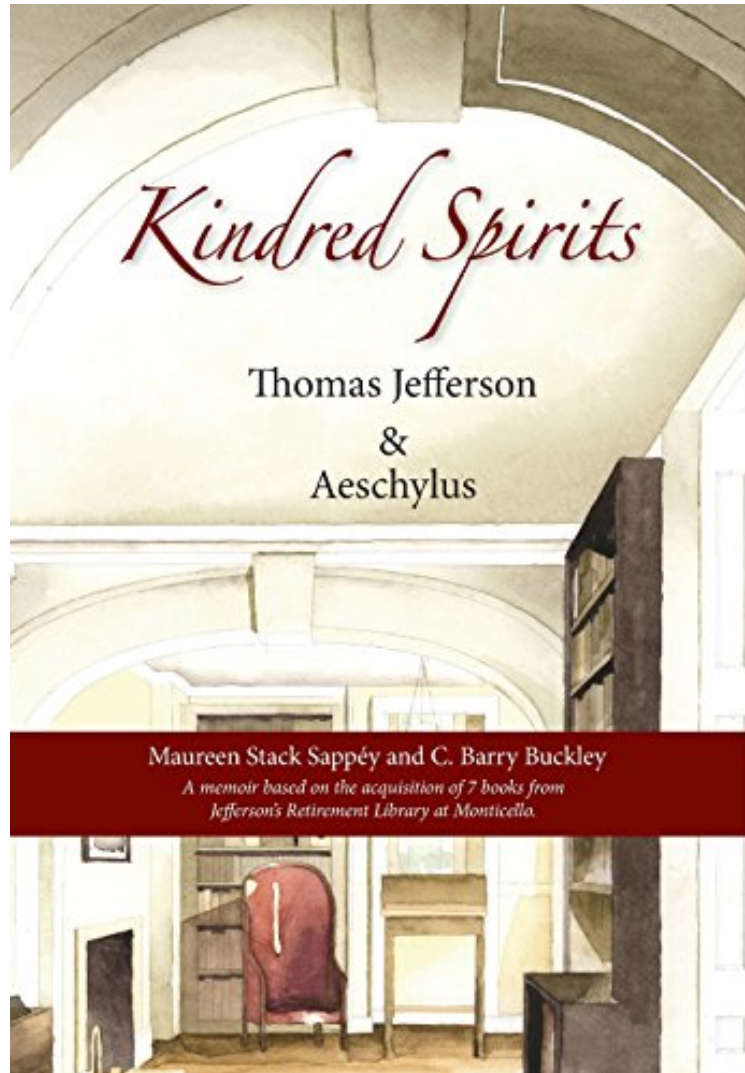


#4263054 in Books 2015-07-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .94 x 5.981, 1.47 #File Name:

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## Kindred Spirits: Thomas Jefferson and Aeschylus

**C. Barry Buckley, Maureen Stack Sappy : Kindred Spirits: Thomas Jefferson and Aeschylus** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kindred Spirits: Thomas Jefferson and Aeschylus:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Tim CarrMaureen Stack Sappéy in 'Kindred Spirits' has crafted for us a unique insight into Thomas Jefferson's classical formation. In tracing the provenance of "the Seven," TJ's conflation of works by Aeschylus from Monticello into the worthy hands of barrister C. Barry Buckley, Sappéy demonstrates persuasively the profound influence the famed Greek playwright had upon Mr. Jefferson's education and personal philosophy. Not only does she manage to juxtapose the bookbinder's art with a scholarly treatise on Jeffersonian politics viewed through an Aeschylusian prism, Sappéy does so in an enjoyable, readable

manner. Of note, too, are Buckley's narratives, which offer humorous and political insights that underscore the book's examination and celebration of nation. It was easy for this reader to almost imagine having been invited into the personal library of the consummate bibliophile as he studied his beloved Aeschylus in Greek, Latin, French and English, and penned his very precise specifications as to how his treasured leaves were to be bound. Tim Carr<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Following Jefferson's Books Through the Centuries By Lindsay Lusby As well as being a fascinating addition to the library of any Jefferson history buff, *Kindred Spirits: Thomas Jefferson Aeschylus* offers a captivating window into the warm-hearth world of book-collecting, binding, and preservation in the early days of the United States and today's process for restoring a book from that era. Did you know that President Jefferson had a penchant for taking apart various translations of Classical texts and then rebinding them into his own unique editions? That makes the discovery and acquisition of one of these books all the more valuable and historically significant. Sappy and Buckley take us through their journey of discovering, acquiring, researching, and restoring *The Seven: Thomas Jefferson's personal copies of The Tragedies of Aeschylus in seven volumes*. Despite the sweeping history laid out here, this is, at heart, a very personal story, beginning with a bit of intrigue and overheard conversation in a small rare book shop in Chestertown, Maryland, then moving to excited meetings at the Library of Congress in the nation's capital, and finally to Jefferson's home at Monticello. Each chapter is framed as a step in this bibliographic journey, giving the reader the privilege of experiencing the elation felt by the authors at each fresh discovery along the way, of slowly realizing the magnitude of the historical treasure held in their hands. The book they made of this experience is now its own treasure, and the book-obsessed reader could do worse than to give over a few snowy or rainy afternoons to its enjoyment. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Brings American History to Life By PCW Houston Maureen Stack Sappéy has done it again--skillfully weaving a compelling, easy-to-read story; but this time it's in non-fiction. *Kindred Spirits* is the kind of book that would surely bring American history to life to students. It's tangible history that begins and ends with today's world. It's a journey that connects the game changers from different times, different places. How I wish my own history classes had included books like this one! I would have appreciated (and understood) history so much earlier in life. Bravo to Barry Buckley for the important roles he played in bringing this story to publication. What a fortunate person he is to have Jefferson's Aeschylus collection in his own library! How fortunate we all are that he made the investment and preserved more history than meets the eye.

**Bibliography.** American History. Published by Chester River Press, *Kindred Spirits* is a bibliocentric memoir chronicling the acquisition and restoration of seven rare books from Jefferson's Retirement Library at Monticello. This is the remarkable story of the serendipitous discovery of a seven-volume set of Aeschylus's Tragedies owned by Thomas Jefferson, and the many bibliophiles, Jeffersonians, historians, scholars, and yes, Ancient Greeks, who helped complete a journey of personal fulfillment and historical significance, all the while honoring one of our most accomplished Founding Fathers. Share Barry Buckley's thoughts and emotions as he gazes for the first time on Jefferson's personal book markings, oversees the book restoration process, and with renowned author Maureen Stack Sappéy, traces the connections from Ancient Greece up through the centuries to the fledgling United States.