The Góral ethnic identity has been at the center of political machinations in Poland for centuries. The late Pope John Paul II, for example, was a Góral. This is the first book-length study of the Góral identity and one of the few studies in English to discuss Górals. Through personal interviews, local manuscripts, and academic histories of the region, author Deborah Cahalen Schneider shows how important the Góral identity has been to Poland’s history. The conflict over the Góral identity in the community of Zóywic, Poland serves as a lens through which Schneider views national identity issues and class conflict in Poland at large. The Góral identity not only gave this community a sense of togetherness under the Habsburg Empire, but also was a symbol of Polish identity for Polish nationalists during that time. Schneider shows how the Góral identity has spanned the rise and, arguably, the fall of nationalism as the primary discourse of political identity in the post–Cold War, European Union–dominated Eastern Europe.

“Schneider writes in a lively and engaging style, which creates a sense of empathy with the people she describes and a consequent appreciation of their dilemmas and strategies in a difficult situation. That evocation of empathy through detail is precisely what is missing in most studies of Eastern Europe, but Schneider puts us in the Zóywicers’ shoes, which allows us to see the changes in Eastern Europe in a new light.” — Elizabeth C. Dunn, author of Privatizing Poland: Baby Food, Big Business, and the Remaking of Labor

Deborah Cahalen Schneider is an independent scholar living in Virginia.

A volume in the SUNY series in National Identities
Thomas M. Wilson, editor

JANUARY | 224 pp.
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Scripting the Black Masculine Body traces the origins of Black body politics in the United States and its contemporary manifestations in popular cultural productions. From early blackface cinema through contemporary portrayals of the Black body in hip-hop music and film, Ronald L. Jackson II examines how African American identities have been socially constructed, constituted, and publicly understood, and argues that popular music artists and film producers often are complicit with Black body stereotypes. Jackson offers a communicative perspective on body politics through a blend of social scientific and humanities approaches and offers possibilities for the liberation of the Black body from its current ineffectual and paralyzing representations.

“This topic is central to the field of communication, and Jackson is advancing a significant amount of innovation into the discussion of the Black body. He integrates historical and contemporary illustrations into his argument, grasps existing scholarship, and does so with an engaging writing style.” — Mark P. Orbe, author of Constructing Co-cultural Theory: An Explication of Culture, Power, and Communication

“Jackson raises concerns that are at the heart of communication scholarship, and his questions are central to the study of popular culture, the reproduction of racism, and the cultivation of complex identities.” — Oscar H. Gandy Jr., author of Communication and Race: A Structural Perspective

Ronald L. Jackson II is Associate Professor of Culture and Communication Theory at Penn State at University Park. He is the editor of African American Communication and Identities: Essential Readings.

A volume in the SUNY series, Negotiating Identity: Discourses, Politics, Processes, and Praxes
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In Speaking Power, DoVeanna S. Fulton explores and analyzes the use of oral traditions in African American women’s autobiographical and fictional narratives of slavery. African American women have consistently employed oral traditions not only to relate the pain and degradation of slavery, but also to celebrate the subversions, struggles, and triumphs of Black experience. Fulton examines orality as a rhetorical strategy, its role in passing on family and personal history, and its ability to empower, subvert oppression, assert agency, and create representations for the past. In addition to taking an insightful look at obscure or little-studied slave narratives like Louisa Picquet, the Octoroon and the Narrative of Sojourner Truth, Fulton also brings a fresh perspective to more familiar works, such as Harriet Jacobs’s Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl and Harriet Wilson’s Our Nig, and highlights Black feminist orality in such works as Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God and Gayl Jones’s Corregidora.

“In this book, Fulton provides an engaging and pedagogically commanding investigation of the interconnection between Black women’s oral agency and literary representation. Her study documents and celebrates the oral continuum that describes the merger of African American folk and literary cultures. Speaking Power emerges as a point of reference for nineteen-, twentieth-, and twenty-first-century African American literary analysis.” — Joyce A. Joyce, author of Black Studies as Human Studies: Critical Essays and Interviews

DoVeanna S. Fulton is Associate Professor of English at Arizona State University.

January | 176 pp.
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Rewriting Early Chinese Texts
Edward L. Shaughnessy
Explores the rewriting of early Chinese texts in the wake of new archaeological evidence.

Rewriting Early Chinese Texts examines the problems of reconstructing and editing ancient manuscripts that will revise—indeed “rewrite”—Chinese history. It is now generally recognized that the extensive archaeological discoveries made in China over the last three decades necessitate such a rewriting and will keep an army of scholars busy for years to come. However, this is by no means the first time China’s historical record has needed rewriting. In this book, author Edward L. Shaughnessy explores the issues involved in editing manuscripts, rewriting them, both today and in the past.

The book begins with a discussion of the difficulties encountered by modern archaeologists and paleographers working with manuscripts discovered in ancient tombs. The challenges are considerable: these texts are usually written in archaic script on bamboo strips and are typically fragmentary and in disarray. It is not surprising that their new editions often meet with criticism from other scholars. Shaughnessy then moves back in time to consider efforts to reconstitute similar bamboo-strip manuscripts found in the late third century in a tomb in Jixian, Henan. He shows that editors at the time encountered many of the same difficulties faced by modern archaeologists and paleographers, and that the first editions produced by a court-appointed team of editors quickly prompted criticism from other scholars of the time. Shaughnessy concludes with a detailed study of the editing of one of these texts, the Bamboo Annals (Zhushu jinian), arguably the most important manuscript ever discovered in China. Showing how at least two different, competing editions of this text were produced by different editors, and how the differences between them led later scholars to regard the original edition—the only one still extant—as a forgery, Shaughnessy argues for this text’s place in the rewriting of early Chinese history.

Edward L. Shaughnessy is Creel Professor of Early China Studies at The University of Chicago and is the editor or author of several books, including Before Confucius: Studies in the Creation of the Chinese Classics, also published by SUNY Press.

March | 300 pp.
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