sources of material on new subjects,
3. to supply a particular article to a reader who has cited in a book or journal and
4. to provide an overview of the state of a given discipline at a particular time.\(^3\)

Periodicals, as we know them, may be said to date from the great flowering of science and culture in England under Charles II. In 1665 *The Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* was first published. It consisted of correspondence between the 'Fellows'.

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It became a means of scientific communication. The first English-language literary journal was *Mercurius librarius* established in 1980. It was meant to give a faithful account of all books and pamphlets.


Industrial revolution during the nineteenth century and information explosion during the twentieth century made the periodicals an essential link in the process of communication. It is during this period that India came under the influence of English language and literature. Some of the poets like R.C. Dutt published articles and poems in *Bengali Magazine* and *Mookerjee's Magazine*. Other periodicals and magazines like *The Hindu Patriot, The Indian field, The Friend of India, Calcutta Courier* appeared. Some poems in *English*
appeared by writers like Madhusudan Dutt in the The Madras Circulator, The Hindu, Madras Herald, Young India, Bande Mataram, Vanguard and Masses which became prominent in the wake of the Freedom movement. The Free Press of India News Agency came into existence in 1925. This gave encouragement for the development of journalism in India. But, all these periodicals cannot be categorized as literary periodicals in their true spirit. Freedom movement was gaining momentum. The influence of Mahatma Gandhi became vast and deep. All these periodicals communicated the prevalent political, religious and social problems of the country.

But during the twentieth century, there has been considerable literary output in the area of Indian writing in English. Particularly after Independence, several of the foreign periodicals like London Magazine, The Spectator, Encounter, The Times Literary Supplement started publishing poems and articles by Indian authors. Indian writing in English also gained recognition as a subject of study in universities. This resulted in the progress in literary journalism in the subject.
Indians have been using the English Language for creative purposes for more than a century now. But, as Meenakshi Mukherjee points out, "from the third or fourth decade of this century, there was a serious and systematic attempt to place such writing in its proper historical and cultural context and to evaluate it as literature". When we come to periodicals with reference to Indian writing in English, there were no worthy periodicals devoted to the subject till 1920. Triveni, is, perhaps, the first journal which was devoted in part to creative and critical aspects of Indian writing in English. We find several articles with a bearing on Indian Writing in English in the journal of Triveni. All the movements that make for idealism in India as well as elsewhere receive particular attention in these columns.

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5. Founded in 1928 by Sri K. Ramakrishna Rao, Triveni is a quarterly devoted to Art, Literature and History.

From the statistical point of view, there was only one literary journal during 1920s, two during 1930s, three during 1940s, five during 1950s, fifteen during 1960s, forty five during 1970s and at present there are nearly 72 journals in India which publish articles on English literature. Though a considerable number of contributions appear in these journals, they are not exclusively on Indian writing in English.

There are various kinds of journals on English literature and literature in English in India at present. There is the Sahitya Academy organ, namely, Indian Literature, which publishes articles and reviews on all Indian literatures. Popular Prakashan's Indian Writing Today is of a similar kind. There is Contemporary Indian Literature published from Delhi. These and several other journals such as The Literary Criterion edited by C.D. Narasimhaiah and C.N. Srinath, The Literary Half-yearly edited by Prof. A.H. Annaiah Gowda, The writers workshop Miscellany of Calcutta,

The Enact of Delhi, The Aryan Path, The Indian P.E.N. and the The Quest of Bombay and some other periodicals which often published creative and critical material on Indian Writing in English.

But, until 1973 there has been no literary journal devoted entirely to Indian Writing in English. Lamenting the lack of any single journal exclusively meant for publishing articles on Indian Writing in English, Dr. G. Balarama Gupta says: "But it is unfortunate that there seems to be not a single journal devoted entirely and exclusively to Indian Writing in English. It is naturally worthwhile for some university or some other university body to start publishing such a journal". 8 That it was a prophetic utterance was evidenced when Dr. Balarama Gupta himself started The Journal of Indian Writing in English* in 1973.

In between 1928 when Triveni was published and 1973 when JIWE appeared several journals appeared on the Indian literary horizon. While some of them could swim against the tide of time, others faced


* From now on the journal will be referred to in its abbreviated form, JIWE.
meteorical disappearance. The Aryan Path of Madam Sophia Wadia, the excellence of whose editorial abilities the nation is proud of, now appears to be defunct presumably for want of funds. Banastali Patrika sustained with devotion by Dr. Rameswara Gupta died with his passing away. Dr. Sivaramakrishna of Osmania University brought out a couple of issues of Tenor, an immensely promising journal, and stopped. It has been revived recently. Srihari Rao's The Indian Scholar also could not continue beyond a particular period. It is learnt that The Indian Scholar will be revived soon. The Editor made a statement to this effect at the All India English Teachers' Conference held at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam from 27-12-89 to 29-12-89. Dr. Meenakshi Mukherjee, the author of the famous book The Twice-born Fiction, exhibited her editorial skills amply in Vagartha for no longer than six years. Some of the other journals whose extinction is mourned by discerning readers are Indian Writing Today, Gray Book, Poetry Today and Kavi India to mention a few important names.

There are certain journals which have survived the onslaught of time. They are Literary
Criterion, Literary Half-yearly, New quest, Commonwealth quarterly, Cygnus, Chandrabhaga, Enact, Scholar Critic, Art and Poetry Today, The Humanities Review, Journal of literature and Aesthetics, Litt Crit, Pratibha India and Journal of Indian Writing in English which have done considerable service to the cause of Indian writing in English by publishing standard articles on Indian Poetry in English, Indian Fiction in English and Indian Drama in English. Writers Workshops' Miscellany, for instance, contributed significantly to the general awareness of the possibilities of Indian Writing in English. Prof. C.D. Narasimhaiah has published several detailed analyses of important aspects of Indian Writing in English in The Literary Criterion. Mention must be made of the Journal of Commonwealth Literature published twice annually in August and December. The first number of each volume consists of an issue of critical studies and essays. The second is the bibliography issue, providing an Annual checklist of publications in each region of the Commonwealth including India.

The appearance of The Journal of Indian Writing in English was easily a breakthrough in Indian literary
Journals in English. It opened a new chapter in the history of Indian Journals in English by devoting itself exclusively to Indian Writing in English, both creative and critical. It is published twice annually, generally in the months of January and July. It publishes mainly critical articles on various aspects of Indian Writing in English by Indian as well as foreign critics. It also publishes creative writings in English — Poems, short stories, playlets and essays in lighter vein.

The JIWE pays particular attention to Review literature. In fact, it has issued a special issue on R.K. Narayan, — "R.K. Narayan : The American Reception, 1953-1970" which is intended to demonstrate the popular attention given to Narayan in the American press from 1953 through 1970. Arranged chronologically, this issue consists of Reviews published on each book by American press. This is, indeed, a unique contribution. The JIWE has also introduced a multiple review scheme under which several reviews on one book are published so as to enable the reader to understand the work in all its aspects.
The JIWE is known for its special numbers. So far, nine special issues have come out on individual authors like Anita Desai, R.K. Narayan and Nissim Ezekiel and other significant topics in the field of Indian Writing in English. There is a close symbiosis between Indian Writing in English and other Commonwealth Literatures. A study of the perspectives with which the Western world views Indian Writing in English is important in order to have a better understanding of Indian writing in English. Keeping this in view, several issues, 'Foreign Responses to Indian Writing in English', 'Contemporary Western Writing on India', 'Indian Writers Abroad' have been brought out. The special issues deal with such topics that form the core of different forms in the subject. Taken together, the topics in special issues form an integral whole which is essential for the research and growth of Indian Writing in English.

The JIWE also publishes bibliographies and reviews of bibliographies which create the necessary awareness among the researchers. It pays attention to significant creative writing by means of close studies of representative authors and works. It also
promotes dissemination of research findings through publication of lists of recent books published on Indian Writing in English.

Thus, the JIWE is rendering yeoman service to the cause of Indian Writing in English not only as a forum for the creative and critical expression of Indian Writing in English but also as a source of information and a tool of reference for the students, research scholars, teachers and for all those who are interested in Indian Writing in English. The following chapters examine the contribution of the JIWE to various aspects of Indian Writing in English in terms of critical response.