Becoming Lincoln

“The eloquent and touching story William Freehling tells here reveals an ambitious, struggling Abraham Lincoln, emerging in all his human complexity. It is a surprising story of a man we thought we knew.”—Edward L. Ayers, Lincoln Prize–winning author of The Thin Light of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America

Previous biographies of Abraham Lincoln—universally acknowledged as one of America’s greatest presidents—have typically focused on his experiences in the White House. In Becoming Lincoln, renowned historian William Freehling instead concentrates on the prewar years, shining new light on Lincoln’s path toward becoming an extraordinary wartime leader.

Freehling newly illuminates Lincoln’s difficult family life with his father and his wife, his staggering number of setbacks and recoveries, and his rightly famous embodiment of the self-made man (although he sought and received critical help from others). The emergence of the national economy and the causes of the Civil War receive fresh attention. Freehling concludes with Lincoln’s presidency, assessing how the preceding fifty-one years of experience shaped the Great Emancipator’s final four years. Extensively illustrated, nuanced yet swiftly paced, and full of examples that vividly bring Lincoln and prewar America to life for the modern reader, this new biography shows how an ordinary young man from the Midwest became, against almost absurd odds, our most tested and greatest president.

William W. Freehling is Singletary Professor of the Humanities Emeritus at the University of Kentucky and the author of the two-volume Road to Disunion and the Bancroft Award–winning Prelude to Civil War: The Nullification Controversy in South Carolina, 1816–1830.

SEPTEMBER
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Reading through the Night

“A surprising, ambitious memoir that raises important questions about what it is that we are doing when we read. Through a series of literary adventures, Tompkins shares a journey to new self-knowledge. Her story will engage all book lovers for whom reading is a lifetime.”—NANCY K. MILLER, The Graduate Center, CUNY, author of Breathless: An American Girl in Paris

Jane Tompkins, a celebrated literature professor and award-winning author, thought she knew what reading was until, struck by a debilitating illness, she finds herself reading day and night because sometimes it’s all she can do. She learns, as if by accident, that when you pay close attention to your reactions as you read, literature can be a path to self-discovery.

Tompkins’s inner journey begins, surprisingly, with an account of the friendship between Paul Theroux and V. S. Naipaul, writers to whom she’d given little thought. Theroux’s memoir launches Tompkins on a path stretching back to her first weeks of life in a Bronx hospital, and forward to her relationship with her mother and the structure of her present marriage. Unable to work, and often confined to her home, she expands her reading to include authors such as Henning Mankell and Ann Patchett, Alain de Botton, Elena Ferrante, and Anthony Trollope. Her experience as a reader attentive to what she feels, intensified by the sense of powerlessness and loss of self that come with chronic illness, provides unexpected insights. Through loss, she comes to a new understanding of her life.
Resurrections
Authors, Heroes—and a Spy

“Jeffrey Meyers is an original. Through his work, he has knit together lives and assembled narratives that are a distinguished contribution to literary, historical, and cultural history.”—CARL ROLLYSON, author of American Isis: The Life and Art of Sylvia Plath

Jeffrey Meyers’ Resurrections: Authors, Heroes—and a Spy brings to life a set of extraordinary thinkers, painters, and literary adventurers who turned their lives into art. Meyers knew nine of these figures, in some cases intimately, while five others he admires and regrets never meeting.

Ian Watt struggled with the legacy of his ordeal as a prisoner of the Japanese, and with its depiction in the film The Bridge on the River Kwai. Paul Theroux’s feud with V. S. Naipaul is well known, but Meyers finds greater meaning in their quarrel through the lens of his own long friendship with Theroux. While James Salter, fighter pilot and brilliant stylist, epitomizes Meyers’ heroic ideal, the fiction writer also responds with an epistolary friendship. Anthony Blunt, art historian and Communist spy, fascinates the biographer for a darker reason: the depth of his capacity for intellectual and personal deceit.

In the process of writing these profiles, Meyers discovers a common thread relating to himself: not only do these subjects provoke a kind of personal testing, they also represent his search for the ideal father in this vivid intellectual and imaginative inquiry.

Jeffrey Meyers’ books have been translated into fourteen languages. In 2005 he received an Award in Literature “to honor exceptional achievement” from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2012 he gave the Seymour Lectures in Biography at the National Library of Australia.
Charlottesville 2017
The Legacy of Race and Inequity

“A must-read for anyone still trying to process the events of August 11–12, 2017, or anyone who seeks to broaden their perspective on the overlapping issues of white supremacy, free speech, public policy, and the role of the university in promoting equality.”—Andra Gillepsi, Emory University, author of The New Black Politician: Cory Booker, Newark, and Post-Racial America

When hate groups descended on Charlottesville, Virginia, triggering an eruption of racist violence, the tragic conflict reverberated throughout the world. It also had a profound effect on the University of Virginia’s expansive community, many of whose members are involved in teaching issues of racism, public art, free speech, and social ethics. In the wake of this momentous incident, scholars, educators, and researchers have come together in this important new volume to thoughtfully reflect on the historic events of August 11 and 12, 2017.

How should we respond to the moral and ethical challenges of our times? What are our individual and collective responsibilities in advancing the principles of democracy and justice? This book brings together the work of these UVA faculty members catalyzed by last summer’s events to examine their community’s history more deeply and more broadly. Their essays examine truth telling, engaged listening, and ethical responses, and aim to inspire individual reflection, as well as to provoke considered and responsible dialogue. This prescient new collection is a conversation that understands and owns America’s past and—crucially—shows that our past is very much part of our present.
Summer of Hate

Charlottesville, USA

“When it comes to race in America, hope doesn’t travel alone. It’s shadowed by a long trail of violence and hate. In Charlottesville, that long trail emerged once again into plain view not only for America, but for the whole world to see.”—JOE BIDEN in the Atlantic

In August 2017, violence burst forth in Charlottesville, Virginia, during two days of demonstrations by a combination of white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and counterprotest groups from the antifa and Black Lives Matter. Originally motivated by the city’s plans to remove Confederate statues from two public parks, members of the alt-right descended first on the University of Virginia and then, disastrously, on the downtown area, ultimately leading to violent clashes and the death of Heather Heyer, who was hit by a car driven into a crowd by James Fields Jr.

Summer of Hate is the investigative journalist Hawes Spencer’s unbiased, probing account of August 11 and 12. Telling the story from the perspective of figures from all sides of the demonstrations, Spencer, who reported from Charlottesville for the New York Times, carefully re-creates what happened and why. By focusing on individuals including activists, city councillors, and law enforcement officials, Spencer provides a full, objective, and dramatic narrative that weaves together past and present as well as a way forward toward healing.

Hawes Spencer is a journalist who has reported for the New York Times, NPR, the Hook, and other publications. He has taught journalism at Virginia Commonwealth University and James Madison University.

AUGUST
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Lee Graves is an award-winning beer writer and the author of *Richmond Beer: A History of Brewing the River City* and *Charlottesville Beer: Brewing in Jefferson’s Shadow.*

Lee Graves

“Lee Graves is a first-rate writer—engaging and erudite—and his book is both an ideal introduction for newcomers to the basics of beer making and an indispensable addition to any beer aficionado’s library. Graves shows us the importance of Virginia in the history of American beer and in the current scene, and he offers the most useful manual for anyone planning to visit the state’s breweries.”
—Taylor Smack, Owner of Blue Mountain Brewery

The days of choosing between a handful of imports and a convenience store six-pack are long gone. The beer landscape in America has changed dramatically in the twenty-first century, as the nation has experienced an explosion in craft beer brewing and consumption. Nowhere is this truer than in Virginia, where more than two hundred independent breweries create beers of an unprecedented variety and serve an increasingly knowledgeable, and thirsty, population of beer enthusiasts.

As Lee Graves shows in his definitive new guide to Virginia beer, the Old Dominion’s central role in the current beer boom is no accident. Beer was on board when English settlers landed at Jamestown in 1607,
and the taste for beer and expertise in brewing have only grown in the
generations since. Graves offers an invaluable survey of key breweries
throughout Virginia, profiling the people and the businesses in each
region that have made the state a rising star in the industry. The book
is extensively illustrated and suggests numerous brewery tours that will
point you in the right direction for your statewide beer crawl. From
small farm breweries in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains to
cavernous facilities in urban rings around the state, Virginians have
created a golden age for flavorful beer. This book shows you how to best
appreciate it.

A fascinating history of beer in
Virginia and the best guide to its
200-plus breweries

Detailed coverage of the wide
variety of Virginia beers being
brewed today, from stouts and
brown ales to IPAs and sours

Regional overviews that will
take you to the best brew-
ries, big and small, in the
commonwealth
Stewards of Memory
The Past, Present, and Future of Historic Preservation at George Washington’s Mount Vernon

“Stewards of Memory is a uniquely intimate view into how one of the nation’s most important historical sites has maintained itself and continues to ensure its presence, condition, and relevance to the future. Its story is foundational for anyone interested in historical preservation.”—PHILIP LEVY, University of South Florida, author of Where the Cherry Tree Grew: The Story of Ferry Farm, George Washington’s Boyhood Home

It was at Mount Vernon, in 1853, that the American tradition of historic preservation truly took hold. Stewards of Memory provides a window into the broad scope of preservation work undertaken at George Washington’s famous estate over the course of more than 160 years and places this work within the context of America’s regional and national preservation efforts.

Looking at the nation’s oldest historic house museum offers a unique opportunity to chronicle preservation challenges and successes over time as well as to forecast those of the future. This volume features essays by senior scholars who helped define American historic preservation in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, as well as Mount Vernon’s own preservation scholars, to offer insights into the changing nature of the field. The multifaceted story told here will be invaluable to students of historic preservation, historic site professionals, specialists in the preservation field, and any reader with an interest in American historic preservation and Mount Vernon.

"The Only Unavoidable Subject of Regret"
George Washington, Slavery, and the Enslaved Community at Mount Vernon

George Washington's life has been scrutinized by historians over the past three centuries, but the day-to-day lives of Mount Vernon's enslaved workers, who left few written records but made up 90 percent of the estate's population, have been largely left out of the story.

In "The Only Unavoidable Subject of Regret," Mary Thompson offers the first comprehensive account of those who served in bondage at Mount Vernon. Drawing on years of research in a wide range of sources, Thompson brings to life the lives of Washington's slaves while illuminating the radical change in his views on slavery and race wrought by the American Revolution.

Thompson begins with an examination of George and Martha Washington as slave owners. Culling from letters, financial ledgers, travel diaries kept by visitors, and reminiscences of family members as well as of former slaves and neighbors, Thompson explores various facets of everyday life on the plantation ranging from work to domestic life, housing, foodways, private enterprise, and resistance. Along the way, she considers the relationship between Washington's military career and his style of plantation management and relates the many ways slaves rebelled against their condition. The book closes with Washington's attempts to reconcile being a slave owner with the changes in his thinking on slavery and race, resulting in his decision to grant his slaves freedom in his will.
Shaping the Postwar Landscape
New Profiles from the Pioneers of American Landscape Design Project

Shaping the Postwar Landscape is the latest contribution to the Cultural Landscape Foundation’s well-known reference project Pioneers of American Landscape Design, the first volume of which appeared nearly a quarter of a century ago. The present collection features profiles of seventy-two important figures, including landscape architects, architects, planners, artists, horticulturists, and educators.

The volume focuses principally on individuals whose careers reached their height during the period between the end of World War II and the American Bicentennial. In that postwar era, landscape architects played an important part in the revitalization of American cities, introducing new typologies for public spaces in the civic realm. Among these were parks that capped freeways, plazas and gardens atop buildings, promenades on revitalized waterfronts, “vast pocket” parks on tiny urban plots and derelict sites, and pedestrian-friendly downtown malls. Practitioners were also active on the new suburban frontier, their influence extending as far as Levittown and mobile-home communities. They created new outdoor living environments tailored to the California climate, and their work shaped landscapes in the American South, East, West, and Heartland.

At a time when interest in midcentury architecture is flourishing, Shaping the Postwar Landscape offers a substantial parallel contribution to the field of landscape studies. It belongs not only on the bookshelves of serious students and scholars but in the office of every landscape architect sensitive to significant works of the recent past.
Indoor America
The Interior Landscape of Postwar Suburbia

“Extraordinarily creative and thoughtful, well written and lively. With great originality, Indoor America sets the stage for important conversations about contemporary design, urban planning, and American values.”—ALICE T. FRIEDMAN, Wellesley College, author of American Glamour and the Evolution of Modern Architecture

Cars, single-family houses, fallout shelters, air-conditioned malls—these are only some of the many interiors making up the landscape of American suburbia. The relocation of most everyday practices into indoor spaces has often been overlooked by suburban historiography. With Indoor America, Andrea Vesentini draws on a wealth of examples ranging from the built environment to popular culture and film to uncover this latent history and contrast it with the dominant reading of suburbanization as pursuit of open space.

Vesentini chronicles this inner-directed flight by describing the encapsulation of the automobile, which fostered the nuclear segregation of the family from the social fabric; introverted design, which increasingly turned the focus of the house inward; and interiorization, by which the exterior was incorporated into the all-encompassing interior landscape of enclosed malls and projects for indoor cities. In a journey that features tailfin cars and World’s Fair model homes, Richard Neutra’s glass walls and sitcom picture windows, Victor Gruen’s Southdale Center and the Minnesota Experimental City, Indoor America takes the reader into the heart and viscera of America’s urban sprawl.

Andrea Vesentini works for the Architecture, Visual Arts, and Film departments of La Biennale di Venezia.

NOVEMBER
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Fish Town
Down the Road to Louisiana’s Vanishing Fishing Communities

“J. T. Blatty’s immersive journey into the fishing communities and watery terrain of southeastern Louisiana is a love letter to an abundant and visceral universe. Years in the making, her book shows us a place of beauty and struggle set in a fragile world of water, big skies, and delicate land.”—JAMES WELLFORD, National Geographic

Owing to a dying wild-caught seafood industry and a rapidly vanishing coastline, the places and people who are multigenerations deep in the fishing traditions of southeast Louisiana’s coast have been quietly slipping into extinction for decades. Fish Town is an inspired documentary project focused on preserving, through photography and oral history recordings, the cultural and environmental remains of these communities. J. T. Blatty captures these places and people as no one previously has. This book includes 137 color photographs taken between 2012 and 2017. Interspersed throughout are text narratives transcribed from audio recordings with long-standing members of the fishing communities, many of whose ancestors came to Louisiana during the late 1600s.
Fashioning the New England Family

Generously illustrated with full-color photographs of remarkable garments, this book creates a lasting overview of an exhibition that brought together vintage clothing with documents relating the stories of their creation and the people who wore them. The chapters cover a span of more than three hundred years, tracing the history of New England clothing from the colonial seventeenth century, through the Revolutionary eighteenth century, and into the national nineteenth. Readers will find a fragment of Mayflower passenger Priscilla Mullins Alden’s dress, Governor John Leverett’s bloodstained buff coat, which saw battle in the English Civil War, and many more fascinating, and beautiful, garments, along with their equally compelling stories.

Across these examples and more, the book traces patterns of global production and local consumption and reuse, demonstrating how New Englanders used costume to establish their situation, especially in terms of class and gender, and also to express their political affiliations. Patriots and loyalists—Hancocks, Adamses, Dawses, and Olivers—make many appearances. Manuscripts drawn from the collections—receipts, daybooks, account books, diaries—further amplify the historical insights, even at times making it possible to interpret the way in which a specific garment may have embodied one individual’s sense of identity.

Kimberly S. Alexander, guest curator of the Fashioning the New England Family exhibition, teaches museum studies and material culture at the University of New Hampshire and has held curatorial positions at the MIT Museum, the Peabody Essex Museum, and Strawberry Banke. She is the author of Treasures Afoot: Shoe Stories from the Georgian Era.

Anne E. Bentley is Curator of Art at the Massachusetts Historical Society.
Do You Hear in the Mountains . . . and Other Stories

“Maïssa Bey is widely recognized as one of the most important contemporary Algerian women writers. Her works are often cited alongside those of Assia Djebar, Leïla Sebbar, and Malika Mokkedem as feminist voices speaking out against various forms of oppression imposed upon women of Algerian origin.”—Anne Carlson, Spelman College

This new translation brings together two of Algerian author Maïssa Bey’s important works for the first time in English. “Do You Hear in the Mountains . . .” is a compelling piece of autofiction in which three destinies meet dramatically on a train moving through France. We meet an Algerian refugee, whom we recognize as Bey herself. She has escaped the civil war and cannot forget her father’s commitment to independence nor his death under the torture of French soldiers. Sitting near her is a retired doctor whose military service in Algeria coincidentally took him to the same area at the time of that tragedy. Their neighbor is a girl who would like to understand this past that is so painful to discuss. The eleven diverse tales that follow, presented under the title “Under the Jasmine at Night,” exemplify some of Bey’s recurring themes—the Franco-Algerian colonial legacy and the feminine condition. Together, these works provide an unforgettable picture of a turbulent history that reaches across generations and continents.
Best New Poets 2018
50 Poems from Emerging Writers

Praise for earlier editions:

“[A] reminder that contemporary poetry is not only alive and well but continuing to grow.”—Publishers Weekly

“This collection stands out among the crowd claiming to represent emergent poets. Much of the editing and preliminary reading was done by emerging poets themselves, which results in an anthology that’s fresh and eclectic, and may actually represent a significant portion of the best new poetry being written by the next generation.”
—Virginia Quarterly Review

Entering its fourteenth year, Best New Poets has established itself as a crucial venue for rising poets and a valuable resource for poetry lovers. The only publication of its kind, this annual anthology is made up exclusively of work by writers who have not yet published a full-length book. The poems included in this eclectic sampling represent the best from the many that have been nominated by the country’s top literary magazines and writing programs, as well as some two thousand additional poems submitted through an open online competition. The work of the fifty writers represented here provides the best perspective available on the continuing vitality of poetry as it is being practiced today.

Kyle Dargan is the author of four books of poetry, including The Listening (winner of the Cave Canem Prize), Bouquet of Hunger (winner of the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award), and his most recent collection, Honest Engine. He is Director of Creative Writing at American University.

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Jamestown, the Truth Revealed

“The unearthing of Jamestown is truly the autopsy of America. Without chief archaeologist William Kelso’s almost mystical vision that the original site still existed and his persistence against all odds to unearth it, we would have little to rely on but legend to tell us how modern America began.” —PATRICIA CORNWELL

“Kelso has painstakingly recounted his amazing discovery of James Fort in Virginia, a site once thought long eroded into the James River. . . . [An] information rich volume.” —LIBRARY JOURNAL

William M. Kelso is Head Archaeologist of the Jamestown Rediscovery Project.

The Way of the 88 Temples

Journeys on the Shikoku Pilgrimage

Seeking something more than modern society offers, Robert Sibley set out on the Shikoku pilgrimage, visiting eighty-eight temples around the perimeter of a sacred island.

“This accomplished narrative demonstrates that the impulse to seek inner change through a physical journey, if mysterious, is enduring.” —PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Robert C. Sibley is an award-winning Senior Writer at the Ottawa Citizen, an Adjunct Professor in Political Science at Carleton University, and the author of The Way of the Stars: Journeys on the Camino de Santiago (Virginia).
Avoiding War with China
Two Nations, One World

“A brilliant little book. There is no better way to get up to speed on the increasingly tense relations between Washington and Beijing than to read Avoiding War with China.”—AMBASSADOR CHAS W. FREEMAN JR., former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs

Amitai Etzioni is University Professor and Professor of International Relations at The George Washington University. He is the author of Foreign Policy: Thinking Outside the Box, among other works.

Crucible
The President’s First Year

“No other organization can put the presidency and presidential history into context like the Miller Center. History is active at the Miller Center, as demonstrated by the First Year Project, which brings the past and the present together to understand what we’re going through and ultimately make public policy better.”—JOHN DICKERSON, Host of Face the Nation

Michael Nelson is the Fuler Professor of Political Science at Rhodes College, a Senior Fellow at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center, and the author of Resilient America: Electing Nixon in 1968, Channeling Dissent, and Dividing Government.

Jeffrey L. Chidester is Director of Outreach and Engagement at the University of Virginia’s Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy and coauthor of At Reagan’s Side: Insiders’ Recollections from Sacramento to the White House.

Stefanie Georgakis Abbott is Assistant Director of Presidential Studies at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center.
DEBORAH PARKER and MARK PARKER

**Sucking Up**
A Brief Consideration of Sycophancy

“Sucking Up is a terrific book. And I’m not just saying that because the authors have called me the greatest living American writer.”—DAVE BARRY, Pulitzer Prize-winning humorist

“[A] pithy, tongue-in-cheek exploration of the history of flattery.”—WASHINGTON POST

“A short book with a fierce bite.”—KIRKUS

Deborah Parker is Professor of Italian at the University of Virginia.
Mark Parker is Professor of English at James Madison University.
They are coauthors of Inferno Revealed: From Dante to Dan Brown.

SCOTT C. BEARDSLEY

**Higher Calling**
The Rise of Nontraditional Leaders in Academia

“Scott Beardsley is more than just another former high-flying consultant in a prestigious second career. . . . [In Higher Calling he] argues that whether a leader is traditional or nontraditional matters less than whether they are the right person for a particular institution at a particular time.”—FORBES

Scott C. Beardsley is Dean and Charles C. Abbott Professor of Business Administration at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business.
Peacebuilding through Dialogue
Education, Human Transformation, and Conflict Resolution

While most people agree on the value of dialogue, few delve into its meaning or consider its full range. The essays collected here consider dialogue in the context of teaching and learning, personal and interpersonal growth, and in conflict resolution. Through these three themes, contributors from a wide variety of perspectives consider the different forms dialogue takes, the goals of the various forms, and which forms have been most successful or most challenging. With its expansive approach, the book makes an original contribution to peace studies, civic studies, education studies, organizational studies, conflict resolution studies, and dignity studies.

Peter N. Stearns is University Professor of World History and the Provost Emeritus of George Mason University. He has written or edited more than 135 books, including Peace in World History and World History: The Basics.

Susan H. Allen, George Mason University * Monisha Bajaj, University of San Francisco * Andrea Bartoli, Seton Hall University * Meenakshi Chhabra, Lesley University * Steven D. Cohen, Tufts University * Charles Gardner, Community of Sant’Egidio * Mark Farr, The Sustained Dialogue Institute * William Gaudelli, Teachers College, Columbia University * Jason Goulah, DePaul University * Donna Hicks, Harvard University * Bernice Lerner, Hebrew College * Ceasar L. McDowell, MIT * Gonzalo Obelleiro, DePaul University * Bradley Siegel, Teachers College, Columbia University * Olivier Urbain, Min-On Music Research Institute * Ion Vlad, independent scholar
George Washington had contact with Native Americans throughout most of his life. His first encounter as a teenager left him with the impression that they were nothing more than an “ignorant people.” As a young man he fought both alongside and against Native Americans during the French and Indian War and gained a grudging respect for their fighting abilities. During the American Revolution, Washington made it clear that he welcomed Indian allies as friends but would do his utmost to crush Indian enemies. As president, he sought to implement a program to “civilize” Native Americans by teaching them methods of agriculture and providing the implements of husbandry that would enable them to become proficient farmers—the only way, he believed, Native Americans would survive in a white-dominated society. Yet he discovered that his government could not protect Indian lands as guaranteed in countless treaties, and the hunger for Indian land by white settlers was so rapacious that it could not be controlled by an inadequate federal military establishment. While Washington appeared to admit the failure of the program, this book—a unique and necessary exploration of Washington’s experience with and thoughts on Native Americans—contends he deserves credit for his continued efforts to implement a policy based on the just treatment of America’s indigenous peoples.
In volume 26 of the Revolutionary War Series, George Washington and his troops transitioned from the more static affairs of winter encampment to active operations that included two battles against the British. When Major General Lafayette arrived at his headquarters in early May 1780 with word that a French naval squadron and army corps would be dispatched to North America, Washington began vigorously preparing for their arrival. In the midst of these preparations, an alarming mutiny took place in the Connecticut regiments. While awaiting the French force, Washington monitored military developments in South Carolina, where a British army had laid siege to Charleston in April, leading to the city’s capitulation in May. Washington also confronted a large-scale incursion of the enemy into New Jersey designed to capture his camp at Morristown or bring his small army to battle; this offensive led to two engagements, at Connecticut Farms and Springfield. Finally, the temporary withdrawal of a spy from the famed Culper espionage ring forced him to seek new agents and networks to supply vitally needed intelligence on British movements and intentions in the New York City area.
The Insurgent Delegate
Selected Letters and Other Writings of George Thatcher

George Thatcher served as a U.S. representative from Maine throughout the Federalist Era (1789–1801)—the most critical and formative period of American constitutional history. A moderate on most political issues, the Cape Cod native and Harvard-educated lawyer proved a maverick in matters relating to education, the expansion of the slave interest, the rise of Unitarianism, and the separation of church and state. This volume includes over two hundred letters, written over his forty-year career as a country lawyer, national legislator, and state supreme court justice.

William C. diGiacomantonio, Chief Historian of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, spent most of his career on the editorial team that recently completed the twenty-two-volume Documentary History of the First Federal Congress.

The Papers of Robert Treat Paine, 1787–1814
VOLUME 5

The final volume of this series encompasses Robert Treat Paine’s time as a justice on the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. This signer of the Declaration of Independence spent the remainder of his public career deliberating on cases related to many aspects of civil and criminal law, including prosecuting the treason trial that followed Shays’s Rebellion. This volume sheds valuable light on Paine’s family, in addition, especially the turbulent relationship with his second son, Robert Treat Paine Jr., who became a much-lauded poet of the era.

Edward W. Hanson, formerly the Senior Associate Editor of the Massachusetts Historical Society, is a priest in the Church of England. He is an editor of volumes 3 and 4 of The Papers of Robert Treat Paine and coeditor of volumes 1 and 2 with Stephen T. Riley.
The Papers of Daniel Webster Digital Edition

Born in the final days of the American Revolution, Daniel Webster would leave his mark on the following century, of which he was one of its mightiest statesmen.

As a young attorney, Webster participated in McCulloch v. Maryland, which established implied powers and limited the power of the states to impede constitutionally valid actions taken by the federal government. As a senator, he opposed nullification by southern states, as he expressed in his legendary “Reply to Hayne” speech, and provided critical support for the Compromise of 1850. As secretary of state in 1842, Webster established the U.S.-Canada border that exists to this day. Webster served in Congress for two states (New Hampshire and Massachusetts), and, in the waning days of his Whig Party, ran for president three times. There are few roles in government he did not play, few defining issues of the mid-nineteenth century of which he did not find himself at the center.

Rotunda’s digital edition of The Papers of Daniel Webster includes the complete contents of the classic fourteen-volume print edition and adds to this the power to search its documents and those of other titles in the American History platform. This powerful resource will be indispensable to students and scholars of the nineteenth century, politics, and legal history.

Publication of The Papers of Daniel Webster Digital Edition was made possible by the generous support of the Dartmouth College Library.
Bound for Work
Labor, Mobility, and Colonial Rule in Central Mozambique, 1940–1965

“The breadth of Kagan Guthrie’s research, combined with deft, careful thinking, means that this book is about far more than African labor, though it certainly offers readers a marvelous, three-dimensional view of workers’ lives.”—ERIC ALLINA, University of Ottawa, author of Slavery by Any Other Name: African Life under Company Rule in Colonial Mozambique

Diverging from the studies of southern African migrant labor that focus on particular workplaces and points of origin, Bound for Work looks at the multitude of forms and locales of migrant labor that individuals—under more or less coercive circumstances—engaged in over the course of their lives. Tracing Mozambican workers as they moved between different types of labor across Mozambique, Rhodesia, and South Africa, Zachary Kagan Guthrie places the multiple venues of labor in a single historical frame, expanding the regional historiography beyond the long shadow cast by the apartheid state.

Kagan Guthrie’s holistic approach to migrant labor yields several important conclusions. First, he highlights the importance of workers’ choices, explaining not just why people moved but why they moved in the ways they did; how they calculated the benefits of one destination over another, and how they decided when circumstances made it necessary to move again. Second, his attention to mobility gives a much clearer view of the mechanisms of power available to colonial authorities, as well as the limits to their effectiveness. Finally, Kagan Guthrie suggests a new explanation for the divergent trajectories of southern and sub-Saharan Africa in the aftermath of World War II.
Sol Plaatje
A Life

“Extraordinary. Willan offers fresh perspectives and evidence with a rare richness and depth.”—STEVEN D. GISH, Auburn University at Montgomery, author of Alfred B. Xuma: African, American, South African

While the story of modern South Africa has long captured global attention, the story of one of its key forefathers has been eclipsed by those of more iconic political figures. In Sol Plaatje: A Life, Brian Willan restores to history the importance of a remarkable man whose contributions as an intellectual, politician, teacher, linguist, and journalist expanded and advanced the vision of a common South Africa.

Drawing on an extraordinary range of sources reflecting decades of archival and field work, Willan animates Plaatje’s personal and professional fortunes in the context of the tumultuous changes that overtook South Africa during his lifetime, spanning the country’s industrialization and the rise of African nationalism in the early twentieth century. A pioneer in the history of the black press and a literary luminary, Plaatje translated Shakespeare into his native tongue, Setswana, the first such into any African language. Plaatje was a founder of the African National Congress in 1912 and led its campaign against the notorious Natives Land Act of 1913, efforts resonant more than a century later as the ANC today seeks to salvage its legacy from the stain of twenty-first-century corruption. This richly woven biography is essential reading for anyone interested in the generation of black leaders who came before Mandela.
Four Fools in the Age of Reason

Cruelty, Laughter, and Power in Early Modern Germany

“This book is original to an exceptional degree. The fools Outram discusses reveal a past age in its strangest and most alien form, especially in showing an alliance between power, cruelty, and fun which must be shocking to present-day readers.” —RITCHIE ROBERTSON, University of Oxford, author of Mock-Epic Poetry from Pope to Heine

The jester is a fixture in our image of the royal court, but seldom do we take his role seriously. Unveiling the nearly lost world of the court fools of eighteenth-century Germany, Dorinda Outram shows that laughter was an essential instrument of power. Whether jovial or cruel, mirth altered social and political relations and created new hierarchies.

Outram takes us first to the court of Frederick William I of Prussia, a ruler who used fools to prop up his uncertain power. The autobiography of the itinerant fool Peter Prosch affords a rare insider’s view of the small courts of southern Germany and Austria that records episodes of extraordinary cruelty. Joseph Froehlich, the court fool in Dresden who was deeply attached to the folklife of fooling, presents more appealing facets of foolery. Outram describes the demise of court foolery around 1800 as Enlightenment skepticism grows.
Beyond 1776
Globalizing the Cultures of the American Revolution

“I know of no other collection of essays that situates the American Revolution globally as Beyond 1776 does; moreover, no single-authored study could achieve what this collection does because of the range of disciplinary and area expertise it brings together.”—Tamara Harvey, George Mason University, author of Figuring Modesty in Feminist Discourse across the Americas, 1633–1700

In Beyond 1776, ten humanities scholars consider the American Revolution within a global framework. The book centers first on the migration of ideas across the Atlantic, particularly among intellectuals and through print. In this section, scholars focus on how various European countries or cliques appropriate the Revolution to reanimate an array of national, local, or cosmopolitan affiliations. The essays in the second section articulate how revolutions fostered surprising exchanges in locations such as the West Indies, Australia, and along the Celtic fringe and Pacific Rim. The contributors examine a range of texts, from novels and drama to diplomatic correspondence, letters of common sailors, political treatises, newspapers, accounting ledgers, naval records, and burial rituals (many from non-anglophone sources).

Looking at how different intellectuals in the period used the Revolution as a point of connection, Beyond 1776 will appeal to scholars seeking to understand contact and exchange in the late eighteenth century.
Reading Contagion
The Hazards of Reading in the Age of Print

“A well-written and energetic study of contagion as both metaphor and medico-descriptive term for writers in the long eighteenth century.”—ROBERT MARKLEY, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, author of *The Far East and the English Imagination, 1600–1730*

Eighteenth-century British culture was transfixed by the threat of contagion, believing that everyday elements of the surrounding world could transmit deadly maladies from one body to the next. Physicians and medical writers warned of noxious matter circulating through air, bodily fluids, paper, and other materials, while philosophers worried that agitating passions could spread via certain kinds of writing and expression. Eighteenth-century poets and novelists thus had to grapple with the disturbing idea that literary texts might be doubly infectious, communicating dangerous passions and matter both in and on their contaminated pages.

In *Reading Contagion*, Annika Mann argues that the fear of infected books energized aesthetic and political debates about the power of reading, which could alter individual and social bodies by connecting people of all sorts in dangerous ways through print. Daniel Defoe, Alexander Pope, Tobias Smollett, William Blake, and Mary Shelley ruminate on the potential of textual objects to absorb and transmit contagions with a combination of excitement and dread. This book vividly documents this cultural anxiety while explaining how writers at once reveled in the possibility that reading could transform the world while fearing its ability to infect and destroy.
Parting Words
Victorian Poetry and Public Address

“A highly accomplished and eloquent work that sheds new light on the uncertain relation between poet and audience in Victorian poetry.” —ERIK GRAY, Columbia University, author of Milton and the Victorians

Valedictory addresses offer a way to conceptualize the relation of self to others, private to public, ephemeral to eternal. Whether deathbed pronouncements, political capitulations, or seafaring farewells, “parting words” played a crucial role in the social imagination of Victorian writing. In this compelling new book, Justin Sider traces these public addresses across a wide range of works, from poems by Byron, Tennyson, and Browning, to essays by Twain and Wilde, to novels by Dickens and Eliot.

Ironically, while the Victorian era saw the loss of faith in a unitary national public, it asked poetry to address just such a public. Attending to the form, rather than the discursive content, of poets’ engagement with public culture, Parting Words explains how the valedictory allowed Victorian poets to explore the ways their poems might be received by distant and anonymous readers in an emergent mass culture. Using a wide array of materials such as letters and reviews to describe the rapidly changing print culture in which poets were intervening, Sider shows how the growing diversification and destabilization of the Victorian reading public was countered by the demand for a public poetry. Characteristically, the speakers of Tennyson’s “Ulysses” and Matthew Arnold’s “Empedocles on Etna” imagine their farewells as simultaneous entrances into a public space where they and their readers, however distant, might yet meet. This new consciousness anticipated modernist poetry, which in turn used the valedictory to underscore the futility and alienation of such hopes.
Idle Talk, Deadly Talk
The Uses of Gossip in Caribbean Literature

“A rich, insightful, and exciting examination of gossip as a multi-valent phenomenon in the Caribbean.”—RAFAEL DALLEO, Bucknell University, author of American Imperialism’s Undead: The Occupation of Haiti and the Rise of Caribbean Anticolonialism

Chaucer called it “spiritual manslaughter”; Barthes and Benjamin deemed it dangerous linguistic nihilism. But gossip—long derided and dismissed by writers and intellectuals—is far from frivolous. In Idle Talk, Deadly Talk, Ana Rodríguez Navas reveals gossip to be an urgent, utilitarian, and deeply political practice—a means of staging the narrative tensions, and waging the narrative battles, that mark Caribbean politics and culture.

From the calypso singer’s superficially innocent rhymes to the vicious slanders published in Trujillo-era gossip columns, words have been weapons, elevating one person or group at the expense of another. Revising the overly gendered existing critical frame, Rodríguez Navas argues that gossip is a fundamentally adversarial practice. Just as whispers and hearsay corrosively define and surveil identities, they also empower writers to skirt sanitized, monolithic historical accounts by weaving alternative versions of their nations’ histories from this self-governing discursive material. Reading recent fiction from the Hispanic, anglophone, and francophone Caribbean and their diasporas, alongside poetry, song lyrics, journalism, memoirs, and political essays, Idle Talk, Deadly Talk maps gossip’s place in the Caribbean and reveals its rich possibilities as both literary theme and narrative device. As a means for mediating contested narratives, both public and private, gossip emerges as a vital resource for scholars and writers grappling with the region’s troubled history.
Edwidge Danticat
The Haitian Diasporic Imaginary

“A wonderful critical contribution, Edwidge Danticat offers a sustained and historized analysis of the works of a renowned author, while at the same time it successfully recalibrates our understanding of diaspora and postcolonial studies.”
—Carine M. Mardorossian, University at Buffalo, SUNY, author of Framing the Rape Victim: Gender and Agency Reconsidered

Haitian-American writer Edwidge Danticat is one of the most recognized writers today. Her debut novel, Breath, Eyes, Memory, was an Oprah Book Club selection, and works such as Krik? Krak! and Brother, I’m Dying have earned her a MacArthur “genius” grant and National Book Award nominations. Yet despite international acclaim and the relevance of her writings to postcolonial, feminist, Caribbean, African diaspora, Haitian, literary, and global studies, Danticat’s work has not been the subject of a full-length interpretive literary analysis until now.

In Edwidge Danticat: The Haitian Diasporic Imaginary, Nadège T. Clitandre offers a comprehensive analysis of Danticat’s exploration of the dialogic relationship between nation and diaspora. Clitandre argues that Danticat—moving between novels, short stories, and essays—articulates a diasporic consciousness that acts as a form of social, political, and cultural transformation at the local and global level. Using the echo trope to approach Danticat’s narratives and subjects, Clitandre effectively navigates between the reality of diaspora and imaginative opportunities that diasporas produce. Ultimately, Clitandre calls for a reconstitution of nation through a diasporic imaginary that informs the way people who have experienced displacement view the world and imagine a more diverse, interconnected, and just future.
Guilty Pleasures

Popular Novels and American Audiences in the Long Nineteenth Century

“This smart, provocative, and accessibly written cultural history makes a significant contribution to scholarship on the history of the book and illuminates larger questions about the political possibilities of mass culture.”—ERIN A. SMITH, University of Texas at Dallas, author of What Would Jesus Read? Popular Religious Books and Everyday Life in Twentieth-Century America

Guilty pleasures in one’s reading habits are nothing new. Late-nineteenth-century American literary culture even championed the idea that popular novels need not be great. Best-selling novels arrived in the public sphere as at once beloved and contested objects, an ambivalence that reflected and informed America’s cultural insecurity. This became a matter of nationhood as well as aesthetics: the amateurism of popular narratives resonated with the discourse of new nationhood.

In Guilty Pleasures, Hugh McIntosh examines reactions to best-selling fiction in the United States from 1850 to 1920, including reader response to such best sellers as Uncle Tom's Cabin, Ben Hur, and Trilby as well as fictional representations—from Trollope to Baldwin—of American culture’s lack of artistic greatness. Drawing on a transatlantic archive of contemporary criticism, urban display, parody, and advertising, Guilty Pleasures thoroughly documents how the conflicted attitude toward popular novels shaped these ephemeral modes of response. Paying close attention to this material history of novel reading, McIntosh reveals how popular fiction’s unique status as socially saturating and aesthetically questionable inspired public reflection on what it meant to belong to a flawed national community.
The Queen of America
Mary Cutts’s Life of Dolley Madison

“This engaging volume focuses on the first biography and the first biographer of Dolley Payne Todd Madison, first lady of the US. . . . Catherine Allgor expertly interprets and contextualizes the Cutts manuscripts and offers valuable transcriptions with copious attention to detail and high documentary editing standards.”—CHOICE

Catherine Allgor, President of the Massachusetts Historical Society, is the author of A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation and Parlor Politics: In Which the Ladies of Washington Help Build a City and a Government (Virginia).

Pulpit and Nation
Clergymen and the Politics of Revolutionary America

“An indispensable addition to the study of religion in the Revolutionary and early national periods. . . . Essential.”—CHOICE

“Pulpit and Nation reminds us, if we need reminding, that an ongoing, energetic debate on the prudential and constitutional place of religion in national politics is among the enduring legacies of the founding era.”—AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW

Spencer W. McBride is a historian and documentary editor at the Joseph Smith Papers.
ROMA NUTKIEWICZ BEN-ATAR WITH DORON S. BEN-ATAR

What Time and Sadness Spared
Mother and Son Confront the Holocaust

“‘There is a flood of memoirs about the Nazi period and survivors in print today. Well, this is not ‘just one more.’ This book stands out from the literature. It has an eloquent statement by one survivor, which is by itself powerful. But it also has the commentary of her historian son, who says what needs to be said and leaves to his mother what she is particularly well equipped to say.’”—PETER GAY, Yale University, author of My German Question: Growing Up in Nazi Berlin.


JOHN A. RUDDIMAN

Becoming Men of Some Consequence
Youth and Military Service in the Revolutionary War

“By reading the journals, letters, pension narratives, and memoirs of Continental soldiers in light of the life-course expectations and strategies of eighteenth-century men, John Ruddiman brilliantly illuminates the hopes, experiences, and disappointments of the Revolutionary generation. Anyone interested in learning what American Independence meant to the men who risked their lives to achieve it could do no better than to start with this eloquent, moving book.”—FRED ANDERSON, University of Colorado Boulder

John A. Ruddiman is Assistant Professor of History at Wake Forest University.
West with the Rise
Fly-fishing across America

"Barilla is simply a fine writer. He has just a wonderful eye and ear for details and an athletic imagination. . . . Something sparkles on every page."—TED LEESON, Oregon State University, author of Jerusalem Creek: Journeys into Driftless Country

James Barilla, a lifelong fly fisher, is Associate Professor of English at the University of South Carolina.

Earth Repair
A Transatlantic History of Environmental Restoration

"A landmark in environmental history, Earth Repair offers major new insights into conservation ideas and practices derived from comparative analysis in the Old World and the New World, including sophisticated vignettes of efforts to curb disasters and reform land management in the Alps and the Rockies. This wonderfully written book also shows how the contrasts noted by Americans and Italians abroad now reaffirmed, now reshaped, national views on why and how to conserve."—DAVID LOWENTHAL, author of George Perkins Marsh: Prophet of Conservation

Marcus Hall teaches in the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. He is the winner of the Rachel Carson Prize from the American Society for Environmental History and the Ray Allen Billington Prize from the Western History Association.
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