Adopt a Book


Rare Books & Special Collections
Strong Room 820.5A A5

About

Founded in 1940 by surrealist poet, Max Harris, Angry Penguins was a literary anthology devoted to modernist writings. A student of English and Economics at the University of Adelaide, Harris had become increasingly frustrated by the institutional indifference to major developments in literature and art and, spurred on by the demise of student magazine Phoenix, established Angry Penguins as an act of defiance. Its title was inspired by the journal’s patron, Charles Jury, who thought the description of “angry penguins” in Harris’ poem, Mithridatum of Despair, suited the poets on their revolutionary literary quest. Printed in Adelaide initially, the journal began as a 50-page annual. By 1945 it had reached 182 pages and was being printed in Melbourne, where Harris and Reed had established themselves as publishers. The final issue of Angry Penguins appeared in 1946, just five years after its inception. Its impact on the development of Australian literature, however, was anything but short, inspiring the modernist movement for years to come.
**Original Condition**

The set of *Angry Penguins* issues had been tightly bound in standard Library binding, making them difficult to read and impossible for use in displays. Large and small format issues had been bound together resulting in distortion of the large numbers. Some leaves were also becoming detached and several rear covers and one front cover had been removed during binding.

**Restoration by Anthony Zammit**

The issues were disbound and the glue removed from the spines. The individual numbers were resewn and bound in conservation binding with archival endpapers. The journal can now be safely and easily read and displayed without causing any further damage.