

## **Subject-based Zine Finding Aid: Anarchy**

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Samuel Hodgson, Ceren Muratli

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### **Introduction**

#### **Theme:**

The theme we chose for this collection of zines is Anarchy, a broad political, social and philosophical theory advocating for self-governance or an absence of government through abolishing hierarchical structures and establishing equality and autonomy. Anarchism challenges centralized power and state control through political disorder and instead emphasizes decentralized decision-making. It is often misrepresented as synonymous with chaos, upheaval or disorder. However, anarchy is fundamentally about non-conformism and opposing all systems of domination and oppression, such as racism or anti-LGBTQIA, sexism, etc. In black and Indigenous communities, anarchy addresses decolonization and critiques white supremacy. Anarchy is a theoretical standpoint with various approaches to anarchist action, but in its nature, there lies a moral claim about the importance of individual liberty and a front against the state authority. (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2023; Merriam-Webster, n.d.)

The zines in this collection explore various dimensions of anarchism, from critiques of its stagnation to reflections on revolutionary strategies, gender politics, and historical anarchist figures.

#### **Zines As Anarchist Media:**

Zines have always been critical media sources for the anarchist organization of information and dissemination. As self-published media with an emphasis on do-it-yourself (DIY), they play a critical role in offering a space for marginalized voices, radical ideologies and discussions outside the boundaries of institutional control, going hand in hand with what anarchist theory stands for. Their DIY nature aligns with the anarchist principle of autonomy, and they are an excellent source for political activism. Zinesters reject the capitalist motives of profit and fall outside the structuralist dilemma. (Jeppesen, 2012; Liming, 2010) Therefore, Zines play a vital role in the anarchist framework, and scholars even coined the term “anarchist zinesters,” which represents the role zines play in anarchist action. (Jeppesen, 2012, p. 266)

### **Zines, Archives and Anarchy:**

The role of archives in power structures has been widely examined in archival theory. Cook and Schwartz (2002) argue that archives are not simply repositories of history but rather active participants in shaping collective memory. Institutions decide what gets archived and what is important; therefore, in a way, they function as a dominant power structure; they serve as social constructs and a power over memory (p. 2). Archives most often function as mechanisms where the past is systematically controlled; this has led to the exclusion and erasure of radicalized communities, their histories and voices. The inclusion of zines in the QPIRG-McGill Alternative Library challenges these institutional biases by documenting anarchist thought through independent, grassroots publishing.

Zines as alternative archival materials do not function within institutional bounds, which anarchist theory opposes. They function as “counter archives” (Scheper, 2023). As anarchy is inherently a resistance towards governments, law, and political order, Zines are “rich spaces for resistance and connection between outlaw and outsider subjects,” and their power lies in re-making history outside the boundaries of institutionalized archival practices. (p. 23)

The act of archiving is political. Power occupies immense space in archivists' work, pulling the strings of who controls the narrative in “archival dynamics.” (Drake, 2011, p. 2) Thus, in the archiving of zines and our selected collection of anarchist media from QPIRG, we will examine how anarchist zines resist institutionalized narratives by echoing the voices of those actively working against systems of oppression by documenting radical ideologies outside mainstream institutions.

### **Overview of Items**

We selected the zines in this collection based on how they relate to the theme. Each of these works contributes to a broader conversation about resistance, action, critiques of power, and anarchist principles.

This zine collection spans different subtopics within anarchism, such as gender and patriarchy in anarchist movements, historical anarchist figures, critiques of stagnation and prevalence, and reflections on revolutionary thought. They are a mix of discussions, personal narratives, and historical documentation.

### **Selection Criteria:**

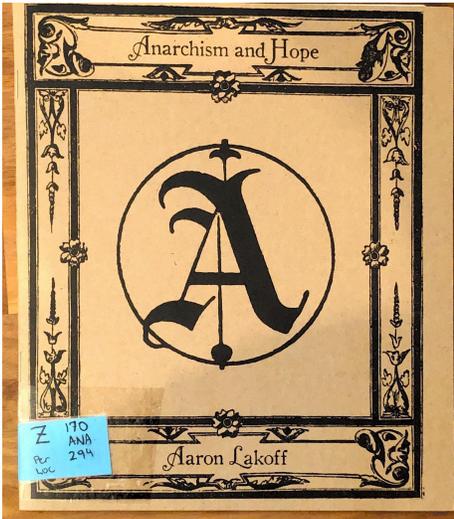
We chose this collection with the following criteria:

- Relevance to the theme: How each zine engages with anarchism, a philosophy, movement, or political practice.
- Diversity: We aimed to include a diverse number of zines such as personal accounts, discussions, critiques, historical perspectives, and philosophical narratives related to anarchist discourse.

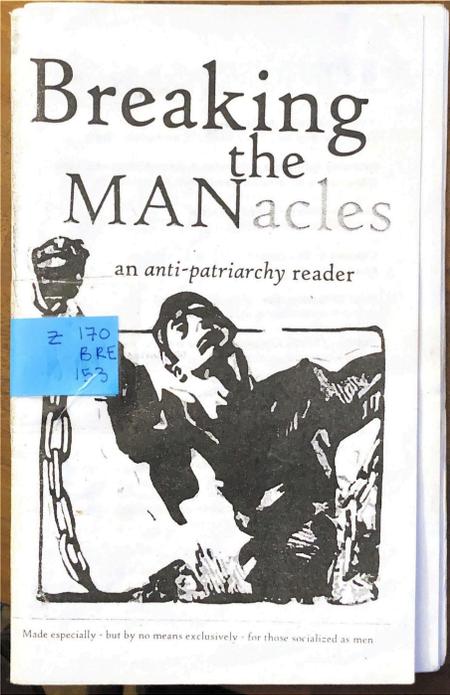
- **Significance:** Some zines highlight historical anarchist figures such as Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin and Emma Goldman, and they are striking and interesting additions to this collection.

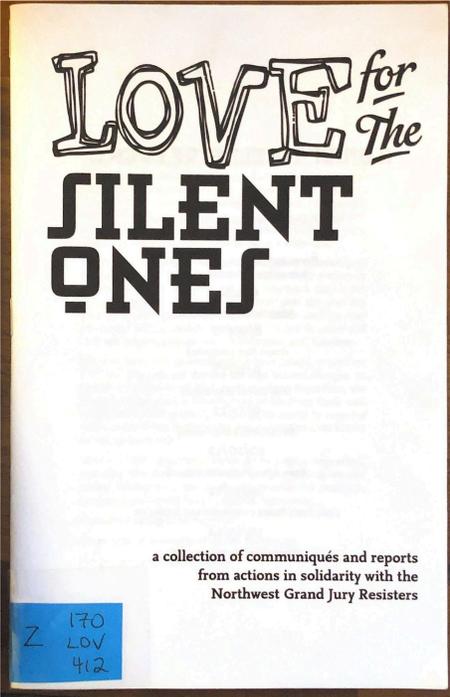
**Arrangement Criteria:**

We arranged these zines alphabetically by call number, aiming for easy retrieval and consistent cataloguing. We kept the format of each zine the same: "Author, Date, Language, Call Number, Number of Pages, Subject Terms and Description." Our aim was to create a consistent catalogue for this collection, and we took inspiration from how items are catalogued in other databases, such as World Cat or the Anarchist Library.

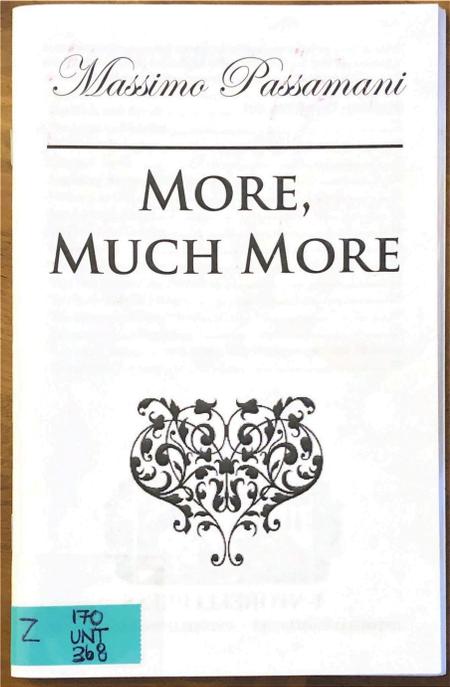
<b>Title</b>	Anarchism and Hope	
<b>Date</b>	2013	
<b>Author/s</b>	Aaron Lakoff	
<b>Publisher</b>		
<b>Language</b>	English	
<b>Call No</b>	Z 170 ANA 294	
<b>Subjects</b>	Anarcho-syndicalism; anarchist history; hope	
<b>Description</b>	Lakoff discusses examples of hopeful stories from his friends and how they should inspire anarchists and radicals to “...continue to dream...while at the same time remaining true and grounded.”	
<b>Pages</b>	15	
<b>Dimensions</b>	8.5 x 5.5	
<b>Number of Copies</b>	1	

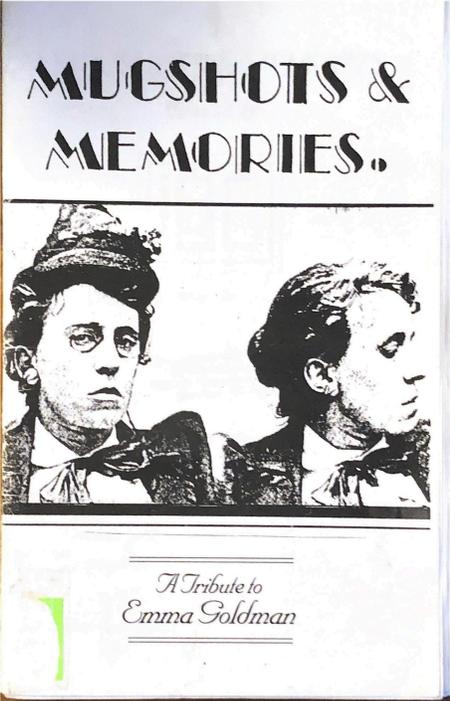
<b>Title</b>	A Wager on the Future	
<b>Date</b>	2015	
<b>Author/s</b>	Josep Gardeneyes	
<b>Publisher</b>		
<b>Language</b>	English	
<b>Call No</b>	Z 170 AWA 426	
<b>Subjects</b>	anarchist history, activism, Islam, Islamophobia	
<b>Description</b>	An anarchist critique on how anarchist movements are no longer as prevalent as they once were and have become “stagnant.” The zine argues that the movement needs to be reformed to be “less centralized.”	
<b>Pages</b>	47	
<b>Dimensions</b>	8.5 x 5.5	
<b>Number of Copies</b>	1	

<b>Title</b>	Breaking the Manacles	
<b>Date</b>		
<b>Author/s</b>	Various Artists	
<b>Publisher</b>		
<b>Language</b>	English	
<b>Call No</b>	Z 170 BRE 153	
<b>Subjects</b>	anti-patriarchy, feminism, activism, self-education, self-improvement, anarcha-feminism	
<b>Description</b>	A collection of writings by anarchists addressing men and their behaviours towards the patriarchy. The zine explores how men can take action to counter patriarchal structures.	
<b>Pages</b>	38	
<b>Dimensions</b>	8.5 x 5.5	
<b>Number of Copies</b>	1	

<b>Title</b>	Love for the Silent Ones	
<b>Date</b>	2012	
<b>Author/s</b>	Various Artists	
<b>Publisher</b>		
<b>Language</b>	English	
<b>Call No</b>	Z 170 LOV 412	
<b>Subjects</b>	Stories, activism, anarchist history	
<b>Description</b>	A collection of communiqués and reports from actions in solidarity with the Northwest Grand Jury Resisters, shedding light on state repression and political resistance.	
<b>Pages</b>	23	
<b>Dimensions</b>	8.5 x 5.5	
<b>Number of Copies</b>	1	

<b>Title</b>	Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin: Organizing Outside the System - From the Black Panther Party to Now	
<b>Date</b>	2011	
<b>Author/s</b>	Robyn Maynard	
<b>Publisher</b>		
<b>Language</b>	English	
<b>Call No</b>	Z 170 ORG 310	
<b>Subjects</b>	Interview, Black Panthers, Black Resistance, anarchist history	
<b>Description</b>	A transcript of a discussion between Robyn Maynard and Lorenzo Kom'boa Ervin (a former Black Panther member), covering Ervin's experiences organizing movements around the world and his views on revolution and activism.	
<b>Pages</b>	20	
<b>Dimensions</b>	8.5 x 5.5	
<b>Number of Copies</b>	1	

<b>Title</b>	More, Much More	
<b>Date</b>	2011	
<b>Author/s</b>	Massimo Passamani	
<b>Publisher</b>		
<b>Language</b>	English	
<b>Call No</b>	Z 170 UNT 368	
<b>Subjects</b>	Interview, Black Panthers, Black Resistance, anarchist history	
<b>Description</b>	A discussion on revolution as a constant force in human society, exploring how it manifests across different historical and political contexts.	
<b>Pages</b>	38	
<b>Dimensions</b>	8.5 x 5.5	
<b>Number of Copies</b>	1	

<b>Title</b>	Mugshots & Memories	
<b>Date</b>		
<b>Author/s</b>	Libertarian Book Club	
<b>Publisher</b>		
<b>Language</b>	English	
<b>Call No</b>	Z 720 MUG 1993	
<b>Subjects</b>	anarchist history, anarcha-feminism, libertarianism	
<b>Description</b>	Various writings discussing the life of Emma Goldman, an anarchist revolutionary writer, highlighting her role in anarchist movements and activism.	
<b>Pages</b>	42	
<b>Dimensions</b>	8.5 x 5.5	
<b>Number of Copies</b>	1	

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