Soul Mates of the Lost Generation

The Letters of John Dos Passos and Crystal Ross

“‘The letters between the two contain poignant, astute observations of expat life and are laced with the joy that came from the brief time when this brilliant woman took up with one of the most daring novelists of this amazing era.’—JAMES MCGRATH MORRIS, author of The Ambulances Drivers: Hemingway, Dos Passos, and a Friendship Made and Lost in War

Founded in one of the last great collections of letters of the Jazz Age, Soul Mates of the Lost Generation recovers the correspondence between the pioneering novelist John Dos Passos and a young woman named Crystal Ross, to whom he was engaged and who reveals herself as one of the truly remarkable independent, fascinating women of that extraordinary time. This dual biography by Lewis M. Dabney’s son, the esteemed literary scholar Lewis M. Dabney, is based mostly on letters written between 1923 and 1928, during Dos Passos’s first major creative period. The letters relate scenes from the pair’s life in the rich culture of Paris in the 1920s and their association with Hemingway, the Fitzgeralds, and other figures of literary modernism. This collection of never-before-seen letters offers rare insights into the life of the influential modernist author of Manhattan Transfer, The 42nd Parallel, and The Big Money, and into that of a remarkably independent, fascinating woman.
JOHN CHARLES THOMAS

The Poetic Justice
A Memoir

“As our nation continues to struggle with the historic context of growing up Black in America, John Charles Thomas’s autobiography takes on added importance. I was born and raised in Norfolk’s section of ‘Colored Town,’ just a few blocks away and a few years earlier than Judge Thomas, and I was profoundly moved and inspired by his story. This book tells of the triumphant journey of a man who rose above the bitter barriers of poverty and racism to rewrite the destiny which trapped so many of us who grew up during the times of ‘inconvenient truths.’”—TIM REID, award-winning actor, director, producer

“One vivid tapestry—at once joyful and deeply sobering—Judge Thomas’s memoir teaches us what it means to come of age as a just human being.”—KATHERINE A. ROWE, President of the College of William and Mary

This inspiring memoir begins in 1983, on the day John Charles Thomas was sworn in as the first Black—and, at thirty-two years of age, the youngest—justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia in the commonwealth’s history. This high point was preceded, however, by a life that began in a home broken by poverty, alcoholism, and violence, and the segregated schools and neighborhoods of postwar Norfolk. How this triumph against such tremendous odds came about is no feel-good story or fable but a real-life journey full of poignant stories.

The eloquent memoir is the work of a man who cares deeply about language. In addition to being a social justice pioneer, Judge Thomas is an accomplished poet who has recited his poetry to a Carnegie Hall audience and who here reflects on his twin loves of poetry and the law. As he chronicles his trajectory from the “wrong side of the tracks” in Norfolk to the supreme court bench in Richmond, he takes us from his difficult beginnings to a professional life as a Virginia lawyer, recounts his international travels, and shares his encounters with world leaders such as Chuck Robb and Mikhail Gorbachev. Thomas’s memoir highlights these lofty meetings but also relates with candor the challenges he encountered as he battled the systemic racism that suffuses U.S. society to this day.

PATRICK CHAMOISEAU

Crusoe’s Footprint

“Patrick Chamoiseau is a great sensual writer, in whom thought is always embodied. He revisits the story of this man faced with loneliness for many years on a desert island with strong colors, shapes, scents, noises and sounds, landscapes, sensations, even giving the impression of touch. His Crusoe’s Footprint is a great pantheistic spectacle in the style of a Terence Malick, less mysticism, more magical realism.”—POLITIS (France)

The discovery in Robinson Crusoe of the footprint of a fellow human on an abandoned island is a haunting and iconic moment in world literature. In the hands of Patrick Chamoiseau, one of the most innovative and lauded authors in the French language, this moment of shattered solitude becomes an occasion for Crusoe to reconsider his origins, existence, and humanity and for one of our most acclaimed novelists to craft a powerful meditation on race and history.

Chamoiseau’s novel contrasts two intertwining narratives—the log entries of a slave ship’s captain and the story of a castaway who awakens on a beach and must rebuild his entire world alone. Chamoiseau creates a new perspective on the Crusoe myth, not only injecting the slave trade and Creole history into this previously ahistorical tale but conceiving an intensely original, freeform prose influenced by Creole cadence. This powerful work by a literary master is available in English for the first time in this eloquent and vivid translation.
**Lewis Carroll**  
Formed by Faith

“Until now there has not been an in-depth study of the religious aspects of Lewis Carroll’s life, an important feature of Carroll’s story that has been neglected for far too long. It will be essential reading.” —Edward Wakeling, former chairman of the Lewis Carroll Society, author of Lewis Carroll: The Man and His Circle

For Lewis Carroll, a deacon in the Church of England, faith in Christ and belief in a loving God stood at the core of his being, but little has been written about what the church or faith meant to the celebrated author of the Alice books. With *Lewis Carroll: Formed by Faith*, Charlie Lovett provides the first in-depth study of the religious life of the famous author, whose real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. By examining Dodgson’s religious education and core beliefs, this book shows how a deep Christian faith undergirded and guided every part of his life and work, from his relationships with children to his renowned writings, his work on logic, even his hobbies of photography and theatre-going.

Lovett uncovers new material that sheds light on Dodgson’s father (an important figure in the Anglican Church), as well his habits of preaching and prayer, and his logically constructed theology of the afterlife. The result is a major contribution offering new perspectives on this creator of fantastic fiction and the spiritual bedrock that informed his life and imagination.

Charlie Lovett is a New York Times best-selling author of five novels, including The Enigma Affair and The Bookman’s Tale, in addition to numerous works of Lewis Carroll scholarship.

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**The Peaceful Transfer of Power**  
An Oral History of America’s Presidential Transitions

Ronald Reagan called the peaceful transfer of power from one U.S. president to the next a miracle, and it is. It is also the most delicate and hazardous period in the entire political cycle. Americans learned the stakes in 2020, when President Donald Trump’s refusal to trigger the formal start of the transition process to President-Elect Joe Biden created perhaps the worst crisis for American democracy since the Civil War. Even at the best of times, an incoming administration faces a gargantuan task, as every new president must make more than four thousand political appointments in a short period of time.

Yet the day-to-day process of presidential transitions remains poorly understood, even by government specialists. This is why the Partnership for Public Service’s Center for Presidential Transition created *Transition Lab*, a one-year podcast series that ran through January 2021. The Peaceful Transfer of Power now puts those distinct interviews with scholars, journalists, public servants, and—most important—participants in every transition from Ford–Carter to Trump–Biden into a narrative format that illuminates the long history, complexity, and current best practices associated with this most vital of democratic institutions.

Presidential transitions stand at a critical juncture here and abroad. Highly readable and deeply informative, this book offers every citizen invested in safeguarding our democracy accessible and concentrated insights that will help future transitions run better, faster, and more smoothly.

David Marchick is the former director of the Partnership for Public Service’s Center for Presidential Transition and was the host of its Transition Lab podcast. Alexander Tippett is a former research associate at the Council on Foreign Relations. A. J. Wilson is a former speechwriter for British and American government officials and now works as a collaborating writer.

The Partnership for Public Service is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is building a better government and a stronger democracy.
The Architecture of Suspense
The Built World in the Films of Alfred Hitchcock

The inimitable, haunting films of Alfred Hitchcock took place in settings, both exterior and interior, that deeply impacted our experiences of his most unforgettable works. From the enclosed spaces of Rope and Rear Window to the wide-open expanses of North by Northwest, the physical worlds inhabited by desperate characters are a crucial element in our perception of the Hitchcockian universe. As Christine Madrid French reveals in this original and indispensable book, Hitchcock's relation to the built world was informed by an intense engagement with location and architectural form—in an era marked by modernism's advance—fueled by some of the most creative midcentury designers in film.

Hitchcock saw elements of the built world not just as scenic devices but as interactive areas to frame narrative exchanges. In his films, building forms also serve a sentient purpose—to capture and convey feelings, sensations, and moments that generate an emotive response from the viewer. Visualizing the contemporary built landscape allowed the director to illuminate Americans' everyday experiences as well as their own uncertain relationship with their environment and with each other.

French shares several untold stories, such as the real-life suicide outside the Hotel Empire in Vertigo (which foreshadowed uncannily that film's tragic finale), and takes us to the actual buildings that served as the inspiration for Psycho's infamous Bates Motel. Her analysis of North by Northwest uncovers the Frank Lloyd Wright underpinnings for Robert Boyle's design of the modernist house from the film's celebrated Mount Rushmore sequence and ingeniously establishes the Vandamm House as the prototype of the cinematic trope of the villain's lair. She also shows how the widespread unemployment of the 1930s resulted in a surge of gifted architects transplanting their careers into the film industry. These practitioners created sets that drew from contemporary design schools of thought and referenced real structures, both modern and historic. The Architecture of Suspense is the first book to document how these great architectural minds found expression in Hitchcock's films and how the director used their talents and his own unique vision to create an enduring and evocative cinematic world.
Rethinking Frank Lloyd Wright
History, Reception, Preservation

“Rethinking Frank Lloyd Wright fulfills the editors’ mission of generating fresh interpretations of Wright’s work, with essays by leading Wright scholars and recognized twentieth-century experts. This book will have a wide audience among lay people, professionals in art and architecture, historians, and designers.”—DALE ALLEN GYURE, Lawrence Technological University, author of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Florida Southern College

Among the general public, Frank Lloyd Wright remains the best-known American architect of the twentieth century, and yet he is rarely discussed in academic and professional circles. In Rethinking Frank Lloyd Wright, Neil Levine and Richard Longstreth have assembled a group of eminent scholars to address this most puzzling paradox. In a series of engaging and well-illustrated essays, the contributors reveal the ways in which Wright continues to play an instrumental role in domestic and international spheres, making the case for reevaluating his popular and professional reputations.

Contributors: Barry Bergdoll, Columbia University • Daniel Bluestone, Boston University • Jean-Louis Cohen, New York University • Cammie McAtee, independent scholar • Dietrich Neumann, Brown University • Timothy M. Rohan, University of Massachusetts Amherst • Jack Quinan, University at Buffalo • Alice Thomine-Berrada, Ecole des Beaux-Arts

Best New Poets 2022
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 eighteenth 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.

Contributors: Paula Bohince, editor

Paula Bohince is the author of the poetry collections Swallows and Waves, The Children, and Incident at the Edge of Bayonet Woods. Her poems have appeared in the New Yorker, the New York Review of Books, Granta, Poetry, the Times Literary Supplement, the Irish Times, and Australian Book Review.

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EDITED BY NEIL LEVINE
AND RICHARD LONGSTRETH

EDITED BY PAULA BOHINCE
JEB LIVINGOOD, SERIES EDITOR
Fatima Shaik, a former professor and journalist, is a trustee of PEN America and author of six previous short story collections and young adult novels.

**Economy Hall**

The Hidden History of a Free Black Brotherhood

Selected by Kirkus for “Best of 2021: Our Favorite Nonfiction”

It is impossible to imagine New Orleans, and by extension American history, without the vibrant and singular Creole culture. In the face of an oppressive white establishment, members of the Société d’Économie et d’Assistance Mutuelle built a community and held it together through the era of slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow terrorism. This meticulously detailed history of the society reads like an epic novel.

Skeena Reece is a renowned Canadian First Nations artist whose multidisciplinary practice includes such genres as performance art, photography, and video art. Reece’s work uses humor and critique to take back power in Indigenous communities. Of Cree, Tsimshian, and Gitksan descent, Reece considers issues of cultural heritage, resistance, and the harm of settler colonialism. This volume documents Reece’s solo exhibition Honey and Sweetgrass held at James Madison University in 2021 and features an interview with Reece as well as critical essays on her work.

Barbara Heritage and Ruth-Ellen St. Onge

DISTRIBUTED FOR THE RARE BOOK SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Fatima Shaik, a former professor and journalist, is a trustee of PEN America and author of six previous short story collections and young adult novels.

Kettly Mars, Translated by Nathan H. Dize

I Am Alive (Je suis vivant) is celebrated Haitian author Kettly Mars’s latest novel, telling the story of a bourgeois Caribbean family as it wrestles with issues of mental illness and unconventional sexuality in the wake of the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Mars, herself a survivor of the disaster, has crafted a complex, at times disorienting, but ultimately enthralling and powerfully evocative work that adds to her reputation as one of the leading voices of the francophone world.

Building the Book from the Ancient World to the Present Day

How Manuscript, Printed, and Digital Texts Are Made

Building the Book from the Ancient World to the Present Day offers a carefully curated overview of how books have been produced throughout history and across various regions of the globe. This richly illustrated volume walks readers through the unique collections of the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia to show how the book is made, step by step, from substrate to letterform, from printing to binding, and how technological innovations, such as the invention of paper or printing with metal type, developed in various societies.

**Skeena Reece**

Honey and Sweetgrass

Skeena Reece is a renowned Canadian First Nations artist whose multidisciplinary practice includes such genres as performance art, photography, and video art. Reece’s work uses humor and critique to take back power in Indigenous communities. Of Cree, Tsimshian, and Gitksan descent, Reece considers issues of cultural heritage, resistance, and the harm of settler colonialism. This volume documents Reece’s solo exhibition Honey and Sweetgrass held at James Madison University in 2021 and features an interview with Reece as well as critical essays on her work.

**Beth Hinderliter**

**EDITED BY BETH HINDERLITER**

**FATIMA SHAIK**

**DISTRIBUTED FOR THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION**

**DISTRIBUTED FOR THE DUKE GALLERY AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY**

**CARAF BOOKS: CARIBBEAN AND AFRICAN LITERATURE TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH**
**The Celebrated Elizabeth Smith: Crafting Genius and Transatlantic Fame in the Romantic Era**

Elizabeth Smith gained transnational fame posthumously for her extensive intellectual accomplishments, which encompassed astronomy, botany, history, and poetry. As she navigated her place in the world, Smith made a self-conscious decision to keep her talents hidden from disapproving critics. Her rise to fame began only in 1808, when her posthumous memoir appeared. Although Smith was cast as “exceptional” by her contemporaries and modern scholars alike, in this powerful biography and incisive meditation on genius, Lucia McMahon asks, how many seemingly exceptional women must we uncover in the historical record before we are no longer surprised?

Lucia McMahon is Professor and Chair of History at William Paterson University and the author of *Mere Equals: The Paradox of Educated Women in the Early American Republic*.

**The Permanent Resident: Excavations and Explorations of George Washington’s Life**

The Permanent Resident is the first book to bring the principal archaeological sites tied to Washington together under one cover, revealing what they say individually and collectively about Washington’s life and career and how Americans have continued to invest these places with meaning. The story flows like a biography, moving through the landscape of Washington’s life both chronologically and geographically. Philip Levy guides us through the places where Washington lived and in which Americans have memorialized him, speaking to issues as old as colonial warfare and as contemporary as the current controversies around public monuments.

Philip Levy is Professor of History at the University of South Florida and the author of *George Washington Written on the Land: Nature, Memory, Myth, and Landscape*.
Replanting a Slave Society
The Sugar and Cotton Revolutions in the Lower Mississippi Valley

Although it eventually became a regrettably profitable business for slaveholders and their partners, a successful slave economy in the American South was no foregone conclusion. Bringing the lower Mississippi valley to the foreground of the history of the early republic, Replanting a Slave Society is the first major study to analyze in tandem the sugar and cotton revolutions that took place in the region in the years before and after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. It highlights the far-ranging, at times nation-encompassing, consequences of decisions made by a small elite group of planters and merchants in a remote colonial slave society and their effect on the subsequent course of American history.

Patrick Luck is Assistant Professor of History at Florida Polytechnic University.

The Politics of Corruption
The Election of 1824 and the Making of Presidents in Jacksonian America

The Politics of Corruption examines the U.S. presidential election of 1824 as a critical contest in the nation's political history, full of colorful characters and brimming with unexpected twists. The race of 1824 inaugurated the transition from the sedate, elitist elections of the Jeffersonian era toward the showier yet also more democratized presidential races that came to characterize Jacksonian America. In the end, self-styled political outsider Jackson successfully equated regular politics with corruption yet still lost the contest to Washington's ultimate insider, John Quincy Adams. It was a defeat Jackson would not forget, animating him to fundamentally change the ways American politics were conducted ever after.

David P. Callahan is an independent historian working in New Jersey.

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

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 in old, worn, and out-of-date clothing with hair unkempt, but he could as easily play the polished gentleman in a black suit.

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.

G. S. Wilson is Shannon Senior Historian at the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, Monticello.

Women Waging War in the American Revolution

America’s War for Independence dramatically affected the speed and nature of broader social, cultural, and political changes, including those shaping the place of women in society. Women fought the American Revolution in many ways, in a literal no less than a figurative sense. Whether Loyalist or Patriot, combatant or civilian, Indigenous or immigrant, going willingly into battle or responding when war came to their doorstep, women participated in the conflict in complex and varied ways that reveal the critical distinctions and intersections of race, class, and national allegiance that defined the era.

Holly A. Mayer is Professor Emerita of History at Duquesne University and the author of Belonging to the Army: Camp Followers and Community during the American Revolution.
**The Weaker Sex in War**
**Gender and Nationalism in Civil War Virginia**

In this important and original work, Kristen Brill shows how white women’s wartime experiences shaped Confederate political culture as women functioned as both actors for and symbols of Southern nationalism. Through their performance of patriotic devotion, middle- and planter-class women helped make gender central to the formation of Confederate national identity. A signal contribution to an increasingly rich vein of historiography, *The Weaker Sex in War* provides a definitive take on white women and political culture in the would-be Confederate state.

**ADRIAN BRETTLE**

**Colossal Ambitions**
**Confederate Planning for a Post–Civil War World**

In *Colossal Ambitions*, Adrian Brettle explores how leading Confederate thinkers envisioned their postwar nation—its relationship with the United States, its place in the Americas, and its role in the global order. Brettle draws on a wide range of sources to engage some of the most salient theorists of the Western world in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. An impressive and complex undertaking, *Colossal Ambitions* concludes that while some Confederate commentators saw wartime industrialization as pointing toward a different economic future, most Confederates saw their society as revolving once more around coercive labor, staple crop production, and exports in the war’s wake.

**KRISTEN BRILL**

**The Weaker Sex in War**
**Gender and Nationalism in Civil War Virginia**

**JENNIFER E. STERTZER, DIRECTOR AND EDITOR IN CHIEF**
**EDITED BY BENJAMIN L. HUGGINS**

**The Papers of George Washington**
**Revolutionary War Series**

**Volume 30, 1 January–6 March 1781**

Volume 30 of the Revolutionary War series opens in January 1781 with a mutiny in the Continental army’s Pennsylvania regiments, presenting Gen. George Washington with one of the most formidable crises of the war. Although a negotiated settlement resolved the problem, he feared the implications for discipline in the rest of the army. Washington’s concerns were well founded, as news reached him that the New Jersey troops had followed suit. He sent a detachment of New England troops to put down the rebellion. In the meantime, a coastal storm that damaged British ships offered Washington an opportunity to defeat and capture Benedict Arnold, now in command of British and Loyalist troops in Virginia. The subsequent joint naval and land offensive with the French shifted the main theater of war from New York to the southern states, foreshadowing the coming campaign of Yorktown.

**EDITED BY ARMIN MATTES, DAVID B. MATTEN, J. C. A. STAGG, ANNE MANDEVILLE COLONY, ELLEN D. GOLDLUST, MARY PARKE JOHNSON, AND KATHARINE E. HARBURY**

**The Papers of James Madison**
**Retirement Series**

**Volume 4, 2 March 1826–19 February 1828**

During the period covered in this volume, Madison succeeded Jefferson as rector of the University of Virginia, with much remaining to be done to ensure the newly opened institution’s success. In addition, Madison’s private correspondence remained voluminous. Officials, President John Quincy Adams among them, as well as old friends such as Lafayette kept him abreast of current political events at home and abroad; gentleman historians contacted him for information; office seekers asked for letters of recommendation; and he even received what we today might call fan mail. Many family members, friends, and admirers journeyed to Montpelier, keeping the ex-president and his wife busy entertaining guests. Other aspects of Madison’s life during this era were less pleasant, however: his health started to decline, and his financial situation continued to deteriorate.
The Minutes of the Dartmouth, Massachusetts, Monthly Meeting of Friends: 1699–1785

Volume 1: Men's Minutes, 1699–1762
Volume 2: Men's Minutes, 1762–1785; Women's Minutes, 1699–1782

Since the founding of the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends in 1699, they have collected and preserved their records well into the twentieth century. The earliest manuscripts have been digitized and transcribed and are now published in these two volumes.

Thomas D. Hamm holds the Trueblood Chair in Christian Thought at Earlham College.
In Search of Justice in Thailand’s Deep South
Malay Muslim and Thai Buddhist Women's Narratives

Since 2004, the conflict between Thai Buddhists and Malay Muslims has claimed over 7,500 lives. This is the first collection published in English to give voice to those affected by these profound personal tragedies, demanding justice and peace. The narratives collected here, primarily from women, reveal the fundamental problem of how a minority people can fully belong within a state insistently homogenous.

John Clifford Holt is the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of the Humanities in Religion and Asian Studies at Bowdoin College. Soraya Jamjuree teaches at Prince of Songkla University in Pattani and is a founder of the Civic Women’s Network for Peace in the Southern Border Provinces of Thailand. Hara Shintaro is a researcher and translator of Malay.

Precarious Balance
Sinhala Buddhism and the Forces of Pluralism

Since the third century BCE, when the king of Sri Lanka converted to Buddhism, the island nation has represented a central interest of Buddhist scholarship. The association between its politics and religious life has not always remained harmonious, however. In this valuable book, renowned religious scholar Bardwell Smith elucidates the history of Buddhism in Sri Lanka from the time of one of its earliest rulers through to its present-day strife. The essays collected here shed fresh light on today’s Sri Lanka, connecting historical studies with contemporary issues.


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Limited Access
Transport Metaphors and Realism in the British Novel, 1740–1860

A recurrent trope in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British fiction compares reading to traveling and the pleasures of novels to the joys of a carriage journey. Kyoko Takanashi points to how these narratives also draw attention to the limits of access often experienced in travel, and she demonstrates the ways in which the realist novel, too, is marked by issues of access both symbolic and material.

Kyoko Takanashi is Associate Professor of English at Indiana University South Bend.

Narrative and Its Nonevents
The Unwritten Plots That Shaped Victorian Realism

This book is about what does not happen in the Victorian novel. Through careful examination of the plots of several nineteenth-century classics, Glatt argues for the central role of these “unwritten plots” in Victorian narrative construction. Abandoning the allegorical mode—in which characters are bound by fixed identities to reach a predetermined conclusion—and turning away from classical and historical plots, the realist novel of the Victorian era was designed to simulate the openness and uncertainty of ordinary human experience. We are invested in these stories in part because we cannot be entirely sure how those stories will end. As Glatt demonstrates, the Victorian novel is characterized by a proliferation of possibilities.

Carra Glatt is Lecturer in English Literature and Linguistics at Bar-Ilan University.

Victorian Metafiction

“Metafiction” refers to any novel that draws attention to its own fictional construction, something largely associated with the postmodern era. In this innovative new book Tabitha Sparks identifies a sustained pattern of metafiction in the Victorian novel that illuminates the art and intentions of its female practitioners.

Tabitha Sparks is Associate Professor of English at McGill University, the editor of several books, and the author of The Doctor in the Victorian Novel: Family Practices.
Looking for Other Worlds
Black Feminism and Haitian Fiction

Regine Michelle Jean-Charles explores the “ethical imagination” of three contemporary Haitian authors—Yanick Lahens, Ketty Mars, and Evelyne Trouillot—contending that ethics and aesthetics operate in relation to each other through the writers’ respective novels and that the turn to ethics has proven essential in the twenty-first century. Jean-Charles presents a useful framework for analyzing contemporary literature that brings together Black feminism, literary ethics, and Haitian studies in a groundbreaking way.

Regine Michelle Jean-Charles is Dean’s Professor of Culture and Social Justice and Professor of Africana Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Northeastern University and the author of Conflict Bodies: The Politics of Rape Representation in the Francophone Imaginary.

Melville’s Other Lives
Bodies on Trial in The Piazza Tales

Melville’s Other Lives is the first book-length study on The Piazza Tales—Herman Melville’s only authorized collection of short fiction published in his lifetime—and the first book to explore the rich and varied subject of embodiment in any published collection of Melville’s stories. Christopher Sten provides fresh critical readings of the six stories in Melville’s book based on issues of invalidism or disability, pain, trauma, enslavement, performance, and monsters in relation to systems of cultural value defined by race, class, and gender.

Christopher Sten is Professor Emeritus of English and American Literature at George Washington University and coeditor of “This Mighty Convulsion”: Whitman and Melville Write the Civil War.

Do Not Separate Her from Her Garden
Anne Spencer’s Ecopoetics

Do Not Separate Her from Her Garden demonstrates how Anne Spencer utilized the natural world in innovative ways to express her Black womanhood, feminist politics, spirituality, and singular worldview. Employing ecopoetics as an analytical framework, Carlyn Ena Ferrari recovers Spencer’s archive of ephemeral writings to cut to the core of her artistic ethos. Drawing primarily on unpublished, undated poetry and prose, this book represents a long overdue reassessment of an underappreciated literary figure. Not only does it resituate Spencer in the pantheon of American women of letters, but it uses her environmental credo to analyze works by Alice Walker, Zora Neale Hurston, and Dionne Brand, positioning ecocritical readings as a new site of analysis of Black women’s writings.

Carlyn Ena Ferrari is Assistant Professor of English at Seattle University.

Story Revolutions
Collective Narratives from the Enlightenment to the Digital Age

As recent movements such as #MeToo demonstrate, individual stories, pooled together in large enough numbers, can fuel political movements and bring important issues to mainstream consciousness. In this timely and important study, Helga Lenart-Cheng has uncovered the antecedents of this phenomenon and provided a historical and critical analysis of the seemingly new but in fact deeply rooted tradition. Story Revolutions features a rich variety of case studies, spanning the Enlightenment, the 1930s, and the twenty-first century. Ultimately, this book offers readers a critical perspective on the concept of community itself, with incisive reflections on what it means to use storytelling to build democracy in the twenty-first century.

Helga Lenart-Cheng is Associate Professor at St. Mary’s College of California.
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