The Tory’s Wife
A Woman and Her Family in Revolutionary America

The incredible story of divided loyalties and a remarkable woman in Revolutionary America

“Cynthia Kierner gives us the mesmerizing story of Jane Spurgin, an abandoned wife in the Carolina backcountry who could have appealed for sympathy but instead defied centuries of patriarchal precedent by demanding the ‘common rights of other citizens.’ More broadly, The Tory’s Wife persuades even a skeptic like me that the American Revolution’s influence on nominally free women was positive and powerful.”—WOODY HOLTON, University of South Carolina, author of Liberty Is Sweet: The Hidden History of the American Revolution

The Spurgin family of North Carolina experienced the cataclysm of the American Revolution in the most dramatic ways—and from different sides. This engrossing book tells the story of Jane Weilborn Spurgin, a patriot who welcomed General Nathanael Greene to her home and aided Continental forces while her loyalist husband was fighting for the king as an officer in the Tory militia. By focusing on the wife of a middling backcountry farmer, esteemed historian Cynthia Kierner shows how the Revolution not only toppled long-established political hierarchies but also strained family ties and drew women into the public sphere to claim both citizenship and rights—as Jane Spurgin did with a dramatic series of petitions to the North Carolina state legislature when she fought to reclaim her family’s lost property after the war was over.

While providing readers with stories of battles, horse-stealing, bigamy, and exile that bring the Revolutionary era vividly to life, this book also serves as an invaluable examination of the potentially transformative effects of war and revolution, both personally and politically.
Some Unfinished Chaos
The Lives of F. Scott Fitzgerald

A concise and elegant biography of the elusive artist who named the Jazz Age

“It’s wonderful to see a critic with Mr. Krystal’s gifts tackling a writer as elusive as Fitzgerald. He has done a remarkably good job of casting new light on the writer’s life and work.”—JAMES L. W. WEST III, Pennsylvania State University, author of The Project House: The Romance of F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ginevra King

While so many literary artists of earlier eras fall away, F. Scott Fitzgerald retains a hold on us, both through his work and through his life. There is something inscrutable in him, a fact he recognized himself and which New Yorker writer Arthur Krystal takes head-on in a biography that gives us the life—from a Minnesota upbringing to the most iconic rise and fall in American letters—but leaves the minutiae behind in search of a more penetrating analysis.

The Great Gatsby author was obsessed with measuring himself against an unforgiving panoply of artistic and material standards, resulting in a constantly shifting sense of himself—half triumphant, half shattered. Some Unfinished Chaos delivers, at last, a nuanced portrait—in Krystal’s words, a layering of impressions—of a man who knew the rhythms and passions of his society, and who set it down in his imperishable stories while remaining a mystery even to himself.

For the People, For the Country
Patrick Henry’s Final Political Battle

A dramatic new look at Patrick Henry and the political intrigue at the heart of the Early Republic

“John Ragosta has given us an important and compelling book about a critical man and a critical question: Patrick Henry and the nature of loyalty within a constitutional republic. If American democracy is to long endure, dissent and disagreement must be resolved with the ballot and the law—not with violence and passion. So Henry came to believe, and so must we. Ragosta’s revealing account is a powerful contribution to the literature of the early republic and to the debates of our own time.”—JON MEACHAM, Rogers Chair in the American Presidency, Vanderbilt University

In 1799, at the behest of President George Washington, Patrick Henry came out of retirement to defend the Constitution that he had once opposed and to thwart Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, whom Washington accused of putting party over country and threatening the fragile union. For the People, For the Country tells the remarkable story of how the most eloquent public speaker of the American Revolutionary era and a leading antifederalist during debates over ratification of the Constitution reemerged on the side of the Federalists and once again changed history. Much more than a fire-breathing demagogue, the Patrick Henry we encounter here comes to life as a principled leader of the young nation who believed above all in working with a government elected by the people, advocating for political change in “a constitutional way”—at the ballot box. A gripping narrative, this book will change long-held views of this great Founding Father.

AUGUST
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EDITED BY ANNA JOURNEY
JEB LIVINGOOD, SERIES EDITOR

Best New Poets 2023
50 Poems from Emerging Writers

For nearly two decades, the most trusted anthology of new talent in poetry

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 nineteenth 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 wide-ranging 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.

NOVEMBER
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Anna Journey is the author of the poetry collections The Judas Ear, The Atheist Wore Goat Silk, Vulgar Remedies, and If Birds Gather Your Hair for Nesting, which was selected by Thomas Lux for the National Poetry Series, as well as the essay collection An Arrangement of Skin. She is Associate Professor of English at the University of Southern California.
Louisiana Lens
Photographs from the Historic New Orleans Collection

An invaluable and extensively illustrated history of photography in New Orleans and Louisiana

Louisiana Lens surveys 180 years of photographic encounters with one of America’s most evocative regions, from early daguerreotypes of New Orleans landmarks to haunting post-Civil War landscapes to born-digital photographs documenting the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Author John H. Lawrence traces the development of photographic equipment and technical processes alongside the evolution of New Orleans and Louisiana over nearly two centuries.

Lawrence provides an illuminating narrative for each photograph; whether offering insight into a photograph’s composition or sharing his firsthand knowledge of the photographers themselves, he brings a keen perspective honed by decades of curatorial work. In surveying these selections, Lawrence touches on themes of architecture, music, commerce, race, arts and culture, and the changing landscapes and geographies of the US South.

The author was responsible for building the Historic New Orleans Collection’s photographic offerings during his four decades at the institution. This volume serves as both a capstone of Lawrence’s career and a valuable survey of Louisiana photography.

A Shared Vision
The Macon and Joan Brock Collection of American Art

A generously illustrated look at one of the great collections of American visual art

Richly illustrated and thoroughly researched, this volume showcases one of the most significant collections of American art assembled in the twenty-first century and one that has helped transform the Chrysler Museum into a national leader in the exhibition, study, and appreciation of American art. The Macon and Joan Brock Collection spans nearly one hundred years, from just after the Civil War to the mid-twentieth century. Works by a wide range of artists, from Winslow Homer, Childe Hassam, and John Singer Sargent to Marsden Hartley, Max Weber, and George Bellows, chart a broad history of American art. Less well-known figures such as Mary Fairchild MacMonnies, Helen Corson Hovenden, and Sally Michel bolster the rich depth of the collection and propose new contours to the shape of American art history. Together the works included in the volume and their scholarly commentaries offer a fresh look at one of the most vital and dynamic periods of American art.

Corey Piper is the Brock Curator of American Art at the Chrysler Museum of Art.
Marvin T. Chiles is Assistant Professor of History at Old Dominion University.

The Struggle for Change: Race and the Politics of Reconciliation in Modern Richmond

An urban history of Richmond’s racial politics, from the demise of Jim Crow to the present day

“A Marvin Chiles tells a rich, humane, and powerful story of a city confronting profound change and persistent challenge. He does so with deep research and compelling characters stretching across generations.”—Edward L. Ayers, University of Richmond, winner of the Bancroft Prize

A Black-majority city with a history of the most severe segregation and inequity, Richmond is still grappling with this legacy as it moves into the twenty-first century. Marvin Chiles now offers a unique take on Richmond’s racial politics since the civil rights era by demonstrating that the city’s current racial disparities in economic mobility, housing, and public education actually represent the unintended consequences of Richmond’s racial reconciliation measures. He deftly weaves municipal politics together with grassroots efforts, examining the work and legacies of Richmond’s Black leaders, from Henry Marsh on the city council in the 1960s to Mayor Levar Stoney, to highlight the urban revitalization and public history efforts meant to overcome racial divides after Jim Crow yet which ironically reinforced racial inequality across the city. Compellingly written, this project carries both local and broader regional significance for Richmonders, Virginians, southerners, and all Americans.

The Architecture of Influence: The Myth of Originality in the Twentieth Century

An innovative history of architecture, reinterpreted through the lens of influence, and a critical history of influence, reinterpreted through architecture

“How do we create the new from the old? The Architecture of Influence explores this fundamental question by analyzing a broad swath of twentieth-century architectural works—including some of the best-known examples of the architectural canon, modern and postmodern—through the lens of influence. The book serves as both a critique of the discipline’s long-standing focus on “genius” and a celebration of the creative act of revisioning and reimagining the past. It argues that all works of architecture not only depend on the past but necessarily alter, rewrite, and reposition the traditions and ideas to which they refer. Organized into seven chapters—Replicas, Copies, Compilations, Generalizations, Revivals, Emulations, and Self-Repetitions—the book refines influence as an active process through which the past is defined, recalled, and subsequently redefined within twentieth-century architecture.

Amanda Reeser Lawrence, Associate Professor of Architecture at Northeastern University, is the author of James Stirling: Revisionary Modernist and coeditor of Terms of Appropriation: Modern Architecture and Global Exchange.
Bedazzled Saints
Catacomb Relics in Early Modern Bavaria

Richly bejeweled full-body relics and their role in the Catholic Reformation

“Persuasive, clear, and interdisciplinary. This book will appeal both to specialists and to a wider audience interested in religion, Catholicism broadly, and early modern Germany.”—MARC R. FORSTER, Connecticut College, author of Catholic Germany from the Reformation to the Enlightenment

The defense of the cult of saints and relics was an essential element of the Catholic Counter-Reformation in Europe. Facing attacks from Protestant denominations of all kinds, the Roman church redoubled its efforts to promote the veneration of its holy figures and to house their earthly remains in dramatic style. Bedazzled Saints chronicles the transfer, distribution, and display of nearly four hundred “holy bodies” of ancient Christian martyrs—some of the church’s most prestigious relics—sent from the Roman catacombs to the Electorate of Bavaria between 1590 and 1803. Local communities, both religious and secular, broke with medieval tradition and spent immense amounts of time and money to fuse incomplete skeletons into lavishly decorated whole-body saints.

By examining these ornamented skeletons—painstakingly enhanced with jewels and fine clothing and still on display atop church altars to this day—Noria Litaker elucidates the interplay between local religious practice and universal church doctrine, shedding new light on the negotiated nature of sanctity in early modern Catholicism. In so doing, she challenges the dominant narrative of the Bavarian Catholic Reformation as a top-down process and provides new insights into the role relics and their innovative presentation played in the development of Catholic identity in early modern German lands.

On the Perpetual Strangeness of the Bible

An illustrious scholar investigates the unexpectedly odd qualities of scripture

“A remarkable work of beauty, literary finesse, theological insight, and rich wisdom. I will keep thinking about this book for a long time to come.”—CHARLES A. GILLESPIE, Sacred Heart University

The language of the Bible can be beautiful but profoundly elusive, possessing a strangeness that only deepens the committed reader’s sense of its impenetrability. Based on the 2022 Richard E. Myers lectures given by renowned literary scholar Michael Edwards—the first Englishman ever elected to the Académie française—this book offers a close reading of the Bible itself, directing attention to the text rather than to commentaries or to ostensible lessons to be discovered by paraphrase.

Edwards explores the apparently simple instruction in Proverbs to eat honey and reveals unexpected complexity. He sounds the unfathomable depths of St. Paul’s revelation that the Christian has “died” and yet now lives in Christ—and goes on to ask what it would mean to take the awe-inspiring expression “the kingdom of heaven is at hand” seriously. Three final meditations complete the movement by scrutinizing the visionary world of Revelation: the riddle of the work’s composition, of its images, and of the enigmatic time in which its events occur.
European Friends of the American Revolution

Europe’s crucial contribution to the achievement of American independence

“An amazing, well-written book, calculated to appeal to a wide audience while making an important and timely intervention.”—HOLLY A. MAYER, Duquesne University, editor of Women Waging War in the American Revolution

American independence would not have been achieved without diplomatic, financial, and military support from Europe. And without recognition from powerful European nations, the young country would never have assumed an independent status “amongst the powers of the earth.” This collection of essays not only offers new glimpses into the ways in which various European powers and actors enabled American patriots to fight and win the war, it also highlights the American Revolution’s short- and long-term impact on the Atlantic world.

Because of the strength of European support, Great Britain found itself diplomatically isolated, without an ally in a war that had become a global conflict, and with a navy outnumbered by the combined fleets of America’s friends.

With the final words of the Declaration of Independence, the signatories famously pledged to one another their lives, their fortunes, and their “sacred Honor.” But what about those who made the opposite choice? By looking through the analytical lens of honor culture, Dishonored Americans offers an innovative assessment of the experience of Americans who made the fateful decision to remain loyal to the British Crown during and after the Revolution.

Loyalists, as Timothy Compeau explains, suffered a “political death” at the hands of American Patriots. A term drawn from eighteenth-century sources, political death encompassed the legal punishments and ritualized dishonors Patriots used to defeat Loyalist public figures and discredit their counter-revolutionary vision for America. By highlighting this dynamic, Compeau makes a significant intervention in the long-standing debate over the social and cultural factors that motivated colonial Americans to choose sides in the conflict, narrating in compelling detail the severe consequences for once-respected gentlemen who were stripped of their rights, privileges, and power in Revolutionary America.

Dishonored Americans
The Political Death of Loyalists in Revolutionary America

The crucial role of honor culture in the conflict between Patriots and Loyalists in the Revolutionary era

“An amazing, well-written book, calculated to appeal to a wide audience while making an important and timely intervention.”—HOLLY A. MAYER, Duquesne University, editor of Women Waging War in the American Revolution

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**The American Liberty Pole**

Popular Politics and the Struggle for Democracy in the Early Republic

*What a peculiar cultural phenomenon can teach us about the stakes of the American Revolution and the development of our democracy*

“Lurie vividly depicts the combative ceremonies of the liberty pole, as both a lived experience and an arena to contest the meaning of liberty and who counts as an American citizen, demonstrating that protest has played a critical role in the American story from the beginning.”—LINDSAY M. CHERVINSKY, author of *The Cabinet: George Washington and the Creation of an American Institution*

During the American Revolution and into the early republic, Americans fought with one another over the kinds of political expression and activity that independence legitimized. Liberty poles—tall wooden poles bearing political flags and signs—were a central fixture of the popular debates of the late eighteenth century. Revolutionary patriots had raised liberty poles to symbolize their resistance to British rule. In response, redcoats often tore them down, sparking conflicts with patriot pole-raisers.

In the 1790s, grassroots Republicans revived the practice of raising liberty poles, casting the Washington and Adams administrations as monarchists and tyrants. Echoing the British response, Federalist supporters of the government destroyed the poles, leading to vicious confrontations between the two sides in person, in print, and at the ballot box. This elegantly written book is the first comprehensive study of this revealing phenomenon, highlighting the influence of ordinary citizens on the development of American political culture. Shira Lurie demonstrates how, in raising and destroying liberty poles, Americans put into practice the types of popular participation they envisioned in the new republic.

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**To Organize the Sovereign People**

Political Mobilization in Revolutionary Pennsylvania

*An in-depth look at Pennsylvanians’ efforts to establish government “by the people” after 1776*

“To Organize the Sovereign People: Political Mobilization in Revolutionary Pennsylvania” is a deep dive into the efforts of Pennsylvanians to establish government “by the people” after 1776. Author David W. Houpt explores the struggle to define self-government in the critical years following the Declaration of Independence, when Americans throughout the country looked to the Keystone State of Pennsylvania for guidance on political mobilization and the best ways to create a stable arrangement that could balance liberty with order.

In 1776 radicals mobilized the people to overthrow the Colonial Assembly and adopt a new constitution, one that asserted average citizens’ rights to exercise their sovereignty directly not only through elections but also through town meeting, petitions, speeches, parades, and even political violence. Although highly democratic, this system proved unwieldy and chaotic. Houpt finds that over the course of the 1780s, a relatively small group of middling and elite Pennsylvanians learned to harness these various forms of “popular” mobilization to establish themselves as the legitimate spokesmen of the entire citizenry. In examining this process, he provides a granular account of how the meaning of democracy changed, solidifying around party politics and elections, and how a small group of white men succeeded in setting the framework for what self-government means in the United States to this day.
The Presidency and the American State
Leadership and Decision Making in the Adams, Grant, and Taft Administrations

The nineteenth-century origins of a vigorous executive branch

“Rockwell reveals a radically novel view of the American presidency. Through a careful and masterfully written account of the political lives and presidencies of John Quincy Adams, Ulysses S. Grant, and William Howard Taft, Rockwell demonstrates the power of the American state through presidential action far earlier than ‘sleepy’ accounts of the administrative state have argued. The result is a dynamic, innovative, and truly satisfying revisitation of American history itself.” —Saladin M. Ambar, Rutgers University, author of How Governors Built the Modern American Presidency

Although many associate Franklin D. Roosevelt with the inauguration of the robust, dominant American presidency, the roots of his executive leadership style go much deeper. Examining the presidencies of John Quincy Adams, Ulysses S. Grant, and William Howard Taft, Stephen Rockwell traces emerging connections between presidential action and a robust state over the course of the nineteenth century and the Progressive Era.

By analyzing these three undervalued presidents’ savvy deployment of state authority and their use of administrative leadership, legislative initiatives, direct executive action, and public communication, Rockwell makes a compelling case that the nineteenth-century presidency was significantly more developed and interventionist than previously thought. As he shows for a significant number of policy arenas, the actions of Adams, Grant, and Taft touched the lives of millions of Americans and laid the foundations of what would become the American century.
EILEEN BRAMAN

Constitutional Powers and Politics
How Citizens Think about Authority and Institutional Change

How our citizenry view the risks and rewards of constitutional change

“A well-written, well-researched, and timely book that takes an interdisciplinary approach to addressing questions core to American democracy. Braman uses an impressive array of nationally representative survey experiments and paints a nuanced picture of how the public views institutional change and legitimacy. This is a one-of-a-kind book in the field of political science.”—PAUL M. COLLINS JR., University of Massachusetts Amherst, author of Friends of the Supreme Court: Interest Groups and Judicial Decision Making

Constitutional Powers and Politics
How Citizens Think about Authority and Institutional Change

The relationship between public opinion and the actions of institutions such as the Supreme Court has come under increased scrutiny in recent years. In this timely book, Eileen Braman explores how American citizens think about government across all three branches, applying a rigorous political scientific methodology to explore why citizens may support potentially risky changes to our governing system.

As Braman highlights, Americans value institutions that they perceive as delivering personal and societal gains, and citizens who see these institutions as delivering potential losses are more supportive of fundamental constitutional change. In the face of growing resentment of government and recurring warnings of constitutional crisis, Braman offers a hopeful note: her findings suggest that politicians can channel discontent toward meaningful reform and the healthy evolution of our democratic system.

Constitutionalism and Democracy
PAMELA C. CORLEY, AMY STEIGERWALT, AND ARTEMUS WARD

When Dissents Matter
Judicial Dialogue through US Supreme Court Opinions

The first comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of Supreme Court dissents

“This is the first effort to systematically investigate the question of the impact of dissent. A substantial contribution to the understanding of the field of law and judicial process.”—NANCY MAVETTY, Tulane University, author of Queen’s Court: Judicial Power in the Rehnquist Era

The ability of US Supreme Court justices to dissent from the majority, to formally register and explain their belief that a case has been wrongly decided, represents a time-honored tradition of perhaps the most august American institution. Yet the impact of these dissents, which allow justices to engage in a dialogue over law and policy, has seldom, if ever, been the focus of dedicated study. Analyzing the influence of dissents on Supreme Court majority opinions, this book presents the first comprehensive study of the effects of dissenting opinions and illumines which types of dissents successfully influence legal and policy debates, which ones fail to make a difference, and why.

Drawing on the private papers of the justices and original data, this book demonstrates that court majorities engage with dissents posing a particular threat to their opinions, and that they can be persuaded by thoughtful and careful dissenting arguments.
The Irish and the Imagination of Race
White Supremacy across the Atlantic in the Nineteenth Century

A new account of the comparative racialization of Blackness and Irishness in the mid-nineteenth century

“An urgently needed and transformative intervention. The stakes of this text not only are aesthetic but reveal the ways in which form and genre are key to understanding much larger political formations and forces. By the end of this rigorously argued book, the racial politics of Irish nationalism cannot be understood in the same way.”—AMY E. MARTIN, Mount Holyoke College, author of Alternations: Nationalisms, Terror, and the State in Nineteenth-Century Britain and Ireland

This book analyzes the role of Irishness in nineteenth-century constructions of race and racialization, both in the British Isles and in the United States. Focusing on the years immediately preceding the American Civil War, Patrick O’Malley interrogates the bardic verse epic, the gothic tale, the stage melodrama, and the political polemic to ask how many mid-nineteenth-century Irish nationalist writers with liberationist politics declined to oppose race-based chattel enslavement in the United States and the structures of white supremacy that underpinned and ultimately outlived it. Many of the writers whose work O’Malley examines drew specifically upon the image of Black suffering to generate support for their arguments for Irish political enfranchisement; yet in doing so, they frequently misrepresented the fundamental differences between Irish and Black experience under the regimes of white supremacy, which has had profound consequences.

jakson

Patrick R. O’Malley is Professor of English at Georgetown University and the author of Liffey and Lethe: Paramnesiac History in Nineteenth-Century Anglo-Ireland.

Reconstruction beyond 150
Reassessing the New Birth of Freedom

At Reconstruction’s sesquicentennial, a new anthology reflecting the best scholarship

“This necessary volume, which features new scholarship reflective of the current trends and directions in Reconstruction studies, encourages new questions and fills a necessary void. It is accessible and comprehensive. All of the essays are fine contributions and work well together.”—HILARY GREEN, Davidson College

No period of United States history is more important and still less understood than Reconstruction. Now, at the sesquicentennial of the Reconstruction era, Vernon Burton and Brent Morris bring together the best new scholarship on the critical years after the Civil War and before the onset of Jim Crow, synthesizing social, political, economic, and cultural approaches to understanding this crucial period.

Reconstruction was the most progressive period in United States history. Although marred by frequent violence and tragedy, it was a revolutionary era that offered hope, opportunity, and against all odds, a new birth of freedom for all Americans. Even though many of the gains of Reconstruction were rolled back and replaced with a repressive social and legal regime for African Americans, the radical spark was never fully extinguished. Its spirit fanned back into flame with the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, and its ramifications remain palpable to this day.

Orville Vernon Burton is the Judge Matthew J. Perry Distinguished Chair of History at Clemson University and the author of The Age of Lincoln.

Joseph Addison
An Intellectual Biography

A reexamination of the life and legacy of one of the most influential figures in English literary and cultural history

“In informative and entertaining read that accomplishes a valuable act of recapitulation. The performance studies and historicist angles that Poston takes are impressive. This book does work that other studies of Addison simply do not.”—

JASON SHAFFER, US Naval Academy, author of Performing Patriotism: National Identity in the Colonial and Revolutionary American Theater

The name Joseph Addison was once synonymous with the finest of English prose. Eminent writers from Voltaire to Lord Macaulay to John Steinbeck considered him a consummate master to be studied and emulated. According to Benjamin Franklin, Addison’s writings “contributed more to the improvement of the minds of the British nation, and polishing their manner, than those of any other English pen whatever.” While his influence lives on in the sound and style of English today, the fame of this literary role model has faded from popular awareness. The Addisonian spirit, which ushered in an exceptional era of domestic peace in Britain and provided inspiration for the French and American Revolutions, coded many of the constitutional, political, and social agreements we continue to live with today. This book, the first comprehensive monograph of Addison in half a century, considers Addison’s contribution through an in-depth exploration of his writings, political work, social life, and theatrical stagings.

DECEMBER
344 pages
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Restoration Drama and
the Idea of Literature

How the Interregnum ban on stage performance in England changed the way playwrights conceived their work

“Mannheimer’s interpretive framework grows organically out of the drama itself, and the critical and historical contexts that she gracefully weaves together make this a most engaging and beautifully written book.”—

MARCIE FRANK, Concordia University, author of The Novel Stage: Narrative Form from the Restoration to Jane Austen

From 1642 to 1660, live theater was banned in England. The market for printed books, however—including plays—flourished. How did this period, when plays could be read but not performed, affect the way drama was written thereafter? As Katherine Mannheimer demonstrates, the plays of the following decades exhibited a distinct self-consciousness of drama’s status as a singular art form that straddled both page and stage.

Scholars have commented on how the ban on live performance changed the way consumers read plays, but no previous book has addressed how this upheaval changed the way dramatists wrote them. In Restoration Drama and the Idea of Literature, Mannheimer argues that Restoration playwrights recognized and exploited the tension between print and performance inherent to all drama. By repeatedly and systematically manipulating this tension, these authors’ works sought to court the reader while at the same time also challenging emergent concepts of “literature” that privileged textuality and print culture over the performing body and the live voice.

DECEMBER
312 pages
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KATHERINE MANNHEIMER

Dan Poston is Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Tübingen.

T H E
Way of the World,
A
C O M E D Y.

A R E P E R T O RY
A T H E A T R E
IN LINCOLN’S-INN-FIELDS,
B Y
H is M ajesty’s S ervants.

Written by Mr. John Squires. A Comedy. 4to. 1745.

ELLEN MALENAS LEDOUX

Laboring Mothers
Reproducing Women and Work in the Eighteenth Century

Tracing the historical origins of the social stigma against working mothers

Motherhood inherently involves labor. The seemingly perennial notion that paid work outside the home and motherhood are incompatible, however, grows out of specific cultural conditions established in Britain and its colonies during the long eighteenth century. With Laboring Mothers, Ellen Malenas Ledoux synthesizes and expands on two feminist dialogues to deliver an innovative transatlantic cultural history of working motherhood. Addressing both actual historical women and fabricated representations of a type, Ledoux demonstrates how contingent ideas about the public sphere and maternity functioned together to create systems of power and privilege among working mothers.

Popular culture has long thrown doubt on the idea that women can be both productive and reproductive at the same time. Although the critical task of raising and providing for a family should, in theory, foster solidarity, this has not historically proven the case.

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EWAN JONES

The Turn of Rhythm
How Victorian Poetry Shaped a New Concept

The creation of the concept of rhythm and its emergence in Victorian literature

Incredibly, until the cusp of the nineteenth century, the word rhythm was not widely used. It likewise had no cultural connotations. This book traces the complex and overlooked way in which anglophone culture “got rhythm,” concentrating on the pivotal role that poetry played in that narrative.

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EDWARD UPTON

Desire and the Ascetic Ideal

Buddhism and Hinduism in the Works of T. S. Eliot

A long-overdue exploration of the influence of Eastern religion and thought on the work of T. S. Eliot

“Desire and the Ascetic Ideal is a valuable book, rich in insight and deeply knowledgeable about its subject. Upton has a smart, readable, and effective prose style. There is no book in the last thirty years that has made such an important contribution to our understanding of Eliot and ancient Indian religious thought.”—JAHAN RAMAZANI, University of Virginia, author of Poetry in a Global Age

Edward Upton is Associate Professor of Humanities at Christ College, Valparaiso University.

OCTOBER

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STUDIES IN RELIGION AND CULTURE

MILES P. GRIER

Inkface

Othello and White Authority in the Era of Atlantic Slavery

What Othello tells us about white racial authority and fantasies of Blackness

“Inkface is poised to make significant contributions to the scholarly literatures on racialization in early modern British literary and performance culture and its legacies in North America. The critical, intellectual, and ideological aims of Inkface are ambitious, urgent, and generative. This book has changed so much of what I thought I knew about Othello—and all for the better!”—DOUGLAS A. JONES JR., Duke University, author of The Captive Stage: Performance and the Proslavery Imagination of the Antebellum North

In Inkface, Miles P. Grier traces productions of Shakespeare’s Othello from seventeenth-century London to the Metropolitan Opera in twentieth-century New York. Grier shows how the painted stage Moor and the wife whom he theatrically stains became necessary types, reduced to objects of interpretation for a presumed white male audience. In an era of booming print production, popular urban theater, and increasing rates of literacy, the metaphor of Black skin as a readable, transferable ink became essential to a fraternity of literate white men who, by treating an elastic category of marked people as reading material, were able to assert authority over interpretation and, by extension, over the state, the family, and commerce. Inkface examines that fraternity’s reading of the world as well as the ways in which those excluded attempted to counteract it.

Miles P. Grier is Associate Professor of English at Queens College, City University of New York.

NOVEMBER

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WRITING THE EARLY AMERICAS
CHARLIE D. HANKIN

Break and Flow
Hip Hop Poetics in the Americas

The world of Latin American hip hop, from creation to reception

“Break and Flow is the product of great learning and greater passion. Hankin’s book exercises close analysis (by eye and by ear), critical theory, and a keen historical sensibility to produce a work of scholarship that explores three underexplored sites of hip hop artistry.”—ADAM BRADLEY, UCLA, author of Book of Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip Hop

Hip hop is a global form of creative expression. In Cuba, Brazil, and Haiti, rappers refuse the boundaries of hip hop’s US genesis, claiming the art form as a means to empower themselves and their communities in the face of postcolonial racial and class violence. Despite the geographic and linguistic borders that separate these artists, Charlie Hankin finds in their music and lyrics a common understanding of hip hop’s capacity to intervene in the public sphere and a shared poetics of neighborhood, nation, and transatlantic yearnings. Situated at the critical intersection of sound studies and Afro-diasporic poetics, Break and Flow draws on years of ethnographic fieldwork and collaboration, as well as an archive of hundreds of songs by more than sixty hip hop artists. Hankin illuminates how new media is used to produce and distribute knowledge in the Global South, refining our understanding of poetry and popular music at the turn of the millennium.

MARY CATON LINGOLD

African Musicians in the Atlantic World
Legacies of Sound and Slavery

Tracing the circulation of African music to American plantations

“A rich, well-written, and well-researched book on a novel and important topic. African Musicians in the Atlantic World will make a major contribution to multiple fields, including music history, Atlantic studies, and colonial Caribbean history and literature, as well as studies of transatlantic slavery, the African diaspora, and Black culture in the Americas. It is full of fascinating archival discoveries and insights.”—LISA VOIGT, The Ohio State University

Music, that fundamental form of human expression, is one of the most powerful cultural continuities fostered by enslaved Africans and their descendants throughout the Americas. The roots of so much of the music beloved around the world today are drawn directly from the men and women carried across the Atlantic in chains, from the west coast of Africa to the shores of the so-called New World. This important new book bridges African diaspora studies, music studies, and transatlantic and colonial American literature to trace the lineage of African and African diasporic musical life in the early modern period.

Mary Caton Lingold meticulously analyzes surviving sources, especially European travelogues, to recover the lives of African performers, the sounds they created, and the meaning their musical creations held in Africa and later for enslaved communities in the Caribbean and throughout the plantation Americas. The book provides a rich history of early African sound and a revelatory analysis of the many ways that music shaped enslavement and colonization in the Americas.
**Difficult Reading**

**JASON R. MARLEY**

_Frustration and Form in Anglophone Caribbean Fiction_

Formal experimentation as a spur for communal resistance in Caribbean writing

“Difficult Reading promises to enrich critical Caribbean studies with nuanced, original readings of texts and authors often considered too difficult for readers and critics alike to make sense of. Its enduring legacy will be in suggesting ways that such opacity might be productively read not as an appropriation of modernist techniques but as a literary aesthetic that arises from the region’s experience of colonization.” —NJELLE W. HAMILTON, University of Virginia, author of *Phonographic Memories: Popular Music and the Contemporary Caribbean Novel*

Difficult Reading offers a new approach to formal experimentation in Caribbean literature. In this insightful study, Jason Marley demonstrates how the aggressive, antagonistic elements common to the mid-twentieth-century Caribbean novel foster emotional responses that spark new forms of communal resistance against colonial power.

Marley illustrates how experimental Caribbean writers repeatedly implicate their readers in colonial domination in ways that are intended to unsettle and discomfort. In works such as Denis Williams’s *The Third Temptation*, Wilson Harris’s *The Secret Ladder*, and Vera Bell’s overlooked prose poem *Ogog*, acts of colonial atrocity—such as the eradication of Indigenous populations in Guyana, the construction of the Panama Canal, or the disenfranchisement of Afro-Jamaican communities—become mired in aesthetic obfuscation, forcing the reader to confront and rethink their own relationship to these events. In this way, new literary forms engender new forms of insight and outrage, fostering a newly inspired relation to resistance.

**The Literatures of Spanish America and Brazil**

**EARL E. FITZ**

_From Their Origins through the Nineteenth Century_

An innovative appraisal of Spanish and Portuguese literature of the Americas

“This book is ‘old-fashioned’ yet visionary. Old-fashioned because it is imperious to neoliberal university trends within 2000s hemispheric studies. Cutting-edge because there is something truly astonishing about Fitz’s four-decade-long commitment to the humanities and to literature as a comparative and multilingual field of study. A major work from an inter-Americanist pioneer.” —ANTONIO BARENECHEA, University of Mary Washington, author of *America Unbound: Encyclopedic Literature and Hemispheric Studies*

In this survey of Central and South American literature, Earl E. Fitz provides the first book in English to analyze the Portuguese- and Spanish-language American canons in conjunction, uncovering valuable insights about both. Fitz works by comparisons and contrasts: the political and cultural situation at the turn of the fifteenth century in Spain and Portugal; the indigenous American cultures encountered by the Spanish and Portuguese and their legacy of influence; the documented discoveries of Colón and Caminha; the colonial poetry of Mexico’s Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and Brazil’s Gregório de Matos; culminating in a meticulous evaluation of the poetry of Nicaragua’s Rubén Darío and the prose fiction of Brazil’s Machado de Assis. Fitz, an award-winning scholar of comparative literature, contends that at the end of the nineteenth century, Latin America produced two great literary revolutions, both unique in the Western hemisphere, and best understood together.
Cli-Fi and Class

Socioeconomic Justice in Contemporary American Climate Fiction

What does cli-fi have to tell us about economic inequality?

“Is there a perceptible essay echo, can we only address the challenges of the Anthropocene and of climate justice if we include an eco-poverty lens. This collection helps to revamp the cultural debate by underscoring the fact and slow violence of structural poverty as well as catastrophic weather. A timely, original, and valuable contribution.”—Ben de Bruyn, UCLouvain, author of The Novel and the Multispecies Soundscape

Since its emergence in the late twentieth century, climate fiction—or cli-fi—has concerned itself as much with economic injustice and popular revolt as with rising seas and soaring temperatures. Indeed, with its insistence on redressing social disparities, cli-fi might reasonably be classified as a form of protest literature. As environmental crises escalate and inequality intensifies, literary writers and scholars alike have increasingly scrutinized the dual exploitations of the earth’s ecosystems and the socioeconomically disadvantaged.

Cli-Fi and Class focuses on the representation of class dynamics in climate-change narratives. With fifteen essays on the intersection of the economic and the ecological—addressing works ranging from the novels of Joseph Conrad, Cormac McCarthy, and Octavia Butler to the film Black Panther and the Broadway musical Hadestown—this collection unpacks the complex ways economic exploitation impacts planetary well-being, and the ways climatic change shapes those inequities in turn.

UNDER THE SIGN OF NATURE: EXPLORATIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES

JAMES PERRIN WARREN

Thoreau’s Botany

Thinking and Writing with Plants

The science behind Thoreau’s writings on nature and botany

“Offers a valuable portrayal of Thoreau’s gradual transition into serious botanical research and his efforts to develop a comprehensive understanding and treatment of plants as our true companions in nature and its life. Warren’s extensive close reading of the essay ‘Autumnal Tints’ represents a high point, and the author’s disquisition on Walden’s Sand Foliage passage is particularly outstanding.”—David M. Robinson, Oregon State University, author of Natural Life: Thoreau’s Worldly Transcendentalism

Thoreau’s last years have been the subject of debate for decades, but only recently have scholars and critics begun to appreciate the posthumous publications, unfinished manuscripts, and Journal entries that occupied the writer after Walden (1854). Until now, no critical reader has delved deeply enough into botany to see how Thoreau’s plant studies impact his thinking and writing. Thoreau’s Botany moves beyond general literary appreciation for the botanical works to apply Thoreau’s extensive studies of botany—from 1850 to his death in 1862—to readings of his published and unpublished works in fresh, interdisciplinary ways. Bringing together critical plant studies, ecocriticism, and environmental humanities, James Perrin Warren argues that Thoreau’s botanical excursions establish a meeting ground of science and the humanities that is only now ready to be recognized by readers of American literature and environmental literature.

UNDER THE SIGN OF NATURE: EXPLORATIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES

Debra J. Rosenthal is Professor of English at John Carroll University and the author of Performatively Speaking: Speech and Action in Antebellum American Literature. Jason de Lara Molesky is a postdoctoral fellow at the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University.

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Huntland
The Historic Virginia Country House, the Property, and Its Owners

A generously illustrated history of the great Virginia home and estate

This beautifully illustrated volume tells the story of Huntland, the historic estate in Middleburg, Virginia, beginning in the 1830s, when master builder William Benton created the original house, and covering the state of the house and grounds—and its owners—into the third decade of the twenty-first century.

It is a story full of intriguing and colorful characters, beginning with the self-made, multi-talented Benton and his children. The story focuses on the mercurial Gilded Age millionaire Joseph B. Thomas, who turned Huntland into one of the nation’s premier fox-hunting facilities in 1913; the Brown Brothers, George and Herman of Houston, who ran the giant construction company Brown & Root and purchased Huntland in the 1950s; and the accomplished polymath Betsee Parker, who restored the house, kennel, and stable to their nineteen-teens splendor, beginning in 2010, when she purchased the property. This historic preservation story has more than a few twists and turns, as well as a happy ending for this great Virginia home.

1 2 3 University Reflections on the First Fifty Years of George Mason University

A brief illustrated history of one of the nation’s most ascendant universities

From its beginnings as a small University of Virginia branch campus on Route 123 in Northern Virginia to becoming the largest public university in Virginia and the youngest R1 research institution in the country, the rise of George Mason University in both growth and achievement in such a short period is unprecedented. 1 2 3 University draws on the archives in the University Libraries and its online history of Mason project to describe the twists, turns, and innovations along the path to George Mason’s fiftieth anniversary, relating the compelling story of a university that is “all together different.”

Marc Leepson is a journalist and historian. He is the author of nine books, including Saving Monticello: The Levy Family’s Epic Quest to Rescue the House That Jefferson Built as well as biographies of the marquis de Lafayette and Francis Scott Key.

Arthur Andrew Rouner is Director of Mason Publishing and the George Mason University Press in the University Libraries.
Empiricist Devotions
Science, Religion, and Poetry in Early Eighteenth-Century England

Winner of the Walker Cowen Memorial Prize

"Advances an original and important argument, with broad implications for students of this period working in a number of disciplines... Smith argues that Boyle's devotional reflections on the natural world exemplified a pervasively influential form of 'meditative empiricism,' and this claim in turn provides the basis for a series of stimulating new readings of natural philosophy, political economy, social contract theory, and georgic poetry from the Restoration to the 1730s."—MODERN PHILOLOGY

Courtney Weiss Smith is Associate Professor of English at Wesleyan University and the coeditor, with Kate Parker, of Eighteenth-Century Poetry and the Rise of the Novel Reconsidered.

The Poetic Justice
A Memoir

"A remarkable account of a remarkable life."—RISA GOLUBOFF, Dean of the University of Virginia School of Law

This eloquent memoir is the work of a man who cares deeply about language. In addition to being the first Black—and, at thirty-two years of age, the youngest—justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Judge Thomas is an accomplished poet who has recited his poetry to a Carnegie Hall audience. As he chronicles his trajectory from the "wrong side of the tracks" in segregated Norfolk to the supreme court bench in Richmond, he takes us on a real-life journey full of poignant stories and relates with candor the challenges he encountered as he battled the systemic racism that suffuses US society to this day.

John Charles Thomas, a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia and published poet, is a retired partner in the law firm of Hunton Andrews Kurth.

The Papers of George Washington
Revolutionary War Series
Volume 32, 6 May–4 July 1781

In May 1781, talks with Lieutenant General Rochambeau enlivened Gen. George Washington's spirits with prospects of active operations against British forces holding New York City. Having convinced the French that New York City should be their objective unless developments were to shift the emphasis southward, Washington resumed appeals for recruits and supplies as American troops camped along the lower Hudson River awaited the arrival of Rochambeau's expeditionary force from Rhode Island. Puzzling news came from Major General Lafayette in Virginia, however, where the British under Lt. Gen. Charles Cornwallis had withdrawn toward the coast after having driven far into the northwestern uplands. What Washington and Lafayette did not know was that captured mail had alerted British Gen. Henry Clinton to allied intentions, and Cornwallis was taking a position to reinforce the British troops in New York City. With French troops having joined his army, Washington attempted a coordinated attack on British fortifications guarding northern Manhattan. Although the maneuver fizzled, it allowed a junction of the allied armies closer to New York City than originally planned. Politics in Virginia and domestic concerns back home also demanded Washington's attention during this time, as Martha Washington fell ill and returned home to Mount Vernon.
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