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Verity Holliday Associate Publicist
Palgrave Macmillan
175 Fifth Ave
2nd Floor
New York, NY 10010-7848

The following review appeared in the June 2014 issue of CHOICE:

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Debritto, Abel. **Charles Bukowski, king of the underground: from obscurity to literary icon.** Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. 218p bibl index afp ISBN 9781137343543, \$85.00

Relentless in his attempt to get published, Bukowski (1920-94) was in fact the most published poet of the 1960s, with some 700 published poems to his credit. Bukowski's success as a published poet coincides with the proliferation of little magazines and mimeographed magazines and the visibility of sex magazines. Whereas "little mags" were a key venue of earlier modernist poets and continue to this day, most "little mags" of the 1960s were ephemeral, with small print runs, and printed on poor quality materials. Bukowski was published in many of them, and rejected by even more. Debritto (Fullbright Scholar, Brown) did careful research, exploring biographies and bibliographies of Bukowski and correspondence between Bukowski and various editors. Of particular interest is Bukowski's relationship with John Martin, publisher of Black Sparrow Press, which published some of Bukowski's books and consequently became known as a publisher of important American writers. Bukowski's success with Black Sparrow led to his decision to quit his day job in 1970 and rely on his writing to sustain himself. Debritto debunks some of Bukowski's self-mythologizing in his poetry and fiction, and later in interviews. This is a great read for those interested in Bukowski and the little presses of the 1960s. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above. -- *R. T. Prus, Southeastern Oklahoma State University*