On June 27 to 29, Senior Editor Elisabeth Maselli represented Penn Press at the annual meeting of the Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL). The meeting took place at the Weitzman National Museum of Jewish American History in Philadelphia. Maselli writes:

Approximately 200 people attended the meeting, and most if not all stopped by the booth—the exhibit hall was located in uppermost floor of the museum, which was the primary event space. Because the keynote speakers, luncheons, and all-hours coffee station were in the same space as the exhibit hall, attendee traffic was consistent and frequent through the exhibit for two full days.

Attendees were primarily librarians representing diverse institutions, from Jewish elementary schools to higher ed academic libraries to volunteer-run synagogue libraries. One topic of conversation among the participants was the concept of “e-preferred,” and attendees debated the shift to ebook subscriptions ahead of print acquisitions in great detail.

There were a few Penn titles that garnered consistent interest from visitors to Penn’s display: Hillel Kieval’s Blood Inscriptions (2022), Robert Jutte’s The Jewish Body (2020), Ian S. Lustick’s Paradigm Lost (2019), and Elisheva Baumgarten’s Biblical Women and Jewish Daily Life in the Middle Ages (2022). Several visitors noted that they had already purchased print copies for their libraries and identified other books as ones they had acquired and/or read previously.

It was gratifying to hear from attendees that their high trust in the Penn Press imprint influenced their decision to purchase our books!

On July 21 to 24, Senior Editor Robert Lockhart represented Penn Press at the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). The meeting took place in New Orleans’ historic French Quarter. Lockhart writes:

Approximately 250 people attended the meeting, which is about half the usual number of attendees. Attendance was down due to concerns about COVID and current travel difficulties. Attendees included both academic historians who teach courses in early American history in colleges and universities around the country and public historians who work in a variety of cultural institutions, from museums to historical societies.

As the publisher of the society’s journal, Journal of the Early Republic, Penn Press has a major presence at the conference. The conference program included five full pages of press-related advertisements, which promoted a variety of journals and books. The Press also had a book exhibit showcasing a selection of 25 new books.

Penn Press books have won a SHEAR prize for three consecutive years. This year, Fighting for the Higher Law: Black and White Transcendentalists Against Slavery (2021), by Peter Wirzbicki, won the SHEAR Book Prize, which is awarded to the best book in the field. The Press also co-sponsors SHEAR’s annual Dissertation Prize. This year, the prize was awarded to Cory Young for his dissertation titled “For Life or Otherwise: Abolition and Slavery in South Central Pennsylvania, 1780–1847.” The prize comes with a commitment to publish a revised version of the dissertation.

The Press continues to garner much goodwill in the field for its ongoing commitment to editorial and production quality.
The beginning of another academic year brings changes to the Penn Press Faculty Editorial Board as we welcome new members and say farewell to Paul Saint-Amour, who will be leaving the board and stepping down from his tenure as chair. Saint-Amour is currently Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg Professor in the Humanities and works on nineteenth- and twentieth-century British literature. He received his B.A. from Yale and Ph.D. from Stanford and has been a fellow of numerous institutions and published articles in many literary studies publications including *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, and *Public Books*. His 2003 publication, *The Copywrights: Intellectual Property and the Literary Imagination* won the MLA Prize for a First Book. In 2012–2013, Saint-Amour served as president of the Modernist Studies Association and he is currently a trustee of the International James Joyce Foundation and series co-editor of the Modernist Latitudes book series at Columbia University Press.

“I am profoundly grateful for everything Paul Saint-Amour has contributed to Penn Press,” says Press Director Mary Francis. “Paul has been a true partner in engaging members of the FEB in broad, probing discussions of how Penn Press can make positive, sustainable contributions to scholarly communications for readers around the world. I can’t thank him enough for the energy and integrity he has brought to every aspect of our collaboration.”

Joining the Board will be Kathleen M. Brown and Zita Cristina Nunes. A historian of gender and race in early America and the Atlantic World, Kathy Brown is David Boies Professor of History. She holds degrees from Wesleyan University and the University of Wisconsin, Madison and is author of *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia* (1996), winner of the Dunning Prize granted by the American Historical Association. Her second book, *Foul Bodies: Cleanliness in Early America* (2009), received the Organization of American Historians’ Lawrence Levine Book Prize for Cultural History and the Society of the History of the Early American Republic Book Prize. Brown is also author of numerous articles and essays and fellow of several institutions. Since 2017 Brown has worked closely with students on the Penn & Slavery project as the project’s lead faculty historian. For the 2015–2016 academic year, she received a Guggenheim Fellowship to support the research and writing of her book, *Undoing Slavery: Bodies, Race, and Rights in the Age of Abolition*, forthcoming from the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2023.

“In addition to being a nationally recognized expert on the history of race, gender, and slavery, Professor Brown is a vital citizen of the campus community and a longtime supporter of the Press,” notes Senior Editor Robert Lockhart. “Her editorial acumen is surpassed only by her collegial spirit. We’re extremely delighted that she has agreed to serve on the board.”

Zita Cristina Nunes is Associate Professor of English, teaching and conducting research in the areas of comparative African American/African Diaspora literature, literatures of the Americas, and literary theory. She is currently a Mellon Fellow at the Price Lab for Digital Humanities. Nunes earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Berkeley and is author of *Cannibal Democracy: Race and Representation in the Literature of the Americas* (2008). She is the Principal Investigator on the first phase of a digital archive of the Black press in multiple languages, titled *Digital Bilingual (Portuguese/English) Edition of Correio de Africa [Africa Mail] Newspaper (1921–24) with Scholarly Apparatus*, which is partially funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor. Nunes is also completing a book manuscript titled, *Racism in Translation: Multilingualism, Comparative Literature, the Harlem Renaissance*.

Comments Editor-in-Chief Walter Biggins, “I’m thrilled to have Zita Nunes join our faculty editorial board, in particular, because she will be participating in conversations about the present and future of digital humanities. The Press is at a pivotal juncture in this terrain, having recently established a new series on nineteenth-century African American print culture that’s in collaboration with Penn State’s Center for Black Digital Research. Nunes’s insights on the intersections of these disciplines, as evidenced in her current work, will be extremely valuable as the Press moves forward into what is, for us, somewhat uncharted territory.”
Penn Press Welcomes Alex Gupta to the Acquisitions Department

In June, Alex Gupta joined the Press as its new editorial assistant in the acquisitions department. Alex is a graduate of Rutgers University, with a degree in French and Comparative Literature, and was a publishing intern at Rutgers University Press. She has served as a publishing intern at the University Press of Kentucky and at a Kentucky-based literary agency. Alex also worked as an English teaching assistant in Limoges, France through the Teaching Assistant Program in France. Her publishing interests include acquisitions and rights and permissions, and she enjoys working on regional titles. Alex is a New Jersey native and recently relocated to Philadelphia where she continues to enjoy favorite activities including knitting and hiking. We welcome Alex to the city and the Press!

Penn Press Books Recognized for Excellence

The Clerical Proletariat and the Resurgence of Medieval English Poetry (2021) by Kathryn Kerby-Fulton won the Margaret Wade Labarge Prize, granted by the Canadian Society of Medievalists.

Bitstreams: The Future of Digital Literary Heritage (2021) by Matthew Kirschenbaum was awarded Honorable Mention for the N. Katherine Hayles Award for Criticism by the Electronic Literature Organization.

Ghosts, Holes, Rips and Scrapes: Shakespeare in 1619, Bibliography in the Longue Durée (2021) by Zachary Lesser was shortlisted for the Delong History Book Prize, granted by the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP).

Ghosts, Holes, Rips and Scrapes: Shakespeare in 1619, Bibliography in the Longue Durée (2021) by Zachary Lesser was also shortlisted for the Delong History Book Prize.

Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth Century America (2021) by Gordon Fraser won the Arthur Miller Institute First Book Prize, granted by the British Association for American Studies.

Peter Wirzbicki’s Fighting for the Higher Law: Black and White Transcendentalists against Slavery (2021) won the Best Book Prize, granted by the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR).

Battle Green Vietnam: The 1971 March on Concord, Lexington, and Boston (2021) by Elise Lemire was chosen as a Finalist for the New England Society in the City of New York Book Awards, in the Historical Nonfiction category.

Jungle Passports: Fences, Mobility and Citizenship at the Northeast India-Bangladesh Border (2021) by Malini Sur was shortlisted for the South Asian Studies Association of Australia’s Presidents Book Prize.
Author Publicity

*Photography and Jewish History* (forthcoming October 2022), by Amos Morris-Reich, was selected for *Publishers Weekly*’s Fall 2022 Announcements in the Art, Architecture & Photography category.

Erika James, co-author of *The Prepared Leader* (Wharton School Press, 2022) was interviewed on *Bloomberg Surveillance*.

Zachary Goldsmith, author of *Fanaticism* (2022), published an article for *The Washington Post*’s “Made by History” column.

Megan Threlkeld, author of *Citizens of the World* (2022), was interviewed on the *New Books Network*.

Kyle Mays, author of *City of Dispossessions* (2022), was interviewed in *Current*’s “The Author’s Corner.”

Gene Zubovich, author of *Before the Religious Right* (2022), was interviewed in *Theology & Society*. He also appeared on “Charlotte Talks with Mike Collins” (NC NPR affiliate) and *The UpWords Podcast*. The book was reviewed in *The New Rambler*.

Tzafrir Barzilay, author of *Poisoned Wells* (2022), was interviewed on the *Seferim Chatter* and *Medievalists.net* podcasts. The book was excerpted in *Lapham's Quarterly*.

Susan Brandt, author of *Women Healers* (2022), was interviewed in *Current*’s The Author’s Corner and the *UCCS Communiqué*.

Matt Qvortrup, author of *Referendums and Ethnic Conflict* (second edition, 2022) was interviewed in *The Herald* and *The Times*.

John Huntington, author of *Far-Right Vanguard* (2021), was interviewed on *The Majority Report* podcast.

Catherine Ross, author of *A Right To Lie?* (2021) was interviewed on *The National Desk*, twice on *DW News Today* (Germany) and cited in *The New York Times*.

*Divorce, American Style*, by Suzanne Kahn (2021), was reviewed in the *Chicago Review*.

*Bitsstreams*, by Matthew Kirschenbaum (2021), was reviewed in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

*Uncertain Refuge*, by Elizabeth Allen (2021) was reviewed in *Jewish Review of Books*.

*Biblical Women and Jewish Daily Life in the Middle Ages* (2022), by Eliezer Baumgarten, was reviewed in *Jewish Review of Books*.

Author Events in September

Please visit Penn Press’s [online calendar of events](https://www.pennpress.org/events) for registration links and the most complete and up-to-date information on all author events.

**Jane Berger**, author of *A New Working Class* (2021)
September 8, 6:00 pm
Enoch Pratt Free Library (on-site)

**Urvashi Chakravarty**, author of *Fictions of Consent* (2022)
September 8, 6:00 pm
Athenaeum of Philadelphia (online)

**Daniel Drez Couch**, author of *American Fragments* (2022)
September 15, 2:00 pm
American Antiquarian Society (online)

To get all of the latest news about Penn Press and its authors, follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/PennPress](https://www.facebook.com/PennPress)

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/PennPress](https://twitter.com/PennPress)