

AMERICAN
PHILOSOPHICAL
SOCIETY

Press

2025 Catalog



Welcome to our 2025 catalog! As I write this letter, I have not even been at the American Philosophical Society for a full year, but what a time it's been. The Press relocated to our new office suite in Richardson Hall. We lost our Princeton GradFellows intern, Jonathan Repetti, who was so instrumental in helping Peter Dougherty reinvigorate the Press, to a new career as an editorial assistant at Penn Press. We have continued to sign and publish wonderful books, and I've spent the last few months reaching out to Fellows, Members, and scholars in the wider academic community.

Please enjoy flipping through our 2025 catalog—something is sure to catch your eye. The year started with Neil L. Rudenstine's *Our Contentious Universities: A Personal History*, a meditation on Rudenstine's time as the President of Harvard University and a chronicle of the changes that have occurred in higher education. The Spring 2025 season also included two powerhouse titles: Edward Tenner's *Why the Hindenburg Had a Smoking Lounge* and Peter Conn's *Thomas Sully's Philadelphians*. Tenner's book of essays collects musings about all sorts of unintended consequences throughout history, while Conn's book is a beautiful consideration of painter Thomas Sully's portraits and how by analyzing the subjects, we get an intimate sense of Philadelphia's history. The APS Museum's new exhibition opened in April, and the full color catalog of *Philadelphia, the Revolutionary City* is available now. We are closing out the Spring 2025 season with a beautiful two-volume set of Alexander von Humboldt's writings in English edited by Oliver Lubrich and Thomas Nehrich. The Fall 2025 season includes a reissue of Robert Nisbet's *The Social Philosophers* and a blockbuster new book by Cass Sunstein called *Imperfect Oracle*, about how AI can fit (or not) into our lives without upending everything.

Our partnership with Penn Press continues to blossom, and soon we'll have the digitized files of our backlist titles from Paradigm, so that even more spectacular APS Press titles will be available for purchase and library research. Our series, *Learned Lives*, *Disciplines and Discontinuities*, and *APS Classics*, continue to grow, with the first titles set to arrive in 2026! Our journals, *Transactions* and *Proceedings*, are now confidently publishing four issues per year. Elected APS Members may access the journals online for free via the Member portal, or purchase a print subscription using the discount code provided in this catalog. Happy reading, and don't hesitate to reach out if I can be helpful to you in any way!

Kimberly Guinta, Director of the APS Press
kguinta@amphilsoc.org



Left: APS Press Director Kimberly Guinta with Peter Dougherty, Editor-at-Large and former APS Press Director, at the April 2025 APS Meeting. Photo by Kelly & Massa.

Our Contentious Universities

A Personal History

Neil L. Rudenstine

How universities have become increasingly contentious since the Sixties, from the viewpoint of a former Princeton provost and Harvard president

From his days at Princeton University as a member of the faculty, dean, and provost, and his time as a faculty member and president at Harvard University, Neil L. Rudenstine has been uniquely positioned to observe the changes that have occurred in higher education over the past few decades. In this book, he draws on his various roles to present an educator's inside account of the modern university. More than that, *Our Contentious Universities* is a personal history of how our current campus climate of antagonism evolved, beginning with the late 1960s and up to our contemporary moment.

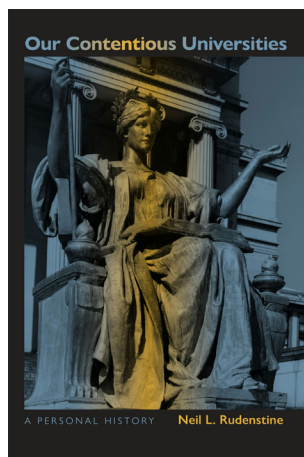
Neil L. Rudenstine graduated from Princeton University (1956), was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, earned his PhD in English Literature at Harvard, and remained on Harvard's faculty until 1968. After two decades as Professor, Dean, and Provost at Princeton, he was President of Harvard University from 1991 to 2001. He was a trustee of the Barnes Foundation and was chair of the boards of ARTstor, the New York Public Library, the Rockefeller Archive Center, as well as vice-chair of the board of the J. Paul Getty Trust. His several books include *Sidney's Poetic Development*; *English Poetic Satire* (with G.S. Rousseau); *In Pursuit of the PhD* (with W. G. Bowen); and *Pointing Our Thoughts*. He lives in Massachusetts.

"A must-read for all faculty and administrators committed to the promise of higher education in the United States."

—Margaret H. Marshall,
former Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts

"Why is Neil Rudenstine among the most beloved of Harvard's presidents? Readers of this book will find out."

—William C. Kirby, author of *Empires of Ideas:
Creating the Modern University
from Germany to America to China*



MARCH 2025

312 pp. | 6 x 9

9781606180075
Hardcover | ~~\$34.95~~ \$24.47

9781606180082
ebook | ~~\$34.95~~ \$24.47

30% off with code APS30

Why the Hindenburg Had a Smoking Lounge

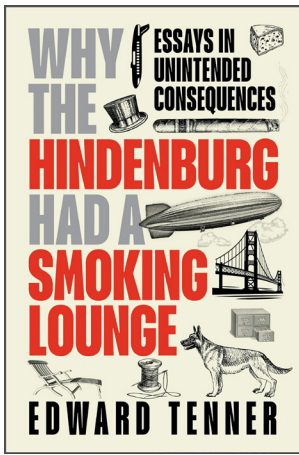
Essays in Unintended Consequences

Edward Tenner

Essays by international bestselling author Edward Tenner that explore both the negative and positive surprises of human ingenuity

How did the addition of lifeboats after the Titanic shipwreck contribute to another tragedy in Chicago harbor three years later? How efficient are wild animals as investors, and how do dog breeds become national symbols? Why have scientific breakthroughs so often originated in the study of shadows? Why have Amish artisans played an important role in manufacturing advanced technology? Why was United Shoe Machinery the Microsoft of the 1890s? Surprises like these, Edward Tenner believes, can help us deal with the technological issues that confront us now.

Edward Tenner is a Distinguished Scholar of the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation and a visiting scholar in the Rutgers University History Department. He also has held visiting research positions in the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Institute for Advanced Study, and the University of Pennsylvania, and in the Princeton departments and programs of Geosciences, English, and Information Technology Policy. His several books include *Tech Speak or How to Talk High Tech: An Advanced Post-Vernacular Discourse Modulation Protocol*, *Why Things Bite Back: Technology and the Revenge of Unintended Consequences*, *Our Own Devices: How Technology Remakes Humanity*, and *The Efficiency Paradox: What Big Data Can't Do*.



APRIL 2025

585 pp. | 6 x 9

9781606180273
Hardcover | \$34.95
\$24.47

9781606180280
ebook | \$34.95 \$24.47

30% off with code APS30

"A masterclass in the complexities of human/machine entanglement."—Sherry Turkle, Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

"No critic is savvier when it comes to weighing the pros and cons of technologies old and new than Edward Tenner."—John Horgan, science journalist and Director, Center for Science Writings, Stevens Institute of Technology

Thomas Sully's Philadelphians

Painting the Athens of America

Peter Conn

Philadelphia's early national history represented in Thomas Sully's portraits

Thomas Sully is widely regarded as perhaps the most important portrait painter of the antebellum years. Using those portraits, *Thomas Sully's Philadelphians: Painting the Athens of America* reconstructs many of the people, institutions, and events that combined to make Philadelphia, from the Revolution until the 1840s, at once the most cosmopolitan and most racially embattled city in America. The book approaches Sully's portraits as visual documents in the history of Philadelphia in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Peter Conn retired from the University of Pennsylvania as Vartan Gregorian Professor of English and Professor of Education and was a member of the graduate groups in the history of art and American civilization. His publications include *The Divided Mind: Ideology and Imagination in America, 1898–1917*; *Literature in America*; *The American 1930s: A Literary History*; and *Pearl S. Buck: A Cultural Biography*, which was chosen as a New York Times Notable Book.



APRIL 2025

216 pp. | 6 x 9

9781606180495
Hardcover | \$39.95
\$27.97

9781606180501
ebook | \$39.95 \$27.97

30% off with code APS30

"As we read Conn's biographies of Sully's sitters, we realize that he is slyly giving us the history of the city itself."

—Michael J. Lewis, Faison-Pierson-Stoddard Professor of Art,
Williams College

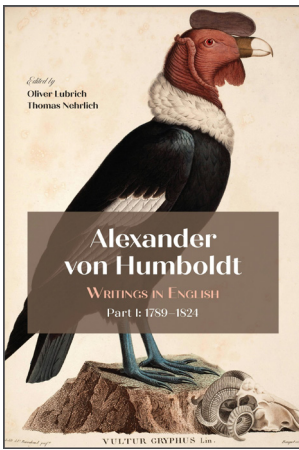
"Underlining the importance of place for Sully's portrait practice, Conn surveys his layered relationship with the city's culture and society."—Sylvia Yount, Lawrence A. Fleischman Curator in Charge of the American Wing, The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Alexander von Humboldt

Writings in English
Parts I & II

Edited by **Oliver Lubrich &
Thomas Nehrlich**

Presents the 250 texts Alexander von Humboldt wrote in English, unabridged in their original form



JUNE 2025

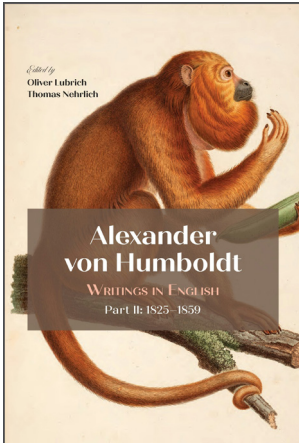
PART I: 1789–1824

760 pp. | 6.75 x 10

9781606180167
Hardcover | ~~\$45.00~~ \$31.50

9781606180174
ebook | ~~\$45.00~~ \$31.50

30% off with code APS30



PART II: 1825–1859

680 pp. | 6.75 x 10

9781606180181
Hardcover | ~~\$45.00~~ \$31.50

9781606180198
ebook | ~~\$45.00~~ \$31.50

**9781606180808 Vols. I & II
Hardcover | ~~\$75.00~~ \$52.50
Available August 2025**

Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859), German geographer and naturalist, is well-known for his explorations of the Americas and of Russia, for his ascension of Mount Chimborazo, and for his contributions to the understanding of man-made climate change. Though he is cited today as the “father of ecology or environmentalism,” many of his works have not been accessible since his death, especially his numerous papers, articles, and essays published in journals, newspapers, and magazines all over the world. Humboldt’s international reception was unparalleled during his time, with publications spanning across five continents in 15 languages, and his work influenced generations of writers.

Oliver Lubrich is Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Bern. He edited numerous works by Humboldt, including *Views of the Cordilleras, Central Asia*, and *Cosmos*. He edited John F. Kennedy’s “Hidden Diary” from 1937 and the German novellas by Thomas Wolfe, as well as the collections *Travels in the Reich* and *Reports from the Target Zone*.

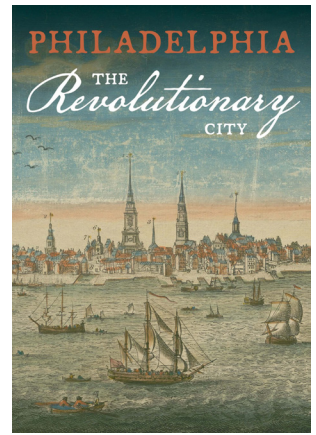
Thomas Nehrlich teaches at the University of Bern. He is the author of monographs on punctuation and typography in the prose of Heinrich von Kleist and on the writings of Alexander von Humboldt and their contribution to the history of science. He published an anthology on the history and theory of superheroes and is currently researching the evolution of post-heroism.

Philadelphia, the Revolutionary City

Edited by
The APS Library & Museum

Philadelphia, the Revolutionary City explores the lived experiences of Philadelphians leading up to, during, and after the fight for independence, showcasing written documents as well as material culture, from diaries and journals to political cartoons, household objects, and personal items. Published on the occasion of the exhibition of the same title, curated by the American Philosophical Society, the project traces key events through the late 1780s, and the impact they had on the daily lives of a diverse populace that made up the bustling colonial city of Philadelphia. The exhibition was inspired by an innovative digital archive launched by the American Philosophical Society (APS), the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP), and the Library Company of Philadelphia (LCP), in partnership with the Museum of the American Revolution and the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts at the University of Pennsylvania. The special collections at the APS, HSP, and LCP hold vast archival and manuscript materials documenting Philadelphia's role in the American Revolution, which these institutions have committed to making available to the public online through this digital platform.

The book includes a fully-illustrated object checklist with information for each item as well as a curatorial statement about the project's development. Additionally, it features three essays, one from each of the directors of the special collection libraries, focusing on key objects within each collection, plus an essay on the origins of the digital project and its ongoing work. Each essay offers a unique perspective on Philadelphia's revolutionary history and a range of stories that can be found in these archives and on the digital portal at therevolutionarycity.org.



JUNE 2025

110 pp. | 8.5 x 11

9781606181225
Paperback | \$29.95 \$20.97

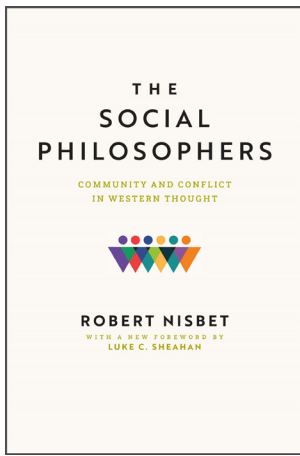
30% off with code APS30

Digital portal:

therevolutionarycity.org

Contributions by:

Patrick Spero
Michelle Craig McDonald
John Van Horne
David R. Brigham
Caroline O'Connell
Bayard Miller



The Social Philosophers

Community and Conflict in Western Thought

Robert Nisbet

Foreword by Luke C. Sheahan

Western ideas of moral authority, freedom, consensus, and personality emerge from humankind's search for community

SEPTEMBER 2025

440 pp. | 6.12 x 9.25

9781606180389

Paperback | \$26.95 \$18.87

30% off with code APS30

In this provocative, classic, absorbing work of social and intellectual history, Robert Nisbet advances the idea that Western social philosophy arose during the disintegration of the ancient Greek and Roman communities, and has been preoccupied ever since with the problem of community lost and community to be gained. He further contends that Western ideas of moral authority, freedom, consensus, and personality take on their distinctive character when viewed through the lens of humankind's search for community.

Robert Nisbet served on the faculty at the University of California, and was professor of history and sociology at the University of Arizona. A former Guggenheim fellow, recipient of the Italian Award of Merit, and fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he was the author of many books, among them *The Quest for Community: A Study in the Ethics of Order and Freedom*, *Social Change and History*, *The Present Age: Progress and Anarchy in Modern America*, and *The Making of Modern Society*. He died in 1996 at age 82.

Luke C. Sheahan is an associate professor of political science at Duquesne University, senior affiliate in the Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society (PRRUCS) at the University of Pennsylvania, and editor of *The University Bookman*. He is the author of *Why Associations Matter: The Case for First Amendment Pluralism*.

"Kudos to Luke C. Sheahan and the American Philosophical Society Press for bringing Robert Nisbet's *The Social Philosophers* to the attention of thoughtful readers once again. It is a feast for the mind and a joy to read."—Daniel J. Mahoney, author of *The Persistence of the Ideological Lie:*

The Totalitarian Impulse Then and Now

Imperfect Oracle

What AI Can and Cannot Do Cass R. Sunstein

Best-selling author Cass R. Sunstein outlines the promise and limits of artificial intelligence

Imperfect Oracle is about the promise and limits of artificial intelligence. The promise is that in important ways AI is better than we are at making judgments. Its limits are evidenced by the fact that AI cannot always make accurate predictions—not today, not tomorrow, and not the day after, either.

AI promises to avoid both bias and noise. For institutions that want to avoid mistakes it is now a great boon. AI will also help investors who want to make money and consumers who don't want to buy products that they will end up hating. Still, the world is full of surprises, and AI cannot spoil those surprises because some of the most important forms of knowledge involve an appreciation of what we cannot know and why we cannot know it. Life would be a lot less fun if we could predict everything.

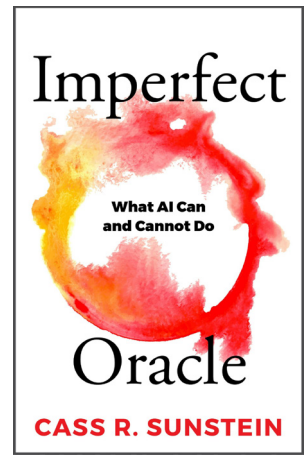
Cass R. Sunstein is the Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard Law School. His many books include *Simpler: The Future of Government*; *The Ethics of Influence*; *#Republic*; *Impeachment: A Citizen's Guide*; *The Cost-Benefit Revolution*; *Conformity*; *How Change Happens*; *Too Much Information*; and, with Richard H. Thaler, the best-selling classic, *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness*, now in its final edition.

"Anyone interested in how artificial intelligence can change our world—which is to say, everyone—should read this book."

—Jens Ludwig, Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman
Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago

"Avoiding the hyperbolae common in other analyses that tend to lean towards either techno-utopianism or prophecies of imminent doom, Sunstein grounds his assessment in a deep understanding of human cognition, scientific principles and even constitutional law, avoiding technobabble and lending a fresh perspective to this timely issue."

—Dr. Laura Gilbert, Director of Data Science, 10 Downing Street



OCTOBER 2025

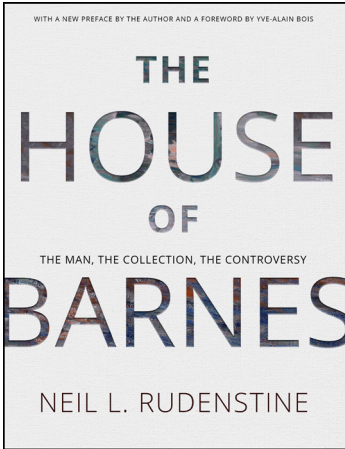
192 pp. | 5.5 x 8.5

9781606181379
Hardcover | \$26.95-\$18.87

9781606181386
ebook | \$26.95-\$18.87

30% off with code APS30

BACKLIST



The House of Barnes

The Man, the Collection,
the Controversy

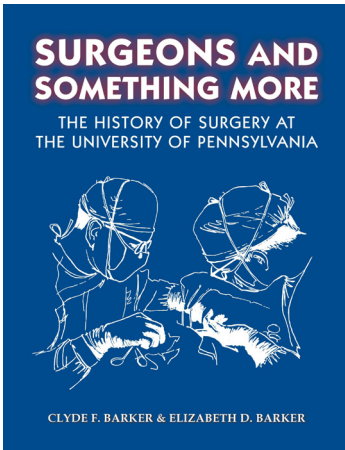
Neil L. Rudenstine

2024 | 264 pp. | 8.5 x 11

9781606188897
Paperback | ~~\$45.00~~ \$31.50

9781606188880
Hardcover | ~~\$60.00~~ \$42.00

9781606188903
ebook | ~~\$45.00~~ \$31.50



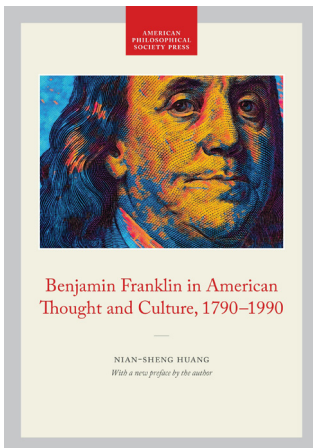
Surgeons and Something More

The History of Surgery at the
University of Pennsylvania

**Clyde F. Barker
and Elizabeth D. Barker**

2024 | 592 pp. | 8.5 x 11

9781606180204
Hardcover | ~~\$75.00~~ \$52.50



Benjamin Franklin in American Thought and Culture, 1790-1990

Nian-Sheng Huang

2024 | 296 pp. | 7 x 10

9781606189276
Paperback | ~~\$24.95~~ \$17.47

9781606189290
ebook | ~~\$24.95~~ \$17.47

Sketching Splendor

American Natural History,
1750–1850

APS Library & Museum

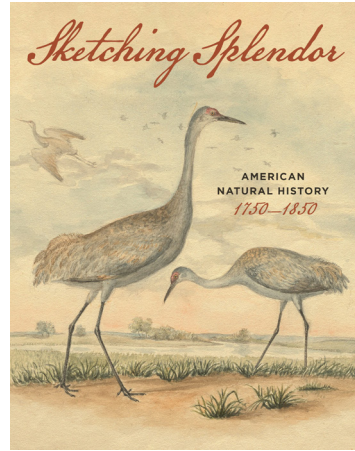
2024 | 112 pp. | 8.5 x 11

9781606180402

Paperback | ~~\$30.00~~ \$21.00

9781606180464

ebook | ~~\$30.00~~ \$21.00



A Male Hysteria

Diabetes and the Victorian Mind

Edward Beasley

2024 | 456 pp. | 6 x 9

9781606189016

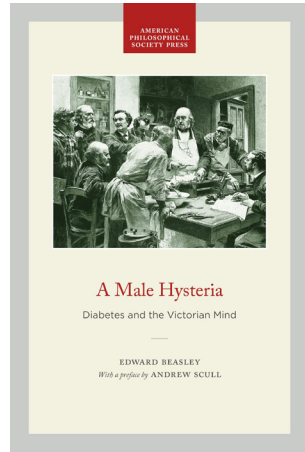
Paperback | ~~\$49.50~~ \$34.65

9781606189009

Hardcover | ~~\$99.95~~ \$69.97

9781606189023

ebook | ~~\$49.50~~ \$34.65



The Other Presidency

Thomas Jefferson and the
American Philosophical Society

Patrick Spero

2024 | 104 pp. | 5.5 x 8.5

9781606189047

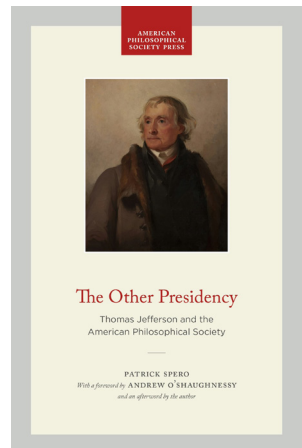
Paperback | ~~\$16.95~~ \$11.87

9781606189030

Hardcover | ~~\$69.95~~ \$48.97

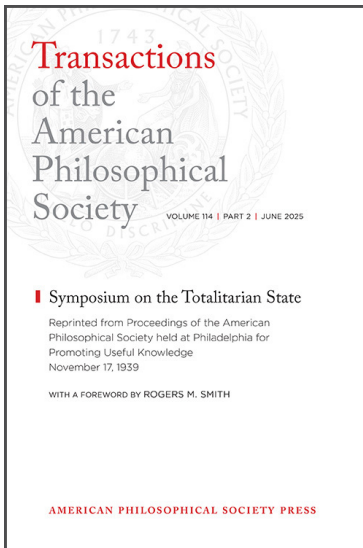
9781606189054

ebook | ~~\$16.95~~ \$11.87



Transactions of the American Philosophical Society

Transactions is the oldest scholarly publication in North America. It began as a scientific journal in 1771, and over its long history has covered fields of study ranging from astronomy to American history, from archaeology to economics, and from linguistics to the history of science. *Transactions* now releases quarterly issues organized around themes, with content drawn from papers given at APS conferences and workshops. Recent topics include totalitarianism, climate change, decolonizing special collections, and women in science.



General Editor: Michelle McDonald

Managing Editor: Kate Tyler Wall

Quarterly

ISSN 0065-9746 (print)

ISSN 2325-9264 (online)

Individual print + online: \$65

Individual online only: \$53

Student: \$44

Institution print + online: \$231

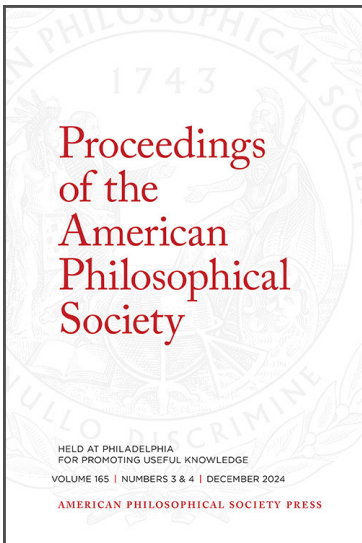
Institution online only \$194

Save \$10 with code APSMEMBER

Elected APS Members enjoy free online access via the Member portal.

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society

Proceedings is a quarterly journal first published in 1838 that includes papers read at the American Philosophical Society's biannual meetings, independent essays by outside scholars, biographical memoirs of APS Members, and field reports essays from recipients of APS grants who have completed projects in the sciences and humanities. Recent topics include language and identity in America's native nations, journalism, the U.S. education system, and the anthropocene.



General Editor: William C. Jordan

Managing Editor: Annalisa Zox-Weaver

Quarterly

ISSN 0003-049X (print)

ISSN 2326-9243 (online)

Individual print + online: \$55

Individual online only: \$42

Student: \$34

Institution print + online: \$163

Institution online only: \$131

Save \$10 with code APSMEMBER

Elected APS Members enjoy free online access via the Member portal.

John Frederick Lewis Award

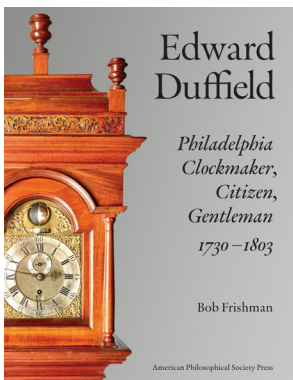


Above: (L-R) Paul W. Kroll (Lewis Prize Committee Chair), Bob Frishman, and Roger S. Bagnall (APS President) during the award ceremony on April 24, 2025. Photo by Kelly & Massa.

The John Frederick Lewis award was established by a gift from the widow of John F. Lewis, to honor the outstanding maritime lawyer who played a major role in various cultural institutions in Philadelphia. Since 1981 the award has recognized the best book published by the Society in a given year.

At the April 2025 APS Meeting, Bob Frishman received the award for his 2024 book *Edward Duffield: Philadelphia Clockmaker, Citizen, Gentleman, 1730–1803*, the first comprehensive study of the life and times of colonial Philadelphia clockmaker Edward Duffield.

Bob is a Silver Star Fellow of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers in London. He is a Proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum, holder of Share Number 8 of the Library Company of Philadelphia, a member of the Grolier Club, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Ross Society of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. He continues to operate Bell-Time Clocks in Andover, Massachusetts, where he lives with his wife, author Jeanne Schinto.



Edward Duffield

Philadelphia Clockmaker,
Citizen, Gentleman

Bob Frishman

2024 | 256 pp. | 9.5 x 12.5

9781606180099

Hardcover | ~~\$60.00~~ \$42.00

9781606180105

ebook | ~~\$60.00~~ \$42.00

30% off with code APS30

Ordering

Ordering Instructions for Individual Customers

Within the United States

To order APS Press books directly, visit the Penn Press website:

www.pennpress.org/aps-press

Books are also available to order via local bookstores and online retailers.

Orders through the website are fulfilled by Ingram Publisher Services. To inquire about an order placed through the Penn Press website, contact Ingram by email at:
IndiePubsSupport@ingramcontent.com.

Orders will not be accepted via email, fax, phone, or any method other than the website shopping cart. Shipping charges and sales tax will be calculated in the shopping cart and added to the cost of the books themselves. Orders typically arrive within 5-10 days.

Returns: Returns are eligible for a full refund of the purchase price and applied taxes, but not the cost of return shipping. These conditions apply: books must be undamaged and in salable, like-new condition.

If the books received are not as ordered, or if the shipment arrives damaged, a full refund of the purchase price, applied taxes, and original shipping cost will be made if the items are returned within 30 days of their receipt. Ship returns, with the original packing slip, postpaid, to this address:

Ingram Publisher Services
Attn: Returns
201 Ingram Drive
Roseburg, OR 97471

Refunds will be processed to the credit card used in the original purchase.

Within the Americas (Outside of the United States)

The Penn Press online shopping cart is unable to process orders shipping to countries in the Americas (North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean) other than the United States. Customers in these countries may purchase APS Press books via online retailers.

Outside of the Americas

Orders from outside of the Americas should be placed directly with the Press's overseas distributor, Combined Academic Publishers. Orders shipping to addresses throughout the U.K., Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia/New Zealand will be supplied from the Marston Book Services warehouse, near Oxford, U.K. To inquire about orders shipping outside of the Americas, contact Marston customer services.



Above: APS Press books and journals on display at the April 2025 APS Meeting. Photo by Allison Cadle.

**Enjoy a 30% discount
on APS Press books with code**

APS30

www.pennpress.org/aps-press



amphilsoc.org/aps-press

AMERICAN
PHILOSOPHICAL
SOCIETY

Press

amphilsoc.org/aps-press

Bluesky: @amphilpress

Facebook: American Philosophical Society Press

Instagram: @amphilpress

Richardson Hall

431 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106