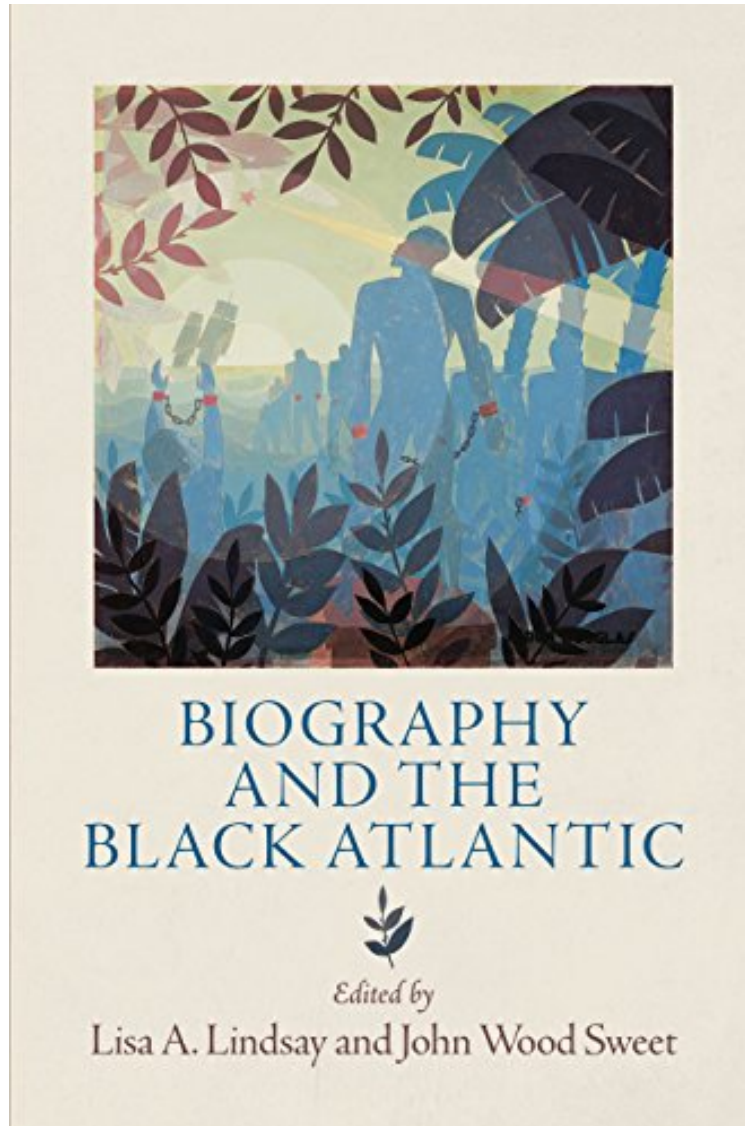


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Biography and the Black Atlantic (The Early Modern Americas)

From University of Pennsylvania Press

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From University of Pennsylvania Press : Biography and the Black Atlantic (The Early Modern Americas) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Biography and the Black Atlantic (The Early Modern Americas):

In Biography and the Black Atlantic, leading historians in the field of Atlantic studies examine the biographies and

autobiographies of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century African-descended people and reflect on the opportunities and limitations these life stories present to studies of slavery and the African diaspora. The essays remind us that historical developments like slavery and empire-building were mostly experienced and shaped by men and women outside of the elite political, economic, and military groups to which historians often turn as sources. Despite the scarcity of written records and other methodological challenges, the contributors to *Biography and the Black Atlantic* have pieced together vivid glimpses into lives of remarkable, though previously unknown, enslaved and formerly enslaved people who moved, struggled, and endured in different parts of Africa, the Americas, and Europe. From the woman of Fulani origin who made her way from Revolutionary Haiti to Louisiana to the free black American who sailed for Liberia and the former slave from Brazil who became a major slave trader in Angola, these stories render the Atlantic world as a densely and sometimes unpredictably interconnected sphere. *Biography and the Black Atlantic* demonstrates the power of individual stories to illuminate history: though the life histories recounted here often involved extraordinary achievement and survival against the odds, they also portray the struggle for self-determination and community in the midst of alienation that lies at the heart of the modern condition. Contributors: James T. Campbell, Vincent Carretta, Roquinaldo Ferreira, Jean-Michel Hbrard, Martin Klein, Lloyd S. Kramer, Sheryl Kroen, Jane Landers, Lisa A. Lindsay, Joseph C. Miller, Cassandra Pybus, Joo Jos Reis, Rebecca J. Scott, Jon Sensbach, John Wood Sweet.

"Scholars and students of the Black Atlantic, as well as those interested in biography, will be richly rewarded by reading this volume. The essays are uniformly excellent; the introduction and conclusions are superb." *African Studies*

"A splendid collection from luminaries in the field of Atlantic history, *Biography and the Black Atlantic* charts a coherent path toward a collective biographical project that will thoroughly recast our understanding of the modern Atlantic world." James Sweet, University of Wisconsin, Madison

"A fascinating and timely collection, written by some of the most important and outstanding scholars in Atlantic studies, which shows that the history of the Black Atlantic goes beyond the slave trade. *Biography and the Black Atlantic* allows us to reimagine how individuals negotiated this complex and evolving social, economic, and political space." Randy J. Sparks, Tulane University

About the Author Lisa A. Lindsay is Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the author of *Captives as Commodities: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade* and *Working with Gender: Wage Labor and Social Change in Southwestern Nigeria* and coeditor (with Stephan F. Miescher) of *Men and Masculinities in Modern Africa*. John Wood Sweet is Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of *Bodies Politic: Negotiating Race in the American North, 1730-1830* and coeditor (with Robert Appelbaum) of *Envisioning an English Empire: Jamestown and the Making of the North Atlantic World*, also available from the University of Pennsylvania Press.