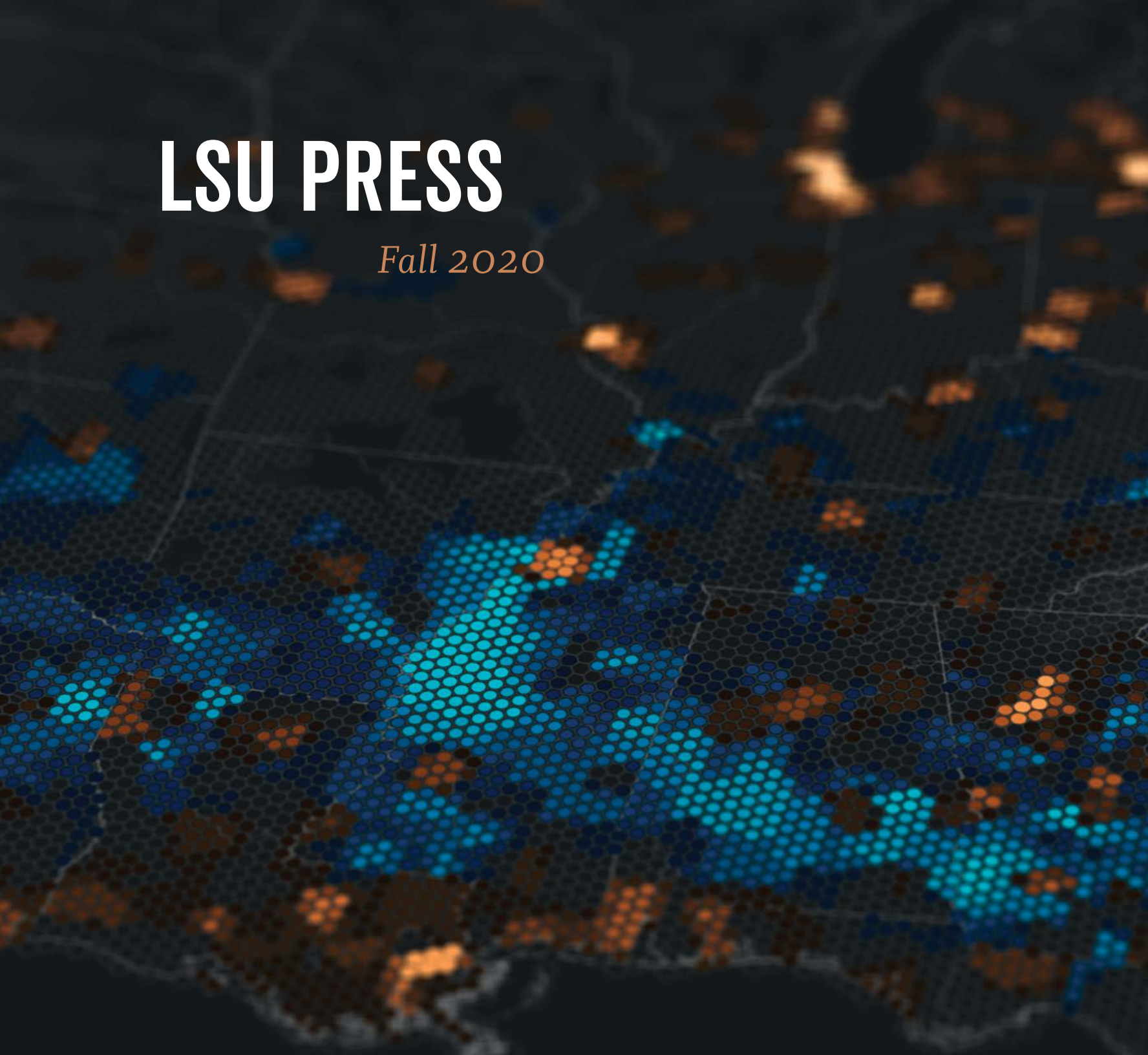


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# Southern Journey

The Migrations of the American South, 1790–2020

**EDWARD L. AYERS**

Maps by **JUSTIN MADRON** and **NATHANIEL AYERS**

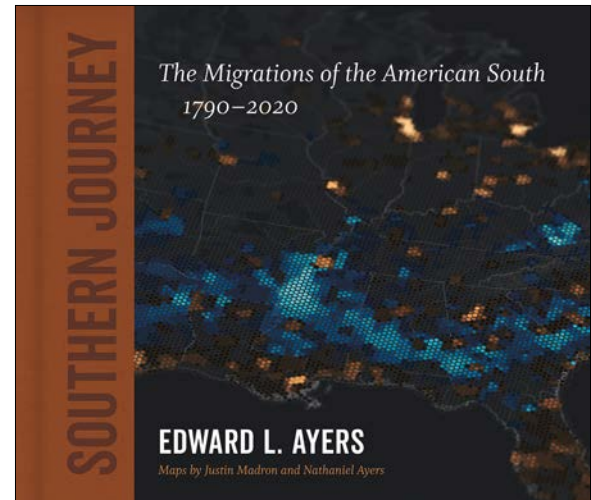
Taking a wide focus, *Southern Journey* narrates the evolution of southern history from the founding of the nation to the present day by focusing on the settling, unsettling, and resettling of the South. Using migration as the dominant theme of southern history and including indigenous, white, black, and immigrant people in the story, Edward L. Ayers cuts across the usual geographic, thematic, and chronological boundaries that subdivide southern history.

Ayers explains the major contours and events of the southern past from a fresh perspective, weaving geography with history in innovative ways. He uses unique color maps created with sophisticated geographic information system (GIS) tools to interpret massive data sets from a humanistic perspective, providing a view of movement within the South with a clarity, detail, and continuity we have not seen before. The South has never stood still; it is—and always has been—changing in deep, radical,

sometimes contradictory ways, often in divergent directions.

Ayers's history of migration in the South is a broad yet deep reinterpretation of the region's past that informs our understanding of the population, economy, politics, and culture of the South today. *Southern Journey* is not only a pioneering work of history; it is a grand recasting of the South's past by one of its most renowned and appreciated scholars.

**EDWARD L. AYERS** has won the Bancroft Prize, the Albert J. Beveridge Award, and the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize for his books on American history. A former president of the Organization of American Historians, Ayers received the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama in 2013. He is the Tucker-Boatwright Professor of the Humanities and President Emeritus of the University of Richmond.



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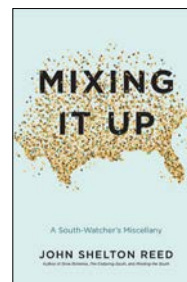
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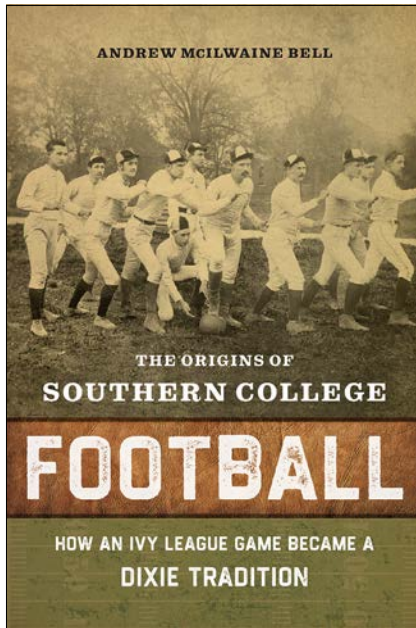
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# The Origins of Southern College Football

How an Ivy League Game Became a Dixie Tradition

**ANDREW MCILWAINE BELL**

College football is a massive enterprise in the United States, and southern teams dominate poll rankings and sports headlines while generating billions in revenue for public schools and private companies. Southern football fans worship their teams, often rearranging their personal lives in order to accommodate season schedules. *The Origins of Southern College Football* sheds new light on the South's obsession with football and explores the sport's beginnings below the Mason-Dixon Line in the decades after the Civil War.

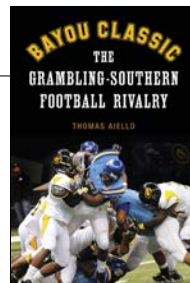
Military defeat followed by a long period of cultural unrest compelled many southerners to look to northern ideas and customs for guidance in rebuilding their beleaguered society. Ivy League universities, considered bastions of enlightenment and symbols of the modernizing spirit of the age, provided a particular source of inspiration for southerners in the form of organized or “scientific” football that

featured standardized rules and scoring. Transported to the South by men educated at northern universities, scientific football reinforced cultural values that had existed in the region for centuries, among them a tolerance for violence, respect for martial displays, and support for traditional gender roles. The game also held the promise of a “New South” that its supporters hoped would transform the region into an industrial powerhouse. Students and townspeople alike embraced the new sport, which served as a source of pride for a region that lagged woefully behind its northern counterpart in terms of social equity and economic prowess.

*The Origins of Southern College Football* is an entertaining history of the South's most popular sport cast against a broader narrative of the United States during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, two momentous periods of change that gave rise to the game we recognize today.

**ANDREW MCILWAINE BELL** earned a PhD in history from George Washington University and works at the University of Virginia.

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Weather, Climate, and the American Civil War

**KENNETH W. NOE**

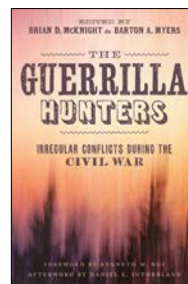
Traditional histories of the Civil War describe the conflict as a war between North and South. Kenneth W. Noe suggests it should instead be understood as a war between the North, the South, and the weather. In *The Howling Storm*, Noe retells the history of the conflagration with a focus on the ways in which weather and climate shaped the outcomes of battles and campaigns. He further contends that events such as floods and droughts affecting the Confederate home front constricted soldiers' food supply, lowered morale, and undercut the government's efforts to boost nationalist sentiment. By contrast, the superior equipment and open supply lines enjoyed by Union soldiers enabled them to cope successfully with the South's extreme conditions and, ultimately, secure victory in 1865.

Climate conditions during the war proved unusual, as irregular phenomena such as El Niño, La Niña, and similar oscillations in the Atlantic Ocean disrupted weather patterns across southern states. Taking into account these meteorological events,

Noe rethinks conventional explanations of battlefield victories and losses, compelling historians to reconsider long-held conclusions about the war. Unlike past studies that fault inflation, taxation, and logistical problems for the Confederate defeat, his work considers how soldiers and civilians dealt with floods and droughts that beset areas of the South in 1862, 1863, and 1864. In doing so, he addresses the foundational causes that forced Richmond to make difficult and sometimes disastrous decisions when prioritizing the feeding of the home front or the front lines.

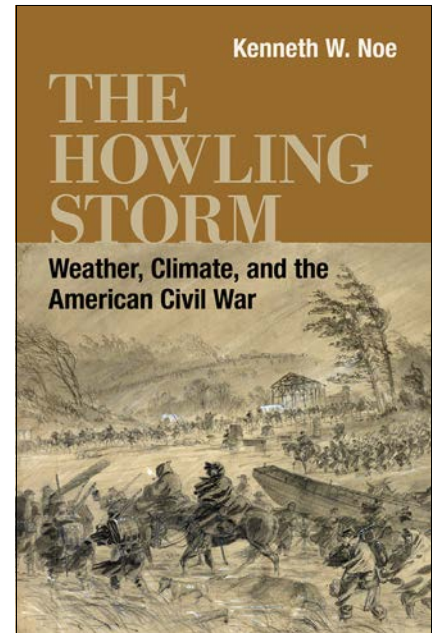
*The Howling Storm* stands as the first comprehensive examination of weather and climate during the Civil War. Its approach, coverage, and conclusions are certain to reshape the field of Civil War studies.

**KENNETH W. NOE** is the Draughton Professor of Southern History at Auburn University. He is the author or editor of seven books on the American Civil War.



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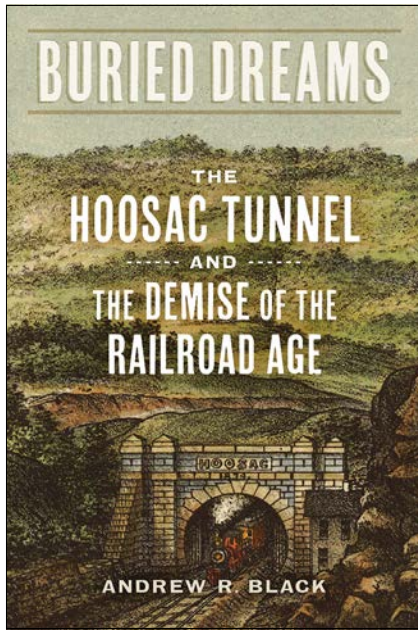


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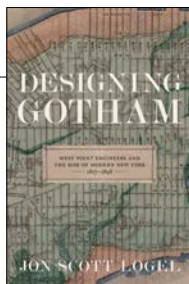
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# Buried Dreams

## The Hoosac Tunnel and the Demise of the Railroad Age

**ANDREW R. BLACK**

The Hoosac railroad tunnel in the mountains of northwestern Massachusetts was a nineteenth-century engineering and construction marvel, on par with the Brooklyn Bridge, Transcontinental Railroad, and Erie Canal. The longest tunnel in the Western Hemisphere at the time (4.75 miles), it took nearly twenty-five years (1851–1875), almost two hundred casualties, and tens of millions of dollars to build. Yet it failed to deliver on its grandiose promise of economic renewal for the commonwealth, and thus is little known today. Andrew R. Black's *Buried Dreams* refreshes public memory of the project, explaining how a plan of such magnitude and cost came to be in the first place, what forces sustained its completion, and the factors that inhibited its success.

Black digs into the special case of Massachusetts, a state disadvantaged by nature and forced repeatedly to reinvent itself to succeed economically. The Hoosac Tunnel was just one of the state's efforts in this cycle of decline and rejuvenation, though certainly the strangest. Black also explores the intense rivalry among Eastern Seaboard states for the spoils

of western expansion in the post-Erie Canal period. His study interweaves the lure of the West, the competition between Massachusetts and archrival New York, the railroad boom and collapse, and the shifting ground of state and national politics. The psychic makeup of Americans before and after the Civil War heavily influenced public perceptions of the tunnel; by the time it was finished, Black contends, the indomitable triumphalism that had given birth to the Hoosac had faded to skepticism and cynicism. Anticipated economic benefits never arrived, and Massachusetts eventually sold the tunnel for only a fraction of its cost to a private railroad company.

*Buried Dreams* tells a story of America's reckoning with the perils of impractical idealism, the limits of technology to bend nature to its will, and grand endeavors untempered by humility.

**ANDREW R. BLACK** has a PhD in history from Boston University. He is also the author of *John Pendleton Kennedy: Early American Novelist, Whig Statesman, and Ardent Nationalist*.

# Manipulating the Masses

## Woodrow Wilson and the Birth of American Propaganda

**JOHN MAXWELL HAMILTON**

*Manipulating the Masses* tells the story of an enduring threat to American democracy that arose out of World War I: the establishment of pervasive, systematic propaganda as an instrument of the state. During the Great War, the federal government exercised unprecedented power to shape the views and attitudes of American citizens. Its agent for this was the Committee on Public Information (CPI), established by President Woodrow Wilson one week after the United States entered the war in April 1917.

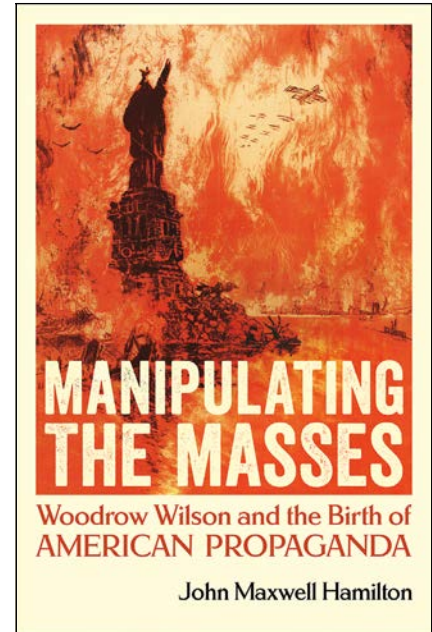
Driven by its fiery chief, George Creel, the CPI established a national newspaper, cranked out press releases, and interfaced with the press at all hours of the day. It spread the Wilson administration's messages through articles, cartoons, books, and advertisements in newspapers and magazines; through feature films and volunteer Four Minute Men who spoke during intermission; through posters plastered on buildings and along highways; and through pamphlets distributed by the millions. It enlisted the nation's leading progressive journalists, advertising executives, and artists. It harnessed American universities and their professors to create propaganda and add legitimacy to its mission.

Even as Creel insisted that the CPI was a conduit for reliable, fact-based information, the office regularly sanitized news, distorted facts, and played on emotions. Creel extolled transparency but estab-

lished front organizations. Overseas, the CPI secretly subsidized news organs and bribed journalists. At home, it challenged the loyalty of those who occasionally questioned its tactics. Working closely with federal intelligence agencies eager to sniff out subversives and stifle dissent, the CPI was an accomplice to the Wilson administration's trampling of civil liberties.

Until now, the full story of the CPI has never been told. John Maxwell Hamilton consulted over 150 archival collections in the United States and Europe to write this revealing history, which shows the shortcuts to open, honest debate that even well-meaning propagandists take to bend others to their views. Every element of contemporary government propaganda has antecedents in the CPI. It is the ideal vehicle for understanding the rise of propaganda, its methods of operation, and the threat it poses to democracy.

**JOHN MAXWELL HAMILTON**, a former journalist and government official, is the Hopkins P. Breazeale Professor of Journalism in the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University and a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. He has authored or edited many books, including the award-winning *Journalism's Roving Eye*.



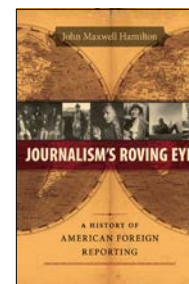
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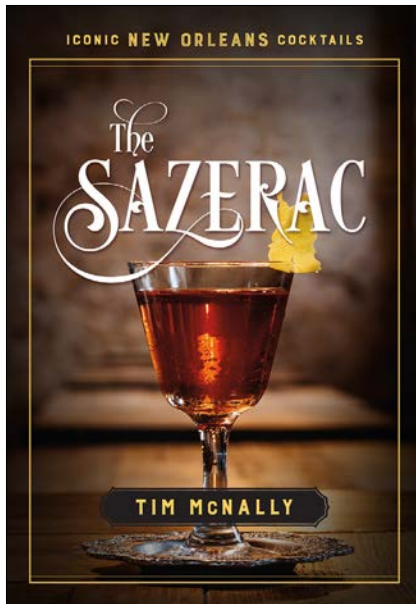


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# The Sazerac

Iconic New Orleans Cocktails

**TIM McNALLY**

The Sazerac ranks among the most famous drinks of a city famous for its drinking, but where did the classic New Orleans cocktail originate? Drinks journalist Tim McNally dives into the history of the Sazerac in a lively chronicle that ranges from a family-owned Cognac company in France, to an ingredient created by a New Orleans pharmacist, to a spirit once banned on three continents, to the renowned Playboy Clubs of the 1970s, which helped revitalize the enjoyment of complex, elegant mixed drinks. Among the many significant developments in the life of the Sazerac was its designation in 2008 as the official cocktail of the city of New Orleans.

When the Sazerac made its first appearance in the mid-1800s, the very concept of a cocktail (though not the word) was still new. Bartenders did not spend much time combining multiple ingredients for a single drink, and when they did, they felt no impulse to give it a name. But the Sazerac was

unique. It combined a specific Cognac named Sazerac de Forge et Fils with Creole pharmacist Antoine Peychaud's much-beloved brand of bitters, plus a sugar cube—all of which were stirred and strained into a drink glass coated with absinthe. The making of the drink provided the comfort and enjoyment of a social ritual, and the Sazerac became both a delicious beverage in its own right and a marker of the city's unique alcohol culture.

With a spirited blend of history, cocktail trivia, and recipes, *The Sazerac* uncovers the true story of one of New Orleans's most long-lived and iconic beverages.

**TIM McNALLY** is the wine-and-spirits editor and a feature writer for *New Orleans Magazine*; author of the weekly column "Happy Hour" at [myneworleans.com](http://myneworleans.com); and host of *The Dine, Wine, and Spirits Show* on New Orleans radio station WGSO.

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# Jay Ducote's Louisiana Outdoor Cooking

JAY DUCOTE with CYNTHIA LEJEUNE NOBLES

From Venison Grillades to Coconut Chili-Chocolate Tarts and much in between, *Jay Ducote's Louisiana Outdoor Cooking* features more than 150 recipes fun and easy enough to make in the backyard. It also tells the remarkable story of how this Baton Rouge-based chef achieved national culinary celebrity.

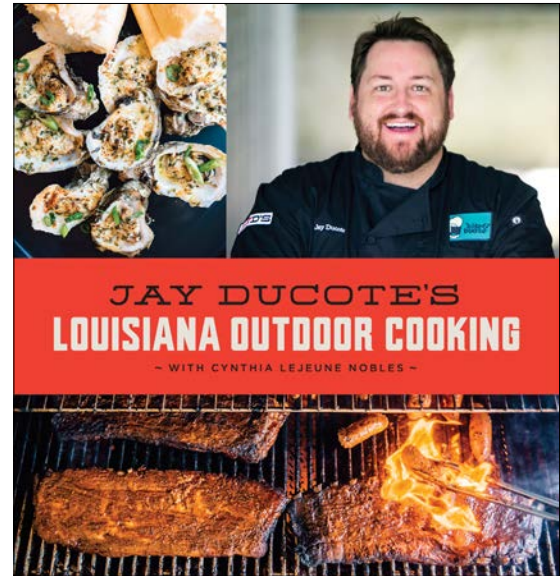
Fans of the reality cooking show *Food Network Star* remember Jay Ducote as the runner-up in season eleven, a strong showing that led to appearances on *Chopped*, *Cutthroat Kitchen*, and many other programs, including an episode of *Beat Bobby Flay* in which he outdueled the acclaimed chef. As Ducote and coauthor Cynthia LeJeune Nobles explain, his love of all things culinary started in college, when he cooked under the oak trees on the LSU campus prior to football games. Over the years, Ducote's popular tailgate parties showcased Cajun favorites, such as chicken and andouille gumbo, crawfish hushpuppies and fritters, grilled shrimp, and jambalaya, as well as a rich array of smoked and grilled meats. He has gone on to create specialty dishes, including Barbecue Popcorn, Crawfish Étouffée Arancini, Loaded Barbecue Cheese Fries, Pimento Cheese-Stuffed Jalapeños, and his award-winning Blackberry Bourbon Bone-In Boston Butt.

Now a popular radio host, caterer, and restaurant owner, Ducote provides readers with a wealth of surefire recipes for dishes and drinks to enjoy at a

tailgate, a family get-together, or whenever the weather feels right for cooking outside. Celebrating the world of barbecue pits and cast-iron cauldrons, *Jay Ducote's Louisiana Outdoor Cooking* conveys a passion for the cultures, foods, and flavors of south Louisiana.

**JAY DUCOTE** is a chef, blogger, food and beverage writer, radio host, and culinary personality. He has appeared on numerous cooking and reality competition shows. His *Bite & Booze* radio show received a Taste Award for Best Food or Drink Radio Broadcast and the Uniquely Louisiana Award from the Louisiana Association of Broadcasters.

**CYNTHIA LEJEUNE NOBLES** is a New Orleans-based food writer and the author of several books on cooking and Louisiana foodways, including *"A Confederacy of Dunces" Cookbook: Recipes from Ignatius J. Reilly's New Orleans* and *The Delta Queen Cookbook: The History and Recipes of the Legendary Steamboat*.



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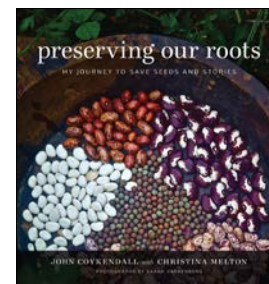
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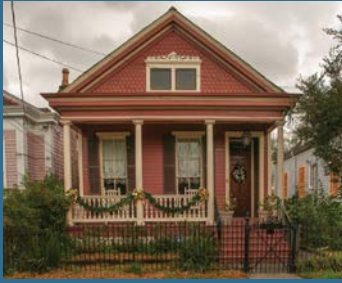


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# New Orleans Architecture

Volume IX: Carrollton

Text by **ROBERT J. CANGELOSI JR.**

Photographs by **NEIL ALEXANDER**

An essential reference guide to one of New Orleans's most iconic Uptown neighborhoods, *New Orleans Architecture: Volume IX* documents the remarkable architectural history of the former city of Carrollton, once the seat of Jefferson Parish and now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Following the format of previous volumes in the series, Robert J. Cangelosi Jr. divides the study into three sections. He begins in the early eighteenth century by chronicling the area's development as one of the many upriver communities just west of New Orleans. Its fields and plantations afforded early homesteaders tillable farmland and easy access to the Mississippi River. Later, during the War of 1812, American troops led by William Carroll encamped there, and the area was subsequently named for the general. In 1831, developers purchased the land, subdivided it, and began construction of a road and a canal linking the area to New Orleans. Local officials reorganized Carrollton in 1845—by then a village of about 1,000 residents—as a town in Jefferson Parish, and in 1859 a charter officially incorporated it as a city. Just fifteen years later, the City of New Orleans annexed Carrollton—now replete with schools, public gardens, and brick-paved streets—as the Seventh Municipal District.

The volume's second section consists of a "Build-

ing Index," which gives the original owners, dates of construction, costs, designers, and builders for many of the structures erected in Carrollton since its founding. In the "Selective Architectural Inventory," the book's final section, Cangelosi explores the history of nearly 420 historic homes and buildings in Carrollton, and shares thumbnail photographs, detailed sales records, and information on a variety of architectural styles.

*New Orleans Architecture: Volume IX* serves as a valuable resource for the city's Historic District Landmark Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office, as well as home owners, real estate agents, guides, historians, and tourists.

**ROBERT J. CANGELOSI JR.** is president and partner at Koch and Wilson Architects. He is the coeditor of two other books in the *New Orleans Architecture* series, *Volume VII: Jefferson City* and *Volume VIII: University Section*.

**NEIL ALEXANDER** is a professional photographer who works in architectural, interior design, landscape, and urban environments.

## NEW ORLEANS ARCHITECTURE

VOLUME IX

### Carrollton

Text by **ROBERT J. CANGELOSI JR.**

Photographs by **NEIL ALEXANDER**



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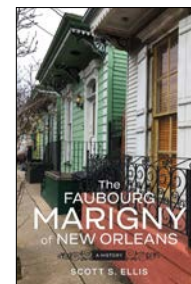
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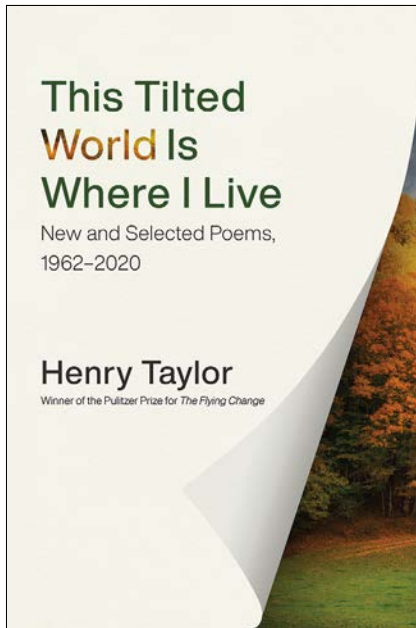


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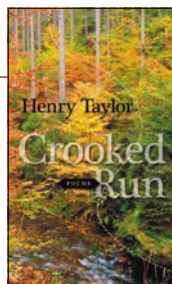
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# This Tilted World Is Where I Live

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Throughout his remarkable career, Taylor has worked in both traditional and open forms, avoiding rigid allegiance to either mode as he has responded to the world around him, from the horse farm in Virginia where he grew up, to the deserts around Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he now lives. In tones and moods ranging from grief to explosive hilarity, Taylor’s verse considers what we mean by loving one another, how violence can intrude without warning into innocent lives, and how the things we have always seen can change with the passage of time.

*This Tilted World Is Where I Live* encapsulates the keen attention, vital humanism, and mastery of craft that have characterized a long and distinguished poetic career.

**HENRY TAYLOR** has published eight collections of poems, among them *Crooked Run*, *Understanding Fiction*, and *The Flying Change*, for which he received the Pulitzer Prize. His other honors include the Michael Braude Award for Light Verse, the Witter Bynner Poetry Prize, the Aiken Taylor Award for Modern American Poetry, and membership in the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

## Riding a One-Eyed Horse

One side of his world is always missing.  
You may give it a casual wave of the hand  
or rub it with your shoulder as you pass,  
but nothing on his blind side ever happens.

Hundreds of trees slip past him into darkness,  
drifting into a hollow hemisphere  
whose sounds you will have to try to explain.  
Your legs will tell him not to be afraid

if you learn never to lie. Do not forget  
to turn his head and let what comes come seen:  
he will jump the fences he has to if you swing  
toward them from the side that he can see

and hold his good eye straight. The heavy dark  
will stay beside you always; let him learn  
to lean against it. It will steady him  
and see you safely through diminished fields.



# The World Is a Book, Indeed

Writing, Reading, and Traveling

PETER LASALLE

## PRAISE FOR PETER LASALLE

"A smart and open writer with a restless intellect and infectious passion for travel and literature." —*Publishers Weekly*

"LaSalle's dreamlike sense of exploration through past and present, memory and loss, the mundane and the profound, not only keeps the reader on the brink of discovery but also paints a picture far more vivid than any standard travel narrative." —*Ploughshares*

*The World Is a Book, Indeed* chronicles in eleven rich personal essays the ongoing quest of award-winning writer Peter LaSalle to embark on offbeat, often startlingly revelatory literary travel.

A summer spent roaming the lesser-known quarters of Paris finds LaSalle haunted by the work of the French surrealists. In Hanoi, he meets for beers with the editors—two military men—of the *Army Literature and Arts Magazine* while investigating Vietnam's acknowledged great modern novel, Bao Ninh's *The Sorrow of War*. A strange nighttime drive with a dear friend through the streets of sprawling São Paulo, searching for landmarks associated with modernist Brazilian poetry, takes on grave weight when he learns of his friend's death shortly afterward. The outright adventure of bouncing around Africa to interview writers there when very young—looked back on now—moves toward a theory of the

perhaps dreamlike tenor of any travel, especially when done alone. An account of Jorge Luis Borges's stay in Texas explores how the place made such a lasting impression on the Argentinian writer. Additional pieces bring LaSalle to Istanbul, Lisbon, Tunis, and elsewhere, as he considers major writers amid the settings that produced their works, all the while contemplating larger ideas engendered by travel, from issues of international politics to metaphysical understandings of time.

Deeply felt and replete with insight into literature and life, this is a collection for readers who love books and want to learn more about the places they originated, presented by a well-traveled guide with an intimate voice and a gift for the essay form.

**PETER LASALLE** is the author of two novels, five story collections, and a previous collection of essays on literary travel, *The City at Three P.M.* His writing on travel and literature has appeared in publications such as the *Nation*, the *Progressive*, *Africa Today*, the *New England Review*, the *Southern Review*, and *Best American Travel Writing 2014* (selected by Paul Theroux). When not traveling, he divides his time between Austin, where he is a member of the creative writing faculty at the University of Texas, and Narragansett in his native Rhode Island.



## THE WORLD IS A BOOK, INDEED

writing, reading, and traveling

PETER LASALLE

OCTOBER 2020

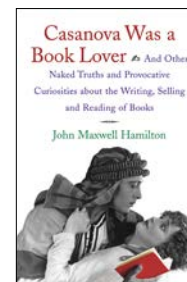
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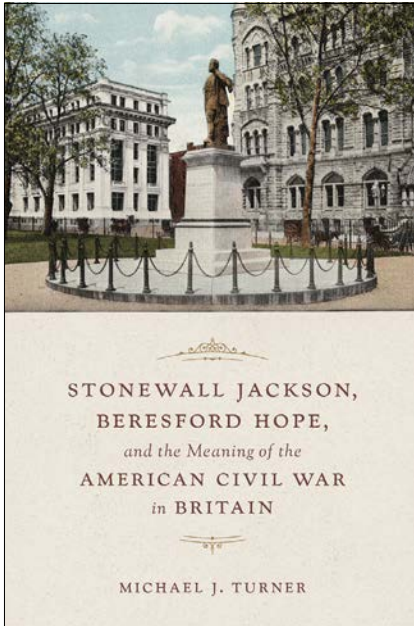
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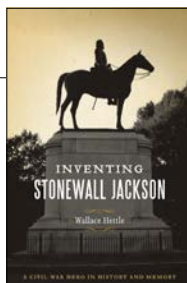
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# Stonewall Jackson, Beresford Hope, and the Meaning of the American Civil War in Britain

MICHAEL J. TURNER

In this comprehensive examination of British sympathy for the South during and after the American Civil War, Michael J. Turner explores the ideas and activities of A. J. Beresford Hope—one of the leaders of the pro-Confederate lobby in Britain—to provide fresh insight into that seemingly curious allegiance. Hope and his associates cast famed Confederate general Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson as the embodiment of southern independence, courage, and honor, elevating him to the status of a hero in Britain. Historians have often noted that economic interest, political attitudes, and concern about Britain’s global reach and geostrategic position led many in the country to embrace the Confederate cause, but they have focused less on the social, cultural, and religious reasons enunciated by Hope and ostensibly represented by Jackson, factors Turner suggests also heightened British affinity for the South.

During the war, Hope noticed a tendency among British people to view southerners as heroic warriors in their struggle against the North. He and his pro-southern followers shared and promoted this vision, framing Jackson as the personification of

that noble mission and raising the general’s profile in Britain so high that they collected enough funds to construct a memorial to him after his death in 1863. Unveiled twelve years later in Richmond, Virginia, the statue stands today as a remarkable artifact of one of the lesser-known strands of British pro-Confederate ideology.

*Stonewall Jackson, Beresford Hope, and the Meaning of the American Civil War in Britain* serves as the first in-depth analysis of Hope as a leading pro-southern activist and of Jackson’s reputation in Britain during and after the Civil War. It places the conflict in a transnational context that reveals the reasons British citizens formed bonds of solidarity with the southerners whom they perceived shared their social and cultural values.

**MICHAEL J. TURNER** is the Roy Carroll Distinguished Professor of British History at Appalachian State University. He has published widely in the fields of British-American interaction, reform politics in nineteenth-century Britain, and modern British foreign policy.

# Civil War Supply and Strategy

Feeding Men and Moving Armies

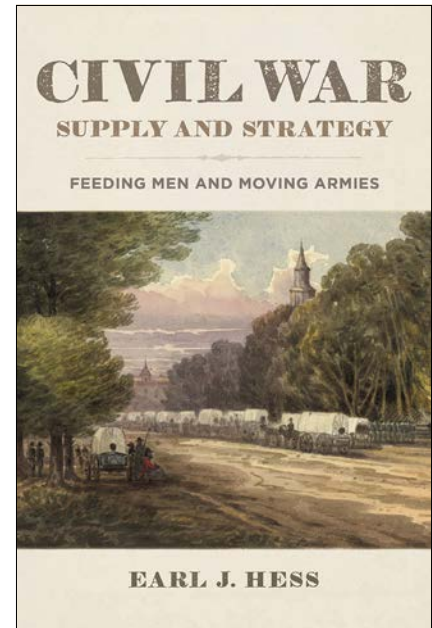
**EARL J. HESS**

*Civil War Supply and Strategy* stands as a sweeping examination of the decisive link between the distribution of provisions to soldiers and the strategic movement of armies during the Civil War. Award-winning historian Earl J. Hess reveals how that dynamic served as the key to success, especially for the Union army as it undertook bold offensives striking far behind Confederate lines. How generals and their subordinates organized military resources to provide food for both men and animals under their command, he argues, proved essential to Union victory.

The Union army developed a powerful logistical capability that enabled it to penetrate deep into Confederate territory and exert control over select regions of the South. Logistics and supply empowered Union offensive strategy but limited it as well; heavily dependent on supply lines, road systems, preexisting railroad lines, and natural waterways, Union strategy worked far better in the more developed Upper South. Union commanders encountered unique problems in the Deep South, where needed infrastructure was more scarce. While the Mississippi River allowed Northern armies to access the region along a narrow corridor and capture key cities and towns along its banks, the dearth of rail lines nearly stymied William T. Sherman's advance to Atlanta. In other parts of the Deep South, the Union army relied on massive strategic raids to destroy resources and propel its military might into the heart of the Confederacy.

As Hess's study shows, from the perspective of maintaining food supply and moving armies, there existed two main theaters of operation, north and south, that proved just as important as the three conventional eastern, western, and Trans-Mississippi theaters. Indeed, the conflict in the Upper South proved so different from that in the Deep South that the ability of Federal officials to negotiate the logistical complications associated with army mobility played a crucial role in determining the outcome of the war.

**EARL J. HESS**, Stewart W. McClelland Chair in History at Lincoln Memorial University, is the author of more than twenty books on the Civil War, including *Civil War Infantry Tactics: Training, Combat, and Small-Unit Effectiveness*, winner of the 2016 Tom Watson Brown Book Award from the Society of Civil War Historians.



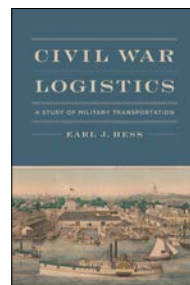
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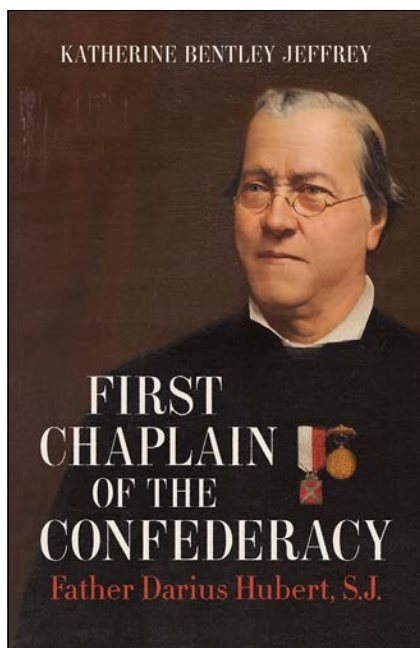


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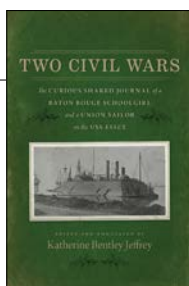
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# First Chaplain of the Confederacy

Father Darius Hubert, S.J.

**KATHERINE BENTLEY JEFFREY**

Darius Hubert (1823–1893), a French-born Jesuit, made his home in Louisiana in the 1840s and served churches and schools in Grand Coteau, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans. In 1861, he pronounced a blessing at the Louisiana Secession Convention and became the first chaplain of any denomination appointed to Confederate service. Hubert served with the First Louisiana Infantry in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia for the entirety of the war, afterward returning to New Orleans, where he continued his ministry among veterans as a trusted pastor and comrade. One of just three full-time Catholic chaplains in Lee's army, only Hubert returned permanently to the South after surrender. In postwar New Orleans, he was unanimously elected chaplain of the veterans of the eastern campaign and became well-known for his eloquent public prayers at memorial events, funerals of prominent figures such as Jefferson Davis, and dedications of Confederate monuments.

In this first-ever biography of Hubert, Katherine Bentley Jeffrey offers a far-reaching account of his extraordinary life. Born in revolutionary France, Hubert entered the Society of Jesus as a young man and left his homeland with fellow Jesuits to join the

New Orleans mission. In antebellum Louisiana, he interacted with slaves and free people of color, felt the effects of anti-Catholic and anti-Jesuit propaganda, experienced disputes and dysfunction with the trustees of his Baton Rouge church, and survived a near-fatal encounter with Know-Nothing vigilantism. As a chaplain with the Army of Northern Virginia, Hubert witnessed harrowing battles and their equally traumatic aftermath in surgeons' tents and hospitals. After the war, he was a spiritual director, friend, mentor, and intermediary in the fractious and politically divided Crescent City, where he both honored Confederate memory and promoted reconciliation and social harmony. Hubert's complicated and tumultuous life is notable both for its connection to the most compelling events of the era and its illumination of the complex and unexpected ways religion intersected with politics, war, and war's repercussions.

**KATHERINE BENTLEY JEFFREY** is a freelance writer and an independent scholar. She is the editor of *Two Civil Wars: The Curious Shared Journal of a Baton Rouge Schoolgirl and a Union Sailor on the USS Essex*.



# The Enduring Civil War

Reflections on the Great American Crisis

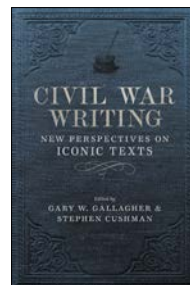
**GARY W. GALLAGHER**

In the seventy-three succinct essays gathered in *The Enduring Civil War*, celebrated historian Gary W. Gallagher highlights the complexity and richness of the war, from its origins to its memory, as topics for study, contemplation, and dispute. He places contemporary understanding of the Civil War, both academic and general, in conversation with testimony from those in the Union and the Confederacy who experienced and described it, investigating how mid-nineteenth-century perceptions align with, or deviate from, current ideas regarding the origins, conduct, and aftermath of the war. The tension between history and memory forms a theme throughout the essays, underscoring how later perceptions about the war often took precedence over historical reality in the minds of many Americans.

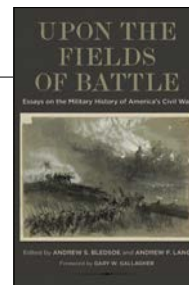
The array of topics Gallagher addresses is striking. He examines notable books and authors, both Union and Confederate, military and civilian, famous and lesser known. He discusses historians who, though their names have receded with time, produced works that remain pertinent in terms of analysis or information. He comments on conventional interpretations of events and personalities, challenging, among other things, commonly held notions about Gettysburg and Vicksburg as decisive

turning points, Ulysses S. Grant as a general who profligately wasted Union manpower, the Gettysburg Address as a watershed that turned the war from a fight for Union into one for Union and emancipation, and Robert E. Lee as an old-fashioned general ill-suited to waging a modern mid-nineteenth-century war. Gallagher interrogates recent scholarly trends on the evolving nature of Civil War studies, addressing crucial questions about chronology, history, memory, and the new revisionist literature. The format of this provocative and timely collection lends itself to sampling, and readers might start in any of the subject groupings and go where their interests take them.

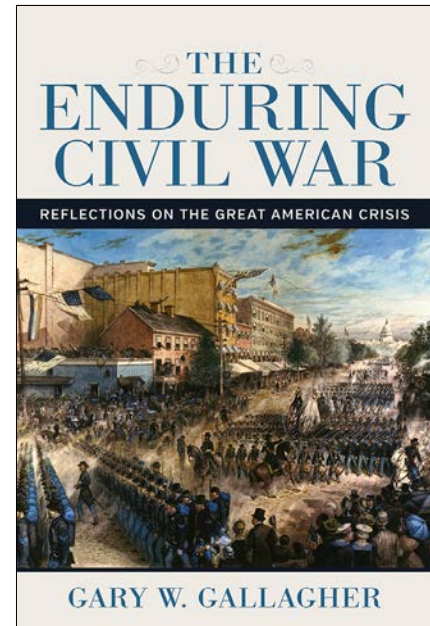
**GARY W. GALLAGHER** is the John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War Emeritus at the University of Virginia. He is the author or editor of more than forty books on the Civil War and its memory.



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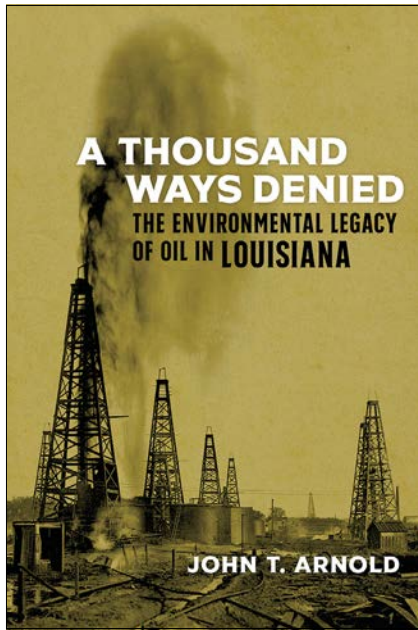
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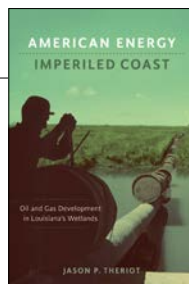
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# A Thousand Ways Denied

The Environmental Legacy of Oil in Louisiana

**JOHN T. ARNOLD**

From the hill country in the north to the marshy lowlands in the south, Louisiana and its citizens have long enjoyed the hard-earned fruits of the oil and gas industry's labor. Economic prosperity flowed from pioneering exploration as the industry heralded engineering achievements and innovative production technologies. Those successes, however, often came at the expense of other natural resources, leading to contamination and degradation of land and water. In *A Thousand Ways Denied*, John T. Arnold documents the oil industry's sharp interface with Louisiana's environment. Drawing on government, corporate, and personal files, many previously untapped, he traces the history of oil-field practices and their ecological impacts in tandem with battles over regulation.

Arnold reveals that in the early twentieth century, Louisiana helped lead the nation in conservation policy, instituting some of the first programs to sustain its vast wealth of natural resources. But with the proliferation of oil output, government agencies splintered between those promoting production and others committed to preventing pollution. As oil's economic and political strength grew, regulations

commonly went unobserved and unenforced. Over the decades, oil, saltwater, and chemicals flowed across the ground, through natural drainages, and down waterways. Fish and wildlife fled their habitats, and drinking-water supplies were ruined. In the wetlands, drilling facilities sat like factories in the midst of a maze of interconnected canals dredged to support exploration, manufacture, and transportation of oil and gas. In later years, debates raged over the contribution of these activities to coastal land loss.

Oil is an inseparable part of Louisiana's culture and politics, Arnold asserts, but the state's original vision for safeguarding its natural resources has become compromised. He urges a return to those foundational conservation principles. Otherwise, Louisiana risks the loss of viable uses of its land and, in some places, its very way of life.

As a scientist and attorney, **JOHN T. ARNOLD** has a diverse background in environmental matters. From wildlife researcher to expert witness to practicing lawyer, he offers a well-rounded perspective on natural resource conservation.

# The ABCs of LSU

Text by LINDA COLQUITT TAYLOR

Illustrations by ERIN CASTEEL

Tiger Nation's youngest generation will delight in *The ABCs of LSU*. Rhymed verse and colorful drawings introduce children to the landmarks, history, activities, and traditions of Louisiana's flagship university. Each page of the book highlights a different letter of the alphabet:

Tiger Band Drumline stops on Victory Hill.  
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Delicious ice cream tasty and sweet.

Included are beloved mascot Mike the Tiger, baseball at Alex Box Stadium, the chiming Memorial Tower, dancing Golden Girls, the Quad, the Greek Theater, and much more.

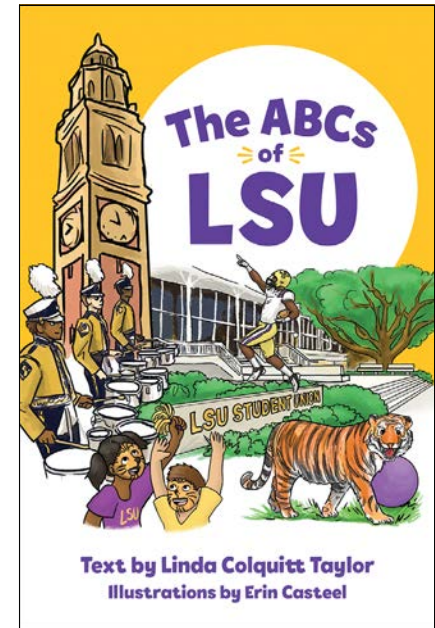
Linda Colquitt Taylor and Erin Casteel's lively, informative tour of the Baton Rouge campus will

charm older readers as well as young. LSU students may learn something new; alumni and fans will relive happy memories.

From the ancient Indian Mounds to the latest *Reveille* headline, *The ABCs of LSU* celebrates what makes Louisiana State University one of a kind for all ages.

A second-generation LSU graduate, **LINDA COLQUITT TAYLOR** is a former teacher of the hearing-impaired and the author of *New Orleans Saints Alphabet Book* and *TCU Alphabet Book*.

**ERIN CASTEEL** has illustrated many children's books, including *Kyser*, *the Singing Schnauzer*; *The Tortoise and His Hair*; *The Adventures of Red Feather: Wild Horse of Corolla*; and *What Do Babies Dream Of?*



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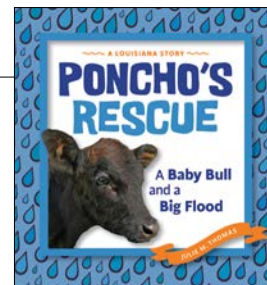
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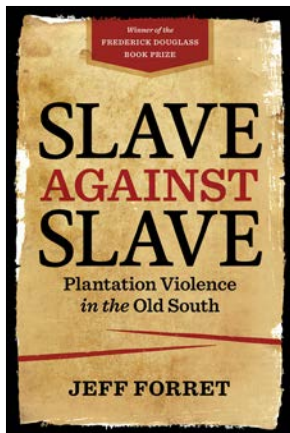
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### Slave against Slave

Plantation Violence in  
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JEFF FORRET

*“Slave against Slave makes a significant contribution to the field. This well-researched book provocatively traces the history of intraracial violence among those enslaved.”*  
—*Journal of Southern History*

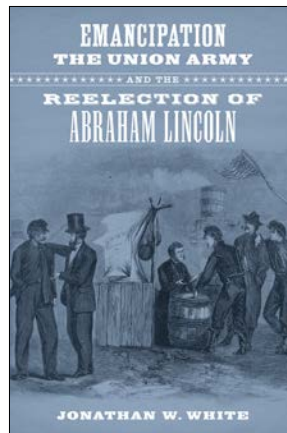
In the first-ever comprehensive analysis of violence among enslaved people in the antebellum South, Jeff Forret challenges persistent notions of slave communities as sites of unwavering harmony and solidarity. Though existing scholarship shows that intraracial black violence did not reach high levels until after Reconstruction, contemporary records bear witness to its regular presence among enslaved populations. Using a vast array of primary sources, *Slave against Slave* explores the roots of and motivations for such violence and the ways in which slaves, masters, churches, and civil and criminal laws worked to hold it in check. Far from focusing on violence alone, the book also deepens understanding of morality among the enslaved, revealing how they sought to prevent violence and punish those who engaged in it. With this groundbreaking work, Forret has opened a new line of inquiry into the study of American slavery.

**JEFF FORRET** is professor of history and a Distinguished Faculty Research Fellow at Lamar University. He is also the author of *Race Relations at the Margins: Slaves and Poor Whites in the Antebellum Southern Countryside* and *Williams' Gang: A Notorious Slave Trader and His Cargo of Black Convicts*.

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### Emancipation, the Union Army, and the Reelection of Abraham Lincoln

JONATHAN W. WHITE

*“In this provocative volume, White takes aim at what he claims passes for conventional wisdom about how soldiers in the Union army viewed emancipation and electoral politics, especially during the presidential contest of 1864. The result will spark discussion, and in some cases controversy.”* —*Journal of Southern History*

The Union army's overwhelming vote for Abraham Lincoln in the 1864 presidential election has led many Civil War scholars to conclude that the soldiers supported the Republican Party and its effort to abolish slavery. In *Emancipation, the Union Army, and the Reelection of Abraham Lincoln*, Jonathan W. White challenges this reigning paradigm in Civil War historiography, arguing that the army vote is not a reliable index of ideological motivation or political sentiment. Although 78 percent of soldiers cast ballots for Lincoln, White contends that this was not due wholly to a political or social conversion to the Republican Party.

Using previously untapped court-martial records from the National Archives, as well as manuscript collections from across the country, White convincingly revises many commonly held assumptions about the Civil War era and provides a deeper understanding of the Union army.

**JONATHAN W. WHITE** is associate professor of American studies at Christopher Newport University and the author of *Abraham Lincoln and Treason in the Civil War: The Trials of John Merryman*.

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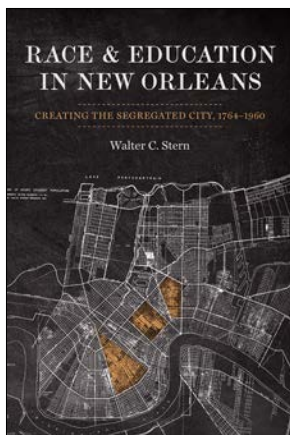
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## Race and Education in New Orleans

Creating the Segregated City,  
1764–1960

**WALTER C. STERN**

“A notable contribution to the history of urban development and racial geography in the South.” — *Journal of Southern History*

“This is arguably the best work of history that this reviewer has read in years. This book should be essential reading for historians of the modern South and of urban history. Stern’s work is a masterpiece.” — *Journal of American History*

Surveying the two centuries that preceded Jim Crow’s demise, *Race and Education in New Orleans* traces the course of the city’s education system from the colonial period to the start of school desegregation in 1960. Walter C. Stern’s timely historical analysis reveals that public schools in New Orleans both suffered from and maintained the racial stratification that characterized urban areas for much of the twentieth century.

By taking a long view of the interplay between education, race, and urban change, Stern underscores the fluidity of race as a social construct and the extent to which the Jim Crow system evolved through a dynamic though often improvisational process.

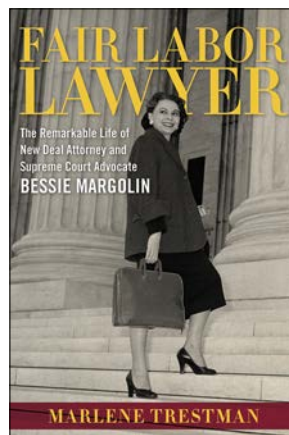
**WALTER C. STERN** is assistant professor of educational policy studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

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## Fair Labor Lawyer

The Remarkable Life of New Deal Attorney and Supreme Court Advocate Bessie Margolin

**MARLENE TRESTMAN**

“Before there was the notorious RBG, there was the audacious Bessie Margolin. You’ll be outraged you have never heard of Margolin before, but thrilled to get to know her in this important book.” — Julie Cohen, director of the Emmy-winning documentary *RBG*

Supreme Court advocate Bessie Margolin (1909–1996) molded modern American labor policy while creating a space for female lawyers in the nation’s high courts. In this comprehensive biography, Marlene Trestman reveals the forces that shaped Margolin’s remarkable journey—beginning in a New Orleans Jewish orphanage—and illuminates the public and private life of this trailblazing woman.

Margolin launched her career in the early 1930s, when only 2 percent of America’s attorneys were female and far fewer were Jewish or from the South. Her passion for her work and meticulous preparation resulted in an outstanding record in appellate advocacy: she prevailed in cases associated with twenty-one of her twenty-four Supreme Court arguments. Margolin shares an elite company of individuals who attained such high standing as Supreme Court advocates, and she did so when the legal world was almost entirely male.

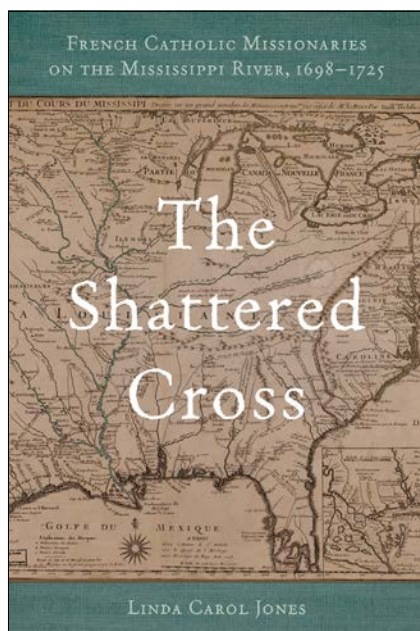
**MARLENE TRESTMAN** is former special assistant to the Maryland attorney general and a former law instructor at Loyola University of Maryland’s SELLINGER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT.

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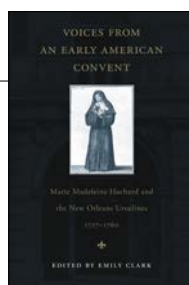
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# The Shattered Cross

French Catholic Missionaries on the Mississippi River,  
1698–1725

**LINDA CAROL JONES**

In *The Shattered Cross*, Linda Carol Jones explores the lives and work of five priests of the Séminaire de Québec, the first French Catholic missionaries to serve along the Mississippi River between 1698 and 1725. Using an array of archival holdings in Québec and France, Jones provides deep insight into the experiences of these pioneer priests and their interactions with regional Native peoples and cultures.

Encounters between early French Catholic missionaries and Native peoples were always complex, often misunderstood, and typically fraught with an array of challenges. As Jones demonstrates, these priests faced a combination of environmental, personal, economic, and leadership difficulties that, along with cultural misunderstandings and poorly designed strategies, made their missionary work arduous. Nevertheless, their efforts led, in some instances, to assimilation of select Christian elements into Native cultures, albeit through creative, mutual adaptation, not solely through Catholic efforts.

In describing the challenges the Séminaire priests faced in their Christianization efforts, Jones reveals patches of middle ground that served to transform both missionary and Native cultures when least expected. She relates the story of Father Marc Bergier, who took the openness and compassion he felt for the Native peoples he encountered in Québec with him as he descended the Mississippi River and worked among the Tamarois. Bergier revealed a willingness to reject certain aspects of Catholic

teaching in order to accept various Native traditions. Jones also investigates the case of Father Jean-François Buisson de Saint-Cosme, strongly suspected by church leaders of having an inappropriate interest in women while serving as a priest in *Acadie*, several years before his departure down the Mississippi. Jones suggests that Father Saint-Cosme's subsequent sexual relations with the sister of the Great Sun of the Natchez may have been an attempt to step into a middle ground with her so as to end the Natchez tradition of human sacrifice upon the death of a Great Sun.

Expectations of Séminaire leaders in Québec and Paris meant that those with the best chance for success on the Mississippi were internally driven, acknowledged a sense of calling to be a part of the overarching mission of the seminary, and adhered to the advice of its leadership. The missionary experiences of these five men—their varied encounters with Native peoples, Jesuit missionaries, and French *coureurs de bois*—align and diverge in unexpected ways, presenting a mosaic that adds to our understanding of both the tribulations French Catholic missionaries faced and the consequences of their efforts along the Mississippi River in the early eighteenth century.

**LINDA CAROL JONES** is associate professor of language area studies in the Department of World Languages at the University of Arkansas.

# French Connections

Cultural Mobility in North America and the Atlantic World,  
1600–1875

Edited by **ROBERT ENGLEBERT** and **ANDREW N. WEGMANN**

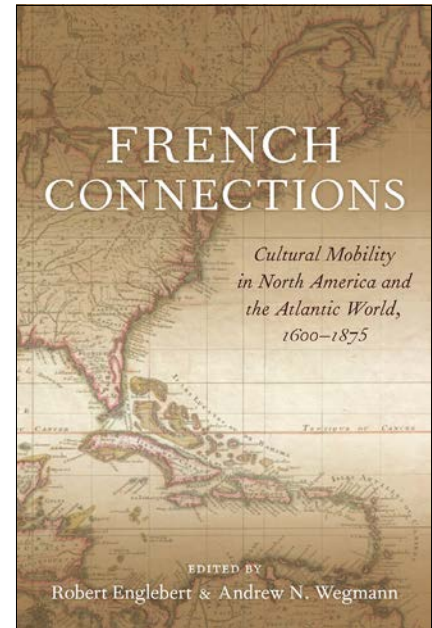
*French Connections* examines how the movement of people, ideas, and social practices contributed to the complex processes and negotiations involved in being and becoming French in North America and the Atlantic World between the years 1600 and 1875. Engaging a wide range of topics, from religious and diplomatic performance to labor migration, racialization, and both imagined and real conceptualizations of “Frenchness” and “Frenchification,” this volume argues that cultural mobility was fundamental to the development of French colonial societies and the collective identities they housed. Cases of cultural formation and dislocation in places as diverse as Quebec, the Illinois Country, Detroit, Haiti, Acadia, New England, and France itself demonstrate the broad variability of French cultural mobility that took place throughout this massive geographical space. Nevertheless, these communities shared the same cultural root in the midst of socially and politically fluid landscapes, where cultural mobility came to define, and indeed sustain, communal and individual identities in French North America and the Atlantic World.

Drawing on innovative new scholarship on Louisiana and New Orleans, the editors and contributors

to *French Connections* look to refocus the conversation surrounding French colonial interconnectivity by thinking about mobility as a constitutive condition of culture; from this perspective, separate “spheres” of French colonial culture merge to reveal a broader, more cohesive cultural world. The comprehensive scope of this collection will attract scholars of French North America, early American history, Atlantic World history, Caribbean studies, Canadian studies, and frontier studies. With essays from established, award-winning scholars such as Brett Rushforth, Leslie Choquette, Jay Gitlin, and Christopher Hodson as well as from new, progressive thinkers such as Mairi Cowan, William Brown, Karen L. Marrero, and Robert D. Taber, *French Connections* promises to generate interest and value across an extensive and diverse range of concentrations.

**ROBERT ENGLEBERT** is associate professor of history at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

**ANDREW N. WEGMANN** is assistant professor of history at Delta State University.



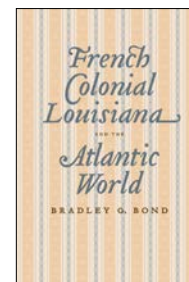
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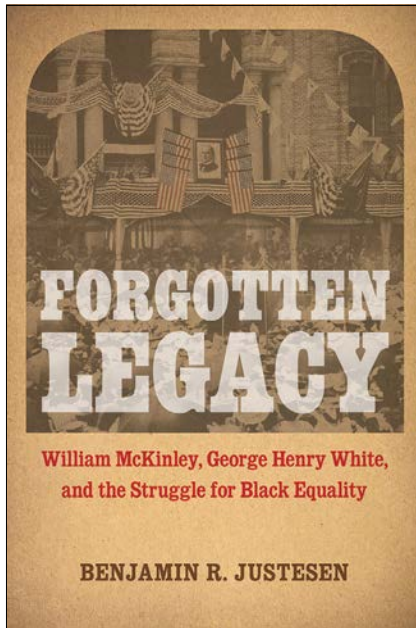
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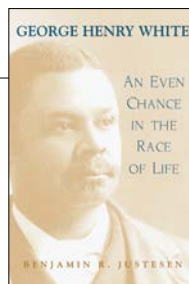
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# Forgotten Legacy

William McKinley, George Henry White, and  
the Struggle for Black Equality

**BENJAMIN R. JUSTESEN**

In *Forgotten Legacy*, Benjamin R. Justesen reveals a previously unexamined facet of William McKinley's presidency: an ongoing dedication to the advancement of African Americans, including their appointment to significant roles in the federal government and the safeguarding of their rights as U.S. citizens. During the first two years of his administration, McKinley named nearly as many African Americans to federal office as all his predecessors combined. He also acted on many fronts to stiffen federal penalties for participation in lynch mobs and to support measures promoting racial tolerance. Indeed, Justesen's work suggests that McKinley might well be considered the first "civil rights president," especially when compared to his next five successors in office. Nonetheless, historians have long minimized, trivialized, or overlooked McKinley's cooperative relationships with prominent African American leaders, including George Henry White, the nation's only black congressman between 1897 and 1901.

Justesen contends that this conventional, one-sided portrait of McKinley is at best incomplete and misleading, and often severely distorts the historical record. A Civil War veteran and the child of abolitionist parents, the twenty-fifth president committed himself to advocating for equity for America's black citizens. Justesen uses White's parallel efforts in and outside of Congress as the primary

lens through which to view the McKinley administration's accomplishments in racial advancement. He focuses on McKinley's regular meetings with a small and mostly unheralded group of African American advisers and his enduring relationship with leaders of the new National Afro-American Council. His nomination of black U.S. postmasters, consuls, midlevel agency appointees, military officers, and some high-level officials—including U.S. ministers to Haiti and Liberia—serves as perhaps the most visible example of the president's work in this area. Only months before his assassination in 1901, McKinley toured the South, visiting African American colleges to praise black achievements and encourage a spirit of optimism among his audiences. Although McKinley succumbed to political pressure and failed to promote equality and civil rights as much as he had initially hoped, Justesen shows that his efforts proved far more significant than previously thought, and were halted only by his untimely death.

**BENJAMIN R. JUSTESEN** is an editor and historian in Alexandria, Virginia. A former journalist, teacher, and U.S. Foreign Service Officer, he is also the author of *George Henry White: An Even Chance in the Race of Life* and *Broken Brotherhood: The Rise and Fall of the National Afro-American Council*.

# Touring the Antebellum South with an English Opera Company

Anton Reiff's Riverboat Travel Journal

**Edited, with an Introduction, by MICHAEL BURDEN**

The diary of Anton Reiff Jr. (c. 1830–1916) is one of only a handful of primary sources to offer a first-hand account of antebellum riverboat travel in the American South. The Pyne and Harrison Opera Troupe, a company run by English sisters Susan and Louisa Pyne and their business partner, tenor William Harrison, hired Reiff, then freelancing in New York, to serve as musical director and conductor for the company's American itinerary. The grueling tour began in November 1855 in Boston and then proceeded to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and Cincinnati, where, after a three-week engagement, the company boarded a paddle steamer bound for New Orleans. It was at that point that Reiff started to keep his diary.

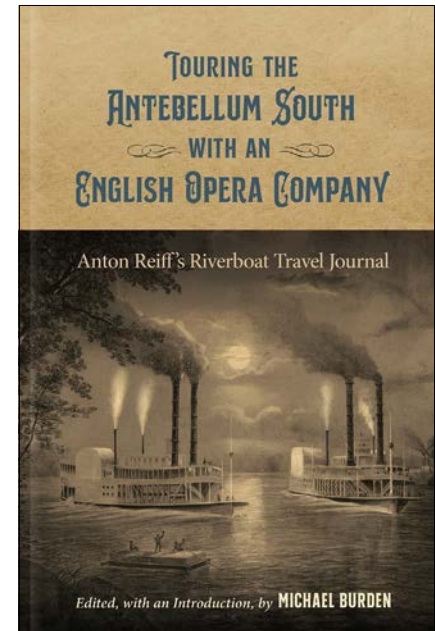
Diligently transcribed and annotated by Michael Burden, Reiff's diary presents an extraordinarily rare view of life with a foreign opera company as it traveled the country by river and rail. Surprisingly, Reiff comments little on the Pyne-Harrison performances themselves, although he does visit the theaters in the river towns, including New Orleans, where he spends evenings both at the French Opera and at the Gaiety. Instead, Reiff focuses his attention on other passengers, on the mechanics

of the journey, on the landscape, and on events he encounters, including the 1856 Mardi Gras and the unveiling of the statue of Andrew Jackson in New Orleans's Jackson Square.

Reiff is clearly captivated by the river towns and their residents, including the enslaved, whom he encountered whenever the boat tied up. Running throughout the journal is a thread of anxiety, for, apart from the typical dangers of a river trip, the winter of 1855–1856 was one of the coldest of the century, and the steamer had difficulties with river ice.

Historians have used Reiff's journal as source material, but until now the entire text, which is archived in Louisiana State University's Special Collections in Hill Memorial Library, has only been available in its original state. As a primary source, the published journal will have broad appeal to historians and other readers interested in antebellum riverboat travel, highbrow entertainment, and the people and places of the South.

**MICHAEL BURDEN** is professor of opera at the University of Oxford and dean and tutor in music at New College.



**OCTOBER 2020**

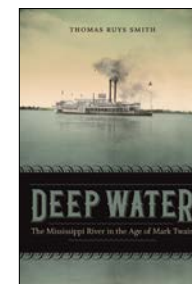
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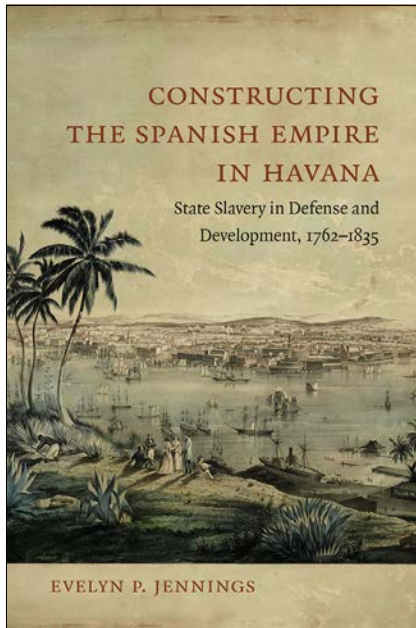
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# Constructing the Spanish Empire in Havana

State Slavery in Defense and Development, 1762–1835

**EVELYN P. JENNINGS**

*Constructing the Spanish Empire in Havana* examines the political economy surrounding the use of enslaved laborers in the capital of Spanish imperial Cuba from 1762 to 1835. In this first book-length exploration of state slavery on the island, Evelyn P. Jennings demonstrates that the Spanish state's policies and practices in the ownership and employment of enslaved workers after 1762 served as a bridge from an economy based on imperial service to a rapidly expanding plantation economy in the nineteenth century.

The Spanish state had owned and exploited enslaved workers in Cuba since the early 1500s. After the humiliating yearlong British occupation of Havana beginning in 1762, however, the Spanish Crown redoubled its efforts to purchase and maintain thousands of royal slaves to prepare Havana for what officials believed would be the imminent renewal of war with England. Jennings shows that the composition of workforces assigned to public projects depended on the availability of enslaved workers in various interconnected labor markets within Cuba, within the Spanish empire, and in the Atlantic world. Moreover, the site of enslavement, the work required, and the importance of that work according to imperial priorities influenced the treatment and relative autonomy of those laborers as well as the likelihood they would achieve freedom.

As plantation production for export purposes

emerged as the most dynamic sector of Cuba's economy by 1810, the Atlantic networks used to obtain enslaved workers showed increasing strain. British abolitionism exerted additional pressure on the slave trade. To offset the loss of access to enslaved laborers, colonial officials expanded the state's authority to sentence deserters, vagrants, and fugitives, both enslaved and free, to labor in public works such as civil construction, road building, and the creation of Havana's defensive forts. State efforts in this area demonstrate the deep roots of state enslavement and forced labor in nineteenth-century Spanish colonialism and in capitalist development in the Atlantic world.

*Constructing the Spanish Empire in Havana* places the processes of building and sustaining the Spanish empire in the imperial hub of Havana in a comparative perspective with other sites of empire building in the Atlantic world. Furthermore, it considers the human costs of reproducing the Spanish empire in a major Caribbean port, the state's role in shaping the institution of slavery, and the experiences of enslaved and other coerced laborers both before and after the beginning of Cuba's sugar boom in the early nineteenth century.

**EVELYN P. JENNINGS** is the Margaret Vilas Professor of Latin American History at St. Lawrence University in New York.

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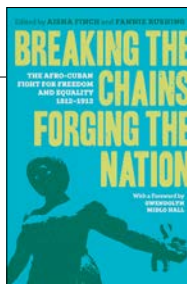
Slavery / Atlantic Studies

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# The Media and Sino-American Rapprochement, 1963–1972

A Comparative Study

**GUOLIN YI**

An important new cultural study of the Cold War, Guolin Yi's *The Media and Sino-American Rapprochement, 1963–1972* analyzes how the media in both countries shaped public perceptions of the changing relations between China and the United States in the decade prior to Richard Nixon's visit to Beijing.

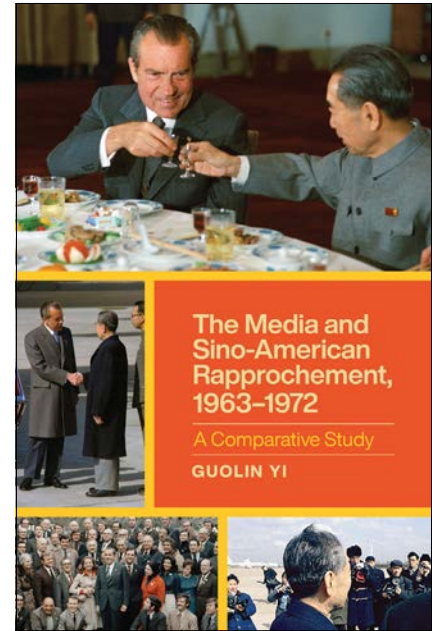
This book offers the first systematic study of *Can-kao Xiaoxi* (Reference News), an internal Chinese newspaper that carried relatively objective stories the Xinhua News Agency translated from world news media for circulation among Communist cadres. As the main channel for the cadres to learn about the outside world, this newspaper provides a window into China's evolving foreign policy, including the reception of signals from the Nixon administration. Yi compares this internal communications channel with the public accounts contained in the more widely circulated newspaper *People's Daily*, a chief propaganda outlet of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) directed at its own people and China watchers all over the world. A third level of communication emerges in classified CCP instructions and government documents. By approaching the Chinese communication system on three levels—internal, public, and classified—Yi's analysis demonstrates how people at different positions in the political hierarchy accessed varying types of information, allowing him to chart the development of Beijing's approach to the U.S. government.

In a corresponding analysis of the defining fea-

tures of American reporting on China, Yi considers the impact of government-media relationships in the United States during the Cold War. Alongside prominent magazines and newspapers, particularly the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* in their differing coverage of key events, Yi discusses television networks, which proved vital for promoting the success of Ping-Pong Diplomacy and the impact of Nixon's visit in 1972.

With its comparative study of news outlets in the two countries, *The Media and Sino-American Rapprochement, 1963–1972* presents a thorough and comprehensive perspective on the role of the media in influencing domestic Chinese and American public opinion during a critical decade.

**GUOLIN YI** is assistant professor of history at Arkansas Tech University and an associate in research at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University.



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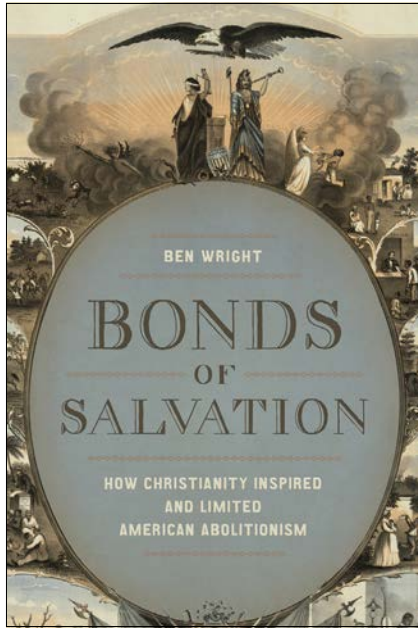


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# Bonds of Salvation

## How Christianity Inspired and Limited American Abolitionism

### BEN WRIGHT

Ben Wright's *Bonds of Salvation* demonstrates how religion structured the possibilities and limitations of American abolitionism during the early years of the republic. From the American Revolution through the eruption of schisms in the three largest Protestant denominations in the 1840s, this comprehensive work lays bare the social and religious divides that culminated in secession and civil war. Historians often emphasize status anxieties, market changes, biracial cooperation, and political maneuvering as primary forces in the evolution of slavery in the United States. Wright instead foregrounds the pivotal role religion played in shaping the ideological contours of the early abolitionist movement.

Wright first examines the ideological distinctions between religious conversion and purification in the aftermath of the Revolution, when a small number of white Christians contended that the nation must purify itself from slavery before it could fulfill its religious destiny. Most white Christians disagreed, focusing on visions of spiritual salvation over the practical goal of emancipation. To expand salvation to all, they created new denominations equipped to carry the gospel across the American continent and eventually all over the globe. These denomina-

tions established numerous reform organizations, collectively known as the “benevolent empire,” to reckon with the problem of slavery. One affiliated group, the American Colonization Society (ACS), worked to end slavery and secure white supremacy by promising salvation for Africa and redemption for the United States.

Yet the ACS and its efforts drew strong objections. Proslavery prophets transformed expectations of expanded salvation into a formidable antiabolitionist weapon, framing the ACS's proponents as enemies of national unity. Abolitionist assertions that enslavers could not serve as agents of salvation sapped the most potent force in American nationalism—Christianity—and led to schisms within the Presbyterian, Baptist, and Methodist churches. These divides exacerbated sectional hostilities and sent the nation farther down the path to secession and war. Wright's provocative analysis reveals that visions of salvation both created and almost destroyed the American nation.

**BEN WRIGHT** is assistant professor of historical studies at the University of Texas at Dallas.

# Intersectional Tech

Black Users in Digital Gaming

**KISHONNA L. GRAY**

Foreword by **ANITA SARKEESIAN**

In *Intersectional Tech: Black Users in Digital Gaming*, Kishonna L. Gray interrogates blackness in gaming at the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, and (dis)ability. Situating her argument within the context of the concurrent, seemingly unrelated events of Gamergate and the Black Lives Matter movement, Gray highlights the inescapable chains that bind marginalized populations to stereotypical frames and limited narratives in video games. *Intersectional Tech* explores the ways that the multiple identities of black gamers—some obvious within the context of games, some more easily concealed—affect their experiences of gaming.

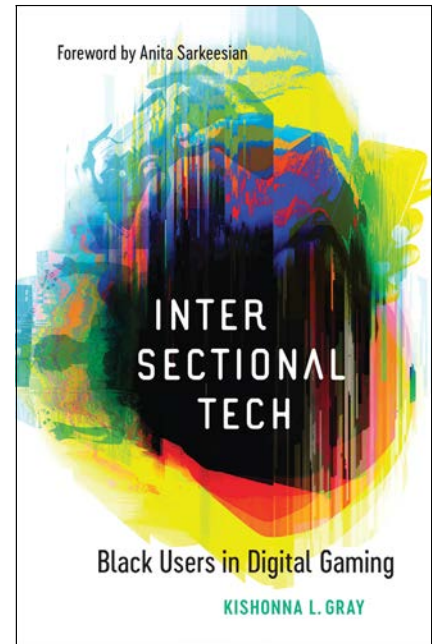
The normalization of whiteness and masculinity in digital culture inevitably leads to isolation, exclusion, and punishment of marginalized people. Yet, Gray argues, we must also examine the individual struggles of prejudice, discrimination, and micro-aggressions within larger institutional practices that sustain the oppression. These “new” racisms and a complementary colorblind ideology are a kind of digital Jim Crow, a new mode of the same strategies of oppression that have targeted black communities throughout American history.

Drawing on extensive interviews that engage critically with identity development and justice issues in gaming, Gray explores the capacity for gaming culture to foster critical consciousness, aid in participatory democracy, and effect social change. *Intersectional Tech* is rooted in concrete situations

of marginalized members within gaming culture. It reveals that despite the truths articulated by those who expose the sexism, racism, misogyny, and homophobia that are commonplace within gaming communities, hegemonic narratives continue to be privileged. This text, in contrast, centers the perspectives that are often ignored and provides a critical corrective to notions of gaming as a predominantly white and male space.

**KISHONNA L. GRAY** is assistant professor in the Department of Communication and the Gender and Women’s Studies Program at the University of Illinois, Chicago. She is also a faculty associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University. She is the author of *Race, Gender, & Deviance in Xbox Live* and the coeditor of *Feminism in Play* and *Woke Gaming: Digital Challenges to Oppression and Social Injustice*.

**ANITA SARKEESIAN** is an award-winning media critic and the creator and executive director of Feminist Frequency, an educational nonprofit that explores the representations of women in pop culture narratives. Her work focuses on deconstructing the stereotypes and tropes associated with women in popular culture as well as highlighting issues surrounding the targeted harassment of women in online and gaming spaces.



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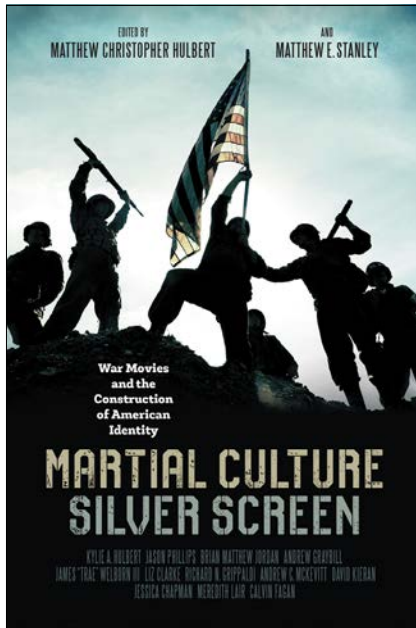


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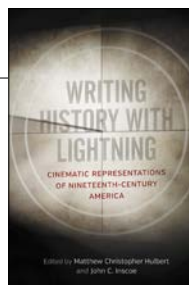
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# Martial Culture, Silver Screen

War Movies and the Construction of American Identity

Edited by **MATTHEW CHRISTOPHER HULBERT** and **MATTHEW E. STANLEY**

*Martial Culture, Silver Screen* analyzes war movies, one of the most popular genres in American cinema, for what they reveal about the narratives and ideologies that shape U.S. national identity. Edited by Matthew Christopher Hulbert and Matthew E. Stanley, this volume explores the extent to which the motion picture industry, particularly Hollywood, has played an outsized role in the construction and evolution of American self-definition.

Moving chronologically, eleven essays highlight cinematic versions of military and cultural conflicts spanning from the American Revolution to the War on Terror. Each focuses on a selection of films about a specific war or historical period, often foregrounding recent productions that remain understudied in the critical literature on cinema, history, and cultural memory. Scrutinizing cinema through the lens of nationalism and its “invention of tradition,” *Martial Culture, Silver Screen* considers how movies possess the power to frame ideologies, provide social coherence, betray collective neuroses and fears, construct narratives of victimhood or heroism, forge communities of remembrance, and cement tradition and convention. Hollywood war films routinely present broad, identifiable narratives—such as that of the rugged pioneer or the “good war”—through which filmmakers invent representations of the past, establishing narratives that advance discrete social and political functions in the present. As a result, cinematic versions of wartime conflicts condition

and reinforce popular understandings of American national character as it relates to violence, individualism, democracy, militarism, capitalism, masculinity, race, class, and empire.

Approaching war movies as identity-forging apparatuses and tools of social power, *Martial Culture, Silver Screen* lays bare how cinematic versions of warfare have helped define for audiences what it means to be American.

**MATTHEW CHRISTOPHER HULBERT** is a cultural and military historian of nineteenth-century America. He teaches at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia and is the author of *The Ghosts of Guerrilla Memory: How Civil War Bushwhackers Became Gunslingers in the American West*, winner of the Wiley-Silver Prize.

**MATTHEW E. STANLEY** is assistant professor of history at Albany State University and the author of *The Loyal West: Civil War and Reunion in Middle America*.

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# The Pleasures of Death

Kurt Cobain's Masochistic and Melancholic Persona

**ARTHUR FLANNIGAN SAINT-AUBIN**

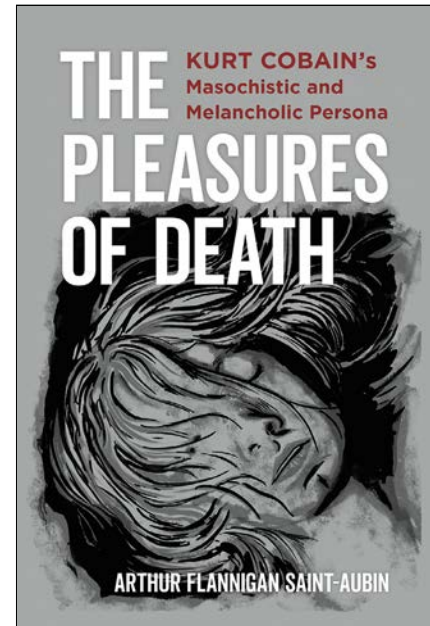
The year 2019 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Kurt Cobain, an artist whose music, words, and images continue to move millions of fans worldwide. As the first academic study that provides a literary analysis of Cobain's creative writings, Arthur Flannigan Saint-Aubin's *The Pleasures of Death: Kurt Cobain's Masochistic and Melancholic Persona* approaches the journals and songs crafted by Nirvana's iconic front man from the perspective of cultural theory and psychoanalytic aesthetics.

Drawing on critiques and reformulations of psychoanalytic theory by feminist, queer, and antiracist scholars, Saint-Aubin considers the literary means by which Cobain creates the persona of a young, white, heterosexual man who expresses masochistic and melancholic behaviors. On the one hand, this individual welcomes pain and humiliation as atonement for unpardonable sins; on the other, he experiences a profound sense of loss and grief, seeking death as the ultimate act of pleasure. The first-person narrators and characters that populate Cobain's texts underscore the political and aesthetic repercussions of his art. Cobain's distinctive version of grunge, understood as a subculture, a literary genre, and a cultural practice, represents a specific performance of race and gender, one that facilitates an understanding of the self as part of a larger social order.

Saint-Aubin approaches Cobain's writings independently of the artist's biography, positioning these texts within the tradition of postmodern representations of masculinity in twentieth-century American fiction, while also suggesting connections to European Romantic traditions from the nineteenth century that postulate a relation between melancholy (or depression) and creativity. In turn, through Saint-Aubin's elegant analysis, Cobain's creative writings illuminate contradictions and inconsistencies within psychoanalytic theory itself concerning the intersection of masculinity, masochism, melancholy, and the death drive.

By foregrounding Cobain's ability to challenge coextensive links between gender, sexuality, and race, *The Pleasures of Death* reveals how the cultural politics and aesthetics of this tragic icon's works align with feminist strategies, invite queer readings, and perform antiracist critiques of American culture.

**ARTHUR FLANNIGAN SAINT-AUBIN** is professor of French at Occidental College, where he teaches courses in Francophone literatures and seminars on the theory and practice of translation. His books include *The Memoirs of Toussaint and Isaac Louverture: Representing the Black Masculine Subject in Narratives of Mourning and Loss*.



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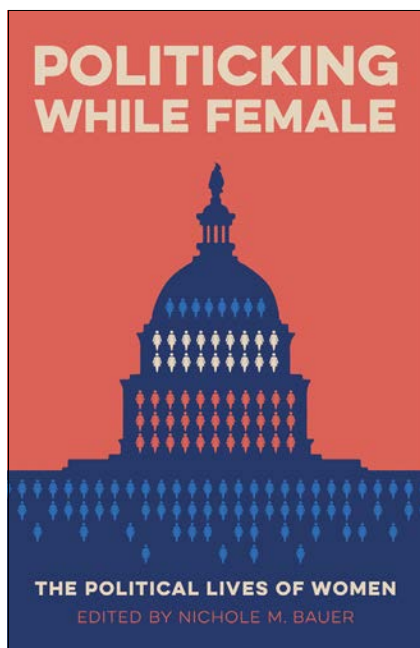
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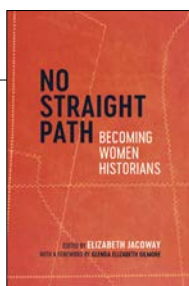
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# Politicking While Female

The Political Lives of Women

Edited by **NICHOLE M. BAUER**

*Politicking While Female* traces the challenges and opportunities that shape the experiences of women who pursue and hold positions of political leadership in the United States. In this volume, Nichole M. Bauer gathers new essays studying the forces that keep women out of political institutions, along with the hurdles faced by female candidates and politicians once they overcome those barriers.

Drawing on recent, original data, *Politicking While Female* examines the life cycle of a woman's political career. The first section charts the development of political identities that shape women's participation in politics as voters and as potential candidates, with attention to the patterns of socialization that can discourage women from seeing themselves as political leaders. The next two sections focus on the process of deciding to run for public office, especially the crucial role of mentors, and the challenges female candidates face when campaigning, as they work to raise money, develop effective messages, and overcome voter biases regarding women in leadership roles. The final section explores how women govern once in office, showing the impact of having larger numbers of women in positions of political power.

A valuable resource for students, scholars, and voters of all backgrounds, *Politicking While Female* offers a comprehensive and accessible collection of essays, supported by new research and analysis, that captures central debates in the study of gender and politics.

**NICHOLE M. BAUER** is the author of *The Qualifications Gap: Why Women Must Be Better Than Men to Win Political Office* and assistant professor of political communication in the Department of Political Science and the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University.

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# Belles and Poets

Intertextuality in the Civil War Diaries of White Southern Women

**JULIA NITZ**

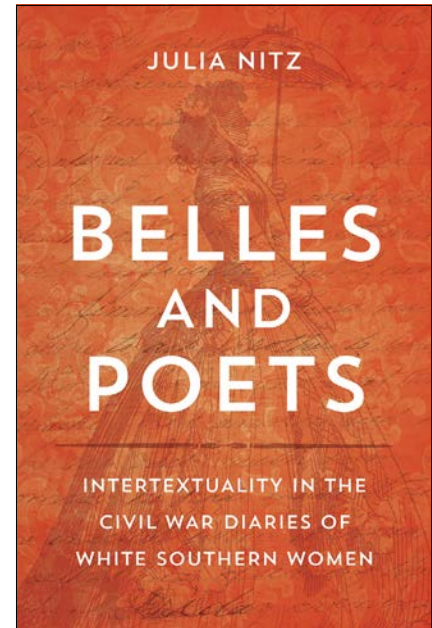
In *Belles and Poets*, Julia Nitz analyzes the Civil War diary writing of eight white women from the U.S. South, focusing specifically on how they made sense of the world around them through references to literary texts. Nitz finds that many diarists incorporated allusions to poems, plays, and novels, especially works by Shakespeare and the British Romantic poets, in moments of uncertainty and crisis. While previous studies have overlooked or neglected such literary allusions in personal writings, regarding them as mere embellishments or signs of elite social status, Nitz reveals that these references functioned as codes through which women diarists contemplated their roles in society and addressed topics related to slavery, Confederate politics, gender, and personal identity.

Nitz's innovative study of identity construction and literary intertextuality focuses on diaries written by the following women: Eliza Frances (Fanny) Andrews of Georgia (1840–1931), Mary Boykin Miller Chesnut of South Carolina (1823–1886), Malvina Sara Black Gist of South Carolina (1842–1930), Sarah Ida Fowler Morgan of Louisiana (1842–1909), Cornelia Peake McDonald of Virginia (1822–1909), Judith White Brockenbrough McGuire of Virginia (1813–1897), Sarah Katherine (Kate)

Stone of Louisiana (1841–1907), and Ella Gertrude Clanton Thomas of Georgia (1843–1907). These women's diaries circulated in postwar commemoration associations, and several saw publication. The public acclaim they received helped shape the collective memory of the war and, according to Nitz, further legitimized notions of racial supremacy and segregation. Comparing and contrasting their own lives to literary precedents and fictional role models allowed the diarists to process the privations of war, the loss of family members, and the looming defeat of the Confederacy.

*Belles and Poets* establishes the extent to which literature offered a means of exploring ideas and convictions about class, gender, and racial hierarchies in the Civil War–era South. Nitz's work shows that literary allusions in wartime diaries expose the ways in which some white southern women coped with the war and its potential threats to their way of life.

**JULIA NITZ** is a lecturer in Anglo-American cultural studies at Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany. She cofounded the Intercontinental Crosscurrents Network for the study of transatlantic women's networks.



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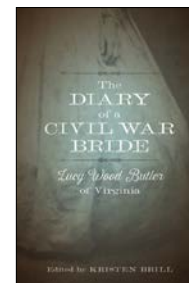
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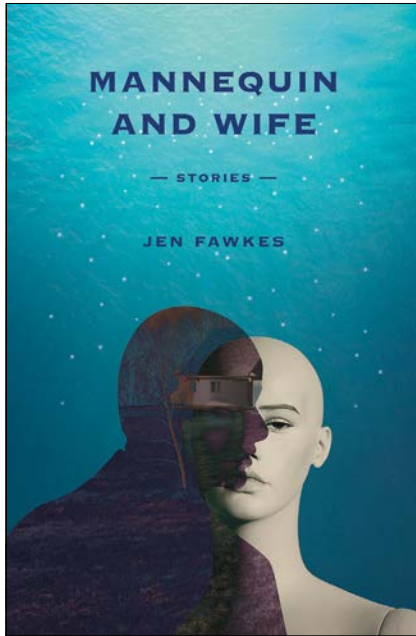
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# Mannequin and Wife

Stories

**JEN FAWKES**

In *Mannequin and Wife*, the debut collection from Jen Fawkes, sharp and imaginative tales trip seamlessly across borderlands, navigating comedy and tragedy, psychological and magical realism, the mundane and the marvelous.

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over how to leave someone his deceased client's heart.

Fawkes's award-winning stories examine the vagaries of human relationships—mother and child, husband and wife, mentor and protégé—to tease out the startling complications that arise from our entanglements with those we loathe and those we love.

**JEN FAWKES** has published fiction and nonfiction in *One Story*, *Crazyhorse*, the *Iowa Review*, the *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Shenandoah*, and elsewhere. She is a four-time nominee for the Pushcart Prize as well as a finalist for the Calvino Prize in fabulist fiction. Her stories have received awards from the *Pinch*, *Washington Square Review*, *Harpur Palate*, *Blue Earth Review*, *Sequestrum*, and *Salamander*. She lives in Little Rock, Arkansas, with her husband and several imaginary friends.

WINNER OF THE 2020 L. E. PHILLABAUM POETRY AWARD

# Double Effect

Poems

**MARTHA SERPAS**

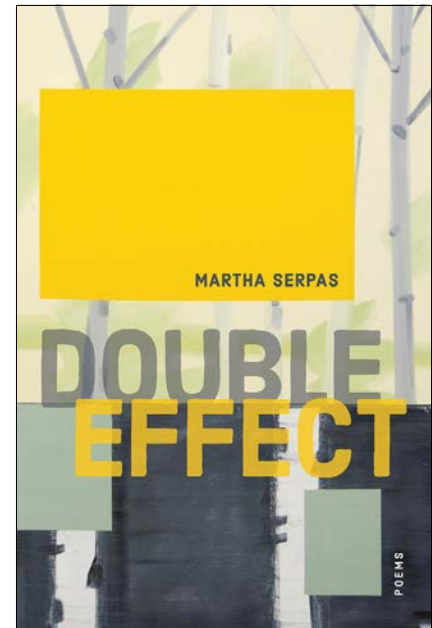
## PRAISE FOR MARTHA SERPAS

“Martha Serpas shows herself to be a prophet in a double sense. She anticipated the ecological destruction of much of her native state, and she earns the authentic moral authority of the Spirit. She is something magnificently new in American poetry, a Cajun visionary who fuses the legacy of Bishop and Swenson with her own rebel and poignant Catholicism.” —Harold Bloom

Martha Serpas’s *Double Effect* reimagines a principle first outlined by St. Thomas Aquinas in *Summa Theologica*, which considers whether an action is morally permissible if it causes harm while bringing about a good result. In resonant verse pointed by Cajun language, these poems measure the good that can come from destructive situations: maternal deprivation, spiritual poverty, mania, ecological devastation. Serpas shows that compromised marshes and the Gulf of Mexico offer surprising sustenance and clarity. Time is marked by feast days, hurricanes, celebrations, accidents, and rescues along southern Louisiana’s eroding coasts. *Double Effect* ultimately finds joy in survival, in love, and in spiritual fulfillment.

**MARTHA SERPAS** is the author of three collections of poetry, including *The Diener* and *The Dirty Side of the Storm*. Her work has appeared in the *Nation*, the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere. A native of south Louisiana, she coproduced *Veins in the Gulf*, a documentary on Louisiana’s coastal land loss. She teaches creative writing at the University of Houston and is a hospital chaplain.

The deep hiss and hum  
of the mosquito truck  
  
blowing kisses behind itself  
like a festival queen in a hurry,  
  
up and down the old part  
of the Island, the fog muscling it along.  
  
Bottles and go-cups  
part the wake  
and an organist cues the moon.  
  
*L’encensoir* recedes, the hum fainter,  
the drapes glowing,  
all manner of thing well.  
  
—from “Mosquito Truck”



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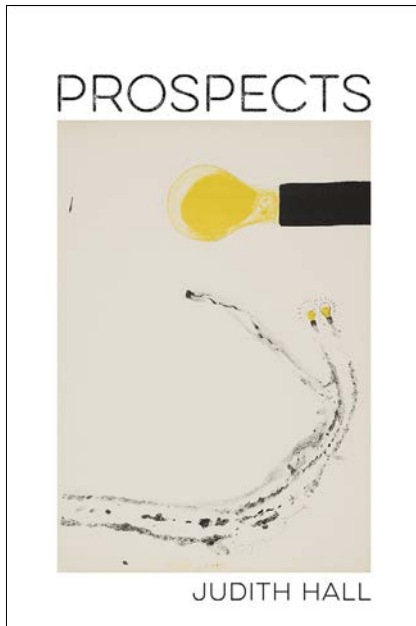
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# Prospects

Poems

**JUDITH HALL**

## PRAISE FOR JUDITH HALL

“Each book of Judith Hall’s has been a happy discovery for me. Each one has been astonishing, the writing like that of no one else: elegant, resonant, a bright surfacing from the depths of language, experience, and imagination, all conveyed with a sure, original artistry.” —**W.S. Merwin**

“[Hall’s] appetite for whatever will stimulate her gift for elaboration and drama, and her wit, both playful and acerbic, are like no one else’s, nor is the sound of her poems with its seductive cadences and rapturous alliteration. Her poems are demanding, but the rewards they offer are considerable.” —**Mark Strand**

Which prospects will be shared? Which inherited? Or must they be individual inventions, spurs digging into a future unavailable but, nevertheless, still there? Judith Hall’s new poems consider the ways in which prospects take any number of forms, as different perspectives offer a sense of choice and loss.

**JUDITH HALL** is the author of four earlier poetry collections and a collaboration with David Lehman, which she also illustrated. She has received awards from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foun-

ation, the Ingram Merrill Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. She taught for many years at the California Institute of Technology and now teaches at Columbia University’s School of the Arts.

## NATURAL / WORK HARD / ABILITY

Done in stain-obscurer dark pants pulled on for work  
Tossing out the one last second-hand self-help book

Help yourself to hard work is not the half of it  
Work hard will never be distinctly natural

Natural is not a camouflage of hard work  
Not the plucked waxed dyed in private lines learned

Sensible shoes will open doors the boring doors  
Check out the body language of competitors

Jokes at you at your expense required about now  
The one about your own designer shoes own

Supposed to blend in a joke right without the laugh  
Resentment is supposed to harden you in life

When laughing at yourself is not a living wage  
You can live on for long without a brain-dead brain



# Atomizer

Poems

**ELIZABETH A. I. POWELL**

## PRAISE FOR *ATOMIZER*

“The poems in *Atomizer* are the product of an artfulness that settles for neither torrid confessionalism nor bland experimentalism; a sense of humor that gives rise to new knowledge rather than just chuckles; and an attention to the world’s ills and misfortunes that is neither mere grievance nor histrionic nihilism. Elizabeth A. I. Powell writes a social poetry that necessarily incorporates the personal, and she does so deftly, honestly, and without ornament.”  
—Graham Foust

In *Atomizer*, Elizabeth A. I. Powell examines pressing questions of today, from equality and political unrest to the diminishing of democratic ideals, asking if it is even appropriate to write about love in a time seemingly hurtling toward authoritarianism. With honesty and humor, her poems explore fragrance and perfumery as a means of biological and religious seduction. Evoking Whitman’s sentiment that we are all made of the same atoms, *Atomizer* looks toward an underestimated sense—scent—as a way to decipher the liminal spaces around us. Molecules of perfume create an invisible reality where narratives can unfold and interact, pathways through which Powell addresses issues of materialism, body image, and the physical and psychological contours of emotional relationships.

A work of fearless social satire and humorous yet painful truth, *Atomizer* offers a cultural, political, and sociological account of love in the present moment.

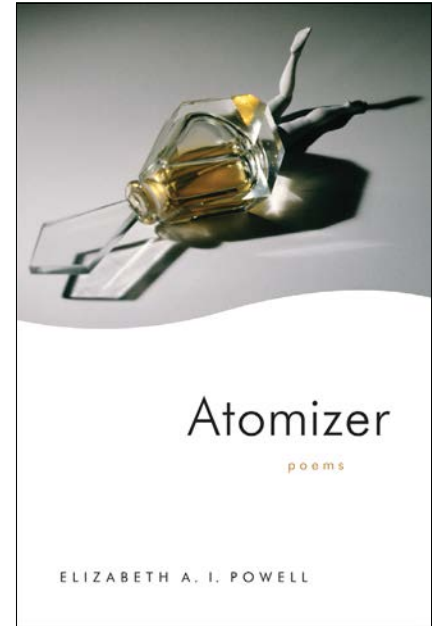
**ELIZABETH A. I. POWELL** is the author of *The Republic of Self*, winner of the New Issues Poetry Prize; and *Willy Loman’s Reckless Daughter*, named one of the “Books We Loved in 2016” by the *New Yorker*. Her work has appeared in the *Pushcart Prize Anthology* and literary journals such as *Barrow Street*, *Electric Literature*, the *Missouri Review*, and *Ploughshares*. She is professor of writing and literature at Northern Vermont University–Johnson and editor of *Green Mountains Review*.

“Tell me everything,” he said.

That was the top note, that was  
what the scent would have said  
if it could also speak nouns, *window, sun,*  
*woman, summer*, filling the white-walled bistro.

How oakmossy the world is,  
how odor is identity’s first ardor.  
His scent opens, a portal. He said I seemed  
worthy of its lemony neroli blessings,  
its Coco philosophy of my life  
*didn’t please me so I created my life.*

—from “Lying Perfume Bottle of Chanel pour Monsieur”



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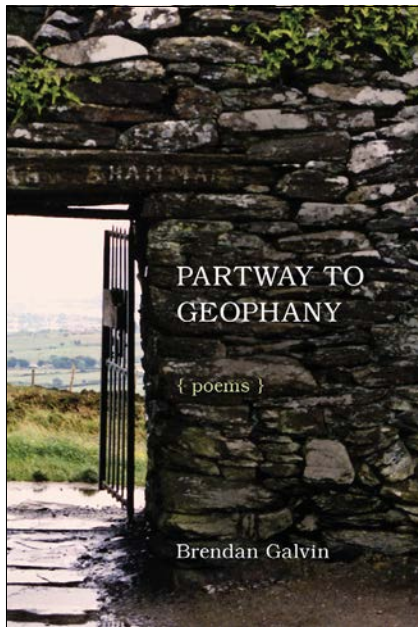
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# Partway to Geophany

Poems

**BRENDAN GALVIN**

## PRAISE FOR BRENDAN GALVIN

"Few living poets are as memorable in their descriptions of the goings-on in the non-man-manufactured world."

—*New York Times Book Review*

"Brendan Galvin has an exciting gift for finding the unexpected word that proves miraculously perfect in its setting."

—*Atlantic Monthly*

*Partway to Geophany*, the latest collection by celebrated poet Brendan Galvin, chronicles the waxing and waning of the year in a small seacoast town on Cape Cod, alongside observations of other beloved places. As a naturalist and environmentalist, Galvin undertakes poems that meditate on wildlife, landscape, and the passage of time. His verse presents powerful and immediate detailings of quotidian experience, with poems about love and loss, local people and customs, foreign and domestic travel, and writing itself. Throughout, Galvin probes the implied question, What is humanity's place in the natural world? His masterful use of the narrative lyric produces poems of great mystery and intimacy, in tones varying from grave to playful, as he reflects on the cruelties of time and the pleasures of being alive.

**BRENDAN GALVIN** is the author of eighteen poetry collections, including *Habitat: New and Selected Poems, 1965–2005*, a finalist for the National Book Award. His many other honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Sotheby Prize of the Arvon Foundation, the Iowa Poetry Prize, *Poetry's* Levinson Prize, and two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. He lives in Truro, Massachusetts.

I love the way light travels these mornings,  
and the way you leave shades and windows open  
so at four or five a.m. it assures our waking  
to pines and a tidal wave of birdsong  
rising from the east, music we know  
or don't know, robin and cardinal, sure,  
but also that one you call the narcissist warbler,  
*see me see me*, or the teakettle bird  
and the one offering *free beer*,  
some others just passing through,  
and the sadness of mourning doves  
washing over our roof as we laugh and talk,  
at our age as intricately twined as though  
we are life's final gift to each other . . .

—from "Summer Dawn, Summer Nightgown"

# No More Time

Poems

**GREG DELANTY**

## PRAISE FOR *NO MORE TIME*

"No poet I know of has grappled more insistently and more successfully with the tough moment our planet finds itself in than the great Vermont and Irish poet Greg Delanty."

—Bill McKibben

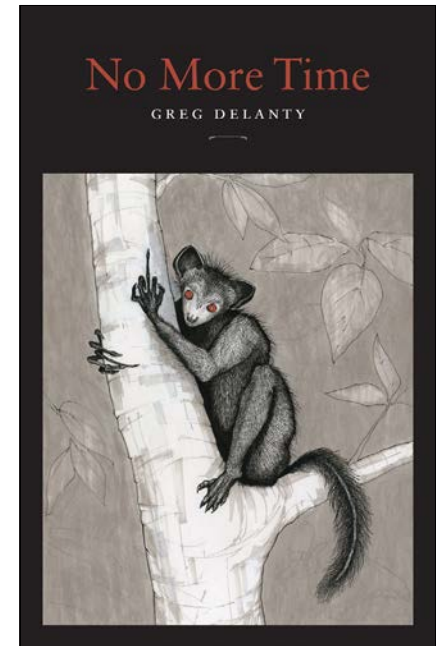
In *No More Time*, Greg Delanty offers a celebration of the natural environment that also bemoans its mistreatment at the hands of humans. The collection's long sequence, "A Field Guide to People," is an alpha-bestiary of twenty-six sonnets, each a meditation on a species of flora or fauna that is thriving, endangered, or extinct. Evoking an earthly heaven, purgatory, and hell for plants and animals, these poems function also as love letters to the biosphere as they connect the past with the present in both form and content. In the middle of this sonnet sequence, a section labeled "Breaking News" gives voice in poetry to the political state of our planet with a balance of pathos, wit, and hope.

By stressing the deep, underlying bonds that humans share with the natural world, *No More Time* witnesses the effects of climate change and presents a vital and truthful view of what remains at stake for engaged global citizens in the twenty-first century.

**GREG DELANTY** was born in Cork City, Ireland, and maintains dual citizenship in Ireland and the United States, where he has lived since 1986. He is the author of *Book Seventeen* and *The Ship of Birth*, among many other books, and he has received numerous awards for his poetry, including a Guggenheim Fellowship. He teaches at Saint Michael's College in Vermont.

### Loosestrife

You have become your name, loosestrife,  
carried on sheep, spurting up out of ballast,  
a cure brought across the deep  
to treat wounds, soothe trouble.  
There have been others like you, the rhododendron,  
the cattails that you in your turn overrun.  
Voices praise your magenta spread, your ability  
to propagate by seed, by stem, by root  
and how you adjust to light, to soil, spreading  
your glory across the earth even as you kill  
by boat, by air, by land all before you: the hardy iris,  
the rare orchids, the spawning ground of fish.  
You'll overtake the earth and destroy even yourself.  
Ah, our loosestrife, purple plague, beautiful us.



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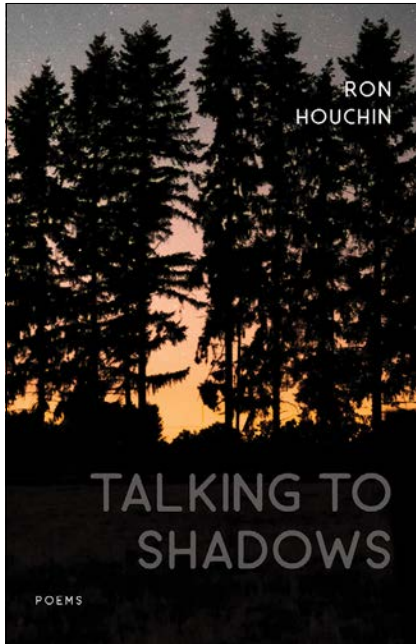
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Poetry

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Southern Messenger Poets

Dave Smith, Series Editor

# Talking to Shadows

Poems

**RON HOUCHIN**

## PRAISE FOR RON HOUCHIN

“His poetry is distinctive, enjoyable, audacious.”

—Ted McNulty, *Poetry Ireland Review*

“His poems . . . offer an aching call to see the world anew.”

—*Appalachian Heritage*

Wolves howl in the hollow of night, cats yowl from crags and forests, but people describe sunsets, address their dead, pray to what they feel may lie beyond the stars, and perhaps even take note of mysterious figures lurking in alleys.

In *Talking to Shadows*, his latest collection of poems, Ron Houchin replies with sensitivity and wit to things noticed or sensed, offering a celebration of sights, sounds, and objects that elicit responses through the phenomena of their being. Whether evoking the presage of a coming ice age, a photo of an unknown ancestor in a family album, or the presence of nature during a lone walk across a night field, Houchin’s poems converse with the shadows of existence that permeate a world filled with beauty and mystery.

**RON HOUCHIN** has published eight books of poetry, including *The Man Who Saws Us in Half*, *Museum Crows*, and *Planet of the Best Love Songs*. His work has appeared in the *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *Five Points*, *Poetry Northwest*, the *Southwest Review*, and many other publications. A retired schoolteacher, he lives on the banks of the Ohio River across from Huntington, West Virginia, where he grew up.

To speak to shadows is to remain still  
in their reshaping the world.

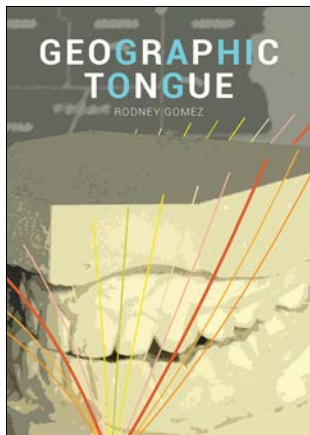
Long limbs lengthen, slanting toward each other,  
as if a hard wind pushes them over Earth.

A church steeple crosses the road,  
only its chimes reaching the last of daylight.

—from “Talking to Shadows, November 1”



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## Geographic Tongue

RODNEY GOMEZ

In *Geographic Tongue*, an important addition to the Pleiades Press Visual Poetry Series, Rodney Gomez weaves together themes of loss, identity, ethnicity, heritage, and the mechanics of contemporary life to create a collection as lyrically arresting as it is aesthetically stunning. These visual poems, crafted with both restraint and vitality, are visceral in their depiction of cruelty and grief at the United States–Mexico border. And yet, this charged landscape also gives rise to moments of tenderness, stillness, and wry humor. Gomez’s visual design is at once vivid and haunting, drawing together collage, diagrams, and abstract imagery into a bright, geometrically precise collection. His text casts such a powerful spell that in its absence, silence is heard as clearly as any phrase. Gomez writes, “You do not have to speak to speak truth,” and this lucid assertion is borne out in the collection as a whole. In its art, and in its silence, the poems of *Geographic Tongue* are undeniably and indelibly authentic.

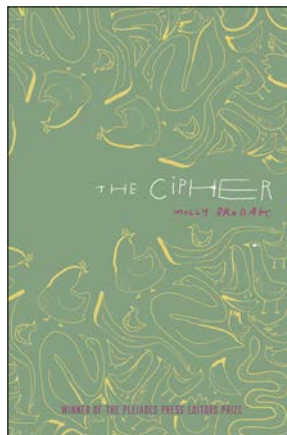
**RODNEY GOMEZ** is the author of *Citizens of the Mausoleum*, a finalist for the John A. Robertson Award from the Texas Institute of Letters; *Ceremony of Sand*; and the forthcoming *Arsenal with Praise Song*, a finalist for the Orison Prize and the Dorset Prize. He is a member of the Macondo Writers’ Workshop and works at the University of Texas–Rio Grande Valley. He is the poet laureate of McAllen, Texas.

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## The Cipher

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Molly Brodak’s *The Cipher* is a deft and unsparing study of the limits of knowledge and belief, and of what solace can be found within those limits. “We stand on the rim of the void,” Brodak writes. “We hold our little lamps of knowing / on the rim, and look in.” Drawing vividly from mathematics, Christianity, European history, urban life, and the natural world, these poems reveal a vision of contemporary experience that is at once luminous and centered on an unshakable emptiness. Wise, sharp, and sometimes devastating, *The Cipher* leads us through a world in which little can be trusted, takes its measure, and does not look away.

**MOLLY BRODAK** is the author of a full-length collection of poetry, *A Little Middle of the Night*; a memoir, *Bandit*; and three chapbooks. Before her death in 2020, she taught writing and literature at numerous institutions, including Emory University, Savannah College of Art and Design, and Georgia College and State University. An accomplished baker and recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, Brodak published poems in such publications as *Granta*, *Guernica*, and *Poetry*.

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