

PENN PRESS

Advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration, informing the future

Fall 2025

Penn Press Has a New Home on Campus!



In September, Penn Press said good-bye to its home for the last 20 years at 3905 Spruce Street. Originally a mid-nineteenth century villa, the house was completely rebuilt for Joseph Potts by the Wilson Brothers circa 1876. The interior contains important Victorian details, from tiled fireplaces to dark wood wainscoting to stained glass windows, and even a wrought-iron safe!

Penn Press, and the scholarly publishing industry at large, was changed significantly over those 20 years by the advent of ebooks and electronic workflows and by remote work that was occasioned by the pandemic but continues to be not only a boost to creativity and efficiency but also a productive strategy for recruiting and retaining talent.

As a result, the four-floor building, with its more than 12,000 square feet of office space, was excessive for the Press's day-to-day needs. Over the summer, staff emptied bookshelves and packed up office equipment to prepare for the move to our new location on the third floor of St. Leonard's Court at 39th and Chestnut (see photos on the left).

The biggest challenge was deciding what to do with all of the books that the Press had accumulated over the years. Staff gathered and piled all of the books they could find in the Conference Room and invited friends of the press (and their students) from across campus to come and help themselves. It was very gratifying to see the enthusiasm so many students had for our books as we helped them cart them away in boxes, bags, and backpacks! What wasn't scooped up by second-hand booksellers was donated to The Free Book Project.

All of us at Penn Press look forward to working in the new space (see photos on the right) and continuing to preserve and promote the scholarly work people can be excited about!



Fall 2025

Penn Press Welcomes New Staff and Fellows



Emily Chiarelli joined Penn Press in late June as the new Journal Operations Coordinator. Working closely with Jocelyn Dawson, the Director of Journals, Emily will ensure that Journals are published according to schedule and will maintain relationships with various journal vendors. She will use her production and editorial experience from Globe Pequot Press and Sourcebooks to serve as Production Editor for several of the Press's journals.



Joining Penn Press at the end of April, **Alessandra Liller** works as an Acquisitions Assistant. She assists Senior Editors Elisabeth Maselli and Robert Lockhart. Alessandra previously worked as an Editorial Assistant at Wiley, supporting the publication of articles across multiple journals in engineering and healthcare. As an undergraduate, she interned with the Pennsylvania State University Press in their Production department.



Publicity and Exhibits Coordinator **Malai Escamilla** joined Penn Press in July as the newest member of the marketing team. Carrying over her experience from her time as a Publicity Assistant for Duke University Press, she handles publicity for new and upcoming books and helps to organize Penn Press's conference appearances.



Lindsay Van Horn is a PhD candidate studying political theory in the Department of Politics at Princeton University. She specializes in the history of political thought, with a particular focus on nineteenth-century British political thought. Lindsay joined the Marketing Department as a Social Impact Fellow in May of this year and looks forward to continuing her work with the team through the rest of 2025. In Lindsay's words, she is "passionate about

the dissemination and democratization of scholarly knowledge, and to play a role in this at Penn Press has been incredibly rewarding and affirming." In her free time, Lindsay enjoys playing the guitar and rooting for her hometown San Diego Padres.

As a Princeton GradFUTURES fellow for Penn Press, **Wangechi wa Mwaũra** provides journals publishing support by completing manuscript check ins, pulling usage statistics for reports, and providing acquisitions support. She is working on her PhD in English with a focus on political theory, postcolonial studies, critical theory, continental philosophy, and African studies. She was the editor of an undergraduate philosophy journal while at the University of Minnesota and has experience working in publishing at VitaBooks and Ukombozi Library in Nairobi, Kenya.

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>

Fall 2025

2025 Penn Press/Global Medieval and Renaissance Studies Prize Winner

The Program in Global Medieval and Renaissance Studies is delighted to announce that the 2025 Penn Press/Global Medieval and Renaissance Studies Prize has been awarded to Greer Goergen (C '25) for her paper *Dissuasions of Visual Desire: Judgment and Self-Critique in Jan Mandyn's Temptation of St. Anthony*, which was written as a senior thesis in the History of Art Department under the supervision of Professor ([and Penn Press author](#)) Shira Brisman. The prize committee found the work to be a sophisticated decoding of an extremely complex work of art, the painting *The Temptation of St. Anthony* attributed to the Antwerp artist Jan Mandyn (d. 1559). In Goergen's reading, Mandyn's Boschian depiction of St. Anthony's grappling with manifold temptations emerges as a condemnation of contemporary Netherlandish society. With its nod to the iconography of the Judgment of Paris, it is also a comment on the very acts that any viewer of the painting would engage in: in spectating, mimicking, and judging itself. In the end, Goergen persuasively concludes, the painting both represents sins that might tempt a viewer, and critiques art itself as a platform that begets such sins.

Unusually, the committee felt that their work could not conclude without an Honorable Mention distinction being awarded to a second paper, namely Eugenia Xu's *Modes of Bookkeeping: How Material Samples Illustrate the Limitations*

of VOC Trading Expertise, which was written as an Honors Thesis in the History Department under the Supervision of Professor Ramya Sreenivasan. In her paper, Xu grapples with an instance of disconnect in the history of the United Dutch East Indian Company (or, to use its common Dutch abbreviation, the VOC) and its dealings with South Indian weavers in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries: The VOC's activities are usually studied through the methods of economic history, with its focus on quantifiable data, or the methods of art history with its focus on the materiality of the textiles. By contrast, Xu's innovative approach brings these two approaches to the sources together by understanding the textile swatches preserved in the archives as a mode of non-textual (and non-statistical) bookkeeping. The result, as she persuasively shows, is that the VOC emerges as inept officers of this trade, with little in the way of the sort of "textile literacy" one might expect. The surprising clumsiness and ineptitude of VOC management and record-keeping in turn has implications for Dutch colonialism, given the role of the VOC as a foreshadower of Dutch imperial designs in South and Southeast Asia.

The prize carries an award of \$200 worth of free books from Penn Press, appears on the student's academic transcript, and is published in the commencement booklet.

FY25—Books at a Glance

The University of Pennsylvania Press's fiscal year of 2025 started on July 1, 2024 and ended on June 30, 2025. The numbers here offer a snapshot of the books published over the past year.

112 total titles published

- 12 American Philosophical Society titles
- 3 Wharton School Press titles
- 2 Distributed titles
- 64 Penn Press titles representing 19 series
- 24 New in Paperback titles

FY25 Penn Press Bestsellers in Print

- Philadelphia*, Paul Kahan
- She Changed the Nation*, Mary Ellen Curtin
- The Rising Generation*, Sarah L. H. Gronningsater
- A Knight's Own Book of Chivalry*, Geoffroi de Charny
- Occupied Words*, Hannah Pollin-Galay
- Witchcraft in Europe, 400–1700*, Alan Charles Kors
- The Academic Job Search Handbook*, Julia Miller Vick
- Belonging*, Gloria McCahon Whiting
- Maurice's Strategikon*, George T. Dennis
- Force and Freedom*, Kellie Carter Jackson

Journals Roundup

New Journal Coming to Penn Press in 2026

The *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies* will join our journals program in 2026. For over 40 years, the journal has produced scholarship on the countries of South and Central Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. Today, a renewed vision of *JSAMES* moves beyond the geographic, epistemological, and disciplinary boundaries of area studies to bring these fields into shared dialogue. The journal is edited by Samer Abboud and is sponsored by the Center for Arab and Islamic Studies at Villanova University.

Penn Press Continues to Expand Open Access Efforts

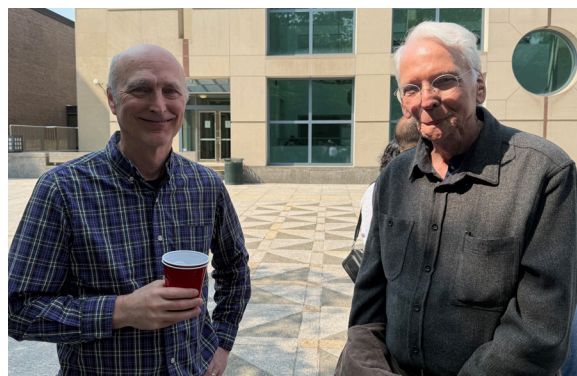
With the inclusion of one of our existing journals that will soon be announcing a transition to Open Access (see below), the Penn Press journals program in 2026 will include six diamond Open Access journals, which are freely available to all readers. Five additional journals participate in the Project MUSE Subscribe to Open Program (see below). We're grateful to the libraries, funders, and other institutions that directly support our OA content as well as subscribing institutions that help maintain our traditional subscription program.

- The *Jewish Quarterly Review* and its archive of more than 100 volumes will become Open Access starting in 2026. We're grateful to the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies for funding the transition to Open Access and for ensuring its future availability.
- In 2026, Penn Press will participate in the Open Journals Collective, a collective of libraries and university-based publishers committed to Open Access. Funding received through this initiative will support our Diamond OA journals.
- In 2025, *Foucault Studies* and *Observational Studies* received funding from the Open Access Community Investment Program; the funds will support the journals' Open Access status for the next three years.
- Select journals have open-access content as part of Project MUSE's Subscribe to Open Program. This program makes current content openly available if sales of Project MUSE's Premium Collection reach a minimum sustainability threshold. Participating Penn journals that continue for 2026: *Change Over Time*, *Early American Studies*, *Eudora Welty Review*, *French Forum*, and *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*.

Paul Chase Retires at the Top of His Game

Starting at the Press when we published only six journals, Paul has been key to the growth of the journals program over the past eighteen years and knows how to do just about every job under the journals sun: manage subscriptions, work with subscription agents and libraries, update the website, send renewals, create marketing materials, coordinate the production of journals (as he did most recently for *Dissent* and *Observational Studies* and, whenever it was necessary, for any journal on our list), develop a budget, acquire journals, run usage statistics, and many, many more tasks that made each journal a success as well as the overall program. Many of our journal editors consider him a friend and his attentiveness to their needs has been foundational to many of the long-standing journal partnerships we are fortunate to have.

Paul's technological savvy was appreciated by his colleagues—he represented the journals team's interest through multiple website launches, was our go-to person for Biblio, and possessed a deep knowledge of our subscription management system. Paul was quick to get things done—the journals department has changed a lot over the past few years and in addition to being incredibly open to change, Paul was always ready to find and implement solutions. From increasing the number of journals to the variety of new business models, Paul contributed to expansive growth while smoothing over growing pains.



Paul Chase getting tips on retirement from retired Penn Press Art Director John Hubbard (right) at the Press's annual reception. For more photos from the reception, see page 6.

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Missives from the Field: Editors Report Back from Conferences

Academic conferences happen year-round, and since our last newsletter in April, Penn Press staff set up book exhibits and talked to fans and stakeholders at the Organizations of American Historians, the International Congress of Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo), the American Library Association, the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, and the American Political Science Association. See below for highlights from a couple of conferences attended by Penn Press staff, in their own words. Watch this space for future missives from the field!



Organization of American Historians (OAH) Chicago, IL, April 3–5, 2025

Senior Editor Bob Lockhart writes:

This year's OAH was disrupted by a major storm in the Midwest, which caused delays and cancellations. My flight was cancelled, and I missed the entire first day. But I arrived in time to set up the book exhibit Thursday evening and was able to re-schedule most of my appointments. Since the OAH focuses squarely on US history, it is a highly relevant venue for our list, and by Friday afternoon, the book exhibit was bustling.

There was an uptick this year in exhibitors with 40, including commercial publishers and most of the University Presses, large and small. Penn Press had a prime location near the main entrance that was conducive to regular booth traffic throughout the conference and which facilitated serendipitous encounters with prospective authors. I talked to many folks about the Politics and Culture in Modern America and Early American Studies series. Projects ranged from a history of transgender employment activism to a history of the sanctuary movement.

We had several new books hot off the press that we were exhibiting for the first time, including Kendra Boyd's *Freedom Enterprise*, Kai Parker's *City of Black Souls*, and Isadora Mota's *Freedom's Horizon*. Our Penn colleague Sarah Gronningsater's book *The Rising Generation* won the James A. Rawley Award and received an honorable mention for the Frederick Jackson Turner Prize. This marks the third consecutive year that a Penn Press book has won or received honorable mention for the Turner Prize and the sixth consecutive year that a Penn Press book has won an award from the OAH.



Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR)

Providence, RI, July 17–20, 2025

Editor-in-Chief Walter Biggins writes:

Over the last five years, the Society has tried diligently to attract younger scholars and public historians, in a few ways: 1) by opening up the conference to fresh perspectives and emergent disciplines, such as LGBTQ studies, carceral studies, and theorization of the concept of the archive; 2) by adding workshops geared to graduate students and early-career scholars; and 3) adding sessions geared specifically for those working in public history, such as curators of museums, monument sites, and historic homes.

For this editor who last attended SHEAR in 2019, this year's conference felt as though the attendees skewed younger than in years past. This is welcome news—though it also means that I talked with more scholars developing their dissertations than those who were ready to present viable projects immediately.

The conference hosted a relatively small exhibit hall near most of the conference rooms where sessions took place. The refreshments and snacks were also hosted in the exhibit hall which encouraged foot traffic.

Sarah Gronningsater's *The Rising Generation* won SHEAR's James H. Broussard Best First Book Prize and many Penn Press authors dropped by the booth, including Cornelia Dayton (*Robert Love's Warnings*), Melanie Newport (*This Is My Jail*), and Jordan Smith (*The Invention of Rum*).

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Missed the Press's Annual Reception in June? Check Out These Photos!



External Advisory Board Member Heidi Tandy, Penn Press Director Mary Francis, Director of Penn Libraries Brigitte Weinstein and Executive Director of The Athenaeum of Philadelphia Beth Hessel



Zita Nunes, Faculty Editorial Board Member and Penn Professor of English and Sean Quimby, Director of the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Penn Libraries



Paul Chase delivers his speech on the occasion of his retirement while Director of Journals Jocelyn Dawson waits to cut the cake



External Advisory Board Member Todor Grigorov, Director of the American Philosophical Society Press Kim Guinta, Director of Penn Press Marketing Clint Kimberling, and Penn Press Editor-in-Chief Walter Biggins



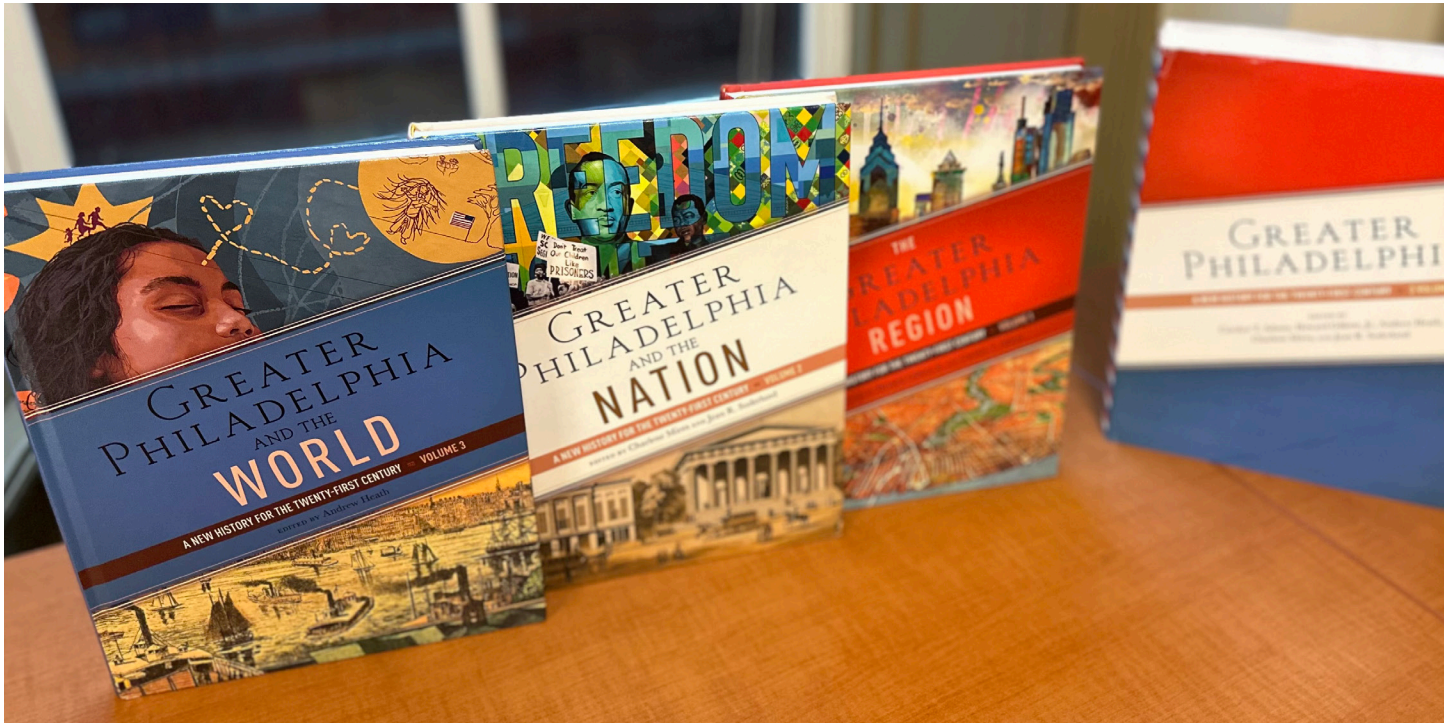
Emily Morton-Owens, Associate Vice Provost for Technology and Digital Initiatives at Penn Libraries; Penn Press Intellectual Property Manager Kim Leichner; David Nerenberg, Chief Financial Officer of Penn Libraries; Penn Press Managing Editor Lily Palladino; and Kayowa Gibson-Tshilenge, Penn Press Managing Editor (Journals)



Samer Abboud, Editor of the *Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies*; Anusha Hariharan, a member of the journal's editorial board; and Ida Stewart, Managing Editor of the *Journal of the History of Ideas*

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Greater Philadelphia: A New History for the Twenty-First Century Now Available!



Decades in the making, the eagerly awaited *Greater Philadelphia: A New History for the Twenty-First Century* has arrived! Published in collaboration with The Encyclopedia of Philadelphia hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH) at Rutgers University—Camden, this three-volume set is richly illustrated with photographs, maps, and archival images, and it offers fresh, engaging, and inclusive retellings of our region’s history from leading scholars and local voices.

From the era of Indigenous homelands to the Black Lives Matter movement, from the Liberty Bell to labor strikes, from Bucks County to Camden County, and from television shows like *It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia* to the iconic cheesesteaks and coffeehouses, these books spotlight untold stories and reframe familiar ones.

Each volume spotlights a different lens:

Volume 1: The Greater Philadelphia Region explores how “Greater Philadelphia” came to represent not just a city, but a dynamic region shaped by shared history, infrastructure, and identity across southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, and northern Delaware.

Volume 2: Greater Philadelphia and the Nation chronicles the city’s vital role in shaping American identity, democracy, and movements for justice across centuries. This volume

traverses Philadelphia’s revolutionary origins and Civil War divisions through the fight for women’s suffrage, the civil rights and Black Power movements, and more recent moments like the AIDS activism of the 1980s and Occupy Philadelphia.

Volume 3: Greater Philadelphia and the World reveals how Greater Philadelphia has long been a crossroads of global forces—shaped by waves of migration, transatlantic commerce, and international conflict.

The University of Pennsylvania Press was awarded a major grant from the Philadelphia Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial, which will support the distribution of copies of the three-volume set to local schools and libraries.

Said Director Mary Francis about the books: “Part of Penn Press’s mission is to bring the rich and cosmopolitan history of Philadelphia to as many readers as possible. Bringing together so much fascinating new work from local historians and community partners in these beautiful volumes has been a landmark project. Penn Press is proud to publish these books that reflect the pride, complexity, and connectedness of the place we call home.”

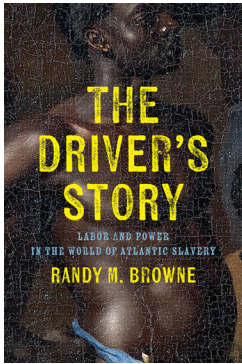
Greater Philadelphia: A New History for the Twenty-First Century is available both as individual volumes and as a three-volume set. **To find out more and to get your copy, visit <https://www.pennpress.org/greater-philadelphia/>**

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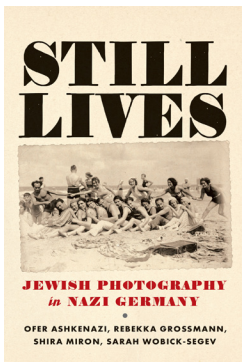
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Penn Press in the Media



The Driver's Story (2024) by Randy Browne was reviewed in the *North Carolina Historical Review*, which called the book “a unique and fascinating history of slavery in the Atlantic World.” The book was also reviewed in the *New England Journal of History*.

There were four Penn Press book featured in a recent of *William and Mary Quarterly*. They were *Bad Blood: Staging Race Between Early Modern England and Spain* (2023) by Emily Weissbourd; *Scripts of Blackness: Early Modern Performance Culture and the Making of Race* (2024) by Noémie Ndiaye; *Republic of Indians: Empires of Indigenous Law in the Early American South* (2024) by Bradley J. Dixon; and *The Rising Generation: Gradual Abolition, Black Legal Culture, and the Making of National Freedom* (2024) by Sarah L. H. Gronningsater.



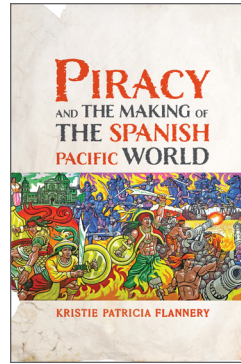
Jewish Book Council reviewed three recent Penn Press titles on its website—*Still Lives: Jewish Photography in Nazi Germany* (2025) by Ofer Ashkenazi, Rebekka Grossmann, Shira Miron, and Sarah Wobick-Segev; *Longing and Belonging: Jews in the Modern Islamic World* (2025) edited by Nancy E. Berg and Dina Danon; and *After Revelation: The Rabbinic Past in the Medieval Islamic World* (2025) by Marc Herman.

Jonathan Sumption, author of the pentalogy *The Hundred Years War*, was a featured guest on the podcast [Why Wars Happened](#).

Sacred Places Tell Tales: Jewish Life and Heritage in Modern Cairo (2024) by Yoram Meital was reviewed in *The Middle East Journal*.

Sex Lives: Intimate Infrastructures in Early Modernity (2023) by Joseph Gamble has been reviewed for the June 2025 issue of *Early Theatre*.

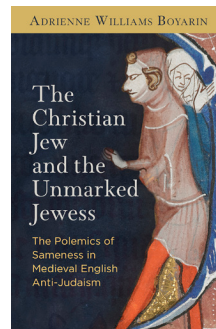
Jonathan Stauch, author of *Wildcat of the Streets: Detroit in the Age of Community Policing* (2025), was a guest on the podcast [New Books in History](#).



Piracy and the Making of the Spanish Pacific World (2024) by Kristie Flannery was reviewed in the journal *Renaissance and Reformation*; the reviewer noted the book “contributes to a wider history of global maritime power and piracy and to an understanding of the connections in the Spanish Empire, including those between Asia and America.”

The American Historical Review featured four Penn Press books in the most recent issue: *Piracy and the Making of the Spanish Pacific World* (2024) by Kristie Flannery; *She Changed the Nation: Barbara Jordan's Life and Legacy in Black Politics* (2024) by Mary Ellen Curtin; *The Root and the Branch: Working-Class Reform and Antislavery, 1790–1860* (2024) by Sean Griffin; and *León and Galicia Under Queen Sancha and King Fernando I* (2024) by Bernard F. Reilly and Simon R. Doubleday.

Penn Press Books Win Awards



Adrienne Williams Boyarin's *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess* (2020) won the [Jerome E. Singerman Prize](#) for an outstanding second book in medieval studies, awarded by the Medieval Academy of America.

John Kuhn's *Making Pagans* (2024) won the [Claire Sponsler Award](#) for the best first book in early modern drama studies, awarded by the Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society.

Only a Few Blocks to Cuba by Mauricio Castro won the [Rembert Patrick Award](#) for outstanding scholarly book on a Florida history topic from the Florida Historical Society.