A journey through the lands of boiled peanuts, pesto, and pickled peppercorns—with thirty recipes

Foodies, travel enthusiasts, culinary historians, fans of fine writing, and cookbook collectors will feast on John Martin Taylor’s Charleston to Phnom Penh. A unique vision of a joyous and peripatetic life, these essays take readers on a journey across three continents, from the South Carolina Lowcountry of Taylor’s upbringing to the Caribbean, Italy, France, Eastern Europe, and Asia.

Taylor recalls his mother’s before-her-time culinary experiments; probes historical archives to research the origins of classic dishes; and remembers adventures sailing, dancing, and fishing, as well as cooking. His gaze is social, etymological, personal, comic, and historical, and all foods are considered fair game for scrutiny. Taylor tells us how to bake with olive oil, why he doesn’t make wedding cakes, what to do in Transylvania, and how he came to be a voice of the Lowcountry. Make a margarita and delve into his deconstruction of hoppin’ john, his erstwhile namesake; the history of cheese straws; and how to make callaloo and fish amok.

JOHN MARTIN TAYLOR is a culinary historian and cookbook author. His first book, Hoppin’ John’s Lowcountry Cooking, has been continuously in print for thirty years, and his writing has appeared in publications including the New York Times, Washington Post, and Gastronomica.

ALSO OF INTEREST

TASTE THE STATE
South Carolina’s Signature Foods, Recipes, and Their Stories
Kevin Mitchell and David S. Shields

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Charleston to Phnom Penh
A Cook’s Journal

JOHN MARTIN TAYLOR

DECEMBER
6 x 9, 240 pages, 30 b&w illus.
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How to Become an American
A History of Immigration, Assimilation, and Loneliness
DANIEL WOLFF

An odyssey from pre–Civil War Charleston to post–World War II Minneapolis through immigrants’ eyes

The histories of US immigrants do not always begin and end in Ellis Island and northeastern cities. Many arrived earlier and some migrated south and west, fanning out into their vast new country. They sought a renewed life, fresh prospects, and a safe harbor, despite a nation that was not always welcoming and not always tolerant.

How to Become an American begins with a widow’s abandoned diary—and from there author Daniel Wolff examines the sweeping history of immigration into the United States through the experiences of one unnamed, seemingly unremarkable Jewish family, and, in the process, makes their lives remarkable. It is a deeply human odyssey that journeys from pre–Civil War Charleston, South Carolina, to post–World War II Minneapolis, Minnesota. In some ways, the family’s journey parallels that of the nation, as it struggled to define itself through the Industrial Age. A persistent strain of loneliness permeates this story, and Wolff holds up this theme for contemplation. In a country that prides itself on being “a nation of immigrants,” where “all men are created equal,” why do we end up feeling alone in the land we love?

DANIEL WOLFF is an award-winning author of numerous books, including Grown-Up Anger and The Fight for Home.

ALSO OF INTEREST

A PORTION OF THE PEOPLE
Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life
Edited by Theodore Rosengarten and Dale Rosengarten

Hardcover, $34.99T

Cover not yet available. Photo: Jewish immigrants on the deck of a ship, courtesy of The College of Charleston Libraries.
The transformation of Governor Ralph Northam

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam’s “blackface scandal” could have destroyed any politician. The photo of Governor Northam purportedly in blackface created a firestorm not only locally but also in every political sphere. What the Eyes Can’t See details why Northam’s career did not end with the scandal and how it made him a better governor—and a better citizen.

In this book Margaret Edds draws on unprecedented access to the governor, his aides, and members of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, whose initial anger evolved into determination to mine good from an ugly episode. Both scolding and encouraging, they led Northam to a deeper understanding of the racism and pain the photograph symbolized. To Northam’s credit, he listened, and more importantly learned the lessons of endemic, systemic racism and applied those lessons to his legislative agenda. Edds provides a revealing examination of race in the nation, how racism might be addressed and reckoned with, and how we all may find a measure of redemption in listening to one another.

MARGARET EDDS is a former reporter and editorial writer for the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot. She is the author of several books, including We Face the Dawn, Finding Sara, and An Expendable Man.

ALSO OF INTEREST

SOUTHERN HISTORY / POLITICAL SCIENCE

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MARGARET EDDS

NOVEMBER
6 x 9, 280 pages, 28 b&w illus.
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A Naturalist’s Guide to
Birds of the Southeast

TODD BALLANTINE

OCTOBER
7 x 10, 208 pages, 97 b&w illus.

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Award-winning environmental scientist, naturalist, writer, educator, and artist Todd Ballantine wings his way across the vast Southeast with entertaining prose and beautiful, instructive illustrations in this delightful exploration of one hundred birds in their various habitats.

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TODD BALLANTINE is a nationally recognized environmental scientist, writer, educator, and artist. He is recipient of the Harry Hampton Award for natural-resource reporting from the South Carolina Wildlife Federation. He is author and illustrator of Tideland Treasure (University of South Carolina Press) and Woodland Walks.

ALSO OF INTEREST

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Finding Francis
One Family’s Journey from Slavery to Freedom

ELIZABETH J. WEST

DECEMBER
6 x 9, 192 pages, 30 b&w illus.
ISBN 978-1-64336-357-8, Hardcover, $98.99S
Ebook, $32.99

Finding Francis, finding family, freeing history

Francis is found. Beyond Francis, a family is found—in archival material that barely deigned to notice their existence. This is the story of Francis Sistrunk and her children, from enslavement into forced migration across South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. It spans decades before the Civil War and continues into post-emancipation America. A family story full of twists and turns, Finding Francis reclaims and honors those women who played an essential role in the historical survival and triumph of Black people during and after American slavery.

Elizabeth West has created a remarkable “biohistoriography” of everyday Black resistance, grounded in a determination to maintain enduring connections of family, kinship, and community despite the inhumanity and rapacity of slavery. There is inevitable heartbreak in these histories, but there is also an empowering strength and inspiration—the truth of these lives will indeed set us all free.

ELIZABETH J. WEST is the John B. and Elena Diaz-Verson Amos Distinguished Chair in English Letters and the Co-Director of Academics of the Center for Studies on Africa and Its Diaspora at Georgia State University. She is the author of African Spirituality in Black Women’s Fiction and coeditor of Literary Expressions of African Spirituality.

ALSO OF INTEREST
NOTES FROM A COLORED GIRL
The Civil War Pocket Diaries of Emilie Frances Davis
Karsonya Wise Whitehead

Hardcover, $41.99S
An examination of the colonization of Port Royal

Those interested in the early colonial history of South Carolina and the southeastern borderlands will find much to discover in *Carolina’s Lost Colony* in which historian Peter N. Moore examines the dual colonization of Port Royal at the end of the seventeenth century. From the east came Scottish Covenanters, who established the small outpost of Stuarts Town. Meanwhile, the Yamasee arrived from the south and west. These European and Indigenous colonizers made common cause as they sought to rival the English settlement of Charles Town to the north and the Spanish settlement of St. Augustine to the south. Also present were smaller Indigenous communities that had long populated the Atlantic sea islands. It is a global story whose particulars played out along a small piece of the Carolina coast.

Religious idealism and commercial realities came to a head as the Scottish settlers made informal alliances with the Yamasee and helped to reinvigorate the Indian slave trade—setting in motion events that transformed the region into a powder keg of colonial ambitions, unleashing a chain of hostilities, realignments, displacement, and destruction that forever altered the region.

**PETER N. MOORE** is professor of history, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, and the author of *World of Toil and Strife* and *Archibald Simpson’s Unpeaceable Kingdom.*

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**THE GRIM YEARS**  
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John J. Navin  
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**Carolina’s Lost Colony**  
*Stuarts Town and the Struggle for Survival in Early South Carolina*  
**PETER N. MOORE**

**JANUARY**  
6 x 9, 208 pages, 8 b&w illus.  
Ebook, $32.99
Embracing Vocation
Cormac McCarthy's Writing Life, 1959–1974
DIANNE C. LUCE

Revelations on craft from a foundational scholar of Cormac McCarthy

Devotees of Cormac McCarthy's novels are legion, and deservedly so. Embracing Vocation, which tells the tale of his journey to become one of America's greatest living writers, will be invaluable to scholars and literary critics—and to the many fans—interested in his work.

Dianne C. Luce, a foundational scholar of McCarthy's writing, through extensive archival research, examines the first fifteen years of his career and his earliest novels. Novel by novel, Luce traces each book's evolution. In the process she unveils McCarthy's working processes as well as his personal, literary, and professional influences, highlighting his ferocious devotion to both his craft and burgeoning art. Luce invites us to see the fascinating evolution of an American author with a unique vision all his own. Until there is a full-on biography, this study, along with Luce's previous, Reading the World: Cormac McCarthy's Tennessee Period, is the finest available portrait of an American genius unfolding.

DIANNE C. LUCE is the author of Reading the World (University of South Carolina Press) and coeditor of Perspectives on Cormac McCarthy and A Cormac McCarthy Companion. She is cofounder and past president of the Cormac McCarthy Society.

ALSO OF INTEREST

READING THE WORLD
Cormac McCarthy's Tennessee Period
Dianne C. Luce
ISBN 978-1-57003-988-1
Paperback, $24.99
A trailblazing approach to the first-year experience

As an innovative educational experiment, University 101 was designed to support students’ transition to and success in college. Now, fifty years after its inception, the program continues to bring national recognition to the University of South Carolina. From Educational Experiment to Standard Bearer celebrates this milestone by exploring the course’s origins; its evolution and success at the university; its impact on first-year students, upper-level students serving as peer leaders, faculty and staff instructors, and the university community and culture; and its role in launching the international first-year experience movement.

By highlighting the most significant takeaways, lessons learned, and insights to practitioners on other campuses, this book will serve as an inspiration and road map for other institutions to invest in this proven concept and focus on the ingredients that lead to a successful program. John N. Gardner, founding director and architect of University 101, provides a foreword.

DANIEL B. FRIEDMAN is executive director of University 101 Programs and affiliate faculty in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program at the University of South Carolina. TRACY L. SKIPPER is an editor, writer, and student success scholar. CATHERINE S. GREENE is responsible for the University 101 Program’s campus partnerships.
What does it mean when we call a movement “global”? How can we engage with digital activism without being “slacktivists”? In Activist Literacies, Jennifer Nish responds to these questions and a larger problem in contemporary public discourse: many discussions and analyses of digital and transnational activism rely on inaccurate language and inadequate frameworks. Drawing on transnational feminist theory and rhetorical analysis, Nish formulates a robust set of tools for nuanced engagement with activist rhetorics.

Nish applies her literacies of positionality, orientation, and circulation to case studies that highlight grassroots activism, well-resourced nonprofits, and a decentralized social media challenge; in so doing, she illustrates the complex power dynamics at work in each scenario and demonstrates how activist literacies can be used to understand and engage with efforts to contribute to social change. Written in an accessible, engaging style, Activist Literacies invites scholars, students, and activists to read activist rhetoric that engages with “global” concerns and circulates transnationally via social media.

Jennifer Nish is assistant professor of technical communication and rhetoric and faculty affiliate of the Women’s and Gender Studies program at Texas Tech University.
The Carolina Rice Kitchen
The African Connection, second edition
KAREN HESS
foreword by
JOHN MARTIN TAYLOR

AUGUST
6 x 9, 328 pages, 4 b&w illus.
Ebook, $26.99

“...The author calls this work a hymn of praise for the Africans enslaved and brought to South Carolina to clear the cypress swamps and plant and tend rice crops. ... It’s more of a symphony.”
—THE [BALTIMORE] SUN

A pioneering history of the Carolina rice kitchen

The rice kitchen of Carolina was the result of myriad influences—Persian, Arab, French, English, and African—but it was primarily the creation of enslaved African American cooks. And it evolved around the use of Carolina Gold. The ancient way of cooking rice, developed in India and Africa, became the Carolina way. Carolina Gold rice was so esteemed that its very name became a generic term in much of the world for the finest long-grain rice obtainable.

This engaging book is packed with fascinating historical details and speculations, as well as more than three hundred recipes and a facsimile of the 1901 Carolina Rice Cook Book compiled by Mrs. Samuel Gaillard Stoney. A new foreword by John Martin Taylor underscores Hess’s legacy as a culinary historian and the successful revival of Carolina Gold rice since the book was first published.

KAREN HESS (1918–2007) was an accomplished culinary historian and author and editor of numerous books. She was once called “the best American cook in Paris” by Newsweek.
A rich portrait of Black life in South Carolina’s Upstate

Encyclopedic in scope, yet intimate in detail, *African American Life in South Carolina’s Upper Piedmont, 1780–1900*, delves into the richness of community life in a setting where Black residents were relatively few, notably disadvantaged, but remarkably cohesive. W. J. Megginson shifts the conventional study of African Americans in South Carolina from the much-examined Lowcountry to a part of the state that offered a quite different existence for people of color. In Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties—occupying the state’s northwest corner—he finds an independent, brave, and stable subculture that persevered for more than a century in the face of political and economic inequities. Drawing on little-used state and county denominational records, privately held research materials, and sources available only in local repositories, Megginson brings to life African American society before, during, and after the Civil War. Orville Vernon Burton, Judge Matthew J. Perry Jr. Distinguished Professor of History at Clemson University and University Distinguished Teacher/Scholar Emeritus at the University of Illinois, provides a new foreword.

W. J. MEGGINSON (1943–2020) was a native of Upstate South Carolina. He taught at Arkansas State University, Hendrix College, Drexel University, and La Salle University.

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Second edition

W. J. MEGGINSON
foreword by ORVILLE VERNON BURTON

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