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“An entertaining and enlightening journey, this deeply reported narrative unfolds through the eyes of a relatable and passionate Bloom, the older and wiser narrator reflecting upon the choices of his younger self with humor, affection, and remarkable candidness. Embedded within this engaging true tale, Bloom tugs at universal themes: coming of age, identity, the pull of ambition, the power of instinct, and delightful explorations into human nature.”—Erika Hayasaki, University of California, Irvine, author of Somewhere Sisters

As a young journalist at the Brazil Herald from 1979 to 1981, Stephen G. Bloom spent his formative years working in Rio’s seedy Lapa district, surrounded by expatriates, drug runners, and pornographers. The newspaper was a breeding ground for a different kind of storyteller—audacious risk-takers who told madcap tales of Amazon plantations, Confederate emigres, and lost Indian tribes. Several renowned journalists cut their teeth at the Brazil Herald, including acclaimed New York Times correspondent Tad Szulc, Huffington Post CEO Eric Hippeau, and the notorious Gonzo reporter Hunter S. Thompson.

Drawing from extensive archival research and over 150 interviews with his former colleagues, Bloom’s exploration of the Brazil Herald is both entertaining and academically rigorous. Even as he weaves between personal narrative, history, and accounts from journalism luminaries, it remains clear who the book’s main character is: the trailblazing newspaper itself.

Stephen G. Bloom is an award-winning journalist and author of six nonfiction books, Postville; Inside the Writer’s Mind; The Oxford Project; Tears of Mermaids; The Audacity of Inez Burns; and Blue Eyes, Brown Eyes. A former reporter for the Los Angeles Times and Dallas Morning News, he is a professor of journalism at the University of Iowa.
“A beautiful commemoration of the ‘small’ lives lost at war, those who are easily overlooked amidst the overwhelming catastrophe that was World War II. No Average Day justifies itself—deservedly—by reminding us that there are no ‘small’ lives, after all. The stories are well-told and poignant. Most pages contain episodes and information that can be found nowhere else.” — Todd DePastino, author of Bill Mauldin: A Life Up Front

On Tuesday, October 24, 1944, nearly three years into World War II, a staggering 2,615 Americans perished, more than on any other single day of the war, yet the day remains overshadowed by more widely remembered dates in WWII history. Drawing from the accounts of men who served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Corps, Rona Simmons offers a gripping retelling of the fateful day, hour by hour and incident by incident. The book begins with Army Private First Class Paul Miller’s demise in a prisoner of war camp, and ends with the death of Navy Seaman Second Class Wanza E. Matthews after the Japanese submarine I-56 attacked his ship off New Guinea. The sinking of the Japanese “hellship” Arisan Maru—a lesser-known tragedy of the war—looms large throughout the narrative, deftly interwoven through each part of the narrative.

Perhaps the most compelling aspect of No Average Day is its attention to the human side of conflict, telling the stories of ordinary individuals as they grapple with the horrors of the war. Despite its narrow focus—or perhaps because of it—No Average Day reveals the vastness of World War II through a consideration of the largely overlooked events that unfolded on its deadliest day.

Rona Simmons is an author of historical fiction and nonfiction, focusing on the period from World War I, to the Great Depression, to World War II. Her books include The Other Veterans of World War II and A Gathering of Men. She lives outside of Wilmington, North Carolina.
“Equal parts biography and historical meditation, Chasing the Shadow captures a man who stood at the crossroads of 20th Century history. Ossad deserves our thanks for this timely book.” —Robert Citino, author of The Wehrmacht Retreats: Fighting a Lost War, 1943

In this meticulously crafted biography, Steven Ossad explores the life of one of the most pivotal figures in Israel’s military history, David Daniel “Mickey” Marcus. The author draws from an array of sources—including correspondence saved by Marcus’s widow, wartime memoirs from General John Maginnis, and material from Shlomo Shamir’s personal archive—to illustrate Marcus’s journey from his early years as a tough kid in the streets of Brooklyn to his tragic death. Along the way, Ossad guides us through the boxing ring at West Point, the drill field of the infantry, the administration of New York Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, the halls of the Pentagon, and postwar Germany, in all of which Marcus played a role.

More than a military biography, Ossad’s book examines how heroes, myths, and legends are constructed, with special attention paid to Marcus’s senseless death and subsequent hero status in the United States and Israel. Much more than a tribute to Marcus’s storied legacy, Chasing the Shadow is a critical tool for understanding the nature of historical legends, the realities of twentieth-century warfare, and the dynamics of U.S.-Israeli political relations.

Steven L. Ossad is a biographer, historian, retired Wall Street technology analyst, and 'writer for hire' focused on leadership and Operational level command in the U.S. military. He is the author of Omar Nelson Bradley: America’s GI General, 1893–1981, winner of the 2018 Society for Military History Distinguished Book Award. He lives in New York City.
In *Little Helpers*, historian John Robert Greene asks us to re-think the scandals of Harry Truman’s presidency by providing the first political biography of the man who precipitated them: Gen. Harry H. Vaughan. As the former president’s close friend and military aide, Vaughan brought a number of disreputable figures into the White House, in addition to committing misconduct on his own. Although aware of Vaughan’s misdeeds, Truman remained unwilling to rid his administration of him and his hangers on. Historians have largely overlooked the wider Five Percenter scandal in Truman’s administration, a tendency that *Little Helpers* corrects.

Greene begins with an outline of how Truman and Vaughan met during World War I, then examines Vaughan’s support for Truman for the Senate and later as President. The majority of the book, however, considers the various cronies that surrounded Vaughan and illustrates the significance of his relationship with Truman—and the President’s inability to reign him in.

Drawing from primary and archival sources, many never before published, *Little Helpers* is further distinguished by its use of the correspondence between Vaughan and Truman. Greene also provides a dramatic narrative account of the inner workings of the Truman administration, making the book accessible to the general reader as well as the specialist.

John Robert Greene is Professor Emeritus of History and Humanities at Cazenovia College, and the author or editor of twenty books, including *The Presidency of George W. Bush* and *I Like Ike: The Presidential Election of 1952*. He lives in Chittenango, New York.
In this groundbreaking work, historian Justin Pope explores the tumultuous era of slave unrest that swept the Atlantic World in the first half of the eighteenth century. As insurrections and conspiracy trials spread throughout the coast of North America and all around the Caribbean, the governor of Jamaica warned his king that a “dangerous Spirit of Liberty” was taking hold in the West Indies. Until now, no one else has conducted a full-length study of this “dangerous spirit” and its legacy.

Pope examines the causes behind the turmoil of this era and its consequences for the peoples of the eighteenth-century Atlantic World. Especially noteworthy is his focus on how enslaved men and women found ways to share news across vast spaces, in so doing creating an intercontinental communication network. Rumors and reports of emancipation were spread by enslaved persons exiled to neighboring colonies, as well as by those laboring in colonial commerce and working aboard oceangoing as well as intercoastal ships. In relaying these stories they inspired each other to take political action—some chose leaders, organized across plantations and provinces, and sought to influence British authorities ranging from colonial governors to the king of England.

During this time, European colonists became determined to control what they perceived as a growing rebelliousness. In turn, enslaved persons across North America became increasingly aware of the common cause they shared, thus embracing a “dangerous spirit of liberty.” Through his meticulous research, Pope allows us to rediscover these early ideas about freedom and slavery, long before their full articulation in the enlightenment ideals of the Age of Revolution.

Justin James Pope is Assistant Professor of History at the Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T). He lives in Rolla, Missouri.
INDIGENOUS MISSOURIANS
ANCIENT SOCIETIES TO THE PRESENT
Greg Olson

Winner of the 2024 Missouri Conference on History Book Award and Honoree for the 2024 Society of Midland Authors Award for History

“Olson has taken on the formidable task of writing a survey of the entire Indigenous history of Missouri—a history so chock-full of movement and migration (often forced), conflict, and adaptation that it can be extraordinarily challenging to synthesize into a single narrative. Yet Olson has succeeded admirably at the task, giving both scholars and lay readers a valuable resource in the process.”—Missouri Historical Review

“As an Osage and educator, I’m glad to see part of our history explored in Indigenous Missourians. Olson has taken steps to ensure that the Indigenous perspective remains a guiding principle throughout the historical narrative, bringing much-needed balance to the telling of our story.”—Jimmy Beason II, author of Native Americans in History: A History Book for Kids

“In this welcome new book Greg Olson seeks to rescue Indigenous people and their long-suppressed voices from the margins of Missouri’s traditional histories. He deftly explores the creativity and adaptability that enabled them to sustain an ongoing presence in the continental heartland from earliest times to the present day. This comprehensive synthesis of the thoughts and actions of Indigenous Missourians, past and present, will find a welcome place on the bookshelves of academics and history buffs alike.”—William E. Foley, author of Wilderness Journey: The Life of William Clark

Greg Olson served as the Curator of Exhibits and Special Projects at the Missouri State Archives from 2000–2018 and is the author of six books, including The Ioway in Missouri. He lives in Columbia, Missouri.
“Hillmer and Bean’s sophisticated historical analysis of YMCA Indian Guides wrestles with the central problematic of progressive multiculturalism in a settler colonial nation: the desire to champion and recreate Indigenous culture while evading both the lived reality of Indigenous people as well as a formal reckoning with the white history of genocidal violence. Inappropriation: The Contested Legacy of Y-Indian Guides illustrates how white people symbolically and materially colonized Indigenous people and traditions to strengthen white familial bonds at the cost of American Indian history and dignity.”—Casey Ryan Kelly, author of Apocalypse Man: The Death Drive and the Rhetoric of White Masculine Victimhood

“In their examination of the Y-Indian Guides program, Paul Hillmer and Ryan Bean demonstrate how the program, over its 77 years of existence, appropriated Indigenous experiences and imagery in the service of strengthening family, building community, and, much more problematically, honoring Indigenous peoples and cultures. This book joins a growing and important literature examining how North American institutions have affected and been affected by settler colonialism.”—Jon Weier, George Brown College

“The narrative attends to an important chapter in our (western) histories of masculinity, colonialism, fatherhood/boyhood, and Indigeneity.”—Jason Edward Black, coauthor of Mascot Nation: The Controversy over Native American Representations in Sports

Paul Hillmer is Professor Emeritus of History at Concordia University-St. Paul. He is the author of A People’s History of the Hmong. Ryan Bean is Program Director for the Kautz Family YMCA Archives at the University of Minnesota Libraries.
THE FINAL MISSION OF BOTTOMS UP
A WORLD WAR II PILOT'S STORY

Dennis R. Okerstrom

“This is a great book, written with skill and humanity, and will happily grace the shelves of anyone who is interested in WWII aviation history and the lives of those who fought in the deadly skies.” — Military Magazine

“A well-written popular history of one B-24 bomber pilot and his fateful mission. . . . This book is about war, loss, and closure—three things that are often forgotten in popular military history.” — The Journal of America’s Military Past

“This is the perfect book for the adult reader who thinks there is nothing new under the sun in World War II histories.” — Library Journal

“A meticulously accurate reconstruction of the plane’s final, fateful voyage and the heroism of its crew, absorbing to the final page, and a welcome addition to military biography and history shelves.” — Midwest Book Review

On November 18, 1944, American copilot Lieutenant Lee Lamar struggled to keep Bottoms Up, his B-24J Liberator, in the air. Over Pula, in what is now Croatia, the plane was hit by German fire, forcing the crew to escape the doomed bomber. Lamar was captured the next day and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner. Then, in 2006, Lamar received an email from Croatian archaeologist Luka Bekic, who had discovered the wreckage of Bottoms Up. Lamar visited the site, met the Croatian Partisans who had helped some members of his crew escape, and gained a form of closure.

Dennis R. Okerstrom is Professor Emeritus at Park University, a certified flight instructor, and the author of six books including Dick Cole’s War: Doolittle Raider, Hump Pilot, Air Commando and Project 9: The Birth of the Air Commandos in World War II.
“Rose’s book is superb, sympathetic but not sycophantic, grounded in primary sources and meticulously documented.” —Air and Space Magazine

“A superb modern biography of Rear Admiral Richard Byrd and his exploits in the coldest places on earth. Lisle Rose has captured Byrd’s sense of adventure and egotism, chivalry and charlatanism, public hucksterism, and private power-brokering. Well-researched, superbly reasoned, and engagingly written, Explorer is an important addition to the literature of polar exploration.” —Roger Launius, author of Frontiers of Space Exploration

“Thoroughly researched, balanced in interpretation, and very readable, Lisle Rose’s biography of Admiral Richard Byrd, the controversial but accomplished polar explorer and leader, will stand prominently in the literature of biography, American history, and polar exploration.” —Raimund E. Goerler, editor of To the Pole: The Diary and Notebook of Richard E. Byrd, 1925-1927

“Rose has given us fascinating accounts of Byrd’s early Arctic flying, the controversial North and South Pole flights, and the little remembered transatlantic flight of 1927. He has dug up a great amount of new information on the First and Second Byrd Antarctic Expeditions, as well as the U.S. Navy’s Operation Deep Freeze in the late fifties. . . . All told, this remarkable book is the definitive biography of Richard E. Byrd.” —John C. Behrendt, author of The Ninth Circle: A Memoir of Life and Death in Antarctica, 1960–1962

Lisle A. Rose (1936-2021) worked as a sailor, a professor, a diplomat, and a court-appointed special advocate for at-risk children. He has written more than a dozen books, six of which are published by the University of Missouri Press.
LETTER TO MY CHILDREN
FROM ROMANIA TO AMERICA VIA AUSCHWITZ

Rudolph Tessler

“Incredible memoir of survival.”—Booklist

“An extraordinary example of faith at work.”—Foreword

Sixty-seven members of Rudolph Tessler’s family—his mother, his grandfather, his three sisters, his three brothers, aunts, uncles, and cousins—were murdered at Auschwitz. Of the thousands packed in trains and transported from Viseu, Romania to Auschwitz, just a small group survived to see liberation. Among the survivors were Tessler, his two brothers, and his father. Letter to My Children is the amazing story of their experiences as Hasidic Jews caught in the chaos and terror of the Holocaust.

Tessler’s upbringing had emphasized community and family devotion—traits not forgotten in the concentration camps, where he and his family members often rescued one another from certain death. In spite of the odds, Tessler and his brother Buroch managed to stick together, sharing their father’s labor assignments to protect him from death, preserving not only their family bond but also their spirituality.

In addition to vividly portraying the daily struggles of camp life, Letter to My Children follows Tessler beyond liberation, recounting his days as a displaced person in the midst of the devastation of postwar Europe, as an American immigrant striving to rebuild his family. Recalling the age-old way of life in Viseu that was erased by the Holocaust, this inspiring story conveys the hope, determination, and perseverance that made Tessler a survivor.

Born in Viseu, Romania, after arriving in America in 1947, Rudolph Tessler (1926-2024) settled in Chicago and worked in a variety of fields, including farming, textiles, insurance, real estate development, and philanthropy.
“Zachery Williams’ thoroughly researched study of the remarkable group of African American intellectuals associated with Howard University represents a significant contribution to our understanding of the deep roots of the black intellectual community and the power of community-engaged scholarly activism.” —Southern Historian

“Williams thrives at revealing Howard as an inimitable educational locality where black public intellectuals merged scholarship with activism to bequeath a lasting gift to the black intellectual tradition.” —North Carolina Historical Review

“Williams has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the development of the African American scholar-activist tradition in the 20th century.” —The Journal of African American History

From the 1920s through the 1970s, Howard University was home to America's most renowned assemblage of black scholars. This book traces some of the personal and professional activities of this community of public intellectuals, demonstrating their scholar-activist nature and the myriad ways they influenced modern African American, African, and Africana policy studies.

Williams explores W. E. B. Du Bois's Talented Tenth by describing the role of public intellectuals from the Harlem Renaissance to the Black Power movement and marks the first in-depth study of the intellectual activity of this community of scholars.

Zachery R. Williams is the Director of the African Cultures and Policy Studies Institute and editor of Africana Cultures and Policy Studies: Scholarship and the Transformation of Public Policy.
“A powerfully hard-hitting historical rescue operation.” — Robert Michael Morrissey, University of Illinois, author of *People of the Ecotone: Environment and Indigenous Power at the Center of Early America*

Nearly one thousand years ago, Native peoples built a satellite suburb of America’s great metropolis on the site that later became St. Louis. While the mounds around Cahokia survive today, the monumental earthworks that stood on the western shore of the Mississippi were razed in the 1800s. But before and after they fell, the mounds held an important place in St. Louis history, earning it the nickname “Mound City.” For decades, the city had an Indigenous reputation. Tourists came to marvel at the mounds and to see tribal delegations in town for trade and diplomacy. As the city grew, St. Louisans repurposed the mounds, destroying cultural artifacts and sacred burial sites. Despite evidence to the contrary, some white Americans declared the mounds natural features, while others espoused far-fetched theories about a lost race of Mound Builders, killed by the ancestors of contemporary tribes. Ignoring Indigenous people’s connections to the mounds, white Americans positioned themselves as the legitimate inheritors of the land and asserted that modern Native peoples were destined to vanish. The erasure of Indigenous peoples’ histories persisted in the 1900s in civic celebrations that featured white St. Louisans “playing Indian” and heritage groups claiming the mounds as part of their own history. Yet Native peoples endured and in recent years have successfully begun to reclaim the sole monumental mound remaining within city limits.

Drawing on a wide range of sources, Patricia Cleary explores the layers of St. Louis’s Indigenous history. Along with the first in-depth overview of the life, death, and afterlife of the mounds, *Mound City* offers a gripping account of how Indigenous history has shaped the city’s growth, landscape, and civic culture.

*Patricia Cleary* is Professor of History at California State University, Long Beach. She is the author of two books, including *The World, the Flesh, and the Devil: A History of Colonial St. Louis*, and lives in Long Beach, California.
“Like a lawyer building a strong case, Anderson compiles anecdotes, histories, quotes, testimonials, observations, facts, and numbers to argue that college sports are, and always have been, a business that produces clear winners (coaches, athletic directors, and the NCAA) and losers (college athletes). So well does Schools for Scandals make its points that at times the reader is left dumbstruck by the sheer hubris, hypocrisy, corruption, greed, and duplicity exhibited by those controlling college athletics.”
—Chris Elzey, George Mason University, coeditor of DC Sports: The Nation’s Capital at Play

More than an overview of corruption in college sports, Schools for Scandal chronicles the nearly 120-year-old history of the NCAA’s attempt to maintain the myth of amateurism and the student-athlete, along with the attendant fiction that the players’ academic achievement is the top priority of Division-I athletic programs. It is an indictment of the current system, making the case that big-time college sports cannot continue its connection to universities without undermining the mission of higher education. It concludes with bold proposals to separate D-1 college sports from the university, transforming those teams into affiliated business operations.

Sheldon Anderson is Professor Emeritus of History at Miami University of Ohio. He has written six books and coauthored another, including Jump Shooting to a Higher Degree: My Basketball Odyssey; The Forgotten Legacy of Stella Walsh: The Greatest Female Athlete of Her Time; and The Politics and Culture of Modern Sports. He currently resides in Minneapolis.
In the second half of 2020 and continuing into 2021, protests denouncing racial injustice spread across the United States after the death of George Floyd while in the custody of Minneapolis police officers. What transpired during this troubled time cast a light on the contemporary relationship between the press and police in the United States. The relationship between these two fundamental institutions is, however, a long and complicated one dating back to colonial British North America. In the mid-19th century, both the press and police began to take their modern forms, routinely interacting with each other and finding themselves adopting similar methodologies. At times, both journalists and police officers managed to co-exist or even cooperate with one another, while at other times they butted heads to the point of conflict.

Pressing the Police and Policing the Press is the first book-length study of the centuries-long history and legal landscape of the press-police relationship. As both the press and the police have fallen under deep scrutiny in more modern times, Memmel seizes the current moment to focus on the political, economic, social, and technological problems both institutions face. He concludes with recommendations on how both might work together to tackle some of the similar issues they face and better serve the public.

Scott Memmel is Adjunct Professor in the Diederich College of Communication at Marquette University and the recipient of the 2021 Nafzinger-White-Salwen Dissertation Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication for student work. He lives in Brookfield, Wisconsin.
“This wonderful book deserves and should receive widespread attention. It is a remarkable piece of work and one that is provocative in the best sense of the word.” —Laura Kalman, University of California, Santa Barbara, author of FDR’s Gambit: The Court Packing Fight and the Rise of Legal Liberalism

The Supreme Court has usually operated in majoritarian fashion, but when it has not, the consequences of its decisions have significantly affected political parties and elections. Though it’s often said that the abortion issue splits the American public in half, on the eve of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization about two-thirds of Americans supported Roe v. Wade. Nevertheless, a significant portion of that majority still voted Republican because, with abortion rights secure under the landmark precedent, they could vote based on other preferences.

In response to Dobbs, a rare instance of a clearly counter-majoritarian decision on an issue that many Americans deem important, liberal activists have pushed back, with GOP political operatives worried about the electoral impact: Republican candidates can no longer campaign on promises to overturn Roe, opening the door to the possibility of Democratic candidates winning on anti-Dobbs positions. In Pushback, an interdisciplinary book in an interdisciplinary series, Dave Bridge crosses methodological boundaries to offer readers innovative and accessible ways to think about the very real political fallout of contrarian Supreme Court decisions.

Dave Bridge is Associate Professor of Political Science at Baylor University. He is the author of four peer-reviewed journal articles and the coauthor of three more, as well as the coauthor of a successful textbook, Constitutional Government: The American Experience. He lives in Waco, Texas.
“Against the grain of almost all political theory of the past seventy-five years or so, DeHart argues that a consent theory of political authority and obligation is not only compatible with a traditional natural law theory of morality, but that the former requires the latter. I found the argument compelling.”—Nicholas Wolterstorff, Yale University, author of Understanding Liberal Democracy: Essays in Political Philosophy

“Its contributions are striking, original, and important.”—J. Budziszewski, University of Texas at Austin, author of Commentary on Thomas Aquinas’s Treatise on Law

Most scholars who write on social contract and classical natural law perceive an irreconcilable tension between them. Social contract theory is widely considered the political-theoretic concomitant of modern philosophy. Contrary to the current thinking, in his latest work, Paul DeHart argues that all attempts to ground political authority and obligation in agreement alone are logically self-defeating. Political authority and obligation require an antecedent moral ground, but this moral ground cannot be constructed by human agreement or created by sheer will—human or divine. All accounts of morality as constructed collapse into self-referential incoherence. Only an uncreated, genuine good can coherently ground political authority and obligation or the proposition that rightful government depends on the consent of the governed. In other words, government by consent is not antithetical to classical natural law but depends upon it for its very coherence.

Paul R. DeHart is Professor of Political Science at Texas State University and the author of three books, including Uncovering the Constitution’s Moral Design. He lives in San Marcos, Texas.
This outstanding book is a must read for scholars of state politics, public opinion, and legislative politics.” — Justin H. Kirkland, University of Virginia, coauthor of The Illusion of Accountability: Transparency and Representation in American Legislatures

Legislatures are ubiquitous in the American political experience. First created in Virginia in 1619, they were established in even the most unlikely of places, notably sparsely populated frontier settlements, and ever since have functioned as the focal point of every governing system.

Despite the ubiquity of legislatures, we know remarkably little about how Americans have viewed them as organizations, though conventional wisdom holds that Americans “hate their legislature but love their legislators.” By examining voting behavior on state ballot measures over the course of more than two centuries, Peverill Squire upends that understanding, demonstrating that if Americans loved their state lawmakers, they certainly did not trust them.

And while Americans did not necessarily love their legislatures, it appears that they did not hate them as institutions. Instead, they wanted their legislatures to function better, both in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, and used their votes to try to make that happen.

Peverill Squire is Professor of Political Science and holds the Hicks and Martha Griffiths Chair in American Political Institutions at the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Missouri–Columbia and is known for developing the widely used “Squire Index” of legislative professionalization. He is the author of five other books and lives in Columbia, Missouri.
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In this stunning book, four accomplished writers and lifelong conservationists team up with keen-eyed photographers to capture the compelling history, beauty, and recreational value of Missouri’s unique state park system, one that has been ranked among the top four in the nation. The book features hundreds of photographs and includes information on all 88 state parks and historic sites, including the longest developed rails-to-trail project in the nation, homes of famous Missourians, Civil War battlefields, and other reminders of the past such as mills and covered bridges. The authors tell the complete story of the park system, from its inception in 1917 to the newest state park created in 2015, encompassing much of Missouri’s history as well as its scenic and varied landscape.

Susan Flader is Professor Emerita of U.S. Western, environmental, and Missouri history at the University of Missouri–Columbia.

John A. Karel is former president of the L-A-D Foundation and former Director of State Parks and of Tower Grove Park in St. Louis.

B. H. Rucker (1939–2016) devoted his career to state parks as chief of cultural resources and historic preservation.

Oliver Schuchard is a landscape photographer and professor emeritus of art at the University of Missouri–Columbia.

Two coauthors of the first edition are deceased: R. Robert Pryor (1945–1999) was Executive Director of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, and Charles Callison (1913–1993) was Executive Vice President of the National Audubon Society.
Missouri’s identity has long been tied to its role as a crossroads, a land where east met west, and south confronted north. This borderland character has produced extraordinary personalities and enduring human stories. The same crossroads’ geography also shapes the rolling plains of the north and west, through the ancient wooded Ozark hills and hollows to the broad alluvial delta of the deep southeast, and along the corridors of the continent’s two mightiest rivers.

The state’s remarkable diversity of people and resources comes alive in the updated second edition of this guide that explores all there is to see in and do in our superb state park system. Short essays for each of Missouri’s parks and historic sites treat readers with insight into each place’s main attractions and what makes them special, and beautiful color photographs illuminate each place. Whether packed in your backpack or resting on your nightstand, this volume will serve as a comprehensive guide to Missouri’s park system.

It’s fair to say that no other immigrant group has had a greater influence on Missouri than the Germans. They swarmed into St. Louis and then followed the Missouri River westward in the early 1800s, finding in our rolling hills and broad valleys a beautiful country that reminded them of their beloved homeland in the Old World.

This book is your personal tour guide into that unique heritage. It includes rare archival materials as well as places you can visit today to help you explore that history or sample their culture with all your senses. We hope this book encourages greater appreciation of Missouri Germans’ influence upon our state’s development, including their bedrock antislavery principles and support of the Union, their industrious work ethic and craftsmanship that shaped so much of our built environment, and a talent for fun that germinated so many breweries, wineries, bandstands, and other treasured aspects of our culture.

W. Arthur Mehrhoff is the former academic coordinator for the Museum of Art and Archaeology at the University of Missouri in Columbia and is a longtime Missouri Life contributor and a participant in the Missouri Humanities Council’s German Heritage Corridor initiative.
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