

# OHIO *ana* QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2019 | VOL. 62 NO. 3

## OHIOANA LIBRARY

90th  
anniversary  
edition

Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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# OHIOana QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2019

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# From the Director

Dear Friends,



A collection of books by Ohio authors in the Governor's Residence. That was it. That was the simple idea behind the founding of the Ohioana Library Association by Ohio First Lady Martha Kinney Cooper in 1929. The last ninety years have been a remarkable journey, as you will read in this issue's cover story by Morgan Peters, the latest in our popular series about Ohio Literary Landmarks. But our story is not just about the past. Today, through its collection, publications, and events, Ohioana connects readers and Ohio writers, and promotes our state as one of America's great literary centers. We think Martha would be very proud!

One of the highlights of our ninetieth anniversary year thus far has been Ohioana's presentation of renowned historian David McCullough on June 3. McCullough appeared to a sold-out crowd of more than 400 people at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium, speaking on his latest book, *The Pioneers*. We were thrilled to have C-SPAN on-hand to record the event live for BOOK-TV. Turn to page 11 to see some photos of McCullough's visit, and to read Bill Eichenberger's review of *The Pioneers*.

Of course there are many books reviewed and listed in this issue that are perfect for summer reading. Be sure to check out the thirty-one titles that we announced in May as the 2019 Ohioana Book Award finalists. We'll be announcing the winners right about the time you receive this in your mailbox. Mark your calendars now for Thursday, October 17, when we'll present the awards at the Ohio Statehouse.

We continue our salute to "The Year of Thurber" with a look by guest contributor Jolie Braun at "Thurber's Columbus," an exhibition going on this summer at the Ohio State University's Thompson Library. Ohioana was honored to call James Thurber a friend, bestowing on him our Sesquicentennial Career Medal in 1953, the year Ohio celebrated its 150th birthday as a state.

Which brings us back to our own birthday – ninety years young this year. As I said, it's been a remarkable journey. At the same time, as fun as it is to look back, we're eagerly looking forward to what happens in the NEXT ninety years! And whatever lies ahead, you are helping make it possible. YOU are part of Ohioana's story, and we thank you. Have a wonderful summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Weaver".

David Weaver  
Executive Director

## ON THE COVER

First Lady and Ohioana founder Martha Kinney Cooper reads in the library of the Ohio Governor's Residence, circa 1930. Cover design by Kathryn Powers. Courtesy of the Ohio History Connection (ALO7261).





# Ohio's Literary Capitol: Celebrating Ninety Years with the Ohioana Library Association

By Morgan Peters

*The literary legacy of Ohio stretches back as far as the founding of the state itself and is as vast and diverse as the population who lives within it. The Ohioana Library Association exists as a celebration of that legacy, with a unique collection that boasts over 45,000 books by or about Ohioans, 10,000 pieces of sheet music, biographical files on notable Ohioans, personal papers of Ohio authors and artists and numerous scrapbooks created by Ohio civic and cultural organizations. In addition to its impressive collection, Ohioana encompasses a variety of outreach events spearheaded by the annual Ohioana Book Festival and Ohioana Book Awards. This year marks the 90th anniversary of Ohioana's founding by First Lady of Ohio Martha Kinney Cooper. Martha founded Ohioana with the intention to promote and celebrate Ohio's rich literary past, present and future. After 90 years this mission is still as strong as ever, making the Ohioana Library a literary landmark unlike any other.*

## Martha Kinney Cooper

Born in Cincinnati on January 12, 1874, Martha Kinney Cooper was a musician and a lifelong lover of books. In 1929, her husband Myers Y. Cooper was elected as the fifty-first governor of Ohio. Martha wasted no time in her new position as First Lady of Ohio, and by the end of 1929 had established what was then known as the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library. Combining the name of the state with the suffix "ana", the purpose of the library and its collection was to gather and recognize solely the works of Ohio authors, artists and musical composers.

When Martha K. Cooper first approached the State Finance Director with the idea of beginning a library focused on works by Ohio authors, she was told that the State had no funds to dedicate to the project. She didn't

let this discourage her. Instead of buying books outright, Martha personally took on the task of contacting Ohio authors to solicit them to donate copies of their books. The first author to donate to her cause was Harriet Taylor Upton, who sent a copy of her work *History of the Western Reserve*, which remains in Ohioana's collection today. In reaching out to authors personally, Martha was also able to gain their interest in her project, forging a relationship with the many individuals who were more than happy to donate their work and spread the word to their colleagues. This collaborative, symbiotic relationship between Ohioana and authors is one that continues today and is a large part of Ohioana's lasting and successful impact.



Photos of Martha Kinney Cooper, Ohioana Collection  
(photographer unknown).

In Martha Kinney Cooper's personal recollections of the founding of the Ohioana Library, as recounted to her daughter in 1962, she described her original four ideal outcomes for the organization that was to become the Ohioana Library:

1. To acquaint the public with the great number of writers in all the fields of writing who were Ohioans or who had lived in Ohio a reasonable length of time.
2. To collect this Ohioana and keep it together in one place where all Ohioans could enjoy it.
3. To honor and give recognition to the writers who had contributed so much to the culture, beauty and education in our State.
4. To keep a permanent card catalog at the Governor's Mansion, where books received were to be housed, and a duplicate catalog at the Ohio State Library of all Ohio writers and of distinctive books about Ohio."

In ninety years, many things have changed. Ohioana has outgrown the small collection space at the Governor's Mansion where it was first housed, and card catalogs have been replaced by digital records. However, the core mission and ideals of Ohioana remain the same. The desire to connect readers in the state of Ohio with local authors is certainly as strong as ever.

Martha Kinney Cooper lived until 1964, remaining an active and important part of Ohioana's operation the entire time. Since her time in office, every First Lady of Ohio has also been involved in the Ohioana Library Association, contributing their effort and ideas in whatever capacity they are able. On Ohioana's purpose, Mrs. Cooper once said, "As long as we have authors, poets and musicians, I trust that we shall be able to supply a suitable home for their splendid works, providing also a means to give them the publicity and thanks they so justly deserve."

## The Ohioana Library

The physical collection of Ohioana has long been the organization's way to ensure that Ohio's wealth of literary contributions do not go unnoticed or become forgotten. Now having grown to include more than 80,000 individual items, the collection looks much different than when it was established ninety years ago. Originally, Ohioana was entirely housed within the Governor's Mansion, the official residence of the Governor of Ohio.

In 1935, the collection had expanded enough that it was decided it would be rehoused and moved to join the State Library of Ohio at the Ohio Departments Building. Today, the Ohioana Library Association can be found in



Martha Kinney Cooper Reading Room, photo by Marsha McDevitt-Stredney.

the former Jeffrey Mining Corporate Center at 274 East First Avenue. Ohioana has grown from a collection small enough to fit on just a few bookshelves to an impressive selection that is nearly comprehensive of Ohio literature. The collection is now housed within a climate controlled room in conditions that adhere to archival standards to keep the items cool and dry to avoid any decomposition. The collection primarily features books, but also holds sheet music, artwork, and biographical files on notable Ohioans. If it is by an Ohioan or about Ohio, it can likely be found here.

Ohioana also features a beautifully outfitted reading room and public area, with plenty of space for staff to work and patrons to study and research. This space was dedicated as the Martha Kinney Cooper Reading Room in 2001 by Ohio's First Lady Hope Taft, and is decorated with artifacts and keepsakes that span the years and illustrate Ohioana's rich history. The Reading Room holds several large tables for curious Ohioans to sit and study, perfect also for the gathering of writers' groups and book clubs. On the walls are works of art by accomplished Ohio artists, such as Billy Ireland and Bryan Collier.

Placed into the main wall of the Reading Room are windows into the interior of the Linda R. Hengst Collection Room, named for Ohioana's executive director during the years of 1988-2013. The collection room is sure to excite any reader – shelves stretch from one end of the room to the other, a smorgasbord of Ohio literature.

Among the stacks, highlights one can find include early editions of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's*



*Cabin* and Paul Lawrence Dunbar's *Oak and Ivy*, his first collection of poetry; correspondence from Ohio presidents and governors; a signed copy of *Lentil*, the first book by children's author and illustrator Robert McCloskey; original artwork by Newbery Medal-winning children's artist Lois Lenski; personal papers and correspondence from a variety of Ohio authors including Langston Hughes, Louis Bromfield and Sherwood Anderson, and a wealth of local records and genealogical information.

## The Ohioana Book Awards

Since 1942, the annual Ohioana Awards have honored accomplished Ohio authors, as well as authors of books about Ohio or Ohioans. The first Ohioana Award was given to James Reston for his nonfiction book *Prelude to Victory*. The Ohioana Awards have been presented yearly since then and are the second oldest literary prizes in the nation.

Awards for juvenile literature and fiction were first presented in 1943, followed in 1944 by poetry and "book about Ohio/Ohioan." In 2014, an award for middle grade/young adult literature was added. To these juried awards, a Readers' Choice Award was added in 2016, allowing readers to choose their favorite book from among the finalists selected by judges.

Since 1982, Ohioana has also awarded the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant, given to an unpublished Ohio writer under the age of 30. This award has preemptively recognized a number of novice writers who have gone on to become celebrated authors, including Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Doerr.

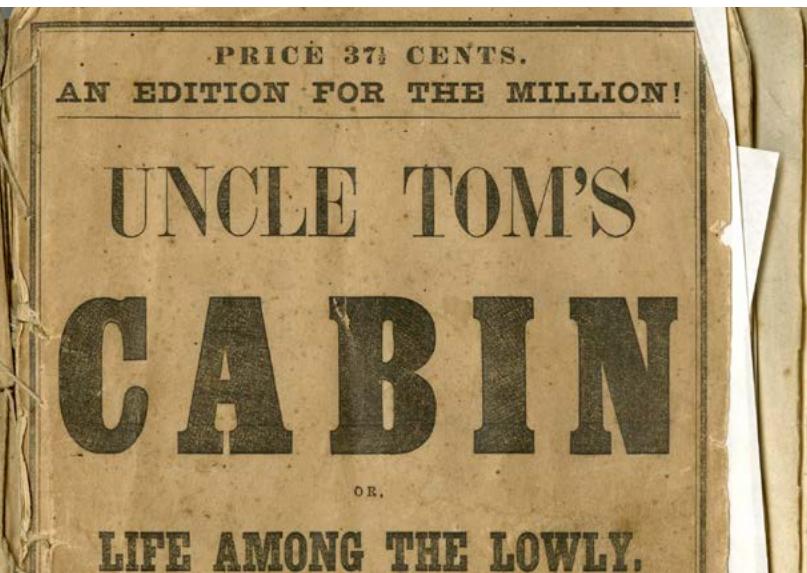
Nearly every distinguished Ohio author during the history of the awards has been honored. Some winners of particular note are Toni Morrison (1975, 1999, 2004), Anthony Doerr (2003, 2005, 2011, 2015), Jesse Owens (1971), Douglas Brinkley (2007, 2017), Rita Dove (1990, 1994, 2000, 2010) Jaqueline Woodson (2015), Cynthia Rylant (1990, 1992) and James Thurber (1945, 1946), as well as countless others. When an author is given an Ohioana Award, they can rest assured that they are being included in the ranks of the state's greatest literary artists. The Awards have been presented each year without exception since 1942.

## The Ohioana Quarterly

In 1958, the *Ohioana Quarterly* was established as a publication to feature new books received into Ohioana's collection, as well as to highlight and support Ohio authors with interviews, articles and special features. Since then, the *Ohioana Quarterly* has generally been released four times per year, with the exception of a few articles that consisted of a combined summer/fall and winter/spring issue.

Over the past sixty years, the *Ohioana Quarterly* has acted as a consistent resource to serve the State of Ohio and educate readers on Ohio literature. Often, features and articles within the magazine can be found on topics such as art, social subjects, and general Ohio history. Each issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly* also includes reviews of recent literature by Ohioans and about Ohio, in categories including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, young adult, juvenile and middle grade. The reviews offer insight into Ohio's newest offerings on the literary front and create interest in new releases.

First edition (1852) of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe, Ohioana Collection.



Wil Haygood speaks at the 2016 Ohioana Awards ceremony, photo by Mary Rathke.



To date, the *Ohioana Quarterly* has published more than two hundred issues. It is stocked in libraries and institutions around the state, as well as mailed out to Ohioana members and supporters.

## The Ohioana Book Festival

The Ohioana Book Festival was first established in 2007, as a way to further the organization's mission of "connecting readers and Ohio writers." The first Festival was held onsite at Ohioana Library and connected State Library of Ohio and featured ten authors, including Michael Dirda and Anthony Doerr.

The Festival, like Ohioana's collection itself, grew quickly and successfully. After four strong years, it was moved to the Fort Hayes Education Center in 2011. In 2015, it was again moved to the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square hotel, where it reached a full capacity of 120 authors in 2018. In 2019 the Festival was held for the first time at the Columbus Metropolitan Library and featured more than 150 authors. Over 4,400 attendees were present throughout the day.

In addition to promoting and selling their books, authors who attend the Ohioana Book Festival also participate throughout the day in panels, workshops and readings. Every reader of every age has something to enjoy at the Festival – from aspiring writers attending a panel on how to be published, to teens listening to a discussion with their favorite YA authors, to children enjoying story times by popular picture book authors.

The Ohioana Book Festival directly pertains to Martha Kinney Cooper's first ideal outcome of Ohioana to "acquaint the public with the great number of writers

in all the fields of writing" from Ohio. The Festival has become an event that authors and readers alike look forward to all year long, as it offers them a unique opportunity to connect with each other and share their love of literature.

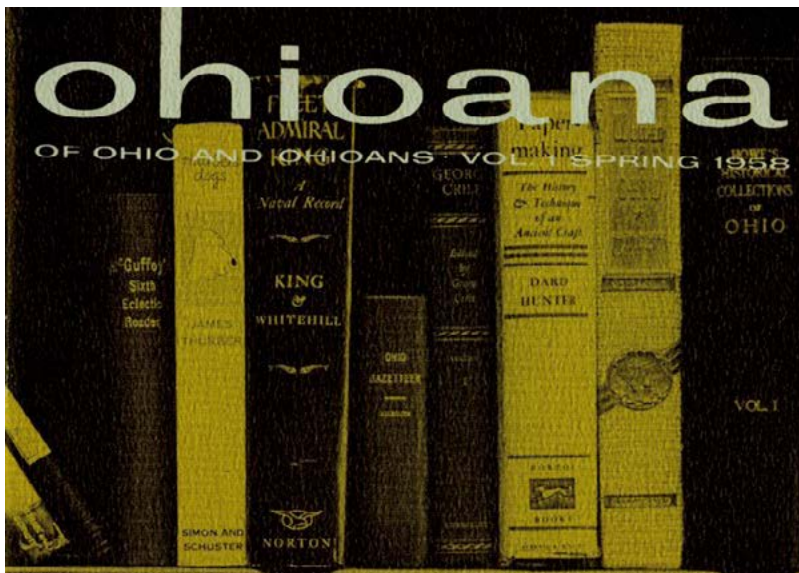
## Ninety Years of Literary Legacy

In 1962, Martha Cooper stated in the closing of her memoir that "the future of the Library seems very auspicious." There is no doubt that she was right, and that she would be proud of the legacy she began. Today, Ohioana continues to carry on the mission that she set out to establish in 1929. The organization's 90th year has already proven significant, with a number of impressive achievements being made within the first half of the year alone, and many more on the horizon.

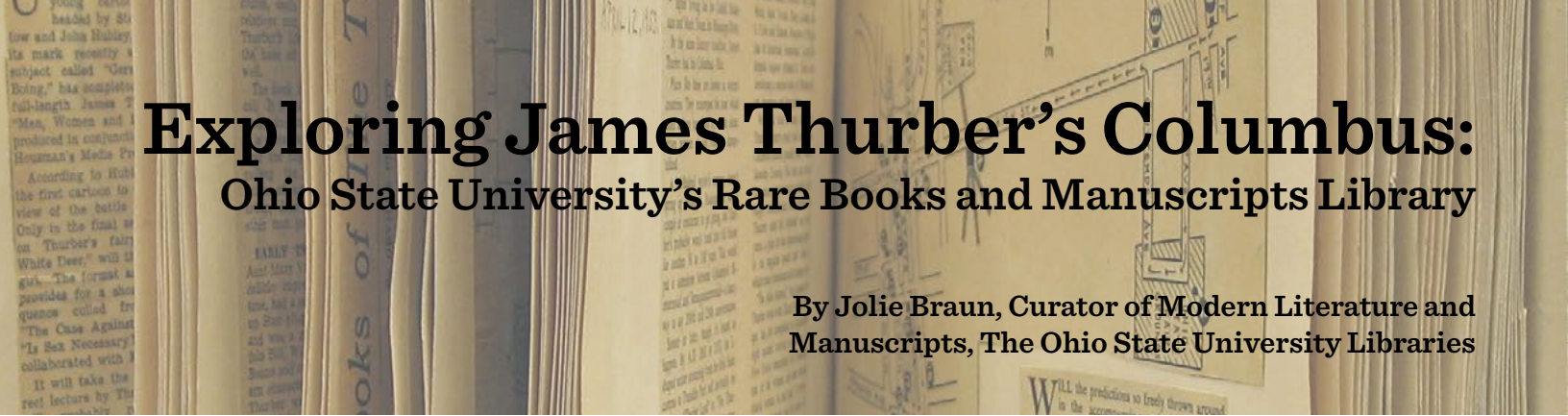
The Ohioana Library has continued to grow and flourish over the past ninety years. It remains a voice to speak to Ohio's literary significance; to support and celebrate its authors and help connect them with an readers from every corner of the state, and to award their accomplishments and collect their work in a place where it can be preserved and shared far into the future.

Cover of first *Ohioana Quarterly*,  
1958, Ohioana Collection.

2019 Ohioana Book Festival,  
photo by Mary Rathke.







# Exploring James Thurber's Columbus: Ohio State University's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library

By Jolie Braun, Curator of Modern Literature and Manuscripts, The Ohio State University Libraries

“Shakespeare has his Stratford-on-Avon. Dickens has London...Mark Twain his Mississippi River. By the same literary tradition, James Thurber has his Columbus, Ohio.” So began “The Thurber Country,” published in the April 12, 1953, issue of the Columbus *Dispatch*. The article envisioned a twenty-first century version of the city that offered visitors an exhaustive, twenty-six-stop Thurber-themed tour featuring places both real — such as the writer’s birthplace on Parsons Avenue — and imagined — including a statue and museum. The piece was intentionally fantastic; it speculated that sightseers might see these destinations via “atom-propelled rocket buses.” Yet beneath the comedic tone was an affection for Columbus’s most famous resident that emphasized his deep connection to the city.

James Thurber is best known for his humor writing and offbeat cartoons, but his list of accomplishments is extensive. During the course of his career, he penned numerous articles and columns, drew countless cartoons and illustrations, wrote plays, and published more than twenty books in a variety of genres, including fiction, essay, memoir, and children’s literature. He joined the staff of the *New Yorker* in its early days, playing an integral role in helping establish the magazine’s aesthetic and humor. During the mid-twentieth century, Thurber’s reach as a literary figure was unlike anything we know today, and he enjoyed both critical acclaim and commercial success. Although he moved away from Columbus as an adult, the city was never far from his mind and inspired some of his most beloved works.

*Thurber’s Columbus*, an exhibition at the Ohio State University’s Thompson Library, explores the writer’s lifelong relationship with the city. Seen through Thurber’s eyes, Columbus was both idiosyncratic and universal, real and fictional. He had a deep love for his hometown but also recognized its flaws. Unsurprisingly, then, Thurber’s depictions of the city and its residents could be both affectionate and satirical.

Curated by Jolie Braun, curator of modern literature and manuscripts, with assistance from Eric Johnson, curator of rare books and manuscripts, the exhibit runs from May 18 — August 18, 2019, and is part of the Year of Thurber, the year-long, city-wide celebration of the author’s 125th birthday. *Thurber’s Columbus* covers the writer’s early years and time as a student at Ohio State, significant works set here, and his legacy. The exhibit features original artwork, drafts, letters, photographs, publications, and artifacts.

While Thurber lived on the East Coast much of his adult life, his hometown helped foster his early creativity and played a pivotal role in his writing career. James Thurber was born in 1894 in Columbus when the growing city’s population was approximately 100,000. At age seven, he experienced an event that profoundly changed his life: he was blinded in one eye after being hit with an arrow during a game of William Tell. Unable to participate in sports and other activities, Thurber found refuge in books and ideas, becoming an avid reader and careful observer. As a senior he published his first short story, the Western-inspired “The Third Bullet,” in the East High



School magazine the *X-Rays*. In 1913, he enrolled at Ohio State, where he eventually would write for the school newspaper, the *Lantern*; edit the campus humor magazine, the *Sun Dial*; and take literature classes with such influential professors as Dean Joseph Villiers Denney (to whom he would later dedicate an essay in *The Thurber Album*). In 1918, Thurber left the university without a degree because his limited eyesight prevented him from completing a required ROTC course. After school, he became a reporter for the Columbus *Dispatch*, covering such events as the opening of Ohio Stadium and eventually writing his own column, "Credos and Curios." Yet by the mid-1920s, Thurber felt uncertain about how to progress in his profession. At the urging of his first wife, Althea, the couple moved to New York, hoping to find new creative opportunities there.

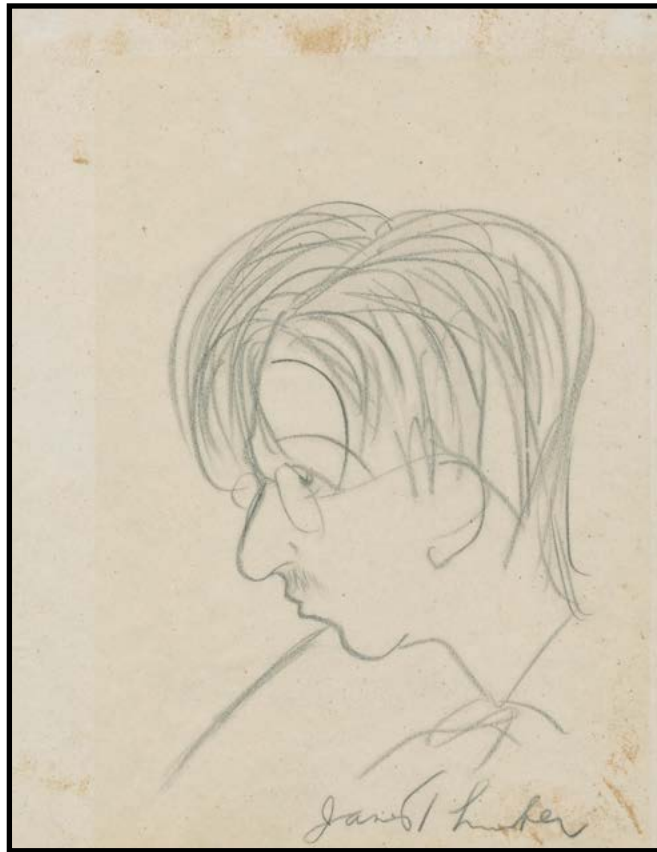
Columbus, however, was a source of inspiration for him throughout his career, apparent in three major works highlighted in the exhibit. The earliest, *My Life and Hard Times*, was immensely successful upon its publication in 1933 and solidified Thurber's reputation as one of the country's foremost humorists. The collection of funny, autobiographical short stories includes accounts of Thurber's eccentric family and early experiences in Columbus. The writing is a combination of fact and fantasy, emphasizing the absurdities of everyday life in a deadpan delivery that would become known as his trademark. A few years later, in 1939, Thurber collaborated with his friend and fellow Ohio State alumnus, Elliott Nugent, on *The Male Animal*. Part romantic comedy, part drama about academic freedom, the

play features characters inspired by individuals Thurber and Nugent knew as students and takes place in a football-crazed town that any Columbus resident would easily recognize. *The Male Animal* became a Broadway hit in 1940 and was made into a movie starring Henry Fonda and Olivia de Havilland in 1942. Lastly, *The Thurber Album*, published in 1952, found its author again revisiting the subject

of Columbus. The book was written in his later years and, while humorous, has a more contemplative tone than the screwball eccentricity of *My Life and Hard Times*. The essay collection is a love letter to the city and its inhabitants Thurber remembered from his formative years. To help tell the story of these works, the exhibit features rough drafts, first editions, photos of places and individuals depicted, and Thurber's original illustrations.

*Thurber's Columbus* draws primarily from materials in Ohio State's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library (RBML), a special collections unit that collects, preserves,

and provides access to literary and historical primary source materials ranging from medieval manuscripts to contemporary novels. RBML also houses the largest collection on James Thurber in the world, which was begun in the early 1960s. During that decade, the curators strove to be as comprehensive as possible in their collecting, with the goal of making Ohio State and Columbus the premier destination for Thurber research. Today the materials span the author's life, from childhood drawings and middle school report cards to 1950s fan letters and drafts of some of his later works. They also include original artwork, literary manuscripts, correspondence, photographs,



James Thurber self-portrait

clippings, and publications. The collection even contains eight pieces of drywall with original drawings by Thurber from his house in Connecticut.

A particular highlight of the collection is a series of scrapbooks created by Thurber's younger brother, Robert, that documents the writer's life and success. Covering more than forty years from the 1920s to the 1970s, the volumes contain interviews, articles, photos, and newspaper clippings, providing a unique and invaluable resource for anyone studying Thurber. One compiled during the 1950s is displayed in *Thurber's Columbus*, open to the Thurber-centric tour of the city described at the beginning of the article.

The scrapbook is featured in a case curated by four Thurber House Young Docents: Sylvie Dougherty, Izzy Dunlap, Lia McMillan, and Masha Shonia. The Young Docents Program trains fifth- and sixth-grade students to give tours of the writer's home. Director of Children's Education Meg Brown, who manages the program, helped arrange the collaboration between the Thurber House and RBML. Over the course of three Sunday afternoon sessions, the docents, Meg, and the exhibit curators met to work on this project. The Young Docents, who were enthusiastic and knowledgeable about all things Thurber, selected materials, wrote text for the exhibit labels, and determined the case layout. While Meg and the curators provided feedback and assistance throughout the process, the final product visitors will see is all the work of the Young Docents.

The case curated by the Young Docents is one of two in the exhibition dedicated to the legacy of Thurber and his work. In addition the scrapbooks, other items include promotional materials about Thurber Towers, a residential community at Neil Avenue and Goodale Boulevard built in the 1960s and named for the author; a Thurber bobblehead given away at a Clippers game in 2012; and recent publications produced by attendees of the Thurber House's summer writing camps. (One features cover art based on Thurber's story "The Dog Who

Bit People," about the cantankerous family dog from the writer's childhood.) Although *Columbus* may not have a city-wide tour dedicated to the author, if these materials are any indication, Thurber's spirit is alive and well here.

While *Thurber's Columbus* ends in August, RBML's materials on the writer are available to researchers,

students, and the general public in the special collections reading room. To learn more, please visit the website at <https://library.osu.edu/rbml>.

*All drawings by James Thurber are copyright © by Rosemary A. Thurber. Reprinted by permission of Rosemary A. Thurber and the Barbara Hogenson Agency, Inc.*



*Thurber's Columbus* at Thompson Library



# OHIOANA PRESENTS DAVID MCCULLOUGH

You couldn't have asked for a more beautiful spring day than June 3, when the Ohioana Library presented historian David McCullough at the Ohio Statehouse. More than 400 people gathered for the sold-out event, presented as part of Ohioana's ninetieth anniversary year. McCullough was here to speak about his latest book, *The Pioneers*, which tells the story of the heroic settlers who brought the American ideal west.

Ohioana Director David Weaver served as emcee for the event. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine introduced McCullough, who was joined by his wife Rosalee, their son Billy McCullough, and McCullough's long-time research assistant, Mike Hill. Special guests included First Lady Fran DeWine, former governors and first ladies Bob and Hope Taft and Ted and Frances Strickland, and former First Lady Karen Kasich.

McCullough's inspiring talk was recorded live by C-SPAN and has since aired nationally on Book-TV. It can also be viewed online as part of C-SPAN's video library: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?460340-1/david-mccullough-discusses-the-pioneers>.

Following his talk, McCullough was presented with a special proclamation by Governor DeWine, making him an Honorary Citizen of the State of Ohio. McCullough's many other honors include two Pulitzer Prizes, two National Book Awards, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest recognition for a civilian. The Ohioana Library welcomed McCullough once before, when he won the 2016 Ohioana Book Award for *The Wright Brothers*.

Special thanks to our sponsors, Ariel Corporation and Capitol Square Foundation, and to everyone who made this 90th anniversary event with David McCullough truly memorable.



Top: David McCullough reads from *The Pioneers*. Center: Rosalee McCullough, David McCullough, First Lady Fran DeWine, and Governor Mike DeWine listen as Ohioana Director David Weaver opens the program. Bottom: Governor DeWine presents David McCullough with a proclamation making him an Honorary Citizen of Ohio. Photos courtesy of the Ohio Development Services Agency.



# Book Reviews

## NONFICTION

### **Al-Marashi, Huda. *First Comes Marriage: My Not-So-Typical American Love Story.***

Prometheus Books (Amherst, NY) 2018. HC \$24.00.

In Al-Marashi's memoir about "My Not-So-Typical American Love Story," she meets Hadi when she is six years old. From the start, their differences are obvious. Huda is direct, goal-oriented, romantic. Hadi is shy, distracted, tongue-tied. Yet both of their Iraqi Muslim families quickly decide that these two will marry one day. As the child of immigrants, Huda understands Iraq only through her mother's and father's eyes, but the distance between her parents' homeland and the safe haven of California, where she grows up, makes her life a balancing act. She wants to be a good daughter, as well as a "typical" American girl.



Huda is torn between her family's expectations and the notions of love and marriage she's gleaned from American movies and popular songs. She can't see Hadi's off-hand, reticent expressions of true affection for her. She waits, instead, for the bold declaration that never comes – or never comes to her satisfaction – and is tempted by the promise of an all-consuming relationship, should one ever present itself.

Throughout her childhood and adolescence, she struggles to reconcile her romantic ideals with this frizzy-haired, unstylishly dressed, infuriatingly closed-mouthed boy. He's an underachieving student who wears an unkempt mullet and appears one minute to be smitten and the next withdrawn and aloof. As the time for her wedding approaches, she gets caught up in the excitement of planning for her big day – the dress, the shoes, the hall. At this point, I wanted to yell at her not to go through with it, especially after her mother tells her that divorce is absolutely out of the question.

In spite of her misgivings, Huda marries Hadi. Shortly thereafter, they move to Mexico so that he can complete his medical studies. Huda is miserable, until she finds a purpose working with underprivileged girls. She blames Hadi for her unhappiness and regrets marrying him. She even threatens to divorce him and fumes when he responds to her anger by leaving the room and refusing to talk to her. His distress at the prospect of losing her is so painful that he literally can't bear to face it.

Slowly, she begins to value what Hadi brings to the marriage. The book ends with the two of them heading back to California, where Hadi will presumably complete his training and become a doctor, the occupation of choice in both their families.

Huda marries Hadi out of a sense of obligation and afterwards falls in love with him. But is what happens between the two of them so different from couplings of choice? How well can any of us understand what it means to live under the same roof with someone whose temperament is not perfectly aligned with our own and whose needs and wants clash with ours? Don't most good, lifelong marriages – arranged or otherwise – consist of falling in and out of love, adjusting to a wife's ups and downs, forgiving a husband for being profoundly himself?

REVIEWED BY TERRI PAUL, FICTION WRITER AND PAST OHIOANA BOOK AWARD WINNER

### **Gebben, Claire (author), and Angela Weber (translator). *How We Survive Here: Families Across Time.***

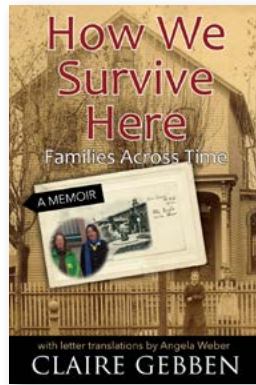
Coffeetown Press (Seattle, WA) 2018. PB \$21.95.

When author Claire Gebben is given a packet of family letters, a whole new world opens for her and for many others, including family, historians, and genealogists. In her recently published book, *How We Survive Here: Families Across Time*, Gebben shares her journey as she learns about the letters and the people who wrote them.

At the beginning of the book Gebben explains how she has left her job in order to pursue her lifelong dream of writing. Life then provides her with opportunities



and materials to develop this dream. Her aging dad, who always maintained an interest in the family history, gives her a stack of family letters from the nineteenth century. With the help of a German cousin, Angela Weber, the contents are revealed. Through this connection, other historical letters emerge from family members. Not only do these letters reveal a family's history, but they also provide a rare opportunity to read primary documents that depict life in Germany and in America in the 1800s and 1900s.



Gebben presents the events that led to her decision to write this book. As one reads her account, it feels as though the reader is peeking into her private journal as she puts the puzzle pieces together to find out about her ancestors. As she recounts the process, it is easy to get pulled in by her enthusiasm and excitement. Having read eighteenth-century letters for a research project, I quickly understood and felt Gebben's desire to discover more about the individuals who penned these letters 200 years ago. It also is amazing to learn of the friendships that develop as she connects with her German family and roots. I felt as though I were visiting the towns and the residents as she describes her travels and experiences in Germany.

*How We Survive Here: Families Across Time* was written in response to her historical novel, *The Last of the Blacksmiths*, which interprets the people and the time of the family letters. In the last chapter of her book, Gebben provides a beautiful summary as to why she wrote this book. "Since publication of the historical novel, I've had the privilege of giving more than seventy talks to audiences at universities, libraries, genealogy and historical societies, German and other interest groups, retirement communities, clubs, and bookstores. It is the encouragement and interest of these audiences that led to the writing of this memoir, which I hope serves as an inspiration for others to explore and write their own family stories." *How We Survive Here: Families Across Time* provides an ideal way to learn about the history of Ohio and Germany, as well as how to research family history. The letters are about everyday people living their everyday lives. Through these letters

one can peek into the past and receive a true picture of that time, both in Germany and in Cleveland, Ohio.

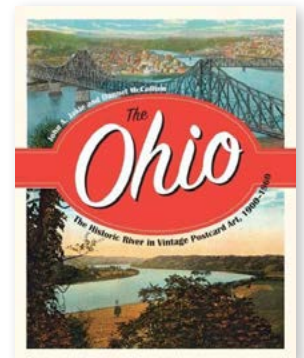
This is a valuable book for providing historical information and a must read for historians, genealogists, and anyone wanting to learn more about the past. After reading *How We Survive Here: Families Across Time*, I am looking forward to *The Last of the Blacksmiths* to discover how this researched material was incorporated into a novel.

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR,  
COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

### **Jakle, John A., and Dannell McCollum.** ***The Ohio: The Historic River in Vintage Postcard Art, 1900-1960.***

Kent State University Press (Kent, OH) 2017. PB \$24.95.

In my late secondhand/antiquarian bookshop, the Acorn Bookshop in the Grandview neighborhood of Columbus, we used to buy and sell vintage postcards. They were among my favorite things for they took the viewer back to the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. I'm a sucker for nostalgia, and love to see places and things the way they were – especially on vintage postcards with their unique presentation.



For my brother's fiftieth birthday, I found vintage postcards of our hometown of New Castle, Pennsylvania, and loaded them into an album for him. He loved it!

The gift for those of us who are interested in the Ohio River is *The Ohio: The Historic River in Vintage Postcard Art, 1900-1960*. In it I found a terrific look at the river that I have lived near all my life displayed in wonderful vintage postcards. John A. Jakle and Dannell McCollum assembled and presented more than 169 postcards that illustrate the 961 miles of the Ohio River and its environs from Pittsburgh to Cairo.

Most of the cities along the riverbank are represented in these inexpensive souvenirs sent home by traveling folks wanting to stay in touch and perhaps brag a little about their adventures away from their front porch.

Some of the more interesting cards are of lesser-known towns, such as Gallipolis, Ohio; Tell City, Indiana; and Cave-in-Rock, Illinois. City docks and new skyscrapers, steamboats and smokestack factories, vintage bridges, cars, and trains liven up these cards, and the reader enjoys a sightseeing voyage downriver from Pittsburgh's Point, where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers join to create the river the Iroquois called "Oyo," meaning "great river," according to [ohiohistorycentral.org](http://ohiohistorycentral.org). Naturally, where a river flows, there have been regular instances of overflowing. Postcards of flooding in Wheeling, West Virginia; Louisville, Kentucky; and Shawneetown, Illinois, illustrate the horror of just too much of the Ohio.

The authors introduce this fascinating book by offering some history of the region, providing a context for the mighty river. The reader can skip the introductory text and jump right to the addictive postcards, but the front matter provides much enjoyment of its own. The book also serves as an interesting introduction to the art of postcard production, which helps us understand the reason postcards look the way they do. I especially like the symmetry of the postcards showing the headwaters of the Ohio in Pittsburgh and the mouth of it in Cairo. They would make an interesting framed pair.

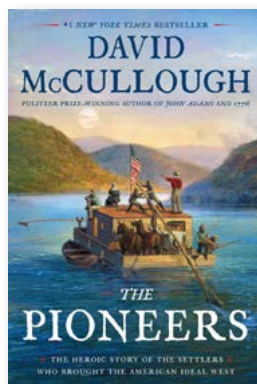
*The Ohio: The Historic River in Vintage Postcard Art, 1900-1960*, is a book you'll want to check out for a few hours of entertaining armchair and time travel.

GEORGE COWMEADOW BAUMAN LOVES BOOKS, TRAVELING, AND VINTAGE TRAVEL BOOKS. HE WAS THE CO-OWNER OF THE ACORN BOOKSHOP IN THE GRANDVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD OF COLUMBUS

### **McCullough, David. *The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West*.**

Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2019. HB \$30.00.

The Northwest Ordinance, adopted on July 13, 1787, by America's Confederation Congress, provided a method for our fledgling country to admit new states into the union. The newly drawn Northwest Territory, nearly 566,000 square miles in size, would eventually become



Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The significance of the ordinance – three provisions in particular – would echo down the decades and alter, irrevocably, the course of our country's history, according to author David McCullough.

Article I of the ordinance called for freedom of religion in the territory. Article III stated, "Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to the good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be forever encouraged," which is carved above the Class Gateway of Ohio University, an institution that Northwest Ordinance co-author Manasseh Cutler was instrumental in founding in 1804.

But it was Article VI that was most significant to future generations, ensuring as it did that "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory." Not quite four score years later, the dynamic established by Article VI, that slavery would be forbidden in the five new states, led finally to the Civil War. (In a dramatic moment from *The Pioneers*, legislator Ephraim Cutler, urged on by General Putnam, leaves his sick bed in the state capital, then located in Chillicothe, in order to vote against allowing slavery in Article VIII of the Ohio Constitution. The measure to allow slavery in the state was defeated by a single vote.)

McCullough is unabashed in his assessment of his five primary pioneers – Manasseh Cutler, Ephraim Cutler, General Rufus Putnam, Joseph Barker, and Samuel Hildreth – who, under the auspices of the Ohio Company of Associates, settled just north of the Ohio River directly across from Virginia, at a town they called Marietta after the French queen, Marie Antoinette. The five were, in the author's estimation, American heroes.

In lesser hands, this story of our country's western expansion could have been dull. After all, Manasseh Cutler was a preacher, his son Ephraim a politician and jurist, Barker a carpenter and Hildreth a doctor. Only Putnam, who commanded two regiments at the Battle of Saratoga during the Revolutionary War, was a hero in the traditional sense of the word.

But McCullough wastes no time establishing the drama of his story, entering deftly into the mind of Manasseh Cutler as he embarks on a journey from Massachusetts to New York, to lobby Congress for passage of the Northwest Ordinance:



“Never before, as he knew, had any of his countrymen set off to accomplish anything like what he had agreed to undertake – a mission that, should he succeed, could change the course of history in innumerable ways and to the long-lasting benefit of countless Americans.”

In an interview with the Associated Press, McCullough explained that he is most interested in “people who set out to do something that is thought to be impossible. And how they run into more complicated turns and tests of their fortune than they ever imagined or expected, and how they don’t give up.”

McCullough’s pioneers faced obstacles both large and small as they carved out a New England in miniature along the Ohio River. First, they had to clear the land of massive trees (oak, beech, hickory, ash, buckeye, and more, in profusion) in order to build their homes and cultivate crops. They faced one plague after another, first smallpox, then measles, then smallpox again, and influenza, illnesses that “carried off” dozens upon dozens of pioneers. When the Ohio River froze during the winter, cutting off desperately needed supplies from Pittsburgh, the early pioneers nearly starved to death.

But they never wavered, and the population of what would become the state of Ohio grew from the original forty-eight men who settled Marietta in 1788 to more than 45,000 in 1800 to more than 230,000 in 1810. (McCullough picks up his story in 1787 and concludes it in 1863).

The pioneers may have shaped U.S. history, but they did so at the expense of the American Indians, including the Miamis, the Delawares, and the Wyandots, who already inhabited the “wilderness” of the Northwest Territory. Of the native inhabitants, McCullough says little. He dispenses with them quickly in order to tell a different story, that of the founding of Marietta and establishment of the five states of the Northwest Territory. He is mostly interested in American Indians, as evidenced by his Index, “as threat to settlers.” The natives have no agency in the story, no voice.

McCullough’s five principal characters are men of their times. In a letter to George Washington, General Putnam writes that the pioneers are “disposed to live in friendship with our savage neighbors if possible.” After visiting Marietta in 1788, Manasseh Cutler was pleased to write, “We have had Indians dine with us almost every day.” But he later complained about Indians

standing about his quarters in the evening, “the squaws mostly drunk.” Eventually, McCullough succumbs to the early eighteenth-century pioneer mindset himself: as the United States Army under General Arthur St. Clair retreated after the battle that came to be known simply as St. Clair’s Defeat, McCullough writes, “The only hope was that the savages would be so taken up with plunder of the camp as not to follow after.” But McCullough does write about the atrocities some settlers visited upon the Indians, quoting pioneer Ichabod Nye, who wrote, “Some whites are more savage than the Indians.”

In his Acknowledgments, McCullough explains why he was excited to write *The Pioneers*, because it gave him “the opportunity to write about a cast of real-life characters of historic accomplishment who were entirely unknown to most Americans.” In this effort, he succeeds splendidly.

If McCullough, as one reviewer put it, writes American Indians out of *The Pioneers*, he does so to concentrate on his primary sources, the voluminous diaries, letters, and memoirs written by his pioneer heroes and housed at the Marietta College Library. (He describes Special Collections Manager Linda Showalter as “the remarkable keeper of the treasures.”) He breathes life into his characters with a purpose, “to bring them center stage and tell their amazing and, I felt, important story.”

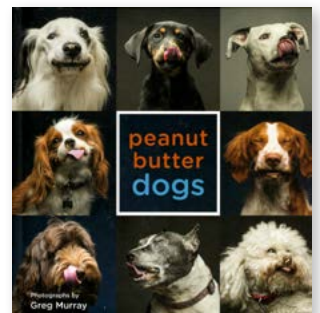
REVIEWED BY BILL EICHENBERGER, A WRITER AND EDITOR FOR THE OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION’S MEMBERSHIP PUBLICATION, ECHOES MAGAZINE. HE PREVIOUSLY WORKED FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AT THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH.

### **Murray, Greg. *Peanut Butter Dogs*.**

Gibbs Smith Publishing (Kaysville, UT) 2017. HC \$14.99.

This book has pictures by photographer Greg Murray of dogs eating peanut butter. Murray designed this book with one picture of a dog enjoying peanut butter on each page, and if the dog was extremely cute, they got to be on two pages! *Peanut Butter Dogs* is not only filled with cute

(and slobbery) dogs but also with funny and sometimes sad stories. It is of interest to all ages, whether you want to read the descriptions or just look at the pictures.



One of the stories describes how, in 2013, Greg and his wife adopted their first dog, Leo. Only a year later, they adopted their second dog, a mastiff named Bailey, rescued from a backyard breeding situation when she was just a year old. She was very skinny and scared, but soon got used to her life in a house. Even though she lived to only about the age of two and a half, the Murrys were able to give her a wonderful 540 days of happiness and joy. Bailey was Greg's inspiration for the book, one of more than 150 dogs eating peanut butter in this book, 80 percent being rescue dogs.

This book has a dog of every personality, from an English bulldog that likes to eat watermelon, to a greyhound who is a race dog, and even a mutt who wandered into a bar and was the crowd's entertainment until her owner found her! Look at page 113 and you will find the oldest dog in the book, a bull terrier named Mama Gris Gris who, though rescued at age thirteen, is still as playful as a puppy. Don't forget to check out page 63. It has the cutest animal (in our opinion) ... a pug named Goombah!! We hope you read this book because it is truly cute! We loved it.

REVIEWED BY AUDREY CASEY, CLAIRE DIZON, AND CHRISTINA MASSIMIANI FORM IV STUDENTS AT THE COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

### **Taylor-Lehman, Dylan. *Dance of the Trustees: On the Astonishing Concerns of a Small Ohio Township.***

Trillium/Ohio State University Press (Columbus, OH) 2018.  
HC \$21.95.

In the right hands, the minutiae of life can be quite interesting. Think of Jane Austen and Charles Dickens. Annie Dillard and Margaret Mitchell. Stephen King and Nora Roberts. Most good books, fiction and nonfiction, are enriched by the details of human circumstance, which can lead to a better understanding of the motives of characters and institutions.

In *Dance of the Trustees*, Taylor-Lehman writes about the minutiae of the (Ohio) Miami Township Board of Trustees. The curious reader who stays with the author

will be amply rewarded with quite an interesting tale of civic disputation.

That board in 2015 took up for consideration the topic of whether the existence of a local Yellow Springs bed-and-breakfast was within the township's laws. Neighbors had complained about the noise and number of strangers in their midst, while others defended the business's right to host overnighters at their establishment.

At the board's meetings, citizens became quite upset about the question and about the board's indecision on the issue despite multiple meetings over a lengthy period of time. Most civic institutions – large and small – experience such contentiousness regarding their deliberations.

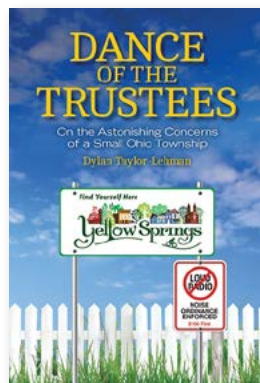
Sounds mundane, doesn't it? Not in this author's hands, for he's quite interested in the story and the way citizens and their officials work – or fight – with one another. Ohio-born Taylor-Lehman finds this Yellow Springs dilemma fascinating; he writes about it with humor and compassion for all those involved, a challenging balancing act.

He does take off on tangents – the kind we used to try to get our school teachers to follow rather than that day's official assignments. Taylor-Lehman would have made a good teacher, for he seemingly zips off-topic, only to circle around and relate the digression to the civic situation at hand.

This is an intensely researched book with massive amounts of minutiae discovered through the local police blotter, the morgue of the Yellow Springs News, and the many conversations and interviews of the main characters involved with the bed-and-breakfast issue, as well as interested citizens of the township.

Taylor-Lehman is a native of southeastern Ohio. Clearly this book was a labor of love for him.

REVIEWED BY GEORGE COWMEADOW BAUMAN WHO LOVES BOOKS, CATS, AND TRAVELING. HE WAS THE CO-OWNER OF THE ACORN BOOKSHOP IN THE GRANDVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD OF COLUMBUS.



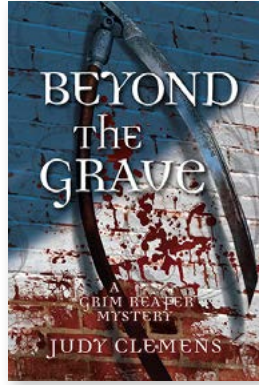


## FICTION

**Clemens, Judy. *Beyond the Grave: A Grim Reaper Mystery #5.***

Poisoned Pen Press (Scottsdale, AZ) 2018. PB \$15.95.

Casey Maldonado travels through Idaho in an attempt to escape memories of the deaths of her husband and son. If she wanted peace of mind and time to commune with nature, she is out of luck, especially with her traveling companion, Death. Of course, Death is invisible to all but Casey, which means she's seen as strange, particularly when conversing with "invisible" people. As luck would have it, Death carries on and on, sometimes with a wicked sense of humor.



Settling temporarily in Armstrong, Idaho, Casey lands in the middle of a half-century feud revolving around her landlady Dottie and her husband Vern. When Dottie dies in the hospital, Casey's troubles increase tenfold. And Death is her companion every step of the way.

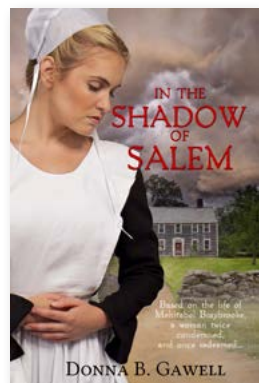
Judy Clemens imbues this troubling paranormal mystery with humorous dialogue between Casey and Death. Their witty repartee takes the edge off the brutality of murder and mayhem in this small rural town. If you like a mystery laced with a little horror with a paranormal twist and humor on the side, *Beyond the Grave* is for you. While this is the fifth in the series, you can read the books in any order.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, M.L.S., PH.D, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OHIO

**Gawell, Donna. *In the Shadow of Salem.***

Heritage Beacon Fiction (Raleigh, NC) 2018. PB \$14.99.

*In the Shadow of Salem* is a fictionalized biography of the life of Mehitabel Baybrooke, an illegitimate child who works as an indentured servant for her



father, Richard Baybrooke, and his wife, Joan Penney. Mehitabel's life is a difficult one as she not only works as a servant in her family's home, but is also sent to work for other families. She's been deemed distrustful, strong headed and wicked, and accused of a number of crimes including arson and witchcraft.

Written from Mehitabel's perspective, readers learn about life in the early colonial period, about life in the era of the Salem Witch Trials in Essex County, Massachusetts, and about abundant superstitions and belief in the devil and evil.

Following the events and milestones in Mehitabel's life and Essex County court records, Gawell fleshes out this biography with imagined dialogue and flowing descriptions. Throughout are examples of character flaws and misunderstood motives that follow Mehitabel throughout her short and troubled life.

This story is perfect for teens who want to learn more about the era of the witchcraft trials and for readers of all ages seeking a better understanding of life in Massachusetts in the late 1600s.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, M.L.S., PH.D, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OHIO

**Hlad, Alan. *The Long Flight Home.***

Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.00.

It's 1940 and England is already suffering under the Blitz, the persistent bombing by the Luftwaffe that seeks to destroy the country's heart and soul. Susan Shepherd and her grandfather, Bertie, raise homing pigeons in the Epping Forest just northeast of London. Their hundreds of pigeons know the way home no matter where they are let loose. These pigeons are conscripted along with thousands of others by the RAF and British Intelligence. Dropped behind enemy lines in German-occupied France, their cages include pencil, paper, and canisters strapped to their legs. The hope is that French resistance fighters and citizens will report on German troop movements and send the pigeons winging home.



Oliver (Ollie) Evans, a potato farmer and crop duster

in Buxton, Maine, wants to fight the Germans. After his parents' tragic death, he makes his way to Britain where he meets Bertie and Susan and helps them with their pigeons. As luck would have it, he ends up behind enemy lines in France and manages to send messages back to Epping Forest via Susan's pigeons.

The story weaves back and forth between Susan and Ollie, their passion for flying and for saving England from the Nazis. Susan and her grandfather work diligently with their pigeons, sending as many as possible across the channel. They also suffer, like all in the vicinity of London, through nightly bombing raids that hit awfully close to home. At the same time, Ollie must regain his health, evade the Nazis, and make his way home – or rather back to England. Taken in by a widowed French woman, Ollie survives with her help and finds a way south to Spain and ultimately Britain.

Hlad pens a breathless piece of historical fiction illuminating yet another lesser-known piece of WWII history, the National Pigeon Service. Eschewing the notion of an epistolary novel, Hlad uses chapters that alternate between Susan and Ollie, shifting perspective and dialect as needed.

*The Long Flight Home* pulls at patriotic heartstrings, laced with a dose of romance. Readers will be drawn into the story, soar with the pigeons, and dive into a period of history we all find fascinating. A must read for 2019.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, M.L.S., PH.D, LIBRARIAN,  
COLUMBUS, OHIO

### Schullery, Paul. *Diamond Jubilee: Sherlock Holmes, Mark Twain, and the Peril of the Empire*.

MX Publishing (London, UK). 2018. PB \$14.95.

If “The game is afoot!” gets your mind racing and your heart pounding, you may be one of the thousands of Sherlockians (U.S.) or Holmesians (U.K.) populating the more than 300 official and unofficial Sherlock Holmes societies throughout the world. But even if you are not, there is ample time – and reading matter – to become a follower.



Thanks to London's MX Publishing, which has published more than 100 authors and 200 books in the Sherlock Holmes tradition, readers won't run out of stories about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's detective any time soon.

Joining the ranks of MX authors – and other such well-known fanfiction writers as Michael Chabon, Philip Pullman, Neil Gaiman, and fellow Ohio writer Geoffrey Landis – Paul Schullery has written *Diamond Jubilee*, set in late Victorian London and featuring Holmes, Dr. Watson, and the world renowned author of *Huckleberry Finn*, who join forces to solve two recent break-ins – one at the place where Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain) and his family are staying in Chelsea, and the second at Holmes' own quarters at 221B Baker Street.

Their search for the intruder leads them through underground passages beneath the London docks, on a harrowing horse-and-coach chase, through a deadly exchange of gunfire, and finally to a daring water rescue that saves the bound-and-gagged Watson from a watery grave. Ultimately, everyone converges on the Diamond Jubilee Procession, where disaster is narrowly averted and a surprising twist awaits the reader.

But, to paraphrase Mark Twain himself, the pleasure is not in the tale but in the telling, and Schullery's mastery of Conan Doyle's style and his knowledge of late-Victorian British and American history both edifies and delights.

My favorite “insider references” include Watson's recollection, in the first few pages, of “the beastly business in Mullion Cove in March” (which requires some sleuthing to make the connections to the Holmes “canon” —my favorite being that in 1910 Doyle wrote *The Devil's Foot* based on a previous stay there) and “the matter of the Tibetan entomologist,” which alludes to the years Holmes traveled to India and Tibet after faking his own death in 1891.

Favorite historical moments in the story include the rat-baiting scene, where Schullery describes the popular British blood sport in exacting and skin-crawling detail, and of course, the 1897 Diamond Jubilee Procession itself, with seventy-eight-year-old Queen Victoria surpassing King George III as the longest reigning British monarch.

But my truly favorite moment in the book occurs early on when Clemens mentions to Holmes and Watson that,

later, he just might write about his experiences with Holmes—an allusion to *A Double Barrelled Detective Story*, Mark Twain’s satire published in 1902 in which Holmes travels to the American West to help his nephew, Fetlock Jones, “solve” a mystery that really is no mystery to the nephew.

Both the initiated and the uninitiated will enjoy reading this excellent addition to Sherlock Holmes fanfiction, the initiated for the familiar references they will discover, and the uninitiated for the delightful introduction to Arthur Conan Doyle’s turn-of-the-century world and characters.

REVIEWED BY KATE FOX, POET AND FREELANCE WRITER WHO LIVES IN ATHENS, OHIO

## POETRY

### Ramspeck, Doug. *Black Flowers*.

Louisiana State University Press (Baton Rouge, LA) 2018. PB \$18.95.

Doug Ramspeck is an associate professor of English at Ohio State University and the author of six books of poetry. His seventh collection, *Black Flowers*, offers a relentless, often ghostly, plowing through the furrows of the past. Divided into three sections – “Conjuring,” “Claiming,” and “Burying” – the poet establishes in the first grouping the tone and the thematic elements that will carry throughout the collection. In the opening poem, “Winter Fever,” the narrator observes his father, who will eventually leave the family, gutting a deer while his younger self muses on the scene. The boy-become-man observes that the father carried the deer over his shoulders the same way he carried the boy to bed when he was younger. Thus begins the journey through the years as memories recur in which the poet “...listened/ for the syntax of immensity...” (“Fanfare,” p. 17).



The poems in the initial section introduce recurring images: fields, river, mud, an assortment of birds, as well as the themes of family connections, aging, love,

and death. The coupling of the natural world with the nature of man’s passage through it provides surprising and powerful images for the reader to contemplate. As the poet moves forward in time, the poems in the second section shift to contemplating love and loss. Here there are lines that recount moments shared with a lover, with a brother, a father, a wife. In this middle section, the reader finds the first mention of the book’s title. “Moon Letters” begins “When my wife sees our son throwing stones/into the river, she imagines the moon....” The verse unwinds to reveal the sorrow of losing their first child to miscarriage, which leads to “...the hours sifting like embalming fluid/through our limbs, burrowing inside bones that are/hollowed out, tunneled with grief, black flowers/in night’s garden” (p. 43). Thus, the poems resolve, like binoculars, adjusting their focus, into blossoms of loss. Later, in the third section, Ramspeck will remind us in the title poem “Black Flowers” of old men dreaming, “of clouds that turn white by day, to blood at dusk, to ash and then black flowers in the dark” (p. 60).

In this volume, Ramspeck eschews formal structure. The majority of the verses are in non-rhyming couplets. A few are prose poems. All rely on the images in the field and sky to reflect the emotional landscape of the soul. Crows, ravens, grackles, owls, and bats occupy the visual as well as the spiritual plane. Dead animals bleed red upon the snow, while in the garden the poet-narrator unearths a possum skull, which echoes the woodchuck skull his father gifted to his mother before they separated. These are poems to read and re-read, unearthing new meaning with each successive pass.

The final poem, “Naming the Field,” returns to many of the images presented throughout the book. We are reminded once again of a boy who died in the river, of the dead deer, of birds who act as omens and messengers, of the importance of reclaiming all that has gone before: “The problem/with memory” Ramspeck writes, “is that it can’t tell itself/from snow coming down in winter,/ from owl calls at night...” (p. 68). The joining of the natural world with memory is complete.

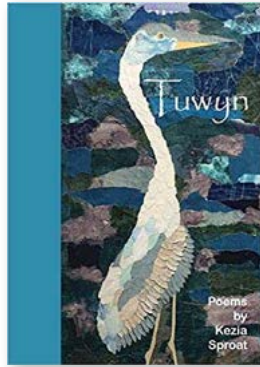
REVIEWED BY J. E. (JANET) IRVIN, AUTHOR OF *THE DARK END OF THE RAINBOW* AND *THE RULES OF THE GAME*. HER POETRY HAS APPEARED IN *FLIGHTS* AND *MOCK TURTLE ZINE*.



**Sproat, Kezia. *Tuwyn*.**

Skye's the Limit (Galena, OH) 2018. PB \$8.99.

Kezia Sproat's book of poetry, divided into four sections, shows how a poet's craft evolves over time. There are sections that rely more heavily on repetition and anaphora. There are occasional rhyming couplets. Several poems mention locations in central and southern Ohio; "OSU, The Oval at Noon" cites "the Faculty Club" (p. 31). Sproat also has a playful humor and somewhat satiric tone.



Some of her poems read as Thurberesque. One instance of this is in "A Cold in January" where the author coins the term "Vaporubist" for a person who creates art from "Vaporub and steamed-water design" (p. 33). Sproat takes an ordinary thing, like having a cold, as inspiration to create such a surrealistic artist as a Vaporubist.

The heart of *Tuwyn* is that the author is always taking us on another turn, further into the labyrinth. We don't know what's next, and that may be one kernel of advice that Sproat is sharing with us: to enjoy each moment and revel in the poetic detail of our everyday lives.

Sproat creates quite unique titles. Her titles lead us into the depths of imagery, such as the poem "To the Man Who Abandoned Our Children Ten Years Ago." This highly specific title focuses the poem into the first line by setting the scene: "I worry when the dog barks at night/ who it is./This dog doesn't know you" (p. 87). One decade has passed, and already there is a new member of the family, one that had no memories of the man who left. By comparing her other pet, now a grown cat, "waiting for you as Odysseus's dog waited for him," there is a glimmer of hope as to whether this man will return. Instead, this poem is charged with realism instead of happy endings. This is one way that Sproat's final lines lean into the unexpected.

"A Valentine for My Dead Sister" is another example of how Sproat shapes her titles to bring us into her contemporary vision of poetry. Again, this poem opens with a zinger of a first line that grounds us: "The women that we used to be" (p. 41). The premise of this poem is bittersweet, as the poem steps back into grade school

days of wearing uniforms, but always with a twist. In this case, the oldest students in the school "dream what's underneath our plaid starched dresses / but do not read our writings, hear our songs" (p. 41). The poem closes with lines that look forward, a place that the dead sister will never know, "press our faces on the window of the future, / cloud it with our breath" (p. 41).

One of the strongest poems in this collection focuses on imagery: "Asthma in October." The first line, "I am a tree woman" (p. 21) grows with movement and sway, taking the reader through the landscape and comparing this natural movement to a swim in the ocean. The author here establishes her environmental position, and then dives into her social commentary with the final lines "leaves attached / green in leaf-life, / holding on, resisting the/great and lovely force that is the wind,/but dancing with it" (p. 21). With a book cover featuring a great blue heron, and these tight lines of poetry one still sees the humor breaking through, as the title brings us back to the condition of asthma, a roadblock to breathing the fresh air. Again, we are between worlds, between the human and the natural world, as we prepare for yet another turn, another dance, another improvisation when we don't know the steps.

*Tuwyn* is an invitation to always keep moving, always take a new pathway, a new turn, and to be open to the mystery of it all.

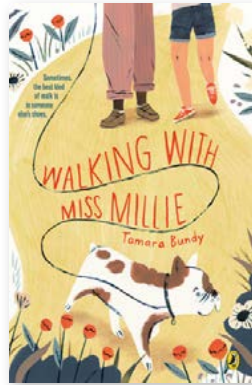
REVIEWED BY ANNE RUNDLE, POET AND TESTING CENTER COORDINATOR AT COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## MIDDLE GRADE & CHILDREN'S

### **Bundy, Tamara. *Walking with Miss Millie*.**

Penguin Random House (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$16.99.

*Walking with Miss Millie* is about a girl named Alice who moves to Rainbow, Georgia, from Ohio because her grandma is sick and cannot take care of herself. Alice doesn't want to move to the small town of Rainbow. A little while after they move, Alice runs into Miss Millie, who is her grandmother's next-door neighbor, but she has to break the ice and strike up a conversation.



A few weeks later Alice decides that she wants to call her dad, whom she hasn't seen in six months, but her grandma has a landline. Before she can call her dad, she hears other people talking as if the wires were crossed on the landline. She is about to put the phone down, but Alice hears a familiar voice; Miss Millie is one of the two people talking. Alice knows that she shouldn't keep on listening and is about to stop, but her mother catches her. When Alice tells her that she heard Miss Millie on the phone, her mom tells her to go over to Millie's to apologize and ask if there is anything she can do for her.

Miss Millie accepts the apology and says Alice can help her by walking her dog, Clarence. When Alice tries to walk Clarence he won't budge. So, Miss Millie offers walk with Alice to get Clarence to move. On these walks, which continue throughout the summer, Miss Millie helps Alice come to terms with her new life in Rainbow.

*Walking with Miss Millie* is a well-written book full of emotion and the challenges of moving to a new place. We really enjoyed this book and would recommend it for anyone in the third grade and older because there are topics that may confuse a first- or a second-grader. Tamara Bundy has many connections to Ohio. She went to Ohio State University and also wrote a column for the Cincinnati Post. She currently lives with her family in Cincinnati.

REVIEWED BY LEILA CHAHINE AND LILY SCHNEIDER, FORM IV STUDENTS IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS, COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

### **Derby, Sally. Illustrated by Mika Song. *A New School Year: Stories in Six Voices*.**

Charlesbridge (Watertown, MA) 2017. HC \$16.99.

*A New School Year* is a book of poems about six kids and what they feel the night before school. Ethan, a kid starting kindergarten, is nervous and puts his teddy bear's jacket in his pants pocket so that when he feels nervous, he can touch it and feel comforted. Then the book moves on to different children's perspectives. When the next day arrives, it starts with Mia, who is going into fifth grade. She is so into her book that she forgets about the time and is late for school!



Carlos, who is starting fourth grade, is excited for school to start because he has new black sneakers. When Jackie first walks into her third-grade classroom, she sees something that gives her joy and excitement: a rabbit named Homer. Katie, who is about to start second grade and is sitting on the couch at home, complains that her head and stomach hurt. "It's just butterflies," explains her mom, and Jackie heads off to school. The last child, Zach, isn't used to his new classroom, but his teacher Ms. Wilson, is very kind. So Zach knows he will have a good year.

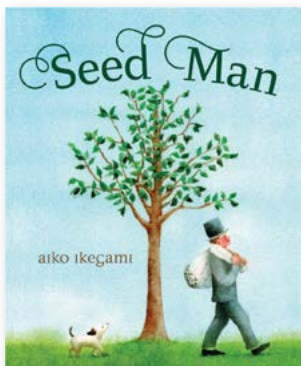
I thought the book was very good because it shows children's different perspectives about starting a new year at school. Readers can reflect on that and feel reassured about starting a new grade. Like Mia, one of the characters in the book, I am starting fifth grade, and this book helped me not be as nervous as I was before. The illustrator, Mika Song, uses soft colors in her illustrations. I am wondering if she used these colors to help the reader feel more calm and comfortable. I definitely recommend this book. I may even read it again next year!

REVIEWED BY MCKENZIE WHEELER, FORM IV STUDENT IN MRS. KESSLER'S CLASS, COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

**Ikegami, Aiko. *Seed Man*.**

Sleeping Bear Press (Ann Arbor, MI) 2018. HC \$16.99.

One day, Seed Man comes to town carrying a bag of magical seeds. When a seed he plants sprouts into a tree, it bears special “fruit” – toys, books, and even a puppy! Fairies come to distribute the gifts all around, spreading joy to those who need it. But not everyone is excited about their gift – especially a lonely man who receives the puppy. As the man’s life is turned upside down by rambunctious puppy antics, the dog accidentally breaks a beloved picture of someone special. Upset, the man sends the puppy away.



Sad and alone without his fuzzy friend, the man soon realizes his mistake. Fortunately, the fairies help to find the puppy again. It is then that the man understands the happiness and hope that Seed Man and the fairies brought him – things he didn’t even know he needed. With the puppy by his side, he sets out to become a Seed Man himself and continue spreading joy to others.

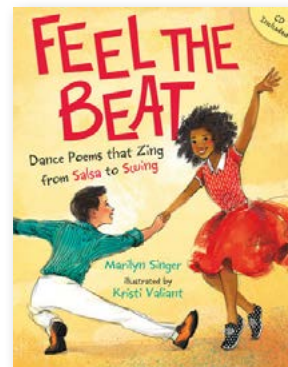
*Seed Man* is a sweet and heartfelt book by author/illustrator Aiko Ikegami. The story shows readers how acts of kindness have a healing power. Through minimal text and beautiful watercolor illustrations, Ikegami tells the story in a uniquely universal way: “the man” is unnamed and it is not stated who he has lost, but any reader can feel his sadness and grief when they see him sitting alone with a photo in his hands. This anonymity is a reminder that everyone experiences times of sorrow and heartache. As the reader follows the man’s journey from gift recipient to a Seed Man himself, it becomes clear that just as everyone faces sadness, everyone also has the power within them to become a “Seed Man” – it only takes a little care and compassion. This is a perfect book for anyone going through sadness of their own, as well as a reminder that everyone can make a difference by spreading happiness and paying kindness forward. With its lovely mix of whimsy and emotion, *Seed Man* is a book that will find a special place in reader’s hearts.

REVIEWED BY KATHRYN POWERS, OHIOANA LIBRARY OFFICE MANAGER, AND VOLUNTEER FOR THE SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS

**Singer, Marilyn. Illustrated by Kristi Valiant. *Feel the Beat: Dance Poems that Zing from Salsa to Swing*.**

Penguin/Dial Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$17.99.

*Feel the Beat* by Marilyn Singer is a poetry book about dancing culture and community. Kristi Valiant, the illustrator, provides vivacious and colorful drawings of dances throughout the book, including the conga, waltz, hip hop, and many more. Every turn of the page shows people of all ages doing fun, happy dances.



One of our favorite poems is “Cha-Cha”. It is a narrative poem in quatrains that takes place at a birthday party where everyone is dancing the Cha-Cha. A little boy tells the story of his Uncle’s Nate’s birthday party and how the music is “old school.” He doesn’t know the steps to the Cha-Cha, but by the end of the poem he manages to dance along with the older people.

Marilyn Singer, the author, expresses happiness in all her poems, and the book is very good at introducing children to the culture of music and dance.

Kristi Valiant, the illustrator, grew up in Wisconsin, but went to Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio. Her illustrations really captured our attention in this book. They depict with brilliant color and great energy the dances Marilyn Singer describes in words.

WRITTEN BY ELLEN HINES AND EMMA BAKER, FORM IV STUDENTS IN MS. KESSLER'S CLASS, COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



# Book List

The following books were added to Ohioana's collection between March and May, 2019. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

## ABOUT OHIO/OHIOAN

**AAC 150.** The Art Academy of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH) 2018. PB \$40.00.

*AAC 150* spans the Art Academy of Cincinnati's history from 1869 – 2018. 144 pages of rare and revealing images that illustrate and illuminate their historic narrative in a five-corner book.

Diller, Philip M. ***Leaving a Legacy: Lessons from the Writing of Daniel Drake.*** The University of Cincinnati Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2019. HC \$34.95.

*Leaving a Legacy* is a selective collection of excerpts from the vast writings from the nineteenth-century doctor and medical pioneer Daniel Drake. From Drake's own words, readers learn about the scope of his accomplishments in medicine, contributions to his community, and dedication to his family.

Douglas, John, and Mark Olshaker. ***The Killer Across the Table: Unlocking the Secrets of Serial Killers and Predators with the FBI's Original Mindhunter.*** Dey St. (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.99. The legendary FBI criminal profiler, New York Times bestselling author, and inspiration for the hit Netflix show, *Mindhunter*, delves deep into the lives and crimes of four of the most disturbing and complex predatory killers. Douglas offers

never-before-revealed details about his profiling process and divulges the strategies used to crack some of America's most challenging cases.

Feather, Carl E. ***Ashtabula Harbor, Ohio: A History of the World's Greatest Iron Ore Receiving Port.*** Feather Cottage (Geneva, OH) 2017. PB \$29.95.

Ashtabula Harbor, Ohio, began receiving ore in 1873 and would grow to become the busiest iron ore receiving port by the turn of the century as two competing railroads operated in the Lake Erie lakefront town. This book is the story of the port's heyday, a rowdy, rough town stocked with immigrants, brothels, bars, and dangerous machinery.

Feather, Carl E. ***Pleasure Ground: 150 Years of Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio's First Summer Resort.*** Feather Cottage (Geneva, OH) 2019. PB \$39.95.

The story of Ohio's oldest summer resort town, Geneva-on-the-Lake, is told through hundreds of historic photographs, first-person interviews, and historical research in this 500-plus page volume.

Feather, Carl E., and Ruth Feather. ***Ashtabula County, Ohio: A Field Guide to the Historical, Natural & Curious Treasures of Ohio's Largest County.*** Feather Cottage (Geneva, OH) 2018. PB \$21.95. This book is a guide to the natural and human history of Ohio's largest county. It offers insights into little-known places, as well as explanations of why things are the way they are. Structures, natural areas, curiosities, gravestones,

memorials and, of course, covered bridges are covered in this book. Includes black-and-white photos, fully indexed with cross references throughout the book and a town-by-town guide to attractions.

Gibans, Nina Freeland. ***Celebrating the Soul of Cleveland.*** Atbosh Media (Cleveland, OH) 2018. PB \$29.99.

*Celebrating the Soul of Cleveland* summarizes a life in Cleveland, a city whose very identity provides sustenance and support to all who welcome it into their heart.

Hand, Greg, ed. ***From the Temple of Zeus to the Hyperloop: University of Cincinnati Stories.*** University of Cincinnati Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2018. HC \$34.95.

As the University of Cincinnati celebrates its bicentennial, students, faculty, staff, and alumni look back on the university's remarkable past and its progression as a pioneer in higher education.

Hazelgrove, William. ***Wright Brothers, Wrong Story: How Wilbur Wright Solved the Problem of Manned Flight.*** Prometheus Books (Amherst, NY) 2018. HC \$24.00.

How could two misanthropic brothers who still lived at home, dropped out of high-school and made a living as bicycle mechanics have figured out the secret of manned flight? This new history of the Wright brothers' monumental accomplishment focuses on their early years of trial and error at Kitty Hawk (1900-1903) and Orville Wright's epic fight with

the Smithsonian Institution and Glenn Curtis. Hazelgrove's richly researched tale of the Wright brothers' landmark achievement, illustrated with rare historical photos, captures the excitement of the times at the start of the "American century."

Hisle, Janice. ***Submerged: Ryan Widmer, His Drowned Bride, and the Justice System***. Chilidog Press (Loveland, OH) 2018. PB \$20.00. A young bride drowns in her bathtub. Her husband of four months is accused of murder. What happened in their tiny suburban bathroom – and why – was never resolved. A true-crime drama based on exclusive new information, *Submerged* exposes hidden angles of a case that captivated and divided an ordinary American community, tore apart two families, and tested the criminal justice system.

Jackson, Lawrence P. ***Chester B. Himes: A Biography***. W. W. Norton & Co. (New York, NY) 2017. HC \$35.00. Chester B. Himes has been called "one of the towering figures of the black literary tradition" (Henry Louis Gates Jr.), "the best writer of mayhem yarns since Raymond Chandler" (San Francisco Chronicle), and "a quirky American genius" (Walter Mosely). He was the twentieth century's most prolific black writer, captured the spirit of his times expertly, and left a distinctive mark on American literature. Yet today he stands largely forgotten.

Leis, Beverly J. Deters, and Roselia C. Deters Verhoff. ***Deters Ancestry: The Dash Between the Dates***.

Hubbard Company (Defiance, OH) 2018. HC No price listed. The genealogy of a family whose first generation came to America in 1823. The descendants of Franz Wilhelm (Frank W.) Deters and Marie Engle (Angela) Recker Deters, 1823-2018.

McCullough, David. ***The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West***. Simon & Schuster (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$30.00. Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough rediscovers an important and dramatic chapter in the American story – the settling of the Northwest Territory by dauntless pioneers who overcame incredible hardships to build a community based on ideals that would come to define our country.

Moore, Constance J., and Nancy M. Broermann. ***Maria Longworth Storer: From Music and Art to Popes and Presidents***. University of Cincinnati Press (Cincinnati, OH) 2019. HC \$30.00. Known as the founder of Rookwood Pottery, the first female-run manufacturing company in the United States, Longworth Storer was passionate about women's rights, her city, and issues of poverty and the arts. She owned Rookwood pottery for nine years, and then transferred ownership after earning recognition at the Exhibition of American Art Industry in Philadelphia and receiving a gold medal at the Exposition Universelle in Paris. Aside from her success with Rookwood, Longworth Storer was central to making the Queen City the major cultural landmark it is today.

Rohr, David E. ***The United States of Ohio: One American State and Its Impact on the Other*** 49. Trillium Books/Ohio State University Press (Columbus, OH) 2019. PB \$21.95. Electoral significance has always distinguished the small northern state sandwiched between Lake Erie and the Ohio River. Only twice since the beginning of the twentieth century has Ohio failed to pick the candidate who ultimately won the presidential election. But presidential elections are only part of the Ohio story. That's because the state has always been an innovator, an incubator, and a bellwether for the American experience. In a unique look at Ohio, Rohr chronicles key stories that come from the Buckeye State and the remarkable effect Ohio's development has had on the larger country.

Schneck, Ken, and Shane McClelland. ***LGBTQ Columbus: Image of Modern America***. Arcadia Publishing (Charleston, SC) 2019. PB \$22.99. Throughout the decades, Columbus has been a central gathering place for Ohioan LGBTQ individuals, creating a timeline of milestones – both big and small – all showcased within the Buckeye State capital. From the hidden joy of the underground Berwick Ball of the 1960s to the unrestrained opulence of the Red Party in the 1970s to the sense of community displayed at the first Columbus Pride Parade in the 1980s, the city has played host to celebrations, struggles, and history.

Suess, Jeff, and Karl Mondon. ***Cincinnati: Then and Now***. Pavilion Books (London, UK) 2018. HC \$19.95.

This book takes readers through the city's storied history and vibrant culture. Beginning at Fountain Square, the heart of the city, the book rolls out to the riverfront, then back downtown and outwards, eventually to the locations outside of the city center.

Taylor-Lehman, Dylan. *Dance of the Trustees: On the Astonishing Concerns of a Small Ohio Township*. Trillium Books/Ohio State University Press (Columbus, OH) 2019. PB \$21.95.

On September 9, 2015, in the quirky village of Yellow Springs, Ohio, the Miami Township Board of Trustees arbitrated a dispute concerning an area bed and breakfast that was apparently causing a lot of problems in the neighborhood where it was located. People were irate – the B&B was considered too loud or unfairly under attack, and the township officials were called incompetent by both sides for not ruling in their favor. The book documents twenty-first-century township life with humor, warmth, and erudition, but also with the scholarship befitting an easy-to-read civics textbook.

Witt, Kathryn. *Secret Cincinnati: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure*. Reedy Press (St. Louis, MO) 2018. PB \$20.95. Is it safe to photograph bobolinks at a once-contaminated nuclear weapons plant? Is it possible to channel a medium from whatever realm she inhabits in the afterlife? Is that really a bathtub hanging from the ceiling? *Secret Cincinnati* is an exuberant shout-out to all that makes Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky the sometimes weird and always wonderful place it is.

## NONFICTION

Blundo, Joe. *Does That Make Sense? The Best of Joe Blundo*. Trillium Books/Ohio State University Press (Columbus, OH) 2019. PB \$21.95.

Joe Blundo began his writing career at the Columbus Dispatch in 1978 and has been writing about Columbus ever since. In 1997, Joe was given his own column, "So to Speak," which quickly became one of the most popular sections of the paper. Raccoon dinners, Abe Lincoln impersonators, and things in nature that aren't fair are just a few of the topics Blundo explores in this collection of the best of his newspaper columns.

Cordi, Kevin. *You Don't Know Jack: A Storyteller Goes to School*. University Press of Mississippi (Jackson, MO) 2019. PB \$30.00. Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Jack Horner, and Jack the Giant Killer are all famous tales and rhymes featuring the same hero, a character who often appears in legends, fairy tales, and nursery rhymes. Unlike moralizing fairy tale heroes, however, Jack is typically depicted as foolish or lazy, though he often emerges triumphant through cleverness and tricks. With their roots traced back to England, Jack tales are an important oral tradition in Appalachian folklore.

DiFrancesco, Alex. *Psychopomps*. Civil Coping Mechanisms (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$15.95. In 2010, Alex DiFrancesco had a different name and was a missing person. Alone in a mental hospital, they began to have fantasies of running away permanently,

changing their name, growing a beard. On their journey to coming out as transgender, DiFrancesco moved from New York City to the Midwest. *Psychopomps* follows them on the search for family, marriage, relationships with other trans people, attempts to build community, and the elusive link to ancient beliefs about the special spiritual role of the transgender individual in society.

Oller, John. *White Shoe: How a New Breed of Wall Street Lawyers Changed Big Business and the American Century*. Dutton (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$30.00.

The legal profession once operated on a smaller scale – folksy lawyers arguing for fairness and justice before a judge and jury. But by the year 1900, a new type of lawyer was born, one who understood business as well as the law. Working hand in glove with their clients, over the next two decades these New York City "white shoe" lawyers devised and implemented legal strategies that would drive the business world throughout the twentieth century. The story of this small but influential band of Wall Street lawyers who created big business is fully told for the first time.

Plunkett, William E. *The G-Men and the Nurse: A 1929 FBI Washington Cold Case*. Orange Frazer Press (Wilmington, OH) 2018. HC \$19.95.

It was the sensational Washington, D.C., death case that punctuated the end of the Roaring Twenties. The victim was an attractive young nurse found semi-nude in her apartment with a pajama cord around her neck. Detectives said it was a suicide, but a maverick patrolman thought



otherwise and took on the entire metropolitan police force to try and prove it.

## FICTION

DiFrancesco, Alex. ***All City***. Seven Stories Press (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$17.95.

In a near-future New York City ravaged by climate change and economic inequality, a superstorm hits, leaving behind only those who have no way to get out and nowhere else to go. Among those who remain are twenty-four-year-old Makayla, who works in the city's most ubiquitous convenience store chain, and Jesse, an eighteen-year-old, genderqueer anarchist living in an abandoned IRT station in the Bronx.

Flower, Amanda. ***Toxic Toffee: An Amish Candy Shop Mystery***. Kensington (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$7.99.

Bailey King is in New York City, wrapping up a six-week shoot on her first cable TV show, "Bailey's Amish Sweets," when she gets a call from her Ohio hometown's resident busybody. With Easter around the corner, Bailey's been recruited to create a giant toffee bunny for the weeklong springtime festival that will also feature live white rabbits. But back home in Harvest, death becomes the main attraction when Stephen Raber keels over from an apparent heart attack – with Bailey and Raber's pet bunny as witnesses. Except it wasn't Raber's heart that suddenly gave out – a lethal dose of lily of the valley was mixed into a tasty piece of toffee.

Hlad, Alan. ***The Long Flight Home***. John Scognamiglio/Kensington Books (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.00.

It is September 1940 – a year into the war – and as German bombs fall on Britain, fears grow of an impending invasion. Enemy fighter planes blacken the sky around the Epping Forest home of Susan Shepherd and her grandfather, Bertie. After losing her parents to influenza as a child, Susan found comfort in raising homing pigeons with Bertie. Thousands of miles away in Buxton, Maine, a young crop-duster pilot named Ollie Evans has decided to travel to Britain to join the Royal Air Force. His quest brings him to Epping and to the National Pigeon Service, where Susan is involved in a new, covert assignment. Codenamed "Source Columba," the mission aims to air-drop hundreds of homing pigeons into German-occupied France.

Keller, Julia. ***Summer of the Dead***. Minotaur Books (New York, NY) 2015. PB \$15.99.

High summer in Acker's Gap, West Virginia – but no one's enjoying the rugged natural landscape. Not while a killer stalks the small town and its hard-luck inhabitants. County prosecutor Bell Elkins and Sheriff Nick Fogelson are stymied by a murderer who seems to come and go like smoke on the mountain. At the same time, Bell must deal with the return from prison of her sister, Shirley – who, like Bell, carries the indelible scars of a savage past.

Overbeck, Randy. ***Blood on the Chesapeake***. Wild Rose Press (New York, NY) 2019. PB \$18.99.

Wilshire, Maryland, a quaint shore town on the Chesapeake, promises

Darrell Henshaw a new start in life and a second chance at love. That is, until he learns the town hides an ugly secret: a thirty-year-old murder in the high school and a frightening ghost stalking his new office. Burned by an earlier encounter with the spirit world, Darrell doesn't want to get involved, but when the desperate ghost hounds him, he concedes.

Rouda, Kaira. ***The Favorite Daughter***. Graydon House (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) 2019. HC \$26.00.

The perfect home. The perfect family. The perfect lie. Jane Harris lives in a sparkling home in an oceanfront gated community in Orange County. It's a place that seems too beautiful to be touched by sadness. But exactly one year ago, Jane's oldest daughter, Mary, died in a tragic accident and Jane has been grief-stricken ever since. Lost in a haze of anti-depressants, she's barely even left the house. Now that's all about to change.

## POETRY

Baker, David. ***Swift: New & Selected Poems***. W. W. Norton (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$26.95.

A sweeping achievement, *Swift* represents David Baker's evolution as one of American poetry's most significant voices. Gathering poems from eight collections – including the widely acclaimed *Changeable Thunder* (2001) and his masterful latest, *Scavenger Loop* (2015) – and adding three suites of new poems, David Baker proves himself once again "the most expansive and moving poet to come out of the American Midwest since James Wright" (Marilyn Hacker).

Bennett, John M. ***Dropped in the Dark Box***. Luna Bisonte Prods (Columbus, OH) 2019. PB \$15.00. "Poetry makes things happen, makes us happy, makes us happy by making things happen. Concoct meanings as you wish, sort and sift them at your pleasure, discard them in the end and simply (which in context means complexly) enjoy the machinery of the poem at work." This is the what and the why of many a Bennett poem.

Bennett, John M. ***The Inexplicaciones of the Dreams of Bibiana Padilla Maltos***. Luna Bisonte Prods (Columbus, OH) 2016. PB \$15.00. Poet John M. Bennett interprets, deinterprets, explains, and generally expands upon the dreams of Fluxus artist Bibiana Padilla Maltos.

Bennett, John M. ***la M al***. Luna Bisonte Prods (Columbus, OH) 2015. PB \$15.00. From the opening poem, "... mumbling in the/attic 'roof' out there, mud beyond my head," this revised and definitive second edition of John M. Bennett's classic *La M al* confirms its position as one of the poet's best works.

Bennett, John M. ***Mirrors Máscaras***. Luna Bisonte Prods (Columbus, OH) 2014. PB \$25.00. *Mirrors Máscaras* is the third volume in John M. Bennett's major series focused on particular topics that consists, so far, of *LIBER X* and *OLVIDOS*.

Bennett, John M. ***Olvidos***. Luna Bisonte Prods (Columbus, OH) 2013. PB \$26.00. "Bennett has been the avant in avant-garde in the latter half of the

twentieth century with his *Lost and Found Times*, one of the great 'small press poetry rags' of all time, and then through his Luna Bisonte Prods press. *Ovid's* ('Memories'; though the word also and literally means 'things forgotten') is quite possibly his masterpiece.... This is an important work and should place Bennett centrally on the map of great, innovative American poets." – Ivan Argüelles.

Bennett, John M. ***Select Poems***. Poetry Hotel Press (San Francisco, CA) 2016. PB \$22.49. A selection from more than forty years of Bennett's work, introduced by Ivan Argüelles.

Bennett, John M. ***Sesos Extremos: Poetry October 2014-January 2015***. Luna Bisonte Prods (Columbus, OH) 2018. PB \$13.00. "After having read John M. Bennett's poetry almost daily for twenty plus years, you would think I would have something very definite to say about it, but if there's one thing I've learned from reading it all these years, is that things can change in an instant...." – from the Postscript by Lanny Quarles.

Bennett, John M. ***Sole Dadas & Prime Sway***. Luna Bisonte Prods (Columbus, OH) 2013. PB \$14.00. Bennett's transduction of Sor Juana's *Primero Sueño* was written, he has said, by "pretending I don't know Spanish and writing it out (reading it) as if it were English."

Bennett, John M. ***The Sticky Suit Whirs: Los Preolvidados***. Luna Bisonte Prods (Columbus, OH) 2013. PB \$10.00. At sixty-seven pages, this short book has an intensity of expression and

a swarming variety of voices unlike any other writing you can find.

Bennett, John M. ***Vertical Sleep***. Luna Bisonte Prods (Columbus, OH) 2015. PB \$10.00. The 2015 collection by the prolific John M. Bennett.

Bennett, John M. ***The World of Burning***. Luna Bisonte Prods (Columbus, OH) 2017. PB \$20.00. John M. Bennett's poetry encapsulates the chaos characterizing our experience of and in this world, giving it a form and presence in words, phonemes, languages, and metaphor so compact and multi-meaningful, so ambiguous, that his poems glitter in their condensed expressive emotionality.

Borsenik, Dianne. ***Raga for What Comes Next***. Stubborn Mule Press (Devil's Elbow, MO) 2019. PB \$15.00. Raga: a melodic framework for improvisation. This is the newest collection of poetry from Dianne Borsenik, prolific poet and editor/publisher of NightBallet Press.

Gundy, Jeff. ***Without a Plea***. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2019. PB \$16.00. The eighth poetry collection from Ohioana Award finalist and Ohio Poet of the Year Jeff Gundy.

Smith, Larry. ***The Pears: Poems***. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2019. PB \$15.00. The new collection from prolific poet and founder of Bottom Dog Press, Larry Smith.



## YOUNG ADULT & MIDDLE GRADE

Cannon, Sarah. ***Oddity***. Square Fish (New York, NY) 2017. PB \$7.99. Welcome to Oddity, New Mexico, where normal is odd and odd is normal. Ada Roundtree is no stranger to dodging carnivorous dumpsters, distracting zombie rabbits with marshmallows, and instigating games of alien punkball. But things haven't been the same since her twin sister, Pearl, won the town's yearly Sweepstakes and disappeared. Along with her best friend, Raymond, and new-kid-from-Chicago Cayden (whose inability to accept being locked in the gym with live leopards is honestly quite laughable), Ada leads a self-assigned quest to discover Oddity's secrets, even evading the invisible Blurmonster terrorizing the outskirts of town. But one of their missions goes sideways, revealing something hinky with the Sweepstakes... and Ada can't let it go. Because, if the Sweepstakes is bad, then what happened to Pearl?

Dunsky, Martha. Illus. by Monica Wyrick. ***Fire and Forgiveness: A Nun's Truce with General Sherman***. University of South Carolina Press (Columbia, SC) 2019. HC \$18.99. Making peace with her spiteful classmate Clara seems impossible to Jane. Despite encouragement from Mother Baptista, the mother superior at their convent school, Jane and Clara dig in their heels. As the girls brood, they hear the cannons of the Civil War explode outside their school as General Sherman and the Union army attack the city of Columbia, South

Carolina, in February 1865. *Fire and Forgiveness* is a reminder of the important role forgiveness and peacemaking play in life's conflicts big and small, whether between quarreling children, proud adults, or warring nations.

Simmons, Kristen. ***The Glass Arrow***. Tor Teen (New York, NY) 2015. HC \$17.99. Once there was a time when men and women lived as equals, when girls were valued, and women could belong only to themselves.. Only in the wilderness, away from the city, can true freedom be found. Aya has spent her whole life in the mountains, looking out for her family and hiding from the world, until the day the Trackers finally catch her. Stolen from her home, and being groomed for auction, Aya is desperate to escape her fate and return to her family, but her only allies are a loyal wolf she's raised from a pup and a strange mute boy who may be her best hope for freedom . . . if she can truly trust him.

Salas, Laura Purdie. Illus. by Angela Matteson. ***In the Middle of the Night: Poems from a Wide-Awake House***. Wordsong/Highlights (Honesdale, PA) 2019. HC \$17.95. What do the things in your home do when you're asleep? They play, of course! In this compendium of poems by Laura Purdie Salas, everything from stuffed animals to clothing to writing utensils comes to life under the cover of night.

## CHILDREN'S

Rosen, Michael J. Illus. by Annie Won. ***In the Quiet, Noisy Woods***. Doubleday Books for Young Readers (New York, NY) 2019. HC \$17.99. Squirrels chit-chitter-chatter, foxes swoosh-whoosh-rush, a deer stomp-stomp-stamps, and a hawk scree-screes-screes. Into these quiet, NOISY woods, readers follow two frisky wolf pups as they find their way back to their pack. Children will love calling out the interesting animal sounds throughout this enchanting, fast-paced chase through a lush forest.

# Coming Soon

## Thurber's Columbus

through August 18, 2019  
Thompson Library, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

This exhibit explores Thurber's early life, works inspired by his experiences in Columbus, and his legacy in Columbus and beyond. Free and open to the public. For information, visit [www.library.osu.edu/exhibits/thurbers-columbus](http://www.library.osu.edu/exhibits/thurbers-columbus).

## Thurber House Summer Literary Picnics

July 24 – August 21, 2019  
Thurber House, Columbus, Ohio

The thirty-fourth summer season of outdoor picnics continues with Linda Castillo (July 24), Andra Gillum (August 7), and concludes with Ohioana Award-winning poet Ruth Awad (August 21). For more information and tickets visit [www.thurberhouse.org](http://www.thurberhouse.org).

## Ohioana Book Club

August 21, 2019  
10:00 a.m. – noon  
Ohioana Library, Columbus, Ohio

The book for August is Ohioana Award finalist *Tigerland* by Wil Haygood. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

## A Mile and a Half of Lines: The Art of James Thurber

August 24, 2019 – March 15, 2020  
Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio

A special exhibition curated by Michael J. Rosen that showcases the drawings of the Columbus native and beloved humorist. For more information visit [www.columbusmuseum.org](http://www.columbusmuseum.org).

## Carnegie Authors Series: Jesmyn Ward

September 22, 2019  
2 – 3 p.m., Columbus Metropolitan Library's Main Library, Columbus, Ohio

The third annual series of author talks concludes with two-time National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward. The program is free and open to the public, registration begins August 19. For more information, visit [www.columbuslibrary.org/special-events](http://www.columbuslibrary.org/special-events).

## Cleveland Book Week

September 24-29, 2019  
Cleveland, Ohio

The fourth annual literary celebration presents events at venues throughout the city, including the 2019 Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards ceremony on September 26 at the KeyBank State Theatre. For more information, visit [www.clevelandfoundation.org/news/book-week/](http://www.clevelandfoundation.org/news/book-week/).

## Ohioana Book Awards

October 17, 2019  
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Ohio Statehouse Atrium, Columbus

Join us as we celebrate the winners of the 2019 Ohioana Book Awards. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. with a reception followed by the awards presentations and book signing. Tickets go on sale in September. For more information, visit [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org).

Do you have a literary event you'd like to list in the next edition of the *Ohioana Quarterly*? Contact us at [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).



## Thank You!

The Ohioana Library wouldn't be the unique organization it is without our many generous supporters. Listed below are those who have given from March 1, 2019 through May 31, 2019. Special thanks to Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly for the state's ongoing support.

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### \$5,000 – 9,999

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## Why I Support Ohioana

Learning to read is one of the greatest treasures in life, and we celebrate when we get good enough at it to read on our own. We take pride in having mastered the ability, and we want to immerse ourselves in the stories of our choosing. Years later, there is still a joy in carving out a quiet, solitary afternoon and sitting down with a good book.

And yet, as readers, we can't help ourselves. We tell a friend about a book we just read. We join a book club. (Or two.) We read other readers' reviews. We listen to reading-related podcasts. We seek out fictional fellow book nerds in movies (looking at you, Belle and Kathleen Kelly). We ask our librarians for recommendations. And the next thing we know, our reading lives are the farthest thing from solitary. Instead, we look up and find we're part of a huge, wonderful bookish community.

In 2017, I joined the Ohioana Board of Trustees, and just like that Ohioana became part of my reader community. Its book recommendations and reviews have blown up my TBR list. Its programming (the book festival, the book awards, author visits) has introduced me to authors I'd never heard of and events I'd never attended. Its pride in Ohio writers has challenged me to read books I never would've picked up on my own and exposed me to new voices. Its ninety-year journey has encouraged me to participate in critical conversations that will shape the next ninety years.

And I'm better for it.

I support Ohioana because it's an important part of my reading life, my bookish community. Is it part of yours?



Katie Brandt

*Katie Brandt*

Ohioana Board member, Ohioana Book Awards fiction judge, proud reader of Ohio literature

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Date!  
Ohioana  
Annual  
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Oct. 17, 2019**

Join us for the 90th annual meeting of the Ohioana Library Association on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. in Room D of the State Library of Ohio, 274 E. First Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43201. The meeting is free and open to all members of Ohioana; the agenda will include the election of trustees. RSVP by e-mail to [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).