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# Behind the Book

by Scott D. Seligman, author of *The  
Great Kosher Meat War of 1902:  
Immigrant Housewives and the  
Riots That Shook New York City*

## SCOTT D. SELIGMAN:

Forty years ago, the late professor Paula Hyman of Yale recounted the uprising of thousands of immigrant Russian and Eastern European Jewish women on the Lower East Side of Manhattan at the turn of the twentieth century in what

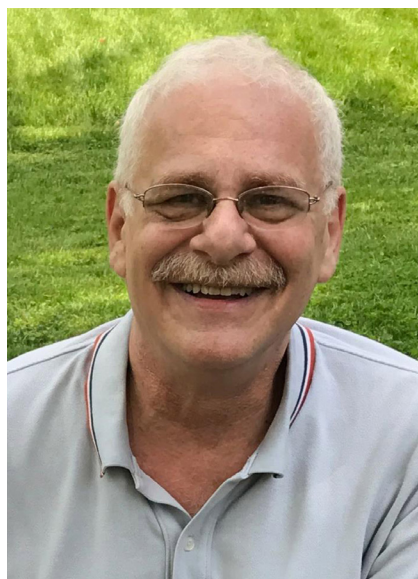


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

newspapers at the time called a modern Boston tea party. The women took to the streets when kosher meat—the only kind they were permitted to eat under Jewish law—suddenly became unaffordable. Their trust in the butchers with whom they had done business for years had evaporated amid charges of price gouging, and now, rather than buy from these men, they were intent on shutting them down as a means of lowering prices.



Tenements on Orchard Street at the turn of the century.

Source: New York Public Library, Image ID: 416563.

It was supposed to be a nonviolent action, but it didn't stay that way for long. Customers who insisted on patronizing the butchers were assaulted and their purchases thrown into the gutter. Sometimes meat was doused with kerosene so it could never be eaten. Butchers who refused to close were attacked, their windows smashed, their stock ruined, and, often, their fixtures destroyed. There were even reports of arson. A lot of women were injured and many were fined and jailed, but that didn't stop them.

Dr. Hyman's article about the action was praised for bringing the often-overlooked political activity of these immigrants into mainstream history. I happened upon it several years ago and decided to do a little digging of my own into the story. My maternal great-grandmother, an Austrian immigrant, was living with her family on Orchard Street at the time. I wondered whether she had joined the boycott and stopped buying kosher meat, as most Jewish women of the neighborhood did.

In the decades since Professor Hyman completed her research, many new tools

have become available. I had at my disposal hundreds of historic newspapers and immigration, court, and census records, many of which were now accessible online. Through genealogical research, I was able to trace descendants of the boycott organizers and ask them for images and stories. And with help, I obtained access to a rich vein of sources in the contemporary Yiddish-language press. They provided more detail and nuance than the English papers, as well as a window into the personalities of Sarah Edelson, Carolyn Schatzberg, Paulina Finkel, Fanny Levy, and the other women who led the boycott.

My research led me to two very much related stories that also became part of the book. I determined that the real culprits in the drama were not the local butchers but rather greedy packers hundreds of miles away in Chicago who were colluding to raise meat prices nationwide. And just as the upstart women were laying waste to New York's Lower East Side, "trust-buster" President Theodore Roosevelt set out to expose and break up these packers' meat cartel. The book chronicles his government's efforts to prosecute the meat barons and the nefarious ways they fought back to preserve their profitable franchise.

***"Butchers who refused to close were attacked, their windows smashed, their stock ruined, and, often, their fixtures destroyed."***



A typical turn-of-the-century New York kosher butcher shop. Pictured behind the counter are butchers Abraham (left) and Max Farber. Source: Old NYC Photos.

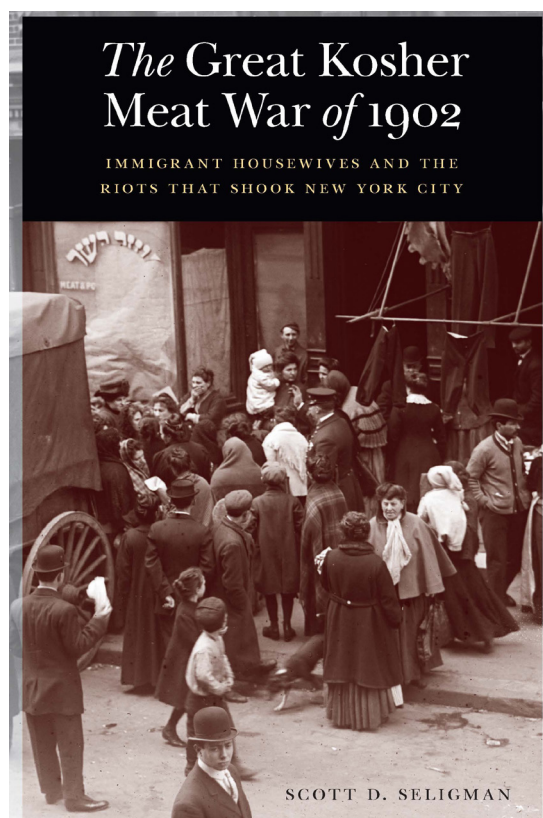
I also discovered that there was rampant corruption in the system that brought kosher meat to Jewish tables in turn-of-the-century New York. That led me to the story of Rabbi Jacob Joseph, a Talmudic scholar recruited from Europe at great cost to supervise the quality of kosher food in the United States. The long knives were out for him, however, and the changes he instituted were deeply unpopular and met fierce resistance. Rabbi Joseph died shortly after the boycott, and his funeral gave rise to the worst outbreak of anti-Semitic violence New York has ever seen.

I found the narrative of immigrant Jewish women discovering their collective power as consumers and finding their political voice in early twentieth-century America to be an inspiring story, all the more impressive because it involved mostly uneducated women, some barely conversant in English, with few resources at their disposal. That they managed to organize themselves overnight and successfully challenge powerful, vested corporate interests in their new homeland is nothing short of remarkable, and the lessons of their uprising could not be unlearned. The new spirit of

activism they ushered in was later applied not only to community movements like food and rent strikes but also to labor actions and even the quest for women's suffrage. That spirit lived on and was appropriated, as needed, by subsequent generations to address injustice wherever and whenever they experienced it.

#### UNP ACQUISITIONS EDITOR TOM SWANSON RESPONDS:

When Scott D. Seligman approached us with this project, I knew nothing about a kosher meat war at the turn of the century, and until now, not many people did. But Scott has a talent for finding little-known stories that have a wider significance. When I acquired the book, I didn't realize how relevant it would be today.





These women pioneered a protest movement that became the blueprint for future mass actions on a wide range of issues.

What makes the book especially appealing to me is how Scott reveals the corruption at the meatpacking level—that while the women were angry at their local butchers, the real enemy was the Chicago beef cartel. He is able to masterfully weave into the narrative the federal government’s efforts to deal with these corrupt meat packers. A good history book intertwines the local story with the broader one and places it in context, and Scott does this seamlessly in *The Great Kosher Meat War of 1902*.

The book will, of course, appeal to people interested in American Jewish immigrant experiences. I think it will also reach a larger audience because it illuminates a previously unknown example of female empowerment that resonates loudly in the current moment.

**SCOTT D. SELIGMAN** is a writer and historian. He is the author of several books, including the award-winning *The Third Degree: The Triple Murder That Shook Washington and Changed American Criminal Justice* (Potomac Books, 2018) and *The First Chinese American: The Remarkable Life of Wong Chin Foo*. His articles have appeared in the *Washington Post* and the *Seattle Times*, among other publications.



A squad of Lower East Side women remonstrating with a potential buyer outside a butcher shop. Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, George Grantham Bain Collection, LC-USZ62-55772.

Mass demonstration against the rising price of food at East Broadway and Rutgers Streets, 1917. Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, George Grantham Bain Collection, LC-DIG-ggbain-23741.





# Why I Write

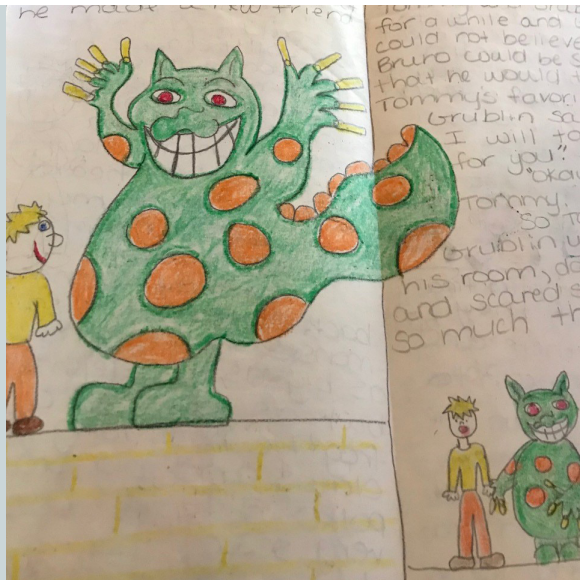
BY SUZANNE ROBERTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

When I was a little girl, I was obsessed with Pippi Longstocking. I wanted to live as she did, in a big house on my own with a monkey and a horse. I admired Pippi's strength (and the way she used it to put a bully in his place), her independence, her sense of adventure and wonder, but mostly the way she seemed to be boldly and unapologetically herself. My only pathway, as a child, to a life of adventure and authenticity was through my books, so I sat for hours on the couch, where I took off my glasses and ignored the world around me. Maybe there has always been a correlation between myopic children becoming writers. The fuzzy outside world makes it easier to look inward.

There's also a correlation between bookish children like me and being bullied. As an adult, I've spent a lot of time thinking about how people fall into two categories: the bully and the bullied. I fell into the latter group, meaning my best friends would turn on me, crank call our house, write "fatty-fatty four eyes" on my school locker. In those times, I



wanted more than anything to escape, so I read and wrote stories of my own. I stitched the pages together, drawing pictures, making my own “books.” My mother kept some of these.

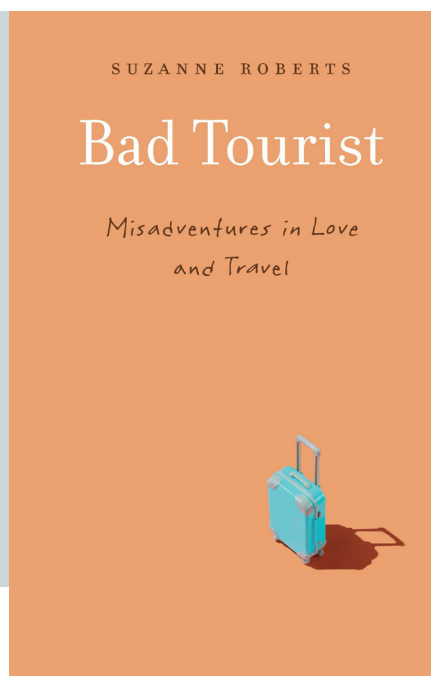
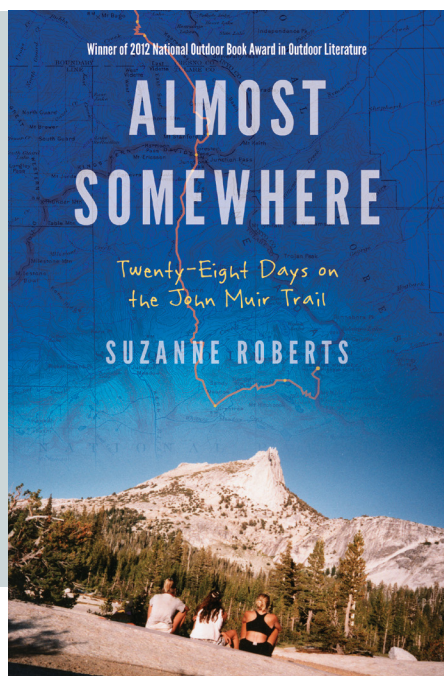
In one such book, a little boy named Tommy is bullied by a bigger boy named Bruno the Bad. Lucky for Tommy, he finds a polka-dotted monster in his closet, who agrees to “talk to Bruno” for Tommy, which is monster-speak for eating him (and of course, Bruno tasted bad). In the end of the story, everyone is happy, so they all have a party. I must have turned in my story about Tommy and his monster to a teacher because someone had written this on the back of my juvenilia: *He ate him?! Good Heavens!*

I suppose a little girl writing about monsters eating a child, even if he is a bully, seems a little harsh, but still, I want to reach back in time and answer that teacher: *Of course he did!* It’s the perfect ending: both surprising and inevitable. I was on my way to being a writer. And she was asking the wrong question. It wasn’t

the *what* that was important but the *why*. *Why* would I write such a story?

I suppose this is my chance to answer that unasked question. My stories are love letters to my younger self, whether they have an element of make-believe (though in some ways, heroic bully-eating polka-dotted monsters are as real as anything else) or they are stories about my life, where I don’t alter the past with the help of a monster; instead, I re-see it through the lens of memory, making sense of my memories, or maybe, if I’m lucky, reimagining them. The meaning of our lives isn’t made from past events but our emotional reckoning of them. I have written my way to forgiveness—of other people in my life but also for my younger self. In real life, I could not stand up to my bullies, but in my imaginary life, I get the last word. And isn’t that why we tell stories? We rearrange the world in order to make it bearable. Or maybe, as in the case of memoir, we tell our side of the story without someone interrupting, “How you exaggerate!” Or worse, *Good Heavens!*

I finally set out on my own adventures, attempted to live a life that, like Pippi’s, was bold and unapologetic, unconventional, even. I hiked long-distance trails (which I wrote about in *Almost Somewhere: Twenty-Eight Days on the John Muir Trail*) and I travelled the world, having brief love affairs, which is the material for *Bad Tourist: Misadventures in Love and Travel*. Some people thought I was running away from my problems. Through writing I was able to find the truth of it: I wasn’t running away but rather moving toward a deeper understanding of myself and



the decisions I made. I told all my secrets, so I could better understand them and diffuse the strength of their shame. Real power comes from refusing the narratives that no longer serve us—there’s always what happened but more important is the meaning we attach to it.

It took me a long time to realize that being a writer means writing, that it’s the verb *to write* and not the noun *the writer* that’s important. And every book I have written—the childhood stories, the failed manuscripts in the drawer, the books that went on to publication—started the same way. They started with a wish, as most books probably do: a wish to make sense of the world and my place in it and also a wish to connect with readers who might see themselves in my stories and find the courage to tell their own—and though I don’t have a pet monkey or a horse, I’m happy to loan out my polka-dotted monster to anyone who needs him.

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**SUZANNE ROBERTS** is the author of *Bad Tourist: Misadventures in Love and Travel* (Nebraska 2020), *Almost Somewhere: Twenty-Eight Days on the John Muir Trail* (Nebraska, 2012), and four collections of poetry. She was named the Next Great Travel Writer by National Geographic’s *Traveler*, and her work has been published in *Best Women’s Travel Writing* and listed as Notable in *Best American Essays*. She teaches for the low-residency MFA program in creative writing at Sierra Nevada University. Visit her website: [www.suzanneroberts.net](http://www.suzanneroberts.net).





# Director's View

BY DONNA A. SHEAR, UNP DIRECTOR



It's hard to believe we're still in the midst of a pandemic. We all continue to work remotely, simultaneously shocked at how well we've adjusted but nevertheless missing our colleagues. We are heartened that, so far, we are weathering the economic fallout fairly well as a Press. While initially our sales dropped precipitously, they rebounded in June and July. Our fingers are crossed that the effects of the pandemic on our important partners— independent bookstores, academic conferences, and libraries—will be transitory and that our industry will see a return to some semblance of normalcy by spring 2021.

We want to thank you for your abiding support of the publishing community at large and the Press in particular. Readers have helped us through these perilous times by continuing to buy our books in both print and electronic formats. While UNP titles are of course available through major online retailers, why not consider other

options such as ordering directly from our website, <https://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/>, or through your favorite local bookstore? Many have opened up with limited hours and many have curbside pickup. In addition, you can order online through Bookshop.org. Your Bookshop.org purchase contributes to an earnings pool that is evenly distributed among independent bookstores, or you can choose a specific bookstore to support.

And, of course, I would be remiss if I didn't also ask you, if you are able, to make a donation to the Friends of the University of Nebraska Press. Our Friends group continues to support the Press by assisting publication of several new books each season, underwriting the digitization of our backlist as e-books, and funding other important projects vital to UNP's mission, such as professional development opportunities for our staff and the promotion of the literary arts in Nebraska. Turn to page 46 for information about how to join or renew your commitment to the Friends of UNP.

I hope that, before I write the next director's letter in 2021, I'll be able to visit some of you in person. I hope we'll be back in the office, enjoying our colleagues and others in the wider university world. Until then, keep calm and read books—a perfect way to get through this unnerving time.

# Montes Brings Passion to Everything She Does

## A Profile of UNP Advisory Board Member

### Amelia María de la Luz Montes

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**D**r. Amelia María de la Luz Montes is passionate about many things. She is an associate professor of English and ethnic studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has served as an active and engaged member of the University of Nebraska Press Advisory Board since 2014. Montes is also a UNP author, having co-edited with Anne Elizabeth Goldman *María Amparo Ruiz de Burton: Critical and Pedagogical Perspectives*. She is the author and editor of several articles, essays, and creative pieces. Her Penguin Classics edition of Ruiz de Burton's nineteenth-century novel, *Who Would Have Thought It?* was recognized by the Association of American Publishers.

Montes is also a Fulbright Scholar. She completed a year teaching and conducting research at the University of Novi Sad in Serbia, where she focused her studies on the literature of the former Yugoslavia and taught a graduate course on Chicana and U.S. Latina Literature and Theory. Currently she is completing two memoirs. "I want to know everything," she says. "I've always been very diverse in my interests while I continually see connecting threads through all of them." Montes loves teaching in UNL's English



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

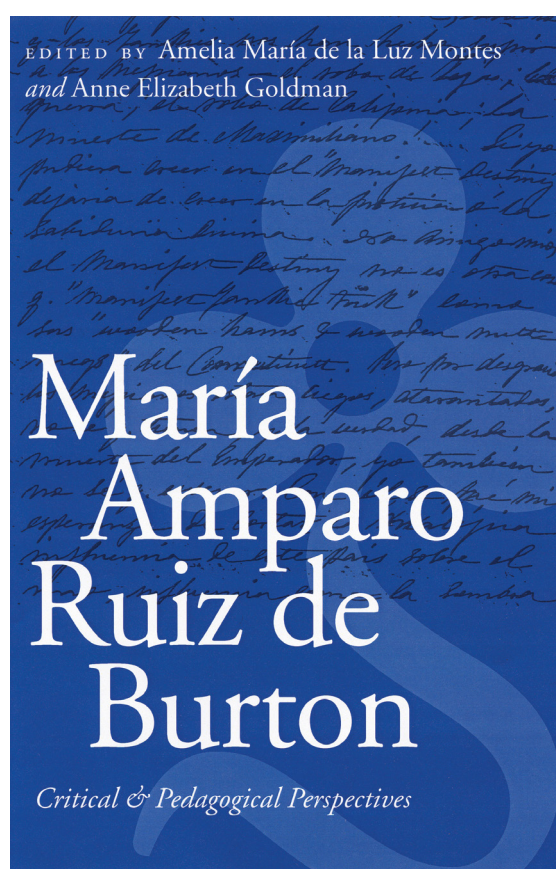
department and Institute for Ethnic Studies. She specializes in American contemporary literatures focusing on U.S. Latina and Chicana literature and theory, and in creative writing. While Montes was doing a post-doc at the University of California at Santa Barbara, a professor from UNL's English Department heard her speak at a conference and began talking with her about the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She told her UNL might be a good fit for her, and soon, Montes was invit-



ed to interview here. She remembers her first time on campus in Lincoln: “Everyone was so welcoming and collegial.” She describes her colleagues as hard working, generous, and exuberant in their intellectual pursuits, which makes UNL “a wonderful place for me.”

Montes brings her ebullient energy to UNP’s Advisory Board. “I find it fascinating to read all the proposals and manuscripts that UNP’s editors present,” she says, adding that many “inform my own work.” She’s particularly on the lookout for books about Mexican-American and Latin American literatures, health, food studies, the environment, and indigenous literatures.

“Here at UNP, we’re thrilled to have on our board such a warm person and enthusiastic scholar,” said editor in chief Bridget Barry. “We can always count on Amelia to have the best interests of both the Press and our authors at heart.”



## “Virtually Bison Books” Tours Encourage Readership of Iconic Works

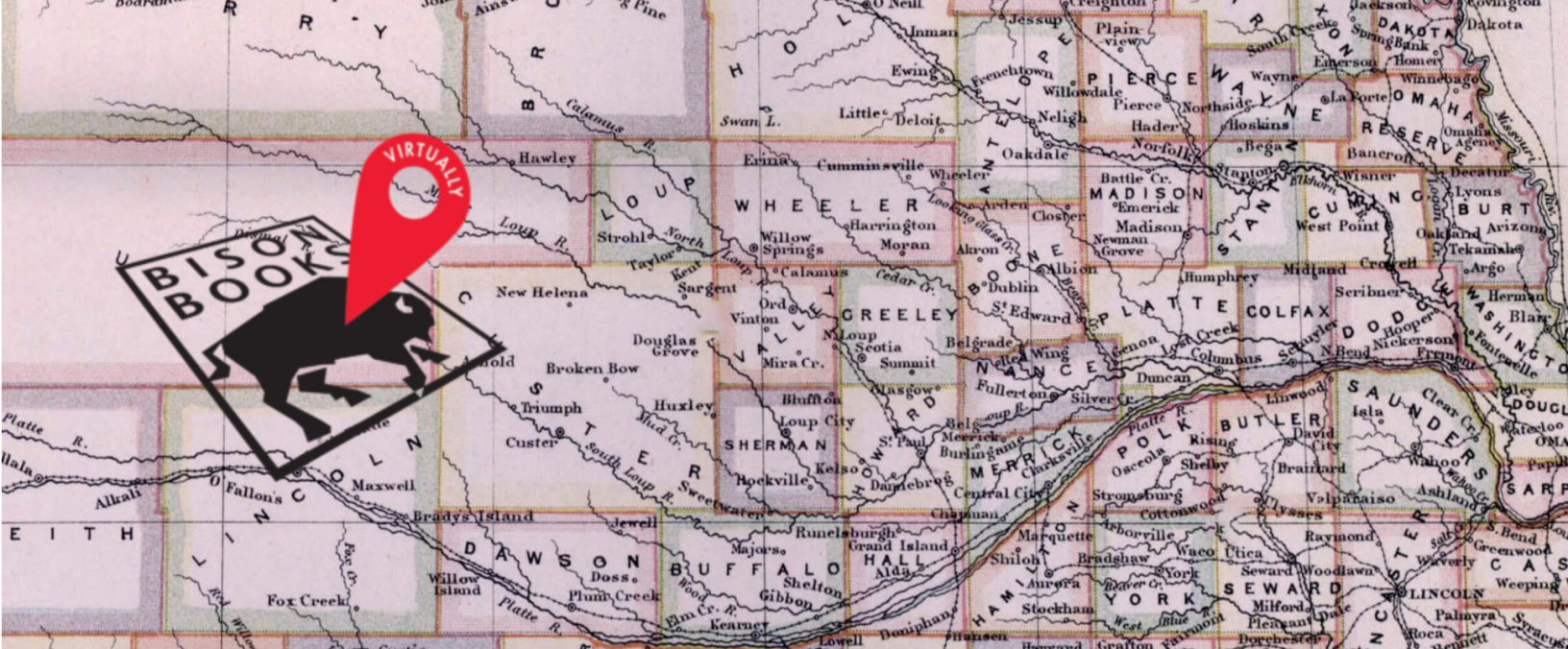
**C**an't travel because of the pandemic? Tour the American and Canadian Wests and the Mexico borderlands from anywhere with Virtually Bison Books. UNP has developed an electronic portal to the books that preserve the West's myths, lore, and history. Whether you're interested in an historic trail, the lives of settlers, or the Wild West, the virtual tours will deliver the literary West in new and dynamic ways through Bison Books titles that are available as e-books.\*

“The virtual tours are the brainchild of Bridget Barry (editor in chief) and Amy Lage (creative specialist),” said executive editor Clark Whitehorn. “Then they recruited Erica Corwin (electronic marketing coordinator), Rosemary Sekora (publicity manager), and myself to help out,” he said, explaining that despite all of them working remotely, it's been a fun collaboration. “I pitch tour ideas to the group for subject areas and then write the introductory narrative. Bridget edits my text and makes cuts to the book lists to keep the length manageable. Erica checks on

electronic book availability and rights, Amy selects a tour image and creates the map, and Rosemary then reaches out to authors who are included in a particular tour to ask them to blog or promote their book in some way.”

Collectively, the group discusses possible themes and timing for the tours: Women's West, Western Trails, Military West, and so forth. The Press is launching a new tour every four to six weeks. The Backcountry Bisons tour, for example, includes books on hiking, canoeing, and other outdoor activities.

One of the Press's goals for this project is to encourage local museums, historical societies, and retail outlets to engage with the themes of the tours, which relate to our Western backlist. We want the tours to generate public interest, author participation, and, of course, sales. Once museums and other venues reopen, we hope they will feature in their physical locations print versions of the Bison Books titles that are included in the virtual tours.



“The virtual tour is one way to highlight the ongoing contributions of Bison Books to classrooms, local history, and general entertainment,” said Press director Donna Shear. “I’m impressed and proud of the creativity and commitment of this group to bringing classic Bisons to—no pun intended—virtually everyone.”

\*We are unable to include Bison Books titles that are not available as e-books on these virtual tours. Some of these are classic works, such as *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846–1847*, to which UNP does not hold the electronic rights. In other cases, the books haven’t yet been converted to e-books (a project that Friends of UNP is underwriting). As we acquire more funding and are able to convert more of the Bison Books backlist to e-books, we will add the titles to the virtual tours.





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## UNP Names Bridget Barry Editor in Chief

The University of Nebraska Press has named Bridget Barry its new editor in chief. Barry had been serving as interim editor in chief since March of 2019. She is a familiar face at the Press, having worked here for over fifteen years in various acquisitions roles.

“During that time, and especially as interim editor in chief, Bridget has demonstrated her knowledge of the Press, continued her excellent acquisitions, and fostered strong relationships with the other departments and department managers at the press,” said Donna Shear, director of UNP. “We are excited to see her further her good work in this new role.”

Barry began her career at UNP in 2005 as an acquisitions assistant, and has been an acquiring editor in history, geography, and environmental studies since 2012. She holds a master’s degree in history from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

“I am delighted to take on the role of editor in chief at the University of Nebraska Press,” said Barry. “It has been a privilege to work

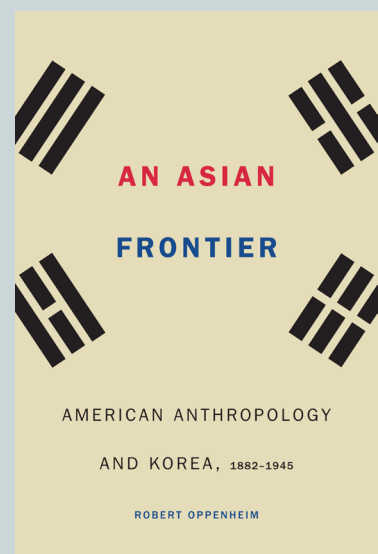
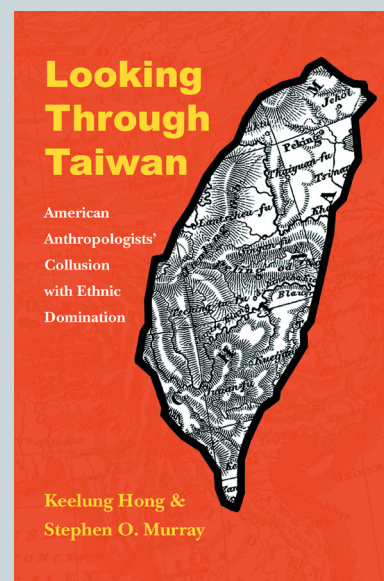
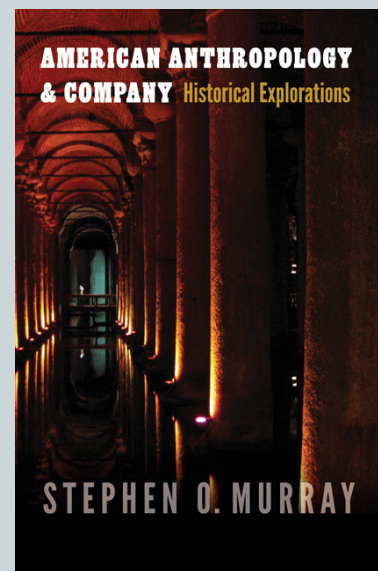
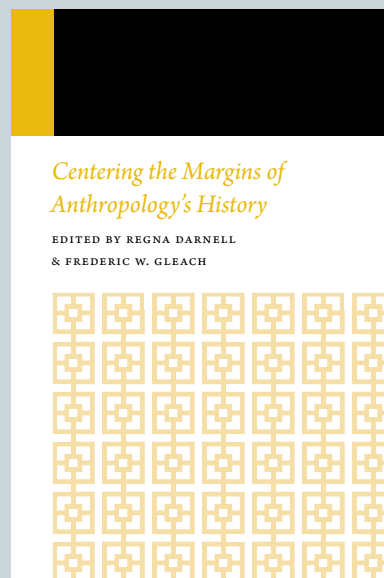


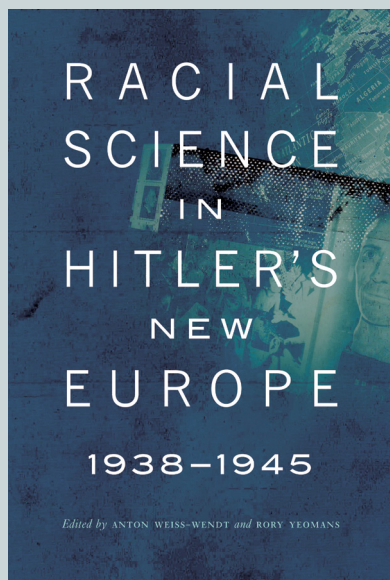
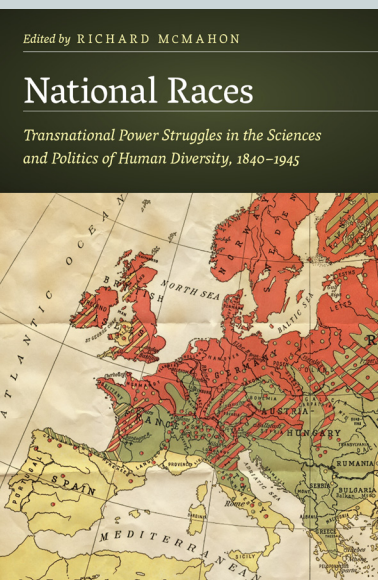
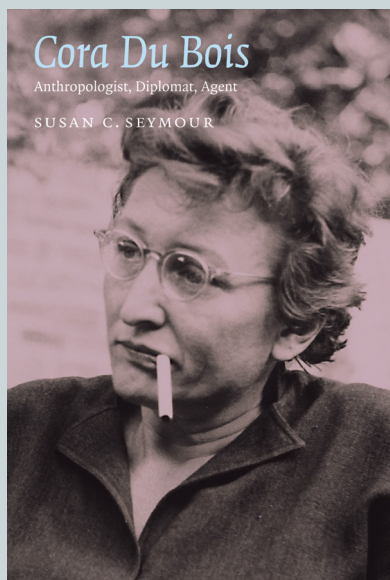
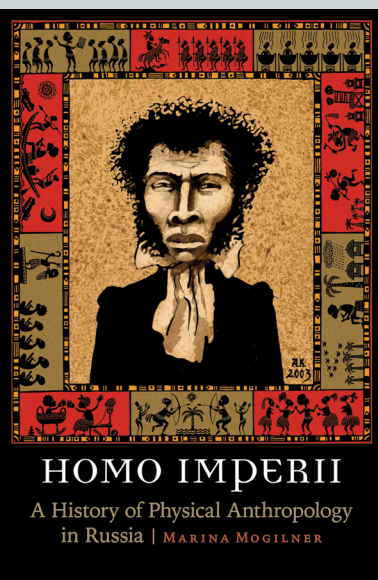
with the Press’s staff and network of authors, series editors, and supporters. I look forward to continuing these relationships and building on an already strong editorial program.”



## Gifts Made in Memory of Stephen O. Murray Further UNP's Commitment to the History of Anthropology

Generous gifts by Dr. Keelung Hong to the University of Nebraska Press in memory of his late spouse, Stephen O. Murray, will help further the Press's commitment to the history of anthropology. The Murray Hong Family Trust donated \$100,000 through the University of Nebraska Foundation toward endowing a fund for UNP to publish work in the history of anthropology long into the future. In addition, the Murray Hong Family Trust made gifts of \$15,000 and \$10,000 directly to the Press to support publication of specific books forthcoming in the next few years. These include three volumes in our *Histories of Anthropology Annual* series—Volume 14 in that series, *Centering the Margins of Anthropology*, will publish in May 2021—and a book of essays honoring Stephen's intellectual legacy.





“Keelung Hong and Stephen Murray’s publication endowment helps solidify Stephen’s legacy as a leading series editor and scholar in the history of anthropology and critical disciplinary history,” said Press senior editor Matthew Bokovoy. “The Murray Hong Family Trust gift also allows the University

of Nebraska Press to maintain its leading role as a publisher in anthropology, ethnography, and Native American and Indigenous Studies, and continue that legacy in the twenty-first century.”

“The widely published scholarship of gay sociologist and linguistic anthropologist Stephen O. Murray has stretched the boundaries of history of anthropology beyond North America, particularly to Latin America and Asia. He served the University of Nebraska Press for more than twenty years, as a series editor [Critical Studies in History of Anthropology—thirty-two books and counting], editorial board member [Histories of Anthropology Annual—thirteen books to date], meticulous reviewer of manuscripts, and author or co-author with his life partner Keelung Hong of three monographs and many trenchant articles,” said Regna Darnell, professor of anthropology at Western University in London, Ontario, and UNP series editor. “The Murray Hong Family Trust endowment channels the passion that Steve and Keelung shared into a long-term legacy for their collective shaping of these fields.”

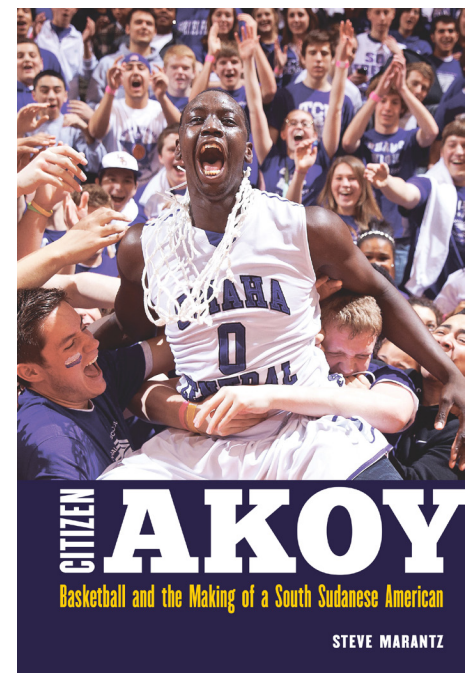
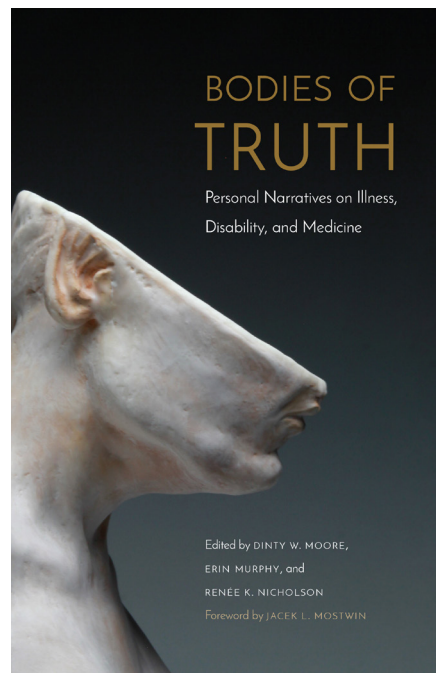
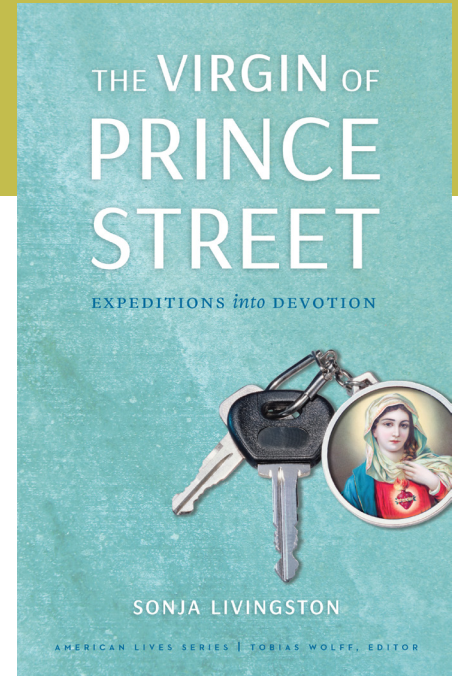
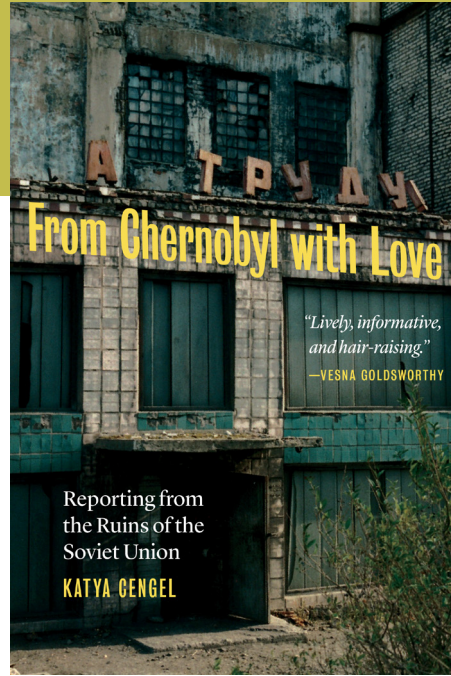
“We are incredibly thankful to Dr. Hong for his generosity,” said Press director Donna Shear. “These gifts will ensure that our books in the history of anthropology, guided so carefully by Stephen when he was alive, will continue to be published.”

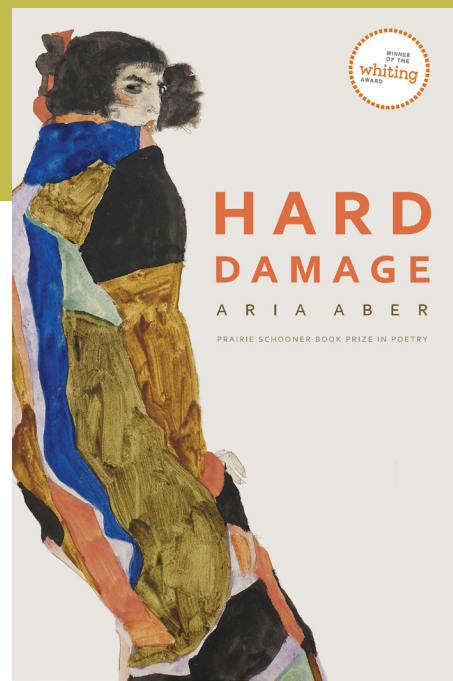
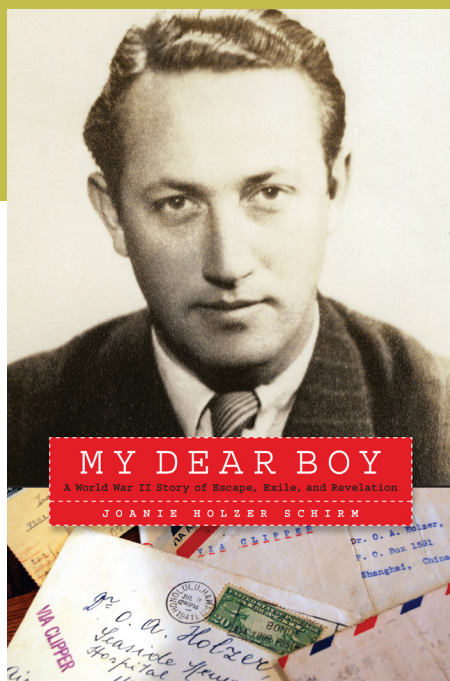
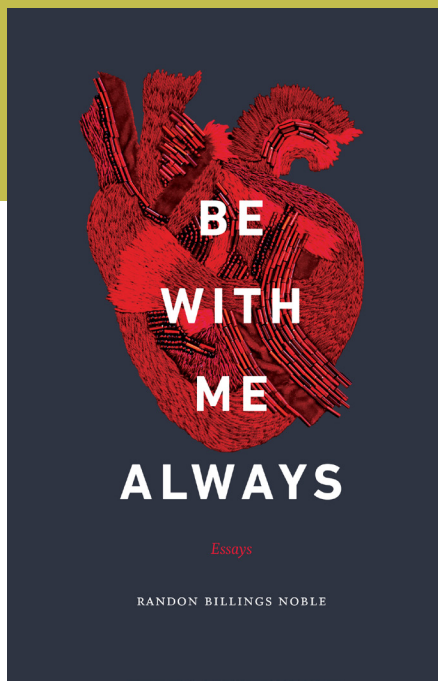




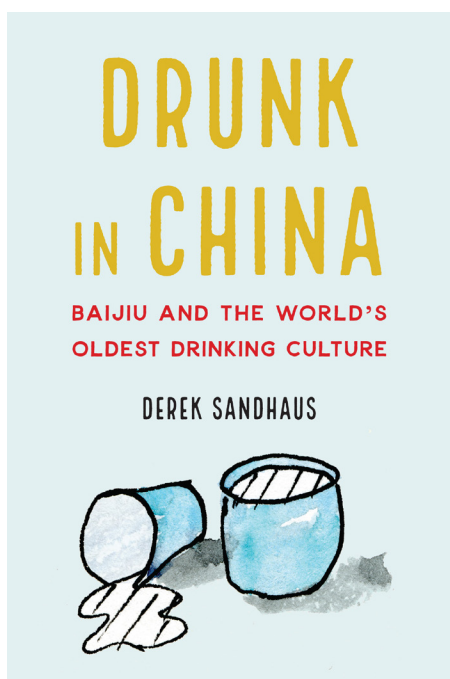
# Awards

Four UNP books won 2019 INDIES Book of the Year Awards from *Foreword Reviews*. The winners were: ***From Chernobyl with Love: Reporting from the Ruins of the Soviet Union***, by Katya Cengel, in the category of Autobiography & Memoir; ***The Virgin of Prince Street: Expeditions into Devotion***, by Sonja Livingston, in the category of Essays; ***Bodies of Truth: Personal Narratives on Illness, Disability, and Medicine***, edited by Dinty W. Moore, Erin Murphy, and Renée K. Nicholson, in the category of Anthologies; and ***Citizen Akoy: Basketball and the Making of a South Sudanese American***, by Steve Marantz, in the category of Adventure, Sports, & Recreation.



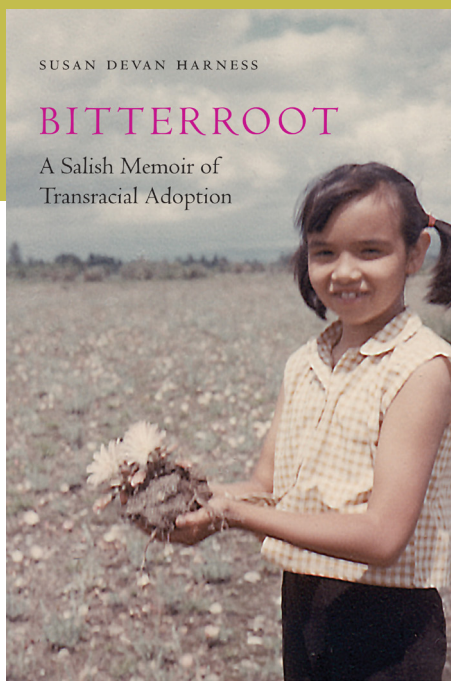


Three more of our titles were named INDIES Book of the Year finalists in a range of categories: *Be with Me Always: Essays* by Randon Billings Noble; *My Dear Boy: A World War II Story of Escape, Exile, and Revelation* by Joanie Holzer Schirm; and *Drunk in China: Baijiu and the World's Oldest Drinking Culture* by Derek Sandhaus.

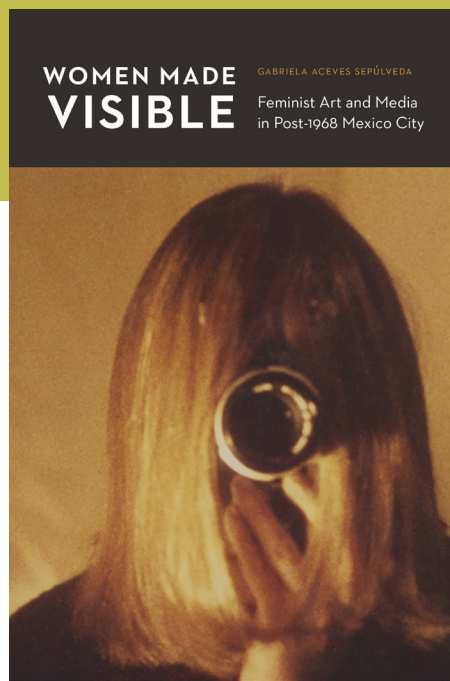


UNP author Aria Aber won a 2020 Whiting Award in the Poetry category. The Whiting Awards, established by the Whiting Foundation in 1985, come with a prize of \$50,000, one of the largest available to emerging writers and awarded “on the criteria of early-career achievement and the promise of superior literary work to come.” The judges called Aber’s debut *Hard Damage* “a riotous meeting place where Rilke, pedicures, lamb kebabs, Proust, and the goddess Artemis cross paths,” with poems that “evoke worlds lost and found with glowing intensity” and use “multiple languages [that] braid and teach each other what words can mean.”





***Bitterroot: A Salish Memoir of Transracial Adoption***, by Susan Devan Harness, won 2019 High Plains Book Awards in both the Creative Non-fiction and the Indigenous Writer categories.

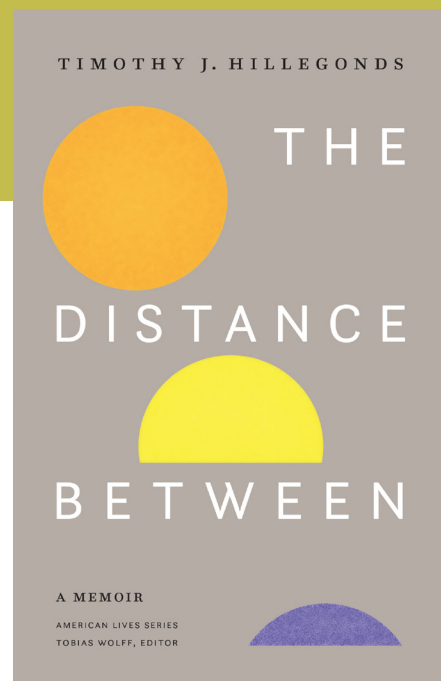
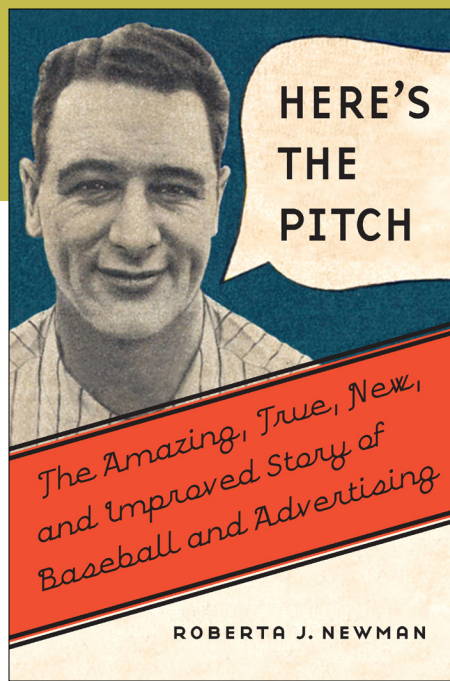
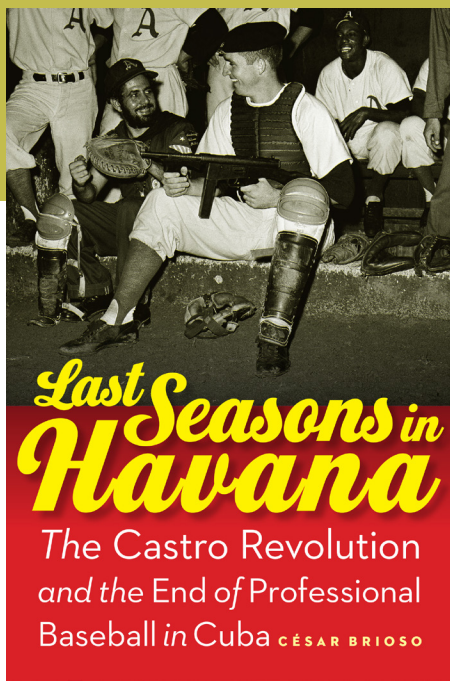


***Women Made Visible: Feminist Art and Media in Post-1968 Mexico City***, by Gabriela Aceves Sepúlveda, won the 2020 Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS) Book Prize.



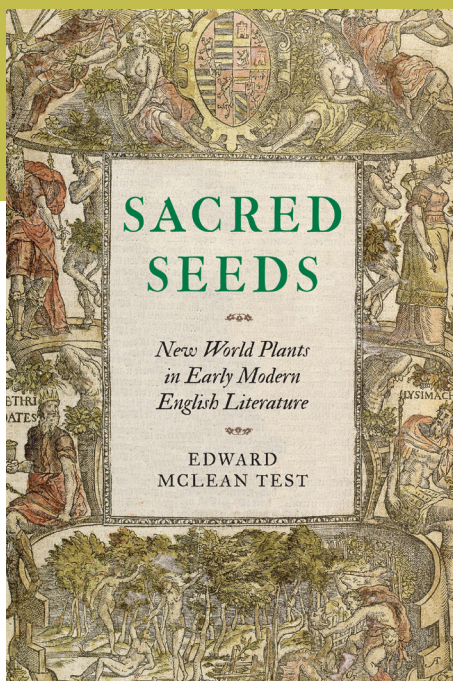
***Skin Memory***, by John Sibley Williams, was a 2020 Next Generation Indie Book Awards Finalist in Poetry and a Finalist in Poetry for the National Indie Excellence Awards.





Two UNP books won 2020 SABR Baseball Research Awards, which honor outstanding research projects completed during the preceding calendar year that have significantly expanded our knowledge or understanding of baseball. The winners were *Last Seasons in Havana: The Castro Revolution and the End of Professional Baseball in Cuba*, by César Brioso, and *Here's the Pitch: The Amazing, True, New, and Improved Story of Baseball and Advertising* by Roberta J. Newman.

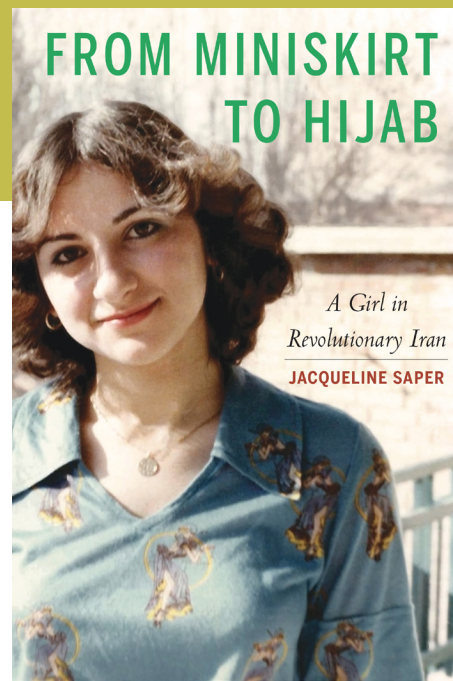
*The Distance Between: A Memoir*, by Timothy J. Hillegonds, was a finalist in the 2020 Eric Hoffer Awards.



***Sacred Seeds: New World Plants in Early Modern English Literature***, by Edward McLean Test, was shortlisted for the annual book prize awarded by the British Society for Literature and Science.



***Better Times: Short Stories***, by Sara Batkie, was a finalist for the Chicago Writer's Association Book of the Year Awards.



***From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran***, by Jacqueline Saper, is longlisted for a Clara Johnson Award from the Jane's Stories Press Foundation.

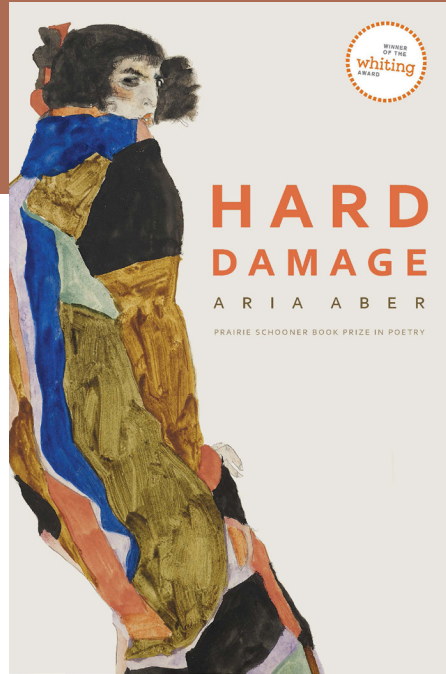


# Select Publicity Highlights



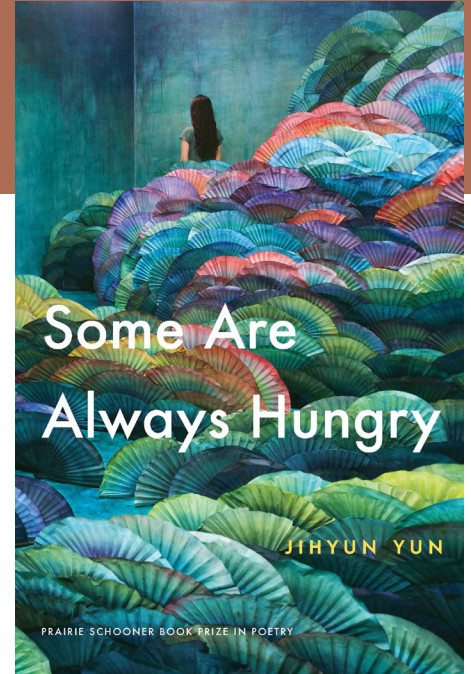
## *Cannibal* by Safiya Sinclair

“One of my favorite poetry collections. Sinclair covers so much ground: her Jamaican background, spirituality, womanhood, America, race relations. She laces words together in a beautiful tapestry, full of history, life, death and, most of all, renewal.”—Morgan Jerkins, *New York Times*



## *Hard Damage* by Aria Aber

“*Hard Damage*, in both its masterful depictions of complicity and its unwavering focus on what is true, asks us to consider what we owe each other as people occupying this same, dying, earth.”—Taneum Bambrick, *Kenyon Review*

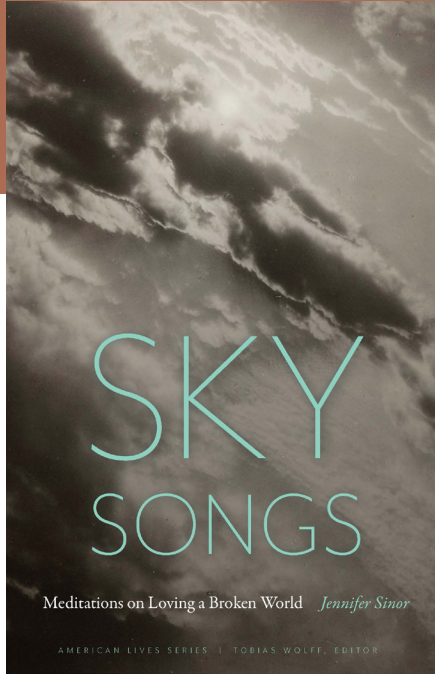


## *Some Are Always Hungry* by Jihyun Yun

“In this excellent debut, Yun lingers over descriptions in precise and evocative language. . . . This is a lush and moving collection.”—*Publishers Weekly*

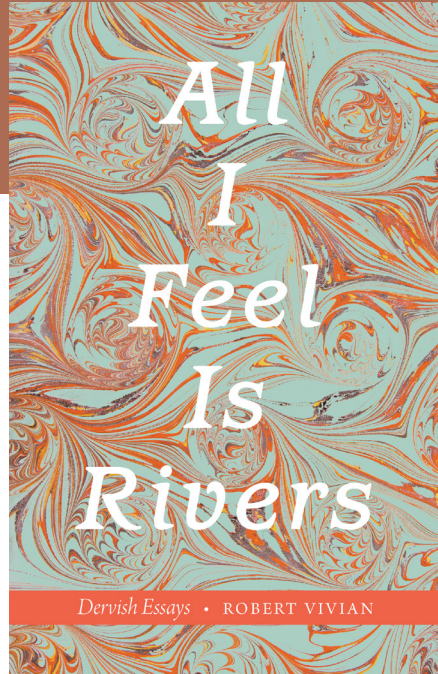
“Yun’s poems are unflinching in subject matter and elegant in expression. This contrast of painful moments, beautifully rendered, makes for compelling reading.”—Sylvia Santiago, *Kenyon Review*





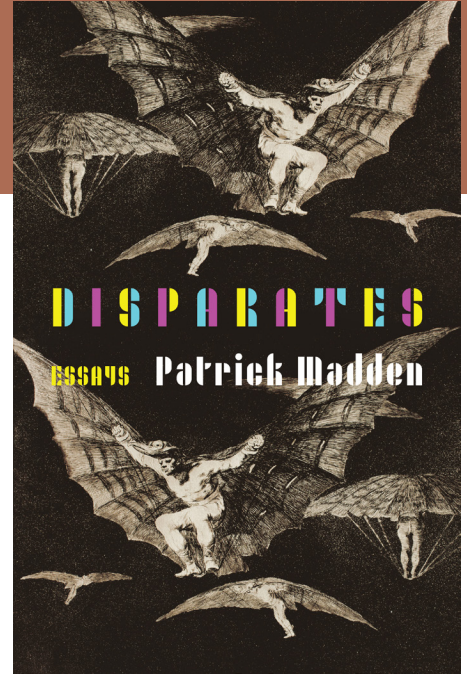
***Sky Songs: Meditations on Loving a Broken World*** by Jennifer Sinor

“[A] tapestry that is both searching and insightful. A lyrically profound collection.”—*Kirkus Reviews*



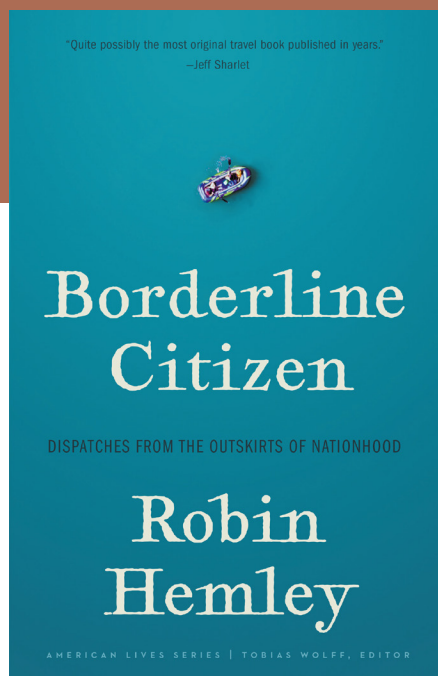
***All I Feel Is Rivers: Dervish Essays*** by Robert Vivian

“In quick blocks of text that amount to ecstatic prose poetry or a kind of flash nonfiction, Vivian celebrates the living moment, ‘the hum and thrum and love of it.’”—*New York Times Book Review*

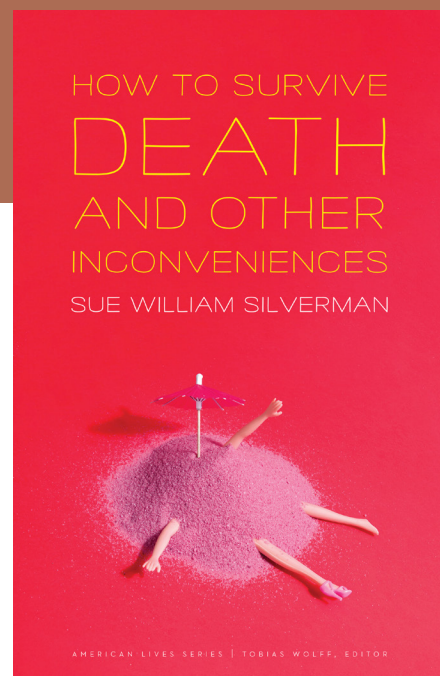


***Disparates: Essays*** by Patrick Madden

“The writing is playful and marked by humility, with Madden often inviting readers—and other writers—into the narrative.”—*Kirkus Reviews*



*"Borderline Citizen makes not only for interesting historical reading, but an absorbing vantage on our contemporary crises of belonging."—Justin Tyler Clark, Los Angeles Review of Books*

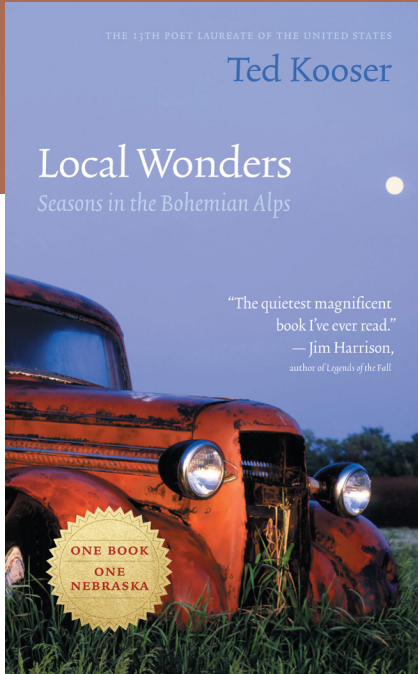


***Borderline Citizen: Dispatches from the Outskirts of Nationhood* by Robin Hemley**

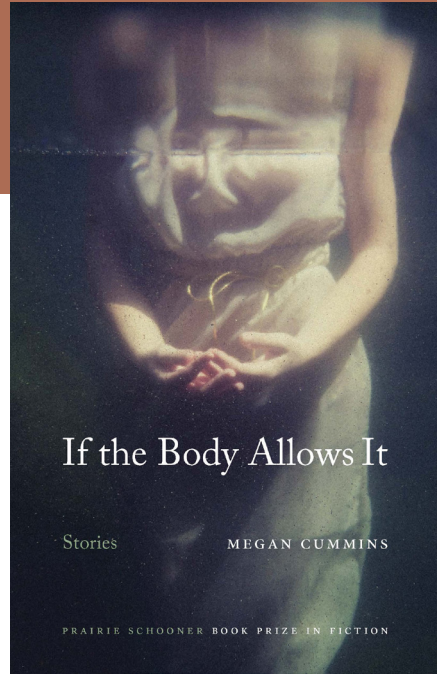
"Engaging bits about intriguing lands, all in service of trying to 'understand the complexities of the world.'"—*Kirkus Reviews*

"A thought-provoking work that troubles the complexities of nationhood."—Wendy Hinman, *Foreword Reviews*

The February 26, 2020, issue of *Ms. Magazine* published an essay by Sue William Silverman, author of *Death and Other Inconveniences*, about the rape and subsequent miscarriage she experienced as a teenager. The Summer 2021 issue of *Rain Taxi* featured a lengthy interview with Silverman about the book.

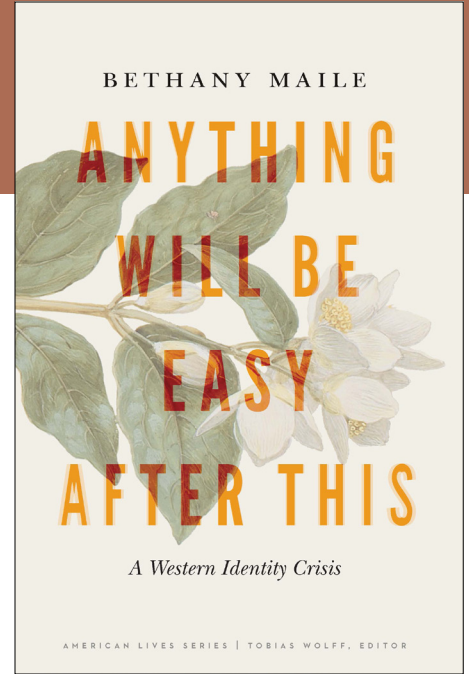


***Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps***, by Ted Kooser, represented Nebraska in the May 27, 2020, *USA Today* feature entitled “50 states, 50 books: Travel the country with these evocative reads.”



***If the Body Allows It: Stories***  
by Megan Cummins

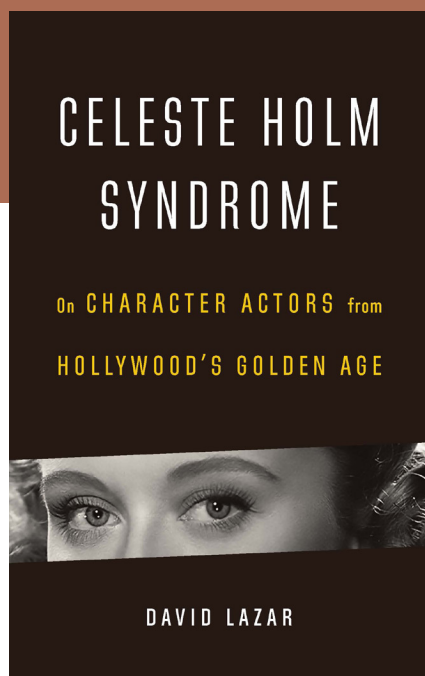
“Cummins’s innovative work delivers well-crafted stories, vivid characters, and unsettling emotional gravitas.”—*Publishers Weekly*



***Anything Will Be Easy after This: A Western Identity Crisis*** by Bethany Maile

“Blending personal insight with sharp-eyed cultural analysis, the author celebrates the West and Western identity without ever losing sight of the myriad complexities that underlie both. An eloquent and perceptive memoir in essays.”—*Kirkus Reviews*





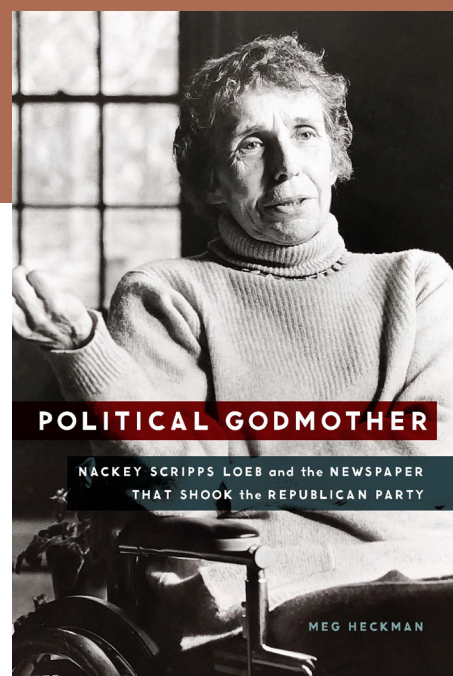
***Celeste Holm Syndrome:  
On Character Actors  
from Hollywood's Golden  
Age* by David Lazar**

"Well-observed reflections for true fans of the silver screen."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Fans of Hollywood's Golden Age will delight in this affecting look at what makes actors truly memorable, even if they're not in the spotlight."—*Publishers Weekly*



The February 27, 2020, issue of *The New York Review of Books* published an essay by Nicholas Lemann entitled, "Can Journalism Be Saved?" It discusses the question in the context of fourteen new books including ***Justice in Plain Sight: How a Small-Town Newspaper and Its Unlikely Lawyer Opened America's Courtrooms* by Dan Bernstein.**

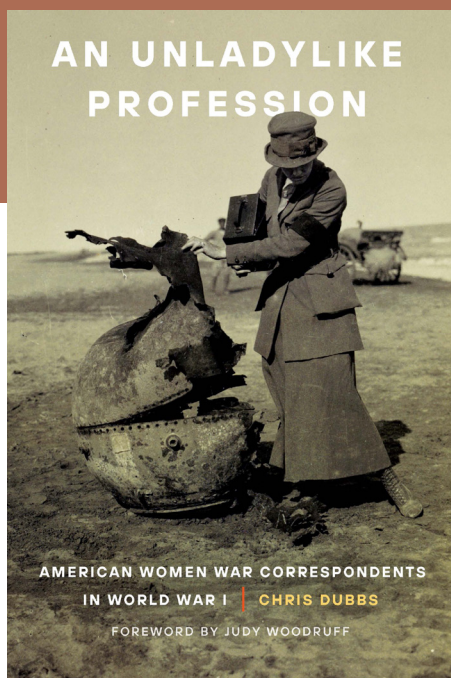


***Political Godmother: Nacky Scripps Loeb and the Newspaper That Shook the Republican Party* by Meg Heckman**

"An underacknowledged newspaper publisher and conservative activist receives her biographical due."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Compelling reading."—*New Hampshire Union Leader*

On February 7, 2020, *Politico* published an excerpt of the book, and on June 17, 2020, the *Wall Street Journal* included a lengthy review essay about it.



***An Unladylike Profession: American Women War Correspondents in World War I* by Chris Dubbs**

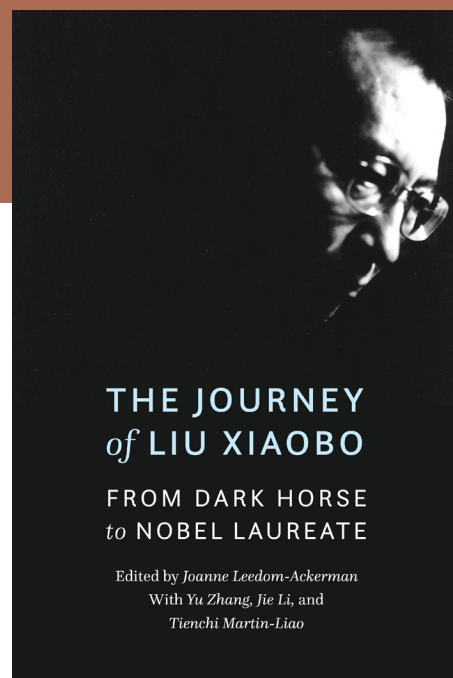
“This slice of World War I history offers insights into American journalism as well as into the terrible conflict itself. . . . [Dubbs] writes with a sure hand, drawing from published articles, memoirs, diaries and letters. He skillfully presents each woman’s story in a linked series of riveting—sometimes heart-breaking—narratives. . . . Near the end of *An Unladylike Profession*, Mr. Dubbs remarks on the reporter’s duty to report the truth no matter how uncomfortable it might be. The journalists profiled in this ab-

sorbing book lived up to that responsibility.”—Melanie Kirkpatrick, *Wall Street Journal*

“Readers will be inspired by the nearly unimaginable obstacles these journalists overcame to perform their jobs with flair. A welcome history suitable for World War I aficionados and budding journalists.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred

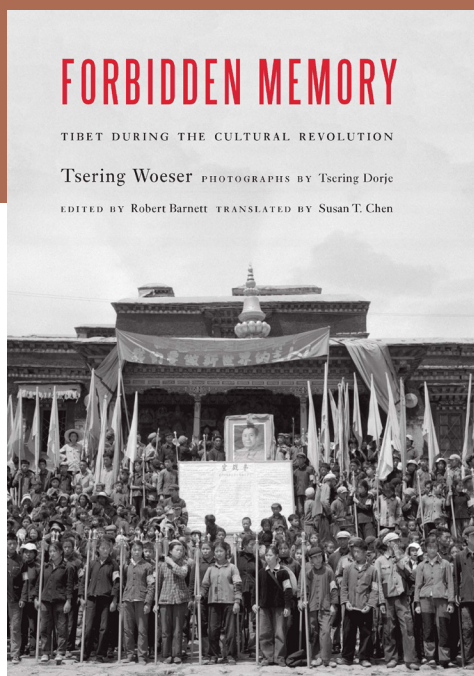
“Chris Dubbs’s *An Unladylike Profession* jumps into the trenches with the women reporters of World War I—groundbreaking journalists who explained the war to readers in the US, and who shared stories from the war’s brutal aftermath.”—*Foreword Reviews*

“Dubbs . . . delivers a rousing narrative of adventurous women, passionate about their careers, who broke free from oppressive gender norms to accomplish their goals. Hand this book to World War I aficionados and casual history buffs.”—Michelle Ross, *Booklist*



***The Journey of Liu Xiaobo: From Dark Horse to Nobel Laureate* edited by Joanne Leedom-Ackerman with Yu Zhang, Jie Li, and Tienchi Martin-Liao, translated by Stacy Mosher and Andréa Worden**

“One of the strengths of *The Journey of Liu Xiaobo* is the probity and conviction of its articles, all but five of which were translated from Chinese into English. Many of the authors didn’t just know Liu intimately but clearly display a deep knowledge of Chinese politics and culture.”—Ajay Singh, *South China Morning Post Magazine*

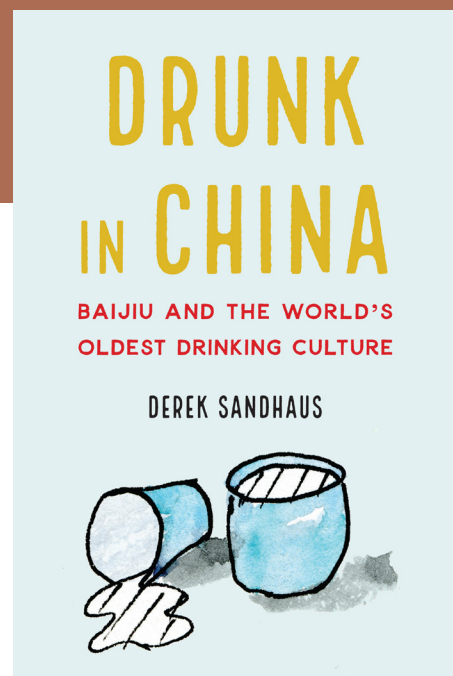


***Forbidden Memory: Tibet during the Cultural Revolution*** by Tsering Woeser, photographs by Tsering Dorje, edited by Robert Barnett; translated by Susan T. Chen, foreword by Wang Lixiong

“[*Forbidden Memory* is] one of the most important books on Tibet during the final years of the Mao era. . . . This new edition, translated fluidly by Susan T. Chen, comes with an elegantly crafted, informative yet concise editor’s introduction by Robert Barnett, a leading scholar of and public commentator on contemporary Tibet. . . . With yet another grand experiment spiraling into tragedy, it is valuable to have accounts

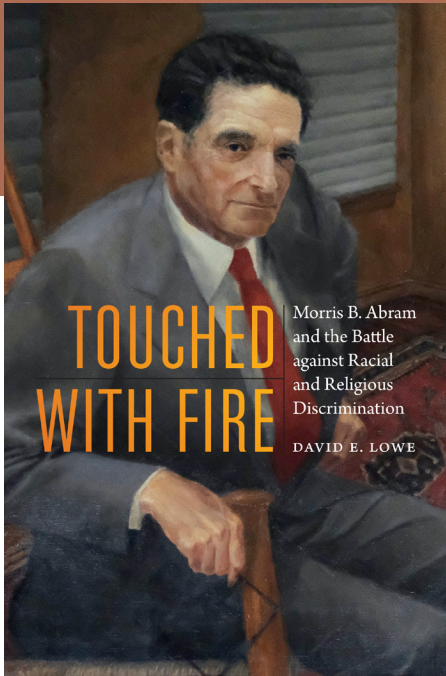
like these that help us understand how a notable precursor imploded.”—Jeffrey Wasserstrom, *Wall Street Journal*

“In lucid, engaging prose interspersed with her own insights, Woeser highlights how the Cultural Revolution shaped the contours of Tibet’s negotiation with communist China. Her account is a powerful, nuanced argument against the popular perception that Tibetans strongly resisted Beijing’s secularisation and sinicising policies.”  
—Ajay Singh, *South China Morning Post*



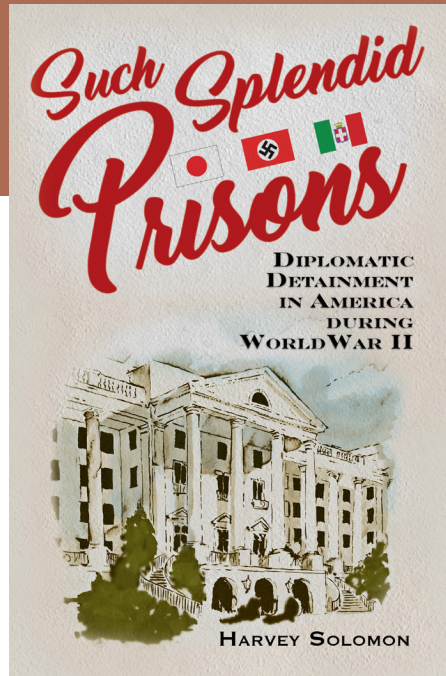
The January 23, 2020, edition of *The Economist*, ran a lengthy exploration of ***Drunk in China: Baijiu and the World’s Oldest Drinking Culture*** by Derek Sandhaus. The *Washington Post* Travel section highlighted the book on May 22, 2020, in an article entitled “Six spirits that evoke far-off destinations.” The February 2020 issue of *American Diplomacy* published an article by Sandhaus entitled “Beer-Pong Diplomacy: A Diplomat’s Guide to Drinking in China.”





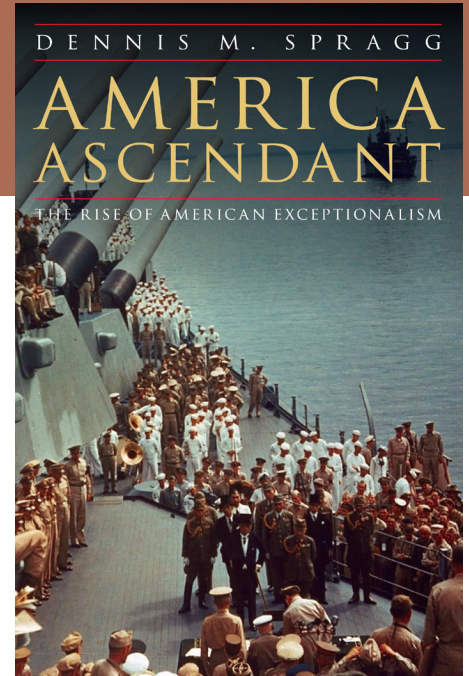
***Touched with Fire: Morris B. Abram and the Battle against Racial and Religious Discrimination* by David E. Lowe**

“In the hyper-politicized world we inhabit today, where Democrats and Republicans are tribal in their fanaticism for their respective parties and antipathy toward their opponents, Lowe’s recounting of Abram’s life offers a welcome reminder that public servants once did have values that trumped partisan politics. There may not be another Morris Abram, but his largeness of spirit and ability to stay on a consistently principled path serves as an inspiration to future public servants.”—Jay P. Lefkowitz, *Commentary Magazine*



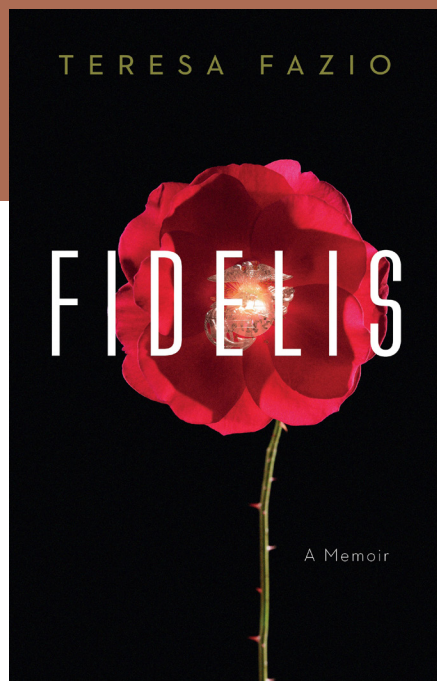
***Such Splendid Prisons: Diplomatic Detainment in America during World War II* by Harvey Solomon**

“It’s not every day that a significant piece of neglected WWII diplomacy comes to light, but it has done so in *Such Splendid Prisons*. . . . [I]t’s a fascinating lesson in how diplomacy is meant to function and should enthrall American history buffs, current and retired U.S. diplomats, and employees of the FBI and CIA whose predecessors played such crucial roles in this daring operation.”—*The Foreign Service Journal*



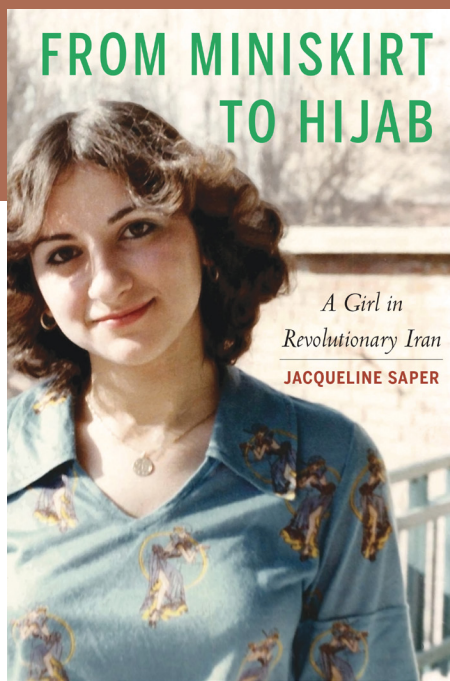
***America Ascendant: The Rise of American Exceptionalism* by Dennis M. Spragg**

“The strength of *America Ascendant* is Spragg’s exceptional prose and style. It is simply hard to put down. His exhaustive research of both primary and secondary sources provides a comprehensive look of the Axis defeat from many perspectives.”—*Military Review*



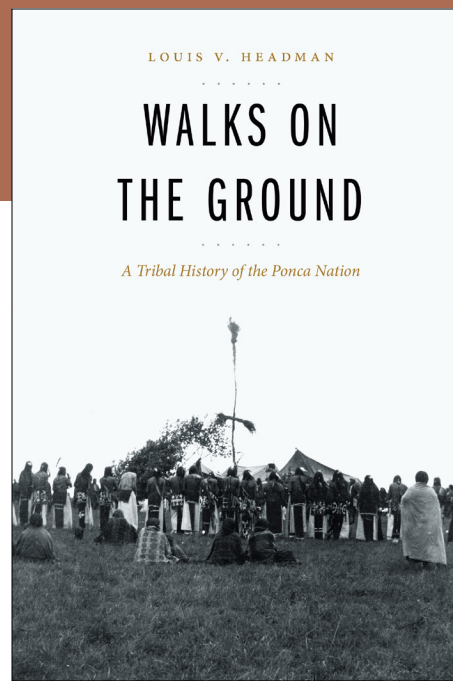
***Fidelis: A Memoir* by Teresa Fazio**

“*Fidelis* is a young Marine’s tense, heartfelt story of her life before, during, and after her deployment to Iraq.”—Carol Booton, *Foreword Reviews*



***From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran* by Jacqueline Saper**

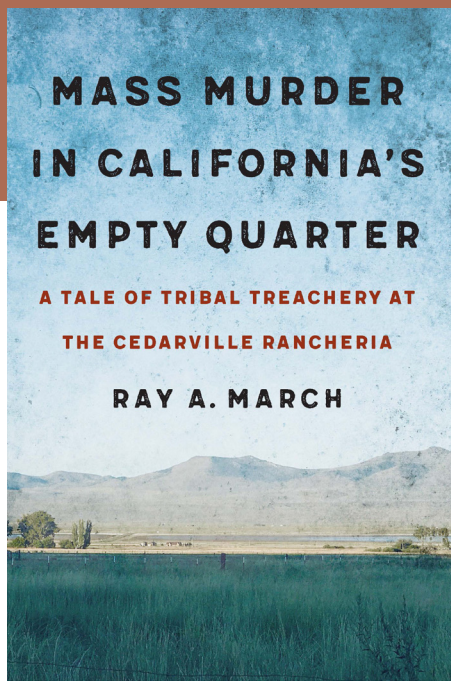
“In addition to being a memoir of resiliency and courage, *From Miniskirt to Hijab* offers glimpses into Iran’s history and customs, its arts and laws, how its social institutions operate, and its people think.—Fred Reiss, *San Diego Jewish World*



***Walks on the Ground: A Tribal History of the Ponca Nation* by Louis V. Headman**

“This superb history of the Ponca Nation is part of the University of Nebraska Press’s effort to publish First Nations’ histories written by native historians, rather than outsiders. . . . This substantial volume should be absorbed, not skimmed.”—*CHOICE*



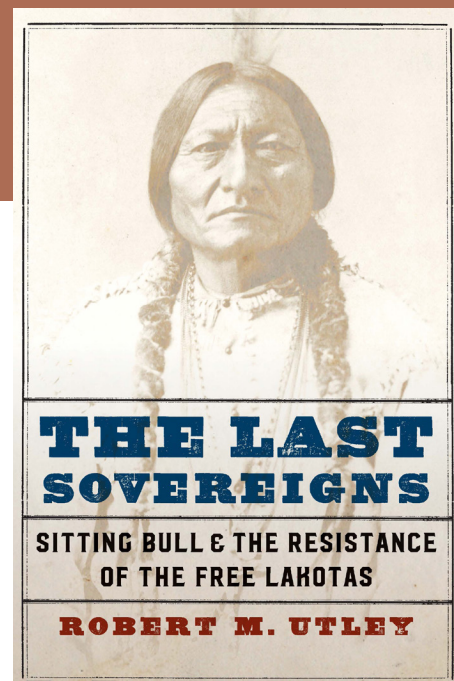


*Mass Murder in California's Empty Quarter: A Tale of Tribal Treachery at the Cedarville Rancheria* by Ray A. March

"March . . . details in this searing account the case of Cherie Rhoades, the first woman tried for mass murder in the United States. . . . This portrait of a flawed woman driven to commit a heinous crime makes for fascinating reading."—*Publishers Weekly*

"[T]he narrative hits on some centrally important questions: Who is an Indian? Who decides? And 'to what extent is tribal dysfunction and the dysfunction present in contemporary Native American culture something that state and federal policy, especially gambling policy, incentivizes?' A story that moves from murder to larger issues of identity, cultural genocide, and Native American life."

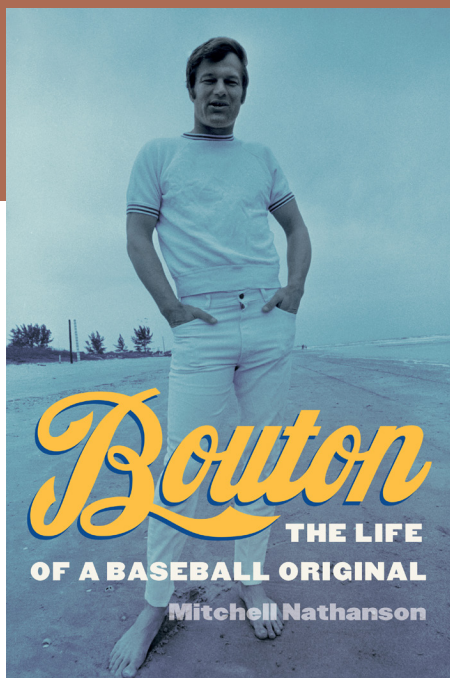
*Kirkus Reviews*



*The Last Sovereigns: Sitting Bull and the Resistance of the Free Lakotas* by Robert M. Utley

"[A] well-informed study of a decisive moment for 'the last free Lakotas.'"—*Publishers Weekly*





As happens each spring, UNP baseball books garner wide attention in the media. This year was no exception.

***Bouton: The Life of a Baseball Original*** by Mitchell Nathanson

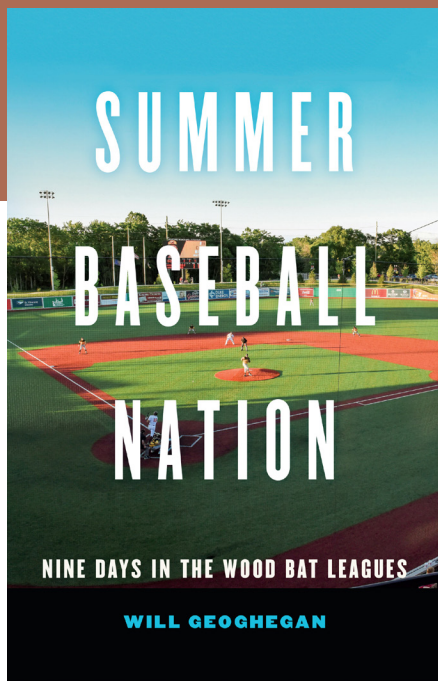
“When Mitchell Nathanson, a professor of sports law at Villanova, approached Bouton about writing his biography, the pitcher gave his blessing, on one condition: that Nathanson write about him with the honesty he’d tried to bring to the game of baseball. . . . Nathanson moves crisply through the deep back story, though he knows a good detail when he sees one.”—John Swansburg, *New York Times Book Review*

“Nathanson . . . an astute writer on the game, is at his best on the Bouton-Shecter collaboration—late nights at the Lion’s Head Bar in Greenwich Village; Shecter making sense of Bouton’s scrawls on stationery, envelopes and toilet paper; the pair noodling over the manuscript stripped down to their underwear in Shecter’s airless Chelsea apartment. . . . Nathanson is good, too, with Bouton wisecracks.”—Maxwell Carter, *Wall Street Journal*

“Baseball fans will laugh alongside and, ultimately, feel touched by this look at an iconoclastic, often quixotic man who, despite the charges that his landmark book had hurt the game, loved baseball to the very end.”  
—*Library Journal*, starred review

“Nathanson goes beyond tracing Bouton’s life, focusing instead on explicating the roots of *Ball Four*. In so doing, the book becomes an inside-publishing exposé, showing how the publication and selling of *Ball Four* changed our expectations of what a sports book could be. . . . In ad-

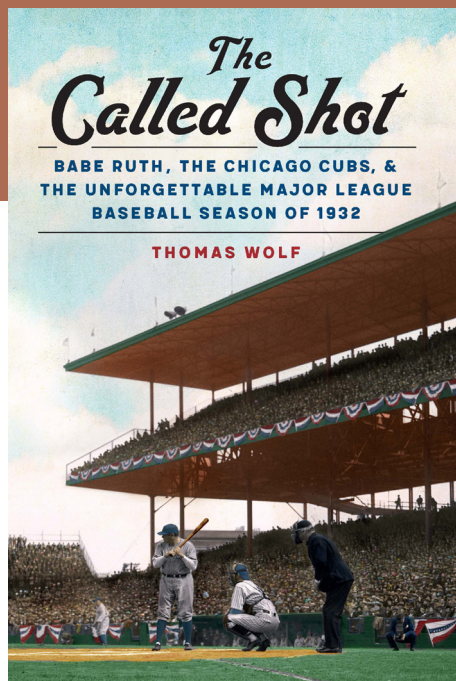
dition, the book provides fascinating details about Bouton’s post-*Ball Four* life, including his fling at acting and his turn as an entrepreneur, developing the successful bubble-gum product Big League Chew. A welcome look at one of baseball’s signature mavericks.”—Mark Levine, *Booklist*



***Summer Baseball Nation:  
Nine Days in the Wood Bat  
Leagues* by Will Geoghegan**

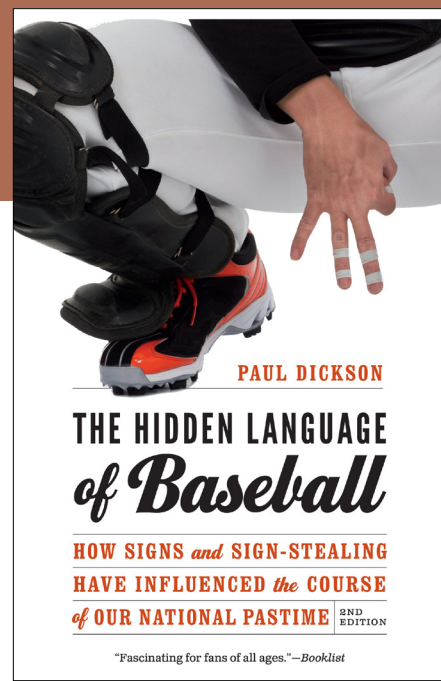
“A charming book about a charming element of American life.”—David M. Shribman, *Wall Street Journal*

“This is an informative examination of an overlooked form of grassroots baseball that, for some players, can be an important step to the major leagues.”—Wes Lukowsky, *Booklist*



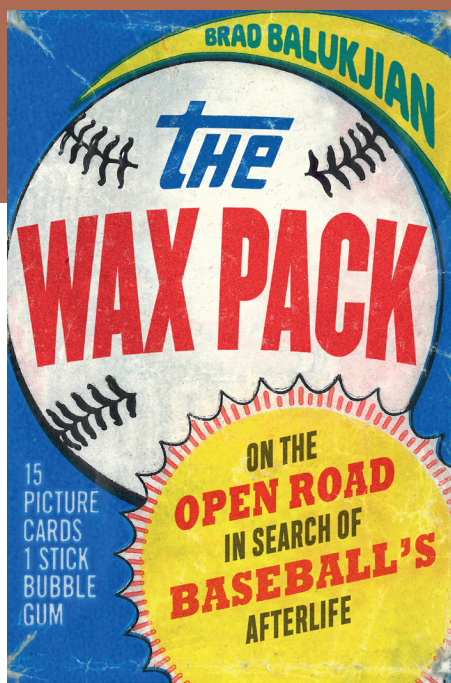
***The Called Shot: Babe Ruth, the  
Chicago Cubs, and the Unforgettable  
Major League Baseball Season  
of 1932* by Thomas Wolf**

“Wolf . . . delivers a solid and exciting look at the 1932 baseball season. . . . Baseball fans will delight in this thrillingly told history.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review



***The Hidden Language of Baseball:  
How Signs and Sign-Stealing  
Have Influenced the Course of Our  
National Pastime* by Paul Dickson**

“This book is quite timely since it covers perhaps the biggest baseball story of the last few months: Signs and sign-stealing. . . . [Dickson] shows us that baseball is, first and foremost, a game of intelligence and wit, and that has always included a bit of cheating, and at the same time walks us through the evolution and the increased complexity of these sign systems. Baseball is war, and like every war, information is power.”  
—*Fansided*



***The Wax Pack: On the Open Road in Search of Baseball's Afterlife*** by Brad Balukjian

"[T]he best baseball-related book of 2020."—Barry Lewis, *Tulsa World*

"Brad Balukjian's concept for his first book—tear open a pack of 1986 Topps baseball cards, chomp the ancient pink rectangle of gum-ish substance, then hit the road to unwrap the post-baseball lives of the players found in the pack—is so obviously compelling that it is the envy of any wannabe-author sportswriter who has never been able to summon the right idea."—Chad Finn, *Boston Globe*

"Imagine buying a pack of baseball cards from the mid-1980s. Each pack has 14 random cards, many of which feature players you do not know. In this fascinating book, Balukjian . . . describes how he tracked down every single player in the pack, an adventure that led him to travel thousands of miles through 30 U.S. states. . . . While not everyone featured here is a baseball superstar, all of the stories offer captivating tidbits for fans of the sport."—Gus Palas, *Library Journal*

"It's not just how Balukjian watches kung fu movies with Templeton, plays Cards Against Humanity with Cocanower or goes bowling and lifts weights with Ready. His inquisitive nature, honesty and self-awareness guides us through a mix of memoir, travel and human connection. These cardboard gods can be even more heroic now."—Tom Hoffarth, *Sports Business Journal*

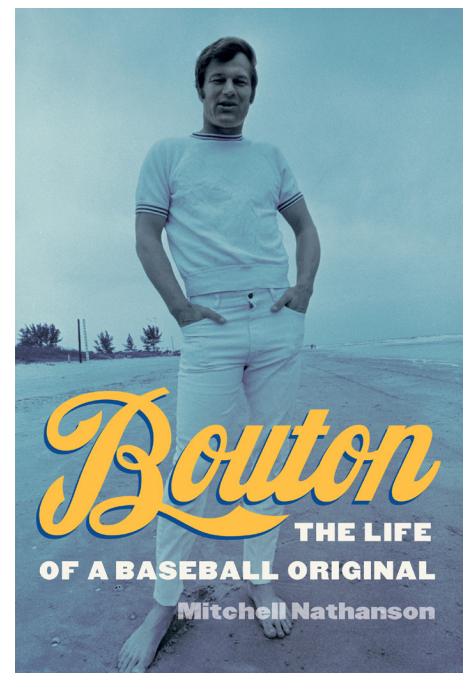
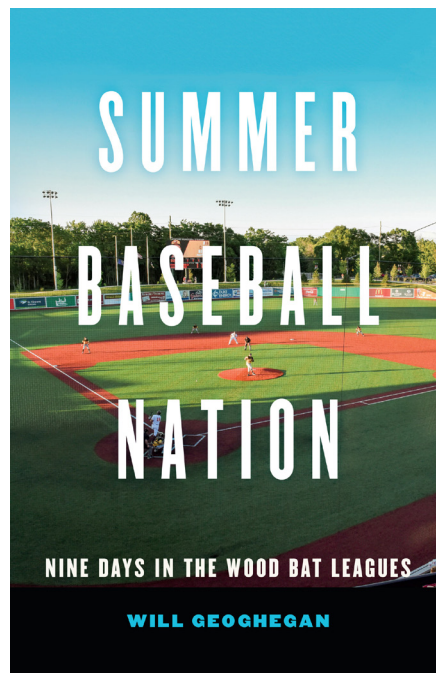
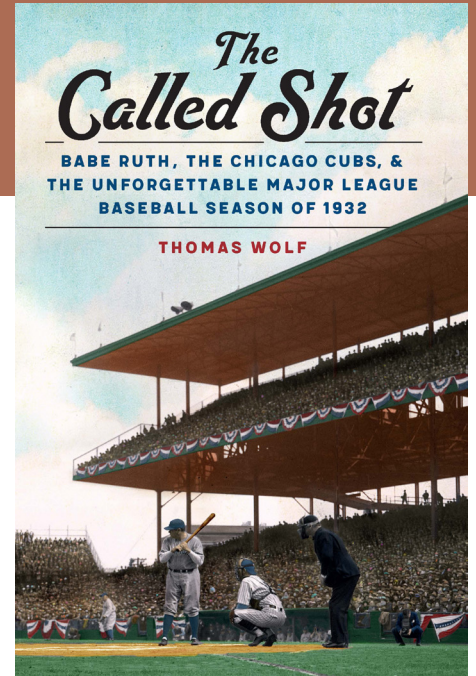
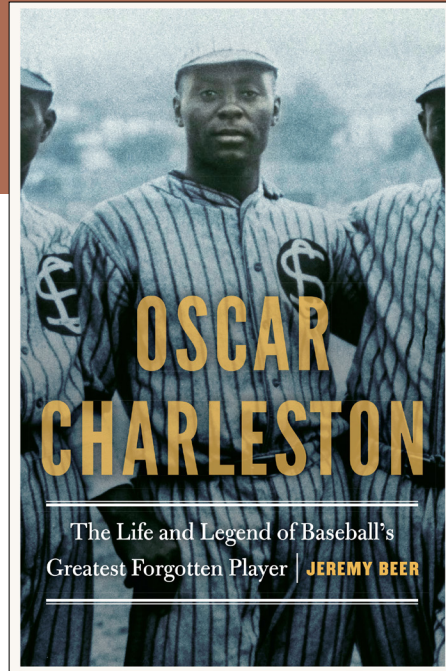
"*The Wax Pack* is a journey worth waiting for, worth taking. Enjoy the ride."—Andy Esposito, *NY Sports Day*

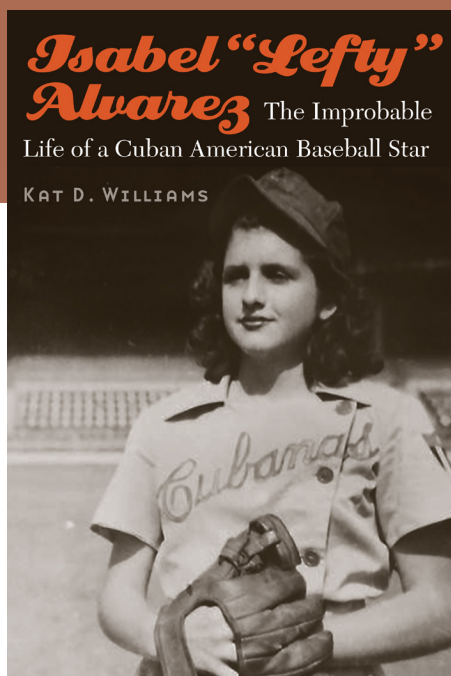
"*The Wax Pack* is a nice example of what a baseball fan can do with a dream, and carving out time from real world requirements, to go back to their future during a time when cards cost less than two quarters."—Don Laible, *Observer-Dispatch*

In addition to dozens of reviews garnered, the book was also the subject of myriad features, interviews, and best-of lists this spring and summer, including the *Los Angeles Times* bestseller list the week of May 17. A highlight was Balukjian's September 4 appearance on MLB Network's television program "MLB Central," hosted by Robert Flores with guest host John Smoltz. The 6:39-minute segment included a lengthy shot of the book's jacket (with credit to UNP) and an entertaining conversation about the book's themes and Brad's experiences researching it.

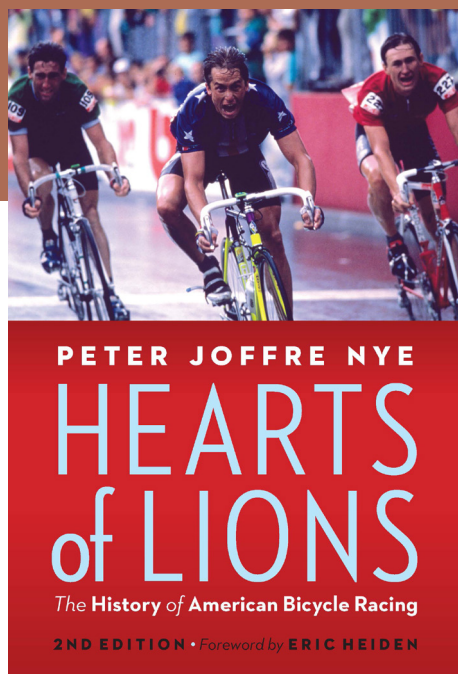


The March 23, 2020, edition of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* featured “12 new baseball books worth adding to your lineup while we wait for baseball to come back.” Five of the twelve were UNP books: *The Wax Pack: On the Open Road in Search of Baseball’s Afterlife*, by Brad Balukjian; *Oscar Charleston: The Life and Legend of Baseball’s Greatest Forgotten Player*, by Jeremy Beer; *Summer Baseball Nation: Nine Days in the Wood Bat Leagues*, by Will Geoghegan; *The Called Shot: Babe Ruth, the Chicago Cubs, and the Unforgettable Major League Baseball Season of 1932*, by Thomas Wolf; and *Bouton: The Life of a Baseball Original*, by Mitchell Nathanson.



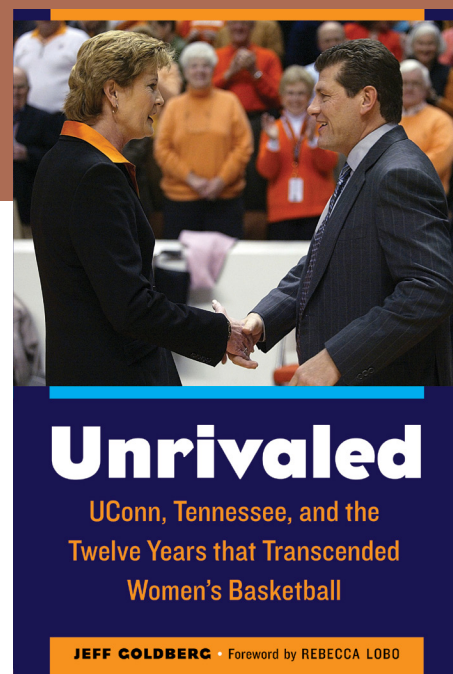


The March 27, 2020 issue of *Publishers Weekly* carried a piece highlighting sports titles by and about women. One featured title was ***Isabel "Lefty" Alvarez: The Improbable Life of a Cuban American Baseball Star*** by Kat D. Williams.



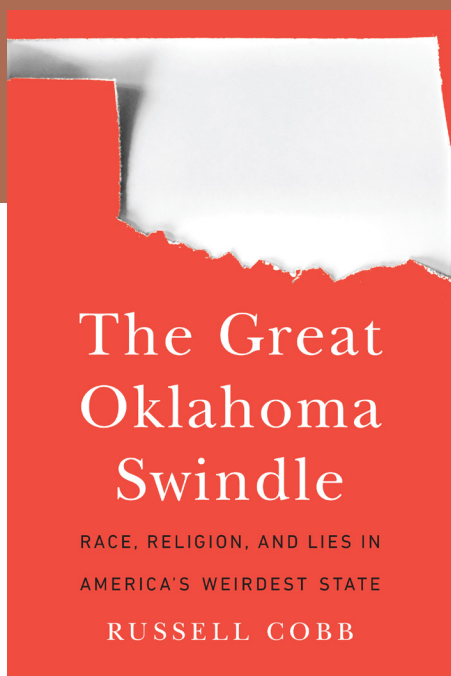
***Hearts of Lions: The History of American Bicycle Racing, Second Edition*** by Peter Joffre Nye

"Mr. Nye's history-rich writing has the fluid pace of a peloton coursing through the French countryside. Old stories remain as captivating today as they were decades ago. Most important, he shows how the bicycle has remained a constant despite the arrival of new protagonists and technologies."—Michael Barry, *Wall Street Journal*



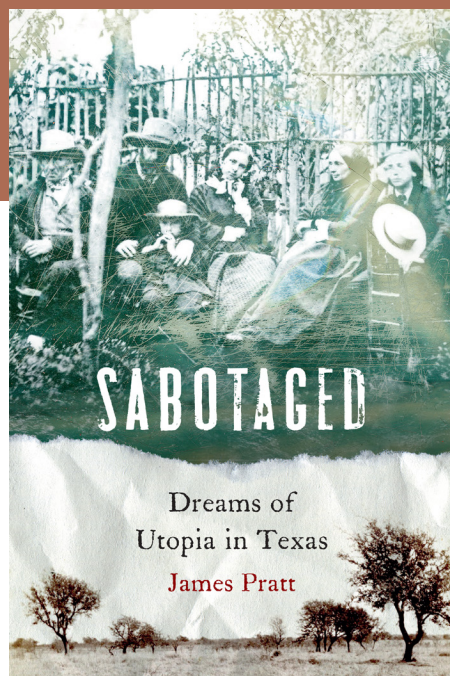
On January 23, 2020, *Sports Illustrated* published an excerpt of ***Unrivaled: UConn, Tennessee, and the Twelve Years that Transcended Women's Basketball*** by Jeff Goldberg.



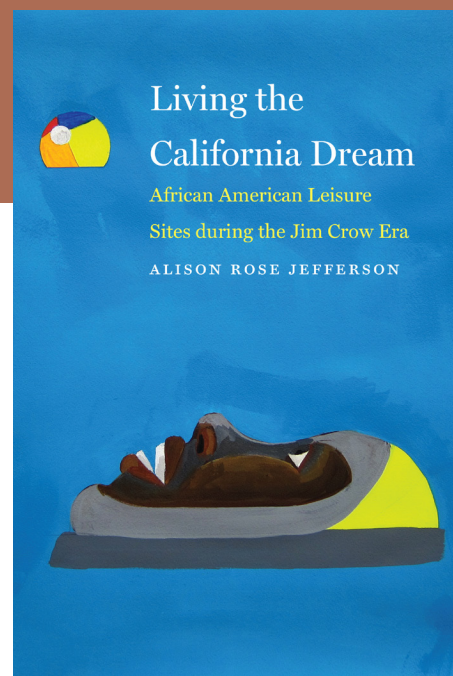


***The Great Oklahoma Swindle: Race, Religion, and Lies in America's Weirdest State*** by Russell Cobb reached #2 on *The Oklahoman's* August 16 "Oklahoma Bestseller" list.

*Spine Magazine* recognized UNP's Nathan Putens for his design work on the book. Jordan Wannamacher wrote, "Swoon! Look at this art! Isn't it perfect? I love it when you can tell a designer worked outside of the computer and got their hands dirty to create an image. This is also such a great conceptual illustration of the subject matter and the shade of orange really pops the negative space created by the tear."



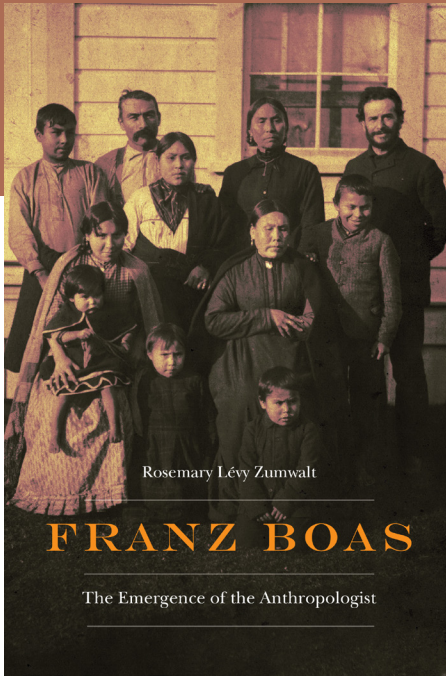
The April 15 edition of the *Dallas Morning News* carried a lengthy examination by Mark Lamster of ***Sabotaged: Dreams of Utopia in Texas***, by James Pratt. It begins, "Why do communities fail? As we find ourselves under quarantine and our civic institutions under assault, it is a question worthy of examination, and one to which our history can provide insight. The story of La Reunion, the utopian community established in Dallas in 1855, only to fall apart after little more than a year, is particularly instructive."



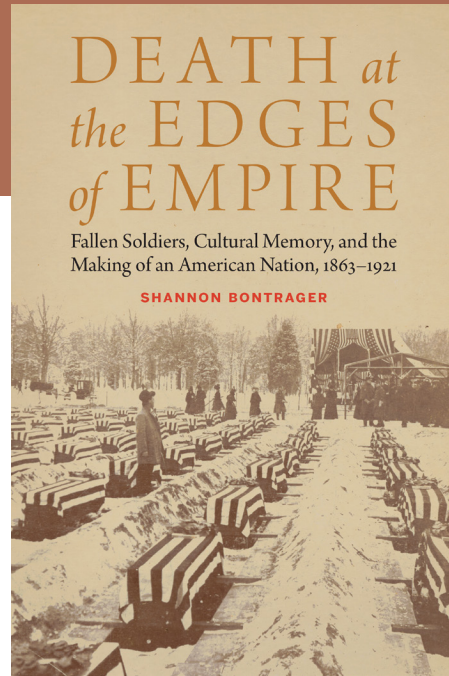
***Living the California Dream: African American Leisure Sites during the Jim Crow Era*** by Alison Rose Jefferson

"[In her] fascinating new book. . . [Jefferson] documents the history of a long-overlooked network of African American leisure and recreation sites that flourished in SoCal from the 1910s to the 1950s. Along the way she uncovered stories of courage, community, and camaraderie in the California sun."—*Los Angeles Magazine*





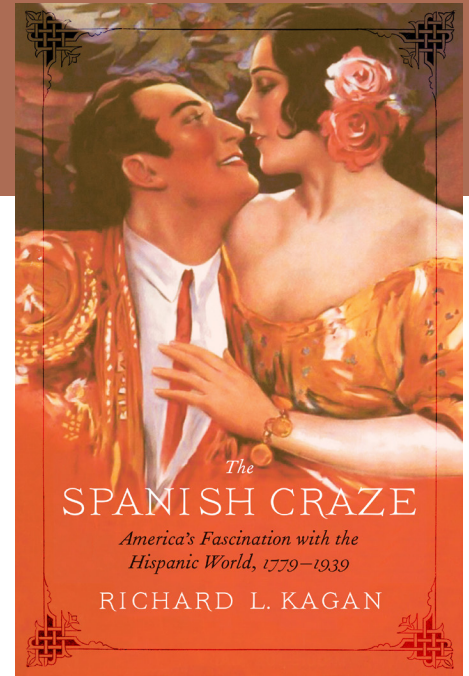
The May 28, 2020, issue of *The New York Review of Books* published an essay by Kwame Anthony Appiah entitled, “The Defender of Differences.” It discusses Franz Boas, who is “renowned as the father of American cultural anthropology and the scholar who taught generations how to think about human diversity without hierarchy.” One of three books addressed was *Franz Boas: The Emergence of the Anthropologist* by Rosemary Lévy Zumwalt.



*Death at the Edges of Empire: Fallen Soldiers, Cultural Memory, and the Making of an American Nation, 1863–1921* by Shannon Bontrager

“Though a work of history, *Death at the Edges of Empire* ultimately raises questions about the present: Are we too divided to do war memorials anymore? And if so, are honest forms of commemoration even possible?”—Randall Fuller, *Wall Street Journal*

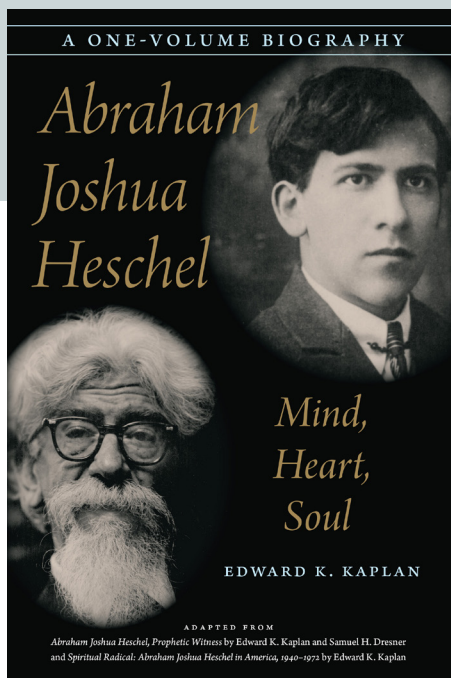
*Death at the Edges of Empire* was also a 2020 BookAuthority selection for best new American Civil War books.



*The Spanish Craze: America's Fascination with the Hispanic World, 1779–1939* by Richard L. Kagan

“[A] lively, readable, widely focused work that argues the United States has been enamored with Spain and the Spanish world off and on for 140 years.”—David Steinberg, *Albuquerque Journal*

## JPS Awards and Select Publicity Highlights



“Edward Kaplan gives us a beautiful and lucid guide to the most creative Jewish philosopher of religion of the twentieth century. . . . Kaplan eloquently captures Heschel’s life, personality, and the major themes in his writings. . . . I wholeheartedly recommend Kaplan’s book to anyone interested in [the] life and works of Abraham Joshua Heschel.”—Harold Kasimow, *Times of Israel*

**Abraham Joshua Heschel:**  
**Mind, Heart, Soul, Abridged,**  
**A One-Volume Biography**  
by Edward K. Kaplan

“[An] admiring and detailed biography.”—Adam Kirsch, *Wall Street Journal*

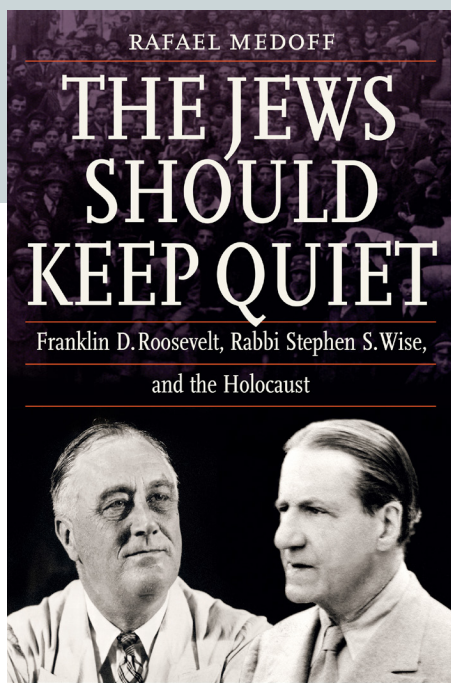
“The principal author of the definitive Heschel biography has distilled its two large volumes into one for a general readership. . . . Kaplan embeds Heschel’s activism in his prolific writing career, affording a blazingly impressive portrait of what it means to be a public intellectual.”—Ray Olson, *Booklist*, starred review



**Thinking about God: Jewish**  
**Views** by Rabbi Kari H. Tuling

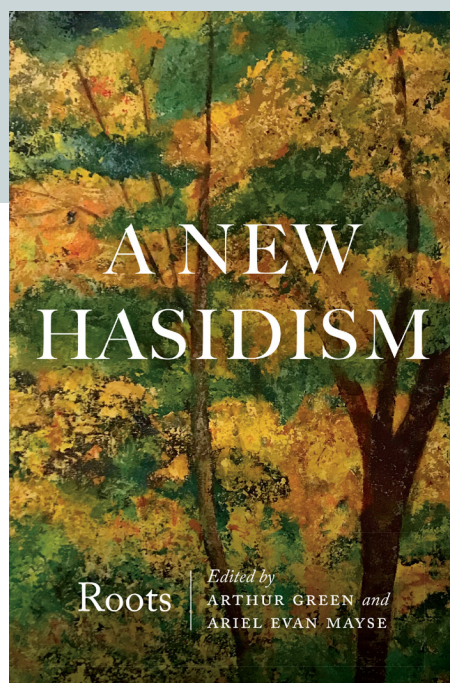
“Rabbi Tuling analyzes a range of Jewish thought on major theological questions throughout history in her sharp debut.”—*Publishers Weekly*



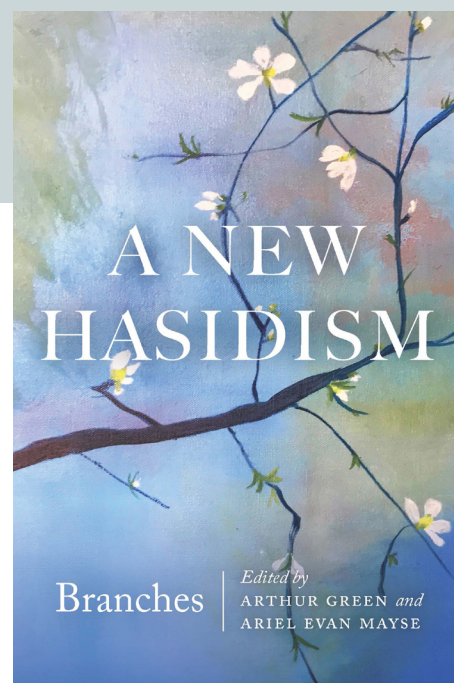


***The Jews Should Keep Quiet: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, and the Holocaust*** by Rafael Medoff

“Medoff has written an outstanding and important book about the United States, Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. . . . [The book] is an unsparing condemnation of a president who was slow to help Jewish refugees and reluctant to criticize Adolf Hitler’s Germany. It is also a stunning critique of an American Jewish community leader who allowed himself to be stifled, manipulated and virtually silenced.”—Sheldon Kirshner, *Times of Israel*



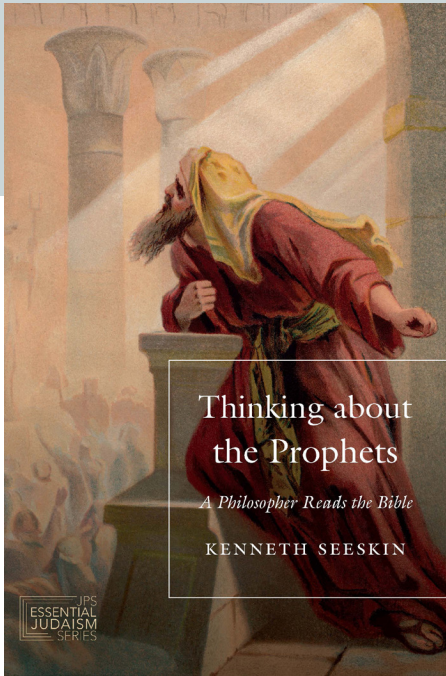
“[G]oes further than previous accounts by adding several dark new twists about Roosevelt and Wise, none of them pretty. . . . Medoff assembles facts and footnotes like a bricklayer. He wants his edifice to last.”—Mark Horowitz, *Commentary*



***A New Hasidism: Roots and A New Hasidism: Branches***, both volumes edited by Arthur Green and Ariel Evan Mayse

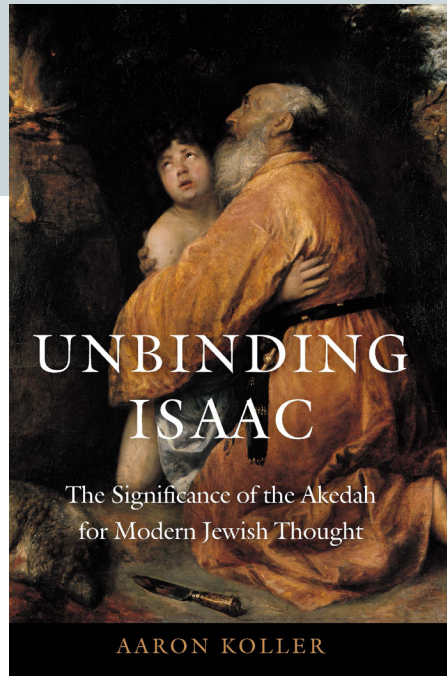
“After reading these two intellectually informative and spiritually rich works, we ask how indeed twenty-first-century Jews living in comfort, in freedom, in modernity in an age of feminism and egalitarianism, at a time when they draw close to those who have been ‘other’ will adapt the spiritual teaching of their eighteenth- and nineteenth-century ancestors. Judaism will be much enhanced by such adaption as has been this reader.”—Michael Berenbaum, *Jewish Journal*





***Thinking about the Prophets:  
A Philosopher Reads the  
Bible* by Kenneth Seeskin**

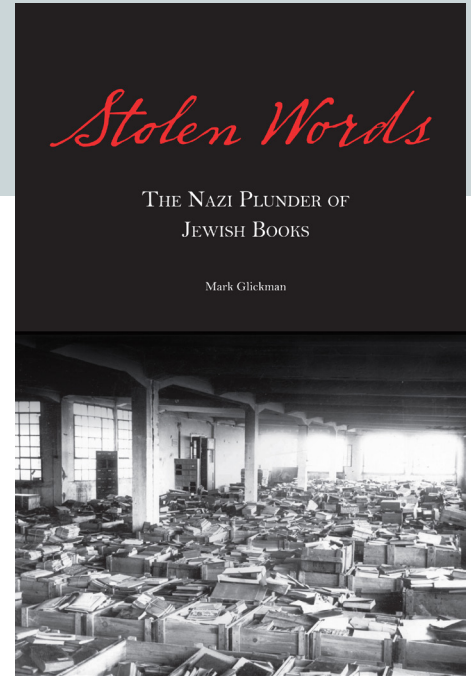
“Erudite and accessible, this insightful analysis will appeal to any reader interested in the Bible, the philosophy of religion, or simply the history and literature of the ancient world.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*



***Unbinding Isaac: The Significance  
of the Akedah for Modern Jewish  
Thought* by Aaron Koller**

“[A] provocative study.”—*Publishers Weekly*

The book was the subject of a lengthy feature essay by Rabbi Dr. Stu Halpern in the July 16, 2020, edition of the *Jewish Standard*.



***Stolen Words: The Nazi Plunder of  
Jewish Books* by Mark Glickman**

“Of all the crimes perpetrated by the Nazis before and during World War II, the wanton theft of Jewish-owned books is probably the least known. . . . Glickman, an American rabbi, tells this story with skill and authority.”  
—Sheldon Kirshner, *The Times of Israel*

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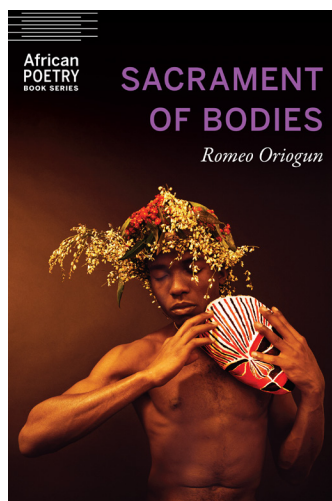
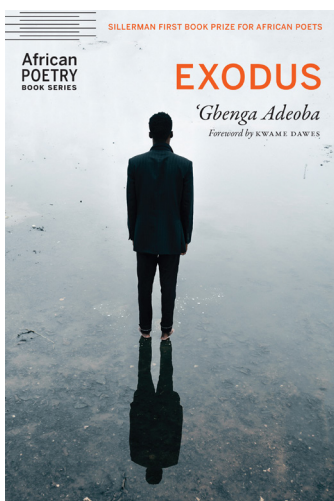
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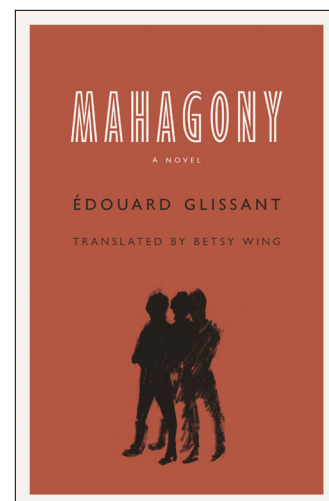
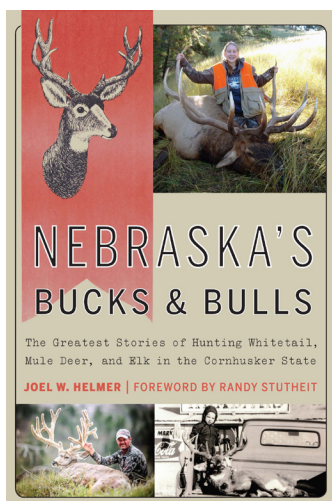
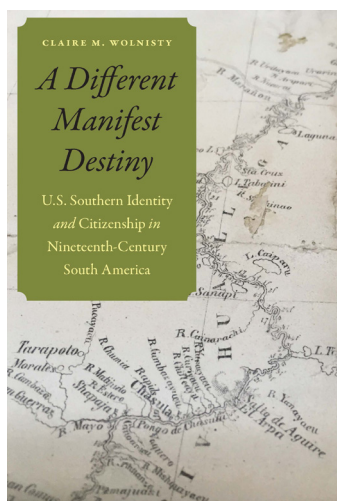
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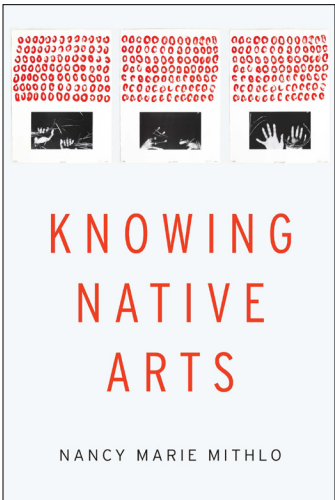
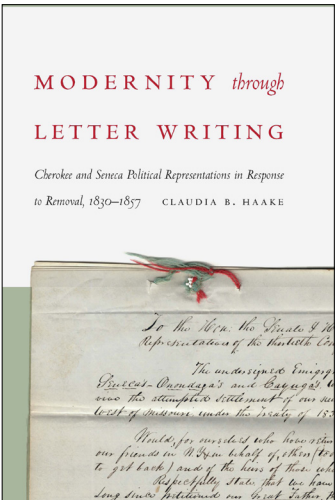
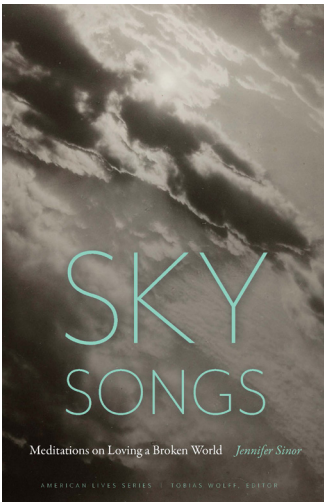
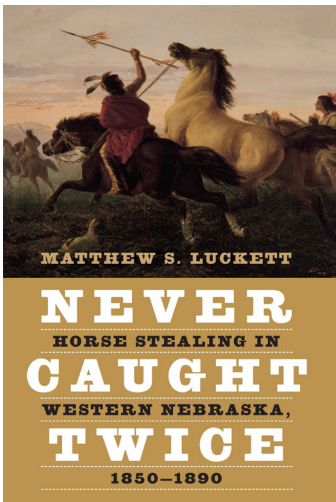
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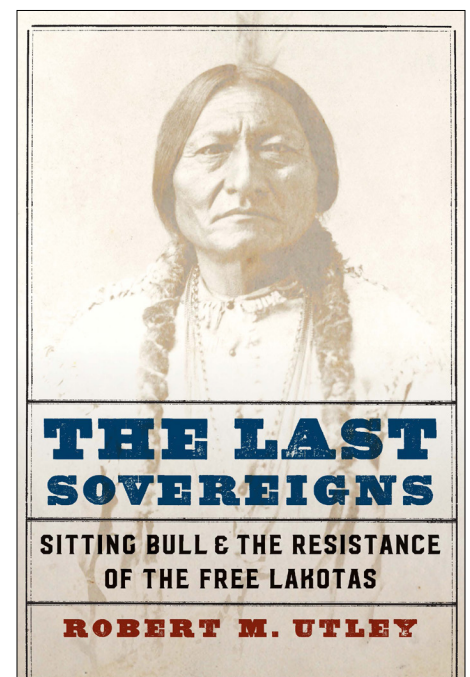
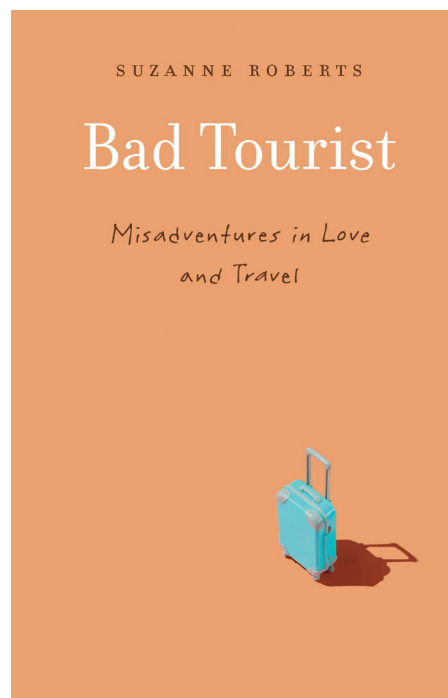
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The Friends of the University of Nebraska Press continues its commitment to support conversion of older UNP titles to electronic format so that readers may enjoy them either in print or as ebooks. In addition to that work, Friends directly underwrites the publication costs of several new books each year. In the Fall 2020 lineup, Friends is supporting two titles: *Bad Tourist: Misadventures in Love and Travel* by Suzanne Roberts and *The Last Sovereigns: Sitting Bull and the Resistance of the Free Lakotas* by Robert M. Utley.

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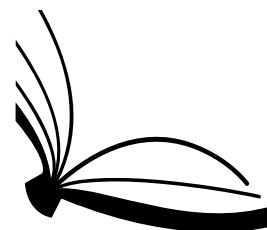
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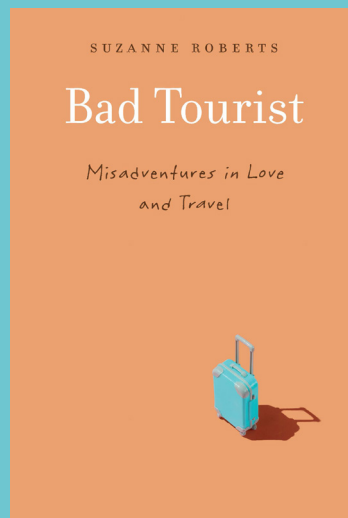
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Tish Fobben of our marketing department appears here with her dog Junko and some of the UNP “swag” she has collected over her twenty-six-year (and counting!) career at the Press. While we have all been working remotely, we asked everyone to take a photo of themselves with any UNP memorabilia they had at home. We saw some impressive collections!