



Reaktion Books

SPRING / SUMMER CATALOGUE 2026



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Welcome to Reaktion's books for Spring and Summer 2026.

Peter Ackroyd's *Auden* is a bold new biography of one of the twentieth century's greatest and most enduring poets and critics. As entertaining as it is informative and enlightening, this book is an essential one for all admirers of Auden, and Ackroyd.

Five Evil Women is Joanna Bourke's investigation of the life stories of Myra Hindley, Aileen Wuornos, Rosemary West, Karla Homolka and Karla Faye Tucker. Bourke examines not only their crimes but what society's fascination with them says about our understanding of and relationship to extreme violence.

Jonathan Romain's *A Better Death: The Case for Assisted Dying* is a compassionate, respectful and practical argument for a change in our relationship to the end of life. Sander L. Gilman's *Antisemitisms: A History of Jew Hating* is a powerful rethinking of how antisemitic fantasies take hold and persist.

The Medieval Guide to Healthy Living is Katherine Harvey's follow-up to her bestselling *The Fires of Lust*. A superb work of popular history, it connects today's concerns with wellness to the habits and anxieties of people in the Middle Ages.

Deirdre Loughridge and Thomas Patteson's *The Museum of Imaginary Musical Instruments* is a wonderfully amusing and witty exploration of fanciful, chimerical and fantastic musical instruments and how they have shaped the ways we think about music.

Also in this season are three powerful and richly informative political biographies: Kerry Brown's *Mao: Power and Contradiction*, Robert C. Austin and Artan R. Hoxha's *Enver Hoxha: Twentieth-Century Tyrant* and *Qaddafi: His Life and Times* by Ronald Bruce St John.

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

David Hayden, Managing Director

Michael R. Leaman, Publisher

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Contents

Auden 3
Five Evil Women 4
A Better Death 5
Antisemitisms 6
Mao 7
Treasures on Earth 8
Stories of the Stones 9
You Want What We've Got 10
Fascism and the Global Far Right 11
The Butterfly Who Dreamt He Was a
Man 12
Hypochondria 13
Enver Hoxha 14
Qaddafi 15
The Medieval Guide to Healthy Living 17
The Museum of Imaginary Musical
Instruments 19
Whispers from Celtic Seas 20
Stupid Idiots 21
Death Trip 22
Comics at the Movies 23
A Home in Space 25
Taiwan 26
In Search of Trade and Fortune 27
Ch'ing, a Chinese Book of Love 28
First Helpings 29
Universe 30
Out of This World 31
The Matter of Architecture 32
The Connoisseur 33

Way Makers 34
The Wagner Group 35
The Point of the Needle 36
Plato 37
Navigations 38
Solar Eclipses 39
John Clare 40
Colette 41
Robert Louis Stevenson 42
Johannes Brahms 43
Sons of Heaven 44
Confucius 45
Pericles 46
The Scythians 47
Francisco de Zurbarán 48
Paolo Veronese 49
Lorenzo Ghiberti 50
The Age of Sinan 51
Whiskey 52
Frida Kahlo 53

Recommended Highlights 54
Bestselling Backlist – Popular Science 57
Bestselling Backlist – History 58
Bestselling Backlist – Art 60
Bestselling Backlist – Biography 61
Bestselling Backlist – Food and Drink 62

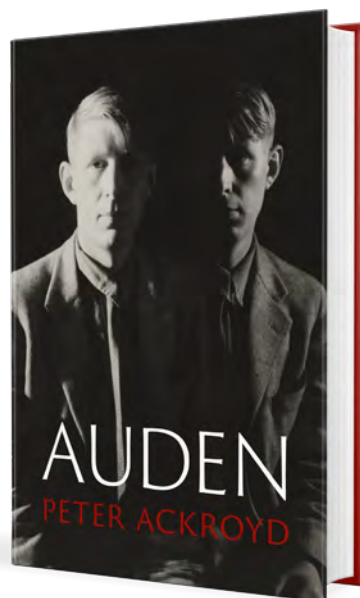
Trade Information 64

Auden

Peter Ackroyd

Of all the English poets born in the twentieth century, Wystan Hugh Auden is by far the most significant. This critical biography explores the evolution of his poetic voice in tandem with his shifting beliefs – Existentialism, Marxism, Freudianism and Anglo-Catholicism – reflecting the intellectual climate of the century. Rooted in English traditions, Auden's work reveals both public and personal histories, from the Great Depression and Spanish Civil War to his experiences as a gay man navigating repression and later liberation. The book traces his journeys from Oxford to Berlin, China and America, bringing to life his turbulent era and the inner conflicts of his long relationship with Chester Kallman. This insightful and compelling account by acclaimed historian Peter Ackroyd captures Auden's genius as both a historical witness and an enduring poetic voice.

Peter Ackroyd is one of Britain's most respected historians and novelists. His many books include *London: The Biography*, *Hawksmoor* and the bestselling *History of England* series. He is also the author of *The English Actor* and *The English Soul*, both published by Reaktion.



Peter Ackroyd's
compelling portrait
of W. H. Auden,
poet of a restless
century

March 2026 • Biography

ISBN 978 1 83639 172 2

234 × 156 mm • 400 pp

23 illustrations

Hardback • £20/\$27.50

ebook 978 1 83639 219 4

World Rights: Reaktion

Five Evil Women

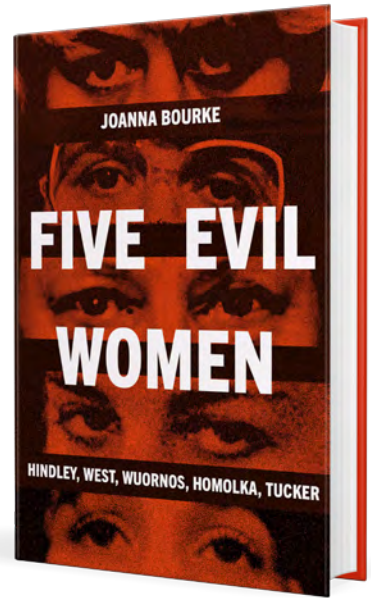
*Hindley, West, Wuornos,
Homolka, Tucker*

Joanna Bourke

‘A remarkably interesting book. Joanna Bourke explores, in a clear-headed way, why some women turn to violence and why, in doing so, they are regarded with special disdain. Written with great lucidity by a truly distinguished scholar, *Five Evil Women* breaks new ground in the study of gender and criminality.’ – Austin Sarat, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Jurisprudence and Political Science, Amherst College

Why do certain women become icons of evil? This book offers the first comparative, non-sensationalist account of five of the most reviled women in the modern Anglophone world: Myra Hindley, Rosemary West, Aileen Wuornos, Karla Homolka and Karla Faye Tucker. It examines their lives, crimes and cultural reception in the UK, USA and Canada, asking how violence committed by women is understood, judged and remembered. Going beyond moral outrage or tabloid headlines, the book explores how concepts of ‘evil’ are shaped by history, belief systems and social context. Through historical and ethical reflections, it offers a deeper, more critical engagement with female violence, and considers how society should respond to those who commit acts of unimaginable harm.

Joanna Bourke OBE is Professor Emerita of History at Birkbeck, University of London, and a Fellow of the British Academy. She is also the Professor of Rhetoric at Gresham College. Her many books include *Disgrace: Global Reflections on Sexual Violence* (Reaktion, 2022).



A critical,
comparative
history of five
notorious women
branded icons
of evil

March 2026 • History
ISBN 978 1 83639 174 6
234 x 156 mm • 344 pp
11 illustrations
Hardback • £20/\$27.50
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A Better Death

The Case for Assisted Dying

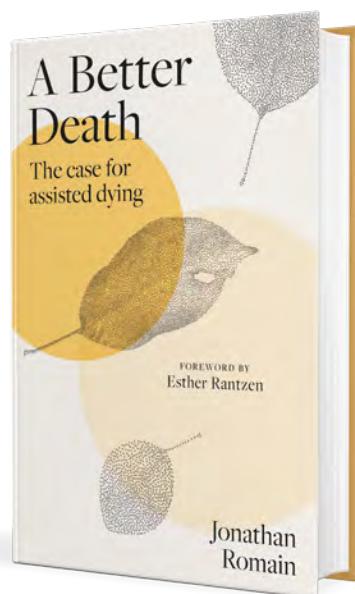
Jonathan Romain

Foreword by Esther Rantzen

‘Why can’t terminally ill patients who no longer have the choice between life and death at least have a choice between a good death and a bad death? . . . To read the caring, humane views put forward by Jonathan Romain is a huge relief . . . he is fair-minded and bases his arguments on real evidence for real people.’ – Esther Rantzen

Assisted dying is one of Britain’s most pressing and divisive social issues. Should terminally ill people in pain be allowed to choose death on their own terms? This timely and accessible book lays out the moral, legal and practical dimensions of the debate. It draws on real-life experiences, explores opposing viewpoints with sensitivity and examines the wider social and ethical implications. Designed for readers of all beliefs and backgrounds, it presents the facts with clarity and compassion. A pioneering section also offers the first guide to meaningful ceremonies at the time of an assisted death, helping families honour life and ease grief. Whether you support, oppose or are unsure about assisted dying, this essential book provides insight and guidance on a deeply personal issue.

Jonathan Romain is a rabbi, writer and broadcaster, and was previously chair of Dignity in Dying. He is regularly heard on the BBC, and his many books include *Confessions of a Rabbi* (2017).



Essential reading
on assisted
dying, blending
ethical debate
with practical
guidance

February 2026 • Health
ISBN 978 1 83639 164 7
216 × 138 mm • 136 pp
Hardback • £12.99/\$18
ebook 978 1 83639 209 5

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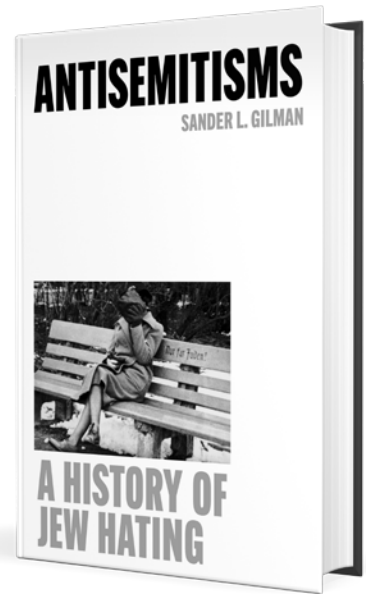
Antisemitisms

A History of Jew Hating

Sander L. Gilman

Why do Jews continue to serve as targets of hatred – and how coherent is the idea of antisemitism itself? In *Antisemitisms*, Sander L. Gilman draws on decades of scholarship to argue that such hatreds are less stable and more opportunistic than often assumed. Tracing fantasies of Jewish difference – from appearance and biology to citizenship, nationhood and ‘self-hatred’ – he reveals how contradictory ideas have been used to justify exclusion and violence. This book moves beyond the familiar frameworks such as ‘eternal hatred’ to show how antisemitic and even philosemitic attitudes shift to suit changing political needs. As violence against Jews is on the rise once more, Gilman offers a clear, sobering account of what’s at stake.

Sander L. Gilman is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of the Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at Emory University. A cultural and literary historian, he is the author or editor of more than a hundred books, including *Doc or Quack: Science and Anti-Science in Modern Medicine* (Reaktion, 2025).



A powerful
rethinking of
how antisemitic
fantasies take
shape and
persist

April 2026 • Politics/History

ISBN 978 1 83639 180 7

216 × 138 mm • 288 pp

24 illustrations

Hardback • £16.95/\$24

ebook 978 1 83639 225 5

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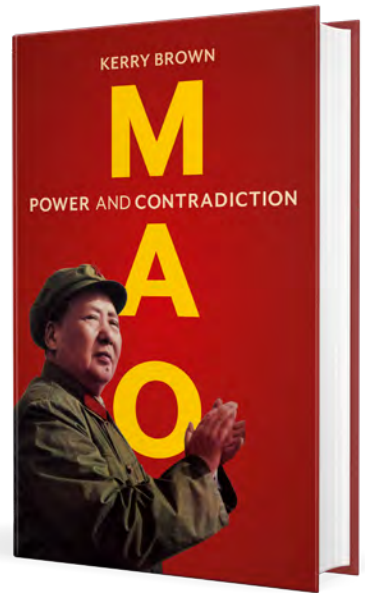
Mao

Power and Contradiction

Kerry Brown

Mao Zedong lived one of the most epic and influential lives of the twentieth century. His impact on the People's Republic of China was vast. Half a century after his passing, he remains a divisive and controversial figure. This book gives an accessible narrative of his life, from the fall of the Qing dynasty in the early part of the twentieth century to the long years in which Mao Zedong struggled not only to ensure the Communist Party of China survived but that it then came to power after a civil war with the nationalists. Mao's tragic failures as ruler were some of the worst to ever befall a modern society, while his personal life remains a source of intense interest. Clear-eyed and non-partisan, this is the first accessible biography of Mao to appear in English for some time.

Kerry Brown is Professor of Chinese Studies and Director of the Lau China Institute at King's College London. He is the author of 24 books on modern China, including *The Taiwan Story* (2024).



Chairman Mao's extraordinary life and complex legacy laid bare

May 2026 • Biography/Politics

ISBN 978 1 83639 191 3

216 × 138 mm • 280 pp

1 illustration

Hardback • £18.99/\$27.50

ebook 978 1 83639 235 4

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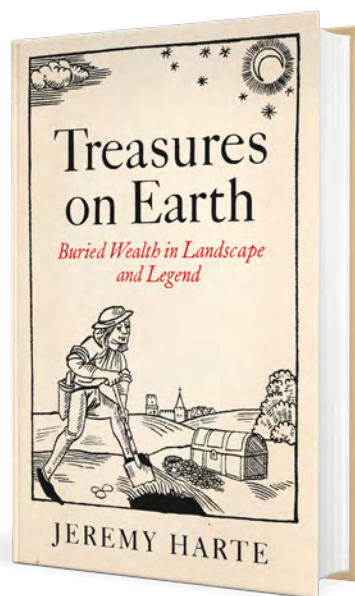
Treasures on Earth

Buried Wealth in Landscape and Legend

Jeremy Harte

From haunted barrows to ruined castles, Britain's landscape is rich with tales of hidden treasure – stories not just of gold, but of ghosts, curses and forbidden knowledge. *Treasures on Earth* gathers hundreds of these traditions for the first time, showing how folklore, shaped by local memory and longing, has imagined wealth not merely as currency, but as power, danger and loss. These legends tell of dragons, demons and seekers armed with spells, but also of real hopes stirred by poverty, war and the mysteries of place. Through vivid storytelling and careful insight, this book reveals how treasure lore carries the emotional weight of history. In the end, these are stories not just about what is buried, but about why we still yearn to uncover it.

Jeremy Harte is a folklorist inspired by landscape and stories of encounters with other worlds. He is the author of *Cloven Country: The Devil and the English Landscape* (2022) and *Travellers through Time: A Gypsy History* (2023), both published by Reaktion.



Uncovers the deep folklore of Britain's buried riches, fears and desires

April 2026 • Folklore/History

ISBN 978 1 83639 187 6

216 × 138 mm • 296 pp

24 illustrations

Hardback • £15.99/\$22.50

ebook 978 1 83639 227 9

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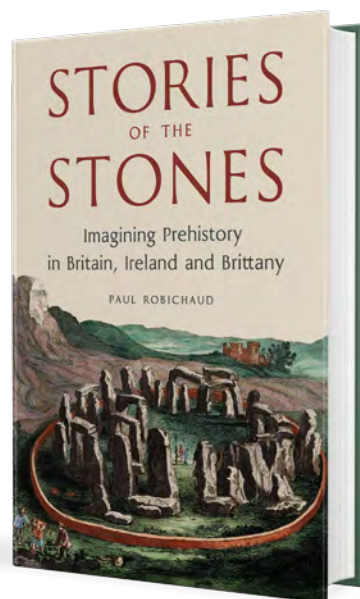
Stories of the Stones

*Imagining Prehistory in Britain,
Ireland and Brittany*

Paul Robichaud

Stories of the Stones explores how ancient monuments – standing stones, megaliths and earthworks – have been reimagined across the centuries in folklore, literature, art and popular culture. From medieval myths to Romantic fascination and from folk-horror cinema to Julian Cope, the powerful stories inspired by these enigmatic sites reflect the beliefs and anxieties of each era. Spanning Britain, Ireland and Brittany, the book includes iconic places such as Stonehenge and Newgrange, as well as lesser-known sites steeped in local lore. While their original meanings remain mysterious, our interpretations reveal deep emotional and cultural connections to the ancient landscape. Richly illustrated and wide-ranging, this book is ideal for readers interested in prehistoric monuments, storytelling traditions and the enduring power of place.

Paul Robichaud is Professor of English at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut. His previous books include *Pan: The Great God's Modern Return* (Reaktion, 2021).



Uncovers the rich
cultural afterlife
of ancient stones
and sacred
landscapes

February 2026 • History
ISBN 978 1 83639 170 8
234 × 156 mm • 328 pp
35 illustrations, 14 in colour
Hardback • £25/\$35
ebook 978 1 83639 212 5
World Rights: Reaktion

You Want What We've Got

Big Tech v. Big Journalism

Jason Whittaker

In the past three decades, the battle between big tech and big journalism has reshaped how we consume the news. Jason Whittaker delves into how tech giants outmanoeuvred traditional media companies, siphoning off advertising revenue and audience attention. As journalism struggled to adapt, social media platforms evolved from utopian public spaces into breeding grounds for misinformation and fake news, eroding public trust. The influence of billionaires further complicated the digital ecosystem, swaying public opinion and exercising direct political power that previous media moguls could only dream of. More recently, AI has begun to revolutionize content creation, distribution and consumption. Whittaker provides an incisive examination of the frequently combative relations of these two industries and the uncertain future of the news in the digital age.

Jason Whittaker is Professor of Communications at the University of Lincoln and previously worked as a journalist for *106 Media*. His books include *Tech Giants*, *Artificial Intelligence*, and *the Future of Journalism* (2019) and *Divine Images* (Reaktion, 2021).



A sharp history of journalism's digital unravelling in the age of algorithms

February 2026 • History

ISBN 978 1 83639 171 5

216 × 138 mm • 320 pp

Hardback • £16.99/\$24

ebook 978 1 83639 208 8

World Rights: Reaktion

Fascism and the Global Far Right

A Historical View

Maximiliano Fuentes Codera
and Javier Rodrigo

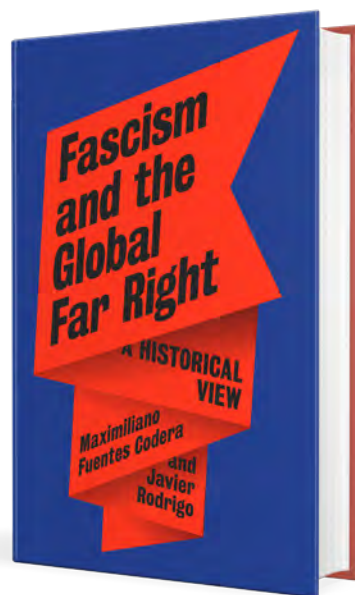
‘This is an essential book for understanding the current anti-democratic turn. Professors Fuentes and Rodrigo provide much needed historical context to debates over contemporary fascism.’ – Federico Finchelstein, author of *A Brief History of Fascist Lies*

Fascism was a distinct movement in European history that left deep scars across the continent, but the term ‘fascist’ is now more broadly applied to those on the political right, especially the new populists who have seized power across much of the globe in recent years. Although most far-right populists vocally disavow historic fascism, many critics see worrying parallels with the earlier movement. Could we be witnessing a return to the fascist politics of Mussolini, Franco and Hitler?

This book is both an assessment of the current crisis of democracy and a brief history of fascism and far-right populism around the world. The authors hope this historical approach will help readers better understand the urgent challenges faced by our democracies.

Maximiliano Fuentes Codera is a historian of modern Spain and professor at the University of Girona.

Javier Rodrigo is a historian and the author of many books on Spanish history and General Franco.



The global
challenge to
democracy
in historical
perspective

February 2026 • History/Politics

ISBN 978 1 83639 167 8

216 × 138 mm • 208 pp

Hardback • £18.99/\$27.50

ebook 978 1 83639 213 2

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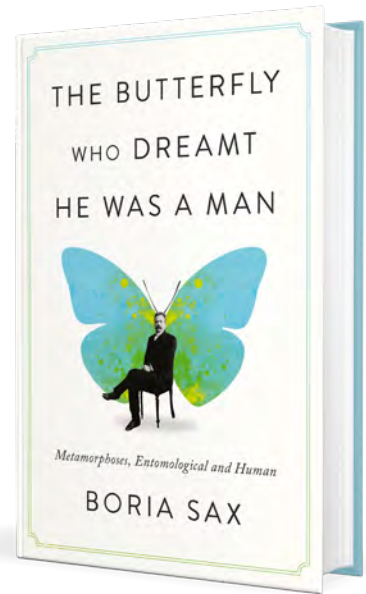
The Butterfly Who Dreamt He Was a Man

*Metamorphoses, Entomological
and Human*

Boria Sax

From ancient fables to modern science, insects and their metamorphoses have long inspired human understanding of life's transitions. This original and engaging book traces how these transformations have shaped rituals around birth, marriage and death, while also provoking deep questions about identity. Through stories that connect Zhuang Zhou's butterfly dream to figures like Kafka, Merian and Dürer, it explores the strange, beautiful and sometimes unsettling ways in which cultures have understood insects – as miracles, messengers or monsters. Blending humour, history and environmental insight, Boria Sax offers an imaginative lens on the growing crisis of insect extinction. More than just a natural history, this is a cultural and philosophical journey that shows why losing insects means losing part of ourselves.

Boria Sax teaches at Sing Sing prison and online in the graduate literature programme at Mercy University. He has published many books, which have won awards and been translated into numerous languages. His most recent is *Enchanted Forests: The Poetic Construction of a World before Time* (Reaktion, 2023).



Insects reveal how
we understand
change, identity
and the meaning
of extinction

February 2026 • Nature
ISBN 978 1 83639 165 4
216 × 138 mm • 280 pp
41 illustrations, 13 in colour
Hardback • £18/\$25
ebook 978 1 83639 214 9
World Rights: Reaktion

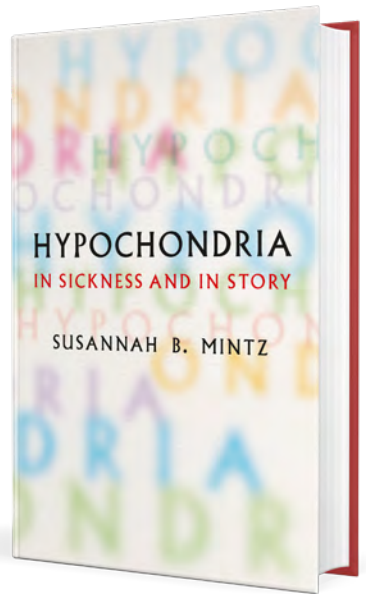
Hypochondria

In Sickness and in Story

Susannah B. Mintz

Hypochondria proposes a bold reimagining of a frequently dismissed condition. Susannah B. Mintz reframes health anxiety not as a pathology but as a site of creative potential – exploring hypochondria as a form of communication, a reorientation to time, a convergence of personal and communal identity, a declaration of bodymind needs and an embrace of ageing’s transformations. Far-ranging in its attention to historical periods, national literatures, philosophical thought and medical discourse, the book challenges the containment of suffering within narratives of professional authority. In doing so, it seeks to dispel shame and stigma, opening space for new forms of connection and understanding through a deeper attentiveness to the experience of illness.

Susannah B. Mintz is Professor of English at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. Her books include *Hurt and Pain: Literature and the Suffering Body* (2013), *The Disabled Detective* (2019) and the memoir *Love Affair in the Garden of Milton* (2021).



Reimagines health anxiety not as pathology, but as creative possibility

February 2026 • Health/History

ISBN 978 1 83639 122 7

216 × 138 mm • 296 pp

Hardback • £17.99/\$25

ebook 978 1 83639 158 6

World Rights: Reaktion

Enver Hoxha

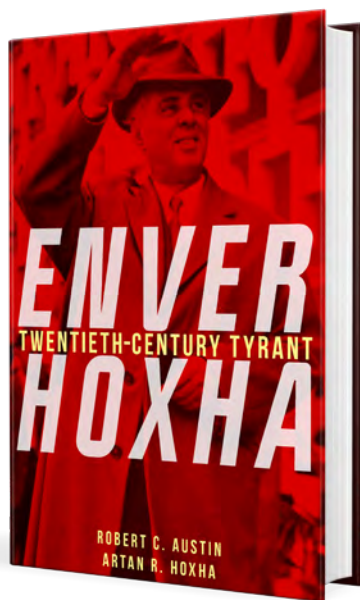
Twentieth-Century Tyrant

Robert C. Austin and Artan R. Hoxha

This is the first full-length biography of Enver Hoxha, the communist dictator who ruled Albania for nearly half a century. Hoxha was an unreformed Stalinist who was propelled to power with Soviet and Yugoslav help following the defeat of the Axis powers, though he soon broke with his former allies and built a Chairman Mao-like political cult in his tiny and impoverished nation. In this fluent and far-reaching account, Hoxha emerges as a paranoid megalomaniac, interested in maintaining control above all else and excelling at manipulating his comrades and outsmarting his domestic and international enemies. This important book shines a light on the nature of dictatorship, and a lesser-known chapter in the history of the Cold War.

Robert C. Austin is a professor at the University of Toronto and author of many books on the Balkans.

Artan R. Hoxha is a historian of southeastern Europe based in Tirana, Albania.



The extraordinary
story of Europe's
longest-ruling
communist dictator

February 2026 • Biography

ISBN 978 1 83639 166 1

234 × 156 mm • 328 pp

20 illustrations

Hardback • £20/\$27.50

ebook 978 1 83639 211 8

World Rights: Reaktion

Qaddafi

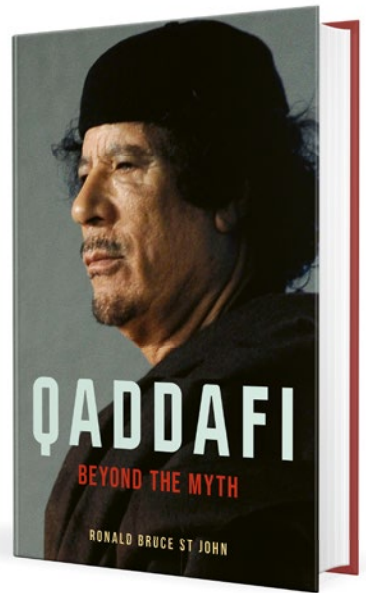
Beyond the Myth

Ronald Bruce St John

This book explores the life of Muammar al-Qaddafi, the enigmatic Libyan leader, from his birth to his assassination in a drainage ditch outside the city of Sirte in October 2011. The first authoritative biography of Qaddafi, it aims to make sense of his remarkable life and times. Known for his idiosyncratic ideas and flamboyant dress, his persona was also a cloak he used to obscure his personal and professional life. Qaddafi created a repressive political system, supported terrorist movements abroad and suppressed basic human rights at home, while abusing hundreds of women.

Qaddafi: His Life and Times provides a comprehensive look at the forces that shaped Qaddafi and enabled him to become the world's longest-ruling head of state. It also provides essential information for anyone attempting to understand the division, confusion and chaos that has dominated post-Qaddafi Libya.

Ronald Bruce St John is an expert on Libya and has written five books about the country, including *Libya: Continuity and Change* (2nd edn, 2015). He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



The dramatic
life and death of
Libya's eccentric
leader

April 2026 • Biography/Politics

ISBN 978 1 83639 186 9

216 × 138 mm • 320 pp

20 illustrations

Hardback • £20/\$27.50

ebook 978 1 83639 230 9

World Rights: Reaktion

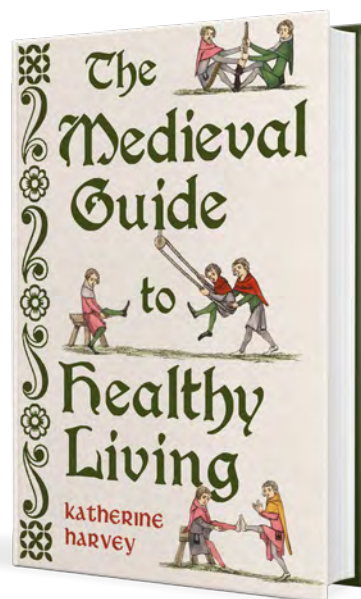


The Medieval Guide to Healthy Living

Katherine Harvey

We often think of medieval medicine as strange, unhygienic and unscientific, but *The Medieval Guide to Healthy Living* reveals a far richer story. Long before modern wellness trends, people in the Middle Ages were actively thinking about how to live well. They followed detailed health regimens, balanced diet with exercise, considered the effects of emotions and sought to avoid illness through environmental awareness and routine care. This book sheds light on the practical and surprisingly relatable ways medieval individuals cared for body and mind. Drawing from historical sources that echo today's wellness concerns, it offers a fresh, thoughtful view of a misunderstood era. In understanding their world, we might see our own in a new, more connected light.

Katherine Harvey is an Honorary Research Fellow at Birkbeck, University of London, who also teaches at the Open University. Her previous books include *The Fires of Lust: Sex in the Middle Ages* (Reaktion, 2021).



A fresh look at
medieval wellness
that echoes
modern healthy-
living concerns

April 2026 • History/Health

ISBN 978 1 83639 184 5

234 × 156 mm • 336 pp

25 illustrations

Hardback • £20/\$27.50

ebook 978 1 83639 229 3

World Rights: Reaktion



The Museum of Imaginary Musical Instruments

Deirdre Loughridge and Thomas Patteson

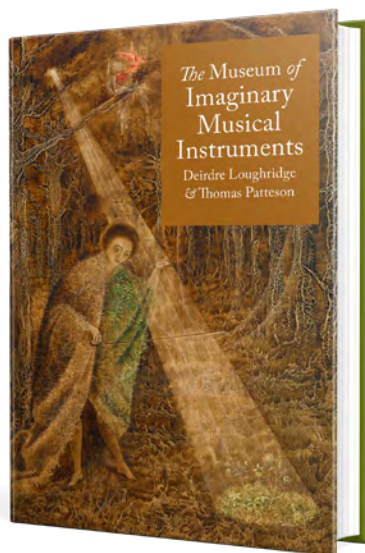
‘What an Arkestra, what a trip! Visiting (and revisiting) *The Museum of Imaginary Musical Instruments* immerses you in the sonic, visual and philosophical delights of “fictophones” from across space, time and astral planes. This slim encyclopedia is brilliant, hilarious and erudite – an ultra-evocative and hyper-resonant sextant for an age of sublime and demented machines.’

– John Tresch, Professor of History of Art, Science, and Folk Practice at the Warburg Institute, University of London

The Museum of Imaginary Musical Instruments is a guided tour through centuries of instruments that never existed. From ancient myths to futuristic media, these imagined devices appear in literature, theory, video games and art, at times echoing real instruments, other times pushing far beyond the bounds of technology. This book presents a wide-ranging collection of such creations, showing how they reflect changing ideas about sound, invention and the limits of the possible. At once a cultural history and a study of creative thought, it uncovers unexpected links between music, design and the human urge to make meaning through sound. These are not just fictional artefacts – they are windows into what music might mean, even when it cannot be played.

Deirdre Loughridge is Professor of Music at Northeastern University, Boston. Her previous books include *Sounding Human: Music and Machines, 1740/2020* (2023).

Thomas Patteson is a teacher, writer and musician based in Philadelphia. He is the author of *Instruments for New Music* (2016) and co-founder of People’s Music Supply.



Imagined instruments reveal how we shape music – and how music shapes us

April 2026 • Music
ISBN 978 1 83639 185 2
208 × 156 mm • 200 pp
88 illustrations, 40 in colour
Hardback • £17.95/\$25
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World Rights: Reaktion

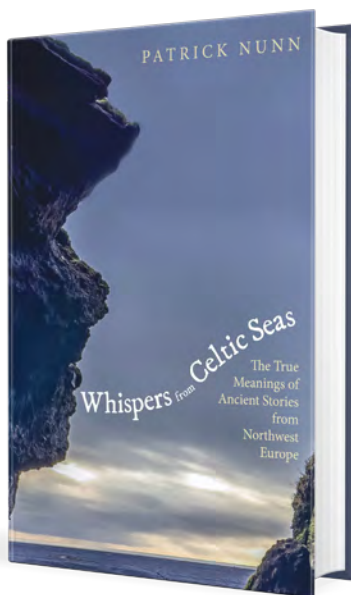
Whispers from Celtic Seas

The True Meanings of Ancient Stories from Northwest Europe

Patrick Nunn

What if the legends of submerged cities, land-making witches and sea-crossing bishops are not mere inventions but echoes of real events? *Whispers from Celtic Seas* revisits coastal traditions from the Celtic fringes of northwest Europe, showing how they preserve memories of dramatic environmental change – floods, land loss and shifting shorelines – carried forward through oral storytelling for generations. Drawing on cutting-edge geological and archaeological research, this book recasts these tales not as fantasy, but as historical testimony grounded in lived experience. With clarity and insight, it also brings to life the tellers and collectors of these stories, tracing how oral knowledge endured even as literacy spread. A compelling invitation to listen again to old stories, and to hear what the land and sea remember.

Patrick Nunn is Professor of Geography at the University of the Sunshine Coast, Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne and Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford (2026–7). His many publications include *The Edge of Memory* (2018) and *Worlds in Shadow* (2021).



Ancient coastal
tales reveal deep
memories of
land, sea and
survival

June 2026 • History/Mythology

ISBN 978 1 83639 201 9

216 × 138 mm • 248 pp

38 illustrations

Hardback • £16.95/\$24

ebook 978 1 83639 240 8

World Rights: Reaktion

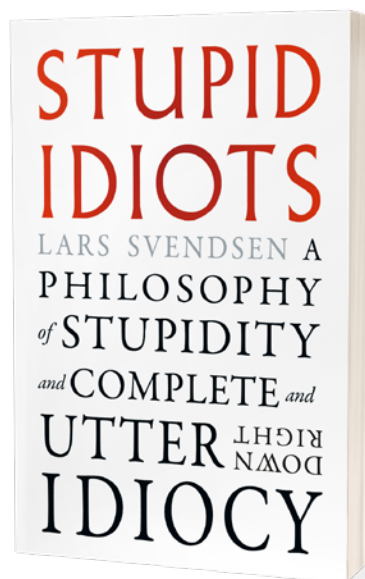
Stupid Idiots

A Philosophy of Stupidity and Complete and Utter Downright Idiocy

Lars Svendsen

This witty yet thoughtful book examines stupidity and idiocy, and their most dangerous incarnation: stupid idiocy – the unthinking embrace of flawed thinking. While philosophers chase wisdom, this book takes a humbler route, asking instead how we might think just a little less badly. Drawing sharp distinctions between not thinking and thinking poorly, and doubling down on bad thought, it reveals how deeply these failings are tied to our mental habits. With clarity and humour, it considers how stupidity shapes everyday life and public discourse. Within its pages is a chapter on politics and a pointed critique of Donald Trump, ‘stupid idiot supreme’. This is an accessible philosophical guide for anyone who wants to better understand – and perhaps reduce – their own foolishness.

Lars Svendsen is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bergen, Norway. He has written fifteen books, including *A Philosophy of Fear* (2008), *A Philosophy of Loneliness* (2017), *A Philosophy of Lying* (2022) and *A Philosophy of Hope* (2024), all published by Reaktion.



A witty yet thoughtful examination of stupidity and idiocy in modern life

March 2026 • Philosophy

ISBN 978 1 83639 177 7

216 × 138 mm • 180 pp

Paperback • £14.95/\$20

ebook 978 1 83639 217 0

English-language Rights: Reaktion

World Rights: Oslo Literary Agency,
Norway

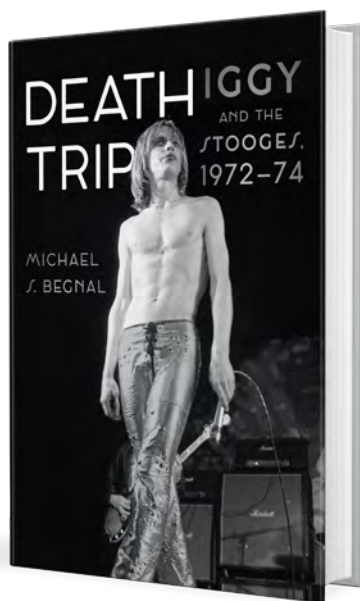
Death Trip

Iggy and the Stooges, 1972–74

Michael S. Begnal

Raw Power by Iggy and the Stooges is arguably the most aggressive, dynamic album in rock history, and inarguably one of the most influential. Looking past the myths and into the true story of the Stooges, Michael S. Begnal illuminates the creation of this recording in the context of the cultural *zeitgeist* of the early 1970s, the American War in Vietnam and the ways in which punk rock came snarling into existence. *Death Trip* uncovers lost archives and stories, drawing on new interviews with Stooges guitarist James Williamson and pianist Scott Thurston, and sheds fresh light on the band's creative process. This is an in-depth, definitive account that will challenge the assumptions of even the most knowledgeable Stooges fan.

Michael S. Begnal is Associate Professor of English at Ball State University, Indiana. His previous books include *The Music and Noise of the Stooges, 1967–71* (2022).



The definitive history
of the influential *Raw
Power* era of Iggy and
the Stooges

May 2026 • Music
ISBN 978 1 83639 189 0
234 × 156 mm • 320 pp
18 illustrations
Hardback • £20/\$27.50
ebook 978 1 83639 232 3
World Rights: Reaktion

Comics at the Movies

*From Flash Gordon
to Avengers: Endgame*

James Chapman

Comics at the Movies explores the rich and often overlooked history of comic-book film adaptations, from 1930s serials like *Flash Gordon* to today's Marvel and DC blockbusters. It traces how the comic and film industries have intersected over the decades, analysing how adaptations reflect their economic, political and cultural contexts. The book examines neglected works such as *Doc Savage*, *Popeye* and *Sheena*, alongside iconic franchises like *Superman*, *Batman* and *X-Men*. It also investigates how these films represent nationhood, race, gender and class, revealing the social politics beneath their spectacle. Accessible and engaging, *Comics at the Movies* is essential reading for students, scholars and fans alike interested in adaptation, popular genres and the lasting impact of comic-book cinema.

James Chapman is Professor of Film Studies at the University of Leicester. His previous books include *British Comics: A Cultural History* (Reaktion, 2011).



A lively, engaging
history of comic-
book cinema,
from *Flash
Gordon* to the
Marvel Cinematic
Universe

March 2026 • Film/Graphic Novels

ISBN 978 1 83639 173 9

234 × 156 mm • 368 pp

50 illustrations

Hardback • £25/\$35

ebook 978 1 83639 218 7

World Rights: Reaktion

A Home in Space

Selected Concrete, Visual and Sound Poetry

Edwin Morgan

Edited by Greg Thomas and Julie Johnstone

Edwin Morgan is best remembered as Scotland's foremost national poet, a bold, lyric voice who shaped conversations around queerness, politics and post-war life. But Morgan was also a restless experimenter working far beyond traditional verse. This book brings together, for the first time, the full range of his visual and sound poetry – from vibrant poster poems and surrealist collages to concrete poetry, cut-ups and poem-sculptures. It reveals Morgan as a major figure in twentieth-century multimedia art, linking language, image and sound in surprising and timely ways. Attuned to questions of identity, ecology and empire, Morgan's work remains as urgent and inventive as ever – a celebration of poetic form at its most expansive and alive.

Greg Thomas is a writer, critic, poet and artist based in Glasgow, Scotland. He is the author of *Border Blurs: Concrete Poetry in England and Scotland* (2019) and has written extensively on visual and concrete poetries, text art and multimedia art.

Julie Johnstone is an artist, curator, editor and publisher based in Edinburgh, Scotland. She was previously the Head Librarian of the Scottish Poetry Library and established and curated the Edwin Morgan Archive at the Library.



Reveals Edwin Morgan's ground-breaking multimedia poetics beyond his celebrated lyric voice

June 2026 • Poetry
ISBN 978 1 83639 196 8
234 × 156 mm • 256 pp
190 illustrations, 85 in colour
Hardback • £25/\$35
ebook 978 1 83639 241 5
English-language Rights: Reaktion
World Rights: The Edwin Morgan Trust

Taiwan

A People's History

Evan N. Dawley

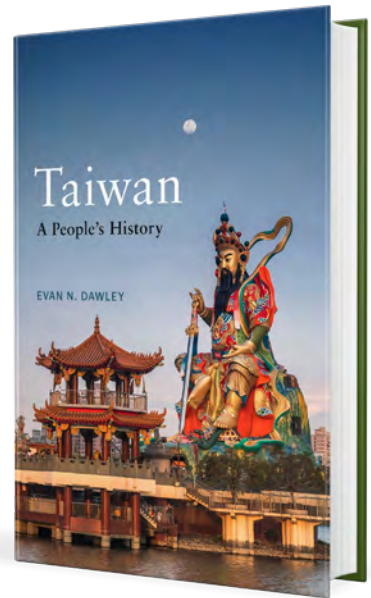
‘No other volume better introduces Taiwan’s complex history and political development in such a thorough yet accessible way.’ – Lev Nachman, author of *Contested Taiwan*

‘A delightful read, and a courageous act of decolonization.’
– Scott E. Simon, University of Ottawa

‘The most comprehensive and thoroughly researched history of Taiwan in the English language.’ – James Lin, University of Washington

While most English-language histories of Taiwan focus on its geopolitical role, this history centres on the people of Taiwan themselves and explores how they have formed a unique polity, telling the story of the Indigenous Taiwanese, the Hoklo and Hakka who came from China before the twentieth century, Japanese colonialism and the Chinese who arrived after 1945. Historian Evan N. Dawley describes how successive waves of immigration changed Taiwan and how these diverse groups of Indigenous tribes and settlers interacted economically and culturally, creating new Taiwanese identities in the process. Over the last century Taiwan has developed from an authoritarian state to one of the world’s most vibrant democracies and advanced economies. A successful independent society, its existence nevertheless remains under a shadow.

Evan N. Dawley is Associate Professor of History at Goucher College, Maryland. He is the author of *Becoming Taiwanese: Ethnogenesis in a Colonial City, 1880s–1950s* (2019).



Taiwan’s story told
through its people
– their origins,
struggles and
transformations

March 2026 • History
ISBN 978 1 83639 178 4
234 × 156 mm • 312 pp
25 illustrations
Hardback • £20/\$27.50
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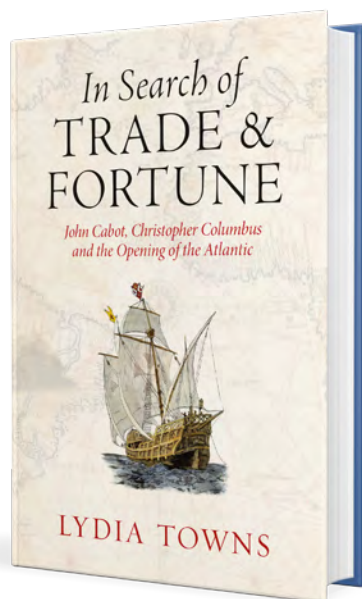
In Search of Trade and Fortune

John Cabot, Christopher Columbus and the Opening of the Atlantic

Lydia Towns

What did John Cabot and Christopher Columbus truly achieve – and what did they inherit? In this compelling reassessment, Lydia Towns traces their voyages not as radical departures, but as chapters in a much older story of Atlantic navigation and commerce. Beginning with Celtic and Viking seafarers, she outlines the long prelude to the so-called Age of Exploration, showing how knowledge, ambition and trade routes shaped the journeys of Cabot and Columbus. Drawing on recent scholarship, Towns reframes these figures within the systems they extended, not invented. She then follows their legacy into the modern age, examining how national myths, public memory and political uses of history continue to shape our understanding of early exploration. Discovery, this book suggests, was never a solitary act.

Lydia Towns is Assistant Professor in World History at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. She received her PhD in History, with a focus on Transatlantic History, from the University of Texas at Arlington, and currently lives in Nacogdoches, the oldest town in Texas.



Reframes Cabot
and Columbus
within centuries of
Atlantic trade and
exploration

April 2026 • History

ISBN 978 1 83639 182 1

234 × 156 mm • 352 pp

37 illustrations

Hardback • £25/\$35

ebook 978 1 83639 228 6

World Rights: Reaktion

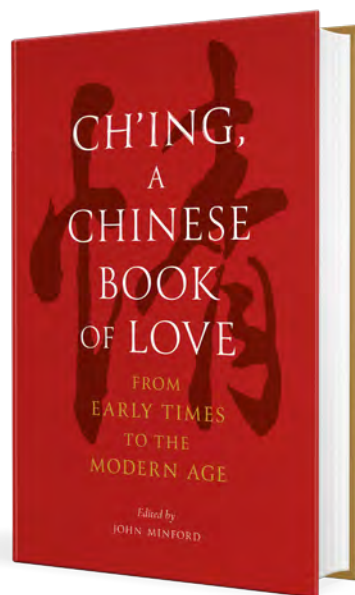
Ch'ing, a Chinese Book of Love

From Early Times to the Modern Age

Edited by John Minford

This landmark anthology brings together, for the first time in English, the rich tradition of Chinese writing on love – sensuous, romantic and ecstatic – from early classics like the *Book of Songs* to twentieth-century modernist verse. Challenging the stereotype of Chinese literature as stiffly Confucian, it celebrates instead the Taoist embrace of physical passion as cosmic harmony. The selections span lyrical hymns, bawdy tales, singsong-house ballads, philosophical musings and a bedside manual, revealing a long, diverse literary culture of erotic and emotional expression. High-quality translations preserve both elegance and clarity, while exquisite seventeenth-century erotic woodblock prints provide visual echoes of the texts' spirit. This anthology offers a rare and revelatory window on to the pleasures, desires and poetic sophistication of Chinese love literature through the ages.

John Minford is a sinologist and translator, and Emeritus Professor of Chinese Studies at the Australian National University. He has translated many classics of Chinese literature including *The Story of the Stone*, the *I Ching*, the *Tao Te Ching* and *The Art of War*.



A revelatory
portrait of China's
literary passion,
sensuality,
elegance and
desire

June 2026 • Literary Studies/
History

ISBN 978 1 83639 194 4

216 × 138 mm • 256 pp

20 illustrations

Hardback • £17.95/\$25

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World Rights: Reaktion

First Helpings

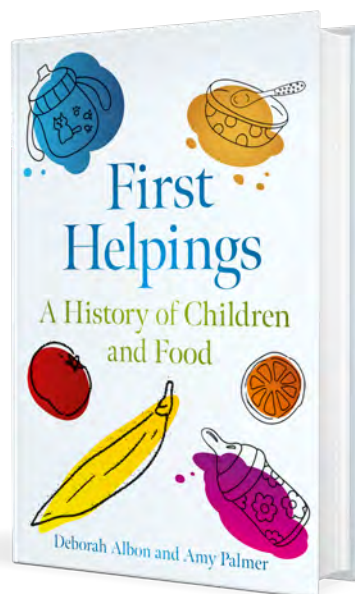
A History of Children and Food

Deborah Albon and Amy Palmer

What should children eat and why? How should they eat it and what should they learn about food? Answers to questions like these have differed over time. *First Helpings* explores the relationship between children and food in history, drawing on a rich variety of social records, cookery and etiquette books and children's literature. Topics covered include breast versus bottle feeding, the difference between 'adult' and 'children's' food and drink, table manners, school meals and learning to cook. Albon and Palmer discuss wider social issues, such as teaching children about the ethics of food choices, the role children have played in food production and the ever-present scandal of hungry children in society. *First Helpings* provides a unique look at childhood and eating that relates past to present and considers ways forward.

Deborah Albon is a former early years professional and lecturer at the University of Roehampton, London, and has published widely about many food topics.

Amy Palmer is a former infant teacher and lecturer at the University of Roehampton, London, and has published on children's literature and education.



How childhood
and food have
shaped each other
through history –
and still do

April 2026 • Food & Drink/
Parenting

ISBN 978 1 83639 181 4

216 × 138 mm • 288 pp

35 illustrations

Hardback • £18/\$25

ebook 978 1 83639 231 6

World Rights: Reaktion

Universe

A Guide to Everything

Helge Kragh

The physical universe is a most peculiar concept, not only different from the objects it contains but also from space itself. Cosmology – the science that seeks to explain it – has always differed from other sciences, drawing on philosophy and even theology. These influences remain, even in today's data-driven cosmological models. This accessible and far-reaching book traces the development of cosmological thought from antiquity to the twenty-first century, with particular focus on the foundational work of Einstein, Hubble and others in the early twentieth century. It explores how modern theories rest on a surprisingly fragile base and argues that many cosmic mysteries may remain permanently unsolved. Rich in historical and philosophical insight, this is a lucid guide to what we know – and perhaps cannot know – about the universe.

Helge Kragh is Emeritus Professor at the Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen. His books include *Masters of the Universe* (2015).



A sweeping,
reflective history
of how we've tried
to understand the
universe

March 2026 • Popular Science

ISBN 978 1 83639 179 1

216 × 138 mm • 192 pp

42 illustrations, 12 in colour

Hardback • £17.95/\$25

ebook 978 1 83639 220 0

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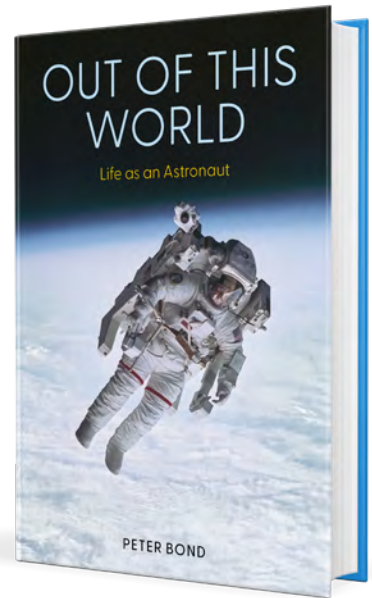
Out of This World

Life as an Astronaut

Peter Bond

Spaceflight may now seem routine, but it remains one of the most dangerous and demanding human endeavours. This book offers a clear-eyed account of what it truly takes to live and work in orbit – from gruelling training and long waits for assignment to everyday routines aboard space stations and moments of sudden crisis. Drawing on over 65 years of human spaceflight and rich with first-hand accounts, it captures the discipline, patience and resilience behind each mission. Illustrated with more than a hundred photographs, it reveals the reality of life beyond Earth – not just the extraordinary feats, but the challenges, teamwork and quiet perseverance behind them. A compelling look at how a select group of talented, dedicated people can accomplish the extraordinary in space.

Peter Bond is a lifelong space and astronomy enthusiast. He was previously Space Science Advisor/Press Officer for the Royal Astronomical Society and a consultant and writer for the European Space Agency for many years. He is the author of fourteen books, including *Rosetta: The Remarkable Story of Europe's Comet Explorer* (2020) and *Solar Surveyors* (2022).



A grounded,
inside look at
how astronauts
live, train and
survive in
space

June 2026 • Popular Science

ISBN 978 1 83639 199 9

234 × 156 mm • 224 pp

115 illustrations

Hardback • £25/\$35

ebook 978 1 83639 239 2

World Rights: Reaktion

The Matter of Architecture

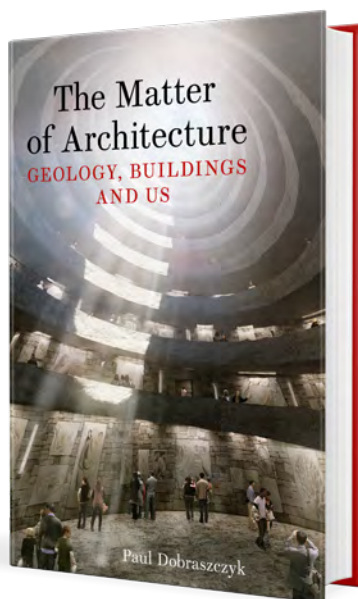
Geology, Buildings and Us

Paul Dobraszczyk

‘An engaging journey through ideas, imagination and history as much as it is one through strata and the built environment, this book will open new perspectives to its readers.’ – Jan Zalasiewicz, author of *The Planet in a Pebble*

Geology is the architecture of our planet and what we build has always been dependent on what the earth has already made. Yet in recent decades we, rather than the planet, have produced the geology of the future: millions of tonnes of concrete, plastic, brick, metal and other fabricated materials are quickly piling up to eventually become new strata. Can we recover a more equitable relationship to the earth? Providing a provocative and original take on the relationship between ecology and architecture, this book asks what architects do with, and what they might learn from, what the earth creates. From caves and crystals to volcanoes and earthquakes, *The Matter of Architecture* delves deep to explore a different way of building.

Paul Dobraszczyk is an architectural writer and a lecturer at the Bartlett School of Architecture, London. His books include *Future Cities* (2019) and *Animal Architecture* (2023), both published by Reaktion, as well as *Architecture and Anarchism* (2021).



What building
today tells us
about tomorrow's
Earth – and our
place on it

April 2026 • Architecture
ISBN 978 1 83639 183 8
234 × 156 mm • 288 pp
98 illustrations, 10 in colour
Hardback • £20/\$27.50
ebook 978 1 83639 226 2

World Rights: Reaktion

The Connoisseur

A Cultural History

Peter Burke

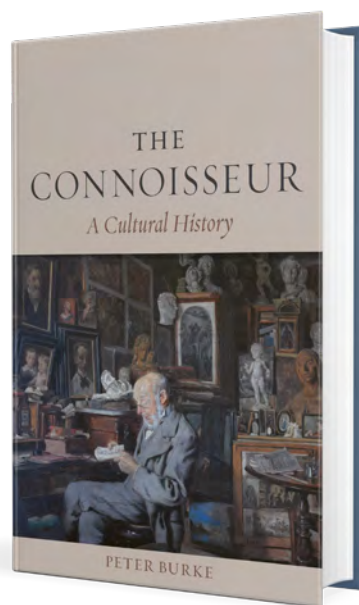
‘Peter Burke’s tour d’horizon is a tour de force.’ – Ivan Gaskell,
Bard Graduate Center, New York

‘Peter Burke sheds light on one of the most enigmatic and
captivating aspects of the history of art.’ – Paolo Coen,
University of Teramo

The connoisseur has been an influential, if somewhat mysterious, figure in the history of art, responsible for making or breaking high-profile collections and reputations and influencing taste, the art market and the field of art history with their pronouncements. But what did it take to become a connoisseur, and how reliable were the great connoisseurs of previous centuries? With the advent of scientific techniques and artificial intelligence, what future is there for expertise based on the trained eye?

This book offers the first history of the art connoisseur, from the Renaissance to its professionalization in the nineteenth century and on to the present. Featuring portrayals of many leading connoisseurs, such as Bernard Berenson, Roberto Longhi and Giovanni Morelli, this is a highly readable history of the extraordinary characters and intellects that shaped the art world through a mixture of intuition, learning and chutzpah.

Peter Burke is a pioneering cultural historian and author of over thirty books, which have been translated into more than thirty languages, including *Eyewitness: The Uses of Images as Historical Evidence* (Reaktion, 2019). He is Life Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and a Fellow of the British Academy.



The art
connoisseur
from the
Renaissance
to the present
day

June 2026 • Art/History
ISBN 978 1 83639 195 1
216 × 138 mm • 280 pp
25 illustrations
Hardback • £20/\$27.50
ebook 978 1 83639 242 2
World Rights: Reaktion

Way Makers

An Anthology of Women's Writing about Walking

Edited by Kerri Andrews

'A scintillating and exciting collection of women's voices.'

– Katharine Norbury, author of *The Fish Ladder*

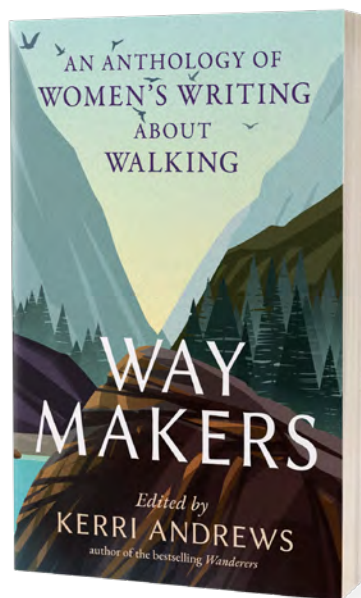
'*Way Makers* . . . covers female writers from "a range of social, racial and bodily backgrounds" and the walks they make physically and in their minds . . . ground-breaking.' – *Sunday Post*

'[The] pieces conjure an exhilarating sense of the freedom conferred on women by walking, despite the dangers and challenges.' – *The Tablet*

'An anthology that celebrates the literary heritage created by generations of women walker-writers.' – *Scottish Wildlife* magazine

The follow-up to the bestselling *Wanderers*, Kerri Andrews's *Way Makers*, now available in paperback, 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 and 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* 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

February 2026 • Essays

ISBN 978 1 83639 204 0

198 x 129 mm • 312 pp

Paperback • £12.99/\$18

ebook 978 1 78914 819 0

English-language rights: Reaktion

The Wagner Group

Inside Russia's Mercenary Army

Jack Margolin

‘Reads like a Tom Clancy novel written by Fyodor Dostoyevsky.’

– *Wall Street Journal*

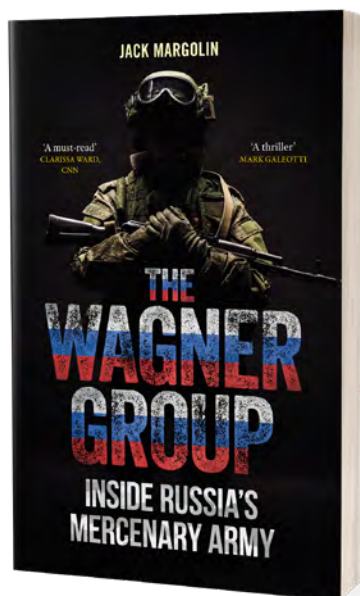
‘At once deeply researched and as readable as a thriller.’

– Mark Galeotti, author of *Putin's Wars*

‘A deeply reported history of the Wagner private military company.’ – *Financial Times*

Now available in paperback, this book tells the story of Russia's most notorious private military company, the Wagner Group, revealing details of its operations never documented before, and the warning the group holds for the evolution of conflict. Jack Margolin traces the Wagner Group from its roots as a battlefield rumour to a private military enterprise tens of thousands strong. He follows individual commanders and foot soldiers as they fight in Ukraine, Syria and Africa, and shows Wagner mercenaries committing atrocities, plundering oil, diamonds and gold, and changing the course of conflicts in the name of the Kremlin. In documenting the Wagner Group's story up to the dramatic demise of its chief director, Evgeniy Prigozhin, Margolin demonstrates what the Wagner Group represents for not only the future of Putin's political system but the privatization of war.

Jack Margolin is an independent researcher who has studied private military contractors and Russian criminal networks since 2014. He lives in Washington, DC.



An exposé
of Russia's
most notorious
mercenary army,
and the future
of warfare

February 2026 • Military History/
Politics

ISBN 978 1 83639 203 3

198 × 129 mm • 328 pp

4 illustrations

Paperback • £12.99/\$18

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Spanish, Lithuanian

The Point of the Needle

Why Sewing Matters

Barbara Burman

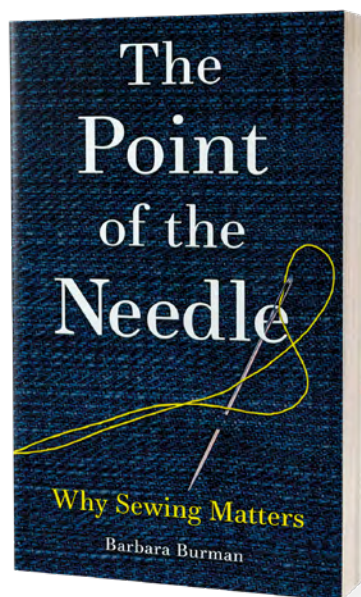
‘This book seeks to shine a light on the extraordinary human endeavour of stitching.’ – Haptic & Hue Book of the Year 2023

‘[Combining] a strong, thematic narrative, fluent style and empathy with the more personal aspects of needlecraft . . . the book charts the social history of what is still perceived as a “gendered practice”.’ – *Country Life*

‘This excellent book unpicks the culture of sewing in fascinating detail. Barbara Burman delves deeper into the skill, the joy, the challenge of needlework through the words of past and present stitchers to offer an inspiring insight into why sewing matters.’ – Clare Hunter, author of *Threads of Life*

Tens of millions of people sew for necessity or pleasure every day, yet the craft is surprisingly under-appreciated. Now available in paperback, *The Point of the Needle* redresses the balance: this is a book that argues for sewing’s place in our lives. 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 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

March 2026 • History
ISBN 978 1 83639 206 4
198 x 129 mm • 288 pp
1 illustration
Paperback • £10.99/\$16
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Plato

A Civic Life

Carol Attack

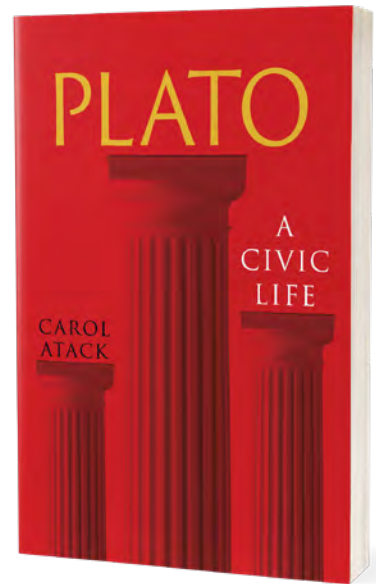
‘In *Plato: A Civic Life* we journey through the philosopher’s life [and] writings . . . learning as much about Athenian democracy, international relations, education and culture as we do about Plato himself.’ – *TLS*

‘This is a gripping account of Classical Athens under siege told through the sharp eyes and shifting ideas of its most notable son.’ – Josephine Quinn, author of *How the World Made the West: A 4,000-Year History*

Plato is a key figure from the beginnings of Western philosophy, yet the impact of his lived experience on his thought has rarely been explored. Plato lived in turbulent times, born during a war that led to Athens’s defeat and decline. A restored democracy enabled the execution of his teacher Socrates.

Carol Attack explores how his life in Athens influenced Plato’s thinking, how he developed the Socratic dialogue into a powerful philosophical tool and how he used the institutions of Athenian society to create a compelling imaginative world.

Carol Attack is a Fellow of Newnham College, University of Cambridge, where she teaches classical Greek and ancient philosophy. She is the author of *The Discourse of Kingship in Classical Greece* (2019) and co-author of *Anachronism and Antiquity* (2020).



Chronicles Plato’s
thought through
the lens of his
turbulent life

GREAT LIVES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

March 2026 • History/Philosophy

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216 × 138 mm • 240 pp

28 illustrations

Paperback • £12/\$22.50

ebook 978 1 78914 984 5

World Rights: Reaktion

Navigations

The Portuguese Discoveries and the Renaissance

Malyn Newitt

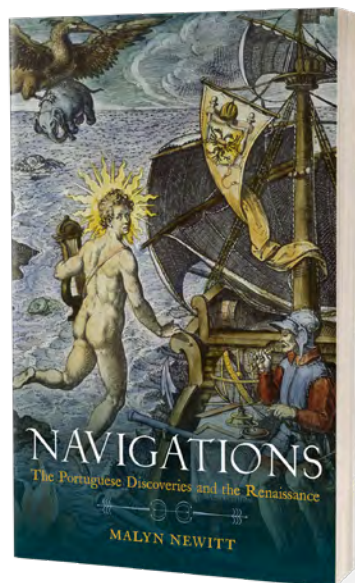
‘A detailed, wide-ranging forensic study.’ – *Naval Review*

‘Malyn Newitt’s book is the precious gift of a long lifetime’s work and reflection, enlivened by moments of subtle humour and distinguished by objectivity, reliability and restraint in judgement.’ – Felipe Fernández-Armesto, author of *Straits: Beyond the Myth of Magellan*

Now available in paperback, *Navigations* re-examines the Portuguese voyages of discovery by placing them in their medieval and Renaissance settings. It shows how these voyages grew out of a crusading ethos, as well as long-distance trade with Asia and Africa and developments in map-making and ship design. The slave trade, the diaspora of the Sephardic Jews and the intercontinental spread of plants and animals gave these voyages long-term global significance.

The voyages of discovery are narrated within the context of Portuguese politics, and this book describes the role of the Portuguese ruling dynasty – including its female members – in the flowering of the Portuguese Renaissance and the distinctive ideology of the Renaissance state, and in the cultural changes that took place within a wider European context.

Malyn Newitt has taught at the universities of Rhodesia and Exeter, and until he retired was the Charles Boxer Professor of History at King’s College London. His many books include *The Braganzas* (Reaktion, 2019).



A re-examination of the Portuguese medieval and Renaissance voyages of discovery

April 2026 • History

ISBN 978 1 83639 207 1

198 x 129 mm • 368 pp

57 illustrations

Paperback • £14.95/\$22.50

ebook 978 1 78914 734 6

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Rights sold: Portuguese,

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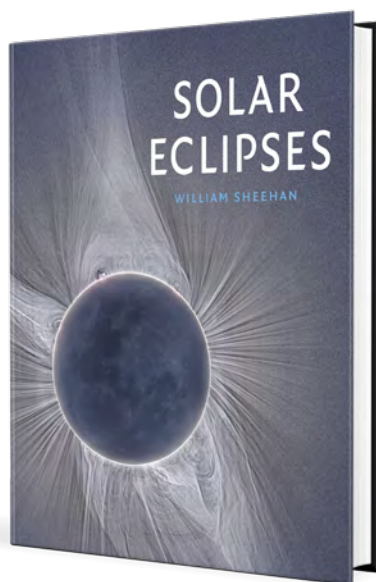
Solar Eclipses

William Sheehan

‘An illuminating tour through the science and history of nature’s most awe-inspiring spectacle. Wonderfully illustrated and richly told, it’s a book that will appeal to novice and expert alike.’ – David Baron, author of *American Eclipse: A Nation’s Epic Race to Catch the Shadow of the Moon and Win the Glory of the World*

For millennia, solar eclipses have stirred awe and fear. Once seen as omens, they are now celebrated as rare spectacles that unite science and wonder. This accessible, richly illustrated book explores their cultural, emotional and scientific significance, from ancient myths to modern eclipse-chasing expeditions. It traces how eclipses helped unlock secrets of the Sun, and why witnessing one inspires powerful reactions and lifelong fascination. The book also offers practical guidance for planning and observing upcoming eclipses, making it an essential companion for curious observers and seasoned eclipse-hunters alike. Combining historical depth, scientific insight and personal experience, this is the definitive guide to one of nature’s most dramatic and moving celestial events.

William Sheehan is a noted historian of astronomy and a writer. His books include *Mercury* (2018), *Saturn* (2019), *Venus* (2022) and *The Solar System* (2025) in Reaktion’s Kosmos series. He lives in Arizona, and asteroid 16037 is named Sheehan in his honour.



A thrilling guide to the celestial drama and scientific wonder of eclipses

KOSMOS

February 2026 • Biography

ISBN 978 1 83639 169 2

220 × 171 mm • 256 pp

101 illustrations, 54 in colour

Hardback • £25/\$40

ebook 978 1 83639 210 1

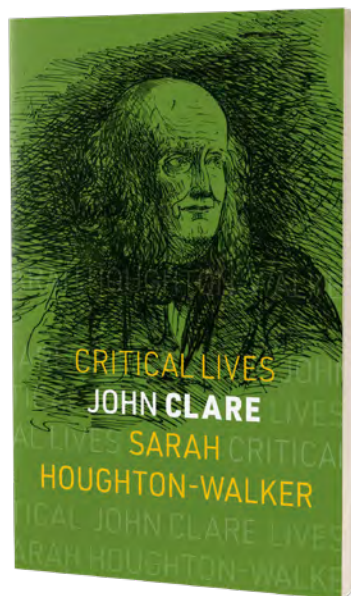
World Rights: Reaktion

John Clare

Sarah Houghton-Walker

John Clare's life has often been told by casting him in various parts – rural genius, thwarted lover, environmentalist, lunatic poet. This biography revisits those familiar stories with a fresh perspective, setting Clare's own words alongside a sharp reappraisal of his times. Drawing from his autobiographical writings, journals, letters and poetry, it presents a rich, grounded portrait of the man and the places that shaped him. Clare's sense of identity, rooted in the land around him, was central to his voice as a poet. Through attentive readings of his verse, this book traces the creative and emotional arc of a life both ordinary and extraordinary. Clare emerges not as a tragic stereotype, but as a deeply thoughtful writer confronting change with clarity and care.

Sarah Houghton-Walker is a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge. She is a founder and co-director of the Centre for John Clare Studies. Her books include *Wordsworth's Poetry of Repetition* (2023).



Reclaims John
Clare from myth
through poetry,
place and personal
voice

CRITICAL LIVES

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Colette

Kathleen Antonioli

French novelist Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette (1873–1954) was a strikingly modern celebrity. The most photographed author of the twentieth century, her marketing genius stretched from hair products themed after her most famous character to her own line of cosmetics. Beloved during her lifetime by critics on both the left and the right, and later embraced by feminists of the 1960s and '70s, Colette's works explored women's lives, from schooling to careers, maternity, ageing and sexuality. Colette's life was no less varied than her often self-referential works, including affairs with men and women, three marriages, a stage career and roles as a journalist and literary editor. Kathleen Antonioli explores Colette's storied life, work, private correspondence and carefully crafted public persona.

Kathleen Antonioli is Associate Professor of French at Kansas State University. She is the author of several articles on Colette.



The life and legacy of literature's most artful self-creation: Colette

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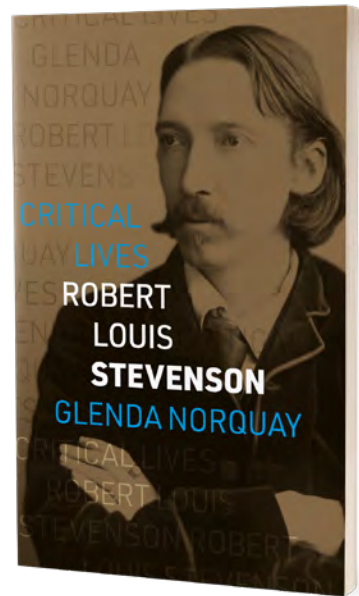
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Robert Louis Stevenson

Glenda Norquay

This concise biography offers a fresh portrait of Robert Louis Stevenson: frail Edinburgh child turned globe-trotting author of *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped* and *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. It charts his remarkable literary range – from fiction and poetry to essays and letters – crafted across three continents, often in poor health. Stevenson's adventurous life and memorable characters captured both popular imagination and critical praise. Drawing on new scholarship, the book explores his role as a literary innovator and cultural commentator, revealing how his work engaged with the anxieties of a rapidly changing world. At once celebrity, critic and colonial observer, Stevenson emerges as a truly modern writer, whose influence remains potent today. This is essential reading for lovers of literature, history and global storytelling.

Glenda Norquay is Professor Emerita of Scottish Literature at Liverpool John Moores University. Her books on Stevenson include *Robert Louis Stevenson, Literary Networks and Transatlantic Publishing in the 1890s* (2020).



R. L. Stevenson's
life and writing,
reflecting a
restless mind
in a global age

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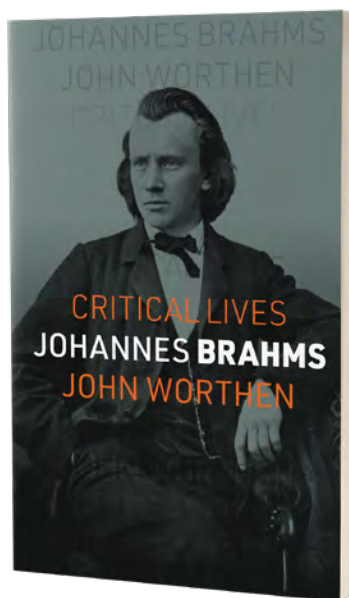
Johannes Brahms

John Worthen

‘In this sympathetic and level-headed biography, John Worthen traces Brahms’s early influences, delves into the complexities of his long relationship with Clara Schumann and explores the cast of mind which led him to remain “free but lonely”.’ – Susan Tomes, pianist and writer

Johannes Brahms is often cast as repressed or emotionally distant. This nuanced biography by acclaimed biographer John Worthen reveals a more complex and human figure – brilliant, passionate and deeply committed both to his art and to those he loved. Brahms’s lifelong devotion to Clara Schumann shaped much of his personal and creative life, while his refusal to conform to social expectations kept him at odds with the genteel world around him. Raised in modest circumstances, he remained proudly working class even as he became one of the greatest composers of his time, with works ranging from the intimacy of the ‘Alto Rhapsody’ to the humane power of ‘A German Requiem’. Worthen shows us the man behind the music – blunt, brilliant and fiercely alive.

John Worthen is Emeritus Professor of D. H. Lawrence Studies at the University of Nottingham. He is the author of many biographical books, including *Robert Schumann: Life and Death of a Musician* (2007) and *The Life of Percy Bysshe Shelley* (2019).



Reveals the
passion, humour
and humanity
of Brahms behind
the myth

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Sons of Heaven

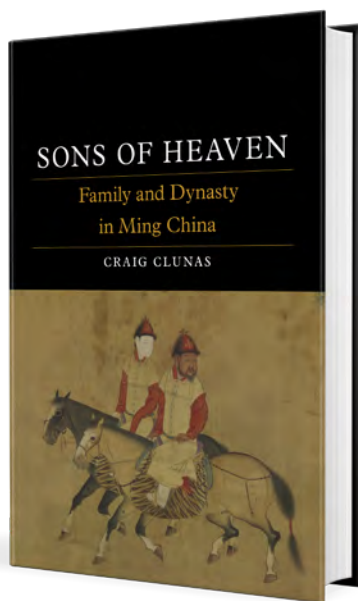
Family and Dynasty in Ming China

Craig Clunas

‘Craig Clunas’s exemplary but also extraordinary account reveals the texture of the daily encounters and observations [of Ming dynasty emperors], embedded in a period and culture of which we know still far too little.’ – Jessica Rawson, Professor of Chinese Art and Archaeology, University of Oxford

Sons of Heaven is the first accessible, newly researched account in English of the imperial family who ruled Ming China (1368–1644), one of the country’s most dynamic and influential eras. Beginning with a fresh look at what a dynasty really was, the book follows the lives of emperors, empresses, relatives and those who came into the imperial orbit. Uniquely drawing from official and unofficial Chinese primary sources, including gossip-rich ‘wild histories’, it presents a more intimate, complex picture of court life – its politics, personalities and pleasures. Moving beyond stereotypes, the book highlights the power, intrigue and humanity of Ming rule. Richly illustrated with period art that brings the imperial world to life, this is a compelling portrait of dynasty as lived reality.

Craig Clunas is Professor Emeritus of the History of Art, University of Oxford, and a Fellow of the British Academy. His many books include *Screen of Kings: Royal Art and Power in Ming China* (Reaktion, 2013).



Inside the lives,
scandals and
splendour of Ming
China’s imperial
ruling family

DYNASTIES

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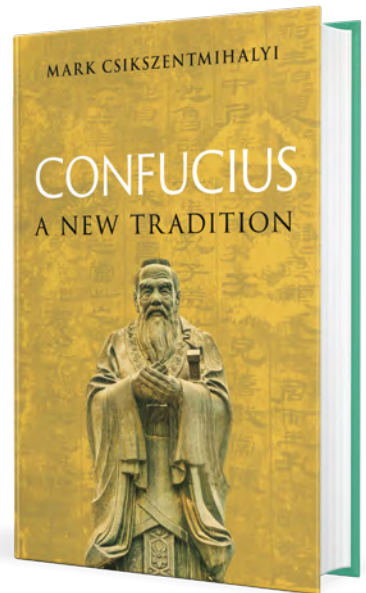
Confucius

A New Tradition

Mark Csikszentmihalyi

People have written biographies of Confucius for over 2,000 years, but a recent discovery of a Chinese tomb containing the oldest written account of his life provides an opportunity to revisit the philosopher afresh. In this book, Mark Csikszentmihalyi tells the story of the life and wisdom of the Chinese thinker by exploring Confucius as a ritual prodigy, moral educator, scholar and political draftsman. He also considers how Confucius has been used as a symbol for traditional Chinese culture in modern times – both by those who want to radically reform or destroy it and by those who seek to preserve or revive it. *Confucius: A New Tradition* provides an insightful, accessible and concise account of a key figure in East Asian thought.

Mark Csikszentmihalyi is Professor and Eliaser Chair of International Studies in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California, Berkeley. He is editor of the journal *Early China*.



A fresh look
at Confucius
through the
oldest known
record of
his life

GREAT LIVES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

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Pericles

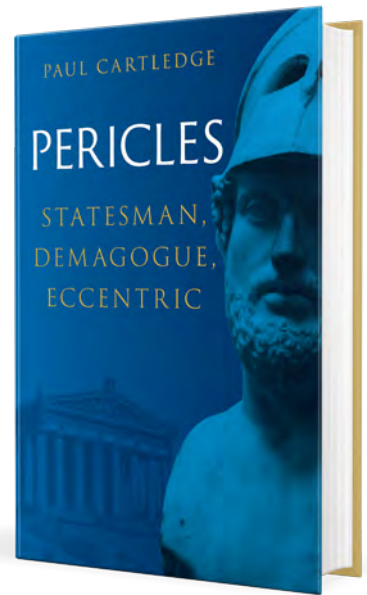
Statesman, Demagogue, Eccentric

Paul Cartledge

‘Paul Cartledge brings his wealth of knowledge and depth of insight to this engrossing exploration of one of the most influential and controversial politicians of all time . . . a masterly investigation of the complex and troubling relationship between demagoguery and democracy.’ – Robert Garland, author of *Athens Burning*

Pericles, the Athenian statesman, was a towering figure of his era, renowned for promoting Athenian democracy, shaping the Athenian Empire and championing the arts, notably through the Parthenon’s creation. Born to aristocracy, he was a fervent democrat, a masterful demagogue in the ancient sense and an eccentric in his personal life. Paul Cartledge explores Pericles’ life, examines Athenian history and provides an insightful account of Pericles’ political career, his role in Athens’s building programme, his intellectual connections and his love life. Cartledge further considers Pericles’ reputation in the theatre as well as the ways in which he has been represented over the centuries from antiquity to the present day. This is a nuanced, illuminating and lively portrayal of a remarkable politician.

Paul Cartledge is A. G. Leventis Senior Research Fellow at Clare College, University of Cambridge, and Emeritus A. G. Leventis Professor of Greek Culture, University of Cambridge. His many books include *Democracy: A Life* (2018) and *Thebes: The Forgotten City of Ancient Greece* (2020).



A nuanced portrait
of ancient Athens’s
boldest statesman
– and his enduring
cultural legacy

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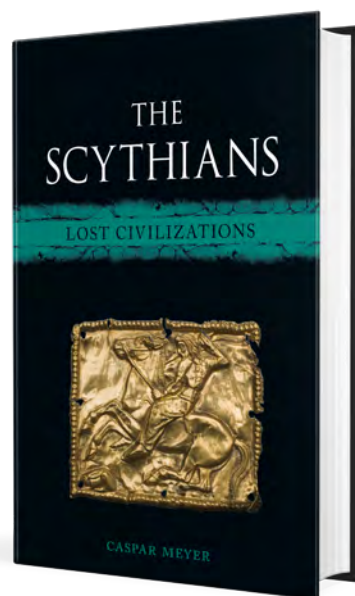
The Scythians

Lost Civilizations

Caspar Meyer

The Scythians offers a bold new take on the horse-riding peoples who once inhabited the vast steppe lands from the Black Sea to the Siberian Altai. Drawing on archaeological finds, ancient texts and comparative insights, Caspar Meyer shows how these communities forged dynamic networks rooted in art, mobility and interspecies relationships. He brings ancient and modern encounters with the Scythians into dialogue – from Herodotus' ethnography to modernist art and contemporary national imagination – revealing how their literary and visual afterlives continue to shape our understanding. Long reduced to barbarian stereotypes, the Scythians emerge as cultural innovators and co-creators of Eurasian history. Lively, accessible and thought-provoking, this book opens up a world where people and things move together in unexpected and transformative ways.

Caspar Meyer is Professor of Classical Archaeology and Material Culture at Bard Graduate Center in New York. He has published widely on ancient Greek and Scythian art, including *Greco-Scythian Art and the Birth of Eurasia* (2013).



Reimagines the
Scythians as
creators of culture
and as subjects
of enduring
fascination

LOST CIVILIZATIONS

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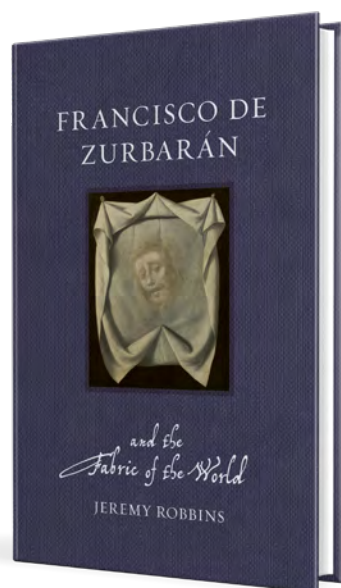
Francisco de Zurbarán and the Fabric of the World

Jeremy Robbins

‘With words of stillness, clarity and simplicity, perfectly complementing the images of Zurbarán himself, Robbins deftly unveils the occluded mysteries of this supreme master of Spanish piety.’ – David Howarth, Emeritus Professor of Baroque Art, University of Edinburgh

Francisco de Zurbarán, master of Spain’s Golden Age, painted with unmatched stillness and intensity. Famed for his monks, saints and martyrs, he also created mesmerizing still-lives, making fabrics shimmer and fruit glow with quiet presence. This book explores how Zurbarán’s art captures the spiritual inwardness of seventeenth-century Spain, placing him within the mystical and contemplative culture of his time. In Seville’s cosmopolitan art market and in moments of national crisis, his devotional paintings offered visual consolation. Challenging the limits of genre, Zurbarán’s style reveals a distinctive ‘still-life aesthetic’ across his work – deeply meditative, hauntingly beautiful and spiritually attuned. A major reappraisal of a canonical painter, this book situates Zurbarán as one of early modern Europe’s most powerful artists.

Jeremy Robbins is Emeritus Forbes Professor of Hispanic Studies at the University of Edinburgh. His books include *Incomparable Realms: Spain during the Golden Age, 1500–1700* (Reaktion, 2022).



A major re-evaluation of Francisco de Zurbarán, master of Spain’s Golden Age

RENAISSANCE LIVES

March 2026 • Art

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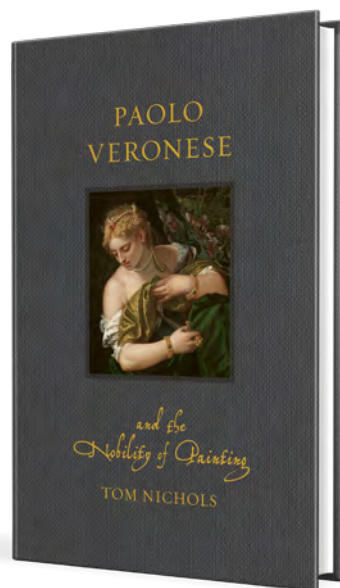
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Paolo Veronese and the Nobility of Painting

Tom Nichols

Paolo Veronese's sumptuous paintings, with their vibrant colours and theatrical elegance, have often been admired for their surface beauty but also questioned for perceived excess and detachment. In this incisive study, Tom Nichols reconsiders Veronese's pictorial language not as superficial display, but as a deliberate visual strategy that resisted the hierarchies and exclusions of sixteenth-century Venetian society. Through detailed analysis of major works, Nichols highlights the painter's striking inclusion of marginal figures – women, servants, people of colour and the poor – within scenes of civic and sacred grandeur. Far from a passive decorator, Veronese emerges as a subtle commentator on power, dignity and the possibilities of art.

Tom Nichols is Reader in History of Art at the University of Glasgow. His previous books include *Titian and the End of the Venetian Renaissance* (2013) and *Giorgione's Ambiguity* (2020), both published by Reaktion.



A reappraisal
of Veronese's
art as politically
charged visual
independence

RENAISSANCE LIVES

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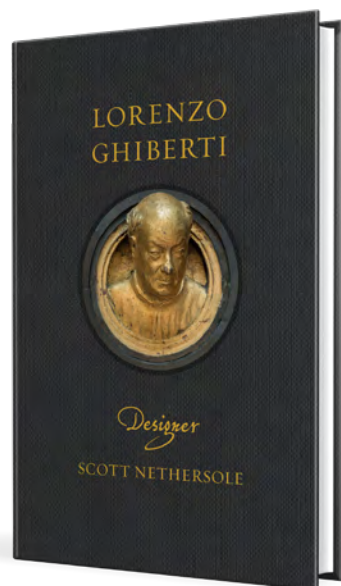
Lorenzo Ghiberti

Designer

Scott Nethersole

Lorenzo Ghiberti was the most celebrated sculptor of his day – praised by Alberti, admired by peers and trusted with Florence’s most prestigious commissions, including the iconic Baptistry doors. Yet his legacy has often been diminished, cast as a decorative hangover from the Gothic era and overshadowed by Donatello’s perceived Renaissance modernity. This book reconsiders Ghiberti’s achievement by focusing on his mastery of materials and design across bronze, glass, marble and drawing. From complex narrative reliefs to architectural ornament, Ghiberti emerges not just as a skilled craftsman, but as an inventive, multidimensional artist who redefined the possibilities of sculptural storytelling. By understanding him on his own terms, we gain a richer picture of early Renaissance invention and its lasting visual impact.

Scott Nethersole is Professor of Art History, 500–1500 CE, at Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. He was previously Reader in Italian Renaissance Art at The Courtauld, London. His books include *Art and Violence in Early Renaissance Florence* (2018).



Repositions
Ghiberti as a
Renaissance
innovator through
his material
and design
brilliance

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The Age of Sinan

Architectural Culture in the Ottoman Empire

Gulr  Necipoğlu

‘The effort that has gone into the research and compilation of this publication is remarkable . . . an essential text for anyone with a serious interest in architecture.’ – *Architectural Review*

‘The most detailed written study ever, of not only Sinan’s architecture, but also, arguably, of Ottoman culture, politics and society in the classical age . . . one of the most remarkable architectural biographies ever written.’ – *Prospect* magazine

Mimar Koca Sinan, appointed chief royal architect by Sultan Suleyman I in 1539, shaped the architectural landscape of the Ottoman Empire with breathtaking ambition and precision. Designing hundreds of structures from mosques to aqueducts, Sinan transformed Istanbul’s skyline and left his mark, extending from the Danube to the Tigris. In this monumental study, Gulr  Necipoğlu reconsiders Sinan’s legacy, showing how his mosque designs emerged through negotiation with powerful patrons rather than pure formal invention. This is a definitive account of an architect who redefined empire through stone and light.

Gulr  Necipoğlu is the Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture and Director of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University.



A monumental,
definitive study of
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Whiskey

A Global History

Kevin R. Kosar

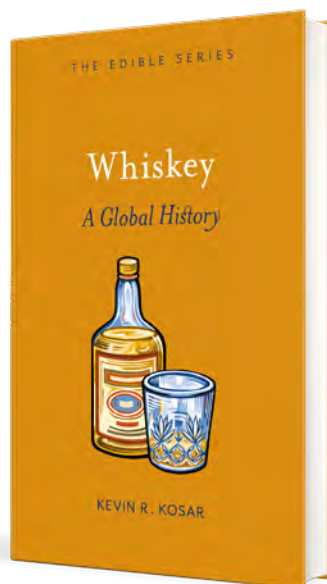
‘The perfect primer for the person who wants to quickly learn the basics . . . [this] book is for more typical folks, many of whom have difficulty sorting out their single-malt Scotches from their bourbons from their Irish whiskeys.’

– *Washington Post*

‘A brief, informative, and endlessly diverting history of whiskey – in its many incarnations.’ – *Weekly Standard*

Whiskey has been praised by poets, condemned by preachers and fought over for centuries. In this concise and lively history, Kevin R. Kosar traces whiskey’s journey from its obscure medieval origins to the globally traded spirit we know today. He explains how distillation travelled from ancient Egypt to the British Isles, why early whiskey was often dangerous to drink and how regulation and craft transformed it into today’s refined styles. From Scotch and Irish whiskey to bourbon, corn and rye, Kosar outlines what makes each type distinct. Complete with recommended brands and classic cocktail recipes, *Whiskey: A Global History* is an engaging read for anyone curious about how this storied drink became a cultural icon worldwide.

Kevin R. Kosar is the founder of AlcoholReviews.com. His writings on alcoholic beverages have appeared in American.com, the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America* (2004) and the *New York Press* and *New York Hangover* newspapers. He lives in Washington, DC.



A spirited,
concise history
of whiskey’s rise
from perilous
brew to icon

EDIBLE

October 2010 • Food & Drink

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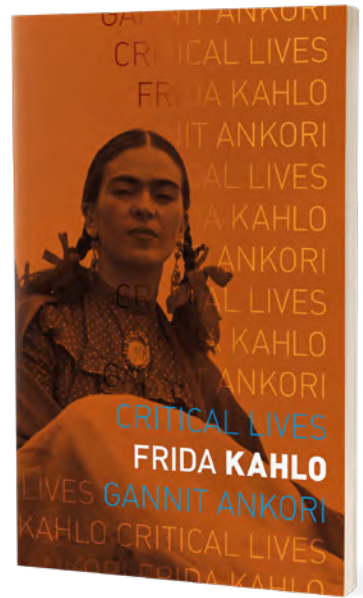
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Frida Kahlo

Gannit Ankori

Frida Kahlo was long seen as Diego Rivera's young wife who 'dabbled in art', but her striking paintings and fearless self-expression eventually brought her fame equal to, if not greater than, Rivera's. In this incisive account, Gannit Ankori traces Kahlo's dramatic life – from her turbulent marriage and political activism to the medical traumas that shaped her – and shows how these experiences fuelled her innovative art. Cutting through the myths of 'Fridamania', Ankori reveals a woman who challenged taboos around gender, identity and the body with a visionary intensity that resonates today. Richly informed by Kahlo's paintings, diaries, letters and photographs, this book offers a nuanced portrait of an artist whose influence continues to shape contemporary culture worldwide.

Gannit Ankori is the Henry and Lois Foster Director and Chief Curator of the Rose Art Museum and Professor of Fine Arts and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University. She is the author of *Imaging Her Selves: Frida Kahlo's Poetics of Identity and Fragmentation* (2002) and *Palestinian Art* (Reaktion, 2006).



An original and
succinct critical
biography of the
life, work and
artistic legacy of
Frida Kahlo

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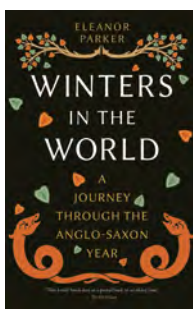
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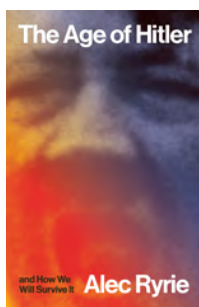
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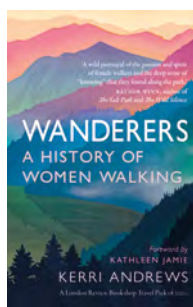
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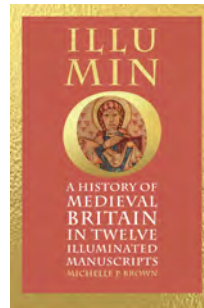
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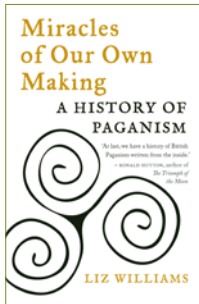
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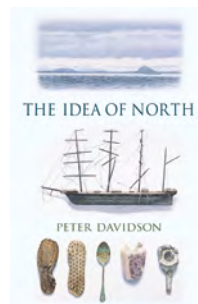
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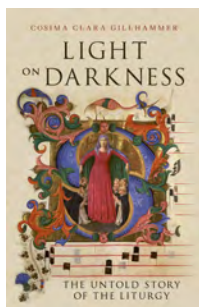
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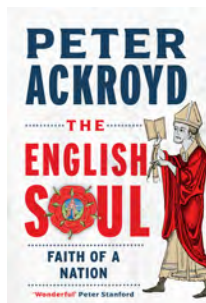
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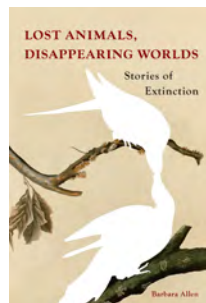
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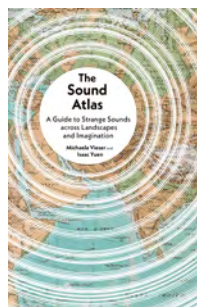
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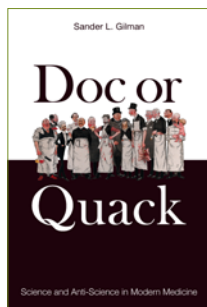
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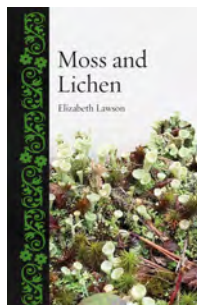
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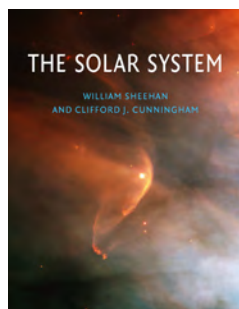
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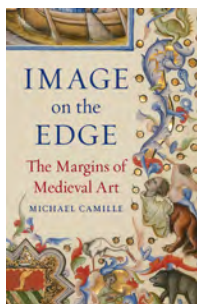


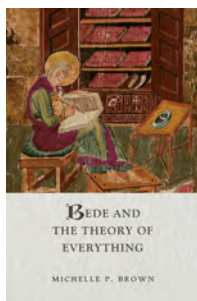
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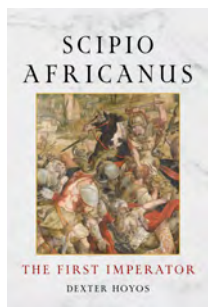
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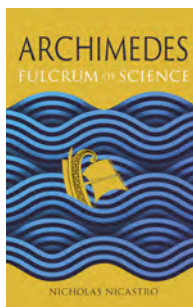
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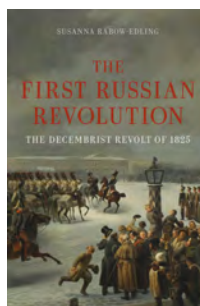
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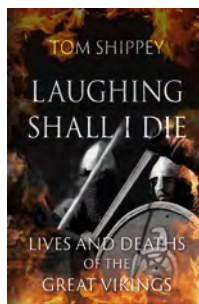
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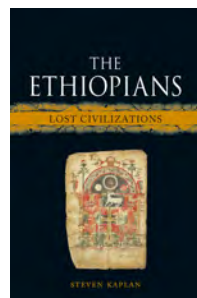
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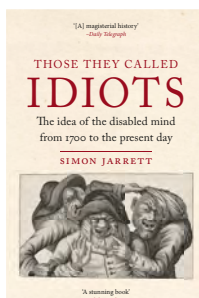
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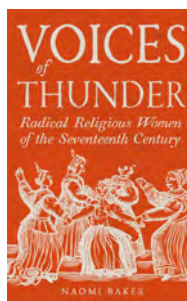
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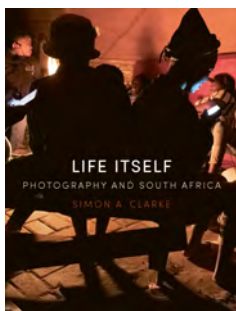
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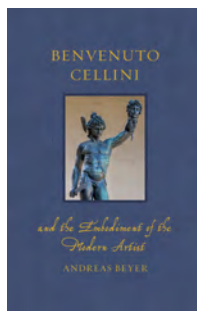
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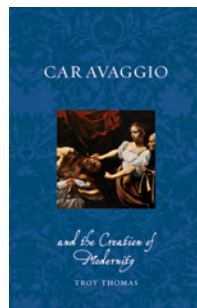
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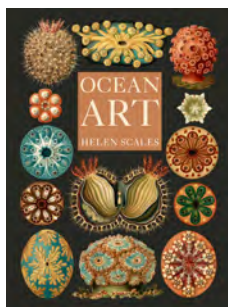
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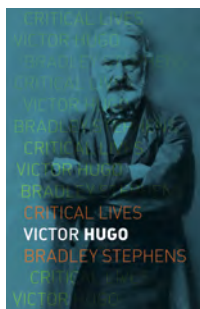
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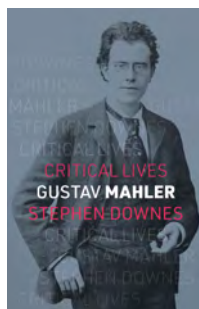


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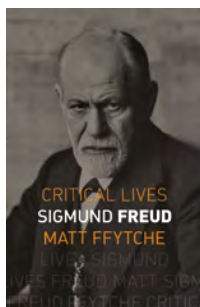


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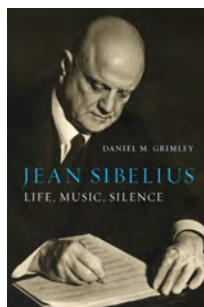


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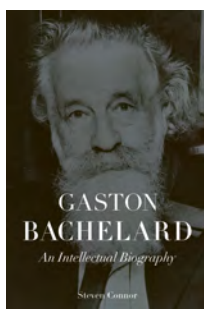


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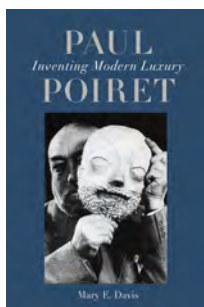


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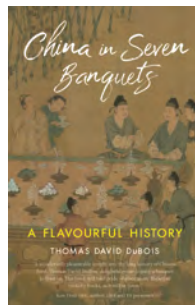
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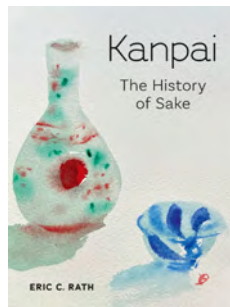
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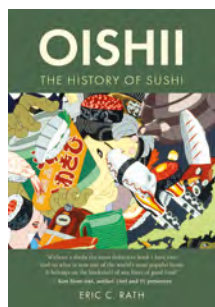
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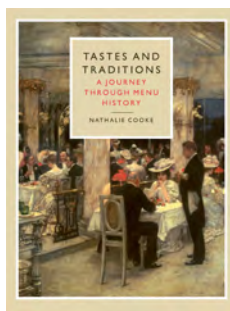
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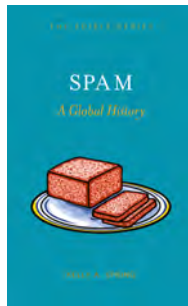
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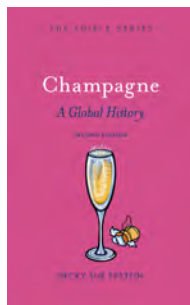
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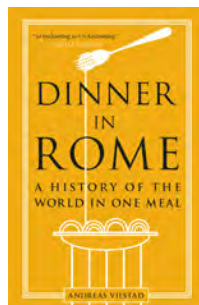
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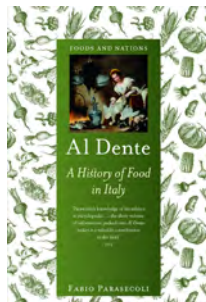
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