The Lantern was established as a monthly in January, 1881, when there were 300 students, 12 professors and three instructors. Its chief promoters were Frederick Keffer of Horton Literary Society and Harwood R. Pool of Aloyone Literary Society. They proposed to their societies respectively that they should elect each two representatives to conduct the publication, and the result was the election of Keffer and H. C. Moore by Horton, and of Pool and W. K. Cherryholmes by Aloyone. Pool proposed the name, Lantern, evidently having mind the French publication, La Lanterne, and the name was adopted. In its first form the Lantern was of 12 pages and cover, and sold at $1 a year or 15 cents a copy. Its purpose, according to the editorial announcement in the first number, was "to represent the interests of our institution and student life and opinions, reserving the right to peep over the walls now and then at what the riper world is doing." Much of the space in the earlier issues was devoted to scientific and philosophical articles and poetry.

In 1882 the Lantern Publishing Co. was organized, and a constitution and bylaws were adopted. Therein it was stated that the paper "shall be published in the interest and for the benefit of the students and officers of the Ohio State University." There was created an editorial board of six students, who were to elect their successors. It was required that each member of the board must be an active or graduate member of some literary society of the University, and that not more than three should be members of any one society. The term of office was limited to one year. The duties of each member of the board were carefully set forth, and it was provided that all net earnings not devoted to the improvement of the paper should be deposited in bank to the credit of the Lantern Gymnasium Fund; and, further, that when this fund shall have reached a sum sufficient to build and equip a first-class gymnasium (which sum shall be determined upon by the Faculty of the University) then it shall be used for this purpose."
That was a vain hope and a needless provision. If any gymnasium fund accumulated, it has been lost to sight. Other students early connected with the Lantern were Ferdinand Howald, Willis Fay, Oliver L. Fassig, John C. Ward, John F. McFadden, W. W. Donham, Willis S. Jones and Belle Swickard. Miss Swickard (later Mrs. William Brotherton) was the first of the now long line of young women who have served on the staff of the Lantern.

In the following years there were several variations in the size of the Lantern and in the frequency of its issue. It was published fortnightly, semiweekly and weekly, and ranged from magazine to newspaper size. In the fall of 1892 the name was changed to Wahoo, and as such it was published three times a week for three months. In 1903, a new plan of publication was adopted. Up to that time one had to be a member of some literary society in order to be eligible to the Lantern staff. Under the new plan any student was eligible to appointment by a board of directors who selected the editors and business manager, and audited the accounts. At that time the Lantern was a weekly and continued such till September, 1914, when it was changed to a daily and put under the charge of the department of journalism to serve as a laboratory for students of journalism. Since then the editors and business staff have each year been appointed and the sub-editors designated by the head of the department, all students being given academic credit for reportorial and other work done, and a minimum being required. At first the daily Lantern was published in the morning, but in 1918 it began as an evening paper.
The Makio, the University annual, first appeared in June, 1880. The idea of an annual publication to "liven things up a bit" was born in a conversation of three students in the basement of University Hall, as they sat discussing college affairs. The three were Sidney Short, John C. Ward and Willis S. Jones. Jones suggested it and the others approved, and before the three separated it was agreed to propose the publication to the fraternities they represented, which were then the only ones on the campus---the Phi Gamma Delta and the Phi Kappa Psi. These fraternities approved the enterprise and agreed to back it, stipulating that no other interests should be admitted into the management except by mutual consent. The editors chosen for the first publication were: Willis S. Jones and George W. Dun from Phi Kappa Psi, and John C. Ward and Harwood R. Pool from Phi Gamma Delta. When it came to naming the publication, Jones proposed that it be called the Magic Mirror, and that Prof. Edward S. Morse, then living at Salem, Mass., be asked to furnish the Japanese equivalent for those words, the purpose being to use the Japanese instead of the English. The reason for asking Professor Morse was that he had been in Japan, associated in the University there with Dr. Thomas C. Mendenhall and, on returning, had spoken at the Ohio State University on "Things Japanese," probably incidentally mentioning the magic mirrors of Japan in which Dr. Mendenhall had been deeply interested and which he had discussed with Professor Morse. As proposed, so it was done, and soon there came from Professor Morse the word Ma-kio, together with the Oriental characters in which it would be written. The entire accuracy of this translation, with the pleasant significance intended, has been disputed, but it is enough to know that the word came out of Japan, perhaps originated in the laboratory of Dr. Mendenhall, when he was at the University of Tokio. It was quite satisfactory to the editors of 1880 and has been so to all who have followed, the original and only significance being a Magic
Mirror, revealing the University to itself and to others as the student editors see it.

The first issue of the Makio was much advertised, and its appearance was awaited with the keenest interest. It came on Commencement day, all the work on it having been done in six weeks. It was a success financially and otherwise, and established a tradition which has been steadfastly maintained. In 1881 there was no issue of the Makio, but in 1882 the same two fraternities united in the publication of the annual as before. In 1883 two Makios were issued—one by the Phi Kappa Psi, and a second by the Phi Gamma Delta, the Sigma Chi and the Beta Theta Pi. The differences were composed the following year and with the exception of 1893 the Makio continued to appear, published by the fraternities, first four, then six and later seven. The 1895 edition was published by a board calling itself "Sunergon"—Wm. J. Kappes editor, L. Beman Thomas business manager, E. L. Pease secretary and H. W. Nutt treasurer. In 1896 the annual was issued as Scarlet and Gray, Reed H. Game editor and with representatives from 15 fraternities and three literary societies. In 1897 it was the Makio again, published by 16 fraternities and four literary societies, and so it continued till 1906 when the Makio became a junior class publication which it has since remained.

The first Makio was hardly more than a pamphlet—80 pages and cover of paper. Later it appeared in boards. From year to year it grew in size and excellence until the Makio of 1920 appeared as a book of 645 pages in the highest type of the photographic, engraving, printing and binding arts.
The Sun Dial, humorous student periodical, which has appeared irregularly, but usually five or six times a year, was first issued in October, 1911. On the cover was the announcement that it would be "published when not suppressed." C. A. Waugh was the editor, and there was a staff of twenty associate editors, contributing editors and artists, both men and women students. In 1912 C. A. Thomas was the editor, and there was a board of management, as well as a staff of similar size. Since 1916 this board has consisted of faculty members and students, the board annually electing the editor and business manager and exercising censorship over its contents.

The Campanile, a literary magazine, with George W. Hibbitt as managing editor, an editorial board of five, a contributing staff of six and a business staff of ten, appeared made its first appearance in April, 1920. Creditable fiction, verse and criticism made up its contents. It was edited in 1921 by Vernon K. Richards and a similar staff.

The Agricultural Student, monthly, was established in 1893, with Charles W. Burkett as editor, to "bring the University and especially the College of Agriculture, into closer and more friendly relations with the people, especially the farmers."

The Alumni Ohio State University Monthly, the organ of the Ohio State University Association, was begun in 1909 as a quarterly, with Joseph Russell Taylor as editor, and so continued till July, 1912, when it became a monthly with H. F. Harrington as editor. He was succeeded in 1914 by Joseph S. Myers who edited it for two years. Subsequent editors have been J. H. Galbraith, Miss Nan Cannon, Vinton E. McVicker (acting) and J. L. Morrill who took up the work in 1919 and is still serving.

The Veterinary Alumni Quarterly, published by the Alumni Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine, has had continuous publication since 1913.

The Ohio State Engineer, begun in 1918, is a quarterly, published by the students in the college of engineering.