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# Kindred Spirits: Jefferson and Aeschylus

by Maureen Stack Sappéy and C. Barry Buckley

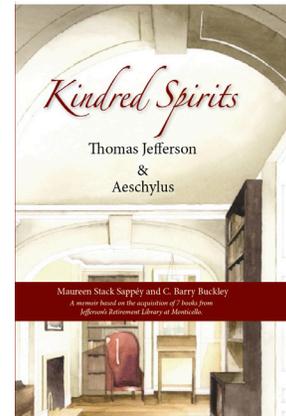
**T**HIS IS THE REMARKABLE STORY OF THE SERENDIPITOUS DISCOVERY of a seven volume set of Aeschylus' Tragedies owned by Thomas Jefferson, and the many bibliophiles, Jeffersonians, historians, scholars, and yes, Ancient Greeks, who helped complete a journey of personal fulfillment and historical significance, 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. This is truly a story for the ages.



Robert Potters' 1812 translation of Aeschylus' *Persae* is still in print, available even in Kindle. Modern scholars depend on such translations to understand this complicated author, who, all would agree with Mr. Jefferson, can be "incomprehensible in his flights among the clouds." Today scholars often join their Greek texts of Aeschylus' plays to a translation in their own language. In this, as in so much else, Mr. Jefferson anticipated and surpassed us all. In his retirement at Monticello he disassembled his editions of Aeschylus and reassembled them in seven handsomely bound volumes, one for each surviving tragedy, each with the Greek text and with French, Latin, and Potter's English translations. *Kindred Spirits* tells the story, both historical and personal, of the creation in about 1820 and the rediscovery of this marvelous set in 2006, and of the dedication of Barry Buckley, an amateur Jefferson enthusiast, who recognized its value and saw to its preservation. Buckley and his co-author Maureen Sappéy lovingly place these seven volumes and the plays of Aeschylus themselves into Mr. Jefferson's life, love of books and antiquity, and broader concerns for democracy and freedom. *Kindred Spirits* shows on every page that Mr. Jefferson, Aeschylus, and the two authors are clearly all "kindred spirits."

~Jon D. Mikalson, noted Jeffersonian and the author of 7 books about Ancient Greece. He is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Classics at the University of Virginia.

*Purchase at amazon.com*



C Barry Buckley

Thomas Jefferson's staggering intellect has captivated Barry since his first visit to Monticello. After graduation from Williams College, he attended the University of Virginia's law school (class of '61) and later, the London School of Economics and Political Science. A founding partner of Buckley, Brion, McGuire & Morris, LLP, in West Chester, PA, Barry recently accepted his firm's designation, Partner Emeritus. He continues to pursue business opportunities with his sons, but finds time to join them aboard the family's historic Chesapeake Bay buy boat, the *East Hampton*.

Maureen Stack Sappéy

Maureen was invited into this project by Barry because of her background as a historian and writer of 6 books of history and historical fiction. After earning a Masters in Fine Arts from Washington College, she worked as a journalist and college instructor, but concentrates now on book coaching. A *New York Times* recommended novelist, two of Maureen's novels are in development as films. Her current project is a novel about the Irish famine set in her one time home in County Clare, Ireland.

***Kindred Spirits: Jefferson and Aeschylus***

by Maureen Stack Sappéy

and C. Barry Buckley

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