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the five volumes in a history of the book in america offer a sweeping chronicle of our country's print production and culture from colonial times to the end of the twentieth century this interdisciplinary collaborative work of scholarship examines the book trades as they have developed and spread throughout the united states provides a history of us literary cultures investigates the practice of reading and more broadly the uses of literacy and links literary culture with larger themes in american

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in a period characterized by expanding markets national consolidation and social upheaval print culture picked up momentum as the nineteenth century turned into the twentieth books magazines and newspapers were produced more quickly and more cheaply reaching ever increasing numbers of readers volume 4 of a history of the book in america traces the complex even contradictory consequences of these changes in the production circulation and use of print contributors to this volume explain that although mass production encouraged consolidation and standardization readers increasingly adapted print to serve their own purposes allowing for increased diversity in the midst of concentration and integration considering the book in larger social and cultural networks essays address the rise of consumer culture the extension of literacy and reading through schooling the expansion of secondary and postsecondary education and the growth of the textbook industry the growing influence of the professions and their dependence on print culture and the history of relevant technology as the essays here attest the expansion of print culture between 1880 and 1940 enabled it to become part of americans everyday business social political and religious lives contributors megan benton pacific lutheran university paul s boyer university of wisconsin madison una m cadegan university of dayton phyllis dain columbia university james p danky university of wisconsin madison ellen gruber garvey new jersey city university peter jaszi american university carl f kaestle brown university nicolas kanellos university of houston richard l kaplan abc clio publishing marcel chotkowski lafollette washington d c elizabeth long rice university elizabeth mchenry new york university sally m miller university of the pacific richard ohmann wesleyan university janice a radway duke university joan shelley rubin university of rochester jonathan d sarna brandeis university charles a seavey university of missouri columbia michael schudson university of california san diego william vance trollinger jr university of dayton richard l venezky 1938 2004 james l w west iii pennsylvania state university wayne a wiegand florida state university michael winship university of texas at austin martha woodmansee case western reserve university

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