New Books
Fall 2015 / Winter 2016
The Selected Letters of John Cage

JOHN CAGE

EDITED BY LAURA KUHN

Letters of an avant-garde icon available to the public for the first time

This selection of over five hundred letters gives us the life of John Cage with all the intelligence, wit, and inventiveness that made him such an important and groundbreaking composer and performer. The missives range from lengthy reports of his early trips to Europe in the 1930s through his years with the dancer Merce Cunningham, and shed new light on his growing eminence as an iconic performance artist of the American avant-garde. Cage's joie de vivre resounds in these letters—fully annotated throughout—in every phase of his career, and the book includes correspondence with Peter Yates, David Tudor, and Pierre Boulez, among others. The voice is one we recognize from his writings: singular, profound, irreverent, and funny. Not only will readers take pleasure in Cage's correspondence with and commentary about the people and events of a momentous and transformative time in the arts, they will also share in his meditations on the very nature of art. A deep pleasure to read, this volume presents an extraordinary portrait of a complex, brilliant man who challenged and changed the artistic currents of the twentieth century.

“These letters, wonderfully informal and often surprisingly frank and even severe, come as a real surprise. Anyone interested in the development of the twentieth-century American avant-garde will want to read Cage's week-by-week reaction to its twists and turns.”

MARJORIE PERLOFF

“Essential reading for anyone interested in Cage’s music.”

JAMES PRITCHETT

ALSO OF INTEREST

John Cage Was

JAMES KLOSTY

John Cage (1912–1992) was an American composer whose inventive compositions and unorthodox ideas profoundly influenced twentieth-century music. He was an early proponent of aleatoric music (music where some elements are left to chance), used instruments in nonstandard ways, and was an electronic music pioneer. Laura Kuhn is the John Cage Professor of Performance Art at Bard College and director of the John Cage Trust.

Publication of this book is funded by the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.
Breakfast at O’Rourke’s
New Cuisine from a Classic American Diner
BRIAN O’ROURKE

Gourmet American recipes with Irish roots

Since 1941, O’Rourke’s Diner has been a beloved eatery and a second home to generations of Middletown families, Wesleyan students, and diners from all over the Connecticut River Valley. Capturing the magic of the diner itself—classic, hip, eclectic, and full of positive energy—Breakfast at O’Rourke’s is a trove of hearty gourmet recipes from one of Connecticut’s most beloved diners. The book features menus for twenty-three complete O’Rourke’s breakfasts and over eighty recipes, including Irish Soda Bread, Eggs Galway, Bread Pudding French Toast with Caramel Sauce, Firecracker Omelet, Breakfast Cheesecake, Pumpkin Brie Quiche, and Red Flannel Hash. Each main dish is paired with a side, baked good, and sauce—so that cooks at home can recreate their favorite O’Rourke’s brunch. The book is lavishly illustrated with over fifty photographs from food photographer Tom Hopkins, and includes many vegetarian options. This is a must-have cookbook for diner aficionados and food lovers everywhere.

“It is a joy to have recipes for some of the best diner breakfasts anywhere—even better are the invaluable words of wisdom, advice, local history, and color with which Brian O’Rourke introduces them.”

MICHAEL STERN, author of Road Food

“You haven’t really experienced breakfast at its finest until you’ve had breakfast at O’Rourke’s Diner. In this wonderful book, Brian O’Rourke unveils many of his secrets to making a wide variety of scintillating, satisfying—often show-stopping—breakfast fare. This book will completely transform the way you experience that all-important first meal of the day.”

MIKE URBAN, author of The New England Diner Cookbook

BRIAN O’ROURKE has been owner and chef at O’Rourke’s Diner in Middletown, Connecticut, for over thirty years. By infusing traditional American diner cuisine with globally inspired food, O’Rourke’s caters to a multitude of cultures and palates. Brian uses his big personality and love for food and people to make O’Rourke’s Diner one of the world’s most special places.
Maple Sugaring
Keeping It Real in New England
DAVID K. LEFF

The art and science of maple syrup, and stories from the people who make it

Maple Sugaring gives readers an intimate look at the art and science of America’s favorite sweet. These stories, told by real-life sugarmakers, reveal how this ancient industry has continued into the twenty-first century. Thanks to the newest technology, and patience, New England sugarmakers are still keeping it real. A former maple sugarmaker and board member of the Maple Syrup Producers’ Association of Connecticut, David Leff takes us on a journey into the very heart of New England’s character. Along the way he talks with the sugar gurus, who share their expertise, insights, and anecdotes about their experiences in the business. What makes maple sugaring such a beloved tradition? Is it marketing savvy, family tradition, or something deeper—and harder to tap? This book is for anyone with a sweet tooth who is curious about the science, or who simply enjoys a good story. Maple Sugaring is full of wisdom, quirky characters, and recipes.

“David Leff dives into a vat of maple syrup and comes out with a brilliant book on sugaring. His practical know-how and reverence for the practice are matched only by his skill at depicting the kaleidoscopic interaction of character, place, science, and passion that has created the New England culture we know and love. Tree by tree, shack by shack, he builds a world and illustrates it from every angle. Like John McPhee before him, Leff has turned cultural investigation into an art.”

ERIC D. LEHMAN, author of A History of Connecticut Food

Reality by Other Means
The Best Short Fiction of James Morrow

JAMES MORROW
INTRODUCTION BY GARY K. WOLFE

Reality by Other Means offers readers the most celebrated results from James Morrow’s thirty-five-year career designing fictive thought experiments. In these pages you’ll meet a Yeti who seeks sacred knowledge, a Jewish sage who crafts a golem, a biosphere born to a Pennsylvania farm couple, and other vivid characters. Anchored by seven previously uncollected stories, this omnibus ranges from Vonnegutian antics to philosophical hijinks to steampunk escapades.

“James Morrow, a master of the reductio ad absurdum, is a thoughtful satirist whose sharp but never gratuitous wit takes aim at serious issues in beautifully crafted prose that is always a pleasure to read.”

PAMELA SARGENT, author of The Shore of Women

JAMES MORROW has written ten critically acclaimed novels of satire and speculation, including Towing Jehovah, The Last Witchfinder, and Galápagos Regained. He lives in State College, Pennsylvania.

BAX 2015
Best American Experimental Writing

GUEST EDITED BY DOUGLAS KEARNEY
SETH ABRAMSON AND JESSE DAMIANI, SERIES EDITORS

This annual literary anthology features seventy-five works by some of the most exciting American writers today, including established authors—like Dodie Bellamy, Anselm Berrigan, Thomas Sayers Ellis, Cathy Park Hong, Bhanu Kapil, Aaron Kunin, Joyelle McSweeney, and Fred Moten—as well as emerging voices. Crossing and transcending genres, Best American Experimental Writing provides a feast for readers, creative writers, and students of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction.

Guest editor DOUGLAS KEARNEY is a poet, performer, and librettist. He is the author of Patter and The Black Automaton. He lives in Los Angeles. SETH ABRAMSON lives in Madison, Wisconsin, and is author of five books, including Thievery, winner of the Akron Poetry Prize. He will be teaching at the University of New Hampshire in the fall. Poet JESSE DAMIANI has received awards from the Academy of American Poets, and lives in Los Angeles.
Politico-linguistic problem, conflicted hairstyle, and conflict-bound drone, *Fauxhawk* works in the space where dissent becomes materialized, ironized, and commodified, wrenching exuberant music from the drone of the everyday. *Fauxhawk* takes on the economics of writing, institutional bureaucracies, and complicit injustice. The poems in Ben Doller’s thrilling new collection attempt to find their own tone amid the blare via formal innovation, carving a space where presence is signified, in hopeful and clarifying resistance. An online reader’s companion will be available.

“Hilarity overcomes wit in this deft cultural feast of verbal play and snappy form. Dollar has ‘updated’ the poetry ‘interface’ with semiotic streaks that pulsate through acoustic layers of paradigmatic élan. Hold on to your aesthetic hat as a cool, fresh wind is blowing.”

**CHARLES BERNSTEIN**

**BEN DOLLER** is the author of *Dead Ahead, FAQ*, and *Radio, Radio*, winner of the Walt Whitman Award. He is an associate professor of writing and literature at the University of California, San Diego.

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

**September**

104 pp., 6 x 9”
Cloth, $24.95 • 978-0-8195-7586-9 ($29.00 CAD)
Ebook, $19.99 • 978-0-8195-7587-6

**POETRY**

*Wesleyan Poetry*

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Despite his status as one of the first modernists, much of Stéphane Mallarmé’s radicalism has been lost in translation. In this new collection, the magic and mastery of Mallarmé’s French verse comes to life in English. Drawing from poems and lesser-known manuscripts, this collection captures Mallarmé’s true linguistic brilliance while retaining the music, playfulness, and power of the originals.

“These vivid and utterly convincing translations reopen the poems to controversy, nuance, and innovation. They refresh the poet’s reputation as a sovereign enigma.”

**DONALD REVELL**

**STÉPHANE MALLARMÉ** (1842–1898) was arguably the most influential French poet of the late nineteenth century. **BLAKE BRONSON-BARTLETT** teaches at Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany. **ROBERT FERNANDEZ** teaches at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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**POETRY / FRENCH LITERATURE**

*Wesleyan Poetry*
She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks

M. NOURBSESE PHILIP
FOREWORD BY EVIE SHOCKLEY

NEW EDITION
The groundbreaking seminal collection by the author of Zong!

Brilliant, lyrical, and passionate, this collection from acclaimed poet M. NourbeSe Philip is an extended jazz riff on themes of language, racism, colonialism, and exile. Philip defiantly challenges and resoundingly overthrows the silencing of black women through appropriation of language, offering no less than superb poetry resonant with beauty and strength. Originally published in 1989, it won the Casa de Las Americas Prize. This new Wesleyan edition includes a foreword by Evie Shockley, and an online reader’s companion will be available.

“Philip’s tragic transport—as a curate of the impure word, the degeneration and regeneration of grammar—bears the black history of romance. No sojourn in contemporary poetry is more necessary or more beautiful than hers.”

FRED MOTEN, author of The Feel Trio

M. NOURBSESE PHILIP is a poet, essayist, novelist, and playwright who was born in Tobago and now lives in Toronto. She is the author of Zong! EVIE SHOCKLEY is the author of the new black.

A Sulfur Anthology
EDITED BY CLAYTON ESHELAN

A vital compendium of poetic vision

From 1981 to 2000, Sulfur magazine presented an American and international overview of innovative writing featuring over 800 writers and artists, including Norman O. Brown, Jorie Graham, Ron Padgett, Ezra Pound, Octavio Paz, Adrienne Rich, and Rainer Maria Rilke. A hotbed for critical thinking and commentary, it also provided a home for the work of unknown and younger poets. A Sulfur Anthology offers readers a luminous document of international poetic vision and an indispensable collection of poetry in translation.

“An essential selection from the now legendary journal. Experimental and unruly, it’s a kaleidoscopic assemblage of poetry and poetics, archival materials, translations, critical commentary and essays, shocking in range and diversity. Reading this reminds me what the fuss was all about.”

STUART KENDALL, California College of the Arts

CLAYTON ESHELAN is a poet, translator, and editor. He is a professor emeritus at Eastern Michigan University.

Publication of this book is funded by the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

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POETRY / POETICS / ANTHOLOGY

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Radicalism and Music
An Introduction to the Music Cultures of al-Qa’ida, Racist Skinheads, Christian-Affiliated Radicals, and Eco-Animal Rights Militants

JONATHAN PIESLAK

Radicalism and Music draws on interviews, email correspondence, concerts, and videos to offer a convincing argument for music’s transformational impact on the radicalization, reinforcement, and motivational techniques of violent political activists. Music is used as a tool for recruiting and retaining members of very different radical groups.

“Radicalism and Music is a well-argued foil to the notion that music is a universal language that brings people together.”

BENJAMIN J. HARBERT, co-editor of The Arab Avant-Garde: Music, Politics, Modernity

JONATHAN PIESLAK teaches at the City College of New York and the Graduate Center, CUNY. He is the author of Sound Targets: American Soldiers and Music in the Iraq War.

The Sound of Culture
Diaspora and Black Technopoetics

LOUIS CHUDE-SOKEI

Investigates the parallel and intertwined histories of race, technology, and science fiction

The Sound of Culture explores the histories of race and technology in a world made by slavery, colonialism, and industrialization. Looking at American, British, and Caribbean literature, it distills a diverse range of subject matter: minstrelsy, science fiction, cybertheory, and artificial intelligence. All of these facets, according to Louis Chude-Sokei, are part of a history in which music has been central to the equation that links blacks and machines. The book brings together a range of writers and thinkers—from Samuel Butler, Herman Melville, and Edgar Rice Burroughs to Sigmund Freud, William Gibson, and Donna Haraway, to Norbert Weiner, Sylvia Wynter, and Samuel R. Delany.

LOUIS CHUDE-SOKEI is a professor of English at the University of Washington, Seattle, and author of The Last Darky: Bert Williams, Black on Black Minstrelsy, and the Black Diaspora, which was a finalist for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award.
Tempest-Tossed
The Spirit of Isabella Beecher Hooker
SUSAN CAMPBELL

Tempest-Tossed chronicles the fascinating youngest daughter of the “Fabulous Beecher” family, which included older sister Harriet Beecher Stowe. Isabella Beecher Hooker, “a curiously modern nineteenth-century figure,” was a suffragist who could be charming and off-putting. In her latest book, author Susan Campbell brings a unique blend of empathy and humor to the story of Harriet’s younger half-sister.

“With a journalist’s concision and eye for the vivid quote, Susan Campbell captures Isabella Beecher Hooker’s quirky temperament and her passion for women’s rights. This wry and personal narrative is deeply informed, balanced, and a delight to read.”


SUSAN CAMPBELL is the author of Dating Jesus: Fundamentalism, Feminism, and the American Girl, a Connecticut Book honoree. She has appeared on CBS Sunday Morning, the BBC, and WNPR. She lives in East Haven, Connecticut.

October

Riverview Hospital for Children and Youth
A Culture of Promise
RICHARD J. WISEMAN

One of the first milieu-based therapeutic hospitals in the country to specialize in children’s care, Riverview Hospital in Middletown, Connecticut, has an important history. Richard J. Wiseman, its first superintendent, offers his own story and treatment philosophy alongside the voices of the many people who worked tirelessly to free children from an adult mental health facility and to treat children as children. This book shares decades of experiences, useful tools, and knowledge regarding the treatment of children requiring mental health care. A companion ebook comprising three original staff manuals will also be available.

RICHARD J. WISEMAN is one of the pioneers of modern mental health treatment for children. He lives in Cromwell, Connecticut.

The Driftless Connecticut Series is funded by the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, www.wesleyan.edu/wespress/driftless.
Night’s Dancer
The Life of Janet Collins
YAËL TAMAR LEWIN

Dancer Janet Collins, born in New Orleans in 1917 and raised in Los Angeles, soared high over the color line. *Night’s Dancer* chronicles the life of this extraordinary and elusive woman, who became a unique concert dance soloist as well as a black trailblazer in the white world of classical ballet. The book begins with an unfinished memoir written by Collins, and dance scholar Yaël Tamar Lewin continues with a profoundly moving portrait of an artist of indomitable spirit. Collins’s story remains relevant today, and is the subject of an animated short narrated by Chris Rock.

“Blessed with extraordinary gifts, Janet Collins broke barriers as the first African American prima ballerina at the world-renowned Metropolitan Opera. Her life’s journey is inspirational. History should recognize her as one of its pioneers.”

ARTHUR MITCHELL, co-founder of the Dance Theatre of Harlem

YAËL TAMAR LEWIN is a writer and dancer living in New York City.

Favor of Crows
New and Collected Haiku
GERALD VIZENOR

Gerald Vizenor has earned a wide and devoted audience for his haiku. The haiku scenes in *Favor of Crows* are presented in chapters of the four seasons, the natural metaphors of human experience in the tradition of haiku in Japan. He honors the traditional practice and clever tease of haiku, while drawing on the early dream songs of the Anishinaabe, or Chippewa. By concentrating on these two artistic traditions, by intuition he creates a union of vision, perception, and natural motion in concise poems. An online reader’s companion is available.

“A joyous, flamboyant, and radiant collection that sharpens our ability to perceive and appreciate discrete manifestations of the natural world.”

SONJA JAMES, *The Journal* (Martinsburg, West Virginia)

GERALD VIZENOR is a prolific writer and literary critic. He is a citizen of the White Earth Nation of the Anishinaabeg in Minnesota, and professor emeritus of American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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___ Breakfast at O’Rourke’s, by Brian O’Rourke
___ Maple Sugaring, by David K. Leff
___ Reality by Other Means, by James Morrow
___ BAX 2015, guest-edited by Douglas Kearney; Seth Abramson and Jesse Damiani, series editors.
___ Fauxhawk, by Ben Doller
___ Azure, by Stéphane Mallarmé, translated by Blake Bronson-Bartlett and Robert Fernandez
___ She Tries her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks, by M. Nourbese Philip
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