

May 12, 2022

Penn Press Launches New and Improved Website

On May 4, Penn Press officially launched phase one of its new website at <https://www.pennpress.org/>!

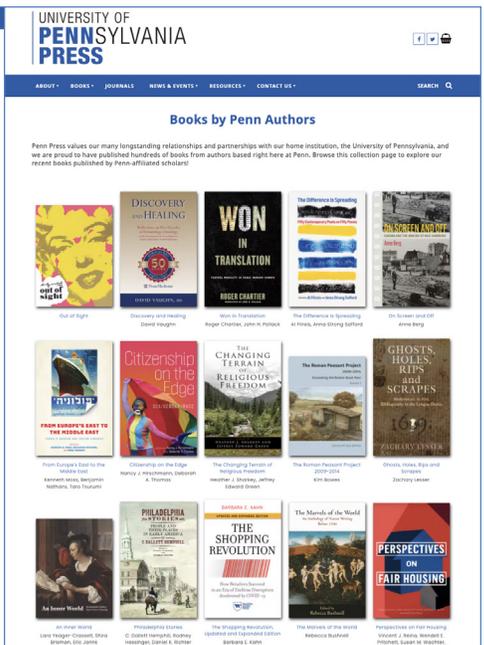
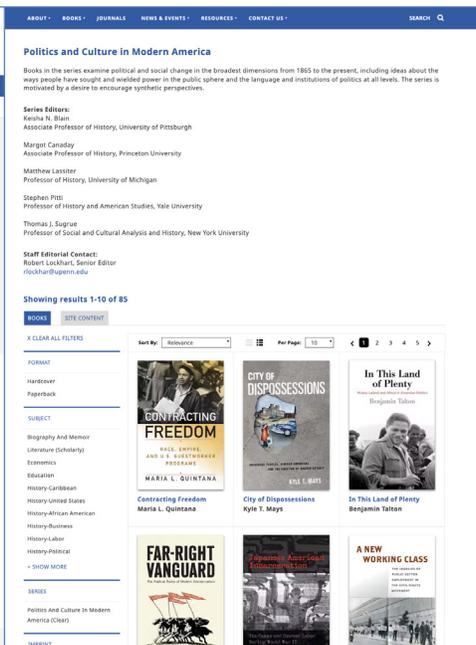
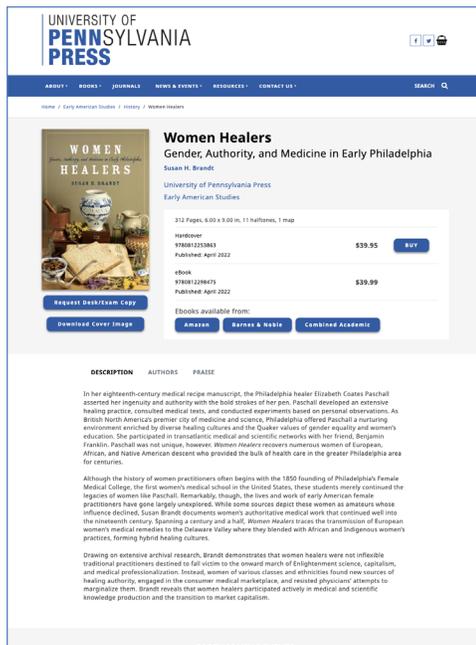
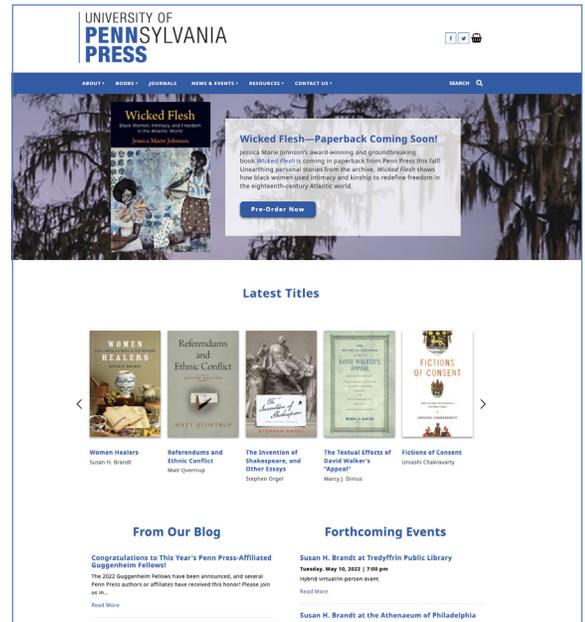
The new site has been nearly two years in the making, beginning in the fall of 2020 with the formation of a working group led by Electronic Marketing Coordinator Peter Valelly and comprised of Penn Press staff from several departments. The site was created by Supadu, a leading provider of website services specially designed for publishers, and includes many exciting new features, such as:

- An improved design for our book pages
- A robust search function with extensive options for sorting and filtering results
- A dynamic homepage highlighting curated content and collections, our blog, upcoming events, and author pages
- Accessible resources for all site visitors
- Mobile and tablet-friendly page templates throughout the site
- And much, much more!

To celebrate the launch, the Press ran a two-day flash sale, offering customers 40% off and free U.S. shipping on all books ordered through the site.

“It has been an important goal for the entire Penn Press team to create a visually elegant, robust and user-friendly website for our remarkable publications,” says Press Director Mary Francis, “I couldn’t be more pleased with the new site, which represents months of hard work by the Penn Press team, with key assistance from Penn’s ISC team and the Provost’s office.”

This first phase of the site redesign encompasses the Press’s general homepage, informational pages, and all pages related to our books, book series, subjects, and imprints. The second phase of the website, launching at a later date, will include a section dedicated to our journals program including upgraded individual homepages for each journal.



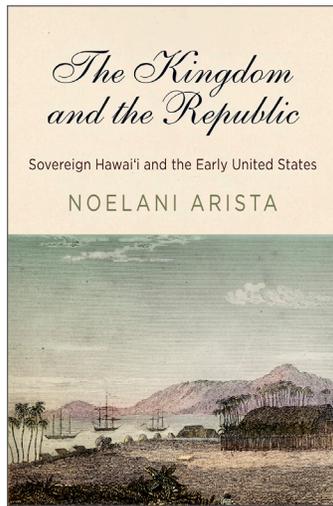
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An Excerpt From *The Kingdom and the Republic* in Honor of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

May is [Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month](#), and in commemoration, we're sharing an excerpt from the Introduction to *The Kingdom and the Republic* (HC 2018, PB 2021) by Noelani Arista. In the book, she uncovers a trove of previously unused Hawaiian language documents to chronicle Hawaiians' experience of encounter and colonialism in the nineteenth century, reconfiguring familiar histories of trade, proselytization, and negotiations over law and governance in Hawai'i.

This is a study of a world of words, world-making words, and how historians have written—or not—about them. We begin right in the middle of a dramatic expansion of this world. It is December 1827. An 'aha 'ōlelo, a Hawaiian chiefly council, has met for several days on the matter of an American missionary, Rev. William Richards, accused of libel by a British whaleship captain, William Buckle, and the British consul, Richard Charlton. Rev. William Richards, according to the British men, had libeled Captain Buckle when he wrote back to the home office of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) in Boston, Massachusetts, describing the captain's "purchase" in 1825 of a Hawaiian woman named Leoiki. . . .

On this day in 1827, a group of American Congregationalist missionaries was summoned from their new settlements across the archipelago by the *ali'i* (chiefs) to appear before them on O'ahu. In this 'aha 'ōlelo, spoken words carried the force of law. And words were the central issue in this dispute. While the British men chose to focus on the parts of Richards' letter that told of Leoiki's sale, for Richards, what was far more important about the letter and other reports like it from the mission were their detailed accounts of the "outrages" or attacks on mission stations by British sailors and whalers over a *kapu* (chiefly legal pronouncement) that prohibited Hawaiian women from traveling to ships. Serving as his own defense, Rev. Richards gave a verbal performance illustrating his already ripe capacity for political expression in the Hawaiian language, though he had lived in the islands a mere four years: "It is for you to deliver us over to such hands as you see proper, for you are our chiefs. We have left our own country and can not now receive the protection of its laws. . . . If I am a bad man or have broken the laws of your country, it is for you to try, and acquit or condemn me—you alone are my judges—it is for you to send me from your shores, or protect me here. *With you is my life, and with you is my death.* The whole is with you. . . ."



With these words, Richards revealed an aptitude for understanding Hawaiian political discourse that had thus far not been widely evinced among his missionary counterparts. The Hawaiian phrase *I ka 'ōlelo nō ke ola, i ka 'ōlelo nō ka make* (In speech there is life, in speech there is death) may appear to indicate Richards' abject submission to the chiefs. But instead, his repurposing of the phrase and its cadence demonstrated his cultural intelligence, as he played a rhetorical game of power in Hawaiian. The Hawaiian phrase is a precept descriptive of the authority of chiefly speech, which could determine the life or death of a person according to the degree to which a *kapu* had been flouted. By taking this Hawaiian precept and turning it slightly to point toward his own life, Richards attempted a moment of Hawaiian political theater. He chose the perfect moment to invoke the *mana* (power) inherent in chiefly speech. . . .

Richards' rhetorical and political performance at the 'aha 'ōlelo of late 1827 pushes us to rethink many aspects of writing a history of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Hawaiian law and governance. . . . In Richards' speech, we can also observe how languages and epistemes might engage one another deeply. When systems of meaning-making intersect, we see not a "missionary perspective" or a "native perspective." Instead, we find a coalescence of different worlds of words, expanding their reach and salience.

This book is about Hawaiian governance and law at the moment of this coalescence, about the forces both internal and external that contributed to this coalescence, and about how we correct the imbalance in the historiography of Hawai'i by revealing what colonial histories of Hawai'i have left out: a story of continuing and evolving Hawaiian governance and law conducted in the Hawaiian language.

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Penn Press Bids a Fond Farewell to Assistant Production Manager Will Boehm

Assistant Production Manager Will Boehm's tenure at Penn Press spanned fifteen years, which meant that in various ways, he had a hand in the publication of at least 1500 books. But when asked to look back and discuss a favorite project, Boehm turns to memories about coworkers and collaboration.

"What was best about my time at Penn Press was the shared experience," he says. "My primary interest was in helping others by either providing answers to questions, or finding an archived file, or if necessary, adding an extra push to get a stuck project moving again. Creating a book interior or cover design was an extra gratification."

Over the years, Boehm worked on all aspects of book design and manufacture, from designing and typesetting book interiors, to designing covers, selecting specs for binding, and sending print orders for manufacturing. And when a previous art director retired, he took on the responsibility of overseeing the design of covers, bringing on board new designers and giving the Press's books a fresh and exciting new look.

And while Will clearly had many skills and talents, Editing and Production Manager Elizabeth Glover

notes that a particular knowledge base of Boehm's is extremely impressive—his vast knowledge of typesetting and typefaces. According to Glover, if a typeface needed to be identified, it was faster, easier, and likely more accurate to show it to Will rather than seek out the answer online.

In looking back over Boehm's career at the Press, Glover can characterize Will with one word: dependable. She notes, "If something needed doing, I could just fling it at him and know it would be done correctly. Will has high standards and always made sure all our books looked as great as he knew they could and should be."

Director Mary Francis comments, "Will has such remarkable experience and institutional knowledge, and of course we'll be sorry not to have him close at hand to share that knowledge—but we are happy for Will to move on to new adventures as he retires."

For those of us who were fortunate to have lengthy conversations with him, we know that Boehm's retirement will allow him to spend time enjoying as much movie-watching as possible. Because we know that his interest in and knowledge of film rivals that of fonts!

Penn Press Says Goodbye to Erik Beranek

Penn Press said goodbye to Marketing Assistant Erik Beranek in April. Said Director Mary Francis, "During his time here at Penn Press, Erik proved himself to be a creative and nimble teammate. I particularly appreciate how quickly and capably he took on the role of client manager for our colleagues at the Penn Museum, Wharton School, and the Ross Gallery."

Erik came to us after a very successful stint as events coordinator at the much-missed Penn Book Center. He is also a founding editor of [Hopscotch Translation](#), and both these experiences contributed to his enviable network across publishing. He is now Assistant Editor for the paperbacks program at Princeton University Press, of which he notes: "Given my circumstances and goals, this position seems like a great next step in my career and I am very excited to see where it leads. Even so, excited as I am, the idea of leaving Penn Press, and especially our fantastic Marketing team, is undeniably bittersweet."



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Author Publicity

The Difference Is Spreading (2022), edited by Al Filreis and Anna Strong Safford, was excerpted on [LitHub](#).

Before the Religious Right (2022), by Gene Zubovich was excerpted in [Religion & Politics](#) and [Canopy Forum](#).

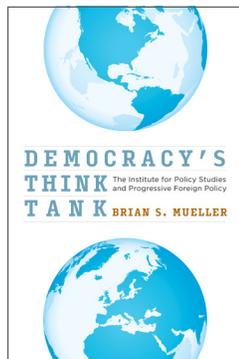
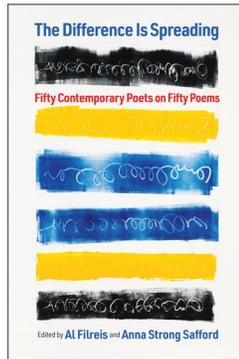
Barbara Newman, author of *The Permeable Self* (2021), was interviewed on [Medievalists.net](#).

The Material Fall of Roman Britain, 300–525 CE (2021), by Robin Fleming, was included in the [Medievalists.net new medieval books roundup](#).

Democracy's Think Tank (2021), by Brian S. Mueller, was reviewed on the [Global Policy website](#).

Rena Lauer, author of *Colonial Justice and the Jews of Venetian Crete* (2019), was interviewed on the [Seforimchatter podcast](#).

Pawel Maciejko, author of *The Mixed Multitude* (HC, 2011; PB 2015), was interviewed on the [Seforimchatter podcast](#).

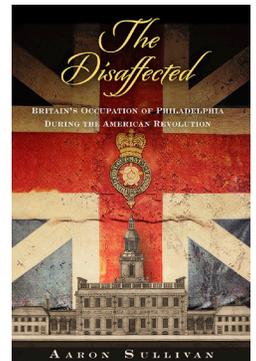


Author Events in June

All events are “virtual” unless indicated otherwise. Please visit Penn Press’s [online calendar of events](#) for registration links and the most complete and up-to-date information on all author events.

Aaron Sullivan, author of *The Disaffected* (2019)
June 2, 6:00 pm
The Athenaeum of Philadelphia

Whitney Martinko, author of *Historical Real Estate* (2020)
June 9, 4:00 pm
Preservation Book Club/
Preservation League of New York State, co-hosted by Preservation Pennsylvania



Annual Summer Sale!



Penn Press is preparing to launch our 2022 Summer Reading Sale! Beginning May 25 and running through June 15, customers will be able to purchase all books on the Penn Press website for 40% off plus free U.S. shipping with the discount code SUMMER22-FM. Penn Press will promote the sale through our email marketing and social media channels, and authors and partner organizations will also be encouraged to share the news. We look forward to sharing this discount with scholars, students, and summer readers of all stripes as the academic year comes to a close.