# THE KENT STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

am so pleased to step into the position of Marketing and Sales Manager here at the Kent State University Press. As the longtime Executive Director of Buckeye Book Fair, a literary nonprofit, I had already had the opportunity to work with the Kent State University Press and its authors. After 15 years of working with the Press's outstanding books and authors, including multiple award winners, I'm especially delighted to join the Press to promote the remarkable books published here.

The Kent State University Press and I share many interests, and this fall's lineup is an exciting mix of titles that demonstrate just that, including:

• Anneliese Abbott's exploration of Malabar Farm and its influence on sustainable agriculture. Now a state park, the farm was the brainchild of Louis Bromfield, a Pulitzer Prize–winning writer whose works I was involved in bringing back into print.

- Guy Denny's new natural history of this region's bogs and fens, with stunning photography from Gary Meszaros. Denny's expertise as past president of the Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association, of which I am a member, is evident throughout.
- Thomas Crowl's deep dive into the life and "career" of Cassie Chadwick. Too often just a short chapter in Ohio scoundrel tales, this fascinating con artist is finally the subject of her own book.

And there's more, of course—an array of titles we're proud to present to you.

I look forward to working closely with authors, booksellers, members of the media, libraries, event planners, and more. Please do reach out to me with any questions, requests, orders, or ideas!

Julia Wusniberg

Julia Wiesenberg Marketing and Sales Manager jwiesenb@kent.edu



Kent State University Press books are printed on acid-free paper for archival longevity, and most use paper made from 60% recycled pulp, with 10% postconsumer waste. Most titles are available in both print and electronic editions.





The Kent State University Press is a proud member of the Association of University Presses.

Cover photos courtesy of Anneliese Abbott, Jim Berry, and Malabar Farm Archives.

### Queen of the Con

From a Spiritualist to the Carnegie Imposter

### **Thomas Crowl**

The definitive account of audacious con woman Cassie Chadwick, the Carnegie Imposter

*Queen of the Con* tells the true story of Cassie Chadwick, a successful swindler and "one of the top 10 imposters of all time," according to *Time* magazine. Born Betsy Bigley in 1857 in Canada, she first operated as Madame Devere, a European clairvoyant, and in 1890 was arrested for defrauding a Toledo bank of \$20,000. In the mid-1890s, while working as a madam in Cleveland, Cassie met and married a widowed physician with a coveted Euclid Avenue address.

At the dawn of the 20th century, Cassie borrowed \$2 million (worth roughly \$50 million today) throughout northern Ohio, Pittsburgh, New York, and Boston by convincingly posing as the illegitimate daughter of wealthy industrialist-turned-philanthropist Andrew Carnegie.

When the fraud collapsed in 1904, it was a nationwide sensation. "Yes, I borrowed money in very large amounts," she told reporters, "but what of it? You can't accuse a poor businesswoman of being a criminal, can you?" Carnegie, who never responded to the claim, merely joked that Mrs. Chadwick had demonstrated that his credit was still good.

This meticulously researched book is the first full-length account of this fascinating woman's notorious career, the forerunner to more recent female scammers like Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes or fake heiress Anna Sorokin, the "Soho Grifter." Crowl's engaging storytelling also leads readers to consider aspects of gender stereotypes, social and economic class structures, and the ways in which we humans can so often be fooled.



**TRUE CRIME HISTORY TRUE CRIME** October 2021, 296 pp., 6 x 9 Paper \$24.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-429-2

**THOMAS CROWL** is an avocational historian who has published two previous books, *Murder of a Journalist* (published by Kent State University Press) and *Opdycke's Tigers in the Civil War.* His articles have appeared in *Timeline, Echoes, History Magazine,* and the Central States Archaeological Journal.

#### Related Interest **v**





Bigamy and Bloodshed: The Scandal of Emma Molloy and the Murder of Sarah Graham Larry E. Wood Paper \$24.95t ISBN 978-1-60635-385-1

The Adventuress: Murder, Blackmail, and Confidence Games in the Gilded Age Virginia McConnell Cloth \$29.95t ISBN 978-1-60635-034-8



### Peatlands of Ohio and the Southern Great Lakes Region

**Guy L. Denny** 

with photographs from Gary Meszaros

Exploring and appreciating the fascinating ecosystems of bogs and fens

Peatlands—and specifically "bogs"—have long been a source of fascination for humans, and these amazing places are truly living relics of the Ice Age. More recently, bogs have come to be regarded as complex and fascinating wetland ecosystems. *Peatlands of Ohio and the Southern Great Lakes Region* focuses on the sphagnum peat bogs and rich fens of the lower Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, southern Michigan, and the glaciated northern corners of Pennsylvania.

The peatlands of today are products of the Wisconsinan Glaciation, when peatland plants originating in northern latitudes migrated southward in a wide band preceding the glacial wall of ice. After thousands of years, the glacier's retreat severely diminished the sites with the very special environmental conditions needed to sustain these ecosystems.

However, in a few sites, kettlehole lakes and cold alkaline hillside seeps and springs enabled remnants of peatland vegetation to survive to this day. Guy L. Denny, with accompanying photographs by Gary Meszaros, closely examines this habitat and its special environmental constraints, the geological and climatological origins, and the flora and fauna unique to the bogs and rich fens of this region. As readers will discover as they learn about places like Cranberry Bog in Michigan or Triangle Lake in Ohio, kettlehole sphagnum peat bogs and rich fens are not only essential places to protect, but they are amazing sites to explore, discover new plants, and observe the beauty and splendor of the natural world.



**GUY L. DENNY** is a retired chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. A former director of the Ohio Biological Survey, he is also a past president of the Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association.

GARY MESZAROS's images have appeared in numerous nature magazines and books. He is the coauthor of and has contributed photographs to five books published by Kent State University Press, including Native Fishes of Ohio and Wild Ohio.

Related Interest



The Prairie Peninsula Gary Meszaros and Guy L. Denny Paper \$24.95t ISBN 978-1-60635-320-2

#### NATURE / ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES / REGIONAL INTEREST December 2021, c. 160 pp., 8 x 10 Paper w/flaps \$27.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-437-7

Photos by Gary Meszaros

#### Related Interest **v**



Discovery and Renewal on Huffman Prairie: Where Aviation Took Wing David Nolin Paper \$39.95t ISBN 978-1-60635-346-2



Bromfield, Malabar Farm was once considered "the most famous farm in the world." Farmers, conservationists, politicians, businessmen, and even a few Hollywood celebrities including Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, who married there—flocked to rural Ohio to see how Bromfield restored worn-out land to lush productivity using conservation practices. Permanent, sustainable agriculture, Bromfield preached, was the "New Agriculture" that would transform the postwar world.

Anneliese Abbott tells the story of Malabar Farm within the context of the wider histories of soil conservation and other environmental movements, especially the Ohio-based organization Friends of the Land. As one of the few surviving landmarks of this movement, which became an Ohio state park in 1976, Malabar Farm provides an intriguing case study of how soil conservation began, how it was marginalized during the 1950s, and how it now continues to influence the modern idea of sustainable agriculture.

To see Malabar strictly as a modern production farm—or a nature preserve, or the home of a famous novelist—oversimplifies the complexity of what Bromfield actually did. Malabar wasn't a conventional farm or an organic farm; it was *both*. It represents a middle ground that is often lacking in modern discussions about sustainability or environmental issues, yet it remains critically important. Today, as Malabar Farm State Park remains a working farm with a new interpretive center that opened in 2006, its importance and impact continue for current and future generations.



ANNELIESE ABBOTT grew up on a small Michigan farm. Her research on the history of Malabar Farm began while studying plant and soil science at the Ohio State University. She recently received a University Fellowship to begin graduate research on the history of organic/sustainable farming in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

#### NATURE / ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES / REGIONAL INTEREST

November 2021, c. 312 pp., 7 x 10 Paper w/flaps \$29.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-431-5



Background photo from author's collection

#### Related Interest **v**



Resurrection of the Wild: Meditations on Ohio's Natural Landscape Deborah Fleming Cloth \$24.95t ISBN 978-1-60635-375-2 Paper \$19.95t ISBN 978-1-60635-418-6



Related Interest **v** 

Problem Plants of Ohio Megan E. Griffiths, Melissa A. Davis, and David Ward Hardback \$65.00s ISBN 978-1-60635-402-5

# PUNKERTON TRUE DETECTIVE STORIES A DOUBLE LIFE AND THE DETECTIVES



FACSIMILE OF THE 1884 EDITION

### **ALLAN PINKERTON**

BLACK SQUIRREL BOOKS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION / CLASSIC DETECTIVE STORIES September 2021, 184 pp., 5½ x 7½ Paper \$15.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-433-9

ALLAN PINKERTON (1819–1884) was born in Scotland and immigrated to the United States in 1842. Settling in the Chicago area, his first career was as a cooper. While wandering in the woods looking for wood to make barrel staves, he came across some counterfeiters and helped in their arrest. That led to Pinkerton being appointed as police detective in Cook County, Illinois, and later forming his own company—the Pinkerton National Detective Agency. Pinkerton produced numerous books based on his work and that of his agents. The books no doubt reflect his views but obviously contain fictionalized and sanitized accounts; many historians, as well, believe he used a ghostwriter.

### A Double Life and the Detectives

### **Allan Pinkerton**

From the Borowitz Collection, Kent State University Special Collections and Archives

Detective Allan Pinkerton and his associates, including the indispensable Mr. Bangs, travel to Troyville, Pennsylvania—a beautiful village known for its rural beauty and community of farmers—to investigate the robbery of the Howard Express Company. The thieves made off with nearly \$15,000 and vanished. Pinkerton learns that two suspicious men had arrived in town the morning before the robbery, and he races to track them down and discover their connection, if any, to the robbery.

Meanwhile, in Oaklands, Indiana, the narrative follows Archibald MacDonald, a well-regarded member of his community who is noted for his good judgment, respected for his agricultural knowledge, and well known as an influence on local politics. A dedicated family man, MacDonald struggles to find the means to fund his children's higher education.

As Pinkerton and his associates piece together the mystery, an important clue emerges: a torn envelope recovered from the robbery scene, with MacDonald's name and address on it. What is MacDonald's connection to the robbery? Is he one of the two men suspected of being involved? Could such an upstanding pillar of his community really be secretly involved in criminal activities?

The crime described in *A Double Life and the Detectives* is less of a whodunit and more of a *why*dunit. As Pinkerton learns, societal pressure to keep up appearances and provide for family can have disastrous consequences, driving otherwise respectable people to commit brazen crimes.

### The Railroad Forger and the Detectives

### Allan Pinkerton

From the Borowitz Collection, Kent State University Special Collections and Archives

In *The Railroad Forger and the Detectives*, real estate agent Thomas H. Cone vanishes suddenly. At the same time, the Pinkerton Detective Agency's Philadelphia branch, helmed by Mr. Linden, is hired by the Adams Express railroad company to investigate a draft forgery case. Two checks totaling more than \$1,200 had been intercepted in the mail and falsely endorsed by none other than Mr. Thomas Cone!

As the investigation heats up, Linden discovers that this crime is just the latest in a string of similar forgeries, which initially do not seem to be connected; the forgers are scattered across the country and seemingly have no relation to one another. Linden retraces Cone's whereabouts, beginning with his rented office space. The deserted office initially yields few clues until Linden spots Cone's blotting sheet. From a tangle of ink stains, Linden uncovers the address for a William R. Wales in Redrock, Ohio.

Sensing a pattern, Linden is determined to find out if there is a gang of forgers, if William Wales is somehow involved, or if Cone has acted alone under a variety of aliases. A thrilling, fictionalized account of crime in the railroad business, *The Railroad Forger and the Detectives* is a tale of greed and an elaborate scheme—one only the Pinkerton Detective Agency can bring down. <text><text><text>

BLACK SQUIRREL BOOKS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION / CLASSIC DETECTIVE STORIES September 2021, 352 pp., 5½ x 7½ Paper \$15.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-434-6

Related Interest **v** 



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Bank Robbers and the Detectives Allan Pinkerton Paper, \$15.95t ISBN 978-1-60635-414-8



The Murderer and the Fortune Teller Allan Pinkerton Paper, \$15.95t ISBN 978-1-60635-416-2



TRUE CRIME HISTORY TRUE CRIME August 2021, 288 pp., 6 x 9 Paper \$24.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-426-1

e

**GEORGE R. DEKLE SR.** served as a legal skills professor at the University of Florida, where he directed the Prosecution Clinic. His most recent book, *Six Capsules: The Gilded Age Murder of Helen Potts* (published by Kent State University Press), won a silver IPPY award and a gold medal in the Florida Authors and Publishers Association's President's Book Awards.

#### Related Interest **v**



Six Capsules: The Gilded Age Murder of Helen Potts George R. Dekle Sr. Paper \$24.95t ISBN 978-1-60635-370-7

## The East River Ripper

The Mysterious 1891 Murder of Old Shakespeare

George R. Dekle Sr.

Innocent or guilty, or a more nuanced truth, in this Ripper-style killing

Shortly after NYPD Chief of Detectives Thomas Byrnes publicly criticized the London police for failing to capture Jack the Ripper, he received a letter purportedly from Jack himself saying New York was his next target. Not long after, Byrnes was confronted by his own Ripper-style murder case in the death of Carrie Brown, a.k.a. "Old Shakespeare," a colorful character who worked as a prostitute and had a penchant for quoting Shakespeare. People were worried that Jack might have actually come to America.

The detective bureau finally arrested Amir Ben Ali, an Algerian immigrant. The newspapers, however, immediately criticized Byrnes for moving too quickly, suggesting that he had tried to save face by pinning the crime on an easy target.

When the verdict of murder in the second degree was announced, the papers erupted in anger and disbelief. With the aid of the French consulate, they embarked on a 10-year campaign to have Ben Ali pardoned and finally won his release by producing new evidence. Immediately upon Ben Ali's departure for France, fresh evidence of his guilt surfaced.

Was Ben Ali falsely convicted or falsely exonerated? And if he did not commit the murder, then who did? Issues of false convictions, fake news, illegal immigration, police corruption, and racial prejudice are common tropes in today's news cycles. *The East River Ripper* demonstrates that these are not simply matters of recent vintage and seeks to answer such questions in trying to determine whether and in what way justice miscarried.

### How Blood Works

Ellene Glenn Moore Richard Blanco, Judge

Winner of the 2020 Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Prize

"A luminous debut collection of poems." —Peg Boyers, author of *To Forget Venice* 

"Moore explores the difficult territory of all that we cannot explain yet must embrace."

> -Jim Daniels, author of The Middle Ages

How Blood Works is a collection of poems that considers the way memory, identity, and our very blood take shape in the places we inhabit: rooms, cities, landscapes, and spaces within the body. Moore also examines the idea of bloodlines—literal familial ties and the traumas, secrets, and complex relationships passed from one generation to the next. To explore these motifs, many of the poems borrow from the world of visual art, including painting, sculpture and its resonance with the creation of the self, and architecture, too, as a metaphorical counterweight to nature.

In keeping with the central theme that the stories we tell ourselves—and, by extension, our understanding of who we are—are shaped by the spaces in which we tell them, the poems in *How Blood Works* vary drastically in form. From traditionally lineated lyrics to more architectural, segmented prose pieces, the poems themselves become a space for narratives of the self to play out.



WICK FIRST BOOK PRIZE POETRY September 2021, 72 pp., 5½ x 8½ Paper \$17.00t, ISBN 978-1-60635-427-8

e

**ELLENE GLENN MOORE** writes in several genres; her poetry, lyric nonfiction, and critical work have been published in *Poet Lore, West Branch, Hayden's Ferry Review, Best New Poets, Poetry Northwest, Brevity, Ninth Letter,* and elsewhere. Her chapbook *The Dark Edge of the Bluff* was runner-up for the Hopper Prize for Young Poets.

Related Interest **v** 



On This Side of the Desert Alfredo Aguilar Natalie Diaz, Judge Paper \$17.00t ISBN 978-1-60635-406-3

# λ Sense of Tales Untold

Exploring the Edges of Tolkien's Literary Canvas



LITERARY CRITICISM / INKLINGS STUDIES November 2021, c. 200 pp., 6 x 9 Cloth \$55.00s, ISBN 978-1-60635-430-8



**PETER GRYBAUSKAS** is senior lecturer in English at the University of Maryland. He has collaborated with the Roman Association of Tolkien Studies and is a regular reader in the Tolkien Archive at Oxford University's Bodleian Library. His work has appeared in *Tolkien Studies, Mythlore,* and collections in English and Italian.

#### Related Interest **v**



The Faun's Bookshelf: C. S. Lewis on Why Myth Matters Charlie W. Starr Paper \$16.95t ISBN 978-1-60635-349-3



There Would Always Be a Fairy Tale: More Essays on Tolkien Verlyn Flieger ISBN 978-1-60635-308-0 Paper \$29.95s

### A Sense of Tales Untold

Exploring the Edges of Tolkien's Literary Canvas

### Peter Grybauskas

Examining the uncanny perception of depth in Tolkien's writing and worldbuilding

A Sense of Tales Untold examines the margins of J. R. R. Tolkien's work: the frames, edges, allusions, and borders between story and un-story and the spaces between vast ages and miniscule time periods. The untold tales that are simply implied or referenced in the text are essential to Tolkien's achievement in world-building, Peter Grybauskas argues, and counter the common but largely spurious image of Tolkien as a writer of bloated prose. Instead, A Sense of Tales Untold highlights Tolkien's restraint—his ability to check the pen to great effect.

The book begins by identifying some of Tolkien's principal sources of inspiration and his contemporaries, then summarizes theories and practices of the literary impression of depth. The following chapters offer close readings of key untold tales in context, ranging from the shadowy legends at the margins of *The Lord of the Rings* to the nexus of tales concerning Túrin Turambar. In his frequent retellings of the Túrin legend, Tolkien found a lifelong playground for experimentation with untold stories.

"A story must be told or there'll be no story, yet it is the untold stories that are most moving," wrote Tolkien to his son during the composition of *The Lord of the Rings*, cutting straight to the heart of the tension between storytelling and world-building that animates his work. From the most straightforward form of an untold tale—an omission—to vast and tangled webs of allusions, Grybauskas highlights this tension. A Sense of *Tales Untold* engages with urgent questions about interpretation, adaptation, and authorial control.

### Tolkien, Enchantment, and Loss

Steps on the Developmental Journey

### John Rosegrant

Tolkien's enchanted worldview as literary form and as psychological struggle

Focusing on the themes of enchantment and loss in the fiction of J. R. R. Tolkien, this unique study incorporates elements of developmental psychology to explore both Tolkien's life and art, deepening our understanding of the interrelationship between his biography and writing.

As John Rosegrant relates, Tolkien's early years saw a good deal of trauma: the loss of both parents, serious illness, poverty, and battlefield action during World War I, including the loss of close friends. Yet he presents an enchanted worldview in the stories of Middle-earth, and that tension between enchantment and disenchantment—as it results from significant trauma and loss—lies at the very heart of Tolkien's creative endeavors.

In short, Tolkien's creative effort can be understood, especially from the perspective of his own psychological development, as a way to maintain a sense of enchantment in the face of great personal loss. Throughout our lives, at several stages we must surrender earlier forms of enchantment and develop more mature forms so that life does not become barren, drab, or dismal. As Rosegrant argues, Tolkien found ways to use his personal losses and struggles to address universal psychological issues in his art, giving his work great emotional sophistication and complexity.

*Tolkien, Enchantment, and Loss* both deepens our understanding of Tolkien and helps us to recognize how Tolkien widens and enriches our understanding of life.





LITERARY CRITICISM/INKLINGS STUDIES December 2021, c. 220 pp., 6 x 9 Cloth \$55.00s, ISBN 978-1-60635-435-3

e

JOHN ROSEGRANT is a practicing psychoanalyst who has published numerous papers on topics including play therapy, dreams, fairytales, Harry Potter, the *World of Warcraft* computer game, and Ursula Le Guin, and is also the author of The Gates of Inland young adult fantasy series. His work on J. R. R. Tolkien has appeared in *Tolkien Studies, Mythlore,* and *American Imago*.

Related Interest **v** 



"The Sweet and the Bitter": Death and Dying in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* Amy Amendt-Raduege Paper \$30.00t ISBN 978-1-60635-305-9



Tolkien's Cosmology: Divine Beings and Middle-earth Sam McBride Cloth \$55.00s ISBN 978-1-60635-396-7



BLACK SQUIRREL BOOKS HUMOR / COMICS / GRAPHIC NOVELS December 2021, 520 pp., 9½ x 7½ Cloth \$45.00t, ISBN 978-1-60635-438-4

"Thank you for the stories you tell. It seems I just realized I grew up with all the characters from the beginning. Touching and funny. Who would have thought the comics were so deep?" —Michael Welger

"I have always loved *Funky.* Thank you for all you do."

-Susan Krezman

#### Related Interest **v**



The Complete Funky Winkerbean: Volume 9, 1996-1998 Cloth \$45.00t ISBN 978-1-60635-392-9

e



The Complete Funky Winkerbean: Volume 10, 1999–2001 Cloth \$45.00t ISBN 978-1-60635-361-5

### **The Complete** *Funky Winkerbean Volume* 11. 2002–2004

Tom Batiuk Foreword by Andrew Farago

Long-running character Funky Winkerbean reminds us that we all have to grow up

Relationships move to the front of the stage in this eleventh volume of *The Complete* Funky Winkerbean as the lighthearted dalliances of the past segue to the more mature partnerships of the adult world. Marriages are tested as Funky and Cindy's relationship begins to break apart, and Becky and Wally are separated by the war in Afghanistan. At the same time, Lisa and Les begin a family and go house hunting, while Crazy Harry meets an unlikely soulmate from his high school video gaming days.

In Tom Batiuk's introduction to this volume, the curtain is pulled back on the art of *Funky* to show what was happening behind the scenes artistically as the work over these years was being created.

**TOM BATIUK** is a graduate of Kent State University. His *Funky Winkerbean* and *Crankshaft* comic strips are carried in hundreds of newspapers throughout the United States. He was recognized as one of three finalists in the editorial cartooning category of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize awards competition for the singular series of daily comic strips that chronicled the death of longtime character Lisa Moore, which were collected in the *Lisa's Legacy Trilogy*. His *Funky Winkerbean* series and *Roses in December* were finalists for the 2016 Eisner Awards.



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Voicing a Movement after Kent State 1970 Edited by Susan J. Erenrich

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"The shootings at Kent State still reverberate. This collection is a written monument, a fitting memorial to all those killed, wounded, or scarred by the events of May 4, 1970."—The VVA Veteran

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The Kent State University Press, 1118 University Library, P.O. Box 5190, Kent, OH 44242-0001 330-672-7913 Fax 330-672-3104

#### Sales and Distribution

Trade and Library Orders: The Kent State University Press, c/o Baker & Taylor Publisher Services 30 Amberwood Parkway, Ashland, OH 44805 800-247-6553 Fax 419-281-6883 Customer service/inquiries 419-281-1802 orders@btpubservices.com

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