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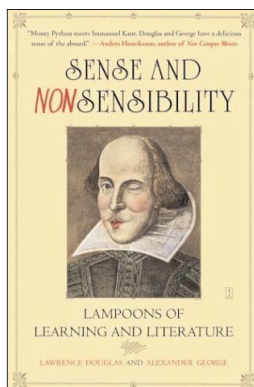
books@abbey.com.au

Sense and Nonsensibility Lampoons of Learning and Literature

Lawrence DOUGLAS

& Alexander GEORGE 182pp Pb \$19.95

Two widely published humour columnists and 'bad boys' of academia take their wit and wisdom to dazzling new lows in this irreverent send-up of highbrow literary culture. "Long ago we realised that we could not single-handedly reverse civilisation's inexorable decline. We could, though, contribute to it. This is the path we have chosen. If we cannot revive the life of the mind from its increasingly vegetative state, then at least we can put a smile on the patient's face." They poke fun at everyone from spoof-proof scholars to pompous professors; from anal-retentive authors to plagiarising poets; from snake-oil therapists to bestselling illiterati.



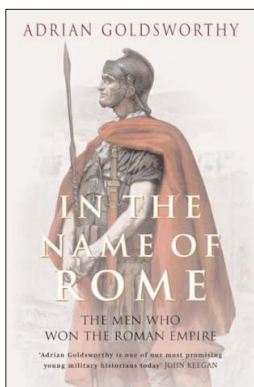
In the Name of Rome

The Men Who Won the Roman Empire

Adrian GOLDSWORTHY

480pp Pb \$26.95

The Roman army was one of the most effective fighting forces in history. The legions and their commanders carved out an empire which eventually included the greater part of the known world. This was thanks largely to the generals who led the Roman army to victory after victory, and whose strategic and tactical decisions shaped the course of several centuries of warfare. This book, by the author of **The Punic Wars** (Pb \$19.95), concentrates on those Roman generals who displayed exceptional gifts of leadership and who won the greatest victories. With 26 chapters covering the entire span of the Roman Empire, it is a complete history of Roman warfare.



Breach of Trust

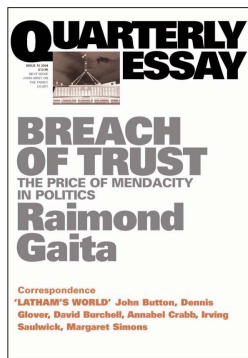
The Price of Mendacity in Politics

Quarterly Essay # 16

Raimond GAITA

144pp Pb \$13.95

Many people are now dismayed by the relaxed attitude of governments here and abroad towards truth-telling. Examples come readily to mind: WMD and Iraq, 'children overboard' and the Manildra affair. Deceitful 'spin' and denial of responsibility seem to have become commonplace in political life. Cynics say that none of this is new: what can you expect of politicians? Gaita believes otherwise, and in this bold and brilliantly argued essay, he explains why. Politics, he says, is potentially a noble vocation. Politicians have various kinds of responsibilities to speak the truth. Lying is not something one can readily accept as just the way of the world. Thinking through noteworthy examples from recent public debates, he examines how the truth can be twisted and obscured and what this does to our public life.



due January

Penguin Summer Reading

Throughout January, choose any three of these popular paperbacks and pay only \$50



The Art of Travel

Alain de Botton \$24.95

Happiness Will Ferguson \$22.95**Fever Pitch** Nick Hornby \$22.95

The Poisonwood Bible

Barbara Kingsolver \$22.95

Prodigal Summer

Barbara Kingsolver \$22.95

The Catcher in the Rye

J D Salinger \$19.95

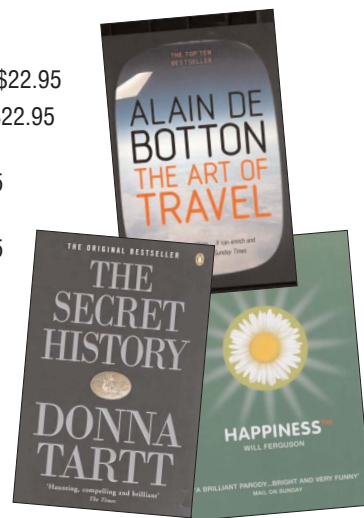
The Secret History

Donna Tartt \$24.95

White Teeth

Zadie Smith \$22.95

Limited stocks

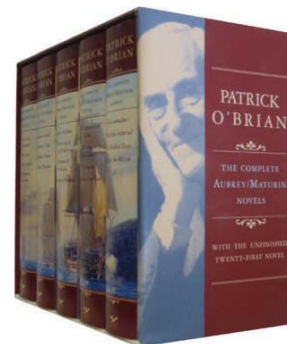


Patrick O'Brian Omnibus

Patrick O'BRIAN

Boxed Set \$450.00

These five hardbacks, beautifully produced and boxed, contain 21 stories and over 7,000 pages of what has often been described as a single, continuous narrative following the adventures of Jack Aubrey and his ship's surgeon and great friend Stephen Maturin. These volumes are a perfect tribute to such a literary achievement and a wonderful gift for the O'Brian enthusiast. The recent release of the film *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* has focused even more attention on the publishing phenomenon of the late Patrick O'Brian's Aubrey-Maturin novels, set in the Royal Navy in the age of Nelson. Now, four years after O'Brian's death, his estate has agreed to release the chapters of the novel he was working on when he died. It is both fitting and moving that in these pages we are given glimpses of Jack Aubrey raising his admiral's flag at last!



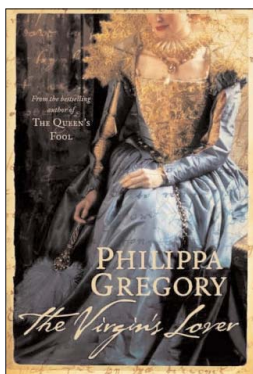
Australia Day
Wednesday 26 January
Open 10am - 5pm



Books - Where Ideas Grow

The Virgin's Lover

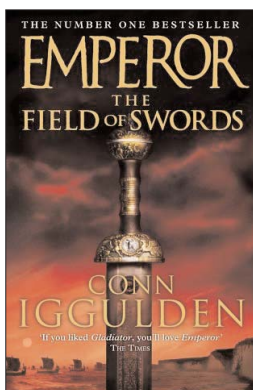
Philippa GREGORY 400pp Tp \$29.95
Elizabeth I has acceded to the throne of England, a position she has waited and schemed for all her life. She is surrounded by advisers, all convinced that they know what would be best for the country and certain that a young woman cannot form political judgements. Elizabeth feels that she can rely on just one man: her oldest friend, Robert Dudley. It is soon plain that he is more than merely a friend. In a house in the countryside waits a very different woman, Amy Robsart, Robert's wife. She has no taste for life at court and longs for the day when her husband will return home and attend to his family. She has loved him since she was a girl, but now they are adults she hardly sees him. Meanwhile, the pressure grows for Elizabeth to marry, for it is unthinkable that a queen should rule on her own. Elizabeth's preference is clear, but he is unavailable. But what if the unthinkable were to happen... Gregory blends passion, personalities and politics in this stunning novel of the Tudor court and a country divided.



Emperor

The Field of Swords

Conn IGGULDEN 588pp Tp \$29.95
Following *The Gates of Rome* and *The Death of Kings* (both Pb \$18.95), this is the third volume in the acclaimed *Emperor* series, in which Iggulden brilliantly interweaves history and adventure to recreate the astonishing life of Julius Caesar. Following the defeat of the Spartacus rebellion, Julius Caesar and Marcus Brutus, who have been sent to run the Roman colonies in Spain, return to challenge powerful senators to become one of the Consuls of Rome. As he takes the legions north into mighty battles with the Gallic tribes, the imperious stand of Caesar and the leadership of his men, his new friendships with fellow leaders and his overwhelming ambition, begin to separate him from Brutus, the great swordsman and warrior. Their long friendship reveals ominous cracks under the strain. Although the Gallic conquests lead to Caesar's triumphal entry into Britain, the victories on the battlefield cause political rivalries at home and ultimately the famous choice is presented to Caesar and Marcus Brutus. They must choose whether to cross the Rubicon - together or singly - and take the fight to Rome itself.

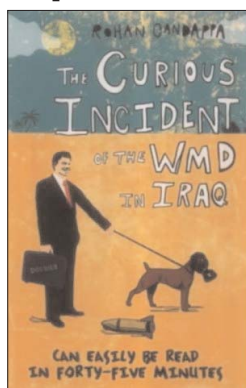


The Travels of Lady "Bulldog" Burton

Sandi TOKSVIG & Sandy NIGHTINGALE 86pp Pb \$19.95
Celebrated inventor of the double-gusset underpant and inveterate traveller, Lady "Bulldog" Burton's previously unpublished diaries (this is Vol 1) provide a fascinating account of the grand tour of Europe that she and her maid Jinks undertook together in the late 1880s. Editor (inventor), Sandi Toksvig has selected from the detailed journal entries that 'Bully' made throughout her extraordinarily colourful trip to bring her, her peers and the Victorian age vividly to life. In addition, a selection of Jinks' original sketches has been carefully restored by illustrator, Sandy Nightingale. Rather thoroughly British. *Shelley*

The Curious Incident of the WMD in Iraq

Rohan CANDAPPA 128pp Pb \$14.95
This is a mystery like no other. The detective, and narrator, is Anthony Algernon St Michael Blair, the Prime Minister of Britain. He knows a great deal about New Labour, sound bites and why he makes a good leader and very little about the history of Iraq. He loves cheese and hates Gordon Brown. He discovers what he thinks is the central mystery and sets out to investigate it, but subsequently discovers a deception which leaves him forever linked in an uneasy triangle with a stumbling, inarticulate US president and a genocidal dictator.

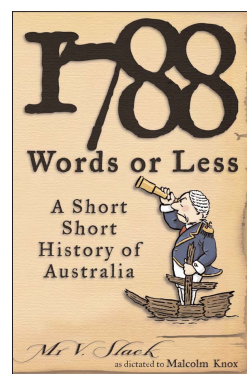


1788 Words or Less

A Short Short History of Australia

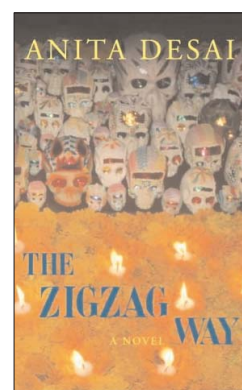
Malcolm KNOX Pb \$14.95
All the Australian history you'll ever need to know - condensed into a book the size of a passport. Famous faces range from boatpeople Dirk Warthog and the wicked Captain Bligh to great leaders John Macarthur, who rode on the sheep's back, and Sir Henry National Parkes, who had a mighty beard. Australia's top sportspeople rate a mention - "Our Don Bradperson" and "Our Dawnie Fraser".

There's an explanation of Australian politics (Responsible and Representative, also known as Reprehensible, Government). And there are plenty of action replays of our most exciting moments: the time when convicts were emaciated; the day Rum'n'Raisins became currency; the distinguished era when sandstone became the new granite; and the baffling one when brave men and camels went inland and got lost. Guaranteed free of spelling errors and factual inaccuracies (conditions apply), this book also features the cartoons of *Bulletin* and *HQ* illustrator David Messer. *due January*



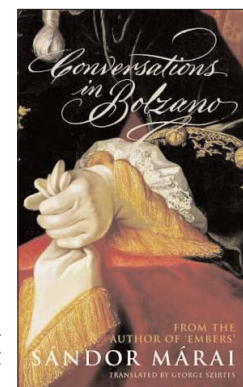
The Zigzag Way

Anita DESAI 192pp Hb \$39.95
Eric is a youngish man, self-conscious, awkward, a buttoned-down North American, a would-be writer and a traveller in spite of himself. Susceptible to bossy women, he finds himself in the wake of one in Mexico, where he is overwhelmed at first with sensory overload, but is gradually seduced - by the strangeness, the colour, the contrasts, the old world. He finds himself on a curious quest for his own family in a 'ghost' mining town, where almost 100 years earlier young Cornish men, like his own grandfather, worked the mines - until Pancho Villa and revolution came to Mexico... Desai paints a subtle, miniaturist history of 20th century Mexico, seen from unexpected perspectives, that evokes the exploitation of the Mexican Indians while looking askance at some of their 'saviours' like the formidable Queen of the Sierra, Dona Vera, widow of a mining baron and with a colourful, dubious, European past of her own. With vivid sympathy and detail, Desai conjures up Eric's grandmother and her poignant story, that of a young Cornish girl whose grave is in a cemetery on a Mexican hillside.



Conversations in Bolzano

Sandor MARAI 304pp Tp \$29.95
It is midnight, 31 October, 1758 and Giacomo Casanova has escaped from a Venetian prison after 16 months consigned to darkness and the underworld. Shaking off the enforced solitude, Casanova makes his way to Bolzano - the small village where he was dealt a cruel hand. A place full of memories, Bolzano was the scene of a moonlit duel fought with the Duke of Parma when Casanova and he were both in pursuit of the beguiling Francesca. The quest was lost and Casanova was left with three scars above his heart and one option - he could live, but only on the condition he never saw Francesca again. But now Casanova is back, having secured a loan from an old friend, and is determined to win this time, whilst the Duke has an offer Casanova simply cannot refuse and that just might spell his undoing.



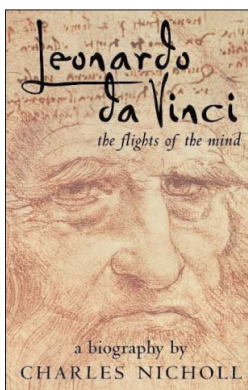
Biography

Leonardo Da Vinci

The Flights of the Mind

Charles NICHOLL 640pp Hb \$65.00

Leonardo is the greatest, most multi-faceted and most mysterious of all Renaissance artists. Nicholl has immersed himself in manuscripts, paintings and artefacts to produce an intimate portrait of Leonardo. He uses these contemporary materials - his notebooks and sketchbooks, eye witnesses and early biographies - as a way into the mental tone and physical texture of Leonardo's life and has made many discoveries about him, his work and his circle of associates. The book identifies what Nicholl argues is an unknown portrait of the artist hanging in a church near Lodi in northern Italy. It also contains new material on his eccentric assistant Tommaso Masini, his homosexual affairs in Florence and his curious relationship with a female model and/or prostitute from Cremona. A masterpiece of modern biography.

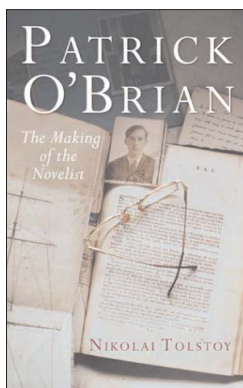


Patrick O'Brian

The Making of the Novelist

Nikolai TOLSTOY 496pp Hb \$54.95

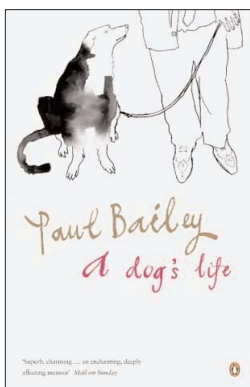
Arguably the greatest British novelist of the 20th century, O'Brian is revered for his 15-volume series set in the Royal Navy at the beginning of the 19th century featuring Aubrey and Maturin. This volume tells the story of O'Brian's life up to his decision to move to Collioure in the south of France. His oppressed childhood, his precocious writing success, his first marriage, divorce and name change are all dealt with. Tolstoy was O'Brian's stepson and his acquaintanceship with him lasted 45 years. He was the sole beneficiary of his stepfather's will and is one of the trustees of O'Brian's estate. He has unique access to letters, notebooks and photographs, which will appear in this book. As such, this will be the definitive biography of a literary genius. *due January*



A Dog's Life

Paul BAILEY 192pp Pb \$22.95

In the spring of 1985, the novelist Paul Bailey found himself becoming the unlikely owner of a dog. He saw the puppy in the window of a pet shop and was instantly (and lastingly) beguiled. She was given the name Circe by Bailey's dying partner, David, who was also overcome by her charms, though after a good deal of resistance. This memoir tells of the 16 years Bailey spent in Circe's company, while also offering portraits of friends and acquaintances, living and dead.



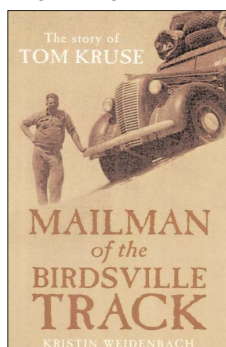
Mailman of the Birdsville Track

The Story of Tom Kruse

Kristin WEIDENBACH

304pp Pb \$22.95

The Birdsville is one of the best known and loneliest tracks in Australia, and for 20 years Tom Kruse was the mailman, battling searing heat, floods and mechanical breakdowns. He made the run every fortnight and was a lifeline to the isolated settlements and stations along the way, delivering everything from letters to essential stores. He made running repairs to his truck, he loaded and unloaded tons of stores to ferry his cargo across flooded creeks. He kept people in touch with the outside world and always got the mail through come drought, hell or high water. This is his story, a truly classic Australian story, capturing a part of our culture that is fast vanishing.



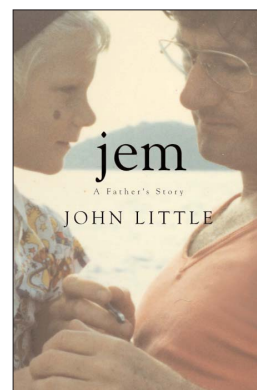
Jem

A Father's Story

John LITTLE

288pp Hb \$30.00

On 6 July 2003, Jeremy Little was fatally wounded in a rocket attack near Fallujah in Iraq. He was a 27-year-old sound recordist working for a US television network. For a week, Jeremy's fight for life was headline news around Australia. After he lost his battle, the interest of the public and media, inevitably, moved on. Yet for his father, John, his son's death was a tragedy that he will live with forever. To make sense of it, he began writing the story of Jeremy's life because, in his own words, "in the life and valiant death of my sunny, carefree son could be found lessons about love, hope, mateship and goodness, the qualities that make us human, and better than those who seek to destroy us." Out of fear and pain and blood on a dark desert road in Iraq, emerges a story of optimism and hope, made all the more powerful because it is recounted in the shadow of the dark forces that the world now faces.



Hell Hath No Fury

Women's Letters from the End of the Affair

Anna HOLMES (editor)

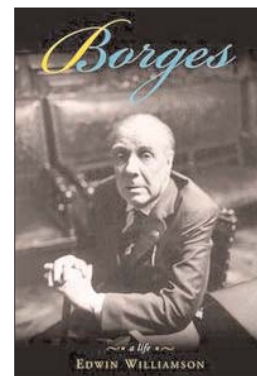
400pp Pb \$29.95

An inspirational and highly entertaining collection of letters from women - both fictional and real - whose romances have gone awry and ended emotionally. Encompassing a wide range of feelings and writing styles, this book is filled with mad missives, caustic communiqués, sweet send-offs and other brilliant break-up letters. Organised by theme, circumstance and tone, and arranged chronologically within each chapter, these intriguing letters span history from 10 BC to the present day. From Anne Boleyn's letter to Henry VIII defending her virtue, to Sylvia Plath's writings to her lover Phil McCurdy expressing her wish to maintain a platonic relationship, are a wide variety of entries from Anais Nin, Edith Wharton, Queen Elizabeth I, Charlotte Bronte, Virginia Woolf and many more.

Borges

Edwin WILLIAMSON 416pp Hb \$60.00

This major new biography is the first in any language to encompass the entire span of Jorge Luis Borges's life and work. Drawing upon previously unknown or unavailable sources, it brings out the human side of Borges: his roots in Argentina, the evolution of his political ideas, his relations with family and friends; the conflicts, desires and obsessions that drove the man and shaped his work. Williamson finally unlocks the mysteries that still surround the life of Borges, resulting in a compelling and poignant portrait that will radically transform established views of this modern master.



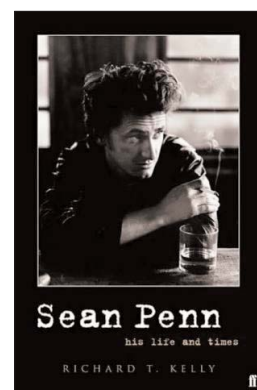
Sean Penn

His Life and Times

Richard KELLY

448pp Hb \$49.95

Sean Penn had barely hit our movie screens before he was hailed as "the best actor of his generation". Then his tumultuous first marriage to Madonna turned his life into pulp-fiction, even landing him in jail. But Penn re-emerged as a brilliant director, devoted father, occasional hell-raiser and reluctant actor, capable nevertheless of breathtaking performances (*Dead Man Walking*, *Sweet and Lowdown*, *Mystic River*). He also found his political voice, inspired by the example of his father Leo, a decorated WWII serviceman whose acting career was cruelly curtailed during the 1940s blacklist era. Drawing on many exclusive interviews, Kelly creates a richly detailed likeness of an uncompromising American artist.

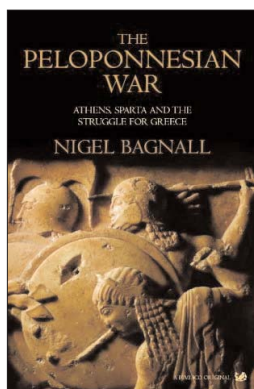


The Peloponnesian War

Athens, Sparta and the Struggle for Greece

Nigel BAGNALL 352pp Tp \$40.00

The Peloponnesian War lasted for 27 years, from 431-404 BC, and in Greek history holds a comparable place to that of the First World War. It was a power struggle in which Athens and her allies were finally conquered by the confederation led by Sparta, just as the Central Powers were defeated by the Allies in 1914-1918. The Peloponnesian War is a vital part of military history due to the enormous changes that occurred as a result of the conflict and, more specifically, since it displays the importance of having clear objectives, the interplay of maritime and land operations, and the problems of achieving cohesion in an alliance when all the participants see themselves as fellow citizens. In this brilliant new book, Bagnall sets out to analyse and clarify the war, describing in compelling detail the events that led up to it. He highlights the complex interrelationship between the Greek states and closely studies the politico-strategic conduct of the two principal contestants. His refreshing stance differs from the traditional accounts of the conflict due to the vast amount of attention he gives to the historical context of the war.

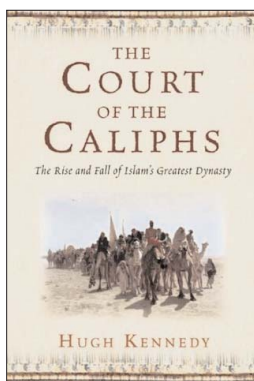


The Court of the Caliphs

The Rise and Fall of Islam's Greatest Dynasty

Hugh KENNEDY 280pp Hb \$59.95

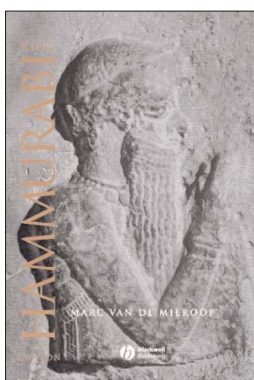
Kennedy makes no apology for the "fair share of booze and sex" involved in this book, which takes us back to Baghdad and Samarra in the glory days of the Caliphate. From a rebellion planned in a remote desert town to the founding of Baghdad in AD 762, the rule of the Abbasid dynasty was looked back on as the golden era of the Islamic Conquest. The Muslim world was ruled by a single sovereign, who waged holy war against the Byzantines and protected the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. For what was to be the last time in history, a mighty empire was based on the ancient Mesopotamian heartland that had once supported the Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians. The Caliphs formed the model for succeeding Muslim regimes. From military conquests to patronising poetry, building palaces and the formal structure of the court - harems, viziers, eunuchs and the tales of the Arabian Nights - the Abbasid Caliphate offered a historical ideal for later empires and their rulers to aspire to. This is an epic story in every sense, with larger-than-life rulers, exotic slave girls, inventive tortures and enough court intrigue to frighten a Borgias.



King Hammurabi of Babylon

Marc VAN DE MIEROOP 184pp Pb \$57.95

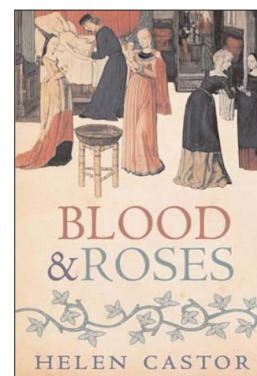
This book presents the first biography written in English of the famous Babylonian lawgiver, King Hammurabi, who ruled from 1792 to 1750 BC. It presents a well-rounded view of this ancient Mesopotamian king's accomplishments by drawing on the extensive writings of his time, including those by Hammurabi himself. Numerous letters and reports by ambassadors to his court and others are presented in translation. The author traces Hammurabi's career as diplomat and conqueror, describing how he dealt with powerful rivals and extended his kingdom to create the large state of Babylon. He explores the administration of the kingdom and looks at the legacies of Hammurabi's rule, especially his legal code, the earliest complete body of legal instructions in world history. The book demonstrates how Hammurabi's conquests irrevocably changed the political organisation of the Middle East. It also shows that Hammurabi was long remembered by the ancient Mesopotamians as one of the greatest kings of the past.



Blood & Roses

Helen CASTOR 347pp Hb \$59.95

Between 1455 and 1485, the aristocratic culture was a world of cut-throat snobbery and vicious power struggles. The Pastons of Norfolk were newcomers to the game: an ambitious nouveau riche family striving to establish themselves among the landed gentry. They took part in the Wars of the Roses in supporting roles, but were extraordinary characters in their own right: William Paston - the self-made man who founded the family's fortunes - his wife Margaret and sons John I, II & III were all great letter writers. Extraordinarily, their heady correspondence - about politics, business, shopping, love and each other - has survived the centuries, forming the earliest great collection of private correspondence in the English language. The result of 10 years research using the Paston archive as primary material, this is a remarkable family biography, which includes sumptuous illustrations.

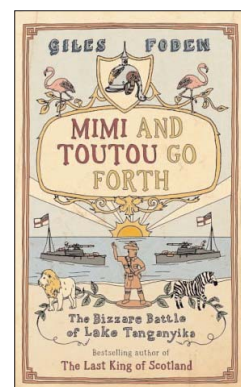


Mimi and Toutou Go Forth

The Bizarre Battle of Lake Tanganyika

Giles FODEN 319pp Hb \$39.95

At the start of WWI, German warships controlled Lake Tanganyika in Central Africa. The British had no naval craft at all upon "Tanganjikasee", as the Germans called it. This mattered - it was the longest lake in the world and of great strategic advantage. In June 1915, a force of 28 men was despatched from Britain on a vast journey. Their orders were to take control of the lake. To reach it, they had to haul two motorboats with the unlikely names of *Mimi* and *Toutou* through the wilds of the Congo. The 28 were a strange bunch - one was addicted to Worcester sauce, another was a former racing driver - but the strangest of them all was their skirt-wearing, tattoo-covered commander, Geoffrey Spicer-Simson. Whatever it took, even if it meant becoming the god of a local tribe, he was determined to cover himself in glory. But the Germans had a surprise in store for Spicer-Simson in the shape of their secret 'supership' the *Graf von Gotzen*. ...Unearthing new German and African records, the author of **The Last King of Scotland** (Pb \$22) retells this most unlikely of true-life tales with his customary narrative energy and style.



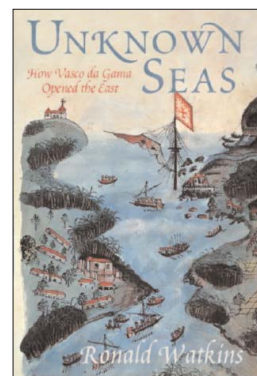
Unknown Seas

How Vasco da Gama Opened the East

Ronald WATKINS

336pp Pb \$27.95

In the 15th century, the world beyond Europe began to emerge from myth and legend, and it was the Portuguese who led the way. They founded an empire that stretched from China to Brazil, and the peak of their achievement was Vasco da Gama's discovery of a sea route to India. Today, landmarks, coastlines and currents around the world still bear Portuguese names and the oceans of the world are one vast watery grave for Portuguese seamen. For those who sailed beyond the known world, life was harsh beyond measure. Yet the discoverers were not lured only by gold, precious stones and spices - they were driven to colonise, to enslave and to bring their religion to the unconverted. Reconstructing journeys from contemporary logs and papers, this absorbing and wonderfully vivid account brings to life the captains driving their small ships, the ordinary seamen and the far-off, not-always-friendly traders they met.

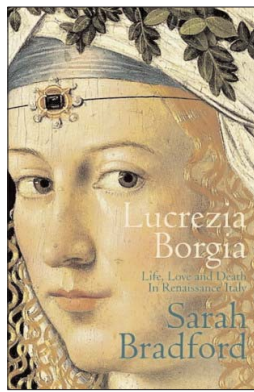


Lucrezia Borgia

Life, Love and Death in Renaissance Italy

Sarah BRADFORD 368pp Hb \$65.00

Was Lucrezia Borgia an infamous murderess or simply the victim of bad press? Her name has echoed through history as a byword for evil - a poisoner who committed incest with her natural father, Pope Alexander VI, and with her brother, Cesare Borgia. Long considered the most ruthless of Italian Renaissance noblewomen, her tarnished reputation has prevailed long since her own lifetime. In this definitive biography, a work of huge scholarship and erudition, Bradford gives a fascinating account of Lucrezia's life in all its colourful controversy. Daughter, sister, wife and mother, she was surrounded by wealth, privilege and intrigue. But what was the truth behind her extraordinary existence - was she a monster of cruelty and deceit, or simply the pawn of her power-hungry father and brother?



Fighting for Christendom

Holy War and the Crusades

Christopher TYERMAN 216pp Hb \$42.95

Crusading fervour gripped Europe for over 200 years, creating one of the most extraordinary, vivid episodes in world history. Whether the Crusades are regarded as the most romantic of Christian expeditions, or the last of the barbarian invasions, they have fascinated generations ever since. Their legacy of ideas and imagery has resonated through the centuries, inspiring Hollywood movies and great works of literature. Even today, to invoke the Crusades is to stir deep cultural myths, assumptions and prejudices. With customary flair and originality, Tyerman picks his way through the many debates to present a clear and lively discussion of the Crusades; bringing together issues of colonialism, cultural exchange, economic exploitation and the relationship between past and present.



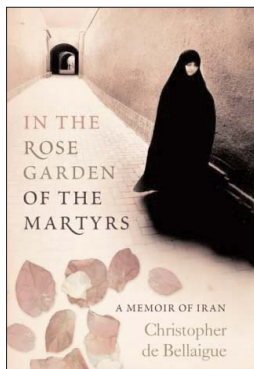
In the Rose Garden of the Martyrs

A Memoir of Iran

Christopher de BELLAIGUE

304pp Tp \$35.00

A superb, authoritatively written insider's account of one of the most mysterious, but significant and powerful, nations in the world - Iran. In this superbly crafted and deeply thoughtful book, Christopher de Bellaigue, who is married to an Iranian and has lived there for many years, gives us the voices and memories of this "worn-out generation", be they traders or soldiers, film-makers or clerics, writers or taxi-drivers, gangsters or reformists. These are voices that are never heard, but whose lives and concerns are forging the future of one of the most secretive, misunderstood countries in the world. The result is a subtle, yet intense, revelation of the hearts and minds of the Iranian people.



The Art of War

Betty CHURCHER

186pp Lp \$39.95

"The 20th century had started with confidence in the machine, which was expected to usher in a new age of ease and prosperity, and with a promise of the benefits of modernity. The First World War changed all this, dramatically and forever. The human trauma that followed in the immediate wake of the conflicts radically changed art itself." Betty Churcher, one of Australia's leading art historians, illustrates her observation in this lavish publication. An extraordinary reading experience!

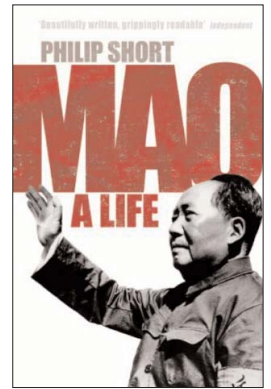
Shelley

Mao

A Life

Philip SHORT 782pp Pb \$29.95

Mao Zedong was a defining figure of the 20th century. Military strategist, statesman, fiendishly clever politician, philosopher and poet, no man has so profoundly influenced the fate of China's people since the First Emperor of Qin unified the country and built the Great Wall 2,000 years ago. The revolution engineered by Mao dragged almost a quarter of the world's people out of medieval splendour and squalor into the modern age. In this meticulously researched account, Short draws on extensive interviews and on a wealth of previously secret documentary material to present for the first time a complete portrait of this bewilderingly complex and versatile leader. He traces Mao's development from idealistic student to visionary despot, whose epic struggle to build a revolutionary realm of Red Virtue took the lives of more of his subjects than did any other leader in human history. Was Mao's life a tragic failure, imprisoned by his revolution? Or an unparalleled achievement of the human spirit, paving the way to a new Chinese golden age?

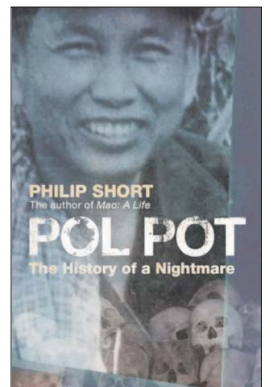


Pol Pot

The History of a Nightmare

Philip SHORT 656pp Tp \$39.95

In the three-and-a-half years of his rule in Cambodia, more than a million people, a fifth of Cambodia's population, were executed or died from hunger and disease. A supposedly gentle, carefree land of slumbering temples and smiling peasants became a concentration camp of the mind, a slave state in which absolute obedience was enforced on the 'killing fields'. Short spent four years travelling the length and breadth of Cambodia, interviewing surviving leaders of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge movement and sifting through previously closed archives from China, Russia and Vietnam, as well as Cambodia itself. Here, the former Khmer Rouge Head of State, Pol's brother-in-law and scores of lesser figures speak for the first time at length about their beliefs and motives, as Short traces Pol Pot's life from altruistic youth to one of the 20th century's most egregious political monsters.

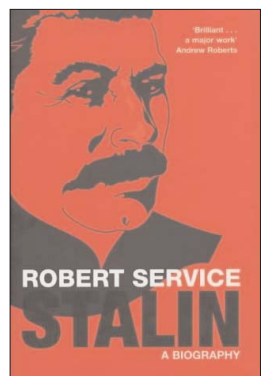


Stalin

A Biography

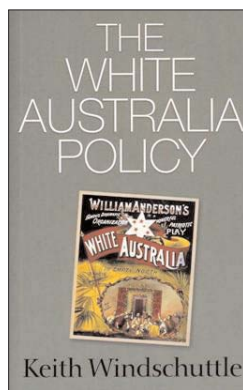
Robert SERVICE 715pp Hb \$59.95

Evidence about Stalin has always been opaque. Stalin himself orchestrated this, silencing his witnesses and systematically distorting, hiding and destroying documents. Service brings 30 years of his involvement with Russia and its history to bear on this most controversial and enigmatic of figures, concentrating not simply on Stalin as dedicated bureaucrat or serial political killer, but on a fuller assessment of the man himself. His early years in Georgia, his youthful revolutionary activism, his relationship with Lenin, with his family, with his party members: all of these formative interactions are subject to close scrutiny, as are the central episodes in his career. The events of the October Revolution, the Civil War, the Great Terror and above all the Second World War are more open to examination than ever before, and Service probes these to explain the nature of Stalin's personality, career and impact.



The White Australia Policy

Keith WINDSCHUTTLE 370pp Pb \$34.95
Windschuttle's previous book **The Fabrication of Aboriginal History: Volume One: Van Diemen's Land 1803-1847** (Hb \$49.95) asserted that accounts of murder and repression of Australian aboriginals had been greatly exaggerated by historians. Now he claims that Australia is not, and never has been, the racist country its academic historians have condemned. Previously these claims may have been quickly dismissed, but in the current political environment Windschuttle is gaining acclaim. In the spirit of freedom of information, I can only say read it and draw your own conclusions.



Ann

Accidental American

Tony Blair and the Presidency

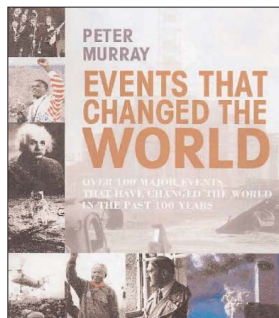
James NAUGHTIE 250pp Tp \$35.00
Tony Blair's affair with America is one of the most compelling stories of our time. He is the Prime Minister whose bonding with George W Bush imperilled his political future in Britain, while becoming a hero to many Americans after 9/11. In seven years, Blair has turned the 'special relationship' into something of a love affair. With unparalleled knowledge and using the testimony of a wide circle of intimate contacts, Naughtie traces the roots of Blair's American obsession - through intimacy of the Clinton years to controversy of the Bush administration's War on Terror - showing how he has revelled in the adulation and respect showered up on him. However, this veneration has come at a price. As Blair is attacked by recalcitrant members of his own party and distrusted by an increasingly suspicious electorate, America remains in his thrall.



Events That Changed the World

200 Major Events That Have Changed the World in the Past 100 Years

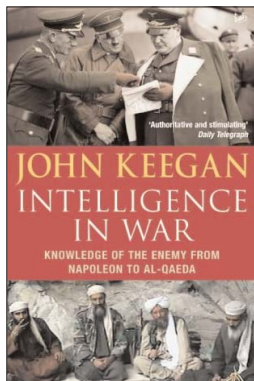
Peter MURRAY 288pp \$49.95
The past 100 years has been the biggest development period of planet Earth. This book includes 200 major events dating back from 1900 when Kodak introduced the \$1 Brownie Camera to the 9/11 event in 2001 that changed the world as we know it.



Intelligence in War

Knowledge of the Enemy from Napoleon to Al-Qaeda

John KEEGAN 324pp Pb \$30.00
"No war can be conducted successfully without early and good intelligence", wrote Marlborough. From the earliest times, commanders have sought knowledge of the enemy - his strengths and weaknesses, his dispositions and intentions. But how much effect, in the 'real time' of a battle or a campaign, can this knowledge have? In this magisterial new study, which will fascinate readers of both military and more general history, the author of **A History of Warfare** (Pb \$30) goes to the heart of a series of important conflicts to develop a powerful argument about intelligence in war. From the Napoleonic Wars to the sophisticated electronic warfare of the 21st century, Keegan finds linking themes which lead to a compelling conclusion. His narrative sweep is enthralling, whether portraying the dilemmas of Nelson seeking Napoleon's fleet, Stonewall Jackson in the American Civil War, Bletchley as it seeks to crack Ultra during the Battle of the Atlantic, the realities of the secret war in the Falklands or the polymorphous intelligence issues of the contemporary fight against terrorism.



The second volume of John Röhl's magisterial biography of Kaiser Wilhelm II is now available. **Wilhelm II: The Kaiser's Personal Monarchy** (1287pp Hb \$350.00) covers the period 1888-1900. Based on a wealth of previously unpublished archival material, it is the most detailed account ever written of the first half of his reign.

In **From Slave to Pharaoh** (218pp Hb \$84.00), noted Egyptologist Donald Redford examines over two millennia of complex social and cultural interactions between Egypt and the Nubian and Sudanese civilisations that lay to the south of Egypt. Moving beyond recent debates between Afro-centrists and their critics over the racial characteristics of Egyptian civilisation, it reveals the true complexity of race, identity and power in Egypt as documented through surviving texts and artefacts, while at the same time providing a compelling account of war, conquest and culture in the ancient world.

Sphinx: History of a Monument (122pp Pb \$37.00) by Christiane Zivie-Coche surveys the long history of the Great Sphinx and discusses its original appearance, its functions and religious significance, its relation to the many other Egyptian sphinxes, and the various discoveries connected with it.

George Buelow's **A History of Baroque Music** (701pp Hb \$129.00) is a detailed treatment of the music of the Baroque era, with particular focus on the 17th century. The author's methodology is score-based, with more than 200 musical examples from all genres and instrumental combinations.

Atlas of the Civil War (141pp Hb \$80.00) by Mark Swanson is the first Civil War atlas to depict multiple aspects of the war's action, month by month, from April 1861 to May-June 1865. 50 full-colour maps - one for each month of the war - convey as never before a sense of the war's progression on all fronts - battles, sieges, infantry campaigns, naval operations and cavalry raids.

The Cambridge History of American Music (637pp Pb \$89.95) edited by David Nicholls celebrates the richness of America's musical life, revealing the wide array of influences from Native, European, African, Asian and other sources. Topics covered include the growth and influence of popular music, including film and stage music, jazz, rock, folk and experimental music.

Dancing to a Black Man's Tune: A Life of Scott Joplin (288pp Tp \$43.00) by Susan Curtis is a thoughtful and intriguing study of the life and world of the man who created ragtime.

In **The Public Sphere** (265pp Pb \$43.95), Alan McKee provides an introduction to the concept of the public sphere, the history of the term and the philosophical arguments about its function. Addressing the questions of commercialisation, trivialisation, spectacle, fragmentation and apathy, it provides a unique overview as it draws together the philosophical perspectives of academic writing with the insights provided by *Big Brother*, women's magazines and websites to clarify the way our public world works today.

Neil Smith's **Chomsky: Ideas and Ideals** (Pb \$49.95) analyses Chomsky's key contributions to the study of language and the study of mind. This second edition has been thoroughly updated to account for Chomsky's most recent work, including his continued contributions to linguistics, his further discussion on evolution and his extensive work on the events of September 11 and their aftermath.

Nigel Hawthorne on Stage (380pp Hb \$59.95) by Kathleen Riley is the fully documented history of the 50-year career of the late Sir Nigel Hawthorne, star of *Yes*, *Minister*, *Shadowlands* and *The Madness of George III*. Enriched by the personal insights of the actor himself, it also includes interviews with his close friends and colleagues, including Alan Bennett and Sheridan Morley.

In **Confusion: A Study in the Theory of Knowledge** (256pp Tp \$39.95), Joseph Camp argues that a person who has mistaken two things, even on a massive scale, is still capable of logical thought. He rejects the notion that confusion is a kind of ambiguity and proposes a novel characterisation of confusion, demonstrating its fruitfulness with several applications in the history of philosophy and the history of science.

Dave

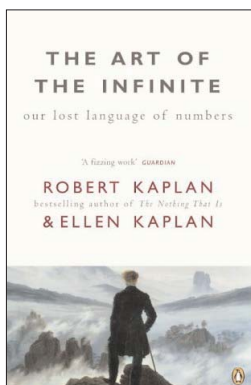
The Art of the Infinite Our Lost Language of Numbers

Robert & Ellen KAPLAN

336pp Pb \$24.95

Here you can discover provable properties of irrational, imaginary and prime numbers; infinite series, plane geometry, trigonometry and more. If it sounds a little daunting, relax. The authors' aim is to inspire readers to actually do math. Tracing a path from Pythagoras through Descartes and Leibniz to the brilliant, haunted Georg Cantor, the Kaplans take mathematics back to its estranged audience, bringing understanding and clarity to a traditionally difficult subject, and revealing the beauty behind the equations.

due January



Cara

Rapture

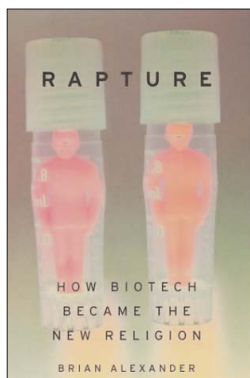
How Biotech Became the New Religion

Brian ALEXANDER 289pp Tp \$29.00

A Dickensian cast of characters includes the father of regenerative medicine, an anti-ageing guru and a former fundamentalist Christian who became the founder of the company that reportedly cloned the first human cell. This motley crew is in part being united by the force of the opposition: a burgeoning bio-Luddite movement whose foot soldiers - a strange coalition of conservative Republicans, the Christian right and the Greens - predict impending doom should we become adherents of the new bio-utopian faith. *Publishers Weekly* sums it up this way:

"Though sympathetic to his subjects and their work, Alexander casts his tale in shades of grey, rather than in black and white, and the result is a nuanced portrait of the intersection of idealism, capitalism, politics and science on the frontiers of biotechnology that will leave readers eager to see what the future might hold."

Shelley



A Brief Tour of Human Consciousness

From Impostor Poodles to Purple Numbers

V S RAMACHANDRAN

192pp Hb \$39.95

From the author of *Phantoms in the Brain* (Pb 24.95), this new book "belongs to that rare category of scientific book, one as accessible as it is deep" (Oliver Sacks). It is made up of five investigations of the greatest mysteries of the brain: The first chapter shows how amputees feel pain in limbs they no longer have as it introduces the great revolution of our age: neuroscience. The second demonstrates the counterintuitive point that believing is in fact seeing. The third audaciously sets out a general theory of beauty, explaining why, the world-over, cultures have fundamentally similar notions of what is attractive. The fourth explores synesthetes, people who see colours in numbers, textures in smells, et cetera. Finally, Ramachandran "concludes that brain science can now resolve many of the age-old quandaries of philosophers. A thought-provoking, wonderful read". (Roger Guillemin, Nobel Laureate)

Shelley

The Real Mars

Michael HANLON

250pp Hb \$40.00

This beautifully illustrated book is an excellent guide to the past, present and future of one of our nearest cosmic neighbours. It contains more than 100 spectacular images from the rovers Spirit and Opportunity and the orbiter Mars Express, as well as illustrations from past missions. There is so much information coming in from the ongoing missions to Mars that a book like this is invaluable for putting it all in context. Also new is **A Warmer, Wetter Mars** (557pp Pb \$81.95) by Jeffrey Kargel. It too is well-illustrated and up-to-date. It details the evidence that Mars was a relatively warm and wet place in geologically recent times and the possibility that even today there are vast reserves of water frozen beneath the planet's surface.

Dave

The End of the Line

How Overfishing is Changing the World and What We Eat

Charles CLOVER

313pp Hb \$48.95

Those who eat and celebrate fish often ignore the fact that fishing is an industry as technologically advanced as space travel, with an attitude to conservation 10,000 years out of date. Trawling on an industrial scale in the North Sea smashes everything not caught, taking 16 lbs of dead marine animals to produce just 1 lb of sole. Regulation is not working, with fishermen losing money, dolphins dying unnecessarily and fish stocks collapsing, despite the warning of the extinction of cod in the seas off Cape Cod. This book is written by the Environment Editor of the British *Daily Telegraph* from an entirely Northern Hemisphere perspective, however it may be of significant interest to environmentalists and government organisations concerned about this shocking development.

Shelley

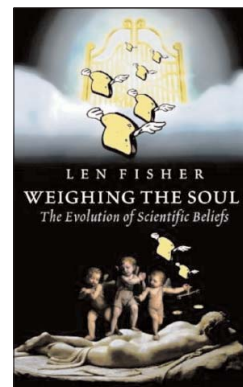
Weighing the Soul

The Evolution of Scientific Beliefs

Len FISHER

224pp Hb \$35.00

Recipient of an *Ig Nobel Prize* for his studies in the physics of biscuit dunking (explained in the accessible and fascinating **How to Dunk a Doughnut** Pb \$21.95) and voted "an enemy of the people" by *The Times* for work on the way roast dinners absorb gravy, Fisher shows that the path to scientific discovery is frequently a bumpy one that follows Schopenhauer's famous maxim: "All truth passes through three stages: First, it is ridiculed; second, it is violently opposed; and third, it is accepted as self-evident." Fisher tells the fascinating, human stories behind some of the great and not-so-great scientific ideas of the past. His witty and engaging style takes us from Frankenstein's monster to pacemakers, from The Water Babies to the structure of DNA, from one American doctor's attempts to weigh the human soul through to the necessary (and truly weird) mysteries of modern science. Along the way, he illuminates a wide variety of wonderful tidbits - such as links between Newton and Polaroid sunglasses, and how Quantum Mechanics gave us CD players - and shows why, like Alice in Wonderland, modern scientists can often end up believing six impossible things before breakfast.



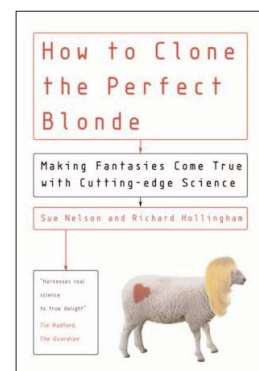
How to Clone the Perfect Blonde

Making Fantasies Come True with Cutting-edge Science

Sue NELSON & Richard HOLLINGHAM

280pp Pb \$24.95

In an attempt to create the most popular science book ever, the authors use cutting-edge science and technology to bring a little more happiness into our lives: cloning a faithful pet so that an old friend will forever be there to fetch your slippers; recreating a Grand National winner in a Petri dish; avoiding arguments by actually being in two places at once; boosting your intelligence with an extra brain; or simply making sure you do not get too cold with heat-sensitive underpants that tell your boiler what to do! Topics include: biotechnology, quantum mechanics, gene therapy, time travel, parallel universes, black holes, GM, bionics, cybernetics, cryogenics, nanotechnology, teleportation and antigravity. This book proves science can be fun, while also presenting the latest discoveries.



Sydney Observatory 2005 Sky Guide

POWERHOUSE MUSEUM

112pp Pb \$15.00

With simple instructions for use Australia-wide, this is a comprehensive astronomical guide and it really is all you need to find your way around the southern sky. Compact, easy to use and reliable, it contains monthly star maps, tidal charts, sun and moon rise and set times, facts on all the planets, meteorite movements, plus details of the year's most exciting astronomical events. Recommended for anyone who looks up at the stars and wants to know more.

The Australian Bushfire Safety Guide

The Essential Survival Guide for Every Home

John SCHAUBLE

198pp Pb \$19.95

Today, more than ever, homes and property are at a higher risk of being consumed by bushfire as new subdivisions spread out into the bushland around cities. Every Australian household should have this indispensable and practical guide covering some of the most essential information about bushfires including: understanding bushfire behaviour; making your home and property fire safe; travelling during bushfire season; defending your home; personal safety insurance; first-aid; and animal care. Reading this book could save someone's life, maybe even your own!

Drought, Dust and Deluge

A Century of Climate Extremes in Australia

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

78pp Lp \$24.95

With fascinating facts, figures, diagrams and photos, this beautifully illustrated publication summarises the many weather and climate extremes impacting on the Australian community during the 20th century. It serves as both an exciting read and a historical record of the meteorological events that shaped the perception of Australia. It includes chapters on: *Severe Storms* (the 1999 Sydney hailstorm was just the latest of many); *Bushfires* (Black Friday, Ash Wednesday and many others); *Flood* (Katherine, Maitland, Melbourne - no one is immune); *Drought* (Scourging Australia from Federation onwards); *Tropical Cyclones* (Tracy killed over 60 and others have caused more than 100 deaths); *East Coast Lows and Dust-storms* (Sydney awash, Melbourne shrouded in dust); *Heat and Cold* (Hot recently? What about the 1939 heatwave?)

Shelley

Natural Hazards

Edward BRYANT

312pp Pb \$69.95

The first edition of this book was highly regarded and used as a university text. This revised text makes good use of recent research and has many maps, photos and diagrams. The interested general reader will have no problem reading this (indeed, the anecdotes are related in a manner at times quite entertaining). It is an academic book and as such would be invaluable to student or professional.

Lindy

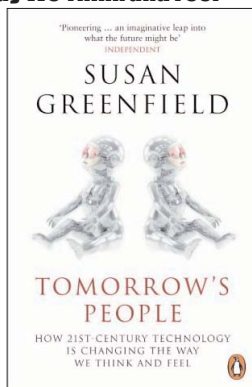
Tomorrow's People

How 21st Century Technology is Changing the Way We Think and Feel

Susan GREENFIELD

283pp Pb \$26.95

In this pioneering, speculative non-fiction book, acclaimed neuroscientist Susan Greenfield shows that we are standing on the brink of a mind makeover more cataclysmic than anything in our history. She explains how the 'human nature' of future generations could be on course for a dramatic alteration, arguing that the current revolution in biomedical science and information technologies will have a huge impact on our brain and central nervous system. She believes that the society in which future generations will live and the way they view themselves will be like nothing our species has yet experienced in the tens of thousands of years to date. Thought-provoking reading.



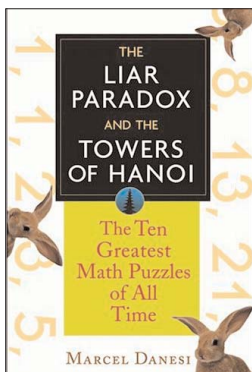
The Liar Paradox and the Towers of Hanoi

The Ten Greatest Math Puzzles of All Time

Marcel DANESI

248pp Tp \$26.95

With this book you can take a walk through history's most mind-boggling puzzles. Ever since the Sphinx asked his legendary riddle of Oedipus, riddles, conundrums and puzzles of all sizes have kept humankind perplexed and amused. This book takes die-hard puzzle mavens on a tour of the world's most enduringly intriguing brain twisters, from Königsberg's Bridges and the Hanoi Towers to Fibonacci's Rabbits, the Four Colour Problem and the Magic Square. Each chapter introduces the basic puzzle, discusses the mathematics behind it, and includes exercises and answers, plus additional puzzles similar to the one under discussion. Here is a veritable kaleidoscope of puzzling labyrinths, maps, bridges and optical illusions that will keep aficionados entertained for hours.



James Dewar's **To the End of the Solar System** (438pp Hb \$125.00) looks at the 18-year long American program to develop nuclear rocket engines. It analyses the program's scientific and economic consequences and outlines many mission applications for nuclear rockets.

In **Gravity's Shadow** (870pp Pb \$78.00), Harry Collins chronicles the 40-year effort to detect gravitational waves, while exploring the meaning of knowledge and the nature of expertise. There is much about the science of gravitational waves, but the emphasis of this book is the people and institutions involved in the search, revealing much about how modern science works.

The Best American Science Writing 2004 (270pp Pb \$24.95) edited by Dava Sobel contains 23 articles on a wide range of topics, from the last flight of Columbia to growing old, transsexual frogs, tuberculosis and the Big Bang.

Scientists have only recently become aware of how widespread the presence of ice is in our Solar System. The essays in **Icy Worlds of the Solar System** (202pp Hb \$99.00) focus on the occurrences and significance of water ice, and ices formed by other materials, in the Solar System and consider the implications of reservoirs of ice for the presence of life beyond Earth.

The Origin and Evolution of Mammals (331pp Pb \$130.00) by T S Kemp is an account of the remarkable 320-million-year-old fossil record that documents their origin, their long spell as no more than small, nocturnal creatures and their explosive radiation since the extinction of the dinosaurs. It also unveils the exciting molecular evidence and new fossil finds that are challenging current thinking on the interrelationships and historical biogeography of mammals.

In **Chance** (161pp Pb \$22.95), Amir Aczel (**Pendulum** Pb \$24.95) turns his sights on probability theory. He explains probability in clear, layperson's terms and shows its practical applications, from true love to the stockmarket.

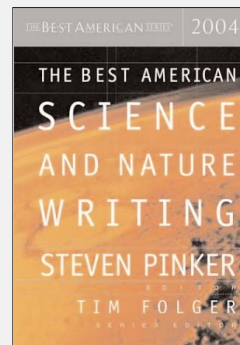
New in paperback is **Radiant Cool** (357pp Pb \$29.95), in which Dan Lloyd proposes a theory of consciousness, which the heroine of his novel uses to try to solve a murder mystery. This unique combination of crime story and philosophy is one of the most exciting and intellectually stimulating books you will read this year.

The History of Science and Technology (776pp Hb \$80.00) by Bryan Bunch is the most comprehensive and up-to-date chronology of its kind. From the first stone tools to the first robot surgery, this handy reference book contains more than 7,000 concise entries organised within 10 major historical periods and categorised by subject, such as archaeology, biology, computers, food and agriculture, medicine and health, and transportation.

Astronomy 2005: A Practical Guide to the Night Sky (153pp Tp \$22.00) is the best annual observing guide you can get - and that's not just my opinion, it's also that of Fred Watson, Astronomer-in-Charge of the Anglo-Australian Observatory. As well as the usual incredible amount of information contained each year, the authors have now added some all-sky maps showing stars down to magnitude 5.5.

The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2004 (209pp Pb \$29.95) edited by Steven Pinker contains a wonderful collection of essays from people like Daniel Dennett, Chet Raymo and Robert Sapolsky on subjects ranging from octopuses, click languages, cloning and parallel universes.

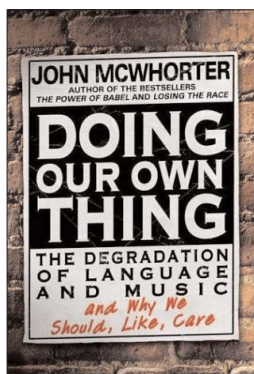
Dave



Doing Our Own Thing

The Degradation of Language and Music and Why We Should, Like, Care

John McWHORTER 279pp Hb \$54.95
The subtitle is somewhat misleading, so don't expect a wealth of musical knowledge or informed critical analysis of said music. The main focus is why American language is no longer a well-crafted, honoured or even well-regarded means of expression. While McWhorter sees the trend toward emphasising the oral over the written as "the celebration of the art in spoken American language", he yearns for the past before 'being cool' became more important than 'being articulate'. There are many people who would agree with him up to a point, myself included. One of his theories is that Americans don't love their language, and as a result public English is being overwhelmed by street English, with long-term consequences for American writing, music and society. He is a pleasure to read (remember **The Power of Babel** \$24.95) and I can't help but think he's being deliberately provocative to inspire discourse on a subject so close to his heart - either that or he's becoming something of a curmudgeon in his middle-age! *due January Cara*



Larpers and Shroomers

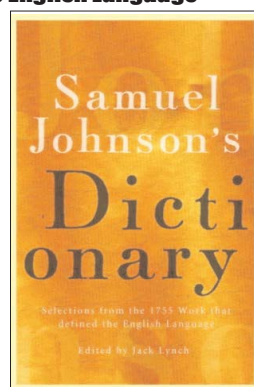
The Language Report

Susie DENT 174pp Hb \$32.95
This is a collection of the most intriguing facts and observations on the English language in recent years, and particularly in 2004. In her eminently browsable exploration of the changing face of English, Dent takes us on a journey through the most exotic and dynamic areas of the language. The book covers new words from "sexiles" to "gangmasters", euphemisms from "full and frank discussions" to "downsizing" and world English from "izzit?" to "barbecue stoppers". Chapters also examine the effect of slang, technology, politics, TV and the media on everyday vocabulary, while others chart the changing face of grammar, punctuation and pronunciation. Dent also looks at new language emerging from the internet and chatrooms, as well as in the worlds of food, drink and fashion. Based on authoritative information from Oxford's Language Research Programme, the largest such programme in the world, this volume presents completely fresh information.

Samuel Johnson's Dictionary

Selections from the 1755 Work That Defined the English Language

Jack LYNCH (editor) 655pp Hb \$49.95
Samuel Johnson's 1755 two-volume, 2,300-page dictionary marked a milestone in language. The work of a great reader and writer, and an earnest compiler, it was England's definitive dictionary for over 150 years, until it was superseded by **The Oxford English Dictionary**. This new edition contains more than 3,100 selections faithfully adapted from the original. Bristling with quotations, it offers a treasury of memorable passages on subjects ranging from books and critics to dreams and ethics. For those who appreciate literature and love language, this is a browser's delight - an encyclopedia of the age and a dictionary for the ages. Here is one entry: "fribbler n.s. [from the verb.] A trifler. A fribbler is one who professes rapture for the woman, and dreads her consent."



Intersections

Helen ENNIS 273pp Lp \$59.95
The National Library of Australia has one of the largest and most important photography collections in the country. It encompasses the work of many eminent Australian photographers, including Frank Hurley, May and Mina Moore, Harold Cazneaux, Olive Cotton, Charles Bayliss, Wolfgang Sievers, David Moore and Max Dupain, as well as material by unknown and amateur photographers. The photographs span almost 150 years and deal with a huge variety of subjects, including the settlement and expansion of towns, world wars, famous faces, historic occasions, private memories and national life. This landmark publication is both haunting and beautiful. *Shelley*

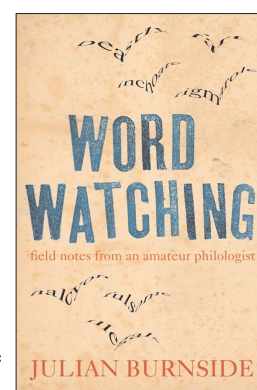
Keeping My Words

Magnus MAGNUSSON 280pp Hb \$29.95
Montaigne said coyly, "I quote others only the better to express myself." But George Bernard Shaw was more brazen: "I often quote myself - it adds spice to my conversation." Indeed, Nigel Rees, the urbane host of the radio programme *Quote... Unquote*, has written: "When in doubt, ascribe all quotations to George Bernard Shaw, or Oscar Wilde." We all love witty and clever quotations. They are often very funny and usually sum up a profound truth in a subversive, irreverent manner. Magnusson's love of quotations has encouraged him to keep a Commonplace Book and this is a sampling of his collection, kept over many years and spanning many subjects. On the basis that "a big book is a big nuisance" (Callimachis, head librarian at Alexandria 305-240 BC), this little book is always entertaining. Containing the best loved classics and many newly discovered gems, this is a delicious anthology to explore and keep to hand.

Wordwatching

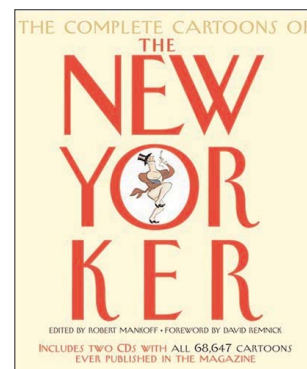
Field Notes from an Amateur Philologist

Julian BURNSIDE 234pp Hb \$32.95
We live in a torrent of words - from radio and television, books, newspapers and now from the internet. But, as Burnside reminds us in this witty and erudite collection, words are a source both of pleasure and power, and can be deployed for good or for ill. Some of these essays explore curiosities in odd corners of the language simply to remind us of the extraordinary richness of the English language: for example, the word "pedigree" refers to the shape of a crane's foot, and "halcyon" recalls an early Greek love story. Other pieces use small matters of language to illustrate larger processes of cultural borrowing and change. Burnside's musings remind us that we should not be alarmed at the instability of the language; rather, we should see its wanton borrowings as a source of its strength and vitality. Coming from one of our most renowned QCs and refugee-rights advocates, this is a fascinating demonstration of the power and the pleasure of the English language.



The Complete Cartoons of The New Yorker

Robert MANKOFF (editor) 656pp Hb \$99.95
Monumental in more ways than one, this weighs over four kilograms! More than a book, this is a bona fide publishing event: the largest-ever collection of *New Yorker* cartoons features the best of every decade in book form, plus two easy-to-browse CDs (Windows and Macintosh compatible) with all 68,647 cartoons ever published since 1924. Accompanying the 2,004 (get it?) cartoons in the book, organised chronologically, are essays by eminent *New Yorker* writers (Roger Angell, Nancy Franklin, Lillian Ross, John Updike, Ian Frazier, Calvin Trillin, Mark Singer, Nancy Franklin and Rebecca Mead) reflecting on the life and times (and sense of humour) of each successive decade. Additionally, each decade includes profiles and mini-portfolios of the cartoonists who made their mark on the era, from Peter Arno and Charles Addams to Bruce Eric Kaplan and Roz Chast. *Shelley*



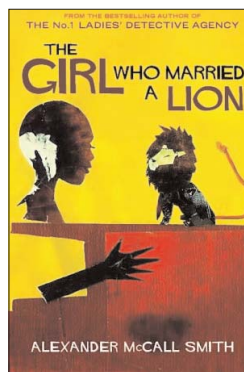
Facing

Robin SELICK 185pp Lh \$69.95
After receiving a *Young Achiever Award* and *Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Grant* in the early 1990s, photographer Sellick travelled to New York where he worked as an assistant to many of the great photographers, including Annie Leibovitz, Mark Seliger and Mary Ellen Mark. This is a collection of his portraits with a twist - here are Kylie Minogue, Geoffrey Rush, the Prime Minister of Australia John Howard, Lleyton Hewitt, lead singer of *Radiohead* Thom Yorke, The Wiggles, Cate Blanchett, John Laws, Cathy Freeman, Michael Parkinson and K D Lang, to name a few, as you've never imagined them. This is a wonderful celebration of Australian celebrity over the last decade.

Shelley

The Girl Who Married a Lion

Alexander McCALL SMITH 240pp Pb \$22.95
The Ndebele people of Matabeleland, Zimbabwe - from whom these stories originate - are renowned as the proud descendants of the Zulu nation. They are also the possessors of a language rich in beauty and musicality. From animal fables to mysterious forces residing in the landscape, this collection demonstrates the wealth and variety of African folk tales and the particular magic of Africa's spiritual roots: a sense of unity with the environment. Simple, surprising, cruel and humorous, these beautifully rendered tales remain as fresh and vital as the original African idiom.



The Rough Guide to Cult Movies

Your Guide to the Good, the Bad and the Very Weird

ROUGH GUIDES 480pp Pb \$16.95
These pocket-sized paperbacks are great value and a particularly useful addition to the trivia buff's library. Starting with a simple explanation of the term 'cult' ('where one man's masterpiece is always liable to be someone else's Howard the Duck'), the main categorical system for displaying each movie's details is an A to Z thematic listing starting with 'Action and Adventure' and ending with 'Zombies'. With an appealing miscellany section, an index and loads of historical trivia, this is certain to gain its very own cultural groupies.

Shelley

Dark Lover

The Life and Death of Rudolph Valentino

Emily LEIDER 514pp Pb \$26.95
Leider traces the extraordinary journey by which Rodolfo Guglielmi became Rudolph Valentino - a silver screen legend who forever changed America's idea of 'the leading man'. Valentino wasn't just a star; he was a phenomenon who was adored by women and despised by men. On-screen, he offered American women a dangerous sexuality unlike anything on offer from their husbands or lovers. In private, his first wife was a lesbian who refused to consummate their marriage. Gossip and rumour about his early life as a taxi-dancer haunted him, until his untimely death cut short a career that lasted only five years. This book now rehabilitates Valentino's reputation, both as a man and as an actor.

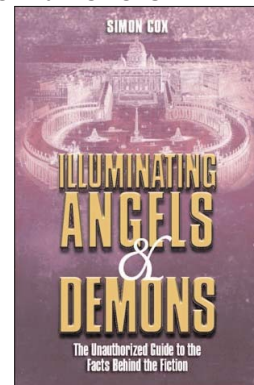
The Real History Behind the Da Vinci Code

Sharan NEWMAN 320pp Tp \$19.95
Having made the top 10 in *Australia's Favourite Book* survey, **The Da Vinci Code** (Pb \$19.95) is still a constant source of discussion at Abbey's. Millions have been enthralled by its fascinating historical speculations, and the novel's audience has made bestsellers of several subsequent books which offer to separate fact from fiction. However, this is the first 'decoder' to be written by a Medieval historian. To add to her credentials, Newman also visited all the locations featured in the novel and offers unprecedented insight into these settings. She takes an objective, history-based approach to this literary phenomenon and the questions and theories it has raised. The book provides easy-to-find, clear answers about the people, places and events that occur in Dan Brown's bestseller in a lively and entertaining way. It also sheds new light on some of the deepest mysteries of the Dark Ages.

Illuminating Angels and Demons

The Unauthorized Guide to the Facts Behind the Fiction

Simon COX 168pp Pb \$19.95
An invaluable resource for all those waiting to discover the fascinating truth behind the legend of the Illuminati, Cox's latest work examines the historical and scientific accuracy of Dan Brown's blockbuster **Angels and Demons** (Pb \$19.95). Using a simple A-Z format, it provides the reader with vital background information and sheds intriguing new light on the many mysteries at the heart of the bestselling novel.



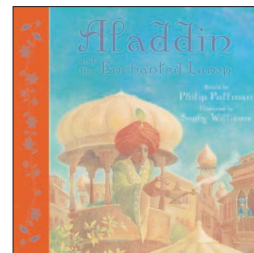
Kids

reviewed by Lindy Jones

Wendy by Karen WALLACE 289pp Pb \$14.95
Set in Edwardian England, this is an imaginative interpretation of the *Peter Pan* story, from Wendy's viewpoint. She and her younger brothers are confined to the nursery under the supervision of an embittered Nanny, rarely seen and never heard by their socialite parents. Her only confidants are a Newfoundland dog and a young suffragette; her closest friend, Thomas, is miles away on a country estate. One night, Wendy sees something that changes her life, but will eventually bring her family together.... An original read for girls aged 9-12.

The Purple Emperor by Herbie BRENNAN 431pp Pb \$15.95
While this is a sequel to **Faerie Wars** (Pb \$15.95), it reads very well as a stand-alone novel. The Faerie Prince, Pyrgus, is ready to ascend the Purple Throne, but then his father turns up. As he previously was killed, this does create a bit of a shock! Obviously the Faeries of the Night are up to no good, and with the help of his sister and the human Henry, Pyrgus has to outwit the bad guys. A lot of fun, fast paced and clever. Ages 13+

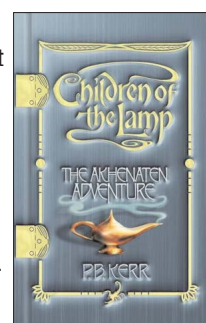
Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp by Philip PULLMAN 72pp Hb \$29.95
This beautifully illustrated version of *Aladdin* will delight and enchant young and old alike. Pullman shows a masterly touch in being faithful to the well-loved tale, but brings an extra sparkle to the retelling. Well worth a look!



Sir Gawain and the Green Knight by Michael MORPURGO 116pp Hb \$34.95
Here is another fabulous retelling of a classic story, in this case, the story of *Sir Gawain of the Round Table*, and his greatest quest. The style strikes the right balance between formality and narrative story-telling and the illustrations by Michael Foreman are soft-edged and well-drawn. A great introduction to a tale full of magic and courage.

I Saw Esau: The Schoolchild's Pocket Book by Iona & Peter OPIE 159pp Pb \$19.95
This edition was first published in 1992, the original having been long out-of-print. With cheeky illustrations contributed by Maurice Sendak, this treasury of children's rhymes, chants, word games and sayings comes with notes and an introduction by Iona Opie. Printed on beautiful creamy stock, this is a true pleasure to dip in to (not to mention the thrill of coming across a long-forgotten playground jibe!).

Children of the Lamp: The Akhenaten Adventure by P B KERR 374pp Hb \$24.95
Suspend belief and come on a fast-paced journey of the imagination! Twins John and Philippa Gaunt have fabulously wealthy parents, live in New York and find out (when their wisdom teeth erupt) that they are djinn on their mother's side (which explains why they suffer from claustrophobia!) Their Uncle Nimrod undertakes their training, which takes place in London and Egypt and involves adventures, intrigues and a hint of magic. Great fun for ages 10-13.



Did you remember to watch the ABC television program announcing the results of the *My Favourite Book* enquiry? I thought it was very interesting and a great list of books, all of which were (and continue to be) in stock at Abbey's (except for **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**, which of course we keep in stock at Galaxy Bookshop). In case you didn't hear the results, here is the list:

10. **A Fortunate Life** by A B Facey (\$24.95 Pb). I was so pleased to hear this.

9. (tie) **Catch 22** by Joseph Heller (\$24.95 Pb, 39.95 Hb).

9. (tie) **The Da Vinci Code** by Dan Brown (\$19.95 Pb, \$59.95 hardback special illustrated edition, \$35 for 4 cassettes, or even \$75 to read it in Greek!)

8. **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by Douglas Adams (\$18.95 Pb, \$70 for deluxe 25th anniversary edition, lots more editions on Galaxy Bookshop website).

7. **1984** by George Orwell (\$17.95 Pb). Also available in German, Spanish or Hungarian, upstairs in Language Book Centre.

6. **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** by J K Rowling (\$19.95 Pb). Also available upstairs in other languages, including Chinese (\$35).

5. **Cloudstreet** by Tim Winton (\$26.95 Pb, \$35 Hb).

4. **To Kill a Mocking Bird** by Harper Lee (\$22.95 Pb, \$43 Hb 40th anniversary edition).

3. **Holy Bible** (various editions).

2. **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen (\$7.95 Pb).

1. **The Lord of the Rings** by J R R Tolkien (from about \$20 to several hundred dollars).

There are 84 entries on Galaxy Bookshop's website for **The Lord of the Rings** and associated material!

The witty young man on the panel, referred to as "our young curmudgeon", thought there was a whiff of school texts in here, which is probably true, but the books are on school reading lists because they are timeless books. Are you happy with this list? Have you read them all? I haven't read **The Da Vinci Code**, but may get to it one day.

I'm sure that many of our Egyptology customers have already been to the Australian Museum to see the new exhibition entitled *Life Beyond the Tomb: Death in Ancient Egypt*, which is on until May. By taking the mummified remains of a young woman named Keku, who died in the city of Thebes 700 years before Christ, the exhibition fictionalises her life and the life around her. I had a look in our Egyptology section and found a reissue of Leonard Cottrell's famous book, first published in 1955, **Life Under the Pharaohs** (\$24.95 Pb 210pp), which uses the same idea. He took a real person named Vizier Rekhmire, whose tomb exists, to describe the life and philosophies of Ancient Egypt. There is also a large quality paperback from Yale University Press, the 3rd edition of **Literature of Ancient Egypt: Anthology of Stories, Instructions, Stelae, Autobiographies and Poetry**, edited and with an introduction by William Kelly Simpson (\$43 Pb 598pp incl extensive bibliography), which seems very good value. I had to ask a customer browsing in Ancient History the meaning of "stelae" (upright decorated columns). Another new arrival is the first English language edition (enhanced and expanded) of Claude Traunecker's **The Gods of Egypt**, translated from the French by David Lorton (\$65 Hb 134pp incl index). This clear and brief survey of Egyptian religion has 23 illustrations and is published by Cornell University Press. On the top shelf, I found a most beautiful book which would

allow you to put your impressions of Egypt into context. This is **Egypt from the Air** (\$45 Hb 170), photographs by Guido Alberto Rossi and text by Max Rodenbeck, who has written several guide books to Egypt. Great value.

Upstairs in the Young History area of our wonderful Children's book section are many titles suitable for reading before and after visiting the exhibition, such as **Pocket Guide to Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs** by Richard Parkinson at the British Museum (\$25 Hb 96pp), **A Visitor's Guide to Ancient Egypt** (\$18.95 Pb), **Eyewitness Guide to Ancient Egypt** or **Eyewitness Guide to the Pyramids** (both \$16.95) and, also from the British Museum, **Egyptian Pyramid Activity Book** (\$9.95 Pb).

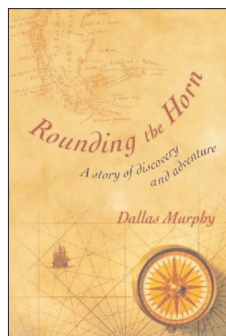
Holiday time should mean extra time for reading aloud and I have my eye on several beautiful books - **Tales of Hans Christian Anderson** (\$39.95 Hb 207pp), **Orchard Book of Aesop's Fables** (\$35 Hb 95pp) or **Hutchinson Treasury of Fairy Tales** (\$39.95 Hb 319pp).

In the Religion section, I found **The Blood of Martyrs: Unintended Consequences of Ancient Violence** by Joyce Salisbury (Hb \$45 233pp incl index). Today, suicide bombers consider themselves martyrs, but ideas of sacrifice, magic, resurrection and violence were very much part of the early church. This historian considers the continuing influence today. Jonathan Wright considers **The Jesuits: Missions, Myths and Histories** (\$55 Hb 334pp incl index). There are lots of great stories here about these famed educators and scientists.

In contrast, you can look at **God: The Interview** 2nd edition by Terry Lane (\$22.95 Pb 198pp). Once a clergyman, now a rationalist, Lane says in his forewarning, "I beseech you not to read this if you are content in your traditional religious beliefs and practices." Very readable.

In the Opera section of Music, I was amused to find **Gustav Mahler: Letters to his Wife**, edited by Henri-Louis de la Grange and Gunther Weiss in collaboration with Knud Martner (\$75 Hb 431pp incl index). This is the first complete edition, revised and translated by Antony Beaumont. So many people involved! So many arguments, I am sure! The blurb says this is a better look at Gustav than that shown in Alma's famous book, where she made sure she shone in the best light. (I wonder whatever happened to the film made about Alma Mahler's life?) Henri-Louis de la Grange is the author of the 4-volume epic about Mahler's life. We have copies of the enlarged, revised and updated English edition of Volume 3, **Vienna: Triumph and Disillusion 1904-1907** (\$130 Hb 1,000pp). Volume 2 also appears to have been published, but Volume 1 will appear last after Volume 4!

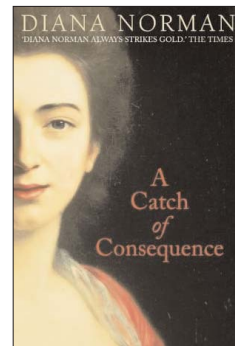
If you like salty yarns, have a look at **Rounding the Horn: A Story of Discovery and Adventure** by Dallas Murphy (\$49.95 Hb 358pp incl index). This is in Modern History, but could be in Travel, because he writes from the deck of his own sailing vessel. An experience of extreme sailing and two cultures clashing at the end of the earth.



If you have been watching the SBS program on the Medici, can I remind you of **Bruneleschi's Dome** by Ross King (\$35 Pb), plus Christopher Hibbert's **The Rise and Fall of the House of Medici** (\$24 Pb). Also in Italian History there is **Timeless Cities: An Architect's Reflections on Renaissance Italy** by international architect David Mayernik (\$47 Hb 275pp incl index), who discusses the cultural beliefs behind city-building (which matter very much today) in Rome, Venice, Florence, Siena and Pienza.

There is also a remarkable book by Charles Freeman called **The Horses of St Mark's: A Story of Triumph in Byzantium, Paris and Venice** (\$45 Hb 298pp). These marvellous golden horses have travelled a lot! From Constantinople to Venice to Paris as part of Napoleon's loot, then back to Venice for the revolutions of 1848. The author considers not only their adventures but also their symbolic and artistic value in European society.

I've been over in New Zealand recently where my sister was sick in hospital. We found reading Historical Fiction was just the answer for reading aloud - not too much angst! We enjoyed Diana Norman's **A Catch of Consequence** (\$21.95 Pb) set in Boston, USA and England during the American Revolution, so we set off to read all about the Tudor period in Philippa Gregory's excellent books, **The Other Boleyn Girl** (\$22.95 Pb), **The Queen's Fool** (\$29.95 Pb) and her latest, **The Virgin's Lover** (\$29.95 Pb). These are both elegant recreations of history and bodice rippers as well! Lots of fun.



I hope some of our country readers will have a chance to call in during the holidays and that you will take the opportunity to say hello. Have fun spending your Reward Dollars - perhaps they can justify an extra special splurge?

Keep well,

Eve



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Abbey's Bestsellers - December 2004

Non-Fiction

- Watson's Dictionary of Weasel Words**
by Don Watson (Hb \$32.95)
- Reformation: Europe's House Divided 1490-1700**
by Diarmaid MacCulloch (Pb \$26.95)
- Phaig Tan** by Tom Gleisner & Rob Sitch (Pb \$27.95)
- Rubicon** by Tom Holland (Pb \$26.95)
- How Mumbo Jumbo Conquered the World**
by Francis Wheen (Pb \$24.95)
- The Briefest English Grammar Ever Produced**
by Ruth Colman (Ring Binder \$12.00)
- 101 Questions About Muslims and Islam**
by Mehmet Ozalp (Pb \$24.95)
- The Authentic Gospel of Jesus**
by Geza Vermes (Pb \$26.95)
- The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language** by David Crystal (Lp \$39.95)
- X-Treme Latin** by Henry Beard (Hb \$38.00)

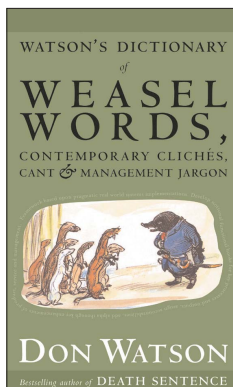
Fiction

- The Line of Beauty**
by Alan Hollinghurst (Pb \$28.00)
- The Da Vinci Code** by Dan Brown (Pb \$19.95)
- Caligula** by Allan Massie (Pb \$22.95)
- When I Talk to You** by Michael Leunig (Hb \$26.95)
- How Santa Really Works** by Alan Snow (Pb \$14.95)
- One Hundred Strokes of the Brush Before Bed** by Melissa P (Pb \$25.00)
- The Turning** by Tim Winton (Hb \$45.00)
- The Annotated Brothers' Grimm**
ed by Maria Tatar (Hb \$49.95)
- Past Mortem** by Ben Elton (Tp \$29.95)
- Cloud Atlas** by David Mitchell (Pb \$24.95)

Watson's Dictionary of Weasel Words

Don WATSON Hb \$32.95

This book is for people who really want to know what an "asset footprint" and an "aggressive timeline" are, and for those who want to mock the very idea. Like **Death Sentence** (Pb \$22.95), it is deadly serious and soberingly amusing. Sludge-mongers, weasels, fog-merchants and charlatans beware: Don Watson is back to take a blowtorch to the bellies of those whose words kill meaning and challenge sanity.



Now in Paperback

The Man Who Invented Hitler: The Making of the Führer by David Lewis \$26.95

The incredible story of the man who transformed Hitler from an insignificant no-hoper into the world's most devastating tyrant.

The Authentic Gospel of Jesus by Geza Vermes \$26.95

There can be no doubt that Jesus, 'a religious genius' as Geza Vermes describes him, lived and taught in Palestine some 2,000 years ago. In his new book, Vermes subjects all the sayings of Jesus to brilliantly informed scrutiny. The result is a book of unique value and novelty, scraping aside the accretions of centuries to come as close as we can hope to be to the true Jesus.

Bad Dirt by Annie Proulx 24.95

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Proulx follows the success of **Close Range** (Pb \$22.95) with another remarkable collection of short stories set in Wyoming. Proulx displays her wit in every story, as well as her knowledge of the West, history, ranching and farming. Her profound sympathy for characters who must use sheer will and courage to make it in tough territory makes this collection extraordinarily compelling.

The Penguin Companion to Classical Music by Paul Griffiths \$60.00

This superbly authoritative new work provides a comprehensive A-Z guide to some 1,000 years of classical music. It explores in detail the lives and achievements of a vast range of composers, as well as looking at such key topics as music history (from medieval plainchant to contemporary minimalism), performers, theory and jargon.

The Alphabet by David Sacks \$24.95

From A-Z, David Sacks provides answers to the most fascinating questions about the way we talk, write and think. Illustrated graphically throughout, not just with variations of individual letters but with maps, charts and general narrative images.

Hitler's Scientists: Science, War and the Devil's Pact by John Cornwell \$26.95

In a rich and fascinating history, Cornwell tells the epic story of Germany's scientists from the First World War to the collapse of Hitler's Reich.

The Adventure of English: The Biography of a Language by Melvyn Bragg \$27.95

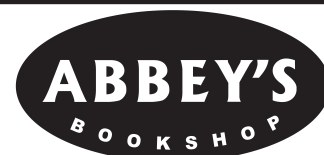
Bragg shows us the remarkable story of the English language, from its beginnings as a minor guttural Germanic dialect to its position today as a truly established global language.

Editor: Ann Leahy

Contributors: Eve Abbey, David Hall, Lindy Jones, Shelley Kay, Ann Leahy & Cara Willett

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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