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*Illuminating Botteghe Oscure's British Network*

In the wider context of the reception of British twentieth-century literature by Italian literary magazines, the English-language section of *Botteghe Oscure* represents a crucial experiment. Founded in 1948, in Rome, by princess Marguerite Caetani (protagonist of the interwar scene with *Commerce*) and edited by Giorgio Bassani, for twelve years (1948-1960) *Botteghe Oscure* offered a selection of unpublished Italian and foreign literature. The magazine thus became a real transnational hub within the Italian literary field, fostering the reception of several foreign writers. Also, besides being a fundamental step in Bassani's career and for his later engagement with Feltrinelli, it was a real laboratory for many authors, both Italian and foreign. As far as its British contributors and correspondents are concerned, we find, among others, Dylan Thomas (whose *Under Milk Wood* first appeared in *Botteghe Oscure*) or the underground writer Alexander Trocchi, who in those same years had founded the Merlin magazine in Paris.

In my paper I will provide a survey of British literature published on the pages of *Botteghe Oscure*, illuminating through archival material the magazine's British connections and its unique international dimension. Further, I will set Caetani and Bassani's selection against the background of the reception of British literature by other literary magazines (for which I will provide a map, underlining the main trends). This will allow me to focus on some cases – Dylan Thomas, John Lehmann, Stephen Spender, for example – highlighting the different forms of their presence and identity within the Italian literary field as it was shaped by magazines. In this sense, I will tackle the implications of very form of *Botteghe Oscure* – the anthology – for its role as an agent of literary transfer and dissemination.