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2014: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Last year was a momentous one for the Ohioana Library as we celebrated our eighty-fifth anniversary! Here's a look back at some of the highlights.

March

In celebration of Women's History Month, Ohioana joined in partnership with the Columbus Chapter of the National League of American Pen Women and the State Library of Ohio to present the exhibit *Parallel Arts—Women Create* (March 3–30).

April

During National Library Week the State Library of Ohio, Ohioana, and the Ohio Center for the Book jointly announced the list of Choose to Read Ohio titles for 2015-2016.

May

The eighth annual Ohioana Book Festival drew nearly 100 authors and more than 3,000 attendees. Media and outreach programming brought the total festival audience to nearly 50,000.

June

Ohioana launched “29 Books, 29 Days” on our Facebook page, highlighting one Ohioana Book Award finalist each day for a month. C’Aira Murria, a Toledo native and a graduate student in the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science, joined Ohioana for the summer as our 2014 Ruth Weimer Mount Intern.

July

Authors Kazim Ali, Andrea Cheng, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Beth Hoffman, and Brad Ricca were announced as the winners of the 2014 Ohioana Book Award. Jeannie Vanasco was announced as the recipient of the twenty-fifth Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, given to a writer age 30 or younger who has not published a book.

August

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Julia Keller appeared as a special guest of the Ohioana Book Club for its discussion of her book *A Killing in the Hills*. During 2014 the club, which meets quarterly, also read and discussed

The Director's Chair

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that 2015 has gotten off to a great start for you.

Here at the library, we are not only beginning a new year, but with this issue we are launching the second year of the Ohioana newsletter. As we did with our very first newsletter, this month's cover story is a look back at last year. We promised 2014 was going to be an exciting year. It certainly was, with people, programs, and events that fully lived up to our tagline, “Connecting Readers and Ohio Writers.”

Remarkable as 2014 was, we are looking forward even more to 2015. Our Ohioana Book Festival is moving to a new date and a new venue in the heart of downtown Columbus. The Ohioana Awards will still be in October at the Ohio Statehouse, but now in the larger Atrium. We're thrilled at the terrific response to the newly redesigned *Ohioana Quarterly*. I'm pleased to tell you the winter edition is mailing soon, and there will be

A Sanctuary of Trees by Gene Logsdon as well as books by two Ohioana Award winners: Robert Olmstead's *The Coldest Night* and Brad Ricca's *Super Boys*.

September

The *Ohioana Quarterly* made its debut in a newly redesigned magazine format. The issue featured profiles of the 2014 Ohioana Book Award winners, a literary piece by Marvin Grant recipient Jeannie Vanasco, and an interview with young adult author Mindy McGinnis.

October

The seventy-second annual Ohioana Awards were presented at the Ohio Statehouse. Former Governor Bob Taft was among the special guests for the sold-out event, which also celebrated Ohioana's eighty-fifth anniversary and was videotaped by The Ohio Channel.

November

Ohioana presented "An Evening with Karen Harper," a dinner and

conversation with the award-winning author of the *Cold Creek* series.

During the year, the Ohioana Library also participated in numerous other events and programs throughout the state, including the annual Poetry Out Loud state finals in Columbus sponsored by the Ohio Arts Council (March), the annual Ohioana author recognition event presented by the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (April), the Letters About Literature Awards event sponsored by the Ohio Center for the Book at the Cleveland Public Library (May), Books by the Bank Cincinnati USA Book Festival (October), and OWLS (Older Wiser Lifelong Scholars) educational programming at Westminster Thurber in Columbus (October).

Join us in 2015 for another exciting year of programs and events!

issues in spring, summer, and fall, each featuring stories, interviews, reviews, and news of literary happenings around the state.

And of course we'll still be sending you the Ohioana newsletter. As always, this issue includes not only our cover story but reviews, a list of new titles received in recent months, and a calendar of upcoming events.

We are delighted that so many people tell us they enjoy receiving and reading these newsletters each month. As we begin our second year, I hope you'll feel free to share your comments and suggestions.

From all of us at Ohioana, I wish you the best of everything in 2015.

David E. Weaver
Executive Director

REVIEWS



Thomas, Sam. *The Witch Hunter's Tale: A Midwife Mystery*. Minotaur/St. Martin's (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$24.99.

In this third installment of the *Midwife Mysteries* series, Lady Bridget Hodgson becomes embroiled in a witch hunt in seventeenth-century York, England. Despite the frigidly cold winter, Lady Hodgson and her deputy, Martha Hawkins, attend women in travail (childbirth) all over the city and its surrounds. However, York is in the middle of a full-scale witch hunt led by Joseph Hodgson and Bridget's nemesis, Rebecca Hooke. When someone close to Bridget is murdered, she must try to find the killer and stop the conspiracy without being named a witch herself. Murders, arrests, deception, and conspiracies are expertly woven throughout this mystery. Richly detailed descriptions of childbirth, medicine, and midwifery are interspersed with scenes set in frigid prisons. Thomas's descriptions are riveting, and the story is full of tension and surprises. Readers will be disappointed when this polished and engaging installment ends.

Reviewed by Miriam Kahn

NEW BOOKS

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection in November. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

Nonfiction

Case, William R. *Golf in Columbus at Wyandot Country Club*. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99.

Donald Ross was an influential golf course designer whose course at the Elks and Wyandot Country Clubs was celebrated as one of Ohio's best. This book describes the course's history from its inception in 1923, through struggles caused by the Great Depression and WWII, to its untimely closing in 1952.

Myles, Bill. *Myles Traveled: Stories of My American Journey*. Barnhardt & Ashe Publishing, Inc. (Miami, FL) 2014. HC \$34.99.

Bill Myles coached with some of the greats at Ohio State, and later served as the university's associate athletic director for more than two decades. *Myles Traveled* is the story of his life, including a forty-five-year coaching career.

Mehlo Jr., Noel F. *The Lost Ranger: A Soldier's Story*. CreateSpace (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$59.95.

Ohio native Herbert Hull served with the 5th Infantry Ranger Battalion during WWII, where he was wounded in action and discharged. In the process, his military records were separated from those of his unit; his untimely death ten years later resulted in most knowledge of his military service being lost. This book describes his grandson's two-year search to uncover not just his grandfather's story, but the story of his unit as well.

Turzillo, Jane Ann. *Ohio Train Disasters*. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2014. PB \$19.99. In this book Turzillo recounts stories both heroic and tragic as she describes a dozen of the worst train disasters in Ohio history.

Fiction

Andriacco, Dan. *Rogues Gallery*. MX Publishing (London, England) 2014. PB \$14.95.

Fans of Andriacco's Sherlock Holmes-inspired McCabe-Cody mysteries will enjoy this collection of three novellas and two short stories that feature the series characters.

Ellis, Mary. *The Lady and the Officer*. Harvest House (Eugene, OR) 2014. PB \$13.99.

At the battle of Gettysburg, nurse Madeline Howard saves the life of Confederate officer Elliott Haywood despite her Union sympathies and her love for James, a Union army commander. When Madeline moves to Richmond to live with her aunt and uncle, she not only reunites with Elliott, but also overhears plans for attacks against Union soldiers. Can she betray her family and Elliott to save James?

Harper, Karen. *Broken Bonds: A Cold Creek Novel*. Harlequin Mira (Don Mills, Ontario, Canada) 2015. PB \$7.99.

In this final installment of the *Cold Creek* trilogy, social worker Char Lockwood has returned to her hometown while she figures out her next move. She suspects some unfriendly locals are keeping a dangerous secret and, with the help of Matt Rowan, tries to uncover the truth.

Harper, Karen. *Niege Mortelle* Best Sellers/Harlequin S.A. (Paris, France) 2014. PB \$9.14.

This French translation of *Upon a Winter's Night* tells the story of Lydia Brand. The knowledge that she is adopted has always made Lydia 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.

Hugo, Lynne. *A Matter of Mercy*. Blank Slate Press (St. Louis, MO) 2014. PB \$14.95.

Carolyn Marcum has returned to Wellfleet harbor to care for her dying mother. Ridley Neal has returned to take over his father's oyster beds—and to put his prison sentence behind him. When a lawsuit threatens Ridley's way of life and Carolyn accidentally encounters the person she wronged years earlier, the two must learn how to forgive, trust, and love.

Lindsey, Julie Anne. *Murder by the Seaside: The Patience Price Mysteries*. Worldwide Mystery/Harlequin (Toronto, Canada) 2014. PB \$7.99.

Patience Price has returned home to Chincoteague Island to start a counseling practice—and finds that Adrian Davis, who broke her heart when she was younger, is the main suspect in a murder. Patience agrees to investigate and finds her own life in danger. Can she solve the murder before she runs out of time?

Parker, Brent Eliot. *Making Arrangements: A Novel*. Sunstone Press (Santa Fe, NM) 2014. PB \$22.95.

The death of Colin Madsen's father brings him back to his hometown,

where he must decide the fate of the family funeral home. When his childhood friend Ava takes a job in funeral home acquisitions, he may have to choose between their growing romance and protecting his father's legacy.

Thomas, Sam. *The Witch Hunter's Tale: A Midwife Mystery*.

Minotaur/St. Martin's (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$24.99.

It is the winter of 1644, and the British town of York is in the midst of a full-scale witch hunt. When someone close to midwife Bridget Hodgson is murdered, she struggles to find the killer without being named a witch herself. This is the third mystery in the series that began with *The Midwife's Tale*. (See review on page 2.)

Yoho, R.G. *The Evil Day*. White Feather Press (MI) 2014. PB \$15.95. When Joe Clement's young bride is kidnapped from their home in the Arizona Territory, the gunfighter will do anything to get her back. Together, Joe and his friend Kellen Malone set out on a hunt to stop a serial killer. This is the fifth book in Yoho's *Kellen Malone* series.

Poetry

Jastrun, Mieczysław. *Memorials: A Selection*. Dialogos Books/Lavender Ink (New Orleans, LA) 2014. PB \$16.00.

Mieczysław Jastrun was born in Poland in 1903; during his lifetime he published more than a dozen books of poetry as well as other works. This volume of his later poetry includes the original poems as well as English translations by Ohioan Dzvina Orłowsky, making his work available to American readers.

Young Adult

McGinnis, Mindy. *In a Handful of Dust*. Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$17.99.

In a not-too-distant future where water is a scarce and valuable commodity, Lucy and her adoptive mother Lynn have lived a good life by their rural Ohio pond. However, when disease ravages their community, the pond may be to blame. Rumors of desalination plants in California set the two of them on a journey west in search of water, and set Lucy on a journey to find her own place in the world.

Mitchell, Don. *The Freedom Summer Murders*. Scholastic Press (New York, NY) 2014. HC \$18.99. In June of 1964, a group of volunteers gathered at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, to receive training as part of the Freedom Summer voter registration effort in Mississippi. The murder of three of these volunteers—James Chaney,

Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman—became one of the key events of the civil rights movement and led to a forty-one-year search for justice.

Middle Grade & Children's

Geither, Regina M. *Luring the Leprechaun: Celtic Kids Book 2*. Loconeal (Amherst, OH) 2014. PB \$7.95.

In order to retrieve a magical object from a greedy leprechaun, Caitlin and Sean must travel through an ancient forest, battle a powerful druid, and outwit a fairy army. Can they escape, or will they be trapped in the land of magic forever?

Houts, Michelle. *Kammie on First: Baseball's Dottie Kamenshek*. Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2014. PB \$14.95.

In 1943, seventeen-year-old Dottie Kamenshek left her home in Cincinnati to become a professional baseball player for the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. She played for the Rockford Peaches for ten years, becoming one of the league's greatest players. This first book in Ohio University Press's *Biographies for Young Readers* series documents how Kamenshek became one of America's most beloved athletes.

COMING SOON

Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant application deadline is January 31, 2015

This annual grant awards \$1,000 to an Ohio writer, age 30 or younger, who has not yet published a book. For more information and to apply, visit www.ohioana.org/awards/marvin.asp.

Ohioana Book Club meets February 11, 2015 at the Ohioana Library

The book for February is *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng (named Amazon's Best Book of 2014). The club meets in the Ohioana reading room at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.