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It’s Our 80th Birthday! 1936–2016

“Publication is as much a function of the university as teaching or research [and] an obligation that every great university owes to itself and to society.”

—Faculty Committee on University Publications, the University of Wisconsin, 1936

In 2016, we mark the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the University of Wisconsin Press. Throughout the calendar year, we’ll be blogging about the history of the Press at uwpress.wisc.edu/blog.

1936 On April 13, 1936, the University of Wisconsin faculty senate enacts legislation to “publish particularly meritorious manuscripts as books using the imprint: ‘The University of Wisconsin Press.’” Livia Appel is hired as managing editor.

1940s Hit hard by the toll of war—paper shortages, staff shortages, and the near impossibility of finding printers with facilities for “non-essential” work—the Press nearly ceases operations.

1950s The Press publishes the two-volume Classics in Translation, edited by University of Wisconsin faculty Paul L. MacKendrick and Herbert M. Howe. It will become our all-time bestseller.

1960s The new Journals Division publishes its first volumes of Contemporary Literature, Luso-Brazilian Review, Slavic and East European Journal, Journal of Land Economics, Arctic Anthropology, and Monatshefte. Five of these continue as UWP journals, joined by later acquisitions.

1970s University budget cuts result in the Press reducing by half both its staff and the number of new publications.

1980s The Press publishes its largest-ever book in a single volume: the 1,056-page Fishes of Wisconsin by George C. Becker of the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point. (It is now available free online at http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/)


2010s Several new book series are launched: Critical Human Rights, the Harvey Goldberg Series in Understanding and Teaching History, and Languages and Folklore of the Upper Midwest. Three new journals in African Studies are added to the Press’s publications: Mande Studies, Ghana Studies, and African Economic History.
Place Names of Wisconsin

EDWARD CALLARY

From Abbotsford to Zachow

“Up-to-date and fully documented, this alphabetical guide to 2,057 names of Wisconsin’s counties, towns, cities, and villages will be the definitive resource on Wisconsin place names for years to come. Readers—whether locals, travelers, or scholars—will enjoy learning about the unique history of the state as reflected in its place names.”—Luanne von Schneidemesser, senior editor, Dictionary of American Regional English

“The introduction is laced with apt examples of naming patterns and sources. It explains pseudo-Indian names and fanciful but false popular explanations of many names. And, Callary includes a helpful pronunciation guide for anyone confronted with Mazomanie, Menomonie, and Muscoda for the first time.”—James P. Leary, editor of Wisconsin Folklore

The colorful history and culture of Wisconsin are reflected in its place names, from those created by Native Americans, French explorers, and diverse European settlers to more recent appellations commemorating political figures, postmasters, and landowners. Organized alphabetically for easy reference, Edward Callary’s concise entries reveal the stories behind such intriguing names as Fussville, Misha Mokwa, Couderay, and Thiry Daems. Fun to read and packed with information, Place Names of Wisconsin is a must-have for anyone interested in Wisconsin and Midwest history, language, geography, and culture—or anyone who simply wonders, Why did they name it that?

EDWARD CALLARY is a professor emeritus of linguistics at Northern Illinois University and the past president of both the American Name Society and the North Central Name Society. He is the author of Place Names of Illinois and the editor of Place Names in the Midwestern United States and Surnames, Nicknames, Placenames, and Epithets in America.

OF RELATED INTEREST

Wisconsin Talk: Linguistic Diversity in the Badger State
Edited by Thomas Purnell, Eric Raimy, and Joseph Salmons

Wisconsin’s Past and Present: A Historical Atlas
Wisconsin Cartographers’ Guild, with an introduction by William Cronon
Treehab
Tales from My Natural, Wild Life
BOB SMITH

Every mosquito bite reminds us we’re still fresh enough to be lunch

“To say that Bob Smith can make a hilarious one-liner out of everything from imminent ecological catastrophe to his own struggles with ALS is to emphasize only one aspect of the beautiful and devastating Treehab. This is a profound meditation on the fragility of life and the enduring power of tolerance, love, and the many ways of creating families. A smart, funny, inspiring guide.”—Stephen McCauley, author of The Object of My Affection

“Treehab did something completely unexpected: it took me back to the days of my youth when I collected rocks in a box and regarded them all as treasures. That wide-eyed wonder so commonplace in children seems to have sustained Bob Smith all his life, even in the face of overwhelming challenges. He’s damned funny about this, too—hilarious, in fact. Smith doesn’t contrive to inspire us, he just does.”—Armistead Maupin, author of Tales of the City

In these moving, often surprising essays, award-winning author and comedian Bob Smith writes about facing life with ALS, his rich, funny experience of fatherhood before and after his diagnosis, and his enduring relationship with nature, which inspires him to fight for his survival and for the future of his two children. Aiming his potent, unflinching wit at such public concerns as global warming and environmental destruction, he also articulates how the wild world is a visual and vocal echo that we’re still alive.

BOB SMITH has won multiple honors for his memoirs Openly Bob and Way to Go, Smith and his novels Selfish and Perverse and Remembrance of Things I Forgot. He broke barriers as the first openly gay comedian to appear on The Tonight Show and was featured in his own HBO comedy special. He lives in New York City.

OF RELATED INTEREST

Remembrance of Things I Forgot: A Novel
Bob Smith
LC: 2010046335 PS
272 PP | 5½ x 8¼
ISBN 978-0-299-28340-7 | CLOTH $26.95

Little Reef and Other Stories
Michael Carroll
LC: 2013038687 PS
280 PP | 5½ x 8¼
Lithium Jesus
A Memoir of Mania
CHARLES MONROE-KANE

As featured on This American Life

“This humble, funny, raw (yes, sex) book is a pell-mell kaleidoscope of faith, drugs, bawdy behavior, and mental illness that resolves not in soft focus or shattered glass but in the sweet important idea that there are many ways to be born again.”—Michael Perry, author of The Jesus Cow

“For all the voices that once raged through his head, Charles Monroe-Kane has finally found the true one: his own. With plainspoken honesty, he takes us through his raucous mission to devour a world before it devoured him, arriving finally at the hard truth of salvation.”—David Giffels, author of The Hard Way on Purpose

Charles Monroe-Kane is a natural raconteur, and boy, does he have stories to tell. Born into an eccentric Ohio clan of modern hunter-gatherers, he grew up hearing voices in his head. Over a dizzying two decades, he was many things—teenage faith healer, world traveler, smuggler, liberation theologian, ladder maker, squatter, halibut hanger, grifter, environmental warrior, and circus manager—all the while wrestling with schizophrenia and self-medication.

From Baby Doc’s Haiti to the Czech Velvet Revolution, and from sex, drugs, and a stabbing to public humiliation by the leader of the free world, Monroe-Kane burns through his twenties and several bridges of youthful idealism before finally saying: enough.

In a memoir that blends engaging charm with unflinching frankness, Monroe-Kane gives his testimony of mental illness, drug abuse, faith, and love. By the end of Lithium Jesus there may be a voice in your head, too, saying “Do more, be more, live more. And fear less.”

©2015 sharon vanorny

CHARLES MONROE-KANE has won a Peabody Award for his work as a senior producer and interviewer for the program To the Best of Our Knowledge, broadcast on 220 public radio stations. He has reported for National Public Radio’s Morning Edition and All Things Considered.

OF RELATED INTEREST

It’s All a Kind of Magic: The Young Ken Kesey
Rick Dodgson
LC: 203010411 PS
256 PP. | 6 x 9 | 19 B/W ILLUS.

Space: A Memoir
Jesse Lee Kercheval
LC: 2013043835 PS
336 PP. | 5 x 7
ISBN 978-0-299-30024-1 | PAPER $24.95

By the time you get to my age, you’ve experienced fear. A man with a gun. An acid trip gone wrong. A serious car accident. Holding a loved one’s hand in the ICU. But there is something singular about the fear that comes from hearing voices. Voices no one can hear but you.

—excerpt from Lithium Jesus
Death in Cold Water

PATRICIA SKALKA

The Green Bay Packers’ #1 fan has gone missing

“Skalka has created magic with this excellent police procedural. She confronts Sheriff Dave Cubiak with a kidnapping, snakes, and even a bag of nearly drowned kittens, deftly brought together in crisp, evocative prose. A great read!”—Libby Fischer Hellman, author of Jump Cut

On a bracing autumn day in Door County, a prominent philanthropist disappears. Is the elderly Gerald Sneider—known as “Mr. Packer” for his legendary support of Green Bay football—suffering from dementia, or just avoiding his greedy son? Is there a connection to threats against the National Football League?

As tourists flood the peninsula for the fall colors, Sheriff Dave Cubiak’s search for Sneider is stymied by the FBI. When human bones wash up on the Lake Michigan shore, the sheriff has more than a missing man to worry about. With the media demanding answers and two puzzles to solve, Cubiak must follow his instincts down a trail of half-remembered rumors and local history to discover the shocking truth.

PATRICIA SKALKA is the author of Death Stalks Door County and Death at Gills Rock, the first two volumes in the Dave Cubiak Door County Mystery series. A former writer for Reader's Digest, she presents writing workshops throughout the United States and divides her time between Chicago and Door County, Wisconsin.

Praise for the Dave Cubiak Door County Mystery series

“In her atmospheric, tightly written sequel, Skalka vividly captures the beauty of a remote Wisconsin peninsula that will attract readers of regional mysteries. Also recommended for fans of William Kent Krueger, Nevada Barr, and Mary Logue.”—Library Journal, starred review

“The characters are well drawn, the dialogue realistic, and the puzzle is a difficult one to solve, with suspicion continually shifting as more evidence is uncovered. This is an impressive first novel.”—Mystery Scene

OTHER DAVE CUBIAK DOOR COUNTY MYSTERIES BY PATRICIA SKALKA

Death Stalks Door County
LC: 2013033800 PS
256 PP | 5¾ × 8¼ | 1 MAP

Death at Gills Rock
LC: 2014038286 PS
248 PP | 5¾ × 8¼
Raising a gender creative child from toddler to adult

“A vivid, heartfelt, and ultimately joyful account of one mother’s journey raising a son who did not ‘do gender’ by the books. Julie Tarney shows us that there is no right so precious as our right to be different, and no greater gift we can give to our children than loving them for who they are.”
—Harriet Lerner, author of The Dance of Anger

“This riveting account of parenting a gender-nonconforming child reminds us of how far we’ve come in the past twenty years, and also how far we have yet to go. Tarney shows us that, while there is no ‘bubble of light’ that can protect our children from all injuries, a parent’s unconditional love is the most effective armor of all.”
—Jessica Herthel, coauthor of I Am Jazz

When Julie Tarney’s only child Harry was two years old, he told her, “Inside my head I’m a girl.” It was 1992. The Internet was no help, because there was no Internet. And bookstores had no literature for a mom scrambling to raise such an unconventional child. Terms such as transgender, gender nonconforming, and gender creative were rare or nonexistent.

There were, however, mainstream experts who theorized that a “sissy” boy was the result of a domineering mother. Julie didn’t believe it. She didn’t want to care what her neighbors thought, but she did care. “Domineering mother” meant bad mother.

Lacking a positive role model of her own, and fearful of the negative stereotype of an overbearing Jewish mother, Julie embarked on an unexpected parenting path as Harry grew up to be a confident and happily nonconformist adult. Harry knew who he was all along. Despite some stumbles, Julie learned that her job was simply to let her child be his authentic self.

JULIE TARNEY is a board member for the It Gets Better Project, blogs for the Huffington Post’s “Queer Voices” pages, and writes for TheParentsProject.com and the True Colors Fund. She volunteers for the PFLAG Safe Schools Program. A longtime resident of Milwaukee, she now lives in New York City.

OF RELATED INTEREST

Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey between Genders
Joy Ladin
LC: 2011040974 PS
270 PP | 5½ x 8¼
ISBN 978-0-299-28734-4 | PAPER | $19.95

Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest
Collected and edited by Will Fellows, with a new afterword
LC: 96-6058 HQ
360 PP | 6 x 9 | 32 B/W PHOTOS, 8 PENCIL DRAWINGS
ISBN 978-0-299-15084-6 | PAPER $24.95
A Thin Bright Line

LUCY JANE BLEDSOE

An extraordinary woman determined to rise above the restraints of her time

“There was a thin bright line between you and me, and I crossed it. I’ve always been a little bit too far out for my own good. I lived on the edge, Lucybelle.”

“Through her fictional reconstruction of the life of her namesake, her beloved aunt—who fought the good fight as a pioneering professional and a lesbian in unsympathetic times—Lucy Jane Bledsoe re-creates an important piece of history and imagines what it was like to live it. *A Thin Bright Line* is poignant in both its conception and execution.” —Lillian Faderman, author of *The Gay Revolution*

“This is gripping historical fiction about queer life at the height of the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement, and its grounding in fact really makes it sing. Like the scientists whose papers she edits, Lucybelle Bledsoe is passionate about the truth. Whether it’s the climate history of the planet as illuminated by cores of polar ice, or the pursuit of an authentic emotional life in the miasma of McCarthyism, she operates with piercing honesty.” —Alison Bechdel, author of *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*

Brilliant geology editor Lucybelle Bledsoe is offered a job too good to pass up. Her new boss is a visionary climate scientist whose mission is to extract the first-ever complete ice cores from the Greenland icecap. Knowing the risks, she warily accepts the classified government position. If she were to fall in love again with a woman, she could lose everything.

Based on the true story of the author’s aunt and namesake, and on the search to uncover her remarkable past, *A Thin Bright Line* encompasses Cold War intrigues, the origins of climate research, the joyful pangs of love, and the impossible compromises of queer life in the 1950s and ’60s.

LUCY JANE BLEDSOE is an award-winning science writer and novelist for adults and children. Her many books include *The Ice Cave: A Woman’s Adventures from the Mojave to the Antarctic, The Big Bang Symphony: A Novel of Antarctica, This Wild Silence, and Working Parts*. A native of Portland, Oregon, she lives in Berkeley, California.

**ALSO BY LUCY JANE BLEDSOE**

**The Big Bang Symphony: A Novel of Antarctica**

LC: 2009040630 PS

344 PP. | 5 1/2 x 8 1/4

ISBN 978-0-299-23500-0 | CLOTH $26.95

“An engaging and moving novel about an unforgettable character. Bledsoe’s writing is intelligent, unadorned, and unsentimental, which allows us to look at a difficult time in American history with clarity instead of nostalgia.” —Rabih Alameddine, author of *An Unnecessary Woman*

**The Ice Cave: A Woman’s Adventures from the Mojave to the Antarctic**

LC: 2006007291 G

182 PP. | 6 x 9

ISBN 978-0-299-21844-7 | PAPER $19.95
The Phantom of Thomas Hardy

FLOYD SKLOOT

A literary romp through Dorsetshire and Hardy’s tangled love life

“A rare book—entertaining and erudite, emotionally resonant, and enviably learned. Skloot writes with a deep compassion and curiosity about the private and public personas of Thomas Hardy in what is both a work of fiction and an unconventional, original memoir.”—Christine Sneed, author of Paris, He Said

On a street in Dorchester, England, there is a gateway between real and imagined lives. A plaque on a Barclays Bank identifies the building as “lived in by the Mayor of Casterbridge in Thomas Hardy’s story of that name written in 1885.” Floyd, an American writer, and his wife, Beverly, are pondering the enigma of a fictional character living in a factual building when Floyd is approached by Hardy himself—despite his death in 1928.

This phantom—or is he just a figment of Floyd’s oddly damaged brain?—tasks Floyd with finding out what Hardy missed in love. Floyd and Beverly set out to discover what they can, visiting Hardy’s birthplace, home, and grave, exploring the Dorset landscape and the famous novels with their themes of tormented love, and meeting characters deeply invested in Hardy’s life and reputation. Peering into the Victorian past, they slowly fold back the clutter of screens that Hardy placed around his private life to uncover long-hidden truths about his romantic attachments and creative work. At the same time, Floyd and Beverly’s own love story unfolds, filled with healing and hope.

FLOYD SKLOOT is an award-winning writer of fiction, essays, poetry, and creative nonfiction. His twenty books include Revertigo: An Off-Kilter Memoir and The Wink of the Zenith: The Shaping of a Writer’s Life. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

OF RELATED INTEREST

Revertigo: An Off-Kilter Memoir

Floyd Skloot

LC: 2013028359 PS
224 PP. | 5¼ × 8¼

How to Disappear: A Memoir for Misfits

Duncan Fallowell

LC: 2012040153 PR
248 PP. | 5¼ × 7¼
Inspired Journeys
Travel Writers in Search of the Muse
EDITED BY BRIAN BOULDREY

Despite yourself, you arrive, and you’ve become someone else

“The tremendously satisfying and uplifting sense of these essays is the ongoing nature of human pilgrimage, whether to the center of the self or the ends of the earth. After reading this book, I want to go on a journey myself! Highly recommended.”—Antonya Nelson, author of Bound

“These stories of pilgrimage span six continents, touch on eons of history, and offer insights and quirky anecdotes told without melodrama or excess baggage. Like Chaucer’s travelers in the Canterbury Tales, each writer included here is a distinctive and entertaining storyteller.”—Gillian Kendall, author of Mr. Ding’s Chicken Feet

Full of humor, profundity, and obsession, these are tales of writers on periphrastic paths. Some set out in search of legends or artistic inspiration; others seek spiritual epiphany or fulfillment of a promise. Their journeys lead them variously to Dracula’s castle, Laura Ingalls Wilder’s prairie, the Grimms’ fairy-tale road, Mayan temples, Nathaniel West’s California, the Camino de Santiago trail, Scott’s Antarctica, the Marquis de Sade’s haunted manor, or the sacred city of Varanasi. All of these pilgrimages are worthy journeys—redemptive and serious. But a time-honored element of pilgrimage is a suspension of rules, and there is absurdity and exuberance here as well.

BRIAN BOULDREY has written eight books, including Honorable Bandit: A Walk across Corsica, and edited six anthologies, including Traveling Souls. He teaches creative writing at Northwestern University and gave the 2016 keynote address to the American pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.
Good Night, Beloved Comrade
The Letters of Denton Welch to Eric Oliver
EDITED BY DANIEL J. MURTAUGH

A moving epistolary love story in World War II England

“Readers are in for a treat: Good Night, Beloved Comrade is a masterpiece. The account of a thrilling and tormenting gay love affair, it is also a devastating experience of disability and, above all, the awakening of a remarkable and unforgettable literary voice.”—Richard Canning, author of Gay Fiction Speaks

Denton Welch (1915–48) died at the age of thirty-three after a brief but brilliant career as a writer and painter. The revealing, poignant, impressionistic voice that buoyed his novels was much praised by critics and literati in England and has since inspired creative artists from William S. Burroughs to John Waters. His achievements were all the more remarkable because he suffered from debilitating spinal and pelvic injuries incurred in a bicycle accident at age eighteen.

Though German bombs were ravaging Britain, Welch wrote in his published work about the idyllic landscapes and local people he observed in Kent. There, in 1943, he met and fell in love with Eric Oliver, a handsome, intelligent, but rather insecure “landboy”—an agricultural worker with the wartime Land Army. Oliver would become a companion, comrade, lover, and caretaker during the last six years of Welch’s life. All fifty-one letters that Welch wrote to Oliver are collected and annotated here for the first time. They offer a historical record of life amidst the hardship, deprivation, and fear of World War II and are a timeless testament of one young man’s tender and intimate emotions, his immense courage in adversity, and his continual struggle for love and creative existence.

DENTON WELCH is the author of four novels published between 1943 and 1950: Maiden Voyage, In Youth Is Pleasure, Brave and Cruel, and A Voice Through a Cloud, as well as a large body of short fiction and poetry.

DANIEL J. MURTAUGH teaches literature and history at Park University and at Johnson County Community College. He lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

OF RELATED INTEREST

A Heaven of Words: Last Journals, 1956–1984
Glenway Wescott; edited and with an introduction by Jerry Rosco

Our Deep Gossip: Conversations with Gay Writers on Poetry and Desire
Christopher Hennessy

Living Out: Gay and Lesbian Autobiographies
David Bergman, Joan Larkin, and Raphael Kadushin, Series Editors

BIOGRAPHY–LETTERS
FEBRUARY | LC: 2016017722 PR
232 PP. | 5 ½ × 8 ¼ | 10 B/W PHOTOS
ISBN 978-0-299-31010-3 | CASEBOUND $29.95

“Whenever a student tells me he has nothing to write about I refer him to Denton Welch. It is time that Denton received the attention he deserves.”—William S. Burroughs

The original letters of Denton Welch are housed in the archives of the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin.
Wisconsin Sentencing in the Tough-on-Crime Era
How Judges Retained Power and Why Mass Incarceration Happened Anyway

MICHAEL M. O’HEAR

Counterintuitive new findings about crime and punishment

“Serious students of modern sentencing reforms—as well as everyone eager to understand the roots of, and potential responses to, modern mass incarceration—must have this book on their reading list. O’Hear thoroughly canvasses the dynamic story of Wisconsin’s uniquely important sentencing reform history.”—Douglas Berman, author of the Sentencing Law and Policy Blog

The dramatic increase in U.S. prison populations since the 1970s is often blamed on the mandatory sentencing required by “three strikes” laws and other punitive crime bills. Michael M. O’Hear shows that the blame is actually not so easy to assign. His meticulous analysis of incarceration in Wisconsin—a state where judges have considerable discretion in sentencing—shows that the prison population has ballooned anyway, increasing nearly tenfold over forty years.

O’Hear tracks the effects of sentencing laws and politics in Wisconsin from the eve of the imprisonment boom in 1970 up to the 2010s. Drawing on archival research, original public-opinion polling, and interviews with dozens of key policymakers, he reveals important dimensions that have been missed by others. He draws out the lessons from the incarcerations that have cost taxpayers billions of dollars and caused untold misery to millions of inmates and their families.

MICHAEL M. O’HEAR is a professor of law at Marquette University. He is an editor of the journal Federal Sentencing Reporter and has published many articles on sentencing law, criminal procedure, and public opinion about the criminal justice system.

OF RELATED INTEREST

Living Black: Social Life in an African American Neighborhood
Mark S. Fleisher
LC: 2015008381 E
176 PP. | 6 × 9
ISBN 978-0-299-30534-5 | PAPER $29.95

Sister: An African American Life in Search of Justice
Sylvia Bell White and Jody LePage
LC: 2012032691 F
304 PP. | 6 × 9 | 18 B/W ILLUS.
ISBN 978-0-299-29434-2 | CLOTH $27.95
Worse than the Devil
Anarchists, Clarence Darrow, and Justice in a Time of Terror
Revised edition
DEAN A. STRANG

An unjust trial, as patriotism, nativism, and fear swept the nation

“Sheds crucial insights into the failings of our legal system and the hazards of succumbing to mass hysteria against immigrants and alleged terrorists. It provides urgent lessons for us all.”—Matthew Rothschild, past editor of The Progressive

“The dramatic case of the Bay View Eleven, a group of Italian immigrants arrested after a Milwaukee riot in 1917. . . . [Strang] analyzes how their trial, coming on the heels of a police station bombing, was grossly mismanaged and sensationalized.”—Publishers Weekly

“Vividly depicts [Clarence Darrow’s] strengths and foibles. The reader truly understands why Darrow’s involvement in the Milwaukee bombing defendants’ appeal arrived at a pivotal period.”—New Republic

In 1917 a bomb exploded in a Milwaukee police station, killing nine officers and a civilian. Days later, a trial began for eleven Italian immigrants who had already been in jail for months for an unrelated riot. The specter of the bombing, for which no one had been arrested, haunted the proceedings. Against the backdrop of World War I and amid a prevailing hatred and fear of radical immigrants and anarchists, the Italians had an unfair trial. Famed attorney Clarence Darrow led an appeal that gained freedom for most of the convicted, but his own methods were deeply suspect. The entire case left a dark, though largely forgotten, stain on American justice.

DEAN A. STRANG is a criminal defense lawyer in Madison, Wisconsin, and an adjunct professor at the law schools of the University of Wisconsin and Marquette University.

OF RELATED INTEREST

Cry Rape: The True Story of One Woman’s Harrowing Quest for Justice
Bill Lueders
LC: 2006008062 KF
288 PP | 6 × 9 | 24 B/W PHOTOS

Unsafe for Democracy: World War I and the U.S. Justice Department’s Covert Campaign to Suppress Dissent
William H. Thomas Jr.
LC: 2008011973 D
264 PP | 6 × 9 | 13 B/W ILLUS.
ISBN 978-0-299-22890-3 | CLOTH $34.95
Understanding and Teaching the Cold War
EDITED BY MATTHEW MASUR

Proven, innovative, classroom-tested content, methods, and resources

“A superb collection of authoritative, imaginative, and even provocative essays on teaching the history of the Cold War, effectively merging historiography, methodology, and innovative use of primary documents.” —Jeremi Suri, author of Henry Kissinger and the American Century

For nearly a half century, from 1945 to 1991, the United States and the Soviet Union maneuvered to achieve global hegemony. Each forged political alliances, doled out foreign aid, mounted cultural campaigns, and launched covert operations. The Cold War also deeply affected the domestic politics, cultures, and economic policies of the two superpowers, their client states, and other nations throughout the world.

Teaching the Cold War is both necessary and challenging. Understanding and Teaching the Cold War is designed to help collegiate and high school teachers navigate the complexity of the topic, integrate up-to-date research and concepts into their classes, and use strategies and tools that make this important history meaningful to students.

The volume opens with Matthew Masur’s overview of models for approaching the subject, whether in survey courses or seminars. Two prominent historians, Carole Fink and Warren Cohen, offer accounts of their experience as longtime scholars and teachers of the Cold War from European and Asian perspectives. Sixteen essays dig into themes including the origins and end of the conflict, nuclear weapons, diplomacy, propaganda, fear, popular culture, and civil rights, as well as the Cold War in Eastern Europe, Western Europe, East Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the nonaligned nations. A final section provides practical advice for using relevant, accessible primary sources to implement the teaching ideas suggested in this book.

MATTHEW MASUR is an associate professor of history at Saint Anselm College. He is the coeditor of Understanding and Teaching the Vietnam War and has served as a member of the Teaching Committee of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.

OF RELATED INTEREST

Understanding and Teaching American Slavery
Edited by Bethany Jay and Cynthia Lynn Lyerly
LC: 2015010259 E
288 PP. | 6 x 9 | 14 B/W PHOTOS
ISBN 978-0-299-30664-9 | PAPER $34.95

Understanding and Teaching U.S. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History
Edited by Leila J. Rupp and Susan K. Freeman
LC: 2014009612 HQ
396 PP. | 6 x 9 | 31 B/W PHOTOS
ISBN 978-0-299-30244-3 | PAPER $29.95
Agents of Terror
Ordinary Men and Extraordinary Violence in Stalin’s Secret Police
ALEXANDER VATLIN
Edited, translated, and with an introduction by Seth Bernstein; Foreword by Oleg Khlevniuk

Soviet perpetrators of state-sponsored violence, motivated by ambition, fear, and quotas

“Groundbreaking. In the first detailed description of Stalin’s mass terror, Vatlin unfolds the day-to-day working of the Soviet political police who carried out orders to select, arrest, interrogate, and often murder their fellow citizens. An absorbing, heartrending account.”—David Shearer, author of Policing Stalin’s Socialism

“One can only hope that Agents of Terror will inspire more research on the purge’s perpetrators and victims as well as on the broader sociology of this brutal period.”—David Brandenberger, author of Propaganda State in Crisis

In the Great Terror of 1937–38 more than a million Soviet citizens were arrested or killed for political crimes they did not commit. What kind of people carried out this violent purge, and what motivated them? This book opens up the world of the Soviet perpetrator for the first time. Focusing on Kuntsevo, the Moscow suburb where Stalin had a dacha, Alexander Vatlin shows how Stalinism rewarded local officials for inventing enemies. Agents of Terror reveals stunning, detailed evidence from archives available for a limited time in the 1990s. Going beyond the central figures of the terror, Vatlin takes readers into the offices and interrogation rooms of secret police at the district level. Spurred at times by ambition, and at times by fear for their own lives, agents rushed to fulfill quotas for arresting “enemies of the people”—even when it meant fabricating the evidence. Vatlin pulls back the curtain on a Kafkaesque system, forcing readers to reassess notions of historical agency and moral responsibility in Stalin-era crimes.

ALEXANDER VATLIN is a professor of history at Moscow State University. SETH BERNSTEIN is an assistant professor of history at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow.

OF RELATED INTEREST

Primed for Violence: Murder, Antisemitism, and Democratic Politics in Interwar Poland
Paul Bryczynski
LC: 2015036809 DS
240 PP | 6 x 9 | 21 B/W ILLUSTRATIONS, 3 TABLES
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My Sister’s Mother: A Memoir of War, Exile, and Stalin’s Siberia
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Twenty-First-Century Contexts and Criticism

EDITED BY ERIC D. LAMORE

Fresh looks at life narratives, from the 1760s to Barack Obama

“These provocative essays reveal the exciting state of African American autobiographical studies. The critical approaches explored here—from new-media studies and ecocriticism to reading the interplay between visual and verbal autobiographical acts—not only frame and interpret the life narratives proliferating within today’s digital and popular cultures, they enliven classic literary texts for a contemporary age.”—Angela Ards, author of Words of Witness

This timely volume embraces and interprets the increasingly broad and deep canon of life narratives by African Americans. The contributors discover and recover neglected lives, texts, and genres, enlarge the wide range of critical methods used by scholars to study these works, and expand the understanding of autobiography to encompass photography, comics, blogs, and other modes of self-expression. This book also examines at length the proliferation of African American autobiography in the twenty-first century, noting the roles of digital genres, remediated lives, celebrity lives, self-help culture, non-Western religious traditions, and the politics of adoption.

The life narratives studied range from an eighteenth-century criminal narrative, a 1918 autobiography, and the works of Richard Wright to new media, graphic novels, and a celebrity memoir from Pam Grier.

ERIC D. LAMORE is the editor of Teaching Olaudah Equiano’s “Narrative”: Pedagogical Strategies and New Perspectives and coeditor of New Essays on Phillis Wheatley.

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Angela A. Ards

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MEGAN BROWN

Memoir as a response to trauma both personal and collective

“Demonstrates how several American life-writing subgenres have reflected and responded to national and personal anxieties after 9/11. This accessible and well-argued book is an essential resource for understanding contemporary memoir.” — G. Thomas Couser, Hofstra University

In the wake of the 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, American memoirists have wrestled with a wide range of anxieties in their books. They cope with financial crises, encounter difference, or confront norms of identity. Megan Brown contends that such best sellers as Cheryl Strayed’s *Wild*, Elizabeth Gilbert’s *Eat, Pray, Love*, and Tucker Max’s *I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell* teach readers how to navigate a confusing, changing world.

This lively and theoretically grounded book analyzes twenty-first-century memoirs from *Three Cups of Tea* to *Fun Home*, emphasizing the ways in which they reinforce and circulate ideologies, becoming guides or models for living. Brown expands her inquiry beyond books to the autobiographical narratives in reality television and political speeches. She offers a persuasive explanation for the memoir boom: the genre as a response to an era of uncertainty and struggle.

MEGAN BROWN is an associate professor of English at Drake University and the author of *The Cultural Work of Corporations*.

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*Seeking Justice after Genocide*

**BERT INGELAERE**

The difficult path to peace in the wake of horrific crimes

“This masterful study provides a balanced, nuanced assessment of Rwanda’s local courts, showing how diverse social dynamics influenced both the operations of *gacaca* and its outcomes in different local communities. Essential reading for anyone interested in transitional justice and conflict resolution, in Rwanda and beyond.”—Catharine Newbury, Smith College

After the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, victims, perpetrators, and the country as a whole struggled to deal with the legacy of the mass violence. The government responded by creating a new version of a traditional grassroots justice system called *gacaca*. Bert Ingelaere, based on his observation of two thousand *gacaca* trials, offers a comprehensive assessment of what these courts set out to do, how they worked, what they achieved, what they did not achieve, and how they affected Rwandan society.

Weaving together vivid firsthand recollections, interviews, and trial testimony with systematic analysis, Ingelaere documents how the *gacaca* shifted over time from confession to accusation, from restoration to retribution. He precisely articulates the importance of popular conceptions of what is true and just. Marked by methodological sophistication, extraordinary evidence, and deep knowledge of Rwanda, this is an authoritative, nuanced, and bittersweet account of one of the most important experiments in transitional justice after mass violence.

**BERT INGELAERE** is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Research Foundation–Flanders (FWO) in Belgium. He is the coeditor of *Genocide, Risk and Resilience: An Interdisciplinary Approach*.
Of Beggars and Buddhas
The Politics of Humor in the Vessantara Jataka in Thailand

KATHERINE A. BOWIE

An exploration of the subversive politics of humor in the most important story in Theravada Buddhism

“Provides historical justification for a new reading of the Vessantara Jataka and offers delightful ethnographic descriptions of its varied performance in several regions of Thailand. An excellent addition to Thai studies and to the understudied field of Southeast Asian literature.”—Justin McDaniel, author of The Lovelorn Ghost and the Magic Monk: Practicing Buddhism in Modern Thailand

The 547 Buddhist jatakas, or verse parables, recount the Buddha’s lives in previous incarnations. In his penultimate and most famous incarnation, he appears as the Prince Vessantara, perfecting the virtue of generosity by giving away all his possessions, his wife, and his children to the beggar Jujaka. Taking an anthropological approach to this two-thousand-year-old morality tale, Katherine A. Bowie highlights significant local variations in its interpretations and public performances across three regions of Thailand over 150 years.

The Vessantara Jataka has served both monastic and royal interests, encouraging parents to give their sons to religious orders and intimating that kings are future Buddhas. But, as Bowie shows, characterizations of the beggar Jujaka in various regions and eras have also brought ribald humor and sly antiroyalist themes to the story. Historically, these subversive performances appealed to popular audiences even as they worried the conservative Bangkok court. The monarchy sporadically sought to suppress the comedic recitations. As Thailand has changed from a feudal to a capitalist society, this famous story about giving away possessions is paradoxically being employed to promote tourism and wealth.

KATHERINE A. BOWIE is a professor of anthropology and the director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She is the author of Rituals of National Loyalty: An Anthropology of the State and the Village Scout Movement in Thailand.

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Anti-imperialism and the Irish National Movement

PAUL A. TOWNEND

How dislike of British global imperialism advanced the Irish independence movement

“A bold and original interpretation in which empire emerges as the essential context—rather than a mere sideshow or backdrop—for the rise of Irish nationalism. To find the origins of Home Rule, we will now need to look not simply at the internal politics of the United Kingdom but at Irish responses to events in India, Egypt, Sudan, and South Africa.”—Kevin Kenny, Boston College

In the 1870s and 1880s, as the United Kingdom avidly built its empire in Asia and Africa, its rampant expansionism came under the scrutiny of its first and oldest colony, Ireland. Some Irish considered themselves loyal subjects and proud participants in the imperial enterprise, but others drew sharp analogies between the crown’s ongoing conquests of distant lands and its centuries-old oppression of their homeland. The Irish were aware of how the British army had brutally suppressed Afghans, Egyptians, Zulus, and Boers—and how returning troops were then redeployed to quash dissent in Ireland. In Irish eyes, misrule by British officials and absentee landlords mirrored imperial oppression across the globe.

Paul Townend shows that a growing critique of British imperialism shaped a rapidly evolving Irish political consciousness and was a crucial factor giving momentum to the Home Rule and Land League campaigns. Examining newspaper accounts, the rich political cartoons of the era, and the rhetoric and actions of Irish nationalists, he argues that anti-imperialism was a far more important factor in the formation of the independence movement than has been previously recognized in historical scholarship.

PAUL A. TOWNEND is a professor of British and Irish history at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. He is the author of Father Mathew, Temperance, and Irish Identity and the coeditor of Ireland in an Imperial World.

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**MATT WATERS**

A modern historian of Persia looks at an ancient Greek history

“A pleasure to read. Waters opens new paths in Ctesian studies, showing that the *Persica* is not merely the product of a Greek playing literary games, but may actually have its origins in genuine documents from the ancient Near East.”—Jan Pieter Stronk, editor and translator of Ctesias’ *Persian History, Part I*

The *Persica* is an extensive history of Assyria and Persia written by the Greek historian Ctesias, who served as a doctor to the Persian king Artaxerxes II around 400 BCE. Written for a Greek readership, the *Persica* influenced the development of both historiographic and literary traditions in Greece. It also, contends Matt Waters, is an essential but often misunderstood source for the history of the Achaemenid Persian Empire.

Waters, as a historian of Persia with command of Akkadian, Elamite, and Old Persian languages in addition to Latin and Greek, offers a fresh interdisciplinary analysis of the *Persica*. He shows in detail how Ctesias’ history, though written in a Greek literary style, was infused with two millennia of Mesopotamian and Persian motifs, legends, and traditions. This Hellenized version of Persian culture was enormously influential in antiquity, shaping Greek stereotypes of effeminate Persian monarchs, licentious and vengeful queens, and conniving eunuchs. Waters’ revealing study contributes significantly to knowledge of ancient historiography, Persian dynastic traditions and culture, and the influence of Near Eastern texts and oral tradition on Greek literature.

**MATT WATERS** is a professor of classics and ancient history at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire. He is the author of *Ancient Persia: A Concise History of the Achaemenid Empire, 550–330 BCE* and *A Survey of Neo-Elamite History*.

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Evelyn Hu-DeHart brings into focus the Yaquis in the nineteenth century, as the newly independent Mexico lurched through immense economic and governmental transformations, wars, insurgencies, and changing political alliances. In this edition, Hu-DeHart reviews and reflects on the growth in scholarship about the Yaquis, including advances in theoretical frameworks and methodologies on borderlands, transnationalism, diaspora, and collective memory that are especially relevant to their history.

EVELYN HU-DEHART is a professor of history, American studies, and ethnic studies, and a past director of the Center for the Study of Race in America, at Brown University. She is the author of Missionaries, Miners, and Indians: History of Spanish Contact with the Yaqui Indians of Northwestern New Spain, 1533–1830.

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