

Spring 2026

TIP, Penn Press, and Penn GSE Bring New Knowledge of Philadelphia to Classrooms in Time for the Semiquincentennial

This article originally appeared on the [Penn Press website's blog](#) and was written by Edward Epstein, who is the Alan J. Lee Director of the Teachers Institute of Philadelphia (TIP) at the University of Pennsylvania. Below, Epstein shares an exciting report from a recent series of workshops offered by TIP to Philadelphia public school teachers and drawing on the contents of the newly-published three-volume [Greater Philadelphia: A New History for the Twenty-First Century](#).

This fall, 43 Philadelphia public school teachers completed content-focused workshops, offered free of charge by Penn's Teachers Institute of Philadelphia (TIP), with sponsorship from Penn Press. They will use the new knowledge they gained during the upcoming Semiquincentennial year, helping students to become better informed about their city and their nation. Participating teachers (called fellows) wrote curriculum modules based on the knowledge that was shared in the workshops. TIP will make these modules available to teachers everywhere at www.theteachersinstitute.org.



L-R: TIP Fellows Andrea Golub, Javita Littles, Diane Zimmerman, and Eilal Aklilu, in the workshop "Capital of Black America." (Photo by Edward Epstein)

Four of the five workshops offered were developed jointly with Penn Press and the Penn Graduate School of Education (Penn GSE) for the Semiquincentennial. These were led by editors of and contributors to Penn Press's recently published books curated from the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia—*Greater Philadelphia: A New History for the Twenty-First Century*, available as three individual volumes or as a set—and covered Philadelphia's history, culture, and ecology. Fellows will use the curriculum modules they wrote on these topics this spring in classrooms throughout the School District of Philadelphia (SDP). Penn Press's thoughtfully edited and beautifully designed

three-volume set presents a trove of information about the region from noted scholars.

Thanks to a grant from the Philadelphia Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial, Penn Press was able to support a stipend for each fellow, in addition to a copy of the Encyclopedia for use in the classroom. The Press is also providing copies to school libraries throughout the SDP (see the story on the following page). Penn GSE provided writing support to the teachers, helping them to complete their curriculum modules.

The workshops were:

- **The Schuylkill River**, led by Howard Gillette, Rutgers University
- **Capital of Black America**, led by Charlene Mires, Rutgers University & Andrew Diemer, Temple University
- **Industry and Pollution: An Environmental History of Greater Philadelphia**, led by Stephen Nepa, Pennsylvania State University-Abington
- **Recent Immigration and Migrant Communities in Philadelphia**, led by Domenic Vitiello, University of Pennsylvania

District Superintendent Tony Watlington noted that "teachers are the single most important factor in student academic growth and attainment." TIP values teachers' intellectual abilities and enables them to engage in deep exploration of a topic of their choosing, under the guidance of a professor or expert in the field. A fellow in the "Recent Immigration" workshop noted that his workshop leader "had a wealth of knowledge about the subject," and that "he helped participants reflect on their personal connections to the subject of the workshops."

The curricula teachers write in TIP programs are tailored to their students' grade level and designed to cover district and state academic requirements. A fellow in the "Capital of Black America" workshop said that what she learned "will fit neatly into the sequence on local history, human geography, and economics, and meets a need for more local history in the social studies curricula."

Now in its twentieth year, TIP is a Penn-based program that uses a model of content-focused teacher professional development pioneered by the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute in 1978. It is affiliated with the Yale National Initiative, a national network of Teachers Institutes. Evaluation studies have shown that the Institute approach improves teacher confidence, boosts teachers' expectations of students, and promotes teacher retention in the public schools.

Spring 2026

A New Library at a South Philadelphia Public High School— and Penn Press’s Important Role

This article originally appeared on the [Penn Press website’s blog](#) and was written by Penn Press’s Senior Editor Bob Lockhart, who attended the opening of the new library at a local public school here in Philadelphia. Read on to learn more and find out how Penn Press—specifically, one of our newest publications—played a small but critical part in this occasion.

On a weekday afternoon in early November, folks gathered at Horace Howard Furness High School in South Philadelphia to open a library. Furness High School was one of the hundreds of public schools in the Philadelphia school system without one. The library was the brainchild first and foremost of Furness students, with assistance from Penn Libraries and school staff, and the result was years in the making. As of its opening, the library contains 2,867 books, and students are continuing to select books to be added to the collection in the many languages they speak.

Penn Press played a small role by donating eight copies of our new, three-volume set of books drawn from the online Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia: *The Greater Philadelphia Region*, *Greater Philadelphia and the Nation*, and *Greater Philadelphia and the World*. One set will stay in the library, and the others will go directly into classrooms.



Photo by Brian Hogan, Strategic Communications, Penn Libraries

I attended the official opening as the Press’s representative. What I witnessed was an inspiring example of students and teachers improving their school, and by extension, their intellectual lives.

The full story of the library’s creation can be found here: <https://www.library.upenn.edu/news/furness-high-school-library>. *Greater Philadelphia* three-volume sets have also been donated to the Free Library of Philadelphia and the city’s public library system.

Penn Press Welcomes Trenton Dunn to the Acquisitions Department



Trenton Dunn joined Penn Press in November 2025 as the assistant to Editor-in-Chief Walter Biggins and Acquisitions Editor Jenny Tan. Trenton previously worked as a graduate intern for Penn Libraries, where he assisted students and faculty in their academic research. With Walter and Jenny, Trent supports scholars of literary history, art history, intellectual history, material culture, and medieval and early modern studies. Trent is currently working towards a master’s degree in library science from his undergraduate alma mater, Florida State University. Outside the Press, he serves

as a volunteer processing archivist at the Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

To keep up with all of the latest news and events from Penn Press, follow us on social media!

Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/penn_press/

Bluesky:
<https://bsky.app/profile/pennpress.bsky.social>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/PennPress/>

X:
<https://x.com/PennPress>

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Missives from the Field: Editors Report Back from Conferences

Academic conferences happen year-round, and since our last newsletter in the Fall, Penn Press staff set up book exhibits and talked to stakeholders and prospective authors at the annual conferences of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, the Pennsylvania Libraries Association, the American Academy of Religion, the Association for Jewish Studies, the Urban History Association, the American Historical Association, the Modern Language Association, and the African American Intellectual History Society. See below for highlights from the American Historical Association and the Modern Language Association attended by Penn Press staff, in their own words. Watch this space for future missives from the field!



American Historical Association (AHA) Chicago, IL, January 8–11, 2026

Senior Editor Bob Lockhart writes:

The weather gods smiled on Chicago in early January, with the result that the AHA was well attended, with about 3,000 registered attendees according to the conference organizers. This is a high-volume conference for me, and I had back-to-back prospective author meetings for three days. I try to take most of those meetings at the booth, so I can monitor booth traffic and see people who stop by. We had an excellent booth location this year, right by the entrance, and the book hall was consistently busy. Even on the last day, there was a line outside the exhibit hall before it opened.

All in all, I came away with the sense that the meeting had been productive from a sales and acquisitions perspective. Penn Press continues to have a distinctive exhibit compared to other presses its size: the booth contained robust sections devoted to modern US, early American/Atlantic World, early modern and European, and Jewish history. AHA is the one conference where I can exhibit all of these list areas. The exhibit also included a wide selection of Penn journals, including *Capitalism*, *Early American Studies*, *History of Social Science*, *Huntington Library Quarterly*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, and *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*.

Most of the books I sponsor originate in conference meetings and Penn Press authors and series editors continue to be robustly represented on the program.



Modern Language Association (MLA) Toronto, Canada, January 8–11, 2026

Acquisitions Editor Jenny Tan writes:

This year's MLA was somewhat less well-attended than previous iterations (as I had been anticipating, due to the location being outside the United States, scholars' concerns about crossing international borders, and a planned boycott of the conference by a number of scholars). Nevertheless, the meeting was very productive, especially from an acquisitions standpoint. The MLA remains an important conference for literary studies and lately has tended to attract a disciplinarily diverse crowd, and I was able to set up a lot of meetings with potential authors in various fields as part of my goal to build and expand the literary studies list beyond the medieval and early modern.

Our list was well-represented with a robust selection of titles in medieval and early modern as well as a good range of other periods, fields, and disciplines, including new titles in the RaceB4Race and Sound in History series. There were 51 exhibitors in total, and it was nice to see so many Canadian university presses exhibiting a wide-ranging selection of their books.

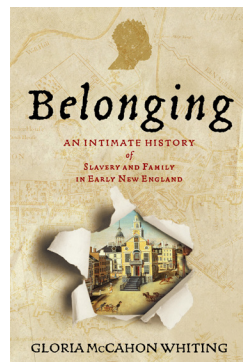
From an acquisitions perspective, I had a number of productive meetings with potential authors, making it a priority to meet with scholars in eighteenth-century studies—an area of our literary studies list that I have been trying to grow and one in which there is healthy opportunity. Projects were inspiringly heterogeneous and included such topics as animality, coastal poetics, minstrelsy, and trans ecologies.

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Penn Press Books and Journal Recognized for Excellence

Belonging: An Intimate History of Slavery and Family in Early New England, by Gloria McCahon Whiting, was recognized for excellence several times over. The book was:

- Awarded the [AHA Prize in American History](#), granted by the American Historical Association,
- Awarded the [Peter J. Gomes Memorial Book Prize](#) by the Massachusetts Historical Society,
- Named to the shortlist for the [Stone Book Award](#), granted by the Museum of African American History, and
- Named a finalist for the [Frederick Douglass Book Prize](#), from Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center.

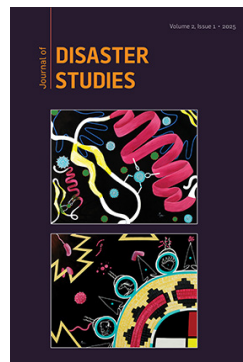


The Rising Generation: Gradual Abolition, Black Legal Culture, and the Making of National Freedom, by Sarah L. H. Gronningsater, received an honorable mention from the annual [Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Book Prize committee](#).

Between the Bridge and the Barricade: Jewish Translation in Early Modern Europe, by Iris Idelson-Shein, won the [Jordan Schnitzer Book Award](#) in the Medieval & Early Modern Jewish History & Culture category.

Occupied Words: What the Holocaust Did to Yiddish by Hannah Pollin-Galay, won the [Jordan Schnitzer Book Award](#) in the Jewish Literature & Linguistics category.

The *Journal of Disaster Studies (JDS)* won an honorable mention for [Best New Journal](#) from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. The judges wrote: "Truly interdisciplinary, *JDS* appears to be the first conceptually-oriented publication to study disasters. The journal understands its project as a global one and has a multi-national, multilingual editorial collective. On account of its strong commitment to interdisciplinarity, global coverage and audiences, and its temporal range (from the historical to the contemporary) *JDS* receives an Honorable Mention as Best New Journal 2025."

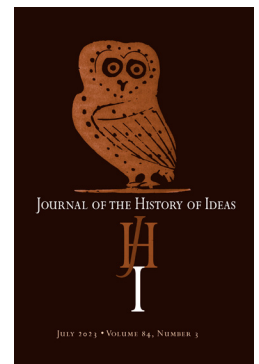


Penn Press Subrights Highlights

New Translation

Keep an eye out for a Turkish translation of "The Modern System of the Arts: A Study in the History of Aesthetics (II)" by Paul Oskar Kristeller (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/2707724>). Originally published in the *Journal of the History of Ideas* Vol. 13, no. 1, in January, 1952, the Turkish-language article will be published by [Telemak Editions](#). Telemak Editions is an Istanbul-based publishing house specializing in the humanities and critical editions of classics.

"The Modern System of the Arts: A Study in the History of Aesthetics (II)" is available on [JSTOR](#).



Audiobook News

Penn Press partners with Redwood Audiobooks to make our titles available in this accessible format through Audible.com. With more than 65 audiobooks and counting, Paul Kahan's *Philadelphia: A Narrative History* is the latest Penn Press title to be licensed for audio and it already appears on the Top 10 Downloaded list!

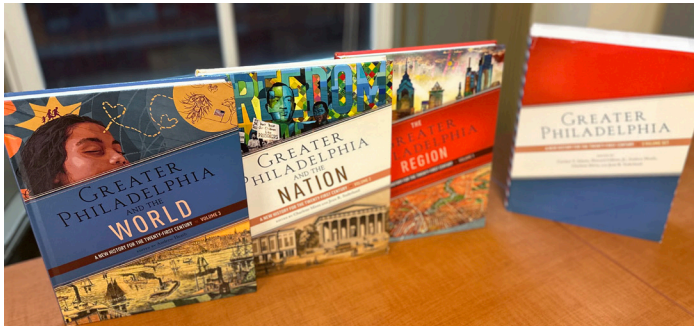
1. *Messengers of the Right: Conservative Media and the Transformation of American Politics* (HC 2016, PB 2018) by Nicole Hemmer
2. *Clara Barton, Professional Angel* (HC 1987, PB 1988) by Elizabeth Brown Pryor
3. *A Medieval Life: Cecilia Penifader and the World of English Peasants Before the Plague* (PB 2020) by Judith M. Bennett
4. *A Brief History of Doom: Two Hundred Years of Financial Crises* (HC 2019) by Richard Vague
5. *Negro League Baseball: The Rise and Ruin of a Black Institution* (HC 2004, PB 2008) by Neil Lanctot
6. *The Business of Sports Agents* (HC 2016) by Kenneth L. Shropshire, Timothy Davis, and N. Jeremi Duru
7. *Philadelphia: A Narrative History* (HC 2024) by Paul Kahan
8. *Reconquest and Crusade in Medieval Spain* (HC 2002, PB 2004) by Joseph F. O'Callaghan
9. *The Native Ground: Indians and Colonists in the Heart of the Continent* (HC 2006, PB 2007) by Kathleen DuVal
10. *How Real Estate Developers Think: Design, Profits, and Community* (HC 2015, PB 2018) by Peter Hendee Brown

PENN PRESS

Advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration, informing the future

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Penn Press in the Media: Highlights



Greater Philadelphia received significant local media coverage including a spot in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* holiday gift guide, two separate television appearances with NBC Philly, features and reviews with Billy Penn and WHYY, *Hidden City Philadelphia*, *PhillyVoice*, and a mention from *The Philadelphia Citizen* that called our efforts “landmark storytelling.”

“Not every city hosts a high-quality university press. I’m grateful that we have the University of Pennsylvania Press and especially for its recent publication of *Greater Philadelphia: A New History for the Twenty-First Century*. The three volumes launch Philadelphia’s role in the semiquincetennial.”—Elaine Maimon, *The Philadelphia Citizen*

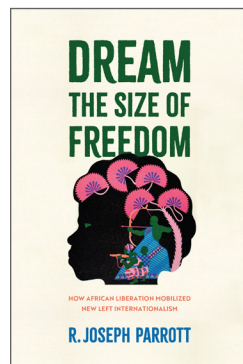
Paul Kahan, author of *Philadelphia: A Narrative History* (2024), was featured in the *Broad Street Review*.

Dream the Size of Freedom: How African Liberation Mobilized New Left Internationalism (2025) by R. Joseph Parrott was reviewed in *Foreign Affairs*.

Cass R. Sunstein’s *Imperfect Oracle: What AI Can and Cannot Do* (APS, 2025) was reviewed in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Michael Glass’s *Cracked Foundations: Debt and Inequality in Suburban America* (2025) was the focus of an essay in *The Atlantic* that noted the book: “looks behind the marketing that attracted flocks of Americans to places like Levittown and uses debt as a lens through which to understand suburban disparities.”

Master Peace: Lebanon’s Violence and the Politics of Expertise (2024) by Nikolas Kosmatopoulos was reviewed in *International Affairs*.



Vanishing Vienna: Modernism, Philosemitism, and Jews in a Postwar City (2024) by Frances Tanzer was reviewed in *Austrian Studies* and called “an important, eye-opening, and potentially controversial study, based on extensive archival research, which offers a subtle, often intricate reading of twentieth-century Austrian culture.”

The most recent volume of the *American Historical Review* featured six Penn Press titles:

Belonging: An Intimate History of Slavery and Family in Early New England (2024) by Gloria McCahon Whiting

The Rising Generation: Gradual Abolition, Black Legal Culture, and the Making of National Freedom (2024) by Sarah L. H. Gronningsater,

The House of Condulmer: The Rise and Decline of a Venetian Family in the Century of the Black Death (2024) by Alan M. Stahl,

Empire of Contingency: How Portugal Entered the Indo-Persian World (2024) by Jorge Flores,

America Under the Hammer: Auctions and the Emergence of Market Values (2024) by Ellen Hartigan-O’Connor, and

Republic of Indians: Empires of Indigenous Law in the Early American South (2024) by Bradley J. Dixon

Circumventing the Law: Rabbinic Perspectives on Loopholes and Legal Integrity (2024) by Elana Stein Hain was reviewed in *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*.

Captive City: Meditations on Slavery in the Urban South (2024) by Jennie Lightweis-Goff was reviewed in the *Journal of Southern History*.

Mobilization Politics: Governing Philadelphia in the Early Twenty-First Century (2025) by Stephen J. McGovern was reviewed in the *Journal of the American Planning Association*.

