



Dear Supporter,

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Sam Graham-Felsen and I am the new historian in charge of the Philip Roth Personal Library (PRPL). As a novelist and lifelong admirer of Philip Roth's writing, I couldn't be more excited to take on this role.

The Philip Roth Personal Library is a truly one-of-a-kind space. I don't know of any other novelist of comparable stature who made the choice that Roth did: donating his entire book collection, as well as his awards, honorary degrees, typewriters, desks, and other memorabilia, to a *public* library, free, viewable and accessible to all. Roth's gift is a testament to how much he loved – and was invested in – his home city of Newark, and in particular, the Newark Public Library.

[Click here to make a contribution to the PRPL](#)

Having spent the last couple of months combing through the collection, I can attest to how special it is. For example, I recently came across a book on the history of glove-making. The book is full of Roth's underlinings and I quickly realized that it was the source for one of the most powerful scenes in Roth's Pulitzer Prize-winning *American Pastoral*. There are countless examples of marked-up books in this collection – history, novels, philosophy, even travel guides – that provide crucial clues to how Roth wrote his many masterpieces.

In an age of rising censorship in libraries, classrooms, and other spaces across the country, I believe that Roth's work matters more than ever.

[Please donate to the PRPL now.](#)

With your support, we can keep the PRPL open and accessible to the people of Newark and beyond, and help ensure that Roth's legacy as a great American novelist and champion of free expression endures.

Sincerely,

Sam Graham-Felsen

Historian

Philip Roth Personal Library

PS. If you are in, or traveling to, the Newark area, please feel free to reach out to me at prpl@npl.org. I am happy to provide personalized tours of the PRPL, so that you can see this remarkable collection up close.