BOOKS FOR THE TRADE
At the height of the Korean War in 1952, a budding young historian was drafted into the U.S. Army just as the Pentagon was organizing a top-secret, scientific expeditionary unit, the Transportation Arctic Group (TRARG). Consisting of 275 military members and a cluster of civilian scientists from the United States and other countries, TRARG was sent to Thule Air Force Base, located on the west coast of northern Greenland. Its ostensible purpose was to map the terrain and test complex equipment at the edges of the Ice Cap. The covert objective, however, was to determine the feasibility of constructing yet another air base on the other side of Greenland, one that would be much closer to the enemy.

As the sole historian of the unit, Corporal Boskin was responsible for compiling and transmitting weekly progress reports to the Pentagon and, at the conclusion of the mission, for assisting in the final assessment. The multivolume report was itself technically worthy, yet it possessed barely a hint of the personal story: the outsized characters, the dark comedy and real tragedy, the frustrations and waste, and the ongoing tug-of-war between the company commander and his corporal historian over the status of the report's basic contents. Here Boskin tells that story, a keenly observed narrative that delivers both the absurd and the sublime in equal measure.

Joseph Boskin is professor emeritus of American social history and African American studies at Boston University. Among his publications are Sambo: The Rise and Demise of an American Jester and Rebellious Laughter: People’s Humor in American Culture, the latter also published by Syracuse University Press (see page 31).
Mosul, Iraq, in the 1940s is a teeming, multiethnic city where Arabs, Kurds, Assyrians, Jews, Aramaeans, Turkmens, Yazidis, and Syriacs mingle in the ancient souks and alleyways. In these crowded streets, among rich and poor, educated and illiterate, pious and unbelieving, a boy is growing up. Burdened with chores from an early age, and afflicted with an older brother who persecutes him with mindless sadism, the child finds happiness only in stolen moments with his beloved older sister and with friends in the streets. Closest to his heart are three girls, encountered by chance: a Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew. After enriching the boy’s life immensely, all three meet tragic fates, leaving a wound in his heart that will not heal. A richly textured portrayal of Iraqi society before the upheavals of the late twentieth century, Saeed’s novel depicts a sensitive and loving child assailed by the cruelty of life. Sometimes defeated but never surrendering, he is sustained by his city and its people.

Mahmoud Saeed, a prominent Iraqi novelist, has written more than twenty novels and short story collections. He was imprisoned several times and left Iraq in 1985 after the authorities banned the publication of some of his novels, including Zanka bin Baraka (1970), which won the Ministry of Information Award in 1993. Samuel Salter has lived and traveled in Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. He has worked as a teacher and a translator. Under the pseudonyms Sam Reaves and Dominic Martell, he has published ten novels. Zahra Jishi is a Lebanese public health practitioner who currently resides in Cleveland, Ohio. Rafah Abuinnab worked and lived in Jordan most of her life until moving to Chicago in 2000. Currently, she teaches Arabic at DePaul University.
A Muslim Suicide

Bensalem Himmich
Translated from the Arabic by Roger Allen

Award-winning novelist Bensalem Himmich’s third novel to be translated into English is a vertiginous exploration of one of Islam’s most radical thinkers, the Sufi philosopher Ibn Sab’in. Born in Spain, he was forced to immigrate to Africa because of his controversial views. Later expelled from Egypt, Ibn Sab’in made his way to Mecca, where he spent his final years.

Himmich follows the philosopher’s journey, outlining an array of characters he meets along the way who usher in debates of identity and personal responsibility through their interactions and relationships with Ibn Sab’in. Set against the backdrop of a politically charged thirteenth-century Islamic world, Himmich’s novel is a rich blend of fact and imagination that re-creates the intellectual debates of the time. As the culture of prosperity and tradition was giving way to the chaos created by political and social instability, many Arabs, as Ibn Sab’in does in the novel, turned inward toward a spiritual search for meaning. In his fictional portrait of Ibn Sab’in, Himmich succeeds in creating a character, with his many virtues and flaws, to whom all readers can relate.

Bensalem Himmich is a novelist, philosopher, and poet who has taught philosophy at Muhammad V University in Rabat, Morocco. He received the 2002 Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature for The Polymath. He is currently serving as the Minister for Culture in Morocco.

Roger Allen is the Sascha Jane Patterson Harvie Professor of Social Thought and Comparative Ethics in the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is professor of Arabic and comparative literature as well as chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Among his translations are Bensalem Himmich’s The Theocrat and The Polymath.

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"A novel that grapples with the most ethical of questions: not only ‘who am I,’ but also ‘what are my obligations to others?’ . . . The reader must tease the significance out, often with great effort. But the reward is definitely worth the effort."
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A CELEBRATION OF ART & SCHOLARSHIP

The joint exhibition Reconnecting East and West: Islamic Ornament in 19th-Century Works from the Dahesh Museum of Art and Syracuse University opens on June 18, 2011. As part of the presentation, Syracuse University Press’s exquisitely illustrated books will be on display, along with publications of the Dahesh Museum of Art.

“Syracuse University Press brings the work of keen minds from around the world to bear on crucial issues that resonate locally and globally—from the rights of indigenous peoples to increasing understanding of Middle Eastern cultures to strategies for conflict resolution. By promoting scholarly distinction on topics so clearly relevant today, Syracuse University Press plays an important role in pursuit of the University’s vision, Scholarship in Action.”

—Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Syracuse University
“The Dahesh Museum of Art offers handsomely designed and illustrated publications by the finest scholars in art history on important issues in 19th- and early 20th-century art—from the impact of technology and travel on artistic production and the development of Orientalism in art, to the training required in becoming an artist. The Museum’s publication program is integral to its educational mission—exhibitions, however captivating, are ephemeral, while books document and preserve that enchantment, sharing it over time and space with a limitless audience.”

—Founding Trustee Mrs. Mervat Zahid, Dahesh Museum of Art

Reconnecting East & West

The Dahesh Museum of Art and Syracuse University Press share a commitment to a lively East/West dialogue, and both have made important contributions to that project. This summer, as part of the multifaceted collaboration between the University and the Museum, the partners will travel to Dubai with a stunning exhibition that tells the story of the 19th-century European encounter with Islamic art.

Reconnecting East and West: Islamic Ornament in 19th-Century Works from the Dahesh Museum of Art and Syracuse University opens to the public on June 18, 2011, at the Dubai Community Theatre and Arts Centre (DUCTAC) in Dubai, UAE. It explores how 19th-century Western scholars and artists discovered and documented the range of Islamic ornament and design in large, exquisitely illustrated books, which will be on display, along with individual plates and other superb artworks that round out the theme. The Museum and University have combined their rich resources to present an exhibition that documents the passion that Islamic art inspired in European artists, who brought their “discoveries” in the Middle East to the attention of the European world. Through art, they created a bridge between the cultures of the East and those of the West—a dialogue that has been rekindled and is flowering today.

daheshmuseum.org
suart.syr.edu
The Life and Thought of Louis Lowy
Social Work Through the Holocaust

Lorrie Greenhouse Gardella
With a Foreword by Joachim Wieler

“This highly readable and well-researched historical gem should be required reading in all schools of social work. It captures the lived experience of social work philosophy through the life and work of Holocaust survivor and social work educator Louis Lowy.”

—Dorothy Van Soest, University of Washington

Louis Lowy (1920–1991), an international social worker and gerontologist, rarely spoke publicly about the Holocaust. During the last months of his life, however, he recorded an oral narrative that explores his activities during the Holocaust as the formative experiences of his career. Whether caring for youth in concentration camps, leading an escape from a death march, or forming the self-government of a Jewish displaced persons center, Lowy was guided by principles that would later inform his professional identity as a social worker, including the values of human worth and self-determination, the interdependence of generations, and the need for social participation and lifelong learning.

Drawing on Lowy’s oral narrative and accounts from three other Holocaust survivors who witnessed his work in the Terezín ghetto and the Deggendorf Displaced Persons Center, Gardella offers a rich portrait of Lowy’s personal and professional legacy. In chronicling his life, Gardella also uncovers a larger story about Jewish history and the meaning of the Holocaust in the development of the social work profession.

Lorrie Greenhouse Gardella is professor of social work and associate dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies at Saint Joseph College, West Hartford, Connecticut. She is coauthor of several books including A Dream and a Plan: A Woman’s Path to Leadership in Human Services and Adopting Children with Special Needs: A Resource Guidebook for Parents in Connecticut.

“A captivating and important contribution to Holocaust memoir literature.”

—Diane L. Wolf, University of California, Davis
In March 2007, Leah Fishbane, a promising young graduate student in the prime of her life, was struck down suddenly with an undiagnosed brain tumor. In this deeply evocative memoir, written during the dark time of the first year following Leah’s death, her husband Eitan gives voice to the overwhelming power of grief and to the deep love that underlies such pain. He tells the story of his efforts to be a good father to his grieving four-year-old child and of his discovery of himself as a parent in ways he had not known before. Along this path, Fishbane asks fundamental questions about the meaning of death and life, about the place of God and faith in the experience of tragedy, reflecting on what it means to live with loss. The result is a poetic testament that will resonate with countless mourners and their loved ones. In giving honest expression to emotions that are at once particular and universal, Shadows in Winter offers a luminous window of comfort and hope to those battling the devastation of loss.

Eitan Fishbane is assistant professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary, specializing in kabbalah and mysticism. He is the author of As Light Before Dawn: The Inner World of a Medieval Kabbalist and Jewish Mysticism and the Spiritual Life: Classical Texts, Contemporary Reflections.

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Off the Beaten Path
Stories of People Around the World

Ruth J. Colvin

From the Sunshine Coast of South Africa to a remote ashram in India, Colvin and her husband have traveled around the world, visiting sixty-two countries and providing literacy training in twenty-six developing countries. The founder of Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc., which later merged with other organizations to become ProLiteracy, Colvin was invited by universities, religious organizations, and the International Executive Service Corporation to share her skills in native language literacy and English as a second language training.

Along the way, Colvin met people from all walks of life—a holy man in India, a banned leader and a revolutionary in the apartheid system of South Africa, lepers in India and Madagascar, Chinese Communists who truly “serve the people,” and survivors of Pol Pot’s Cambodia. In a richly varied and exciting career, Colvin’s most rewarding adventures were connecting with individuals from vastly different backgrounds and experiences, learning about their cultures and traditions, and discovering the many similarities all people share. Believing education is the key to facilitating communication and understanding among people around the world, Colvin, a lifelong learner herself, has dedicated her life to teaching others.

The recipient of nine honorary doctorates, Ruth J. Colvin was given the highest award for volunteerism in the United States, the President’s Volunteer Action Award, in 1987. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2006 and was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1991. She lives in Syracuse, New York.

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“Off the Beaten Path provides a glimpse into the lives of different people and their cultures, the overwhelming desire of people to learn, and the understanding that, despite our cultural differences, we are generally more similar than different.”

—Gregg A. Tripoli, director, Onondaga Historical Association, Syracuse, New York
Suicide Prohibition
The Shame of Medicine

Thomas Szasz

“ANOTHER MASTERPIECE. Szasz has produced a strong philosophical, psychiatric, forensic, sociological, and ethical analysis of suicide. I emphasize sociological, as it is a worthy heir to Durkheim’s classical contribution.”

—Henry Lothane, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

In Western thought, suicide has evolved from sin to sin-and-crime, to crime, to mental illness, and to semilegal act. A legal act is one we are free to think and speak about and plan and perform, without penalty by agents of the state.

While dying voluntarily is ostensibly legal, suicide attempts and even suicidal thoughts are routinely punished by incarceration in a psychiatric institution. Although many people believe the prevention of suicide is one of the duties the modern state owes its citizens, Szasz argues that suicide is a basic human right and that the lengths to which the medical industry goes to prevent it represent a deprivation of that right.

Drawing on his general theory of the myth of mental illness, Szasz makes a compelling case that the voluntary termination of one’s own life is the result of a decision, not a disease. He presents an in-depth examination and critique of contemporary anti-suicide policies, which are based on the notion that voluntary death is a mental health problem, and systematically lays out the dehumanizing consequences of psychiatrizing suicide prevention.

If suicide be deemed a problem, it is not a medical problem. Managing it as if it were a disease, or the result of a disease, will succeed only in debasing medicine and corrupting the law. Pretending to be the pride of medicine, psychiatry is its shame.

Thomas Szasz is professor emeritus of psychiatry at the State University of New York Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York. His books include Law, Liberty, and Psychiatry; The Manufacture of Madness, Ideology and Insanity; Ceremonial Chemistry; The Myth of Psychotherapy; Psychiatry; and The Medicalization of Everyday Life, all published by Syracuse University Press.

“[Thomas Szasz] is the preeminent critic of psychiatry in the world.”

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Moonfixer
The Basketball Journey of Earl Lloyd

Earl Lloyd and Sean Kirst
With a Foreword by Dave Bing

“In 1950, three years after Jackie Robinson first strode across the baseball diamond, Earl Lloyd became the first black man to play in the NBA . . . . Moonfixer, Earl Lloyd’s first-person account of his life, reads like a good talk with your grandfather: It teaches you a lot of historical lessons [and] makes you want to hear more.”

—Slam Magazine

“Lloyd is a trailblazing figure, often overlooked for his contribution to basketball and more. He was the first African-American to play in the NBA, suiting up for the Washington Capitols for the 1950 season.”

—New York Post

In 1950, future Hall of Famer Earl Lloyd became the first African American to play in a National Basketball Association game. Nicknamed “Moonfixer” in college, Lloyd led West Virginia State to two CIAA Conference and Tournament Championships and was named All-American twice. One of three African Americans to enter the NBA at that time, Lloyd played for the Washington Capitals, Syracuse Nationals, and Detroit Pistons before he retired in 1961.

Throughout his career, he quietly endured the overwhelming slights and exclusions that went with being black in America. Yet he has also lived to see basketball—a demonstration of art, power, and pride—become the black national pastime and to witness the inauguration of Barack Obama. In a series of extraordinary conversations with Sean Kirst, Lloyd reveals his fierce determination to succeed, his frustration with the plight of many young black men, and his sincere desire for the nation to achieve true equality among its citizens.

“Lloyd’s book is about life lessons, the value of education, family and community footprints, and the human spirit faced with daunting social challenges.”

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Elias al-Mûsili
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In 1905, the Jesuit scholar Antûn Rabbât discovered the writings of Elias al-Mûsili in a Jacobite diocese in Aleppo, Syria. Al-Mûsili, a seventeenth-century Arab and a priest of the Chaldean Church, traveled widely across colonial Spanish America, becoming the first person to visit the Americas from Baghdad. Rabbât transcribed into Arabic and published those portions relating to al-Mûsili’s travels. Acclaimed Middle Eastern historian Farah is the first to make these writings available in English translation.

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“Rich resources and a great deal of new information for students of the Arab Middle East….Of particular interest is the explanation of Islam’s deep ties to urban institutions and the interconnectedness of religion and civic ties. There is also an excellent and comprehensive bibliography. Highly recommended.” —Choice

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August 2011
Disability and Mothering
Liminal Spaces of Embodied Knowledge

Edited by Cynthia Lewiecki-Wilson and Jen Cellio

Editors Lewiecki-Wilson and Cellio have put together the first book to focus on the intersecting spaces, both cultural and personal, of disability and mothering. Derived from the Latin for threshold, the word “liminal” calls attention to the book’s focus on the transitional moments and spaces where the personal and social, inside and outside, self and other converge. The volume features twenty-one previously unpublished essays by new as well as established scholars and community activists. Contributors, some of whom are themselves disabled or mothers of children with disabilities, present moving personal accounts and accessible scholarship grounded in historical study, experiential and retrospective analysis, interviews, social research, and feminist and disability studies theories.

In their introduction, the editors survey the theoretical frameworks of feminism and disability studies, locating the points of overlap crucial to a study of disability and mothering. Organized in five sections, the book engages questions about reproductive technologies; diagnoses and cultural scripts; the ability to rewrite narratives of mothering and disability; political activism; and the tensions formed by the overlapping identities of race, class, nation, and disability. The essays speak to a broad audience—from undergraduate and graduate students in women’s studies and disability studies, to therapeutic and health care professionals, to anyone grappling with issues such as genetic testing and counseling, raising a child with a disability, or being disabled and contemplating starting a family.

Cynthia Lewiecki-Wilson is professor of English and affiliate in women’s studies at Miami University, where she is also the director of Graduate Studies in English. Among other publications, she is the coeditor of Disability and the Teaching of Writing and Embodied Rhetorics. Jen Cellio is assistant professor of English and the director of the Writing Program at Northern Kentucky University. She studies composition theory and rhetorical theory, particularly the rhetoric of science and the connection between eugenics and reproduction.

“Disability and Mothering names a conjunction that is foundational to many people’s lives; this anthology approaches that conjunction in a rich, textured, readable way.”
—Robert McRuer, author of Crip Theory: Cultural Signs of Queerness and Disability
Embracing the Divine

Gender, Passion, and Politics in the Christian Middle East, 1720–1798

Akram Fouad Khater

“Embracing the Divine provides a breath of fresh air in the field of Middle Eastern history. It opens a window onto the exciting world of religious belief and practice in the eighteenth century, turning our attention to Christian experiences in the Levant that challenge the notion of Christianity as Western.”

—Beth Baron, author of Egypt as a Woman: Nationalism, Gender, and Politics

Hindiyya al-'Ujaimi, a young eighteenth-century nun whose faith was matched by her ambition and intellect, lies at the heart of this absorbing history of Middle Eastern Christianity. At the age of twenty-six, Hindiyya left her hometown of Aleppo to establish a convent in the mountains of Lebanon. Her order and her growing public profile as a visionary and living saint met with stiff opposition from Latin missionaries and with mistrust from the Vatican. Church authorities were suspicious of feminine spirituality and independent religious authority, eventually subjecting her to two Inquisitions by the Vatican. Sentenced to spend her entire life imprisoned, Hindiyya died in 1798 in her cell, leaving a legacy that shaped the church for many years to come.

Compelling in its cinematic scope—resplendent with the requisite villains and mysterious events infused with sinister and sexual tensions, tragedy, and pathos—Hindiyya’s story holds within its folds a larger tale about the construction of a new Christianity in the Levant. Khater skillfully reveals what her story tells us about religious minorities in the Middle East, early modern cultural encounters between the West and the Middle East, and the relationship between gender, modernity, and religion.

Akram Fouad Khater is associate professor and director of Middle East studies at North Carolina State University. He is the author of Inventing Home: Emigration, Gender, and the Middle Class in Lebanon, 1870–1920 and Sources in the History of the Middle East.

“A brilliant book: erudite, engrossing, entertaining, and elegantly written.”

Pious Citizens
Reforming Zoroastrianism in India and Iran

Monica M. Ringer

In Pious Citizens, Ringer tells the story of a major intellectual revolution in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century India and Iran, one that radically transformed the role of religion in society. At this time, key theological debates revolved around Zoroastrianism’s capacity to generate “progress” and “civilization.” Armed with both the destructive and creative capacities of historicism, reformers reevaluated their own religious tradition, molding Zoroastrian belief and practice according to contemporary ideas of rational religion and its potential to create pious citizens. Ringer demonstrates how rational and enlightened religion, characterized by social responsibility and the interiorization of piety, was understood as essential for the development of modern individuals, citizens, new public space, national identity, and secularism. She argues persuasively not only that social reform must be accompanied by religious reform but that it is in fact a product of religious reform.

Pious Citizens offers new insights into the theological premises behind the promotion of secularism, the privatization of religion, and new national identities. Ringer’s work also explores growing connections between the Iranian and Indian Zoroastrian communities and the revival of the ancient Persian past.

Monica M. Ringer is assistant professor of history and Asian languages and civilizations at Amherst College. She is the author of Education, Religion, and the Discourse of Cultural Reform in Qajar Iran.

“Ringer has produced an important work, one that adds greatly to our understanding of how traditional groups experienced and incorporated colonialism, westernization, and modernity.”
—Jamsheed Choksy, author of Evil, Good, and Gender: Facets of the Feminine in Zoroastrian Religious History
In the twentieth century, Muslim minorities emerged in Europe seeking work, a refuge from conflict, and higher life standards. As a result, there are now more than 12 million Muslims in Western Europe. As these immigrants became permanent residents, the Islamic communities they developed had to respond to their European context, reinterpreting Islam in accordance with local conditions. In *Localizing Islam in Europe*, Yükleyen brings this adaptation to light, demonstrating how Islam and Europe have shaped one another and challenging the idea that Islamic beliefs are inherently antithetical to European secular, democratic, and pluralist values.

Yükleyen compares five different forms of religious communities among Muslim immigrants in the Netherlands and Germany that represent a spectrum from moderate to revolutionary Islamic opinions. Drawing on extensive fieldwork, he finds that, despite differences in goals and beliefs, these communities play an intermediary role, negotiating between the social and religious needs of Muslims and the socioeconomic, legal, and political context of Europe. Yükleyen’s rich ethnography shows that there is no single form of assimilated and privatized “European Islam” but rather Islamic communities and their interpretations and practices that localize Islam in Europe.

Ahmet Yükleyen is Croft Assistant Professor of Anthropology and International Studies at the University of Mississippi. His research focuses on anthropology of religion, ethnicity, Islamic movements, and multiculturalism.
The Essentials of Ibaḍī Islam

Valerie J. Hoffman

“Ibaḍī Islam played a pivotal role in the history of Islamic thought and practice, and continues to be an influential force in the contemporary Middle East and Africa. This book is of real importance to the study of Islam and religions in general.”

—Brannon Wheeler, author of Mecca and Eden: Ritual, Relics, and Territory in Islam

Ibaḍī Islam is a distinct sect of Islam, neither Sunni nor Shi’ite, that emerged in the early Islamic period and remains active today in small pockets of North Africa and as the dominant sect of Oman. Despite its antiquity, it has often been misunderstood and remains little known. Seeking to redress this gap and to introduce this influential Islamic school to the non-Arabic-speaking world, Hoffman offers the first book-length overview of Ibaḍī theology published in English.

Beginning with a concise overview of Ibaḍī history, Hoffman delineates the sectarian movement’s role in the development of Islamic thought, tracing its distinctive teachings and literary history. In the second section, she provides annotated translations of two complementary modern Ibaḍī theological texts. This unique volume elucidates the religious and political thought by allowing the Ibaḍī tradition to speak for itself.

The Essentials of Ibaḍī Islam gives readers, specialists and non-specialists alike, a rare opportunity to understand the major teachings of Ibaḍī Islam.

Valerie J. Hoffman is professor of religion at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is the author of Sufism, Mystics, and Saints in Modern Egypt.
The Midnight Court / Cúirt an Mheán Oíche
A Critical Edition

Brian Merriman
Translated by David Marcus
Edited and with an Introduction by Brian Ó Conchubhair

Banned and beloved in equal measure, The Midnight Court is a canonical eighteenth-century text widely considered to be one of the greatest comic Irish poems. Despite its simple story line, Merriman’s poem addresses a wide range of themes from its satirical treatment of sexuality to its biting social commentary. This volume, the first critical edition, offers readers a fluid translation and five essays that contextualize the poem, making it an ideal text for any student of eighteenth-century Irish literature. Written specifically for the nonspecialist reader, Ó Conchubhair’s edition contains notes, a glossary, a map, and explanations of the rhyme, meter, form, and genre that traditionally puzzle those unfamiliar with the Irish-language tradition. The essays explore the text’s themes and allusions, acquainting readers with the poem’s controversies and critics’ competing interpretations of Merriman’s achievement.

Contributors include: Alan Titley, Michael Griffin, Sarah E. McKibbon, Briona Nic Dharmada.

Brian Merriman (1749–1805) was an Irish-language poet and teacher. David Marcus (1924–2009) was the literary editor of the Irish Press, helped found Poolbeg Press, and edited over thirty volumes of Irish short stories and poetry. He is the author of several novels, short story collections, and the autobiography Oughtobiography: Leaves from the Diary of a Hyphenated Jew. Brian Ó Conchubhair is associate professor of Irish language and literature at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of numerous articles and Irish-language instructional materials, and the editor of Why Irish? Irish Language and Literature in Academia.
John Brinckerhoff Jackson has theorized the vernacular landscape as one that reflects a way of life guided by tradition and custom, distanced from the larger world of politics and law. The quotidian space is shaped by the everyday culture of its inhabitants. In *Place and Ideology in Contemporary Hebrew Literature*, Grumberg sets anchor in this and other contemporary theories of space and place, then embarks on subtle close readings of recent Israeli fiction that demonstrate how literature in practice can complicate those discourses. Literature in Israel over the past twenty-five years tends to be set in ordinary spaces rather than in explicitly, ideologically charged locations such as contested borders and debated territories. Rarely taking place in settings of war and political violence, it is replete with evocative descriptions of everyday places such as buses and cafés. Yet in academic discussions, the imaginative representations of these sites tend to be neglected in favor of spaces more relevant to religious and political debates.

To fill this gap, Grumberg proposes a new understanding of how Israeli identity is mapped onto the spaces it inhabits, particularly the concrete sites encountered in the daily lives of ordinary citizens. She demonstrates that in the writing of many Israeli novelists even mundane places often have significant ideological implications. Exploring a wide range of authors, from Amos Oz to Orly Castel-Bloom, Grumberg argues that literary depictions of vernacular spaces play a profound and often unidentified role in serving or resisting ideology.

Karen Grumberg is associate professor of modern Hebrew literature in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies and the Program in Comparative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the author of several articles on modern Hebrew literature.

“Grumberg writes with authority and confidence, showing a talent for close readings, an excellent grasp of theory, and a gift for articulating both.”

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America in the Forties
Ronald Allen Goldberg

“The book provides invaluable background for understanding the current political landscape in which hot debates center on the federal government’s role in addressing both international and domestic crises.”

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In America in the Forties, Goldberg energetically argues that the decade of the 1940s was one of the most influential in American history, a period marked by war, sacrifice, and profound social changes. With superb detail, Goldberg traces the entire decade from the first stirrings of war in a nation consumed by the Great Depression through the conflicts with Europe and Japan, to the start of the Cold War and the dawn of the atomic age. Richly drawn portraits of the period’s charismatic, brilliant, and often controversial leaders—Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Harry Truman—demonstrate their immense importance in shaping the era, and in turn, the course of American government, politics, and society. Goldberg chronicles US heroic accomplishments during World War II and the early Cold War, showing how these military and diplomatic achievements helped lay the foundation for the country’s current role in economic and military affairs worldwide.

Combining an engrossing narrative with intelligent analysis, America in the Forties enriches our understanding of that pivotal era.

Ronald Allen Goldberg is professor of history and chair of the History Department at Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton, Virginia. He is the author of America in the Twenties.

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John Robert Greene

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6 x 9, 224 pages, notes, recommended readings, index
Series: America in the Twentieth Century
December 2011
In late 1998 and the early months of 1999, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was an organization in crisis. Revelations of a slush fund employed by Salt Lake City officials to secure votes from a number of IOC members in support of the city’s bid for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games invited intense scrutiny of the organization by the international media. The IOC and its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, staggered through the opening weeks of the scandal, but ultimately Samaranch and key actors such as IOC Vice-President Richard Pound, Marketing Director Michael Payne, and Director General François Carrard weathered the storm, safeguarded the IOC’s autonomy, and subsequently spearheaded the push for reforms to the Olympic Charter intended to better position the IOC for the twenty-first century.

In Tarnished Rings, the authors delve into this fascinating story, exploring the genesis of the scandal and charting the IOC’s efforts to bring stability to its operations. Based on extensive research and unparalleled access to primary source material, the authors offer a behind-the-scenes account of the politics surrounding the IOC and the bidding process. Wenn, Barney, and Martyn’s potent examination of this critical episode in Olympic history and of the presidency of Samaranch, who brought sweeping change to the Olympic Movement in the 1980s and 1990s, offers valuable lessons for those interested in the IOC, the Olympic Movement, and the broader concepts of leadership and crisis management.

Stephen Wenn is professor of kinesiology and physical education at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. He, Robert Barney, and Scott Martyn are the authors of Selling the Five Rings: The International Olympic Committee and the Rise of Olympic Commercialism. Robert Barney is professor emeritus of kinesiology and the founding director of the International Centre for Olympic Studies at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario. Scott Martyn is associate professor of human kinetics and founding director of the International Centre for Sport and Leisure Studies at the University of Windsor in Windsor, Ontario.

“An accessible and interesting page-turner that analyzes the contemporary history of the IOC’s travails and tribulations at the turn of the twenty-first century. . . . A lively and compelling read.”

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Bodies That Remember
Women’s Indigenous Knowledge and Cosmopolitanism in South Asian Poetry

Anita Anantharam

Bodies That Remember explores the lives and works of four of the most recognized Hindu and Urdu female poets of the twentieth century. In contrast to much of the South Asian literary criticism and postcolonial theory that concentrates on the Indo-English novel, Anantharam highlights the poetry of these vernacular writers, connecting their critical voices with nationalist and religious revitalization movements in India and Pakistan.

Focusing on Mahadevi Varma, Kishwar Naheed, Fahmida Riaz, and Gagan Gill, Bodies That Remember offers a powerful meditation on the alternative linguistic traditions found in the writings of these four poets, two from India and two from Pakistan. In doing so, the book illustrates the ways in which poetry locates the places where urban cosmopolitanism meets indigenous knowledge and produces a new understanding of identity, one that crosses traditional boundaries of caste, class, and religion.

Going beyond an analysis of women’s creative expression in the Hindu and Urdu languages, Anantharam deftly traces the intersecting veins of nationalism, literary tradition, and religion as she details the complexity of gendered identity in modern South Asia.

Anita Anantharam is assistant professor at the University of Florida’s Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research. She is the editor of Mahadevi Varma: Political Essays on Women, Culture, and Nation.

“A pioneering effort in literary and cultural studies of South Asia . . . it undoubtedly enriches the theoretical domain of comparative literature that has by and large been limited to literature of the Western worlds.”

—Syed Akbar Hyder, author of Reliving Karbala: Martyrdom in South Asian Memory
Cultural Criticism in Egyptian Women’s Writing

Caroline Seymour-Jorn

The five influential women writers discussed in Seymour-Jorn’s timely work—Radwa Ashour, Salwa Bakr, Nemat el-Beheiry, Etidal Osman, and Ebtihal Salem—all emerged on the literary scene in the late 1970s and early 1980s. They came of age at a time when women’s writing was attracting critical attention and more venues for publication were opening up. This widening platform enabled these writers to develop and mature as cultural critics. As a result, this generation of women writers achieved a successful blend of politically and socially committed literature with artistically innovative literary techniques.

Artfully combining literary analysis with ethnographic research, Seymour-Jorn explores the ways in which these writers generate new patterns of thinking and talking about women, society, and social change. She describes how the writers conceive of their role as authors, particularly as female authors, and how they refigure the Arabic language to express themselves as women. By examining these authors’ works and lives, Seymour-Jorn illuminates the extent to which writing brings women into the public sphere, an arena in which they have traditionally had limited access to positions of power and authority.

Caroline Seymour-Jorn is associate professor of comparative literature at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. Her articles have been published in Critique: Journal for Critical Studies of the Middle East, the Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies, and the Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs.
Imperial Citizen
Marriage and Citizenship in the Ottoman Frontier Provinces of Iraq
Karen M. Kern
“A highly original and well-studied work which fills several lacunas in Ottoman history.”
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Imperial Citizen examines the intersection between Ottoman colonialism, control of the Iraqi frontier through centralization policies, and the impact of those policies on Ottoman citizenship laws and on the institution of marriage. In an effort to maintain control of the Iraqi province, the Ottomans adapted their 1869 citizenship law to prohibit marriages between Ottoman women and Iranian men. This prohibition was an attempt to contain the threat that the Iranian Shi’a population represented to Ottoman control of their Iraqi provinces.

In Imperial Citizen, Kern establishes this 1869 law as a point of departure for an illuminating exploration of an emerging concept of modern citizenship. She unfolds the historical context of the law and systematically analyzes the various modifications it underwent, pointing to its far-reaching implications throughout society, particularly on landowners, the military, and Sunni women and their children. Kern’s fascinating account offers an invaluable contribution to our understanding of the Ottoman Iraqi frontier and its passage to modernity.

Karen M. Kern is assistant professor of history at Hunter College. She specializes in Middle East, Ottoman, and world history. She has published numerous articles in such journals as Turkish Studies Association Journal and the Arab Studies Journal.
In Egypt, the landowning class first arose in the early part of the nineteenth century from land grants given to extended family members and friends of the ruler Muhammad ‘Ali. The development of capitalism and, with it, the evolution of law and social practice allowed these land grants gradually to take on the attributes of private property, a process that culminated in 1891 in land becoming a form of property like any other. From these developments a class of large landowners emerged and began to defend their interests, both economic and political.

In two seminal Arabic works published in the 1970s, the authors Abbas and El-Dessouky traced the formation of this class, exploring the multiple factors that influenced the rise and power of landowners. Combined into one volume and translated into English for the first time, this book offers a comprehensive analysis of landownership and its effects on Egyptian society. The authors draw from extensive archival sources, successfully integrating in their work the competing forces of the state, the landlords, and the peasants. By moving beyond much of the familiar scholarship on landholders, this book presents a new interpretation of Egyptian politics and society.

Raouf Abbas was professor of modern history at Cairo University, president of the Egyptian Society for Historical Studies, and a pioneer in the study of social history. He authored numerous books in Arabic and coedited Society and Economy in Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean, 1600–1900. Assem El-Dessouky is professor emeritus of modern history at Helwan University.
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