As many who call Missouri home know, this year marks an important moment in time, and not just because we hope to break free from the worries and restrictions of the pandemic: August 10, 2021, marks the 200th anniversary of Missouri’s admittance to the nation as its 24th state.

Missouri’s history is a rich and varied one that includes noble acts and overcoming great challenges, but also gross inequities and goals unmet. While the same is true of other states, Missouri’s history is unique in that its bid to enter the United States touched off a critical string of events, known collectively by historians today as the “Missouri Crisis,” which nearly destroyed the nation it sought to join.

As part of our ongoing mission to serve the University of Missouri through the creation of original and important works that not only celebrate Missouri’s history and culture but advance existing scholarship, we at the Press began our state’s bicentennial with the publication in our Spring/Summer 2021 season of two collections of original essays: *Contesting the Constitution: Congress Debates the Missouri Crisis, 1819–1821*, edited by William S. Belko, Executive Director of the Missouri Humanities Council, and the first volume of *A Fire Bell in the Past: The Missouri Crisis at 200*, edited by Jeffrey L. Pasley, Professor of History and Associate Director of the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and John Craig Hammond, Associate Professor of History at Penn State University–New Kensington.

We finish the bicentennial in grand style with the publication of the second volume of *A Fire Bell in the Past*, and also *Climbing the Ladder, Chasing the Dream*, the first history of St. Louis’s Homer G. Phillips Hospital, with its pioneering staff of African American doctors and nurses, and the fascinating story of the life and mysterious murder of the hospital’s eponymous founder. Our Fall/Winter 2021 season also includes the third and final volume of Gary Scharnhorst’s definitive biography of Mark Twain, as well as an original—in places personal—history of our state by Gary R. Kremer, Executive Director of the State Historical Society of Missouri and perhaps the best-known living Missouri historian, who gives us *This Place of Promise*.

Above all else, Missouri’s history is a story still being told. Its people, whatever their age, race, class, faith, gender, or sexual orientation, like each generation before them, continue to do their best to make their way, even as they endeavor to fulfill the great promise of Missouri and build a better future for generations to come.

Andrew J. Davidson, Editor in Chief
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- [Blog: missouribooks.wordpress.com](http://missouribooks.wordpress.com)
- [Twitter: @University of Missouri Press](https://twitter.com/UniversityofMissouriPress)
This book will be a worthy addition to the biographies of Patton. It should find a place on the bookshelf of every Pattonophile—and I’m certain that it will.”—Flint Whitlock, military historian, former U.S. Army officer, and editor of WWII Quarterly

During his life, George S. Patton Jr. starred as an Olympic athlete in the 1912 Stockholm games, chased down Mexican bandits, and led tanks into battle in World War I. But he is best remembered for his exploits on the field of battle in World War II. *Patton’s War*, the first of two volumes, follows the general from the beaches of Morocco to the fields of France, right before the birth of Third Army on the continent. In highly engaging fashion, Hymel uncovers new facts and challenges long-held beliefs about the mercurial Patton, not only examining his relationships with his superiors and fellow generals and colonels, but also with the soldiers of all ranks whom he led. Through extensive research of soldiers’ memoirs and interviews, Hymel adds a new dimension to the telling of Patton’s WWII story.

Kevin M. Hymel is currently a contract historian for the U.S. Army and the Historian/Tour Guide of Ambrose Historical Tours, leading the “In the Footsteps of Patton” tour from 2004 to the present. He is also a regular contributor to WWII History and WWII Quarterly, and the author of three books, including *Patton’s Photographs: War as He Saw It*. He lives in Arlington, Virginia.
“The final volume of Gary Scharnhorst’s epic biography of Mark Twain brings new insight and clarity to Twain’s most controversial and misunderstood period. Chronicling the twenty years that saw Twain grapple with seemingly unrelenting personal and professional disaster, *The Life of Mark Twain: The Final Years, 1891-1910* dives deep into the historical record, persistently distinguishing fact from long-held academic hearsay, to reveal a fresh, coherent, and wholly substantive understanding of the last two decades of Twain’s life. But be warned: Scharnhorst’s portrait is at times unsettling. The net result, however, is arguably the most critically balanced and information-rich scholarly biography of Mark Twain yet produced.” — *Joseph Csicsila*, Eastern Michigan University, author of *Heretical Fictions: Religion in the Literature of Mark Twain*

The last installment of Scharnhorst's three-volume biography chronicles the life of Samuel Clemens between his family’s extended trip to Europe in 1891 and his death in 1910. During these years Clemens grapples with bankruptcy, returns to the lecture circuit, loses two daughters and his wife, and writes some of his darkest, most critical works.

**Gary Scharnhorst** is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English at the University of New Mexico. He is the author or editor of fifty books, including *Mark Twain on Potholes and Politics: Letters to the Editor*. He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
“The breadth of coverage here is impressive and benefits handsomely from the author's command of the state's social and political history. His expertise in such a wide range of Missouri topics, particularly the African-American experience and the history of education, shines in the book's key themes.”
—Jeremy Neely, Missouri State University, author of The Border between Them: Violence and Reconciliation on the Kansas-Missouri Line

Conceived of as a way to commemorate Missouri’s bicentennial of statehood, this unique work presents the perspective of Gary Kremer, one of the Show-Me State's foremost historians, on how history has played out in the two centuries since Missouri's admission to the Union. In the writing of what is much more than a survey history, Kremer, himself a fifth-generation Missourian, infuses the narrative with his vast knowledge and personal experiences as he thoughtfully considers what being a Missourian has meant—across the many years and to this day—to all of the state's people, and how the forces of history—time, place, race, gender, religion, and class—shaped people and determined their opportunities and choices, in turn creating communities of collective experience that draw upon the past in order to try to make sense of the present and plan for the future.

Gary R. Kremer is the Executive Director, Secretary, and Librarian of the State Historical Society of Missouri. He is the author, coauthor, or coeditor of 12 books. He lives in Jefferson City, Missouri.
The Missouri Crisis divided the U.S. into slave and free states for the first time and crystallized many of the arguments and conflicts that would later be settled violently during the Civil War. The episode was, as Thomas Jefferson put it, “a fire bell in the night” that terrified him as the possible “knell of the Union.”

Drawn from the participants in two landmark conferences held at the University of Missouri and the City University of New York, those who contributed original essays to this second of two volumes answer the Missouri “Question,” in bold fashion, challenging assumptions in the long historiography by approaching the event on its own terms, rather than as the inevitable sequel of the flawed founding of the republic or a prequel to its near destruction.

With an Introduction by the editors and a Foreword by Daive Dunkley, the second volume of A Fire Bell in the Past features the following contributors: Dianne Mutti Burke, Christopher Childers, Edward P. Green, Zachary Dowdle, David J. Gary, Peter Kastor, Miriam Liebman, Matthew Mason, Kate Masur, Mike McManus, Richard Newman, and Nicholas Wood.

Jeffery L. Pasley is Professor of History and Associate Director of the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, University of Missouri. He lives in Columbia, Missouri.

John Craig Hammond is Associate Professor of History at Penn State University–New Kensington and lives in suburban Pittsburgh.

See page 14 for a description of Volume 1
“Although Homer G. Phillips was in existence for only 42 years, it has become a legend for the major role it played in the development of the Ville community. The book brings to life the story of a successful black hospital operated by African Americans.”

—Dr. John A. Wright, former superintendent of schools in St. Louis

Built to serve St. Louis’s rapidly expanding African-American population, the Homer G. Phillips Hospital opened in 1937, toward the end of the Great Depression, amid a national period of institutional segregation. Patients flocked to the beautiful, up-to-date hospital, which attracted more black residents than any other such institution in the nation. HGPH’s nursing students found excellent training, ready employment, and a boost into the middle class.

But the 1960s and 1970s brought less need for all-black hospitals, as patients, faculty, and residents were increasingly welcome in newly integrated institutions. Ever-tightening city budgets meant less money for the hospital, which closed in 1979, despite protests from the African-American community.

Drawing upon contemporary newspaper articles, institutional records, and her own oral history project, O’Connor tells the first full history of the Homer G. Phillips Hospital, and brings to light new facts about the life and mysterious murder—still unsolved—of its namesake.

Candace O’Connor is a free-lance journalist and the author of 12 books including, most recently, A Legacy of Caring: The History of Barnes-Jewish Hospital. She lives in St. Louis, Missouri.
“Steve Paul’s well-written narrative offers the first in-depth biography of Evan S. Connell, providing a welcome overview and cogent analysis of his work.” — Tracy Daugherty, Oregon State University, author of The Last Love Song: A Biography of Joan Didion

Evan S. Connell (1924–2013) emerged from the American Midwest determined to become a writer. He eventually made his mark with attention-getting fiction and deep explorations into history. His linked novels Mrs. Bridge (1959) and Mr. Bridge (1969) paint a devastating portrait of the lives of a prosperous suburban family not unlike his own that, more than a half century later, continue to haunt readers with their minimalist elegance and muted satire. As an essayist and historian, Connell produced a wide range of work, including a sumptuous body of travel writing, a bestselling epic account of Custer at the Little Bighorn, and a singular series of meditations on history and the human tragedy.

This first portrait and appraisal of an under-recognized American writer is based on personal accounts by friends, relatives, writers, and others who knew him; extensive correspondence in library archives; and insightful literary and cultural analysis of Connell’s work and its context. It reveals a tender and multidimensional representation of a 20th-century literary master worthy of broader attention.

Steve Paul worked for the Kansas City Star for 40 years, as a reporter, writer, and editor. He is the author of two books, including Hemingway at Eighteen: The Pivotal Year That Launched an American Legend. He lives in Kansas City, Missouri.
AGING AND HEALTH FOR THE US ELDERLY
A HEALTH PRIMER FOR AGES 60 TO 90 YEARS

Harold L. Kennedy, M.D.

“A very important resource and guide for health care for this rapidly growing population, in an easily understood style for discussion of these problems.”—Dr. Leslie Miller, Cardiology Specialist and co-author of Stem Cell and Gene Therapy for Cardiovascular Disease

Seniors use more health care services, have a higher incidence of chronic disease, and take more medication than do persons of any other age group, and yet seniors have been shown to have the lowest rate of health literacy. This highly accessible primer of health information is specifically designed to give seniors a useful level of health literacy, crucial to helping them make good decisions about when to seek and how best to obtain medical treatment—for themselves and their loved ones.

Based on many years of evidence-based studies to measure outcomes in the treatment of patients, Dr. Harold Kennedy’s Aging and Health for the US Elderly: A Health Primer for Ages 60 to 90 Years is a practical, easy-to-use guide for the senior demographic, the most frequent consumers of health care.

Harold L. Kennedy, M.D., M.P.H, has more than 60 years of experience in internal medicine and as a general practitioner and preventive medicine physician, specializing in cardiology and epidemiology. He is currently a Professor (adjunct) at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. He is the author or co-author of over two hundred journal articles and 30 book chapters, and his books include Electrocardiography and Cardiac Drug Therapy and Ambulatory Electrocardiography. He lives in St. Louis, Missouri and Serifos, Greece.
“POTRZEBIE! It’s an understatement to say that Mad warped the comedic sensibilities of at least 2.3458697 generations. It absolutely deserves this scholarly/hilarious/illuminating examination of its history and legacy. Though I admit, I can’t wait to read the Mad parody of this book, too.”—John Hodgman, comedian, actor, and author of Medallion Status: True Stories from Secret Rooms

“Seeing Mad” is an illustrated volume of scholarly essays about the popular and influential humor magazine Mad, with topics ranging across its 65-year history. Mad magazine stands near the heart of post-WWII American humor, but at the periphery in scholarly recognition from American cultural historians, including humor specialists. This book fills that gap, with perceptive, informed, engaging, but also funny essays by a variety of scholars.

Judith Yaross Lee is Distinguished Professor Emerita of Communication Studies at Ohio University. She is the author of Twain’s Brand: Humor in Contemporary American Culture. She lives in Durham, North Carolina. John Bird is Emeritus Professor of English at Winthrop University and author of Mark Twain and Metaphor. He lives in Calabash, North Carolina.
THE DEAD END KIDS OF ST. LOUIS
HOMELESS BOYS AND THE PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO SAVE THEM
Bonnie Stepenoff

“An admirable work. . . . The organization, writing, passion for the subject, and research make this a valuable treatment of St. Louis social history unavailable anywhere else.”
—Lawrence O. Christensen, co-author of A History of Missouri: Volume IV, 1875 to 1919

Bonnie Stepenoff reviews a century of history to tell the story of the “lost” boys who struggled to survive on the streets of St. Louis as it evolved from a booming late-nineteenth-century industrial center to a troubled mid-twentieth-century metropolis.

Stepenoff traces the history of several efforts aimed at assisting the city’s homeless boys.

She discusses the prison-like St. Louis House of Refuge, where more than 80 percent of the resident children were boys, and Father Dunne’s News Boys’ Home and Protectorate, which stressed education and training for more than a century after its founding. She charts the growth of Skid Row and details how historical events such as industrialization, economic depression, and wars affected this vulnerable urban population.

Bonnie Stepenoff is Professor Emerita of History at Southeast Missouri State University. She is the author of six books, including Working the Mississippi and lives in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

MISSOURI LAW AND THE AMERICAN CONSCIENCE
HISTORICAL RIGHTS AND WRONGS
Edited by Kenneth H. Winn

“The essays in Missouri Law and the American Conscience are a wonderful collection of Missouri’s legal lore, much of which has affected American legal history from the frontier days, through slavery and the Civil War, judicial elections, juvenile justice, women’s rights, baseball and the so-called right to die. For better (Virginia Minor and the battle for women’s suffrage and the right of women to serve as jurors) and for worse (Dred Scott), the topics Kenneth Winn has selected, and the essayists who delivered, provide a series of snapshots that helps us to understand the convoluted history of Missouri and its effects on the present state of our law. The book is well written, informative, and a pleasure to read.”—Michael A. Wolff, Dean, Saint Louis University School of Law, and Former Judge and Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Missouri

Kenneth H. Winn is the former State Archivist of Missouri. His nationally recognized initiatives include the St. Louis Slave Freedom Suits Project. He has taught history at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Missouri-Columbia. He lives in St. Louis, Missouri.
"An invaluable study of one of Missouri's key Civil War generals. Townsend has done an excellent job of combining personal anecdotes and military action.” — William E. Parrish, author of A History of Missouri: Volume III, 1860 to 1875

A German-born Union officer in the American Civil War, Maj. Gen. Peter Osterhaus served from the first clash in the western theater until the final surrender of the war. Osterhaus made a name for himself within the army as an energetic and resourceful commander who later became the governor of Mississippi in the early days of Reconstruction.

This first full-length study of the officer documents how, despite his meteoric military career, his accomplishments were underreported even in his own day and often misrepresented in the historical record. Mary Bobbitt Townsend corrects previous errors about his life and offers new insights into his contributions to major turning points in the war.

Mary Bobbitt Townsend, great-great-granddaughter of Peter Joseph Osterhaus, is an independent scholar living in Southern California.

"More than a biography, this book about Missouri's secessionist governor analyzes the antebellum socioeconomic and political history of a state both literally and figuratively on the border-between North and South, East and West, freedom and slavery, modernity and tradition. The reader will come away with enhanced understanding of why Missouri suffered a vicious civil war within the larger Civil War." — James M. McPherson, Princeton University, author of Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era

“Christopher Phillips has written about people named Marmaduke, Sappington, Thomas Hart Benton, and ‘the Fox,’ about places like The Boon’s Lick, about a horse named Duke Sumner. And he tells good stories. But this book is about nationality, culture, imagination, and identity. This is an important work of mature scholarship.” — Emory M. Thomas, University of Georgia, author of Robert E. Lee: An Album

Christopher Phillips teaches history at the University of Cincinnati. He is author of Damned Yankee: The Life of General Nathaniel Lyon and Freedom’s Port: The African American Community of Baltimore, 1790-1860 and lives in Glendale, Ohio.
“Well written and engaging.”—Kari Frederickson, University of Alabama, author of Cold War Dixie: Militarization and Modernization in the American South

Perhaps the most overlooked aspect of Harry S. Truman’s presidency is his judicial legacy, with even the finest of Truman biographies neglecting to consider the influence he had on the Supreme Court. Yet, as Rawn James lays out in engaging detail, president Harry Truman successfully molded the high court into a judicial body that appeared to actively support his administration’s political agenda. In rulings that sparked controversy in their own time, the Supreme Court repeatedly upheld Truman’s most contentious policies, including actions to restrict free speech, expand civil rights, and manage labor union unrest.

The Truman Court: Law and the Limits of Loyalty argues that the years between FDR’s death in 1945 and Chief Justice Earl Warren’s confirmation in 1953—the dawn of the Cold War—were, contrary to widespread belief, important years in Supreme Court history. Never before or since has a president so quickly and completely changed the ideological and temperamental composition of the Court. With remarkable swiftness and certainty, Truman constructed a Court on which he relied to lend constitutional credence to his political agenda.

“A wonderful contribution to the field of art history, bringing to light biographical details of an important twentieth-century American artist who is not well known today.”

—Klare Scarborough, Director and Chief Curator, La Salle University Art Museum, Philadelphia

Adolf Dehn belongs to a group of distinguished midcentury American artists who were eclipsed by Abstract Expressionism and the following movements in American art. His lithographs of the Roaring Twenties introduced a note of social satire into American printmaking. He was one of the most gifted and innovative printmakers of the American Scene movement of the 1930s and one of the most significant American watercolorists.

In this wide-ranging biography, Henry Adams explores how a once central figure can come to be forgotten. Noting that Dehn’s watercolor *Spring in Central Park* has been widely reproduced on calendars, postcards, and other Metropolitan Museum of Art souvenirs, Adams asks why it is that some artists are celebrated as key figures while others, even those who created images that form an integral part of our visual culture, are relatively unknown. With his account of the life of the prolific and influential Dehn, and a look at the circles of artists and writers in which Dehn moved, Adams helps to fill in what he calls the “secret or subterranean history of art.”

Henry Adams is Ruth Coulter Heede Professor of Art History at Case Western Reserve University and author of fourteen books, including *Thomas Hart Benton: Discoveries and Interpretations* (University of Missouri Press). He lives in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.
“The essays in *A Fire Bell in the Past* are brilliant commentaries on one of the most pivotal events in American history. These fresh perspectives on the Missouri Crisis breathe new life into this much-written about subject, and could not be more timely given our current-day grappling with the question of race and citizenship.”—Annette Gordon-Reed, Harvard University, author of *On Juneteenth*

Many new states entered the United States around 200 years ago, but only Missouri almost killed the nation it was trying to join. When the House of Representatives passed the Tallmadge Amendment banning slavery from the prospective new state in February 1819, it set off a two-year political crisis, known as the Missouri Crisis, which divided the U.S. into slave and free states for the first time and crystallized many of the arguments and conflicts that would later be settled violently during the Civil War. The episode was, as Thomas Jefferson put it, “a fire bell in the night” that terrified him as the possible “knell of the Union.”

Published to mark Missouri’s bicentennial, this volume draws on the participants in two landmark conferences held at the University of Missouri and the City University of New York, this first of two volumes finds myriad new perspectives on the Missouri Crisis.

Jeffrey L. Pasley is Professor of History and Associate Director of the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri. He is the author of *The First Presidential Contest: 1796 and the Founding of American Democracy* and lives in Columbia, Missouri. John Craig Hammond is Associate Professor of History and Assistant Director of Academic Affairs at Penn State University-New Kensington, and author of numerous books on slavery and politics in the early American republic. He lives in suburban Pittsburgh.
“An important and fresh collection of essays on a topic of interest to scholars as well as many Missourians”—Lorri Glover, Saint Louis University, author of The Fate of the Revolution: Virginians Debate the Constitution

The admission of Missouri to the Union quickly became a constitutional crisis of the first order, inciting an intensive reexamination of the U.S. Constitution by the U.S. Congress. The heart of the question in need of resolution was whether that body possessed the authority to place conditions on a territory—in this instance Missouri—regarding restrictions on slavery—before its admittance to the Union.

The larger question with which the legislators grappled was the limits of the Constitution’s provisions granting Congress the authority to affect the institution of slavery—both where it already existed and where it could expand. The issue—what would come to be known as the Missouri Crisis—severely tested the still young republic and, some four decades later, would all but rend it asunder. This timely collection of original essays thoughtfully engages the intersections of history and constitutional law, and is certain to find eager readers among historians, legal scholars, and political scientists, as well as many who call Missouri home.

William S. Belko is Executive Director of the Missouri Humanities Council and author of several books including, Philip Pendleton Barbour in Jacksonian America: An Old Republican in King Andrew’s Court and The Invincible Duff Green: Whig of the West (University of Missouri Press). He lives in the St. Louis area.
“Will Mari offers a fascinating reappraisal of the newsroom, that long-mythologized space where journalism is made. He shows how the newsroom, far more than merely a place for news production, is also a concept, an idea, and a set of relationships, ones that helped shape American journalism in the twentieth century and will have an enduring imprint on the future of news.”
—Seth C. Lewis, University of Oregon, co-author of News After Trump: Journalism's Crisis of Relevance in a Changed Media Culture

The story of the American newsroom is that of modern American journalism. In this holistic history, Will Mari tells that story from the 1920s through the 1960s, a time of great change and controversy in the field, one in which journalism was produced in “news factories” by news workers with dozens of different roles, and not just once a day, but hourly, using the latest technology and setting the stage for the emergence later in the century of the information economy. During this time, the newsroom was more than a physical place—it symbolically represented all that was good and bad in journalism, from the shift from blue- to white-collar work to the flexing of journalism's power as a watchdog on government and an advocate for social reform. Told from an empathetic, omnivorous, ground-up point of view, The American Newsroom: A History, 1920–1960 uses memoirs, trade journals, textbooks, and archival material to show how the newsroom expanded our ideas of what journalism could and should be.

Will Mari is Assistant Professor of Media Law & History at the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University, and author of A Short History of Disruptive Journalism Technologies: 1960–1990. He lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
“Tennessee Williams’s formative St. Louis years—spanning his adolescence and early adulthood—have for so long been biographical flyover country, barely acknowledged even by Williams himself. Now a fellow St. Louisan, Henry Schvey, has brought this period vividly to life.”

—Rocco Landesman, former chair of the NEA and long-time Broadway theatre producer

In 2011, the centennial of Tennessee Williams’s birth, events were held around the world honoring America’s greatest playwright. There were festivals, conferences, and exhibitions held in places closely associated with Williams’s life and career—New Orleans held major celebrations, as did New York, Key West, and Provincetown. But absolutely nothing was done to celebrate Williams’s life and extraordinary literary and theatrical career in the place that he lived in longest, and called home longer than any other—St. Louis, Missouri.

The question of this paradox lies at the heart of this book, an attempt not so much to correct the record about Williams’s well-chronicled dislike of the city, but rather to reveal how the city was absolutely indispensable to his formation and development, both as a person and artist. Unlike the prevailing scholarly narrative that suggests that Williams discovered himself artistically and sexually in the deep South and New Orleans, Blue Song reveals that for a host of reasons—and for the rest of his life—Williams remained emotionally tethered to St. Louis.

Henry I. Schvey is Professor of Drama and Comparative Literature at Washington University in St. Louis and the author of three books, including Oskar Kokoschka: The Painter as Playwright. He lives in St. Louis, Missouri.
“No one has brought into print the details of an individual working-class St. Louisan's life in anywhere near the depth that Moore has done—and this from what started as a handful of crumbling school assignments found in a dumpster. Moore's point, however, is for us not simply to discover a once-invisible man, but also to reflect upon the extent to which identity itself is, in this nation, shaped by the collective decisions of the people and institutions that shape our lives and record our traces.”
—Eric Sandweiss, Indiana University, author of *St. Louis: The Evolution of an American Urban Landscape*

Centering on the compelling story of its eponymous subject, *The Names of John Gergen* examines the converging governmental and institutional forces that affected the lives of migrants in the industrial neighborhoods of South St. Louis in the early twentieth century. These migrants were Banat Swabians from Torontál County in southern Hungary—they were Catholic, agrarian, and ethnically German.

Historically, scholars and laypeople have understood migrants in terms of their aspirations and transformations, especially their transformation into Americans. The experiences of John Gergen and his kin, however, suggest that identity at the level of the individual was both more fragmented and more fluid than twentieth-century historians have recognized, subject to a variety of forces that often pulled migrants in multiple directions.

*Benjamin Moore* is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Bosnia Memory Project at Fontbonne University in St. Louis, Missouri. He lives in St. Louis.
The Poetry of Louise Glück
A Thematic Introduction
Daniel Morris
$25.00 $ | P: 978-0-8262-2238-1

Dorothy Thompson & Rose Wilder Lane: Forty Years of Friendship, Letters, 1921-1960
Edited by William Holtz
$25.00 $ | P: 978-0-8262-2233-6

A dominant figure in American poetry for over half a century, Louise Glück has been the recipient of numerous major literary awards, including the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2020. In this full-length study of her work, Daniel Morris explores how this prolific poet utilizes masks of characters from history, the Bible, and even fairy tales.

Morris treats Glück's persistent themes—desire, hunger, trauma, survival—through close reading of her major book-length sequences from the 1990s: Ararat, Meadowlands, and The Wild Iris. An additional chapter devoted to The House on Marshland (1975) shows how its revision of Romanticism and nature poetry anticipated these later works. Seeing Glück's poems as complex analyses of the authorial self via sustained central metaphors, Morris reads her poetry against a narrative pattern that shifts from the tones of anger, despair, and resentment found in her early Firstborn to the resignation of Ararat—and proceeds in her later volumes, including Vita Nova and Averno, toward an ambivalent embrace of embodied life. By showing how Glück's poems may be read as a form of commentary on the meanings of great literature and myth, Morris emphasizes her irreverent attitude toward the canons through which she both expresses herself and deflects her autobiographical impulse. He particularly shows how her creative reading of past poets expresses her vision of Judaism as a way of thinking about canonical texts.

The Poetry of Louise Glück is a quintessential study of how poems may be read as a form of commentary on the meanings of great literature and myth. It clearly demonstrates that, through this lens of commentary, one can grasp more firmly the very idea of poetry itself that Glück has spent her career both defining and extending.
THE LIFE OF MARK TWAIN
THE EARLY YEARS, 1835–1871
Gary Scharnhorst

The Life of Mark Twain is the first multi-volume biography of Samuel Clemens to appear in more than a century and has already been hailed as the definitive Twain biography.

“A lively, richly detailed, and sharply perceptive biography.” — Kirkus (starred)

“Gary Scharnhorst’s monumental biography sets a new standard for comprehensiveness. This will prove to be the standard biography for our generation.” — Alan Gribben, author of Mark Twain’s Literary Resources: A Reconstruction of His Library and Reading

“Scharnhorst’s thorough and careful research results in a scholarly biography that will undoubtedly be considered definitive.” — Publishers Weekly

Gary Scharnhorst is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English at the University of New Mexico. He is the author or editor of fifty books, including Mark Twain on Potholes and Politics: Letters to the Editor (University of Missouri Press). He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

THE MIDDLE YEARS, 1871–1891
Gary Scharnhorst

“The second installment of Gary Scharnhorst's multi-volume biography of Mark Twain is arguably even more momentous than the first. . . . Readers familiar with the first volume will not be disappointed by the second one.” — Joseph Csicsila, author of Canons by Consensus: Critical Trends and American Literature Anthologies

“Brilliant. Engaging. Informative. . . . This book will most certainly become a necessary staple of scholars, as have so many of Scharnhorst’s books.” — Jocelyn A. Chadwick, author of The Jim Dilemma: Reading Race in Huckleberry Finn

“An unvarnished portrait of one of the most complex figures in American cultural history. This comprehensive biography is a welcome addition to an already full shelf because it makes a number of them obsolete.” — Lawrence Howe, author of Mark Twain and the Novel: The Double-Cross of Authority

“Weaving together mountains of facts, material not commonly quoted, and his own revisionist perspective, Scharnhorst provides a rich narrative that sets this biography apart from earlier biographies.” — Choice
A typical travel book takes readers along on a trip with the author, but a great travel book does much more than that, inviting readers along on a mental and spiritual journey as well. This distinction is what separates Nancy McCabe’s From Little Houses to Little Women from the typical and allows it to take its place not only as a great travel book but also as a memoir about the children’s books that have shaped all of our imaginations.

McCabe, who grew up in Kansas just a few hours from the Ingalls family’s home in Little House on the Prairie, always felt a deep connection with Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the Little House series. McCabe read Little House on the Prairie during her childhood and visited Wilder sites around the Midwest with her aunt when she was thirteen. But then she didn’t read the series again until she decided to revisit in adulthood the books that had so influenced her childhood. It was this decision that ultimately sparked her desire to visit the places that inspired many of her childhood favorites, taking her on a journey that included stops in the Missouri of Laura Ingalls Wilder, the Minnesota of Maud Hart Lovelace, the Massachusetts of Louisa May Alcott, and even the Canada of Lucy Maud Montgomery.

From Little Houses to Little Women reveals McCabe’s powerful connection to the characters and authors who inspired many generations of readers. Traveling with McCabe as she rediscovers the books that shaped her and ultimately helped her to forge her own path, readers will enjoy revisiting their own childhood favorites as well.
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

JAMES MILTON TURNER
And The Promise of America
The Public Life of a Post-Civil War Black Leader
Gary R. Kremer
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I’ll never forget seeing Burn This on Broadway way back when—what struck me is how Wilson, supposedly the sweetest of playwrights, could write something so strict and tough-minded. It felt like he was teaching Mamet how to write a play. Ferocious indeed! He was however a true outsider artist (like so many of those he loved and collected). Indeed, he was a magnificent crystal with many sides.”

—Mac Wellman, Professor of Playwriting, Brooklyn College, author of Linda Perdido

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