Welcome to the spring programme of Reaktion Books for 2021. Here are a few highlights.

Richard H. Thomas’s *Cricketing Lives* is a history of this beloved sport that will delight readers old and young.

Matthew J. Shaw’s *An Inky Business* is a superb survey of two hundred years of newspaper history, while Pat Rogers’s *The Poet and the Publisher* tells the story of the vitriolic quarrel between poet Alexander Pope and the publisher Edmund Curll in eighteenth-century London.

*Nature Fast and Nature Slow* is Nicholas P. Money’s fascinating overview of the entire timescale of the universe, from the most momentary to the infinite, and a classic piece of popular science writing. A new book on twins by William Viney is a story of superstitions and marvels, fantasy and science, and a superbly engaging social and personal history.

Sushi is much-loved throughout the world. In *Oishii* Eric C. Rath explores its fascinating history from early fermented foodstuff to global consumable. Randy Malamud’s *Strange Bright Blooms* is an unpredictable ramble through the world of flowers, encompassing paintings, fashion, weaponized flowers and much more.

The gun is a decisive technology in the shaping of the history of the world. Andrew Nahum’s *Paths of Fire: The Gun and the World It Made* tells the story of the science behind its creation and evolution. *Tibet: A History Between Dream and Nation-state* by P. Christiaan Klieger will be essential reading for anyone interested in Tibet’s rich past, complicated present and uncertain future.

Michael R. Leaman, Publisher
David Hayden, Managing Director

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Cricketing Lives
*A Characterful History from Pitch to Page*
Richard H. Thomas

Cricket is defined by the characters who have played it, watched it, reported it, ruled upon it, ruined it and rejoiced in it. Humorous and deeply affectionate, *Cricketing Lives* tells the story of the world’s greatest and most incomprehensible game through those who have shaped it, from the rustic contests of eighteenth-century England to the spectacle of the Indian Premier League. It’s about W. G. Grace and his eye to his wallet; the invincible Viv Richards; and Sarah Taylor, ‘the best wicketkeeper in the world – male or female’. Paying homage, too, to the game’s great writers, Richard H. Thomas steers a course through the despair of war, tactical controversies and internecine politics, to reveal how cricket has always stormed back to warm our hearts like nothing else can.

Richard H. Thomas is Senior Lecturer in Journalism at Swansea University. He has written about cricket for *All Out Cricket, Wisden Cricket Monthly, The Conversation* and *The Nightwatchman*.
An Inky Business
A History of Newspapers from the English Civil Wars to the American Civil War
Matthew J. Shaw

‘An Inky Business is a vivid and incisive account of the origins of newspapers and their extraordinary role in the transformation of society over 200 years. With the very concept of news under threat, this book could not be more timely.’ – Paul Lay, editor of History Today and author of Providence Lost: The Rise and Fall of Cromwell’s Protectorate (2020)

An Inky Business is a history of ink, paper, printing press and type. It is the story of those who made and read newspapers in Britain, continental Europe and America from the British Civil Wars to the Battle of Gettysburg nearly two hundred years later. It is an account of what news was and how the idea of news became central to public life, as well as how newspapers ranged from purveyors of high seriousness to carriers of scurrilous gossip.

Our current obsession with ‘fake news’ – the worrying revelations or hints about how money, power and technology control what is believed to be genuine information – has dark echoes of the early modern era.

Matthew J. Shaw is Librarian of the Queen’s College, Oxford, and formerly the lead curator of the Americas Collections at the British Library. He is the author of Time and the French Revolution: The Republican Calendar, 1789–Year xiv (2012).
The quarrel between the poet Alexander Pope and the publisher Edmund Curll has long been a notorious episode in the history of the book, when two remarkable figures with a gift for comedy and an immoderate dislike of each other clashed publicly and without restraint. However, their dispute has never, until now, been chronicled in full. Ripe with the sights and smells of Hanoverian London, *The Poet and the Publisher* details the pair’s vitriolic exchanges, drawing on previously unearthed pamphlets, newspaper articles and advertisements, court and government records, and personal letters. The story of their battles in and out of print includes a poisoning, the pillory, fraud and a landmark case in the history of copyright. This indecently entertaining book is a forensic account of events both momentous and farcical.

Pat Rogers is Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Liberal Arts at the University of South Florida and an acknowledged authority on Pope. A prolific author and editor, his books include *Edmund Curll, Bookseller*, with Paul Baines (2007), *A Political Biography of Alexander Pope* (2010), and the Oxford World’s Classics editions of Pope’s works.
Nature Fast and Nature Slow
How Life Works, from Fractions of a Second to Billions of Years
Nicholas P. Money

This book is a vision of biology set within the timescale of the universe. It is about the timing of life, from microsecond movements to evolutionary changes over millions of years. Human consciousness is riveted to seconds, but a split-second time delay in perception means that we are unaware of anything until it has already happened. We live in the very recent past. Hearts beat every second. Over longer timescales, this book examines the lifespans of the oldest organisms, prospects for human life extension, the evolution of whales and turtles, and the explosive beginning of life 4 billion years ago. With its poetry, social commentary and humour, this book will appeal to everyone interested in the natural world.

Nicholas P. Money is Professor of Biology and Western Program Director at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He is the author of popular science books on fungi and other microorganisms, including The Amoeba in the Room: Lives of the Microbes (2014), Mushrooms: A Natural and Cultural History (Reaktion, 2017) and The Selfish Ape: Human Nature and Our Path to Extinction (Reaktion, 2019).
Human twins have many meanings and different histories. They have been seen as gods and monsters, signs of danger, death and sexual deviance. They are taken as objects of wonder and violent repression, or as the subjects of scientific experiment. Now millions have been born through fertility technologies. Their history is often buried in philosophies and medical theories, religious and scientific practices, and countless stories of devotion and tragedy.

In this history of superstitions and marvels, fantasies and experiments, William Viney – himself a twin – shows how the use and abuse of twins has helped to shape the world in which we live.

William Viney is a researcher in the Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths, University of London. His writing has appeared in Cabinet, Critical Quarterly, Frieze, and the Times Literary Supplement. He is the author of Waste: A Philosophy of Things (2014).
Strange Bright Blooms
A History of Cut Flowers
Randy Malamud

Virginia Woolf’s novel famously begins: ‘Mrs Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself.’ Of course she would – why would anyone surrender the best part of the day to someone else? Flowers grace our lives at moments of celebration and despair. ‘We eat, drink, sing, dance, and flirt with them,’ writes Kakuzo Okakura. Flowers brighten our homes, parties and rituals with incomparable notes of natural beauty, but the ‘nature’ in these displays is tamed and restrained. Strange Bright Blooms seeks to understand the transplanted nature of cut flowers, our relationship with them and the careful curation of their very existence. It is a picaresque, unpredictable journey, encompassing paintings, murals, fashion and public art, glass flowers, pressed flowers, flowery church hats, weaponized flowers, deconstructed flowers, flower power and much more.

Randy Malamud is Regents’ Professor of English at Georgia State University. He has written eleven books, including The Importance of Elsewhere: The Globalist Humanist Tourist (2018) and Email (2019).
Sushi and sashimi are by now global sensations and have become perhaps the best known of Japanese foods, but they are also the most widely misunderstood. *Oishii: The History of Sushi* reveals that sushi began as a fermented food with a sour taste, used as a means to preserve fish. This book, the first history of sushi in English, traces sushi’s development from China to Japan and then internationally, and its evolution from street food to high-class cuisine. Included are historical and original recipes that display the diversity of sushi and how to prepare it. An expert on Japanese food history, Eric C. Rath has written a must-read for understanding sushi’s past and how it became one of the world’s greatest cuisines.

Eric C. Rath is Professor of Premodern Japanese History at the University of Kansas. He is the author of *Japan’s Cuisines: Food, Place and Identity* (Reaktion, 2016) and *Food and Fantasy in Early Modern Japan* (2010).
If you squeeze the trigger of a Kalashnikov, a bullet is kicked up the barrel by an archaic chemical explosion that would have been quite familiar to Oliver Cromwell or General Custer. The gun – antique, yet contemporary – still dominates the world. Political and international structures, and even consumer culture, have been moulded by the research that firearms have inspired. The new science of Galileo and Newton owed much to the Renaissance study of ballistics, which also brought on the more recent invention of mass production and ultimately kickstarted the contemporary field of artificial intelligence. This book follows the history of the gun and its wider linkages, ranging from the first cannons to modern gunnery, and to the yet-to-be-realized electrical futures of rays and beams.

Andrew Nahum is a curator and historian. He is the author of several books on the history of technology, including *Fifty Cars That Changed the World* (2009) and *Issigonis and the Mini* (2004).
Tibet
A History Between Dream and Nation State
P. Christiaan Klieger

‘At a time when China is a rising geopolitical power and the international attention on Tibet experiences a decline, Klieger provides a crucial analysis of different and often contesting narratives on the past, present and possible futures of China–Tibet relations.’ – Dibyesh Anand, Professor of International Relations, University of Westminster

The history and future of Tibet have long intrigued the world. Will it ever return to independence? What will be the consequences of the ageing and revered Dalai Lama’s succession? Tibet: A History Between Dream and Nation-state makes the case that there has been a fully Tibetan independent state for much of its 2,500-year existence; from a great empire in the seventh to ninth centuries, through its long and complicated relationship with China, to 1840 when Tibet began to resume its independent course until communist China invaded in 1950. Since that time, Tibetan nationalism has been maintained primarily by more than 100,000 refugees living abroad. This book is a valuable, fascinating account of a region with a rich history, but an uncertain future.

P. Christiaan Klieger (d. 2019) was an anthropologist specializing in Tibet and Native Hawaiian culture. He was the author of several books, including The State of Tibet: A History of a Central Asian Polity (2016) and Kamehameha III (2015).
Our command and knowledge of breathing has shaped human societies and philosophical beliefs since prehistory. Breathing was an integral part of spiritual practice in the ancient world, and today it remains central to many forms of meditation. Over time physicians, scientists and engineers have invented ever more sophisticated devices, from iron lungs to the modern ventilator, to support and maintain breathing indefinitely. Instruments that provide us with extra oxygen have enabled us to conquer Everest, travel to the moon and dive to our planet’s greatest ocean depths. However, with air pollution increasing, our expectation for fresh, clean air is no longer being met, and today respiratory viruses like covid-19 are causing disasters on a global scale.

Edgar Williams is Professor of Cardiopulmonary Science at the University of South Wales, conducting research in respiratory and cardiovascular physiology. He is the author of *Moon* (Reaktion, 2014).
Broken Dreams

An Intimate History of the Midlife Crisis

Mark Jackson

The midlife crisis has become a cliché in modern society. Since the mid-twentieth century, the term has been used to explain infidelity in middle-aged men, disillusionment with personal achievements, the pain and sadness associated with separation and divorce, and the fear of approaching death. Broken Dreams provides a meticulously researched account of the social and cultural conditions in which middle-aged men and women began to re-evaluate their hopes and dreams, reassess their relationships and seek new forms of identity and fresh pathways to self-satisfaction. Drawing on literary, medical, media and cinematic sources, as well as personal accounts, this book explores how the crises of middle-aged men and women were shaped by increased life expectancy, changing family structures, shifting patterns of work and the rise of individualism.

Mark Jackson is Professor of the History of Medicine and Director of the Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health at the University of Exeter. His books include Allergy: The History of a Modern Malady (Reaktion, 2006) and The Age of Stress: Science and the Search for Stability (2013).
Satan is not God’s enemy in the Bible, and he’s not always bad – much less evil. Through the lens of the Old and New Testaments, Erik Butler explores literature, theology, visual art and music from antiquity to the present, discussing canonical authors from Dante and Milton to Goethe, and a wealth of lesser-known sources. Since his first appearance in the Book of Job, Satan has pursued a single objective: to test human beings, whose moral worth and piety leave plenty of room for doubt. Satan can be manipulative, but he simply facilitates what mortals are already inclined to do anyway. ‘The Devil made me do it,’ however, does not hold up in the court of cosmic law. With wit and surprising examples, this book explains why.

Erik Butler is a researcher at the Yale School of Drama. He has translated many works of European literature and written three books, including The Rise of the Vampire (Reaktion, 2013).
One of the most astute, perceptive, and knowledgeable writers on Wilde.’ – Colm Tóibín

‘One should either wear a work of art, or be a work of art,’ Wilde once declared. In *The Invention of Oscar Wilde*, Nicholas Frankel explores Wilde’s self-creation as both a work of art and a carefully constructed cultural icon. Frankel takes readers on a journey through Wilde’s inventive, provocative life, from his Irish origins – and their public erasure – to his challenges to traditional concepts of masculinity and male sexuality, and his criminal conviction and final years of exile in France. Along the way, Frankel examines Wilde’s writings, paradoxical wit and intellectual convictions, as well as his marriage and affairs with a series of attractive young men, including his great love, Lord Alfred Douglas. This book is an in-depth assessment of Wilde’s life and influence on both Victorian Britain and twentieth-century culture.

Nicholas Frankel is Professor of English at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is the author or editor of many books about Oscar Wilde, including *The Picture of Dorian Gray: An Annotated Uncensored Edition* (2011) and *The Annotated Prison Writings of Oscar Wilde* (2018).
Werner Herzog

*Ecstatic Truth and Other Useless Conquests*

Kristoffer Hegnsvad

Translated by C. Claire Thomson

Werner Herzog came to fame in the 1970s as the European new waves explored new cinematic ideas. With films like *Aguirre, the Wrath of God* (1972), *The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser* (1974) and *Fitzcarraldo* (1982), Herzog became the subject of public debate, particularly due to his larger than life characters, often played by Klaus Kinski. After the success of his documentary *Grizzly Man* (2005), Herzog began to lead a new form of hybrid documentary, and his tough attitude towards life and film made him a director’s director for a new generation.

Kristoffer Hegnsvad’s award-winning book guides the reader through films depicting gangster priests, bear whisperers, shoe eating . . . and a penguin. It is full of rare insights from Herzog’s otherwise secret Rogue film school, and features interviews with the director.

Kristoffer Hegnsvad is a writer and documentary filmmaker, and the Film and TV Editor and critic at *Dagbladet Politiken*, Denmark’s biggest daily newspaper. He is the director of *Looking for Exits: Conversations with a Wingsuit Artist* (2015) and *Laamb* (2013).

An analysis of the extraordinary films and life of Werner Herzog
Reyner Banham Revisited
Richard J. Williams

Reyner Banham (1922–1988) was a provocative, prolific and iconoclastic critic of modern architecture, cities and mass culture in Britain and the U.S. His 1972 book on the architecture of Los Angeles was ground-breaking in what it told Californians about their own metropolis, and architects about what cities might be if freed from tradition. Banham’s obsession with technology and his talent for thinking the unthinkable mean his work remains vital today, more than thirty years after his death. Reyner Banham Revisited explores the full breadth of Banham’s career and legacy, examining not only his major publications, but a wide range of his journalism and media outputs, as well as the singular character of Banham himself.

Richard J. Williams is Professor of Contemporary Visual Cultures at the University of Edinburgh. His most recent books are Why Cities Look the Way They Do (2019), The Architecture of Art History (with Mark Crinson, 2018) and Sex and Buildings (Reaktion, 2013).
Fermented Foods
*The History and Science of a Microbiological Wonder*
Christine Baumgarthuber

*Fermented Foods* serves up the history and science behind some of the world’s most enduring food and drink. It begins with wine, beer and other heady brews before exploring the fascinating and often whimsical histories of fermented breads, dairy, vegetables and meat and speculating on such fare’s possible future. Readers will learn, among other things, about Roquefort cheese’s fabled origins, the scientific drive to brew better beer, and a controversial biological theory that saved French wine. Christine Baumgarthuber makes several detours into lesser-known ferments, from African beers to the formidable cured meats of the subarctic latitudes, and the piquant, sometimes deadly ferments of Southeast Asia. This book is a fun yet comprehensive and timely survey of the world’s fermented foods.

Christine Baumgarthuber is the creator of the Austerity Kitchen, a culinary history blog hosted by the *New Inquiry*, where she also serves as a contributing editor. She lives in Providence, Rhode Island.
Yoghurt
A Global History
June Hersh

Yoghurt is a fascinating look at the rich history of yoghurt, from its earliest origins in Neolithic times to the modern-day phenomenon it has become. The book delves into its nutritious properties, analyses worldwide consumption and explores the new developments in yoghurts, including non-dairy varieties, on-the-go options and its impact in China, Europe and North America. Scientific studies and practical guidance help the reader better understand the plethora of yoghurt products available. Lastly, step-by-step instructions on how to make foolproof homemade yoghurt are included, as well as mouth-watering recipes from around the world.

June Hersh is the author of Recipes Remembered: A Celebration of Survival and The Kosher Carnivore. She lives in New York.
Few ingredients inspire more soaring praise and provoke greater outrage than foie gras. Literally meaning ‘fat liver’, foie gras is traditionally produced by force-feeding geese or ducks, a process that has become the object of widespread controversy and debate. In Foie Gras, Norman Kolpas provides a balanced and engaging account of this luxurious ingredient’s history and production from ancient Egypt to modern times. Kolpas also explores how foie gras has inspired famous writers, artists and musicians, including Homer, Melville, Asimov, Monet and Rossini. The book includes a guide to purchasing, preparing and serving foie gras as well as easy recipes ranging from classic dishes to contemporary treats.

Norman Kolpas is a widely published writer and editor on lifestyle topics including food, art, architecture and travel. The author of more than forty published books, he also writes for magazines including Southwest Art and Western Art and Architecture.
People can be passionate about their favourite jam, jelly or marmalade, whether they make it themselves or buy a jar of it from the supermarket. Award-winning jam-maker Sarah B. Hood looks at the history of these sweet treats, from simple fruit preserves to staple commodities, gifts for royalty, global brands, wartime comforts and valued delicacies. She traces connections between sweet preserves and the Temperance movement, the Crusades, the prevention of scurvy, medieval banquets, Georgian dinner parties, Scottish breakfasts, Joan of Arc and the adoption of tea-drinking in Europe. This book explores the birth of unique local specialities and treasured regional customs, the rise and fall of international marmalade mavens, the large-scale mobilization of volunteer preserve-makers and a jam-factory revolution.

Sarah B. Hood has taught for more than twenty years at George Brown College and is the author of the cookbook We Sure Can!, which was shortlisted for Taste Canada, Canada’s national food writing award. She lives in Toronto.
When people think of Russian food, they generally think of either the opulent luxury of the tsarist aristocracy or post-Soviet elites – signified above all by caviar – or of poverty and hunger, cabbage, potatoes and porridge. Both of these visions have a basis in reality, but both of them are incomplete. The history of food and drink in Russia includes fasts and feasts; it comprises scarcity and, for some at least, abundance. There are dishes that emerged from the northern forested regions and ones that incorporated foods from the wider Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union. *Cabbage and Caviar* places the incredible (and largely unknown) variety of Russian food and drink in the context of the nation’s astonishing past and present.

Alison K. Smith is Professor and Chair of the Department of History at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Recipes for Russia: Food and Nationhood under the Tsars* (2008) and *For the Common Good and Their Own Well-being: Social Estates in Imperial Russia* (2014).
Spanning 65,000 years, this book provides a history of food in Australia from its beginnings, with the arrival of the first peoples and their stewardship of the land, to a present where the production and consumption of food is fraught with anxieties and competing priorities. It describes how food production in Australia is subject to the constraints of climate, water and soil, leading to centuries of unsustainable agricultural practices post-colonization. Australian food history is also the story of its xenophobia and immigration policies, which continue to damage the image of Australia as a model multicultural society. This history of prejudice is being upended, however, as Indigenous peoples are taking increasing control of how their food is interpreted and marketed.

Paul van Reyk is a food writer living in Sydney, Australia. He is a regular presenter at the Symposium of Australian Gastronomy.
‘Authentic and insightful, Richard Schweid’s new book chronicles how Nashville became America’s “It City,” a hub of entertainment and culture – a place advocates of the New South never foresaw. A must read for natives and visitors alike.’ – Frank Sutherland, former editor-in-chief of *The Tennessean*

Nashville is a city of sublime contrasts, an intellectual hub built on a devotion to God, country music and the Devil’s pleasures. Refined and raucous, it has long represented both culture and downright fun, capable of embracing pre-Civil War mansions and manners, as well as honky-tonk bars and trailer parks. Nouvelle cuisine co-exists with barbeque and cornbread; the Frist Museum of Contemporary Art is nearby the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Nashville has, in less than eighty years, transformed from a small, conservative, Bible-thumping city into a booming metropolis. Nashvillian Richard Schweid tells the history of how it all came to pass, and colourfully describes contemporary Nashville and the changes and upheavals it has gone through to make it the South’s most exciting and thriving city.

A Band With Built-In Hate
The Who from Pop Art to Punk
Peter Stanfield

‘Ours is music with built-in hatred.’ – Pete Townshend

A Band with Built-In Hate pictures The Who from their inception as the Detours in the mid-1960s to the late 1970s, post-Quadrophenia. It is a story of impudence, ambition, glamour and grit, all viewed through the prism of Pop art and the radical levelling of high and low culture that it brought about.

Peter Stanfield guides us through the British pop revolution as it was embodied by the band: first, under the mentorship of arch-Mod Peter Meaden; and then with Kit Lambert and Chris Stamp, two aspiring filmmakers at the very centre of things in Soho. Guided by contemporary commentators – most conspicuously, Nik Cohn – Stanfield tells of a band driven by fury, and of what happened when they moved from explosive 45s to expansive concept albums. Ultimately, he describes how The Who confronted their lost youth as it was echoed in punk.

Peter Stanfield’s books include Maximum Movies: Pulp Fictions (2011) and Hoodlum Movies (2018). Music is integral to his work, be it the blue yodel of a singing cowboy or the chug ‘n’ churn of a biker soundtrack. He lives in Ramsgate, Kent.
Madrid

Midnight City

Helen Crisp and Jules Stewart

‘There is no better guide to Madrid. A treasure trove of fascinating anecdotes and details, not to be missed.’
– Jason Webster, author of Violencia: A New History of Spain

‘Impressively knowledgeable and well-researched. A joy to read!’
– Ainhoa Paredes, journalist and London correspondent for Spanish TV channel Telecinco

Spain’s top city for tourism, Madrid attracts more than 6 million visitors a year. Helen Crisp and Jules Stewart relate the story of a city and its people through the centuries, while their carefully curated listings give a nod to well-known attractions and sights, as well as hidden gems. Spain’s art capital, with its ‘Golden Triangle’ of museums and myriad art galleries, Madrid is also a city of dazzling nightlife, with a profusion of cafés and bars. This is the story of a vibrant, energetic city, one that remains an enigma to many outsiders.

Helen Crisp is a writer and editor in the healthcare field. She has been exploring the hidden corners and backstreets, little-known shops, galleries and museums of Madrid for more than 25 years.

Jules Stewart is a journalist and author of many books, including Madrid: A Literary Guide for Travellers (2018). He has an abiding affection for Madrid, where he lived for twenty years.

An in-depth insight into the history of Madrid, as well as the city today

CITYSCOPES
February 2021 • History/Travel
ISBN 978 1 78914 219 8
216 × 138 mm • 272 pp
105 illustrations, 75 in colour
Hardback • £14.95/$22
ebook 978 1 78914 258 7
World Rights: Reaktion
London
City of Cities
Phil Baker

‘Phil Baker is a connoisseur of the quaint and the curious, a scholar of forgotten lore, and a splendid prose stylist. Under his sharp but sympathetic gaze, London becomes a gigantic Wunderkabinett – or, to use his own metaphor, a vast book in which every page offers a new treat.’
– Kevin Jackson, author of Chronicles of Old London

City of cities, the modern world’s first great metropolis, London has shaped everything from clothing to youth culture. It has a unique place in the world’s memory, even as its role has changed from the capital of the planet to its playground, and as its lived history has mutated into the heritage industry.

Londoner Phil Baker explores the city’s history, and the London of today, balancing well-known major events with more curious and eccentric details. He reveals a city of almost unmatched historical density and richness. For Baker, London turns out to be Gothic in all senses of the word, enjoyably haunted by its own often bloody past. And despite extensive redevelopment, as he shows in this engaging and insightful book, some of the magic remains.

Phil Baker’s previous books include a critical study of Samuel Beckett and a cultural history of absinthe. He lives in London and walks everywhere.
‘This book could hardly appear more opportune . . . [and] Samantha Rose Hill’s work does something new: Without simplifying Arendt’s thinking, she opens it to contemporary readers who, in the darkness of our times, will find a friend, a woman, who lived through the darkest of all times.’ – Jerome Kohn, Trustee, Hannah Arendt Bluecher Literary Trust

Hannah Arendt is one of the most renowned political thinkers of the twentieth century, and one of the most profoundly relevant theorists of our current time. Born in Germany in 1906, Arendt published her first book at the age of 23, before turning away from the world of academic philosophy to reckon with the rise of the Third Reich. After the Second World War, Arendt became one of the most prominent – and controversial – public intellectuals of her time, publishing influential works such as The Origins of Totalitarianism, The Human Condition and Eichmann in Jerusalem.

Samantha Rose Hill weaves together new biographical detail, archival documents, poems and correspondence to reveal a woman whose passion for the life of the mind was nourished by her love of the world.

Samantha Rose Hill is Assistant Director of the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities and Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Studies at Bard College, New York.
Jack London (1876–1916) lived a life of excess by conventional standards. The author of the literary classics *The Call of the Wild* and *The Sea-Wolf* emerges in Kenneth K. Brandt’s new biography as a vital and flawed embodiment of conflicting yearnings. London’s exuberant energies propelled him out of the working class to become a world-famous writer by the age of 27, after stints as a child labourer, an oyster pirate, a Pacific seaman and a convict. He wrote extensively about his travels to Japan, the Yukon, the slums of London’s East End, Korea, Hawaii and the South Seas. London’s writings, bolstered by their wildly clashing philosophical viewpoints, continue to engross readers today with their depictions of primal urges, raw sensations and reformist politics.

Henri Matisse’s experiments with form and colour revolutionized the twentieth century’s art world. In this concise critical biography, Kathryn Brown explores Matisse’s long career, beginning with his struggles as a student in Paris and culminating in his celebrated use of paper cut-outs and stained glass in the last decade of his life. The book challenges various myths about Matisse and offers a fresh perspective on his creativity and legacy. Chapters explore the artist’s enthusiasm for fashion and cinema and his travels, personal ties, interest in African art, love of literature and willingness to challenge audience expectations. Through close readings of Matisse’s works, Brown offers new insight into the artist’s friendships and battles with dealers, critics, collectors and fellow artists.

Kathryn Brown is a lecturer in art history at Loughborough University. She is the author of Women Readers in French Painting, 1870–1890 (2012) and Matisse’s Poets: Critical Performance in the Artist’s Book (2017), and editor of Digital Humanities and Art History (2020).
The Indus
Lost Civilizations
Andrew Robinson

‘A wonderfully eloquent and informative new book . . .
a comprehensive account of the Indus people, condensed
into a highly accessible volume, and a very good read indeed.’
– Current World Archaeology

‘Robinson writes with an elegant clarity which comes from a
masterly overview of the subject and transmits some of the
mysterious excitement which this enigmatic civilisation evokes.’
– Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society

The Indus civilization flourished from about 2600 to
1900 BC, when it mysteriously declined and vanished.
It remained invisible for almost 4,000 years, until
its ruins were discovered in the 1920s by British and
Indian archaeologists. Today, after almost a century
of excavation, it is regarded as the beginning of Indian
civilization and possibly the origin of Hinduism.

The Indus, now available in paperback, is an
accessible introduction to every significant aspect
of an extraordinary and tantalizing ‘lost’ civilization
that combined artistic excellence, technological
sophistication and economic vigour with social
egalitarianism, political freedom and religious
moderation.

Andrew Robinson is the author of some 25 books on
the arts and sciences, and writes for Current World
Archaeology, The Lancet, Nature and Science. His recent
books include Lost Languages: The Enigma of the World’s
Undeciphered Scripts (2009), Earthquake (Reaktion, 2012)
and India: A Short History (2014).
In this rich and surprising book, Frances F. Berdan shines fresh light on the enigmatic, ancient Aztecs. She casts her net wide, covering topics as diverse as ethnicity, empire-building, palace life, etiquette, origin myths and human sacrifice. While often described as ‘stone age’, the Aztecs’ achievements were remarkable. They constructed lofty temples and produced fine arts in precious stones, gold and shimmering feathers. They crafted beautiful poetry and studied the sciences. They had schools and libraries, entrepreneurs and money, and a bewildering array of deities and dramatic ceremonies. Based on the latest research and lavishly illustrated, this book reveals the Aztecs to be a civilization of sophistication and finesse.

Frances F. Berdan is Professor Emerita of Anthropology at California State University San Bernardino. Among her numerous books and articles are Everyday Life in the Aztec World (with Michael E. Smith, 2020), Aztec Archaeology and Ethnohistory (2014), and The Codex Mendoza (ed. with Patricia Anawalt, 1992).
The Sumerians are widely believed to have created the world’s earliest civilization on the fertile floodplains of southern Iraq from about 3500 to 2000 BC. They have been credited with the invention of nothing less than cities, writing and the wheel, holding an ancient mirror to our own urban, literate world. But is this picture correct? Paul Collins reveals how the idea of a Sumerian people was assembled from the archaeological and textual evidence uncovered in Iraq and Syria over the last 150 years. Reconstructed through the biases of those who unearthed them, the Sumerians were never simply lost and found, but reinvented a number of times, both in antiquity and in the more recent past.

Coal

*Nature and Culture*

Ralph Crane

While concerns about climate change have focused negative attention on the coal industry in recent years, as descendants of the Industrial Revolution we have all benefited from the mining of the black seam. Coal has influenced significantly the course of human history and our social and natural environments. This book explores the extraordinary artistic responses to coal – from its role in the works of numerous writers, including Zola, Lawrence and Orwell, to the way it inspired painters such as Turner, Monet and Van Gogh, and its place in film, song and folklore – as well as the surprising allure of coal tourism. This strikingly illustrated book provides an engaging and informative insight into the myriad ways coal has affected our lives.

Ralph Crane is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Tasmania. He has written or edited 25 books, including *Cave* (Reaktion, 2015).
Asteroids
Clifford J. Cunningham

‘The most engaging book that I have ever read on asteroids. The book covers every major topic and should be on the shelf of every person interested in asteroids.’
– Thomas Burbine, Visiting Assistant Professor in Astronomy, University of Massachusetts

Grounded in historical studies of asteroids from the nineteenth century, Asteroids is an up-to-date view of these remarkable objects. Without resorting to any technical plots or mathematics, the author shows that asteroids are not just rocks in space, but crucial to understanding the life and death on Earth of both animals and humans. From space missions to asteroids’ starring roles in literature and film, Clifford J. Cunningham precisely and entertainingly looks at the place asteroids have in our solar system and how they affect our daily lives.

Clifford J. Cunningham is a Research Fellow at the University of Southern Queensland and Research Associate at the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand. He is the author of six previous books on asteroids, including Introduction to Asteroids (1988), and the editor of a book on William Herschel. Asteroid 4276 (Clifford) is named in his honour.
Elegant and beautiful, rich in history and supremely useful, the ash tree has played an extraordinary yet largely unrecognized part in shaping both our natural environment and the material culture and beliefs of millions of people around the world. *Ash* charts the evolution of this magnificent tree, and its 43 species, across the Northern Hemisphere for the past 44 million years. From its significance in ancient Indo-European cultures, to its remarkable properties in treating Alzheimer’s, Edward Parker looks at the botany, cultural history and medicinal uses of the ash tree. He also looks at topical issues, such as the devastating effects that the emerald ash borer beetle and the ash dieback fungal infection are having on the Northern Hemisphere’s forests.

Edward Parker is Director of the Springhead Trust in Dorset and author or co-author of a number of books, including *Ancient Trees: Trees That Live for a Thousand Years* (2012), *Photographing Trees* (2012) and *The Ancient Trees of the National Trust* (2016).
Ripe, sensuous, irresistible: the cherry tree and its stunning blossoms conjure up many literal, metaphorical and visceral sensations. We enjoy cherry picking, a cherry on top, and even, on occasion, losing one’s cherry. Cherries have been consumed since prehistoric times, reaching great popularity among the ancient Romans. They have come to symbolize such divergent concepts as fertility, innocence and seductiveness, inspiring Dutch still-life paintings, Freudian theory, contemporary pop artists and one of the first food emojis. In Japan and other Asian cultures, the short-lived but beautiful cherry blossoms are important elements throughout art and literature.

In this intriguing natural and cultural history, Constance L. Kirker and Mary Newman recount the origins, legends, celebrations, production and health benefits of this beloved tree.

Constance L. Kirker is a retired Pennsylvania State University professor of art history and co-author of Edible Flowers: A Global History (Reaktion, 2017) with Mary Newman. Mary Newman has taught at Ohio University and the University of Malta.
Rubens’s Spirit
*From Ingenuity to Genius*
Alexander Marr

Peter Paul Rubens was the most inventive and prolific northern European artist of his age. This book discusses his life and work in relation to three interrelated themes: spirit, ingenuity and genius. Alexander Marr argues that Rubens and his reception were pivotal in the transformation of early modern ingenuity into Romantic genius. Ranging across the artist’s entire career, he explores Rubens’s engagement with these themes in his art and biography, looking at Rubens’s forays into altarpiece painting in Italy as well as his collaborations with fellow artists in his hometown of Antwerp, and his complex relationship with the spirit of pleasure. It concludes with his late landscapes in connection to *genius loci*, the spirit of the place.

‘The great achievement of Andrew Hadfield’s book, and what sets it apart, is how convincingly it connects the seemingly disparate strands of Donne’s life and work – his lifelong struggle with matters of the soul, his paradoxical erotic and religious poetry, his marriage, his friendships, his sermons – allowing us to see above all Donne the brilliant and restless thinker.’ – James Shapiro, author of 1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare

John Donne: In the Shadow of Religion explores the life of one of the most significant figures of the English Renaissance. Andrew Hadfield not only provides an overview of Donne’s life, but connects his writing and thinking to the ideas, institutions and networks that influenced him. Hadfield shows how Donne’s faith underpinned his career, from aspirational courtier to phenomenally successful clergyman and preacher, most notably as dean of St Paul’s Cathedral. Donne emerges as a figure obsessed with himself, tormented by the fear that his transgressions may have condemned him to eternal damnation. This fine new account uses Donne’s correspondence, writing and poetry to give a rounded portrait of a bold, experimental thinker, who was never afraid of taking risks that few others would have countenanced.

Andrew Hadfield is Professor of English at the University of Sussex. He is the author of a number of works on early modern literature and culture, including Lying in Early Modern English Culture (2017), Edmund Spenser: A Life (2012) and Shakespeare and Republicanism (2005).
What is a crab? What significance do crabs play in the world? Cynthia Chris explores the true nature of these hard-shelled creatures and discovers that these charming animals are social by nature, creative problem-solvers and invaluable members of the environments in which they live. Their formidable physical forms, their hard-to-harvest and quick-to-spoil flesh and their sassy demeanour have inspired artists and writers from Vincent van Gogh to Jean-Paul Sartre. Cynthia Chris sketches vivid portraits of these animals, tracing the history of the crab from its ancient fossil record to its essential role in protecting its own habitats from the threat of climate change.

Cynthia Chris is Professor of Media Culture at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York. She is the author of Watching Wildlife (2006) and The Indecent Screen: Regulating Television in the Twenty-first Century (2019).
Raccoon

Daniel Heath Justice

Masked bandits of the night, raiders of farm crops and rubbish bins, raccoons are notorious for their indifference to human property and propriety, yet they are also admired for their intelligence, dexterity and determination. Raccoons have thoroughly adapted to human-dominated environments; they are thriving in numbers greater than at any point of their evolutionary history, including in new habitats.

*Raccoon* surveys the natural and cultural history of this opportunistic omnivore, tracing its biological evolution, social significance and image in a range of media and political contexts. From intergalactic misanthrope and despoiler of ancient temples to coveted hunting quarry, unpredictable pet and symbol of wilderness and racist stereotype alike, *Raccoon* offers a lively consideration of this misunderstood outlaw species.

Daniel Heath Justice (Cherokee Nation) is Professor of Critical Indigenous Studies and English at the University of British Columbia. He is the author of *Badger* (Reaktion, 2015).
Egyptomania
A History of Fascination, Obsession and Fantasy
Ronald H. Fritze

‘A broader interpretation of the subject, going back to the Greek historian Herodotus and forward to Cecil B. DeMille and Tutankhamen . . . document[s] an enduring fascination with its subject, based, as the author points out, on the fact that it is both comfortably familiar and intriguingly exotic.’
– New York Times

‘An entertaining tour of fringe and alternative history set in the Land of the Nile.’ – Fortean Times

Ancient Egypt has been a focus of awe and fascination from its beginnings in the Age of the Pyramids to the present day. In Egyptomania Ronald H. Fritze takes us on a historical journey to unearth the Egypt of the imagination, a land of weird gods, murky magic, secret knowledge, marvellous pyramids, enigmatic sphinxes, immense wealth and mystifying mummies. All those who remain captivated by the phenomenon of Egyptomania will revel in the mysteries uncovered in this book.

Ronald H. Fritze is Dean of Arts and Sciences and Professor of History at Athens State University, Alabama. His previous books include Invented Knowledge: False History, Fake Science and Pseudo-religions (Reaktion, 2009).
Bodies Politic

*Disease, Death and Doctors in Britain, 1650–1900*

Roy Porter

‘A magical history tour of illness and public attitudes to disease and doctors.’ – Val Hennessy, *Daily Mail*

‘Porter is one of the world’s best historical writers: his prose is pithy, witty, vivid, engaging and perfectly paced.’ – Felipe Fernández-Armesto, *The Independent*

‘[Porter’s] knowledge of the material is unrivaled, and when he writes in unadorned fashion of the careers of doctors, writers and artists, he could hardly be bettered.’ – Anthony Daniels, *Sunday Telegraph*

Packed with outrageous and amusing anecdotes, Roy Porter’s historical tour de force takes a critical look at representations of the body in death, disease and health, and at images of the healing arts in Britain from the mid-seventeenth to the twentieth century.

Until his death in 2002, Roy Porter was Professor in the Social History of Medicine at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, and the author of many books.
Wanderers

A History of Women Walking

Kerri Andrews

Foreword by Kathleen Jamie

‘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

‘When we picture a walker, it is usually a man, alone on a summit. But Andrews opens up a very different and vastly more expansive vista.’  – Rachel Hewitt, author of Map of a Nation

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, especially Romantic-era authors, and is the General Editor of Nan Shepherd’s letters. Kerri is also a keen hill-walker and member of Mountaineering Scotland.
Crime Dot Com
*From Viruses to Vote Rigging, How Hacking Went Global*
Geoff White

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

‘Geoff White is one of the most authoritative reporters on cybercrime, and *Crime Dot Com* is 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, and he is the writer and presenter of the acclaimed podcast *The Dark Web*.
The Wig

A Hairbrained History

Luigi Amara

Translated by Christina MacSweeney

‘With the precision of a Renaissance collector, Amara has written a book as wonderful and impressive as the old cabinets of curiosities. From Andy Warhol to Andre Agassi, the collection exposed in The Wig makes us smile and laugh with amazement, while we reflect on how shaky identity is.’
– Carlos Fonseca, Lecturer in Latin American Literature and Culture, Trinity College, Cambridge

Whether in a courtroom or a dressing room, wigs come in many forms, and represent many things: from power to sexuality, parody, health, self-identity and disguise. Wigs are present at parties and in chemotherapy rooms, in pop music and contemporary art. In this witty and eloquent book, Luigi Amara reflects on the curious history of the wig, and along the way takes a sideways look at Western civilization.

Amara illuminates how the wig has starred throughout history, from ancient Egypt to the court of Louis xiv, and from British courtrooms to drag shows today. Containing many striking and unusual images, the book appeals to a wide audience, from those interested in the history of fashion to philosophy, art, culture and aesthetics.

Luigi Amara is the author of many poetry collections, essays and children’s books, including Nuñ(ca (winner of the International Poetry Prize in Spanish), and The School of Boredom. He lives in Mexico City.
Calling the Spirits
A History of Seances
Lisa Morton

‘An impressive piece of research . . . a must-read for anyone fascinated with Spiritualism.’ – Alma Katsu, author of The Deep and The Hunger

Calling the Spirits investigates the eerie history of our conversations with the dead, from necromancy in Homer’s Odyssey to the emergence of Spiritualism – when Victorians were entranced by mediums and the seance was born.

Among our cast are the Fox sisters, teenagers surrounded by ‘spirit rappings’; Daniel Dunglas Home, the ‘greatest medium of all time’; Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose unlikely friendship was forged, then riven, by the afterlife; and Helen Duncan, the medium whose trial in 1944 for witchcraft proved more popular to the public than news about the war. The book also considers Ouija boards, modern psychics and paranormal investigations, and is illustrated with engravings, fine art (channelled from beyond) and photographs. Hugely entertaining, it begs the question: Is anybody there . . . ?

Lisa Morton is an award-winning author and widely acknowledged as one of the world’s leading authorities on the supernatural. Her previous books include Ghosts: A Haunted History (Reaktion, 2015).
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