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Blackwell North America

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Established in 1938, the University of Iowa Press operated for many years as an irregular imprint for the faculty of the University. In 1969, John Simmons was named the first director of the Press and the imprint was officially organized under a board of faculty advisers. Under his directorship, the Press published between three to six new titles annually and in 1982 became an official member of the Association of American University Presses. In 1984, John Simmons retired and Paul Zimmer was named the new director.

Since 1985 the Press has published 30 to 35 new titles a year; within these limitations, the Press’ range is reasonably broad. In recent years its list has included well-reviewed books in literature, history, anthropology, archaeology, natural science, poetry, short fiction, architecture, music, social commentary, history of photography, regional studies, transportation history, and other fields. The Press publishes three important literary series: the Iowa Short Fiction Award, the John Simmons Short Fiction Award, and the Iowa Poetry Prize. Bur Oak Books is the Press’ imprint for distinctive regional titles.

The Press also publishes these well-regarded series:

American Land and Life celebrates the American landscape as the most obvious platform for the nation’s life, based on the conviction that landscape offers the largest body of evidence for certain kinds of cultural and social action.

Studies in Theatre History and Culture considers theatre in the light of new interpretive theories from feminism and reception theory to popular culture and semiotics.


Iowa Szathmáry Culinary Arts Series comprises reprints, new editions, and translations of important cookbooks from among 20,000 cookbooks in the significant collection of Chef Louis Szathmáry, which were donated to the University of Iowa Libraries.

Prehistory Press was founded in 1990 in order to fill a scholarly need that the larger university presses and private sector academic publishers are finding harder to meet. Our new publishing house specializes in the publication and distribution of data-oriented archaeological series, Monographs in World Archaeology. There is a great demand for these books in archaeology since the amount of evidence from excavated sites continues to increase, while the publication outlets for the description and analysis of the recovered materials continues to decrease. The advances in electronic pre-press technology permit us to publish high quality, durable volumes on acid-free paper at affordable prices.

Eighteen volumes have been published since April, 1991. We hope to publish at least five volumes a year. Prehistory Press is not limited to one particular geographical area or time period. The presentation of basic research is the major focus of the series, and works are accepted from around the globe. With the help of my thirteen-member editorial board of university professors and from scholars on both sides of the Atlantic, all manuscripts are peer-reviewed before acceptance.

Subject matter has included the origins of agriculture, the beginnings of pastoralism in the Levant, the first complex societies in Southwest Asia, the major North American site of Cahokia (near St. Louis) gender and archaeology, and ceramic chemistry. Our volumes contribute to the empirical base of the discipline from which archaeological theory about past human behavior is constructed.

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