Richard Potter
AMERICA’S FIRST BLACK CELEBRITY

“One of the most captivating personalities in the history of his craft, Potter was, and remains, essential to the longer African American journey. The thrill I felt in reading Hodgson’s book—and, through it, discovering Richard Potter, the man and his times—was, in a word, magical.”—From the foreword by Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Apart from a handful of exotic—and almost completely unreliable—tales surrounding his life, Richard Potter is almost unknown today. Two hundred years ago, however, he was the most popular entertainer in America—the first showman, in fact, to win truly nationwide fame. His story is all the more remarkable in that Richard Potter, the son of a slave, was also a black man.

Potter’s performances were enjoyed by an enormous public, but his life off stage has remained hidden and unknown. Now, for the first time, John A. Hodgson tells the remarkable, compelling—and ultimately heartbreaking—story of Potter’s life, a tale of professional success and celebrity counterbalanced by racial vulnerability in an increasingly hostile world. The apparently trivial “popular entertainment” status of his work has long blinded historians to the significance and influence of this unsung precursor of Frederick Douglass who showed an entire generation of Americans that a black man, no less than a white man, could exemplify the best qualities of humanity.

John A. Hodgson, former Dean of Forbes College at Princeton University, is the author of books on Wordsworth and Shelley and the editor of Sherlock Holmes: The Major Stories with Contemporary Critical Essays.

FEBRUARY
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“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

CRUCIBLE
THE PRESIDENT’S FIRST YEAR

Is the presidency a position one must learn on the job, or can one learn from others’ experience? No common thread runs through the list of forty-five presidents; no playbook provides the answers to all the challenges a president will face. Yet even in the most unprecedented situations, history can be instructive. Drawn from the Miller Center’s First Year Project—which seeks to provide a historical framework to guide future presidents and their teams in the crucial first year of a new administration—Crucible addresses core questions of governance facing a new president, from navigating a broken political system to thriving in a changing media environment. The project’s illustrious participants—including Stephen Skowronek, Alan Taylor, Gary W. Gallagher, Sidney M. Miliks, H. W. Brands, and many others—explore both opportunities and challenges in key policy areas, from national security, race, and immigration to opportunity, mobility, and fiscal policy.

Crucible consolidates the most salient lessons that can be drawn from both the best and the worst presidencies in American history, as well as from the many in between, to provide true insight on the most important issues facing any new president in the first year of office.

CONTRIBUTORS

William A. Galston, and Peter Wehner, among many others—explore both opportunities and challenges in key policy areas, from national security, race, and immigration to opportunity, mobility, and fiscal policy.

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Some of the original essays that inspired the contents of Crucible are also available in themed shorts, available exclusively in ebook format.

Michael Nelson is the Fulmer 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.

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Trump’s First Year

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

Since Donald Trump took office in January 2017, he has successfully delivered on his campaign promises to roll back regulations on business, and his nominee for the Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch, was swiftly approved. Many more actions, however, have been perceived as failures, from his controversial immigration policies and volatile deals with North Korea to unsuccessful attempts to pass major legislation and instability within his White House.

In Trump’s First Year, Michael Nelson, one of our finest and most objective presidential scholars, provides a thorough account and scholarly assessment of Donald Trump’s first year as president, starting with his dramatic election in 2016. The analysis is grounded in the modern history of the presidency as well as in the larger constitutional and political order. It considers Trump in numerous contexts, including congressional relations, executive actions, media relations, and public opinion.

Published on the first anniversary of Trump’s inauguration, Nelson’s book offers the most complete and up-to-date assessment of this still-unfolding story.

We Face the Dawn

Oliver Hill, Spottswood Robinson, and the Legal Team That Dismantled Jim Crow

The decisive victories in the fight for racial equality in America were not easily won, much less inevitable; they were achieved through carefully conceived strategy and the work of tireless individuals dedicated to this most urgent struggle. In We Face the Dawn, Margaret Edds tells the gripping story of how the South’s most significant grassroots legal team challenged the barriers to racial segregation in midcentury America.

Virginians Oliver Hill and Spottswood Robinson initiated and argued one of the five cases that combined into the landmark Brown v. Board of Education, but their influence extends far beyond that momentous ruling. They were part of a small brotherhood, headed by social-justice pioneer Thurgood Marshall and united largely through the Howard Law School, who conceived and executed the NAACP’s assault on racial segregation in education, transportation, housing, and voting. Hill and Robinson’s work served as a model for southern states and an essential underpinning for Brown. When the Virginia General Assembly retaliated with laws designed to disbar the two lawyers and discredit the NAACP, they defiantly carried the fight to the United States Supreme Court and won.

At a time when numerous schools have resegregated and the prospects of many minority children appear bleak, Hill and Robinson’s remarkably effective campaign against various forms of racial segregation can inspire a new generation to embrace educational opportunity as the birthright of every American child.
**A Literary Guide to Washington, DC**

Walking in the Footsteps of American Writers from Francis Scott Key to Zora Neale Hurston

The site of a thriving literary tradition, Washington, DC, has been the home to many of our nation’s most acclaimed writers. From the city’s founding to the beginnings of modernism, literary luminaries including Walt Whitman, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Henry Adams, Langston Hughes, and Zora Neale Hurston have lived and worked at their craft in our nation’s capital.

In *A Literary Guide to Washington, DC*, Kim Roberts offers a guide to the city’s rich literary history. Part walking tour, part anthology, *A Literary Guide to Washington, DC* is organized into five sections, each corresponding to a particularly vibrant period in Washington’s literary community. Starting with the city’s earliest years, Roberts examines writers such as Hasty-Pudding poet Joel Barlow and “Star-Spangled Banner” lyricist Francis Scott Key before moving on to the Civil War and Reconstruction and touching on the lives of authors such as Charlotte Forten Grimké and James Weldon Johnson. She wraps up her tour with World War I and the Jazz Age, which brought to the city some writers at the forefront of modernism, including the first American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, Sinclair Lewis. The book’s stimulating tours cover downtown, the LeDroit Park and Shaw neighborhoods, Lafayette Square, and the historic U Street district, bringing the history of the city to life in surprising ways.

Written for tourists, literary enthusiasts, amateur historians, and armchair travelers, *A Literary Guide to Washington, DC* offers a cultural tour of our nation’s capital through a literary lens.

---

**Paper Gardens**

A Stroll through French Literature

“‘A charming book that’s erudite, bucolic, and delightful at once.’—*Version Femina*

“Évelyne Bloch-Dano tells with much empathy what gardens, whether real or on paper, reveal of writers’ imaginary.”—*Figaro littéraire*

From Jean-Jacques Rousseau to Marcel Proust, from Marguerite Duras to George Sand, from Colette to Patrick Modiano, gardens appear in novels as representations of the real world, but also as reflections of the imagination. In *Paper Gardens: A Stroll through French Literature*, Évelyne Bloch-Dano contemplates the role of the garden in the work of great prose writers, ruminating on how the garden can variously symbolize a reflection of the soul, a well-earned rest, an improving form of work, a nostalgia for childhood, and the dream of an ideal world.

The charming and erudite first section focuses on history and is devoted to types of gardens ranging from the biblical Garden of Eden to English parklands; the second perceptively considers their role in literary works. Concealed within these cultivated wanderings is also an element of autobiography. Lovers of literature and gardening alike will fall in love with this beautifully written meditation.

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**Paper Gardens**

A Stroll through French Literature

Published with the Generous Support of the Centre National du Livre and French Voices, a Program of the Face Foundation

ÉVELYNE BLOCH-DANO

TRANSLATED BY TERESA LAVENDER FAGAN

FOREWORD BY ALICE KAPLAN

Kim Roberts is a freelance literary historian, writer, and editor living in Washington, DC.

**TERESA LAVENDER FAGAN** is a freelance translator living in Chicago.

**ALICE KAPLAN** is the John M. Musser Professor of French at Yale University and the author of *Dreaming in French*. 
Cradled in the crescent of the Mississippi River and circumscribed by wetlands, New Orleans has faced numerous challenges since its founding as a French colonial outpost in 1718. For three centuries, the city has proved resilient in the face of natural disasters and human activities, and its resulting urban fabric is the product of social, political, commercial, economic, and cultural circumstances that have defined how local residents have interacted with their surroundings. This detailed survey of the built environment—an authoritative, comprehensive, post–Hurricane Katrina overview of buildings, neighborhoods, and landscapes—tells the city’s compelling and fascinating story through concise discussions of nearly 300 architecturally significant structures, open spaces, and lesser-known places, enhanced by 175 photographs and 23 maps. Conveniently organized into thirteen neighborhood tours, two road trips into nearby parishes, and three excursions up and down the Mississippi River along the historic Great River Road, the volume clearly shows how various architectural styles, land uses, economic conditions, social customs, and cultural factors merge to create the community’s unique flavor. Enlivened by nine topical essays highlighting everything from renowned authors, cuisine, and jazz to public markets, green spaces, and historic preservation, this handy insider’s guidebook to the broad sweep of New Orleans’s unique built and natural environments will appeal to all who are interested in the design history of one of America’s most interesting places.

KAREN KINGSLEY, Professor Emerita, Tulane University, and Editor in Chief of the Buildings of the United States series, is the author of Buildings of Louisiana and coauthor (with Guy W. Carwile) of The Modernist Architecture of Samuel G. and William B. Wiener: Shreveport, Louisiana, 1920–1960. LAKE DOUGLAS, Associate Dean for Research and Development in Louisiana State University’s College of Art and Design and Professor of Landscape Architecture in the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture, is the author of a number of books, including Public Spaces, Private Gardens: A History of Designed Landscapes in New Orleans.
GEORGE WASHINGTON’S BARBADOS DIARY, 1751–52

“‘This definitive edition of George Washington’s journal of his voyage to Barbados is the first to appear in more than one hundred years, and it represents the finest edition ever produced. Every historian who seriously attempts to write about the early life of George Washington will need to reference and read this version.’—From the foreword by Douglas Bradburn

In the autumn of 1751, at the age of nineteen, George Washington sailed with his older half brother Lawrence from Virginia to the Caribbean island of Barbados—the one and only time that the future Revolutionary War hero and president would leave the shores of continental North America. Lawrence had long been in poor health and hoped, in vain, that the island climate would prove restorative. The Washingtons landed in early November, and George spent seven weeks on Barbados, recording his impressions of everything from the exotic landscape and local culture to the cultivation of sugarcane and the particulars of plantation slavery, before bidding Lawrence adieu and embarking on the return sail to Virginia. The two sea voyages provided plenty of adventure, at times harrowing, and framed an island interlude that exposed young George to new cultures and new experiences (including smallpox). Technological advances and fresh scholarship make this the most comprehensive and authoritative edition that has ever been—or likely will ever be—published.

Jefferson on Display
Attire, Etiquette, and the Art of Presentation

When we think of Thomas Jefferson, a certain picture comes to mind, combining his physical appearance with our perception of his character. During Jefferson’s lifetime this image was already taking shape, helped along by his own assiduous cultivation. In Jefferson on Display, G. S. Wilson draws on a broad array of sources to show how Jefferson fashioned his public persona to promote his political agenda. During his long career, his image shifted from cosmopolitan intellectual to man of the people. As president he kept friends and foes guessing; he might appear unpredictably in old, worn, and out-of-date clothing with hair unkempt, yet he could as easily play the polished gentleman in a black suit as he hosted small dinners in the President’s House. Even in retirement his image continued to evolve, as guests at Monticello reported being met by the Sage clothed in rough fabrics that he proudly claimed were created from his own merino sheep. By paying close attention to Jefferson’s controversial clothing choices and physical appearance—as well as his use of portraiture, architecture, and the polite refinements of dining, grooming, and conversation—Wilson provides invaluable new insight into this perplexing founder.

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The first novel available to English readers by Fawzia Zouari, one of the most important North African authors writing today, begins with an emergency crew’s arrival at a Parisian apartment. Two emaciated young women, sisters, are brought out on stretchers. To the crowd of onlookers the women’s condition is mystifying; for the two sisters, this is the inescapable end to a tragic series of events.

Inscribed by an actual news story from the French headlines, I Die by This Country introduces us to Nacéra and Amira. Casting her mind back in the midst of the opening pages’ upheaval, Nacéra recalls her family’s immigration to Paris. Her and Amira’s struggle to find their place as children of immigrants reveals the enormous stress of social exclusion and identity conflicts facing immigrant youth. Nacéra and her family yearn for acceptance, but the reader sees this dream becoming increasingly unattainable.

Zouari’s frank prose and penetrating storytelling deftly relate the multigenerational experience of Franco-Algerian immigration during the last quarter of the twentieth century. As France continues to struggle with questions regarding national identity, immigration, and its colonial past, the experiences depicted in this novel resonate more than ever.

Dézafi is no ordinary zombie novel. In the hands of the great Haitian author known simply as Frankétienne, zombification takes on a symbolic dimension that stands as a potent commentary on a country haunted by a history of slavery. Now this dynamic new translation brings this touchstone in Haitian literature to English-language readers for the first time.

Written in a provocative experimental style, with a myriad of voices and combining myth, poetry, allegory, magical realism, and social realism, Dézafi tells the tale of a plantation that is run and worked by zombies for the financial benefit of the living owner. The owner’s daughter falls in love with the zombie overseer and facilitates his transformation back into fully human form, leading to a rebellion that challenges the oppressive imbalance that had robbed the workers of their spirit. With the walking dead and bloody cockfights (the “dézafi” of the title) as cultural metaphors for Haiti’s existence, Frankétienne’s novel is ultimately a powerful allegory of political and social liberation.
Monacan Millennium
A Collaborative Archaeology and History of a Virginia Indian People

While Jamestown and colonial settlements dominate narratives of Virginia’s earliest days, the land’s oldest history belongs to its native people. Monacan Millennium tells the story of the Monacan Indian people of Virginia, stretching from 1000 A.D. through the moment of colonial contact in 1607 and into the present.

Written from an anthropological perspective and informed by ethnohistory, archaeology, and indigenous tribal perspectives, this comprehensive study reframes the Chesapeake’s early colonial period—and its deep precolonial history—by viewing it through a Monacan lens. Shifting focus to the Monacans, Hantman reveals a group whose ritual practices bespeak centuries of politically and culturally dynamic history. This insightful volume draws on archaeology, English colonial archives, Spanish sources, and early cartography to put the Monacans back on the map. By examining representations of the tribe in colonial, postcolonial, and contemporary texts, the author fosters a dynamic, unfolding understanding of who the Monacan people were and are.

“In this engaging, provocative, and highly readable book, Hantman forces the reader to question received wisdom about icons of American history and portrays the vivid history of a people and a place.”—MARTIN D. GALLIVAN, William and Mary, author of James River Chiefdoms: The Rise of Social Inequality in the Chesapeake

Listening In
Artifacts and Echoes of Maryland’s Mother County

“Merideth Taylor has given the people of St. Mary’s County and all who come to know its unique voices and places an incredible gift in the form of Listening In, her brilliant new book.”—RICHARD MOE, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (1993–2009)

St. Mary’s County is where colonial Maryland began, with the establishment of St. Mary’s City on the site of an ancient Yaocomico village as Maryland’s first capital in 1634. Southern Maryland has been home to human occupation for at least 12,000 years, and since 1634 the area has seen myriad changes, through the rise and fall of tobacco agriculture and its associated enslaved labor to its current status as a bedroom community to Washington, DC, and as home to the Patuxent Naval Air Station. Although historically rural, the area is slowly experiencing suburban development, and so ties to the past become increasingly important.

In Listening In, Merideth Taylor provides a captivating, even pioneering approach to capturing the land and life of Maryland’s “mother county.” She integrates her own engaging photographs of buildings of all kinds, many of them in disrepair, with imaginative text called “ghost stories,” based on living oral histories, that relate to the photographs in one way or another. And so we gain a true sense of what life in St. Mary’s County was—and the place it is becoming.
Healthy Environments, Healing Spaces
Practices and Directions in Health, Planning, and Design

“...a timely, important book by an impressive roster of the leaders in the field.”
—FREDERICK STEINER, University of Pennsylvania School of Design, author of Design for a Vulnerable Planet

This collection of essays by leading scholars and practitioners addresses a timely and essential question: How can we design, plan, and sustain built environments that will foster health and healing? With a salutogenic (health-promoting) focus, Healthy Environments, Healing Spaces addresses a range of contemporary issues, including health equity, biophilic cities, healthcare facility design, environmental health, aging in place, and food systems planning.

AVIGAIL SACHS

Environmental Design
Architecture, Politics, and Science in Postwar America

“...Avigail Sachs has produced an essential map of the history of environmental design. This is the book on this important subject we’ve been waiting for.”—SIMON SADLER, University of California, Davis, author of Archigram: Architecture without Architecture

Much of twentieth-century design was animated by the creative tension of its essential duality: is design an art or a science? In the postwar era, American architects sought to calibrate architectural practice to evolving scientific knowledge about humans and environments, thus elevating the discipline’s stature and enmeshing their work in a progressive restructuring of society. This political and scientific effort was called “environmental design,” a term expanded in the 1960s to include ecological and liberal ideas. In her expansive new study, Avigail Sachs examines the theoretical scaffolding and practical legacy of this professional effort.

Inspired by Lewis Mumford’s 1932 challenge enjoining architects to go beyond visual experimentation and create complete human environments, Environmental Design details the rise of modernist ideas in the architectural disciplines within the novel context of sociopolitical rather than aesthetic responsibilities. Unlike today’s “starchitects,” environmental designers saw themselves as orchestrators of decision making more than auteurs of form and style. Viewing architectural practice as rooted in Progressive Era politics and the democratic process rather than the European avant-garde, Sachs plots how these social concepts spread via influential architecture schools. This rich examination of pedagogy and practice is a map to both the history of environmental design and the contemporary consequences of architecture understood as a pressing social concern.

MIDCENTURY
ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, URBANISM, AND DESIGN

Avigail Sachs is Assistant Professor of Architecture and Landscape History and Theory in the College of Architecture and Design at the University of Tennessee. She was recently awarded the prestigious 2017 Mellon Author Award from the Society of Architectural Historians.

AVIGAIL SACHS
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UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA PRESS
The Finger of God
Enoch Mgijima, the Israelites, and the Bulhoek Massacre in South Africa

“On the morning of May 24, 1921, a force of eight hundred white policemen and soldiers confronted an African prophet, Enoch Mgijima, and some three thousand of his followers. Called the Israelites, they refused to leave their holy village of Ntabelanga, where they had been gathering since early 1919 to await the end of the world. While the Israelites maintained they were there to pray and worship in peace, the white authorities viewed them as illegally squatting on land that was not theirs. After many months of fruitless negotiations, the South African government sent an armed force to Bulhoek, a village in the Eastern Cape, to expel them. In the event that has come to be known as the Bulhoek massacre, police armed with rifles, machine guns, and cannons killed nearly two hundred Israelites wielding knobkerries, swords, and spears.

In *The Finger of God*, Robert Edgar reveals how and why the Bulhoek massacre occurred. Edgar asks: Why did Mgijima prophesize that the end of the world was imminent, and why did he summon his followers to Ntabelanga? Why did the South African government regard the Israelite encampment as a threat? Examining this clash between a government and a millennial movement, Edgar considers the Bulhoek massacre both as a signal event in South African history and as an example of similar conflicts worldwide.

The Cowboy Capitalist
John Hays Hammond, the American West, and the Jameson Raid in South Africa

“Once again, Charles van Onselen offers us a remarkable book. *The Cowboy Capitalist* is a brilliant contribution to historical scholarship as well as a reminder of van Onselen’s master storytelling and riddle solving.”—Steven Hahn, New York University, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *A Nation under Our Feet*

The Jameson Raid was a pivotal moment in the history of South Africa, linking events from the Anglo-Boer War to the declaration of the Union of South Africa in 1910. For more than a century, the failed revolution has been interpreted through the lens of British imperialism, with responsibility laid at the feet of Cecil Rhodes. Yet, the raid was less a serious attempt to overthrow a Boer government than a wild adventure with transnational roots in American filibustering.

In *The Cowboy Capitalist*, renowned South African historian Charles van Onselen challenges a historiography of over 120 years, locating the raid in American rather than British history and forcing us to rethink the histories of at least three nations. Through a close look at the little-remembered figure of John Hays Hammond, a confidant of both Rhodes and Jameson, he discovers the American Old West on the South African Highveld. This radical reinterpretation challenges the commonly held belief that the Jameson Raid was quintessentially British and, in doing so, drives splinters into our understanding of events as far forward as South Africa’s critical 1948 general election, with which the foundations of Grand Apartheid were laid.
M. NEELY YOUNG

Trans-Atlantic Sojourners
The Story of an Americo-Liberian Family

“An astonishing multigenerational story. An epic study of political leaders over nearly two centuries, it is also a study of both African American history and Liberia’s history.” —ALFRED BROPHY, University of Alabama, author of Reconstructing the Dreamland: The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921, Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation

Unique in its formation and in a citizenry made up largely of repatriated ex-slaves, Liberia has been the scene of a fascinating intercontinental history. Trans-Atlantic Sojourners enters this history through the experiences of one Americo-Liberian family. M. Neely Young introduces us to two patriarchs—Othello Richards of Rockbridge County, Virginia, and William Coleman of Fayette and Woodford Counties, Kentucky. From their arrival in the new African republic in the 1850s until the overthrow of Americo-Liberian rule in 1980, the family played a key role in the nation’s economic affairs, representing the interests of the interior agriculturalists against the merchant elites of Monrovia, and was prominent as well in Liberia’s political and cultural arenas.

Taking the reader up to the violent upheaval of the 1980s, and encompassing the issues of slavery, white and black colonization, the tensions within the African-Liberian class, and the Liberian concept of “black republicanism,” this family’s narrative reflects historical patterns in Liberia and America that still resonate.

STEPHEN E. MAIZLISH

A Strife of Tongues
The Compromise of 1850 and the Ideological Foundations of the American Civil War

“A beautifully written, vigorously argued, and important book.”—DANIEL CROFTS, The College of New Jersey, author of Lincoln and the Politics of Slavery: The Other Thirteenth Amendment and the Struggle to Save the Union

Near the end of a nine-month confrontation preceding the Compromise of 1850, Abraham Venable warned his fellow congressmen that “words become things.” Indeed, in politics—then, as now—rhetoric makes reality. But while the legislative maneuvering, factional alignments, and specific measures of the Compromise of 1850 have been exhaustively studied, much of the language of the debate, where underlying beliefs and assumptions were revealed, has been neglected.

The Compromise of 1850 attempted to defuse confrontation between slave and free states over an array of divisive issues such as the status of slavery in the territories acquired during the Mexican-American War. A Strife of Tongues presents the cultural and intellectual history of this pivotal political event through the lens of language, revealing the complex context of northern and southern ideological opposition within which the Civil War occurred a decade later, including divisions over constitutional theory, slavery, race, gender, memory, honor, and party loyalty. Deftly drawing on extensive records, from public discourse to private letters, Stephen Maizlish animates the most famous political characters of the age in their own words. This novel examination argues that the ideological formulations expressed in and between the lines of the Compromise debates of 1850 laid the foundations of the U.S. Civil War.
The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant
Digital Edition

Ulysses S. Grant never intended to make a career in the military, much less go into politics, but he ended up commanding the U.S. forces in perhaps the most important war America ever fought and then serving as its eighteenth president during a period of profound change.

Following a brief and frustrating period of civilian life after he fought in the Mexican-American War (a war he personally did not approve of), Grant reentered military life at the outbreak of the Civil War. While Abraham Lincoln cycled through a succession of generals, none of whom could defeat the Confederate forces, Grant scored major strategic victories at Shiloh and Vicksburg and in the Chattanooga Campaign. He eventually won the job of Commanding General of the Union Army, and within roughly a year accepted Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox.

Grant’s willingness—it could never be called eagerness—to take on the presidency was inspired by his conviction that what had been so hard won in the war could not be wasted by “mere trading politicians.” His two terms as president included scandal, and some of Grant’s initiatives were more well-intentioned than successful, but he addressed a remarkable number of issues, ranging from the reconstruction of the South and the complex political divide that still existed to terrible economic upheaval, peaking with the Panic of 1873. His policies strike the modern observer as farsighted in their empathy with both African Americans and native peoples. Grant’s last great act was the intensely focused composition of his memoirs, which became the best seller they were calculated to be and revealed Grant as one of the most eloquent Americans to pick up a pen.

This digital edition is based on one of the great documentary editions in American scholarship, the original letterpress volumes of Grant’s papers, edited by John Y. Simon. The Rotunda edition contains the content of the original thirty-one print volumes edited by Simon, including all editorial annotations, introductory essays, and appendices, as well as an additional volume of supplementary documents completed by John F. Marszalek. This fully searchable online archive is interoperable with other Rotunda titles, including those in its new Antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction collection.
The Papers of James Madison

PRESIDENTIAL SERIES
VOLUME 9 • 19 FEBRUARY 1815–12 OCTOBER 1815

This volume documents the ongoing influence of European events on U.S. affairs in the seven months following the War of 1812. Plans to reduce the army and send a naval force against Algiers were suspended in April when Madison learned of Napoleon’s return to power. After weighing the risk of renewed conflict with Great Britain, the president allowed plans to proceed. Results were good, but final vindication of his decision did not arrive until August and September, with news of Napoleon’s defeat at Waterloo and the receipt of a commercial convention indicating British goodwill. In the meantime, Madison directed efforts to implement the Treaty of Ghent, learned that Americans had been killed at Dartmoor Prison in England, mediated a major dispute in the Navy Department, responded to Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson’s enforcement of martial law in New Orleans, thwarted Joseph Bonaparte’s attempt to visit Montpelier, modified the administration’s position regarding the still-unrecognized Spanish minister Luis de Onís, oversaw plans to repair the burned Capitol, and received reports on Treasury Secretary Alexander J. Dallas’s efforts to solve the government’s financial problems. Access to people, places, and events of the period is facilitated by detailed annotation and a comprehensive index.

Benjamin Gonzalez O’Brien

Handcuffs and Chain Link
Criminalizing the Undocumented in America

“Handcuffs and Chain Link offers an illuminating take on the politics of undocumented immigration in the United States. Gonzalez O’Brien seamlessly integrates key themes of criminality, illegality, and federal policy.” — NATALE MASUOKA, Tufts University, coauthor of The Politics of Belonging: Race, Public Opinion, and Immigration

Handcuffs and Chain Link enters the immigration debate by addressing one of its most controversial aspects: the criminalization both of extralegal immigration to the United States and of immigrants themselves in popular and political discourse. Looking at the factors that led up to criminalization, Benjamin Gonzalez O’Brien points to the alternative approach of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) and how its ultimate demise served to negatively reinforce the fictitious association of extralegal immigrants with criminality.

Crucial to Gonzalez O’Brien’s account thus is the concept of the critical policy failure—a piece of legislation that attempts a radically different approach to a major issue but has shortcomings that ultimately further entrench the approach it was designed to supplant. The IRCA was just such a piece of legislation. It highlighted the contributions of the undocumented and offered amnesty to some while attempting to stem the flow of extralegal immigration by holding employers accountable for hiring the undocumented. The failure of this effort at decriminalization prompted a return to criminalization with a vengeance, leading to the stalemate on immigration policy that persists to this day.
ANDREW FLACK

The Wild Within
Histories of a Landmark British Zoo

“Within the vibrant field of human-animal studies there is considerable interest in the changing nature of zoos. Flack offers a comprehensive engagement with important issues relating to the keeping of animals in zoo conditions; the physical, social, and cultural nature of those conditions; and how such animal keeping can be related to wider concerns about changing environments.”—Gary Marvin, University of Roehampton, coauthor of Zoo Culture

Established in 1836, the Bristol Zoo is the world’s oldest surviving zoo outside of a capital city and has frequently been at the vanguard of zoo innovation. In The Wild Within, Andrew Flack uses the experiences of the Bristol Zoo to explore the complex and ever-changing relationship between human and beast, which in many cases has altered radically over time.

Flack recounts a history in which categories and identities combined, converged, and came into conflict, as the animals at Bristol proved to be extremely adaptive. He also reveals aspects of the human-animal bond, however, that have remained remarkably consistent not only throughout the zoo’s existence but for centuries, including the ways in which even the captive animals with the most distinct qualities and characteristics are misunderstood when viewed through an anthropomorphic lens.

Flack strips back the layers of the human-animal relationship from those rooted in objectification and homogenization to those rooted in the recognition of consciousness and individual experience. The multifaceted beasts and protein people in The Wild Within test a host of assumptions about what it means to be human or an animal in the modern world.

Edited by Serenella Iovino, Enrico Cesaretti, and Elena Past

Italy and the Environmental Humanities
Landscapes, Natures, Ecologies

“An excellent book with an innovative approach that addresses many of the most vibrant and relevant topics in the field today. It will provide an inspiring guide for scholars interested in Italian literature, but will much more broadly offer a noteworthy contribution to the current debates across ecocriticism.”—Heather Sullivan, Trinity University

Bringing together new writing by some of the field’s most compelling voices from the United States and Europe, this is the first book to examine Italy—as a territory of both matter and imagination—through the lens of the environmental humanities. The contributors offer a wide spectrum of approaches—including ecocriticism, film studies, environmental history, eco-art, and animal and landscape studies—to move past cliché and reimage Italy as a hybrid, plural, eloquent place.

Italy and the Environmental Humanities builds a creative critical discourse in a context of local/global tension and offers a series of new voices that will enrich not just nationally oriented discussions but the entire debate on environmental culture.

Under the Sign of Nature
STUDIES IN ECOCRITICISM

FEBRUARY

272 pages 6 x 9

Andrew Flack is a Teaching Fellow in Modern History at the University of Bristol.

Andrew Flack is a Teaching Fellow in Modern History at the University of Bristol.
Stranger America
A Narrative Ethics of Exclusion

"Stranger America offers an original and brilliant interpretation of American expressive culture as a working out of the problems of singularity, finitude, and community. By bringing together film, literature, popular music, and painting, Toth provides a subtle, complex analysis that promises a persuasive new model for American cultural study."—GREG FORSTER, University of South Carolina

Contradictory ideals of egalitarianism and self-reliance haunt America's democratic state. We need look no further than Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and victory for proof that early twentieth-century anxieties about individualism, race, and the foreign or intrusive “other” persist today. In Stranger America, Josh Toth tracks and delineates these anxieties in America's aesthetic production, finally locating a potential narrative strategy for circumnavigating them.

Toth’s central focus is, simply, strangeness—or those characters who adamantly resist being fixed in any given category of identity. As with the theorists employed (Nancy, Žižek, Derrida, Freud, Hegel), the subjects and literature considered are as encompassing as possible: from the work of Herman Melville, William Faulkner, James Weldon Johnson, and Nella Larsen to that of Philip K. Dick, Woody Allen, Larry David, and Bob Dylan; from the rise of nativism in the early twentieth century to object-oriented ontology and the twenty-first-century zombie craze; from ragtime and the introduction of sound in American cinema to the exhaustion of postmodern metafiction.

Toth argues that American literature, music, film, and television can show us the path toward a new ethic, one in which we organize identity around the stranger rather than resorting to tactics of pure exclusion or inclusion. Ultimately, he provides a new narrative approach to otherness that seeks to realize a truly democratic form of community.

Women Writers of the Beat Era
Autobiography and Intertextuality

“...This groundbreaking study meticulously and intelligently uncovers the various creative strategies women of the Beat Generation have utilized in creating identities through autobiographical literature.”—KURT HEMMER, Harper College, editor of the Encyclopedia of Beat Literature

The Beat Generation was a group of writers who rejected cultural standards, experimented with drugs, and celebrated sexual liberation. Starting in the 1950s with works such as Jack Kerouac’s On the Road, Allen Ginsberg’s Howl, and William S. Burroughs’s Naked Lunch, the Beat Generation defined an experimental zeitgeist that endures to today. Yet left out of this picture are the Beat women, who produced a large body of writing from the 1950s through the 1970s and beyond.

In Women Writers of the Beat Era, Mary Paniccia Carden gives voice to these female writers and demonstrates how their work redefines our understanding of “Beat.” The first single-authored study on female writers of this generation, the book offers vital analysis of autobiographical works by Diane di Prima, ruth weiss, Hettie Jones, Joanne Kyger, and others, introducing the reader to new voices that interact with and reconfigure the better-known narratives of the male Beat writers. In doing so, Carden demonstrates the significant role women played in this influential and dynamic literary movement.
Reading Popular Newtonianism

Print, the Principia, and the Dissemination of Newtonian Science

Sir Isaac Newton’s publications, and those he inspired, were among the most significant works published during the long eighteenth century in Britain. Concepts such as attraction and extrapolation—detailed in his landmark monograph Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica—found their way into both scientific and cultural discourse. Understanding the trajectory of Newton’s diverse critical and popular reception in print demands consideration of how his ideas were disseminated in a marketplace comprised of readers with varying levels of interest and expertise.

Reading Popular Newtonianism focuses on the reception of Newton’s works in a context framed by authorship, print, editorial practices, and reading. Informed by sustained archival work and multiple critical approaches, Laura Miller asserts that print facilitated the mainstreaming of Newton’s ideas. In addition to his reading habits and his manipulation of print conventions in the Principia, Miller analyzes the implied readership of various “popularizations” as well as readers traced through the New York Society Library’s borrowing records. Many of the works considered—including encyclopedias, poems, and a work written “for the ladies”—are not scientifically innovative but are essential to eighteenth-century readers’ engagement with Newtonian ideas. Revising the timeline in which Newton’s scientific ideas entered eighteenth-century culture, Reading Popular Newtonianism is the first book to investigate at length the importance of print to his consequential career.

Richly sourced and innovative, Reading Popular Newtonianism is a substantial and most welcome contribution to eighteenth-century cultural studies.” —Barbara Benedict, Trinity College, author of Curiosity: A Cultural History of Early Modern Inquiry

In the Red and in the Black

Debt, Dishonor, and the Law in France between Revolutions

“A groundbreaking study exemplary in every way.”—Mauro O’Connor, University of Cincinnati, coeditor of Comparison and History: Europe in Cross-National Perspective

The most dishonorable act that can dishonor a man.” Such is Félix Grandet’s unsparing view of bankruptcy, adding that even a highway robber—who at least “risks his own life in attacking you”—is worthier of respect. Indeed, the France of Balzac’s day was an unforgiving place for borrowers. Each year, thousands of debtors found themselves arrested for commercial debts. Those who wished to escape debt imprisonment through bankruptcy sacrificed their honor—losing, among other rights, the ability to vote, to serve on a jury, or even to enter the stock market.

Arguing that French Revolutionary and Napoleonic legislation created a conception of commercial identity that tied together the debtor’s social, moral, and physical person, In the Red and in the Black examines the history of debt imprisonment and bankruptcy as a means of understanding the changing logic of commercial debt. Following the practical application of these laws throughout the early nineteenth century, Erika Vause traces how financial failure and fraud became legally disentangled. This meticulously researched study offers a novel conceptualization of how central “the economic” was to new understandings of self, state, and the market. Telling a story deeply resonant in our own age of ambivalence about the innocence of failures by financial institutions and large-scale speculators, Vause reveals how legal personalization and depersonalization of debt was essential for unleashing the latent forces of capitalism itself.
Shakespeare’s Ocean
An Ecocritical Exploration

“Shakespeare’s Ocean” is a groundbreaking study that blazes an invigorating new path for ecocritics. The book opens with as clear a statement on ecocriticism as I have yet seen. Then Brayton’s abilities as Shakespearean take over, and the result is a steady stream of insights.”—ROBERT N. WATSON, UCLA, author of Back to Nature: The Green and the Real in the Late Renaissance

Study of the sea—in terms of both human interaction with it and its literary representation—has been largely ignored by ecocritics. In Shakespeare’s Ocean, Dan Brayton foregrounds the maritime dimension of a writer whose plays and poems have had an enormous impact on literary notions of nature and, in so doing, plots a new course for ecocritical scholarship.

Shakespeare lived during a time of great expansion of geographical knowledge. The world in which he imagined his plays was newly understood to be a sphere covered with water. In vital readings of works ranging from The Comedy of Errors to the valedictory The Tempest, Brayton demonstrates Shakespeare’s remarkable conceptual mastery of the early modern maritime world and reveals a powerful benthic imagination at work.

Michael Tondre

The Physics of Possibility
Victorian Fiction, Science, and Gender

“The Physics of Possibility offers an excellent and substantial contribution to the field of studies on Victorian literature and science. As Tondre rightly observes, the distinctiveness of this period is apt to be overlooked in considerations of literature and physics, which assume the Victorians are still steeped in an eighteenth-century Newtonian worldview or even Victorian physics merely as precursors to the early-twentieth-century revolutions of relativity and quantum mechanics. The book is interesting, original, and quite polished.”—BARRI J. GOLD, Muhlenberg College, author of ThermoPoetics: Energy in Victorian Literature and Science

The Victorian novels of Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and others have been characterized as having lapsed plotlines, endless digressions, and an obsessive devotion to background characters. But, as Henry James asked, what do these elements mean artistically?

The Physics of Possibility answers this question by charting a thirty-year span when the mathematics of chance transformed the physical sciences of the mid-nineteenth century. Michael Tondre shows that what might be considered literary “weaknesses” actually reflect a reorientation of the basic formal categories of object, action, and setting in investigations of chance within Victorian physical science and mathematics. Novels cultivated a common vernacular with this new science, inventing shared doctrines of realism.

Using an interdisciplinary method grounded in close readings of specific texts and archival materials, and drawing on science studies, philosophy, object theories, and cultural history, The Physics of Possibility interprets innovations across different forms of writing, tracing a trajectory from a handful of mathematically minded savants in 1850 to a shared understanding of fiction as a vehicle devoted to the production of possible worlds.
Thomas Jefferson’s Military Academy
Founding West Point

“An excellent effort to assess Jefferson’s motives and role in establishing the USMA. I recommend it highly.”—Journal of the Early Republic

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Segregation’s Science offers a substantial contribution to the history of eugenics in the United States. Dorr begins his study well before the actual eugenics movement emerged, in the hereditarian ideas of Thomas Jefferson. This sets the stage very effectively, allowing Dorr to explore the complexity of race, of racial categories, and of changing scientific thinking on racial categories.”—Wendy Kline, Purdue University

Gregory Michael Dorr is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought at Amherst College.

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