The young Iris Murdoch once wrote, in a letter to a friend, “Out of this hurly burly a lot of exciting and maybe good literature seems to be getting written. I’m quite intoxicated by all this. The intellectual fumes are strangely mixed, very strong, overpowering.” In this spirit we bring you a rich mix of new titles, including Living on Paper: Letters from Iris Murdoch, 1934-1995, edited by Avril Horner and Anne Rowe, coming in February.

Combining literary and cultural history, Ruth Yeazell’s Picture Titles: How and Why Western Paintings Acquired Their Names explores how shifting relations between words and images affect the reception of art, while David Alworth’s Site Reading presents a new theory of narrative through sites—roads, supermarkets, dumps, ruins, asylums—crucial to American literature and visual art.


In comparative literature, two books explore the meaning of literacy through very different lenses: twentieth-century South Africa in Mark Sanders’s Learning Zulu and colonial Egypt in Michael Allan’s In the Shadow of World Literature. In Lydia Ginzburg’s Prose, Emily Van Buskirk illuminates the work of an important Soviet-era writer and intellectual. Ethiopia is the source of a fascinating, beautifully illustrated seventeenth-century biography of an African woman, The Life and Struggles of Our Mother Walatta Petros, edited and translated by Wendy Belcher and Michael Kleiner.

Many more titles await your discovery, including a unique and practical collection of classroom exercises, The Pocket Instructor: Literature, edited by Diana Fuss and William Gleason.

We thank our authors and readers for another year of lively conversation.

Anne Savarese
Executive Editor, Literature

New

Living on Paper
Letters from Iris Murdoch, 1934–1995
Iris Murdoch
Edited by Avril Horner & Anne Rowe

Iris Murdoch was an acclaimed novelist and groundbreaking philosopher whose life reflected her unconventional beliefs and values. But what has been missing from biographical accounts has been Murdoch's own voice—her life in her own words. Living on Paper—the first major collection of Murdoch's most compelling and interesting personal letters—gives, for the first time, a rounded self-portrait of one of the twentieth century's greatest writers and thinkers. With more than 760 letters, fewer than forty of which have been published before, the book provides a unique chronicle of Murdoch's life from her days as a schoolgirl to her last years. The result is the most important book about Murdoch in more than a decade.

The letters show a great mind at work—struggling with philosophical problems, trying to bring a difficult novel together, exploring spirituality, and responding pointedly to world events. They also reveal her personal life, the subject of much speculation, in all its complexity, especially in letters to lovers or close friends, such as the writers Brigid Brophy, Elias Canetti, and Raymond Queneau, philosophers Michael Oakeshott and Philippa Foot, and mathematician Georg Kreisel. We witness Murdoch's emotional hunger, her tendency to live on the edge of what was socially acceptable, and her irreverence and sharp sense of humor. We also learn how her private life fed into the plots and characters of her novels, despite her claims that they were not drawn from reality.

Direct and intimate, these letters bring us closer than ever before to Iris Murdoch as a person, making for an extraordinary reading experience.

2016. 704 pages. 16 halftones.
Cl: 978-0-691-17056-5 $39.95
For sale only in North America, the Philippines, and U.S. dependencies

“This collection of letters provides a fascinating insight into the life of a complex and important novelist. It is a wonderful book.”
—Alexander McCall Smith

“Few writers comprehend the murky human messiness of desire like Iris Murdoch, or could plot like her, and these letters show us why. Her life—the multiple lovers, the emotional strain, the terrible food, the nuns and prizes and philosophy—was chaos. She’ll always be my favorite writer; now I understand why.”
—Charlotte Mendelson, author of When We Were Bad
Forthcoming
The Princeton Handbook of Poetic Terms
Third Edition
Edited by Roland Greene & Stephen Cushman

The Princeton Handbook of Poetic Terms— drawn from the latest edition of the acclaimed Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics— provides an authoritative guide to the most important terms in the study of poetry and literature. Featuring 226 fully revised and updated entries, including 100 that are new to this edition, the book offers clear and insightful definitions and discussions of critical concepts, genres, forms, movements, and poetic elements, followed by invaluable, up-to-date bibliographies that guide users to further reading and research.

April 2016. 448 pages.
Pa: 978-0-691-17043-5 $35.00 | £24.95
Cl: 978-0-691-17199-9 $99.50 | £69.95

The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics
Fourth Edition
Roland Greene, editor in chief
Stephen Cushman, general editor
Clare Cavanagh, Jahan Ramazani & Paul Rouzer, associate editors
Harris Feinsod, David Marno & Alexandra Slessarev, assistant editors

2012. 1680 pages.
Pa: 978-0-691-15491-6 $55.00 | £37.95
One of Choice’s Outstanding Academic Titles for 2013

Forthcoming
The Princeton Handbook of World Poetries
Edited by Roland Greene & Stephen Cushman

The Princeton Handbook of World Poetries— drawn from the latest edition of the acclaimed Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics— provides a comprehensive and authoritative survey of the history and practice of poetry in more than 100 major regional, national, and diasporic literatures and language traditions around the globe. With more than 165 entries, the book combines broad overviews and focused accounts to give extensive coverage of poetic traditions throughout the world. Complete with an introduction by the editors, this is an essential volume for anyone interested in understanding poetry in an international context.

April 2016. 608 pages.
Pa: 978-0-691-17051-0 $35.00 | £24.95
Cl: 978-0-691-17152-4 $99.50 | £69.95

New
The Life and Struggles of Our Mother
Walatta Petros
A Seventeenth-Century African Biography of an Ethiopian Woman
Translated and edited by Wendy Laura Belcher & Michael Kleiner
Written by Galawdewos

“This revolutionary Ethiopian saint Walatta Petros finally has the translation into English that she deserves. Faithful, well-researched, and accessible, this volume brings to light a fascinating example of women’s leadership in the early modern world.”
—Getatchew Haile, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University

This is the first English translation of the earliest-known book-length biography of an African woman, and one of the few lives of an African woman written by Africans before the nineteenth century. As such, it provides an exceedingly rare and valuable picture of the experiences and thoughts of Africans, especially women, before the modern era. This groundbreaking volume provides an authoritative and highly readable translation along with an extensive introduction.

2015. 544 pages. 64 color illus. 18 halftones. 4 tables. 2 maps.
Cl: 978-0-691-16421-2 $39.95 | £27.95
Forthcoming
An Essay on Man
Alexander Pope
Edited and with an introduction by Tom Jones

“[A]n impressive achievement. . . . The sophistication with which Jones treats the philosophical contexts of the poem is exceptional.” —James Noggle, Wellesley College

Voltaire called it “the most sublime didactic poem ever written in any language.” Rousseau rhapsodized about its intellectual consolations. Kant recited long passages of it from memory during his lectures. And Adam Smith and David Hume drew inspiration from it in their writings. This was Alexander Pope’s Essay on Man (1733–34), a masterpiece of philosophical poetry, one of the most important and controversial works of the Enlightenment, and one of the most widely read, imitated, and discussed poems of eighteenth-century Europe and America. This volume, which presents the first major new edition of the poem in more than fifty years, introduces this essential work to a new generation of readers, recapturing the excitement and illuminating the debates it provoked from the moment of its publication.

July 2016. 256 pages.
Cl: 978-0-691-15981-2 $24.95 | £16.95

The Essential Goethe
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Edited and introduced by Matthew Bell

“[B]rims with Goethe’s radiant insights and reflects his stunning virtuosity, confirming again his paramount position in European letters.” —Publishers Weekly

The Essential Goethe is the most comprehensive and representative one-volume collection of Goethe’s writings ever published in English. Goethe’s work as playwright, poet, novelist, and autobiographer is fully represented. In addition to the works for which he is most famous, including Faust Part I and the lyric poems, the volume features important literary works that are rarely published in English—including the dramas Egmont, Iphigenia in Tauris, and Torquato Tasso and the bildungsroman Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship, a foundational work in the history of the novel. The volume also offers a selection of Goethe’s essays on the arts, philosophy, and science, which give access to the thought of a polymath unrivalled in the modern world. The volume also features an extensive introduction to Goethe’s life and works by volume editor Matthew Bell.

2015. 1056 pages. 1 halftone. 1 table.
Cl: 978-0-691-16290-4 $39.95 | £27.95

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American Pulp
How Paperbacks Brought Modernism to Main Street
Paula Rabinowitz

“A thoughtful, provocative take on pulp and its influence on American culture.”
—Steven Rea, Philadelphia Inquirer
2014. 432 pages. 24 color illus. 42 halftones.
Cl: 978-0-691-15060-4 $29.95 | £19.95
Co-Winner of the 2015 SHARP DeLong Book History Book Prize, the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing

Dictionary of Untranslatables
A Philosophical Lexicon
Edited by Barbara Cassin
Translation edited by Emily Apter, Jacques Lezra & Michael Wood

 “[A] bonanza for anyone interested in the history of ideas—a kind of miniature Enlightenment.”
—Henry Hitchings, Wall Street Journal
This is an encyclopedic dictionary of close to 400 important philosophical, literary, and political terms and concepts that defy easy—or any—translation from one language and culture to another. Drawn from more than a dozen languages, terms such as Dasein (German), pravda (Russian), saudade (Portuguese), and stato (Italian) are thoroughly examined in all their cross-linguistic and cross-cultural complexities. The entries, written by more than 150 distinguished scholars, describe the origins and meanings of each term, the history and context of its usage, its translations into other languages, and its use in notable texts.
Translation/Transnation  
Emily Apter, Series Editor
2014. 1344 pages.
Cl: 978-0-691-13870-1 $65.00 | £44.95
One of the Times Literary Supplement’s Books of the Year 2014
One of the Times Higher Education Supplement’s Books of the Year 2014
One of Choice’s Outstanding Academic Titles for 2014

New
Picture Titles
How and Why Western Paintings Acquired Their Names
Ruth Bernard Yeazell

“[H]ighly original and beautifully written.”
—David Cannadine, author of The Undivided Past
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William J. Maxwell

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—Adam Bradley, Chronicle Review
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American Pulp

F.B. Eyes

Dictionary of Untranslatables

Picture Titles

Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink
Jewish Illuminated Manuscripts
Edited by Marc Michael Epstein
With contributions by Eva Frojmovic, Jenna Siman Jacobs, Hartley Lachter, Shalom Sabar, Raymond P. Scheindlin, Ágnes Vető, Susan Vick, Barbara Wolff & Diane Wolfthal
2015. 288 pages. 278 color illus. 11 halftones.
Cl: 978-0-691-16524-0 $60.00 | £41.95
New

The Meaning of the Library
A Cultural History
Edited by Alice Crawford

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Rivkah Zim

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—Terry Waite, Church Times

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Illustrated by Andrea Dezsö

“Deszö’s black and white cut-paper illustrations convey a world in which boundaries between the practical and improbable are as fluid and shifting as a dream.”
—Deirdre Baker, Toronto Star

When Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published their Children’s and Household Tales in 1812, followed by a second volume in 1815, they had no idea that such stories as “Rapunzel,” “Hansel and Gretel,” and “Cinderella” would become the most celebrated in the world. Yet few people today are familiar with the majority of tales from the two early volumes, since in the next four decades the Grimms would publish six other editions, each extensively revised in content and style. For the very first time, The Original Folk and Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm makes available in English all 156 stories from the 1812 and 1815 editions.

2014. 568 pages. 20 halftones. Cl: 978-0-691-16059-7 $35.00 | £24.95

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One of the Globe and Mail 75 Book Ideas for Christmas 2014
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The Age of the Crisis of Man
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Mark Greif

“An important book, a brilliant book, an exasperating book…. Mark Greif, who reveals himself to be also a skillful historian of ideas, charts the history of the 20th-century reckonings with the definition of ‘man.’”
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—Adam Kirsch, Tablet

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—Francesca Wade, Prospect

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One of the Times Higher Education Supplement’s Books of the Year 2014

New Paperback
Kafka
The Years of Insight
Reiner Stach
Translated by Shelley Frisch

“This is one of the great literary biographies…. [A]n eerily immediate portrait of one of literature’s most enduring and enigmatic masters.”
—John Banville, New York Review of Books

“Stach’s book succeeds brilliantly at clearing a path through the thick metaphysical fog that has hung about Kafka’s work almost since his death.”
—Tim Martin, Telegraph

2015. 728 pages. 72 halftones.
Pa: 978-0-691-16584-4 $24.95 | £16.95
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James Turner

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Pa: 978-0-691-16858-6 $24.95 | £16.95
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New
On Elizabeth Bishop
Colm Tóibín

“How does a writer turn life into art? Novelist, poet and critic Colm Tóibín’s brilliant, compelling book On Elizabeth Bishop does not raise or answer this question directly, but it brings us very close to the moment of alchemy, both in Bishop’s work and in his own.”
—Elizabeth Greene, Times Higher Education

“Tóibín’s close readings of Bishop’s poems in this deft suite of essays are admirably acute, but what’s truly special is that Tóibín offers not an elegant study of Bishop’s achievements as a poet, but also a shadow account of his own development as a writer, and thus an incidental treatise on the ways writers affect one another’s process.”
—Joel Browner, New York Times Book Review

In this book, novelist Colm Tóibín offers a deeply personal introduction to the work and life of one of his most important literary influences—the American poet Elizabeth Bishop. Ranging across her poetry, prose, letters, and biography, Tóibín creates a vivid picture of Bishop while also revealing how her work has helped shape his sensibility as a novelist and how her experiences of loss and exile resonate with his own.

2015. 224 pages.  
Cl: 978-0-691-15411-4  $19.95 | £13.95

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What W. H. Auden Can Do for You
Alexander McCall Smith

“McCall Smith traces the trajectory, both of [Auden’s] travels and the resultant poems … in a pitch-perfect conversational tone…. His is a gift of charm, and of clarity of image—both of which he uses to the best of his ability here.”
—Vinton Rafe McCabe, New York Journal of Books

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Phillip Lopate

“With the thoroughness and clarity of a latter-day Edmund Wilson and an urbanity and wit that are all his own, Phillip Lopate has given us … an extraordinarily rewarding study”
—Rachel Hadas, Times Literary Supplement

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Grimm Legacies
The Magic Spell of the Grimms’ Folk and Fairy Tales
Jack Zipes
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—Marina Warner, New York Review of Books
“Clear, precise, discreet, and exceedingly well informed.”
—Willis Goth Regier, World Literature Today
In Grimm Legacies, esteemed literary scholar Jack Zipes explores the legacy of the Brothers Grimm in Europe and North America, from the nineteenth century to the present. Zipes reveals how the Grimms came to play a pivotal and unusual role in the evolution of Western folklore and in the history of the most significant cultural genre in the world—the fairy tale.
2014. 288 pages. 3 halftones. 5 line illus.
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The Cultural and Social History of a Genre
Jack Zipes
“Zipes is as always impressively erudite.”
—Richard Marshall, 3AM Magazine
If there is one genre that has captured the imagination of people in all walks of life throughout the world, it is the fairy tale. Yet we still have great difficulty understanding how it originated, evolved, and spread—or why so many people cannot resist its appeal. Drawing on cognitive science, evolutionary theory, psychology, and other fields, renowned fairy-tale expert Jack Zipes presents a provocative new theory about why fairy tales were created and retold—and why they became such an indelible and infinitely adaptable part of cultures around the world.
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Pa: 978-0-691-15955-3 $19.95 | £13.95
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The Original Folk and Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm
The Complete First Edition
Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm
Translated and edited by Jack Zipes
Illustrated by Andrea Dezso
See page 5 for details.
The Fourth Pig
Naomi Mitchison
With a new introduction by Marina Warner
—Michael Dirda, Washington Post
Mitchison turns stories like ‘Hansel and Gretel,’ ‘The Little Mermaid,’ and ‘Brunhilde’ into trenchant commentaries on her times.”
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—Chicago Daily Tribune
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Kurt Schwitters
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Illustrated by Irvine Peacock
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—Michael Hofmann, New York Review of Books
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2013. 192 pages. 15 line illus.
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Edited and with an introduction by Maria Tatar
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Site Reading
2015. 224 pages. 16 halftones.
Cl: 978-0-691-16449-6 $39.50 | £27.95

New The First Book Twentieth-Century Poetic Careers in America
Jesse Zuba

“A fascinating story of poetic debuts. With nuanced understanding as well as clear-eyed realism, Jesse Zuba traces the self-fashioning that goes into the making of careers, allowing poets to strike a delicate balance between institutional demands and personal aspirations.”
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“We have many poets of the First Book,” the poet and critic Louis Simpson remarked in 1957, describing a sense that the debut poetry collection not only launched the contemporary poetic career but also had come to define it. Surveying American poetry over the past hundred years, The First Book explores the emergence of the poetic debut as a unique literary production with its own tradition, conventions, and dynamic role in the literary market. Jesse Zuba illuminates the importance of the first book in twentieth-century American literary culture, which involved complex struggles for legitimacy on the part of poets, critics, and publishers alike.

The First Book
2015. 232 pages.
Cl: 978-0-691-16447-2 $39.50 | £27.95

New Paperback Heart Beats Everyday Life and the Memorized Poem
Catherine Robson

“I hope that books like Catherine Robson’s brilliant Heart Beats: Everyday Life and the Memorized Poem will mark a turning point in the history of our discipline. Written with a lightness of touch but a depth of commitment . . . lively, fresh and insightful . . . thoughtful and meticulous.”
—Chris Jones, Times Higher Education

 “[A] feat of imagining as well as of scholarship.”
—William H. Pritchard, Weekly Standard

Many people in Great Britain and the United States can recall elderly relatives who remembered long stretches of verse learned at school decades earlier, yet most of us were never required to recite in class. Heart Beats is the first book to examine how poetry recitation came to assume a central place in past curricular programs, and to investigate when and why the once-mandatory exercise declined.

Heart Beats
2015. 312 pages. 4 halftones. 1 table.
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Winner of the 2013 NAVSA Best Book of the Year Award, North American Victorian Studies Association
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Selected Essays of Erich Auerbach
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“An excellent opportunity to witness a master philologist at work.” —Joseph Epstein, *Weekly Standard*

2016. 336 pages.
Pa: 978-0-691-16907-1 $24.95 | £16.95
Cl: 978-0-691-13711-7 $39.50 | £27.95

Poetic Trespass
Writing between Hebrew and Arabic in Israel/Palestine
Lital Levy

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Cl: 978-0-691-16248-5 $39.95 | £27.95
Winner of the 2014 Salo Baron Prize, American Academy for Jewish Research
Co-Winner of the 2014 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in Jewish Literature and Linguistics, Association for Jewish Studies

New

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Caroline Levine

“This is a big, brilliant, necessary book.” —Bruce Robbins, Columbia University

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