Books for the Trade

Notable Books

- The Tumble Inn by William Loiseaux
  - Named as one of 10 Great New Books from Small Presses by Reader’s Digest

- Over the Line by David Lloyd
  - Finalist for the Housatonic Award for Middle Grades and Young Adult Writing

- Compassionate Stranger by Maureen O’Rourke Murphy
  - Selected as one of Top 10 University Press picks by Foreword magazine

- Leaving Russia by Maxim D. Shrayer
  - Finalist for the 2013 National Jewish Book Award

- Suicide Bensalem Himmich
  - Winner of Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation

- Lake Effect
  - 2013 Central New York Book Award in Non-Fiction
Land of Enchantment
Liza Wieland

“Wieland is a vital voice in contemporary American fiction. Her prose is crisp, her voices are true, and her acuity is remarkable.”
—Colum McCann, author of the National Book Award–winning Let the Great World Spin

“Land of Enchantment is a beautifully written, dizzyingly knowledgeable examination of the intersection between art and life. It is the best novel I’ve read in the past year.”
—Charles Frazier, winner of the National Book Award for Cold Mountain

New Mexico, 1985. Brigid Long Night, a young half-Navajo painter, goes to work as an assistant for the elderly Georgia O’Keeffe. Haunted by the decision to give up her newborn daughter for adoption, Brigid struggles with the direction and inertia of her life. With O’Keeffe’s encouragement, Brigid develops a powerful style, incorporating language and wordplay as well as image in her portrayal of Native American life and her place in it.

Atlanta, 1995. Nancy Diamond, an aspiring playwright, encounters Brigid’s work and begins to understand the hidden truths about her own life as the child born of an affair between her white mother and an African American artist.

New York City, 2001. Sasha Hernandez enrolls at Columbia University to study filmmaking. She has only recently discovered that her mother, living in Manhattan, is a celebrated painter and sculptor whose work is installed in the sculpture garden at the World Trade Center.

In Liza Wieland’s deeply moving novel, these interwoven stories show how art reveals the depth and complexity of human love, in all its betrayals and losses, beauty, and redemption.

Liza Wieland is the author of three novels, three collections of short fiction, and a volume of poems. Her work has been awarded two Pushcart Prizes, a National Endowment for the Arts grant, and the Michigan Literary Fiction Award. She teaches at East Carolina University and lives near Oriental, NC, with her husband and daughter.
The Cask of Moonlight
Patrick Kehoe

The poems of Kehoe’s second collection are set in Barcelona, a city of slow time and reflection, of “crepuscular, pastel-tinted shrouds” but also of vitality and luminance. Kehoe’s lucid, light-handed lyrics brilliantly illuminate a time and a place, like a full moon over the “beehive ways of the city.” His is already a distinctive voice in Irish poetry.

Nine Bright Shiners
Theo Dorgan

At the heart of Dorgan’s new collection is a sequence of elegies that reflect on early and recent deaths, from the loss of his infant sister to the suicide of a contemporary. These are poems from a broken world. The book is unflinching in facing up to death and the poet’s own mortality, but these dark meditations are framed by whole-hearted celebrations of love, life, art, and voyaging.

Liffey Swim
Jessica Traynor

Liffey Swim is the debut collection from Dubliner, Jessica Traynor, whose family portraits combine with myth and history to create a strikingly assured and engaging suite of poems. Delivered in a language that is at once fresh and confident, these poems herald Traynor as a powerful new talent in Irish writing.

Borrowed Space
New and Selected Poems
Enda Wyley

Borrowed Space celebrates twenty-one years of Irish poet Enda Wyley’s poems. Filled with energy, imagination, and heart, Wyley’s poems convey the quiet determination of a seasoned poet. She has twice been a winner in the British National Poetry Competition and was the inaugural recipient of the Vincent Buckley Poetry Prize.
My Torturess
Bensalem Himmich
Translated from the Arabic by Roger Allen

Paper $19.95 978-0-8156-1047-2
ebook 978-0-8156-5317-2
6 x 9, 248 pages
Series: Middle East Literature in Translation
April 2015

“Himmich is one of the most innovative and prolific novelists in contemporary Morocco. This is an important work of literature in a masterful translation.”

—Jonathan Smolin, associate professor of Arabic, Dartmouth College

In this harrowing novel, a young Moroccan bookseller is falsely accused of being involved in jihadist activities. Drugged and carried off the street, Hamuda is "extraordinarily rendered" to a prison camp in an unknown location where he is interrogated and subjected to various methods of torture.

Narrated through the voice of the young prisoner, the novel unfolds in Hamuda’s attempt to record his experience once he is finally released after six years in captivity. He paints an unforgettable portrait of his captors’ brutality and the terrifying methods of his primary interrogator, a French woman known as Mama Ghula. With a lucid style, Himmich delivers a visceral tale that explores the moral depths to which humanity is capable of descending and the limits of what the soul can endure.

Philosopher and writer Bensalem Himmich is the author of a number of works in both Arabic and French. He has won a number of prizes and distinctions, including the Naguib Mahfouz Prize (American University in Cairo, 2002), the Sharjah-UNESCO Prize (2003), the Diploma and Medal of the Academic Society of Arts and Letters (Paris, 2009), and the Prize of the Academy of Floral Games (Toulouse, France, 2011). My Torturess was nominated for the International Arabic Fiction Prize in 2011.

Roger Allen is the Sascha Jane Patterson Harvie Professor Emeritus of Social Thought and Comparative Ethics in the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is professor emeritus of Arabic and comparative literature. Among his translations are Bensalem Himmich’s A Muslim Suicide and The Polymath.
The Travels of Benjamin Zuskin
Ala Zuskin Perelman

“Ala Zuskin Perelman’s book about her father is particularly significant because it challenges the myths that for so long informed Western understanding of Soviet culture. As a tribute to her father, she created an entirely new literary form. The hero, Benjamin Zuskin—‘just’ an actor and ‘just’ a modest and charming man—personifies the principal traits of his epoch, his art, and his people.”

—Joshua Rubenstein, Davis Center Associate, Harvard University

“A story, an essay, an epic, a tragedy, a comedy, and a history told with delicate sensitivity and literary wisdom. This is a gift to the generations to come.”

—Antonio Attisani, University of Torino, Italy

Described by theater critics as one of the twentieth century’s greatest talents, Benjamin Zuskin (1899–1952) was a star of the Moscow State Jewish Theater. In writing The Travels of Benjamin Zuskin, his daughter, Ala Zuskin Perelman, has rescued from oblivion his story and that of the theater in which he served as performer and, for a period, artistic director. Against the backdrop of the Soviet regime’s effort to stifle any expression of Jewish identity, the Moscow State Jewish Theater—throughout its thirty years of existence (1919–49)—maintained a high level of artistic excellence while also becoming a center of Jewish life and culture. A member of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, Zuskin was arrested under fabricated charges and eventually executed on August 12, 1952, along with twelve other eminent Soviet Jews and committee members.

Zuskin Perelman’s fascinating chronicle, more than just a personal memoir, conveys the vibrancy and energy of Jewish theater, celebrates the cultural achievements of Soviet Jews, and calls attention to the tragic fate that awaited them. The Travels of Benjamin Zuskin sheds light on Soviet Jewish history through the lens of one of the period’s most influential cultural icons.

Ala Zuskin Perelman was born in Moscow to Benjamin Zuskin and Eda Berkovsky, both actors in the Moscow State Jewish Theater. She was trained as an engineer, translator, and expert in scientific and technological information. In 1975, with her husband, Yuri Perelman, and their two sons, she immigrated to Israel, where she directed the Information Center at the Standards Institution and at the same time initiated or took part in projects commemorating Benjamin Zuskin and his milieu.
“As Marxsen makes clear in this readable study, Helene was a forceful humanitarian who played a significant role in the development and continuation of the Schweitzer Hospital. Based on new primary sources, this first English-language study of an international life offers insights into a forgotten woman and her times. Helene Schweitzer did indeed have a life of her own that is worth Remembering.”

—Jean H. Baker, author of Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography

Born in Berlin, Helene Schweitzer came of age in Strasbourg during a time of great social, architectural, and historical developments. It was in this cultural milieu, as a history professor’s daughter, that Helene met a young pastor named Albert Schweitzer (1875–1965) and developed a deep friendship that flourished for a decade before their marriage in 1912. During those years, she served as the first woman Inspector of City Orphanages in Strasbourg, a position she held for four years before becoming a certified nurse. She also edited and proofread a number of Schweitzer’s books in multiple fields as they worked together to realize their shared dream of devoting their lives to humanity. Together in 1913, Albert and Helene Schweitzer founded what is now the longest-running hospital established by Europeans in Africa, the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in current-day Gabon.

With her quiet strength, clear sense of purpose, independent spirit, and wide range of skills and talents, Helene was a model for many other women who later served the Schweitzer Hospital. Drawing upon the couple’s lifelong correspondence, as well as Helene’s journals and professional writing, Marxsen reveals a modern woman of courage in dark times whose resilient, optimistic spirit allowed her to leave a lasting legacy that has yet to be fully understood. Helene Schweitzer’s dramatic life reveals deeper questions of how memory is influenced by gender assumptions and how biography is shaped by place and history. By providing a counter-narrative to the traditional image of a frail woman who sacrificed her life to her husband’s genius, this richly detailed chronicle of a little-known figure invites a larger discussion about the meaning of a woman’s life obscured by a partner’s fame.

Patti M. Marxsen is a journalist, essayist, translator, and independent scholar. She is the translator of Albert Schweitzer’s Lambarene: A Legacy of Humanity for Our World Today by Jo and Walter Munz.
A Taste of Upstate New York
The People and the Stories behind 40 Food Favorites
Chuck D’Imperio

“Every recipe that we create at Beekman 1802 is influenced by the harvests and the happenings that surround us. One peek at this wonderfully written book and you’ll understand our source of inspiration. D’Imperio has compiled the very best of upstate cuisine in his trademark humorous voice. A must-have for any upstate road-tripper or foodie.”

——Brent Ridge and Josh Kilmer-Purcell, founders of Beekman1802.com

“D’Imperio has done an admirable job of recognizing dozens of unique culinary icons, legendary food purveyors, and unique food traditions from all over upstate New York. The book celebrates their history and encourages readers to seek them out.”

——Karen Miltner, food writer, Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester, NY

“An entertaining cultural history of the noteworthy foods of the region and a guide for travelers seeking to sample them.”

——Don Cazentre, food and drink writer, Syracuse.com/The Post Standard

Upstate New York is the birthplace of many of America’s favorite foods. The chicken wing was born in a bar in Buffalo, the potato chip originated in the kitchen of a glitzy Saratoga Springs hotel, the salt potato got its start along the marshy shores of a Syracuse lake, and Thousand Island dressing was created in a hotel along the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In this book, D’Imperio travels across the region to discover the stories and people behind forty iconic foods of Upstate New York. He introduces readers to the black dirt farmers of Orange County who give America its best-tasting onions, to the Catskill’s Candy Cane King, and to “Charlie the Butcher,” purveyor of the best beef on weck in the state. Filled with color photographs, the book includes a map of the various regions around Upstate New York, allowing readers to create their own cultural and historic food tour.

Leveling the Playing Field
The Story of the Syracuse 8
David Marc
Foreword by Jim Brown

From Leveling the Playing Field . . .

“In a society where choosing which side to root for often takes priority over other forms of authentic discovery and engagement, it may be tempting to sum up the story of the Syracuse 8 as a conflict between a “racist white” football coach and a group of “militant black” student athletes. The temptation is worth resisting. What little truth there is in that characterization only tends to hide the complexity of a more compelling human drama that touches not only on race and sports, but on generational conflict, American cultural history, the ability of institutions to cope with change, and the struggle of individuals for personal dignity.”

—Greg Allen, one of the Syracuse 8

Leveling the Playing Field tells the story of the African American members of the 1969–70 Syracuse University football team who petitioned for racial equality on their team. The petition had four demands: access to the same academic tutoring made available to their white teammates; better medical care for all team members; starting assignments based on merit rather than race; and a discernible effort to racially integrate the coaching staff, which had been all white since 1898.

The players’ charges of racial disparity were fiercely contested by many of the white players on the team, and the debate spilled into the newspapers and drew protests from around the country. Mistakenly called the “Syracuse 8” by media reports in the 1970s, the nine players who signed the petition did not receive a response allowing or even acknowledging their demands. They boycotted the spring 1970 practice, and Coach Ben Schwartzwalder, a deeply beloved figure on campus and a Hall of Fame football coach nearing retirement, banned seven of the players from the team. As tensions escalated, white players staged a day-long walkout in support of the coaching staff, and an enhanced police presence was required at home games.

Extensive interviews with each player offer a firsthand account of their decision to stand their ground while knowing it would jeopardize their professional football career. They discuss with candor the ways in which the boycott profoundly changed the course of their lives. In Leveling the Playing Field, Marc chronicles this contentious moment in Syracuse University’s history and tells the story through the eyes of the players who demanded change for themselves and for those who would follow them.

David Marc is the author of numerous books, including Bonfire of the Humanities: Television, Subliteracy, and Long-Term Memory Loss.

Of interest . . .

Beyond Home Plate
Jackie Robinson on Life after Baseball
Edited by Michael G. Long

Cloth $29.95 978-0-8156-1001-4
ebook 978-0-8156-5218-2
Peconic Bay
Four Centuries of History on Long Island’s North and South Forks
Marilyn E. Weigold

At last! A comprehensive overview from prehistory to today of a unique and most interesting area—the Peconic Estuary with its encircling North and South Forks. Fascinating for newcomers as well as old timers and historians.”

—Gaynell Stone, director, Suffolk County Archaeological Association

“An indispensable addition to the bookshelves of those interested in Long Island history, with special appeal to those living or visiting on the East End who want to delve into its past.”

—Natalie A. Naylor, Professor Emerita, Hofstra University

Bordered on the south by the Atlantic Ocean and on the north by Long Island Sound, the Peconic Bay region, including the North and South Forks, has only recently been recognized for its environmental and economic significance. The story of the waterway and its contiguous land masses is one of farmers and fishermen, sailing vessels and submarines, wealthy elite residents, and award-winning vineyards.

Peconic Bay examines the past 400 years of the region’s history, tracing the growth of the fishing industry, the rise of tourism, and the impact of a military presence in the wake of September 11. Weigold introduces readers to the people of Peconic Bay’s colorful history—from Albert Einstein and Captain Kidd, to Clara Barton and Kofi Annan—as well as to the residents who have struggled, and continue to struggle, over the well-being of their community and their estuarine connection to the planet. Throughout, Weigold brings to life the region’s rich sense of place and shines a light on its unique role in our nation’s history.

Marilyn E. Weigold is professor of history, University Historian, and assistant chair of the Department of Economics, History and Political Science at Pace University. A specialist in regional and environmental history, she is the author of Long Island Sound: Its People, Places and Environment.
Stone Houses of Jefferson County

Edited by Maureen Hubbard Barros, Brian W. Gorman, and Robert A. Uhlig

Photographs by Richard Margolis

Jefferson County, New York, has one of the richest concentrations of stone houses in America. As many as 500 limestone houses, churches, and commercial buildings were built there before 1860. Some of the buildings are beautiful mansions built by early entrepreneurs, and others are small vernacular farmhouses. Some are clustered together; others dot the countryside near limestone outcroppings. Embedded in the fabric of each building are the stories of its location, its maker, and those who have lived there.

Lavishly illustrated with almost 300 photographs, this volume highlights eighty-five stone houses in the region. The editors explore both the beauty and permanence of the stonework and the courage and ambition of the early dwellers. They detail the ways in which skilled masons utilized local limestone and sandstone, crafting double-faced stone walls to protect against fire and harsh winters. The book includes detailed discussions of the geology of the region, the stone buildings that have been lost, and the preservation and care of existing structures. Stone Houses of Jefferson County provides a fascinating look at the intrinsic beauty of these buildings and the historical links they provide to our early settlement.

Maureen Hubbard Barros is the author of numerous articles and the book Ornament and Object: Canadian Jewellery and Metal Art 1946–1996.

Brian W. Gorman has worked as a commercial banker, finance manager, and general manager of the dairy cooperative and cheese store. He has been involved in research and the renovation or restoration of three historic houses: a circa 1865 balloon-framed dockworker’s house in Burlington, VT, an 1853 Greek Revival one-and-a-half story connected farmhouse in Northfield, VT, and a combined frame (1810) and stone (1831) farmhouse in Watertown, NY.

Robert A. Uhlig was in the field of education for thirty-four years before retiring in 1992. He is president of the Stone Building Society of Northern New York.

Richard Margolis has taught in the art departments of Nazareth College and SUNY Brockport and now photographs mostly his own projects, involving trees, bridges, public art, and landmarks.
Books for the Scholar

Notable Books

Gulf Women
Edited by Amira El Ashary Seobol

Unveiling the Harem
Elites Women and the Paradox of Seduction in Eighteenth Century Cairo
Mary Ann Foley

Picturing Disability
Beggar, Freak, Citizen, and Other Photographic Rhetoric
Robert Bogdan

2014 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title
2014 Best First Book Award from Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society
2014 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title

In the Shadow of Kinzua
The Seneca Nation of Indians since World War II
Laurence M. Hauptman

We Are Iraqis
Aesthetics and Politics in a Time of War
Nade Al-Ali and Deborah Al Najjar, eds.

Mahmoud Darwish
The Poet’s Art and His Nation
Khaled Mattawa

2014 Award of Merit winner by American Association of State & Local History Leadership in History
2014 Arab American Book Award for Non-Fiction
Khaled Mattawa was awarded MacArthur Foundation Fellowship
Captain America, Masculinity, and Violence
The Evolution of a National Icon
J. Richard Stevens

“A great resource for students in courses dealing with comic books, popular culture, and/or American history.”
—Terrence Wandtke, author of The Meaning of Superhero Comics Books

“Stevens provides a chronological character study of one of the most important comics superheroes to have emerged out of the ‘Golden Age’ of comics. This book employs a compelling political/cultural analysis of the character, as well as an ‘industry history’ of the series.”
—Gary Hoppenstand, Michigan State University

Since 1940, Captain America has battled his enemies in the name of American values, and as those values have changed over time, so has Captain America’s character. Because the comic book world fosters a close fan–creator dialogue, creators must consider their ever-changing readership. Comic book artists must carefully balance storyline continuity with cultural relevance. Captain America’s seventy-year existence spans from World War II through the Cold War to the American War on Terror; beginning as a soldier unopposed to offensive attacks against foreign threats, he later becomes known as a defender whose only weapon is his iconic shield. In this way, Captain America reflects America’s need to renegotiate its social contract and reinvent its national myths and cultural identity, all the while telling stories proclaiming an eternal and unchanging spirit of America.

In Captain America, Masculinity, and Violence, Stevens reveals how the comic book hero has evolved to maintain relevance to America’s fluctuating ideas of masculinity, patriotism, and violence. Stevens outlines the history of Captain America’s adventures and places the unfolding storyline in dialogue with the comic book industry as well as America’s varying political culture. Stevens shows that Captain America represents the ultimate American story: permanent enough to survive for nearly seventy years with a history fluid enough to be constantly reinterpreted to meet the needs of an ever-changing culture.

J. Richard Stevens is assistant professor in media studies at the University of Colorado Boulder.
Laura Cornelius Kellogg
Our Democracy and the American Indian and Other Works
Edited by Kristina Ackley and Cristina Stanciu

“This work will restore to the field of Native American studies an important but often forgotten figure. The time is right for a critical reevaluation of Laura Kellogg’s writings and political legacy.”

—Scott Manning Stevens, director, Native American Studies Program, Syracuse University

“Our Democracy is Kellogg’s most comprehensive discussion of the difficulties American Indians faced and the fullest explanation of her plan to develop cooperative industrial villages on Indian reservations.”

—A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff, author of American Indian Literatures

Laura Cornelius Kellogg was an eloquent and fierce voice in early twentieth-century Native American affairs. An organizer, author, playwright, performer, and linguist, Kellogg worked tirelessly for Wisconsin Oneida cultural self-determination when efforts to Americanize Native people reached their peak. She is best known for her extraordinary book Our Democracy and the American Indian (1920) and as a founding member of the Society of American Indians. In an era of government policies aimed at assimilating Indian peoples and erasing tribal identities, Kellogg supported a transition from federal paternalism to self-government. She strongly advocated for the restoration of tribal lands, which she considered vital for keeping Native nations together and for obtaining economic security and political autonomy.

Although Kellogg was a controversial figure, alternately criticized and championed by her contemporaries, her work has endured in Oneida community memory and among scholars in Native American studies, though it has not been available to a broader audience. Ackley and Stanciu resurrect her legacy in this comprehensive volume, which includes Kellogg’s writings, speeches, photographs, congressional testimonies, and coverage in national and international newspapers of the time. In an illuminating and richly detailed introduction, the editors show how Kellogg’s prescient thinking makes her one of the most compelling Native intellectuals of her time.

Kristina Ackley is a tenured member of the faculty in Native American studies at Evergreen State College.

Cristina Stanciu is an assistant professor of English at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she teaches courses in American Indian studies and multiethnic literatures of the United States.
Planning the American Indian Reservation
From Theory to Empowerment
Nicholas Christos Zaferatos
Foreword by Brian Cladoosby

“Zaferatos does a great service with this book. He understands that the successful planner in Indian Country works to empower tribes by expanding their capacities to stand as governing equals with their state, local, and federal counterparts. Perhaps even more importantly, his book sets out in detail the constraints and opportunities that confront the exercise of tribal governmental powers, and then goes about illustrating— with real world cases— exactly how constraints can be overcome and opportunities can be seized. The lessons Zaferatos draws will help both tribes and their neighbors to build better communities for their citizens.”


American Indian reservation planning is one of the most challenging and poorly understood specializations within the American planning profession. Charged with developing a strategy to protect irreplaceable tribal homelands that have been repeatedly diminished over the ages through unjust public policy actions, it is also one of the most imperative. For centuries tribes have faced historical bigotry, political violence, and an unrelenting resistance to self-governance. Aided by a comprehensive reservation planning strategy, tribes can create the community they envisioned for themselves, independent of outside forces.

In Planning the American Indian Reservation, Zaferatos presents a holistic and practical approach to explaining the practice of Native American planning. The book unveils the complex conditions that tribes face by examining the historical, political, legal, and theoretical dimensions of the tribal planning situation in order to elucidate the context within which reservation planning occurs. Drawing on more than thirty years of professional practice, Zaferatos presents several case studies demonstrating how effective tribal planning can alter the nature of the political landscape and help to rebalance the uneven relationships that have been formed between tribal governments and their nontribal political counterparts. Tribal planning’s overarching objective is to assist tribes as they transition from passive objects of historical circumstances to principal actors in shaping their future reservation communities.

Nicholas Christos Zaferatos is professor of urban planning and sustainable development at Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University. His professional practice in urban planning spans over thirty-five years and includes planning and executive managerial positions and civic appointments on planning boards and commissions with local, regional, and Native American governments.
“Baigell, the premier scholar of Jewish American art, has written what promises to be the definitive study of its political and social concerns in the 1930s, tracing them back to the 1880s, and showing how they were informed by the artists’ religious heritage.”

—Donald Kuspit, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Art History and Philosophy, State University of New York at Stony Brook

Of interest . . .

American Artists, Jewish Images
Matthew Baigell
Cloth $45.00s 978-0-8156-3067-8

Social Concern and Left Politics in Jewish American Art
1880–1940
Matthew Baigell

“Baigell reaches deep into new sources to present a stimulating and needed treatment of a neglected topic in the annals of Jewish, American, and political art. I read the book wanting to know more about a few artists I was already familiar with but came away with a fascination for a whole generation of Jewish artists that is mostly lost to history.”

—Samuel D. Gruber, president, International Survey of Jewish Monuments

Of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Jewish artists, a large number turned toward radical socialist politics. These artists, even the most secularized among them, were deeply influenced by the Jewish traditions, teachings, and culture in which they were raised. The communal thrust of Judaism that calls upon Jews to bear the responsibility for the moral, spiritual, and material welfare of their community informed the creative output of these artists.

Baigell explores the meaningful yet little-examined connections between religious heritage, social concerns, and political radicalism in the Jewish American art world from the time of the Great Migration from Eastern Europe in the 1880s to the beginning of World War II. Focusing on political cartoons published in left-wing Yiddish- and English-language newspapers and magazines, Baigell shows how artists commented on current events using biblical and other Jewish references within a medium of expression that had the widest possible audience. Set against the backdrop of the Russian Revolution, the Depression, and the rise of fascism during the 1930s, the book examines the work of such well-known artists as William Gropper and Mark Rothko, and brings to light the work of lesser-known artists such as Leon Israel and Louis Ribak. Artists’ personal correspondence, newspaper articles, and the writings of art critics all reveal the intimate connections between Jewish memories, religious customs, and radical socialist concerns.

Matthew Baigell is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Art History at Rutgers University. He is the author of numerous books, including American Artists, Jewish Images, and Jewish Art in America: An Introduction.
Letters to America
Selected Poems of Reuven Ben-Yosef
Edited and Translated by Michael Weingrad

“Weingrad deepens the conversation about American Jews’ relationship to American identity and culture by introducing the expatriate Ben-Yosef and his Hebrew poetic corpus. It’s an important contribution that will push future scholarship in interesting new directions.”
—Philip Hollander, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Reuven Ben-Yosef (1937–2001) was born Robert Eliot Reiss to an assimilated Jewish family in New York. He switched from writing English poetry to Hebrew poetry after his immigration to Israel in 1959. He is the author of more than a dozen volumes of superb Hebrew poetry, as well as two collections of essays and two novels, and he won literary honors such as the Levi Eshkol Prize, the Bar-Ilan University Prize, and the Neuman and Kovner prizes for Hebrew literature. At the center of his oeuvre is the sequence of poems he wrote in the 1970s called “Mikhtavim la’Amerikah” (Letters to America), a searing and confessional set of addresses in the form of “letters” to his family members (none of whom, however, could read Hebrew) and to American Jewry as a whole.

In this edited volume, Weingrad includes not only these expertly translated poems but also an extensive, fascinating introduction that helps us see Ben-Yosef’s personal poetry as part of a larger family story. While Ben-Yosef was writing about his American family members, they were writing about him. Ben-Yosef’s younger brother, poet James Reiss, began publishing highly praised collections of poems in the 1970s and addressed conflicts with his brother in a number of poems. Ben-Yosef’s brother-in-law, novelist William Luvaas, published a first novel that was clearly based upon the Reiss family. Ben-Yosef’s letters to America are therefore joined by his family members’ “letters” to Israel, through which the Reiss family collectively created its own literature of the American–Israeli relationship in miniature, the conflicts and rifts, rivalries and loyalties of family members and competing homelands.

This essential introduction, which also describes Ben-Yosef’s early life as an American and the challenges of becoming an Israeli poet writing in Hebrew, enriches our understanding of the deeply personal poems collected in the rest of the volume. Weingrad compellingly argues that Ben-Yosef’s poems, though seemingly local in their explicit Israeli audience and address, implicitly speak to Jews in America about assimilation, heritage, and the struggle between competing identities.

Michael Weingrad is associate professor of Judaic studies at Portland State University. He is the author of American Hebrew Literature: Writing Jewish National Identity in the United States.
Pragmatism in Islamic Law
A Social and Intellectual History
Ahmed Fekry Ibrahim

“The author examines a vitally important, if little studied, development in Islamic jurisprudential theory and substantive law. . . . Ibrahim forces us to question some of the more popular academic conceptions about Islamic law in history and its evolution in modern centuries.”
—Reem Meshal, associate professor of Islamic studies, Louisiana State University

In Pragmatism in Islamic Law, Ibrahim presents a detailed history of Sunni legal pluralism and the ways in which it was employed to accommodate the changing needs of society. Since the formative period of Islamic law, jurists have debated whether it is acceptable for a law to be selected based on its utility, rather than weighing conflicting articulations of the law to determine the most likely expression of the divine will. Virtually unanimous opposition to the utilitarian approach, referred to as “pragmatic eclecticism,” emerged among early Islamic jurists. However, due to a host of changing institutional and socio-economic transformations, a trend toward the legitimization of pragmatic eclecticism arose in the thirteenth century. Subsequently, the Mamluk authorities institutionalized this pragmatism when Sultan Baybars appointed four chief judges representing the four Sunni schools in Cairo in 1265 CE. After a brief attempt to reverse Mamluk pluralism by imposing the Hanafi school in the sixteenth century, Egypt’s new rulers, the Ottomans, embraced this pluralistic pragmatism.

In examining over a thousand cases from three seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Egyptian courts, Ibrahim traces the internal logic of pragmatic eclecticism under the Ottomans. An array of archival sources documents the manner in which Egyptian society’s subaltern classes navigated Sunni legal pluralism as a tool to avoid more austere legal doctrines. The ensuing portrait challenges the assumption made by many modern historians that the utilitarian approaches adopted by nineteenth- and twentieth-century Muslim reformers constituted a clear rupture with early Islamic legal history. In contrast, many of the legal strategies exercised in Egypt’s partial codification of family law in the twentieth century were rooted in premodern Islamic jurisprudence.

Ahmed Fekry Ibrahim is assistant professor of Islamic law at McGill University.
The Iranian Constitutional Revolution and the Clerical Leadership of Khurasani
Mateo Mohammad Farzaneh

“Farzaneh provides an innovative and original approach to the thought of a renowned cleric, Muhammad Kazim Khurasani, who played a significant role in the Iranian Constitutional period of 1906–11.”

—Vanessa Martin, author of Iran between Islamic Nationalism and Secularism

The Iranian Constitutional Revolution was the twentieth century’s first such political movement in the Middle East. It represented a landmark in Iranian history because of the unlikely support it received from Shi’ite clerics who historically viewed Western concepts with suspicion, some claiming constitutionalism to be anti-Islamic. Leading the support was Muhammad Kazim Khurasani, the renowned Shi’ite jurist who conceived of a supporting role for the clergy in a modern Iranian political system.

Drawing on extensive analysis of religious texts, fatwas, and articles written by Khurasani and other pro- and anti-constitutionalists, Farzaneh provides a comprehensive and illuminating interpretation of Khurasani’s religious pragmatism. Despite some opposition from his peers, Khurasani used a form of jurisprudential reasoning when creating shari’a that was based on human intellect to justify his support of not only the Iranian parliament but also the political powers of clerics. He had a reputation across the Shi’ite community as a masterful religious scholar, a skillful teacher, and a committed humanitarian who heeded the people’s socioeconomic and political grievances and took action to address them. Khurasani’s push for progressive reforms helped to inaugurate a new era of clerical involvement in constitutionalism in the Middle East.

Mateo Mohammad Farzaneh is assistant professor of history at Northeastern Illinois University.
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Kenneth M. Cuno

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In 1910, when Khedive Abbas II married a second wife surreptitiously, the contrast with his openly polygamous grandfather, Ismail, whose multiple wives and concubines signified his grandeur and masculinity, could not have been greater. That contrast reflected the spread of new ideals of family life that accompanied the development of Egypt’s modern marriage system. Modernizing Marriage explores the evolution of marriage and marital relations, shedding new light on the social and cultural history of Egypt.

Family is central to modern Egyptian history and in the ruling court did the “political work.” Indeed, the modern state began as a household government in which members of the ruler’s household served in the military and civil service. Cuno discusses political and sociodemographic changes that affected marriage and family life and the production of a family ideology by modernist intellectuals, who identified the family as a site crucial to social improvement, and for whom the reform and codification of Muslim family law was a principal aim. Throughout Modernizing Marriage, Cuno examines Egyptian family history in a comparative and transnational context, addressing issues of colonial modernity and colonial knowledge, Islamic law and legal reform, social history, and the history of women and gender.

Kenneth M. Cuno is associate professor of history at the University of Illinois. He is the author of The Pasha’s Peasants: Land, Society, and Economy in Lower Egypt, 1740–1858, coeditor of Family, Gender, and Law in a Globalizing Middle East and South Asia, and coeditor of Race and Slavery in the Middle East.
Mahmud Sami al-Barudi

Reconfiguring Society and the Self

Terri DeYoung

“DeYoung invites us to enjoy the poetry of the neo-classical Egyptian poet, al-Barudi (1839–1904), as a herald of modern Arab sensibility, and to appreciate his societal reforms as the first independent prime minister of Egypt. Later, as an exile in Ceylon where the British consigned him for seventeen years, his poetry is shown at its best by her well-documented book and its uniquely informed vision, which will be valued for many years to come.”

—Issa J. Boullata, Professor Emeritus of Arabic Literature, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University

“A major reference source for any future research on al-Barudi, the roots of change in modern Arabic poetry, the socio-political role of the literary imagination in the modern Arab world, and the perennially charged and apropos subject of cultural encounter between the Western colonizer and its colonized Other.”

—Muhammad Siddiq, professor of Arabic and comparative literature, University of California, Berkeley

To explore the life of Mahmud Sami al-Barudi is to gain a nuanced perspective on the many facets—the perils and promises—of change in the rapidly modernizing Egypt of the nineteenth century. Al-Barudi, sole scion of a Turko-Circassian elite family that clung precariously to a legacy of position and power, turned his military education into a government career that ended with his elevation to the office of prime minister. He served briefly before the British invasion in 1882 put an end to Egypt’s independence for seventy years.

As prime minister, al-Barudi focused on drafting and passing into law Egypt’s first constitution, an achievement that was summarily swept aside by the British occupation. Similarly, the prime minister’s efforts to modernize and improve the educational system were systematically undermined by the policies of colonial rule in the 1880s and 1890s. Although his reforms ultimately failed, al-Barudi was recognized among his contemporaries as the most consistent supporter of liberalism and eventually democratic representation and constitutionalism. For his boldness, he paid a price. He was exiled by the British to Ceylon for seventeen years and returned to Egypt in 1901 as a blind, prematurely aged, and broken man.

Even before he made an impact as a political leader, al-Barudi had made a name for himself as the most original and adventurous poet of his generation. DeYoung charts the development of al-Barudi’s poetry through his youth, his career in government, his philosophical and elegiac reflections while in exile, and his return to Egypt at the beginning of a new century. Connecting the themes found in his more influential poems—among the more than 400 lyrics he composed—to the turbulent events of his political life and to his equally fierce desire to innovate artistically throughout his literary career, DeYoung offers a vivid portrait of one of the most influential pioneers of Arabic poetry.

Terri DeYoung is associate professor of Arabic language and literature at the University of Washington. She is the author of Placing the Poet: Badi’ Shakir Al-Sayyab and Postcolonial Iraq.
The Critical Imagination in African Literature
Essays in Honor of Michael J. C. Echeruo
Edited by Maik Nwosu and Obiwu

“In The Critical Imagination in African Literature the editors and contributors, having managed to capture Professor Echeruo’s unmatchable breadth and depth of knowledge, his tough but also careful and deliberative way of using and interpreting language, and his completely respectful way of treating the cultural artifacts of Africa and elsewhere, have provided readers with a wonderful example of how knowledge and scholarship can be both profound as well as fun to read. This is the way to honor a fine and generous mind!”
—Abioseh Michael Porter, professor of English, Drexel University

In African studies, the “Echeruoan ideal” is understood as an intervention or intellectual engagement characterized by a broadness of vision as well as a depth of analysis. The essays gathered in this volume celebrate that ideal and honor Echeruo’s contribution to the African intellectual tradition.

Editors Nwosu and Obiwu explore the driving forces in the literature of Africa and the African diaspora. Contributors examine such themes as migration and exile, trauma and repression, violence and rebellion, and gender and human rights. Showcasing a rich diversity of cultural and academic backgrounds, this volume inaugurates a new paradigm for further examination of African literature as world literature and for analysis of African literature through the lens of psychoanalytic semiotics. While varied in modes of inquiry, the essays are unified in their ambition to explore new theoretical directions, reinvigorating the conversation around how African literature is read and studied.

Maik Nwosu is associate professor of English at the University of Denver. He is the author of Markets of Memories: Between the Postcolonial and the Transnational.

Obiwu is assistant professor of English at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. He is the author of several poetry volumes, including Tigress at Full Moon.
Joyce/Shakespeare
Edited by Laura Pelaschiar

“This collection gathers an impressive international group of Joyce critics who combine to give a series of superlative essays replete with many excellent readings of the intertextual network connecting Joyce and Shakespeare.”

—Jean-Michel Rabaté, professor of English and comparative literature at the University of Pennsylvania

Shakespeare’s presence in Joyce’s work is tentacular, extending throughout his career on many different levels: cultural, structural, lexical, and psychological; yet a surprisingly long time has passed since the last monograph on this literary nexus was published. Joyce/Shakespeare brings together fresh work by internationally recognized Joyce scholars on these two icons, reinvigorating our understanding of Joyce at play with the Bard. One way these essays revitalize the discussion is by moving well beyond the traditional Joycean challenge of “thinking Shakespearean” by “thinking Hamletian,” redefining the field to include works like Troilus and Cressida, Othello, and The Tempest. This collection also transforms our understanding of how Hamlet works in and for Joyce. In compelling essays that introduce new variables to the equation such as Trieste, Goethe, and Futurism, Hamlet’s role in Joyce gains fresh mobility. The Danish prince’s shadow, we learn, can still cast itself in unpredictable shapes, making Joyce/Shakespeare as rewarding in its analyses of this well-studied pairing as it is when it considers fresh Shakespearean matches.

Contributors:
Valérie Bénéjam
Richard Brown
Vincent Cheng
Laura Pelaschiar
Paul Fagan
Dieter Fuchs
John McCourt
Laura Pelaschiar
Vike Martina Plock
Giuesppina Restivo
Sam Slote

Laura Pelaschiar is a lecturer in English literature at the University of Trieste. She is director of the Trieste Joyce School and author of Writing the North: The Contemporary Novel in Modern Ireland.
America in the Nineties
Nina Esperanza Serrianne
Foreword by John Robert Greene

“America in the Nineties is an indispensable resource for students, scholars, and general readers alike. Serrianne charts the major developments of this pivotal decade and situates them within the broader context of recent American history. Highly recommended.”
—William A. Taylor, assistant professor of security studies, Angelo State University, Texas

“Provides a wide-ranging treatment of political, military, social, economic, and popular culture developments in the United States during an event-filled period in the very recent past. There are few other titles that focus on this broad a canvas during such a relatively narrow time period.”
—David H. Bennett, author of Bill Clinton: Building a Bridge to the New Millennium

In the latest volume of the America in the Twentieth Century series, Serrianne chronicles the decade of the 1990s from the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The post–Cold War and pre–War on Terror era was a unique moment in history regarding both foreign and domestic policies. Serrianne analyzes the cultural changes of the 1990s, including issues of race relations, women’s rights, and the LGBT movement. Backlash to the Civil Rights movement, the Conservative Revolution, Reaganomics in the 1980s, and the election of Bill Clinton created a decade in which both sides of the political spectrum sought to gain their footing. Combining a vivid narrative with informed analysis, America in the Nineties enriches our understanding of that pivotal era.

Nina Esperanza Serrianne holds an MA in history and political science and is currently pursuing a PhD in public policy at George Mason University.
(Re)Presenting Wilma Rudolph

Rita Liberti and Maureen M. Smith

Not only have the authors chosen to take on Ms. Rudolph’s legacy, but they are also engaging her historical and contemporary significance within the most current and promising shifts within the field: cultural history.”

—Damion Thomas, author of Globetrotting: African American Athletes and Cold War Politics

“(Re)Presenting Wilma Rudolph explores the historical trajectory of stories about the great Olympic track star of the 1960s. Their insights provide an important message for a celebrity-obsessed culture and for the focus on celebrity within the academic field of critical sport studies.”

—Susan Birrell, University of Iowa

The winner of three gold medals in track at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, Wilma Rudolph has been portrayed and remembered across a wide range of settings and sites over the past half-century. As an African American female born into poverty whose childhood disability left her temporarily unable to walk without the aid of a leg brace, Rudolph captured our attention then and continues to fascinate new generations of children and adults alike. The markers of Rudolph’s identity, joined with her athletic success, create a quintessential rags-to-riches tale, one repeatedly narrated over the decades.

(Re)Presenting Wilma Rudolph explores the major episodes and sites of memory across the track legend’s life and death. Analyzing newspaper and magazine accounts, dozens of children’s books, and a television movie, among other materials, Liberti and Smith highlight the range of ways meaning was constructed around Rudolph and her accomplishments on the track. Rather than a traditional biography, this book unpacks the collective memories we create and share about the Olympian. A close reading of the stories that are remembered and circulated about Rudolph not only underscore the athlete’s agency but simultaneously minimize and even erase the ways in which racism and sexism impacted her life. The memorials honoring Rudolph tell us far more about the moment of their creation and the storytellers than they do about the track great.

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J. Andrew Ross is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Guelph in Ontario. He has published numerous articles and chapters on the history of business, and has edited a collection of biographies of entrepreneurs.
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