Welcome to Reaktion’s Autumn and Winter season of books for 2021.

We are launching with this catalogue a major new series: Medieval Lives, with original and compelling books on the life, works and legacy of Margery Kempe, by Anthony Bale, and Christine de Pizan, by Charlotte Cooper-Davis.

Avian Illuminations by Boria Sax is a superb and richly illustrated overview of our relationship with our much-loved feathered friends since prehistory.

Electric Wizards: A Tapestry of Heavy Music, 1968 to the Present is a fresh, provocative and occasionally mind-bending book on the meaning and makers of the heaviest sounds in popular music.

In Speaking East, Andrew Hussey provides an incisive and unsettling portrait of the avant-garde and post-war culture through the strange and enchanting life of Isidore Isou.

Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen explores the troubled lives of each of Freud’s patients, revealing the often dark reality of their relationships with the founder of psychoanalysis.

Games People Played by Wray Vamplew is a truly global history of sport, covering the origins and impact of everyone’s favourite games.

We are publishing a fully updated new edition of Immunization: How Vaccines Became Controversial, by Stuart Blume, and ‘I Know Who Caused covid-19’, a sharp and well-informed, critical exploration of xenophobia and the pandemic by Zhou Xun and Sander L. Gilman.

There’s plenty to explore in our new season’s books.

David Hayden, Managing Director
Michael R. Leaman, Publisher

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Games People Played
*A Global History of Sport*
Wray Vamplew

‘Wray Vamplew’s book is a tour de force.’ – Gordon Taylor OBE, Chief Executive of the Professional Footballers’ Association

‘If you want to know how cultures differ, overlap, interweave and conflict, study their sports. That’s what Wray Vamplew does, with insight, lucidity, scholarship and sympathy.’
– Felipe Fernández-Armesto, University of Notre Dame

*Games People Played* is, surprisingly, the first global history of sport. It shows how sport has been practised, experienced and made meaningful by players and fans throughout history. Wray Vamplew assesses how sports have developed and diffused across the globe, as well as many other aspects, including emotion, discrimination and conviviality; politics, nationalism and protest; and how economics has turned sport into a huge consumer industry. Sport is sociable, charitable and health-giving, but this book also examines its dark side: its impact on the environment, players’ use of performance-enhancing drugs and the repercussions of match fixing.

Published in the year of the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games, and covering everything from curling to baseball, boxing to motor racing, this book will appeal to anyone who plays, watches and enjoys sport.

Wray Vamplew is Emeritus Professor of Sports History at the University of Stirling and Global Professorial Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. His many books include *How the Game Was Played: Essays in Sports History* (2016) and he was a general editor for the six-volume *Cultural History of Sport* (2021).
Isidore Isou was a young Jew in Bucharest during the Second World War, and barely survived the Romanian Holocaust. He then made his way to Paris, where in 1945 he founded the avant-garde movement Letterism, described as the missing link between Dada, Surrealism, Situationism and May ’68.

In Speaking East Andrew Hussey presents a colourful picture of the post-war Left Bank, where Letterist fists flew in avant-garde punch-ups in jazz clubs and cafés, and Isou, as sexy and charismatic as the young Elvis, gathered around him a group of hooligan disciples who argued, drank and had sex with the Parisian intellectual elite. This is a vibrant account of the life and times of a pivotal figure in the history of modern art.

Andrew Hussey was formerly Dean and Professor at the University of London in Paris. He has written for the New Statesman, The Observer and the New York Times, and his books include Paris: The Secret History (2006), which has been translated into a dozen languages, and The French Intifada (2015), which was Sunday Times Book of the Week. He lives in Paris.

The life and times of Isidore Isou, a pivotal figure in the history of the avant-garde
The Greatest Adventure
A History of Human Space Exploration
Colin Burgess

‘A fresh, crisp, and insightful chronicle. Colin Burgess wings the reader through humankind’s initial, sometimes faltering, journeys into outer space; and our first footprints on another world.’ – Charles D. Walker, first commercial industry astronaut on Space Shuttle missions STS-41D, STS-51D and STS-61B

‘This journey through the thrilling decades of human spaceflight chronicles the highlights of exploration, with all of its triumphs and tragedies . . . an engaging read.’ – Francis French, space historian and co-author (with Colin Burgess) of In the Shadow of the Moon: A Challenging Journey to Tranquility, 1965–1969 (2007)

The space race was perhaps the greatest technological contest of the twentieth century. It was a thrilling era of innovation, discovery and exploration, as astronauts and cosmonauts were launched on space missions of increasing length, complexity and danger.

*The Greatest Adventure* traces the events of this extraordinary period, describing the initial string of Soviet achievements, such as the first satellite in orbit; the first animal, man and woman in space; and the first spacewalk. The book then explores the U.S. victory in the race to land on the Moon, before taking readers on a journey through the following decades to the present time, detailing the many successes, tragedies, risks and rewards of space exploration.

Colin Burgess is author or editor of almost forty books on the military and spaceflight. He lives in Sydney, Australia.

A history of space exploration from the 1960s space race to the present day

KOSMOS

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Who Killed Cock Robin?

British Folk Songs of Crime and Punishment

Stephen Sedley and Martin Carthy

– Willy Russell, playwright and composer, and author of Educating Rita and Blood Brothers

At the heart of traditional song rests the concerns of ordinary people. And folk who throughout the centuries have found themselves entangled with the law. This is an anthology of just such songs, compiled by one of Britain’s most senior judges, Stephen Sedley, and respected folk singers, Martin Carthy.

The songs collected here are drawn from manuscripts, broadsides and oral tradition. Each section contains a historical introduction, and every song is presented with a melody, lyrics and an illuminating commentary. They present a unique, sometimes comic, often tragic and always colourful insight into the past, while preserving an important body of song for future generations.

Stephen Sedley, who compiled the folk-song anthology The Seeds of Love (1967), was appointed a High Court Judge in 1992 and an Appeal Court Judge in 1999. In 2011 he became Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Oxford.

Martin Carthy MBE is a singer and guitarist, and one of Britain’s most influential and highly regarded folk musicians. In 2014 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

A unique, colourful anthology of traditional British folk songs of crime and punishment

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Electric Wizards
A Tapestry of Heavy Music, 1968 to the Present
JR Moores

‘Simultaneously hilarious, provocative and sensitive’
– John Doran, The Quietus, author of Jolly Lad

‘The landscape of heavy music is vast, its existence is ever evolving. There is no better person to explore its dynamic terrain than JR Moores.’ – Matt Baty, Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs

It began with The Beatles’ ‘Helter Skelter’. It was distilled to its dark essence by Black Sabbath. And it has flourished into a vibrant modern underground, epitomized by Newcastle’s Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs. This is the evolution of heavy music, from the lysergic blunt trauma of Blue Cheer to the locked grooves of Funkadelic, the aural frightmares of Faust to the tectonic crush of Sleep, alighting on post-punk, industrial, grunge, stoner rock and numerous other genres along the way.

Electric Wizards extols those who did things differently, who introduced something fresh and exciting into this elemental tradition. In doing so, it weaves an entirely new tapestry of heavy music.

JR Moores is the resident psych-rock columnist for The Quietus and Record Collector, and his work has also appeared in The Wire, The Guardian, Bandcamp Daily and Vice, among many other places.

A riotous, technicolour account of the evolution of heavy music
Avian Illuminations
A Cultural History of Birds
Boria Sax

‘Traces in rich and fascinating detail the cultural relationships between humans and birds through history, philosophy, religion and art.’ – Esther Woolfson, author of Corvus: A Life with Birds (2009)

‘A complex portrait of the symbolic richness of our portrayals of birds throughout history and myth.’
– Ceridwen Dovey, author of Blood Kin (2007)

Avian Illuminations examines the many roles birds play in human societies, from food, messengers, deities and pets, to omens, muses, timekeepers and custodians. They are our hunting companions, decorative motifs and, most importantly, living embodiments of our aspirations. This book narrates the history of our relationships with a host of birds, including crows, owls, parrots, falcons, eagles, nightingales, hummingbirds and many more. Along the way Boria Sax describes how birds’ nesting has symbolized human romance and how their flight has inspired inventors throughout history, highlighting interconnections between birds and humans.

Beautifully illustrated, this is a superb overview of our long and rich association with our avian companions.

Boria Sax teaches at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, New York, and online in the graduate literature programme at Mercy College. He has published many books, including City of Ravens (2012), Imaginary Animals (Reaktion, 2013) and Dinomania (Reaktion, 2019).
‘We are fortunate to have two scholars who expertly weave their way through the infectious and symbolic threats that have roiled us all.’ – George Makari, Director of the DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medicine

This book explores prejudice towards groups who are thought to have caused and spread the COVID-19 virus. Zhou Xun and Sander L. Gilman examine four such cases: the residents of Wuhan and Black African communities in China; Ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities in the USA, Britain and Israel; African Americans and BAME communities; and White right-wing groups in America and Europe.

‘I Know Who Caused COVID-19’ explores stereotyping and the false attribution of blame towards these groups, as well as what happens when a collective is actually at fault, and how the community deals with these conflicting issues. This is a timely, cogent examination of blame and xenophobia.

Zhou Xun is Reader in Modern History at the University of Essex. Her latest book is The People’s Health: Health Intervention and Delivery in Mao’s China, 1949–1983 (2020).

Sander L. Gilman is Distinguished Professor of the Liberal Arts and Sciences and Professor of Psychiatry at Emory University. His most recent book is Stand Up Straight: A History of Posture (Reaktion, 2018).
Immunization

How Vaccines Became Controversial

Stuart Blume

‘A fascinating history of vaccination and its troubles.’
– Times Higher Education

‘Grapples with the hot-button topic of immunization programs and public resistance to them in this persuasive, challenging chronicle of how vaccines improved human health – and the pharmaceutical industry’s bottom line.’
– Publishers Weekly

‘In his thought-provoking book, Stuart Blume carefully explains how exactly vaccines protect the human body, before going on to explore the worrying phenomenon that has come to be dubbed “vaccine hesitancy”.’
– Manjit Kumar, Prospect Magazine

At a time when vaccines are a vital tool in the fight against covid-19 in all its various mutations, this hard-hitting book takes a longer historical perspective. It argues that globalization and cuts to healthcare have been eroding faith in the institutions producing and providing vaccines for more than thirty years. Stuart Blume tells the history of immunization from the work of early pioneers such as Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch to the recent introduction of new kinds of genetically engineered vaccines.

Stuart Blume is Emeritus Professor of Science and Technology Studies at the University of Amsterdam. He has previously worked at the University of Sussex, the London School of Economics and in Whitehall.
Anton Chekhov’s stories and plays endure, far beyond the Russian context, as outstanding modern literary models. In his brief, remarkable life Chekhov rose from provincial roots to become a physician, leading writer and philanthropist, all in the face of a progressive fatal disease. In this new biography Michael C. Finke analyses Chekhov’s major stories, plays and non-fiction within the context of his life, fleshing out key features of Chekhov’s poetics of prose and drama, and revealing the continuities across genres and between his lesser-studied early writings and the later works.

An accessible, comprehensive overview of one of the greatest modern dramatists and writers of short fiction, and suitable for readers new to Chekhov, this book also presents much original scholarship.

Michael C. Finke is Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He is author or editor of many books on nineteenth-century Russian literature, including Seeing Chekhov: Life and Art (2005).
Louis-Ferdinand Céline
*Journeys to the Extreme*
Damian Catani

Louis-Ferdinand Céline was one of the most innovative and powerful novelists of the twentieth century, whose influence both in his native France and beyond remains huge. This book sheds light on his groundbreaking novels, which drew extensively on his complex life: Céline rose from humble beginnings to worldwide literary fame, then dramatically fell from grace only to return, belatedly, to the limelight.

Céline’s subversive writing remains fresh and urgent today, despite his controversial political views and the inflammatory pamphlets that threatened to ruin his reputation. The first English-language biography of Céline in more than two decades, this book explores new material and reminds us why such an author belongs in the pantheon of modern greats.

Damian Catani is Senior Lecturer in French at the Department of Cultures and Languages at Birkbeck, University of London. His most recent book is *Evil: A History in Modern French Literature and Thought* (2013).
Few composers have enjoyed such critical acclaim – or longevity – as Jean Sibelius, who died in 1957 aged 91. Always more than simply a Finnish national figure, an ‘apparition from the woods’ as he ironically described himself, Sibelius’s life spanned turbulent and tumultuous events, and his work is central to the story of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century music.

In this work, Daniel M. Grimley situates Sibelius within a rich interdisciplinary environment, paying attention to his relationship with architecture, literature, politics and the visual arts. Drawing on the latest developments in Sibelius research, this book is intended as an accessible and rewarding introduction for the general reader, and also offers a fresh and provocative interpretation for those more familiar with his music.

Daniel M. Grimley is Professor of Music at the University of Oxford and Douglas Algar Tutorial Fellow at Merton College. His books include Delius and the Sound of Place (2018).
Everyone knows the characters described by Sigmund Freud in his case histories: ‘Dora’, the ‘Rat Man’, the ‘Wolf Man’. But what do we know of the people behind these famous pseudonyms: Ida Bauer, Ernst Lanzer, Sergius Pankejeff? Do we know the circumstances that led them to Freud’s consulting room, or how they fared – how they really fared – following their treatments? And what of those patients about whom Freud wrote nothing, or very little?

Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen offers the stories of these men and women – some comic, many tragic, all of them deeply moving. In total, 38 lives tell us as much about Freud’s clinical practice as his celebrated case studies, revealing a darker and more complex Freud than is usually portrayed: the doctor as his patients, their friends and their families saw him.

Mikkel Borch-Jacobsen is Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Washington, and a leading historian of psychoanalysis and psychiatry. A regular contributor to the London Review of Books, he is the author of some sixteen titles that have been translated into nine languages.
Concrete Poetry
A 21st-century Anthology
Edited by Nancy Perloff

Concrete Poetry is a selective yet wide-ranging anthology of concrete poetry edited by the curator Nancy Perloff. Perloff’s choices exemplify poets whom she believes are especially distinctive and significant, and who represent the real strengths of the movement. She includes works by the little-known Japanese concretists and the Wiener Gruppe – groups that, together with the Brazilian poet Augusto de Campos and the Scottish poet Ian Hamilton Finlay, have engaged with the most subtle possibilities of language itself – while also incorporating key examples from Eugen Gomringer, Dieter Roth, Henri Chopin and others.

This 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 have formerly been dismissed as simple, even trivial, texts. This significant new collection redefines what the concrete poetry movement means today.

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

An Intimate History

Anne Green

‘Absolutely fascinating: a timely foray into the strange world of gloves in all their symbolic and functional glory.’
– Claire Wilcox, Senior Curator of Fashion at the Victoria & Albert Museum and author of Patch Work: A Life Amongst Clothes (2020)

This beautifully illustrated history of gloves draws on examples from across the world to explore their cultural significance. From hand-knitted mittens to exquisitely embroidered confections and Bluetooth-enabled gloves that function like a mobile phone, the extraordinary variety of gloves is a tribute to human ingenuity. So, too, is the diversity of their – often contradictory – cultural associations. Gloves have been linked to honour, status and identity, but also to decadence and deceit. Their powers have extended to marriage, magic and even murder. In this book Anne Green explores gloves as both material objects with their own fascinating history, and fictional creations from folktale, literature and film. That rich heritage lies behind the recent resurgence of gloves as items of high fashion.

Anne Green is Emeritus Professor of French at King’s College London. Her most recent books include Gustave Flaubert (2017) in Reaktion’s Critical Lives series.

A lavishly illustrated history of gloves from around the world

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In the Blink of an Eye
A Cultural History of Spectacles
Stefana Sabin

‘Sabin’s charming history-in-miniature reveals how history, culture, and politics have been shaped over centuries by paired discs of polished glass, and why, every once in a while, they inspire such unease, such contempt, and even, sometimes, fear.’
– Simon Ings, author of The Eye: A Natural History (2007)

This book examines those who wore glasses across history, art and literature, from the green emerald through which Emperor Nero watched gladiator fights to Benjamin Franklin’s homemade bifocals, and from Marilyn Monroe’s cat-eye glasses to Emma Bovary and Harry Potter.

Spectacles are objects that seem commonplace, but this book shows that because they fundamentally changed people’s lives, glasses were the wellspring of a quiet social, cultural and economic revolution. Indeed, one can argue that modernity itself began with the paradigm shift that transformed poor eyesight from a severely limiting disease, treated with pomades and tinctures, into a minor impairment that can be remedied with mechanisms constructed from lenses and wire.

Stefana Sabin has written for the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, edited several anthologies of contemporary prose and published biographies (of Andy Warhol and Gertrude Stein, among others). She lives in Frankfurt, Germany.
Extinct
A Compendium of Obsolete Objects
Edited by Barbara Penner, Adrian Forty, Olivia Horsfall Turner and Miranda Critchley

‘Entertaining, jolting and scholarly.’
– Tristram Hunt, Director of the Victoria & Albert Museum

‘A wonderfully curious book.’
– Mark Miodownik, author of Stuff Matters (2013)

‘A thoughtful and incisive analysis.’
– Alice Rawsthorn, author of Design as an Attitude (2018)

Extinct gathers together the work of an exceptional range of artists, curators, architects, critics and academics, including Hal Foster, Deyan Sudjic, Richard Wentworth, Tacita Dean, David Edgerton, Catherine Slessor, Gillian Darley and Barry Bergdoll.

In 85 essays, contributors nominate ‘extinct’ objects and address them in a series of short, vivid, sometimes personal essays, speaking of not only obsolete technologies, but other ways of thinking, making and interacting with the world. Extinct is filled with curious, half-remembered objects, each one evoking a future that never came to pass. It is a visual treat, full of interest and delight.

Barbara Penner is Professor in Architectural Humanities at the Bartlett School of Architecture, ucl. Adrian Forty is Professor Emeritus of Architectural History at the Bartlett School of Architecture, ucl. Olivia Horsfall Turner is Senior Curator of Designs at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Miranda Critchley is completing her PhD on railways and colonial narratives of progress at the Bartlett School of Architecture, ucl.
A Sweet View
*The Making of an English Idyll*
Malcolm Andrews

A *Sweet View* explores how writers and artists in the nineteenth century shaped the English countryside as a partly imaginary idyll, with its distinctive repertoire of idealized scenery: the village green, the old country churchyard, hedgerows and cottages, scenic variety concentrated into a small compass, snugness and comfort.

The book draws on a wide range of contemporary sources, and features some of the key makers of the ‘South Country’ rural idyll, including Samuel Palmer, Myles Birket Foster and Richard Jefferies. The legacy of the idyll still influences popular perceptions of the essential character of a certain kind of English landscape – indeed, for Henry James that imagery constituted ‘the very essence of England’ itself. The countryside idyll forged over a century ago is still with us today.

Malcolm Andrews is Emeritus Professor of Victorian and Visual Studies at the University of Kent, and was for thirty years the editor of *The Dickensian*. He is the author of many books, including *Landscape and Western Art* (1999).
Postcards
The Rise and Fall of the World’s First Social Network
Lydia Pyne


‘Fast paced and delightful, Postcards is chock-full of both heart and information.’ – Jennifer Croft, author of Homesick (2019) and translator of Flights (2018)

Postcards are usually associated with banal holiday pleasantries, but they have been made possible by sophisticated industries and institutions, from printers to postal services. Historically, postcards’ innovation and significance lay in their ability to send and receive messages around the world easily and inexpensively. Fundamentally, postcards are about creating personal connections: links between people, places and beliefs.

In this book Lydia Pyne examines postcards on a global scale, to understand them as artefacts that are at the intersection of history, science, technology, art and culture. In doing so, she shows us that postcards were the first global social network, and how here, in the twenty-first century, postcards are not yet extinct.

Lydia Pyne is a writer and historian based in Austin, Texas. Her previous books include Genuine Fakes (2019), Seven Skeletons (2016) and Bookshelf (2016).
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.

Monsters helped to distinguish the sacred and the profane. Learning about where these creatures lived and how they behaved allowed the Anglo-Saxons to situate themselves in the world, as well as to apprehend 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 his doctorate from Magdalen College, University of Oxford, in 2016. His writing has appeared in *History Today* and *BBC History Magazine*, among many other publications. *Basilisks and Beowulf* is his first book.
Eaters of the Dead

Myths and Realities
of Cannibal Monsters

Kevin J. Wetmore Jr

Every culture has monsters that eat us, and every culture recoils in horror when we eat ourselves. From Grendel to Sawney Bean, and from the Ghuls of ancient Persia to The Texas Chain Saw Massacre, our fear of being consumed is universal.

Kevin J. Wetmore Jr explores monsters that eat the dead: ghouls, cannibals, wendigos and other beings that feast on human flesh. Moving from myth and history to contemporary popular culture, this book examines those who consume corpses and what they tell us about ourselves and our fears, considering ancient Greek myths of feeding humans to the gods, sky burial in Tibet and Zoroastrianism, and actual cases of cannibalism in modern societies.

Kevin J. Wetmore Jr is a professor at Loyola Marymount University. He is the author and Bram Stoker Award-nominated editor of many books, including Post-9/11 Horror in American Cinema (2012) and Uncovering Stranger Things (2018). He lives in Los Angeles.
Tales of the Earth
Native North American Creation Mythology
David Leeming

Tales of the Earth is a comprehensive yet concise overview of Native American mythologies. After outlining theories of the origins of Native North Americans, David Leeming considers the creation myths of many tribes, emphasizing four commonly occurring figures: the Great Spirit, the trickster, the goddess and the hero. Leeming suggests that, in addition to these figures, Native American mythologies have in common a deep reverence for the earth, and for community responsibility as opposed to individualism – tenets that stand in stark contrast to the concepts of exceptionalism and Manifest Destiny that characterize the United States, a nation built on ancient tribal land.

David Leeming is Emeritus Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. He is the author of many books, including the Oxford Companion to World Mythology (2005).
From classical myth to modern literature, film and music, the god Pan has fascinated and terrified the Western imagination. ‘Panic’ is the name given to the peculiar feeling we experience in his presence.

Part-goat, part-man, Pan bridges the divide between the human and animal worlds. In exquisite prose, Paul Robichaud explores how he has been imagined through the centuries. At times, Pan is a dangerous, destabilizing force; at others, he is a source of fertility and renewal. Always the outsider, he has been the god of choice for gay writers and New Age mystics, and he has lived on through the work of Kenneth Grahame, D. H. Lawrence and countless others. *Pan: The Great God’s Modern Return* traces his intoxicating dance.

Paul Robichaud is Professor and Chair of English at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut. He is the author of *Making the Past Present: David Jones, the Middle Ages, and Modernism* (2007), and his poems have appeared in various magazines, including *Agenda* and the *Hudson Review*. 
The Fires of Lust

Sex in the Middle Ages

Katherine Harvey

The Fires of Lust is a comprehensive account of the private lives of our ancestors, full of fascinating insights, startling differences and reassuring, if unsurprising, similarities.

Medieval medicine suggested that it was possible to die from having too much – or too little – sex, while the Church taught that virginity was the ideal state. Rules abounded about who could have sex with whom, in what way, how often and even when. Like us, medieval people faced challenges in finding a suitable partner or trying to get pregnant (or trying not to). Above all, they shared our fondness for dirty jokes and erotic images. By exploring their sex lives, this compelling book brings ordinary medieval people to life, revealing their most personal thoughts and experiences and providing an intimate connection to the past.

Katherine Harvey is an Honorary Research Fellow at Birkbeck, University of London, and has published widely on medieval topics.
Most Unimaginably Strange
An Eclectic Companion
to the Landscape of Iceland
Chris Caseldine

Described by William Morris as ‘most unimaginably strange’, the landscape of Iceland has fascinated and inspired travellers, scientists, artists and writers throughout history. This book provides a contemporary understanding of the landscape as a whole: not only its iconic glaciers and volcanoes, but its deserts, canyons, plants and animals.

Chris Caseldine examines historic and modern scientific studies of the landscape and animals, as well as accounts of early visitors to the land. These were fascinating people – some eccentric, but most drawn to Iceland by a fascination with all things northern, a desire to experience the land of the sagas, or plain scientific and touristic curiosity. Featuring many spectacular illustrations, this book is a fine exploration of a most singular landscape.

Chris Caseldine is Emeritus Professor of Quaternary Environmental Change at the University of Exeter. He collaborated with the poet Alyson Hallett on Six Days in Iceland (2012).
Taste
A Philosophy of Food
Sarah E. Worth

‘This engaging book . . . invites rumination on the familiar saying, “We are what we eat.”’ – Carolyn Korsmeyer, author of Making Sense of Taste (2002) and Savouring Disgust (2011)

When we eat, we eat the world: taking something from outside and making it part of us. But what does it taste of? And can we develop our taste? In Taste, Sarah E. Worth argues that taste is a sense that needs educating, for the real pleasures of eating come only with an understanding of what one really likes. From taste as an abstract concept to real examples of food, she explores how we can learn about and develop our sense of taste through themes ranging from pleasure, authenticity and food fraud, to visual images, recipes and food writing.

Sarah E. Worth is Professor of Philosophy at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, and the author of In Defense of Reading (2017).
German philosophy, famed for its high-minded Idealism, was plunged into crisis when Germany became an urban and industrial society in the late nineteenth century. The key figure was Immanuel Kant: seen for a century as the philosophical father of the nation, Kant seemed to lack crucial answers in violent and impersonal modern times.

This book shows that the social and intellectual crisis that overturned Germany’s traditions – a sense of profound spiritual confusion over where modern society was headed – was the same one that allowed Hitler to come to power. It also describes how German philosophers actively struggled to create a new kind of philosophy, in order to understand social incoherence and technology’s diminishing of the individual.
Blood, Sweat and Earth

*The Struggle for Control over the World’s Diamonds Throughout History*

Tijl Vanneste

*Blood, Sweat and Earth* is a hard-hitting historical exposé of the diamond industry, focusing on the exploitation of workers and the environment, the monopolization of uncut diamonds, and how little this has changed over time. Tijl Vanneste describes the use of forced labour and political oppression by Indian sultans, Portuguese colonizers in Brazil and Western industrialists in many parts of Africa, as well as the hoarding of diamonds to maintain high prices, from the English East India Company to De Beers.

While recent discoveries of diamond deposits in Siberia, Canada and Australia have brought an end to monopolization, the book shows that, despite advances in the production of synthetic diamonds, we have yet to eradicate the exploitation caused by the world’s unquenchable thirst for sparkle.

Tijl Vanneste is a researcher at the Portuguese Institute of International Relations (IPRI) at the Universidade NOVA de Lisboa. He is the author of *Global Trade and Commercial Networks: Eighteenth-century Diamond Merchants* (2011).
Policing the Big Apple
The Story of the NYPD
Jules Stewart

Foreword by Charles Campisi

‘An intriguing history replete with colorful characters and surprising facts.’ – Jeffrey Kroessler, professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

The NYPD is America’s largest and most celebrated law enforcement agency. This book examines the history of policing in New York City, from colonial days and the formation of the NYPD at the turn of the twentieth century, through 1930s battles with the Mafia to the Zero Tolerance of the 1990s. Jules Stewart explores political influence, corruption, reform and community relations through stories of the NYPD’s commissioners and the visions they had for the force and the city, as well as at the level of cops on the beat.

This book is an indispensable chronicle for anyone interested in policing and the history of New York City.

In this new biography, the first written for a general audience, Charlotte Cooper-Davis discusses the life and work of pioneering female thinker and writer Christine de Pizan. In the face of personal tragedy Christine learned the tools of the book trade, writing more than forty works, including poetry, historical and political treatises, and defences of women.

Cooper-Davis shows how Christine’s inspiration came from the world around her in the heart of late medieval Paris, and examines her influence on the most avant-garde of feminist artists, through which she is slowly making a return into mainstream popular culture. The daughter of a court intellectual, here Christine is situated as an entrepreneur within the context of her times and place.

Charlotte Cooper-Davis is a lecturer in French at the University of Oxford. She is the author of *Christine de Pizan: Empowering Women in Text and Image* (2019) and lives in Cambridgeshire.
Margery Kempe
A Mixed Life
Anthony Bale

This is a new account of the medieval mystic and pilgrim Margery Kempe, whose unique autobiographical manuscript was only rediscovered in the 1930s. Kempe, who had fourteen children, travelled all over Europe and recorded a series of unusual events and religious visions in her work *The Book of Margery Kempe* – a piece of writing often described as the first autobiography in the English language. Anthony Bale charts her life, telling her story through the places, relationships, objects and experiences that influenced her. Extensive quotation from Kempe’s *Book*, and generous illustration, gives fascinating insight into the life of a medieval woman. In this book, Margery Kempe is situated within the religious controversies of her time, and her religious visions and later years are put into context.

Anthony Bale is Professor of Medieval Studies at Birkbeck, University of London. He has published many articles and books on medieval literature and culture, including a translation of *The Book of Margery Kempe* (2016).
This is a global history of hummus bi-tahina, the delicious combination of chickpeas, tahini, lemon and garlic that we know and love as hummus. The story begins in the medieval kitchens of the Near and Middle East and culminates with hummus’s rise in popularity in the Western world at the end of the twentieth century. This book also addresses the international controversy over ownership of the dish, and illustrates the extent to which hummus has been embraced by Western food culture today. Although other Mediterranean dishes have become popular in the West, none compares to hummus, which can be found in any supermarket and in a vast number of eating establishments. Hummus has become a global phenomenon, and our very favourite dip.

Harriet Nussbaum has written widely on food culture in the ancient world. She lives in Bristol.
Edible Insects
A Global History
Gina Louise Hunter

An estimated 2 billion people worldwide regularly consume insects, yet bugs are rarely eaten in the West. Why are some disgusted at the thought of eating insects while others find them delicious?

*Edible Insects: A Global History* provides a broad introduction to the role of insects as human food, from our prehistoric past to current food trends. On the menu are beetles, butterflies, grasshoppers and grubs of many kinds, with stories that highlight traditional methods of insect collection, preparation, consumption and preservation. We encounter the culinary uses of creepy-crawlies across many cultures, and learn of the potential of insects to alleviate global food shortages and natural resource overexploitation, as well as the role of world-class chefs in making insects palatable to consumers in the West.

Gina Louise Hunter is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Illinois State University.

A broad introduction to the role of insects as human food
'A sweeping history of soft drinks . . . [that includes] coverage of patent medicines, the science of fizz, the politics and worldwide spread of Coke and Pepsi, and the wide range of ingredients, drugs, and sweeteners that have gone into these drinks.'
– Mark Pendergrast, author of For God, Country and Coca-Cola

More than eighty years before the invention of Coca-Cola, sweet carbonated drinks became popular around the world, provoking remarkably similar arguments to the ones made today. Are they medicinally, morally, culturally or nutritionally good or bad? They have been loved (and hated) for being cold or sweet or fizzy or stimulating. Many of their flavours are international – lemon and ginger were more popular than cola until about 1920. Some are local: tarragon in Russia, cucumber in New York, red bean in Japan and chinotto (exceedingly bitter orange) in Italy.

This book looks at how something made from water, sugar and soda became big business, but also how it became deeply important to people; fizzy drinks’ symbolic meanings are far more complex than the water, gas and sugar from which they are made.

'With grace and vision, Roberts lets us hear the music and mystery of nightingales sounding across centuries and cultures . . . Deeply researched, lyrical, elegiac, rich with hope and vitality, this is a book for our times.’ – Alexandra Harris, Professorial Fellow in English at the University of Birmingham and author of *Romantic Moderns*

The nightingale has a unique place in cultural history: the most prized of songbirds, it has inspired more poems than any other creature, and is also the most mythologized of birds. *Nightingale* juxtaposes the bird of poetry, music, myth and lore with the living bird of wood and scrubland, unpicking the entangled relationship between them. Covering a huge range of poets, musicians, artists, nature writers and natural historians, from Aristotle, Keats and Vera Lynn to Bob Dylan, *Nightingale* charts our fascination through history with this nondescript yet melodious little brown bird. It also documents the nightingale’s disappearance from British breeding grounds, and the implications this has for its conservation.

Bethan Roberts is the William Noble Postdoctoral Research Associate in English at the University of Liverpool. She is the author of *Charlotte Smith and the Sonnet: Form, Place and Tradition in the Late Eighteenth Century* (2019).
A lucid account of one of the twentieth century’s most provocative intellectuals

This new biography charts the different phases of Aldous Huxley’s career: from the early satirist to the committed pacifist of the 1930s, the spiritual seeker of the 1940s, the psychedelic sage of the 1950s and on to the New Age prophet of his later years. While Huxley is best known as the author of *Brave New World*, in this rich, lucid account Jake Poller argues that it is *The Perennial Philosophy*, *The Doors of Perception* and *Island* – Huxley’s blueprint for a utopian society – that have had the most impact on the culture at large.

Jake Poller teaches in the English department at Queen Mary University of London. He is the author of *Aldous Huxley and Alternative Spirituality* (2019), and the editor of *Altered Consciousness in the Twentieth Century* (2019).
Charles Darwin
J. David Archibald

‘A powerful and authoritative guide to the complex and often misrepresented life and work of Charles Darwin. J. David Archibald has mastered the sources and takes his readers on an extraordinary journey.’ – John van Wyhe, historian of science and Director of Darwin Online

In 1859 Charles Darwin published On the Origin of Species, and with this bedrock of biology books he carved a new origin story for all life: evolution rather than creation.

In this new biography, J. David Archibald describes and analyses Darwin’s prodigious body of work and complex relationships with colleagues, as well as his equally productive home life (he lived with his wife and seven surviving children in the bustling environs of Down House in Kent, just south of London). There among his family and friends Darwin continued to experiment and write many more books, on subjects ranging from orchids and sex to emotions and earthworms, until his death in 1882, when he was honoured with burial at Westminster Abbey. This is a fresh, up-to-date account of the life and work of a most remarkable man.

J. David Archibald served on the faculty of Yale University and is Emeritus Professor of Biology at San Diego State University. He is the author or co-editor of many books, including Charles Darwin: A Reference Guide to His Life and Works (2018).
The Sea
Nature and Culture
Richard Hamblyn

‘A whirlwind tour of the world’s seas and oceans . . .
What makes The Sea rare is Richard Hamblyn’s intellectual agility, his capacity to write freshly (and with extraordinary economy) about everything he touches on. He holds my interest and admiration throughout this gorgeously illustrated book.’ – Jonathan Raban, author of Passage to Juneau: A Sea and Its Meanings (1999) and editor of The Oxford Book of the Sea (1993)

This book explores the sea and its meanings from ancient myths to contemporary geopolitics, from Atlantis to the Mediterranean migrant crisis. Richard Hamblyn traces a cultural and geographical journey from estuary to abyss, beginning with the topographies of the shoreline and ending with the likely futures of our maritime environments. Along the way, the sea becomes a site of work and endurance, of story and song, of language, leisure and longing. By considering the sea as both a physical and a cultural presence, this book shines new light upon it, and its indelible place in the human imagination.

Richard Hamblyn is a lecturer in the department of English, Theatre and Creative Writing at Birkbeck, University of London. An award-winning environmental writer and historian, his previous books include Clouds: Nature and Culture (Reaktion, 2017).
The Phoenicians is a fascinating exploration of this much-mythologized people: their history, their artistic heritage and the scope of their maritime and colonizing activities in the Mediterranean.

Vadim S. Jigoulov describes and analyses various artefacts (epigraphic, numismatic and material remains) and considers how historians have derived information about a people with little surviving literature. This includes a critical look at classical, Near Eastern and biblical primary texts, the relationship between the Phoenician and Punic worlds, Phoenician interactions with the Greeks and others, and the repurposing of Phoenician heritage in modernity. Detailed and engrossing, this book casts new light on this most enigmatic of civilizations.

Vadim S. Jigoulov is a lecturer at Morgan State University and the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. His books include The Social History of Achaemenid Phoenicia: Being a Phoenician, Negotiating Empires (2014).
Erasmus of Rotterdam

The Spirit of a Scholar

William Barker

‘This book is a gem. It follows Erasmus, the great Renaissance humanist, through a life full of travel, comity, controversy, and scholarship. Barker offers expert distillations of Erasmus’s wide-ranging works and a judicious selection of examples, references, and images.’ – Ann Blair, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor, Harvard University

Erasmus of Rotterdam came from an obscure background, yet through remarkable perseverance and skill, and an independent vision, he became a powerful and controversial intellectual figure in Europe in the early sixteenth century. He was known for his vigorous opposition to war, intolerance and hypocrisy, and for a sense of irony and subtlety that could confuse his friends and opponents alike. His ideas about language, society, scholarship and religion influenced the rise of the Reformation, and his impact on the humanities continues to this day.

Erasmus of Rotterdam is the first English-language popular biography on the scholar in twenty years, and draws upon the immense amount of recent scholarship devoted to Erasmus.

William Barker is Inglis Professor and former President of the University of King’s College, and Emeritus Professor of English at Dalhousie University, both in Nova Scotia. He has edited a selection of Erasmus’s Adages and has co-edited the introductory volume of the Adages for the Toronto Collected Works of Erasmus.
Botticelli

Artist and Designer

Ana Debenedetti

‘The great merit of this book is to re-contextualize Botticelli’s personality and oeuvre in his social and cultural milieu in a lively and captivating narrative, providing the reader with a detailed account of the latest scholarship on the subject with ease and clarity.’ – Alessandro Cecchi, Director of the Casa Buonarroti Foundation and author of Botticelli (2005)

In this vivid account Ana Debenedetti examines the life and work of the Renaissance artist Sandro Botticelli, through the lens of the organization of his workshop in Florence and the commercial strategies he devised to make his way in the competitive Italian art markets of the late fifteenth century. Debenedetti looks at the remarkable career of this pivotal artist with fresh eyes, presenting the analysis within the wider context of Florentine society and culture. Many of Botticelli’s most celebrated works, such as the Birth of Venus, are evaluated alongside his less familiar tapestries and embroidery, showing the wide breadth of the artist’s oeuvre and his talent as a designer across media.

Ana Debenedetti is Director of Culture and Exhibition, Culturespaces, Paris, and former Curator of Paintings at the Victoria & Albert Museum. She has published on Renaissance art, philosophy and poetry.

A vivid account of the life and work of Renaissance artist Sandro Botticelli
Crime Dot Com
*From Viruses to Vote Rigging, How Hacking Went Global*
Geoff White

From the writer and narrator of the BBC podcast *The Lazarus Heist*

‘Brilliantly researched and written’ – Jon Snow, Channel 4 News

‘An informative, accessible and entertaining tour of the cyber underworld.’ – Rory Cellan-Jones, BBC News

On 4 May 2000, an email that read ‘kindly check the attached loveletter’ was sent from the Philippines. Attached was a virus, the Love Bug, and within days it had paralysed banks, broadcasters and businesses across the globe. The age of Crime Dot Com had begun.

Geoff White charts the astonishing development of hacking, from its birth among the ruins of the Eastern Bloc to its coming of age as the most pervasive threat to our digital world. He takes us inside the workings of real-life cybercrimes, revealing how the tactics of high-tech crooks are now being harnessed by nation states. From Ashley Madison to election rigging, *Crime Dot Com* is a thrilling account of hacking, past and present, and of what the future might hold.

Geoff White is an investigative journalist and one of the UK’s leading technology correspondents. His work has featured in numerous outlets, including the BBC and Channel 4 News.
Wanderers
A History of Women Walking
Kerri Andrews

‘A wild portrayal of the passion and spirit of female walkers and the deep sense of “knowing” that they found along the path.’
– Raynor Winn, author of The Salt Path and The Wild Silence

‘It still feels somehow radical to talk about women ramblers and flâneuses; the sensitive, well-researched portraits in Wanderers rightly begin to redress the balance.’ – The Idler

This is a book about ten women over the past three hundred years who have found walking essential to their sense of themselves, as people and as writers. Wanderers traces their footsteps, from eighteenth-century parson’s daughter Elizabeth Carter – who desired nothing more than to be taken for a vagabond in the wilds of southern England – to modern walker-writers such as Nan Shepherd and Cheryl Strayed. For each, walking was integral, whether it was rambling for miles across the Highlands, like Sarah Stoddart Hazlitt, or pacing novels into being, as Virginia Woolf did around Bloomsbury.

Offering a beguiling view of the history of walking, Wanderers guides us through the different ways of seeing – of being – articulated by these ten pathfinding women.

Kerri Andrews is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at Edge Hill University. She has published widely on women’s writing, and is the General Editor of Nan Shepherd’s letters. Kerri is also a keen hill-walker and member of Mountaineering Scotland.
The Suit
Form, Function and Style
Christopher Breward

‘A decisively uncluttered history of menswear.’ – Financial Times

‘A rich, deep and satisfying study.’ – World of Interiors

‘Expertly shows how the adoption of the suit was a manifestation of societal change’ – Wall Street Journal

‘A compendious account of the evolution of the suit . . . with a sharp, laconic intelligence.’ – Times Literary Supplement

Suit-wearing figures have long embodied ideas of tradition, masculinity, power and respectability, but the suit has also been used to disrupt concepts of gender and conformity. Adopted and subverted through the decades – from dandies to Sapeurs, artists and musicians, from the Zoot Suit to Le Smoking – the suit is also a device for challenging the status quo. Beautifully illustrated, this book unpicks the story of this most familiar garment.

Christopher Breward is Director of National Museums Scotland.

Offers new perspectives on this most mundane, and yet poetic and beautiful, garment.
Miracles of Our Own Making
A History of Paganism
Liz Williams

‘An inventive, authoritative and lively history of paganism and magic, with a practical twist.’ – BBC History Magazine

‘At last, we have a history of British paganism written from the inside, by someone who not only has a good knowledge of the sources, but explicitly understands how pagans and magicians think.’ – Ronald Hutton, author of The Witch

Miracles of Our Own Making is a historical overview of magic in the British Isles, from the ancient peoples of Britain to the rich and cosmopolitan landscape of contemporary paganism. We explore the beliefs of the Druids, the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, the alchemy of the Elizabethan court and the witch trials. We encounter grimoires, ceremonial magic and the Romantic revival of arcane deities. The influential and well-known – the Golden Dawn, Wicca and figures such as Aleister Crowley – are considered alongside the everyday ‘cunning folk’ who formed the magical fabric of previous centuries.

Ranging widely across literature, art, science and beyond, Liz Williams debunks many of the prevailing myths surrounding magical practice, past and present, while offering a rigorously researched and highly accessible account of what it means to be a pagan today.

Liz Williams holds a PhD in the History and Philosophy of Science from the University of Cambridge and is a widely published writer and journalist. She lives in Glastonbury, where she co-owns a witchcraft shop, and where she also lectures in creative writing.
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