

1963  2023

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA PRESS

*From the Commonwealth, For the World
Sixty Years of Publishing Revolutionary Ideas*

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

“I’m grateful to the talented leaders and editors at the University of Virginia Press, past and present. With a focus on the humanities and social sciences, including particular strengths in American history, African American studies, southern studies, architecture, and literature, the press produces vibrant, thoughtful scholarship that is a tremendous resource for our UVA community, for Virginia, and for academia.

The past sixty years have brought changes and challenges, but UVA Press has met the moment admirably and without losing sight of its central mission to enlighten and inform. I congratulate the press on this milestone, and I look forward to what’s to come.”

—JAMES E. RYAN

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



I AM DELIGHTED to write you on the sixtieth anniversary of the University of Virginia Press. The first book to carry the press's imprint was *The Journal of Major George Washington*, launching a defining strength of the press in early American history. In the summer of 1995, it became the first university press in the country to publish a book electronically online: the illustrated hypertext version of *Afro-American Sources in Virginia*. Today, the press publishes more than seventy new books annually and hosts a digital imprint of thirty-four editions, having established itself as a leading publisher in American history and politics, African American studies, architectural history, literary studies and literature in translation, as well as religious studies. The press also fulfills a public service by publishing general interest books of import about our state and region. From its very first publication it has dutifully executed its earliest stated charge to “support the academic mission of the University by publishing scholarship in a variety of print and digital formats that contributes to the progress of research and learning, as well as works by scholars aimed at bringing the findings of a discipline to the well-educated reading public.”

Over sixty years, UVA Press has sparked, responded to, and informed crucial public debates. It has published literature that has revealed us to ourselves and inspired personal growth. It has brought field-changing scholarship into print. It has preserved and recovered history that continually defines and redefines us as Virginians, as Americans, and as citizens of the world. I am humbled and inspired to be part of that sixty-year legacy, and I invite you to become part of it too.

Sincerely yours, 

Eric Brandt, PhD



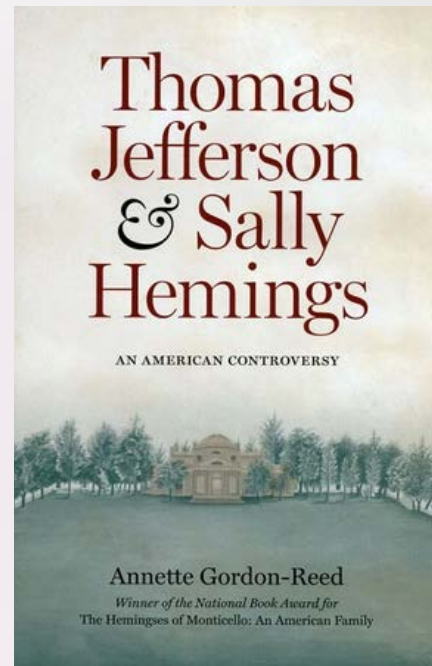
BEMISS HOUSE,
the home of the University of Virginia Press, was designed by Marshall Swain Wells, a member of UVA's first architecture class. It was originally intended as a residence, so it enjoys three working fireplaces. I'm lucky enough to have one of these in my office, and on its mantel I display two books: Annette Gordon-Reed's *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy*, published by UVA Press in 1997. Next to it I display her 2008 book with a larger trade publisher entitled *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*, which won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award and was a *New York Times* bestseller. It was a book that not only changed a field but changed the way Americans understood our country's founding and even the way they saw themselves. I don't believe the second book could have been written without the first. Visually, it illustrates my firm belief that university presses are the laboratories of the humanities—and that the ideas and arguments they publish can and do change the world.

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

FOUNDED IN 1963 under the leadership of President Edgar F. Shannon Jr., the University of Virginia Press celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in 2023, and its offices remain in Bemiss House, the building resolved by the UVA Board of Visitors for the press's use and named after Samuel M. Bemiss, the first chair of the press's board of directors. The first book to carry the press's imprint was *The Journal of Major George Washington*, launching a defining strength of the press in early American history. Today, the press publishes more than seventy new titles annually, having established itself as a leading publisher in American history and politics, African American studies, literature, religion, and architecture. The press also fulfills a public service by publishing general interest books of import about our state and region.

UVA Press is renowned among historians for publishing the definitive multivolume documentary editions of the papers of George Washington, James Madison, John Jay, and other founding figures and for licensing access to a robust platform of searchable, interoperable digital publications of primary documents from America's founding era to the presidential recordings of the twentieth century.

UVA Press has been a leader in digital scholarly publishing since 2001, when we first received funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the UVA President's Office to create an electronic imprint (later branded as Rotunda) in order to "investigate a range of strategies and options for cost recovery in the publishing of originally digital scholarship in the humanities," per the grant proposal. Rotunda currently includes thirty-five distinct digital publications, some for sale, others open access; the for-sale publications account for a significant percentage of the press's revenue.



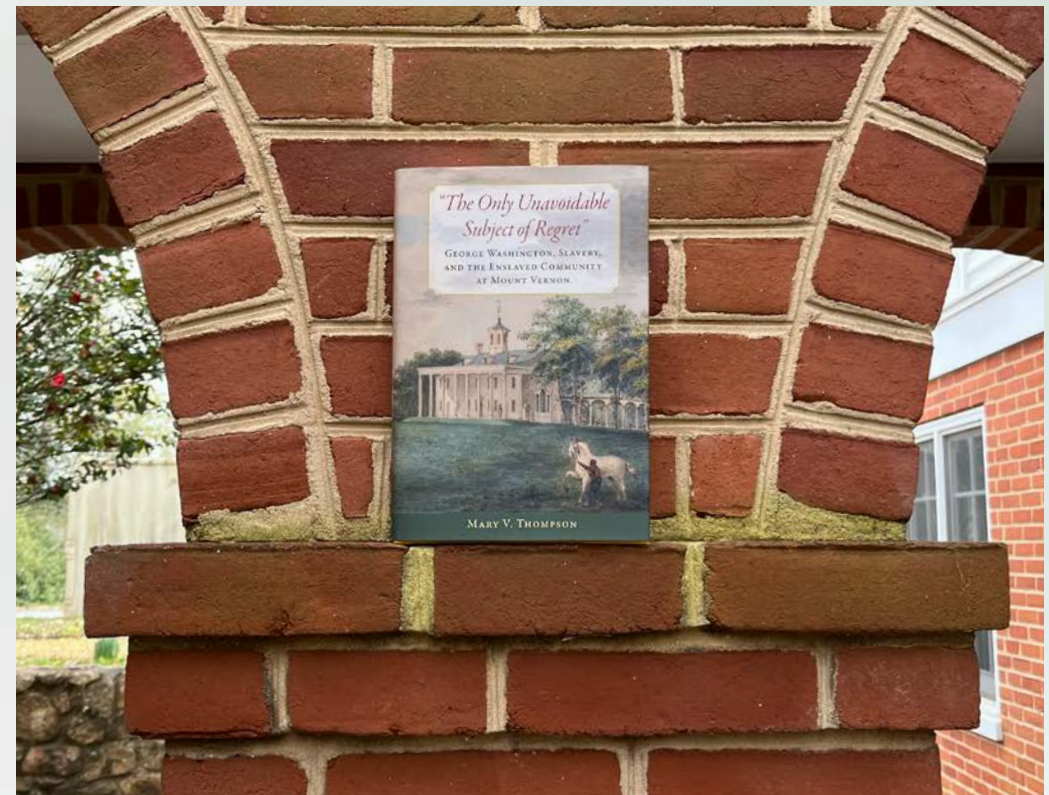
Among Rotunda's major accomplishments: creation of an American history collection spanning from George Washington's papers through modern presidential recordings; collaboration with the Society of Architectural Historians on the open-access SAH Archipedia, a peer-reviewed encyclopedia of the American built environment; and creation on behalf of the National Archives of Founders Online, an open-access website containing the complete published papers of six major US founding fathers. Rotunda has won numerous awards.

As part of our desire to be of service to the university and to participate in its academic outreach, the press has built a number of publishing partnerships both on Grounds and with institutions off Grounds. The press also produces and markets books for clients such as the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Kluge-Ruhe Art Collection, George Mason University Press, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Historic New Orleans Collection, and others.

By design, UVA Press's list of publications reflects the disciplines in which the University of Virginia exhibits excellence. Further refinement of this list around areas of strength for the university, especially those in which partnerships can be sustained, promises to enhance the excellence of our publication program.

UVA Press has been a member of the Association of University Presses (AUPresses) since 1964. AUPresses includes UVA Press among Group 2 presses in its statistical reports; these presses have annual net sales of books between \$1.5 and \$3 million, putting Virginia in the category of "midsized" presses. Because of our connection to UVA, the profile of our list, and the success of our electronic imprint, Rotunda, the reputation of UVA Press

exceeds its size. The press's investment fund, set up as a quasi-endowment, is also exceptional, ranking among the top university press endowments in the nation. This fund is important to the press's financial stability and offers an opportunity to fuel further growth.



“Expressions of goodness are never trivial or incidental in my writing. In fact, I want them to have life-changing properties.”

— TONI MORRISON

Nobel Prize winner and author of *Goodness and the Literary Imagination*

UVA PRESS BY THE NUMBERS

1,195

UVA PRESS TITLES
CURRENTLY IN PRINT

31

ACTIVE BOOK SERIES

34

DIGITAL EDITIONS AVAILABLE,
CONTAINING MORE THAN

300,000

DOCUMENTS AND
RECORDINGS

20

FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBERS

2

PART-TIME STAFF MEMBERS

9

STUDENT INTERNS

46

NAMED PUBLISHERS FOR
WHOM WE ACTIVELY
DISTRIBUTE

IN 2023

74

BOOKS PUBLISHED

15

AWARD-WINNING TITLES

60,442

BOOKS SOLD

14,151

EBOOKS DOWNLOADED

143

DOWNLOADS OF OPEN-ACCESS
TITLES FROM VIRGINIA OPEN

943,000

VISITS TO FOUNDERS ONLINE

1.3 M

PAGE VIEWS OF SAH ARCHIPEDIA

12

SCHOLARLY CONFERENCES
WHERE UVA PRESS STAFF
MOUNTED EXHIBITS, MET WITH
POTENTIAL AUTHORS, AND SOLD
OUR BOOKS

17

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARLY
CONFERENCES WHERE UVA
PRESS BOOKS WERE ON DISPLAY

92

BOOK REVIEWS, AUTHOR
INTERVIEWS, AND MENTIONS IN
SCHOLARLY JOURNALS AS WELL
AS MAJOR MEDIA SUCH AS THE
WALL STREET JOURNAL, THE
WASHINGTON POST, THE NEW
YORKER, CSPAN, AND OTHERS

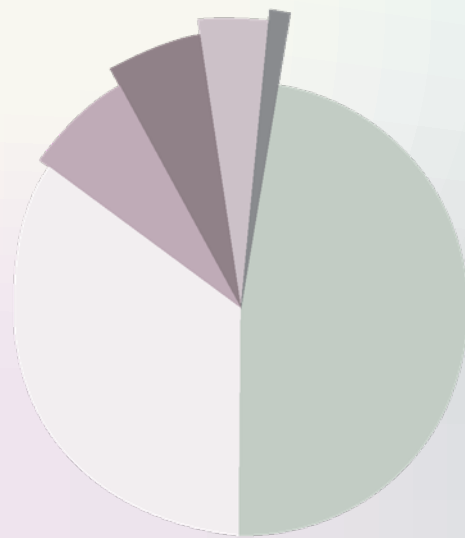
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AUTHOR EVENTS AT
BOOKSTORES, LIBRARIES,
MUSEUMS, AND CENTERS

SOURCES OF REVENUE

THE CHART at left shows the various sources of revenue for UVA Press. Within these different streams of revenue are six general categories: sales revenues, endowment distribution, grants and subventions, state/university support, permissions fees and royalties paid to the press, and other publishing income.

As a self-sustaining auxiliary unit of the university, the press operates primarily as a cost-recovery enterprise. The revenues come primarily from sales of books and from the licensing of access to our digital publishing platform, Rotunda. In 2023, proceeds from all sales amounted to 48 percent of our total revenue. (Eighty-two percent of sales proceeds came from the sale of traditional books, 18 percent from Rotunda digital sales and fees.) Our quasi-endowment is the second major source of revenue and contributed 34.7 percent of our total revenue. (This endowment was generated in the 1970s and '80s under former press director Walker Cowen with funds the press earned from distributing books for other publishers.) The third major source of revenue comes from the state and university systems. We rely on that support for only 5.5 percent of our revenue—significantly less than most university presses. (According to the Association of University Presses' most recent operational statistics report, the average parent institution budget allocation for all university presses is 13.9 percent of total revenue, and considerably higher—42.9 percent—for presses of our size.) And we gratefully benefit from categorical grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, as well as book subventions from small series-specific endowments, authors' institutions, lectureship foundations, and other partnering organizations. Although we are in the initial planning stages for a more active fundraising program, in 2023 we were delighted to receive a small amount in donations from individual benefactors.



2023 University of Virginia Press Revenue

■ Sales	\$1,588,259
□ Press endowment distribution	\$1,154,681
■ Grants and subventions	\$237,507
■ State support	\$184,371
■ Permissions and Royalties	\$130,000
■ Series endowment distribution	\$29,782

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

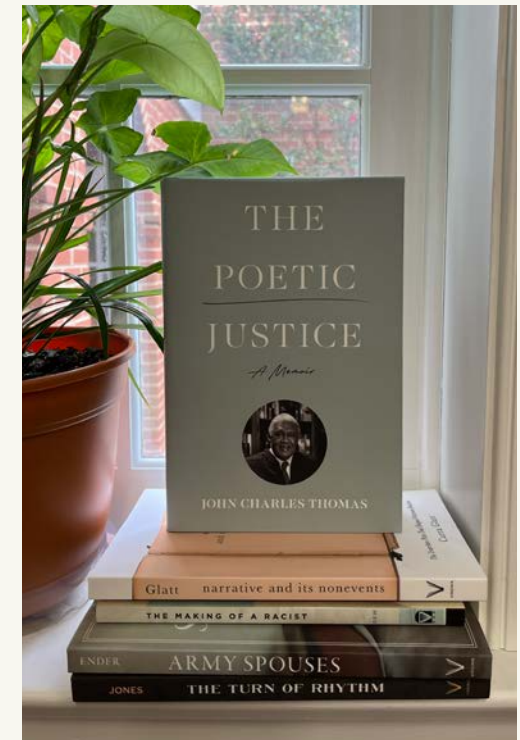
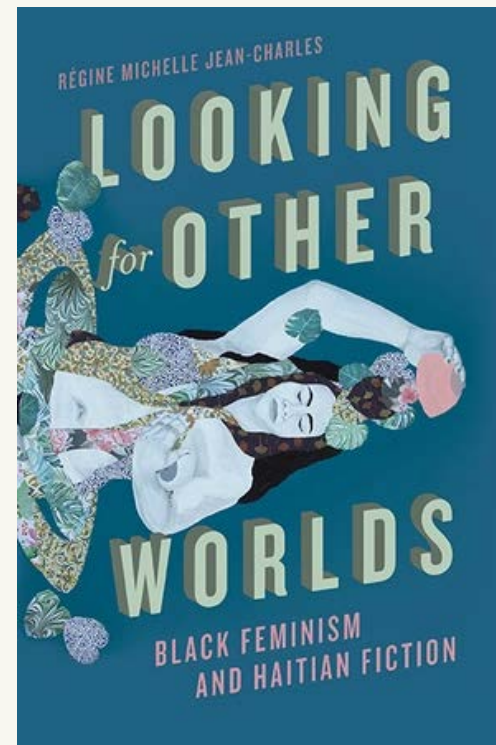


AWARD CEREMONY AT the annual meeting of the American Historical Association of the Roy Rosenzweig Prize for Creativity in Digital History for *Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier's Atalanta fugiens (1618), with Scholarly Commentary*, edited by Tara Nummedal and Donna Bilak

AWARD CEREMONY AT the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association of the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize for *The Epic of Cuba Libre: The Mambí, Mythopoetics, and Liberation* by Éric Morales-Franceschini and the James Russell Lowell Prize, honorable mention to



Looking for Other Worlds: Black Feminism and Haitian Fiction by Régine Michelle Jean-Charles



SPEECH AND BOOK signing at the Virginia Bar Association's Legacy Luncheon by the Honorable John Charles Thomas, author of *The Poetic Justice: A Memoir*

EXTERNAL REVIEW OF UVA Press by consultants from the Association of University Presses: Lisa M. Bayer, Director, University of Georgia Press; Kim Schmelzinger, Director of Finance, Cornell University Press;

Allison Belan, Director for Strategic Innovation and Services, Duke University Press; Dino Battista, Senior Director of Marketing and Digital Business Development, University of North Carolina Press



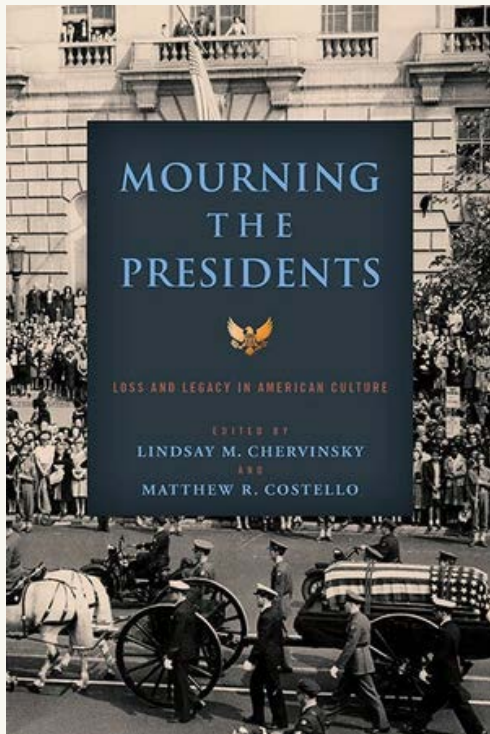
and academic pacesetter, Johnnetta Betsch Cole’s pioneering work about the on-going contributions of Afro-Latin, Caribbean, and African communities has advanced American understanding of Black culture and the necessity and power of racial inclusion in our Nation.”



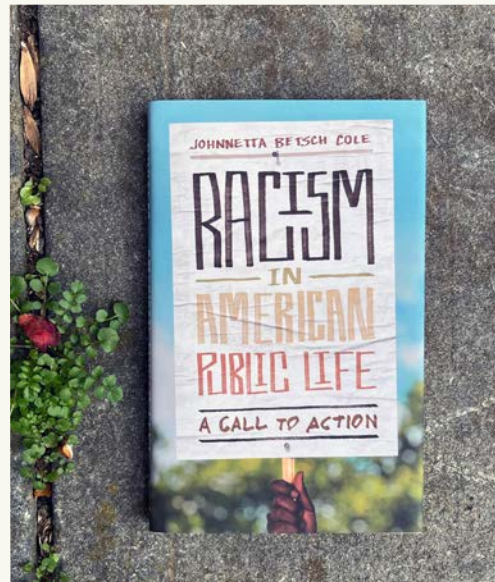
AWARD CEREMONY AT the White House of the National Humanities Medal by President Biden to UVA Press author Johnnetta Betsch Cole. White House citation: “Johnnetta Betsch Cole, for being a celebrated leader of sanctuaries of higher learning and culture. A scholar, anthropologist,

INAUGURAL MEETING OF the Rotunda Digital Advisory Committee

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY celebration of Poplar Forest Corporation with presentation by Travis McDonald on his newly published book *Poplar Forest: Thomas Jefferson’s Villa Retreat*

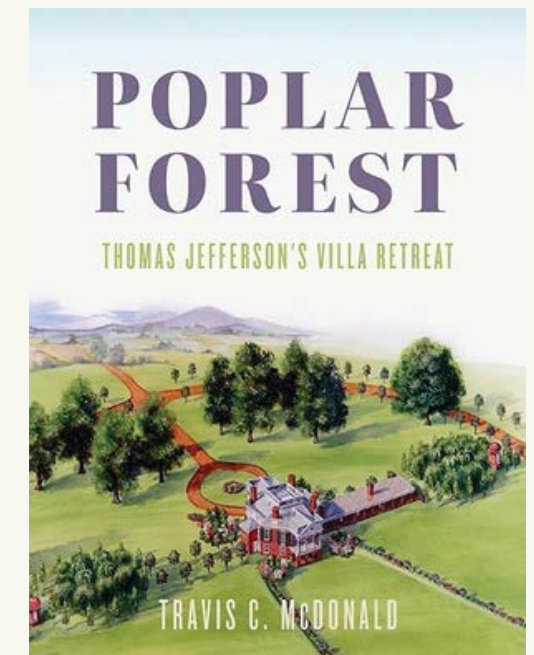


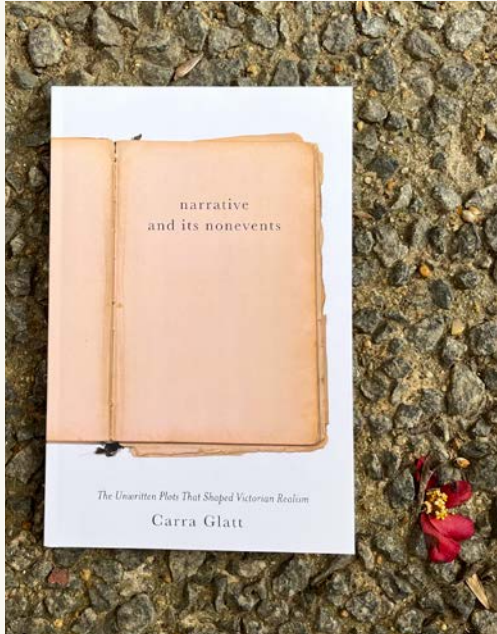
BOOK LAUNCH AT the White House Historical Association for *Mourning the Presidents: Loss and Legacy in American Culture*, edited by Lindsay M. Chervinsky and Matthew R. Costello



“In my contact with people I find that, as a rule, it is only the little, narrow people who live for themselves, who never read good book.”

—BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
Atlanta Exposition Address, Rotunda Digital





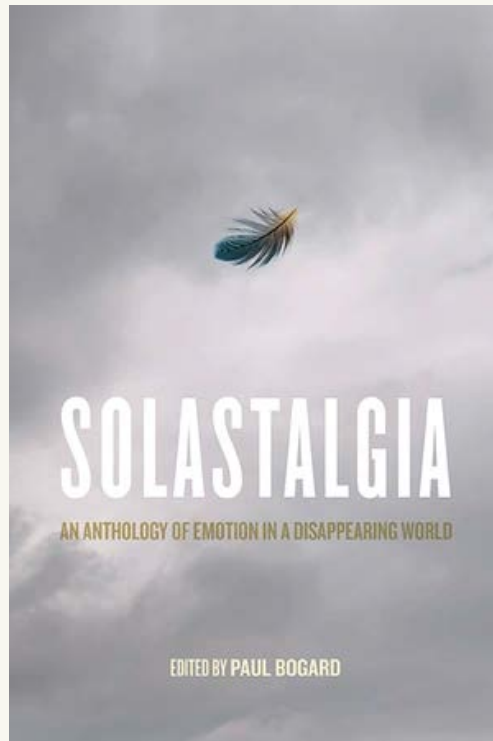
COVER OF Cara Glatt's *Narrative and Its Nonevents*, designed by our art director, Cecilia Sorochin, is selected by the Association of University Presses for its prestigious 2023 Book, Jacket, and Journal Show. (See <https://rb.gy/2n3mz4>.)

“I cannot live without books.”

— THOMAS JEFFERSON
to John Adams, June 10, 1815,
Founders Online

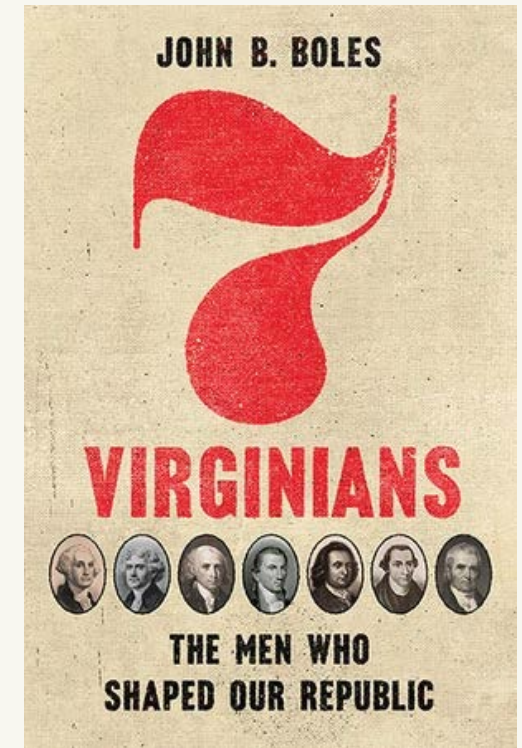


WMRA-FM “Books & Brews” event featuring award-winning author Paul Bogard, editor of *Solastalgia: An Anthology of Emotion in a Disappearing World*

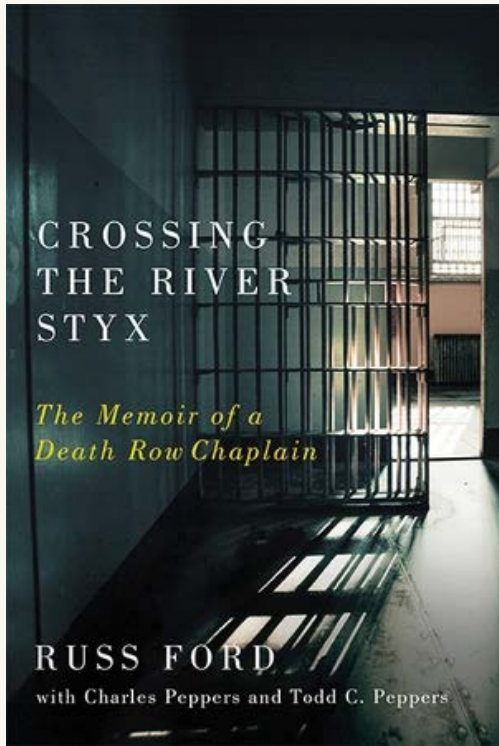


WREN MORGAN MYERS, senior project editor and press diversity, equity, and inclusion officer, accepts chair of the Association of University Presses’ Equity, Justice, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee. And Angie Hogan, humanities, environment, and science editor, concludes her year as chair of the Association of University Presses’ Faculty Outreach Committee.

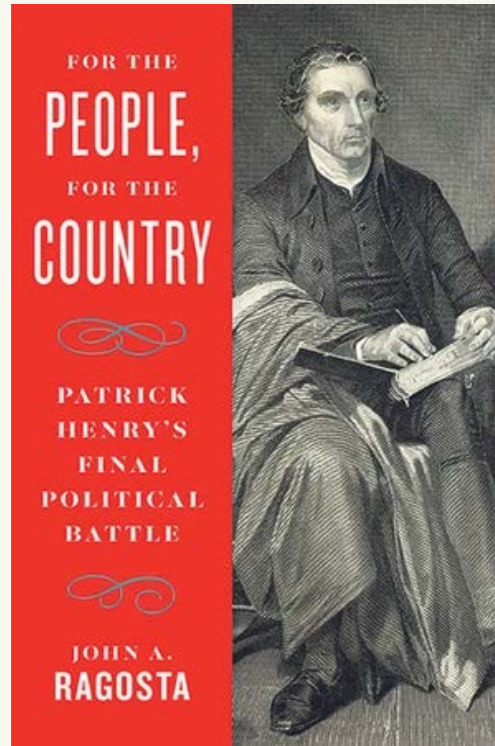
PANEL DISCUSSION AT the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon of the “2023 Best Books on the Founding Era,” including Mary Sarah Bilder, author of *Female Genius: Eliza Harriot and George Washington at the Dawn of the Constitution*



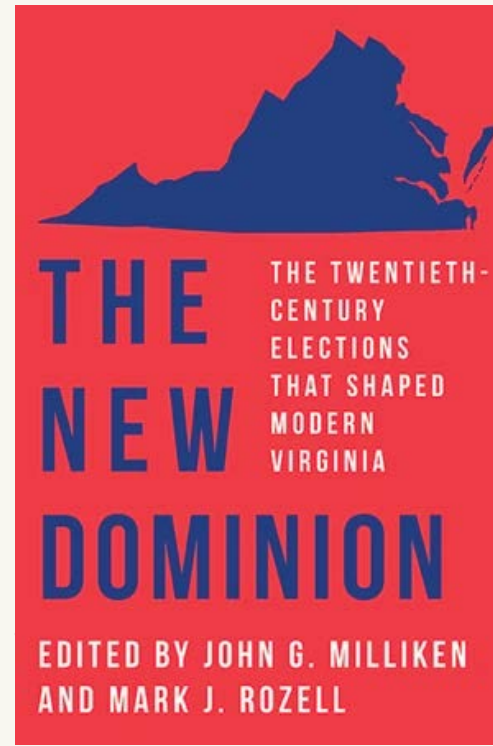
PRESENTATION AT the National Archives of *Seven Virginians: The Men Who Shaped Our Republic*, by John B. Boles



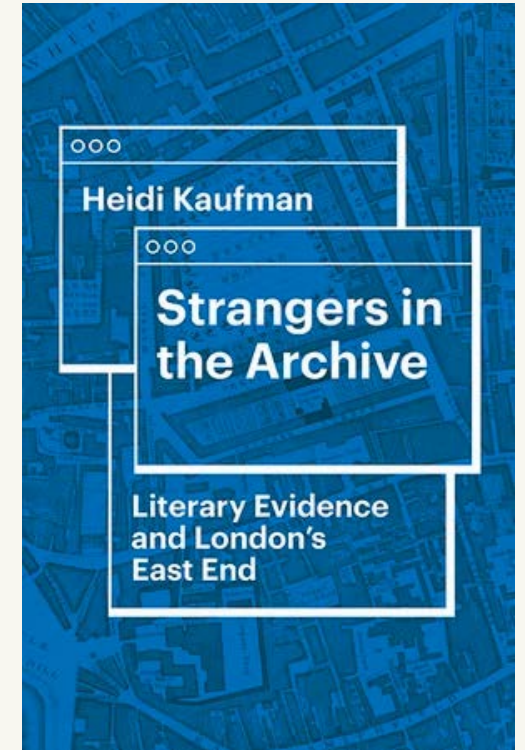
PRESENTATION AT the Library of Virginia for *Crossing the River Styx: The Memoir of a Death Row Chaplain* by Russ Ford, with Charles Peppers and Todd C. Peppers



PRESENTATION AT the National Archives for *For the People, For the Country: Patrick Henry's Final Political Battle* by John A. Ragosta



BOOK LAUNCH AT the Virginia Museum of History and Culture for *The New Dominion: The Twentieth-Century Elections That Shaped Modern Virginia* edited by John G. Milliken and Mark J. Rozell



AWARD CEREMONY AT the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies of the Jordan Schnitzer Book Award for *Strangers in the Archive: Literary Evidence and London's East End* by Heidi Kaufman

GALLERY OF SOME OF OUR PROUD 2023 AUTHORS



TRANSITIONS & RESTRUCTURING



TWENTY YEARS AGO, **David Sewell** was with the press at the inception of our digital publishing imprint, Rotunda. Thanks to his diligent and nimble management through continual evolutions of technology, Rotunda has won awards and remains one of the few successfully sustainable university press digital publishing initiatives—it is his legacy.



OUR DIRECTOR OF operations and finance, **Brenda Fitzgerald**, has been with the press for forty years. Over her career with us, she has managed our operations, warehousing, and invoicing, and she has coached and counseled six press directors and countless staff members. She is not only the most informed and wisest of us; she is the heart and soul of UVA Press.



JUST BEFORE 2023, we were lucky to hire a veteran publicist, **Mary Kate Maco**, who has promoted authors and their books from university presses at Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and Stanford, as well as from trade publishers including Simon & Schuster and William Morrow. Such depth of experience has already proven invaluable to our authors.



IN EARLY JANUARY 2023, we welcomed **Jeff Shifflett** as our new business manager. Jeff has worked assiduously to learn our business, get us in compliance with our contractual obligations, familiarize himself with the university's financial software, make our bookkeeping more granular and accurate, create a projected annual budget, and employ his expertise in systems management to implement strategic restructuring of the press.



AT THE BEGINNING of the year, we welcomed to Charlottesville our new acquisitions coordinator **Fernando Campos**, who had just finished his degree in English from UC Berkeley, having written his senior thesis on Sylvia Plath.



TO HIGHLIGHT AND grow our list of books on Africa, African American history, and Afro-Caribbean literature, in 2023 we created a new position for an acquiring editor in Africana studies. **Dr. Beth Colón** was teaching in that field at the University of Texas at Austin, and we were delighted when she accepted our invitation to join the University of Virginia Press.



WITH THE RETIREMENT of David Sewell as the longtime manager of our digital imprint, Rotunda, finding a replacement was daunting. During a competitive national search, his assistant manager, **Patricia Searl**, stood out as the most qualified candidate, with a master's degree in digital humanities from the renowned program at Kings College London, already established connections with the centers of digital scholarship across the university, and the most exciting vision for the future of our digital publishing program.



WITH THE EARLIER departure of our beloved production manager Anne Hegeman, we had the great good fortune to hire **Joel Coggins** to replace her. Joel brings a wealth of experience at the University of Pittsburgh Press, with expertise in a number of the kinds of books we publish in architecture, poetry, and other categories.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

UVA PRESS SUPPORTS internships in two departments, in acquisitions and in sales, marketing, and publicity.

Both departments prepare interns for careers in communication, outreach, and publishing. Through close work with a publishing professional and attending presswide meetings, interns learn the full lifecycle of a book, from submission, review, and contract, through editing and production, to how books are publicized, marketed, and sold. In acquisitions, interns read proposals and manuscripts and help solicit peer reviewers, thus gaining a network of scholars within the academy. In sales, marketing, and publicity, interns develop review lists and participate in the creation of seasonal catalogs and research and develop marketing plans for books.

Publishing professionals at UVA Press mentor interns from a variety of backgrounds and through several ongoing partnerships, the most important of which is the University of Virginia's PhD Plus Internship Program. This program provides doctoral students in the advanced years of their degree programs with the opportunity to pursue an internship with a university office such as UVA Press to provide students with substantive and mentored experiences that will develop their skills, broaden their career options, and diversify their professional network.

“During my time at UVA Press, I contributed, at different editorial stages, to over twenty book projects, and this internship was everything I had hoped it would be. I learned about how resource-intensive and complex the path to publication is for every scholarly book, effectively seeing the labor of academia from the other side. I gained a lot of familiarity with industry conventions around academic publishing, which has set me up well for a future career. Most of all, I felt welcomed and valued in every interaction I had with the employees at UVA Press. Since the internship, my friends have noticed that I speak about the minutiae of publishing with real curiosity and confidence. This is because I now see publishing differently. It is not only one of several knowledge-industry jobs that I could do with reasonable competence, but the one where I can most meaningfully contribute with my particular intelligence and sensibilities.”

—SHALMI BARMAN, *PhD candidate in the Department of English at the University of Virginia's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*



OUR INTERNS IN THE 2022–2023 AND 2023–2024 ACADEMIC YEARS

SHALMI BARMAN is a PhD student in UVA's English department, whose dissertation examines how Victorian fictions form the modern working-class subject by narrating unemployment. She assisted several acquisitions editors as a PhD Plus intern and also helped us audit our website.



EMILY CALES is a senior double majoring in history and English literature at the University of Virginia. She assisted the publicity department in creating press materials and expanding our social media and podcast outreach.

KATHERINE HALL is a senior in the highly selective Center for Leadership, Government, and Global Economics at Douglas S. Freeman High School in Richmond. She shadowed the editor for history and politics as a summer intern between her junior and senior years.

LAUREN VAN NEST is a doctoral candidate in art and architectural history at UVA and a Kress Two-Year Institutional Fellow in the History of Art at the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, who assisted the editor for architecture and urban design as part of the PhD Plus Internship Program.

MATTHEW GRACE is a PhD student in the history department at UVA, focusing on slavery and capitalism in early America. He served as the Jefferson Scholars Foundation Editorial Fellow in the acquisitions department.



SAMUEL WALKER is also part of the PhD Plus Internship Program. A doctoral candidate in UVA's Department of English, he works with the acquiring editor for the humanities.

CAMERON HIPPS graduated from the University of Virginia in May 2023 with a double major in media studies and women, gender, and sexuality. He assisted the publicity department in creating press releases and expanding our general and scholarly media lists.



CRYSTAL WANG is a junior double majoring in history and English at William & Mary. Dedicated to forging a career in publishing, Crystal works with the editor for history and politics on evaluating proposals and summarizing conference programs.

WILLIAM NICHOLS is a PhD candidate in classics at UVA and serves as a predoctoral editorial fellow in the acquisitions department with a focus on developmental editing and manuscript review.

OUR PUBLISHING PARTNERS

ON GROUNDS

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE
AGE OF JEFFERSON, JEFFERSON
SCHOLARS FOUNDATION

MILLER CENTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DARDEN BUSINESS SCHOOL

KAPNICK LECTURES

RICHARD LECTURES

PAGE-BARBOUR LECTURES

ALBERT AND SHIRLEY SMALL
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

CARTER G. WOODSON INSTITUTE
FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND
AFRICAN STUDIES

CENTER FOR DIGITAL EDITING

KARSH INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY

JOHN L. NAU III CENTER FOR CIVIL
WAR HISTORY

THE PAPERS OF JAMES MADISON

THE PAPERS OF GEORGE
WASHINGTON

CONTEMPLATIVE SCIENCES CENTER

BEYOND GROUNDS

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND
RECORDS COMMISSION

SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL
HISTORIANS

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR
JEFFERSON STUDIES AT MONTICELLO

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION

INSTITUTE FOR THOMAS PAINE STUDIES

PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY, THE
MALCOLM LESTER LECTURES ON THE
LIBERAL ARTS AND PUBLIC LIFE

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH, RICHARD
E. MYERS LECTURES

ROBERT NUSBAUM CENTER, VIRGINIA
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM AND PUBLIC DIALOGUE

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PRESSES

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS SALES
CONSORTIUM

LONGLEAF SERVICES



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OUR DIGITAL IMPRINT

2023 MARKED THE nineteenth year of active publication for Rotunda, UVA Press's unique digital imprint. Originally conceived as an experiment in the feasibility of electronic scholarly publishing, Rotunda is a product of the university's early, influential commitment to the digital humanities at the start of the new millennium. With seed money provided by grants from the Mellon Foundation and UVA's Office of the President, it attempted to address how to enhance and legitimize the increasing number of digital scholarly publications by integrating them with an established university press. As such, its existence is one of the first and longest-enduring initiatives focused on the practical application of DH methods with a self-sustaining business model and is one of our press's proudest achievements.

Currently, Rotunda publishes thirty-four digital editions, the majority of which can be consolidated in our American History Collection, containing over 300,000 materials, spanning George Washington's earliest surveying journals to audio recordings of Richard Nixon's Oval Office phone conversations. The Literature and Culture Collection archives several of the earliest efforts of digital literary scholars, while SAH Archipedia and Founders Online serve as model open-access resources for academics and the general public alike.

Rotunda's continued existence is a testament to all those who have worked on it over the years, but most notably its manager David Sewell, who retired in 2023 after twenty-one years devoted to the project. David became the imprint's managing editor in 2002, and his strong, cooperative work ethic, technical expertise, and meticulous commitment to editorial quality have been a great asset to both UVA Press and Rotunda, solidifying its reputation in library and documentary editing communities. It has been my personal privilege to have learned from and worked alongside David over the past decade, and the responsibility of guarding this inheritance in a time of rapid technological change is not taken lightly.

Going forward, Rotunda will strive for a future that respects our proud legacy while thoughtfully integrating new technological opportunities and demonstrating the comprehensive value of the collection to our users. Efforts to modernize the publishing infrastructure, improve the look, functionality, and accessibility of our editions, and diversify our portfolio in an environment that increasingly favors open access will be achieved most successfully with the support of institutional peers. Thankfully, Rotunda has been building and renewing partnerships within the UVA community that will prove increasingly valuable. In 2023, we commenced a series of conversations with the Center for Digital Editing, School of Data Science, and digital humanities departments at the library to sow the seeds for several possible collaborations. We hope that these opportunities will bear fruit in the coming year, allowing us to explore new publishing opportunities and to leverage the data in our collections in exciting new ways.

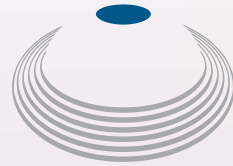
While 2023 was transformative for the Rotunda digital imprint, we look forward to commemorating our anniversary in 2024, invigorated by the energy of new hires, new partnerships, and new content, creating the infrastructure that will, we hope, set us on a path to the next twenty years.



Patricia Searl
Director of Digital Publishing

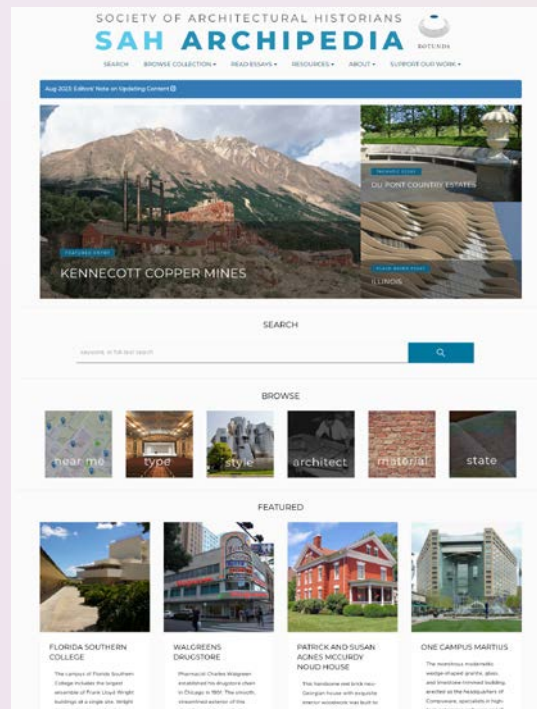
ROTUNDA AT A GLANCE

OUR COLLECTIONS



ROTUNDA

<https://www.upress.virginia.edu/rotunda/>



AMERICAN HISTORY COLLECTION

Twenty-four digital editions of papers of US presidents and major political and cultural figures, from George Washington through Woodrow Wilson, including the papers of Booker T. Washington and Frederick Law Olmsted. More than 30,000 correspondents are represented in a total corpus of 300,000 letters, speeches, military orders, diary entries, and more.

PEOPLE OF THE FOUNDING ERA

People of the Founding Era contains biographical data on more than 75,000 people born between 1713 and 1815, searchable by date, location, gender, occupation, and enslaved status.

Presidential Recordings Digital Edition

More than 4,500 transcripts, with audio, of recordings of presidential meetings and conversations from the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations.

SAH ARCHIPEDIA

An open-access reference guide to American buildings and landscapes containing more than 29,000 entries, with ongoing peer-reviewed, born-digital content as well as content derived from scholarly letterpress volumes of architectural history.

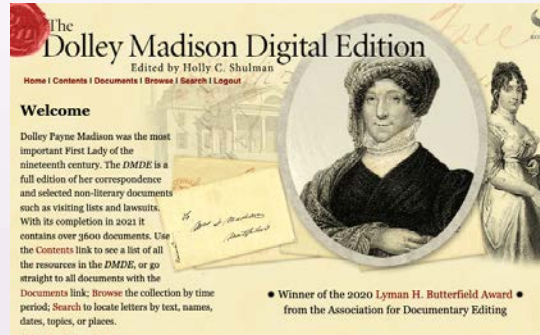
FOUNDERS ONLINE

Produced by Rotunda staff as lead programmers, Founders Online is an open-access site sponsored by the National Archives, funded by special congressional appropriation, containing all documents from seven of our American History Collection projects.

LITERATURE AND CULTURE COLLECTION

Seven ground-breaking digital editions of works of literature, produced and peer reviewed by scholars, distributed and preserved by Rotunda.

AWARD-WINNING ROTUNDA PUBLICATIONS



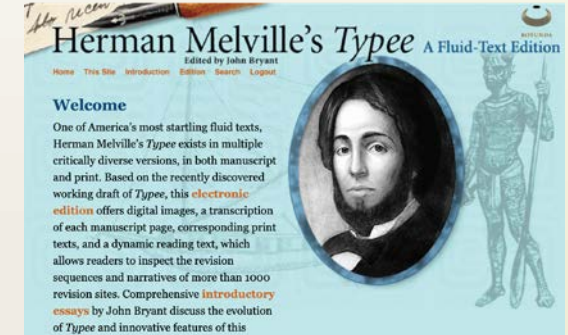
THE DOLLEY MADISON DIGITAL EDITION, edited by Holly Shulman: 2020 Lyman H. Butterfield Award from the Association for Documentary Editing

THE PAPERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA PINCKNEY STATESMEN, edited by Constance Schulz: 2022 Link-Kuehl Prize for Documentary Editing from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations



THE PRESIDENTIAL RECORDINGS DIGITAL EDITION first release (LBJ administration): 2011 PROSE Award for Best eProduct in the Humanities from the Association of American Publishers and named an Outstanding Academic Title for 2011 by *Choice* magazine

THE DIGITAL TEMPLE: A Documentary Edition of George Herbert's English verse, named an Outstanding Academic Title for 2013 by *Choice* magazine



HERMAN MELVILLE'S "TYPEE": A Fluid-Text Edition, a born-digital publication, designated as an Approved Edition by the Modern Language Association in 2009

“I am actuated by an ambition which I believe to be an honourable one — the ambition of serving the great cause of truth, while endeavouring to forward the literature of the country.”

— EDGAR ALLAN POE

enrolled at the University of Virginia in 1826, in *Letter to Washington Poe* (see *Edgar Allan Poe: A Life* by Richard Kopley)

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DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS



ACQUISITIONS

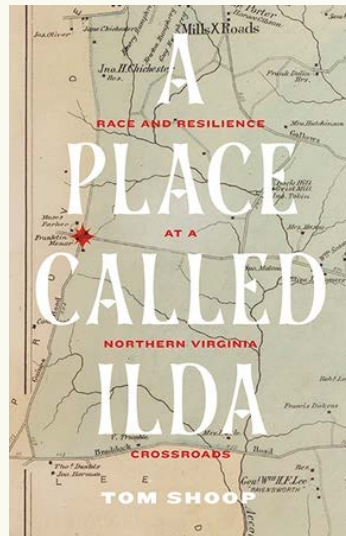
AT THE BEGINNING of 2023, we were delighted to welcome to Charlottesville our new acquisitions coordinator, Fernando Campos. A recent graduate of UC Berkeley, Fernando brought an active interest in publishing, much-needed administrative support for the department, and a youthful perspective on how better to promote our books through social media. In August, our new acquiring editor for Africana studies, Dr. Beth Colón, joined us, signaling a renewed emphasis on African American, African, and Afro-Caribbean studies for the press.

2023 also saw the first meeting of the advisory committee for our new regional imprint, Rivanna Books. And other new series, such as Race, Place, and Space, Science, Society, and Sustainability, The Black Soldier in War and Society, Religious Freedom and Public Dialogue, and the Karsh Institute's Evolution of Democratic Ideals, saw faculty editorial board approval, their first manuscripts submitted, or books go into production.

The refocusing of our list of acquisitions is seeing the fruits of the editors' labors, and new members of the department are bringing fresh perspectives and energies, which promise to only enhance the list of UVA Press publications and its continued relevance and importance to the academy.

LAUNCHING OUR REGIONAL IMPRINT—RIVANNA BOOKS

The first board-approved manuscripts for the Rivanna Books imprint—canvassing history, art, folklore, nature and the environment, music, and other areas of general interest throughout the commonwealth—were officially transmitted for editing and typesetting in 2023. These inaugural volumes, *A Place Called Ilda: Race and Resilience at a Northern Virginia Crossroads* by Tom Shoop and *The Witch of Pungo: Grace Sherwood in Virginia History and Legend* by Scott O. Moore, stem from the original mission prompting the founding of the University Press of Virginia in 1963—namely, ensuring that one of the oldest universities in the country had the means to publish books of the highest caliber for readers across and beyond the state. More projects—from a guidebook documenting the history of cider making in Virginia with detailed profiles of cideries throughout the state to a vivid and engaging biography of the blind musician Jimmie Strother that illuminates the Black experience spanning from the end of Reconstruction to the advent of the Great Migration—will follow.



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EDITORIAL, DESIGN & PRODUCTION

The editorial, design, and production department had a challenging but productive year. Despite negotiating serious health challenges and long periods of short-staffing, not to mention the ongoing transition between databases, we worked collaboratively and energetically to produce another two seasons' worth of carefully edited and beautiful books.

In terms of personnel, although we were sad to lose Anne Hegeman to Duke University Press, we were delighted in October to welcome Joel Coggins from the University of Pittsburgh Press as our new production manager. Joel is an award-winning designer, and as longtime design and production manager at Pitt, Joel had worked on a list very similar to ours, so we felt especially fortunate to find a wonderful colleague who could so seamlessly move into his new position here. A number of us served on search committees internally (for the Africana studies editor, production manager, and finance and operations associate positions). Gaps in staffing, while challenging, also allowed our staff to expand roles and skills.

Particular departmental highlights include the selection of a cover design by Cecilia Sorochin, our art director, for the Association of University Presses' Book, Jacket, and Journal Show (for Cara Glatt's *Narrative and Its Nonevents*)—a great honor. Joel Coggins, our new production manager, also was honored with a selection of his design for a book published at Pitt (*The Essential Etheridge Knight*). Wren Morgan Myers has been a member and is now serving as chair of the AUPresses' Equity, Justice, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, and they also oversaw the creation and implementation of our land acknowledgment statement and our alt text guidelines, the latter in an effort to make our ebooks more accessible. Andy Edwards has picked up some acquisitions duties for our religion list, representing the press at the American Academy of Religion meeting as well as attending the Society of Christian Ethics meeting, and initiating the new series

Religious Freedom and Public Dialogue as well as working with our director on the Myers Lectures acquisitions. Ellen Satrom has in addition been serving as a mentor to a colleague at Georgetown University Press through the AUPresses mentorship program.

We received many accolades and thanks from our authors for our work on a particularly complex list—often hearing from senior authors that their experience with UVA Press has been their best publishing experience to date—and we look forward to a strong year ahead.

“Perhaps they were right in putting love into books....Perhaps it could not live anywhere else.”

—FROM *LIGHT IN AUGUST*
BY WILLIAM FAULKNER

University of Virginia's first Writer-in-Residence (see *The Life of William Faulkner* by Carl Rollyson)

SALES, MARKETING & PUBLICITY

Sales, marketing, and publicity enjoyed much success in 2023, providing marketing for more than 70 titles. This was our first full year with our new publicist, Mary Kate Maco, and both she and our marketing associate, Clayton Butler, brought increased recognition to the press.

We published two books by the esteemed journalist Arthur Krystal, *Some Unfinished Chaos: The Lives of F. Scott Fitzgerald* and *A Word or Two Before I Go: Essays Then and Now*, which were reviewed in the *Washington Post*, the *New Yorker*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. The *WSJ* also reviewed Cynthia Kierner's *The Tory's Wife: A Woman and Her Family in Revolutionary America* and John Ragosta's *For the People, for the Country: Patrick Henry's Final Political Battle*.

Female Genius: Eliza Harriot and George Washington at the Dawn of the Constitution by Mary Sarah Bilder was a finalist for the George Washington Prize. *Looking for Other Worlds: Black Feminism and Haitian Fiction* by Régine Michelle Jean-Charles received honorable mention for the Modern Language Association's James Russell Lowell Prize. *The Epic of Cuba Libre: The Mambí, Mythopoeitics, and Liberation* by Éric Morales-Franceschini won the Modern Language Association's Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize. *Models and World Making: Bodies, Buildings, and Black Boxes* by Annabel Jane Wharton and *The Architecture of Suspense: The Built World in the Films of Alfred Hitchcock* by Christine Madrid French were selected as *Choice* Outstanding Academic Titles for 2023. *Strangers in the Archive: Literary Evidence and London's East End* by Heidi Kaufman received the Association for Jewish Studies' Jordan Schnitzer Book Award. And *The Permanent Resident: Excavations and Explorations of George Washington's Life* by Philip Levy won the Society for Historical Archaeology's James Deetz Book Award. The press attended twelve academic conferences in person in 2023 and promoted books at numerous others.

After a record-setting fiscal year 2022, our sales came back to earth a little in FY 2023, with \$1,300,012.03 in book sales. Rotunda sales were \$230,634.11, which represented an increase over the previous year, and was helped by large institutional sales to the University of Cambridge, Yale University, the University of Chicago, and Washington University in St. Louis. Sales held steady in the second half of 2023—that is, the first half of FY24—and Rotunda was already on pace to exceed projections. We sold the audiobook rights to six UVA Press titles in 2023 and established valuable relationships to sell more audiobooks rights, including for strong backlist titles, in the future.

The sales, marketing, and publicity department logged in long hours and contributed substantially to the press's transition from our previous database to the new Firebrand Title Management system. The many components of each book's marketing—from pricing to descriptive copy and endorsements—are now being recorded entirely in Firebrand and being fed out to the press website and to vendors such as Amazon via a process that gives us far greater troubleshooting capability with our metadata. We phased out our print catalog in 2023 and now depend almost wholly on our Edelweiss online catalog, the curation of which grows more substantive with each season, and robust metadata to allow maximum discoverability of our content.

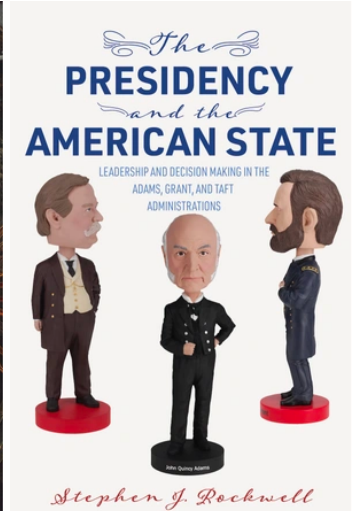
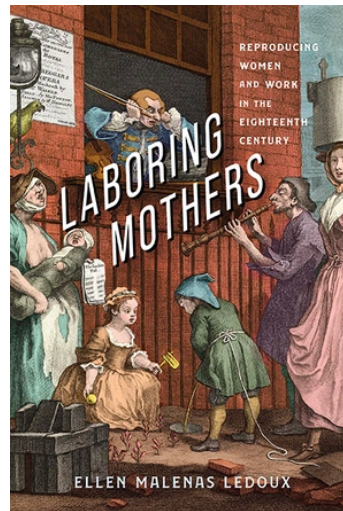
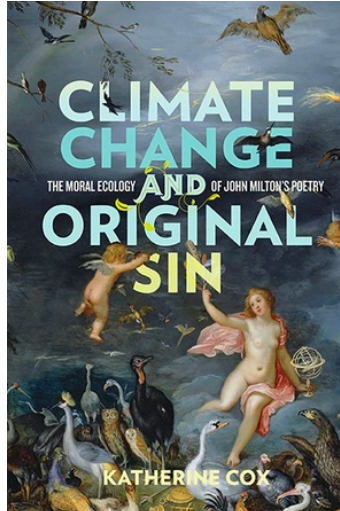
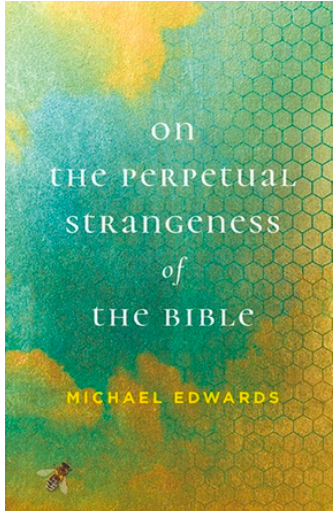
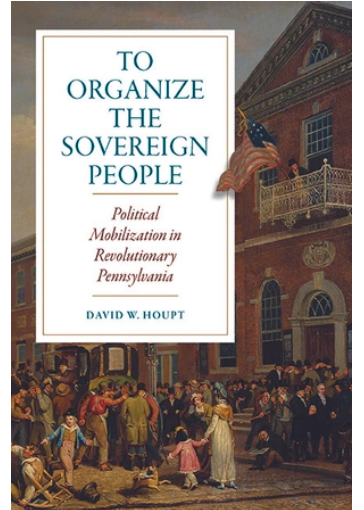
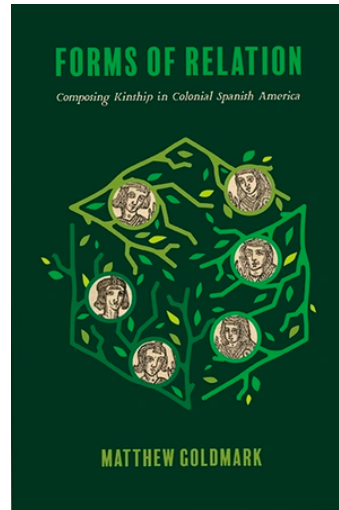
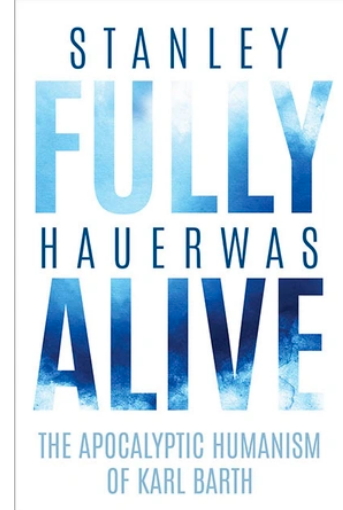
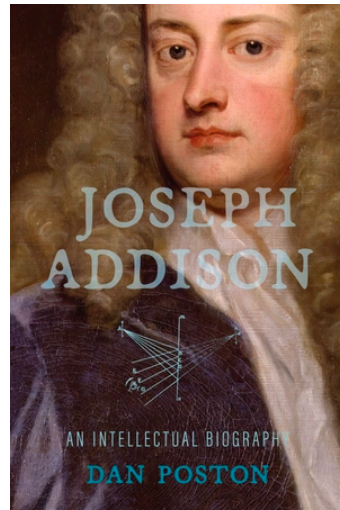
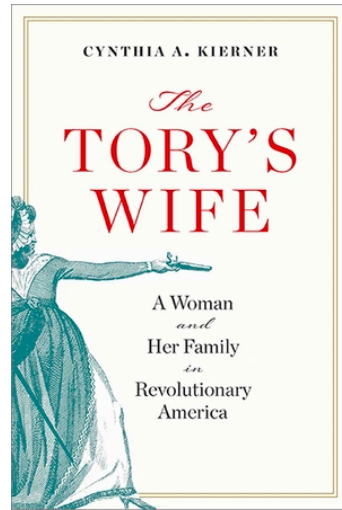
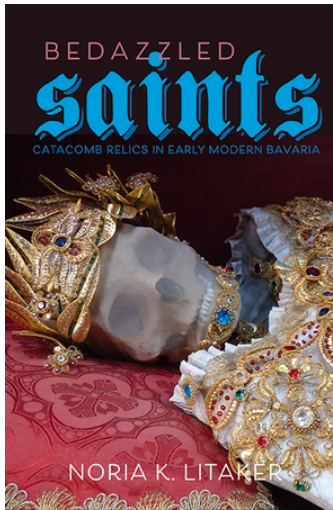
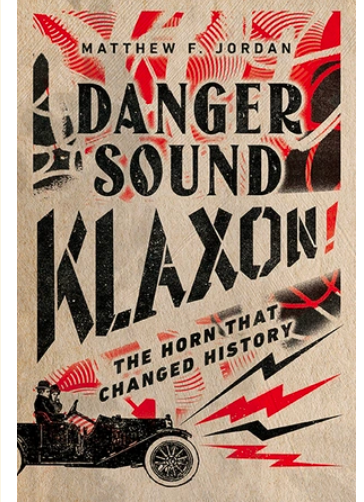
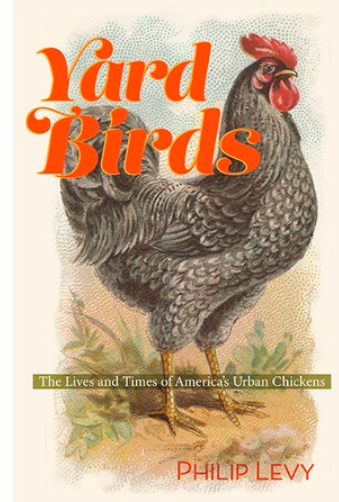
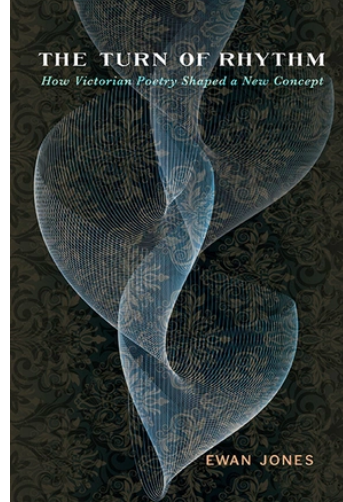
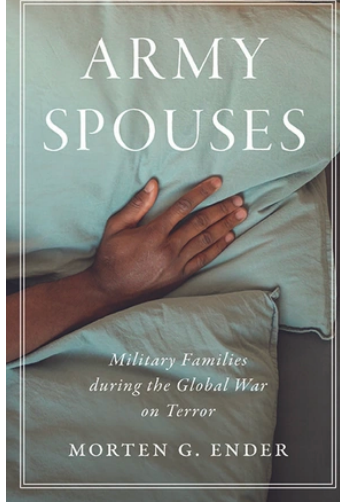
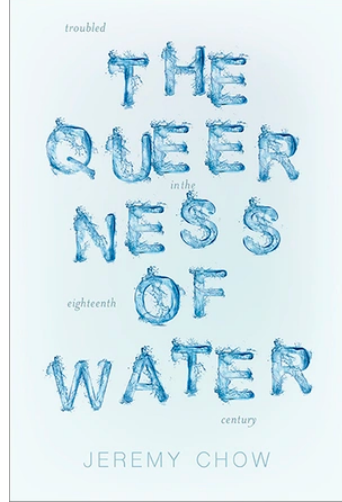
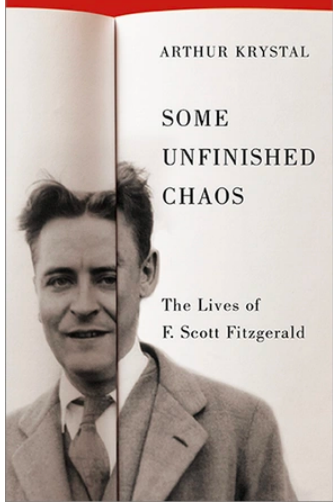
FINANCE & OPERATIONS

The operations department experienced many changes and upgrades this year. Our new business manager was fully engaged with learning the new Workday financial system and immediately implementing his new skills in the new budgeting system, among other tasks. Our fulfillment service provider, Longleaf Services, upgraded their fulfillment software to a more robust system, Iptor, IP1, in the late summer. As with any new system upgrade, there were issues that arose during the process, but Longleaf was diligent in working through the problems as they appeared in a systematic process, and we now have an effective system to serve us for many years. Simultaneously, we were also able to acquire and implement a new in-house title management database. Our database and intellectual manager, as project manager, headed up this massive project and continues to lead us to a more efficient system. The new systems have put the press in a position to be able to fully improve our operational efficiencies, resulting in better service to our customers and lowering overall operating costs for both publisher and book buyer.

The year 2023 was a year of challenges and accomplishments for the finance department. The press had been without a full-time business manager since 2021, and consequently several important financial tasks had not been completed in that time period. At the start of 2023, the press was behind two fiscal years on royalty payments, and honoraria payments to peer reviewers were past due. Further, standard reports on the financial standing of the press had not been provided to the new press director. The press hired Jeff Shifflett as the full-time business manager in January 2023 to start work on these issues. Over the course of 2023, the press has caught up on the outstanding royalty payments, entered over eighteen months' worth of author contracts into its system, paid all outstanding honoraria, and cleaned up and organized the financial accounts in order to

provide a financial overview. We have also worked with our fulfillment vendor, Longleaf, to have them enter our future contracts and provide our authors' royalty statements for us. We have partnered with UVA Printing Services to print and mail the statements, leaving our office the task of payment, which has been a great reorganization. Going into 2024, we have hired a new finance associate, who will assist with financial tasks as well as operations tasks and work with Longleaf on various items. The future for the finance department at UVA Press looks very promising.





OUR MISSION

The University of Virginia Press is the scholarly publishing division of the University of Virginia. The Press supports the academic mission of the University by publishing scholarship in a variety of print and digital formats that contributes to the progress of research and learning. We also actively seek works by scholars aimed at bringing the findings of a discipline to the well-educated reading public. Also important to our mission as part of a public university is the publication of works of regional interest to inform and engage the citizens of Virginia through guides to regional history, natural history, architecture, and culture. We seek to publish works of the highest quality that will bring positive recognition to the Press and the University.

PRAISE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA PRESS

“When I began the editorial process, I looked for a publisher with the highest standards of scholarship and editorial rigor, and a partner that intimately understood both Virginia and national politics. I was gratified to find all those qualities in a publisher at my very own alma mater: the University of Virginia Press. On its sixtieth anniversary, I’m proud to be part of UVA Press’s legacy of publishing books essential to their fields.”

—THE HONORABLE CHUCK ROBB

Former Governor and Senator of Virginia,
author of the memoir *In the Arena*

“The University of Virginia Press plays a leadership role in advancing liberal education, lifelong learning, and democratic engagement through its deep and abiding commitment to creating access to compelling, socially relevant works centering on ideas ranging from local interest to national and global significance. From the peer-review and editing process to marketing and dissemination, their outstanding staff upholds the highest standards of excellence and integrity.”

—LYNN PASQUERELLA

President of the American Association of
Colleges and Universities and author of
What We Value

“Happy sixtieth anniversary to the University of Virginia Press. As a research librarian at MIT, Duke, and the New York Public Library, I arrived in Washington with a high regard for the press—quality publications, timely content, and a leader in the university press community.

As the new Archivist, I was delighted to learn that the National Archives and Records Administration has a relationship with the press. It is safe to say that NARA and the press moved the needle in the digital publishing world. I still get goosebumps when I use Founders Online. What a clever way of exposing the papers of the founders to whole new audiences and enhancing the generation of new scholarship through discoveries made in the papers. Together we have set a new bar for the access to scholarly information.”

—DAVID S. FERRIERO

Tenth Archivist of the United States and
former Chair of the National Historical
Publications and Records Commission

“I have been general editor of the Cultural Frames, Framing Culture series for twenty-two years. I have been continually impressed with the professionalism and thoughtfulness of the press directors and the board as well as the dedication to producing books that are both attractive and innovative. In a climate where university presses are increasingly facing challenges, UVA Press maintains its focus on quality and scholarly illumination.”

—**ROBERT NEWMAN**

President and Director of the National Humanities Center

“It was a pleasure to work with UVA Press and Carrol Coates on the translation of Jacques Stephen Alexis’s *L’Espace d’un Cillement*, translated as *In the Flicker of an Eyelid*. I am deeply grateful to the press for making the work of this brilliant Haitian author available to English-language readers. Happy sixtieth anniversary, University of Virginia Press, and thank you for the amazing literature and scholarship you continue to nurture and bring to your readers.”

—**EDWIDGE DANTICAT**

Mellon Professor of the Humanities, Columbia University, two-time National Book Critics Circle Award winner, and translator of *In the Flicker of an Eyelid*

“For decades, the University of Virginia Press has innovated while sustaining the highest standards of scholarship. A pioneer in digital editions, the press touches many audiences with original and enduring books.”

—**EDWARD L. AYERS**

President Emeritus, University of Richmond, National Humanities Medal recipient, and author of *The Edge of the South*

“The University of Virginia Press helped launch my career. I’m eternally grateful to the press for that, and I am proud to be associated with an organization that consistently publishes first-rate and pathbreaking scholarship.”

—ANNETTE GORDON-REED

Carl M. Loeb University Professor, Harvard University, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, and author of *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings*

“Working with the University of Virginia Press has been one of the most rewarding and productive relationships of my career. Having published a monograph and several essays with the press, I am now thrilled to edit a series. This has afforded me the opportunity to help disseminate and promote excellent work by new and established scholars. UVA Press and its outstanding staff make that possible. Congratulations on sixty years—here’s to the next sixty!”

—FRANK COGLIANO

University of Edinburgh, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and author of *Thomas Jefferson: Reputation and Legacy*

“From the moment that I began working on my book with Eric Brandt and his colleagues at the University of Virginia Press, it was a very special process that was centered in mutual respect. Since my book has been published, UVA Press has continued to promote it, including at a recent conference where there were attendees who have a special interest in the liberal arts, social justice, and the press’s new focus on works in Africana studies. Today, when books are being banned and questions are raised about the role of a liberal arts education, if we ever needed the University of Virginia Press, we surely need it now.”

—JOHNNETTA BETSCH COLE

National Humanities Medal recipient, President of the National Council of Negro Women, and author of *Racism in American Public Life: A Call to Action*

“The University of Virginia Press provides meticulous service from acquisition through production and marketing, so authors can feel confident that their work will be published at the highest possible standards. I am extremely proud to be a University of Virginia author and series editor.”

—**DAVID A. DAVIS**

Associate Director of the Spencer B. King Jr. Center for Southern Studies and author of *Driven to the Field*

“It was UVA Press and the publication of *I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem* that introduced me to America and a part of American history. I shall always be grateful for UVA Press’s open-mindedness and emphasis on diversity.”

—**MARYSE CONDÉ**

Winner of the New Academy Prize in Literature and author of *I, Tituba, The Belle Créole*, and *The Last of the African Kings*

“In the 1990s, when I could not find publishing outlets for the digital scholarly editions we were producing at UVA’s Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, I turned to the University of Virginia Press and Nancy Essig agreed to work with me on a grant proposal to the Mellon Foundation. That proposal resulted in the initial funding for Rotunda, and since then I have had the pleasure of working with each successive press director—Penny Kaiserlian, Mark Saunders, and Eric Brandt. Rotunda was then and is now a rare bird: a collection of authoritative scholarly editions presented and sustained online in electronic form. The scholarly community is lucky to have Rotunda and lucky to have the University of Virginia Press behind it.”

—**JOHN UNSWORTH**

Dean of Libraries and University Librarian, University of Virginia

“When I took my seat on the Supreme Court of Virginia back in 1983, I became the first Black and, at thirty-two, the youngest Supreme Court justice in the long history of Virginia. I immediately started hearing from historians telling me that I had to write the history of how I became a justice at such a young age. Starting in 1983 I began making notes about my life and key events that helped shape my worldview. Over the years I amassed several hundred pages of notes. But I did not manage to shape my thoughts into a book until the University of Virginia Press agreed to publish my story. At that point I met my editors, and it was game on. I took those old notes, shaped them into rough chapters, added material, and submitted my draft to my acquiring editor. After several rounds of edits, my stack of pages started looking more like a book. Before long, my acquisitions editor told me, ‘Pens down.’ And then my draft was off to my copy editor. More changes were made. And soon there was my book, *The Poetic Justice*. I quite enjoyed the process. The editors and staff at the University of Virginia Press skillfully worked with me to help me recount the pivotal moments in my life clearly and succinctly. I am grateful for their masterful work. My book is better than it might have been because of the work they put into it.”

—THE HONORABLE JOHN CHARLES THOMAS

Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia and author of the memoir *The Poetic Justice*

“Our heartiest congratulations and felicitations to Eric Brandt and all of our colleagues at the University of Virginia Press on its sixtieth anniversary. UVA Press joined our Association within its first year of life and has continued to be an active and inspiring member. Our community has been enriched by its staff's leadership, service, and insight sharing over the years, including those of Penelope Kaiserlian as association president in 2006–2007, Mark Saunders as a founding member of the University Press Week Task Force in 2012, and all involved with its pathbreaking Rotunda digital imprint since 2004. This record of service within the community continues today, as three press staff members are currently appointed to or chairing AUPresses committees. We wish all at the press many more decades of success and can't wait to see how you continue to shape the future of mission-driven publishing.”

—PETER BERKERY

Executive Director, Association of University Presses

“Congratulations and thanks to the University of Virginia Press on its sixtieth birthday! Over the course of our working relationship (more than three decades, with no end in sight), the press has consolidated its leading role in publishing and promoting the best new scholarship on the American Revolutionary and founding era, with a particular—but by no means exclusive—focus on Jefferson. By making an extraordinarily rich and expanding array of documentary sources accessible to students, scholars, and an engaged public, Rotunda, the press’s transformational digital imprint, is enabling Americans to better understand the new nation’s complicated origins at a critical moment in our own unfolding history.”

—PETER S. ONUF

Thomas Jefferson Professor of History Emeritus, University of Virginia, and author of *The Mind of Thomas Jefferson*

“Since 1963, UVA Press has advanced knowledge from the University of Virginia. When, as the new dean of UVA’s Darden School of Business, I was looking to publish my book, I looked no further than UVA Press. They blend the strengths of a university press with digital innovation. In 2020, Darden and UVA Press announced a book publishing partnership to publish leading books and scholarship through UVA Darden Business Publishing as an imprint of UVA Press. I am proud of what we have and will do together.”

—SCOTT C. BEARDSLEY

Dean, Darden School of Business, University of Virginia, and author of *Higher Calling: The Rise of Nontraditional Leaders in Academia*

“Since the beginning of the Papers of George Washington project in 1968, the University of Virginia Press has been an essential partner and collaborator, shepherding more than ninety-four volumes to print publication. However, UVA Press’s enthusiasm for and support of scholarly editing and documentary editions extends beyond the projects at UVA. Editors from the United States and abroad view UVA Press print and digital publications as benchmarks of accuracy, meticulousness, and innovation. UVA Press also charted the course of scholarly, accessible, and sustainable digital publication with its development of Rotunda. Simply put, UVA Press’s contributions to and significance for the field of documentary editing cannot be overstated. The faculty and staff at the Washington Papers and Center for Digital Editing congratulate the press on its sixtieth anniversary.”

—JENNIFER E. STERTZER

Director of the Center for Digital Editing, University of Virginia, and Director of the Washington Papers

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Library should occur as a
proper source for raising
money. Book’s from which he
wished his Child improved,
shall remain sacred, & I
would feel the pinching hand
of Poverty before I disposed
of them.”

—**DOLLEY MADISON**

Letter to her brother James Todd, October 28, 1793,
Rotunda Digital