

# ABBHEY'S ADVOCATE

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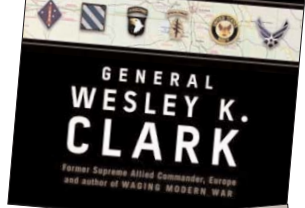
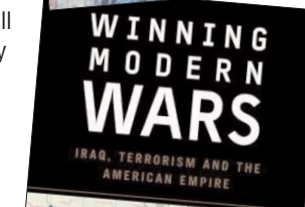
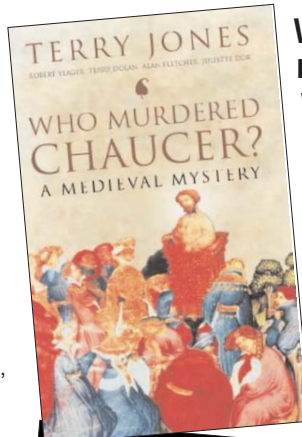
books@abbeyes.com.au

## Who Murdered Chaucer?

### A Medieval Mystery

Terry JONES 352pp Hb \$49.95

In this work of historical speculation, Terry Jones investigates the mystery surrounding the death of Geoffrey Chaucer over 600 years ago. A diplomat and brother-in-law to John of Gaunt - one of the most powerful men in the kingdom - Chaucer was celebrated as his country's finest living poet, rhetorician and scholar, the pre-eminent intellectual of his time. And yet nothing is known of his death. In 1400, his name simply disappears from the record. We don't know how he died, where or when; there is no official confirmation of his death and no chronicle mentions it; no notice of his funeral or burial. He left no will and there's nothing to tell us what happened to his estate. He didn't even leave any manuscripts. How could this be? What if he was murdered? What if he and his writings had become politically inconvenient in the seismic social shift that occurred with the overthrow of the liberal Richard II by the reactionary, oppressive regime of Henry IV? Would the dogs of suppression, unleashed by Archbishop Arundel, have been snapping at the heels of a dangerous poet? Terry Jones' hypothesis is the introduction to a reading of Chaucer's writings as evidence that might be held against him, interwoven with a portrait of one of the most turbulent periods in English history, its politics and its personalities.



## Winning Modern Wars

### Iraq, Terrorism and the American Empire

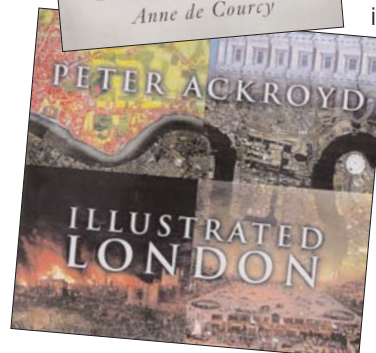
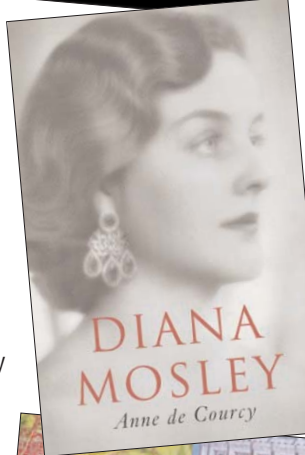
Wesley CLARK 240pp Hb \$39.95

Former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, General Wesley Clark appreciates perhaps better than anyone both the awesome power and capabilities of the American military and the complicated, crowded world in which that military operates. In **Waging Modern War** (Hb \$60), he examined his experience in Kosovo directing this terrific force in the age of instant communications, unending diplomacy and imperfect, uneven coalitions. Here, he writes about how these issues and principles were evident in Afghanistan, Iraq and wherever the war on terrorism has taken us or may take us next. He also uses his experience and knowledge of classic military tactics to evaluate the Bush administration's larger strategy and finds it lacking, as well as foolish and frightening. Now a presidential candidate for the Democrats in 2004, this is the man that Michael Moore (**Dude, Where's My Country?** Hb \$39.95) hopes will defeat Bush.

## Diana Mosley

Anne DE COURCY 472pp Hb \$65.00

Born the Hon Diana Mitford in 1910, the most beautiful and cleverest of the six Mitford sisters, she was 18 when she married Bryan Guinness, of the brewing dynasty, by whom she had two sons. After four years, she left him for the fascist leader, Oswald Mosley, who was married to Cimmie Curzon. Diana set herself up as Mosley's mistress - a course of action that horrified her family and scandalised society. In 1933, she took her sister Unity to Germany, and soon both had met the new German leader, Adolf Hitler. Diana became so close to him that when she and Mosley married in 1936 (after the death of Mosley's wife), the ceremony took place in the Goebbels' drawing room and Hitler was guest of honour. She continued to visit Hitler until a month before the outbreak of war, during which first Mosley and then Diana (who was breast-feeding her 11-week-old baby) were arrested and detained for three-and-a-half years. After the war, they rebuilt their lives, though ostracised by many, making homes first in Ireland and then in the Temple de la Gloire outside Paris, entertaining and being entertained by pre-war friends and new ones, including the Windsors. This gripping book is a portrait both of an extraordinary individual and the strange, terrible world of political extremism in the 1930s.



## The Great Fire

Shirley HAZZARD 314pp Tp \$28.00

This is Shirley Hazzard's first novel since **The Transit of Venus** (Pb \$19.95), which won the *National Book Critics Circle Award* in 1981. After the Second World War, in war-torn Asia and stricken Europe, men and women, still young but veterans of harsh experience, must reinvent their lives and expectations, and learn, from their past, to dream again. Some will fulfill their destinies, others will falter. At the centre of the story, a brave and brilliant soldier finds that survival and worldly achievement are not enough. His counterpart, a young girl living in occupied Japan and tending her dying brother, falls in love and in the process discovers herself. In the looming shadow of world enmities resumed, and of Asia's coming centrality in world affairs, a man and a woman seek to recover self-reliance, balance and tenderness, struggling to reclaim their humanity.

## Illustrated London

Peter ACKROYD 260pp Hb \$79.95

This is a magnificent pictorial history of London, based on Ackroyd's bestselling **London: A Biography** (Pb \$39.95). He again looks at the history of the city with a playful eye and a compassionate heart. Above all, he demonstrates his extraordinary knowledge of the city and his delight in the same street through the ages, examining the characteristic qualities of London that persist century after century.



Books - Where Ideas Grow

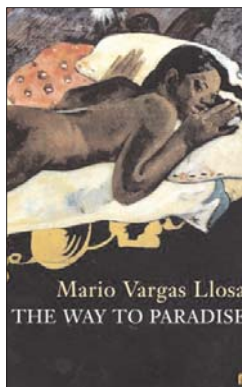
Australia Day  
Mon 26 January  
Open 10.00am - 5.00pm

## The Way to Paradise

Mario VARGAS LLOSA

In 1844, Flora Tristan embarked on a tour of France to campaign for workers' and women's rights. In 1891, her grandson, Paul Gauguin, set sail for Tahiti, determined to escape civilisation and seek out inspiration to paint his primitive masterpieces. Flora died before her grandson was born, but their travels and obsessions unravel side by side in this absorbing novel. Flora, the illegitimate child of a wealthy Peruvian father and French mother, grows up in poverty, and after fleeing a brutal husband, journeys to Peru to demand her inheritance. On her return, she makes her name as a popular writer and a champion of the dispossessed, setting herself the arduous task of touring the French countryside to recruit members for her Workers' Union. Paul, struggling, profligate painter and stubborn visionary, abandons his wife and five children for life in the South Seas, where his dreams of paradise are poisoned by poverty, syphilis and the stifling forces of French colonialism, though he has his pick of teenage Tahitian lovers and paints some of his greatest works. In this rare study of passion, ambition and the determined pursuit of greatness in the face of illness, death and conservative forces, Vargas Llosa is a contemporary master at the peak of his powers.

320pp Tp \$29.95

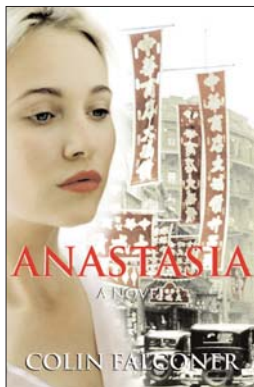


## Anastasia

A Novel

Colin FALCONER 372pp Tp \$29.95

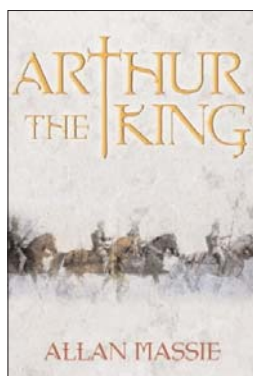
Shanghai, 1921. American journalist Michael Sheridan jumps into the freezing waters of the Whangpoa River to save a white Russian refugee working the taxi clubs of Shanghai. Anastasia bears an extraordinary resemblance to the princess of the same name, rumoured to have survived the brutal murder of her family at the hands of Bolshevik revolutionaries. The fate of the youngest daughter of the last Russian Tsar became one of the most talked about mysteries of the time. But Michael's Anastasia is suffering from amnesia and cannot remember more than the last year of her life. Unravelling the mystery of her past and her identity takes Michael and Anastasia from the streets of Shanghai to the decadence of pre-war Berlin and London, from Bolshevik Russia to New York, just before the Wall Street crash. Michael is the only man who has ever helped Anastasia without wanting something in return - but can she give up the chance to be a princess for true love?



## Arthur the King

Allan MASSIE 292pp Hb \$45.00

Massie cleverly uses the key points of the legend Arthur, Merlin, his lover Morgan le Fay, his wife Guinevere, the various knights, the sword Excalibur and the round table in this enthralling historical novel. He opens with the sword Excalibur in the stone. Knight after knight, even the King of the Orkneys, fails. Then comes Arthur, young and callow. He succeeds and becomes the new king. The novel is about the complete life of Arthur, how he welds the nation together, but gets involved in European wars and how the nation fragments when he isn't around to keep it in order. We learn a little of the origins of the magician Merlin (he was the son of a Roman centurion), how he nurtures the child Arthur, but Massie's Merlin becomes a dirty old man. We may think we know the Arthurian story, but in Massie's hands it is freshly minted.



## Anthem

Tim BINDING 406pp Tp \$30.00

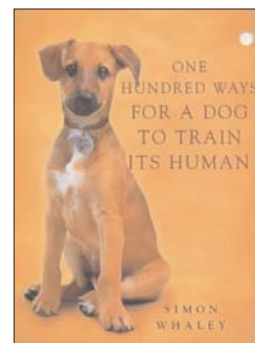
In 1952, in London's last great fog, a small boy, Henry Armstrong, is separated from his mother. 30 years later, as a bandsman in the Royal Marines and bound for the Falklands, he still has not found her. Meanwhile, the life of Henry's childhood friend, shoe salesman Richard Roach, is in crisis. He is missing all of his targets, his feckless and impotent teenage son despises him and his wife, Ellen, no longer bothers to mask her indifference when he returns each night to their home at the end of Anglefield Road. Richard wants to make things better somehow, but he has little idea where to begin. His neighbour, Suzanne Plimsoll, on the other hand, just wants out: out of her marriage, out of the accusing stares of her stepdaughter, out most of all of Anglefield Road. For her, real life only exists onboard the ocean liner on which she works, her beloved *Canberra*. When the ship is requisitioned to transport troops to the Falklands and she volunteers to go along, she finally glimpses a means of escape. This is a novel fearless in the scale of its ambition, as the lives of four families are changed and in some cases overturned by a dispute over a group of small, barren islands at the bottom of the world.



## One Hundred Ways for a Dog to Train its Human

Simon WHALEY 96pp Pb \$10.95

Humans think we are pack animals. Don't fall for it! Find out how to get your humans running their lives around you. On days at the beach, always be the first in the family to get out of the car, onto the beach and into the sea. Remember to shake excess sea water from your fur once you are inside the car. Humans believe meals should be categorised into three sections: a starter, a main course and a sweet. Disavow them of this. Food is food is food. And always make sure you have more energy at the end of a walk than you did at the beginning.



## Wegener's Jigsaw

Clare DUDMAN

416pp Pb \$24.95

This is a rich and fascinating novel that combines the story of one man's obsession with the extraordinary adventures of the Arctic's first explorers, and the painful and wonderful experience of love. In this gripping and beautifully written book, Dudman imaginatively recreates the life of the man whose theories of continental drift - derided in his lifetime - have revolutionised our perception of the world. Reaching record-breaking heights in hot air balloons, almost fatally injured in WWI and driven by a passion for ice and for a better understanding of the natural history of the world, Alfred Wegener was an extraordinary man. Dudman's descriptions of glaciers caving in and young men lost in the wilderness are thrilling, but this is also a story of courage: of Wegener's determination to prove his critics wrong, and of his wife's heartbreaking decision to let him go so that he could follow his dangerous - and ultimately deadly - dream.

## Amateur Marriage

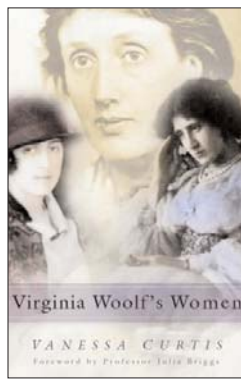
Anne TYLER

320pp Tp \$32.95

Michael and Pauline seemed like the perfect couple - young, good-looking, made for each other. The moment she walked into his mother's grocery store in the Polish neighbourhood of Baltimore, he was smitten. And in the heat of WWII fervour, they were hastily wed. But they never should have married. Pauline, impulsive and impractical, tumbles hit-or-miss through life; Michael, plodding, cautious and judgemental, proceeds deliberately. In time, their foolish quarrels take their toll. A 17-year-old daughter disappears, and some years later this fractious pair is forced to rescue her little boy, named Pagan, from drug-infested San Francisco, to take him home and raise him. From the sound of the cash register in the old grocery to the counter-culture jargon of the 60s, from the miniskirts to the multilayered apparel of later years, Tyler captures the evocative nuances of everyday life during these decades. *due January*

## Virginia Woolf's Women

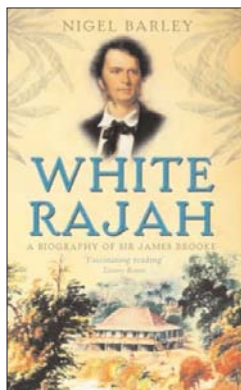
Vanessa CURTIS 228pp Pb \$19.95  
Focusing on Virginia Woolf's close and inspirational female friendships with the key women in her life, Vanessa Curtis offers a portrait of the writer, looking at both the effect of these relationships on her emotional life and the inspiration that each woman provided for the female protagonists in her fiction. Women inspired and fascinated Woolf until the day she died, evoking not only her loyalty, love and wit, but also anger, envy and insecurity. The author begins by exposing the lesser known details of Woolf's Victorian childhood, spent underneath the suffocating wings of the "angels in the house" who instilled in her a lifelong battle between creativity and convention. The journey continues with a study of the other women in Woolf's life; her silent sister Vanessa Bell; enigmatic artist Dora Carrington; complex writer Katherine Mansfield; aristocratic novelist Vita Sackville-West and riotous, militant composer Ethel Smyth. The book takes the reader on a journey through the most important female relationships of Woolf's life, drawing on previously unpublished archives, ultimately revealing a portrait of Virginia Woolf as writer, daughter, sister, lover and friend.



## White Rajah

### A Biography of Sir James Brooke

Nigel BARLEY 262pp Pb \$26.95  
Sir James Brooke was an extraordinary, 'eminent' Victorian, whose life is the stuff of legend. His curious career began in 1841 when he was caught up in a war in Brunei, which had started because a party of local Dayaks had refused to furl their umbrellas in the presence of the Sultan. Brooke was an opportunist who, with the Sultan's backing, made war on the Dayaks tribespeople and eventually found himself ruling over Sarawak - a kingdom the size of England - as a result. How he achieved it is a romantic, sometimes horrifying, story. Brooke is someone that George Macdonald Fraser would scarcely dare to invent. Errol Flynn wanted to play him in a movie, 70 years after his death, and his dynasty is remembered throughout South-East Asia.

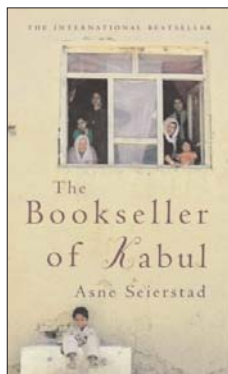


## Captain Scott

Ranulph FIENNES 508pp Tp \$39.95  
Having experienced the deprivations, the stress and the sheer physical pain that Scott endured, Sir Ranulph Fiennes is well qualified to write the biography of Captain Scott. He has endured all but the final tragedy of the much-maligned Scott and is determined to set the record straight. As well as providing a biographical account of Scott's life - written with the full and exclusive co-operation of the Scott Estate - this book traces the way that Scott's reputation has been attacked and his achievements distorted.

## The Bookseller of Kabul

Asne SEIERSTAD 256pp Hb \$35.00  
Two weeks after September 11, award-winning journalist Asne Seierstad went to Afghanistan to report on the conflict there. In the following spring, she returned to live with an Afghan family for several months. For more than 20 years, Sultan Khan defied the authorities - Communist or Taliban - in order to supply books to the people of Kabul. He was arrested, interrogated and imprisoned by the Communists, and watched illiterate Taliban soldiers burn piles of his books in the street. He even resorted to hiding most of his stock in attics all over Kabul. But while Khan is passionate in his love of books and hatred of censorship, he is also a committed Muslim with strict views on family life. As an outsider, Seierstad is able to move between the private world of the women - including Khan's two wives - and the more public lives of the men. And so we learn of proposals and marriages, suppression and abuse of power, crime and punishment. The result is a moving portrait of a family and a clear-eyed assessment of a country struggling to free itself from history.



## Alfred Hitchcock

### A Life in Darkness and Light

Patrick MCGILLIGAN 862pp Hb \$49.95  
In the decades since his death, the public image of Alfred Hitchcock has crystallised into a series of iconic images: the macabre Englishman, the sexual obsessive and the Master of Suspense. But this biography draws on new research to restore Hitchcock the man, in all his three-dimensional glory. Here is the comprehensive film craftsman, forever pushing forward the boundaries of his art. Here is the passionate collaborator, who cheekily referred to actors as 'cattle', but invigorated the careers of Cary Grant, James Stewart, Ingrid Bergman and Grace Kelly. Here is the insatiable provocateur, testing the limits of his audience with his cocktail of sex and violence. And here, too, is the private man: dedicated romantic, constant trickster, impotent voyeur, devoted husband, a man who sacrificed his life, again and again, for his work. *due January*



## Kids

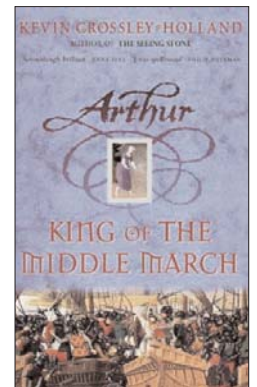
reviewed by Lindy Jones

### Tractor Factory Pop-up Book

Elinor BAGENAL & Steve AUGARDE 10pp Hb \$19.95  
If you have a boy aged 3-5 who is 'in' to tractors, this is a book he will thoroughly enjoy. It has a simple story, with short sentences in boxes so as not to detract from the bits that pop up, fold out or pull down. Brightly coloured with clean lines.

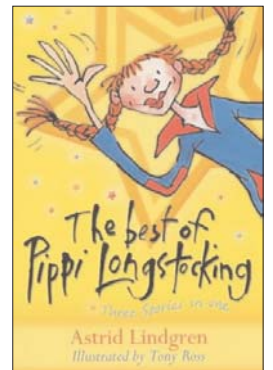
### Arthur: King of the Middle March

Kevin CROSSLEY-HOLLAND 396pp Hb \$29.95  
The final instalment in the *Arthur* series has been eagerly awaited and it is well worth the anticipation! Arthur is in Venice, waiting for the Crusade to get under way, wondering when he will be knighted and watching everything with a great deal of curiosity and lively intelligence. He is also following Arthur-in-the-Stone's trials and tribulations, which cause him to question aspects of his own life and loves. A marvellous conclusion to what has been one of the most imaginative trilogies of recent years.



### The Best of Pippi Longstocking Three Stories in One

Astrid LINDGREN 378pp Pb \$18.95  
What young girl can resist Pippi? This omnibus contains *Pippi Longstocking*, *Pippi Goes Abroad* and *Pippi in the South Seas*. The amazing 9-year-old, who lives with her horse and a monkey and does exactly as she pleases, always manages to make even the most ordinary things exciting and interesting for her friends Annika and Tommy. Wonderful fun!



### I am the Mummy Heb-Nefert

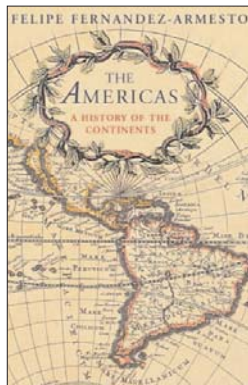
Eve BUNTING 32pp Pb \$14.95  
Heb-Nefert danced for the Pharaoh's brother and became his wife. She lived in the palace, adored and beautiful and secure in the knowledge of the afterlife. When she died, her body was embalmed and preserved, but thousands of years later, her mummy is found and displayed for others to wonder at. A fine book for the thoughtful child, which will bring aspects of ancient Egypt to life in this prose-poem. Evocative illustrations suit the meditative quality of the text.

## The Americas

### A History of the Continents

Felipe FERNANDEZ-ARMESTO 192pp Hb \$35.00

In this work, Fernandez-Armesto sweeps aside the tidy separation between the enlightened first world United States and Canada and less privileged Latin America. He shows us why it is impossible to understand the history of North, Central and South America in isolation. From the emergence of the first human civilisations through the arrival of Europeans and up to today, the land mass has been bound together in a complex web of inter-relationships - from migration and trade to religion, slavery, warfare, culture, food and the spread of political ideas. For most of human history, it was the South that dominated the North, and as he argues in his conclusion, it might well again.



## My Heart is My Own

### The Life of Mary Queen of Scots

John GUY

672pp Tp \$35.00

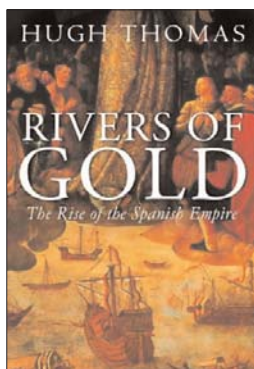
Crowned Queen of Scotland at nine months of age, and Queen of France at 16, at the age of 18 Mary ascended the throne that was her birthright and began ruling one of the most fractious courts in Europe, riven by religious conflict and personal lust for power. She rode out at the head of an army in both victory and defeat; saw her second husband assassinated and married his murderer. She was a woman so magnetic, so brilliant in conversation, that her cousin, Elizabeth I, refused to meet her for fear of being overshadowed or outwitted. At 25, she entered captivity at the hands of her rival queen, from which only death would release her. Guy returns to the archives to explode the myths and correct the inaccuracies that surround this most fascinating monarch. The portrait that emerges is not of a political pawn or a manipulative siren, but of a shrewd and charismatic young ruler who relished power and, for a time, managed to hold together a fatally unstable country. *due January*

## Rivers of Gold

### The Rise of the Spanish Empire

Hugh THOMAS 544pp Hb \$65.00

In 1492, when Christopher Columbus stood ready to set sail across the 'Ocean Sea' for what he thought was India (christening the Indies and the Indians), he crossed himself and devoted his expedition to the Holy Trinity and to the King and Queen of Spain. With the gold, spices (and slaves) he would find, Columbus planned to fund a new Crusade to win back Jerusalem. At the time, his voyage was insignificant, but it was to become one of the most important events in history. The colonisation he started was followed by the Dutch, French and British. Pioneers like Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci (who gave his name to America) and the hundreds of Spaniards they inspired, looked for riches, glory and to serve God in the New World. While they didn't believe the earth was flat, they thought an earthly paradise existed on the far side of the Indies and that the rivers flowed with gold. Later the Conquistadores brought slavery, weapons and European diseases to the ancient civilisations, and made Spain the richest nation in the world.



## With Intent to Destroy

### Reflecting on Genocide

Colin TATZ

222pp Hb \$49.95

A South African and Australian Jew, Colin Tatz provides a personal, yet analytical and critical, account of race politics and the termini to which related policies and practices have led in Germany, Australia and South Africa. Each case study offers a series of reflections on the subject of genocide: how logical, if monstrous, was the transformation in 1930s Germany of a cruel and institutionalised anti-Semitism into the Nazi killing machine; what constituted the colonial genocide practiced for many years in Australia; and whether or not the word genocide can be applied to the appalling events that prevailed in apartheid South Africa. Framing these studies is a moving essay that addresses responses (official and otherwise) to genocide: the matter of denialism, the war crimes trials, the Vatican's apology and Australia's National Sorry Day.

## The Affair of the Poisons

### Murder, Infanticide and Satanism at the Court of Louis XIV

Anne SOMERSET 352pp Hb \$59.95

The Affair of the Poisons, as it was known, was a scandal at which "all France trembled" and which "horrified the whole of Europe" as it implicated a number of prominent persons at the court of the Sun King, Louis XIV, in the late 17th century. It began with the trial of Marie Madeleine d'Aubray, Marquise de Brinvilliers, who conspired with her lover, Godin de Sainte-Croix, an army captain, to poison her father and two brothers in order to secure the family fortune and to end interference in her adulterous relationship. The marquise fled abroad, but in 1676 was arrested at Liege. The affair greatly worked on the popular imagination, and there were rumours that she had tried out her poisons on hospital patients. She was beheaded and then burned. The Brinvilliers trial attracted attention to other mysterious deaths. Parisian society had been seized by a fad for spiritualist séances, fortune-telling and the use of love potions. This bizarre witch-hunt, which embroiled the gilded denizens of Versailles with the most sordid dregs of Paris society, remains a fascinating enigma.

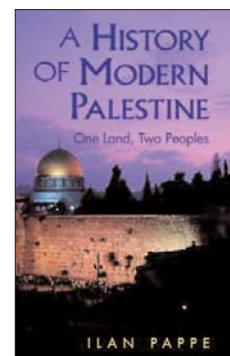


## A History of Modern Palestine

### One Land, Two Peoples

Ilan PAPPE 352pp Pb \$39.95

Pappe writes the story of Palestine, a land inhabited by two peoples. It begins with the Ottomans in the early 1800s and traces a path through the arrival of the early Zionists at the end of that century, through the British mandate at the beginning of the 20th century, the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, and the subsequent wars and conflicts which culminated in the intifadas of 1987 and 2000. While these events provide the background to the narrative and explain the construction of Zionist and Palestinian nationalism, at centre stage are those who lived through these times - men, women and children, Jews and Arabs. It is a story of coexistence, as well as oppression, occupation and exile.



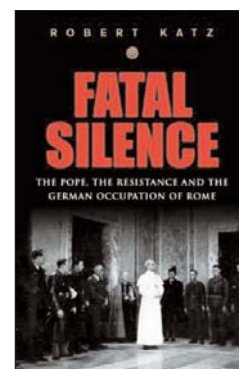
## Fatal Silence

### The Pope, the Resistance and the German Occupation of Rome

Robert KATZ

320pp Hb \$59.95

This is the dramatic story of the brutal occupation of Rome by the Germans after the fall of Mussolini in July 1943 up to the capture of the city by General Mark Clark in June 1944. Swelling to nearly twice its usual size with more than a million refugees from the countryside, Rome became a city of spies, double agents, informers, torturers, escaped Allied war prisoners, hunted Jews and hungry people. The city was the focus for four groups, each anathema to the others: the Allies, trying to capture Rome as their first shining prize of the war, but discovering impregnable armour instead; the Germans, trying to throw the intruders back into the sea, holding Rome hostage and using it rapaciously as a supply line to the front; the Pope, trying to bring the West and the Germans to terms and save the world from Communism, and the Vatican City from destruction; and the partisans, trying to redeem Italy's honour by making Rome untenable for the occupiers.



## The Medici

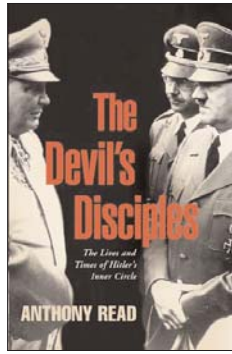
### Godfathers of the Renaissance

Paul STRATHERN 458pp Hb \$65.00  
 This title follows the fortunes of the Medici family in Florence, as well as those who achieved success away from Florence, including the two Medici popes and Catherine de' Medici who became Queen of France. It explores the intensely dramatic rise and fall of the Medici family in Florence, as well as the Italian Renaissance, which they did so much to sponsor and encourage. Interwoven into the narrative are the lives of many of the great Renaissance artists with whom the Medici had dealings, including Leonardo de Vinci, Michelangelo and Donatello, together with scientists such as Galileo and philosophers such as Pico della Mirandola - both of whom clashed with the religious authorities. The Medici family in Florence suffered a decadent decline as they strove to be recognised as European princes.

## The Devil's Disciples

### The Lives and Times of Hitler's Inner Circle

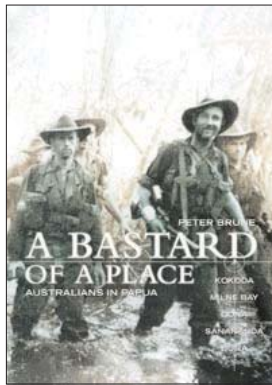
Anthony READ 996pp Hb \$65.00  
 The Nazi regime was essentially a religious cult, relying on the hypnotic personality of one man, Adolf Hitler, and it was fated to die with him. But while it lasted, his closest lieutenants competed ferociously for power and position as his chosen successor. This deadly contest accounted for many of the regime's worst excesses, in which millions of people died and which brought Western civilisation to its knees. This book examines those lieutenants, not only as individuals, but also as a group. It focuses on the three Nazi paladins closest to Hitler - Goring, Goebbels and Himmler - with their nearest rivals - Bormann, Speer and Ribbentrop - in close attendance. Others who were removed in various ways - like Gregor Strasser, Ernst Rohm, Heydrich and Hess - play supporting roles. Perceptive and illuminating, this is a powerful chronological narrative, showing how the personalities of Hitler's inner circle developed and how their jealousies and constant intrigues affected the regime, the war and Hitler himself.



## A Bastard of a Place

### Australians in Papua

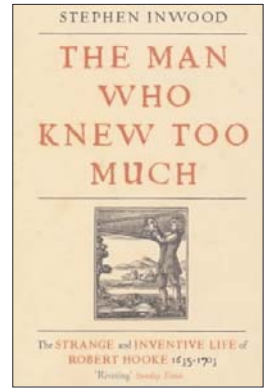
Peter BRUNE 691pp Hb \$49.95  
 In the spirit of Les Carlyon's bestselling *Gallipoli* (Tp \$30.00), this book restores Milne Bay, Gona, Buna and Sanananda to their rightful place beside Kokoda as sacred ground and a vital part of Australian history. In 1942 and early 1943, Papua New Guinea was *A Bastard of a Place* to fight a war. Brune gives us the final, all-encompassing story of the five battles that changed Australia forever: Kokoda, Milne Bay, Gona, Buna and Sanananda. His compelling narrative incorporates hundreds of his interviews with the soldiers of these battles and a recent, month-long tour of the battlegrounds. This is no mere military history, but the very real and engaging experiences of both a well-trained AIF volunteer and a young militia conscript who triumphed together. Through these Australians' Papuan journey, a light is shone on the very soul of a young nation, essentially left to its own devices and fighting for its very life. Brune reveals the inside story of how Generals MacArthur and Blamey sacrificed many of the senior Australian field commanders as scapegoats to protect their own positions, and assisted in the making of false legends and outright lies about the men who fought the battles.



## The Man Who Knew Too Much

### The Strange and Inventive Life of Robert Hooke 1635-1703

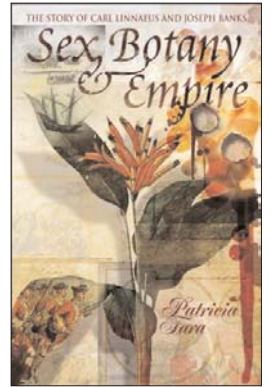
Stephen INWOOD 512pp Pb \$25.00  
 Robert Hooke was one of the most inventive, versatile and prolific scientists of the late 17th century, but for 300 years his reputation has been overshadowed by those of his two great contemporaries, his friend Sir Christopher Wren and his rival Sir Isaac Newton. If he is remembered now, it is as the author of a law of elasticity, or as a misanthrope who accused Newton of stealing his ideas on gravity. This biography rescues its subject from centuries of obscurity and misjudgement. It shows us Hooke the prolific inventor, the mechanic, the astronomer, the anatomist, the pioneer of geology, meteorology and microscopy, and the precursor of Lavoisier and Darwin. It also gives us Hooke the architect of Bedlam and the Monument, the supervisor of London's rebuilding after the Great Fire, the watchmaker, the consumer of prodigious quantities of medicines and purgatives, the candid diarist, the lover, the hoarder of money and secrets, and the coffee house conversationalist.



## Sex, Botany and Empire

### The Story of Carl Linnaeus and Joseph Banks

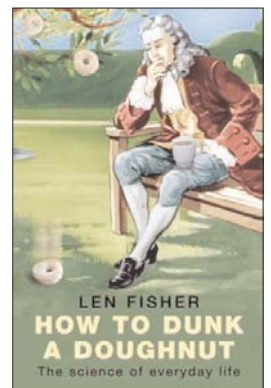
Patricia FARA 192pp Hb \$29.95  
 When the imperial explorer James Cook returned from his first voyage to Australia, the scandal writers mercilessly satirised the amorous exploits of his botanist, Joseph Banks, whose trousers were reportedly stolen while he was inside the tent of Queen Oberea of Tahiti. Enlightenment botany was fraught with sexual symbolism: Carl Linnaeus's controversial new system for classifying plants was based on their sexual characteristics and the dangerously gendered language of flowers resonated with erotic allusions. In Sweden and Britain, (both imperial powers), Linnaeus and Banks ruled over their own small scientific empires, promoting botanical exploration to justify exploiting territories, peoples and natural resources. Regarding native peoples with disdain, these two scientific emperors portrayed the Arctic North and the Pacific Ocean as uncorrupted Edens enjoying sexual freedom. More than any other single individual, the botanist Joseph Banks welded together the Three Ss - Sex, Science and the State - and the drive to conquer, subdue and deflower loomed large.



## How to Dunk a Doughnut

### The Science of Everyday Life

Len FISHER 256pp Pb \$21.95  
 Science is all around us. In this book, Fisher provides scientific answers to familiar questions such as how to boil the perfect egg, how to catch a ball, the physics of sex and why some vegetables absorb more gravy than others. In doing so, he reveals the world of the scientist - how they think, what they do and how they go about doing it - proving that even the most commonplace activities can be used as a key to understanding the laws of nature and that experimental science can be fun.



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<i>"Divide et impera"</i>	Divide and Conquer - anon
<i>"Ipsa Scientia potestas est"</i>	Knowledge itself is power -Sir Francis Bacon



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## Beyond

### Visions of the Interplanetary Probes

Michael BENSON 320pp Hb \$110.00  
Michael Benson has spent years compiling images collected by the unmanned probes that NASA has been sending into space to explore the solar system since the 1960s. The resulting book consists of two parts: the first is a visual tour of the solar system; the second is a series of essays that explain the how and why of these photographs - the history of the journeys of the probes, how they work and why they were built. This book has a foreword by Sir Arthur C Clarke and an afterword by Lawrence Weschler.



## The Alchemy Reader

### From Hermes Trismegistus to Isaac Newton

Stanton LINDEN 286pp Pb \$59.95  
This is a collection of primary source readings on alchemy and hermeticism, which offers readers an informed introduction and background to a complex field through the works of important ancient, medieval and early modern alchemical authors. Including selections from the legendary Hermes Trismegistus to Robert Boyle and Isaac Newton, the book illustrates basic definitions, conceptions, and varied interests and emphases; it also illustrates the highly interdisciplinary character of alchemical thought and its links with science and medicine, philosophical and religious currents, the visual arts and iconography and, especially, literary discourse. Like the notable anthologies of alchemical writings published in the 16th and 17th centuries, it seeks to counter the problem of an acute lack of reliable primary texts and to provide a convenient and accessible point of entry to the field.

## Apollo 11

### Artifacts from the First Lunar Landing

Robert CRADDOCK Box \$49.95  
"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." These words were heard around the world as three American astronauts accomplished the first manned lunar landing on 20 July, 1969. People everywhere eagerly watched and waited as Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins embarked on their eight-day space journey to a place where no man had travelled before. This 'museum in a box' features 18 meticulously reproduced artifacts from the Apollo 11 space flight, tracking the mission from heart-pounding launch to historic splashdown.



## Sorely Tried

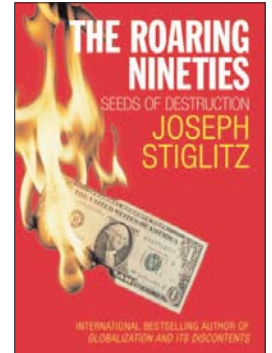
### Democracy and Trial by Jury in New South Wales

Ian BARKER QC 318pp Pb \$30.00  
In his address, "*The history of trial by jury in New South Wales*", Ian Barker QC delivers a fascinating analysis of the way in which a penal colony, governed by the military, with deep social divisions, was able to implement a system of trial by jury and gradually broaden eligibility for jury service. Barker concludes with an overview of more recent legislation that has served to gradually restrict the right of an accused to a trial by jury. He warns that this important protection of civil rights is increasingly denied to citizens accused of all but the most serious of crimes and calls for trial by jury to be protected. (From the Francis Forbes Lectures 2002).

## The Roaring Nineties

### Seeds of Destruction

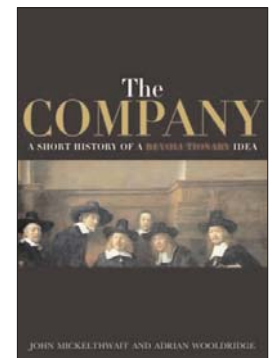
Joseph STIGLITZ 432pp Hb \$45.00  
The 1990s promised prosperity for the world: a new era of unprecedented economic growth, with capitalism American-style reigning supreme. So why did it all go wrong? As chairman of Clinton's Council of Economic Advisors and Chief Economist at the World Bank, Joseph Stiglitz was uniquely placed to watch firsthand as the 90s unfolded. This revealing book rewrites the history of the 90s to show how a misplaced faith in free market ideology created problems that could cost us all dearly. But more than that, it lays out a blueprint for the future. The 90s, Stiglitz concludes, witnessed a misguided attempt to achieve growth on the cheap, and we must learn from our mistakes or pay the price for years to come.



## The Company

### A Short History of a Revolutionary Idea

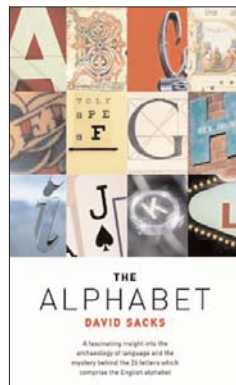
John MICKLETHWAIT & Adrian WOOLDRIDGE 214pp Hb \$39.95  
This is a history of Britain's most influential invention - an idea which gave birth to the Industrial Revolution and which underpins modern life. The present day might be called a corporate age, but the power of the company is nothing new. From Renaissance Italy to the British East India Company, it is impossible to understand the history of the last few hundred years without placing the humble company at the centre of the picture. What other institution could have produced the slave trade, opium wars, the stock market and the British Empire, the 'company man' and globalisation? The history of the company includes some shocking tales, since companies have always rewarded some of the most greedy and unscrupulous, but they have also undoubtedly shaped the modern world. Today, companies are increasingly regulated, but will there always be a new South Sea Bubble or another Enron? The authors extend their historical account to look at the company's future, which is, surprisingly, as smaller and more diverse. They explode the myth of a 'silent takeover' by corporations and challenge the assumptions of the anti-globalisation movement, but make the ongoing power of the company abundantly clear.



# Miscellaneous

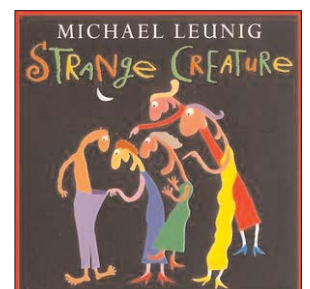
## The Alphabet

David SACKS 400pp Hb \$49.95  
There is a story behind each letter of the alphabet. Why is X the Unknown, or shorthand for a kiss? Which letter came last, historically, in the alphabet? (J). How did a few squiggles, invented a thousand years ago to denote sounds of a now vanished Semitic language, survive to become our letters today? While China and Japan rely mainly on scripts of ideograms, three-quarters of humanity uses some kind of alphabet. Chinese writing requires 2,000 basic symbols (but there's no language barrier), whereas an alphabet needs typically less than 30. From A-Z, Sacks provides answers to the most fascinating questions about the way we talk, write and think. Illustrated throughout, not just with variations of individual letters, but with maps, charts and general narrative images.



## Strange Creature

Michael LEUNIG 76pp Lp \$29.95  
"Terrorism blows you up. Nastiness grinds you down. Stupidity wears you out. The media sucks you in, drags you under. Politics does you over. Up, down, in, out, under, over! But ducks . . . Ducks just **Let you be.**" This and other Leunig gems reflect the year gone by.



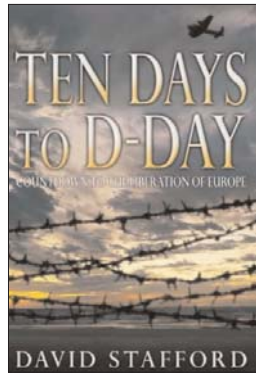
## Ten Days to D-Day

### Countdown to the Liberation of Europe

David STAFFORD

366pp Hb \$49.95

D-Day, 6 June 1944, was the climactic battle of WWII. Allied triumph was anything but inevitable - there was everything to play for and everything to lose. The story of the landings has been told many times, but no one has revealed the part that fate, human error, political infighting, deception and double agents played in the absolutely crucial ten days before the landings. Stafford's narrative, climaxing on the eve of D-Day, gives a day-by-day account of the untold human story behind this momentous event from both the Allied and Nazi perspectives. Stafford focuses on 12 very different human narratives - not only those of Hitler, Eisenhower, Montgomery, Churchill and Rommel, but of an American paratrooper; a Canadian infantryman; a French Jew in hiding, awaiting liberation, but helpless to do anything; and SOE agents fighting to keep their identity secret. The book recounts the entirety of events in the countdown that could have taken a fatefully different direction so many times along the way, revealing how narrow the margin was between victory and defeat.



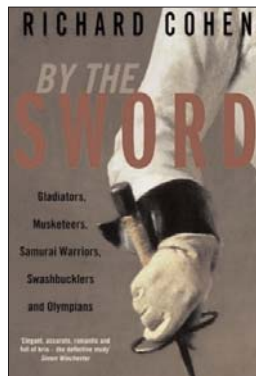
## By the Sword

### Gladiators, Musketeers, Samurai Warriors, Swashbucklers and Olympians

Richard COHEN

400pp Pb \$25.00

Though fencing is seen as a graceful and noble sport, it is not without its seamy side. This book traces the darkness behind the mask, from the sport's early brutal days to the more civilised, yet no less dangerous, days of duelling, and then to the present day. Abraham Lincoln, Karl Marx and Mussolini were all involved in duels, Hitler gave fencing a special emphasis in his regime and the best fencer the world has ever seen was an anti-Soviet spy. Cohen delves behind the headlines, exposing lurid tales of cheating and blackmail, of murder and strange love affairs, the honour and dishonour of swordsmanship, and its cultural side from *The Three Musketeers* to *Star Trek*.



## Why the War was Wrong

Raimond GAITA (editor)

200pp Pb \$23.00

The war in Iraq is over, so we are told, but huge questions remain unanswered. Why were we lied to about the existence of weapons of mass destruction? Why do we still not know how many Iraqis died in the invasion? Why was John Howard so eager to commit Australian troops? Was the invasion legal under international law? And how can we reconcile this critical questioning with the knowledge of how Iraqis suffered under Saddam Hussein? Here leading Australian writers give their answers. Arguing from legal, political, historical, philosophical and humanitarian standpoints, they make a passionate case for the primacy of our responsibilities.

You might imagine how fascinated I was by the biography of **Iris Origo** by Caroline Moorehead (\$29.95 Pb). Writer, quiet philanthropist, loyal wife and friend and citizen of nowhere, Origo spoke four languages by the time she was 10 and hardly knew where home was, thanks to her rich American father, who did not want her to be troubled by ties of nationalism and saw to it that they lived in many countries. Eventually, home became Italy. Following her father's death, her mother leased, then purchased, the Villa Medici at Fiesole. Imagine that! They were not short of funds. Iris had a private education among famous intellectuals - Bernard Berenson et al were neighbours and friends - but she retained her modesty and compassion. She married Antonio, the Marchese de Val d'Orcia, and together they made it their life's work to restore an arid region of Tuscany, setting up a school for children, a visiting medical service and improving the houses of tenant farmers. Although previously well known for her biographies, she became famous when her **War in Val d'Orcia: An Italian War Diary 1943-44** (\$22.95 Pb) was published (a big seller last Christmas, on its second or third time around) and also for **The Merchant of Prato** (\$28 Pb) about Datini, a rich medieval merchant, written in 1957 and still available in Abbey's in Medieval History. An old-fashioned writer, clear-minded and rigorous, with very strong views about the role of a biographer. I think she would have been pleased with Caroline Moorehead.

I'm going to see Richard Mills' new Australian opera *Batavia* when I visit Perth in February, so I felt I should refresh my memory of that remarkable story of shipwreck, greed and murder on the Abrolhos off the coast of Western Australia. I found Mike Dash's book **Batavia's Graveyard: The True Story of the Mad Heretic Who Led History's Bloodiest Mutiny** (\$22.95 Pb 398pp incl index) to be more exciting than some thrillers. His research is amazing - not only into the life of a 17th century sailor, but also life in the Netherlands. Find this in Australian History. Mike Dash is also the author of a book that was very successful a year or two ago, **Tulipomania** (\$22.95 Pb), about an irrational surge in the value of tulips, which was no doubt a spin-off from all his research in the Netherlands. Peter Goldsworthy, the librettist for the opera, has also written some excellent books, including **Maestro** (\$19.95 Pb), about an immigrant piano teacher in Darwin, and his latest novel, **Three Dog Night** (\$29.95).

I really enjoyed reading Simon Winchester's **The Meaning of Everything: The Story of the Oxford English Dictionary** (\$34.95 Hb). It brought back memories of our Oxford & Cambridge Bookshop, which we opened in 1978 first at the corner of King and York Streets, then on the mezzanine there upstairs, then in the corner here at 131 York Street. Oxford & Cambridge Bookshop has melted into the rest of the great bookshop you have at your disposal here today, but we still stock most of the titles from these two great publishers. At that time, we were very proud to have a complete set of the OED on our shelves behind the counter. Originally, we even had the fascicles, then later the Supplements to the First Edition. We still stock the OED in boxes out the back and sell it more often than you might expect. A special price of \$2,003 is available just now. Before I really do retire, we might even have the Third Edition! Can you guess which letter of the alphabet is at the beginning of the most number of words in the OED? It is S, followed by C.

Talking of books behind the counter, I scarcely need remind you that you can have books put aside for you, and also order books from anywhere in the world. We have fantastic, up-to-the-minute information regarding availability. A customer recently asked me if we ordered books in, and I was surprised that they should ask. We certainly do and we often order in some amazing books that very few people have heard of! Sometimes when customers pick up books they've ordered, other customers standing at the cash desk see the books and think, "Golly, I'd like that too", so we order them again immediately, and sometimes a copy for stock as well. The little display area at the end of the cash desk is a place to look for single titles that have just arrived from overseas.

If you look up books on our website at [www.abbey.com.au](http://www.abbey.com.au), but want to see them first, I should tell you that sometimes they are not in the department shown on the website. The website information is taken directly from the industry standard listing, but we may have a different opinion or a better subdivision. So please feel free to ask someone to show you where to look. We have signs up saying, "Can't find the book you want? Please ask!" and we do mean it.

Janette Turner Hospital was awarded the *Patrick White Award* late last year. This award is intended for writers whose work has not received adequate recognition in this country. I do think this excellent writer has had good recognition in Australia, not only for her recent novel **Due Preparations for the Plague** (\$29.95 Pb), but also for most of her earlier works. Perhaps this choice means there are few Australian writers of merit today who do not get sufficient recompense for their work? 20 years ago, there were many of them, but Australian authors today do get better acceptance and sales!

There is a new, updated edition of Ray Parkin's wonderful book **HM Bark Endeavour** (\$59.95 Hb), as well as some books on Captain Cook's travels that you will find in Pacific History, including Anne Salmond's **The Trial of the Cannibal Dog: Captain Cook in the South Seas** (49.95 Hb 506pp incl index) and Nicholas Thomas' **Discoveries: The Voyages of Captain Cook** (\$59.95 Hb 468pp incl index). Did you know that entry to the National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour is now free for a 6-month trial? It's a fascinating place, so go along and add to the visitor numbers to show it is a good idea!

I hope you have all had a happy and healthy time, and that the New Year starts well for you.

Eve

# Abbey's Bestsellers - December 2003

## Non-Fiction

- 1 **Death Sentence: The Decay of Modern Language** by Don Watson (Hb \$29.95)
- 2 **The Meaning of Everything: The Story of the World's Greatest Dictionary** by Simon Winchester (Hb \$34.95)
- 3 **Bad Popes** by Russell Chamberlain (Pb \$24.95)
- 4 **The Golden Ratio: The Story of Phi, the Extraordinary Number of Nature, Art and Beauty** by Mario Levi (Pb \$24.95)
- 5 **Cat Tales: The Meaning of Cats in Women's Lives** by Jan Fook, Susan Hawthorne & Renate Klein (Pb \$32.95)
- 6 **Electronic Whorehouse** by Paul Sheehan (Tp \$30.00)
- 7 **The Mammoth Book of Roman Whodunnits** ed by Mike Ashley (Pb \$21.95)
- 8 **Black Kettle and Full Moon** by Geoffrey Blainey (Hb \$45.00)
- 9 **Dude, Where's My Country?** by Michael Moore (Hb \$39.95)
- 10 **The Adventure of English: The Biography of a Language** by Melvynn Bragg (Hb \$55.00)



## Fiction

- 1 **Vernon God Little** by D B C Pierre (Tp \$29.95)
- 2 **The Namesake** by Jhumpa Lahiri (Tp \$27.95)
- 3 **The Great Fire** by Shirley Hazzard (Tp \$28.00)
- 4 **Master and Commander** by Patrick O'Brian (Pb \$18.95)
- 5 **Scarecrow** by Matthew Reilly (Hb \$45.00)
- 6 **Portuguese Irregular Verbs** by Alexander McCall Smith (Pb \$19.95)
- 7 **The Five People You Meet in Heaven** by Mitch Albom (Tp \$27.95)
- 8 **The Da Vinci Code** by Dan Brown (Tp \$29.95)
- 9 **The Lady and the Unicorn** by Tracy Chevalier (Pb \$27.95)
- 10 **Baudolino** by Umberto Eco (Pb \$24.95)



## Now in Paperback

**The Righteous: The Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust** by Martin Gilbert \$29.95

This is the story of the unsung heroes and heroines of the Holocaust, the 'Righteous Gentiles', brave individuals throughout occupied Europe who hid, protected and helped Jews.

**Interesting Times: A Twentieth Century Life** by Eric Hobsbawm \$29.95

Born in 1917, the year of the Russian Revolution, the 85 years of Eric Hobsbawm's life are back-dropped by an endless litany of wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. His autobiography is one passionate cosmopolitan Jew's account of his travels through that past which is another country, where they do things differently, and how it became the world we now live in.

**Emperor: The Death of Kings** by Conn Iggulden \$29.95

Forced to flee Rome, Julius Caesar is serving on board a war galley in the dangerous waters of the Mediterranean when he is captured by pirates and then abandoned on the North African coast. He begins to gather a group of recruits to forge into a unit strong enough to gain vengeance on his captors.

**The Cave** by Joseph Saramago \$22.95

Cipriano Algor, an ageing potter, lives with his daughter in the shadow of the Centre, a nebulous megaplex that provides his livelihood - until it haughtily decrees it is no longer interested in his humble wares. Then late one night, he comes across a horrifying secret.

**Voyage by Dhow** by Norman Lewis \$25.00.

This collection of essays is the result of a lifetime - over 60 years - spent travelling. From the Russian Steppes, via the Yemen, to Naples, Paraguay and beyond, Lewis has yet to find a place not worth visiting. Whether describing dancing executioners, burial rites in western Mexico, or the eponymous voyage by dhow, his writing brings the world, in all its complexity, vividly to life.

**Carnival in Romans: Mayhem and Massacre in a French City** by Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie \$35.

First published in 1979, Le Roy Ladurie tells the thrilling story of how the winter carnival of 1580 in the French city of Romans degenerated into a bloody ambush.

**From Eden to Exile: The Epic History of the People of the Bible** by David Rohl \$26.95

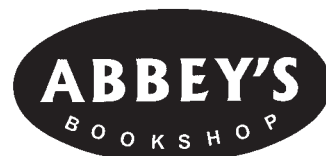
Rohl follows the sequence of events from the rise of Neolithic civilisation in a region now part of Iran (and which inspired the story of the Garden of Eden), through Noah, Abraham and the sojourn in Egypt, to the fall of Jericho, the dual kingdoms of the Promised Land and lastly, the exile in Babylon, where the stories of the Old Testament were collated into something very like their present form.

Editor: Ann Leahy

Contributors: Eve Abbey, David Hall,  
Lindy Jones & Ann Leahy

### Binding Key

Pb	Paperback
Tp	Trade paperback (larger format)
Lp	Large paperback (very large)
Hb	Hardback
Lh	Large hardback (very large)
Ca	Cassettes



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