

The Director's Chair .....1  
 Birthdays and Anniversaries .....1  
 Reviews .....2  
 New Books .....3  
 Coming Soon .....5

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

This month marks the 140th anniversary of the birth of Martha Kinney Cooper, Ohioana's founder. Cooper was born January 12, 1874 in Cincinnati. As a young woman she was active in music and in women's organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution and Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs. She married real estate developer Myers Y. Cooper in 1897.

On January 14, 1929, Myers became governor of Ohio. Martha had grown up loving books, and was surprised to discover that the



library in the governor's mansion was fairly sparse. Because the mansion had a steady stream of visitors (sometimes as many as 400 at a time), Martha began to think about starting a collection that would raise awareness of the works of Ohio writers. After speaking with the governor and the state's finance director, she received permission to start the library, but no funding.

Later that year Martha met Florence Roberts Head, a field representative for the State Library of Ohio. After discussing the concept of a library celebrating Ohio authors with her, she brought Head onto the project.

The organizational meeting for the Ohioana Library was held October 5, 1929. The thirteen participants included academics in fields ranging from medicine to the social sciences (including Dr. W.O. Thompson, President Emeritus of Ohio State University); representatives from the Ohio Historical Society, the Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs, and the  
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### *The Director's Chair*

Dear Friends,

I hope the New Year has gotten off to a great start for you. It certainly has been a COLD start, at least from where I'm writing in Columbus!

As noted in the cover story, this month marks the birthday of our founder, Ohio First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper, and kicks off the celebration of our 85th anniversary year. One thing that particularly struck me in the article was how Martha was able to recruit a small but dedicated corps of volunteers to help implement her dream of the Ohioana Library. Through all the years of Ohioana's existence, that has been a constant—volunteers who give their time, talents, and treasure in service of our mission. Many of these volunteers have become members of the Ohioana Board of Trustees.

On January 17, fifteen members of the board, representing every region of the state, gathered in Columbus for an all-day retreat to look at where we've been, where we are, and where we want to go. It was  
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## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

(continued from p. 1)

National League of American Pen Women; and Florence Head. They set up a board of trustees and an executive committee, established objectives for the new library, charged the meeting participants with promoting the library and securing donations of books from Ohio authors, and named Head as the library's first executive director.

Despite the fact that the library was established just weeks before the 1929 stock market crash, it grew steadily. Thanks to county committees established throughout the state, the library acquired 300 books within its first year. By 1935 it outgrew the governor's mansion and moved to a new space on

S. Front Street. In 1942 the first Ohioana Book Awards were given, and in 1958 the first edition of the *Ohioana Quarterly* was published. Martha Kinney Cooper was a tireless advocate for the library until her death in 1964.

Today the Ohioana staff and board members are proud to be part of such a unique organization. We're also excited to continue Martha's goal of sharing the work of Ohio's writers through the Ohioana Book Awards, the Ohioana Book Festival (now in its 8th year), and newer programs such as school partnerships and On the Road tours. Join us this year as we celebrate the library's 85th birthday and launch news ways for readers to connect with Ohio writers!

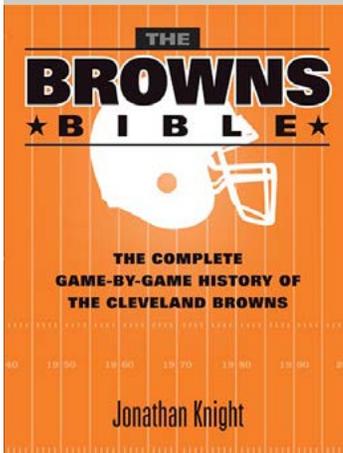
*The Director's Chair* (cont'd)  
inspiring to see their passion and enthusiasm, their ideas and energy as we begin to develop a new long-range plan that will take us to new and exciting places while remaining true to our core mission and the foundation of our organization—the collection.

I know that Martha Kinney Cooper was smiling down on us that day, and I know she would be grateful seeing how Ohioana has grown. It has been sustained and nurtured by the same kind of selfless and committed men and women who joined her that October day in 1929 to create a library dedicated to celebrating our state's writers, artists, and musicians.

David E. Weaver  
Executive Director

## REVIEWS

To celebrate a certain football-related sporting event coming up in early February, this month we're reviewing a recent publication about the Cleveland Browns.



Knight, Jonathan. *The Browns Bible: The Complete Game-by-Game History of the Cleveland Browns*. Black Squirrel Books/Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2013.

The Cleveland Browns have played nearly 1,000 games since they first took the field in 1946 as part of the All-America Football Conference. *The Browns Bible* documents every regular-season and postseason game from that first appearance through their loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers on December 20, 2012. Each entry includes the game date and location, attendance, official stats, final score, and even which uniform the Browns wore, and allows readers to easily track the team's record throughout each season. The real meat of this book, however, is the short narrative that accompanies each entry. It not only summarizes the game, but also brings the game alive and places it in the larger context of the season and the team's overall history. Sidebars provide interesting tidbits such as the Browns' *real* first game (an intrasquad scrimmage on August 20, 1946) and a summary of their Saturday-night record against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Knight's extensive research included past issues of Cleveland newspapers, highlight films, and the team's official archives. At nearly 600 pages, this book provides a comprehensive look at the history of the Browns as well as a unique glimpse at the history of football itself, and is a must for die-hard Browns fans.

# NEW BOOKS

The following books arrived at the Ohioana Library in December. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

## Nonfiction

Berelsman, Sara. *My Last Rock Bottom*. Word Branch Publishing (Marble, NC) 2013. PB \$14.99. In this memoir, Berelsman describes her struggles with alcoholism, bipolar disorder, and family life. (MEMOIR)

Criblez, Adam. *Parading Patriotism: Independence Day Celebrations in the Urban Midwest, 1826-1876*. Northern Illinois Univ. Press (DeKalb, IL) 2013. PB \$28.95. This book explores nineteenth-century Independence Day celebrations in five midwestern cities, including Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland. Using both contemporary published accounts and unpublished sources, Criblez explores how urban culture, underlying social tensions, and westward expansion affected the development of our national identity. (HISTORY)

Friedman, Lawrence J. *The Lives of Erich Fromm: Love's Prophet*. Columbia Univ. Press (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$29.95. Erich Fromm was a twentieth-century psychologist, political activist, and philosopher who championed peace and ethical living. This comprehensive biography not only explores little-known details of Fromm's life, but also shows how his ideas are still relevant in a new century. (BIOGRAPHY)

Gilbert, Richard. *Shepherd: A Memoir*. Michigan State Univ. Press

(East Lansing, MI) 2014. PB \$24.95. (Galley) When college professor Gilbert and his wife moved to Appalachian Ohio to raise sheep, they were unprepared for the culture shock that awaited them. Gilbert documents their struggles and triumphs as well as his own journey to make peace with his father's loss of his boyhood farm. (MEMOIR)

Morganti, Carol et al. *Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio Bicentennial History 2012: Celebrating Our Past, Our Present and... Our Future*. M.T. Publishing Company, Inc. (Evansville, IN) 2013. HC. This book traces the history of Cuyahoga Falls from its settlement in the early 1800s to its 2012 bicentennial. (HISTORY)

Shaw, Stephanie J. *W.E.B. Du Bois and The Souls of Black Folk*. Univ. of North Carolina Press (Chapel Hill, NC) 2013. HC \$49.95. History professor Shaw brings a new understanding to *The Souls of Black Folk* and demonstrates its importance in documenting and interpreting the social and cultural realities of African Americans at the turn of the twentieth century. (HISTORY)

Weaver, J. Denny. *The Nonviolent God*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. (Grand Rapids, MI) 2013. PB \$25.00. Weaver, a professor emeritus of religion, challenges longstanding notions of biblical violence and argues that the concepts of nonviolence, forgiveness, and social justice reflected in the New Testament most accurately reflect the nature of God. (RELIGION)

Weiner, Dana Elizabeth. *Race and Rights: Fighting Slavery and Prejudice in the Old Northwest,*

*1830-1870*. Northern Illinois Univ. Press (DeKalb, IL) 2013. HC \$38.00. In this exploration of anti-slavery activism in four midwestern states (including Ohio), Weiner not only provides a history of social activism, but also documents how abolitionist reformers helped shape new concepts of justice. (HISTORY)

## Fiction

Bowen, Christopher. *We Were Giants*. Sunnyside (Buffalo, NY) 2013. PB \$12.00. This collection of short stories focuses on everyday moments, memories, and the tragedy that can be hidden beneath the surface. (SHORT STORIES)

Brazaitis, Mark. *Julia & Rodrigo*. Gival Press (Arlington, VA) 2013. PB \$20.00. During the Guatemalan civil war, teenagers Julia and Rodrigo meet at a school dance. She is the daughter of a wealthy engineer, and he is a soccer star from a poor family. This book describes their struggle against war, social expectations, and fate.

Clemens, Judy. *Leave Tomorrow Behind*. Poisoned Pen Press (Scottsdale, AZ) 2013. HC \$24.95. Biker and dairy farmer Stella Crown is having a bad day. When she discovers the body of a country music star at the county fair—and therefore becomes the prime suspect in the crime—things get even worse. Stella decides the only way to get the police off her back is to investigate the crime herself and point them in the right direction... (MYSTERY)

Harper, Karen. *Upon a Winter's Night*. Harlequin Mira (Don Mills, Ontario, Canada) 2013. PB \$7.99. The knowledge that she is adopted

has always made Lydia Brand feel different from her Amish community. When she searches for answers about her birth parents, dark secrets are revealed, and only the man she loves can help her find answers. (MYSTERY)

Mackrory, KaraLynne. *Bluebells in the Mourning*. Meryton Press (Oysterville, WA) 2013. PB \$10.95. In this variation on *Pride and Prejudice*, Darcy's proposal to Elizabeth is interrupted by news of her sister's death. As Elizabeth returns home to be with her family, Darcy searches London for answers.

Maddox, Stella. *A Thousand Tiny Cracks*. All Things That Matter Press (ME) 2013. PB \$16.99. After sacrificing her career to raise a family, almost-forty Stella is losing more and more of herself. As she begins a friendship with her neighbor's college-age son, she must decide what actions she can live with and who she wants to be.

### Poetry

Basting, Alan. *Nothing Very Sudden Happens Here: Poems*. Lynx House Press (Spokane, WA) 2013. PB \$15.95. Basting's short, spare poems capture small moments in life ranging from peaceful to tragic.

Bentley, Roy. *Starlight Taxi*. Lynx House Press (Spokane, WA) 2013. PB \$15.95. Bentley's poems explore the relationship between loss and wonder and tell the stories of characters who soldier on through the day-to-day joys and difficulties of living.

Bilgere, George. *Imperial*. Univ. of Pittsburgh Press (Pittsburgh, PA) 2014. PB \$15.95. Bilgere's

sixth poetry collection documents moments large and small in the lives of post-WWII Americans, from childhood to the present.

Giovanni, Nikki. *Chasing Utopia: A Hybrid*. William Morrow (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$19.99. Giovanni's latest poetry collection pays homage to everyday activities, where friends and loved ones gather, food is shared, and those missing are remembered.

Houchin, Ron. *The Man Who Saws Us in Half: Poems*. Louisiana State Univ. Press (Baton Rouge, LA) 2013. PB \$16.95. In this collection of poems, Houchin explores the world with a sense of wonder in a unique, colloquial voice.

Shapero, Natalie. *No Object*. Saturnalia Books (Ardmore, PA) 2013. PB \$15.00. This book of poetry has been described as delightful, merciless, poignant, and devastating. Shapero explores a wide range of subjects while evoking an even wider range of emotions.

Tuckey, Melissa. *Tenuous Chapel*. ABZ Poetry Press (Huntington, WV) 2013. PB \$20.00. The poems in this collection deal with topics from family relationships to political and social issues in often unsettling ways. Tuckey was the winner of the 2012 ABZ First Book Poetry Prize.

### Young Adult

Girard, Geoffrey. *Project Cain*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$16.99. (Galley) Sixteen-year-old Jeff's life changed forever when he learned he was cloned from serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. Jeff isn't the

only clone. Some, like him, were raised in loving families, while others were raised in horrific conditions. When some of the most dangerous boys escape, Jeff tries to help catch them—before becoming a monster himself. This galley copy also includes the companion adult fiction title *Cain's Blood*, which was listed in the December 2013 newsletter.

McGowan, Jennifer. *Maid of Secrets*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2013. HC \$16.99. When pickpocket Meg Follows steals from a nobleman who recognizes her unique talents, she is pressed into service with four other young women as a spy and protector for Queen Elizabeth I. And just in time; the Spanish court is visiting, and Meg must decide who to trust in a world where no one is who they seem. (HISTORICAL)

Mettey, Tim. *Trust*. (The Hero Chronicles, Book 2) Kenwood Publishing Group (Cincinnati, OH) 2013. PB \$9.99. Nicholas Keller has accepted his Thusian ancestry, and his life is returning to normal. When a new family moves in next door, however, everything changes. How can he know who to trust when lives hang in the balance?

Short, Sharon. *My One Square Inch of Alaska*. Plume (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$16.00. In the early 1950s, high school senior Donna is prepared to sacrifice her dreams to stay home and care for her father and younger brother, Will. But when Will becomes sick, Donna packs up her brother and his dog and strikes out on a cross-country trip toward the Alaska Territory. This book is a tale of adventure and love.

### **Middle Grade & Children's**

Boerema, Deborah Bence. *The Innkeeper's Dog*. Tate Publishing (Mustang, OK) 2013. PB \$8.99. Thaniel the dog is the only animal in the stable that missed seeing the baby Jesus. With the help of the other animals and the innkeeper's son, he realizes that he, too, has gifts to offer. (PICTURE BOOK)

Maier, Ali. *Mom Made Us Write This in the Summer*. Erie Island

Media (Brunswick, OH) 2013. PB \$9.95. (Galley) When ten-year-old twins Max and Maggie are forced to share a journal over the summer, it becomes clear that they have very different opinions about their vacation activities.

Van Vleet, Carmella. *Eliza Bing Is (Not) a Big, Fat Quitter*. Holiday House (New York, NY) 2013. PB \$16.95. (Galley) Eleven-year-old Eliza has had many hobbies, and

most of them have been short-lived. When her parents tell her she can't take an expensive cake decorating class, she decides to take her brother's empty taekwondo spot to prove that she can see it through. Can Eliza learn to persevere when things get tough?

## COMING SOON

**Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant** applications due January 31, 2014

The \$1,000 Marvin Grant is awarded each year to an unpublished author age 30 or younger. For more information and an application, visit [www.ohioana.org/awards/marvin.asp](http://www.ohioana.org/awards/marvin.asp).

**Ohioana Book Club** meets February 12, 2014 at the Ohioana Library

February's book is *A Sanctuary of Trees: Beechnuts, Birdsongs, Baseball Bats, and Benedictions* by Ohioan Gene Logsdon. The club meets in the Ohioana reading room at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to join, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

**Parallel Arts—Women Create** March 3-30, 2014 at the State Library of Ohio

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Columbus Chapter of the National League of American Pen Women, in partnership with the Ohioana Library and the State Library of Ohio, is exhibiting works by women artists, authors, and musicians from the Central Ohio area. The exhibit kicks off with a free reception on Friday, March 7 at the State Library. Check next month's newsletter for more information!

**Hamilton County Author's Tea** this spring at the Main Library, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

Each spring, Ohioana Library founder Martha Kinney Cooper would host a tea for Hamilton County authors at her Cincinnati home. Today, Ohioana and the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County continue this tradition by recognizing Hamilton County authors at a ceremony at the Main Library. Details to come!

**Ohioana Book Festival** May 10, 2014 at the Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center, Columbus

Once again we expect to host nearly 100 authors at our annual book festival. Announcements about featured authors, participating authors, and programming are coming soon!