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Director, Hebrew Union College Press
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David H. Aaron
Director, University of Pittsburgh Press

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NEW IN PAPER

Allegheny City
A History of Pittsburgh’s North Side

Dan Rooney and Carol Peterson

“This book is an invaluable reference tool for anyone interested in Pittsburgh. It is a serious, thoroughly researched history of the North Side with a wealth of fascinating detail. Architecture, land use, business trends, demographic shifts, and natural disasters all take their place in this sprawling history, mirroring trends in the larger American society.”
—Meg Cheever, President and CEO, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

“Dan Rooney is a man of few words. When he speaks, it is best to listen. When he speaks about Pittsburgh’s North Side, listen carefully—there is much to be learned about the amazing history of Allegheny City and the evolution of an American community.”
—Andrew E. Masich, President and CEO, Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh

“This book tells the Allegheny City/North Side story from the days of canals and cotton mills through the present day. If you have any interest in the way American cities evolved—and if you have a particular interest in Pittsburgh—this is the book for its largest section, the North Side.”
—Brian O’Neill, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, from the foreword

Allegheny City, known today as Pittsburgh’s North Side, was the third-largest city in Pennsylvania when it was controversially annexed by the City of Pittsburgh in 1907. Founded in 1787 as a reserve land tract for Revolutionary War veterans in compensation for their service, it quickly evolved into a thriving urban center with its own character, industry, and accomplished residents, including Andrew Carnegie, Mary Cassatt, Gertrude Stein, Stephen Foster, and Martha Graham. Once a station along the underground railroad, home to the first wire suspension bridge, and host to the first World Series, the North Side is now the site of Heinz Field, PNC Park, the Andy Warhol Museum, the National Aviary, and world headquarters for corporations such as Alcoa and the H. J. Heinz Company.

Dan Rooney, longtime North Side resident, joins local historian Carol Peterson in creating this highly engaging history of the cultural, industrial, and architectural achievements of Allegheny City from its humble beginnings until the present day. The authors cover the history of the city from its origins as a simple colonial outpost and agricultural center to its rapid emergence alongside Pittsburgh as one of the most important industrial cities in the world and an engine of the American economy. Supplemented by historic and contemporary photos, the authors take the reader on a fascinating and often surprising street-level tour of this colorful, vibrant, and proud place.
The Spirit Bird

Stories

Kent Nelson

WINNER OF THE 2014 DRUE HEINZ LITERATURE PRIZE
Selected by David Guterson

“The Spirit Bird indicates a seasoned talent at work. It’s a collection set in disparate geographies and touching on disparate lives, but it explores consistently the terrain of loneliness and yearning. One of its more impressive features is the way it artfully balances saying too much with saying too little. These stories open out instead of closing up. They’re moving, which is hard to do, and surprising in the sense that we’re unprepared for how they end. I respect and admire The Spirit Bird. It’s the work of an author whose passionate immersion in life is evident on every page.”
—David Guterson, author of Snow Falling on Cedars

“Kent Nelson has published more short stories than almost any other American writer in our time. His descriptions of land and light create perfect backgrounds for characters, both men and women, who struggle to find meaningful ways to live their lives. This new collection shows why he’s so frequently published. It’s simply because he’s so good.”
—Kent Haruf, author of Plainsong

“The Spirit Bird is a gift to readers. Its lush, gorgeous prose and deep intelligence create a surprising range of experience, in which characters navigate the terrains of the human heart with piercing elegance. The wideness of this author’s vision seems capable of taking in anything, and reveals human loneliness and desire with memorable grace.”
—Erin McGraw, author of The Good Life: Stories

“To see a bird and to know it are different, and the longer we waited, the more I understood the absence of a thing. The absence made the presence real, created around the true thing its beauty and its myth.”
—excerpt from the story “La Garza del Sol”

The flight path of The Spirit Bird traces many landscapes and different transitory lives. A young man scratches out a living from the desert; a woman follows a rarely seen bird in the far reaches of Alaska; a poor single mother sorts out her life in a fancy mountain town. Other protagonists yearn to cross a racial divide, keep developers from a local island, explore their sexuality, and mourn a lost loved one. The characters in this collection are compelled to seek beyond their own horizons, and as the stories unfold, the search becomes the expression of their desires. The elusive spirit bird is a metaphor for what we’ve lost, for what we hope for, and what we don’t know about ourselves.
City of Eternal Spring

Afaa Michael Weaver

Past praise for Afaa Michael Weaver

“The Kingsley Tufts Award is one of the most prestigious prizes a poet can win, and I’m delighted to see it go to Afaa. His father was a sharecropper. After serving for two years in the Army, he toiled for fifteen years in factories, writing poems all the while. When he learned that he’d won a National Endowment fellowship, he quit his job and attended Brown University on a full scholarship. He essentially invented himself from whole cloth as a poet. It’s truly remarkable.”
—Chase Twichell, chief judge, Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, 2014
presented for The Government of Nature

“In these nuanced, sobering, and beautifully cadenced poems, the poet tries to deal with haunting, mysterious voices of past, present, and future—whether of fear, anxiety, joy, love, or hope. Reconciling East and West, he achieves solacing harmony and tranquility. A marvelous work.”
—Ching-Hsi Perng, President of Taipei Chinese Club, on The Government of Nature

“Weaver is one of the most significant poets writing today. With its blend of Chinese spiritualism and American groundedness, his poetry presents the reader (and the listener, for his body of work is meant to be read aloud) with challenging questions about identity, about how physicality and spirit act together or counteract each other to shape who we are in the world.”
—Henry Louis Gates for Baltimore Magazine

This is the final book in the Plum Flower Trilogy by Afaa Michael Weaver, published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. The two previous books, The Plum Flower Dance: Poems 1985 to 2005 and The Government of Nature, reveal similar themes that address the author’s personal experience with childhood abuse through the context of Daoist renderings of nature as a metaphor for the human body, with an eye to recovery and forgiveness in a very eclectic spiritual life. City of Eternal Spring chronicles Weaver’s travels abroad in Taiwan and China, as well as showing the limits of cultural influence.

TEA PLANTATIONS AND WOMEN IN BLACK
in Taipei

It is dusk in the city and here in the mountains, inside the thick green way of a place where rain is breath, and summer mist the gas that lets you dream of being lost, cast away in a paradise that is not a paradise for those who live here. I am too familiar to nightmares that pushed me here to hide from them, but they sit on the edge of the sun’s light pushing down into morning in the middle of the Atlantic. The tea comes with a young woman who stares at me, the black she has heard of, the black she cannot see, and we light the fire in the table, hear it puff up.

I am full of reasons, strings of hurt I cannot let loose here where no one knows the sirens on corners of black homes, hard hands on the grips of guns, bullets made for Nat Turner and Gabriel Prosser, or for me, black man daring to live, black man following the trance of women tipping on loose stone tablets of sidewalks in thin, black dresses under parasols to hide them from the truth.
Mimi’s Trapeze

J. Allyn Rosser

“It’s a rare pleasure to follow the quick and pointed intelligence that animates Rosser’s poems. Some are sonnets, some are long and lean, but all have clear, idiosyncratic voices. They come bearing philosophy, nostalgia, rabies, chicken soup, and the head of Holofernes. They’re funny, tart, perceptive—good company. And more than one goes armed with a blackjack ending.”
—Sarah Lindsay

“J. Allyn Rosser’s poems are adept at using a probing wit to subvert conventions, the conventions of thought that keep us from exploring complex truth. In the evocative title poem, we can see this process worked out in an extended dramatic monologue of a woman attempting to get to the bottom of her conflicted relation to family history. Rather than narrowing to a point, the poems open out as they proceed, and as a result these lively celebrations of the ordinary crazy heart are full of discoveries.”
—Carl Dennis

“In Rosser’s poems, wit dances with grimness, and sorrow steps out stylishly dressed to kill. But their flash doesn’t obscure the darkling power of these poems; this is a gallant, inventive, large-hearted book.”
—Rosanna Warren

SELE PITH

It’s not the loudly lauded innovation at your desk
nor the largely candid speech at your friend’s wedding
to the love of your life.
It’s not what you said to her in the dark—
and just forget that lecture on will and striving
to the weak and woeful. Immaterial,
the quiet talk you had with the janitor
last New Year’s Eve at the office,
the windows dilated, glittering with city.
It isn’t even the carefully rewritten letter
to the son who was bound to let you down again—
that lovingly resigned salutation.
No. It’s really not the words
you manage to spit out
that shape, typeset, and bind your life,
but those you’re made to eat.
The words you take back in
and choke on all alone.
You know the ones,
often starting with ‘I’ll never ever,
often ending with never again.’
Those words that measure the distance between
what you thought you’d think,
what you wanted to not have,
what you felt you’d feel,
and what you do.
The Americans

David Roderick

“The Americans is a compelling meditation on the ways we go about our lives at this cultural moment, often unmoored from the facts of history though we drift along its shores. Part complicated love letter to suburbia, these poems demand that we consider not only what we are drawn to but also what we fail to see, how the apocryphal feeds our cultural amnesia. The poet asks: ‘Must nostalgia / walk like a prince through all our rooms?’ This lovely collection shows us a way to confront that question within ourselves.”

—Natasha Trethewey, U.S. Poet Laureate

“The mindfulness and torque of this beautiful collection may be judged by the double drift of its epigraph: ‘Nous sommes tous Américains.’ Words of solidarity, words of aspiration, words (too often) of chagrin or shame. De Tocqueville to Moose Lodge to Trail of Tears: the whole rich mix of it is here, in poems exquisitely conceived and rendered.”

—Linda Gregerson

“Like Robert Frank in his great photo essay of the same name, Roderick has some news for us: not only do we not know where we’ve come from, we don’t know where we are. With care and a restorative watchfulness, he has made terrific poetry out of our drifting in the fog.”

—David Rivard

“It’s sort of remarkable the way David Roderick makes such gorgeous music of the deep and abiding loneliness of which our lives—and our nations and dreams—sometimes, often, are made. It’s the music, the beauty, after all, that’s balm to all this sorrow. The Americans reminds me of this.”

—Ross Gay

SELF-PORTRAIT AS DAVID HOCKNEY

I craved a place away from the cold,
where I could Coke bottle

and muscle-tee and see as Eve’s snake
must have seen: chromatically,

a torn creation collaged by lovers outdoors.
I wanted treasure unburied,

a hint of gold that would finally lead me astray.
Cheap acrylics. A line’s longing

on the canvas of a body.
On my patio I fell in love with voices
cured by cigarettes and lemon fizz.
Where there are no insects, there are no birds.

In California I never chased after a color.
I slept on towels that absorbed

what I’d tasted: chlorine painted on skin.
There, in the vent of my swimming,

afternoons froze the palms,
and I used quick local movements
to pull ripples behind me, and under
the blush of a swimming pool,
I unslipped from my hole
toward warmth that never speaks or goes away.
Best Bones
Sarah Rose Nordgren

WINNER OF THE 2013 AGNES LYNCH STARRETT POETRY PRIZE

“Sarah Rose Nordgren’s poems are part science fiction, part surrealism, part Alice in Wonderland and wholly original, playful and personal.”
—Ed Ochester

“Sarah Rose Nordgren’s Best Bones is a book rich in architecture and the bones of architecture. She shows us ‘what a long hinge the body makes’—and reminds us that there are indeed ‘stories we live in against nature’ and ‘rooms . . . built from twine.’ The voices and narratives within her poems do more than haunt; they resound, reverberate within and without the lyric enclosures she has made for them. Best Bones is beautiful—a stunning, welcome debut.”
—Claudia Emerson

“With her love for fable and folklore, her courting of the uncanny, and her intensive use of dramatic monologue, Sarah Rose Nordgren arrives among us with a minutes-to-midnight voice: stagy, controlling, and quietly alarmed, but always intimate—an indiscreet whisper telling us of events and feelings that we must give ourselves up to totally. Its shadow life glows as keenly as the light, and its light seems almost helpless. A terrific debut by a poet to watch.”
—David Rivard

“Startling and alive, Sarah Rose Nordgren’s Best Bones introduces a poet of intense lyricism and narrative compression. These deeply felt poems have an ineffable strangeness yet a sense of rightness. Some terrify like childhood stories. Some amaze like myths. All are beautifully imagined, hauntingly observant, and contain a dynamic tension between the cool surface of craft and the human heat of the heart. Ready yourself, American poetry, for this phenomenal new voice.”
—Stuart Dischell

THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED

Sun silences the house. Between bough
and twig, a splintered branch. Mother stands behind
the wall. It is miniature: the baby’s coffin
floating rooms like a canoe at dawn, smudging
wood floors like water. I want so much to see
his face, eyelids blue and shining under lamplight,
but he is wordless, invisible. We paint Easter eggs
for him, the prince in the moving tomb,
and find them in the grass all blue and spotted, slick
with baby slugs. Before the service, I refuse to wear
my dress. Want to look older for the limo ride.
Mother is a silhouette coming downstairs.
The women have eaten fruit and drunk their coffee.
The sun rises over the lawn where forgotten
eggs hide. The Lord is risen indeed.

Lilies light the way to the humming car, full
of believers. I sit to the right of my father.
My cousin’s dress is too big for me.
The Dottery

Kirsten Kaschock

WINNER OF THE 2013 DONALD HALL PRIZE IN POETRY
Selected by D. A. Powell

“Inventive and exhilarating, Kirsten Kaschock’s The Dottery tells the story of mutters and dotters in fresh, bracingly original language. Dolls, surrogates, goldie (who ‘was lock, lock, locked’) and mannequins play out this keen allegory of gender in ways that are both astonishing and terrifying. Kaschock is an alchemist—you will be changed.”
—D. A. Powell

“The Dottery is a living book of confrontational, formally inventive risks. Reading it is to become a believer in the relational, permeable body and not get hung up on whether or not that body is human before we decide to love it, to touch it, to accept that it may create us, then kill us, then feel the wound in its own side.”
—Jericho Brown

“Irreverent, irrepressible, and intelligent, The Dottery subjects the identity we call ‘daughter’ to a deeply feminist skepticism. Yet Kaschock’s slightly loony allegories and mocking manifestoes belie a deep tenderness for the wounds dealt to women by sex and gender. Dear dotters, mutters, buoys, and men, you won’t regret entering The Dottery, though you won’t leave unscathed.”
—Brian Teare

In once-upon-time, dotters were promised a world of frosting. Whitespun and brittle and dissolving in the tongue cupped to the roof of the mouth. Chewing they were instructed to understand as unnecessary, nor allowed. Teeth were designed explicitly for display. No one told the ramifications of sugar: the abscess and rush—the moral decay. Sugar was to those original dotters a grazing field for yeast. An addiction bed, an affair, a fling. Still, they loved it even as it proved itself shallow and brief—afterwards, the very air bitter. Dotters have been regularly educated to their detriment. Sugar is often their fondest wish. It is why some agree to be born, and how they would die.
Nude Descending an Empire

Sam Taylor

“Nude Descending an Empire is a book that has large ambitions—and overwhelmingly succeeds at all of them. The voice here works at so many dimensions: spiritual, political, erotic, sensually worldly, quietly lyrical—and probably a dozen more! Few poets are able to write well in just one or two of these realms, but Taylor marries Frank O’Hara and Merwin, Whitman and Dante, your latest local radio report and science fiction! And then, his gift at incantatory syntax takes this amazement to a wholly different level—you stand up, you read these poems aloud. I love the many lives of this book: his life as Sioux, Jew, a Christian peasant, and many others. I love how he curses and praises and sexes in the same poem, often the same moment. Sam Taylor is a poet to live with, a poet to marvel at. This is a wonderful book.”
—Ilya Kaminsky

“Once in a while a book appears that seems forged from the truth. This is one. The poems entirely bypass the Adventures of Self so common in contemporary poetry. They take head-on the end of nature, for one thing, and the significance of human life in a world changing so perilously fast that it’s barely recognizable from one moment to the next. More than a few poems made me wish I’d written them.”
—Chase Twichell

“This is a stunning book, in all the varied shades of ‘stun.’ . . . When it comes to composing the psalms of our age, Taylor is the one I want to lead us in prayer.”
—Khaled Mattawa

CITY OF LIES

In the city of lies, I felt the sunlight become a lie. I felt the water like my own body, the current’s warm rapture and sway that became my body become a lie. And where the sun touched the water, it became a thousand lies that walked about the streets and one of them was me. I felt my hand become a lie, my feet, my wrist, my mind, my collarbone; my spine, my testicles, my ass, until all that was left, if I could find it, was my heart, buried under newspapers and plastics. And when at last I reached it, I asked about my feet, my penis, my hands. I asked about the water and the sun, and one by one it returned them to me. The heart which could not be lost because the lie that was told about the heart, through one lone act of grace, happened to be the truth.
Lucky Bones

Peter Meinke

“Peter Meinke’s Lucky Bones takes you—wherever you may be—to places you think to experience. Captivating and essential.”
—Sue Walker, Poet Laureate of Alabama, 2003-2012

Past praise for Peter Meinke

“There is a little of the Ancient Mariner in the tenacity and urgency with which Peter Meinke addresses his readers. These poems get hold of us by the coat lapels and when they release us we are delighted, shaken, and considerably wiser.”
—Ted Kooser, on Scars

“Meinke’s wit is sly, as dry as a good martini.”
—Colette Bancroft, on Unheard Music

“The authors fourteenth book of verse, it further consolidates his reputation among the best and brightest of our country’s poets.”
—Bookshelf, on The Contracted World

THE LOVER

When I was young
blood-driven and obsessed
by devils bucking in my veins
I burned to be caressed

Old bones & flesh
I’ll beat you yet

Scarlet skirts that blazed
like capes before a bull
would make me paw the earth:
I felt so powerful

Now my blood is dust
but still my slower pulse
throbs to the beat of lust
with less results

Old bones & flesh
I’ll beat you yet

I may not ever get
the philosophic mind
though winter’s ice will set
and ice is blind

When I’m old
bed-ridden & forgiven
by women wrapped in shawls
I’ll repent & go to heaven

and when I see God dancing
I’ll tell Her like a friend
God the game’s worth the candle
but tiring in the end

Old bones & flesh
I’ll beat you yet
Sisterhood
A Centennial History of Women of Reform Judaism
Edited by Carole B. Balin, Dana Herman, Jonathan D. Sarna, and Gary P. Zola

“A major contribution to the history of modern Reform Judaism, these invaluable essays illuminate a mosaic of sisterhood activism that had extraordinary influence within and outside the American synagogue. Never again will these achievements be relegated to secondary status.”
—Joyce Antler, Brandeis University

“Women of Reform Judaism is the guardian of a long and immensely rich and wonderful history, brought to life by this landmark publication. Its members, its founders, and its leaders—past and present—bring much kavod to our community, the Reform movement and to k’lal Yisrael.”
—Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

Sisterhood is a groundbreaking volume of essays that records and contextualizes the one-hundred-year history of Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), formerly known as National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. As the oldest federation of women’s synagogal auxiliaries in the world, the WRJ has been instrumental in charting the course of women’s involvement in Jewish religious and communal life. With a membership that has increased from fifty-two individual sisterhoods at its inception to nearly five hundred sisterhood affiliates, representing today approximately sixty-five thousand women, its history sheds light on a number of broader historiographies, including those of American religion in general and American Judaism in particular. It also adds an important dimension to U.S. women’s and gender history, fields that have tended to both marginalize women in religion and mark Jewish women as distinctive.

Each of the eighteen contributors to this collection has used primary source material found in the WRJ records and related collections held at the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and tackled topics as varied as foodways, philanthropy, political and social activism, education and scholarship, and religious leadership at home and in other venues. No other volume on a single American Jewish women’s organization encompasses comparable breadth.
NEW IN PAPER

“Guidance, Not Governance”
Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof and Reform Responsa

Joan S. Friedman

“When postwar Reform Jews had religious questions they most often turned to Rabbi Solomon Freehof for dependable answers. This masterful study analyzes those questions and answers, revealing the conflicting ideological currents that underlay them. It will stand for many years as the definitive study of Reform Jewish responsa.”
—Jonathan D. Sarna, Brandeis University

“Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof almost single-handedly reversed the antinomian trends that dominated classical Reform Judaism in the United States. His life and work have long demanded careful study and analysis. In this important volume by Joan Friedman, those demands are met.”
—Mark Washofsky, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Solomon Bennett Freehof (1892–1990) was one of America’s most influential and beloved rabbis. Ordained at Hebrew Union College in 1915, he was of the generation of rabbis from east European immigrant backgrounds who moved Reform Judaism away from its “classical” form toward a renewed appreciation of traditional practices. Freehof himself, however, was less interested in restoring discarded rituals than in demonstrating how the Reform approach to Jewish religious practice was rooted in the halakhah, the Jewish legal tradition. Opposed to any attempt to create a code of Reform practice, he nevertheless called for Reform Judaism to turn to the halakhah, not in order to adhere to codified law, but to be guided in ritual and in all areas of life by its values and its ethical insights. For Reform Jews, Jewish law was to offer “guidance, not governance,” and this guidance was to be provided through the writing of responsa—individual rulings based on legal precedent, written by a recognized rabbinic authority in response to questions about real-life situations.

Over nearly five decades Freehof answered several thousand inquiries regarding Jewish practice, the plurality of which concerned the tensions Jews experienced in navigating post-First World War open society—questions concerning mixed marriage, Jewish status, non-Jewish participation in the synagogue, conversion, and so on—and published several hundred of these in eight volumes of “Reform responsa.”

Joan S. Friedman’s pioneering study not only analyzes Freehof’s responsa on a select number of crucial issues that illustrate the evolution of American Reform Judaism, but it also discusses the deeper issues with which the movement struggled, and continues to struggle, in its attempt to meet the ever-changing challenges of the present while preserving both individual autonomy and faithfulness to Jewish tradition.
Hebrew Union College Annual
Volumes 82-83
2011-2012

Edited by Edward Goldman and Richard Sarason

The Hebrew Union College Annual is the flagship journal of the Hebrew Union College Press and the primary face of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion to the academic world. From its inception in 1924, its goal has been to cultivate Jewish learning and facilitate the dissemination of cutting-edge scholarship across the spectrum of Jewish studies, including The Bible, rabbinics, language and literature, history, philosophy, and religion.

It was in January 1919 that a new quarterly journal first appeared on the American intellectual scene: the Journal of Jewish Lore and Philosophy was the first incarnation of what would later become the Hebrew Union College Annual. David Neumark, professor of philosophy at Hebrew Union College, conceived his journal as a clearinghouse for Jewish scholarship, and so the Hebrew Union College Annual remains today. With a history spanning nearly a century, it stands as a chronicle of Jewish scholarship through the twentieth century and into the twenty-first.

ARTICLES AND CONTRIBUTORS

The Speech about God in Job 42:7–8: Contribution to the Coherence of the Book of Job
David Daniel Frankel, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies

Scripture as Rhetor: A Study in Early Rabbinic Midrash
Tzvi Novick, University of Notre Dame

Perception, Compassion, and Surprise: Literary Coherence in the Third Chapter of Bavli Ta’anit
Devora Steinmetz, Drisha Institute

Women’s Testimony in Jewish Law: A Historical Survey
Ilan Fuchs, Brandeis University

Majority Rule in the Jewish Legal Tradition
Haim Shapiro, The Faculty of Law, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Ecology in Jewish Law: Between the Universal and the Particularistic: The Trend of Delimiting “Environmental Laws” to the Land of Israel
Shlomo E. Glicksberg, Efrat College, Bar-Ilan University

Isaac Abarbanel’s Defense of the Authority, Reliability and Coherence of Biblical Historiography
Jair Haas, Bar-Ilan University

EDWARD A. GOLDMAN is Professor Israel and Idah Bettan Professor Emeritus of Midrash and Homiletics at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

RICHARD S. SARASON is professor of rabbinic literature and thought at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.
Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe

Edited by Richard I. Cohen, Natalie B. Dohrmann, Adam Shear, and Elchanan Reiner

“Those interested to learn where the scholarship of the early modern period in Jewish history has ventured, and more significantly, where it is headed, can do no better than to peruse this dazzling collection of essays. Each reflects the dynamism and complexity of a people in transition in a period of religious ferment, intellectual innovation, and geographical mobility. From the Ottoman Empire to Eastern Europe, from Venice to Prague to Amsterdam and the New World, the borderlines of Jewish identity intersect ever more closely with those of Christian and Muslim partners and interlocutors in these erudite studies of books, of their makers, of ideas and their circulation, of the period and its character. A monumental contribution to scholarship.”

—Elisheva Carlebach, Columbia University

“These essays, each one a jewel, carry a powerful vision into many lands and multiple tongues. We meet fascinating people and books but are also shaken up in our ideas about identity, networks, conversion, and modernity itself. An absorbing book of enduring importance.”

—Natalie Zemon Davis, University of Toronto

In the last two decades, Jewish historians worldwide have developed and refined the discussion of an “early modern” period in Jewish culture, spanning roughly three centuries from 1500 to 1800, and have increasingly found this periodization to be a useful heuristic for interpreting historical developments.

Thirty-one leading scholars both within and beyond Jewish studies advance, refine, and challenge how we understand the Jewish early modern period. The collection includes a comprehensive range of topics, beginning by examining authority structures of Jewish communities following the expulsions and migrations that reshaped the geographical contours of the Jewish world. The formation of Jewish communities, communal autonomy, and cultural representations of leadership are explored, pointing to a geographical remapping of a Jewish early modernity that can contribute to a better understanding of the integrated economic and cultural landscape of the time. The volume then moves to consider Jewish intellectual life in light of demographic, political, and technological change—especially the advent of print culture. From there, the discussion moves to cultural and intellectual interchange, especially between Jews and Christians, and next, to eighteenth-century Jewish culture as a fulcrum of the early and late modernity. Finally, the book concludes by tracing the early modern as it is both etched into and effaced from later eras, reflecting on the project of historiography as both retelling the past and connecting to the past in the present.

Read individually, the essays in this volume are finely detailed case studies that illuminate specific aspects of Jewish culture. Read as a mosaic, the studies combine to form a rich and nuanced portrait of a culture that is both a contributor to and a product of early modern Europe and the Ottoman Empire.
**NEW IN PAPER**

**The Emergence of Modern Jewish Politics**

Bundism and Zionism in Eastern Europe

Edited by Zvi Gitelman

“There is a striking imbalance between the number of scholarly works on late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century Zionism and on Bundism, which distorts the relationship between the two movements over time. To say that the Bund has been neglected so far in Jewish historiography (and even more so in the historiography of the labor movement in general) would be an understatement. *The Emergence of Modern Jewish Politics* thus represents a long overdue attempt to set the record straight by providing a more balanced assessment of the relative strength of each movement and its contributions to the formation of modern Jewish politics.”

—History

“Expertly edited. The contributors offer a historiographically balanced and highly perceptive account of the political, social, and cultural dimensions of these two major Jewish political movements. [Their] attention to the interconnectedness and interaction of widely disparate and yet related phenomena is truly impressive. Indeed, this book is one of those rare publications that delivers more than it promises.”

—American Historical Review

“One of the strengths of this book is its salient reminder that Jews did not, in fact, live in a bipolar ideological world. A focused and well-integrated collection that is a ‘must read’ for all those with an interest in modern Jewish experience.”

—Ethical & Racial Studies

*The Emergence of Modern Jewish Politics* examines the political, social, and cultural dimensions of Zionism and Bundism, the two major political movements among East European Jews during the first half of the twentieth century.

While Zionism achieved its primary aim—the founding of a Jewish state—the Jewish Labor Bund has not only practically disappeared, but its ideals of socialism and secular Jewishness based in the diaspora seem to have failed. Yet, as Zvi Gitelman and the various contributors argue, it was the Bund that more profoundly changed the structure of Jewish society, politics, and culture.

In thirteen essays, prominent historians, political scientists, and professors of literature discuss the cultural and political contexts of these movements, their impact on Jewish life, and the reasons for the Bund’s demise, and they question whether ethnic minorities are best served by highly ideological or solidly pragmatic movements.
Nowa Huta
Generations of Change in a Model Socialist Town

Kinga Pozniak

“Filled with compelling stories and reflections from residents of Poland’s classic industrial town, this book provides one of the most illuminating accounts yet of changes in work and life from socialism to capitalism. Pozniak rejects the stale framework of ‘nostalgia’ and shows us memory as valuable sociological commentary. With their fond recollections of socialism but no longing to return, and their cool dissections of the gains and losses of a capitalism they can’t imagine ending, her informants show a remarkable, non-ideological common sense that offers profound insights not just about transitions but of contemporary global capitalism. What a wonderful read!”
—David Ost, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

In 1949, construction of the planned town of Nowa Huta (New Steel Mill) began on the outskirts of Kraków, Poland. Its centerpiece, the Lenin Steelworks, promised a secure future for workers and their families. By the 1980s, however, the rise of the Solidarity movement and the ensuing shock therapy program of the early 1990s rapidly transitioned the country from socialism to a market-based economy, and Nowa Huta fell on hard times.

Kinga Pozniak shows how the remarkable political, economic, and social upheavals since the end of the Second World War have profoundly shaped the historical memory of these events in the minds of the people who lived through them. Through extensive interviews, she finds three distinct, generationally based framings of the past. Those who built the town recall the might of local industry and plentiful jobs. The following generation experienced the uprisings of the 1980s and remembers the repression and dysfunction of the socialist system and their resistance to it. Today’s generation has no direct experience with either socialism or Solidarity, yet as residents of Nowa Huta they suffer the stigma of lower-class stereotyping and marginalization from other Poles.

Pozniak examines the factors that lead to the rewriting of history and the formation of memory, and the use of history to sustain current political and economic agendas. She finds that despite attempts to create a hegemonic vision of the past and a path for the future, these discourses are always contested—a dynamic that, for the residents of Nowa Huta, allows them to adapt as their personal experience tells them.
Anguish, Anger, and Folkways in Soviet Russia

Gábor T. Rittersporn

“In this groundbreaking and original work, Rittersporn explores how ideas of omnipresent conspiracy, spies, and ‘wreckers’ fostered confusion, inefficiencies, and deep pathologies both for individuals and the Soviet system. Moving deeper than social history into the emotional aspects of fidelity and deviance, he illustrates how Soviet men and women used folkways and discursive conventions to tack between official visions of socialism and the actual ways the system worked.” —Ronald Grigor Suny, University of Michigan

This study offers original perspectives on the politics of everyday life in the Soviet Union by closely examining the coping mechanisms individuals and leaders alike developed as they grappled with the political, social, and intellectual challenges the system presented. As Gábor T. Rittersporn shows, the “little tactics” people employed not only helped them endure the rigors of life during the Stalin and post-Stalin periods but also strongly influenced the system’s development into the post-Soviet era.

For Rittersporn, citizens’ conscious and unreflected actions at every level of society defined a distinct Soviet universe. Terror, faith, disillusionment, evasion, folk customs, revolt, and confusion about regime goals and the individual’s relation to them were all integral to the development of that universe and its culture. Through a meticulous reading of previously uncovered archival material, Rittersporn identifies three related responses—anguish, anger, and folkways—to the pressures all people encountered, and shows how these responses in turn altered the way the system operated.

Leadership generated widespread anguish by its inability to grasp the system’s persistent political and economic dysfunctions. Rather than locate the source of these problems in their own presuppositions and practices, leaders attributed them to omnipresent conspiracy and wrecking, which they tried to extirpate through terror. The unrelenting pursuit of enemies contributed to administrative breakdowns and social dissatisfaction. Anger resulted as the populace reacted to the notable gap between the promise of a self-governing egalitarian society and the experience of daily existence under the heavy hand of the party-state.

In reaction to the system’s pressure, citizens and officials instinctively developed strategies of noncompliance and accommodation. By examining these folkways, Rittersporn identifies the mechanisms and spaces officials and the masses intuitively created to facilitate work, avoid tasks, advance careers, augment incomes, display loyalty, enjoy life’s pleasures, and simply to survive.

These responses and tactics set the regime’s modernization project down unintended paths. Trapped in a web of behavioral patterns and social representations that eluded the understanding of both conservatives and reformers, the Soviet system entered a cycle of self-defeat where leaders and led exercised less and less control over the course of events. In the end, a new system emerged that no one could foresee.
Resource Extraction and Protest in Peru

Moisés Arce

“Why, at a time of unprecedented democracy and economic abundance, do we see rising levels of protest in Peru and elsewhere in Latin America? Moisés Arce’s book offers a compelling explanation. Mining activities in Latin America have expanded much more rapidly than our understanding of their consequences. Resource Extraction and Protest in Peru is thus a timely and important contribution. I recommend it to all students of Latin American politics.”
—Steven Levitsky, Harvard University

“Moisés Arce delivers an important book. Against the tide of conventional wisdom, he masterfully shows that sporadic, seemingly isolated protests against natural resource extraction at the subnational level, when aggregated, do have significant national policy effects. Drawing on a wealth of evidence, Arce insightfully combines political science and social movement theory to reveal the links between democracy, party competition, and variation in antimarket protest at the subnational level in Peru. The book has tremendous comparative implications for anyone studying protest against the ‘new extractivism’ elsewhere in Latin America.”
—Eduardo Silva, Tulane University

Natural resource extraction has fueled protest movements in Latin America and existing research has drawn considerable scholarly attention to the politics of antimarket contention at the national level, particularly in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Argentina. Despite its residents reporting the third-highest level of protest participation in the region, Peru has been largely ignored in these discussions.

In this groundbreaking study, Moisés Arce exposes a long-standing climate of popular contention in Peru. Looking beneath the surface to the subnational, regional, and local level as inception points, he rigorously dissects the political conditions that set the stage for protest. Focusing on natural resource extraction and its key role in the political economy of Peru and other developing countries, Arce reveals a wide disparity in the incidence, forms, and consequences of collective action.

Through empirical analysis of protest events over thirty-one years, extensive personal interviews with policymakers and societal actors, and individual case studies of major protest episodes, Arce follows the ebb and flow of Peruvian protests over time and space to show the territorial unevenness of democracy, resource extraction, and antimarket contentions. Employing political process theory, Arce builds an interactive framework that views the moderating role of democracy, the quality of institutional representation as embodied in political parties, and most critically, the level of political party competition as determinants in the variation of protest and subsequent government response. Overall, he finds that both the fluidity and fragmentation of political parties at the subnational level impair the mechanisms of accountability and responsiveness often attributed to party competition. Thus, as political fragmentation increases, political opportunities expand, and contention rises. These dynamics in turn shape the long-term development of the state.
Over the last twenty years, business responses to progressive reform in Latin America have shifted dramatically. Until the 1990s, progressive movements in Latin America suffered violent repression sanctioned by the private sector and other sociopolitical elites. The powerful case studies in this volume show how responses to reform have since become less uniformly severe, tempered at times by economic uncertainties, political constraints, media representations, and shifting cultural understandings.

Enduring Reform presents five case studies from Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina in which marginalized groups have successfully forged new cultural and economic spaces and won greater autonomy and political voice. Bringing together NGOs, local institutions, social movements, and governments, these initiatives have developed new mechanisms to work “within the system,” while also challenging the system’s logic and constraints.

Through firsthand interviews, the contributors capture local businesspeople’s understandings of these progressive initiatives and record how they grapple with changes they may not always welcome but must endure. Among their criteria, the contributors evaluate the degree to which businesspeople recognize and engage with reform movements and how they frame electoral counterproposals to reformist demands. The results show an uneven response to reform, as businesses move to decipher, modify, collaborate with, outmaneuver, or limit progressive innovations.

From the rise of worker-owned factories in Buenos Aires to the collective marketing initiatives of impoverished Mayans in San Cristóbal de las Casas, the success of democracy in Latin America depends on powerful and cooperative social actions and actors, including the private sector. As the cases in Enduring Reform show, the democratic context of Latin America today presses businesspeople to endure, accept, and at times promote progressive change in unprecedented ways, even as they act to limit and constrain it.
For a Proper Home
Housing Rights in the Margins of Urban Chile, 1960-2010
Edward Murphy

“For a Proper Home is a work of great historical, ethnographic, and theoretical power. Murphy offers a fresh and fascinating account of the politics of housing on the periphery of Santiago, Chile. Beyond the specific case, this exploration of ‘insurgent ownership’ will certainly advance theoretical and political understandings of the liberal state, and of the contours of urban citizenship across the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. A breakthrough in urban anthropology.”
—Jeff Maskovsky, Queens College, City University of New York

“For a Proper Home is a first-rate piece of scholarship and major contribution to the contemporary history of Chile, combining in innovative ways rigorous archival research with rich ethnographic field work. It will be welcomed by Latin Americanist scholars in a number of disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, history, and urban studies, and those interested in the politics and history of housing policy, urban space, and urban social movements.”
—Thomas Klubock, University of Virginia

From 1967 to 1973, a period that culminated in the socialist project of Salvador Allende, nearly 400,000 low-income Chileans illegally seized parcels of land on the outskirts of Santiago. Remarkably, today almost all of these individuals live in homes with property titles. As Edward Murphy shows, this transformation came at a steep price, through an often-violent political and social struggle that continues to this day.

In analyzing the causes and consequences of this struggle, Murphy reveals a crucial connection between homeownership and understandings of proper behavior and governance. This link between property and propriety has been at the root of a powerful, contested urban politics central to both social activism and urban development projects. Through projects of reform, revolution, and reaction, a right to housing and homeownership has been a significant symbol of governmental benevolence and poverty reduction. Under Pinochet’s neoliberalism, subsidized housing and slum eradication programs displaced many squatters, while awarding them homes of their own. This process, in addition to ongoing forms of activism, has permitted the vast majority of squatters to live in homes with property titles, a momentous change of the past half-century.

This triumph is tempered by the fact that today the urban poor struggle with high levels of unemployment and underemployment, significant debt, and a profoundly segregated and hostile urban landscape. They also find it more difficult to mobilize than in the past, and as homeowners they can no longer rally around the cause of housing rights.

Citing cultural theorists from Marx to Foucault, Murphy directly links the importance of home ownership and property rights among Santiago’s urban poor to definitions of Chilean citizenship and propriety. He explores how the deeply embedded liberal belief system of individual property ownership has shaped political, social, and physical landscapes in the city. His approach sheds light on the role that social movements and the gendered contours of home life have played in the making of citizenship. It also illuminates processes through which squatters have received legally sanctioned homes of their own, a phenomenon of critical importance in cities throughout much of Latin America and the Global South.
NEW IN PAPER

Triple Time
Anne Sanow

WINNER OF THE DRUE HEINZ LITERATURE PRIZE

“Sanow brings Saudi Arabia to life in seven windswept tales. Each character grapples with the strictures of Saudi society and the rapid changes affecting the nation. A fascinating glimpse into a world with which many Westerners are unfamiliar.”
—Booklist

“Does everything that a work of fiction set in a much-mystified country should: it provides us with an insider’s view of the many sides of the culture and forces us to query our assumptions about it, all the while presenting us with wonderful stories and characters who are the antithesis of stereotypes—vivid, fully formed, and flawed, yet filled with hope and yearning.”
—Women’s Review of Books

“Unsentimental and deftly restrained, Sanow’s book is ultimately a portrait of cross-cultural lives in transformation.”
—Time Out New York

For Jill, a young American living in Saudi Arabia in the 1980s, life is in “a holding pattern” of long days in a restrictive place—“sandlocked nowhere,” as another expat calls it. Others don’t know how to leave and so try to adopt the country as their own. For those who were born there, the changes seem to come at warp speed: Thurayya, the daughter of a Bedouin chief, later finds herself living in a Riyadh high-rise where, she says, there are “worlds wound together with years.”

The characters in the linked stories in Triple Time are living amid an uneasy mesh of two divergent cultures, in a place where tradition and progress are continually in flux. These are tales of conflict—old and new, rich and poor, sexual repression and personal freedom. We experience a barren yet strangely beautiful landscape where Bedouins traverse the desert in search of the next watering hole, and city dwellers navigate through sleek glass apartment towers and opulent fountains.

Beneath a surface of cultural upheaval, these stories hold deeper, more personal meanings. They tell of yearnings—for a time lost, for a homeland, for belonging, and for love. Anne Sanow reveals much about the culture, psyche, and essence of life in modern Saudi Arabia, where Saudis struggle to keep their traditions and foreigners muddle through in search of a fast dollar or a last chance at making a life for themselves in a world that is quickly running out of hiding places.

ANNE SANOW was born and raised in California and moved to Saudi Arabia for two years following her high school graduation. Her stories have appeared in Kenyon Review, Shenandoah, Crab Orchard Review, and Malahat Review, among other publications. She has been nominated four times for the Pushcart Prize.

Photo by Jim Dalglish
NEW IN PAPER

Paradise Road
Kirk Nesset

WINNER OF THE DRUE HEINZ LITERATURE PRIZE

“What makes these stories most pleasurable is Nesset’s supple style, capable of bluntness and lyricism alike. In any mode, he hardly seems capable of writing an uninteresting sentence. Nesset can bewitch you with one word. But he can also make one hundred sing like a chorus.”
—Pittsburgh City Paper

“Nesset displays his mastery of the short story form in twelve rich and well-developed stories. On the surface his stories appear to be simple tales about ordinary people, but the worlds he opens to us have several levels.”
—Rain Taxi

“What’s most impressive about Nesset’s fiction is his ability to explore how we don’t know ourselves, or our intention, not before we’ve done something, however heroic or awful, not even afterwards, and how it wouldn’t make a difference even if we did.”
—Barn Owl Review

The stories in Paradise Road vividly examine the various pitfalls, both physical and emotional, we encounter and suffer trying to find lasting meaning in love. Stark and unsentimental, they feature the chiaroscuro of particular worlds and particular lives, infused with the yearning and muted desperation that come after passion has bent us, burned us, and cast us aside. “Nothing comes and goes without a trace,” muses the narrator of “The Prince of Perch Fishing,” the collection’s opening tale. “In this world there are consequences for everything.” Such stories speak to the fleeting yet monumental moments of our lives, which catch us off guard, unveiling and unsettling us, each leaving its indelible mark. The stories also offer paths, paved or unpaved, leading out of the ashes, out of the wilds of upheaval and betrayal and pain. Story by story, Paradise Road guides us deeply into ourselves—into new kinds of awareness, if not transformation.

KIRK NESET is professor of English and creative writing at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. He is the author of Mr. Agreeable, the nonfiction study The Stories of Raymond Carver, and the poetry collection Saint X. He is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and numerous grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. His stories, poems, and translations have appeared in the Paris Review, Ploughshares, the Southern Review, and the Kenyon Review, among others.
NEW IN PAPER

Literate Zeal
Gender and the Making of a New Yorker Ethos

Janet Carey Eldred

“Eldred’s study of mid-twentieth century women magazine editors is a beautifully crafted homage to those editors and to the American literary aesthetic they created. The result is an ‘insider view’ that enriches our understanding of women editors in creating an American literature that otherwise wouldn’t have existed. Eldred opens up fascinating new territory for understanding the inner workings of a magazine that was widely regarded as a woman’s magazine at this time.”

—American Journalism

“Many assume so-called smart magazines of the twentieth century catered to educated, sophisticated men, whereas women’s periodicals appealed to female readers interested in fashion and manners. This informative study offers much evidence to the contrary. The author ingeniously weaves together discussion of the magazines and their respective editors (and) sheds significant light on how gender informed author-editor-reader relations in twentieth century magazine publishing. Highly recommended.”

—Choice

Literate Zeal examines the rise of women magazine editors during the mid-twentieth century and reveals their unheralded role in creating a literary aesthetic for the American public. Between the sheets of popular magazines, editors offered belles-lettres to the masses and, in particular, middle-class women. Magazines became a place to find culture, humor, and intellectual affirmation alongside haute couture.

Eldred mines a variety of literary archives, notably the correspondence of Katharine Sargeant White of the New Yorker, to provide an insider’s view of the publisher-editor-author dynamic. Here, among White’s letters, memos, and markups, we see the deliberate shaping of literature to create a New Yorker ethos. Through her discrete phrasing, authors are coaxed by White to correct or wholly revise their work. Stories or poems by famous writers are rejected for being “dizzying” or “too literate.” With a surgeon’s skill, “disturbing” issues such as sexuality and race are extracted from manuscripts.

Eldred chronicles the work of women (and a few men) editors at the major women’s magazines of the day. Ladies’ Home Journal, Mademoiselle, Vogue, and others enacted an editorial style similar to that of the New Yorker by offering literature, values, and culture to an educated and aspiring middle class. Publishers effectively convinced readers that middlebrow stories (and by association their audience) had much loftier pursuits. And they were right. These publications created and sustained a mass literacy never before seen in American publishing.
**NEW IN PAPER**

**Corporal Compassion**

Animal Ethics and Philosophy of Body

*Ralph R. Acampora*

“Reading ‘Corporal Compassion’ soon went [from being] a fascinating journey to a gratifying learning experience. I recommend the book to all philosophers from an analytic background who would like to view familiar terrain through a new set of lenses. Acampora writes beautifully though exotically, and before too long one greatly appreciates—and even enjoys—the gestalt shift this book engenders.”

—Anthrozoos

“All philosophers interested in animal ethics should read this thought-provoking book.”

—Environmental Ethics

“In this intellectually adventurous and scrupulously argued book, Acampora takes it as his aim to vitalize the Anglo-American debate on the ethics of transhuman contacts with a bracing injection of modern European thought.”

—J. M. Coetzee, winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Literature

Most approaches to animal ethics ground the moral standing of nonhumans in some appeal to their capacities for intelligent autonomy or mental sentience. *Corporal Compassion* emphasizes the phenomenal and somatic commonality of living beings and invokes a philosophy of body that seeks to displace any notion of anthropomorphic empathy in viewing the moral experiences of nonhuman living beings. Ralph Acampora employs phenomenology, hermeneutics, existentialism, and deconstruction to connect and contest analytic treatments of animal rights and liberation theory. In doing so, he focuses on issues of being and value and posits a felt nexus of bodily being, which he calls symphysis, to devise an interspecies ethos. Acampora uses this broad-based bioethic to engage in dialogue with other strains of environmental ethics and ecophilosophy.

*Corporal Compassion* examines the practical applications of the somatic ethos in contexts such as laboratory experimentation and zoological exhibition and challenges practitioners to move past recent reforms and look to a future beyond exploitation or total noninterference—a posthumanist culture that advocates caring in a participatory approach.
NEW IN PAPER

The Ethics of Creativity
Beauty, Morality, and Nature in a Processive Cosmos

Brian G. Henning

“Brian Henning has produced a veritable vade mecum of reflections upon the intertwining and implications of metaphysical, aesthetic, and ethical issues in the work of Whitehead. He forcefully and insightfully places creativity at the very heart of Whitehead’s philosophical project. This category of the ultimate, meant to specify the most fundamental feature of cosmic process, is rotated in resolute and perspicuous fashion by Henning in a set of chapters that mix, in appropriate but not fully separated measures, exposition, argumentation, and application.”
—Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy

“Henning does a good job showing how a Whiteheadian-based ethics overlaps with traditional moral theories in important and valuable ways, and also how it goes beyond them both in its comprehensiveness and its overall promise. It is in his suggestions regarding the ethical promise of a Whiteheadian, kalogenoc world view that Henning’s work is most noteworthy—and hence deserving of considered attention by anyone interested in rethinking the dominant world views.”
—Philosophy in Review

A central concern of nearly every environmental ethic is the desire to extend the scope of direct moral concern beyond human beings to plants, nonhuman animals, and the systems of which they are a part. Although nearly all environmental philosophies have long since rejected modernity’s conception of individuals as isolated and independent substances, few have replaced this worldview with an alternative that is adequate to the organic, processive world in which we find ourselves. In this context, Brian G. Henning argues that the process philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead has the potential to make a significant contribution to environmental ethics. Additionally inspired by classical American philosophers such as William James, John Dewey, and Charles Sanders Peirce and environmental philosophers such as Aldo Leopold, Peter Singer, Albert Schweitzer, and Arne Naess, Henning develops an ethical theory that brings fresh perspectives to both environmental ethics and process philosophy.

By systematically developing a conception of individuality that embraces equally the microscopic world of subatomic events and the macroscopic world of ecosystems, The Ethics of Creativity correctly emphasizes the well-being of wholes while not losing sight of the importance of the unique centers of value that constitute these wholes.
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