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Cover image: John Bray standing under bridge, Amelia, Louisiana,
October 1934. Lomax Collection, Library of Congress
China Mission
A Personal History from the Last Imperial Dynasty to the People’s Republic

AUDREY RONNING TOPPING

When the Reverend Halvor Ronning, his sister Thea, and fellow missionary Hannah Rorem set out in 1891 to found a Lutheran mission and school in the interior of China, they could not have foreseen the ways in which that decision would ripple across generations of the Ronning family. Halvor and Hannah would marry, and their son Chester, born in Hubei Province in 1894, would spend over half his life in China as a student, teacher, and a Canadian diplomat. Chester’s daughter, Audrey, studied at Nanking University during the Chinese Civil War and later spent decades reporting about the People’s Republic of China for the New York Times, Foreign Affairs, and many other publications. “During the last century,” Audrey Topping notes, “a member of our family was there for almost every event of importance.” China Mission presents a personal history of her family’s ties to their adopted home and the momentous events that radically changed one of the most powerful countries in the world.

The Ronnings found Imperial China at the end of the nineteenth century to be a country on the cusp of change, and they were swept up as both observers and participants in these dramatic events. During their years as missionaries, the Ronnings witnessed the Boxer Uprising in 1898, the subsequent Palace Coup and the Siege of Peking, the death of the last emperor, and the collapse of China’s last dynasty. They also endured personal challenges—famine, births, deaths, and the almost constant threat of attack—that were countered with songs, celebrations, friendship, and a deep appreciation for the culture they had become a part of.

Later, Chester Ronning would return to China, as would his daughter Audrey, bringing their family’s story to the end of the twentieth century. This extraordinary account, compiled from the diaries, letters, and photographs of three generations, offers a rare and remarkable look at a time and place that for modern readers is a world long gone.

AUDREY RONNING TOPPING is a freelance photojournalist, author, and writer of documentary films, specializing in Asian affairs. Her photos have been exhibited in numerous galleries and universities, and her articles and photos have appeared in major publications in the United States and abroad, including National Geographic, LIFE, Newsweek, Time, Reader’s Digest, and Harper’s Bazaar. She is the author and photographer of five books, including The Splendors of Tibet and Dawn Wakes in the East. She has written scripts and been a commentator and assistant producer on six television documentaries, including Great Wall across the Yangtze, The Forbidden City, The Tomb of the Terra-Cotta Warriors, and Chester Ronning’s China Mission. Audrey is married to Seymour Topping, former foreign correspondent and managing editor of the New York Times. They have five daughters born in Saigon, London, Berlin, and Scarsdale, New York.
The literary tradition of New Orleans spans centuries and touches every genre; its living heritage winds through storied neighborhoods and is celebrated at numerous festivals across the city. For booklovers, a visit to the Big Easy isn’t complete without whiling away the hours in an antiquarian bookstore in the French Quarter or stepping out on a literary walking tour. Perhaps only among the oak-lined avenues, Creole town houses, and famed hotels of New Orleans do the lust of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, the zaniness of *A Confederacy of Dunces*, the chill of *Interview with the Vampire*, and the search of Walker Percy’s *Moviegoer* begin to resonate in all their richness.

Susan Larson’s revised and updated edition of *The Booklover’s Guide to New Orleans* is the definitive resource for understanding the city’s long love affair with literature. Larson not only explores the legacy of Tennessee Williams and William Faulkner through historical landmarks, but also draws in modern-day celebrities like Anne Rice and James Lee Burke and details the literary resilience of a post-Katrina New Orleans.

Whether you’re attracted to the relics of Kate Chopin’s southern society, or the Gothic subculture of Poppy Z. Brite, or the amphibious, socially striated future of Moira Crone, this comprehensive guide provides a key to knowing the books, authors, festivals, bookstores, and famed addresses that make the Crescent City a literary destination.

*SUSAN LARSON*, the book editor of the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* from 1988 to 2009, now hosts WWNO’s public radio program *The Reading Life*. As a founder of the Women’s National Book Association of New Orleans, and a board member of the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and the New Orleans Public Library, she continues to support and share New Orleans’s literary heritage.

"But what is it about the city that draws writers so surely, so steadily? . . . Perhaps living in a place where words and stories—just like food and music—are the currency of daily life, a place where the writing life is valued and understood."

—from *The Booklover’s Guide to New Orleans*
Mike the Tiger has symbolized the spirit and resolve of Louisiana State University for over seventy-five years. Fiercely confident, keenly competitive, marvelously clever, and the only live tiger to reside on a college campus, Mike reigns nobly from his home just outside of Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge.

In this completely updated and visually stunning second edition of *Mike the Tiger*, David G. Baker and W. Sheldon Bivin tell the story of this famed mascot from the Civil War origins of LSU’s fighting tiger tradition to the present age of social media. They debunk the myths, confirm the legends, and share priceless behind-the-scenes anecdotes as they chronicle the reign of each of the six Mikes. The second edition offers 70 additional photos, for a total of 200 images, as well as new details about:

- The construction of a spacious natural enclosure for Mike in 2005, complete with waterfall, stream, pool, shrubs, rocks, and grass
- The final years of Mike V, who was hand-raised at LSU, and the outpouring of condolences upon his death
- The exciting arrival and introduction of Mike VI and the establishment of his reputation as possibly the most affectionate and inquisitive personality of any LSU tiger to date
- The naming of a sixth subspecies of tiger, the Malayan, and the current status of global tiger preservation efforts.

Additionally, the authors provide a “More about Mike” section, in which they field the most commonly asked questions about Mike’s care and lifestyle.

*Mike the Tiger* provides a treat for all who ever said, “Meet me at the tiger cage,” for all who still marvel at his regal appearance, and for all who will forever bleed purple and gold.

**DAVID G. BAKER** is the Paula and Milton W. Shepard Professor of Veterinary Medicine and director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine in the School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University. He also serves as Institutional Attending Veterinarian for LSU and has been primary veterinarian for Mike the Tiger since 1996.

**W. SHELDON BIVIN** was director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine in the School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, and primary veterinarian for Mike the Tiger from 1976 to 1996.
The Midlife Crisis of Commander Invincible
A Novel
NEIL CONNELLY

Praise for Neil Connelly

“Delivers an endearing mix of self-effacement, wonder, warmth, downtrodden despair, and fury that’s both comic and chilling.”—Entertainment Weekly

“A sweet, intoxicating buffer of magic and apocalypse. . . . The writing quietly sure, the course of true love meandering through its pages.”—Kirkus Reviews, starred review

“A comic romp with a darker side. . . . Crafty, magical, utterly enjoyable.”—Publishers Weekly

Once the mighty superhero Commander Invincible, thirty-nine-year-old Vincent Shepherd now faces new enemies: downsizing, a second divorce, and the strains of fatherhood. Decades ago, Vince made a living fighting supervillains, huge irradiated insects, and androids armed with death rays. But when the good guys won the war, heroes like Vince grew obsolete. Certain that his younger wife is starting to find their marriage as frivolous as his old cape, Vince embarks on a scheme to reestablish himself not only as a superhero but as a super dad and a super husband. Confronting former allies with long-buried secrets, he must also battle the same demons we all encounter: doubt, regret, loss, and failure. The Midlife Crisis of Commander Invincible turns a literary lens onto the world of comic book fantasy to reveal the challenges of simply being human.

As a teen, NEIL CONNELLY worked at Beachhead Comics in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Later he directed McNeese State University’s MFA program in Creative Writing. He now teaches at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, where he lives with his wife and their two sons. This is his fourth novel.

“What I wouldn’t give for a Communist scientist with a stolen nuclear sub, a mutated rhino on the loose, a rampaging robot to smash to bits. I’d die for a baby falling from the sky. I’m not proud of this, but on the verge of my fortieth birthday I’m coming to know just who I am. The thing about a falling baby is that you don’t have to call a committee meeting or deliberate the moral implications or question the long-term consequences of your actions. A wailing infant plummets from a high-rise balcony—you catch it.”

—from The Midlife Crisis of Commander Invincible
Bone Remains
Cold Cases in Forensic Anthropology

MARY H. MANHEIN

Over the past thirty years, forensic anthropologist Mary H. Manhein has helped to identify hundreds of deceased persons throughout Louisiana and beyond. In Bone Remains, she offers details of riveting cases from her files—many of them involving facial reconstructions where only bones offered clues to the victims’ stories.

Manhein takes readers into the field, inside her lab, and through DNA databases and government bureaucracies as she and her team tirelessly work to identify and seek justice for those who can no longer speak for themselves. From a two-thousand-year-old mummy, to Civil War sailors, to graves disturbed by Hurricane Isaac, Manhein presents both modern and historic cases. Her conversational accounts provide a fascinating look into the stories behind the headlines and sometimes heart-wrenching details of people lost and found.

Through fifteen cases Manhein shows how each came to her team, how they used scientific analysis to unravel the secrets the bones had to tell, and how facial reconstructions and a special database for missing and unidentified people assisted in closing cold cases long believed to be unsolvable.

Bone Remains also includes several mysteries she has yet to solve, further reflecting the determination and passion central to Manhein’s career for over three decades.

MARY H. MANHEIN is the author of The Bone Lady: Life as a Forensic Anthropologist; Trail of Bones: More Cases from the Files of a Forensic Anthropologist; and the mystery novel Floating Souls: The Canal Murders. She is director of the Forensic Anthropology and Computer Enhancement Services (FACES) Laboratory at Louisiana State University.

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Crime / Anthropology

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OTHER BOOKS BY MARY H. MANHEIN

978-0-8071-2404-8
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978-0-8071-3104-6
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In New Orleans, ghosts are said to wander along the rooftops above Royal Street, the dead allegedly sing sacred songs in St. Louis Cathedral, and the graveyard tomb of a wealthy madam is reported to glow bright red at night. Local lore about such supernatural sightings, as curated by Jeanne deLavigne in her classic *Ghost Stories of Old New Orleans*, finds the phantoms of bitter lovers, vengeful slaves, and menacing gypsies haunting nearly every corner of the city, from the streets of the French Quarter to Garden District mansions.

Originally printed in 1944, all forty ghost stories along with the macabre etchings of New Orleans artist Charles Richards appear together in this new volume.

Drawing largely on popular legend dating back to the 1800s, deLavigne provides vivid details of old New Orleans with a cast of spirits that represent the ethnic mélange of the city set amid period homes, historic neighborhoods, and forgotten taverns. Combining folklore, newspaper accounts, and deLavigne’s own voice, these phantasmal tales range from the tragic—brothers, lost at sea as children, haunt a chapel on Thomas Street in search of their mother—to graphic depictions of torture, mutilation, and death.

Folklorist and foreword contributor Frank de Caro places the writer and her work in the context of the 1940s. He uncovers new information about deLavigne’s life and describes her book’s pervasive lingering influence on the Crescent City’s culture today.

A New Orleans native, **JEANNE deLAVIGNE** (d. 1962) also collaborated with Jacques Rutherford on the novels *And the Garden Waited* and *Fox Fire*.

**FRANK de CARO** is professor emeritus of English at Louisiana State University. A folklorist by training, he served as president of the Louisiana Folklore Society and editor of the *Louisiana Folklore Miscellany*.
During the nineteenth century, New Orleans boasted the most active classical music life of any American metropolis, outshining New York, Boston, and San Francisco before the Civil War and rivaling them thereafter. While other cities offered few if any productions at all, New Orleans was renowned for its glorious opera seasons. Resident composers, performers, publishers, teachers, instrument makers, and dealers fed the public’s voracious cultural appetite. Tourists came from across the United States to experience the city’s thriving musical scene. Until now, no study has offered a thorough history of this exciting and momentous era in American performance history. John H. Baron’s *Concert Life in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans* impressively fills that gap.

Baron’s exhaustively researched work details all aspects of the nineteenth-century musical world of the city, including the development of orchestras; the surrounding social, political, and economic conditions; and the individuals who collectively made New Orleans a premier destination for world-class musicians. Including a wide-ranging chronological discussion of nearly every documented concert that took place in the Crescent City in the 1800s, *Concert Life in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans* will endure for decades to come as an indispensable reference volume.

**JOHN H. BARON** is the Louise Rebecca Schawe and Williedell Schawe Memorial Professor of Music at Tulane University.

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Music / Reference / New Orleans
Traditional Music in Coastal Louisiana
The 1934 Lomax Recordings

JOSHUA CLEGG CAFFERY

Foreword by BARRY JEAN ANCELET

Alan Lomax’s prolific sixty-four-year career as a folklorist and musicologist began with a trip across the South and into the heart of Louisiana’s Cajun country during the height of the Great Depression. In 1934, his father John, then curator of the Library of Congress’s Archive of American Folk Song, took an eighteen-year-old Alan and a 300-pound aluminum disk recorder into the rice fields of Jennings, along the waterways of New Iberia, and behind the gates of Angola State Penitentiary to collect vestiges of African American and Acadian musical tradition. These recordings now serve as the foundational document of indigenous Louisiana music.

Although widely recognized by scholars as a key artifact in the understanding of American vernacular music, most of the recordings by John and Alan Lomax during their expedition across the central-southern fringe of Louisiana were never transcribed or translated, much less studied in depth. This volume presents, for the first time, a comprehensive examination of the 1934 corpus and unveils a multifaceted story of traditional song in one of the country’s most culturally dynamic regions.

Through his textual and comparative study of the songs contained in the Lomax collection, Joshua Clegg Caffery provides a musical history of Louisiana that extends beyond Cajun music and zydeco to the rural blues, Irish and English folk songs, play-party songs, slave spirituals, and traditional French folk songs that thrived at the time of these recordings.

Intimate in its presentation of Louisiana folklife and broad in its historical scope, Traditional Music in Coastal Louisiana honors the legacy of John and Alan Lomax by retrieving these musical relics from obscurity and ensuring their understanding and appreciation for generations to come.

Includes:
- Complete transcriptions of the 1934 Lomax field recordings in southwestern Louisiana
- Side-by-side translations from French to English
- Photographs from the 1934 field trip and biographical details about the performers

JOSHUA CLEGG CAFFERY, a native of Franklin, Louisiana, is a writer and musician currently living in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana. He is a founding member of the Red Stick Ramblers and was in the Louisiana French band Feufollet, whose album En Couleurs was nominated for a 2009 Grammy Award.

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TRINQUONS

Trinquons mes chers camarades,
Mais oublions jamais la raison,
Soutenez mon verre et me voilà parterre,
Chantez de boire du matin au soir.
Que le tonnerre branle,
Que la muraille recule,
Et me voilà par terre du matin au soir.

— a traditional Louisiana French chanson à boire, or drinking song, recorded by John and Alan Lomax in 1934

Let’s toast, let’s toast,
My dear friends.
But let’s never lose our senses.
Hold up my glass and here I am on the ground.
Sing of drinking from morning until night.
May thunder grumble and may the wall topple over.
Here I am on the ground from morning until night.
Many Americans view Andrew Jackson as a frontiersman who fought duels, killed Indians, and stole another man’s wife. Historians have traditionally presented Jackson as a man who struggled to overcome obstacles and helped create a more democratic United States. In his compelling new biography of Jackson, Mark R. Cheathem argues for a reassessment of these long-held views, suggesting that in fact “Old Hickory” lived as an elite southern gentleman.

Jackson grew up along the border between North Carolina and South Carolina, a district tied to Charleston, where the city’s gentry engaged in the transatlantic marketplace. After visiting Charleston, Jackson moved to North Carolina, where he joined various political and kinship networks that provided him with entrée into society. In fact, Cheathem contends, Jackson had already started to assume the characteristics of a southern gentleman by the time he arrived in Middle Tennessee in 1788.

After moving to Nashville, Jackson further ensconced himself in an exclusive social order by marrying the daughter of one of the city’s cofounders, engaging in land speculation, and leading the state militia. According to Cheathem, through these ventures Jackson grew to own multiple plantations and cultivated them with the labor of almost two hundred slaves. His status also enabled him to build a military career focused on eradicating the nation’s enemies, including Indians residing on land desired by white southerners. Jackson’s military success eventually propelled him onto the national political stage in the 1820s, where he won two terms as president. Jackson’s years as chief executive demonstrated the complexity of the expectations of elite white southern men, as he earned the approval of many white southerners by continuing to pursue Manifest Destiny and opposing the spread of abolitionism, yet earned their ire because of his efforts to fight nullification and the Second Bank of the United States.

By emphasizing Jackson’s southern identity, characterized by violence, honor, kinship, slavery, and Manifest Destiny, Cheathem’s narrative offers a bold new perspective on one of the nineteenth century’s most renowned and controversial presidents.

MARK R. CHEATHEM is an associate professor of history at Cumberland University and the author of Old Hickory’s Nephew: The Political and Private Struggles of Andrew Jackson Donelson.
Greyhound Commander
Confederate General John G. Walker’s History of the Civil War
West of the Mississippi

Edited by RICHARD LOWE

While a political refugee in London, former Confederate general John G. Walker wrote a history of the Civil War west of the Mississippi River. Walker’s account, composed shortly after the war and unpublished until now, remains one of only two memoirs by high-ranking Confederate officials who fought in the Trans-Mississippi theater. Edited and expertly annotated by Richard Lowe—a author of the definitive history of Walker’s Texas division—the general’s insightful narrative describes firsthand his experience and many other military events west of the great river.

Before assuming command of a division of Texas infantry in early 1863, Walker earned the approval of Robert E. Lee for his leadership at the Battle of Antietam. Indeed, Lee later expressed regret at the transfer of Walker from the Army of Northern Virginia to the Trans-Mississippi Department. As the leader of the Texas Division (known later as the Greyhound Division for its long, rapid marches across Louisiana and Arkansas), Walker led an attempt to relieve the great Confederate fortress at Vicksburg during the siege by the Federal army in the spring and summer of 1863. Ordered to attack Ulysses Grant’s forces on the west bank of the Mississippi River near Vicksburg, Walker unleashed a furious assault on black and white Union troops stationed at Milliken’s Bend, Louisiana. The encounter was only the second time in American history that organized regiments of African American troops fought in a pitched battle. After the engagement, Walker realized the great potential of black regiments for the Union cause.

Walker’s Texans later fought at the battle of Bayou Bourbeau in south Louisiana, where they helped to turn back a Federal attempt to attack Texas via an overland route from New Orleans. In the winter of 1863–1864, Walker’s infantry and artillery disrupted Union shipping on the Mississippi River. According to Lowe, the Greyhound Division’s crucial role in throwing back the Union’s 1864 Red River Campaign remains its greatest accomplishment. Walker led his men on a marathon operation in which they marched about nine hundred miles and fought three large battles in ten weeks, a feat unmatched by any other division—Union or Confederate—in the war. General Walker’s history stands as a testament to his skilled leadership and provides an engaging primary source document for scholars, students, and others interested in Civil War history.

RICHARD LOWE is Regents Professor of History at the University of North Texas. He is the author of six previous books, including Walker’s Texas Division, C.S.A: Greyhounds of the Trans-Mississippi.
During the Civil War, North Carolinian William Dorsey Pender established himself as one of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia’s best young generals. He served in most of the significant engagements of the war in the eastern theater while under the command of Joseph E. Johnston at Seven Pines and Robert E. Lee from the Seven Days to Gettysburg. His most crucial contributions to Confederate success came at the battles of Second Manassas, Shepherdstown, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. After an effective first day at Gettysburg, Pender was struck by a shell and disabled, necessitating his return to Virginia for what he hoped would be only an extended convalescence. Although Pender initially survived the wound, he died soon thereafter due to complications from his injury.

In this thorough biography of Pender, noted Civil War historian Brian Steel Wills examines both the young general’s military career and his domestic life. While Pender devoted himself to military service, he also embraced the Episcopal Church and was baptized before his command in the field. According to Wills, Pender had an insatiable quest for “glory” in both earthly and heavenly realms, and he delighted in his role as a husband and father. In Pender’s voluminous correspondence with his wife, Fanny, he shared his beliefs and offered views and opinions on a vast array of subjects. In the end, Wills suggests that Pender’s story captures both the idealistic promise and the despair of a war that cost the lives of many Americans and changed the nation forever.

Brian Steel Wills is the director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and professor of history at Kennesaw State University. He is the author of numerous books about the Civil War, including George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel, The War Hits Home: The Civil War in Southeastern Virginia, and A Battle from the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest.
In the Civil War era, Americans nearly unanimously accepted that humans battled in a cosmic contest between good and evil and that God was directing history toward its end. Understandings of Providence—God’s activity in human history—and millennialism—Christian anticipations of the end of the world—dominated religious thought in the nineteenth century. During the tumultuous years immediately prior to, during, and after the unprecedented destruction of the war, these ideas took on a greater importance as Americans struggled with the great loss, change, and promise of the period.

Scholars of religion, literary critics, and especially historians have acknowledged the presence of apocalyptic thought in the era, but until now, few studies have taken the topic as their central focus or examined it from the antebellum period through Reconstruction. By doing so, the essays in *Apocalypse and the Millennium in the American Civil War Era* highlight the diverse ways in which beliefs about the end times influenced nineteenth-century American lives, including reform culture, the search for meaning amid the trials of war, and the social transformation wrought by emancipation. Millennial zeal infused the labor of reformers and explained their successes and failures as progress toward an imminent Kingdom of God. Men and women in the North and South looked to Providence to explain the causes and consequences of both victory and defeat, and Americans, black and white, experienced the shock waves of emancipation as either a long-prophesied jubilee or a vengeful punishment. Religion fostered division as well as union, the essays suggest, but while the nation tore itself apart and tentatively stitched itself back together, Americans continued looking to divine intervention to make meaning of the national apocalypse.

**BEN WRIGHT** is a doctoral candidate in history at Rice University. **ZACHARY W. DRESSER** is a doctoral candidate in history at Rice University and an adjunct instructor of history at Virginia Tech.

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**Apocalypse and the Millennium in the American Civil War Era**

Edited by **BEN WRIGHT** and **ZACHARY W. DRESSER**

With a Foreword by **MARK A. NOLL**

In the Civil War era, Americans nearly unanimously accepted that humans battled in a cosmic contest between good and evil and that God was directing history toward its end. Understandings of Providence—God’s activity in human history—and millennialism—Christian anticipations of the end of the world—dominated religious thought in the nineteenth century. During the tumultuous years immediately prior to, during, and after the unprecedented destruction of the war, these ideas took on a greater importance as Americans struggled with the great loss, change, and promise of the period.

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During his brief yet remarkable career, abolitionist Charles Torrey assisted almost four hundred slaves in gaining their freedom. Torrey, a Yale graduate and an ordained minister, set up a well-organized Underground Railroad route from Washington and Baltimore to Philadelphia and Albany. At that time, some called him the “father of the Underground Railroad.” Arrested in Baltimore in 1844 for his activities, Torrey spent two years in prison before he succumbed to tuberculosis. By then, other abolitionists widely recognized and celebrated Torrey’s exploits: running wagonloads of slaves northward in the night, dodging slave catchers and sheriffs, and involving members of Congress in his schemes. Nonetheless, the historiography of abolitionism has largely overlooked Torrey’s fascinating and compelling story.

E. Fuller Torrey’s study not only fills a substantial gap in the history of abolitionism but restores Charles Torrey to his rightful place as one of the most dedicated and significant abolitionists in American history.

E. FULLER TORREY, M.D., is the executive director of the Stanley Medical Research Institute and a professor of psychiatry at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He is the author or coauthor of twenty books, including The Roots of Treason, which was honored by the National Book Critics Circle.
William Lloyd Garrison and Giuseppe Mazzini
Abolition, Democracy, and Radical Reform

ENRICO DAL LAGO

William Lloyd Garrison and Giuseppe Mazzini, two of the foremost radicals of the nineteenth century, lived during a time of profound economic, social, and political transformation in America and Europe. Both born in 1805, but into dissimilar family backgrounds, the American Garrison and Italian Mazzini led entirely different lives—one as a citizen of a democratic republic, the other as an exile proscribed by most European monarchies. Using a comparative analysis, however, Enrico Dal Lago suggests that Garrison and Mazzini represent a connection between the egalitarian ideologies of American abolitionism and Italian democratic nationalism.

Focusing on Garrison’s and Mazzini’s activities and transnational links within their own milieus and in the wider international arena, Dal Lago shows why two nineteenth-century progressives and revolutionaries considered liberation from enslavement and liberation from national oppression as two sides of the same coin. At different points in their lives, both Garrison and Mazzini demonstrated this belief by concurrently supporting the abolition of slavery in the United States and the national revolutions in Italy. The two meetings Garrison and Mazzini had, in 1846 and in 1867, served to reinforce their sense that they somehow worked together toward the achievement of liberty not just in the United States and Italy, but also in the Atlantic and Euro-American world as a whole. In the end, the abolition of American slavery led to Garrison’s consecration, while the new Italian kingdom forced Mazzini into exile. Despite these different outcomes, Garrison and Mazzini both attracted legions of devoted followers for personifying the radical causes of the nations to which they belonged.

ENRICO DAL LAGO is a lecturer in American history at National University of Ireland, Galway, and the author of Agrarian Elites: American Slaveholders and Southern Italian Landowners, 1815–1861 and American Slavery, Atlantic Slavery, and Beyond: The U.S. “Peculiar Institution” in International Perspective.
The American Anti-Slavery Society originally published *Narrative of James Williams, an American Slave* in 1838 to much fanfare, describing it as a rare slave autobiography. Soon thereafter, however, southerners challenged the authenticity of the work and the society retracted it. Abolitionists at the time were unable to defend the book; and, until now, historians could not verify Williams’s identity or find the Alabama slave owners he named in the book. As a result, most scholars characterized the author as a fraud, perhaps never even a slave, or at least not under the circumstances described in the book.

In this annotated edition of *Narrative of James Williams, an American Slave*, Hank Trent provides newly discovered biographical information about the true author of the book—an African American man enslaved in Alabama and Virginia. Trent identifies Williams’s owners in those states as well as in Maryland and Louisiana. He explains how Williams escaped from slavery and then altered his life story to throw investigators off his track. Through meticulous and extensive research, Trent also reveals unknown details of James Williams’s real life, drawing upon runaway ads, court cases, census records, and estate inventories never before linked to him or to the narrative. In the end, Trent proves that the author of the book was truly an enslaved man, albeit one who wrote a romanticized, fictionalized story based on his real life, which proved even more complex and remarkable than the story he told.

**HANK TRENT** is an independent scholar whose research focuses on antebellum American history. He resides in Ohio and is currently working on a biography of Richmond slave trader Bacon Tait.
The Forgotten People
Cane River’s Creoles of Color

GARY B. MILLS
Revised Edition by ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS
Foreword by H. SOPHIE BURTON

Out of colonial Natchitoches, in northwestern Louisiana, emerged a community founded by a family of freed slaves. Their plantations eventually encompassed 18,000 fertile acres, which they tilled alongside hundreds of their own bondsmen. Furnishings of quality and taste graced their homes, and private tutors educated their youth. Cultured, deeply religious, and highly capable, Cane River’s Creoles of color developed economically privileged but politically constricted lives in antebellum Louisiana. Like their white neighbors, they publicly supported the Confederacy and suffered the same depredations of war and financial ruin of Reconstruction. Unlike white Creoles, however, they would not recover amid cycles of Redeemer and Jim Crow politics.

First published in 1977, The Forgotten People offers a socioeconomic history of this widely publicized but highly fantasized community—a minority group that fit no stereotypes, refused all outside labels, and still struggles to explain its identity to a world that does not understand Creolism.

Now revised and significantly expanded, this time-honored work revisits Cane River’s “forgotten people” and incorporates new findings and insight gleaned across thirty-five years of further research. This new edition provides a nuanced portrayal of the lives of Creole slaves and the roles allowed to freed people of color, tackling issues of race, gender, and slave holding by former slaves. The Forgotten People corrects misassumptions about the origin of key properties in the Cane River Creole National Historical Park and demonstrates how historians reconstruct the lives of the enslaved, the impoverished, and the disenfranchised.

GARY B. MILLS (1944–2002) grew up on a rice plantation in the Mississippi Delta but visited Cane River often in his youth and adopted it personally and professionally in adulthood. From 1976 until his death, he was a professor of history at the University of Alabama.

ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS is an independent scholar and the author of numerous works on Louisiana history and research methodology, including Isle of Canes and Evidence Explained, named by Library Journal as a 2007 Best Reference book.
White, black, and Native American women in the early South often viewed motherhood as a composite of roles, ranging from teacher and nurse to farmer and politician. Within a multicultural landscape, mothers drew from female networks of advice and consolation, broader intellectual currents, and an understanding of their own multifaceted identities to devise their own standards for child rearing. By constructing, interpreting, and defending their roles as parents, women in the South maintained a certain degree of control over their own and their children’s lives. Focusing on Virginia and the Carolinas from 1750 to 1835, Katy Simpson Smith’s study examines maternal practices to reveal the ways in which a diverse group of women struggled to create empowered identities in the early South.

We Have Raised All of You contributes to a wide variety of historical conversations by affirming the necessity of multicultural—not simply biracial—studies of the American South. Indeed, its equally weighted analysis of white, black, and Native American women sets it distinctly apart from other histories. Smith shows that while women from different backgrounds shared similar experiences within the trajectory of motherhood, no universal model holds up under scrutiny. Finally, and most importantly, this book suggests that parenthood provided women with some power within their often-circumscribed lives. Alternately restricted, oppressed, belittled, and enslaved, women sought to embrace an identity that would give them some sense of self-respect and self-worth. For many of them, motherhood provided this identity. The rich and varied roles that mothers inherited made the experience not a restrictive enterprise but instead a position that afforded women a sense of purpose.

Katy Simpson Smith, a writer living in New Orleans, received her doctorate in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
A Campaign of Quiet Persuasion
How the College Board Desegregated SAT® Test Centers in the Deep South, 1960–1965

JAN BATES WHEELER
Foreword by DAVID COLEMAN

In 1960, the College Entrance Examination Board became an unexpected participant in the movement to desegregate education in the South. Working with its partner, Educational Testing Services, the College Board quietly integrated its Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) centers throughout the Deep South. Traveling from state to state, taking one school district and even one school at a time, two College Board staff members, both native southerners, waged “a campaign of quiet persuasion” and succeeded, establishing a roster of desegregated test centers within segregated school districts while the historic battle for civil rights raged around them. In the context of the larger struggle for equal opportunities for southern black students, their work addressed a small but critical barrier to higher education.

Shedding light on this remarkable story for the first time, Jan Bates Wheeler tells how the College Board staff members—Ben Cameron and Ben Gibson—succeeded. Their candid and thoughtfully written records of conversations and confrontations, untouched for nearly fifty years, reveal the persistence required to reach a goal many thought unachievable and even foolhardy. Indeed, their task placed them in the unusual position of advocating for school desegregation on a day-to-day basis as part of their jobs. This positioned Cameron and Gibson squarely in opposition to prevailing laws, customs, and attitudes—an ill-advised stance for any nascent business venture, particularly one experiencing competition from a new, rival testing organization purported to accommodate openly those same laws, customs, and attitudes.

Cameron and Gibson also accepted the personal danger involved in confrontations with racist school officials. The officials who cooperated with the pair assumed even greater risk, and in order to minimize that threat, Cameron and Gibson pledged not to publicize their efforts. Even years after their work had ended, the two men refused to write about their campaign for fear of compromising the people who had helped them. Their concerns, according to Wheeler, kept this remarkable story largely untold until now.

JAN BATES WHEELER is associate director for accreditation, Office of Academic Planning, at the University of Georgia.
In *Black Freedom, White Resistance, and Red Menace*, Yasuhiro Katagiri offers the first scholarly work to illuminate an important but largely unstudied aspect of U.S. civil rights history—the collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship between professional anti-Communists in the North and segregationist politicians in the South.

In 1954, the Supreme Court outlawed racial segregation in public schools with the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling. Soon after—while the political demise of U.S. senator Joseph R. McCarthy unfolded—northern anti-Communists looked to the South as a promising new territory in which they could expand their support base and continue their cause. In response, southern segregationists embraced the assistance rendered by these Yankee collaborators, and in the years to come, southerners utilized the “northern messiahs” in executing a massive resistance to the Supreme Court’s desegregation decrees and the civil rights movement in general. Southern white leadership framed black southerners’ crusades for social justice and human dignity as a foreign scheme directed by nefarious outside agitators, “race-mixers,” and, worse, outright subversives and card-carrying Communists.

Based on years of extensive archival research, *Black Freedom, White Resistance, and Red Menace* explains how a southern version of McCarthyism became part of the civil rights movement in the South, leading to a deeper understanding and appreciation for what the freedom movement—and those who struggled for equality—fought to overcome.

**YASUHIRO KATAGIRI** received his doctorate in American history and government from International Christian University in Tokyo. A historian of the American South, the civil rights movement, and white southerners’ massive resistance, he teaches American history and American studies at Kyushu Sangyo University in Fukuoka, Japan.
Anatomy of a Lynching
The Killing of Claude Neal
Updated Edition

JAMES R. McGOVERN
With a New Foreword by MANFRED BERG

“A sensitive and forthright analysis of one of the most gruesome episodes in Florida history . . . McGovern has produced a richly detailed case study that should enhance our general understanding of mob violence and vigilantism.”—Florida Historical Quarterly

“[McGovern] has succeeded in writing more than a narrative account of this bloodcurdling story; he has explored its causes and ramifications.”—American Historical Review

“A finely crafted historical case study of one lynching, its antecedents, and its aftermath.”—Contemporary Sociology

First published in 1982, James R. McGovern’s Anatomy of a Lynching unflinchingly reconstructs the grim events surrounding the death of Claude Neal, one of the estimated three thousand blacks who died at the hands of southern lynch mobs in the six decades between the 1880s and the outbreak of World War II.

Neal was accused of the brutal rape and murder of Lola Cannidy, a young white woman he had known since childhood. On October 26, 1934, a well-organized mob took Neal from his jail cell. The following night, the mob tortured Neal and hanged him to the point of strangulation, repeating the process until the victim died. A large crowd of men, women, and children who gathered to witness, celebrate, and assist in the lynching further mutilated Neal’s body. Finally, the battered corpse was put on display, suspended as a warning from a tree in front of the Jackson County, Florida, courthouse.

Based on extensive research as well as on interviews with both blacks and whites who remember Neal’s death, Anatomy of a Lynching sketches the social background of Jackson County, Florida—deeply religious, crushed by the Depression, accustomed to violence, and proud of its role in the Civil War—and examines which elements in the county’s makeup contributed to the mob violence. McGovern offers powerful dissection of an extraordinarily violent incident.

MANFRED BERG’s new foreword examines the significance of this now classic work.

JAMES R. McGOVERN (1928–2012) was a professor of history at the University of West Florida and the author of Yankee Family and Emergence of a City in the Modern South: Pensacola, 1900–1945.
Parallel Histories
Muslims and Jews in Inquisitorial Spain

JAMES S. AMELANG

The distinct religious culture of early modern Spain—characterized by religious unity at a time when fierce civil wars between Catholics and Protestants fractured northern Europe—is further understood through examining the expulsion of the Jews and suspected Muslims. While these two groups had previously lived peaceably, if sometimes uneasily, with their Christian neighbors throughout much of the medieval era, the expulsions brought a new intensity to Spanish Christian perceptions of both the moriscos (converts from Islam) and the judeoconversos (converts from Judaism). In Parallel Histories, James S. Amelang reconstructs the compelling struggle of converts to coexist with a Christian majority that suspected them of secretly adhering to their ancestral faiths and destroying national religious unity in the process.

Discussing first Muslims and then Jews in turn, Amelang explores not only the expulsions themselves but also religious beliefs and practices, social and professional characteristics, the construction of collective and individual identities, cultural creativity, and, finally, the difficulties of maintaining orthodox rites and tenets under conditions of persecution. Despite the oppression these two groups experienced, the descendants of the judeoconversos would ultimately be assimilated into the mainstream, unlike their morisco counterparts, who were exiled in 1609.

Amelang masterfully presents a complex narrative that not only gives voice to the religious minority in early modern Spain but focuses in on one of the greatest divergences in the lineage of European Christianity.

JAMES S. AMELANG is a professor of history at the Universidad Autónoma of Madrid.

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Edna Ferber’s America

ELIZA McGRAW

From the 1910s to the 1950s, Edna Ferber (1885–1968) published a series of bestselling novels that made her one of Doubleday’s highest-paid authors, earned her a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1925, and transformed her into a literary celebrity. She hosted dinner parties covered by the New York Times, lunched at the Algonquin Round Table with Dorothy Parker and Alexander Woollcott, and collaborated with George S. Kaufman on hit plays such as Dinner at Eight and Stage Door. In Edna Ferber’s America, Eliza McGraw provides the first in-depth critical study of the author’s novels, exploring their innovative portrayals of characters from a diverse range of ethnicities and social classes.

Best remembered today for the movies and musicals adapted from her works—including classics like Giant and Show Boat—Ferber attracted a devoted readership during her lifetime with engaging storylines focused on strong-willed individuals reshaping their lives, set amid a panorama of regional landscapes. McGraw reveals that Ferber’s novels convey a broad, nuanced vision of the United States as a multiethnic country, with particular emphasis on Jewish American communities.

Framing her study with the theme of ethnic unease and insecurity, McGraw performs close readings of twelve Ferber novels: Dawn O’Hara (1911), Fanny Herself (1917), The Girls (1921), So Big (1924), Show Boat (1926), Cimarron (1929), American Beauty (1931), Come and Get It (1935), Saratoga Trunk (1941), Great Son (1945), Giant (1952), and Ice Palace (1958). McGraw emphasizes the intertwined topics of racial mixing and class, as she argues that in Ferber’s America, ethnic and social mobility challenge the reigning order, creating places that foster vitality and promise hope for the future.

ELIZA McGRAW received her doctorate in English from Vanderbilt University and is the author of Two Covenants: Representations of Twentieth-Century Jewishness. She lives in Washington, D.C., with her family.

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Literary Studies
In the last decade of his life, Robert Penn Warren remained a vibrant force in American literature, producing new works of poetry and nonfiction while also dealing courageously with the gradual decline of his health and the diminishment of his poetic powers. Toward Sunset, at a Great Height, 1980–1989, the sixth and final volume of the author’s selected letters, provides crucial documentation of this period, containing Warren’s correspondence with friends, family, fellow writers, editors, critics, and the scholars studying his works.

Warren published several volumes of poetry, including Being Here (1980), Rumor Verified (1981), and Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce (1983), and returned to nonfiction prose with Jefferson Davis Gets His Citizenship Back (1980) and the memoir Portrait of a Father (1988).

His letters reveal that he tried to begin writing a novel but was unable to make substantial progress on it, and that from 1985 on he became increasingly dissatisfied with his new poems. Until his death at age eighty-four, however, Warren maintained an active correspondence filled with news about his writings and travels, accounts of the lives of his wife and children, and a stoic attitude about his own physical decline as well as a solicitousness regarding the health of others, such as his brother, Thomas, and sister, Mary. He communicated with rising young scholars and encouraged younger poets he admired.

Toward Sunset, at a Great Height offers rich insights into the closing chapter of Robert Penn Warren’s professional and personal life, making it an essential resource for understanding the full scope of the author’s contribution to American letters.

RANDY HENDRICKS is a professor of English and dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at the University of West Georgia. He is the author of Lonelier than God: Robert Penn Warren and the Southern Exile and a collection of short stories, The Twelfth Year and Other Times.

JAMES A. PERKINS, professor emeritus of English and public relations at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, is the editor of The Cass Mastern Material: The Core of Robert Penn Warren’s All the King’s Men. Together, Hendricks and Perkins have edited For the Record: A Robert Drake Reader; David Madden: A Writer for All Genres; and with William Bedford Clark, volumes three through five of the Selected Letters of Robert Penn Warren.

WILLIAM BEDFORD CLARK is a professor of English at Texas A&M University, the author of The American Vision of Robert Penn Warren, and the editor of volumes one and two of the Selected Letters of Robert Penn Warren. He is also the general editor of volumes three through five.
For the U.S. South, the myth of chivalric masculinity dominates the cultural and historical landscape. Visions of white southern men as archetypes of honor and gentility run throughout regional narratives with little regard for the actions (and, at times, the atrocities) committed by such men. In *Queer Chivalry*, Tison Pugh exposes the inherent contradictions in these depictions of cavalier manhood, investigating the foundations of southern gallantry as a reincarnated and reauthorized version of medieval masculinity. Pugh argues that the idea of masculinity—particularly as seen in works by prominent southern authors from Mark Twain to Ellen Gilchrist—constitutes a cultural myth that queerly demarcates accepted norms of manliness, often by displaying the impossibility of its achievement.

Beginning with Twain’s famous critique of “the Sir Walter disease” that pilloried the South, Pugh focuses on authors who questioned the code of chivalry by creating protagonists whose quests for personal knighthood prove quixotic. Through detailed readings of major works—including Twain’s *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*, Flannery O’Connor’s short fiction, John Kennedy Toole’s *A Confederacy of Dunces*, Robert Penn Warren’s *A Place to Come To*, Walker Percy’s novels, and Gilchrist’s *The Annunciation*—Pugh demonstrates that the hypermasculinity of white-knight ideals only draws attention to the ambiguous gender of the literary southern male.

*Queer Chivalry* approaches the South as a region that frequently metamorphoses history into myth—and treats its myths as history—before blurring the borders between the two even more in the literary record. From these intertwining legacies, Pugh argues, emerges the queerness of white masculine heteronormativity, as authors depict the impossibility of defending southern manhood from all encroachments.

Employing insights from gender and psychoanalytic theory, *Queer Chivalry* contributes to recent critical discussions of the cloaked anxieties about gender and sexuality in southern literature. Ultimately, Pugh uncovers queer limits in the cavalier mythos, showing how facts and fictions contributed to the ideological formulation of the South.

**Tison Pugh** is the author of *Innocence, Heterosexuality, and the Queerness of Children’s Literature; Sexuality and Its Queer Discontents in Middle English Literature*; and *Queering Medieval Genres*. He is a professor of English at the University of Central Florida, where he specializes in medieval, children’s, and southern literature.
Rereading William Styron

The first critical study of William Styron since his death in 2006, *Rereading William Styron* offers an eloquent reflection on the writer’s works, world, and character. Bringing an innovative approach to literary criticism, Gavin Cologne-Brookes combines personal anecdote, scholarly research, travel writing, and primary material to provide fresh perspectives on Styron’s achievements.

For Cologne-Brookes, rereading unfolds in two ways: through close analysis of texts, and through remembrance. He begins with reminiscences about the man behind the books and then, giving due consideration to Styron’s stories, incidental writings, and posthumous publications, interprets anew all his significant work—from the nonfiction, including his acclaimed memoir of depression, *Darkness Visible*, to the novels *Lie Down in Darkness, Set This House on Fire, The Confessions of Nat Turner,* and *Sophie’s Choice*. Defining the relevance of Styron’s writing in terms of everyday life, Cologne-Brookes explores the intricate relationships between an author, his work, and his readership, and between history and fiction, and writing and place. The book’s emphasis on subjectivity and dynamic interaction make it unique in Styron criticism and a striking contribution to the debate about what it means to study literature.

**GAVIN COLOGNE-BROOKES**, author of *The Novels of William Styron: From Harmony to History and Dark Eyes on America: The Novels of Joyce Carol Oates*, is a professor of American literature and director of the Contemporary Writing Research Centre at Bath Spa University. He lives with his wife and daughters in Wiltshire, England.

NEW IN PAPER

Race, Trauma, and Home in the Novels of Toni Morrison

“*Race, Trauma, and Home in the Novels of Toni Morrison* provides a detailed analysis of the connection between race and trauma and shows through a deeply informed understanding of psychological and neurobiological analyses how the very real and traumatic wounds of racism can affect the mind and the body for generations.”

—Carolyn Denard, editor of *What Moves at the Margin: Selected Non-Fiction by Toni Morrison* and *Toni Morrison: Conversations*

“This book is dynamic and engaging, redirecting the insights of trauma studies and psychoanalytic theory (including neurobiology and the body) toward an analysis of ‘home’ in Morrison’s work.”

—Katrina Harack, *American Studies in Review*

In this interdisciplinary study of nine novels by Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, Evelyn Jaffe Schreiber investigates how the communal and personal trauma of slavery, embedded in the bodies and minds of its victims, lives on through successive generations of African Americans. Approaching trauma from several theoretical perspectives—psychoanalytic, neurobiological, and cultural and social theories—Schreiber analyzes the lasting effects of slavery as depicted in Morrison’s work and considers the almost insurmountable task of recovering from trauma to gain subjectivity. Only when trauma is confronted through verbalization and challenged with reparative images of home can memories of a positive self overcome the pain of past experiences and cultural rejection.

**EVELYN JAFFE SCHREIBER** is a professor of English at George Washington University. Her first book, *Subversive Voices: Eroticizing the Other in William Faulkner and Toni Morrison*, was awarded the Toni Morrison Society Book Prize in 2003.
“[A]n exceedingly well-documented, careful, sympathetic, and superbly well-written biography of one of America’s preeminent frontiersmen.”—History

In this acclaimed book, Meredith Mason Brown traces Daniel Boone’s life from his Pennsylvania childhood to his experiences in the militia and his rise as an unexcelled woodsman, explorer, and backcountry leader. In the process, we meet the authentic Boone: he didn’t wear coonskin caps; he read and wrote better than many frontiersmen; he was not the first to settle Kentucky. A Quaker who became a skilled frontier fighter, Boone is a study in contradictions.

Frontiersman explores Boone’s crucial role in the transformation of America from a group of colonies to an independent nation. Brown paints a rich portrayal of colonial and Revolutionary America, the relations between whites and Indians, the opening and settling of the Old West, and the birth of the American national identity.

Supported with copious maps, illustrations, endnotes, and a detailed chronology of Boone’s life, Frontiersman provides a fresh and accurate rendering of a man most people know only as a folk hero—and of the nation that has mythologized him for over two centuries.

Meredith Mason Brown, a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, is a lawyer who lives in Stonington, Connecticut. His ancestors in Virginia and Kentucky knew Boone well. He is the author of several books on American history.

One of the least publicly recognized heroes of the civil rights movement in the United States, John Minor Wisdom served as a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit from 1957 until his death in 1999. During his time on the bench, he wrote many of the landmark decisions instrumental in desegregating the American South. In this revealing biography, law professor Joel William Friedman explores the substantial legal and political contributions Judge Wisdom made during a critical period in the history of the South.

The Fifth Circuit, which included some of the most deeply segregated southern states, was transformed by many of the decisions authored by Judge Wisdom. In preparing this first full-length biography, Friedman had unrestricted access to Wisdom’s voluminous repository of personal and professional papers. Friedman’s use of firsthand interviews with law clerks who served under Judge Wisdom also provides a unique, behind-the-scenes account of the some of the nation’s most important legal decisions.

Champion of Civil Rights serves as a compelling account of how a child of privilege from New Orleans—one of America’s most socially and racially stratified cities—came to serve as the driving force behind the legal effort to end segregation.

Joel William Friedman is the Jack M. Gordon Professor of Procedural Law and Jurisdiction at Tulane University Law School in New Orleans.
Desegregating Private Higher Education in the South
Duke, Emory, Rice, Tulane, and Vanderbilt

MELISSA KEAN

In Desegregating Private Higher Education in the South, Melissa Kean explores how leaders at five of the region’s most prestigious private universities—Duke, Emory, Rice, Tulane, and Vanderbilt—sought to strengthen their national position and reputation while simultaneously answering the increasing pressure to end segregation.

University Board members—usually composed of professional, white, male alumni—reacted strongly to threats against southern white authority and resisted determinedly any outside attempts to impose desegregation. The grassroots civil rights movement that ensued created a national crisis of conscience that led many individuals and institutions vital to the universities’ survival to insist on desegregation. The schools felt enormous pressure to comply as foundations withheld funding, accrediting bodies and professional academic associations denied membership, divinity students and professors chose to study and teach elsewhere, and alumni withheld contributions. When faced with the choice between institutional viability and segregation, Kean explains, they gracelessly relented, refusing to the end to admit they had been pressured by outside forces.

Shedding new light on a rare, unexamined facet of the civil rights movement, Desegregating Private Higher Education in the South fills a void in the history of the academy.

MELISSA KEAN is Centennial Historian at Rice University.

New Orleans on Parade
Tourism and the Transformation of the Crescent City

J. MARK SOUTHER

New Orleans on Parade tells the story of the Big Easy in the twentieth century. In this urban biography, J. Mark Souther explores the Crescent City’s architecture, music, food and alcohol, folklore and spiritualism, Mardi Gras festivities, and illicit sex commerce in revealing how New Orleans became a city that parades itself to visitors and residents alike.

Stagnant between the Civil War and World War II, New Orleans unintentionally preserved its distinctive physical appearance and culture, and seized on tourism as the growth engine for future prosperity. African Americans were cast as actors who shaped the culture that made tourism possible while at the same time they were exploited by the local power structure. Once the most tolerant, diverse city in the South and the nation, New Orleans came to lag behind the rest of the country in pursuing racial equity.

Narrated in a lively style and resting on a bedrock of research, New Orleans on Parade traces the ascendency of tourism in New Orleans through the final decades of the twentieth century and beyond, examining the 1984 World’s Fair, the collapse of Louisiana’s oil industry in the eighties, and the devastating blow dealt by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

J. MARK SOUTHER is an associate professor of history at Cleveland State University.
The Biscuit Joint
Poems

DAVID KIRBY

PRAISE FOR DAVID KIRBY

“Kirby is exuberant, irrepressible, maniacal and remark-
ably entertaining. . . Okay, let me just say it: he is a
wonderful poet.”—Steve Kowit, San Diego Union-Tribune

“Kirby’s voice and matter (teaching, literature, traveling,
rock ‘n’ roll, everyday bozohood) are utterly personal and,
despite all the laughter, ultimately moving.”—Ray Olson,
Booklist

“[Kirby] is a poet who peels away the layers of our skin
to show us who we are: our weaknesses, our strengths,
and our hilarious obsessions.”—Micah Zevin, New Pages

“The world that Kirby takes into his imagination and the
one that arises from it merge to become a creation like
no other, something like the world we inhabit but fun-
nier and more full of wonder and terror.”—Philip Levine,
Ploughshares

“These poems may be too cool for words.”—Carol Muske-
Dukes, New York Times Book Review

Inspired by the carpenter’s biscuit joint—a seam-
less, undetectable fit between pieces of wood—
David Kirby’s latest collection dramatizes the art-
stic mind as a hidden connection that links the
mundane with the remarkable. Even in our most
ordinary actions, Kirby shows, there lies a wealth
of creative inspiration: “the poem that is written
every day if we’re there / to read it.”

Well known for his garrulous and comic mus-
ings, Kirby follows a wandering yet calculated
path. In “What’s the Plan, Artists?” a girl yawning
in a picture gallery leads to meditations on subjects
as diverse as musical composition, the less-than-
beautiful human figure, and “the simple pleasures
/ of living.” The Biscuit Joint traverses seemingly
random thoughts so methodically that the jour-
ney from beginning to end always proves satisfy-
ing and surprising.

DAVID KIRBY is the author of numerous books, in-
cluding The House on Boulevard St.: New and Se-
lected Poems, a finalist for the 2007 National Book
Award, and Talking about Movies with Jesus, win-
ner of the 2011 L. E. Phillabaum Poetry Prize. The
Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of En-
lish at Florida State University, he is a recipient of
National Endowment of the Arts and Guggenheim
fellowships, among other honors.
Through silence and song, death and rebirth, a sense of wonder pervades every minute of our lives. In *The Man Who Saws Us in Half*, Ron Houchin explores this idea from the first curiosities of childhood to the gradual skepticism that comes with age and the weight of practical concerns. In the whimsical poem “The Lion That Finds You Asleep in His Dream,” the sleeping figure relives some of the magical allure that youth offered both gratuitously and ubiquitously: “The moon’s still high in its arc, / and you know / you spilled from this lion’s heart.” With his unique and colloquial voice, Houchin allows the reader to experience familiar subjects anew, to admire the surrounding world with renewed appreciation and awe.

**RON HOUCHIN** is the author of five previous poetry collections: *Museum Crows*, *Birds in the Tops of Winter Trees*, *Among Wordless Things*, *Moveable Darkness*, and *Death and the River*. A retired public high school teacher, he lives on the banks of the Ohio River across from Huntington, West Virginia, where he grew up.

**Vulgar Remedies**

Poems

**ANNA JOURNEY**

“I think Anna Journey’s poetry is really magical.”—David Lynch, director of *Blue Velvet* and creator of *Twin Peaks*

“Anna Journey’s second collection of poems is wonderful and brings something precise and wild out of a vivid night, an imagery that finds its own necessary music, like sudden isolated birdsongs at dawn. The multiplying shadows of the mind are made exterior here, surprisingly illustrated with anecdotal thought. And Dante no longer concludes that all lovers are martyrs. I’m so happy to have this work in my life.”

—Norman Dubie, author of *The Volcano*

“Anna Journey, in her new book of poems, *Vulgar Remedies*, creates an alchemical self whose shimmering limbic/alembic lyrics distill the mysterious terrors of childhood, the dangerous passions of adults, into her own honey-dusk ‘voodun’: protective, purified to gold. Poetry is always a time machine: here we are invisible travelers to a bewitched past, a beautifully occluded future. These poems are erotic, vertiginous, revelatory, their dazzling lyric force reflecting profound hermetic life.”

—Carol Muske-Dukes, author of *Twin Cities*

**ANNA JOURNEY** is the author *If Birds Gather Your Hair for Nesting*, selected by Thomas Lux for the National Poetry Series. Her poems have appeared in *The Southern Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *The Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere. She has received fellowships in poetry from Yaddo and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Vulgar Remedies**

Poems

**ANNA JOURNEY**

**The Man Who Saws Us in Half**

Poems

**RON HOUCHIN**
Eldest Daughter
Poems

AVA LEAVELL HAYMON

PRAISE FOR AVA LEAVELL HAYMON

“Haymon’s language is evocative and complex, twisting and lyric, full of implications, straightforward and metaphorical, all at once.” — The Baton Rouge Advocate

“Haymon’s bewitching verse is a reminder that nourishment comes in many forms—food, love, and story—and that each of these is necessary to survival.” — Image

In Eldest Daughter, Ava Leavell Haymon displays her mastery of the craft and engages us with the poetic gifts we have come to expect from her. As in previous collections, she combines the sensory and the spiritual in wild verbal fireworks. Concrete descriptions of a woman’s life in the mid-twentieth-century American South mix with wider concerns about family lies and truths, and culture that supports or forbids clear speech.

In a passage from “The Holy Ghost Attends Vacation Bible School,” the physical world of children interplays with the divine:

The least likely place the Holy Ghost ever descended was in east Mississippi. Red clay hills and church politics soured on years of inbreeding.

Every deacon drove a pickup. At Bible School, the kids played red rover and rolled down the sharp slope behind the Baptist church. He recognized the dizziness at the bottom and the fear of having your name called, but the grass stains, the torn blouses, and sprained wrists—these were beyond Him.

Haymon’s poems encourage us to revel in the natural world and enjoy its delights, as well as to confront the hard truths that would keep us from doing so.

AVA LEAVELL HAYMON is the author of the poetry collections Why the House Is Made of Gingerbread, Kitchen Heat, and The Strict Economy of Fire. She teaches poetry writing in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and directs a writers’ retreat center in the mountains of New Mexico.
The bravura of David R. Slavitt’s first book of poems, published more than fifty years ago, continues to reverberate through his newest collection in a voice matured and roughened by age.

Civil Wars conjures the mutterings of old men: meditations—despondent yet playfully witty and bold—on the meaning of life and death, the reasoning for human action or inaction, and misremembered memories. Nothing proves too lofty or too trifling for the poet’s scrutiny. Slavitt’s attention moves from the carnage inflicted by the Achaeans at Troy, to the performances of Borrah Minevich and the Harmonica Rascals, from meditations on Spinoza to the baseball of the New York Yankees. He considers with deliberation all of these subjects and deems them necessary to help create a spiritual connection in our lives. Slavitt encourages contemplation of the world and writing rather than acceptance of the thoughts of the critic, who “comes, austere, a man of authority, / and offers to help” but only dilutes the power of a poem. In this collection, Slavitt also includes translations of Greek, Hebrew, Provençal, French, and Old English poems, including a little-known piece by the mathematician Pierre de Fermat and the Old English epic poem “The Battle of Maldon.”

DAVID R. SLAVITT has published more than one hundred books, including The Seven Deadly Sins and Other Poems, Change of Address, and William Henry Harrison and Other Poems. Born in White Plains, New York, and educated at Andover, Yale, and Columbia, Slavitt has worked at Newsweek and has taught at Temple University, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, and Bennington College.

Deeply rooted in personal and regional history, David Middleton’s The Fiddler of Driskill Hill celebrates a particular place and universal human experience. While evoking distinctive Louisiana landscapes, both north and south, the poems address the great philosophical and theological questions of the ages. In the title poem, a mysterious fiddler climbs Driskill Hill—the highest point of elevation in Louisiana—under the cover of darkness to practice his craft: “I sing what is and ought to be / And will until I die: // For that’s what bow and strings are for, / To raise things up in song / Between The Fall and Paradise / And urge the world along.”

Other poems contemplate loneliness and loss—a father mourning the death of his ten-year-old daughter, a soldier’s recollections of war, and a woman who, in bidding farewell to the only home she and her husband ever owned, says that she “Must walk one final time these rooms I share / With ghosts that speak and breathe in memory’s breathless air.” This collection reflects on the agrarian way of life, southern historical events, family, racial reconciliation, the relation between language and things, becoming and being a poet, and the experience of tragedy, death, and love.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, DAVID MIDDLETON served as professor of English, Poet-in-Residence, Distinguished Service Professor, Alcee Fortier Distinguished Professor, and head of the Department of Languages and Literature at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. Currently professor emeritus of English at Nicholls, he lives in Thibodaux with his wife, Francine.

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