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London - 2022

NONFICTION

Battle of Ink and Ice (Viking)

A Sensational Story of News Barons, North Pole Explorers, and the Making of Modern Media
by Darrell Hartman

NA: Viking, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA

Publishing June 6th, 2023, MS is available

“... an engrossing and readable account of polar exploration, the birth of the modern newspaper, and media wars that feel all too familiar to modern readers.”

-Kirkus, Starred Review

In the fall of 1909, a pair of bitter contests captured the world’s attention. The American explorers Robert Peary and Frederick Cook both claimed to have discovered the North Pole, sparking a vicious feud that was unprecedented in international scientific and geographic circles. At the same time, the rivalry between two powerful New York City newspapers—the storied Herald and the ascendant Times—fanned the flames of the so-called polar controversy, as each paper financially and reputationally committed itself to an opposing explorer and fought desperately to defend him. *BATTLE OF INK AND ICE* presents a frank portrayal of Arctic explorers, brave men who both inspired and divided the public. It also sketches a vivid portrait of the newspapers that funded, promoted, narrated, and often distorted their exploits. It recounts a sixty-year saga of frostbite and fake news, one that culminates with an unjustly overlooked chapter in the origin story of the modern New York Times.

Darrell Hartman has written for *The Paris Review*, *The Daily Beast*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, and *Granta*. He co-founded the digital magazine *Jungles in Paris*.

“Absolutely gripping...a perfectly splendid read. I highly, highly recommend it.”
— Douglas Preston, author of the #1 New York Times bestseller *"The Lost City of the Monkey God"*

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SEA OF TIME (On Submission)

Whales and the Creation of the Modern World
by Ryan Tucker Jones

NA: CLA, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA

Proposal is on submission

A dramatic new look at the history of whaling by an environmental historian at University of Oregon. “Because whaling historians have so misjudged whales, they have also misjudged the history of whaling.”

SEA OF TIME centers the whales themselves and non-European peoples which opens up new stories, insights, and understandings of one of our most profound interspecies relationships. “... we can see how conceptions of whales as kin and ancestors enriched many peoples’ lives, how whaling abetted colonialism in some parts of the world while frustrating it in others, how Indigenous forms of knowledge contributed to modern whaling, and how older relationships with whales also spread to the Western world.” New breakthroughs in research about whales have also contributed tremendously. “Scientists’ new awareness of whales’ changing cultures is, if anything, even more revelatory. For the first time, we can begin to how whales’ own cultures evolved, especially in response to human hunting. This means both that human histories have been shaped by whales’ choices and that – through whales’ changing lives – we can get a rare glimpse into another species’ experience of the last millennium of life on this planet.”

It's hard to understate how consequential the relationship between humans and whales has been. And also how misunderstood. “SEA OF TIME will show how humanity’s long relationship with whales helps explain – indeed often helped drive – the process of globalization. From the rise of modern capitalism to the spread of European and East Asian colonialism, to the creation of multicultural societies, modern science, and transnational environmental management, whales and whaling were crucial. In fact, whales, with their vast migrations and use of a great diversity of environments, were global long before humans were. It is in part through attacking them that humanity also acquired a global character.” SEA OF TIME will also address globalization as an ecological and oceanic process, one that humans have not always controlled. And whales provide an excellent window through which to explore the human relationship to the wider ocean, revealing patterns in humanity’s use and conception of saltwater.

Ryan Tucker Jones is environmental historian at the University of Oregon. Trained in both Russian history and environmental history, he is the author of *Empire of Extinction: Russians and the Strange Beasts of the Sea* (Oxford University Press, 2017) and *Red Leviathan: The Secret History of Soviet Whaling* (Chicago, 2022). He is co-editor of the *Journal of Pacific History*.

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THE INCORRUPTIBLES (Little, Brown)

A Secret Vice Crusade, the Jewish Underworld & the Origins of Organized Crime

By Dan Slater

NA: Little, Brown, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA

A saga of crime, war, and redemption in turn-of-the-century NYC which pits the wealthiest neighborhood in the world (including the families Lehman, Sachs, Goldman, Guggenheim, Schiff, and Warburg) against the Yiddish-speaking Russian Jewish underworld of the Lower East Side, the most crowded neighborhood in the world, a Jewish *Gangs of New York*.

MS due July 1st, 2023, publishing May, 2024

The Incorruptibles reveals the harrowing story of a secret vice squad in NYC who, during the notorious criminal era just prior to Prohibition, waged war on the baroque Lower East Side underworld. Privately funded by a coterie of wealthy uptowners, the Incorruptibles were expected not just to rescue the city from the grips of Tammany Hall, corrupt police officers, and rampant criminal gangs, but to save the reputation of the class of people branded nationwide as criminal. Their unlikely success emboldened one of history's most dynamic criminal masterminds, the godfather of organized crime. The rich and atmospheric narrative follows the heroic efforts of Abe Shoefeld, a young tailor's son who must turn against the gang members he grew up with to save the neighborhood he loves; Antonia Rolnick, his one-time love interest, later informant and partner in crime-fighting, an immigrant girl who escapes a massacre in Russia only to fall into prostitution as a teen; and the canny maneuverings of another tailor's son, Arnold Rothstein, who sees, in each new reform effort, opportunities for enormous power and graft. A tale that moves from lavish parties in marble mansions to the horror of horse-poisoning gangsters, from Wall Street bankers to a corporation of pimps, Dan Slater has been researching this project for five years, poring over century-old trial transcripts, visiting archives in Israel, and accessing the unpublished memoirs of his main character. The result reads like a Jewish *Gangs of New York*, set 50 years later, and is reminiscent of E.L Doctorow's *Ragtime*, Luc Sante's *Low Life*, *The Alienist*, and *The Devil in the White City*.

Dan Slater is the author of *WOLF BOYS* (S&S) and *LOVE IN THE TIME OF ALGORITHMS* (Portfolio). A former reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, Dan has written for *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *New York* magazine, *The Atlantic*, *GQ*, and *Fast Company*.

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FINDING OLMSTED (Scribner)

A Journey through the Slave South and the Untold Story of Central Park
By Sara Zewde

NA: Scribner, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA

A dramatic investigation into the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted which shows new connections between a formative trip the Slave South and the ideals of landscape architecture, the discipline he founded, along with the story of Central Park, the first public park in America.

MS due September, 2024, publishing July, 2025

Ever since graduating from Harvard and becoming a licensed landscape architect (one of only 13 Black women in the country), Sara Zewde couldn't shake the sense that there was more to understand about Frederick Law Olmsted and a journey he made to the Slave South. Unsure of his own future, he spent three years (1852-1855) as a journalist reporting what would become one of the most widely cited sources of life under chattel slavery. The trip transformed him into a vocal abolitionist and inspired him to develop the plans for what would become Central Park. But no matter how many questions Sara asked her professors, no one could point to a connection between what he witnessed among the enslaved and slaveowners, landscape architecture, or Central Park itself. Nor did anyone in the discipline seem to think Sara's questions were worth asking. As Sara puts it: "If my professors had been able to point me to the book on the topic, I would have read it and moved on with my life. *God damn it. Am I going to have to write the book?*" Sara quit her job and decided to investigate the issue herself, spending months researching Olmsted's account and following as closely as she could in his footsteps.

In the vein of Imani Perry's *SOUTH TO AMERICA* and Clint Smith's *HOW THE WORD IS PASSED*, Sara Zewde uses Olmsted as a flashlight, as she says, to look at land, race, inequity, and how history itself is told. She scours the ground for traces of the world Olmsted witnessed and makes astonishing discoveries. She comes to realize that embedded within Central Park, the very first public park in America, and the 1,000+ parks Olmsted designed, is an ideal formed in reaction to slavery's devastating effects on the enslaved and whites alike. Through the story of Central Park itself, Sara reveals Olmsted's ambition that parks "might function at the scale of a social institution," and that they might reverse the crippling influence slavery had on citizens' ability to relate to one another. Further, "[t]he irony is that Olmsted himself chose to make Black people the protagonists of the landscape, and the profession has to this point inexplicably excluded the history he wanted to tell about American slavery." *FINDING OLMSTED* will change that.

Sara Zewde is an expert on the topic of Olmsted and has been featured in *NPR*, *The New Yorker*, *PBS*, *The Associated Press*, *TIME*, *BBC*, *Dwell*, *Architectural Digest*, the cover of *Landscape Architecture Magazine*. She is founding principal of Studio Zewde, a design firm practicing landscape architecture, urbanism, and public art based in New York City. She teaches at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

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THE OUTER SUNSET

By Mark Ernest Pothier (University of Iowa Press)

NA: U of Iowa Press, **UK:** Abner Stein, **Translation:** CLA

“Three years ago, once it was clear our kids were gone for good, my wife packed the car with some clothes and things, told me she’d withdrawn half the savings, and, after a farewell which I cannot recall verbatim, she left.”

MS is available, publishing May, 2023

In the wake of his wife’s unexpected departure, Jim Finley, a retired English teacher, living alone on the edge of San Francisco at the end of the century, reads his stack of books on the back porch where he’s finally come to rest — like it or not — and sift through his past, preferably with a drink. That ends when his daughter brings home the worst news of her life, she has to move back in with him, and everything’s upended: He learns how much easier it is to talk with his son’s Ukrainian girlfriend than the grown man himself. He realizes that his ex-wife has fully launched into a new, larger life than the one they’d shared. And he continues to misconnect with Carol, his first date since college — a woman he enjoys talking to but doesn’t quite hear. In a landscape of seismic shifts, Jim’s is a timely story about the intimate place where deep, long-lasting change occurs in our lives. It’s about learning how to revise, or live without, your dreams; of facing, up-close, the flaws of those nearest you; of seeing your kids grow away from you into more than you’d imagined; and of still being startled, in your fifties, at the awkwardness of a first date. In a wise, ironic voice somewhere between David Nicholls’ *Us*, Mary Beth Keane’s *Ask Again, Yes*, and Wallace Stegner’s *Angle of Repose*, it is a story about finding beauty and trust in the midst of loss.

Mark Ernest Pothier earned an MFA at San Francisco State University. After working more than 25 years in nonprofit communications, he now devotes himself to writing. His first published story, “The First Light of Evening”, won a Chicago Tribune/Nelson Algren Short Story award. With his wife and kids, he has lived more than 30 years in San Francisco, where he sometimes sings with Slavyanka Chorus and is active in the Byzantine Catholic community. This is his first book.

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ALL THE BEAUTY IN THE WORLD

A Museum Guard's Memoir of Life, Loss, and Art (S&S)

by Patrick Bringley

NA:S&S, UK: Bodley Head, Translation: CLA (China/Citic, Germany/Ullstein, Japan/Shobunsha, Korea/Woongjin Think Big, Poland/Arkady, Spain/Paidos, Taiwan/China Times

“This book makes me yearn to have Patrick Bringley at my side in every museum I will visit for the rest of my life. Having a copy of *All the Beauty in the World* in my purse will be the next best thing.” - Hope Jahren, author of *Lab Girl* and *The Story of More*

MS is available, published February, 2023

“Told with real literary gusto and an impressive command of pace and shape. After finishing this book, plenty of sensitive readers will be desperate to become museum guards.” – The Times of London

“Consoling and beautiful” - The Guardian

“Exquisite... A beautiful tale about beauty. It is also a tale about grief, balancing solitude and comradeship, and finding joy in both the exalted and the mundane.” - The Washington Post Book World

“Hauntingly beautiful... A work of art as luminous as the old master paintings that comforted him in his grief.” - The Associated Press

“*All the Beauty in the World* is an empathic chronicle of one museum, the works collected there and the people who keep it running — all recounted by an especially patient observer.” - The New York Times Book Review

“As rich in moving insights as the Met is in treasures, *All the Beauty in the World* reminds us of the importance of learning not “*about* art, but *from* it.” This is art appreciation at a profound level.” - NPR

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PAIN KILLER

An Empire of Deceit and the Origins of America's Opioid Epidemic (Random House)

By Barry Meier

NA: Random House, UK/Sceptre, Translation: CLA (China/MoveableType
Italy/Mondadori, Japan/Shobun-Sha, Poland/Poradnia)

Netflix will be releasing a six-episode series PAINKILLER globally in late 2023. It stars Uzo Aduba, Matthew Broderick, West Duchovny, Dina Shihabi, and John Rothman. Peter Berg (Friday Night Lights) is the director, and Eric Newman (Narcos) and Alex Gibney (Going Clear, the Inventory) are producers.

HIDDEN SYSTEMS

Water, Electricity, the Internet, and the Secrets Behind the Systems We Use Every Day (Random House Graphic)

By Dan Nott

NA: Random House Graphic, UK: Abner Stein, Translation: CLA (China/Luminaire,
Japan/Kawade-Shobo, Korea/Forest Book Publishing, Spain/Planeta)

“The true power of comics is on display here, with complex, difficult-to-comprehend structures presented both through a variety of metaphors and by placing those metaphors in context with simplified renditions of their real physical appearance. As he credits in the end pages (with process sketches and a bibliography), Nott is channeling the brilliant illustrative work of David Macaulay’s *The Way Things Work* here, bringing clarity to a new generation of curious readers. Strong crossover YA and adult appeal.”

– Booklist

An ABA “*Indie’s Introduce*” pick, MS is available, publishing March, 2023

“Writer and cartoonist Dan Nott ... skillfully weaves together history, science, technology and ecology to build pictures of the internet, the evolution of electricity and the crucial infrastructure developed to bring us water. In revealing the impact of these systems on humans and vice versa, he reminds us of the pleasures of paying attention to both miraculous and mundane aspects of the world around us as well the consequences of not doing so. This is a compelling and thoroughly entertaining display of intellect and empathy brilliantly communicated through page after page of masterfully designed and drawn cartoon panels. Every panel, simple or complex, deserves a closer look and as in all the best graphic literary work, each word is carefully chosen and each phrase precisely placed to lead us on a thoroughly rewarding journey.

- David Macaulay, author of *The Way Things Work*

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“*Hidden Systems* is fascinating, thought-provoking, engaging, and accessible. If you've ever wondered how the world around you works—at both the human and the planetary scale—this book is a wonderful way to find out.”

- Ryan North, author of *How to Take Over the World* and *How to Invent Everything*

“I absolutely devoured this, my brain lighting up with educational delight!”

- Box Brown, author of *Andre the Giant: Life and Legend*

This book is 288 pages, 6 x 9, and has been published simultaneously in HC (\$23.99) and trade paperback (\$17.99). There are less than 10,000 words total to be translated and the estimated file fee from PRH is \$500.