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THE JUDGES OF THE SECRET COURT: A NOVEL ABOUT JOHN WILKES BOOTH

DAVID STACTON

Introduction by John Crowley

“On the surface, it would appear to be a superior historical fiction, accurate in detail, moving and compelling narrative and character. But it is something more than this as well, an exploration by a brilliant and thoughtful writer of the labyrinthine ways of good and evil.”

—Robert R. Kirsch, Los Angeles Times

David Stacton’s long-lost novel *The Judges of the Secret Court* will allow contemporary readers to discover for the first time a hidden masterpiece of American fiction that is one of the finest books ever written about the Civil War. Stacton’s gripping story centers on the brothers Edwin and John Wilkes Booth, members of a famous theatrical family. Edwin is a great actor, a Hamlet-like character whose performances of *Hamlet* will make him an international sensation. Wilkes is a blustering mediocrity on stage who is determined, however, to be an actor in history, and whose assassination of Abraham Lincoln will change America. Stacton’s novel about how the roles we play become, for better or for worse, the lives we lead, takes us back to the day of the assassination, immersing us in the farrago of bombast that fills Wilke’s head while following his footsteps up to the fatal, but weirdly anti-climactic, encounter at the Ford Theater. The political maneuvering around Lincoln’s deathbed and Wilkes’ desperate flight and ignominious capture then set the stage for a political show trial that will condemn not only the guilty but the—relatively—innocent. For as Edwin Booth broods helplessly many years later, and as Lincoln, whose tragic death and wisdom overshadow this tale, also knew, “We are all accessories before or after some fact . . . We are all guilty of being ourselves.”

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REVEILLE IN WASHINGTON: 1860–1865

MARGARET LEECH

Introduction by James McPherson

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

“Published in 1941, this remains the best single popular account of Washington during the great convulsion of the Civil War. Vividly written, with hundreds of cameo portraits, from President Lincoln to the humblest citizen.” —The Washington Post

1860: The American capital is sprawling, fractured, squalid, colored by patriotism and treason, and deeply divided along the political lines that will soon envelop the nation in bloody conflict. Chaotic and corrupt, the young city is populated by bellicose Congressmen, Confederate conspirators, eager regiments, and enterprising prostitutes. Soldiers of a volunteer army swing from the dome of the Capitol, assassins stalk the avenues, and Abraham Lincoln struggles to justify his presidency as the Union heads to war.

*Reveille in Washington: 1860–1865* focuses on the everyday politics, gossip, and preoccupations of Washington during the Civil War. Forgoing the battlefields, Leech looks at extravagant dinner parties, saloon backrooms, makeshift barracks, and White House halls to illustrate the social and political undercurrents of these pivotal years. From the stench of corpse-littered streets to the plunging lace on Mary Lincoln’s evening gowns, Washington and its familiar figures—among them Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, William Seward, Rose Greenhow and Walt Whitman—are illuminated in intimate and unforgiving detail.

Leech’s book remains widely recognized as both an impressive feat of scholarship and an uncommonly engaging work of history.

Margaret Leech (1893–1974) was an American historian, novelist and dramatist. She twice received the Pulitzer Prize in history, for *Reveille in Washington* (1942) and *In the Days of McKinley* (1960); with the former she became the first woman to receive a Pulitzer in that category.

James McPherson was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1989 for *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. His other bestselling books include *For Cause and Comrades, Drawn with the Sword, What They Fought For, Gettysburg, and Fields of Fury*. A professor at Princeton University, he lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

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The Judges of the Secret Court was first published in 1961 and has been out print in the United States for more than forty years.

The Conspirator, a film directed by Robert Redford about the trial of Booth’s co-conspirators, will release in April 2011.

Publicity and Promotion

Advertising in The New York Review of Books

Joint promotion with Reveille in Washington

Father’s Day Publicity Campaign

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On Sale: June 7

Reveille in Washington was first published in 1941 and has been out print in the United States for more than thirteen years.

Publicity and Promotion

Advertising in The New York Review of Books

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Publicity campaign targeting American History and Civil War-interest media

Publicity campaign targeting local Washington, DC media
In *Dime-Store Alchemy*, poet Charles Simic reflects on the life and work of Joseph Cornell, the maverick surrealist who is one of America’s great artists. Simic’s spare prose is as enchanting and luminous as the mysterious boxes of found objects for which Cornell is justly renowned.

Charles Simic is a poet, essayist and translator. He has published twenty collections of his own poetry, five books of essays, a memoir, and numerous of books of translations. He has received many literary awards for his poems and his translations, including the Pulitzer Prize, the Griffin Prize and the MacArthur Fellowship. *The Voice at 3 A.M.*, his selected later and new poems, was published in 2003 and a new book of poems *My Noiseless Entourage* came out in the spring of 2005. His new ebook from New York Review Books is titled *Confessions of a Poet Laureate.*

**Charles Simic**

Now in Paperback

“Dime-Store Alchemy... is the most sustained literary response this far to Cornell’s boxes, montages, and films... Incisive, freewheeling, dramatic—a mixture of evocation and observation, as lucid and shadowy as the imagination it celebrates... *Dime-Store Alchemy* is a meeting of kindred spirits that is itself a work of art.” —Edward Hirsch, *The New Yorker*

“A beautiful book that evokes Cornell’s artistic spirit.”
—Harper’s Bazaar

**PRoUD BEGGARS**

**ALBERT COSSERY**

Translated from the French by Thomas W. Cushing

“Albert Cossery... ought to be a household name. He’s that good: an elegant stylist, an unrelenting ironist, his great subject the futility of ambition ‘in a world where everything is false.’” —David Ulin, Los Angeles Times

Early in *Proud Beggars*, a brutal and motiveless murder is committed in a Cairo brothel. But the real mystery at the heart of Albert Cossery’s wry black comedy is not the cause of this death, but the paradoxical richness to be found in even the most materially impoverished life.

Chief among Cossery’s characteristically proud beggars is Gohar, a former professor turned beggar, whorehouse accountant, hashish aficionado, and street philosopher. Such is his native charm that he has accumulated a small coterie that includes Yeghen, a rhapsodic poet and drug dealer and El Kordi, an ineffectual clerk and would-be revolutionary who dreams of rescuing a consumptive prostitute from her miserable life. The police investigator Nour El Din, harboring a dark secret of his own, suspects all three of the brothel murder, but finds himself captivated by their warm good humor. He is drawn to these men. How is it that they live surrounded by degrading poverty, yet possess a *joie de vivre* that even the most assiduous forces of state cannot suppress? Do they, despite their rejection of social norms and all ambition, hold the secret of earthly contentment?

And so this short novel, considered one of Cossery’s masterpieces, is at once biting social commentary, police procedural, and a mischievous delight in its own right.

**ALBERT COSSERY** (1913–2008) was born in Cairo. He settled in Paris after the Second World War and lived there for the rest of his life among some of the most influential writers and artists of the last century. In 1990 Cossery was awarded the Grand Prix de la francophonie de l’Académie française. His books, which have been translated into more than fifteen languages, include *Men God Forgot*, *The House of Certain Death*, *The Splendid Conspiracy*, and *The Jokers* (available from NYRB Classics).
THE MANGAN INHERITANCE

BRIAN MOORE

“The Mangan Inheritance is a gift. A fine novelistic legacy. So much so that most readers will resent the last page and greedily (but oh so justifiably) demand more Moore.”

—Robert Gish, The Chicago Tribune

James Mangan is adrift. He has lived in the shadow of his brilliant movie-star wife for years and now she has finally dispensed with him. Then he comes across an old daguerreotype of a man bearing a remarkable resemblance to him. Is it in fact a photograph of the great 19th-century Irish poet James Clarence Mangan, rumored to be Jamie’s direct ancestor? Off to Ireland he goes, determined to discover his roots and to locate himself. What he finds is scarcely the heartwarming affirmation of identity he yearns for. On the contrary, the remaining members of the Mangan clan—derelict Eileen, reticent and vaguely hostile Dinny, drunken (and shrunken) Conor, and oversexed teenager Kathleen—are haunted by a strange and dark family history.

Thrice shortlisted for the Booker prize, Brian Moore was an unparalleled spinner of captivating tales. This novel, vividly set in disparate locations as New York City, Montreal, and rural Ireland, sweeps the reader into a story of literary suspense about the hidden legacies that shape our lives.

Brian Moore (1921–1999) moved from Belfast to Canada to rural Ireland, sweeps the reader into a story of literary suspense about the hidden legacies that shape our lives.

Brian Moore (1921–1999) moved from Belfast to Canada to rural Ireland, sweeps the reader into a story of literary suspense about the hidden legacies that shape our lives.

BRIAN MOORE

The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne
978-159017-349-7 (print)
978-159017-420-3 (eBook)

The Mangan Inheritance was first published in 1979 and has been out of print in the United States for more than twenty-five years.

Publicity and Promotion
Advertising in The New York Review of Books
Publicity campaign targeting paperback roundups
Publicity campaign targeting Irish-interest media

Also by Brian Moore:
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978-159017-349-7 (print)
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HAV

JAN MORRIS

Introduction by Ursula K. Le Guin

A New York Review Books Original

“After reading Last Letters from Hav, what travel writer would ever want to report from an actual place? . . . a vigorous literary hybrid; elegant fiction in its own right but also a respectfully witty homage to indomitable English travel writers like Lawrence, Burdon and Blanch.”

—Elaine Kendall, Los Angeles Times

In 1985, the travel writer Jan Morris visited the storied city-state of Hav on assignment for New Gotham Magazine, writing a series of articles that were later published as Last Letters from Hav. She was there during the remarkable period that became known as the Intervention. In 2006 Morris returned to Hav to witness the changes that had occurred in the city, now a pariah nation ruled by radical nationalists who rewrote its rich history to reflect their own blinkered vision of the past.

The story of Hav is the story of the modern world, but Hav is like no place on earth. In fact, it is wholly the product of Jan Morris’s prodigious imagination, built on the knowledge gained from her years of reporting from the great cities of Europe. As Jan Morris takes us along the streets of Hav, we hear its centuries-old morning trumpet call and the songs of its muezzin, we see the texture of the goods on offer at its markets, smell the odor of coffee and smoke drifting from its cafés. But Morris tells not only of Hav’s glorious past and quaint 20th-century iteration, in the chapters written in the 21st century, she brings the story up to date. In this final section of Hav, Morris looks at an almost unrecognizable land, stripped of its chaotic and contradictory splendor, renamed, and rebuilt. The place which was the culmination of history has become a simulacrum and a troubling symbol of our uneasy future.

Jan Morris has written some forty books, including Conundrum (published by NYRB Classics). She is an honorary D.Litt. of the University of Wales and a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Ursula K. Le Guin has published novels, volumes of short stories, collections of essays, books for children, volumes of poetry and translation, and has received many awards. She lives in Portland, Oregon.
THE RADIANCE OF THE KING
CAMARA LAYE
Translated by Toni Morrison
Introduction by Toni Morrison

“A classic work of modernism—a signal work in the African canon and one that every lover of literature will admire and enjoy.”
—Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Clarence, a white man, has been shipwrecked on the coast of Africa. Flush with self-importance, he demands to see the king, but the king has just left for the south of his realm. Traveling through an increasinglyphantasmagoric landscape in the company of a beggar and two roguish boys, Clarence is gradually stripped of his pretensions, until he is sold to the royal harem as a slave. But in the end Clarence’s bewilderment is the occasion of a revelation, as he discovers the image, both shameful and beautiful, of his own humanity in the alien splendor of the king.

Camar Laye’s (1928–1980) autobiographical novel The Dark Child, was published in France in 1955 to great acclaim; it was followed a year later by his masterpiece, The Radiance of the King. Toni Morrison is the prize-winning author of numerous works of fiction, non-fiction, and children’s literature, most recently, the novel A Mercy.

MR. FORTUNE
SYLVIA TOWNSEND WARNER
Introduction by Adam Mars-Jones

“One of our most idiosyncratic, courageous and versatile writers.”
—Hermione Lee

After a decade in one South Seas mission, a London bank-clerk-turned-minister serves on a remote volcanic island. Fanhua contains neither cannibals nor Christians, but its citizens, his superior warns, are like immoral children. Still, Mr. Timothy Fortune lights out for Fanua. Yet after three years, he has made only one convert, and his devotion to the boy may prove more sensual than sacred.

Long after the publication of Mr. Fortune’s Maggot, Warner began the brilliant and subversive novella, The Salutation. Now adrift and starving. Still, Mr. Timothy Fortune lights out for Fanua. Yet after three years, he has made only one convert, and his devotion to the boy may prove more sensual than sacred.


THE PILGRIM HAWK: A LOVE STORY
GLENWAY WESCOTT
Introduction by Michael Cunningham

“It belongs, in my view, among the treasures of twentieth-century American literature….”—Susan Sontag, The New Yorker

This powerful short novel describes the events of a single afternoon. Alwyn Towers, an American expatriate and sometime novelist, is staying with a friend outside of Paris, when a well-heeled, itinerant Irish couple drops in—with Lucy, their trained hawk, a restless, sullen, disturbingly totemic presence. Lunch is prepared, drink flows. A masquerade, at once harrowing and farcical, begins. A work of classical elegance and concision, The Pilgrim Hawk stands with Faulkner’s The Bear as one of the finest American short novels: a beautifully crafted story that is also a poignant evocation of the implacable power of love.


THE GLASS BEES
ERNST JÜNGER
Introduction by Bruce Sterling

“in scenes as harrowing and thought-disturbing as any created by Karel Čapek, George Orwell or Aldous Huxley, [Jünger] contributes not only to prophetic and nihilistic literature but also to an understanding of the inner and outer forces that shape many a man’s attitude toward tyranny.” —The New York Times

The Glass Bees presents a disconcerting vision of the future. Zapparoni, a brilliant businessman, has turned his advanced understanding of technology and his strategic command of the information and entertainment industries into a form of global domination. But Zapparoni is worried that his scientists might sell his secrets. He needs a chief of security, and war hero Richard is ready for the job. However, when he arrives at Zapparoni’s headquarters, he finds himself subjected to an unexpected ordeal. Soon he is led to question his past, his character, and even his senses…

ERNST JÜNGER (1895–1998) was the recipient of numerous literary prizes, and continued his career as a writer until his death at the age of 102. Bruce Sterling is the author of many short story collections, nonfiction books, and novels, three of which were selected as New York Times Notable Books of the Year. He lives in Austin, Texas.
THE ERMINE OF CZERNOPOL
GREGOR VON REZZORI
Introduction by Zadie Smith
Translated from the German by Philip Boehm
A New York Review Books Original

“The last great remembrancer of a region that has vanished from the map and mind of Europe.”

“The city lies somewhere in the godforsaken southeastern part of Europe and is named Czernopol,” Gregor von Rezzori writes in the prelude to his major early novel, the first part of a trilogy based on the author’s childhood that would grow to include some of his finest work: the scintillating memoir The Snows of Yesteryear and the trickily titled novel Memoirs of an Anti-Semite. In The Ermine of Czernopol, Rezzori summons the disorderly and unpredictable energies of a town where everything in the world is seemingly mixed up together, a multicultural society that existed long before the idea of multiculturalism. The novel, ostensibly centered on the curious tragicomic fate of an Austrian officer of supreme ineffectuality, gathers a host of unlikely characters and their unlikelier stories by way of engaging the reader in a kaleidoscopic experience of a city where nothing is as it appears—a city of discordant voices, of wild ugliness and sometimes heartbreaking disappointment, but in which, for all that, “laughter was everywhere, part of the air we breathed, a crackling tension in the atmosphere, always ready to erupt in showers of sparks or discharge itself in thunderous peals.”

This first complete English translation of The Ermine of Czernopol makes a masterpiece of postwar literature available to American readers.

Gregor von Rezzori (1914–1998) was a novelist, journalist, memoirist, screenwriter, and author of radio plays. His works Memoirs of an Anti-Semite and The Snows of Yesteryear are published by NYRB Classics.

Zadie Smith is the author of three novels, most recently On Beauty, and the editor of the short-story anthology The Book of Other People.

Philip Boehm is the author of numerous translations from Polish and German.

THE MIRADOR: DREAMED MEMORIES OF IRÈNE NÉMIOROVSKY BY HER DAUGHTER
ÉLISABETH GILLE
A new translation from the French by Marina Harss
A New York Review Books Original

When Irène Némirovsky’s Suite Française was first published, the world discovered a new great writer. Even in France, however, Némirovsky had been more or less forgotten for years, until her youngest daughter Élisabeth Gille, only five years old when her mother died in Auschwitz, wrote a book to bring her back to life. In 1992 Gille published this fictionalized autobiography of her mother, who had led a sparkling life in Paris as one of the most successful and prolific European 1930s writers before being arrested as a Jew and led to her death in 1942.

In the first section of the book, Irène looks back from 1929, the year of her first triumph with David Golder, to her privileged upbringing in Kiev and Saint Petersburg, the precocious only child of a warm, generous father and a vicious, preening, and distant mother. The family escapes Revolutionary Russia to arrive in France, a country of “moderation, freedom, and generosity” that Irène will embrace as her own. In the book’s second half, the writer, her husband and two children have fled Paris for a small town in Burgundy, where they must wear the yellow Star of David, come to some accommodation with the occupying German troops, and plead in vain with Irène’s illustrious fair-weather champions to intercede on the family’s behalf. She now sees her earlier self as vain and credulous, blinded by her success to the horribly changing political situation, but it is too late.

As fully and deeply imagined as Irène Némirovsky’s novels, Gille’s mémoires rêvés will also prove indispensable to devotees of the nearly forgotten author for the new light it sheds on her.

Élisabeth Gille (1937–1996) was born in Paris to the banker Michel Epstein and the novelist Irène Némirovsky. She spent most of her career as an editor and translator before her first book, Le Mirador, appeared and was immediately acclaimed as a major work.

Marina Harss, a translator and dance writer living in NYC, translated Dino Buzzatti’s Poem Strip (NYRB Classics).
**RED SHIFT**

ALAN GARNER

“Long before Philip Pullman and J. K. Rowling there was Alan Garner, a children’s author who crossed the boundaries between real and imaginary worlds—and between a young and an adult readership.” — *The Times* (London) list of the 50 greatest British postwar writers

“A work of poetic imagination that will keep any adult mind at full stretch.” — *Daily Mail* (London)

“... a magnificently multilayered novel... a superbly exciting piece of literature.” — *The Sunday Times* (London)

“A bitter, complex, brilliant book.” — Ursula Le Guin

In second century Britain, Macey, a former soldier prone to bouts of frenzied violence, wanders the countryside with a group of deserters from the Roman army, contending with the threat of deadly local tribesmen. Fifteen centuries later, during the English Civil War, Thomas Rowley is holed up in safe house, hiding from the ruthless Royalist troops besieging his village. In the present day, Tom, a precocious, love-struck, mentally unstable teenager is struggling to cope with the imminent departure for London of his girlfriend Jan. These are the three stories woven together in *Red Shift*, Alan Garner’s masterpiece of virtuosic counterpoint and brisk historical evocation.

Vastly remote in time, each narrative takes place around the mysterious hill of Mow Cop in Southern Cheshire, a region Garner brings vividly and enchantingly to life. By turns riveting, meditative, and deeply moving, *Red Shift* is a unique piece of storytelling about chance and fate, freedom and predestination, visionary awakening and destructive madness.

Alan Garner was born in 1934 in Cheshire, England. After publishing a number of what have become classics of fantasy literature, he came to wider notice with 1967’s *The Owl Service*, which won two important literary prizes. In 2001 he was made Officer of the Order of the British Empire “for services to children’s literature.”

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**MASSCULT AND MIDCULT: ESSAYS AGAINST THE AMERICAN GRAIN**

DWIGHT MACDONALD

Introduction by Louis Menand

Edited by John Summers

A New York Review Books Original

“Those who read much and care about the quality of what they read ought to be grateful for the consistent tough-mindedness of Dwight MacDonald... He is provocative and well worth rereading. The quality of his essays is in direct ratio to their ambitiousness.” — Larry McMurtry, *The Washington Post*

Political radical, trenchant essayist, and impresario of the New York intellectuals, Dwight MacDonald was one of the towering figures of twentieth-century American letters. In his most famous and controversial essay, *Masscult and Midcult*, MacDonald turns his formidable critical attention to what he sees as a new, and potentially catastrophic, development in the history of Western civilization: the influence—by turns distorting, destructive, and inadvertently ridiculous—of mass culture on high culture. In this new collection of essays, ranging in subject matter from Ernest Hemingway, James Agee, and Tom Wolfe to Webster’s Dictionary and the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, MacDonald is shrewd, passionate, and bracingly alive to the complexities of his subject, which he defines as being “not the dead sea of masscult but rather the life of the tide line where higher and lower organisms compete for survival.”

Dwight MacDonald (1906–1982) was an American writer, editor, critic, and political gadfly. A prominent member of the group known as the New York Intellectuals, he served as the editor of first *Partisan Review* and his journal *Politics*. He later became a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*’s film critic, and a frequent contributor to *The New York Review of Books*.

Louise Menand is the Robert M. and Anne T. Bass Professor of English and American Literature and Language at Harvard University, and a staff writer at *The New Yorker*.

John Summers writes and lectures widely on American history and culture.

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**On Sale: September 27**

Red Shift was originally published in 1973 and has been out of print in the United States for more than 30 years.

**Publicity and Promotion**

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*Masscult and Midcult: Essays Against the American Grain* was originally published as a series of pieces in *The New Yorker* and *Esquire* in 1957. In 1965, Dwight MacDonald collected these essays in a book under the title *Partisan Review*. At that time, the book was seen as the apex of the “masscult and midcult” movement.

MacDonald’s polemics about pop culture and high culture are now on the verge of becoming history, which means that *Masscult and Midcult* is once again a book that everyone should read. Since it was first published, it has become a touchstone for New York intellectuals, a term that among other things refers to a group of writers who lived and worked in New York City during the 1950s and 1960s. Among them were James Agee, James Baldwin, James Jones, and William F. Buckley Jr.

MacDonald was born in 1906 and died in 1982. He lived in New York City for most of his life, and his books and articles were published in *Partisan Review*, *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, and *The Nation*. He was also a prominent political activist, supporting the Soviet Union during World War II and opposing American involvement in Vietnam.

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**NYRB Classics**

*Masscult and Midcult* is a New York Review Books original, available as a trade paperback, *Masscult and Midcult* is 456 pages long and is 5 x 8 inches in size. It is available in hardcover and as an eBook.

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**Publicity and Promotion**

Advertising in *The New York Review of Books*

Publicity campaign targeting political media

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ALICE JAMES: A BIOGRAPHY

JEAN STROUSE

Introduction by Colm Tóibín

“Engrossing, disquieting . . . Stunning, this book is haunting.”
—Naomi Bliven, The New Yorker

The Jameses are perhaps the most extraordinary and distinguished family in American intellectual life. Henry’s novels, celebrated as among the finest in the language, and William’s groundbreaking philosophical and psychological works, have won these brothers a permanent place at the center of the nation’s cultural firmament. Less well known is their enigmatic younger sister, Alice. As Jean Strouse’s generous, probing, and deeply imaginative biography shows, however, Alice James was a fascinating and exceptional figure in her own right. Tortured throughout her short life by an array of nervous disorders, constrained by social convention from achieving the worldly success she so desired, Alice nevertheless emerges from this remarkable book as a personality every bit as peculiar and engaging as her two famous brothers. “The moral and philosophical questions that Henry wrote up as fiction and William as science,” writes Strouse, “Alice simply lived.”

With a psychological penetration and high eloquence that are altogether Jamesian, Strouse traces the formation of a unique identity, from Alice’s unconventional peripatetic childhood in continental Europe through her years of spinsterhood in the United States and later England. It was there that she began to keep her celebrated diary, full of biting social observation and unblinking self-analysis. “I consider myself one of the most potent creations of my time,” she wrote to William, with characteristic tartness, towards the end of her life, “and though I may not have a group of Harvard students sitting at my feet and unblinking self-analysis. “I consider myself one of the most potent creations of my time,” she wrote to William, with characteristic tartness, towards the end of her life, “and though I may not have a group of Harvard students sitting at my feet drinking in psychic truth, I shall not tremble, I assure you, at the last trump.”

Jean Strouse is a writer living in New York City. In addition to her acclaimed biographies of Alice James and J. P. Morgan, she has published essays and reviews in many magazines including The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine, The Washington Post, Vogue and Slate. Strouse is a fellow of the MacArthur Foundation and, since 2003, the director of the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library.

Colm Tóibín is the bestselling author of The Master, Brooklyn, The Blackwater Lightship, and his collection of stories The Empty Family. His collection of essays on Henry James, All a Novelist Needs, was published in November 2010. He lives in Dublin.

BERLIN STORIES

ROBERT WALSER

Translated from the German and with an introduction by Susan Bernofsky

A New York Review Books Original

“In 1905 the young Swiss writer Robert Walser arrived in Berlin to join his older brother Karl, already an important stage designer, and immediately threw himself into the vibrant social and cultural life of the city. Berlin Stories collects his alternately celebratory, droll, and satirical observations on every aspect of the bustling German capital, from its theaters, cabarets, painters’ galleries, and literary salons, to the metropolitan street, markets, the Tiergarten, rapid-service restaurants, and the electric tram. Originally appearing in literary magazines as well as the feuilletons sections of newspapers including the Berliner Tageblatt, the Vossische Zeitung, and the Frankfurter Zeitung, the early stories are characterized by a joyous urgency and the generosity of an unconventional guide. Later pieces take the form of more personal reflections on the writing process, memories, and character studies. All are full of counter-intuitive images and vignettes of startling clarity, showcasing a unique talent for whom no detail was trivial, at grips with a city diving headlong into modernity.

Robert Walser (1878–1956) left school at fourteen and led a wandering, precarious existence while producing poems, essays, stories, and novels. In 1933 he abandoned writing and entered a sanatorium—where he remained for the rest of his life. “I am not here to write,” Walser said, “but to be mad.” His Selected Stories and novel Jakob von Gunten, are available as NYRB Classics.

Susan Bernofsky, co-chair of the PEN Translation Committee, is the translator of six books by the great Swiss-German modernist author Robert Walser as well as novels by Jenny Erpenbeck, Yoko Tawada, Hermann Hesse, Gregor von Rezzori and others.
THE ADVENTURES OF SINDBAD

GYULA KRÚDY

Translated from the Hungarian and with an introduction by George Szirtes

“[Krúdy’s] literary power and greatness are almost past comprehension... Few in world literature could so vivify the mythical in reality... With a few pencil strokes he draws apocalyptic scenes about sex, flesh, human cruelty and hopelessness.”

—Sándor Márai

“What you have loved remains yours.” Thus speaks the irresistible rogue Sindbad, ironic hero of these fantastic tales, who has seduced and abandoned countless women over the course of centuries but never lost one, for he returns to visit them all—ladies, actresses, housemaids—in his memories and dreams. From the bustling streets of Budapest to small provincial towns where nothing ever seems to change, the roaming consciousness of this ghostly Lothario comes upon his old flames under windows where they first courted, along the banks of the Danube in which they drowned, in churches and in graveyards, where Eros and Thanatos tryst. As the women pour out their tales of happy and unhappy love since he left them, lies, bad behavior, and fickleness on both sides are forgiven, and love is reaffirmed as the only thing worth persevering for, weeping for, and living for. Hugely popular in his native Hungary and throughout Eastern Europe, The Adventures of Sindbad is Gyula Krúdy’s most famous book and a tender evocation of the autumn of the Habsburg Empire.

Gyula Krúdy (1878–1933) was born in northeastern Hungary. Disinherited by his father, he first found success with Sindbad’s Youth in 1911 and later published a number of popular novels about contemporary Budapest. Forgotten in the years after his death, the success of Sándor Márai’s Sindbad Comes Home, a fictionalized account of Krúdy’s last day, led to a revival of Krúdy’s works and to his recognition as one of the greatest Hungarian writers.

George Szirtes is a Hungarian-born English poet and translator. He received the T.S. Eliot Prize for Reel (2004), and his The Burning of the Books and other poems was published in 2009.

MEMOIRS OF A REVOLUTIONARY

VICTOR SERGE

Introduction by John Berger

Translated from the French by Peter Sedgwick

A New York Review Books Original

“A witness to revolution and reaction in Europe between the wars, Serge searingly evoked the epochal hopes and shattering setbacks of a generation...” —Bookforum

Victor Serge is one of the great men of the twentieth century, anarchist, revolutionary, agitator, theoretician, historian of his times, and a fearless truthsealer. Here Serge describes his upbringing in Belgium, the child of a family of exiled Russian revolutionary intellectuals, his early life as an activist, his time in a French prison, the active role he played in the Russian Revolution, as well his growing dismay at the Revolutionary regime’s ever more repressive and murderous character. Expelled from the Soviet Union, Serge went to Paris, and barely escaped the Nazis to find a final refuge in Mexico. Memoirs of a Revolutionary describes a thrilling life on the frontlines of history and includes brilliant portraits of politicians from Trotsky and Lenin and Stalin and of major writers like Alexander Blok and Andrey Bely. Above all, it captures the sensibility of Serge himself, that of a courageous and singularly appealing advocate of human liberation who remained undaunted in the most trying of times.

Peter Sedgwick’s fine translation of Serge’s Memoirs of a Revolutionary was cut by a fifth when it was first published in 1963. This new edition is the first in English to present the entirety of Serge’s book.

Victor Serge (1890–1947) published three novels during his lifetime, including Conquered City (available from NYRB Classics). Like his great last novels Unforgiving Years and The Case of Comrade Tulayev (both available from NYRB Classics), Memoirs of a Revolutionary was published posthumously.

John Berger is the author of numerous works of fiction and nonfiction, including G., for which he won the Booker Prize. He lives in a small rural community in France.

Peter Sedgwick (1934–1983) was a translator of Victor Serge, and author of a number of books including PsychoPolitics.
THE LETTER KILLERS CLUB
SIGIZUMUND KRZHIZHANOVSKY

Introduction by Caryl Emerson
Translated from the Russian by Joanne Turnbull

A New York Review Books Original

“...a Russian writer whose morbidly satiric imagination forms the wild (missing) link between the futuristic dream tales of Edgar Allan Poe and the postwar scientific nightmares of Stanislaw Lem...an impish master of the fatalitystically fantastic.”

—Bill Marx, The World

Writers are professional killers of conceptions. The logic of the Letter Killers Club, a secret society of “conceivers” who commit nothing to paper on principle, is strict and uncompromising. Every Saturday they meet in a fire-lit room hung with blank black bookshelves to present their “pure and unsubstantiated” conceptions: a rehearsal of Hamlet hijacked by an actor who vanishes with the role; the double life of a medieval merry cleric derailed by a costume change; a machine-run world that imprisons men’s minds while conscripting their bodies; a dead Roman scribe stranded this side of the River Acheron. The overarching scene of this short novel is set in Soviet Moscow, in the ominous 1920s. Known only by pseudonym, like Chesterton’s anarchists in fin-de-siècle London, the Letter Killers are as mistrustful of one another as they are mesmerized by their despotic president. Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky is at his philosophical and fantastical best in this extended meditation on madness and silence, the word and the soul unbound.

Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky (1887–1950) studied law and classical philology at Kiev University. His philosophical and satirical stories with fantastical plots ignored official injunctions to portray the new Soviet state in a positive light, and three separate efforts to print different collections were quashed by the censors, a fourth by World War II. Not until 1989 could these surreal fictions begin to be published. His collection of satirical stories, Memories of the Future, was shortlisted for the Best Translated Book Award (available as a NYRB Classic).

Caryl Emerson is A. Watson Armour III Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Princeton University.

Joanne Turnbull has translated a number of books from Russian, including Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky’s Memories of the Future, which was shortlisted for the Best Translated Book Award (available as a NYRB Classic).
Experience a quintessentially American summer—a village-green, homemade-ice-cream, corn-on-the-cob kind of summer—exploring the fifty vibrant farmers’ and artisan markets profiled in *Markets of New England*. You’ll find picture-postcard settings, delicious food, and unique crafts down every ribbon of highway. In Massachusetts, make your way up the coast to Cape Cod, where markets feature baskets of blueberries and flats of oysters still dripping with saltwater; hop the ferry to Sustainable Nantucket’s picturesque farm stands; or journey inland to an art festival nestled in the Berkshires. In New Hampshire, attend a lakeside workshop and a market held on New England’s largest town common, in the shadow of a classic white church and steeple. Meander across Vermont during an open studio weekend, or to Maine for a clam festival, a county fair, and craft guild shows. Even tiny Rhode Island has pleasures aplenty: an oceanfront gourmet food tasting, an indie art fair overlooking Narragansett Bay and Newport Harbor, and more. *Markets of New England* leads you to the local delicacies, the most interesting purveyors, the products of community supported farms and fisheries, the standout crafts and artwork, and provides all the details you need to know, including off-season schedules. The food and crafts are filled with local flavor, the settings pure New England, and the itineraries provide enough delights to fill an endless summer.

Christine Chitnis is a writer, photographer, and environmental educator. She lives with her husband and son in Providence, Rhode Island. Her writing has appeared in *Country Living, Time Out New York*, *ReadyMade*, *Edible Rhody*, and *The Washington Post*, among many other local and national publications. She holds a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Colorado. Visit her website at christinechitnis.com, and her blog http://lavenderlimes.blogspot.com.
ANDY WARHOL’S NEW YORK CITY: FOUR WALKS, UPTOWN TO DOWNTOWN

THOMAS KIEDROWSKI

Illustrations by Vito Giallo

Andy, Andy everywhere. Twenty-three years after his death, few figures hover over New York City—its art, its street life, its commerce, its creativity, its nightlife, its myths, and its idea of itself—like Andy Warhol. Andy Warhol’s New York City provides a panoramic view of the artist’s life there from the fifties through the eighties.

Eighty sites associated with the artist career delightfully from coffee shops to museums, from disco clubs to churches, with dozens of glamorous and gritty places in between.

Fashionistas will love reading about the rare pretzel-print dress Warhol designed (now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art) and seeing him looking like a character out of Mad Men as he’s photographed on the steps of the Met; cineastes will be riveted to the behind-the-scenes stories of his films; art lovers will appreciate the comprehensive listing of his many shows; and New York City history buffs will savor glimpses of the city’s icons—vanished (Schratti’s), current (Serendipity 3), and never-realized (the Andy-Mat). There are sidebars on Warhol’s residences, favorite restaurants, and factories. Brief biographies of figures in the book familiarize the reader with the revolving cast of glittering characters that enter and leave the stage as Warhol’s story unfolds.

Twelve original drawings in the book were made specially for Andy Warhol’s New York City by the artist Vito Giallo, a former studio assistant of Warhol’s who executed hundreds of Warhol’s ink blot drawings, and who later owned the antique store where Warhol bought thousands of items that were posthumously auctioned at Sotheby’s.

Thomas Kiedrowski leads tours to Warhol sites in New York City. He received his B.F.A. in Film from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and after working in Hollywood, now lives New York.

The artist, Vito Giallo, turned Wolfgang Beck’s large midtown studio loft into an art gallery, known to all as The Loft Gallery. It was here that he gave Andy Warhol his first New York one-man show in October 1954. Giallo lives in New York.

Zuppe: Soups from the Kitchen of the Academy in Rome

MONA TALBOTT

Photographs by Annie Schlechter

Zuppe is a logical second volume in the series of Rome Sustainable Food Project cookbooks—soup is a centerpiece at almost every Academy meal, and the preparation that perhaps more than any other showcases the produce provided by farmer Giovanni Baernabei, whose farm provides the Academy’s kitchen with an endless source of fresh, organic vegetables that inspire the inventive seasonal menus. The fifty recipes draw from the four traditional categories of Italian soups: those made with water (aqua cotta), with stock (brodo), with cream (veloute), and soups for the evening meal. The recipes are arranged by seasons.

The Rome Sustainable Food Project, a program devoted to providing organic, local and sustainable meals for the American Academy in Rome, has launched a delicious revolution to rethink institutional dining. Headed by chef Mona Talbott, and guided by Alice Waters, the menus have given rise to a new, authentic cuisine, inspired by la cucina romana. Chez Panisse, and the collective experience of those working in the AAR kitchen.

After culinary school, Mona Talbott was hired by Alice Waters to work at Chez Panisse and the Edible Schoolyard program. She later worked at Eli Zabar’s Vinegar Factory and EAT stores in New York and consulted for Hillary Clinton at her home in Chappaqua, New York. In 1999, Talbott began working for photographer Annie Leibovitz, and in 2004, she was hired by Bette Midler’s New York Restoration Project to design a children’s gardening and cooking program. Since 2007, Talbott has been executive chef at the Rome Sustainable Food Project. She is the author of Biscotti (available from The Little Bookroom).

Annie Schlechter has been working as a photographer since 1998. Her clients include The World of Interiors, Wallpaper, House Beautiful, Real Simple, W magazine, Travel & Leisure, and many more. She is the photographer of Biscotti (available from The Little Bookroom in the Rome Sustainable Food Project Cookbook Series).
PAstry Paris: In Paris, Everything Looks Like Dessert

Susan Hochbaum

Photographs by the author

Pastry Paris is a collection of photographs of the world’s most enticing pastries set against the background of one of the world’s most iconic cities. The confections are taken out of their display cases and photographed “on location” at Paris’ best-known sights and everyday streetscapes, illuminating the visual and cultural connections between the city, its architecture, its culture, and its wildly beautiful desserts.

The quirky, often humorous pairings of desserts and their hometown is a vicarious trip to that delicious city, where art and beauty can be found in everything from doorknobs to petit fours, a city that takes its desserts as seriously as its music, sculpture, and painting. Each pastry is captioned with a description of the ingredients and a historical, culinary, or cultural anecdote about its origin.

At the back of the book is a guide to the pâtisseries where each of the pastries is created, with addresses, phone numbers, and métro stops.

Susan Hochbaum is a nationally recognized graphic designer who has co-authored and designed books on photography and visual culture. Her most recent, Black and White, is a visual compendium and graphic essay of all things black-and-white, from penguins to nuns’ habits and skeletons to 8-balls. Other books she has designed include HiFi & HiBalls, A Stiff Drink and a Close Shave, and Neal Slavin’s Britons. Susan has held positions as Associate Partner at Pentagram Design, New York, as Vice-President and Creative Director at a national retailer, and has run her New York-based design consultancy since 1994. Her work has won numerous design awards and has been recognized in national and international design publications.
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Photographs by Christophe Lefèbure
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Jamie Cahill
Photographs by Alison Harris
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THE RESCUERS

MARGERY SHARP

Illustrated by Garth Williams

“Miss Sharp’s delicate and sophisticated humor is good fun for wise children from age 10 to 100.”
—Jerome Cushman, Los Angeles Times

Miss Bianca is a white mouse of great beauty and supreme self-confidence, who, courtesy of her excellent young friend, the ambassador’s son, resides inside a porcelain pagoda painted with violets, primroses, and lilies of the valley. Miss Bianca would seem to be a pampered creature, and not, you would suppose, the mouse to dispatch on an especially challenging and extraordinarily perilous mission. However, it is precisely Miss Bianca that the Prisoner’s Aid Society (we all know, don’t we, that mice are the friends of prisoners, tending to their needs in dungeons andoubliettes everywhere) picks out for the job of rescuing a Norwegian poet imprisoned in the legendarily dreadful Black Castle. Miss Bianca, after all, is a poet too, and in any case she is due to travel any day now by diplomatic pouch to Norway. There Miss Bianca will be able to enlist one Nils, known to be bravest mouse in the land, in a desperate and daring endeavor that will take them, together with their trusty companion Bernard, across turbulent seas and over the paws and under maws of cats into one of the darkest places known to man or mouse. It will take everything they’ve got and a good deal more to escape with their own lives, leave aside the poet.

Margery Sharp’s classic tale of pluck, luck, and derring-do is amply and beautifully illustrated by the great Garth Williams.

Margery Sharp (1905–1991) was a prolific writer for children and adults. Her most famous work is The Rescuers series about a mouse named Miss Bianca, which was later adapted in two animated feature films, The Rescuers and The Rescuers Down Under by Disney.

**SOMETHING FOR CHRISTMAS**

**PALMER BROWN**

Pictures by the author

“In Something for Christmas Palmer Brown tells and illustrates with charming pictures in pastel colors an endearing tale about a small mouse who wonders what to give his mother for Christmas and a mother who knows what is the best gift of all—one’s love!” —Polly Goodwin, Chicago Daily Tribune

“What are you doing, dear?”

“It’s a secret.”

“Secrets are better if you share them a little. So tell Mother why you look so sad on Christmas Eve.”

“I am wondering what to give—someone—for Christmas.”

This is the story of a little mouse’s search for a very special gift for a very special person. Nothing seemed just right. Then the little mouse realized that the very best present of all was already at hand.

Once again Palmer Brown has written and illustrated an entrancingly lovely story, filled with the true spirit of Christmas.

Palmer Brown was born in Chicago and attended Swarthmore and the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author and illustrator of many books for children, including *Something for Christmas* (available in the New York Review Children’s Collection), *The Silver Nutmeg* and *Cheerful.*

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**BEYOND THE PAWPAW TREES: THE STORY OF ANNA LAVINIA**

**PALMER BROWN**

Pictures by the author

“Brilliant….it may prove the special treasure of many.” —New York Herald Tribune

“A fantasy for girls who have lively imaginations. Anna Lavinia’s adventures will be appreciated by them and they will take the trip with her.” —Saturday Review

*Beyond the Pawpaw Trees* is a tour through a land as strange and wonderful as Oz, filled with people as delightfully batty as any in Alice’s looking glass. It is a place to which you will want to return again and again, to read of Anna Lavinia’s adventures and to marvel over author and illustrator Palmer Brown’s intricate, sugar-spun drawings.

It all began on a lavender blue day. The kind of day, Anna Lavinia knows, when anything can happen. It was on such a day that Anna Lavinia’s father saw a double rainbow, and went chasing after it. And it is on such a day that she and her cat Strawberry set off on their journey beyond the walled garden where the Pawpaw trees grow, to a place where the buttercups bloom pink and the laws of gravity don’t always apply. Here she will test her mother’s advice, “Never believe what you see,” against her father’s wise words, “Believe only what you see.” And just maybe she will get to finally use her father’s mysterious silver key.

Palmer Brown was born in Chicago and attended Swarthmore and the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author and illustrator of many books for children, including *Beyond the Pawpaw Trees* (available in the New York Review Children’s Collection), *The Silver Nutmeg* and *Cheerful.*
Many of the contributors to The New York Review of Books have written about deep and abiding relationships—both personal and intellectual—with fellow poets, writers, and artists. The Company They Kept is a collection of twenty-eight accounts of these friendships that were always stimulating, often inspiring, and sometimes vexing.

There are historic moments—Isaiah Berlin’s conversations with Boris Pasternak and Anna Akhmatova, Hector Bianciotti’s account of the death of Borges—as well as lighthearted ones—Bruce Chatwin’s hilarious drunken evening with George Ortiz and Arthur Gold and Robert Fizdale’s subway ride with George Balanchine.

Many of the portraits include vivid images that otherwise would have been lost forever: the poet Ossip Mandelstam, who Anna Akhmatova first glimpsed as “. . . a thin young boy with a twig of lily-of-the-valley in his button-hole”; the young Gore Vidal in Dawn Powell’s living room; twelve-year-old aspiring cartoonist John Updike writing Saul Steinberg to ask for a cartoon he had seen in The New Yorker.

A sense of the intimacy and verve of the memoirs is captured in Darryl Pinckney’s description of the premises of The New York Review of Books itself, from whose offices these writings were edited and in whose pages they first appeared:

“. . . books were streaking across the ocean and galleys were zooming in from the West Coast or the East Side, nearly all by messenger, by overnight delivery, because everything was urgent. . . . Incredible battles went on during press week as indescribable things rotted in the office refrigerator. Someone’s laughter in the typesetting studio would provoke to fury someone doing layout next door and the storms, the slammed doors. It was a family.”

Robert B. Silvers is the editor of The New York Review of Books. He was a founding co-editor with Barbara Epstein with whom he worked for over forty years, beginning in 1963, until her death in 2006. He has edited several essay anthologies featuring New York Review contributors, including The Consequences to Come and first volume of The Company They Kept.

LIU XIAOBO’S EMPTY CHAIR: CHRONICLING THE REFORM MOVEMENT BEIJING FEARS MOST

PERRY LINK

A New York Review eBook original

When the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced it was awarding the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize to the Chinese literary critic and human rights activist Liu Xiaobo, it made special note of his role in writing a remarkable political manifesto called Charter 08. In China, that same document has caused officials to throw him in jail with an 11-year sentence that is extraordinary even by Chinese standards, while taking drastic measures to silence any mention of the text.

But what is Charter 08 and why has it made Liu such a threat to the Chinese government? Perry Link, a professor of Chinese literature and language who has worked closely with the Chinese dissidents who wrote the charter with Liu, for the first time brings a full English translation of this powerful document together with a series of short essays chronicling the arrest, show-trial, and imprisonment of Liu Xiaobo and the crackdown on the Charter 08 movement since its courageous beginnings two years ago.

Perry Link is Emeritus Professor of East Asian Studies at Princeton University, specializing in modern Chinese literature and Chinese language. He is currently Chancellorial Chair in Teaching Across Disciplines at the University of California, Riverside. Along with Andrew J. Nathan, Link translated the Tiananmen Papers, which detailed the governmental response to the 1989 democracy protests. He is editing a collection of essays and poems by Liu Xiaobo that will appear in 2012 from Harvard University Press.
CONFESSIONS OF A
POET LAUREATE

CHARLES SIMIC

A New York Review eBook original

“Simic’s writing comes dancing out on the balls of its feet, colloquially fit as a fiddle, a sparring partner for the world.”
—Seamus Heaney

“Few poets have been as influential—or as inimitable—as Charles Simic.” —The New York Times Book Review

As former U.S. poet laureate Charles Simic has said, the secret to our identities lies not in grand events, but in the parentheses between events—and in these brief essays, we get a taste of this great poet’s parenthetical observations and recollections. He takes us from his rattling house on a stormy New Hampshire night, to a park bench in Washington Square where two old men sit discussing the women they’ve known, to a business convention in Topeka where he reads a poem, to the vanished subterranean jazz clubs of old New York, and beyond.

Part autobiographical fragment, part waking dream, these pieces are marked by Simic’s characteristic wit, audacity, and awe before life’s strangeness.

Charles Simic is a poet, essayist and translator. He has received many literary awards for his poems and his translations, including the Pulitzer Prize, the Griffin Prize and the MacArthur Fellowship. Simic was appointed the fifteenth Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry in 2007, and was elected a Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets in 2000. In 1995 he was elected to The American Academy of Arts and Letters, and most recently, he was announced as the recipient of the 2007 Wallace Stevens Award by the Academy of American Poets. Simic is Emeritus Professor of the University of New Hampshire where he has taught since 1973.
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Catalog cover image: Artist Vito Giallo’s drawing of the Empire State Building is from Andy Warhol’s New York City by Thomas Kiedrowski (page 26). It’s one of Giallo’s twelve original drawings that were commissioned for the book. Giallo, a former studio assistant of Warhol’s, who executed hundreds of Warhol’s ink blog drawings, later owned the antique store where Warhol bought thousands of items that were posthumously auctioned at Sotheby’s.