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To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the pleasure of employing Deborah Meghnagi Bailey for nearly eight years, as senior editor and editorial director, responsible for the entire Toby Press list. During that time she managed the editorial department, supervising the work of junior editors as well as a team of freelance proofreaders and indexers, and edited over forty books herself. Ms Meghnagi Bailey's responsibilities encompassed a wide range of areas; she excelled in all.

In acquisitions, she gave cogent feedback on submissions which contributed to our acceptance for publication of such critically-acclaimed, prize winning novels as Tamar Yellin's *The Genizah at the House of Shepherd*, winner of the Ribalow Prize 2006 and the Rohr prize 2007, Darryl Wimberley's *The King of Colored Town*, winner of the Willie Morris Award for Fiction, and the last four novels of the late, great Donald Harington, described as "America's greatest unknown novelist" and recipient of many awards, including the *Oxford American* magazine's inaugural award for lifetime achievement in literature.

In editing, she proved to be creative, patient, and sensitive to both the authors she worked with and their texts. She edited fiction across a range of genres, including contemporary literary fiction, fiction in translation, historical fiction and crime fiction; she edited non-fiction works of history, politics and religion with an equally deft hand. Her skills encompassed the full range of editorial functions; she gave critiques to guide author rewrites, and meticulously line-edited accepted texts with a deft touch, always maintaining the authentic authorial voice, even in cases where substantial editing was required. She maintained good relations with all her authors – I regularly received emails from authors Deborah had worked with praising not only her exceptional work but the warm, articulate and insightful way in which she dealt with the process of editing.

In production, Deborah bore the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that each book on the list – at least 25 books per year, including reprints – met its publication deadline and was sent to the printer without error. She supervised and assigned work to proofreaders, indexers, and junior editors and kept track of each book throughout the many stages of production, checking proofs, indexes, and typesetting. She is extremely organized; she successfully managed the workflow on simultaneous projects to ensure that deadlines were realistic, allowing adequate time for each stage of production.

Deborah is a talented writer in her own right; she created jacket copy for most of the Toby books and occasionally wrote marketing copy and press releases, and for those books that were accepted for publication in less coherent form than was necessary, proved to be adept at ghostwriting. She also proved to be confident and articulate when presenting our list, which she did for several years at book fairs and at meetings with sales reps, reviewers and buyers in New York, Toronto, London and Jerusalem.

Deborah is passionate about her work, and strives for perfection. She is committed fully to each and every book she works on. She consults intelligently with other departments and always provides them with any help they ask for; she is regarded highly and with warmth by all her colleagues, and is a pleasure to work with.

I highly recommend her for any position in need of someone with intelligence, creativity, organization and commitment; her writing and editing skills are of the highest order.

Matthew Miller  
Publisher, Toby Press & Koren Books