

***Zero: A Review of Literature and Art –
The First Issue of This Literary Magazine Includes
James Baldwin’s Famous Attack on Richard Wright’s Native Son***

The inaugural issue (Spring 1949) of *Zero: a Review of Literature and Art*, produced by American writers George Solomos, aka Themistocles Hoetis (1925-2010) and Asa “Albert” Benevensite (1925-1990) at their Zero Press, which was then based in Paris. Issue No. 1 of *Zero* is 72 un-cut pages, paper-bound, and has a cover illustration designed by John Goodwin. It contains poetry, stories, essays, literary reviews, and photography by significant figures, including writer and teacher Wallace Fowlie (1908-1998), writer Mason Hoffenberg (1922-1986), beat poet Kenneth Patchen (1911-1972), and imagist poet William Carlos Williams (1883-1963). The most significant feature of this issue is African-American writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin’s (1924-1987) “Everybody’s Protest Novel”. Baldwin’s article included negative commentary on fellow African-American writer Richard Wright’s (1908-1960) novel *Native Son*; it destroyed the once-supportive relationship between these two writers. Wright’s story “The Man Who Killed a Shadow” also appears in this issue. About eight issues of *Zero: a Review of Literature and Art* were published between 1949 and 1954, with a final issue in 1980.* An anthology was later produced. This copy of the first issue is in fine condition.

\$50.00

*Offutt, Chris. “Sum of Zero”. *Defunct: a Literary Repository for the Ages*. Vol, I, Issue II (October 2010).
http://defunctmag.com/Essays/Art/Offutt_Sum-of-Zero.html

