

Reaktion Books

AUTUMN / WINTER CATALOGUE 2023





REAKTION BOOKS LTD



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Cover: Photo by Skye Sagisi on Unsplash.
Inside front cover: Vittore Carpaccio,
Hunting on the Lagoon, c. 1490-95,
oil on panel.

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Welcome to Reaktion's books for Autumn and Winter 2023.

Kerri Andrews's *Wanderers* is set to be Reaktion's bestselling title ever. Her next book, *Way Makers*, is an essential anthology of women's writing about walking, place and nature.

Jad Adams's *Decadent Women* is a vibrant study of the women who wrote for *The Yellow Book*, the groundbreaking British journal of the 1890s. It's full of stories of passion and poverty, style and adventure.

In *Alone*, Daniel Schreiber brings enlightenment and originality to the experiences of loneliness, solitude, intimacy and happiness.

Boria Sax's *Enchanted Forests* is a 'poetic construction of a world before time', a personal and beautifully written account of the meanings of the forest from prehistory to the present.

In *Squirrel Nation*, Peter Coates uncovers two centuries of the red and grey squirrel in Britain, telling a fascinating story of colonization and citizenship, belonging and commonality.

The Food Adventurers is Daniel E. Bender's supremely entertaining account of how round-the-world travel changed the way we eat, from the golden age of steam to luxury air travel and the most opulent hotel dining.

Two brilliant titles are coming to our Critical Lives series: Lara Vetter's biography of *H.D. (Hilda Doolittle)* and James Williams's *Frantz Fanon*. New in paperback are the hugely successful *Winters in the World*, *Cloven Country*, *The Worst Military Leaders in History*, *Dinner in Rome* and Mary D. Garrard's critically acclaimed book on Artemisia Gentileschi in the Renaissance Lives series.

We hope that you'll enjoy our new season's books and Reaktion's great backlist.

David Hayden, *Managing Director*
Michael R. Leaman, *Publisher*

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Contents

- Way Makers 3
Enchanted Forests 4
Alone 5
The Globe 6
The Food Adventurers 7
Decadent Women 8
Crooner 9
How the Country House Became
 English 10
Squirrel Nation 11
The Point of the Needle 12
The Lost Princess 13
Stones 15
The Illuminated Window 16
The Beauty of the Flower 19
Radicals and Rogues 20
Exquisite Dreams 21
Making the Renaissance Man 23
Dante's New Lives 24
Living with the Dead 25
The Return of Inflation 26
Dreamwork 27
The Art of the Chinese Picture-Scroll 28
Today Is Always Yesterday 29
International Departures 30
The Etruscans 31
In Defense of Processed Food 32
Why Fast? 33
Worm 34
Sloth 35
- Frantz Fanon 36
H.D. (Hilda Doolittle) 37
Richard Owen 38
Aldus Manutius 39
Albrecht Dürer 40
Jan van Eyck within His Art 41
Artemisia Gentileschi and Feminism in
 Early Modern Europe 42
Hieronymus Bosch 43
Bede and the Theory of Everything 44
Francis of Assisi 45
Carnivorous Plants 46
Dinner in Rome 47
Cloven Country 48
Winters in the World 49
Concrete Poetry 50
The Worst Military Leaders in History 51
Games People Played 52
Basilisks and Beowulf 53
- Recent and Recommended 54
Bestselling Backlist – History 58
Bestselling Backlist – Food and Drink 60
Bestselling Backlist – Music 61
Bestselling Backlist – Art 62
Bestselling Backlist – Biography 63
- Trade Information 64

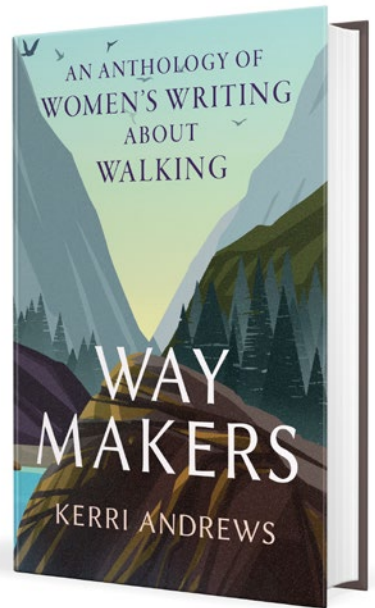
Way Makers

An Anthology of Women's Writing about Walking

Kerri Andrews

The follow-up to the bestselling *Wanderers*, Kerri Andrews's *Way Makers* is the first anthology of women's writing about walking. Moving from the eighteenth century to the present day, and across poetry, letters, diaries, novels and more, this anthology traces a long tradition of women's walking literature. Walking is, for the women included in this anthology, a source of creativity and comfort; it is a means of expressing grief, longing and desire. It is also a complicated activity: it represents freedom but is also sometimes tinged with danger and fear. What cannot be denied any longer is that walking was, and continues to be, an activity full of physical and emotional significance for women. This anthology is testament to the rich literary heritage created by generations of women walker-writers over the centuries.

Kerri Andrews is Reader in Women's Literature and Textual Editing at Edge Hill University. She is the author of *Wanderers: A History of Women Walking* (Reaktion, 2020), and has written for *The Guardian*, *Trail* magazine and others. She lives in Peebles, Scotland.



The first anthology
of women's
writing about
walking, edited
by *Wanderers*
author Kerri
Andrews

September 2023 • Essays/
Outdoor Pursuits

ISBN 978 1 78914 787 2

216 × 138 mm • 336 pp

Hardback • £15.99/\$25

ebook 978 1 78914 819 0

English-Language Rights: Reaktion

Enchanted Forests

The Poetic Construction of a World before Time

Boria Sax

‘An adrenaline-fueled journey around the world . . . Beauty and wisdom flash out at us on every page of this captivating volume.’ – Maria Tatar, author of *The Heroine with 1001 Faces*

In 1985 Boria Sax inherited an area of forest in New York State that had been purchased by his Russian Jewish Communist grandparents as a buffer against what they felt was a hostile world. For Sax, in the years following, the woodland came to represent a link with those who lived and had lived there, including Native Americans, settlers, bears, deer, turtles and migrating birds.

In this personal and eloquent account, Sax explores the meanings and cultural history of forests from prehistory to the present, taking in Gilgamesh, Virgil, Dante, the Gawain poet, medieval alchemists, the Brothers Grimm, the Hudson River painters, Latin American folklore, contemporary African novelists and much more. Combining lyricism with contemporary scholarship, Sax opens new emotional, intellectual and environmental perspectives on the storied history of the forest.

Boria Sax teaches at Sing Sing prison and online in the graduate literature programme at Mercy College. He is the author of many books, which have won awards and been translated into numerous languages. His most recent is *Avian Illuminations: A Cultural History of Birds* (Reaktion, 2021).



A personal,
eloquent portrayal
of the meanings
and cultural
history of forests

October 2023 • Nature
ISBN 978 1 78914 790 2
234 × 156 mm • 288 pp
99 illustrations, 60 in colour
Hardback • £25/\$35
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World Rights: Reaktion

Alone

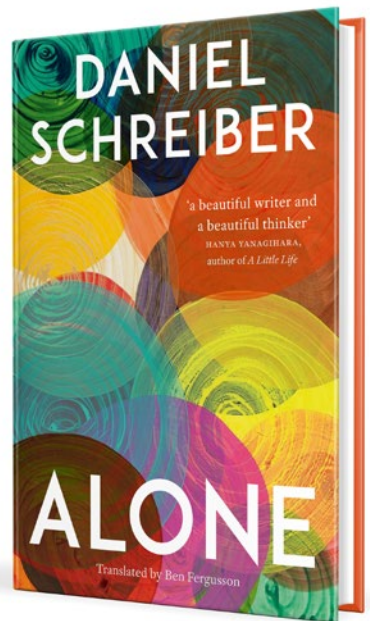
Daniel Schreiber

Translation by Ben Fergusson

‘The most moving, memorable books are the ones that attempt to answer questions that the author has been struggling with for his entire life. In *Alone*, Daniel Schreiber – a beautiful writer and, just as important, a beautiful thinker – explores the questions of not just his life, but our age: Who am I if no one loves me? What are the limits of friendship? How does one live with deep and profound loneliness? This is a book for not just this year, but this era.’ – Hanya Yanagihara, author of *A Little Life*

At no time before have so many people lived alone, and never has loneliness been so widely or keenly felt. Why, in a society of individualists, is living alone perceived as a shameful failure? And can we ever be happy on our own? Drawing on personal experience, as well as philosophy and sociology, Daniel Schreiber explores the tension between the desire for solitude and freedom, and for companionship, intimacy and love. Along the way he illuminates the role that friendships play in our lives – can they be a response to the loss of meaning in a world in crisis? A profoundly enlightening book on how we want to live, *Alone* spent almost a year on Germany’s bestseller list.

Daniel Schreiber is the author of *Susan Sontag*, the first complete biography of the intellectual icon (2014, translated by David Dollenmayer), as well as the highly praised and bestselling literary essays *Nüchtern* (2014) and *Zuhause* (2017). He lives in Berlin.



A profoundly
enlightening look
at loneliness in
modern life

August 2023 • Popular Psychology

ISBN 978 1 78914 765 0

216 × 138 mm • 160 pp

Hardback • £14.95/\$22.50

ebook 978 1 78914 801 5

English-Language Rights:

Reaktion

World Rights: Carl Hanser Verlag

The Globe

How the Earth Became Round

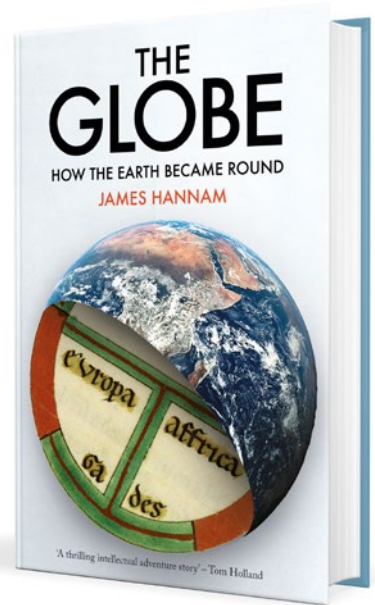
James Hannam

‘A tour d’horizon that spans time as well as space, this is a thrilling intellectual adventure story.’ – Tom Holland, author of *Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind*

‘A work of compulsively readable myth-busting.’
– Philip Ball, author of *The Book of Minds*

The Globe tells the story of humanity’s quest to discover the form of the world. Philosophers in ancient Greece deduced the true shape of the Earth in the fourth century BCE; the Romans passed the knowledge to India, and from there it spread to Baghdad and Central Asia. In early medieval Europe, Christians debated the matter, but long before the time of Columbus, the Catholic Church had accepted that the Earth is round and not flat. However, it wasn’t until the seventeenth century that Jesuit missionaries finally convinced the Chinese that their traditional square-earth cosmology was mistaken. An accessible challenge to long-established beliefs about the history of ideas, *The Globe* shows how the realization that our planet is a sphere deserves to be considered the first great scientific achievement.

James Hannam is the author of *God’s Philosophers: How the Medieval World Laid the Foundations of Modern Science* (2009). He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and lives in Kent.



A history of how we came to know that the Earth is round, rather than flat

July 2023 • History
ISBN 978 1 78914 758 2
216 × 138 mm • 376 pp
47 illustrations, 9 in colour
Hardback • £15.99/\$25
ebook 978 1 78914 808 4
World Rights: Reaktion

The Food Adventurers

How Around-the-World Travel Changed the Way We Eat

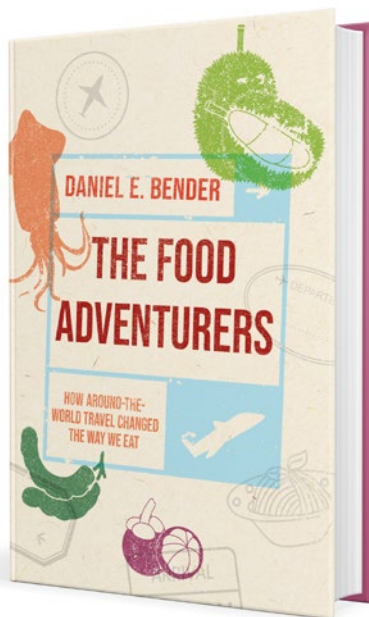
Daniel E. Bender

‘Finally, someone has written a book about the hypocrisy (or maybe just “ambiguity”) of gastro-tourism and how it has been marketed. Bender traces the nearly two-hundred-year history of the tug-of-war between tourists’ professed desire for authenticity and their need for comfort and familiarity.’
– Paul Freedman, Chester D. Tripp Professor of History, Yale University, and author of *American Cuisine*

From mangosteen fruit discovered in a colonial Indonesian marketplace to caviar served on the high seas in a cruise-liner’s luxurious dining saloon, *The Food Adventurers* narrates the history of eating on the most coveted of tourist journeys: the around-the-world adventure.

The book looks at what tourists ate on these adventures, as well as what they avoided, and what kinds of meals they described in diaries, photographs and postcards. Daniel E. Bender shows how circumglobal travel shaped popular fascination with world cuisines, and leads readers on a culinary tour from Tahitian pig roasts in the 1840s to the dining saloon of the luxury Cunard steamer *Franconia* in the 1920s, and to InterContinental and Hilton hotel restaurants in the 1960s and ’70s.

Daniel E. Bender is the Canada Research Chair in Food and Culture and a professor of food studies and history at the University of Toronto. He is the author or editor of many books, including *Food Mobilities: Making World Cuisines* (2023).



Narrates the history of eating on round-the-world adventures

July 2023 • Food & Drink
ISBN 978 1 78914 757 5
234 × 156 mm • 352 pp
46 illustrations
Hardback • £20/\$27.50
ebook 978 1 78914 807 7
World Rights: Reaktion

Decadent Women

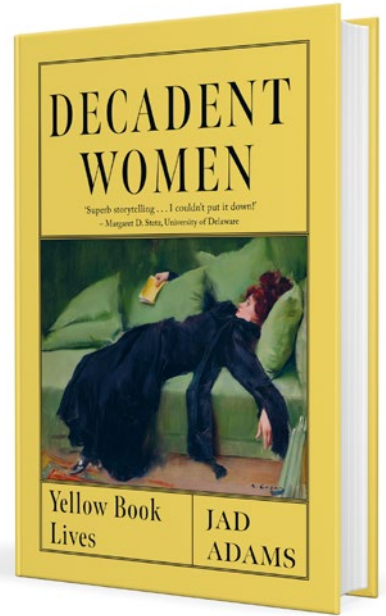
Yellow Book Lives

Jad Adams

'Part literary history, part social history, and entirely delightful, *Decadent Women: Yellow Book Lives* is a detailed, diverting, and accessible study of all the women who contributed to the groundbreaking fin-de-siècle magazine, showing how it made their careers even as they made it the bible of British decadence.' – David Weir, Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature, The Cooper Union, New York

During the 1890s, British women for the first time began to leave their family homes to seek work, accommodation, and financial and sexual freedom. *Decadent Women* is an account of some of these women who wrote for the innovative art and literary journal *The Yellow Book*. For the first time, based on original research, Jad Adams describes the lives and work of these vibrant and passionate women, from well-connected and fashionable aristocrats to the desperately poor. He narrates the challenges they faced in a literary marketplace, and within a society that overwhelmingly favoured men, showing how they were pioneers of a new style, living lives of lurid adventure and romance, as well as experiencing poverty, squalor, disease and unwanted pregnancy.

Jad Adams is a Research Fellow at the Institute of English, School of Advanced Study, University of London. His many books include *Women and the Vote: A World History* (2014).



Chronicles the vibrant and passionate women who wrote for the 1890s journal *The Yellow Book*

October 2023 • History
ISBN 978 1 78914 789 6
234 x 156 mm • 408 pp
47 illustrations
Hardback • £20/\$30
ebook 978 1 78914 804 6
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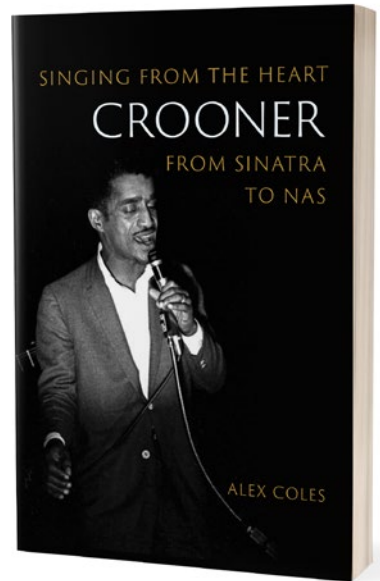
Crooner

Singing from the Heart from Sinatra to Nas

Alex Coles

Crooners sing close to the mic in a soft, intimate style. In this book Alex Coles explores the crooner in popular music from the 1950s to the present. Each chapter focuses on one song and one singer – Frank Sinatra, Scott Walker, Barry White, David Bowie, Bryan Ferry, Tom Waits, Grace Jones, Ian McCulloch, Nick Cave and Nas – and examines in detail how each contributes to the crooner image. The book describes how crooners traverse era, gender, geography and genre – where Barry White developed out of disco, Nick Cave sprung from alternative rock; where Grace Jones was born from reggae and funk, Nas originated from hip-hop. Ultimately, Coles shows how the crooner continues to be a figure that enables listeners to reflect on and communicate their emotions.

Alex Coles is Professor in the School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Huddersfield. He is the author of *The Transdisciplinary Studio* (2012) and *Tainted Love: Twisted Romantic Ballads* (2023), and editor of *Design and Art* (2007).



An exploration
of the crooner
in popular music
from the 1950s
to the present

REVERB

August 2023 • Music

ISBN 978 1 78914 766 7

210 × 148 mm • 208 pp

41 illustrations

Paperback • £11.99/\$18

ebook 978 1 78914 830 5

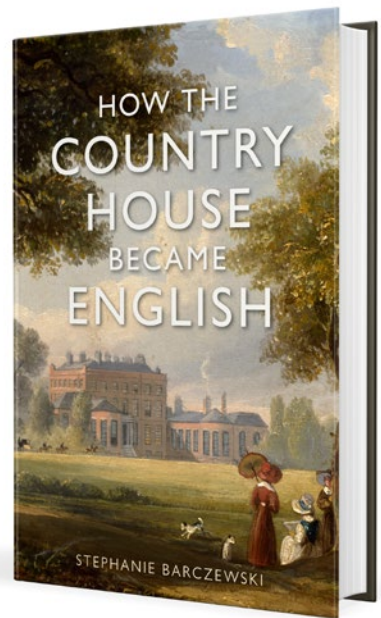
World Rights: Reaktion

How the Country House Became English

Stephanie Barczewski

Country houses have come to be regarded as quintessentially English, not only in terms of their architectural style but because they appear to embody national values of continuity and insularity. The histories of country houses and England, however, have featured episodes of violence and disruption, so how did country houses come to represent one version of English history, when in reality they reflect its full range of contradictions and complexities? This book explores the evolution of the country house, beginning with the violent impact of the Reformation and Civil War and showing how the political events of the eighteenth century, which culminated in the reaction against the French Revolution, led to country houses being recast as symbols of England's political stability.

Stephanie Barczewski is Professor of Modern British History and Carol K. Brown Scholar in the Humanities at Clemson University, South Carolina. Her books include *Country Houses and the British Empire, 1700–1930* (2016).



Explores the evolution of the quintessentially English country house

July 2023 • History
ISBN 978 1 78914 760 5
234 x 156 mm • 368 pp
74 illustrations
Hardback • £25/\$45
ebook 978 1 78914 809 1
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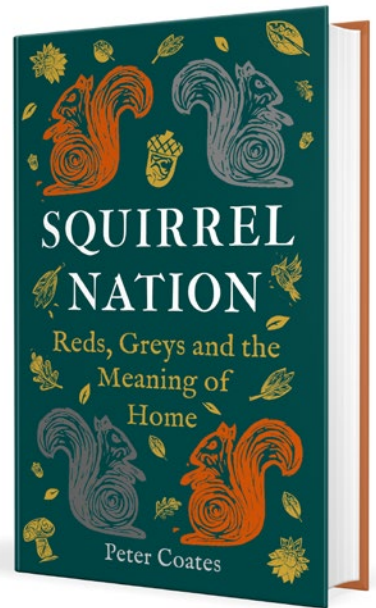
Squirrel Nation

Reds, Greys and the Meaning of Home

Peter Coates

Squirrel Nation is a history of Britain's two species of squirrel over the past two hundred years. The red squirrel, although rare, is among the most cherished of native species. Grey squirrels, by contrast, are one of the most frequently seen wild creatures in our gardens, parks, towns and countryside, and many Britons consider it to be a foreign interloper, introduced from North America in the late nineteenth century. By examining this animal's colonization of Britain, Peter Coates also explores timely issues of belonging, nationalism, citizenship and the defence of borders within Britain today. Ultimately, though people are swift to draw distinctions between British squirrels and squirrels in Britain, *Squirrel Nation* shows that Britain's two squirrel species have much more in common than at first appears.

Peter Coates is Emeritus Professor of American and Environmental History at the University of Bristol. His previous books include *Salmon* (2006) and *A Story of Six Rivers* (2013), both published by Reaktion.



A history of
Britain's two
species of squirrel
over the past two
hundred years

August 2023 • History
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216 × 138 mm • 320 pp
36 illustrations, 10 in colour
Hardback • £15.99/\$27.50
ebook 978 1 78914 817 6

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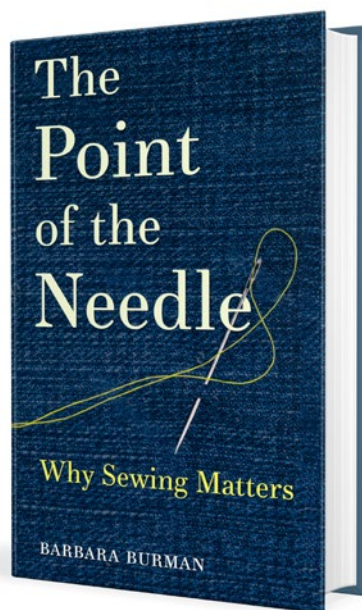
The Point of the Needle

Why Sewing Matters

Barbara Burman

Tens of millions of people sew for necessity or pleasure every day, yet the craft is surprisingly under-appreciated. *The Point of the Needle* redresses the balance: this is a book that argues for sewing's place in our lives. It celebrates not only sewing's recent resurgence but sewists' creativity, well-being and community. Barbara Burman chronicles new voices of people who sew today, by hand or machine, to explore what they sew, what motivates them, what they value and why they mend things, revealing insights into sewing's more intimate stories. In our age of superfast fashion with its environmental and social injustices, this eloquent book makes a passionate case for identity, diversity, resilience and memory – what people create for themselves as they stitch and make.

Barbara Burman is a writer and former academic at the University of Southampton and the University of the Arts, London. She is the co-author of *The Pocket: A Hidden History of Women's Lives, 1660–1900* (2019) and editor of *The Culture of Sewing* (1999). She is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and lives near Cambridge.



Argues for the importance of sewing in our lives today

September 2023 • History

ISBN 978 1 78914 719 3

216 × 138 mm • 240 pp

1 illustration

Hardback • £15.95/\$25

ebook 978 1 78914 751 3

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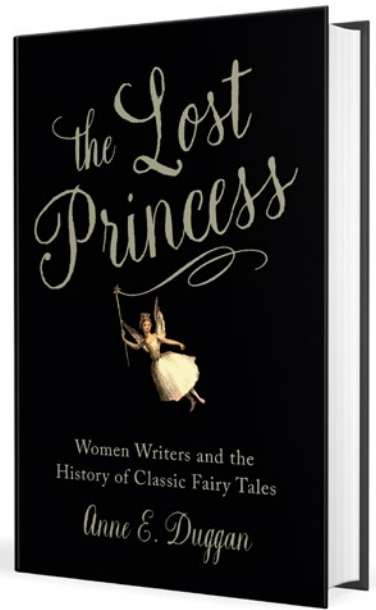
The Lost Princess

Women Writers and the History of Classic Fairy Tales

Anne E. Duggan

People often associate fairy tales with Disney films, and with the male authors from whom Disney often drew inspiration – notably Charles Perrault, the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen. In these portrayals the princess is a passive, compliant figure. By contrast, *The Lost Princess* shows that classic fairy tales such as ‘Cinderella’, ‘Rapunzel’ and ‘Beauty and the Beast’ have a much richer, more complex history than Disney’s saccharine depictions. Anne E. Duggan recovers the voices of women writers such as Marie-Catherine d’Aulnoy, Marie-Jeanne L’Héritier and Charlotte-Rose de La Force, who penned popular tales about ogre-killing, pregnant, cross-dressing, dynamic heroines who saved the day. This new history will appeal to anyone who wants to know more about the lost, plucky heroines of historic fairy tales.

Anne E. Duggan is Professor of French and Fairy-Tale Studies at Wayne State University, Michigan. She is the author, editor or translator of many books, including *A Cultural History of Fairy Tales* (2021).



Recovers the lost, plucky heroines of historic fairy tales

August 2023 • Literary Criticism

ISBN 978 1 78914 769 8

216 × 138 mm • 320 pp

40 illustrations, 12 in colour

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World Rights: Reaktion



Stones

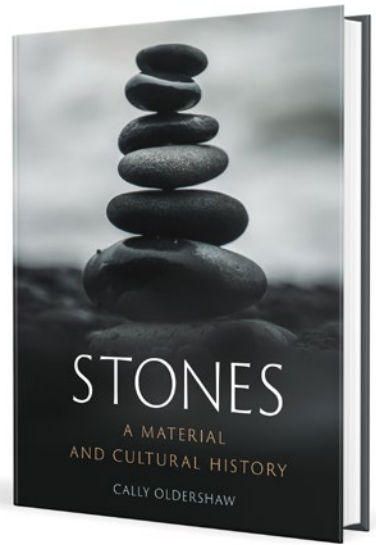
A Material and Cultural History

Cally Oldershaw

From small beach pebbles to huge megaliths, stones have been revered, collected, enhanced, sculpted or engraved for practical and artistic purposes throughout the ages. They have been used to delineate boundaries and to build homes and shelters, and utilized for cooking, games and competitions. This surprising and fascinating compendium of stone facts, myths and stories reveals the impact and importance of stones in our history and culture.

Cally Oldershaw introduces the science in an accessible way and covers the aesthetic appeal of stones, their practical uses and metaphysical properties. With an eclectic mix of examples from the Stone Age to the present, *Stones* engagingly excavates the story of this essential matter.

Geologist and gemmologist Cally Oldershaw was the first Lady Chair of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain, and Curator of Gemstones for the Natural History Museum, London. She is the author of more than twenty books on gemstones and other Earth science topics including volcanoes, earthquakes, oceans and seas. She lives in Mid Glamorgan, Wales.



A surprising
and fascinating
compendium
of stone facts,
myths, legends
and stories

September 2023 • Popular Science

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220 × 171 mm • 296 pp

121 illustrations, 98 in colour

Hardback • £25/\$35

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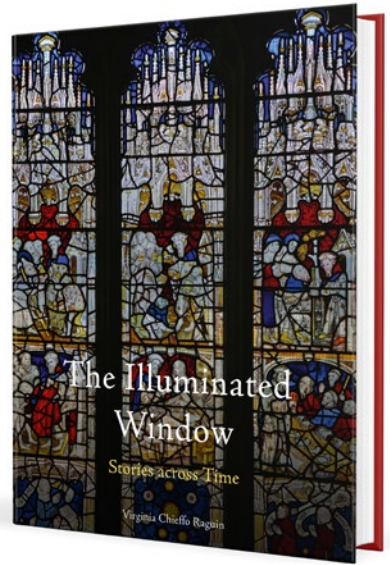
The Illuminated Window

Stories across Time

Virginia Chieffo Raguin

The Illuminated Window is a unique journey through stained-glass installations that spans both time and place. Diverse in technique and style, these windows speak for the communities that created them. From the twelfth to the twenty-first century, we find in the windows stories of conflict, commemoration, devotion and celebration. Virginia Chieffo Raguin is our guide through the cathedrals of Chartres, Canterbury and Cologne, and takes us from Paris's Sainte-Chapelle to Swiss guildhalls, Iran's Pink Mosque, Tiffany's chapel for the World Exposition, Frank Lloyd Wright's houses and more. As she reveals, the art of stained glass relies on not only a single maker, but the relationship between the physical site, the patron's aims, the work's legibility for the spectator and the prevailing style of the era. This is a fascinating and beautifully illustrated volume for anyone interested in stained-glass works.

Virginia Chieffo Raguin is Distinguished Professor of Humanities Emeritus, College of the Holy Cross. She has published widely on medieval and early modern art and spirituality as well as contemporary artists in stained glass. She is the author of *Stained Glass: From Its Origins to the Present* (2003).



A fascinating,
beautifully
illustrated history
of stained-glass
installations

October 2023 • Architecture/Art

ISBN 978 1 78914 793 3

250 × 190 mm • 320 pp

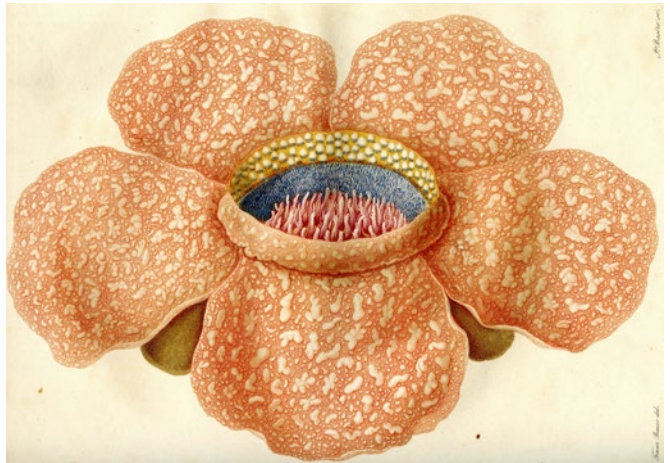
150 illustrations, 130 in colour

Hardback • £30/\$45

ebook 978 1 78914 810 7

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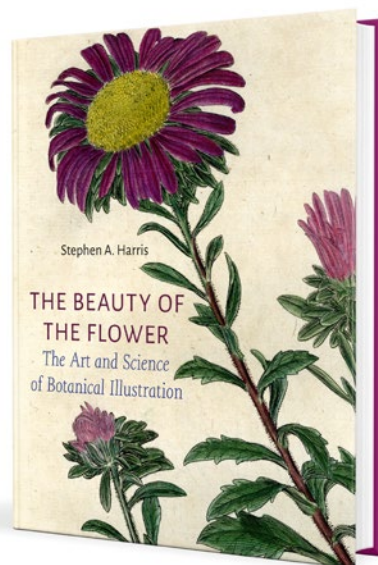
The Beauty of the Flower

The Art and Science of Botanical Illustration

Stephen A. Harris

In a world flooded with images designed to create memories, validate perceptions and influence others, botanical illustration is about creating technically accurate depictions of plants. Reproductions of centuries-old botanical illustrations frequently adorn greetings cards, pottery and advertising, to promote heritage or generate income, yet their art is scientific: its purpose is to record, display and transmit scientific data. *The Beauty of the Flower* shows us how scientific botanical illustrations are collaborations among artists, scientists and publishers. It explores the evolution and interchanges of these illustrations since the mid-fifteenth century, the ways in which they have been used to communicate scientific ideas about plants and how views of botanical imagery change. Featuring unique images rarely seen outside of specialist literature, this book reveals the fascinating stories behind these remarkable illustrations.

Stephen A. Harris is an Associate Professor of Plant Sciences and curator of the herbarium at the University of Oxford. His books include *Sunflowers* (Reaktion, 2018) and *Roots to Seeds: 400 Years of Oxford Botany* (2021).



Featuring superb and rare images, this book reveals the fascinating stories behind botanical illustration

September 2023 • Art
ISBN 978 1 78914 780 3
250 × 190 mm • 320 pp
144 illustrations, 80 in colour
Hardback • £30/\$45
ebook 978 1 78914 802 2
[World Rights: Reaktion](#)

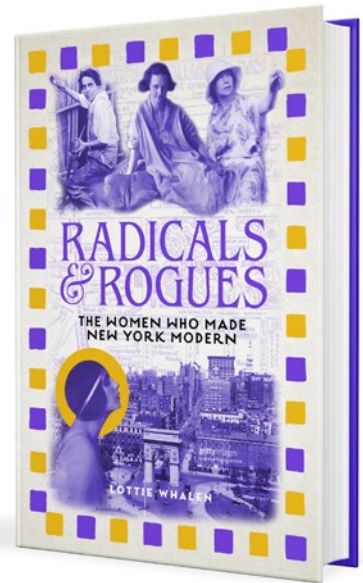
Radicals and Rogues

The Women Who Made New York Modern

Lottie Whalen

This is the story of a group of women whose experiments in art and life set the tone for the rise of New York as the twentieth century's capital of modern culture. Across the 1910s and '20s, through provocative creative acts, shocking fashion, political activism and dynamic social networks, these women reimaged modern life and fought for the chance to realize their visions. Taking the reader on a journey through the city's salons and bohemian hangouts, *Radicals and Rogues* celebrates the tastemakers, collectors, curators, artists and poets at the forefront of the early avant-garde scene. Focusing on the women trailblazers at the centre of artistic innovation, Lottie Whalen offers a lively new history of remarkable women in early twentieth-century New York City.

Lottie Whalen is a writer, researcher and curator working in the fields of feminist history, avant-garde art and textiles. She is the co-founder of Decorating Dissidence, an interdisciplinary arts project that considers radical histories of craft and its potential as a force for change in the modern day. She lives in Glasgow.



Chronicles the
women who
trailblazed New
York's artistic scene
in the early 1900s

September 2023 • History

ISBN 978 1 78914 786 5

234 × 156 mm • 288 pp

45 illustrations

Hardback • £20/\$27.50

ebook 978 1 78914 815 2

World Rights: Reaktion

Exquisite Dreams

The Art and Life of Dorothea Tanning

Amy Lyford

‘A highly readable page turner that engages fully with Tanning’s canny critiques of gender and sexuality . . . showing Tanning to be one of the most intriguing artists of the twentieth century.’ – Jennifer Shaw, Sonoma State University, author of *Exist Otherwise*

Exquisite Dreams is the first full account of Dorothea Tanning’s art and life. Rather than only focusing on her well-known surrealist paintings, this book gives equal weight to Tanning’s lesser-known but equally powerful sculptures, abstract paintings and films. Setting Tanning’s writings, biography and art into the contexts of advertising, fashion, popular culture and art in New York and Paris, Lyford brings Tanning’s ideas and feelings to life. Using new archival sources and analyses of Tanning’s work in a variety of media, Lyford broadens our understanding of the artist. This amply illustrated book is an important contribution to the history of women artists, gender and sexuality studies, as well as the history of Surrealism. It will appeal to art historians and art lovers alike.

Amy Lyford is Arthur G. Coons Professor in the History of Ideas at Occidental College in Los Angeles. She is the author of *Surrealist Masculinities* (2007) and *Isamu Noguchi’s Modernism: Negotiating Race, Labor, and Nation, 1930–1950* (2013).



The first full account of Dorothea Tanning’s surrealist art, sculptures, abstract paintings and films

November 2023 • Art
ISBN 978 1 78914 797 1
250 × 190 mm • 320 pp
130 illustrations, 120 in colour
Hardback • £30/\$45
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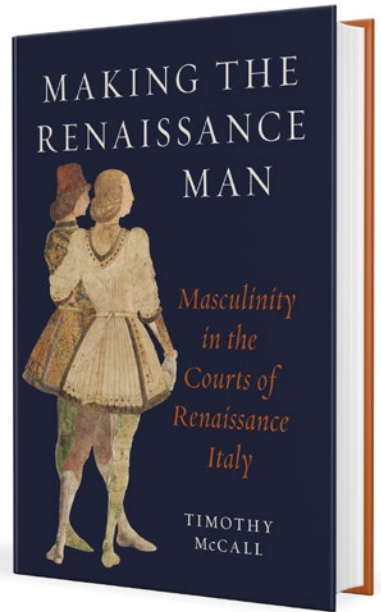
Making the Renaissance Man

Masculinity in the Courts of Renaissance Italy

Timothy McCall

Making the Renaissance Man explores the images, objects and experiences that fashioned men and masculinity in the courts of fifteenth-century Italy. Across the peninsula, Italian princes fought each other in fierce battles and spectacular jousts; they seduced mistresses, flaunted splendour in lavish rituals of knighting and demonstrated prowess through the hunt, in ostentatious performances of masculinity and rule. Hardly frivolous pastimes, these activities were essential displays of privilege and virility; indeed, violence underlay the cultural veneer of the Italian Renaissance. Timothy McCall investigates representations and ideals of manhood and provides a historically grounded and gorgeously illustrated account of how male identity and sexuality proclaimed power, in a century crucial to the formation of early modern Europe.

Timothy McCall is Associate Professor of Art History at Villanova University, Philadelphia. He is the co-editor of *Visual Cultures of Secrecy in Early Modern Europe* (2013) and the author of *Brilliant Bodies: Fashioning Courtly Men in Early Renaissance Italy* (2022).



An investigation of representations and ideals of manhood in the courts of fifteenth-century Italy

September 2023 • History/Art

ISBN 978 1 78914 785 8

234 × 156 mm • 280 pp

106 illustrations, 98 in colour

Hardback • £25/\$35

ebook 978 1 78914 814 5

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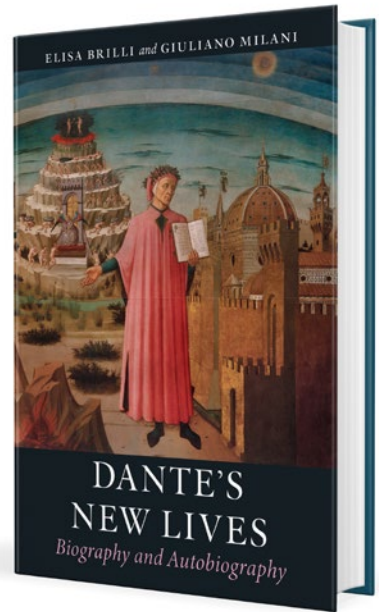
Dante's New Lives

Biography and Autobiography

Elisa Brilli and Giuliano Milani

Numerous books have attempted to chronicle the life of Dante Alighieri, yet essential questions remain unanswered. How did this self-taught Florentine become the celebrated author of the *Divine Comedy*? Was his exile from Florence so extraordinary? How did Dante make himself the main protagonist in his works, in a literary context that advised against it? And why has his life interested so many readers? In *Dante's New Lives*, eminent scholars Elisa Brilli and Giuliano Milani answer these questions and many more. Their account reappraises Dante's life and work by assessing archival and literary evidence and examining the most recent scholarship. The book is a model of interdisciplinary biography, as fascinating as it is rigorous.

Elisa Brilli is Professor in Italian Studies and Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. Her many books include *Firenze e il profeta: Dante fra teologia e politica* (2012). Giuliano Milani is Professor in Medieval History at the Université Gustave Eiffel in Paris, France. His books include *L'homme à la bourse au cou: Généalogies et usage d'une image médiévale* (2019).



A fascinating,
rigorous,
wide-ranging
reappraisal of
Dante Alighieri's
life and work

September 2023 • Biography

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234 × 156 mm • 356 pp

4 illustrations

Hardback • £30/\$45

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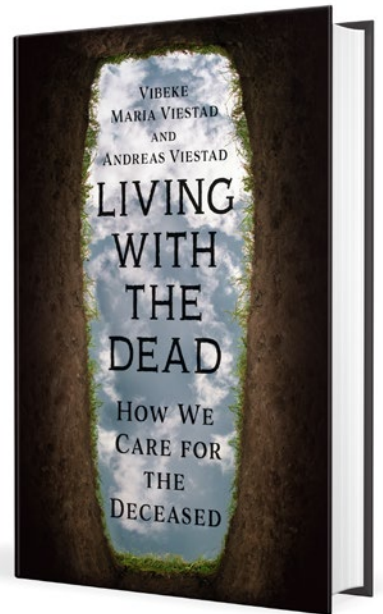
Living with the Dead

How We Care for the Deceased

Vibeke Maria Viestad and Andreas Viestad

Death is universal. It will meet us all. But it's also a practical problem – what do we do with dead bodies? The Viestads live by a cemetery and are daily spectators of its routines, and their fascination with burials led them to dig deep to examine our relationship with the dead. Taking us on a journey through the world and the past, they explore how the deceased are honoured and cared for, cremated and buried. From archaeological sites in Spain, Israel and Russia to Ghana's fantasy coffins and environmentally friendly burials, and from cremations without fire to turning our dearly departed's ashes into diamonds, this empathetic and enthralling work is for anyone who knows their turn is coming, but who'd like a good book for the journey.

Vibeke Maria Viestad is an archaeologist at the University of Oslo and Honorary Research Fellow at Wits University, Johannesburg. She is the author of *Dress as Social Relations*. Andreas Viestad is a writer, tv chef, restaurateur and food activist, and the author of *Dinner in Rome* (Reaktion, 2022).



A clear-eyed
survey of how we
deal with death
around the world

August 2023 • Sociology

ISBN 978 1 78914 768 1

216 × 138 mm • 240 pp

Hardback • £16/\$25

ebook 978 1 78914 812 1

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The Return of Inflation

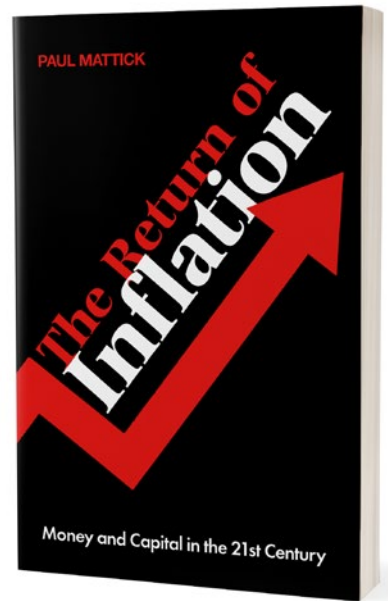
Money and Capital in the 21st Century

Paul Mattick

‘An eye-opening account . . . a brilliant, lucidly presented analysis of the inherently inflationary logic of modern-day capitalism.’ – Steve Fraser, author of *The Age of Acquiescence*

The last year has seen the return of inflation as a preoccupation of political decision-makers, economists and the general public. After two decades of wondering why inflation was so low, despite vast economic stimulus, economists were surprised by the recent surge of price increases. Despite disagreement about what exactly is happening in the economy, there is unanimity that growth must be slowed in order to control inflation. To focus on inflation’s return, Paul Mattick looks at past and present, placing current events in the context of capitalism’s history. Exploring in novel terms the nature of money itself, he provides a concise, jargon-free understanding of recent inflation, and official efforts to control it, illuminating the state of our contemporary economy.

Paul Mattick is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Adelphi University, New York. He is the author of *Business as Usual* (Reaktion, 2012) and *Theory as Critique: Essays on Capital* (2019), and editor of the *Reaktion/ Brooklyn Rail Field Notes* series. He is the former editor of the *International Journal of Political Economy*, and lives in San Francisco.



A concise, jargon-free explanation of inflation past and present, and the world economy today

September 2023 • Economics

ISBN 978 1 78914 791 9

216 × 138 mm • 240 pp

Paperback • £12.95/\$18

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Dreamwork

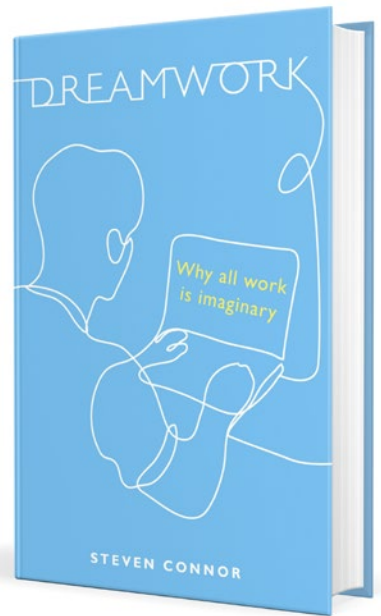
Why All Work Is Imaginary

Steven Connor

‘With his inimitable flair for rooting out the phenomenological intricacies of apparently ordinary things, Steven Connor leads us on a tour of the dream factory of work, labour, toil and occupation. The result is a book of typically considerable – dare I say it – detective work that opens up the quotidian reality and enabling dreamscape of work to new understanding.’ – Nathan Waddell, Associate Professor in Twentieth-Century Literature, University of Birmingham

Dreamwork is a book about the ideas, dreams, dreads and ideals we have regarding work. Its central argument is that, although we depend on the idea of work for our identity as humans, we feel we must disguise from ourselves the fact that we do not know what work is. There is no example of work that nobody might under some circumstances do for fun. All work is imaginary – which is not to say that it is simply illusory, but rather that, in order to count as work, it must be imagined to be work; so that a large part of what we mean by working is this work of imagining. Work is therefore essentially mystical – just the opposite of what it is taken to be. *Dreamwork* looks in turn at worries about whether or not work is hard; the importance of places of work; the meanings of hobbies, holidays and sabbaths; and the history of dreams of redeeming work.

Steven Connor is Professor of English and Director of Research at the Digital Futures Institute, King’s College London. He is the author of eighteen books, most recently *The Madness of Knowledge: On Wisdom, Ignorance and Fantasies of Knowing* (Reaktion, 2019).



Analyses the ideas, dreams, dreads and ideals we have regarding work

July 2023 • Philosophy
ISBN 978 1 78914 756 8
216 × 138 mm • 256 pp
Hardback • £18/\$27.50
ebook 978 1 78914 805 3
World Rights: Reaktion

The Art of the Chinese Picture-Scroll

Shane McCausland

‘Eruditely written . . . a welcome addition to the corpus of studies on Chinese painting, written by a scholar deeply immersed in the subject and well able to share his knowledge with the reader in an engaging and lively way.’
– Nick Pearce, Professor and Richmond Chair of Fine Arts, University of Glasgow

The Chinese picture-scroll, a long painting or calligraphic work held within a horizontal scrolling mount, has been China’s pre-eminent aesthetic format for the last two millennia. This first extended history of the picture-scroll explores its extraordinary longevity, and its adaptability to social, political and technological change. The book describes what the picture-scroll demands of a viewer, how China’s artists grappled with its cultural power, and how collectors and connoisseurs have left their marks on scrolls for later generations to judge. The return to mass appeal of scrolling – a media technology that seemed long outdated yet persists in our digital age – provides urgent and fascinating context to this book.

Shane McCausland is Percival David Professor of the History of Art at SOAS University of London. His many books include *The Mongol Century: Visual Cultures of Yuan China, 1271–1368* (Reaktion, 2014).



An examination of
the picture-scroll,
China’s pre-eminent
aesthetic format
over the last two
millennia

November 2023 • Art
ISBN 978 1 78914 796 4
250 × 190 mm • 296 pp
150 illustrations, 130 in colour
Hardback • £35/\$50
ebook 978 1 78914 834 3
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Today Is Always Yesterday

Contemporary Brazilian Art

Michael Asbury

Today Is Always Yesterday explores the historical constructs underlying contemporary art in Brazil. Michael Asbury, through his study of the South American nation's colonial and post-colonial condition, argues that art can not only illustrate history but activate it. The colours of the flag, a national emblem saturated with symbolism and which has become central to the culture wars of recent years, become devices to thematically structure the five chapters of the book. Asbury shows how artists have responded to cultural engagements and appropriations, and examines art's role in unravelling Brazil's foundational myths and its projected image as a racial melting pot. Richly illustrated, this book presents a compelling account of contemporary debates in Brazilian art.

Michael Asbury is Reader in the History and Theory of Art and Deputy Director of the Research Centre for Transnational Art, Identity and Nation at Chelsea College of Arts, University of the Arts London. He has worked as an independent curator and art critic for over two decades and has written extensively on Brazilian modern and contemporary art.



A richly illustrated,
compelling
account of
contemporary
Brazilian art

November 2023 • Art
ISBN 978 1 78914 800 8
250 × 190 mm • 320 pp
135 illustrations, 115 in colour
Hardback • £35/\$50
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International Departures

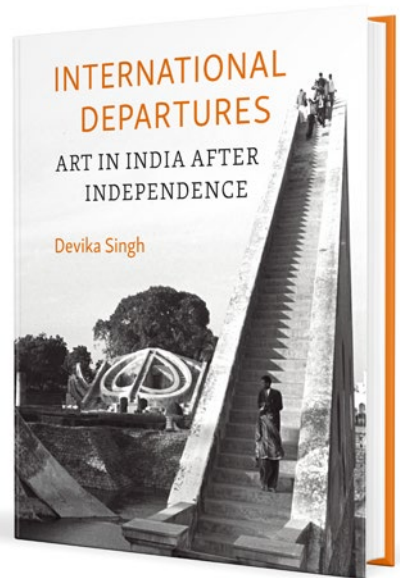
Art in India after Independence

Devika Singh

In this captivating and richly illustrated account, Devika Singh presents together for the first time the work of Indian and foreign artists active in India after independence in 1947. The book engages with the many creators, critics and patrons of the post-war Indian art world, from Bhupen Khakhar, Zarina and Kekoo Gandhi to Isamu Noguchi, Le Corbusier and Clement Greenberg.

Singh opens up new ways of thinking about Indian art, closely examining artworks and analysing how they were received in India and abroad. Featuring a wealth of rare and previously unpublished images, this provocative new book explores how artists in India participated in global modernism during a crucial period of decolonization and nation building.

Devika Singh is Senior Lecturer in Curating at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, and was previously Curator of International Art at Tate Modern. She has published widely and curated numerous exhibitions in the UK, India, Bangladesh, the UAE and the United States.



A captivating
and richly
illustrated history
of art in India
since 1947

November 2023 • Art
ISBN 978 1 78914 798 8
234 × 168 mm • 304 pp
107 illustrations, 75 in colour
Hardback • £30/\$45
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The Etruscans

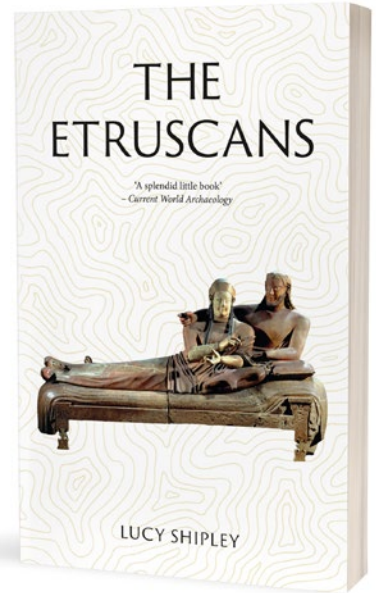
Lost Civilizations

Lucy Shipley

'[*The Etruscans*] accomplishes its mission with aplomb . . . if there is one book among the recent spate of works on the Etruscans that is likely to win over the popular imagination – one as alive to their distinct character and accomplishments as their lost legacy and muddled afterlives – Lucy Shipley's book is surely it.' – *Classical Journal*

The Etruscans were a powerful and influential civilization in ancient Italy. But despite their prominence, they are often misrepresented as mysterious – a strange, unknowable people whose language and culture have largely vanished. Lucy Shipley's history of the Etruscans presents a different picture: of a people who traded with Greece and shaped the development of Rome, who inspired Renaissance artists and Romantic firebrands, and whose influence is still felt strongly in the modern world. Covering colonialism and conquest, misogyny and mystique, Etruscan history is woven with the very latest archaeological evidence to provide a unique perspective on this enigmatic culture, revealing how much we now know and how much remains undiscovered.

Lucy Shipley is the author of *Experiencing Etruscan Pots: Ceramics, Bodies and Images in Etruria* (2015). She lives in Devon, UK.



A new history
of the Etruscans,
a powerful and
influential
civilization in
ancient Italy

LOST CIVILIZATIONS

October 2023 • History

ISBN 978 1 78914 832 9

216 x 138 mm • 208 pp

57 illustrations, 40 in colour

Paperback • £12.95/\$18

ebook 978 1 78023 862 3

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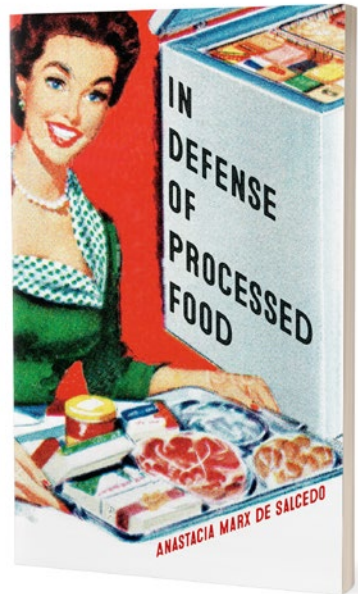
Rights sold: Simp. Chinese

In Defense of Processed Food

Anastacia Marx de Salcedo

Taking in turn a scientific, feminist, economic and public-health perspective, this book gleefully demolishes much of the received wisdom surrounding processed food. Anastacia Marx de Salcedo argues that most of these foods are fairly healthy, and their consumption is an undisputed boon to women's equality, since women still bear disproportionate responsibility for home and children. Alternate food systems are doomed to be small-scale and unproductive, and can even harm economies as a whole. Can we blame processed food for the worldwide increase in obesity when the role of sedentary lifestyles has not been fully investigated? The author concludes by embracing packaged and preserved edibles in her larder, and encourages the reader to do the same.

Anastacia Marx de Salcedo is a public health consultant and writer whose features and essays have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Salon*, *Slate* and *Vice*, and on PBS and NPR blogs. Her books include *Combat-Ready Kitchen: How the U.S. Military Shapes the Way You Eat* (2015) and *Eat Like a Pig, Run Like a Horse* (2022). She lives in Boston, Massachusetts.



A gleeful demolition of the received wisdom surrounding processed food

FOOD CONTROVERSIES

August 2023 • Food & Drink

ISBN 978 1 78914 767 4

200 × 120 mm • 176 pp

Paperback • £10.99/\$16

ebook 978 1 78914 825 1

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Why Fast?

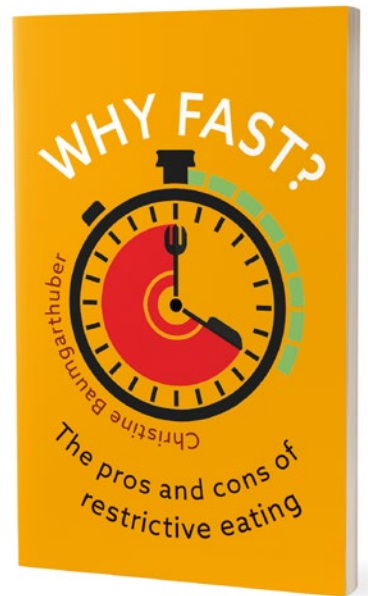
The Pros and Cons of Restrictive Eating

Christine Baumgarthuber

Conventional wisdom says that all we need to do to stay fit and trim is to exercise regularly and eat a low-fat, whole-food diet. Yet more and more people want to fast, forgoing food altogether. But should we fast? Why are we so well adapted to undertake it? And is there a way we can balance the demands of our busy lives with an ancient ritual that requires taking time to rest and rejuvenate?

Christine Baumgarthuber tackles all these questions and more, showing that fasting is in fact a quest for mastery – over our bodies, our minds, our health, our circumstances and our fate. This book tells of the hopes, anxieties and convictions that set us upon that journey.

Christine Baumgarthuber is creator of *The Austerity Kitchen*, a one-of-a-kind culinary history blog, and author of *Fermented Foods* (Reaktion, 2021). She lives in Providence, Rhode Island.



A multi-faceted,
clear-eyed history
and assessment
of fasting

FOOD CONTROVERSIES

July 2023 • Health

ISBN 978 1 78914 763 6

200 × 120 mm • 184 pp

40 illustrations

Paperback • £10.99/\$16

ebook 978 1 78914 826 8

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Worm

Kevin Butt

Worms are remarkable but often underrated creatures. Exploring their roles from gardener's friend to toothache culprit, this book offers an insight into the mysterious world of worms. The reader is introduced to all manner of worms, even though many only superficially resemble the limbless, sinuous archetype. There is discussion of worms as internal parasites, soil dwellers and aquatic forms, and an examination of worms in literature and mythology, showing how humans and worms have an intimate and closely entwined history – throughout the ages, worms have been portrayed as benign, even beautiful, yet at other times spitefully ostracized as deadly creatures. This richly illustrated book looks at the microscopic and the very large indeed, asking what the future holds for both human- and worm-kind.

Kevin Butt is Reader in Ecology at the University of Central Lancashire, UK. He has published widely in the field of environmental science, soil ecology and soil restoration.



An insight into
the mysterious
world of the
remarkable
but often
underrated
worm

ANIMAL

October 2023 • Natural History

ISBN 978 1 78914 794 0

190 × 135 mm • 192 pp

108 illustrations, 80 in colour

Paperback • £13.95/\$19.95

ebook 978 1 78914 821 3

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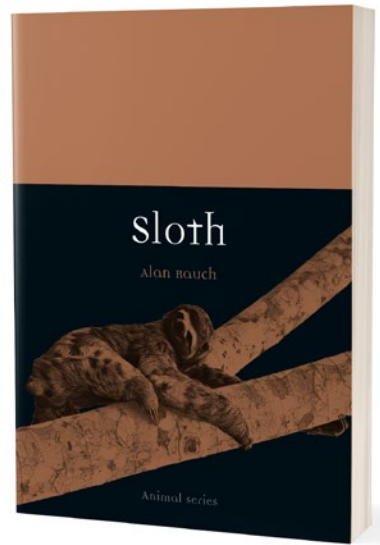
Sloth

Alan Rauch

Sloths are perhaps the most recognized and loved Central and South American animals, but despite their renown and popularity as cartoon characters, toys and memes, they are not well understood. This book offers a colourful, richly illustrated and wide-ranging account of the biological and cultural history of these fascinating mammals.

Alan Rauch explores sloths' gigantic prehistoric ancestors and their evolution into the lethargic, green-hued creatures that live and survive in forest canopies today. From the tale of how sloths were named after a deadly sin to their current status as unflappable icons of a stress-free lifestyle, *Sloth* shows how fascinating, engaging and inspiring these animals are.

Alan Rauch is Professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and his many books include *Dolphin* (2013) in Reaktion's Animal series.



A colourful and wide-ranging account of the evolution, biology and cultural history of sloths

ANIMAL

November 2023 • Natural History

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190 × 135 mm • 176 pp

107 illustrations, 80 in colour

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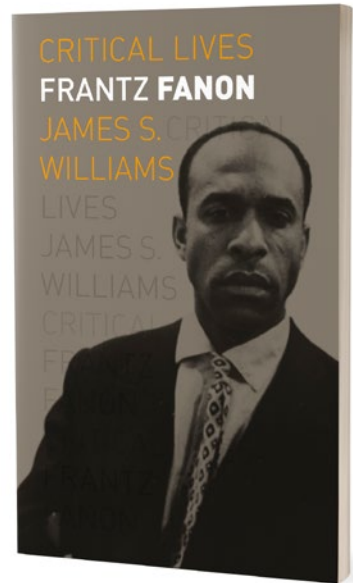
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Frantz Fanon

James S. Williams

Doctor, militant, political essayist, ambassador, teacher, journalist, pan-Africanist: Frantz Fanon represented a new model of engaged intellectual who sought to decolonize mid-twentieth-century thought, society and culture and move beyond the ideology of race. Born Black in colonial Martinique, he fought for France during the Second World War but later renounced his native land and aspired to be Algerian during the Algerian War of Independence. Emphasizing Fanon's gift for self-invention and performance, *Frantz Fanon* charts the key turning points in his short, extraordinary life and explores how his pioneering work in psychiatry influenced his revolutionary philosophy. It is essential reading for those who wish to know more about this unique, visionary figure.

James S. Williams is Professor of Modern French Literature and Film at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is the author of *Space and Being in Contemporary French Cinema* (2013) and *Ethics and Aesthetics in Contemporary African Cinema: The Politics of Beauty* (2019), winner of the 2020 R. Gapper Prize.



Charts the key turning points in the short, extraordinary life of Frantz Fanon

CRITICAL LIVES

November 2023 • Biography

ISBN 978 1 78914 831 2

200 × 130 mm • 208 pp

30 illustrations

Paperback • £12.99/\$19

ebook 978 1 78914 835 0

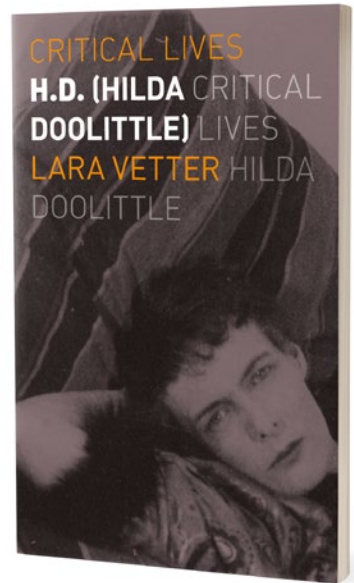
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H.D. (Hilda Doolittle)

Lara Vetter

H.D. (Hilda Doolittle) was one of the first writers of free verse in English, best known for her sparse Imagist poems. For over forty years she wrote poetry that resurrected forgotten ancient goddesses, and autobiographical prose that explored her trauma, her desires and the unique struggles of a twentieth-century woman writer. She was also a scholar of religion, mythology and history, a translator of ancient Greek, and worked in early avant-garde film. Dubbed the ‘perfect bi-’ by Sigmund Freud, she placed issues of sexuality and gender at the centre of her writings. This new biography explores the fascinating life and work of this important modernist figure, once written out of literary history but now receiving the attention she deserves.

Lara Vetter is Professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and her books include *A Curious Peril: H.D.’s Late Modernist Prose* (2017).



The fascinating life and work of the groundbreaking, free-spirited modernist poet H.D.

CRITICAL LIVES

July 2023 • Biography

ISBN 978 1 78914 759 9

200 × 130 mm • 208 pp

32 illustrations

Paperback • £12.99/\$19

ebook 978 1 78914 835 0

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Richard Owen

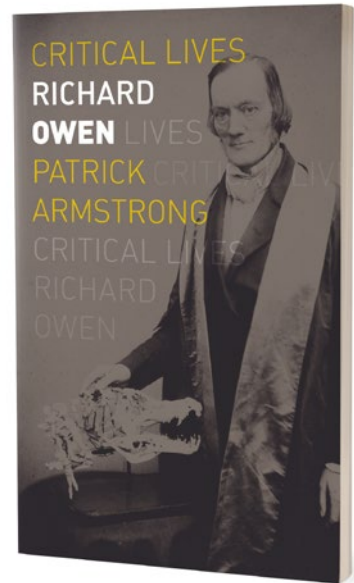
Patrick Armstrong

‘[A] lively and sure-footed biography . . . A fascinating study!’
– Tom Chaffin, author of *Odyssey: Charles Darwin, the Beagle, and the Voyage that Changed the World*

‘Patrick Armstrong’s balanced commentary of an intelligent but controversial individual makes for compulsive reading.’
– Vivian Louis Forbes, Adjunct Associate Professor of Geography, The University of Western Australia

Brilliant, hard-working, immensely productive and influential, the naturalist Richard Owen was a great promoter of science, and played a large role in shaping London’s Natural History Museum. An often difficult and arrogant individual, he was accused of plagiarism and bullying, and is the only man whom Charles Darwin claimed to hate. Although strongly opposed to Darwin and Thomas Huxley’s theories of evolution through natural selection, there is evidence that a few of Owen’s ideas were not so very distant from theirs. This biography gives an account of Owen’s life and work, providing possible psychological and social reasons for some of his more controversial characteristics, and his sometimes rather strained relations with his scientific contemporaries.

Patrick Armstrong taught geography and ecology at the University of Western Australia for 28 years. He has written widely on the life and work of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace, and is the author of *Alfred Russel Wallace* (Reaktion, 2019).



A new account
of the brilliant
and influential
yet combative
naturalist
Richard Owen

CRITICAL LIVES

July 2023 • Biography

ISBN 978 1 78914 762 9

200 × 130 mm • 168 pp

45 illustrations

Paperback • £12.99/\$19

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Aldus Manutius

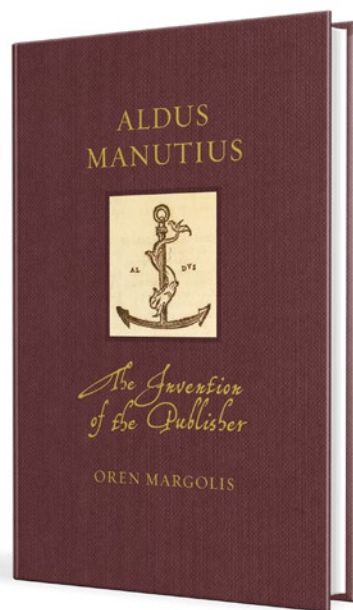
The Invention of the Publisher

Oren Margolis

Aldus Manutius is perhaps the greatest figure in the history of the printed book: in Venice, Europe's capital of printing, he invented the italic type and issued more first editions of the classics than anyone before or since, as well as *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, the most beautiful and mysterious printed book of the Italian Renaissance.

This is the first monograph in English on Aldus Manutius in over forty years. It shows how Aldus redefined the role of a book printer, from mere manual labourer to learned publisher. As a consequence Aldus participated in the same debates as contemporaries such as Leonardo da Vinci and Erasmus of Rotterdam, making this book an insight into their world too.

Oren Margolis is Lecturer in Renaissance Studies at the University of East Anglia. A scholar of Renaissance humanism, he writes widely on the literary, intellectual and art history of Italy and Northern Europe. He is the author of *The Politics of Culture in Quattrocento Europe: René of Anjou in Italy* (2016).



A fresh reading of
Aldus Manutius,
pre-eminent in
the history of the
printed book

RENAISSANCE LIVES

September 2023 • Biography

ISBN 978 1 78914 779 7

216 × 138 mm • 208 pp

40 illustrations, 20 in colour

Hardback • £17.95/\$25

ebook 978 1 78914 829 9

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Albrecht Dürer

Art and Autobiography

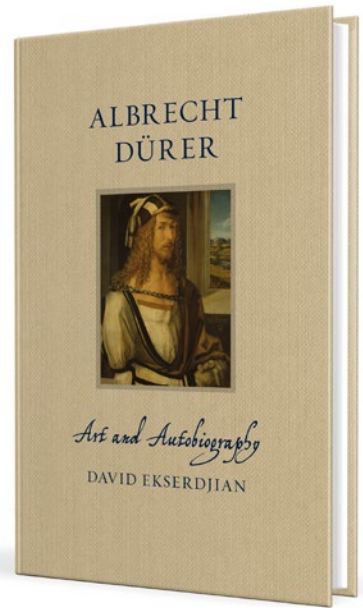
David Ekserdjian

‘Ekserdjian’s lively account . . . shows how [Dürer’s] art and autobiography continue to resound across the centuries. Dürer’s fascination with the world around him . . . [was] transferred into narrative prints, which have inspired artists from Velázquez to Lucian Freud and remain mesmerizing today.’ – Giulia Bartrum, Former Curator of German Prints and Drawings at the British Museum

The Italian Renaissance is conventionally thought of as the historical period that bore witness to the rise of the individual. Yet no other artist of the time begins to compare with Albrecht Dürer in terms of the almost obsessive interest he displayed in himself, depicting his life, his dreams and his surroundings in his art.

David Ekserdjian explores Dürer’s life and times, the natural world in his work, and his studies, travel and influences. He also closely examines Dürer’s paintings, as well as his drawings and prints, which are often comparatively overlooked. Revealing Dürer’s remarkable, unique status, both in his own time and across the centuries, this book is essential reading for anyone interested in Renaissance or Northern European art.

David Ekserdjian is Professor of History of Art and Film at the University of Leicester and Keeper of the University Art Collection. His books include *The Italian Renaissance Altarpiece: Between Icon and Narrative* (2021).



An original analysis of the autobiographical elements in Albrecht Dürer’s art

RENAISSANCE LIVES

August 2023 • Art

ISBN 978 1 78914 764 3

216 × 138 mm • 272 pp

64 illustrations, 37 in colour

Hardback • £17.95/\$25

ebook 978 1 78914 784 1

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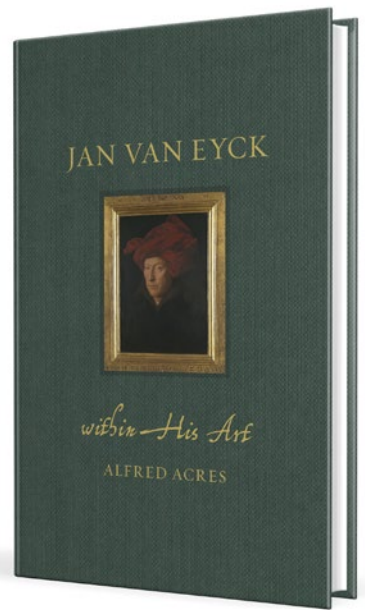
Jan van Eyck within His Art

Alfred Acres

‘By way of clever observations and pictorial analysis, this eloquently written monograph is highly commendable . . . Alfred Acres presents impressively erudite perspectives and refreshingly balanced views on even some of the most persistent problems in art history.’ – Till-Holger Borchert, Director of Suermondt-Ludwig-Museum, Aachen

Jan van Eyck was one of the most inventive and influential artists in the entire European tradition. The phenomenal realism of his paintings, now six centuries old, still astounds observers in a world accustomed to high-resolution images. But other dimensions of his work are just as original and absorbing. Unlike any earlier artist, Van Eyck infused his paintings with himself. In addition to portraying, reflecting and implying his own presence in a variety of works, he also introduced his voice, hand and mind in an array of inscriptions, signatures and even a personal motto. Incorporating a wealth of new research and recent discoveries within a fresh exploration of the paintings themselves, this book reveals how profoundly Jan van Eyck transformed the very idea of what an artist could be.

Alfred Acres is Wright Family Associate Professor of Art History at Georgetown University, Washington, DC, and the author of *Renaissance Invention and the Haunted Infancy* (2013).



A new assessment
of the inventive
and influential
artist Jan van Eyck

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Artemisia Gentileschi and Feminism in Early Modern Europe

Mary D. Garrard

‘Compelling’ – *Hyperallergic*

‘An important study . . . visually stunning’
– *Religion and the Arts*

Artemisia Gentileschi is by far the most famous woman artist of the pre-modern era. Her art addresses issues that resonate today, such as sexual violence and women’s problematic access to political power. Her forceful paintings with their vigorous female protagonists have excited modern audiences, especially feminists. This book breaks new ground by placing the artist in the context of women’s political history, and the feminist protest that was bubbling in early modern Europe. Mary D. Garrard discusses recently discovered paintings, offers fresh perspectives on known works and examines the artist anew in the context of early modern feminism. This beautifully illustrated book, now in paperback, gives a full portrait of a strong woman and a great artist who fought back through her art.

Mary D. Garrard is Professor Emerita of Art History at American University, Washington, DC. Her books include *Artemisia Gentileschi: The Image of the Female Hero in Italian Baroque Art* (1989) and *Brunelleschi’s Egg: Gender, Art and Nature in Renaissance Italy* (2010).



A beautifully
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of pioneering
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Hieronymus Bosch

Visions and Nightmares

Nils Büttner

‘An inviting, judicious overview of Bosch in his historical environment.’ – *New York Review of Books*

‘A nicely illustrated quarto that neatly finds that sweet spot between casual and serious students of art.’ – *Choice*

‘This well-researched sketch is most welcome.’
– *Renaissance and Reformation*

In his lifetime Hieronymus Bosch was already famous for his fantastic, unearthly creations. Today his name has become synonymous with the eerie, infernal and macabre. Bosch’s enigmatic paintings have resulted in numerous interpretations; some tried to understand his visual worlds through esoteric means, while others attempted to decode them through psychology and psychoanalysis. Now in paperback, *Hieronymus Bosch: Visions and Nightmares* traces the career of a painter who worked for the highest aristocratic and courtly circles, and explains Bosch’s paintings against the background of contemporary culture and society.

Nils Büttner is Professor of Art History at the State Academy of Art and Design, Stuttgart. His previous publications include *Landscape Painting: A History* (2006), *The History of Gardens in Painting* (2008) and *Otto Dix and New Objectivity* (2013).



A fresh, insightful analysis of Hieronymus Bosch, painter of the eerie and infernal

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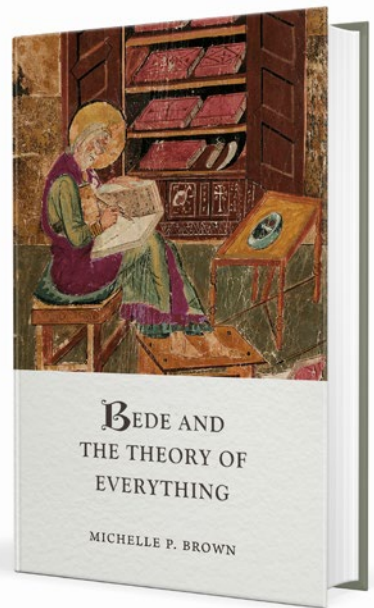
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Bede and the Theory of Everything

Michelle P. Brown

This book investigates the life and world of Bede (c. 673–735), foremost scholar of the early Middle Ages and ‘the father of English history’. It examines his notable feats, including calculating the first tide-tables; playing a role in the creation of the Ceolfrith Bibles and the Lindisfarne Gospels; writing the earliest extant Old English poetry and the earliest translation of part of the Bible into English; and composing his famous *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, with its single dating system. Despite never leaving Northumbria, Bede also wrote a guide to the Holy Land. Michelle P. Brown, an authority on the period, describes new discoveries regarding Bede’s handwriting, his research programme and his previously lost Old English translation of St John’s Gospel, dictated on his deathbed.

Michelle P. Brown is Professor Emerita of Medieval Manuscript Studies at the School of Advanced Study, University of London, and was formerly Curator of Illuminated Manuscripts at the British Library. Her books include *Art of the Islands* (2016) and *The Lindisfarne Gospels* (2003).



An investigation
of the life and
world of Bede,
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Francis of Assisi

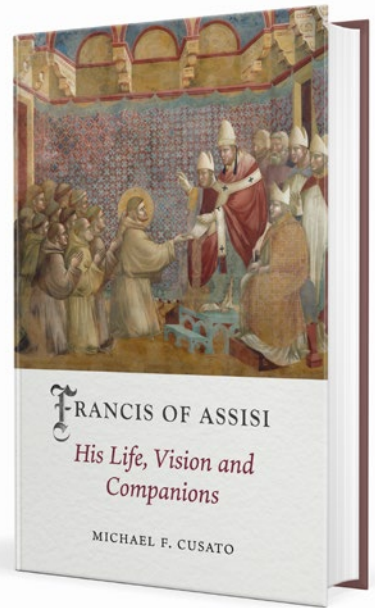
His Life, Vision and Companions

Michael F. Cusato

‘Richly researched and enjoyable to read . . . a valuable contribution to contemporary interpretations of the Franciscan vision.’ – André Vauchez, Emeritus Professor of History of the Middle Ages, Université Paris Nanterre

This is an original and historically informed account of Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscans and one of the most venerated figures in Christianity. The book explores how Francis – along with his earliest brothers – embraced a life of poverty, in solidarity with the lowest ranks of society, preaching a message of justice and dignity for all. It examines how and why his vision then expanded to embrace non-Christians, and Muslims in particular, following Francis’s celebrated encounter with the sultan al-Malik al-Kamil in 1219. This new work also considers the clash between Francis and newer members of his order, the stimulus for his reception of the stigmata, and his final years spent trying to keep his brothers faithful to their original vision, while living as an exemplar of the gospel life.

Michael F. Cusato is a Franciscan friar who is currently Scholar-in-Residence at St Bonaventure University in western New York State. He has published widely on the history of the Franciscan Order in the Middle Ages.



An original and historically informed biography of Francis of Assisi

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Carnivorous Plants

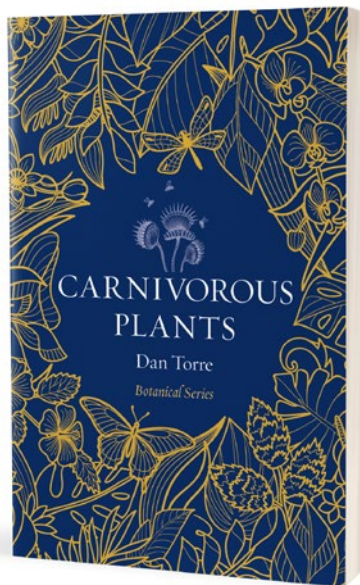
Dan Torre

‘The storytelling is exemplary . . . This is one of those books that takes an already fascinating topic – animal-eating plants – and makes it even more exciting, more weird and endlessly fascinating.’ – Tim Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Australia

‘[An] entertaining and comprehensive . . . social and cultural history.’ – *Gardening Australia Magazine*

Carnivorous plants are a unique group, possessing modified leaves to trap, kill and consume small creatures. As a result they are often depicted as killers in films and literature, yet some regard them as exotic and beautiful specimens to collect and display. In this abundantly illustrated and highly entertaining book, Dan Torre describes the evolution, structure and scientific background of carnivorous plants. He also shows how these plants – singular, arresting, beautiful yet deadly – have inspired our imagination and been represented in art, literature, cinema, animation and popular culture.

Dan Torre is Senior Lecturer in the School of Design at RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. He is an avid grower and collector of plants, and the author of *Cactus* (2017) and *Orchid* (2023), both published by Reaktion.



An entertaining
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A History of the World in One Meal

Andreas Viestad

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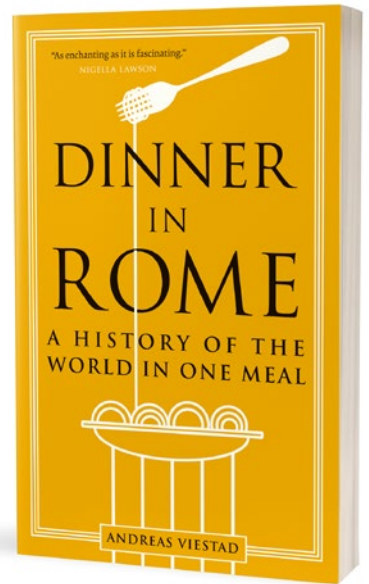
‘[Viestad’s] writing leaves you entranced, hugely enlightened
– and hungry.’ – Marina O’Loughlin, *Sunday Times*

‘A fascinating, thought-provoking and funny book.’
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‘A riveting volume.’ – Paul Levy, *The Spectator*

‘There is more history in a bowl of pasta than in the Colosseum,’ writes Andreas Viestad in *Dinner in Rome*. From the table of a classic Roman restaurant, Viestad takes us on a fascinating culinary exploration of the Eternal City, and global civilization. Food, he argues, is history’s secret driving force. From the starter of bread, Viestad traces the origins of wheat and its role in Rome’s rise and downfall; from his sorbet dessert he recounts how the hunger for sugar fuelled the slave trade. Viestad’s dinner may be local, but his story is universal. His ‘culinary archaeology’ is an entertaining, flavourful journey across the dinner table and time. You’ll never look at spaghetti carbonara the same way again.

Andreas Viestad is a food writer, tv chef, restaurateur and food activist. He is the author of *Kitchen of Light* and *Where Flavor Was Born* and lives between Oslo and Cape Town.



A culinary
exploration of
Rome, which
expands to take
in global
civilization

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Cloven Country

The Devil and the English Landscape

Jeremy Harte

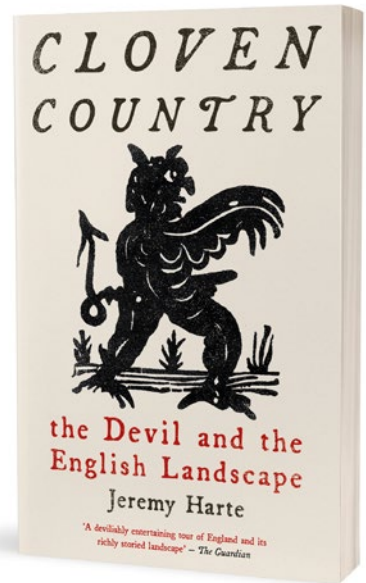
‘A highly evocative and original guide to our ever-fascinating, multilayered landscape, so full of shadowy mysteries and stories.’ – *Sunday Times*

‘A devilishly entertaining tour of England and its richly storied landscape.’ – *The Guardian*

‘A wickedly good read.’ – *Literary Review*

According to legend, the English landscape – so calm on the surface – is really the Devil’s work. *Cloven Country*, now in paperback, tells of rocks hurled into place and valleys carved out by infernal labour. The Devil’s hideous strength laid down great roads in one night, and left scars everywhere as the hard stone melted like wax under those burning feet. With roots in medieval folklore, this is not the Satan of prayer, but a clumsy ogre, easily fooled by humankind. When a smart cobbler or cunning young wife outwitted him, they struck a blow for the underdog. Only the wicked squire and grasping merchant were beyond redemption, carried off by a black huntsman in the storm.

Jeremy Harte is curator of the Bourne Hall Museum at Epsom and Ewell. He is secretary of the Romany and Traveller Family History Society and created the Surrey Gypsy Archive. He is the author of *Travellers through Time: A Gypsy History* (Reaktion, 2023).



A colourful and engaging account of the Devil’s influence on the English landscape

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Winters in the World

A Journey through the Anglo-Saxon Year

Eleanor Parker

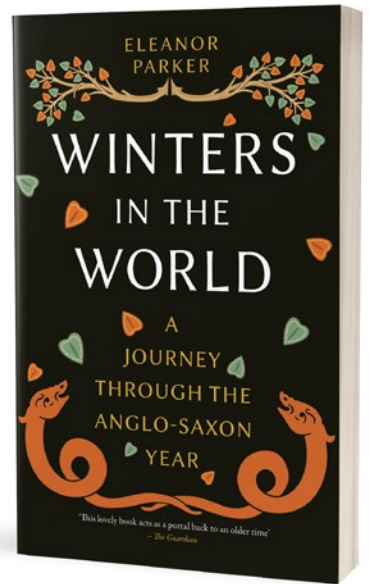
'[Parker's] prose is as lyrical as the poetry that she so deftly translates . . . This lovely book acts as a portal back to an older time, using the poetry of medieval England to unlock a world where the seasons, and the changing weather, are a subject of deep pleasure and renewing wonder.' – *The Guardian*

'Fascinating and authoritative.' – *Daily Telegraph*

'[Parker] makes the Anglo-Saxon universe seem vividly, thrillingly real, a world of magic and mystery, ritual and song.' – *Sunday Times* 'History Book of the Year'

Winters in the World is a beautifully observed journey through the cycle of the year in Anglo-Saxon England, exploring not only the festivals, customs and traditions linked to the different seasons, but the profound relationship between human life and the rhythms of nature. Eleanor Parker provides an imaginative connection to the Anglo-Saxon world, tracing the surprising history of its festivals – many of which are still celebrated today – unearthing traditions now long forgotten and celebrating some of the finest treasures of medieval literature.

Eleanor Parker is Lecturer in Medieval English Literature at Brasenose College, Oxford. She writes regularly for publications including *History Today* and *BBC History Magazine*, and is the author of *Conquered: The Last Children of Anglo-Saxon England* (2022).



A beautifully observed journey through the cycle of the year in Anglo-Saxon England

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Concrete Poetry

A 21st-Century Anthology

Edited by Nancy Perloff

‘An exciting and engaging summary of an important and still misunderstood field, the value of which lies in the intelligence and sensitivity of Perloff’s close readings.’

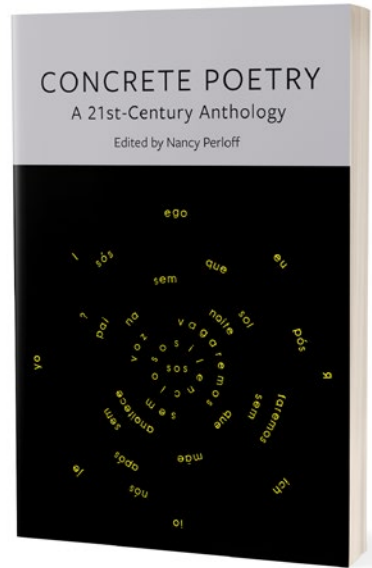
– *Burlington Contemporary*

‘What is undoubtedly valuable about the book is the way that it carefully arranges . . . a selection of concrete poetry’s keystones.’ – Jeremy Noel-Tod, *TLS*

‘A handsome volume which radiates weightless calm and clarity.’
– *Art Monthly*

Now available in paperback, *Concrete Poetry: A 21st-Century Anthology* is the first overview of concrete poetry in many years. Selective yet wide-ranging, this anthology re-evaluates the movement, singling out its most distinctive and influential works, including the little-known Japanese concretists, the Wiener Gruppe, Augusto de Campos, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Eugen Gomringer, Dieter Roth, Henri Chopin, Cia Rinne, Susan Howe and many others. Perloff’s anthology presents individual poems, reproduced in their original languages, together with lively commentaries that explicate and contextualize the work, allowing readers to discover the intricacy of poems that some have dismissed as simple, even trivial, texts.

Nancy Perloff is Curator, Modern & Contemporary Collections at the Getty Research Institute (GRI). She is the author or editor of many books, including *Exploidy: Sound, Image, and Word in Russian Futurist Book Art* (2017).



A significant,
personal anthology
of concrete poetry
by curator Nancy
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The Worst Military Leaders in History

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and Chuck Steele

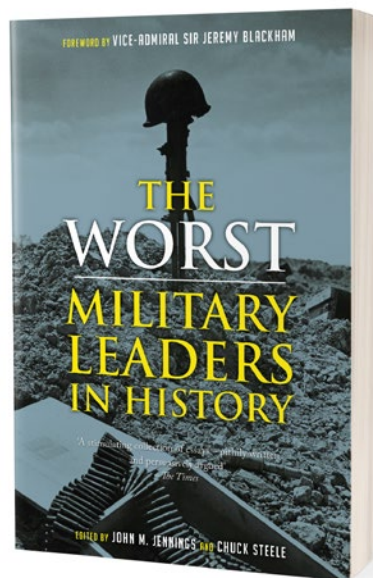
‘A stimulating collection of essays – pithily written and persuasively argued.’ – Saul David, *The Times*

‘Thought-provoking . . . These leadership examples provide us with a better understanding of the challenges of military leadership in difficult times, while educating future military leaders on what *not* to do in conflict and command.’

– Steve R. Waddell, Professor of History, West Point

For this book, fifteen distinguished historians were given a deceptively simple task: identify their choice for the worst military leader in history, and then explain why theirs is the worst. From the clueless Conrad von Hötzenndorf and George A. Custer to the criminal Baron Roman F. von Ungern-Sternberg and the bungling Garnet Wolseley, this book presents a rogues’ gallery of military incompetents. While there are plenty of books that analyse the keys to success, this collection offers lessons of failure to avoid. In other words, *The Worst Military Leaders in History*, now in paperback, is a ‘how-not-to’ guide to leadership.

John M. Jennings is Professor of History at the United States Air Force Academy, where he specializes in modern Japanese history, and the author of *The Opium Empire: Japanese Imperialism and Drug Trafficking in Asia, 1895–1945*. Chuck Steele is Associate Professor of History at the United States Air Force Academy.



A rogues’ gallery
of the worst
leaders in
military history

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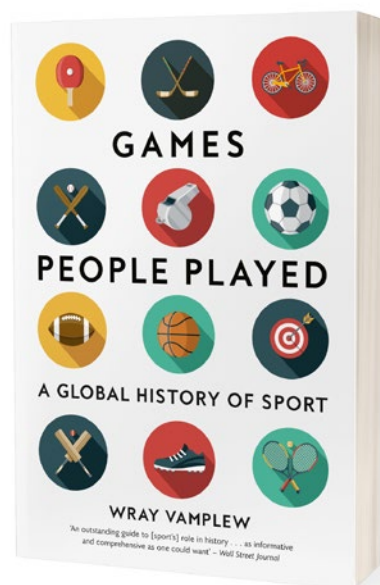
‘Compendious . . . the study of games, Vamplew demonstrates, is very much for grown-ups.’

– *Sunday Times*

‘A tour de force’ – Gordon Taylor OBE

Games People Played is, surprisingly, the first global history of sport. Wray Vamplew shows how sport has been practised, experienced and made meaningful by players and fans, and assesses how sports have developed and diffused across the globe. He examines not only how sport is sociable and health-giving, but how economics has turned sport into a huge consumer industry. Sport’s dark side – its environmental impact, the use of performance-enhancing drugs, discrimination and match fixing – is explored in detail. Covering everything from curling to baseball, boxing to motor racing, this book, now in paperback, will appeal to anyone who plays, watches or enjoys sport.

Wray Vamplew is Emeritus Professor of Sports History at the University of Stirling and Global Professorial Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. He was a General Editor for the six-volume *Cultural History of Sport* (2021), and his many books include *How the Game Was Played: Essays in Sports History* (2016).



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Basilisks and Beowulf

Monsters in the Anglo-Saxon World

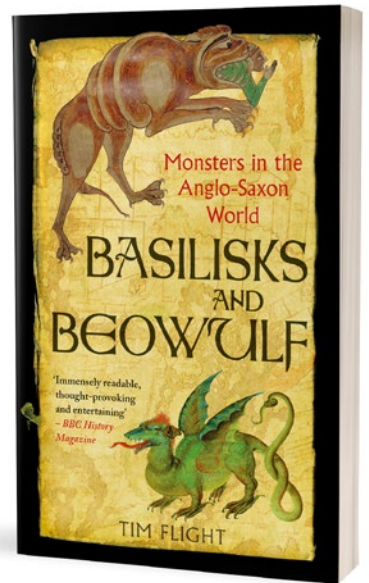
Tim Flight

‘A bold and wide-ranging expedition into the wildest corners of the early medieval mind; Flight skilfully conjures the primal fears and ancient wonders that once lurked in England’s shadowed groves and hollows.’
– Thomas Williams, author of *Viking Britain: A History*

‘Well worth the time of anyone interested in the history of monsters.’ – *Fortean Times*

Why were the Anglo-Saxons obsessed with monsters, many of which did not exist? Drawing on literature and art, theology and a wealth of first-hand evidence, *Basilisks and Beowulf* reveals a people huddled at the edge of the known map, using the fantastic and the grotesque as a way of understanding the world around them and apprehending something of a divine plan. It is for these reasons that monsters were at the very centre of their worldview. From map monsters to demons, dragons to Leviathan, we neglect them at our peril.

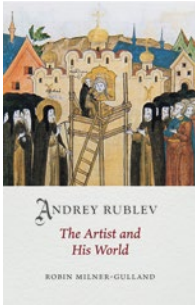
Tim Flight obtained a doctorate in Anglo-Saxon Literature from Magdalen College, Oxford, in 2016. Since then, he has been writing full time, and has contributed articles to *History Today* and *BBC History Magazine*, among many other publications.



A fascinating look at the Anglo-Saxons' obsession with monsters

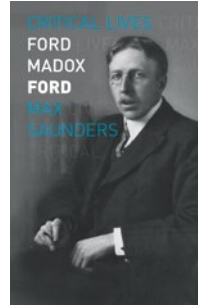
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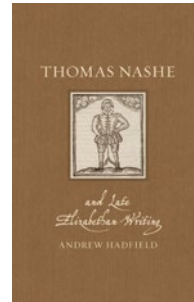
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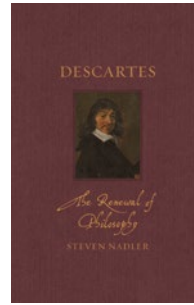
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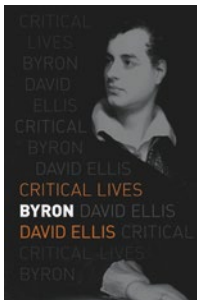
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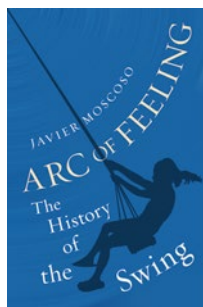
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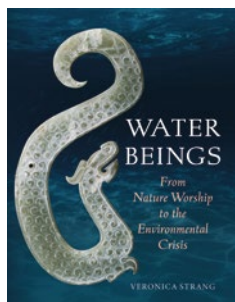
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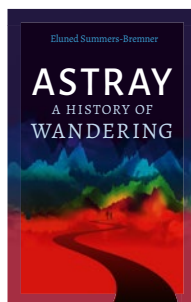
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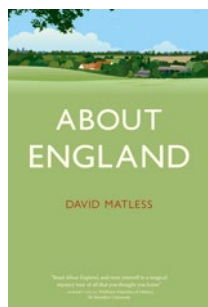
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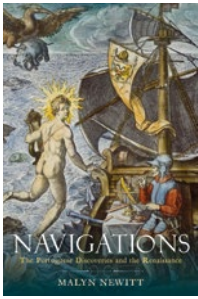
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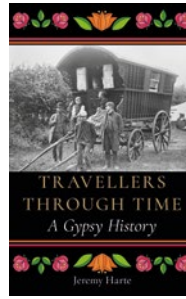
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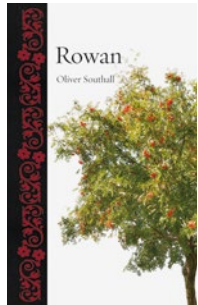
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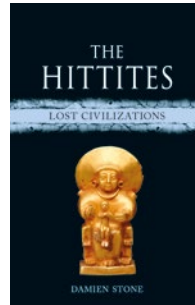
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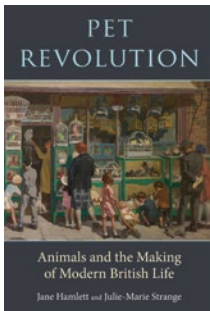
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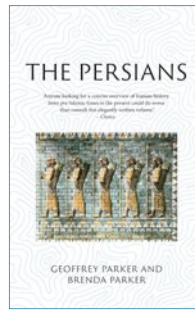
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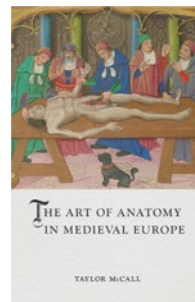
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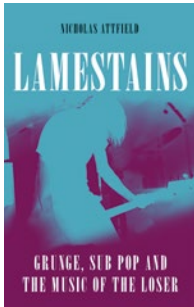
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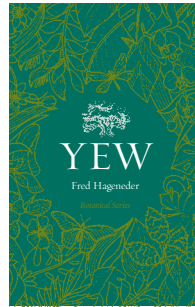
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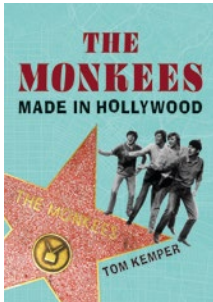
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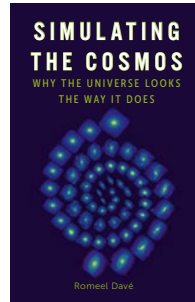
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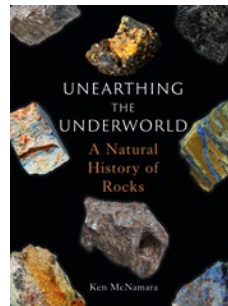
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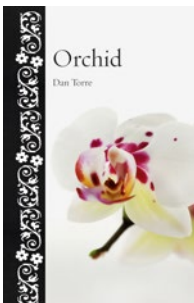
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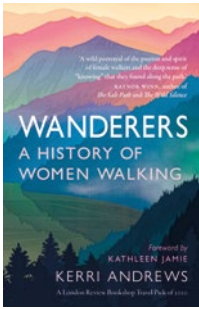
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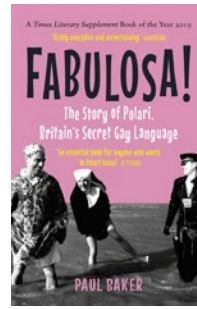
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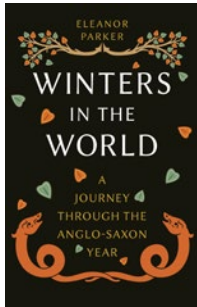
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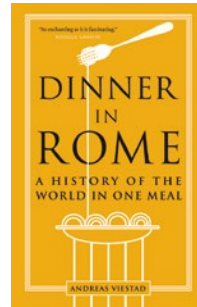
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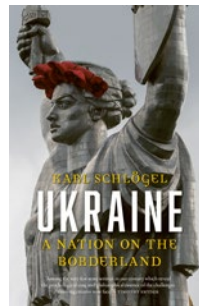
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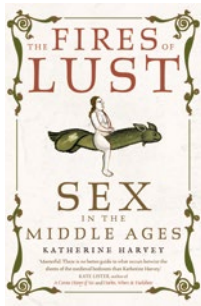
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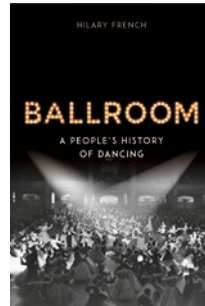
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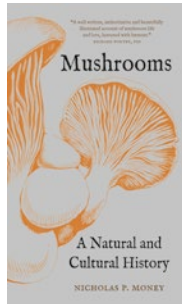
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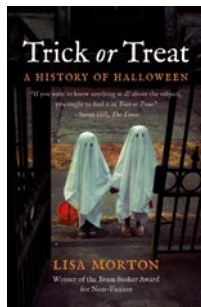
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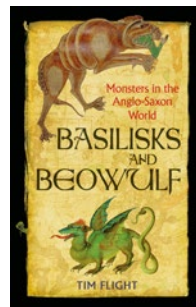
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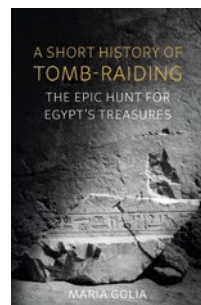
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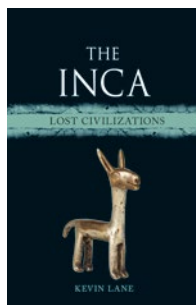
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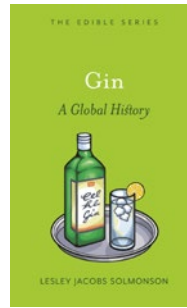
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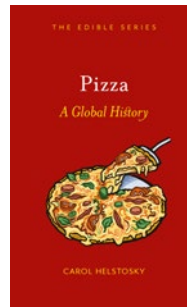
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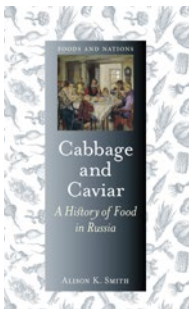
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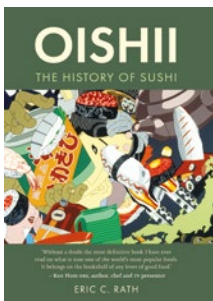
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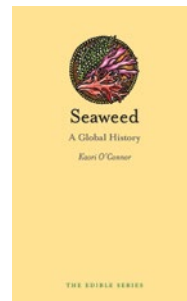
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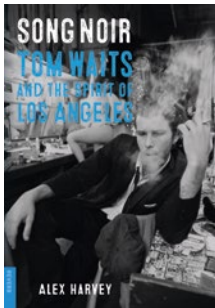
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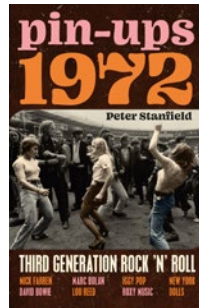
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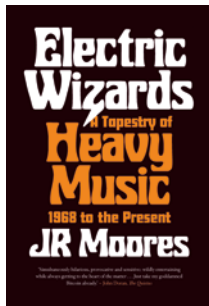
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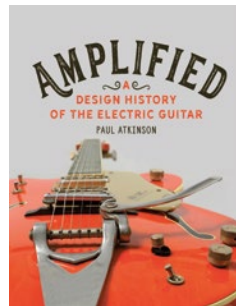
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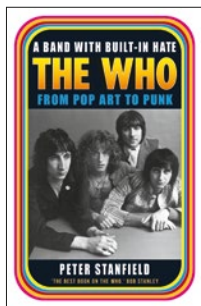
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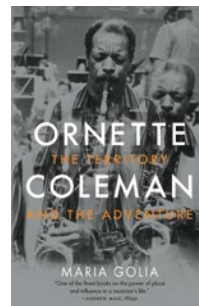
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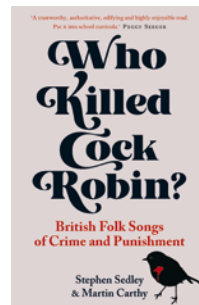
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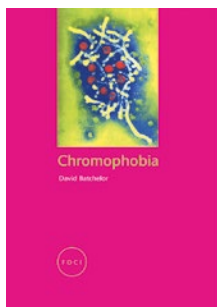
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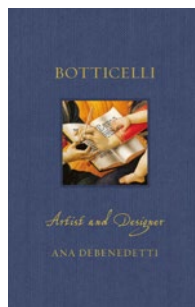
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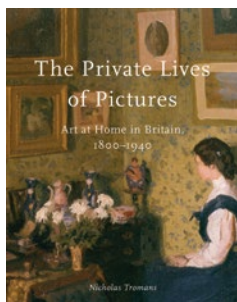
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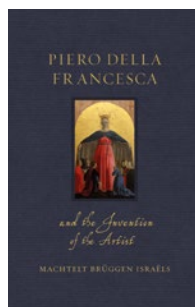
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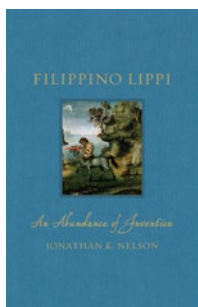
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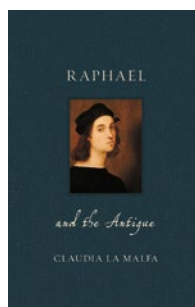
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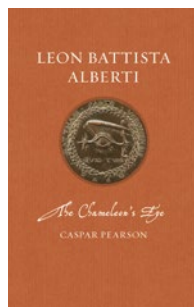
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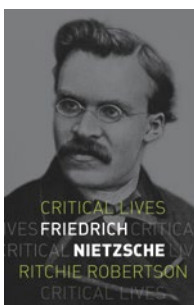
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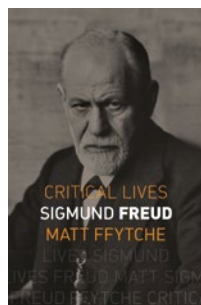
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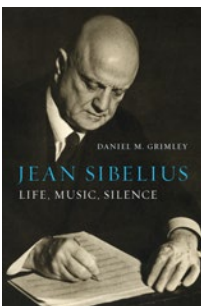
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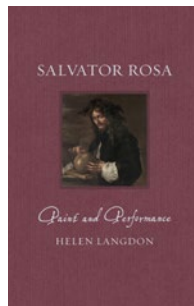
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