



THE KENT STATE
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SPRING 2025
CATALOG



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In 2025, Kent State University Press is celebrating its 60th year of publishing. Over the years, our books have moved scholarly conversations in new directions, shed light on the history and culture of our region, and resonated with specialists and general readers alike. As we begin this next decade, we build on these traditions while embarking on exciting, new endeavors as well. The Press has started a blog (kentstatebooks.wordpress.com) and an Instagram account (@kentstateuniversitypress), enabling us to connect more effectively with readers, authors, and partners. Danielle A. St. Hilaire's *The Art of Pity: Aesthetics, Ethics, and Compassion in Sidney, Spenser, and Shakespeare* will be the first book in the Press's new-to-us Medieval & Renaissance Literary Studies series.

We will also publish *Ghosts of an Old Forest: Essays on Midwestern Rural Heritage*, the highly anticipated follow-up to Deborah Fleming's PEN America Literary Award-winning *Resurrection of the Wild*.

We look forward to celebrating our 60th anniversary throughout 2025 and invite you to join us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clara Totten".

Clara Totten
Interim Director

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Cover images from author's collection



The Kent State University Press is thrilled to highlight the following recent award winners and finalists:

The Fifth Star: Ohio's Fight for Women's Right to Vote by Jamie C. Capuzza, winner of the Ohio Academy of History Senior Scholar Publication Award, 2024

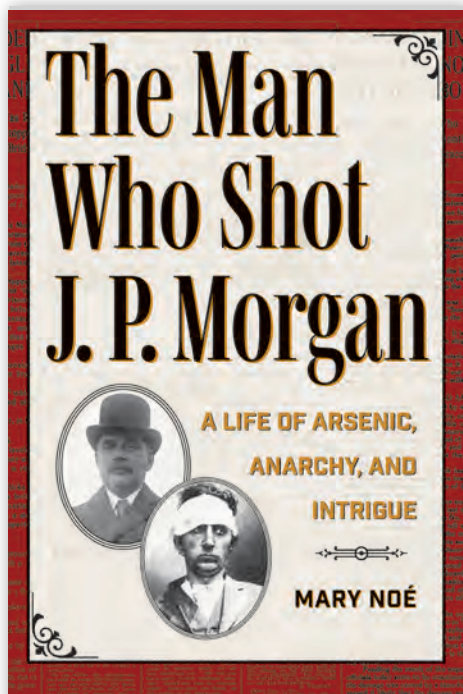
No Place for a Woman: Harriet Dame's Civil War by Mike Pride, winner of the New Hampshire PBS Award for Literary Excellence, 2023

Inkling, Historian, Soldier, and Brother: A Life of Warren Hamilton Lewis by Don W. King, winner of Bronze, IPPY Awards, World History, 2023

Through Blood and Fire: The Civil War Letters of Major Charles J. Mills, 1862–1865, Revised and Expanded Edition edited by J. Gregory Acken, winner of the Army Foundation's Distinguished Writing Awards, 2023, Reprint category

Pity, Power, and Tolkien's Ring: To Rule the Fate of Many by Thomas P. Hillman, finalist for the Tolkien Society Award for Best Book, 2024

In the Heart of It All: An Unvarnished Account of My Life in Public Service by Richard F. Celeste, finalist for the Ohioana Book Awards About Ohio/Ohioan, 2023



TRUE CRIME HISTORY

June 2025, ca. 192 pages, 6½ x 9¼

Paperback \$29.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-495-7



MARY NOÉ is a lawyer and a professor at St. John's University. Her article "Murder at Madison Square Garden: A Dream Team's Insane Game of Judicial Cat and Mouse" is featured in *Judicial Notice: A Periodical of New York Court History*. She has also published several legal articles and a book on special education.

Related Interest ▼



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The Man Who Shot J. P. Morgan

A Life of Arsenic, Anarchy, and Intrigue

Mary Noé

The thrilling, true story of a prolific criminal's many identities and exploits

On July 3, 1915, John Pierpont Morgan Jr., one of the most famous names in finance, was entertaining guests at his Long Island estate when the doorbell rang. An armed man forced his way inside. At the same time, authorities in Washington, DC, were investigating a shocking bombing at the US Capitol. While no one had been killed, the blast had destroyed the reception room, and DC citizens were on edge.

Nine years earlier, in 1906, Leone Krembs Muentner had fallen ill and died shortly after giving birth. Her husband, Harvard professor Erich Muentner, blamed his wife's Christian Science religious beliefs, which prohibited medical intervention, for the death, but an investigation suggested something more sinister: arsenic poisoning. As suspicions mounted, Muentner vanished.

In Texas, a mysterious man calling himself Frank Holt wooed Leona Sensabaugh, and after their marriage he pursued a career at Cornell. But some of Holt's colleagues found he reminded them of someone they knew, a man who had been suspected of murdering his wife. Could Frank Holt and Erich Muentner be the same person? What were they to make of it, later, when they saw a familiar face in the papers following a bizarre attempt on a finance tycoon's life?

The Man Who Shot J. P. Morgan is a riveting tale of false identities, radical political beliefs, and ambitious criminal schemes set during the tumultuous time shortly before the United States entered World War I.

Deadbeats, Dead Balls, and the 1914 Boston Braves

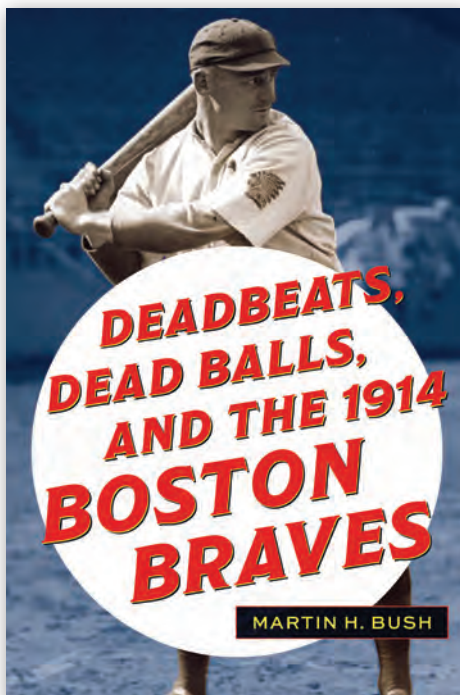
Martin H. Bush

The unlikely story of one of baseball's greatest comeback seasons

The Boston Braves (the present-day Atlanta Braves) were a bunch of losers and alcohol-soaked whiskey swiggers, buried in last place as late as mid-July of 1914. This rough gang was led by their bullying, superstitious manager George Stallings and assisted by Johnny Evers, a nasty, egotistical captain who was despised by opponents and umpires alike.

Deadbeats, Dead Balls, and the 1914 Boston Braves chronicles the team's misfortune, meteoric rise through the 1914 season, and audacious World Series run against the overwhelmingly dominant Philadelphia Athletics. Hall of Fame umpire Bill Klem, a mainstay in the game for over 70 years, called the Braves "the most spirited team he ever saw"—but would their spirit be enough against one of the most powerful teams ever put together?

Making use of extensive archival and primary source research, Martin H. Bush places the Braves' story within the larger controversies of dead ball—era baseball: greedy team owners, exaggerations of the "yellow" press, and blatant cheating tactics used to gain unfair advantage. Bush strips away the myths—but not the romance—that can obscure our understanding of how baseball evolved. Including anecdotes from heroes of the "dead ballers," like Ty Cobb, Hans Wagner, and "Cy" Young, *Deadbeats, Dead Balls, and the 1914 Boston Braves* is an unforgettable story—at turns painful, exciting, shocking, and funny.



SPORTS HISTORY

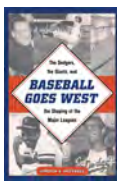
June 2025, ca. 320 pages, 6½ x 9¼

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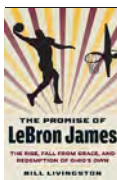


MARTIN H. BUSH was senior historian (acting) at the New York State Education Department and a researcher for the office of Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York. He is the author of seven other books, including the best-selling *Ben Shahn: The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti*.

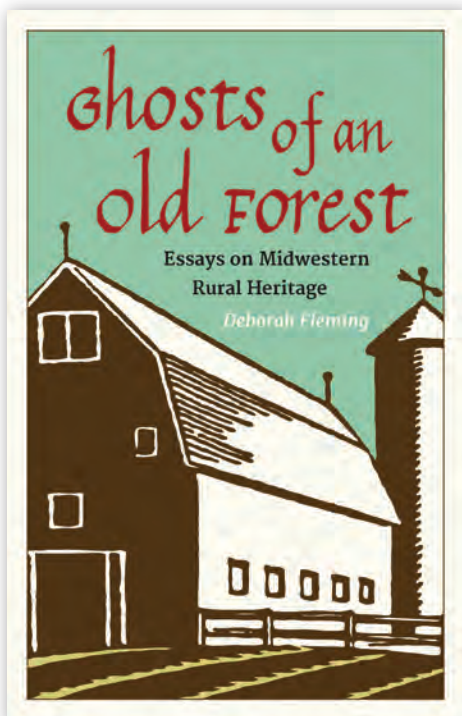
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ESSAYS / NATURE / REGIONAL INTEREST

April 2025, 232 pages, 5½ x 8½

Hardback \$24.95t, ISBN 978-1-60635-493-3



DEBORAH FLEMING is the author of *Resurrection of the Wild: Meditations on Ohio's Natural Landscape*, which won the PEN-America Diamonstein/Spielvogel Art of the Essay Award for 2020. She has also published five collections of poetry, a novel, and four volumes of scholarship. Previously a professor of English at Ashland University and winner of the Faculty Research Award, she served for many years as director and editor of the Ashland Poetry Press.

Ghosts of an Old Forest

Essays on Midwestern Rural Heritage

Deborah Fleming

A lyrical exploration of where nature and agriculture intersect

In the Ohio counties of the Allegheny Plateau, 19th-century barns hewn from old-growth wood rest near remnant forests, reminders of the state's deep agricultural roots and rich ecological past. Through 14 linked, meditative essays, Deborah Fleming, author of the award-winning *Resurrection of the Wild: Meditations on Ohio's Natural Landscape*, persuasively and passionately argues for protecting these vestiges of the region's natural and rural history.

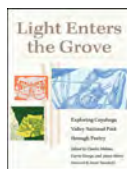
Fleming describes domesticated and wild nature on her farm, delves into Ohio's rich history of agriculture, tackles the issues of litter and pollution, decries the practice of hydraulic fracturing (or "fracking"), and reflects on changes in communities bordering rivers, which are often the most exploited by extraction industries.

The result is an evocative collection, which traces Ohio's natural and cultural history—and serves as an urgent call to preserve its splendor.

Related Interest ▼



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



Light Enters the Grove: Exploring Cuyahoga Valley National Park through Poetry
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Where East Meets (Mid)West

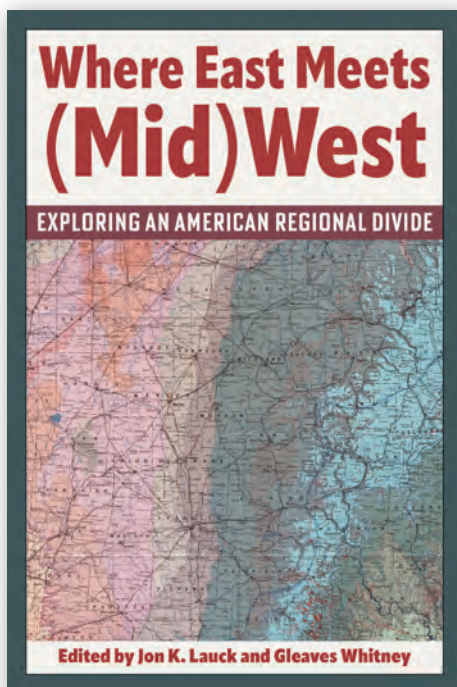
Exploring an American Regional Divide

**Edited by Jon K. Lauck
and Gleaves Whitney**

Essays on midwestern regional identity

Somewhere west of the Appalachians and north of the Ohio River, the Midwest begins. Just where exactly, and how, and why are the questions explored in *Where East Meets (Mid)West*. Bringing together a range of perspectives, the volume argues that while cultural boundaries remain difficult to define, Ohio has been central to regional transitions throughout history. To Native Americans, Ohio was the meeting place of two major drainage basins: the Ohio River and the Great Lakes Basin, which resulted in large amounts of trade activity, cultural exchange, and conflict. During America's westward expansion, Ohio was an essential pathway, the first of the new Northwest territories to gain statehood, and a battleground over the issue of enslavement.

More recently, Ohio's diverse makeup—a combination of rural agriculture, new industry, urbanism, and the Rust Belt—has made it challenging to categorize. Is it part of the Midwest? Does the Midwest even begin in Ohio, or does the transition start in western New York or along the western edge of Pennsylvania? The contributors to *Where East Meets (Mid)West* wrestle with these questions of cultural and regional identity, exploring from various angles what it means to be midwestern.



REGIONAL HISTORY

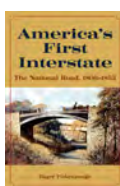
March 2025, 336 pages, 6 x 9

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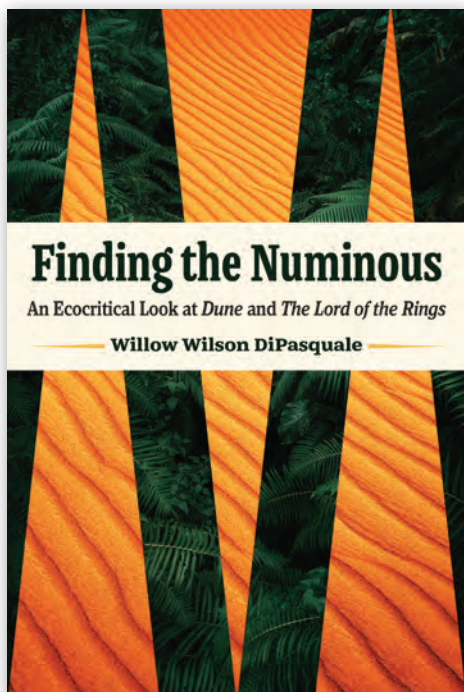
JON K. LAUCK teaches history and political science at the University of South Dakota, and he is editor in chief of *Middle West Review*. Lauck has authored or edited various books, including *The Good Country: A History of the American Midwest*.

GLEAVES WHITNEY is the executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. He has authored and edited 18 books on presidential or midwestern history.

Related Interest ▼



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INKLINGS STUDIES / LITERARY CRITICISM
February 2025, ca. 176 pages, 6 x 9
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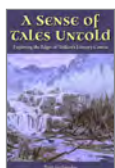


WILLOW WILSON DIPASQUALE is an instructor of English and writing at Bryn Mawr College, Arcadia University, and Thomas Jefferson University. She is the author of “Shifting Sands: Heroes, Power, and the Environment in the *Dune* Saga” in *Discovering Dune: Essays on Frank Herbert’s Epic Saga*. She received the 2024 Arcadia University Center for Teaching, Learning, and Mentoring’s Unsung Hero Award.

Related Interest ▼



The Map of Wilderland:
Ecocritical Reflections on Tolkien's
Myth of Wilderness
Amber Lehnig
Hardback \$55.00s
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A Sense of Tales Untold:
Exploring the Edges of Tolkien's
Literary Canvas
Peter Grybauskas
Paperback \$24.95s
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Finding the Numinous

An Ecocritical Look at Dune and The Lord of the Rings

Willow Wilson DiPasquale

Analyzing how the mythopoeic fiction of J. R. R. Tolkien and Frank Herbert portray the natural world

Finding the Numinous explores the premise that the environments depicted in *The Lord of the Rings* and the *Dune* saga are not only for the purpose of world-building; rather, these imagined worlds’ environments are sacred spaces fundamental to understanding these texts and their authors’ purposes. Willow Wilson DiPasquale applies Tolkien’s three functions of fantasy—recovery, escape, and consolation—to demonstrate how both authors’ works are intrinsically connected to their ecocritical messages and overarching moral philosophies.

This book also compares Tolkien’s Roman Catholic viewpoint with Herbert’s Zen Buddhist perspective, arguing that the authors’ religious beliefs and biographical, historical, and cultural influences impacted how they chose to craft their creative works and write about nature.

Applying various ecocritical positions to the text, *Finding the Numinous* explores descriptions of the natural landscapes in both authors’ texts, as well as the relationships characters and communities have with those natural spaces. As our current society’s relationships with nature are increasingly challenged and changed by various ecocrises, DiPasquale convincingly argues, these worlds offer readers various environmental models to critique, to condemn, or, in some cases, to adopt.

The Art of Pity

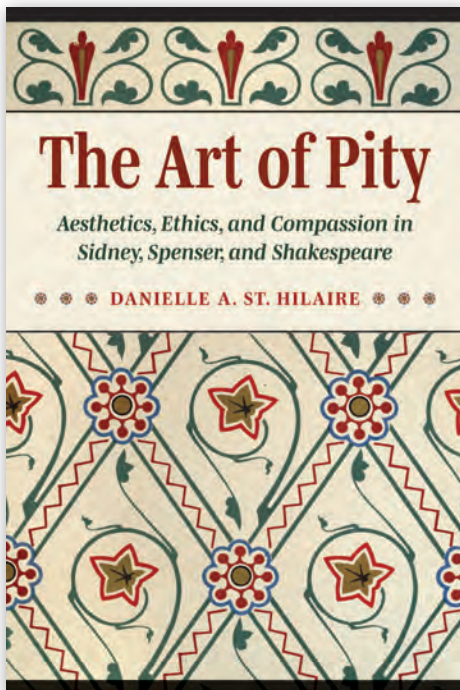
*Aesthetics, Ethics, and
Compassion in Sidney,
Spenser, and Shakespeare*

Danielle A. St. Hilaire

**The connection between reading
literature and developing an ethical self**

The late 16th and early 17th centuries in England were a time of substantial anxiety over the value of reading and writing literature. *The Art of Pity* argues that English early modern literature made a powerful case for the ability of literature to provide ethical instruction by engaging our emotions. Contemporary explanations of how literature could do so, however, were various and faltering. Writers like Sidney and Spenser insisted in their prose that poetry could, in Spenser's words, "fashion a gentleman or noble person in vertuous and gentle discipline" because of its aesthetic power. Yet their poetry demonstrated skepticism of the notion that aesthetic delight provided a vehicle for ethical instruction. Meanwhile, Shakespeare explored varying models of how drama affects its audience, grappling with the question of whether our emotional responses construct or merely reveal our ethical dispositions. These writers' works embody the tensions of their historical moment, suspended between classical and Medieval philosophy and Enlightenment thought.

In this thoughtfully researched and beautifully written study, Danielle A. St. Hilaire argues that we can find frame-works for understanding the intersection of emotion, ethics, and literature that unite modern discourses of aesthetic autonomy with seemingly incompatible ethical theories that have largely fallen out of contemporary discussions regarding the value of literature.



**MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE LITERARY STUDIES
LITERARY CRITICISM**

May 2025, ca. 144 pages, 6 x 9

Paperback \$39.95s, ISBN 978-1-60635-491-9



DANIELLE A. ST. HILAIRE is the chair and associate professor of the English Department at Duquesne University. She is the author of *Satan's Poetry: Fallenness and Poetic Tradition in Paradise Lost*, as well as numerous articles in scholarly journals and chapters in multiauthor volumes.

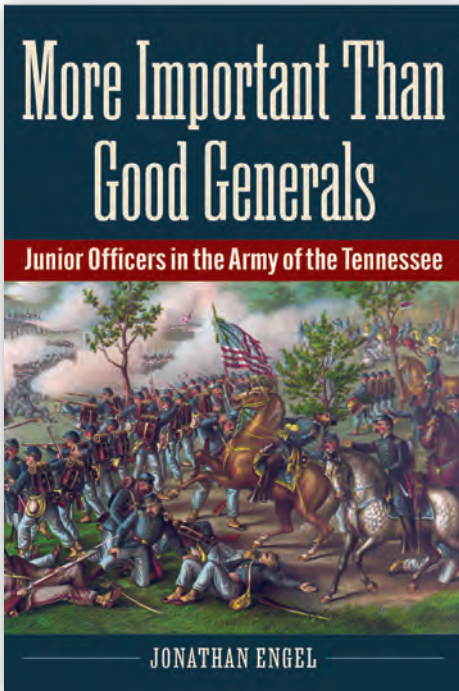
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CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS & STRATEGIES

CIVIL WAR HISTORY / MILITARY HISTORY

January 2025, 304 pages, 6 x 9

Paperback \$39.95s, ISBN 978-1-60635-489-6



JONATHAN ENGEL is an independent Civil War historian. His work has been published in the *Journal of East Tennessee History*, *Civil War History*, and *Journal of Military History*, among other publications.

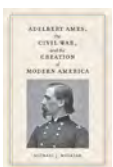
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More Important Than Good Generals

Junior Officers in the Army of the Tennessee

Jonathan Engel

The Union's forgotten mid-level officers and their commitment to the cause

More Important Than Good Generals is an in-depth study of the Army of the Tennessee's junior officers—the company and field grade lieutenants, captains, majors, lieutenant colonels, and colonels. While many studies have examined generals and common soldiers, Civil War armies' "middle management" has been largely ignored. Officers had a substantially different array of duties than the soldiers they commanded and the generals above them, resulting in a drastically different wartime experience. Moreover, it is not only Civil War officers who have been overlooked but also the army Grant and Sherman commanded—the Army of the Tennessee—despite the fact that it was one of the most victorious armies of the war.

Pushing back against the commonly accepted narrative of disillusionment among officers, Jonathan Engel concludes that the Army of the Tennessee's company and field grade officers endured the war's trials with their moral and political ideology intact. Further, rather than becoming indifferent to the Union cause, Engel argues that the reverse was often true: officers who started off racist or disinterested in the issue of enslavement became advocates of emancipation.

Engagingly written and meticulously researched, *More Important Than Good Generals* is a lasting work of scholarship that will appeal to Civil War historians and general readers alike.

The Peace Corps in Tanzania

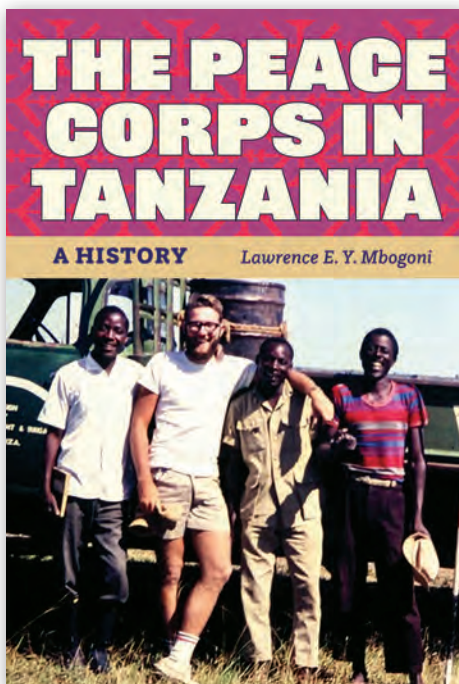
A History

Lawrence E. Y. Mbogoni

An examination of one of the earliest Peace Corps programs in Africa

In 1961, the first group of Peace Corps volunteers in Tanzania—surveyors, engineers, and geologists—arrived in Dar es Salaam with three core objectives: meet the newly independent country's needs for trained personnel, promote a better understanding of Americans, and promote a better understanding of the people served by the volunteers. *The Peace Corps in Tanzania* traces the program's progress, successes, and challenges, including analysis of the tensions that led to the program's closure in 1969. The program eventually resumed in 1980, which required significant changes in US-Tanzania relations.

Lawrence E. Y. Mbogoni depicts a range of volunteers' experiences, including anecdotes about their training, their work and social lives in Tanzania, and how they readjusted to life back in America following their service. Although there are several memoirs by returned Peace Corps volunteers from Tanzania, this is the first scholarly study of the agency's history in Tanzania more broadly. Mbogoni draws extensively on archival resources, Tanzanian newspapers and government reports, and interviews he conducted with returned volunteers. The result is an engaging account of volunteers' contributions and a critical assessment of how successfully the Peace Corps has met its objectives.



PEACE & CONFLICT STUDIES

January 2025, 244 pages, 6 x 9

Paperback \$39.95s, ISBN 978-1-60635-488-9



LAWRENCE E. Y. MBOGONI is the author of several books, including *British Military Expeditions and the Conquest of Africa: 1824–1920* and *Miscegenation, Identity, and Status in Colonial Africa: Intimate Colonial Encounters*. For many years, he was a professor of history at William Paterson University of New Jersey. He previously taught at Luther College and the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

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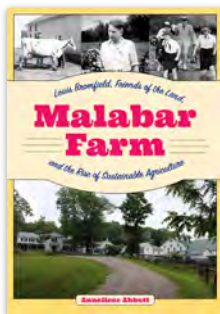


The Peace Corps in Cameroon

Julius A. Amin

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ISBN 978-0-87338-450-6



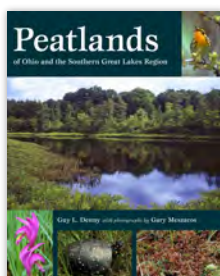
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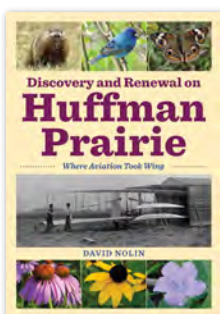


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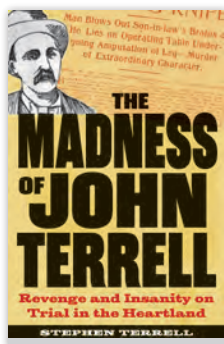


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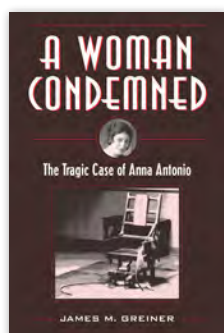
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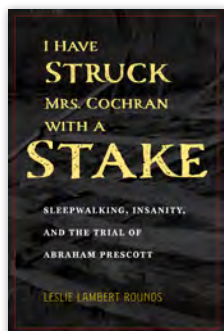
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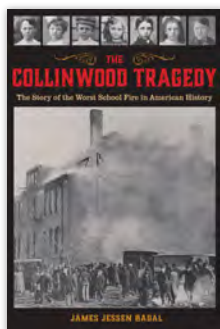
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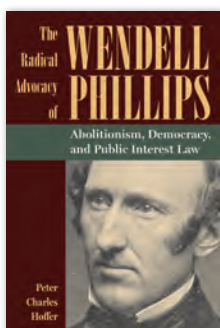
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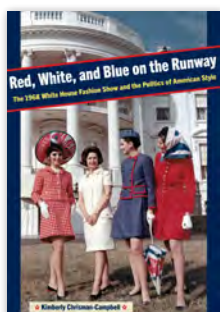
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