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### Made in Michigan Writers Series

- wsupress.wayne.edu/series/made-in-michigan-writers

The checkerboard motif at American Coney Island in downtown Detroit is reflected in its stainless steel stools, a standard fixture at many coney counters. (Photo by Rob Terwilliger). From Coney Detroit by Katherine Yung and Joe Grimm, page 1 of this catalog.
Coney Detroit

Katherine Yung and Joe Grimm

A lively and thorough history of Detroit’s culinary icon: the coney island hot dog.

Detroit is the world capital of the coney island hot dog—a natural-casing hot dog topped with an all-meat beanless chili, chopped white onions, and yellow mustard. In Coney Detroit, authors Katherine Yung and Joe Grimm investigate all aspects of the beloved regional delicacy, which was created by Greek immigrants in the early 1900s. Coney Detroit traces the history of the coney island restaurant, which existed in many cities but thrived nowhere as it did in Detroit, and surveys many of the hundreds of independent and chain restaurants in business today. In more than 150 mouth-watering photographs and informative, playful text, readers will learn about the traditions, rivalries, and differences between the restaurants, some even located right next door to each other.

Coney Detroit showcases such Metro Detroit favorites as American Coney Island, Lafayette Coney Island, Duly’s Coney Island, Kerby’s Coney Island, National Coney Island, and Leo’s Coney Island. As Yung and Grimm uncover the secret ingredients of an authentic Detroit coney, they introduce readers to the suppliers who produce the hot dogs, chili sauce, and buns, and also reveal the many variations of the coney—including coney tacos, coney pizzas, and coney omelets. While the coney legend is centered in Detroit, Yung and Grimm explore coney traditions in other Michigan cities, including Flint, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Port Huron, Pontiac, and Traverse City, and even venture to some notable coney islands outside of Michigan, from the east coast to the west. Most importantly, the book introduces and celebrates the families and individuals that created and continue to proudly serve Detroit’s favorite food.

Not a book to be read on an empty stomach, Coney Detroit deserves a place in every Detroiter or Detroiter-at-heart’s collection.


Joe Grimm is the author of several books, including Windjammers: Songs of the Great Lakes Sailors (Wayne State University Press, 2002), Michigan Voices: Our State’s History in the Words of the People Who Lived It (Wayne State University Press, 1987), and Bringing the News. Following a thirty-one-year newspaper career, twenty-five of them spent at the Detroit Free Press, he became a journalism professor at Michigan State University.

Photographers: Bobby Alcott, Brian Blanco, Keith Burgess, E. Terry Clark, Ted Fines, Paul Hitzelberger, Brett J. Lawrence, Eric Peoples, Christine Dunshee Peterson, Ryan Southen, Spike, Rob Terwilliger

“Every politician campaigning in Detroit must get photographed with a coney in hand. Athletes and music stars going for after-game or concert coneys run into fans doing the same thing. When national media declare a coney showdown, we flock to the restaurants to cheer on our favorites like we cheer on our sports teams.”

—Joe Grimm, from the preface
The Glory Years of the Detroit Tigers
1920–1950

William M. Anderson
With a foreword by Dan Dickerson

Examines in text and vivid photographs a thirty-year span of Detroit Tigers baseball, from 1920 to 1950.

In the three decades between 1920 and 1950, the Detroit Tigers won four American League pennants, the first world championship in team history in 1935, and a second world crown ten years later. Star players of this era—including Ty Cobb, Harry Heilmann, Charlie Gehringer, Hank Greenberg, Mickey Cochrane, George Kell, and Hal Newhouser—represent the majority of Tigers players inducted into the Hall of Fame. Sports writers followed the team feverishly, and fans packed Navin Field (later Briggs Stadium) to cheer on the high-flying Tigers, with the first record season attendance of one million recorded in 1924 and surpassed eight more times before 1950. In *The Glory Years of the Detroit Tigers: 1920–1950*, author William M. Anderson combines historical narrative and photographs of these years to argue that these years were the greatest in the history of the franchise.

Anderson presents over 350 unique and lively images, mostly culled from the remarkable *Detroit News* archive, that showcase players’ personalities as well as their exploits on the field. For their meticulous coverage and colorful style, Anderson consults Tigers reporting from the three daily *Detroit News*, *Detroit Free Press*, and *Detroit Times* and the *Sporting News*, which was known then as the “Baseball Bible.” Some especially compelling columns are reproduced intact to give readers a feel for the exciting and careful reporting of these years. Anderson presents sketches of many fine players who have been overlooked in other histories and visits characters who often acted in strange ways: Dizzy Trout, Gee Walker, Elwood “Boots” “The Baron” Poffenbeger, and Louis “Bobo” “Buck” Newsom.

Tigers fans and anyone interested in local sports culture will enjoy this comprehensive and compelling look into the glory years of Tigers history.

William M. Anderson is the retired founding director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries and also had a thirty-three-year career in higher education, during which time he served as president of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois, and West Shore Community College near Scottville, Michigan. Dr. Anderson is a widely published baseball and Civil War historian, a past president of the Historical Society of Michigan, and a past member of the Michigan Humanities Council. He is the author or editor of ten books, including *The Detroit Tigers: A Pictorial Celebration of the Greatest Players and Moments in Tigers History* (Wayne State University Press, 2008).

“...This was a time when players willingly cooperated with photographers as these photographic artists used great imagination in creating and preserving intriguing and interesting moments. ... Before long lenses and photographers had to get close to the action, sometimes in harms way and in the way.”
—William M. Anderson, from the preface

Of Related Interest

**The Detroit Tigers**
A Pictorial Celebration of the Greatest Players and Moments in Tigers History, Fourth Edition
William M. Anderson
2008, 8 x 10, 328 Pages
ISBN 978-0-8143-3414-0
$39.95 Cloth

Great Lakes Books Series

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The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
People, Law, and Politics

David Gardner Chardavoyne

A chronological history of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, from its beginnings in the 1830s to the present.

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, the federal trial court based in Detroit with jurisdiction over the eastern half of Michigan, was created in 1837 and operated as recently as 1923 with a single trial judge. Yet by 2010, the court had fifteen district judges, a dozen senior U.S. district judges and U.S. magistrate judges, and conducts court year-round in five federal buildings throughout the eastern half of Michigan (in Detroit, Bay City, Flint, Port Huron, and Ann Arbor). In The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan: People, Law, and Politics, author David Gardner Chardavoyne details not only the growth of the court but the stories of its judges and others who have served the court, litigants who brought their conflicting interests to the court for resolution, and the people of the district who have been affected by the court.

In chronological order, Chardavoyne charts the history of the court, its judges, and its major cases in five parts: The Wilkins Years, 1837 to 1870; The Industrial Revolution and the Gilded Age, 1870 to 1900; Decades of Turmoil, 1900 to 1945; The Era of Grand Expectations, 1946 to 1976; and A Major Metropolitan Court, 1977 to 2010. Along the way, Chardavoyne highlights many issues of national concern faced by the court, including cases dealing with fugitive slave laws, espionage and treason, civil rights, and freedom of speech. Chardavoyne also examines how conflicting interests—political, local, and personal—have influenced the resolution of a myriad of issues not directly related to the court’s cases, such as who becomes a federal judge, how many judges the court should have, in which cities and in which buildings the judges hold court, what kinds of cases the judges can and cannot hear, and the geographical boundaries of the district and of divisions within the district.

This volume includes helpful appendixes that list the Eastern District of Michigan Court’s Chief Judges, Clerks, Magistrates and Magistrate Judges, and United States Marshals; along with the succession of judges, and a list of District and Circuit Court Case Filings, 1837–2010. Legal professionals and scholars will appreciate this thorough history.

David G. Chardavoyne is a veteran Michigan lawyer and a legal educator who teaches at Wayne State University Law School and the University of Detroit–Mercy School of Law. He is the author of A Hanging in Detroit: Stephen Gifford Simmons and the Last Execution under Michigan Law (Wayne State University Press, 2003), and he contributed a chapter to The History of Michigan Law, both of which were named Michigan Notable Books by the Library of Michigan. He is also a frequent contributor to The Court Legacy, the journal of the Historical Society for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

March 2012, 6 x 9, 392 Pages, 98 Illustrations
ISBN 978-0-8143-3461-4, $39.95s Cloth

“Advances our understanding that the work of the federal courts was not monolithic but varied significantly across districts because of local needs and interests.” — Eric Rise, associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware

Of Related Interest

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David G. Chardavoyne
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The Color of Law
Ernie Goodman, Detroit, and the Struggle for Labor and Civil Rights
Steve Babson, Dave Riddle, and David Elsila
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31 Illustrations
ISBN 978-0-8143-3496-6
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The World of a Few Minutes Ago

Stories by Jack Driscoll

Stories in the realistic tradition of lives overlooked, voices unheard, and characters trying to overcome and transcend confining circumstances.

In The World of a Few Minutes Ago, award-winning author Jack Driscoll renders ten stories from the point of view of characters aged fourteen to seventy-seven with a consistently deep understanding of each character’s internal world and emotional struggles. All of the stories are set against the quiet, powerful northern Michigan landscape and share a sense of longing, amplified by the beautiful but often unforgiving surroundings. With keen attention to the nuances of his characters and their lives, Driscoll explores both their attachments to the past and their as-yet-unseen futures as he considers relationships between loves, old friends, and parents and their children.

A twelve-year-old boy accompanies his father on a secret run to the slaughterhouse where he recently lost his job. A middle-aged divorcé waits to witness the execution of the man who murdered his daughter decades earlier. A seventy-seven-year-old man reassesses both his fifty-year marriage and his career as an AP war photographer. A sixteen-year-old girl drives through a snowstorm in a clandestine meeting with her driver’s education instructor. A twenty-something couple breaks into houses to ignite the passion in their relationship. Each story is carefully crafted and lovingly delivered, as characters weigh their own feelings against their complicated perceptions of other people and the action swirling around them. Driscoll’s Michigan shapes these people as surely as their grief and joy, as the setting often becomes a physical touchstone to which characters turn to navigate the immensity of the unknown universe.

Few authors have the flexibility of voice and the emotional range and depth of Driscoll, who is at his best in this collection. Readers of fiction will enjoy The World of A Few Minutes Ago.

Jack Driscoll is the author of four novels, four poetry collections, and the AWP Short Fiction Award winner Wanting Only to Be Heard. He has also received the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award, the PEN/Nelson Algren Fiction Award, the Pushcart Editors’ Book Award, Pushcart Prizes, PEN Syndicated Fiction Awards, and Best American Short Story citations. He currently teaches in Pacific University’s acclaimed low-residency MFA program in Oregon.

February 2012, 5.5 x 8.5, 184 Pages
ISBN 978-0-8143-3612-0, $18.95 Paper

Made in Michigan Writers Series

“Jack Driscoll has long been one of this country’s best short story writers, and this book confirms it. A marvelous, show-stopping performance.”
—Brady Udall

Of Related Interest

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Stories by Michael Delp
2010, 5 x 8, 120 Pages
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Voices of the Lost and Found
Stories By Dorene O’Brien
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ISBN 978-0-8143-3346-4
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The Light Between

Poems by Terry Blackhawk

Poems of stylistic and emotional range that journey widely through love’s losses and connections.

In *The Light Between*, award-winning poet Terry Blackhawk probes beyond and through the painful dissolution of a long marriage to examine the complexities of love with bravery and delicacy. Mythical themes, elements of the natural world, and masculine/feminine polarities resonate throughout Blackhawk’s poems as she explores loss, the nature of relationships, and the integrity of the individual soul. Ultimately, *The Light Between* celebrates our connectedness to one another, to the planet, and to the natural world.

Section one opens as Blackhawk visits a lonely mythical kingdom and introduces images of an empty bed and the betrayed wife Medea, whose identification with nature signals one of the book’s main motifs. Section two presents deeply personal poems that flutter through time and lingering memories, while in section three, the gaze of the poet turns upward and outward to nature. Section four returns to the social world—to the street, traffic, visual art, and teaching—which poses the possibility of love once more. Section five celebrates the union of man and woman with some tender (and sometimes comical) love poems. Throughout, Blackhawk addresses heavy issues such as divorce and solitude, but also shows a playful side with lighthearted poems. She describes an imaginary meeting with poet laureate Billy Collins in one poem, and in another writes about finding a dried-up eggplant while sweeping the kitchen.

Whether writing about the intricacies of loss or our connection to nature and one another, she manages—like the speaker with the decayed fruit in “The Eggplant”—to “poke around and find the beauty of it.” Students and teachers of writing and fans of poetry will enjoy this beautifully crafted collection.

Terry Blackhawk is the author of five previous poetry collections, including *Escape Artist*, winner of the 2002 John Ciardi Prize. She has received the Foley Poetry Prize, the Pablo Neruda Poetry Prize, the Michigan Governor’s Award for Arts Education, and grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. She is founding director of Detroit’s acclaimed InsideOut Literary Arts Project and lives and writes not far from the river in Detroit, Michigan.

February 2012, 6 x 9, 104 Pages

Made in Michigan Writers Series

“In The Light Between, Terry Blackhawk proves she is a consummate and meticulous word jeweler. Each word is carefully and precisely placed into the setting of poems yet produces a seamless and luminous blending of earth and sky, love and loss, and celebrates our connections to our planet and each other.”

—Laura Boss

**Belle Isle Solitary: New Year’s Eve**

Today, as I walked along the river and it seemed possible to feel the year holding its breath, a kayaker’s paddles suddenly sliced by, I wanted to give you that sidelong surprise and also the jay skulking in the scrub and then as well the hawk boldly fanning its wing and tail. No leaves obscured them. The current carried floats of ice, a freighter lifted its wake and went on through misty air, and the sky was a bell waiting to be rung. I call it *mi vida*, even this loneliness, even if I carry only half a song.
To Embroider the Ground with Prayer

Poems by Teresa J. Scollon

A beautiful meditation on grief, memory, and the seasons of life.

To Embroider the Ground with Prayer is a portrait of poet Teresa J. Scollon’s several worlds, as she accompanies her father through his illness and death and records the richness of family and community life in her Michigan town. These poems enjoy reverence and irreverence in equal measure as grief appears side by side with playfulness and humor. Scollon employs a wide range of poetic styles and voices: elegies, narratives, and persona poems are organized in recursive circles that evoke family, village, local characters, and the author’s adult life beyond her hometown.

The collection begins with personal history and is rooted in a regional voice and focus, but Scollon skillfully transforms her experiences into larger concerns that resonate deeply and universally. Readers will get to know Scollon’s father, in fragile health but still so vital to those around him; trace Scollon’s many paths into and out of grief; and follow her travels as she confronts the pull of memory and once again forges her way in the external world. Throughout, Scollon records her understanding with fidelity, clarity, and reverence for story, and finds beauty in small everyday acts of devotion, patience, and humility. As Scollon writes, “To capture story is one way of giving thanks, of paying attention, to know where we are.”

Although this is her first full-length collection, Scollon’s stirring work is situated in the tradition of American poetry that includes the likes of Ruth Stone, Wendell Berry, Ted Kooser, James Wright, Carl Sandberg, and Edgar Lee Masters. Readers interested in contemporary poetry will be grateful for this profound collection.

Teresa J. Scollon is a native of Michigan’s thumb and an alumna and former writer-in-residence at Interlochen Arts Academy. She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and Western Michigan University’s Prague Summer Program and is author of the chapbook Friday Nights the Whole Town Goes to the Basketball Game. Scollon teaches writing at Northwestern Michigan College and has worked in several fields; she has served as EEO Officer for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and book review editor for ForeWord Reviews.

February 2012, 6 x 9, 104 Pages

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“These poems abound in humor, heartbreak, and intellect. This is a first collection to justly rejoice in.”
—Gray Jacobik

An Excerpt from the Text

Commerce

Karl Barzyk was so gentle
you didn’t see how big he was.

One night some kid puts his car
in a ditch, calls Barzyk’s for a tow.

Karl come out there, says,
“It’ll be twenty dollars to get you out.”

Kid says OK. Karl hooks him up, hauls him out, unhooks him, holds out his hand.

Kid has had a change of heart.
“I’m not paying you twenty bucks for that,” he says.

Karl puts one hand on the hood,
shoves the car back into the ditch,

holds out his hand.
“That’ll be forty dollars,” he says.

“In my hand.”
allegiance

poems by francine j. harris

A sharp, haunting, and lyrical collection that attempts to understand what we owe the spaces we inhabit.

The full-length debut from francine j. harris, allegiance is about Detroit, sort of. Although many of the poems are inspired by and dwell in the spaces of the city, this collection does not revel in any of the cliché cultural tropes normally associated with Detroit. Instead, these poems artfully explore life in a city where order coexists with chaos and much is lost in social and physical breakdown. Narrative poems on the hazards, betrayals, and annoyances of city life mix with impressionistic poems that evoke the natural world, as harris grapples with issues of beauty and horror, loyalty and individuality, and memory and loss on Detroit's complicated canvas.

In twelve sections, harris introduces readers to loungers and bystanders, prisoners' wives, poets pictured on book jackets, Caravaggio's Jesus, and city priests. She leads readers past the lone house on the block that cannot be walked down, through layers of discarded objects in the high school yard, and into various classrooms, bars, and living rooms. Shorter poems highlight the persistence of nature—in water, weeds, orchids, begonias, insects, pigeons, and pheasants. Some poems convey a sense of the underbelly, desire, and disgust while others treat issues of religion, both in institutional settings and personal prayers. In her honest but unsentimental voice, harris layers personal history and rich details to explore how our surroundings shape our selves and what allegiance we owe them when they have turned almost everything to ashes.

Throughout allegiance, harris presents herself as an extraordinarily perceptive poet with a compelling and original voice. Poetry lovers will appreciate this exciting debut collection.

francine j. harris is a Detroit native whose recent work has appeared in Rattle, Callaloo, and Michigan Quarterly Review and she is the author of the recent chapbook between old trees. She is a Cave Canem fellow, has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and is currently a Zell Post-MFA Fellowship recipient at the University of Michigan.

February 2012, 6.5 x 8, 112 Pages

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“In her debut collection, allegiance, francine j. harris makes an instrument of each poem. Somehow both surgical and blunt, the poems sing. . . . They'll snatch you up by the collar, throw you in a chair and make you listen. And then, line by line, these poems will break your heart.”

—Gregory Pardlo

An Excerpt from the Text

costume jewelry

in a pickup truck he gives you everything:
a topless bikini to swim the river in a scarlet necklace, and
a pink towel
which used to be white, to sit on.

you ask him where’s the sun and he brings it
just over the hill, catches your ankle while you run
right after the shallow end, and lands
on top of your topless body. you tell him
you always thought you’d die on a roller coaster, that’s
your biggest fear, not this

not people saying they’ve seen that necklace
in a junk shop. not people calling him
a backwoods boy under a spitty hiss.

so when he asks underwater
if he can blow in your mouth like a bullfrog,
the river water already full in your nostrils,
of course you let him, both because it’s funny
and for the sake of how the back of your throat
feels like it could burn forever.
Booker T. & Them
A Blues

As presented by Bill Harris

A poetic reimagining of the life of Booker T. Washington that explores issues of being an African American male of note at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The early 1900s was a dangerous time for African American men, whether famous or nameless. Punishment from any perceived transgression against the Jim Crow power structure came swiftly in legislative, emotional, or physical form, and it could well take one’s life. Despite this reality, however, a number of African Americans still lifted their heads, straightened their spines, and spoke and acted against the mainstream. In Booker T. & Them: A Blues, poet and playwright Bill Harris examines what he calls “the age of Booker T.” (1900–1915), when America began flexing its imperialistic muscles, D. W. Griffith’s Birth of a Nation was released, and Thomas Edison’s many technological innovations set the tone for the United States to be viewed as the nation of the century.

In the historical and imaginative narrative of this “bio-poem,” Harris considers several African Americans who sought to be men that mattered in a racist America, including Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois, William Monroe Trotter, George Washington Carver, and Jack Johnson, as he traces their effects on history and each other. In tandem, he visits white historical figures like Thomas Edison, Theodore Roosevelt, and D. W. Griffiths as well as some invented characters like students and professors at the Tuskegee Institute. Throughout, Harris shows that the rapid pace of early twentieth-century American change, progress, and science coincided with persistent and reinvented forms of white supremacy. Harris’s exciting structure offers varied rhythms and a blues sensibility that showcases his witty lines and vivid imagery.

As a follow-up to his 2009 work Birth of a Notion; Or, the Half Ain’t Never Been Told, this book extends Harris’s critical and experimental examination of American history by presenting evidence for a greater understanding of these men and the cultural forces that shaped them. Readers interested in African American studies, American culture, and contemporary poetry will appreciate the unique perspective of Booker T. & Them: A Blues.

Bill Harris retired as professor of English at Wayne State University in 2011 and is author of numerous plays, including Robert Johnson Trick the Devil, Stories About the Old Days, Riffs, and Coda. He is the author of three books of poetry, Birth of a Notion; Or, the Half Ain’t Never Been Told (Wayne State University Press, 2009), The Ringmaster’s Array, and Yardbird Suite: Side One, which won the 1997 Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award. Harris was named the 2011 Kresge Eminent Artist by the Kresge Foundation in recognition of his professional accomplishments and community engagement.

February 2012, 5.5 x 8.5, 264 Pages
ISBN 978-0-8143-3716-5, $18.95 Paper

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“Bill Harris is brilliant. Very few writers can synthesize an era of history, features of its epoch making events, the biographical details of figures from that era, and render them in an aesthetically sophisticated book-length prose poem or set of poems.”
—David Roediger, author of Black on White: Black Writers On What It Means to Be White

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Bearing Witness to African American Literature
Validating and Valorizing Its Authority, Authenticity, and Agency

Bernard W. Bell

An interdisciplinary, code-switching, critical collection by revisionist African American scholar and activist Bernard W. Bell.

*Bearing Witness to African American Literature: Validating and Valorizing Its Authority, Authenticity, and Agency* collects twenty-three of Bernard W. Bell’s lectures and essays that were first presented between 1968 and 2008. From his role in the culture wars as a graduate student activist in the Black Studies Movement to his work in the transcultural Globalization Movement as an international scholar and Fulbright cultural ambassador in Spain, Portugal, and China, Bell’s long and inspiring journey traces the modern institutional origins and the contemporary challengers of African American literary studies.

This volume is made up of five sections, including chapters on W. E. B. DuBois’s theory and trope of double consciousness, an original theory of residually oral forms for reading the African American novel, an argument for an African American-centric vernacular and literary tradition, and a deconstruction of the myths of the American melting pot and literary mainstream. Bell considers texts by contemporary writers like Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, William Styrn, James Baldwin, and Jean Toomer, as well as works by Mark Twain, Frederick Douglas, and William Faulkner. In a style that ranges from lyricism to the classic jeremiad, Bell emphasizes that his work bears the imprint of many major influences, including his mentor, poet and scholar Sterling A. Brown, and W. E. B. DuBois. Taken together, the chapters demonstrate Bell’s central place as a revisionist African American literary and cultural theorist, historian, and critic.

*Bearing Witness to African American Literature* will be an invaluable introduction to major issues in the African American literary tradition for scholars of American, African American, and cultural studies.

Bernard W. Bell is the author, editor, and co-editor of eight monographs and books, including *The Contemporary African American Novel: Its Folk Roots and Literary Branches*, which has received four national awards, including an American Book Award. He is an award-winning Liberal Arts Research Professor of American and African American Literature, Language and Culture at Pennsylvania State University. Bell was a co-founder in 1969 of the W. E. B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies, University of Massachusetts, and chairman in 1970 of the interim Five College Afro-American Studies Executive Committee (a consortium of departments at Amherst, Smith, Mt. Holyoke, and Hampshire Colleges with the University of Massachusetts). He has received five Fulbright awards, as well as an exchange professorship at the University of Freiburg in Germany.

May 2012, 7 x 10, 360 Pages
ISBN 978-0-8143-3714-1, $29.95s Paper

*Of Related Interest*

If We Must Die
From Bigger Thomas to Biggie Smalls
Arné J. Ellis
2011, 6 x 9, 224 Pages
3 Illustrations
$24.95s Paper

From Bourgeois to Boojie
Black Middle-Class Performances
Edited by Vershawn Ashanti Young with Bridget Harris Tsemo
2011, 6 x 9, 392 Pages
5 Illustrations
$24.95s Paper

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Lake Superior Profiles
People on the Big Lake

John Gagnon

Introduces readers to ordinary, offbeat, and interesting people living on and around Lake Superior.

Like Lake Superior itself, the communities of people surrounding the “Big Lake” are vast and full of variety, spanning state and international boundaries. In Lake Superior Profiles: People on the Big Lake, author John Gagnon gives readers a sense of the memorable characters who inhabit the area without attempting to take an exhaustive inventory. Instead, Gagnon met people casually and interviewed them—from a tugboat captain to an iron ore boat captain, Native Americans, and fishery biologists. Different though their stories are, all share a steadfast character, an attachment to the moody lake, and a devotion to their work.

Lake Superior Profiles combines biography, history, folklore, religion, and humor in fifteen diverse chapters. In Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ontario, Gagnon visits the rivers, bays, small towns, larger cities, and nature preserves that surround Lake Superior to meet the people who make their homes there. Among those he meets are several fishermen, a botanist studying arctic wildflowers on Isle Royale, a former lighthouse keeper on a remote reef on the lake, a voyageur reenactor from Duluth, a woman who harvests wild rice each August in the Bad River Sloughs, and a monk living on the Keweenaw Peninsula. He also writes about three of the lake’s major fish species, a rock formation steeped in lore called the Sleeping Giant, and the current fragile ecology of the Big Lake.

Engaging in style and varied in content, these profiles display Gagnon’s natural curiosity and storytelling acumen in illustrating the many ways the lake shapes the lives of those near it. Residents of the Lake Superior region and readers interested in the area will enjoy Lake Superior Profiles.

John Gagnon has worked as a journalist, carpenter, and publicist. He is also the author of Hard Maple, Hard Work, a collection of profiles of people who work with another of Upper Michigan’s natural resources—its prized hard maple.

“When I was a lad, there used to be a sign in the Keweenaw Peninsula: ‘You are now breathing the purest, most vitalizing air on earth.’ It’s said the college fellows used to nail skunks to the sign. I don’t know if that’s true, but it’s a good yarn. The lake makes for many. As Longfellow wrote in Song of Hiawatha, ‘You shall hear a tale of wonder.’”

—John Gagnon, from the prologue
Geology and Landscape of Michigan’s Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Vicinity

William L. Blewett

A fully illustrated field guide to the geology and scenery of northern Michigan’s Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and vicinity.

Michigan’s Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore was established in 1966 to preserve one of the most exquisite freshwater coastal landscapes in North America. Located between Munising and Grand Marais on Lake Superior, the rugged coastline is anchored by the Pictured Rocks cliffs—soaring sandstone fortresses awash with natural pink, green, and brown pigments. While the Pictured Rocks’ geologic history is generally well understood by scientists, much of this information is scattered among different sources and not easily accessible to general readers. In Geology and Landscape of Michigan’s Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Vicinity, William L. Blewett synthesizes published and unpublished information on the park’s geologic history and combines it with vivid color photographs, detailed maps, and diagrams of the area.

Blewett examines the history and geology of the very ancient Precambrian, Cambrian, and Ordovician components of the Pictured Rocks dating back hundreds of millions of years, as well as the much younger unconsolidated Pleistocene (ice age) and Holocene (warm period since the ice age, including the modern landscape) sediments mantling the bedrock, most of which are no older than 12,000 years. He also details the history of the Lake Superior basin, tracing the events that shaped the modern shoreline from ancient times. For visitors to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Blewett has provided a detailed mileage-referenced road log to guide readers to the best and most accessible field sites, and, for the more adventurous, includes a day hike keyed to the geology. A comprehensive bibliography and index are also included at the end of the book for further research.

While it assumes an understanding of basic geologic principles, the volume is very readable and suitable for students, interested park visitors, and geologists, physical geographers, and those working in closely related fields such as archaeology, biology, ecology, and environmental science.

William L. Blewett is professor and chair of the Geography-Earth Science Department at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches physical geology, geomorphology, and the geology of national parks. Prior to doctoral study, he was a researcher for National Geographic magazine in Washington, D.C.

“'To the student of geology and landforms, the Pictured Rocks region provides an excellent natural laboratory for exploring the materials, processes, and events involved in shaping this most sublime of midwestern landscapes. This book is designed to provide a general overview of our current understanding of this extraordinary terrain and to guide the interested visitor to the best and most accessible field sites.”

—William L. Blewett, from the introduction
Amphibians and Reptiles of Michigan
A Quaternary and Recent Faunal Adventure
J. Alan Holman

A comprehensive look at Michigan amphibians and reptiles from ancient times to present.

With its temperate climate and variety of habitats, Michigan supports a diverse array of animals and plants, including fifty-four species of amphibians and reptiles. The dispersal and biology of the Michigan herpetofauna—amphibians and reptiles—is even more unique because Michigan consists of two peninsulas that project into large freshwater seas and also because it was completely covered by a massive ice sheet a relatively short time ago. In Amphibians and Reptiles of Michigan: A Quaternary and Recent Faunal Adventure, author J. Alan Holman explores the state’s amphibians and reptiles in detail and with many helpful illustrations, making this the only volume of its kind available.

Holman uniquely bridges the gap between neo- and paleoherpetology and shows that Michigan’s modern herpetofaunas reflect Pleistocene (ice age) and Holocene (warm period after the ice age) events, as the entire modern population was forced to re-invade the state after the last withdrawal of ice. In Part 1, Holman discusses Michigan as an amphibian and reptile habitat, including a geological, climatic, and vegetational history. Part 2 presents recent species accounts, covering all fifty-four species of amphibians and reptiles, along with their general distribution, Michigan distribution (with range maps), geographic variation, habitat and habits, reproduction and growth, diet, predation and defense, interaction with humans, behavioral characteristics, population health, and general remarks. In Part 3, Holman examines the Michigan herpetofauna in Quaternary and recent historical times and the species accounts include Pleistocene, Holocene, and archaeological records.

Color photographs of major herpetological habitats in Michigan are provided and color photographs of all modern species are included. Black-and-white illustrations depict both modern and ancient species. Herpetologists, paleontologists, zoologists, ecologists, and general biologists, as well as anyone who loves salamanders, frogs, turtles, and snakes will appreciate the comprehensive research presented in Amphibians and Reptiles of Michigan.

J. Alan Holman was curator emeritus of vertebrate paleontology at the Michigan State University Museum, emeritus professor of geology and zoology at Michigan State University, and a museum associate at the University of Nebraska State Museum. He was considered the leading authority of New World fossil snakes and published more than 260 works in paleoherpetology, herpetology, and vertebrate paleontology. He passed away in 2006.

“This collection should be heartily welcomed by herpetologists, vertebrate paleontologists, zoologists, ecologists, and general biologists. Finally, I’m certain the book will be embraced by anyone who loves salamanders, frogs, turtles, and snakes. I have tried to write with as little scientific jargon as possible. But, when jargon has slithered into my writing, please forgive me for it. I have included some whimsical accounts of my experiences in the field and laboratory with both fossil and modern amphibians and reptiles, as well as a wee bit of levity now and then.”

—J. Alan Holman, from the introduction

May 2012, 8 x 10, 312 Pages, 165 Illustrations
ISBN 978-0-8143-3239-9, $50.00s Cloth

Great Lakes Books Series
Film and Risk

Edited by Mette Hjort

An interdisciplinary collection exploring the many ways risk plays a role in film.

The phenomenon of risk has been seriously neglected in connection with the study of film, yet many of those who write about film seem to have intuitions about how various forms of risk-taking shape aspects of the filmmaking or film-viewing process. Film and Risk fills this gap as editor Mette Hjort and interdisciplinary contributors discuss film’s relation to all types of risk. Bringing together scholars from philosophy, anthropology, film studies, economics, and cultural studies, as well as experts from the fields of law, filmmaking, and photojournalism, this volume discusses risk from multiple intriguing angles.

In thirteen chapters, contributors consider concrete risks (e.g., stunts or financial decisions); theoretical aesthetic and artistic risks (e.g., filmmakers who incorporate excessive hazards into their films); and the real-world jeopardy spectators might put themselves in when viewing films. The first three chapters tackle the conceptual terrain that is relevant to understanding risk in film. The next three chapters focus on risk as it pertains to the practice of filmmaking. Subsequent chapters deal with economic risk and the role that risk has in the development of film’s institutional landscape. The scholarship in this collection is impressive, boasting some of the top writers in their respective fields.

Through the contributors’ clear and thorough discussions, this cohesive but diverse collection shows that risk arises in many different areas that tend to be thought of as central to film studies. Scholars of film studies will appreciate this daring and inventive collection, and readers with a general interest in film studies will enjoy its accessible style.

Mette Hjort is Chair Professor and Head of Visual Studies at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, Affiliate Professor of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle, and Honorary Professor at the Centre for Modern European Studies, University of Copenhagen. She is the author, editor, and translator of numerous books, including Lone Scherfig’s “Italian for Beginners” and Small Nation, Global Cinema. She edits the Nordic Film Classics Series for the University of Washington Press.


March 2012, 6 x 9, 368 Pages, 43 Illustrations
ISBN 978-0-8143-3463-8, $29.95s Paper

Contemporary Approaches to Film and Media Series

“This is a daring, important, inventive book, which takes significant ‘risks’ itself, which result in a dazzling payoff.”
—Wheeler Winston Dixon, professor of film studies and English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln

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2010, 6 x 9, 280 Pages
27 Illustrations
ISBN 978-0-8143-3388-4
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Deadwood

Ina Rae Hark

Considers the HBO series Deadwood in the context of the television Western genre and the intersection of capital and violence in American history.

By dramatizing the intersection of self-interested capitalism and foundational violence in a mining camp in 1870s South Dakota, the HBO series Deadwood reinvented the television Western. In this volume, Ina Rae Hark examines the groundbreaking series from a variety of angles: its relationship to past iterations of the genre on the small screen; its production context, both within the HBO paradigm and as part of the oeuvre of its creator and showrunner David Milch; and its thematics. Hark’s comprehensive analysis also takes into account the series’ trademark use of language: both its unrelenting and ferocious obscenity and the brilliant complexity of its dialogue.

Hark argues that Deadwood dissolves several traditional binaries of the Western genre. She demonstrates that while the show appears to pit individuality, savagery, lawlessness, social regulation, and civilization against each other, its narrative shows that apparent opposites are often analogues, and these forces can morph into allies very quickly. Indeed, perhaps the show’s biggest paradox and most profound revelation is that self-interest and communitarianism cannot survive without each other. Hark closely analyzes Al Swearengen (as played by Ian McShane), the character who most embodies this paradox. A brutal cutthroat and purveyor of any vice that can turn him a profit, Swearengen nevertheless becomes the figure who forges connections among the camp’s disparate individuals and shepherds their growth into a community.

Deadwood is quintessentially, if unflatteringly, American in what it reveals about the dark underpinnings of national success rooted not in some renewed Eden but in a town that is, in the apt words of one of its promotional taglines, “a hell of a place to make your fortune.” Fans of the show and scholars of television history will enjoy Hark’s analysis of Deadwood.

Ina Rae Hark is Distinguished Professor Emerita in English and Film/Media Studies at the University of South Carolina. She is also the author of Star Trek and editor of American Cinema of the 1930s: Themes and Variations, as well as the co-editor of The Road Movie Book and Screening the Male (both with Steven Cohan).

“One of the best television series of the 2000s, Deadwood deserves this lively and thoughtful book. Ranging from language and violence to gender and race, Ina Rae Hark’s Deadwood is a definitive account of why the Western matters today.”
—Daniel Worden, assistant professor in the Department of English at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

Of Related Interest

TV Milestones Series

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Gilligan’s Island

Walter Metz

An analysis of the under-studied sitcom Gilligan’s Island that addresses key questions about American social life in the 1960s.

Gilligan’s Island, created by Sherwood Schwartz, aired for three seasons between 1964 and 1967 on the CBS network. While the series was typically dismissed for its episodic inanity, author Walter Metz argues that this characteristic is precisely the source of the show’s innovation as it produces a vibrant critique of dominant American values. In this analysis of Gilligan’s Island, Metz reveals the inner workings of American television and society through an intensive look at the popular sitcom.

In twenty-one short sections, Metz investigates many aspects of Gilligan’s Island: the narrative, the characters, the plot, and the performativity. Through multiple episode analyses and character examinations, Metz shows how the castaways’ actions on the island held deeper meaning and illustrated American social customs. The book also looks at several different themes presented in the show and connects them to many literary traditions, including Shakespeare (The Tempest and Hamlet), existential theatre (Waiting for Godot), and classic American literature (Moby-Dick). Through this discussion, Metz examines the literacy of Gilligan’s Island and the way it knowingly returns to certain tropes from high literature, masking their expression in a distinctly populist American idiom. Metz also addresses the legacy of Gilligan’s Island and its profound effect on American television, as evidenced by popular contemporary shows like Survivor and Lost.

At one point in time, Gilligan’s Island was the most syndicated show around the world, but few scholarly articles exist about it. Fans of the show and those interested in television history and popular culture will enjoy this playful and informative study that fills a gap in television history.

Walter Metz is chair and professor of the Department of Cinema and Photography at Southern Illinois University and is the author of Bewitched (Wayne State University Press, 2007) and Engaging Film Criticism: Film History and Contemporary American Cinema.

“Once more, Walter Metz has provided a careful, intellectually satisfying take on a significant piece of artistic expression. This work is one of the most interesting of the TV Milestones series: a quotidian object of analysis, turned to the light in the right kind of way, reveals itself to be full of splendor.”

—Robert Burgoyne, professor and chair of film studies at the University of St. Andrews

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Before the Crash
Early Video Game History

Edited by Mark J. P. Wolf

Contributors examine the early days of video game history before the industry crash of 1983 that ended the medium’s golden age.

Following the first appearance of arcade video games in 1971 and home video game systems in 1972, the commercial video game market was exuberant with fast-paced innovation and profit. New games, gaming systems, and technologies flooded into the market until around 1983, when sales of home game systems dropped, thousands of arcades closed, and major video game makers suffered steep losses or left the market altogether. In Before the Crash: Early Video Game History, editor Mark J. P. Wolf assembles essays that examine the fleeting golden age of video games, an era sometimes overlooked for older games’ lack of availability or their perceived “primitiveness” when compared to contemporary video games.

In twelve chapters, contributors consider much of what was going on during the pre-crash era: arcade games, home game consoles, home computer games, handheld games, and even early online games. The technologies of early video games are investigated, as well as the cultural context of the early period—from aesthetic, economic, industrial, and legal perspectives. Since the video game industry and culture got their start and found their form in this era, these years shaped much of what video games would come to be. This volume of early history, then, not only helps readers to understand the pre-crash era, but also reveals much about the present state of the industry.

Before the Crash will give readers a thorough overview of the early days of video games along with a sense of the optimism, enthusiasm, and excitement of those times. Students and teachers of media studies will enjoy this compelling volume.

Mark J. P. Wolf is a professor in the Communication Department at Concordia University Wisconsin. His books include Abstracting Reality: Art, Communication, and Cognition in the Digital Age; The Medium of the Video Game; Virtual Morality: Morals, Ethics, and New Media; The Video Game Theory Reader; Myst and Riven: The World of the D’ni; The Video Game Explosion: A History from PONG to PlayStation and Beyond; The Video Game Theory Reader 2; and the forthcoming two-volume Encyclopedia of Video Games. He is also founder of the Landmark Video Game book series and the Video Game Studies Scholarly Interest Group within the Society of Cinema and Media Studies.


“One of our preeminent video game scholars, Wolf continues to break new ground with this fascinating collection.”
—James Castonguay, associate professor of communication and media studies at Sacred Heart University

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1. Video Games Caught Up in History: Accessibility, Teleological Distortion, and Other Methodological Issues
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The Golem Redux
From Prague to Post-Holocaust Fiction

Elizabeth R. Baer

Traces the history of the golem legend and its appropriations in German texts and film as well as in post-Holocaust Jewish-American fiction, comics, graphic novels, and television.

First mentioned in the Book of Psalms in the Hebrew Bible, the golem is a character in an astonishing number of post-Holocaust Jewish-American novels and has served as inspiration for such varied figures as Mary Shelley’s monster in her novel Frankenstein, a frightening character in the television series The X-Files, and comic book figures such as Superman and the Hulk. In The Golem Redux: From Prague to Post-Holocaust Fiction, author Elizabeth R. Baer introduces readers to these varied representations of the golem and traces the history of the golem legend across modern pre- and post-Holocaust culture. In five chapters, The Golem Redux examines the different purposes for which the golem has been used in literature and what makes the golem the ultimate text and intertext for modern Jewish writers.

Baer begins by introducing several early manifestations of the golem legend, including texts from the third and fourth centuries and from the medieval period; Prague’s golem legend, which is attributed to the Maharal, Rabbi Judah Loew; the history of the Josefov, the Jewish ghetto in Prague, the site of the golem legend; and versions of the legend by Yudl Rosenberg and Chayim Bloch, which informed and influenced modern intertexts. In the chapters that follow, Baer traces the golem first in pre-Holocaust Austrian and German literature and film and later in post-Holocaust American literature and popular culture, arguing that the golem has been deployed very differently in these two contexts. Where prewar German and Austrian contexts used the golem as a signifier of Jewish otherness to underscore growing anti-Semitic cultural feelings, post-Holocaust American texts use the golem to depict the historical tragedy of the Holocaust and to imagine alternatives to it. In this section, Baer explores traditional retellings by Isaac Bashevis Singer and Elie Wiesel, the considerable legacy of the golem in comics, Michael Chabon’s The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay, and, finally, “Golems to the Rescue” in twentieth- and twenty-first-century works of film and literature, including those by Cynthia Ozick, Thane Rosenbaum, and Daniel Handler.

By placing the Holocaust at the center of her discussion, Baer illustrates how the golem works as a self-conscious intertextual character who affirms the value of imagination and story in Jewish tradition. Students and teachers of Jewish literature and cultural history, film studies, and graphic novels will appreciate Baer’s pioneering and thought-provoking volume.

Elizabeth R. Baer is professor of English and genocide studies at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. She is co-editor with Hester Baer of The Blessed Abyss: Inmate #6582 in Ravensbrück Concentration Camp for Women (Wayne State University Press, 2000) and co-editor with Myrna Goldenberg of Experience and Expression: Women, the Nazis, and the Holocaust (Wayne State University Press, 2003). She is also author of Shadows on My Heart: The Civil War Diary of Lucy Buck of Virginia, a finalist for the Lincoln Prize in 1997.
Inventing the Modern Yiddish Stage
Essays in Drama, Performance, and Show Business

Edited by Joel Berkowitz and Barbara Henry

Collects leading scholars’ insight on the plays, production, music, audiences, and political and aesthetic concerns of modern Yiddish theater.

While Yiddish theater is best known as popular entertainment, it has been shaped by its creators’ responses to changing social and political conditions. Inventing the Modern Yiddish Stage: Essays in Drama, Performance, and Show Business showcases the diversity of modern Yiddish theater by focusing on the relentless and far-ranging capacity of its performers, producers, critics, and audiences for self-invention. Editors Joel Berkowitz and Barbara Henry have assembled essays from leading scholars that trace the roots of modern Yiddish drama and performance in nineteenth-century Eastern Europe and span a century and a half and three continents, beyond the heyday of a Yiddish stage that was nearly eradicated by the Holocaust, to its post-war life in Western Europe and Israel.

Each chapter takes its own distinct approach to its subject and is accompanied by an appendix consisting of primary material, much of it available in English translation for the first time, to enrich readers’ appreciation of the issues explored and also to serve as supplementary classroom texts. Chapters explore Yiddish theater across geography—from Poland and Russia to France, the United States, Argentina, and Israel and Palestine. Readers will spend time with notable individuals and troupes; meet creators, critics, and audiences; sample different dramatic genres; and learn about issues that preoccupied both artists and audiences. The final section presents an extensive bibliography of book-length works and scholarly articles on Yiddish drama and theater, the most comprehensive resource of its kind available.

Collectively these essays illuminate the modern Yiddish stage as a phenomenon that was constantly reinventing itself and simultaneously examining and questioning that very process. Scholars of Jewish performance and those interested in theater history will appreciate this wide-ranging volume.

Joel Berkowitz is the director of the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies and a professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. He is the author of Shakespeare on the American Yiddish Stage, editor of Yiddish Theatre: New Approaches, and co-editor of Landmark Yiddish Plays: A Critical Anthology.

Barbara Henry is associate professor of Russian literature in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and an affiliate of the Jewish studies program at the University of Washington, Seattle. Her study Rewriting Russia: Jacob Gordin’s Yiddish Drama was published by the University of Washington Press in 2011.

Contributors: Annette Aronowicz, Zachary Baker, Joel Berkowitz, Mirosława Bulat, Jeremy Dauber, Barbara Henry, Faith Jones, Donny Inbar, Alyssa Quint, Ronald Robboy, Judith Thissen, Jeffrey Veidlinger, Nina Warnke, Seth Wolitz

“"A significant resource for scholars interested in the history of Yiddish theatre. The editors and contributors have significant standing within the field and the essays are thoroughly researched and informative.”

—Henry Bial, associate professor of theatre and film at the University of Kansas

Of Related Interest

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1 Illustration
ISBN 978-0-8143-3258-0
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Remnant Stones
The Jewish Cemeteries and Synagogues of Suriname: Essays
Aviva Ben-Ur with Rachel Frankel

A historical and cultural overview of Suriname’s Jewish community, with special emphasis on its Jewish and Creole cemeteries.

In the 1660s, Jews of Iberian ancestry, many of them fleeing Inquisitorial persecution, established an agrarian settlement in the midst of the Surinamese tropics. The heart of this community—Jodensavanne, or Jews’ Savannah—became an autonomous village with its own Jewish institutions, including a majestic synagogue consecrated in 1685. Situated along the Suriname River, some fifty kilometers from the capital city of Paramaribo, Jodensavanne was by the mid-eighteenth century surrounded by dozens of Jewish plantations sprawling north- and southward and dominating the stretch of the river. These Sephardi-owned plots, mostly devoted to the cultivation and processing of sugar, carried out primarily by enslaved Africans, collectively formed the largest Jewish agricultural community in the world at the time and the only Jewish settlement in the Americas granted virtual self-rule.

Sephardi settlement paved the way for the influx of hundreds of Ashkenazi Jews, who began to migrate in the late seventeenth century from western and central Europe. Generally banned from Jodensavanne, these newcomers settled in Paramaribo, where they established their own cemeteries and historic synagogue, deeply influenced by their European Jewish predecessors. Meanwhile, slave revolts, Maroon attacks, the general collapse of Suriname’s economy, soil depletion, absentee land ownership, and a ravaging fire all contributed to the demise of the old Savannah settlement beginning in the second half of the eighteenth century.

This project’s points of departure are three Sephardi cemeteries, whose monuments date from 1666 to 1904; one Ashkenazi cemetery, whose monuments date from the 1680s to the late nineteenth century; the Creole (Afro-Surinamese) cemetery in Jodensavanne, dating to the late nineteenth century at the latest, and the remains of the seventeenth-century synagogue in Jodensavanne. This second volume complements the first, which presented transcriptions, English translations, and photographs and annotations of more than 1,600 gravestones, accompanied by scaled plans of for of the cemeteries.

Published by Hebrew Union College Press and distributed by Wayne State University Press

Checking the Pulse of Lake Erie
Edited by M. Munawar and R. Heath
Primary research on the status of the lake’s ecosystem.

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