NEW SCHOLARLY BOOKS

Weekly Book List, December 16, 2016

Compiled by Nina C. Ayoub  |  DECEMBER 11, 2016

AMERICAN STUDIES


ANTHROPOLOGY

Moral Ecology of a Forest: The Nature Industry and Maya Post-Conservation by Jose E. Martinez-Reyes (University of Arizona Press; 200 pages; $55). Focuses on the conflict between Western conservationists and the Maya of the southeastern Mexican state of Quintana Roo.

Provisional Authority: Police, Order, and Security in India by Beatrice Jauregui (University of Chicago Press; 205 pages; $95 hardcover, $35 paperback). Examines daily life for police in rural Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Bosch and Bruegel: From Enemy Painting to Everyday Life by Joseph Leo Koerner (Princeton University Press; 448 pages; $65). Traces affinities between the two northern Renaissance masters.
A House in the Sun: Modern Architecture and Solar Energy in the Cold War by Daniel A. Barber (Oxford University Press; 336 pages; $39.95). Explores the role of architecture in social changes through a study of experimentation in solar-heated homes from the 1940s to the late 50s.

Mirror Affect: Seeing Self, Observing Others in Contemporary Art by Cristina Albu (University of Minnesota Press; 303 pages; $105 hardcover, $30 paperback). A study of artwork since the 1960s that reflect the spectator via actual mirrors, video, and other elements; artists discussed include Joan Jonas, Dan Graham, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Olafur Eliasson, and Rafael Lozano-Hemmer.


CLASSICAL STUDIES

History after Liberty: Tacitus on Tyrants, Sycophants, and Republicans by Thomas E. Strunk (University of Michigan Press; 232 pages; $65). Discusses the historian’s damning portrait of tyranny in first-century Rome and his suggestions, as a republican, toward restoring liberty.

COMMUNICATION

Canada before Television: Radio, Taste, and the Struggle for Cultural Democracy by Len Kuffert (McGill-Queen’s University Press; 352 pages; US$110 hardcover, US$34.95 paperback). Examines the early history of radio in Anglophone Canada, including issues of taste, British influences, the medium’s intimate power, and the presence of U.S. programming.

ECONOMICS

The Distribution of Wealth---Growing Inequality? by Michael Schneider, Mike Pottenger, and J.E. King (Edward Elgar Publishing; 232 pages; $120). Uses data on 21 countries to examine, among other things, Thomas Piketty’s claims about growing inequality.

Selling Power: Economics, Policy, and Electric Utilities Before 1940 by John L. Neufeld (University of Chicago Press; 328 pages; $60). Examines the economics that shaped and reshaped markets for electricity in the industry’s first several decades.

EDUCATION

Between Education and Catastrophe: The Battle Over Public Schooling in Postwar Manitoba by George Buri (McGill-Queen’s University Press; 277 pages; US$100). Sets debates over curricula, testing, rural schools, and other matters in the prairie province in the wider context of discourse on the social-welfare state and competing models.
of liberalism in 1950s Canada.

**A Fight for the Soul of Public Education: The Story of the Chicago Teachers Strike** by Steven K. Ashby and Robert Bruno (ILR Press/Cornell University Press; 328 pages; $35). Draws on interviews, participant-observation, union documents, and other sources in a study of the 2012 work action that shuttered the system for seven days.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

**Keeping Oregon Green: Livability, Stewardship, and the Challenges of Growth, 1960--1980** by Derek R. Larson (Oregon State University Press; 307 pages; $24.95). Topics include the revitalization of the Willamette River, preservation of public access to the state’s entire coastline, and a failed attempt to create an Oregon Dunes national park.

**FILM STUDIES**

**Feasting Our Eyes: Food Films and Cultural Identity in the United States** by Laura Lindenfeld and Fabio Parasecoli (Columbia University Press; 261 pages; $105 hardcover, $35 paperback). A study of food-linked feature and documentary films, including *Big Night, Ratatouille*, and *Julie & Julia*.

**Queering the Shakespeare Film: Gender Trouble, Gay Spectatorship and Male Homoeroticism** by Anthony Guy Patricia (Bloomsbury Academic; 286 pages; $114). Focuses on films of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Othello, Twelfth Night*, and *The Merchant of Venice*.

**FOLKLORE**


**GEOGRAPHY**

**Easy On, Easy Off: The Urban Pathology of America's Small Towns** by Jack Williams (University of Virginia Press; 320 pages; $70 hardcover, $30 paperback). Examines the struggles and lost cultural heritage of small-town America, bypassed by the interstate highway system.

**HISTORY**


**The Aztecs at Independence: Nahua Culture Makers in Central Mexico, 1799--1832** by Miriam Melton-Villanueva
(University of Arizona Press; 249 pages; $55). Uses previously untapped Nahuatl-language documents, primarily last wills and testaments, to examine indigenous communities’ experience of Mexico’s transition from the colonial to the postcolonial period.

**Blue Texas: The Making of a Multiracial Democratic Coalition in the Civil Rights Era** by Max Krochmal (University of North Carolina Press; 552 pages; $39.95). Draws on archival and oral-historical sources in a study of liberal activism in the state beginning in the 1930s.

**Child Insanity in England, 1845-1907** by Steven Taylor (Palgrave Macmillan; 188 pages; $99.99). Examines the view and treatment of mental illness in children during the period, including regional and other differences.

**Circulating Literacy: Writing Instruction in American Periodicals, 1880-1910** by Alicia Brazeau (Southern Illinois University Press; 216 pages; $40). Examines the role played by popular magazines in building literacy; focuses on *Michigan Farmer, Ohio Farmer,* and *Maine Farmer* as well as *Harper's Bazar* and *Ladies' Home Journal.*

**The Cultural Revolution on Trial: Mao and the Gang of Four** by Alexander C. Cook (Cambridge University Press; 277 pages; $99.99 hardcover, $34.99 paperback). Focuses on the 1980-81 trial of Mao’s widow and a group of radical cultural revolutionaries who fell from power after the Chairman’s death.

**Defender: The Life of Daniel H. Wells** by Quentin Thomas Wells (Utah State University Press; 508 pages; $39.95). A biography of a prominent adult convert to the Mormon church---in 1846--- who served in military, political, and other capacities.

**The Extreme Right in the French Resistance: Members of the Cagoule and Corvignolles in the Second World War** by Valerie Deacon (Louisiana State University Press; 240 pages; $45). Documents how elements of France’s extreme right joined the Resistance in the wake of the German occupation.


**The First Victory: The Second World War and the East Africa Campaign** by Andrew Stewart (Yale University Press; 336 pages; $38). Draws on previously untapped sources in a study of the victory of some 70,000 British and Commonwealth troops against an Italian force of nearly 300,000 in 1941.


**Military Service and American Democracy: From World War II to the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars** by William A. Taylor (University Press of Kansas; 336 pages; $34.95). Covers the period from the first peacetime draft, instituted in 1940, to the all-volunteer army serving today.

Once Within Borders: Territories of Power, Wealth, and Belonging Since 1500 by Charles S. Maier (Harvard University Press; 387 pages; $29.95). Examines the ideas and forces that have shaped political borders over the past half millennium.


Rage for Order: The British Empire and the Origins of International Law, 1800--1850 by Lauren Benton and Lisa Ford (Harvard University Press; 282 pages; $39.95). Discusses a 50-year period marked by major efforts to reform law across the empire.

Raphael Lemkin and the Concept of Genocide by Douglas Irvin-Erickson (University of Pennsylvania Press; 320 pages; $59.95). An intellectual biography of the lawyer who coined the word "genocide" and led a campaign to outlaw it.


A Time of Scandal: Charles R. Forbes, Warren G. Harding, and the Making of the Veterans Bureau by Rosemary Stevens (Johns Hopkins University Press; 408 pages; $34.95). Draws on previously untapped sources in a revisionist study of the scandal that followed President Harding's appointment of his friend Forbes as the first director of what would become the Department of Veterans Affairs; disputes the claim that Forbes defrauded the government.

Toxic Exposures: Mustard Gas and the Health Consequences of World War II in the United States by Susan L. Smith (Rutgers University Press; 256 pages; $29.95). Draws on previously classified U.S. and Canadian records in a study of how America and its allies intentionally subjected their own soldiers to mustard gas experiments, including trials designed to compare the vulnerability of different races; documents the health and environmental consequences of the effort.


HISTORY OF SCIENCE

LITERATURE

The Birth of the Imagination: William Carlos Williams on Form by Bruce Holsapple (University of New Mexico Press; 415 pages; $59.95). A developmental study of form, structure, and content in Williams' poetry from Poems (1909) to The Wedge (1944).

Danning Words: The Life and Religious Times of H. L. Mencken by D.G. Hart (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing; 259 pages; $26). A biography of Mencken that describes the journalist and famed agnostic’s relationship to Christianity as simultaneously antagonistic and symbiotic, framing much of his ideas and career.

George Sword's Warrior Narratives: Compositional Processes in Lakota Oral Tradition by Delphine Red Shirt (University of Nebraska Press; 376 pages; $65). Examines patterns of Lakota style thought a study of the composition and structure of narratives composed by Sword in Lakota using the English alphabet.

Little Magazine, World Form by Eric Bulson (Columbia University Press; 333 pages; $60). Examines how the form of the "little magazine," familiar to American and European modernism, has extended its reach to Africa, the West Indies, Japan, and other settings.

Narratives from the Sephardic Atlantic: Blood and Faith by Ronnie Perelis (Indiana University Press; 192 pages; $55). A study of three autobiographical narratives by descendants of Jews forced to convert to Christianity in Spain or Spanish America.

Private Lives Made Public: The Invention of Biography in Early Modern England by Andrea Walkden (Duquesne University Press; 206 pages; $70). Documents how a boom in life writing after the 1649 trial and execution of Charles I figured in English political culture; works discussed include Izaak Walton’s Lives, John Aubrey’s Brief Lives, and Defoe’s Memoirs of a Cavalier.

Reading America: Citizenship, Democracy, and Cold War Literature by Kristin L. Matthews (University of Massachusetts Press; 288 pages; $90 hardcover, $29.95 paperback). Focuses on works by J.D. Salinger, Ralph Ellison, Thomas Pynchon, John Barth, and Maxine Hong Kingston.

The Reception of Alfred Tennyson in Europe edited by Leonee Ormond (Bloomsbury Academic; 424 pages; $244). Writings on the 19th-century British poet’s reception by readers and critics on the Continent as well as his influence on artists and musicians.

The Religion of Empire: Political Theology in Blake’s Prophetic Symbolism by G.A. Rosso (Ohio State University Press; 315 pages; $40). A study of William Blake’s religious and political thought in the context of his literary works.

http://www.chronicle.com/article/Weekly-Book-List-December-16/238650?cid=cr&utm_source=cr&utm_medium=en&elqTrackId=b8b2314a2840401aabc053...
Press; 291 pages; $69.95). Topics include the figure of Rahab as key to William Blake’s political theology.

**Thomas Hardy: Half a Londoner** by Mark Ford (Harvard University Press; 280 pages; $27.95). A study of the writer’s life, in his words, as “half a Londoner,” moving between the capital and Dorset.

**MUSIC**

**Beyond Reason: Wagner contra Nietzsche** by Karol Berger (University of California Press; 522 pages; $65). Focuses on *Der Ring des Nibelungen, Tristan und Isolde, Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg,* and *Parsifal.*

**PHILOSOPHY**

**As Wide as the World Is Wise: Reinventing Philosophical Anthropology** by Michael Jackson (Columbia University Press; 259 pages; $35). Draws on fieldwork in Australia and West Africa in a discussion of how philosophy and anthropology can combine for greater understanding.

**German Idealism’s Trinitarian Legacy** by Dale M. Schlitt (State University of New York Press; 445 pages; $95). Discusses the Trinitarian thought of Hegel and Schelling and its legacy in the work of such figures as Philipp Marheineke, Isaak August Dorner, Vladimir Sergeyevich Solovyov, Karl Barth, Karl Rahner, and Wolfhart Pannenberg.


**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Between the Rule of Law and States of Emergency: The Fluid Jurisprudence of the Israeli Regime** by Yoav Mehozay (State University of New York Press; 205 pages; $80). A study of Israel’s use of emergency powers, some dating from British Mandate rule of Palestine and some originating with the Jewish state; documents how these powers reach far beyond the "war on terror."

**Democracy in Iran: Why It Failed and How It Might Succeed** by Misagh Parsa (Harvard University Press; 416 pages; $45). Offers a sociological perspective on Iran’s Green reformist movement and its prospects; argues ultimately that gradual institutional reforms in Iran will not result in real change and that what is needed is another revolution.

**RELIGION**

Sin in the Sixties: Catholics and Confession 1955-1975 by Maria C. Morrow (Catholic University of America Press; 336 pages; $65). Links a changing notion of sin to a decline in confession by the end of Vatican II as well as other penitential practices such as meatless Fridays and Lenten fasting.

The Story of Reason in Islam by Sari Nusseibeh (Stanford University Press; 260 pages; $95 hardcover, $29.95 paperback). Topics include how the fortunes of the classical Arabic language figured in a shift from prizing reason to legalism in Islamic thought.

Teaching Bodies: Moral Formation in the Summa of Thomas Aquinas by Mark D. Jordan (Fordham University Press; 256 pages; $100 hardcover, $28 paperback). Focuses on the structure of the middle portion of the Summa and its use of classical exhortations.

RHETORIC


THEATER


WOMEN'S STUDIES

The Woman Fantastic in Contemporary American Media Culture edited by Elyce Rae Helford and others (University Press of Mississippi; 256 pages; $65). Essays on Wonder Woman, Sansa, and other heroines in television, film, comic books, and literature.

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