



The BIOGRAPHER'S *craft*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FOR WRITERS & READERS OF BIOGRAPHY

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Taylor Branch: 2015 BIO Award Winner



By James McGrath Morris

Had it not been for the civil rights movement, Taylor Branch would have become a surgeon and the movement would have been deprived of one of its most important chroniclers.

For his work in producing a three-volume biographically based narrative history of the civil rights movement, Branch will receive the BIO Award on June 6 at the Biographers International Conference. He will be the sixth



We Hope to See You in DC!

The sixth annual BIO Conference is just days away, and there's still time to register! The registration website will be



Branch's most recent book, *The King Years: Historic Moments in the Civil Rights Movement*, was published in 2013.

presence of the civil rights movement in the hometown of Martin Luther King, Jr., resonating in Branch's words in "spiritual values," replaced that life plan with another. "I wrote the civil rights trilogy because I wanted to know myself where the movement came from that changed the direction of my life's interest against my will."

To do his trilogy of books, collectively called *America in the King Years*, Branch told readers in the first volume that he had chosen to structure his work as "narrative biographical history."

While he was working on it, Branch came to the conclusion that most people approach race abstractly. "Everything I learned was very personal," he said. "I resolved to write in a narrative style if I could, without using analytical labels because where people are so skittish, defensive, and assertive on the race topic, analytical tools and labels conceal more than they reveal."

In short, Branch said, "I chose to base it in the people because 'the people' is what broke down my own emotional resistance as a white southerner."

Aside from earning Branch a Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award, the 2,912-page trilogy has become one of the standard works on the civil rights movement. Unlike biographies of the movement's figures and histories of

writer to be so honored since the first gathering, originally called the Compleat Biographer Conference. Previous winners are Jean Strouse, Arnold Rampersad, Robert Caro, Ron Chernow, and Stacy Schiff.

Growing up white in segregated Atlanta, Georgia, Branch aspired to become a surgeon. But his father's close relationship with an African American and the inescapable

available until Friday, June 5, or if you're in the Washington, DC, area you can register in person on Saturday at the National Press Club.

You can find more information about conference events [here](#), and you can register for the conference [here](#). If you need the discount code to register as a member or another registrant type, email [Lori Izykowski](mailto:Lori.Izykowski).



the movement, however, Branch's *America in the King Years* employs the tools of biography to tell the larger story.

This achievement was the motivation behind Branch's selection by the BIO Award Committee. When considering who would be honored at this year's gathering at the National Press Club in Washington, the committee was guided, as in past years, by the goal of selecting a writer who had advanced the art and craft of biography.

When Branch learned he had been selected for the 2015 BIO Award, he said he felt a bit uncomfortable because he didn't define his work as biographical. "I didn't want anyone to think I was fraudulently trespassing on their turf," he said. "I think we are certainly kinsmen trying to put people at the center of historical interpretation, whether you do that through one person or a collection of characters.

"The tools of a biographer are very, very important. That's why I am happy and honored to bring myself as a semi-biographer down there," said the Baltimore-based author.

Starting a Biography: Where to Begin?

by Anne Boyd Rioux

Where should a biography begin? Ever since the panel on this subject at last year's BIO conference, I have wondered how I should



From the Editor

A while back, I removed the picture of myself that once sat atop this column. The space could be better used for more important content, I reckoned, but mostly I just got tired of seeing my own mug every month. So, the return of the picture (OK, actually a more recent picture, with a much whiter beard than before) is a one-shot deal; I wanted members going to the BIO conference in a few days to know whom to track down if they want to lodge a complaint. Of course, I'll take compliments and suggestions, as well.

And as I wrote that last paragraph, I couldn't believe that the conference is finally here! All the months of planning will result in two informative and fun days for everyone who attends. If this conference is your first, I guarantee that the satisfaction of swapping stories and sharing tips with other biographers is something that you can't

begin my own biography of the late-nineteenth-century writer Constance Fenimore Woolson. Now that my manuscript is in the copyediting phase, I hope I've gotten it right.

A certain degree of family history is expected and necessary, and so it's where I started writing. Then, when I had gotten to the end of my subject's life and hence the manuscript, I mistakenly thought I was ready to start trying to send it out. I wrote a decent query and began approaching agents, but I quickly learned that they want to see the first few pages of the manuscript. All I had was boring antecedent stuff. That was no way to hook a reader, let alone an overworked agent. Luckily, one of the agents asked me to work on a prologue and get back to her. So I did. It took a few weeks to nail it down. Some of the early attempts weren't pretty—they veered between overly dramatic and unexceptional—but I pulled something together and landed the agent and, eventually, the book contract.

I had decided to follow the advice of John Matteson, offered when he vividly described at last year's conference how he chose to begin his biography of Margaret Fuller with her sensational death (a shipwreck off the coast of New York). In his prologue, he argues against "the way that the death comes to be perceived as the life's most relevant fact, even as its inevitable outcome." Sometimes the best and most logical place to begin is at the end.

Woolson's death (a likely suicide in Venice) also has overshadowed her life, so it seemed like the unavoidable starting point. It is, after all, one of the two things



Rioux's book will be the first biography of Woolson.

duplicate anywhere else. And I still remember one panelist from last year who, after usually attending more stuffy academic conferences, praised the BIO conference for both its depth of information and its informal air. This year's event will be the same, I'm sure.

As in the past, one of Saturday's highlights will be the keynote speech, given by the BIO Award winner. We're thrilled to have an interview in this issue of *TBC* with the 2015 honoree, Taylor Branch. Many thanks to my consulting editor, James McGrath Morris, for taking time from his busy schedule to conduct it. And the day will end with a little bit of suspense, as attendees gather to hear who has won this year's Plutarch Award. So, I hope I'll see you in DC on June 5 and 6. Just look for the tall guy with the white beard.

Yours,

Michael Burgan

people know about her, if they have heard of her at all. (The other is her friendship with the novelist Henry James.) So I tried to describe the scene during the early morning hours on January 24, 1894, as two Venetian men came upon her body in the narrow street behind her home. It was a dramatic beginning, but one I still wasn't sure about.

Then last fall I attended a symposium of women biographers at Tulane University in New Orleans, where I live. Patricia Bosworth, Vivian Gornick, Wendy Lesser, and Brenda Wineapple talked about their writing process. When discussion turned to writing about someone who has committed suicide, I couldn't help but ask about whether one should start the story of a person's life with that sad fact. The panelists were split. I remember that Lesser was adamant about not starting with it. The whole life shouldn't be read as a prologue to eventual suicide, she argued. Gornick disagreed. She thought it was the logical place to begin, as it would draw the reader in and make them wonder about how the person came to that final decision. I wasn't sure where I stood. I didn't want Woolson's suicide to seem like the most important fact of her life, just as Matteson didn't want Fuller's tragic death to define her life. But I also wanted more than anything to get readers to care about her story. Was there a better way to do that?

Jean Strouse's biography of Alice James (sister to Henry and William) begins with a quote from Alice: "When I am gone, pray don't think of me simply as a creature who might have been something else, had neurotic science been born." Then Strouse's introduction explains why we should think of Alice James not as a failure or as a kind of "Shakespeare's sister," in Virginia Woolf's famous phrase, but as a writer and thinker in her own right. After re-reading her book for a class I taught on "Wiring Lives," I began to think about starting with a discussion of what Woolson could have been, had she lived in another time, and then making a plea for understanding her on her own terms in her own time. But Strouse's argument

Please Keep Your Info Current

Making a move or just changed your email? We ask BIO members to keep their contact information up to date, so we and other members know where to find you. Update your information in the [Member Area](#) of the BIO website.

Membership Up for Renewal?

Please respond promptly to your membership renewal notice. As a nonprofit organization, BIO depends on members' dues to fund our annual conference, the publication of this newsletter, and the other work we do to

seemed right for a particular moment when biographies of women were few. I wasn't sure that approach would still work today.

If I didn't start with Woolson's death, or an argument for the validity of writing about her, I would have to start, as many biographers do, with a snapshot that draws the reader in to a key moment in the subject's life. But how to choose among a lifetime of moments? What had drawn me to Woolson was that her life was not so easy to pin down. For instance, she lived in so many different places, in the Great Lakes region, all over the US South, and most of Europe. I couldn't settle on just one scene in one particular place that I felt captured the essence of her life.

During the revision process, I ended up almost entirely rewriting the prologue, even though my editor liked the original one, and I finally incorporated each of these strategies. I mention the suicide and her friendship with James and quickly point out that these are the two most misunderstood facts of her life. And then I flash through a number of moments in her life that give a sense of its scope, ultimately arguing that what readers may think they know of Woolson and her life is vastly incomplete. And I conclude with a discussion of her significance in her own right, not only as the friend of Henry James. In the end, I hope it accomplishes what any good prologue should: drawing the reader in, giving a sense of the scope of the person's life, and making the reader feel that this is a life story that deserves to be told. Then the parade of forebears can begin.

Anne Boyd Rioux is the author of *Constance Fenimore Woolson: Portrait of a Lady Novelist* forthcoming from W. W. Norton in February 2016. She is also a professor at the University of New Orleans and has published at The Rumpus, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and The Millions. You can find her at anneboydrioux.com.

support biographers around the world. When renewing, please make sure the contact information we have for you is up to date.

Are You a Student?

Or do you know one who is interested in biography? BIO now has a special student membership rate. Visit [the BIO website](#) to find out more.

Sold to Publishers

Marc Leepson

Green Beret Balladeer: The Turbulent Life and Times of Sergeant Barry Sadler

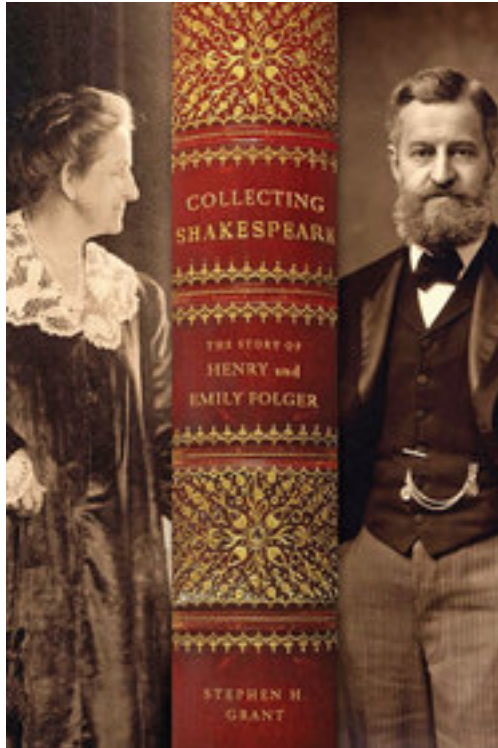
sold to Stackpole Books

by Joseph Brendan Vallely of
Swagger Literary Agency

Julia Van Haften

Berenice Abbott: A Life in Photography

Pick an Anniversary and Run with It!



A milestone anniversary of Shakespeare's death should help sales of Grant's most recent book.

East Indies in 1945. The private publisher LONTAR organized a fundraising evening with high-level government backing to enable three special books to be published. Mine was selected. Hardback and paperback editions came out

by **Stephen H. Grant**

For three of my five books, I've managed to coincide the launch with an anniversary that has helped a lot in getting published and in sales. The first book, *Images de Guinée*, appeared in Conakry, Guinea, in 1991, the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the French colony Guinée française in 1891. It also didn't hurt that it was the first book in the independent country of Guinea published in the private sector, by the Catholic Mission. Every other book in the country had been published by the Patrice Lumumba Government Printing Office. The book went into a second printing in 1994.

My third book, *Former Points of View*, was published in Jakarta, Indonesia, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of independence after the demise of the Dutch

Herbert Hoover: A Life in Biography
sold to W.W. Norton
by Ellen Geiger at the Frances Goldin
Literary Agency

Nancy Kriplen
*J. Irwin Miller: The Shaping of an
American Town*
sold to Indiana University Press
by Roger Williams at New England
Publishing Associates

A. Brad Schwartz and
Max Allan Collins
Scarface & The Untouchable
(Al Capone and Eliot Ness)
sold to William Morrow
by Ross Harris at
Stuart Krichevsky Agency

Glen Jeansonne
Herbert Hoover
sold to NAL
by Bridget Wagner Matzie at Zachary
Shuster Harmsworth Literary Agency

Alan Clayson
*Project X: The Authorized Biography of
Frank Zappa*
sold to Flatiron Books
by Matthew Elblonk at DeFiore and
Company in association with Matthew

simultaneously, and sold out.

My fifth book, *Collecting Shakespeare*, was released in 2014, the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. It is in its third printing by Johns Hopkins. The 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death is in 2016, so consequently, the Shakespeare buzz continues for a three-year period. The Folger Shakespeare Library will send a genuine 1623 First Folio to all 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico for a one-month display under tight security. Shakespeare exhibits and special lectures will be held in public libraries, museums, universities, and historical societies.

Tom Brokaw is quoted in the May 3, 2015 issue of *Parade*: "I believe you make your own luck."

Stephen H. Grant contributed "Building Readers for Your Biography through Articles" to *TBC* Vol. 4, No. 1 in March 2010.

On the Road with Kelly M. McDonald

*With this issue we debut "On the Road," contributions from BIO members about their research trips and tips, based on their experiences. We start with **Kelly M. McDonald**. If you'd like to submit to this feature, [let us know](#).*

An American researching an *English* family? Guaranteed to require traveling —and remote researchers. Being budget-conscious has been crucial. Technology offers great advantages, but thorough consideration is essential, especially where

Hamilton at Aitken Alexander

Susan Ronald

*A Dangerous Woman: American Beauty,
French Muse and Nazi Collaborator*

(Florence Gould)

sold to St. Martin's Press

by Alex Hoyt at

Alexander Hoyt Associates

Mark Harris

Mike Nichols: A Biography

sold to Penguin Press

by Andrew Wylie at The Wylie Agency

Joel Harrington

*Dangerous Mystic: Meister Eckhart's
Path to the God Within*

sold to Penguin Press

by Rafe Sagalyn of ICM/Sagalyn

Jonathan Stevenson

Philip Agee: All-American Traitor

sold to the University of Chicago Press

by Flip Brophy at Sterling Lord

Literistic

Lawrence Weschler

Untitled biography of Oliver Sacks

sold to Farrar, Straus and Giroux

by Chris Calhoun at

safety is concerned. I've made two research trips to England; one of two months (2007) and one of three weeks (2014). Separated by seven years, these trips were like night and day: the ability to use a digital camera in the archive meant I returned home with TONS of material in 2014. In truth, I'm still transcribing some of it, though I also spent the fall/winter 2014 getting more material from other repositories. My research centers around manuscript letters and diaries, dating from the 1790s through the 1840s, belonging to a branch of Jane Austen's family. A vast time-period and an immense network of relations and friends. I've accessed upwards to a thousand letters and a couple hundred diaries, and feel like a one-woman band: Researcher, Transcriptionist, Interpreter, Writer.

I'll focus on hints specific to England, with a bias towards the American traveler abroad, but trust that these hints translate somewhat. In the case of international travel, costs are compounded by exchange rates, though it offers incentives like travel passes available only to tourists. Many archives and libraries offer online catalogues to source materials and will? gather information before travel commences. Know before you go.

Finding accommodations takes a leap of faith. Have just booked my first Airbnb stay, but even back in 2007 I looked for alternatives to hotels: lower-priced and the ability to cook meals made a two-month research trip possible. Through Easyroommate.com, I rented a room in a private home. Email allowed the experience to feel less "iffy," as the landlady and I chatted for weeks before I landed in the UK. My back-up option was the possibility of sharing a six-person dorm room at a local college/university. In 2014, I likewise stayed in private homes, this time taking up a number of invitations from people I knew through my research blog, which meant meeting people with an interest in my research. Priceless! Houseshares or exchanges are other options.

Chris Calhoun Agency

Mark Hertsgaard

Bravehearts

(Edward Snowden and other
whistleblowers)

sold to Hot Books

by Ellen Levine at Trident Media Group

Nicholas Reynolds

A Spy in Wartime

(Ernest Hemingway)

sold to William Morrow

by Howard Yoon of the

Ross Yoon Agency

David Roll

Untitled biography of G

eorge C. Marshall

sold to NAL

by John Wright at John Wright

Literary Associates

Don Jordan and Michael Walsh

*The King's Revenge: Charles II and the
Greatest Manhunt in British History*

sold to Pegasus

by Charlie Viney at The Viney Agency

Terry Golway

Frank and Al: How Franklin Roosevelt



The Vyne, a National Trust property, was formerly owned by the Chutes, a family from McDonald's research.

On the one hand, I was further out and endured less-frequent bus service. My hint is to compare prices, study public transportation routes and frequency (including on Sundays), and consult your own comfort level. Gather information (including photos) before you leave home, and leave a detailed itinerary (and complete contact information) with family or friend. Google Earth will give help you gauge the layout (and safety) of your chosen neighborhood.

While abroad, two suggestions will aid those who must be on the move. Calls are costly when credit cards are the lone method of payment—coins dropped

*and Al Smith Transformed
American Politics*
sold to Palgrave
by John Wright at John Wright
Literary Associates

Tom Sancton
The Bettencourt Affair
(Liliane Bettencourt and
François-Marie Banier)
sold to Dutton
by Katherine Flynn and John Taylor
“Ike” Williams at Kneerim,
Williams & Bloom

Kate Andersen Brower
First Women
(First Ladies from 1961)
sold to Harper
by Howard Yoon at
the Ross Yoon Agency

Allen Hornblum
*Colossus: Big Bill Tilden and the
Creation of Modern Tennis*
sold to University of Nebraska Press
by Jill Marsal at the Marsal Lyon
Literary Agency

Christine Woodside
*Libertarians on the Prairie: Laura
Ingalls Wilder, Rose Wilder Lane, and*

through one public phone like water; another did not accept the calling card I purchased from the post office; some were out-of-service. Smart phones are ubiquitous among the locals! You'll be deciphering the departure board while they quickly check for connections and track information. Paper schedules hardly exist any more. Obtain a disposable cell phone, or swap out your SIM card on landing. Phone booths no longer include phone books, so having a list of local cab companies saved me from being seriously stranded. In short, Be Prepared. Technology means most of us travel with expensive equipment: phone, camera, computer. Be diligent in watching and storing your valuables, money, tickets, and passport.

Quickly addressing remote research: I've "advertised" on my blog for help; taken travelers up on offers. Paid researchers, even over email, *don't always listen!* Saying, "Forgo boxes X-Y-Z and concentrate on boxes A-B-C" got me details about boxes X-Y-Z! Another researcher went off on useless tangents (I cover neither postal history nor watermarks). All I wanted was How Many Letters and Written By Whom—information the (US) library neglected to say, when *asked*, was written on the outside of each folder. UK public archives predominantly belong to the CARN system; the card is free. University archives may require a letter requesting admission. Know what ID is necessary beforehand. The National Archives lists researchers online. Learn to "go with the flow," back up images, and be creative. Best advice: Enjoy the hunt and its resultant discoveries.

To see some of the useful UK websites McDonald recommends, go [here](#).

Kelly M. McDonald is the author of "A 'Reputation for Accomplishment': Marianne Dashwood and Emma Woodhouse as Artistic Performers," in Duquette and Lenkos (eds.), *Jane Austen and the Arts: Elegance, Propriety, and Harmony and Two Teens in the Time of Austen: Random Jottings, 2008-2015*. Her research blog is [Two Teens in the Time of Austen](#).

*ingaus wuaer, kose wuaer Lane, and
the Making of the Little House Books*
sold to Arcade
by Craig Kayser at Kayser Pierce
Literary Agency



The President's Letter

BIO president Brian Jay Jones is busy preparing for the BIO Conference. Look for his next letter in the July issue of TBC.



Travisano was the first faculty member in Hartwick College history to be named a Guggenheim Fellow.

greatest American poets of the second half of the twentieth century. After surviving a remarkably difficult childhood, Bishop became a famous observer and a world traveler, living for a decade in Key West and for more than two decades in Brazil. Her work was once considered impersonal but is now understood to be deeply—if subtly—autobiographical. My biography will attempt to enrich our understanding of the autobiographical dimensions of her writings while revealing the originality, tenacity and imagination that she brought to bear on the singular life she fashioned for herself. I am about halfway through, having drafted the early (and extensive) chapters on her childhood as well as substantial sections depicting

Member Interview

Five Questions with Thomas Travisano

What is your current project and what stage is it at?

A biography of Elizabeth Bishop, the widely esteemed American poet, who was somewhat undervalued during her lifetime, and who is now widely regarded as one of the

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her decades in Brazil and her final years of teaching at Harvard.

Which person would you most like to write about?

I am currently so focused on Elizabeth Bishop that I'm not thinking ahead. I have been writing about Bishop since my doctoral thesis, which I completed in 1981. My *Elizabeth Bishop: Her Artistic Development* appeared in 1988 and since then I published a group study, *Midcentury Quartet: Bishop, Lowell, Jarrell, Berryman* in 1999 and was principal editor of *Words in Air: The Complete Correspondence Between Elizabeth Bishop and Robert Lowell*. I am also the founding president of the Elizabeth Bishop Society. This is my first biography, which was encouraged by a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2013. If I proceed to a second biography, it would likely be on another member of my *Midcentury Quartet*, but I'm also thinking of a very different kind of book mixing history and popular culture. This book would feature many biographical elements but would not be a sustained biography.

What's your favorite biography/who is your favorite biographer?

The first biography I really fell for was a classic—Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*, which can hardly be matched for its humanity, wit, and generosity. I then moved to Johnson's own *The Lives of Poets*. These lives are masterpieces of concise biography and literary analysis. As I work on Elizabeth Bishop, I find Jackson Bate's *Samuel Johnson* to be a surprisingly helpful companion. And I just love David McCullough's *John Adams*, which is again a vivid and generous dramatization of a complex public and literary life.

What was your most satisfying moment as a biographer?

I love archival research, but as I've worked on this biography, I've also come to enjoy the pleasures of interviewing. Many living individuals are just dying for the chance to tell their stories, and finding a new subject who has never previously

Debby Applegate, Chair

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William Taubman

Terry Teachout

been interviewed is extremely exciting—both for myself and the interviewee. Recently I've tracked down several such individuals, and I've also found more than one cache of letters going back to Bishop's adolescence. This kind of discovery is another source of excitement.

One research/marketing/attitudinal tip to share?

My biggest piece of advice is—be generous! It's easy for a biographer to become hypercritical of the biographical subject when facing this subject's misdeeds or simple errors. Personally, I consider my subject to be my protagonist, and my instinct is that when a reader loses sympathy with the protagonist, that reader's response might be to stop reading. Shakespeare managed to maintain our fascination—warts and all—with Macbeth and even with Richard III. My own subject's foibles are by no means of that order, but Bishop did have her issues, and my goal is to establish a commitment toward Bishop on the part of the reader that will carry that reader along through thick and thin.

Shorts

Journal Seeks Articles on Germaine Greer

Australian Feminist Studies (AFS) is seeking contributions for a themed issue focusing on Germaine Greer that will appear in 2016. The journal wants original articles (up to 8,000 words) on any aspect of Greer's writing or her career, including:

- newly available archival sources
- Greer as publisher and literary scholar
- Greer as auto/biographer

The Biographer's Craft

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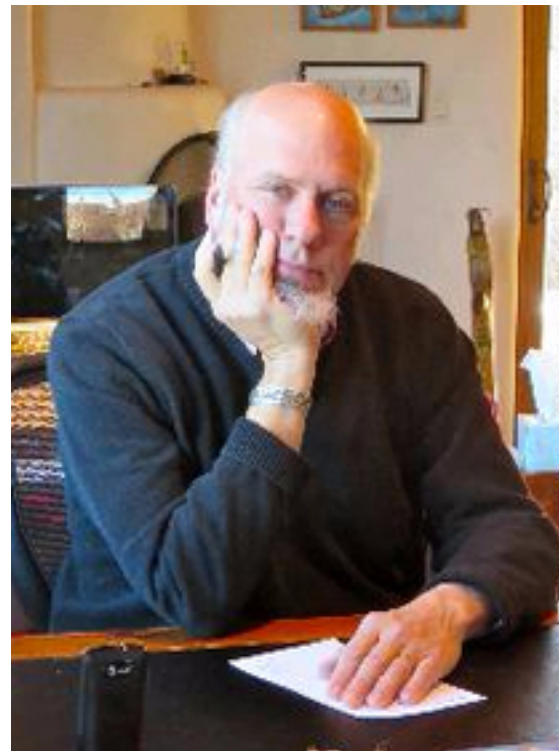
(New York)

- reflections on Greer's career in journalism and/or television
- Greer as feminist fashion icon
- Greer in/and the media
- Greer as environmental activist

Shorter thematic pieces (up to 5,000 word) may be considered for the journal's Feminist Debates and Reflections section. Abstracts (500 words) should be submitted by June 15, 2015, with accepted articles due November 15, 2015. Inquiries and submissions can be sent [here](#).

Registration for Mayborn Conference is Underway

The eleventh annual Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference will be held July 17-19 in Grapevine, Texas. The conference includes lectures, panels, and one-on-one sessions. This year's keynote speakers are Anne Fadiman, Barbara Ehrenreich, and Alex Tizon. A highlight of the conference is the announcement of the winner of the Mayborn Biography Fellowship, which awards a writer a residency in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains and mentoring from BIO board member James McGrath Morris, who is also a featured speaker at the event. For more information on the



Morris shares his skills--and his hospitality--with the Mayborn Biography Fellow.

(New York)

To contact any of our correspondents, click [here](#).

conference, go [here](#).

New Service Makes Transcription Easier

Biographers and others who record interviews have a new tool that promises to make transcribing and searching those sessions easier. [Pop Up Archive](#) allows interviewers to upload any audio format and receive a transcription, using voice-recognition software. While allowing that the software is not perfect, the company notes that its services are cheaper than using a human transcriber, and it says combining the transcript with time stamps makes it easy to find content. Pop Up Archive is primarily geared toward radio programmers, but Samantha Snyder of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Archives reviewed the product for the *Oral History Review* and found the premium service to be worth considering for transcribing oral history (Pop Up Archive also has a free version). You can read her review [here](#).

Research Tips

Digitized Reviews

If your subject is an author and you're looking for reviews of his or her books, or if you're just curious about the reception a decades-old book got, *Publishers Weekly* is making it easier to track down its old reviews. PW already has some 200,000 reviews available online but it's digitizing all its reviews dating back to the 1940s. The magazine publishes about 9,000 reviews each year. The archive of the reviews and entire back issues, however, is only available to subscribers

Maps Online

If you want a better sense of the world your subject inhabited, the U.S. Geological

Survey has made the task a little easier. Since 2011, it has been digitizing topographical maps from the nineteenth century and later at [TopoView](#). As the website describes, “TopoView shows the many and varied older maps of each area, and so is useful for historical purposes—for example, the names of some natural and cultural features have changed over time, and the ‘old’ names can be found on these historical topographic maps.” Almost 179,000 maps are available online as PDFs, and scanning will continue into 2016.



Whitelock's earlier books include a biography of Mary Tudor.

Prizes

PEN Literary Awards

Anna Whitelock won the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Award for Biography for *The Queen's Bed: An Intimate History of Elizabeth's Court*. Another biography, John Branch's *Boy on Ice: The Life and Death of Derek Boogaard*, won the PEN/ESPN Award for Literary Sports Writing. Both awards include a \$5,000 prize. Each year, PEN, its partners, and its

sponsors give literary awards worth more than \$150,000. Information on

submitting for the 2016 awards will be available later this year at the [PEN website](#).

NEH Grants

Several biographers recently have won National Endowment for the Humanities grants for their current projects. Some of the authors and their projects include:

- Laura Dassow Walls, *The Life of American Author Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862)*
- Jack Lynch, *The Shakespeare Phantom: The Lives of William Henry Ireland, Late 18th-Century Forger and Fabulist*
- Peter Filkins, *The Life and Times of H.G. Adler (1910–1988): Poet, Novelist, and Holocaust Survivor*
- Olga Litvak, *Russian Intellectual M. L. Lilienblum (1843–1910) and the Origins of Zionism*
- Jennifer Jane Marshall, *The Life and Work of African American Folk Artist William Edmondson (ca.1874–1951)*
- Gustavus Stadler, *Woody Guthrie and the Intimate Life of the Left*

New York City Book Awards

Thomas Beller's *J.D. Salinger: The Escape Artist* won in the Biography/Memoir category of the New York City Book Awards. Given by the New York Society Library, the awards honor books that evoke the spirit or enhance appreciation of New York City.



The Writer's Life



Tips for Finding an Agent—If You Need One

Think landing an agent is a must to sell your book? Author, teacher, and long-time publishing industry veteran Jane Friedman says not everyone needs an

agent, but if you do want to work with one, you should consider a number of factors first. She sums up the ins and outs of finding and working with an agent at her blog. Friedman's suggestions include:

- Know what to send a prospective agent in a query, depending on the kind of book you've written.
- Weigh the pros and cons of working with a new agent.
- Know what to expect from a good agent.

You can read all of Friedman's tips [here](#).

When you're trying to create a career as a writer, a little delusional thinking goes a long way.

—Michael Lewis

Simon & Schuster Offers Books on the Go

Anyone with a smartphone or some kind of ebook reader knows how easy it is to read almost anywhere. Now Simon & Schuster is offering readers a way to download books with a particular relevance to their location. Partnering with Foli, a digital content mobile distribution platform, the publisher is making David McCullough's new biography on the Wright brothers available for free at dozens of airports and museums dedicated either to aviation in general or the pioneering brothers in particular. Readers load the Foli app on a device using either Android or the Apple operating system and can then begin reading. Other titles will be available

at select hotels and airports. The books are available at the location for a limited time, but readers can purchase their own electronic copy. As reported in *Publishers Weekly*, Simon & Schuster sees the new platform as a way to target consumers at such venues as sporting arenas and museums.

[“S&S Tries Geo-Targeting in New Marketing Outreach”](#)

[The habit of reading] lasts when all other pleasures fade. It will be there to support you when all other resources are gone.

—Anthony Trollope

Self-published Author Shares Marketing Tips

British author Mark Dawson made \$450,000 in one year from selling his self-published novels. While every writer may not be able to duplicate that success, Dawson does believe certain steps can bring sales. *Forbes* talked with Dawson about his method, which relies heavily on using Facebook and creating a large mailing list. Traditional marketing skills, such as writing catchy copy, also help. Read more of Dawson’s advice [here](#).

One day I will find the right words, and they will be simple.

—Jack Kerouac

Obituaries

William Bast

William Bast, a writer for television and film who also wrote two books about James Dean, died May 4 in Los Angeles. He was 84.

Bast moved from Wisconsin to Los Angeles in the early 1950s to study theater

and became friends with Dean. After the actor's death in 1955, Bast wrote the first book about Dean's life. Bast went on to write scripts for TV series, and TV and feature films. He also wrote and co-produced a television biopic on Dean. In 2006, Bast wrote *Surviving James Dean*, a more personal account his relationship with the actor.

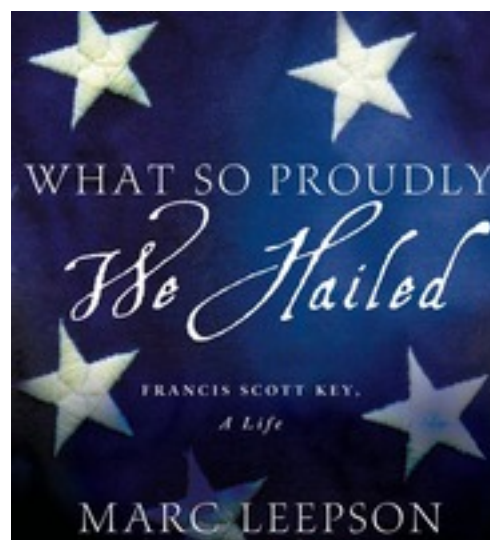
Peter Gay

Peter Gay, a historian of culture and ideas, died May 12 in Manhattan. He was 91.

Born in Berlin, Gay and his family fled Germany just before the start of World War II, going first to Cuba and then the United States. Gay did his graduate work in history at Columbia University and then taught at the school. His best-known works included the two-volume *The Enlightenment: An Interpretation* and *The Bourgeois Experience: From Victoria to Freud*, a five-volume set. Gay also wrote a highly regarded biography of Sigmund Freud, published in 1988, and *Mozart: A Life* (1999) for the Penguin Lives series.

News and Notes

The list of books recently sold to publishers includes **Mark Leepson's** *Green Beret Balladeer: The Turbulent Life and Times of Sergeant Barry Sadler*. Marc won strong reviews for his last book, a biography of Francis Scott Key, making him a go-to guy for Flag Day and on the "Star Spangled Banner." Another member with a recent sale is **Julia**



Van Haften. Julia was the former photography curator of the New York Public Library and director of collections at the Museum of the City of New York. Her book is on Berenice Abbott, one of the twentieth century's iconic photographers. A third member with a sale this month is **Nancy**



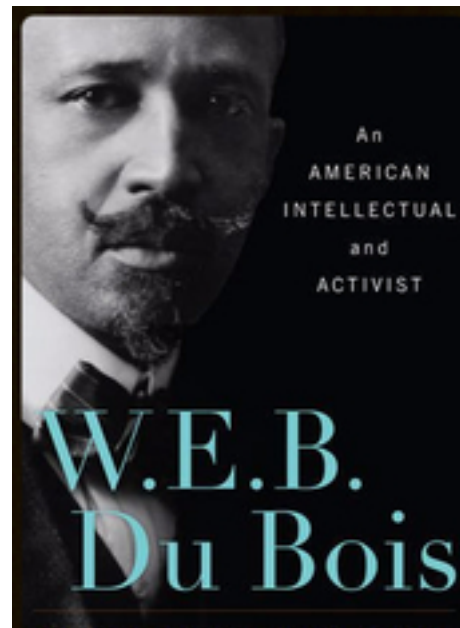
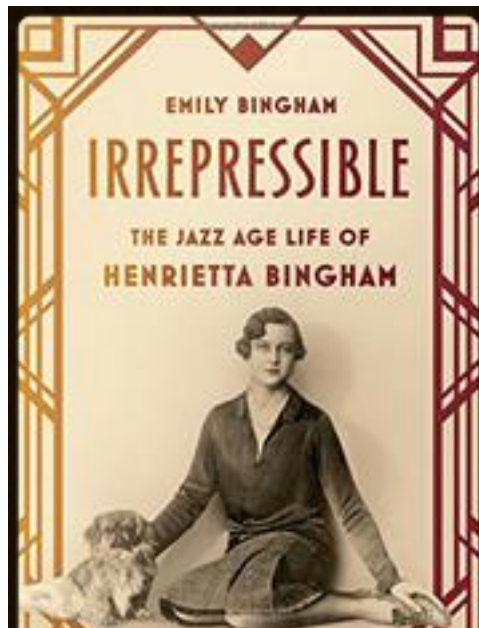
Leepson's last book was the first biography on Francis Scott Key in more than 75 years.

Kriplen. Her *J. Irwin Miller: The Shaping of an American Town* will look at the industrialist who led Cummins for almost 40 years. Members with books in stores this month or now out in paperback are **Amanda Vaill** and **Emily Bingham**. Emily's book on Henrietta Bingham won a starred review from *Kirkus*. And our apologies to Amanda for failing to list her *Hotel Florida* when the paperback first came out in late March. **C. M. Mayo** recently spoke about her book *Metaphysical Odyssey into the Mexican Revolution: Francisco I. Madero and His Secret Book, Spiritist Manual* at the University of California San Diego's Center for US-Mexico Studies. The talk is available as a podcast and can be downloaded [through her website](#). The Spanish edition of C. M.'s book, translated by noted Mexican poet and novelist Agustin Cadena is now out and will be formally presented at the Feria Internacional del Libro in Guadalajara, Mexico this fall. **Charlotte Jacobs** wrote a piece for Biographile on the subject of her recent book, Jonas Salk, which you can read [here](#). **Carl Rollyson**, advisory editor for the series Hollywood Legends, noted that one of the newest entries, on Madeline Kahn, earned a rave review from *Library Journal*. His own *Marilyn Monroe Day by Day* was favorably reviewed in *CHOICE*, published by the American Library Association. A reviewer himself, Carl recently [offered his thoughts](#) on H. W. Brands's new biography of Ronald Reagan. **Cathy Curtis** won a strong review from the *Wall Street Journal* for *Restless*

Ambition: Grace Hartigan, Painter. **Abigail Santamaria** garnered praise from *Kirkus* for *Joy: Poet, Seeker, and the Woman Who Captivated C. S. Lewis*. **Megan Marshall** gave her views on the Bill Evans–Tony Bennett collaboration on the song “Some Other Time” for the *Wall Street Journal* feature Playlist. You can read her thoughts [here](#). Steinbeck Now, a website devoted to everything John Steinbeck, recently published an interview with **William Souder**, who is currently working on a book about the author. You can read the article [here](#). *TBC* extends best wishes to **Steve Weinberg** for a speedy recovery from the stroke he suffered last month.

[Send us your news!](#)

In Stores





*Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of
Henrietta Bingham*

by Emily Bingham
(Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

*Stalin's Daughter: The Extraordinary
and Tumultuous Life
of Svetlana Alliluyeva*

by Rosemary Sullivan
(Harper)

*Leonhard Euler: Mathematical
Genius in the Enlightenment*

by Ronald S. Calinger
(Princeton University Press)

*Wellington: Waterloo and the
Fortunes of Peace 1814–1852*

by Rory Muir
(Yale University Press)

*Not a Game: The Incredible Rise and
Unthinkable Fall of Allen Iverson*

by Kent Babb
(Atria Books)

Model Woman: Eileen Ford and the

*W. E. B. Du Bois: An American
Intellectual and Activist*

by Shawn Leigh Alexander
(Rowman & Littlefield)

*The Alvarez Generation: Thom Gunn,
Geoffrey Hill, Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath,
and Peter Porter*

by William Wootten
(Liverpool University Press)

*Aaron Henry of Mississippi:
Inside Agitator*

by Minion K. C. Morrison
(University of Arkansas Press)

*The Gang of Four: Four Leaders, Four
Communities, One Friendship*

by Bob Santos and Gary Iwamoto
(Chin Music Press)

*The Strange Case of Ermine de Reims: A
Medieval Woman Between*

Demons and Saints
by Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski
(University of Pennsylvania Press)

Business of Beauty

by Robert Lacey

(Harper)

The Quiet Man: The Indispensable

Presidency of George H. W. Bush

by John H. Sununu

(Broadside Books)

In Search of Sir Thomas Browne: The

Life and Afterlife of the Seventeenth

Century's Most Inquiring Mind

by Hugh Aldersey-Williams

(W.W. Norton)

Buckley and Mailer: The Difficult

Friendship That Shaped the Sixties

by Kevin M. Schultz

(W.W. Norton)

Nabokov in America:

On the Road to Lolita

by Robert Roper

(Bloomsbury)

One Righteous Man: Samuel Battle

and the Shattering of the Color Line

in New York

by Arthur Browne

(Beacon Press)

Some Sort of Genius: A Life of Wyndham

Lewis

by Paul O'Keeffe

(Counterpoint)

Dame Maggie Scott: A Life in Dance

by Michelle Potter

(Text Publishing Company)

Leonard Cohen: Still the Man

by Colin Irwin

(Flame Tree Publishing)

Moltke and his Generals:

A Study in Leadership

by Quintin Barry

(Helion and Company)

The Cherokee Kid: Will Rogers, Tribal

Identity, and the Making of

an American Icon

by Amy M. Ware

(University Press of Kansas)

The Angel and the Cad: Love, Loss and

Scandal in Regency England

by Geraldine Roberts

(Macmillan)

Conservative Heroes: Fourteen Leaders

Who Shaped America, from

*The Goddess Pose: The Audacious
Life of Indra Devi, the Woman Who
Helped Bring Yoga to the West*
by Michelle Goldberg
(Knopf)

*Behind the Mask: The Life of Vita
Sackville-West*
by Matthew Dennison
(St. Martin's Press)

*Dean Dixon: Negro at Home,
Maestro Abroad*
by Rufus Jones Jr.
(Rowman & Littlefield)

*Strangers in the Bronx: DiMaggio,
Mantle, and the Changing of the
Yankee Guard*
by Andrew O'Toole
(Triumph Books)

*The Fellowship: The Literary Lives of
the Inklings: J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S.
Lewis, Owen Barfield,
Charles Williams*
by Philip Zaleski and Carol Zaleski
(Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

*The Rival Queens: Catherine de'
Medici, Her Daughter Marguerite de*

Jefferson to Reagan
by Garland S. Tucker III
(Intercollegiate Studies Institute)

*Sniper of the Skies: The Story of George
Frederick "Screwball" Beurling, DSO,
DFC, DFM*
by Nick Thomas
(Pen and Sword)

*Fannie Bloomfield-Zeisler: The Life and
Times of a Piano Virtuoso*
by Beth Abelson Macleod
(University of Illinois Press)

*Kris Kristofferson: Country
Highwayman*
by Mary G. Hurd
(Rowman & Littlefield)

*Kentucky Maverick: The Life and
Adventures of Colonel George M. Chinn*
by Carlton Jackson
(University Press of Kentucky)

*One Righteous Man: Samuel Battle and
the Shattering of the Color Line
in New York*
by Arthur Browne
(Beacon Press)

Valois, and the Betrayal that Ignited a Kingdom

by Nancy Goldstone
(Little, Brown)

Bushmaster: Raymond Ditmars and the Hunt for the World's Largest Viper

by Dan Eatherley
(Arcade Publishing)

The Secret of Golf: The Story of Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus

by Joe Posnanski
(Simon & Schuster)

The Cost of Courage

by Charles Kaiser
(Other Press)

Wellington: Waterloo and the Fortunes of Peace 1814–1852

by Rory Muir
(Yale University Press)

Einstein's Dice and Schrödinger's Cat: How Two Great Minds Battled Quantum Randomness to Create a Unified Theory of Physics

by Paul Halpern
(Basic Books)

Ready for Hillary?: Portrait of a President in Waiting

by Robin Renwick
(Biteback Publishing)

Queen Bee: Roxanne Quimby, Burt's Bees, and Her Quest for a New National Park

by Phyllis Austin
(Tilbury House Publishers)

Senator James Eastland: Mississippi's Jim Crow Democrat

by Maarten Zwiers
(LSU Press)

The Duke's Assassin: Exile and Death of Lorenzino de' Medici

by Stefano Dall'Aglio, translated by Donald Weinstein
(Yale University Press)

Alice in Shandehland: Scandal and Scorn in the Edelson/Horwitz Murder Case

by Monda Halpern
(McGill-Queen's University Press)

Troutmouth: The Two Careers of Hugh Clegg

by Ronald F. Borne
(University Press of Mississippi)

Allen Klein: The Man Who Bailed Out the Beatles, Made the Stones, and Transformed Rock & Roll
by Fred Goodman
(Eamon Dolan/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Agnes Martin: Her Life and Art
by Nancy Princenthal
(Thames & Hudson)

Planck: Driven by Vision, Broken by War
by Brandon R. Brown
(Oxford University Press)

Elizabeth I and Her Circle
by Susan Doran
(Oxford University Press)

Buckley and Mailer: The Difficult Friendship That Shaped the Sixties
by Kevin M. Schultz
(W.W. Norton)

Behind the Mask: The Life of Vita Sackville-West
by Matthew Dennison
(St. Martin's Press)

A Flick of the Fingers: The Chequered Life and Career of Jack Crawford
by Michael Burns
(Pitch Publishing)

Deeper than Indigo: Tracing Thomas Machell, Forgotten Explorer
by Jenny Balfour Paul
(Medina Publishing)

Charles Corm: An Intellectual Biography of a Twentieth-Century Lebanese "Young Phoenician"
by Franck Salameh
(Lexington Books)

Louisa Stuart Costello: A Nineteenth-Century Writing Life
by Clare Broome Saunders
(Palgrave Macmillan)

Frank Cioffi: The Philosopher in Shirt-Sleeves
by David Ellis Ellis and Nicholas Bunnin
(Bloomsbury Academic)

James Larkin Pearson: A Biography of North Carolina's Longest Serving Poet Laureate
by Gregory S. Taylor

*The Man Who Painted the Universe:
The Story of a Planetarium in the
Heart of the North Woods*
by Ron Legro and Avi Lank
(Wisconsin Historical Press Society)

*81 Days Below Zero: The Incredible
Survival Story of a World War II
Pilot in Alaska's Frozen Wilderness*
by Brian Murphy
(Da Capo Press)

Hinault
by Ruben Van Gucht
(Bloomsbury USA)

*Field Marshal: The Life and Death of
Erwin Rommel*
by Daniel Allen Butler
(Casemate)

*The Soldiers' General: Major
General Gouverneur K. Warren and
the Civil War*
by Paula Walker and Robert Girardi
(Savas Beatie)

*The Printer and the Preacher: Ben
Franklin, George Whitefield, and the
Surprising Friendship that Invented
America*

(Lexington Books)

*Bishop Gwynne: Deputy Chaplain-
General to the British Armies on the
Western Front during
the First World War*
by Neville Benyon
(Helion and Company)

*Padre, Prisoner and Pen-pusher:
The World War One Experiences of
the Reverend Benjamin O'Rorke*
by Peter Howson
(Helion and Company)

The Noble Flame of Katherine Philips
by David L. Orvis and Ryan Singh Paul
(Duchesne University Press)

*The Edwardses of Halifax: The Making
and Selling of Beautiful Books in London
and Halifax, 1749-1826*
by G. E. Bentley Jr.
(University of Toronto Press)

*Constance Maynard's Passions: Religion,
Sexuality, and an English Educational
Pioneer, 1849-1935*
by Pauline A. Phipps
(University of Toronto Press)

by Randy Petersen
(Thomas Nelson)

*Spectacle: The Astonishing Life
of Ota Benga*

by Pamela Newkirk
(Amistad)

*Ziegfeld and His Follies: A Biography
of Broadway's Greatest Producer*

by Cynthia Brideson and
Sara Brideson
(University Press of Kentucky)

St George: A Saint for All

by Samantha Riches
(Reaktion Books)

*Dreams to Remember: Otis Redding,
Stax Records, and the Transformation
of Southern Soul*

by Mark Ribowsky
(Liveright)

The Man Within

by Alison Carlson
(Inkshares)

*The Flemish Merchant of Venice:
Daniel Nijs and the Sale of the
Gonzaga Art Collection*

*Thomas Telford: Master Builder
of Roads and Canals*

by Anthony Burton
(Pen and Sword)

*Meriwether Lewis: The Assassination of
an American Hero and
the Silver Mines of Mexico*

by Kira Gale
(River Junction Press)

Henry VI

by David Grummitt
(Routledge)

*Lucie Aubrac: The French Resistance
Heroine Who Defied the Gestapo*

by Sian Rees
(Michael O'Mara Books)

*Sean Murray: Marxist-Leninist and Irish
Socialist Republican*

by Sean Byers
(Irish Academic Press)

Fredrik Barth: An Intellectual Biography

by Thomas Hylland Eriksen
(Pluto Press)

*Big Thoughts Are Free: The Authorized
Biography of Milan Panic*

by Christina Anderson
(Yale University Press)

*American Tragedian: The Life of
Edwin Booth*

by Daniel J. Watermeier
(University of Missouri Press)

*The Unknown Travels and Dubious
Pursuits of William Clark*

by Jo Ann Trogon
(University of Missouri Press)

*Minecraft, Second Edition: The
Unlikely Tale of Markus "Notch"
Persson and the Game*

That Changed Everything
by Daniel Goldberg and Linus
Larsson, translated by
Jennifer Hawkins
(Seven Stories Press)

*The Double Life of Fidel Castro: The
Hidden World of Cuba's*

Greatest Leader
by Juan Sanchez
(Amberley)

*Sundial in the Shade: The Story of
Barry Richards: the Genius Lost to
Test Cricket*

by Mark Axelrod
(Peter Lang Publishing)

*Totts: From the Kop to the Kelpies:
The Alex Totten Story*

by Jeff Holmes
(Pitch Publishing)

Thea Astley: Inventing Her Own Weather

by Karen Lamb
(University of Queensland Press)

*The Physicist & the Philosopher: Einstein,
Bergson, and the Debate that Changed
Our Understanding of Time*

by Jimena Canales
(Princeton University Press)

*Henry George and the Crisis of
Inequality: Progress and Poverty
in the Gilded Age*

by Edward T. O'Donnell
(Columbia University Press)

*Shakespeare and the Countess: The Battle
that Gave Birth to the Globe*

by Chris Laoutaris
(Pegasus)

by Andrew Murtagh
(Pitch Publishing)

*Living Large: Wilna Hervey
and Nan Mason*

by Joseph P. Eckhardt
(Woodstock Arts)

*Brian De Palma's Split-Screen:
A Life in Film*

by Douglas Keeseey
(University Press of Mississippi)

*Pure Intelligence: The Life of William
Hyde Wollaston*

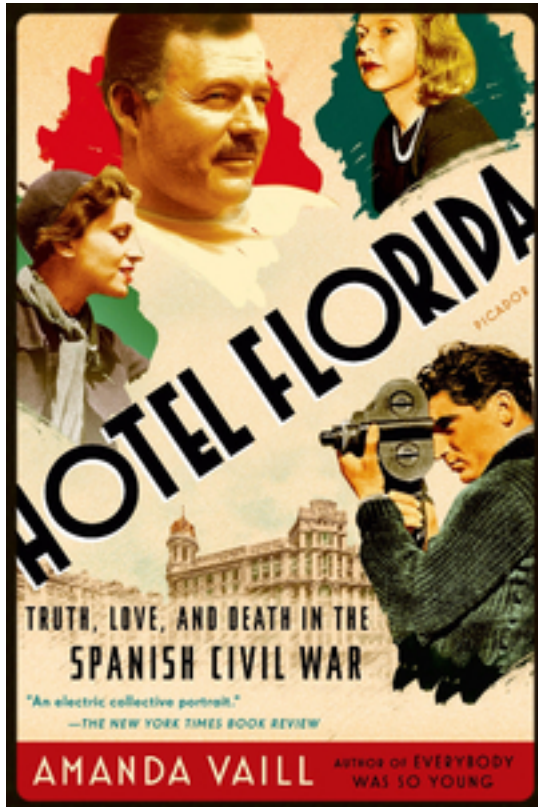
by Melvyn C. Usselman
(University of Chicago Press)

Peg Plunkett: Memoirs of a Whore
by Julie Peakman
(Quercus Publishing)

*Jeremy Hutchinson's Case Histories:
From Lady Chatterley's Lover to
Howard Marks*

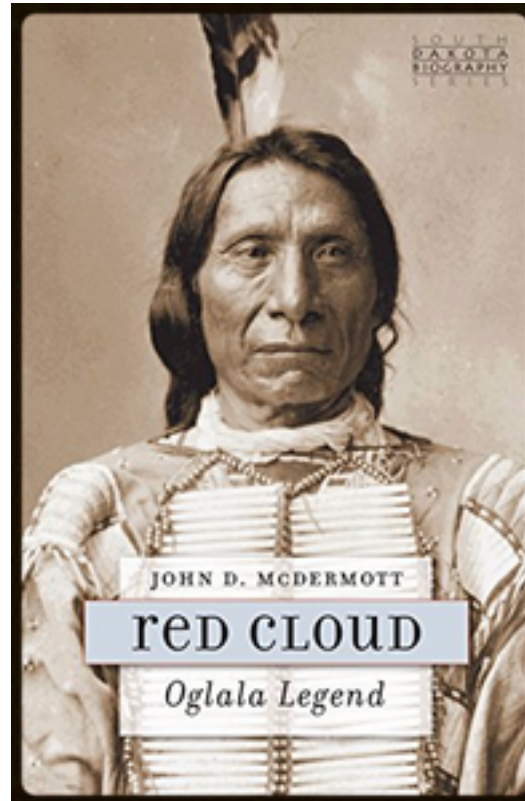
by Thomas Grant
(John Murray Publishers)

Paperback



Hotel Florida: Truth, Love, and Death in the Spanish Civil War
by Amanda Vaill
(Picador)

On Some Faraway Beach: The Life and Times of Brian Eno
by David Sheppard



Red Cloud: Oglala Legend
by John D. McDermott
(South Dakota Historical Press)

The Spy Who Changed The World: Klaus Fuchs and the Secrets of the Nuclear Bomb
by Mike Rossiter

(Orion)

*Peter O'Toole: Hellraiser, Sexual
Outlaw, Irish Rebel*

by Darwin Porter and Danforth Prince
(Blood Moon Productions)

*The Lawyer of the Church: Bishop
Clemente de Jesús Munguía and the
Clerical Response to the Mexican
Liberal Reforma*

by Pablo Mijangos y Gonzalez
(University of Nebraska Press)

*The Woodvilles: The Wars of the
Roses and England's Most
Infamous Family*

by Susan Higginbotham
(The History Press)

*The Map Thief: The Gripping Story of
an Esteemed Rare-Map Dealer Who
Made Millions Stealing Priceless Maps*

by Michael Blanding
(Gotham)

Richard III

by David Baldwin
(Amberley)

Ludmila Ulitskaya and t

(Headline Book Publishing)

James II

by Christine McGladdery
(John Donald Short Run Press)

*In Two Minds: A Biography of
Jonathan Miller*

by Kate Bassett
(Oberon Books)

*Brando's Smile: His Life, Thought,
and Work*

by Susan L. Mizruchi
(W.W. Norton)

Maimonides: Life and Thought

by Moshe Halbertal
(Princeton University Press)

Queen Victoria: A Life of Contradictions

by Matthew Dennison
(St. Martin's Griffin)

Shackleton: A Life in Poetry

by Jim Mayer
(Signal Books)

*Nathaniel's Nutmeg: or, The True and
Incredible Adventures of the Spice
Trader Who Changed the Course of*

he Art of Tolerance

by Elizabeth Skomp and

Benjamin M. Sutcliffe

(University of Wisconsin Press)

Churchill: The Prophetic Statesman

by James C. Humes

(Regnery History)

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in

Portland

by John William Babin

(The History Press)

Petals and Bullets: Dorothy Morris—

New Zealand Nurse in

the Spanish Civil War

by Mark Derby

(Sussex Academic Press)

John Wesley: The Man, His Mission

and His Message

by David Malcolm Bennett

(Rhiza Press)

A Man for All Seasons: Monroe

Sweetland and the Liberal Paradox

by William Robbins

(Oregon State University Press)

Far Above Rubies: The Life of

History

by Giles Milton

(Picador)

Aaronsohn's Maps: The Man Who

Might Have Created Peace in the

Modern Middle East

by Patricia Goldstone

(Counterpoint)

Trevor Ford: The Authorised Biography

by Neil Palmer

(Amberley)

Buried in the Maple Leaves: The Untold

Story of North American Wrestling

Legend Harry Geris

by Shawn Geris

(Tate Publishing)

Liberty's Apostle: Richard Price, His

Life and Times

by Paul Frame

(University of Wales Press)

The Tsarnaev Brothers: The Road to a

Modern Tragedy

by Masha Gessen

(Scribe Publications)

Scalia: A Court of One

Bethan Lloyd-Jones
by Lynette G. Clark
(Christian Focus)

*Clouds of Glory: The Life and Legend
of Robert E. Lee*
by Michael Korda
(Harper Perennial)

In the Footsteps of Anne Boleyn
by Sarah Morris and
Natalie Grueninger
(Amberley)

*The Morenci Marines: A Tale of Small
Town America and the Vietnam War*
by Kyle Longley
(University Press of Kansas)

*“Paddington” Pollaky, Private
Detective: The Mysterious Life and
Times of the Real Sherlock Holmes*
by Bryan Kesselman
(The History Press)

*The Man Who Was Jekyll and Hyde:
The Lives and Crimes of
Deacon Brodie*
by Rick Wilson
(The History Press)

by Bruce Allen Murphy
(Simon & Schuster)

*Henry Morgenthau, Jr.: The
Remarkable Life of FDR’s Secretary of
the Treasury*
by Herbert Levy
(Skyhorse Publishing)

Victoria: A Life
by A. N. Wilson
(Atlantic Books)

The Terror of Tobermory
by Richard Baker
(Birlinn Ltd.)

The Life and Art of Jack Akroyd
by Peter Busby
(Mother Tongue Publishing)

*American Crucifixion: The Murder of
Joseph Smith and the Fate of the
Mormon Church*
by Alex Beam
(PublicAffairs)

*The Hollies: The Road is Long: The
First Full Biography of One of the UK’s
Most Successful Bands*
by Brian Southall

*Warrior: A Legendary Leader's
Dramatic Life and Violent Death on
the Colonial Frontier*

by Libby Connors
(Allen & Unwin)

*John Quincy Adams:
American Visionary*

by Fred Kaplan
(Harper Perennial)

*Mochi's War: The Tragedy of
Sand Creek*

by Chris Enss and Howard Kazanjian
(TwoDot)

Georgia O'Keeffe

by Nancy J. Scott
(Reaktion Books)

John Ruskin

by Andrew Ballantyne
(Reaktion Books)

Uvedale Price (1747–1829)

by Charles Watkins and Ben Cowell
(Boydell Press)

*Erasmus, Man of Letters: The
Construction of Charisma in Print*

by Lisa Jardine

(Red Planet)

*The Price of Conscience: Howard Noel
Nankivell and Labour Unrest in the
British Caribbean in 1937 and 1938*

by Brinsley Samaroo
(Hansib Publications)

*Mercy Within Mercy: Georges and
Pauline Vanier and the Search for God*

by Mary Frances Coady
(Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd)

*The Sledgehammer Pastor:
Daniel Hughes (1875–1972)*

by Ivor Thomas Rees
(Y Lolfa)

*The Last Blasket King Padraig O
Cathain, An Ri*

by Gerald Hayes and Eliza Kane
(Collins Press)

Whitey

by Gerard O'Neill and Dick Lehr
(Ebury Press)

Amanuensis

Amanuensis: A person whose employment is to write what another dictates, or to copy what another has written: Source: *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary* (1913).

...I knuckled down to the exploration of archives, spending time in what Henry James called "the visitable past," reading the tangible printed documents with ink inscriptions. Using a magnifying glass to scrutinise Hayward's letters, I deciphered his handwriting in his private papers held at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. Letters are revealing because authors unburden themselves with a directness that adds authenticity. Hayward's true voice—his humour, anger, irascibility and impatience—comes across.

The highlight of the archive was finding his travel notebooks. Leafing through his original research notes created a frisson of excitement. Studying his methodology allowed me to see how he transformed his jottings into fluid prose and where ideas came from. A writer's notebook, it is often said, is a "junkyard of the mind",

and his notebooks drew me into his orbit. Seeing the initial nibble notes—the repositories of his on-the-spot experience—made in scrawling writing, his corrections, scribbles, pencil doodles, bracketed asides and whimsical comments brought him touchably close. They provided not only a portal into his thought processes but also the full sensory experience. Handling them, smelling the paper and ink, and wondering why he chose certain phrases felt like slipping out of linear time into a parallel world in the company of the man who wrote them seventy years ago.

[\[more\]](#)

Paul Clement, "What Goes in to Writing a Biography? Five Years of Your Life for a Start"

I would like to think that I'm not ideologically oriented. I consider Reagan and FDR to be a matched set. With the Franklin Roosevelt book, the point I tried to make is that the New Deal was a big deal. I don't say anywhere in the book that it was a good deal or a bad deal. I leave it to readers to determine whether they *like* what Roosevelt was trying to accomplish, but I try to underline that it was important. I did the same thing with Reagan. I explain Reagan's policies, I explain his reasoning, I give plenty of air time to his critics, but I don't say: Reagan was right here, Reagan was wrong there. What I really try to do is make Reagan understandable to our current generation. My approach is different than a lot of other

biographers and historians who would want to weigh in on whether Reagan was a good guy or a bad guy...I'm trying to tell the story of the evolution of America. Each biography is a life in time, and I can see there's a particular task for each generation that I write about. [[more](#)]

"The Rorschach President: A Q&A with Reagan Biographer H. W. Brands"

Bio

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