Reaktion Books
SPRING/SUMMER CATALOGUE 2024
Welcome to Reaktion’s books for Spring and Summer 2024.

Peter Ackroyd’s *The English Soul* is the story of Christianity in England, compellingly told through the life, thought and faith of many of its key figures, from Bede to C. S. Lewis.

Frederik Cryns’s *In the Service of the Shogun* is the first biography of William Adams, an Englishman who landed in Japan in 1600 and whose rise and fall is one of the most fascinating stories of the early modern connection between East and West.

In *A Devilish Kind of Courage*, Andrew Whitehead untangles the history of the Siege of Sidney Street in 1911, a story of anarchists, aliens and murder in London’s East End.

Julie Peakman’s *Libertine London* is a gripping, multi-faceted portrait of the sex lives of women in London in the long eighteenth century, a superb investigation of the sometimes sordid history of the city.

In *Insurrection*, John Rennie Short gets to the heart of the causes and facts of the Capitol assault on 6 January 2021 by supporters of Donald Trump, and places it clearly and valuably in its historical and social context.

*Women Artists in Midcentury America* is Daniel Belasco’s brilliant study of ten key exhibitions that expanded what could be thought of as art, and who could be seen as an artist, in twentieth-century America.

Our biographies include *Olivier Messiaen* by Robert Sholl, a life and work of the French composer and ornithologist who was a pathbreaker in modern music, and Cheryl R. Hopson’s *Zora Neale Hurston*, on the great African American novelist, anthropologist and filmmaker.

New in paperback are the hugely successful *The English Actor* by Peter Ackroyd, and Stephen Sedley and Martin Carthy’s *Who Killed Cock Robin?*, an essential exploration of British folk songs about crime and punishment.

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

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

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The English Soul
Faith of a Nation
Peter Ackroyd

*The English Soul* portrays the spirit and nature of English Christianity as it has developed over the last 1,400 years. As the predominant faith of the people, Christianity has been the reflection, perhaps the embodiment, of the English soul. This fascinating new history argues that Christianity has been the anchoring and defining doctrine of England, while accepting respectfully that other powerful and significant faiths have also influenced the religious sensibility of this nation.

Peter Ackroyd surveys the lives and faith of the most important figures of English Christianity, from the Venerable Bede to C. S. Lewis, exploring the mysticism of Julian of Norwich and William Blake, the tumultuous years of the Reformation, the emergence of the English Bible, the evangelical tradition, including John Wesley, and the contemporary contest between tradition, revival and atheism. This is an essential, comprehensive and accessible survey of English Christianity.

Peter Ackroyd is one of Britain’s most respected historians and novelists. His many books include *London: The Biography*, *Hawksmoor* and the bestselling *History of England* series. He is also the author of *The English Actor*, a fascinating study of the English actor from medieval times to the modern day, also published by Reaktion.
In 1600, English helmsman William Adams washed ashore in Japan, and was interrogated by Tokugawa Ieyasu, Japan’s most powerful warlord and soon-to-be shogun. Far from executing Adams as a pirate, Ieyasu made him one of his most trusted advisers. This biography traces Adams’s rise from humble pilot to a position of immense influence in Japan’s foreign relations. It unravels the subsequent diplomatic manoeuvres of the Western powers in the shogun’s empire, and Adams’s eventual downfall.

This is the first full biography of Adams based on original Dutch, English, Spanish, Portuguese and Japanese sources, and includes much previously unknown information. Frederik Cryns tells the authentic story of Adams’s chequered life in its historical context, taking us on a compelling journey into Adams’s complex inner feelings and cosmopolitan heart.

Frederik Cryns is Professor of Japanese History at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto, Japan. He is the author of several bestselling books in Japanese on the early interaction of the Western world with Japan. Frederik appears regularly on Japanese television history programmes and supervised the historical aspects of the television series Shōgun (2024).
On 3 January 1911, in the heart of London’s mainly Jewish East End, police discovered Latvian revolutionaries wanted for the murder of three officers. A six-hour gunfight ensued, with a fire consuming the besieged building. Winston Churchill, then Home Secretary, arrived at the scene and ordered the blaze not to be extinguished. Afterwards two charred bodies were found; the elusive Peter the Painter, believed to have been the ringleader, remained at large. This gripping episode, known as the ‘Siege of Sidney Street’, was a nationwide sensation and ignited fierce debates on immigration to Britain, political extremism and law enforcement. This book unravels the full story of the siege, the Latvian émigrés and their ties to the vibrant anarchist movement in London’s East End.

Andrew Whitehead is a historian and journalist and was an editor of History Workshop Journal. During a long career with the BBC, he was a radio presenter, a foreign correspondent and latterly the Editor of BBC World Service News. His publications include Curious Crouch End (2021).
Nether World
Crime and the Police Courts
in Victorian London
Drew D. Gray

Nether World presents a fascinating glimpse into the everyday lives of Victorian Londoners through the city’s police courts. These courts were where Londoners of all classes came to complain about those who had hurt, abused or stolen from them. To the courts were brought the capital’s drunks, pickpockets, wife-beaters and fraudsters, and they were judged by magistrates who wielded wide-ranging, summary powers. The courts provide a rich, sometimes moving, often humorous glimpse into everyday life in Victorian London, told through the underexamined court records and the pages of a fast-developing newspaper industry. Nether World provides a picture of a vibrant, ever-changing metropolis and its people, and considers issues that still blight our modern city, such as poverty and homelessness, violence, substance abuse, prostitution and crime.

Drew D. Gray is Head of Culture (Humanities, Media, Performance) at the Faculty of Arts, Science and Technology, University of Northampton. His publications include London’s Shadows: The Dark Side of the Victorian City (2010).
Libertine London

*Sex in the Eighteenth-Century Metropolis*

Julie Peakman

*Libertine London* investigates the sex lives of women from 1680 to 1830, the period known as the long eighteenth century. It uncovers the various experiences of women, whether mistresses, adulteresses or those involved in the sex trade. From renowned courtesans to downtrodden streetwalkers, Julie Peakman examines the multifaceted lives of these women within brothels, on stage and even behind bars.

Based on new research into court transcripts, asylum records, magazines, pamphlets, satires, songs, theatre plays and erotica, we learn of the gruesome treatment of women who were sexually active outside of marriage. Julie Peakman looks at sex from women's points of view, undercutting the traditional image of the bawdy eighteenth century to expose a more sordid side, of women left distressed, ostracized and vilified for their sexual behaviour.

Julie Peakman is a historian and author of many books on the history of sexuality, including *Licentious Worlds* and *The Pleasure’s All Mine* (both published by Reaktion). She is a frequent contributor to academic journals, national newspapers and popular magazines and has worked on television documentaries for the BBC, Channel 4, Sky and the Biography Channel.

Unveils the complex sex lives of libertine women in eighteenth-century London

March 2024 • History

ISBN 978 1 78914 847 3
234 × 156 mm • 352 pp
116 illustrations, 55 in colour

Hardback • £25/$40
ebook 978 1 78914 891 6

World Rights: Reaktion
Saving the World

*How Forests Inspired Global Efforts to Stop Climate Change from 1770 to the Present*

Brett M. Bennett and Gregory A. Barton

*Saving the World* tells the forgotten history of climatic botany, the idea that forests are essential for creating and recycling rain. Long before the spectre of global warming, societies recognized that deforestation caused drastic climate shifts – as early as 1770, concerns over deforestation spurred legislation to combat human-induced climate change. Across the twentieth century, climatic botany experienced fluctuating fortunes, influenced by technological advancements and evolving meteorological theories. Remarkably, contemporary scientists are rediscovering the crucial role of forests in rainfall recycling, unaware of the long history of climatic botany.

This enlightening exploration is essential reading for anyone passionate about conserving the world’s forests and preserving our climate for future generations.

Brett M. Bennett is Associate Professor of History at Western Sydney University, Australia, and the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. His publications include *Plantations and Protected Areas: A Global History of Forest Management* (2015). Gregory A. Barton is Professor of History at Western Sydney University, Australia, and the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. His publications include *The Global History of Organic Farming* (2018).

The forgotten history of climatic botany, showing how forests create and recycle rainfall
All Mapped Out
How Maps Shape Us
Mike Duggan

Maps go far beyond just showing us where things are located. All Mapped Out is an exploration of how maps impact our lives on social and cultural levels. This book takes readers on a journey through the fascinating history of maps, from ancient cave paintings and stone carvings to the digital interfaces we rely on today. But it’s not just about the maps themselves; it’s about the people behind them. Discover how maps have affected societies, influenced politics and economies, impacted the environment, and even shaped our sense of personal identity. Mike Duggan uncovers the incredible power of maps to shape the world and the knowledge we consume. This is a unique and eye-opening perspective on the significance of maps in our daily lives.

Mike Duggan is a Lecturer at King’s College London studying digital culture’s impact on society. He is the co-author of books on radical cartography and sharing mobility.
Strike Up the Band

New York City in the Roaring Twenties

Helen Crisp and Jules Stewart

‘A fast-paced romp through a remarkable period . . . Hang on to your hats!’ – Anthony W. Robins, author of New York Art Deco

This is the story of the zest for life that gripped New York in the post-war years of the 1920s. The decade ushered in an era of almost unprecedented prosperity and economic expansion that made New York the powerhouse of America and fuelled a wave of creativity in music, fashion, literature and architecture. Strike Up the Band explores how the city became a magnet for a host of outstanding personalities, from literary figures to sports stars, musicians, composers and journalists, and pays a visit to the places they frequented, such as the Cotton Club and Broadway theatres. From skyline to sidewalk, the city was redeveloped in the 1920s building boom, with Art Deco becoming the style that dominated the new era. This book is a spirited chronicle of an outstanding decade.

Insurrection
What the January 6 Assault on the Capitol Reveals about America and Democracy
John Rennie Short

*Insurrection* offers a profound and incisive analysis of the underlying factors that culminated in the assault on Washington’s Capitol on that fateful day in January 2021. Going far beyond mere journalistic accounts, the book delves into structural trends within the United States, providing a broader and deeper context for comprehending the magnitude of the uprising. It explores the crisis of democracy, escalating violence, widening inequality and the prominence of conspiratorial discourse within American politics. By examining long-term issues as well as the tumultuous events of 2020, including the COVID-19 pandemic, policing challenges and the fiercely contested presidential election, this book uncovers the catalysts behind conspiracy theories and the politics of outrage. This compelling narrative is essential reading for all those interested in the contemporary face of the USA.

John Rennie Short is Emeritus Professor at the School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. His many books include *The Urban Now: Living in an Age of Global Urbanism* (2023).
China in Seven Banquets
A Flavourful History
Thomas David DuBois

*China in Seven Banquets* ranges through 5,000 years of China’s food history in seven iconic meals, from the ancient Eight Treasures fête to the ‘Tail-Burning’ banquet of the Tang dynasty and the Qing court’s extravagant ‘complete Manchu-Han feast’. We also experience lavish repasts from literature and film, a New Year’s buffet from 1920s Shanghai and a delivery menu from the hyperglobal twenty-first century, and even peek into the tables of the not-too-distant future. Drawing on decades of experience eating his way around China, Beijing-based historian Thomas David DuBois explains why culinary fashions come and go, as well as recreates dozens of historical recipes in a modern kitchen. From fermented elk to absinthe cocktails, this is Chinese food as you’ve never seen it before.

Thomas David DuBois is Professor in the Folk Culture Research Center of Beijing Normal University. He is the author of numerous books on China’s history and religion.
Behind the Privet Hedge

Richard Sudell, the Suburban Garden and the Beautification of Britain

Michael Gilson

It is said that Britain is a nation of gardeners; the suburban garden, with its roses and privet hedges, is widely admired and copied across the world. But it is little understood how millions across the nation developed an obsession with their colourful plots of land. *Behind the Privet Hedge* explores the history of this development and how, despite their stereotype as symbols of dull, middle-class conformity, these new open spaces were seen as a tool to help bring about social change in the early twentieth century. The book restores to the story a remarkable but long-forgotten figure, Richard Sudell, who spent a lifetime ‘evangelizing’ that the garden be in the vanguard of progress towards a new egalitarian society.

Michael Gilson is an award-winning editor and journalist, and Associate Fellow of the School of Media, Arts and Humanities, University of Sussex.
Dirty Real

Exile on Hollywood and Vine with the Gin Mill Cowboys

Peter Stanfield

This is the tale of how Hollywood, inspired by the success of *Easy Rider*, sold a cycle of films as the new dirty real. Dennis Hopper, Peter Fonda, Monte Hellman, Jack Nicholson, Kris Kristofferson and Sam Peckinpah, among others, drew on a nostalgia for the gutter and donned bohemian personae, pulling on soiled shirts and scuffed boots, to better counter the glamour and phoniness of Tinseltown. With great care for the historical record and displaying a refined critical acuity, Peter Stanfield captures that pivotal moment when Hollywood tried to sell a begrimed vision of itself to the world.

Peter Stanfield is Emeritus Professor of Film at the University of Kent. His publications include *A Band with Built-In Hate: The Who from Pop Art to Punk* and *Pin-Ups 1972: Third Generation Rock ‘n’ Roll*, both published by Reaktion.
Zerox Machine

Punk, Post-Punk and Fanzines in Britain, 1976–88

Matthew Worley

Zerox Machine is an immersive journey through the vibrant history of British punk and its associated fanzines from 1976 to 1988. Drawing on an extensive range of previously unpublished materials sourced from private collections across the UK, Zerox Machine describes and analyses this transformative era, providing an intimate glimpse into the hopes and anxieties that shaped a generation.

Far more than a showcase of covers, this book examines the fanzines themselves, offering a rich tapestry of first-hand accounts, personal stories and subcultural reflections. Through meticulous research and insightful analysis, Matthew Worley captures the spirit and essence of British youth culture, not only shedding new light on a pivotal movement in music history but crafting a unique alternative history of Britain in the 1970s and ’80s.

Matthew Worley is Professor of Modern History at the University of Reading. He has written widely on British culture and politics in the twentieth century, including numerous books and articles on punk and punk-related cultures.
Sixteenth-century Spain was small, poor, disunited and sparsely populated. Yet the Spaniards and their allies built the largest empire the world had ever seen. How did they achieve this?

Felipe Fernández-Armesto and Manuel Lucena Giraldo argue that Spain’s engineers were critical to this venture. The Spanish invested in infrastructure to the advantage of local power brokers, enhancing the abilities of incumbent elites to grow wealthy on trade and widening the arc of Spanish influence.

Bringing to life stories of engineers, prospectors, soldiers and priests, the authors paint a vivid portrait of Spanish America in the age of conquest. This is a dazzling new history of the Spanish Empire, and a new understanding of empire itself, as a venture marked as much by collaboration as oppression.

Felipe Fernández-Armesto is William P. Reynolds Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame. His work has appeared in 29 languages and has won, among other awards, The World History Association Book Prize, the John Carter Brown Medal, and Spain’s national prizes for geographical research and food writing. His books include Straits (2021) and Out of Our Minds (2019). Manuel Lucena Giraldo is a Research Scientist at the Spanish National Research Council and Adjunct Professor at IE University and ESCP Business School Europe. His books include Firsting in the Early Modern Atlantic World (2020).
Outposts of Diplomacy

A History of the Embassy

G. R. Berridge

This compelling history traces the evolution of the embassy from its ancient origins to its enduring presence in the modern world. Beginning with the embassy’s precursors in antiquity, Outposts of Diplomacy explores its emergence on the cusp of the Italian Renaissance, its pinnacle during the nineteenth century and its navigation through the challenges of twentieth-century conference diplomacy.

G. R. Berridge investigates how this European institution adapted its staffing, architecture and communication methods to changing international landscapes, including the tumultuous wars of religion and encounters in East Asia. He also describes the expansion of the embassy’s responsibilities, such as providing diplomatic cover for intelligence operations. Infused with vibrant anecdotes of remarkable individuals and influential family dynasties, this book offers a profusely illustrated exploration of the embassy’s rich history.

G. R. Berridge is Emeritus Professor of International Politics at the University of Leicester, and a Senior Fellow of the Geneva-based DiploFoundation. His publications include Diplomacy: Theory and Practice (6th edn, 2022).
Griffinology
The Griffin’s Place in Myth, History and Art
A. L. McClanan

‘An excellent study that examines the griffin in its widest sense . . . concise as well as authoritative.’ – Juliette Wood, author of Fantastic Creatures in Mythology and Folklore

Griffinology is a fascinating exploration of the mythical creature’s many depictions in human culture. Drawing on a wealth of historical and literary sources, this book shows how the griffin has captured the imagination of people for over 5,000 years, representing power, transcendence and even divinity. It explores the history and symbolism of griffins in art, from their appearances in ancient Egyptian magic wands to medieval bestiaries, and from medieval coats of arms to corporate logos today. The use of the griffin as a symbol of power and protection is surveyed throughout history and into modern times. Beautifully illustrated, this book should appeal to all those interested in monsters, magic and the mystical, as well as art and history.

A. L. McClanan is Professor of Art History at Portland State University, Oregon. Her publications include Representations of Early Byzantine Empresses: Image and Empire (2003).
Audubon as Artist
A New Look at The Birds of America
Roberta J. M. Olson

‘Spiritedly written, this book will completely revolutionize our understanding of Audubon’s complicated legacy.’ – Christoph Irmscher, author of The Poetics of Natural History

‘With her customary flair, Olson presents the reader with a detailed and fascinating outline of Audubon’s development as an artist.’ – Mark Glancy, curator of ‘Audubon’s Birds of America’, National Museums Scotland, 2022

John James Audubon (1785–1851), artist, naturalist and creator of the celebrated The Birds of America, is widely regarded as America’s first exceptional watercolourist. This book offers a unique exploration of Audubon’s artistic journey, intertwined with the drama of his life, unveiling how he studied both past and contemporary artists to forge entirely innovative, exemplary works of fine art. Roberta J. M. Olson delves into the controversies surrounding this legendary figure, who, for the first time in history, accurately represented all avian species life-size. Beautifully illustrated, Audubon as Artist chronicles how Audubon infused ornithological illustration with a sense of exhilaration, breathing new life into once-conventional formulas and transforming them into awe-inspiring masterpieces.

Women Artists in Midcentury America
A History in Ten Exhibitions
Daniel Belasco

‘A compelling, richly textured account of the vital role institutions, artists, critics, and curators played in mounting groundbreaking exhibitions of work by women artists in an era marked by conservative values and sexual and racial discrimination.’ – Jo Applin, Professor in the History of Art, The Courtauld Institute of Art

In *Women Artists in Midcentury America*, readers embark on a two-decade-long exploration into evolving social and artistic landscapes through all-women exhibitions. These groundbreaking projects courageously confronted issues of sexual and racial discrimination, igniting profound discussions about women’s roles within modernism and democracy. Looking closely at the inception and reception of these exhibitions by curators, artists, critics and the public, Daniel Belasco sheds light on the remarkable contributions of numerous artists, from Ruth Asawa to Marguerite Zorach. By foregrounding the accomplishments of women artists during a conservative period later overshadowed by the feminist movement, Belasco provides a fresh perspective on the complex history of women’s art in America and its significance in the broader art world.

Daniel Belasco is an art historian, curator and Executive Director of the Al Held Foundation, New York. He has written widely on midcentury American women artists.
Tangled Paths
A Life of Aby Warburg
Hans C. Hönes

‘Tangled Paths provides a critical overview of Warburg’s life and work, and engages with Warburg’s own myth making, not as a criticism, but as part of a depiction of his persona and presentation and development of his own work . . . Hönes impresses through his insights into the cultural history of Warburg’s time . . . An ambitious and very much needed book.’ – Eckart Marchand, The Warburg Institute

Tangled Paths tells the life story of Aby Warburg, one of the most influential historians of art and culture of the twentieth century. It also tells the story of a man who, throughout his life, struggled to assert his place in the world. Charting Warburg’s many projects and identities – ground-breaking historian, public intellectual, ethnographer, shrewd academic administrator and founder of a library – Hans C. Hönes explores not only the vagaries of an academic career but the personal demons of a man who relentlessly sought to live up to his own expectations. This biography – the first in English for over fifty years – presents an evocative and richly detailed portrait of Warburg’s personality and career, and of his attempts to make sense of the tangled paths of his life.

Hans C. Hönes is a Lecturer in Art History at the University of Aberdeen. He has written extensively on art historiography since the eighteenth century, and has published books about Heinrich Wölfflin and British antiquarianism, among others.
Over the course of her long, highly distinguished career writing about literature and art, Mary Ann Caws has excavated, illuminated and examined in depth the most intriguing works and personalities of Symbolism, Dada, Surrealism and beyond. In these concise but always colourful and insightful articles, Caws brings us fresh portraits of the most famous figures and introduces us to writers and artists who merit more attention than they have received, with a special focus on female writers and artists. The author’s sensitivity to the intersections of eccentric literature and eccentric life infuses each critical essay with the human passions that these essential modernists lived. From Dickinson and Mallarmé to Duchamp and Mina Loy, Caws applies the art of close looking to shrewdly framed slices of the modernist experience.

Mary Ann Caws is Distinguished Professor Emerita of the French, English, and Comparative Literature PhD programmes at the CUNY Graduate School. She is an Officer in the Palmes Académiques, a Chevalier in the Ordre des Arts et Lettres and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her recent publications include Creative Gatherings: Meeting Places of Modernism (2019) and Mina Loy: Apology of Genius (2022), both published by Reaktion.
Precious beyond Measure
A History of Korean Ceramics
Beth McKillop and Jane Portal

This is a captivating, richly illustrated history of the use of fired clay in Korea, spanning ancient times to the present day. Drawing on the latest research from Korean scholars, Precious beyond Measure features a wide range of examples from archaeological sites and museums. In addition, it offers a rare glimpse into the world of modern North Korean ceramics.

Beth McKillop and Jane Portal devote substantial chapters to the refined celadons of the Goryeo and porcelains of the Joseon dynasties from the tenth to the twentieth century, as well as an array of blue-and-white vessels. Merging maritime archaeology, textual evidence and kiln excavation reports, this book engages with Korea’s domestic and international spheres in surprising ways. Throughout history, Koreans have cherished their ceramic heritage. This overview reveals a remarkable and enduring tradition.

Contemporary Korean Art
New Directions since the 1960s
Mina Kim

‘Mina Kim showcases the artistic themes and concepts inherent in Korean art, skilfully crafting a narrative that intertwines multiple threads.’ – J. P. Park, June and Simon Li Professor in the History of Art, University of Oxford

Presenting fresh and thematic interpretations, this book showcases a collection of the most visually captivating, socially intriguing and often overlooked examples of Korean art. Set against the backdrop of a tumultuous history, artists in Korea embarked on explorations of themselves, society and the profound forces shaping their world. Mina Kim highlights the artistic output of the 1960s and ’70s, providing crucial context for understanding the work of later twentieth- and twenty-first-century artists. Key themes, including performance art, gender and identity, the interplay of local and global influences, and the evolution of contemporary multimedia practice structure Kim’s study of Korean art across the last sixty years. By placing artists’ creations at the core of Korean culture and society, this exploration sheds new and revealing light on the role of Korean art within global visual culture.

Mina Kim is Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Alabama. She has published many articles on East Asian visual and material culture and is the author of Jung Yeondoo’s Media Art (2018).
The book argues for a “visual Buddhology” by triangulating Amarāvatī’s sculptural “text” with Buddhist suttas, commentaries, and history. In doing so, it breaks down disciplinary barriers, restores the Indian cultural element in Indian Buddhist studies, and revises arguments about the rise of Mahayana in early India . . . it is revolutionary in its outlook and approach.’ – Deven M. Patel, author of Text to Tradition: The Naisadhīyacarita and Literary Community in South Asia

This exploration of the exceptional Buddhist stupa (reliquary mound) at Amarāvatī, one of ancient India’s most extraordinary monuments, presents a fresh perspective on the rich visual culture of ancient South Asia viewed through the lens of art history, connecting the stupa’s artistic innovations with advancements in Buddhist philosophy and rituals. Jaś Elsner offers new insights into early Buddhist art in South India, as well as a new understanding of the relationship between early Buddhism and its material culture. The excellent newly taken photographs, particularly those featuring objects from the British Museum in London, show in detail how the stupa communicated Buddhist teachings and practices to its followers, making this book an invaluable resource for students and scholars alike.

Jaś Elsner is Professor of Late Antique Art at Oxford University and a specialist in comparative art and archaeology. He is the author or editor of many books including Roman Eyes: Visuality and Subjectivity in Art and Text (2007).
The Splendour of Modernity
*Japanese Arts of the Meiji Era*
Rosina Buckland

‘Buckland’s kaleidoscopic view of Meiji-period artistic production illuminates Japan’s lively and experimental art world, especially the continuities across the divide of 1868. With rigorous and meticulous scholarship, she reclaims the enduring appeal of Sinophile and literati culture, contributing to a more nuanced understanding of Japanese art history during this fascinating time of intense Westernization and nation building.’ – Gennifer Weisenfeld, Walter H. Annenberg Distinguished Professor of Art and Art History, Duke University

*The Splendour of Modernity* presents a comprehensive overview of Japanese art from 1865 to 1915, encompassing painting, calligraphy, sculpture, prints, ceramics, lacquerware, textiles, basketry, metalwork and cloisonné. Rosina Buckland challenges the common misconception that in this era foreign influence diluted the supposed ‘authenticity’ of Japanese art. Instead, she highlights the development of distinctively Japanese artistic practices that incorporated new stimuli from overseas. She also dispels assumptions of artistic decline in the early Meiji era by examining the period from 1865 to 1885.

Meticulously researched and beautifully illustrated, this captivating exploration showcases the resilience, innovation and enduring beauty of Japanese art during a transformative period – one marked by Japan’s global engagement and artistic evolution.

Rosina Buckland is Curator of the Japanese Collections at the British Museum, London. Her publications include *Shunga: Erotic Art in Japan* (2010).
Olivier Messiaen

*A Critical Biography*

Robert Sholl

This groundbreaking biography offers fresh perspectives on the life, ideas and music of French twentieth-century composer, organist and ornithologist Olivier Messiaen. Drawing on previously unexplored sketches and archival material, Robert Sholl seamlessly combines elements of biography, musicology, theology, philosophy, psychoanalysis and aesthetics to present a nuanced perspective on Messiaen’s work. This book examines the profound impact of Messiaen’s devout Catholicism, which found expression through his work as a church organist, his engagement with birdsong, his interaction with Surrealism and his influence on major musical figures of the latter twentieth century. Unlike previous biographies, this book also considers the perspectives of Messiaen’s contemporaries and students, providing a comprehensive understanding of his life and artistic legacy.

Robert Sholl teaches at the Royal Academy of Music and the University of West London. His publications include *Messiaen in Context* (2023). He has performed all of Messiaen’s organ music, recorded improvisations to film on the organ and piano, and given recitals in London and Paris.

Explores the life, ideas and music of visionary composer Olivier Messiaen

May 2024 • Biography/Music
isbn 978 1 78914 865 7
234 x 156 mm • 208 pp
39 illustrations
Hardback • £25/$35
ebook 978 1 78914 895 4
World Rights: Reaktion
This book explores the creativity and life of Zora Neale Hurston (1891–1960), the most published African American woman writer of the first half of the twentieth century. Her life spanned a period of rapid technological change and advancement, and one of entrenched racial stratification. A Barnard-educated anthropologist, folklorist and novelist, Hurston was a modern woman on the move, and, as Cheryl R. Hopson relates, this movement is reflected in her work as a collector of folklore. Hopson also foregrounds how the Jim Crow legal system in the United States formed the material backdrop to Hurston’s life and work, and explores Hurston’s signature novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, as well as her lesser-known works. This biography is an insightful and illuminating look at a remarkable figure, and chronicles the rediscovery of Hurston years after her death.

Cheryl R. Hopson is Associate Professor of English and African American Studies at Western Kentucky University. She has published essays on Alice Walker, Rebecca Walker, Zora Neale Hurston and June Jordan, and is the author of the poetry collection *In Case You Get This* (2023).
J.-K. Huysmans

Ruth Antosh

J.-K. Huysmans (1848–1907) now stands firmly recognized as a significant and influential writer, often hailed as a pioneer of modernism. While his novel À rebours (Against Nature) remains infamous for its reclusive protagonist retreating into a realm of artifice and dreams, Huysmans’ literary contributions are far-reaching. Ruth Antosh explores Huysmans’ life and work, illustrating how it reflects France’s era of profound social and artistic change. In this context, Huysmans’ lesser-known writings, such as his correspondence, early fiction, art criticism and the esteemed mid-career novel En rade (Stranded), cherished by the Surrealists, demand greater critical attention. This biography compellingly argues that Huysmans’ life was an unwavering quest for spiritual and aesthetic fulfilment, evident through his meaningful friendships and prolific writings.

Ruth Antosh is Professor Emerita of French at the State University of New York at Fredonia. She is the author of Reality and Illusion in the Novels of J.-K. Huysmans (1986).
The celebrated art nouveau architect Antoni Gaudí was a contradictory figure: deeply religious and politically right-wing, he nevertheless created revolutionary, lyrical buildings. This book explores Gaudí’s life, work and influences, from Catalan nationalism to the Industrial Revolution. Michael Eaude expertly guides readers through Gaudí’s great works – including the Sagrada Familia, which attracts millions of tourists to Barcelona each year – and examines his monumental life, from the architect’s provincial upbringing in Reus to his time in Barcelona, where he became a dandy whose only attempt at marriage was rejected. Gaudí later suffered a nervous breakdown, became obsessively religious, and fused Gothic, Baroque and Orientalist architecture into his unique style.

Michael Eaude is a writer who has lived in Barcelona and Valencia for more than thirty years. He is the author of several books on Spanish and Catalan culture, including A People’s History of Catalonia (2022).
Piero di Cosimo

Eccentricity and Delight

Sarah Blake McHam

‘Sarah Blake McHam takes the reader back to the delighted experiences of Piero di Cosimo’s first viewers, who not only enjoyed his artworks’ physical beauty but the conversation and learned intellectual exchanges that they originally provoked. This book will re-insert Piero’s unusual paintings into the mainstream of Renaissance art history.’ – John T. Paoletti, Emeritus Professor of Art History, Wesleyan University

The singular Florentine painter Piero di Cosimo (1462–1522) led a deliberately idiosyncratic life: he chose to live in squalor and ate nothing but boiled eggs, which, according to Vasari’s famous biography, he cooked fifty at a time in water used to prepare his painting glue.

Sarah Blake McHam delves into the social, cultural and literary backdrops of this artist’s life. She shows how Piero became the favourite of sophisticated patrons, who were eager to decorate their residences with pagan Greco-Roman mythological subjects. Piero’s vividly imagined portrayals led to his cornering the market on these commissions. At the same time his more orthodox, but never ordinary, religious altarpieces and private devotional paintings won the admiration of leading Florentine families. This original, richly illustrated account explores the fascinating life of one of Renaissance Italy’s most intriguing figures.

Sarah Blake McHam is Professor of Art History at Rutgers University, New Jersey, and author of Pliny and the Artistic Culture of the Italian Renaissance: The Legacy of the ‘Natural History’ (2013).
In 1543 the young and ambitious physician Andreas Vesalius published what became the most famous book in the history of medicine, *On the Fabric of the Human Body*. While we tend to think of dissection as a form of destroying the body, Vesalius believed that it helped establish how the human body was constructed. Sachiko Kusukawa shows how Vesalius’s book presented this view through innovative use of Renaissance art, printing technology and the classical tradition. She replaces the conventional view of Vesalius as a proto-modern, anti-authoritarian father of anatomy with a more nuanced account of how Vesalius exploited cultural and technological developments to create an astounding, beautiful book that propelled him to the post of imperial physician and secured his enduring fame.

Sachiko Kusukawa is Professor of the History of Science at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Her books include *Picturing the Book of Nature: Image, Text, and Argument in Sixteenth-Century Human Anatomy and Medical Botany* (2012), which won the Pfizer Award of the History of Science Society.
This captivating biography brings Lucas Cranach the Elder into the spotlight for the twenty-first century. The illuminating narrative unveils an artist whose vision transcended personal brilliance as he sought to elevate a nascent nation and foster a sense of community with his work. Perhaps Cranach’s most remarkable achievement lay in forging a robust Lutheran community, endowed with a resounding message of salvation.

Using prints, the prevailing medium of mass communication, and multiple versions of paintings, he developed an intricate and appealing symbolism that resonated with the populace in early modern Germany. Along with Cranach’s more well-known works, Jennifer Nelson explores his extensive repertoire of female nudes, and shows how these seductive artworks not only tantalized his patrons but also constructed a deep history of Germany’s notional connections with ancient Greece and Rome.

Jennifer Nelson is Associate Professor in the Department of Art History at the University of Delaware. Her publications include Disharmony of the Spheres: The Europe of Holbein’s ‘Ambassadors’ (2019).
Rooted in ancient origins, liqueurs are the original recreational spirits. From the ancient Silk Road to the legendary Fountain of Youth, and from the Age of Discovery to the Industrial Revolution, *Liqueur* embarks on a thrilling exploration of these delicious concoctions’ global impact. It describes how a bitter, medicinal elixir distilled by early alchemists transformed into a sugar- and spice-fuelled luxury accessible only to royalty and the rich. Today’s liqueurs are crafted from an array of ingredients, ranging from anise to artichokes and rose petals to rhubarb. Guiding us on a bibulous adventure and featuring an extensive array of cocktails, this book takes the reader on a fascinating journey, driven by humanity’s ages-long desire for pleasure.

Lesley Jacobs Solmonson is a spirits and cocktail journalist, speaker and author. Her books *The 12 Bottle Bar* and *Gin: A Global History* were finalists at the Tales of the Cocktail Spirited Awards. She serves as a Curatorial Consultant at the Center for Culinary Culture in Los Angeles.

**Liqueur**  
*A Global History*  
Lesley Jacobs Solmonson

Explores the rich history of liqueurs, from ancient elixirs to modern indulgence.
This is a new account of the life and accomplishments of medieval England’s most famous poet, Geoffrey Chaucer. For over six centuries, Chaucer has epitomized poetic greatness, though in more recent years the lively and often risqué style of his best-known work, *The Canterbury Tales*, has made his name more synonymous with bawdy humour. Nevertheless, beyond his poetic achievements, Chaucer assumed various roles, including those of royal attendant, soldier, customs official and justice of the peace. Mary Flannery chronicles Chaucer’s journey during one of the most turbulent periods of English history, illuminating how he came to be known as not only the ‘Father of English Poetry’, but England’s ‘merry bard’.

Mary Flannery is Swiss National Science Foundation Eccellenza Professorial Fellow at the University of Bern. She is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the Society of Antiquaries, has published widely on medieval literature and culture, and writes regularly for the *TLS*. Her publications include *Practising Shame: Female Honour in Later Medieval England* (2019).
This book provides a concise and incisive introduction to the Teutonic Knights, or Teutonic Order, the last of the great military orders established in the twelfth century. Evolving into a powerful religious institution, the Knights left a profound and enduring legacy. Aleksander Pluskowski traces the Order’s journey from a field hospital near Acre during the Third Crusade to its remarkable rise as a major territorial ruler and power in northeastern Europe. He charts the three centuries of theocratic rule by this remarkable religious corporation and examines the Order’s notable accomplishments and failures. From constructing distinctive fortified convents, including the largest castle in Western Christendom as its headquarters, to the Order’s decline in the fifteenth century due to a devastating war with Poland-Lithuania and the secularization of its Prussian and Livonian branches during the Reformation, The Teutonic Knights is a compelling look at a pivotal force in European history.

Aleksander Pluskowski is Professor of Medieval Archaeology at the University of Reading. His publications include The Archaeology of the Prussian Crusade: Holy War and Colonisation (2nd edn, 2022).
The Three Kingdoms of Korea
Lost Civilizations
Richard D. McBride II

‘Should be required reading for anyone interested in Korea’s early history and cultures.’ – Mark Byington, founder and director of the Early Korea Project at the Korea Institute, Harvard University

‘An entertaining romp through the histories and cultures of the various countries on the Korean Peninsula from earliest times up to the tenth century.’ – Donald Baker, Professor in Korean History and Civilization, University of British Columbia

Korea’s Three Kingdoms period is a genuine ‘lost civilization’, during which ancient realms vied for supremacy during the first millennium CE. In the mid-seventh century, with the assistance of the mighty Chinese Tang empire, the aristocratic Silla state ultimately unified the Three Kingdoms by conquering the militaristic northern kingdom of Koguryŏ and the culturally sophisticated state of Paekche.

Weaving together legends of founding kings, tales of wars and political intrigue, and narratives of fascinating individuals – including flower boys, wise monks, loyal scholars and virtuous women – this exploration sheds new light on a foundational period that continues to shape Korean identity today.

Richard D. McBride II is Professor and Chair of the Asian and Near Eastern Languages Department at Brigham Young University. His many publications include Aspiring to Enlightenment: Pure Land Buddhism in Silla Korea (2020).
Spain

Modern Architectures in History

David Cohn

Spain's remarkable twentieth-century architecture evolved against a turbulent background of revolution, civil war, dictatorship and transition to democracy. Architecture played a key role in Spain's struggle out of poverty and isolation, and its search for identity in the modern world. This new account examines Spanish architecture from the roots of modernism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to the present, analysing significant figures and their works in relation to their political, social and cultural contexts. From Madrid's early, austere local modernism and Barcelona's internationally influential works to the 'Organicist' modernism of the 1960s and the flourishing public architecture of the late twentieth century and beyond, this book provides a penetrating account of the country's rich and varied built environment.

David Cohn is an American architecture critic based in Madrid. His books include Young Spanish Architects (2000) and monographs on the Spanish architects Manuel Gallego and Francisco Mangado.
The English Actor
*From Medieval to Modern*
Peter Ackroyd

‘Peter Ackroyd’s starstruck history celebrates a thousand years of strutting thesp.’ – *Daily Telegraph*

‘[A] magnificent chronicle of the history and legacy of the English theatre.’ – *Mail on Sunday*

‘Bright ghosts of performances past haunt these pages... and it’s impossible not to feel some of the shivers they originally inspired.’ – Ben Brantley, former chief theatre critic for the *New York Times*

*The English Actor*, now in paperback, charts the uniquely English approach to stagecraft, from the medieval period to the present day. In thirty chapters, Peter Ackroyd describes, with superb narrative skill, the genesis of acting – deriving from the Church tradition of Mystery Plays – through the flourishing of the craft in the Renaissance, to modern methods following the advent of film and television. The biographies of the most notable and celebrated actors are explored, right up to the present day. Ackroyd gives us an original and superbly entertaining appraisal of how actors have acted, how audiences have responded and what we mean by the magic of the stage.

Peter Ackroyd is one of Britain’s most respected historians and novelists. His many books include *London: The Biography*, *Hawksmoor* and the bestselling *History of England* series.
Who Killed Cock Robin?  
*British Folk Songs of Crime and Punishment*  
Stephen Sedley and Martin Carthy

‘A trustworthy, authoritative, edifying and highly enjoyable read.’ – Peggy Seeger

‘A rich and rewarding journey through the law – and lore – of song and balladry.’ – Willy Russell

‘Delightful . . . [a] charming collection of songs.’ – *Folklore*

Folk throughout the centuries have found themselves entangled with the law: abiding it, breaking it and being punished by it. *Who Killed Cock Robin?* is an anthology of folk songs of crime and punishment, with songs drawn from manuscripts, broadsides, old songbooks and oral tradition. Each section contains a historical introduction, and every song is presented with a melody, its lyrics and an illuminating commentary that explores its origins and sources. This is a unique, sometimes comic, often tragic and always colourful insight into the past that preserves an important body of song for future generations.

Stephen Sedley was appointed a High Court Judge in 1992 and an Appeal Court Judge in 1999, and, on retiring from the Bench in 2011, Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Oxford. Martin Carthy MBE is a singer and guitarist and one of Britain’s most 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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Pine
Laura Mason

‘Combine[s] scholarship with lively anecdote . . . beautifully and generously illustrated . . . enlightening.’ – The Spectator

Pine trees, admired for their resilience, have been the subjects of artists for centuries. Their symbolic significance spans cultures and time, from classical worshippers of Bacchus, to symbolizing wisdom and longevity in China and Japan, to inspiring the establishment of national parks in North America. The natural history of pines showcases their ability to thrive in challenging environments, fascinating scientists. Their resin provides adhesives, waterproofing agents and medicines, while their wood is ubiquitous in buildings, furniture, and paper pulp. Their cones fascinate with intricate shapes and offer pine nuts for both animals and humans. Pine explores the rich inspiration and practical uses of these rugged, aromatic trees.

Laura Mason was a food historian and writer with a special interest in British foods and food customs. She was the author of Sweets and Candy (Reaktion, 2018) and a contributor to The Oxford Companion to Sugar and Sweets (2015).

Reveals how pine trees have inspired and been utilized by humanity throughout history

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With their delicate green and white blooms, snowdrops may seem fragile, yet they possess remarkable resilience. Treasured by gardeners for their ability to bloom early in the year, they also hold significance beyond the horticultural world. From Victorian Britain, where snowdrop bands promoted chastity, to their adoption as symbols by charitable organizations today, their cultural impact is far-reaching, symbolizing purity, hope and solace. Snowdrops have long been depicted in art, poetry and prose, and they offer medicinal properties as a source of galantamine, used in Alzheimer's treatment. Now available in paperback, Snowdrop is the ideal companion for anyone interested in the emotional and cultural aspects of these much-loved plants.

Gail Harland combines work as a dietitian with horticultural writing. Her previous publications include The Tomato Book (2009), Designing and Creating a Cottage Garden (2011) and The Weeder’s Digest (2012).
Rembrandt’s Holland
Larry Silver

‘Larry Silver’s lucid prose and engaged eye help bring these works to vivid life.’ – Renaissance Quarterly

‘Accessible, concise, up-to-date and well-written . . . extraordinary.’ – Historians of Netherlandish Art Book Review

Rembrandt van Rijn and the Netherlands shared a profound connection. Born in Leiden in 1606, the artist witnessed the birth of the independent Dutch Republic. Settling in Amsterdam, Rembrandt gained renown as the city’s leading portraitist. However, his later years were marred by financial hardship and personal tragedy.

Now available in paperback, Rembrandt’s Holland offers a fresh perspective on this celebrated painter. The book explores his life alongside the visual culture of the emerging Dutch Republic, and reassesses his artistic journey from grand religious works to intimate drawings, etchings, self-portraits and emotive depictions of saintly figures. Featuring up-to-date research, profound analysis of Rembrandt’s major works and captivating imagery, this book is essential for art students and enthusiasts of the Dutch Masters.

Larry Silver is the Farquhar Professor of Art History at the University of Pennsylvania and a specialist in Dutch and Flemish paintings. He is the author or co-author of numerous books, including Transformation: Jews and Modernity (2001), Rubens, Velázquez, and the King of Spain (2014) and Rembrandt’s Faith (2009).
Caravaggio and the Creation of Modernity
Troy Thomas

‘A forceful and concise statement on the artist’s innovations . . . offers daring interpretations [and] underlines both Thomas’s skill as a historian and Caravaggio’s towering genius.’
– Popmatters

‘A fitting complement to more traditional studies; it will help the reader better understand Caravaggio’s importance to artistic modernity and the history of art in general.’ – Choice

The great baroque artist Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio revolutionized painting by creating a new form of realistic art. His work depicted life directly, without sketches, resulting in a powerful psychological expression in his subjects. Caravaggio’s unconventional paintings have sparked debates among critics and viewers for centuries, while influencing subsequent artists like Velázquez and Rembrandt. In this fresh exploration of Caravaggio’s life and art, now available in paperback, Troy Thomas examines the artist’s significant contribution to modernity and focuses on the often-overlooked tensions, contradictions and ambiguities in Caravaggio’s work.

Troy Thomas is Associate Professor of Humanities and Art History at Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg.
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