

The New Criterion

Notes & Comments

December 2007

Lapham's latest folly

On the inaugural issue of *Lapham's Quarterly*.

The notebooks of the English aesthete Geoffrey Madan (1895–1947) are a trove of amusing aperçus, anecdotes, and apothegms. Among the many memorable gems Madan collected was the description of one now-forgotten character as “an intellectual without an intellect.” We thought of that observation while contemplating the inaugural issue of *Lapham's Quarterly*, which rolled off the press last month. It's been a few years since we've had occasion to notice Lewis H. Lapham in this space. In October 2004, we reported on “Tentacles of Rage: The Republican Propaganda Mill.” This 7,500-word philippic appeared in the September 2004 issue of *Harper's*, the magazine Mr. Lapham edited, with a brief hiatus in the early 1980s, from 1976 to 2006. What recommended “Tentacles of Rage” to the public's attention was not the heat of its invective—shrill and irresponsible though tha
...

This article originally appeared in The New Criterion, Volume 26 December 2007, on page 1

Copyright © 2009 The New Criterion | www.newcriterion.com

<http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Lapham-s-latest-folly-3698>