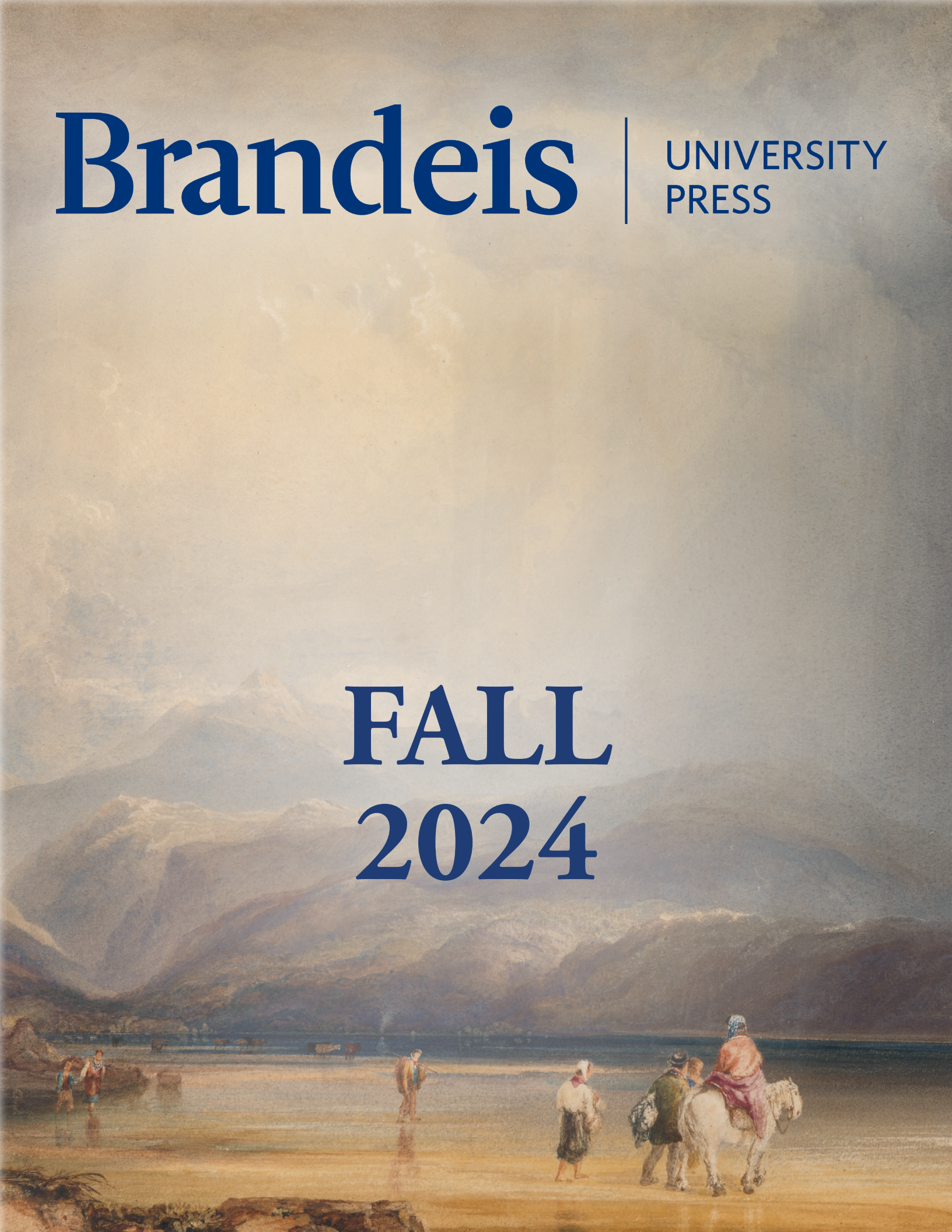


Brandeis

UNIVERSITY
PRESS

FALL 2024



Jewish Country Houses

A Biography

Edited by Juliet Carey & Abigail Green

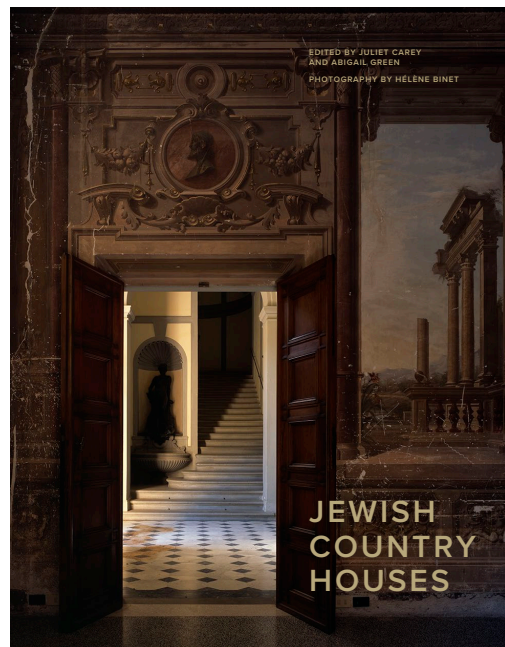
Photography by H el ene Binet

An exploration of the world of Jewish country houses, their architecture and collections, and the lives of the extraordinary men and women who created, transformed and shaped them.

Country houses are powerful symbols of national identity, evoking the glamorous world of the landowning aristocracy. Jewish country houses—properties that were owned, built, or renewed by Jews—tell a more complex story of prejudice and integration, difference and connection. Many had spectacular art collections and gardens. Some were stages for lavish entertaining, while others inspired the European avant-garde. A few are now museums of international importance, many more are hidden treasures, and all were beloved homes that bear witness to the remarkable achievements of newly emancipated Jews across Europe—and to a dream of belonging that mostly came to a brutal end with the Holocaust.

Lavishly illustrated with historical images and a new body of work by the celebrated photographer H el ene Binet, this book is the first to tell their story, from the playful historicism of the National Trust’s Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire to the modernist masterpiece that is the Villa Tugendhat in the Czech city of Brno – and across the pond to the United States, where American Jews infused the European country house tradition with their own distinctive concerns and experiences. This book emerges from a four-year research project funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council that aims to establish Jewish country houses as a focus for research, a site of European memory, and a significant aspect of European Jewish heritage and material culture.

Juliet Carey is senior curator at Waddesdon Manor, UK. **Abigail Green** is an Oxford historian and author of the award-winning *Moses Montefiore: Jewish Liberator, Imperial Hero*. **H el ene Binet** has been described by Daniel Liebeskind as “one of the leading architectural photographers of the world.”



The Tauber Institute Series for the Study of European Jewry

NOVEMBER

300 p. 8 x 10.5

ISBN-13: 978-1-68458-220-4

Cloth \$60.00

ARCHITECTURE / JEWISH HISTORY

The Spice Ports

Mapping the Origins of Global Sea Trade

Nicholas Nugent

A first-class narrative writer blends his unique cartographic and topographic understanding of the key ports of early seaborne commerce.

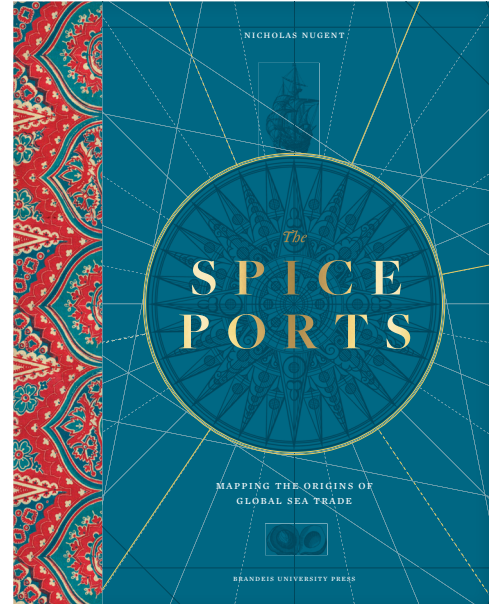
We may think of ‘globalism’ as a recent development, but in fact its origins date back to the fifteenth century and beyond, when seafarers pioneered routes across the oceans with the objectives of exploration, trade, and profit.

These voyages only became possible after certain technical innovations—improvements in ship design, compasses, and mapping—which enabled navigation across unprecedented distances. The mariners’ embarkation points were the vibrant ports of the West—Venice, Amsterdam, Lisbon—and their destinations the exotic ports of the East – Malacca, Goa, Bombay—where they tracked down the elusive spices, so much in demand by Western palates.

This development of maritime communication brought benefits apart from culinary delights: the spread of ideas on art, literature and science. But it was not necessarily beneficial for everyone concerned: colonial ambitions were often disastrous for local populations, who were frequently exploited as slave plantation labor.

This wide-ranging account of a fascinating period of global history uses original maps and contemporary artists’ views to tell the story of how each port developed individually; while also encouraging us to consider contrasting points of view of the benefits and the damages of the maritime spice trade.

Nicholas Nugent spent his career as a journalist with the BBC World Service, and his spare time collecting a valuable archive of original maps, and thus developed a passion for how the growth of the spice ports helped spread the exchange of global culture between East and West.



SEPTEMBER

288 p. 8.5 x 11

ISBN-13: 978-1-68458-244-0

Cloth \$50.00

WORLD HISTORY

On James Baldwin

Colm Tóibín

Colm Tóibín's personal account of encountering James Baldwin's work, published in Baldwin's centenary year.

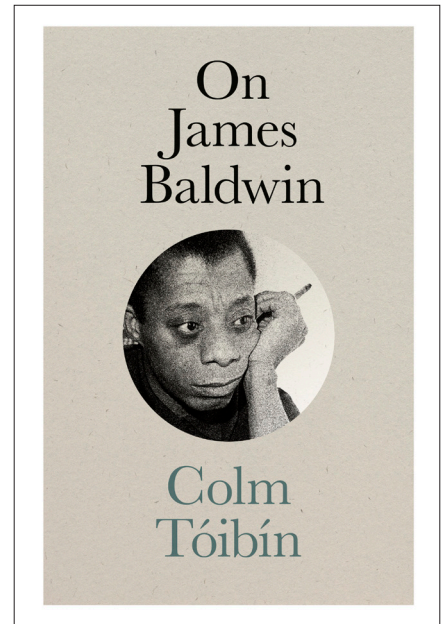
Acclaimed Irish novelist Colm Tóibín first read James Baldwin just after turning eighteen. He had completed his first year at an Irish university, and was struggling to free himself from a religious upbringing. He had even considered entering a seminary, and was searching for literature that would offer illumination and insight. Inspired by the novel *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Tóibín found a writer who would be a lifelong companion and exemplar.

From *On James Baldwin*

Baldwin was interested in the hidden and dramatic areas in his own being, and was prepared as a writer to explore difficult truths about his own private life. In his fiction, he had to battle for the right of his protagonists to choose or influence their destinies. He knew about guilt and rage and bitter privacies in a way that few of his White novelist contemporaries did. And this was not simply because he was Black and homosexual; the difference arose from the very nature of his talent, from the texture of his sensibility. "All art," he wrote, "is a kind of confession, more or less oblique. All artists, if they are to survive, are forced, at last, to tell the whole story, to vomit the anguish up."

On James Baldwin is a magnificent contemporary author's tribute to one of his most consequential literary progenitors.

Colm Tóibín is a renowned Irish novelist, poet, essayist, journalist, playwright, professor, and literary critic. Author of ten novels, including *Long Island*; *The Magician*, winner of the Rathbones Folio Prize; *The Master*, winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize; *Brooklyn*, winner of the Costa Book Award adapted for the BAFTA award-winning film of the same name; *The Testament of Mary*; and *Nora Webster*, as well as two story collections, several books of criticism, and a collection of poems, *Vinegar Hill*. He is the Irene and Sidney B. Silverman Professor of the Humanities at Columbia University and has been named the 2022–2024 Laureate for Irish Fiction by the Arts Council of Ireland. Three times shortlisted for the Booker Prize, Tóibín lives in Dublin and New York.



The Mandel Lectures in the Humanities

AUGUST

176 p. 5.25 x 8

ISBN-13: 978-1-68458-247-1

Cloth: \$19.95

BIOGRAPHY / LAW

"These astute essays are doubly rewarding, shedding light on Baldwin's profound visions of freedom while offering insight into how Tóibín reads and thinks about fiction. The result is a testament to the talents of both writers."

— *Publisher's Weekly*

The Green Ages

Medieval Innovations in Sustainability

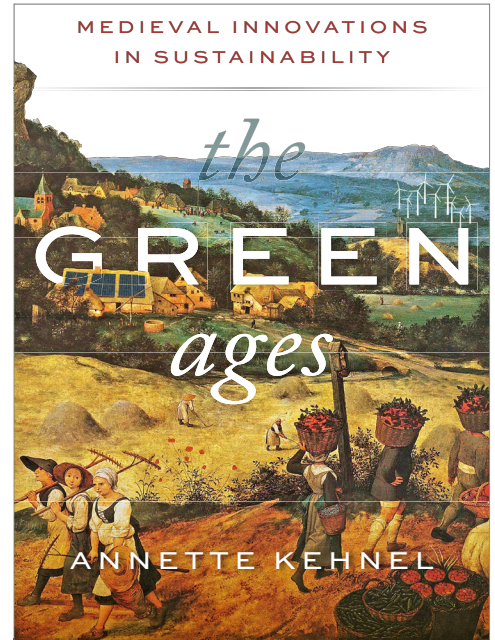
Annette Kehnel

A fascinating blend of history and ecological economics that uncovers the medieval precedents for modern concepts of sustainable living.

In *The Green Ages*, historian Annette Kehnel explores sustainability initiatives from the Middle Ages, highlighting communities that operated a barter trade system on the Monte Subiaco in Italy, sustainable fishing at Lake Constance, common lands in the United Kingdom, transient grazing among Alpine shepherds in the south of France, and bridges built by crowdfunding in Avignon. Kehnel takes these medieval examples and applies their practical lessons to the modern world to prove that we *can* live sustainably—we've done it before!

From the garden economy in the mythical-sounding City of Ladies to early microcredit banks, Kehnel uncovers a world at odds with our understanding of the typical medieval existence. Premodern history is full of inspiring examples and concepts ripe for rediscovery, and we urgently need them as today's challenges—finite resources, the twilight of consumerism, and growing inequality—threaten what we have come to think of as a modern way of living sustainably. This is a stimulating and revelatory look at a past that has the power to change our future.

Annette Kehnel is the chair of medieval history at the University of Mannheim in Germany. She has published numerous works on cultural and economic history and historical anthropology.



SEPTEMBER

352 p. 6 x 9

ISBN-13: 978-1-68458-243-3

Cloth \$35.00

ENVIRONMENT / MEDIEVAL HISTORY

"Bold and exciting—a must-read! [Annette Kehnel] offers surprisingly practical examples and introduces remarkable individuals from the last two thousand years." — Lyndal Roper, Regius Professor of History, Oriel College, Oxford

"A committed and thought-provoking book, rich in engaging examples and surprising alternatives, that makes it clear we need the past for our future." — Bernd Schneidmüller, Professor of Medieval History, Heidelberg University

"We don't need or want to relive the past — but we do need to mine it for ideas and practices that can help solve some of the dilemmas of the present. This fascinating book does just that — and in the process represents the zenith of recycling!" — Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature*

"Erudite and engaging, *The Green Ages* presents a powerful critique of the ideologies of the 'modern age' by historicizing their guiding image of the human as the self-interested *Homo economicus*. Excavating times when sharing, recycling, cooperation, and frugality were some of the reigning values in Europe, Kehnel makes a point crucial to any imagination of change: another world is possible. An important book for all students of sustainable futures." — Dipesh Chakrabarty, author of *The Climate of History in a Planetary Age* and *One Planet, Many Worlds*.

New Edition

The Prelude

William Wordsworth

Edited by James Engell &
Michael D. Raymond

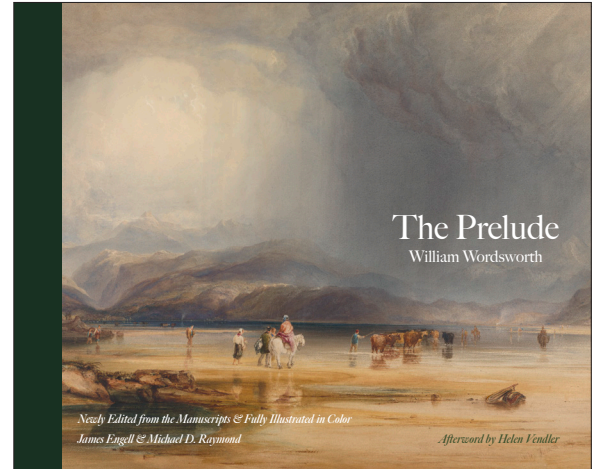
A gorgeous new edition of the definitive text of Wordsworth's *The Prelude*, with full-color contemporaneous illustrations that illuminate this epic poem. With a new afterword by Helen Vendler.

The Prelude, William Wordsworth's masterful autobiographical work composed in blank verse, is generally considered the poem at the heart of the Romantic movement and one of the great poems in the English language. In this fully illustrated and annotated edition, the work receives the treatment it deserves. Inspired by his dear friend, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the poem charts the development of the author's mind from childhood to his experiences in Cambridge, London, the Alps, and France, touching on subjects ranging from leisure to literature, nature to imagination, and everything in between.

A meditation on the self, this work still stands as a masterpiece of English literature and is here complemented and enhanced by two hundred contemporaneous color plates that illuminate the text. Scrupulously selected and newly re-edited from the definitive manuscripts in existence, the marginal notes and glosses provide an extra touch that makes this a truly enlightening reading experience.

Helen Vendler's afterword is a masterful appreciation of the poem which also puts it in context for American readers.

James Engell, the Gurney Professor of English and Professor of Comparative Literature Emeritus at Harvard University, chaired the Department of English there for seven years. He is author of four previous books and more than fifty articles and book chapters treating eighteenth-century and romantic literature, higher education in America, and environmental studies. He was a Senior Fellow at the National Humanities Center and elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. **Michael D. Raymond** has studied the poetry of William Wordsworth for decades—a catalyst for his life-long search for deeply rooted, private places of remembrance. After earning a B.A. in English from Yale, he received his M.A. from Harvard and a PhD from Fordham University. **Helen Vendler** was the A. Kingley Porter University Professor Emerita in the Department of English at Harvard and was widely considered the leading American critic of poetry in English. She was awarded the Gold Medal for Belles Lettres and Criticism by the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2023.



OCTOBER

304 p. 12.3 x 9.7

ISBN-13: 978-1-68458-250-1

Cloth \$40.00

ENGLISH POETRY / ART

Praise for the first edition:

"An outsize, gorgeous book, replete with paintings and drawings—landscapes, houses, portraits—contemporaneous with the poem. At last we have a worthy visual counterpart to one of the timeless monuments of English verse." — Brad Leithauser, *The Wall Street Journal*

"Handsomely produced in a broad horizontal format, this volume is illustrated by paintings or drawings contemporaneous with the poem itself. These offer to the American reader's eye an array of scenes indispensable to an understanding of Wordsworth's world—lakes, crags, nocturnes, ships at sea, the Alps, Stonehenge, Revolutionary France, Cambridge, London. At last—with Engell's eloquent and succinct introduction, helpful marginal glosses, notes, a chronology, and maps—American readers and students have a *Prelude* of their own." — Helen Vendler, *The Afterwards*

"The joy of the object... is its reproduction of some 130 paintings, drawings and other works of art appertaining to the poem. They are scattered throughout the book, all in full colour, almost all contemporary with *The Prelude* and some of them actually seen by Wordsworth himself!"

— *Literary Review*

"Take up this book, which you can readily imagine starting off in its readers a lifetime's love for the great poem, as well as a fascination for the diverse grounds from which it grew."

— *The Wordsworth Circle*

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The Philosopher Fish

Sturgeon, Caviar, and the Geography of Desire

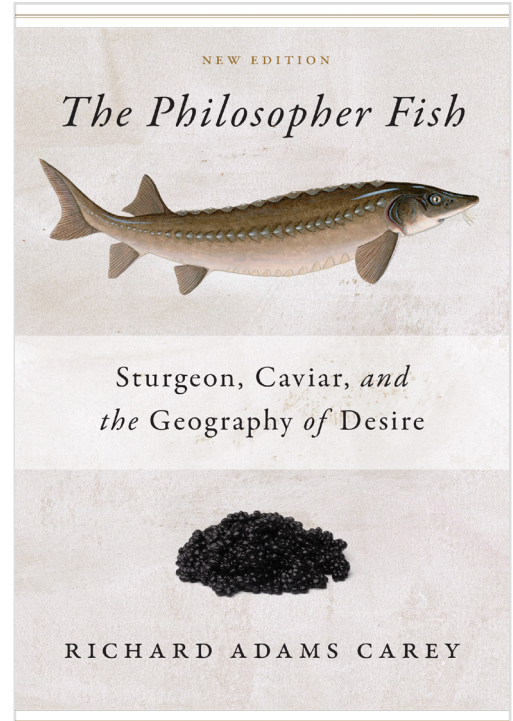
Richard Adams Carey

An updated new edition of Richard Adams Carey's illuminating journey across the globe to uncover the secrets of the sturgeon.

From the acclaimed ecojournalist Rick Carey, a fascinating chronicle of a fast-disappearing fish—and of the people whose lives and livelihoods depend on it. Since the days of the Persian Empire, caviar has trumpeted status, wealth, prestige, and sex appeal. In this remarkable journey to caviar's source, Carey immerses himself in the world of the sturgeon, the fish that lays these golden eggs. The sturgeon has a fascinating biological past and a very uncertain future. Sturgeon populations worldwide have declined 70 percent in the last twenty years. Meanwhile the beluga sturgeon, producer of the most coveted caviar, has climbed to number four on the World Wildlife Fund's most-endangered species list. A high-stakes cocktail of business, crime, diplomacy, technology, and the dilemmas of conservation, *The Philosopher Fish* is the epic story of a 250-million-year-old fish struggling to survive.

This new edition includes new chapters bringing up to date the story of this elusive and mysterious fish, and the people involved with both preserving and exploiting it.

Richard Adams Carey grew up in Connecticut, attended Harvard, and worked various low-paying jobs before going to teach in the Yupik Eskimo villages of western Alaska. He is a writer and book reviewer whose books include *Raven's Children: An Alaskan Culture at Twilight*, *Against the Tide: The Fate of the New England Fisherman*, and *In the Evil Day: Violence Comes to One Small Town*.



SEPTEMBER

352 p. 6 x 9

ISBN-13: 978-1-68458-238-9

Paper \$35.00

NATURE / ENDANGERED SPECIES

"A wild upstream adventure." — *New York Post*

"Hard to imagine that a story about fish eggs could be 'fast paced,' not to mention prophetic. But this piece of environmental journalism is both.... It's a book about America in microcosm.... Caviar, it turns out, is not just tasty. In Carey's hands, it's luminous." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"Prized for its caviar-potential roe, [the sturgeon] is currently hot among both international smugglers and ecological preservationists, and right on their dorsal fins is Carey. A lyrical and humane writer, the ecojournalist patiently tracked down hatchery biologists, luxury-food buyers, wildlife agents, and others whose livelihood depends on the sturgeon. He weaves their intersecting stories into one engrossing narrative." — *Entertainment Weekly*

The Marital Knot

Agunot in the Ashkenazi Realm, 1648-1850

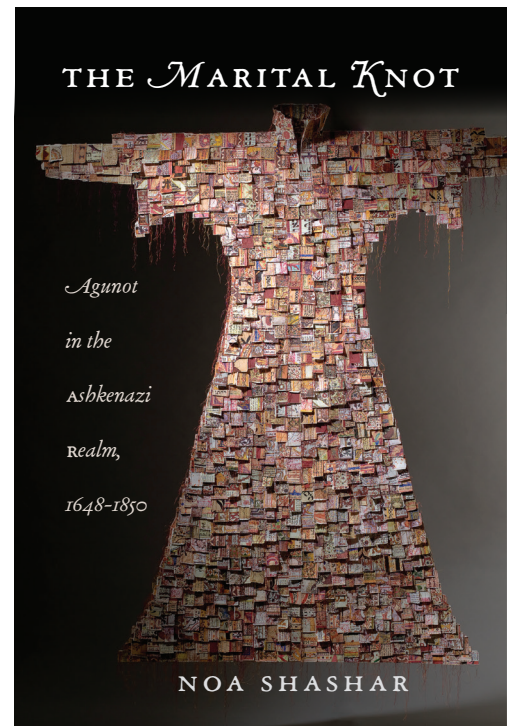
Noa Shashar

A long overdue study of agunot based on exhaustive research in rabbinic sources, memoirs, and communal records.

Noa Shashar sheds light on Jewish family life in the early modern era and on the activity of rabbis whose Jewish legal rulings determined the fate of agunot, literally “chained women,” who were often considered a marginal group. Who were these men and women? How did Jewish society deal with the danger of a woman’s becoming an agunah? What kind of reality was imposed on women who found themselves agunot, and what could they do to extricate themselves from their plight? How did rabbinic decisors discharge their task during this period, and what were the outcomes given the fact that the agunot were dependent on the male rabbinic establishment?

This study describes the lives of agunot, and by reexamining the halakhic activity concerning agunot in this period, proposes a new assessment of the attitude that decisors displayed toward the freeing of agunot.

Noa Shashar is a lecturer at the Sapir Academic College in Israel. She is the author of several books, including *Vanished Men: Agunot in the Ashkenazi Realm 1648-1850* (Hebrew), *Not on Bread Alone: The Krell Murachovski Family Histories*, and *Mazkeret Rishonim: A History of the Levin and Miller Families from Mazkeret Batya & Rishon Lezion*.



Brandeis Series on Gender, Culture, Religion, and Law

DECEMBER

400 p. 6 x 9

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Cloth: \$120.00

ISBN-13: 978-1-68458-240-2

Paper: 40.00

JEWISH HISTORY / SEXUALITY & GENDER STUDIES

A New Orient

From German Scholarship to Middle Eastern Studies in Israel

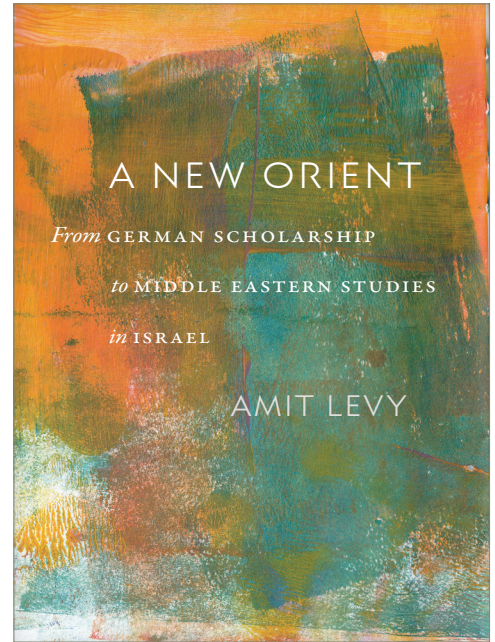
Amit Levy

A history of knowledge transfer of Oriental Studies stretching along an axis from Germany to Palestine/Israel

This study examines the history of Zionist academic Orientalism—referred to throughout as Oriental studies, the term contemporary English speakers would have used—in light of its German-Jewish background, as a history of knowledge transfer stretching along an axis from Germany to Palestine. The transfer, which took place primarily during the 1920s and 1930s, involved questions about the re-establishment, far from Germany, of a field of knowledge with deep German roots. Like other German-Jewish scholars arriving in Palestine at the time, some of the Orientalist agents of transfer did so out of Zionist conviction as olim (immigrants making *aliyah*, or literally “ascending” to the homeland), while others joined them later as refugees from Nazi Germany; both groups were integrated into the institutional apparatus of the Hebrew University.

Unlike other fields of knowledge or professions, however, the transfer of Orientalist knowledge was unique in that the axis involved an essential change in the nature of its encounter with the Orient: from a textual-scientific encounter at German universities, largely disconnected from contemporary issues, to a living, substantive, and unmediated encounter with an essentially Arab region—and the escalating Jewish-Arab conflict in the background. Within the new context, German-Jewish Orientalist expertise was charged with political and cultural significance it had not previously faced, fundamentally influencing the course of the discipline’s development in Palestine and Israel.

Amit Levy is a Bloom postdoctoral fellow in the Department for Israel Studies at the University of Haifa in Israel. He is the managing editor of *Naharaim: Journal of German-Jewish Literature and Cultural History*.



The Tauber Institute Series for the Study of European Jewry

DECEMBER

352 p. 6 x 9

ISBN-13: 978-1-68458-203-7

Cloth \$120.00

ISBN-13: 978-1-68458-202-0

Paper: \$40.00

HISTORY / MIDDLE EAST

“An invaluable work concerned with the rise of Israeli Orientalism during the mandatory period and early Israel. Levy deserves special praise for providing a very nuanced history and a highly innovative book that will be received with great interest by different communities and audiences in the US—Jewish historians, Israel studies scholars, Middle East historians and scholars, Palestine studies scholars, and anyone interested in Orientalism (Said, and unSaid).” — Zvi Ben-Dor Benite, NYU