

The New Criterion Boat Bag

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Value: \$8

Old House of Fear

by Russell Kirk
Criterion Books
(paperback, 264 pages)



A founding father of the American conservative movement, Russell Kirk (1918–94) was also a renowned and bestselling writer of fiction. Kirk's focus was the ghost story, or “ghostly tale”—a “decayed art” of which he considered himself a “last remaining master.” *Old House of Fear*, Kirk's first novel, revealed this mastery at work. Its 1961 publication was a sensation, outselling all of Kirk's other books combined, including *The Conservative Mind*, his iconic study of American conservative thought. A native of Michigan, Kirk set *Old House of Fear* in the haunted isles of the Outer Hebrides, drawing on his time in Scotland as the first American to earn a doctorate of letters from the University of St. Andrews. The story concerns Hugh Logan, an attorney sent by an aging American industrialist to Carnglass to purchase his ancestral island and its castle called the Old House of Fear. On the island, Logan meets Mary MacAskival, a red-haired ingénue and love interest, and the two face off against Dr. Edmund Jackman, a mystic who has the island under his own mysterious control.

Value: \$19

Benefits of joining THE CIRCLE OF THE NEW CRITERION

For more than thirty-five years, *The New Criterion* has provided readers with honest cultural criticism. *The New York Times Magazine* remarked that “In its original press release, *The New Criterion* promised to ‘pose hard questions, challenge current orthodoxies, and speak out for the values of high culture.’ This it has done—with dedication to literary standards and a fierce polemic verve.”

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- The Annual Report, published in the format of *The New Criterion*, with a listing of Circle members and event photos from each season.

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The New Criterion

900 Broadway, Suite 602, New York, NY 10003

Phone: 212-247-6980 • Fax: 212-247-3127

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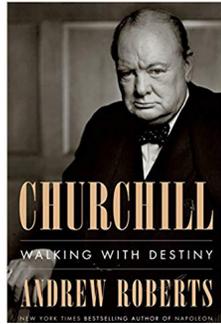
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The New Criterion is pleased to offer these exclusive gifts.

Churchill: Walking with Destiny

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by Andrew Roberts
Viking
(hardcover, 1152 pages)



When we seek an example of great leaders with unalloyed courage, the person who comes to mind is Winston Churchill: the iconic, visionary war leader immune from the consensus of the day, who stood firmly for his beliefs when everyone doubted him. But how did young Winston become Churchill? What gave him the strength to take on the superior force of Nazi Germany when bombs rained on London and so many others had caved? In *Churchill*, Andrew Roberts gives readers the full and definitive Winston Churchill, from birth to lasting legacy, as personally revealing as it is compulsively readable.

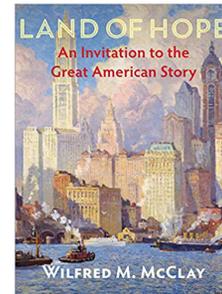
Roberts gained exclusive access to extensive new material: transcripts of War Cabinet meetings, diaries, letters and unpublished memoirs from Churchill's contemporaries. The Royal Family permitted Roberts—in a first for a Churchill biographer—to read the detailed notes taken by King George VI in his diary after his weekly meetings with Churchill during World War II. This treasure trove of access allows Roberts to understand the man in revelatory new ways, and to identify the hidden forces fueling Churchill's legendary drive.

We think of Churchill as a hero who saved civilization from the evils of Nazism and warned of the grave crimes of Soviet communism, but Roberts's masterwork reveals that he has as much to teach us about the challenges leaders face today—and the fundamental values of courage, tenacity, leadership, and moral conviction.

Value: \$40

Land of Hope

by Wilfred M. McClay
Encounter Books
(hardcover, 504 pages)



We have a glut of text and trade books on American history. But what we don't have is a compact, inexpensive, authoritative, and compulsively readable book that will offer to American readers a clear, informative, and inspiring narrative account of their own country. Such an account can shape and deepen their sense of the land they inhabit and, by making them understand that land's roots, and share in its memories, will equip them for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship in American society. It will provide them with an enduring sense of membership in one of the greatest enterprises in human history: the exciting, perilous, and consequential story of their own country.

The existing texts simply fail to tell that story with energy and conviction. They are more likely to reflect the skeptical or partial outlook of specialized professional academic historians, an outlook that leads to a fragmented and fractured view of modern American society and fails to convey to American readers the greater arc of their own history. Or they disproportionately reflect the outlook of radical critics of American society, whose one-sided accounts lack the balance of a larger perspective and have had an enormous, and largely negative, effect upon the teaching of American history in American high schools and colleges.

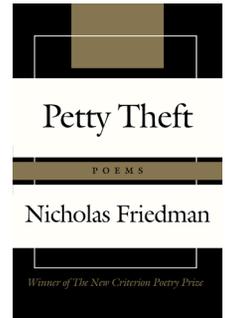
This state of affairs cannot continue for long without producing serious consequences. A great nation needs and deserves a great and coherent narrative, as an expression of its own self-understanding; and it needs to be able to convey that narrative to its young effectively. It perhaps goes without saying that such a narrative cannot be a fairy tale or a whitewash of the past; it will not be convincing if it is not truthful. But there is no necessary contradiction between an honest account of the American past and an inspiring one. This account seeks to provide both.

Value: \$34.99

Petty Theft

Winner of the eighteenth annual
New Criterion Poetry Prize.

by Nicholas Friedman
Criterion Books
(hardcover, 75 pages)
Value: \$22



In *Petty Theft*, Nicholas Friedman cultivates the strangeness of daily life and turns an unsentimental eye to joy, catastrophe, and the myriad stations in between. The poems often set us wandering: to the busked streets of Assisi; to a burning circus tent in Hartford, Connecticut; to a stone circle in England; to the poet's native Upstate New York; and to his adoptive California, where a wealthy neighbor "lives behind a massive hedge, four-square/ like a curtain wall/ that keeps us here, him there."

The "theft" of this collection's title lurks on every page, luring faith to doubt, love to loss, and appearance to illusion. Yet these poems never lapse into hopelessness. Even where failure and tragedy precede human understanding, *Petty Theft* suggests the possibility of sustenance and recompense. Both confident and questioning, this debut collection announces Friedman as an important new voice in American poetry.

Petty Theft is the eighteenth winner of the annual New Criterion Poetry Prize. *The New Criterion* is recognized as one of the foremost contemporary venues for poetry that pays close attention to form. Building upon its commitment to serious poetry, *The New Criterion* established this annual prize in 2000.

Value: \$22