

PMMLA

DIRECTORY

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JACK KEROUAC

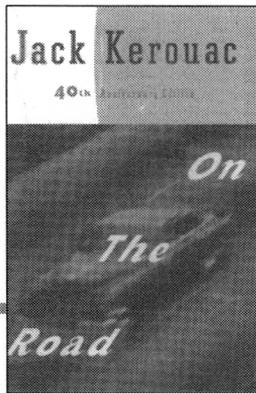
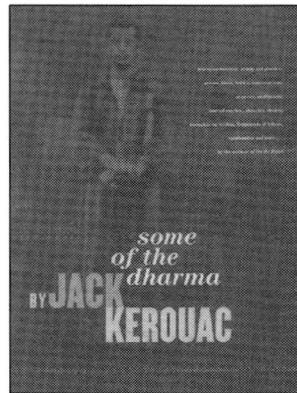
SOME OF THE DHARMA

What started out in 1953 as notes on Kerouac's serious Buddhist study evolved into an intricate nonfiction work incorporating all aspects of Kerouac's life and thought. Unable to find publishers for the numerous "true-story novels" he had already written in his spontaneous prose style, Kerouac created this new nonfiction form to chronicle the Buddhist study that was his focus for three years. A precisely composed col-

lage, it contains poems, haiku, prayers, journal entries, meditations, fragments of letters, ideas about writing, overheard conversations, blues, sketches, and more. The final manuscript was as visually complex as the writing, typed in patterns and interlocking shapes, each page unique. When it was completed, Kerouac tried

to publish it but was told that the public had no interest in Buddhism. It seems appropriate that *Some of the Dharma*, in a typeset facsimile

form, will finally be published at a time when both Buddhism and Kerouac are of such interest to so many Americans. It sheds an immense amount of light upon Kerouac's entire literary career. "Kerouac's



work represents the most extensive experiment in language and literary form undertaken by an American writer of his generation."—*The New York Times Book Review*. 432 pp.

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utterance yet made by the generation Kerouac himself named years ago as 'beat,' and whose principal avatar he is." Forty years later Jack Kerouac, the pivotal figure of the mid-twentieth-century counter-cultural revolution, has been acknowledged as the important figure he is. Many writers, artists,

and musicians cite *On the Road* as the book that "set them free." References to Kerouac abound on every level of popular culture—music, advertising, TV sitcoms, comic strips, the Internet—and a third generation of readers has taken Kerouac's writing to heart. 352 pp.

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