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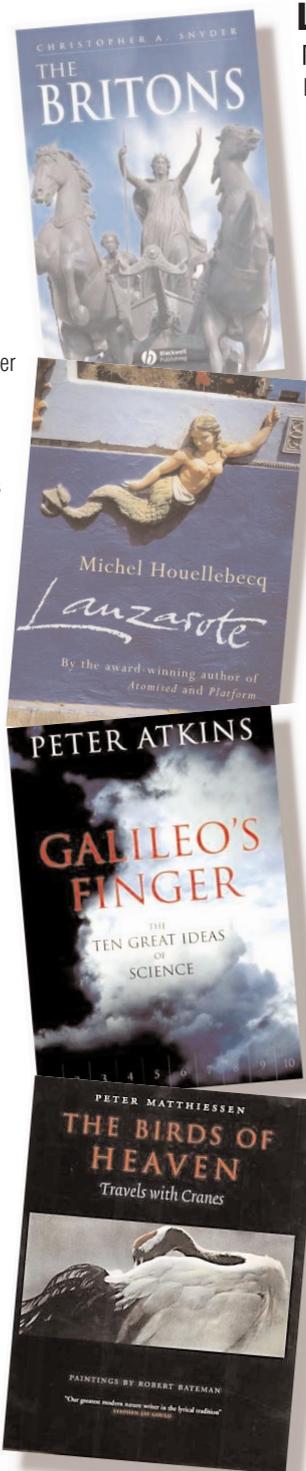
books@abbey.com.au

The Britons

Christopher SNYDER 352pp Hb \$49.95
 "I am Arthur, King of the Britons." "King of the who...?" As the *Monty Python* crew points out this confusion of ethnic identity in the Middle Ages, we realise there is a definite confusion as to who indeed the Britons were and even what the word has meant over the ages. This book is all about that fascinating, crucial and formative period of British history. There are plenty of controversial theories about the so-called 'Dark Ages', and yet Snyder offers a manageable overview that explores not only the latest scholarly works but also popular flights of fancy. The book describes the life and culture of the Britons before, during and after Roman rule, covers the revival of Iron Age practices within a Christian context (typified by the work of Saint Patrick) and examines the figures of King Arthur and Merlin. And with them, the evolution of a powerful national mythology. He also proposes a new theory on the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Britain and the establishment of separate Brittonic kingdoms, gives an account of the Viking and Norman invasions and their effect on the Britons, and reveals the origins of the Brittonic language and its segmentation into Breton, Cornish and Welsh. Also discussed is the revival of interest in British myth and culture from Renaissance antiquarians to modern day Druids. This is a really well written book which is interesting, questioning, accessible and often amusing. *due July*
 Michelle

Galileo's Finger The Ten Great Ideas of Science

Peter ATKINS 388pp Hb \$69.95
 Any literate person should be familiar with the central ideas of modern science, the author asserts. In this book, Peter Atkins introduces his choice of the ten great ideas of science. He leads the reader through the emergence of the concepts, working into his narrative an illustration of the scientific method and showing how simple ideas can have enormous consequences. His choice of great ideas includes: evolution occurs by natural selection, in which the early attempts at explaining the origin of species is followed by an account of the modern approach and some of its unsolved problems; inheritance is encoded in DNA, in which the story of the emergence of an understanding of inheritance is followed through to the mapping of the human genome; and energy is conserved, in which we see how the central concept of energy gradually dawned on scientists as they mastered the motion of particles and the concept of heat. This is quite simply the best introduction to modern scientific concepts that has ever been written.



Lanzarote

Michel HOUELLEBECQ 112pp Hb \$27.95
 In the sector of the holiday market that caters for sun, sangria and house music, not to mention sex, Lanzarote rivals Corfu and Ibiza. Tourism in Lanzarote remains resolutely ungreen and certainly wholly uncultural, 21st century hedonism, set in a bizarre lunar landscape - Martian, according to the travel agent. On Lanzarote, one can meet some fascinating human specimens - notably Pam and Barbara, 'non-exclusive' German lesbians - who can give rise to some interesting combinations. Will they succeed in seducing Rudi, the police inspector from Luxembourg, currently living in exile in Brussels? Or will he join the 'azraelian' sect as they prepare for humanity to be regenerated by extraterrestrials? As for our narrator, will he consider his week's holiday on the island a success? In the follow-up to his hugely successful and critically acclaimed *Atomised* (Pb \$22.95), Houellebecq explores the hedonism of Lanzarote, the archetypal Mediterranean holiday island, in a book that is blisteringly funny and acidic. *due July*

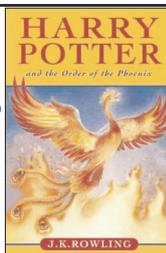
The Birds of Heaven Travels with Cranes

Peter MATTHIESSEN 368pp Pb \$24.95
 The lore of taiga-dwelling shamans provides the title of this stunning book. They believe cranes - those tall, stately birds - are able to traverse the three realms of heaven, earth and the underworld. 11 of the 15 crane species are endangered and all of them face the loss of the vast wetlands necessary for providing food and breeding grounds. This is cause for alarm and occasional humour, surprisingly. Matthiessen's journey begins in Siberia and China, where he observes cranes in their natural habitats and notes the effects of the burgeoning human population in the region. Moving on to the steppes of Mongolia, the marshy deltas of India, the Tibetan plateau, the lower Yangtze River Basin, Japan and the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea, he discovers practically everything there is to know about Asia's cranes. He then travels to Australia, Africa and Europe. If you thought he'd missed America, one of the brightest moments in the book comes when the most endangered of cranes (North America's whooping crane, the population of which once plummeted to a low of 15 birds) makes a terrific comeback. Ornithologists, scientists, guides and hunters offer intriguing stories about cranes (and other creatures) met during their (mis)adventures in various wildernesses. This serves to emphasise Matthiessen's gifts as one of the outstanding nature writers of our time. Robert Bateman, an equally great wildlife artist, provides illustrations which are as elegant as their subject matter. Superb! *due July*
 Cara



Books Alive

Books Alive is about giving as many people as possible a great reason to enjoy a book. From 2 to 15 August, six incredible books from leading Australian authors will be available for the unprecedented price of just \$5.00 each with the purchase of any other book. More details next month.



**Harry Potter
and the Order of the Phoenix**
 J K ROWLING
 768pp Hb \$45.00

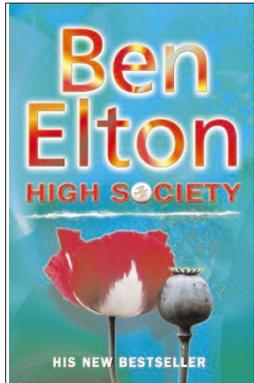
OUT NOW!

Alex Miller is the winner of the *Miles Franklin Literary Award* with *Journey to the Stone Country*
 Details page 9

High Society

Ben ELTON 259pp Tp \$19.95

The war on drugs has been lost for want of the courage to face the fact that the whole world is rapidly becoming a vast, criminal network. From pop stars and princes to crack whores and streetkids, we are all partners in crime no matter the venue - be it a nightclub or a poppy field in Afghanistan. This collection of interconnected stories takes the reader on a hilarious, heartbreaking and terrifying journey through the kaleidoscope world that anti-drug law has created, from which there is no protection.



The Tyrant's Novel

Thomas KENEALLY Hb \$35.00

Trapped behind barbed wire in an alien land, a man used to guarding his secrets is compelled to set the record straight. Imagine a country that was once a friend of the West becoming an enemy, its people starving and savagely repressed by a tyrant known as The Great Uncle. As a celebrated writer and war hero, the storyteller has a better life than most until he is made an offer he can't refuse. He must write a great novel, telling of the suffering of his people under the enemy's cruel economic sanctions and portraying The Great Uncle as their saviour. This masterpiece must be completed in time for its international debut in three months - or else. If the writer cannot - or will not - meet the tyrant's deadline, he and anyone he cares for will pay the ultimate price. Stark, terrifying and utterly compelling, this is both a gripping thriller and a chilling glimpse of a fictional world that seems all too real. *due July*

The Atom Station

Halldor LAXNESS 204pp Tp \$32.95

When the Americans make an offer to buy Icelandic land to build an atomic warbase, a storm of protest is provoked throughout the countryside. The novel follows the experiences of a north-country girl and her experience as a maid in the house of her Member of Parliament. She finds herself in a world which is the antithesis of her own and marvels at the customs and behaviour of those around her. Her observations expose the intellectual society of the south as rootless and shallow, in stark contrast to the ancient culture of the solid and less fanciful north. In this black comedy of manners, Laxness paints a masterpiece of biting social commentary that is as relevant today as it was in 1948 when it was first written.

Porno

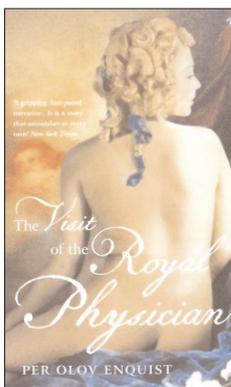
Irvine WELSH 320pp Pb \$22.95

10 years on from **Trainspotting** (Pb \$21.95), Sick Boy is back in Edinburgh after a long spell in London. Having failed spectacularly as a hustler, pimp, husband, father and businessman, he taps into an opportunity which may well be his last throw of the dice. However, to realise his dream of directing and producing a pornographic film, he must team up with fellow exile and old pal, Mark Renton. What's more, the motley crew necessary to the film includes the city's favourite ex-aerated water salesman, Juice Lawson. There are some unresolved matters to address though, most concerning the increasingly unhinged Begbie, the drug-addled Spud and of course each other. *due July*

The Visit of the Royal Physician

Per Olov ENQUIST 408pp Pb \$22.95

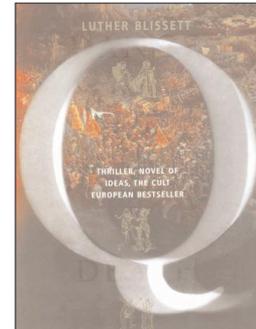
Everyone has heard the stories of mad King George III, but few know about his brother-in-law, Christian VII, the King of Denmark at the end of the 18th century. Many sought to control the young (mad and highly impressionable) Christian VII when he assumed the throne, all hoping to capitalise on his mental frailty to advance their own interests. Two men in particular stand out: Struensee, the reform-oriented court physician, and Guldberg, the cold-blooded religious fanatic. The clash between these two and all they represented - science and religion, ideology and diplomacy, sins of the flesh and the certainty of dogma - became so extreme that the fate of the nation hung entirely in the balance. Enquist vividly recreates this astonishing period in Danish history and writes a chilling tale of ruthless political ambition and personal betrayal. *due July*



Q

Luther BLISSETT 528pp Tp \$32.95

Set in Reformation Europe, this book begins with Luther's nailing of his 95 theses to the door of the cathedral in Wittenberg. It traces the adventures and conflicts of two central characters: an Anabaptist member of the most radical of Protestant sects (the anarchists of the Reformation!) and a Catholic spy, hunter of heretics. A game of intrigue, violence and intense political and religious passion is played out across Germany, Italy and the Netherlands - striking parallels with radicalism in the 20th century abound! This is so far from the run-of-the-mill historical novel that comparisons with Umberto Eco have been made. Furthermore, it was widely rumoured that Eco is the author, although it has been now revealed the authors are four young Italian writers with a passion for media hoaxes. *due July*



The Mirror Makers

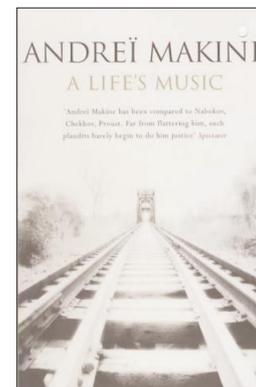
Clare COLVIN 288pp Hb \$42.95

Louis XIV, at the height of his powers and grandiose ambitions, dreams of constructing a great Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles. However, only the craftsmen of Murano, prisoners of the Venetian Republic, know the secrets necessary to its construction. Louis' controller, Jean-Louis Colbert, promises riches, adventure and a new life to Sandro Allegri and a group of renegade mirror-makers. It is enough for them to risk not only the wrath of their families, but the severest punishment by Venetian authorities. Once in the Sun King's court, Sandro finds himself caught up with the politics of the palace and the dangerous charms of one of the King's mistresses. This is a magical evocation of a glittering period in history.

A Life's Music

Andrei MAKINE 112pp Pb \$20.95

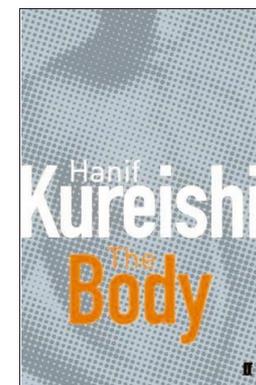
Alexei Berg's father is a well-known dramatist and his mother an opera singer, but in late 1930s Russia, both parents suffer constant suspicion and harassment under Stalin's reign of terror. So great is Alexei's musical talent that he is allowed to continue his studies, but two days before his first concert in May 1941, he arrives home to find his parents being arrested. He flees, abandoning his budding career as a concert pianist and assumes the identity of a dead Russian conscript to fight against the advancing Germans. When the war is over, he stays on as a general's driver, continuing to keep his real identity hidden until a moment of folly reveals the truth and earns him 10 years in a prison camp. Despite a life of misfortune, Alexei remains unbroken, and in a snowbound railway station in the middle of the Urals, he tells his story. *due July*



The Body

Hanif KUREISHI 240pp Pb \$22.95

The centrepiece of Kureishi's new collection of fiction is a novella that delves into the fascinating concept of personal identity and the extent to which this is rooted in our physical being. Middle-aged playwright Adam is amazed to be approached by a 'newbody' (an old brain transplanted into a young body) and offered the chance to trade in his decrepit frame for a much younger model. He takes up the offer for a six-month period, and his consciousness is duly transplanted into the handsome body of his choice. But Adam soon finds that his new flesh brings with it grave and unforeseen dangers. I was disappointed that this original and compelling story ended abruptly, as the other stories are not nearly as satisfying. A pity that this was not developed into a full length novel. *Ann*



Harrius Potter et Philosophi Lapis

J K ROWLING 252pp Hb \$39.95

Yes! Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone is now in Latin!! Translated by Peter Needham from J K Rowlings' phenomenal book, this is sure to delight our Latin readers. *due August*

The Old Man in the Polka Dotted Dress

Looking for Henry Darger

C L MORRISON

244pp Hb \$48.00

In 1977, C L Morrison, a young Chicago correspondent for *Artforum* magazine, was asked to curate the first exhibition of the art of the late Henry Darger. Darger had lived for 40 years in a Chicago boarding house, working as a janitor at a local hospital, shambling around the neighborhood and digging through garbage bins. He died penniless and unknown in 1973 at the age of 81 and was buried in an unmarked pauper's grave. But in his room was a substantial legacy indeed - huge quantities of watercolours that accompanied 15,000 pages of a lavish mythology chronicling an imaginary war between the heroic Vivian Girls of Abbiennia and the ruthless Glandelinean warlords who had enslaved their little sisters. Morrison spent a summer in Darger's room, cooled by his wobbly propeller-blade fan, organising and cataloguing the artist's watercolour scrolls, handmade books and stacks of manuscripts. A hero in death, but an outcast in life, Darger is now considered the most famous of 'outsider artists' and his art is worth a fortune. *due July*

Recollections of a Bleeding Heart

Don WATSON

Tp \$34.95

Since its publication in March 2002, this biography has won a string of awards including *The Age Book of the Year*, *The Courier-Mail Book of the Year* and the *National Biography Award*. Watson was employed as Keating's speechwriter in 1992, straight after Keating took Australia's top political job, and this is a political memoir based on four years of notes, kept by the author during the turbulent years he worked in the PM's office. It is a frank and revealing portrait of Keating, portraying him as a brilliant, contradictory and complex man, and it offers much more than simple political analysis. It is destined to become an Australian classic. *due July*

Australian Gothic

A Life of Albert Tucker

Janine BURKE

Pb \$24.95

This is the first biography of Albert Tucker, one of Australia's most significant artists. A member of the 'Angry Penguins' group which included Sidney Nolan, Arthur Boyd and Joy Hester, he is best remembered for his paintings of wartime Melbourne. The author enjoyed a 22-year association with Tucker and she draws on hundreds of hours of conversation and many interviews she conducted with him. Written with respect and affection, her scholar's deep appreciation of the forces that shaped Tucker's career provides a comprehensive account of the life and work of this complex and captivating man. *due July*

Kids

reviewed by Lindy Jones

Milli Jack and the Dancing Cat by Stephen Michael KING 32pp Hb \$24.95

A new Stephen Michael King book is always a treat and this is no exception! Milli can take a nothing and turn it into something amazing, but she lives in a town with little use for her talents and spends the days making ordinary, unimaginative shoes. Then one day Jack and the dancing cat turn up, and in exchange for new boots, they teach her how to dance. Expressing herself in movement helps to free up the springs of creativity and her life - and the townspeople's - change for the brighter. A sweet and playful story which celebrates imagination and friends, with King's trademark blue-green and earthy palette enlivened with dashes of red. Buy one for the kid in your life - or better still, for yourself! *due July*

Wanda-Linda Goes Berserk by Kaz COOKE 28pp Pb \$12.95

Wanda-Linda wakes up grumpy, and the day goes down from there - particularly for everyone else! If you've ever had to deal with a fractious toddler, this is the book for you! The youngsters enjoy this as well, with its bright and simple illustrations and wonderful words.

The Witch's Children and the Queen

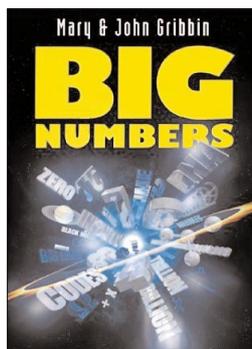
by Ursula JONES & Russell AYTO

32pp Hb \$27.95

The Witch's Children (Pb \$14.95) was a bestseller and this sequel should be as well received. The Eldest One, the Middle One and the Little One, meet Gemma who is on her way to see the Queen's soldiers - so off they all go. All sorts of mischief ensues, because the children only know the first half of the spells they cast and as always Mum has to fix the mess! The true magic of this book lies in the brilliant illustrations. A lot of fun!

Big Numbers by Mary & John GRIBBIN 189pp Pb \$19.95

How big is a big number? Well it depends on what you are using it to measure, as this book quite smoothly conveys. It explains why being hit by an asteroid is more likely than winning the lottery, how one of the smallest creatures makes up the largest amount of life on earth, how much mass the Sun uses to shine, why zero is important and a heap of other mathematically related facts. Each is presented over a double page with illustrations and would be ideal for enquiring minds equal, but not limited to, 10-14!



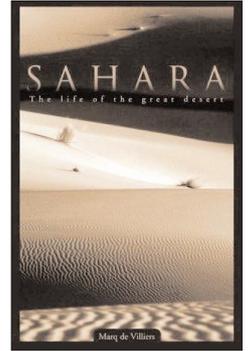
Sahara

The Life of the Great Desert

Marq de VILLIERS & Shiela HIRTLE

326pp Hb \$39.95

In the parched and seemingly lifeless heart of the Sahara desert, the endless dune of literary imagination, earthworms find enough moisture to survive. Four major mountain ranges interrupt the flow of dunes and gravel plains, and at certain times waterfalls cascade from their peaks. Massive dunes can appear almost overnight, and then move by hopping. It spawns vast underground reservoirs and blind fish and sudden savage storms, leaving behind sand as soft as talcum powder. We think we know the Sahara, the largest and most austere desert on Earth, yet it is full of surprises, as Marq de Villiers reveals in this biography of the land and its people. Woven through his account is a chronicle of the desert's nations and peoples, the extraordinary nomads - the Moors, the gardening sand women of Arawan and the Tuareg (the famous 'blue men') who call the desert home today.



The Sword and the Cross

The Conquest of the Sahara

Fergus FLEMING

400pp Hb \$49.95

France became a colonial presence in Northern Africa almost by default. Where the Mediterranean fringe was concerned, maintaining a colony was not so difficult, although that was fraught with peril despite the propaganda peddled to the French settlers. The great challenge was the vast Sahara, peopled with fierce and duplicitous tribesmen and occasionally patrolled by the French army, who a long way from Paris followed their own inclinations rather than orders. When the idea of a trans-Saharan railway that would link the northern colonies with the western ones fired up popular imagination (despite its sheer impracticality), it was the army who were charged with finding the best route. Two men in particular, one an officer imbued with respect for the harsh terrain, the other an ex-officer who became seduced by the mysticism of the desert, played pivotal roles in France's 'conquest' of the Sahara - a region one wise man described as leaving only a legacy of insanity. A fascinating, well-written account of an amazing period of history. *Lindy*

Love and Death in Kathmandu

A Strange Tale of Royal Murder

Mark WHITTAKER & Amy WILLESEE Tp \$30.00

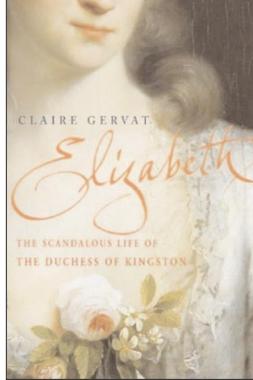
The authors of this book have done something which sounds to me like the most amazing adventure - they set out for Kathmandu to try to unravel the mystery surrounding the murderous rampage by Nepal's Crown Prince that all but wiped out the kingdom's royal family - a bizarre act of mass murder that enthralled the world. What they found was a country like no other; an enchanted kingdom where the beautiful and macabre exist side by side, where the 21st century mingles uneasily with the 14th century, and where intrigue and murder are a daily staple. On their astonishing journey, the authors met and spoke extensively to people from every facet of Nepalese society, including a Maoist guerrilla, a would-be assassin, a former goddess, a royal astrologer and the relatives and friends of those who died in the massacre. Whether relating visits to prisons and palaces, or the crush of festival crowds and the smell of incense and smoke at funerals, the authors paint an unforgettable picture of the clash of old and new cultures that ended in slaughter. *due July Michelle*

Elizabeth

The Scandalous Life of the Duchess of Kensington

Claire GERVAT 302pp Hb \$54.95

As maid of honour to Augusta, Princess of Wales, her beauty and wit ensured her a crowd of admirers as she took to court life like a duck to water. In 1744, she secretly married Augustus Hervey, a naval lieutenant, just before he left for two years in the West Indies. Carrying on as 'Miss Chudleigh' - still the life and soul of court life - her marriage failed and she began an affair with the Duke of Kingston. Having fallen in love, Elizabeth denied in ecclesiastical courts that she was married to Hervey. She then wed the Duke by special licence in 1769, the proudest moment of her life. She had put her childhood of impoverished gentility behind her and reached the pinnacle of the social ladder. Her joy was to be short-lived, as within a few years she would be standing in the dock of the House of Lords charged with bigamy and facing the prospect of living out her days in exile on the continent. Upon being found guilty, she was deserted by her friends and scorned by society as a whole, but her courage never flagged. Having left London for Europe, she charmed Catherine the Great and lived in outrageous luxury as she continued her wilful ways, enjoying herself to the end as one of the 18th century's most colourful characters.



Mary Queen of Scots and the Murder of Lord Darnley

Alison WEIR 400pp Hb \$65.00

Bestselling historian Alison Weir turns her attention to Mary, Queen of Scots and one of the great mysteries of the 16th century, set against one of the most dramatic periods of English history. On 10 February 1567, an explosion destroyed the Edinburgh residence of Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, second husband of Mary Queen of Scots. In the garden were found the naked corpses of Darnley and his valet, with both bodies bearing the marks of strangulation. It was clear that the explosion was intended to mask the evidence of their murders. Darnley was unpopular as king-consort, but he was regarded by many as having a valid claim to the English throne. For this reason, Elizabeth I had opposed his family's longstanding wish to marry him to Mary Stuart, who herself claimed to be the rightful Queen of England. This investigation into his murder sheds light on the actions and motives of the conspirators and, in particular, the extent of Mary's own involvement.

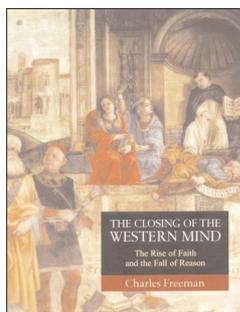
due July

The Closing of the Western Mind The Rise of Faith and the Fall of Reason

Charles FREEMAN

480pp Tp \$40.00

This is a radical and stimulating reappraisal of the impact of Constantine's adoption of Christianity on the later Roman world and on the subsequent development both of Christianity and of Western civilisation. When the Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity in AD 312, he changed the course of European history in a way that continues to have repercussions to the present day. Adopting those aspects of the religion that suited his purposes, he turned Rome on a course from the relatively open, tolerant and pluralistic civilisation of the Hellenistic world towards a culture based on the rule of fixed authority. Only 1,000 years later, with the Renaissance and the emergence of modern science, was Europe to begin to free itself from the effects of Constantine's decision. The Church, on the other hand, remains hierarchical and authoritarian, whilst the effects of Constantine's establishment of Christianity as a state religion persist to this day.



Paris Babylon

Grandeur, Decadence and Revolution 1869-75

Rupert CRISTIANSEN 448pp Pb \$40.00

This study charts the extraordinary events that beset Paris at the close of the Second Empire. It also paints a richly detailed picture of life in Paris at the time - castigated by moralists for its licentiousness - from its palaces, theatres, hotels and department stores to its prisons, hospitals and back-street dives.

Thirteen Days

The Road to the First World War

Clive PONTING

384pp Tp \$40.00

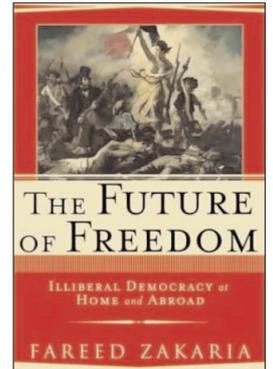
At the end of WWI, Germany was demonised. The Treaty of Versailles contained a 'war guilt' clause pinning the blame on the aggression of Germany and accusing her of "supreme offence against international morality". Ponting rejects this thesis, having made a thorough study of the incredibly complex international diplomatic documents. His interpretation also rejects the thesis that Europe in 1914 had reached such a boiling point that it was bound to erupt, or that the origins of the war lay in a mighty arms race. Instead, he argues that the war occurred because of the situation in the Balkans, while he gives full weight to Austria-Hungary's desire to cripple Serbia instead of negotiating and to Russia's militaristic program of expansion. Ponting begins with a dramatic recreation of the assassination in Sarajevo (he agrees that this was the starting point) and then examines what happened in the 13 days that led to war. His story criss-crosses Europe city by city - Belgrade, Paris, London, Budapest, St Petersburg, Vienna, Rome - and describes developments day by day, latterly indeed hour by hour, as the tension builds.

The Future of Freedom

Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad

Fareed ZAKARIA 256pp Hb \$44.95

In this groundbreaking work, *Newsweek International* editor Fareed Zakaria presents a penetrating and provocative analysis of the most powerful force sweeping the world - democracy. Tracing the rise of democracy through history, Zakaria reveals why - although democracy has broken down hierarchies, opened up closed systems and given rise to freedom in some places - it has also fostered chaos, ethnic warfare and destroyed the very liberties and freedoms it is meant to produce. Zakaria calls for a re-evaluation of our beliefs in democratic ideals and, in particular, the widely held notion that more democracy means more freedom and a guarantee of greater civil and economic liberties.



Horseman, Pass By

The Australian Light Horse in World War I

Lindsay BALY

337pp Pb \$29.95

Australia's mounted troops in WWI were a dashing mobile force and earned the admiration of the world, according to their Commander-in-Chief, General Allenby. They fought dismounted at Gallipoli, and afterwards repulsed a Turkish invasion of Egypt. Then, resourceful and enterprising, they pioneered the British mounted force that drove the enemy back through Sinai, Palestine and Syria, to its final capitulation at Aleppo. Despite suffering immense hardships, they eventually triumphed with the greatest feat the cavalry of the world has ever known.

The Iron Triangle

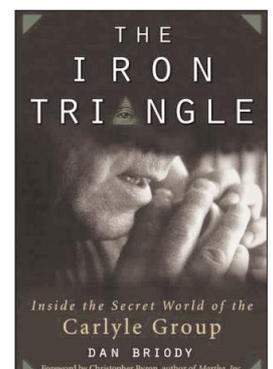
Inside the Secret World of the Carlyle Group

Dan BRIODY

208pp Hb \$49.95

The Carlyle Group is one of the largest private equity firms in the world with over \$13 billion in funds. Carlyle's investments include everything from defence contractors to telecommunications and aerospace companies. But there is more to this company than meets the eye. Carlyle's executives include heavyweights from the worlds of business and politics, such as former Secretary of Defence and CIA deputy director Frank Carlucci, former Secretary of State James Baker III, former President George Bush and former UK Prime Minister John Major.

Osama Bin Laden's estranged family was personally invested in the group until recently. Dan Briody examines a company at the nexus of big business, government and defence that, according to some sources, epitomises corporate cronyism, conflicts of interest and war profiteering. This fascinating examination leads readers into a world that few can imagine - full of clandestine meetings, quid pro quo deals, bitter ironies and petty jealousies. And the cast of characters includes some of the most powerful men in the world. Strap in, because this ride could get a little bumpy!

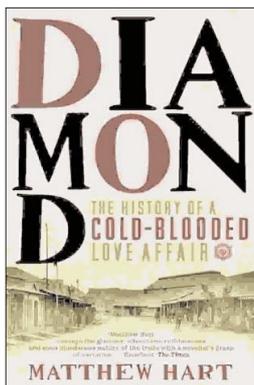


Diamond

The History of a Cold-Blooded Love Affair

Matthew HART

285pp Pb \$23.95



Diamonds are almost completely useless, but are prized above all other gems. Historically they have attracted crimes of passion and awful cold-blooded efficiency, bedazzled the greatest filmstars and the most opulent courts and provided the incentive for adventure, destruction and greed on a monumental scale. No one company is more identified with diamonds than the South African based De Beers. Until the collapse of the Iron Curtain, they controlled the diamond market. After the collapse, they still controlled it - once they had bought up most of the diamonds emerging from the former Soviet Union. They are secretive, discreet and very, very powerful. A strike in Northern Canada could hardly seem to trouble them, except that it prefigured a diamond rush in a territory over which they had no influence by prospectors they did not own. And the strike promised enormous riches. Here is the true story of the strike that upset the diamond kings, the process by which they are cut, fashioned, smuggled and stolen, the legends and superstitions that are attached to them, the characters who comprise the great diamond prospectors and, above all, of the shadowy hand of De Beers, for whom diamonds are forever.

In Search of Shangri-La

The Extraordinary True Story of the Quest for the Lost Horizon

Michael McRAE

229pp Hb \$39.95

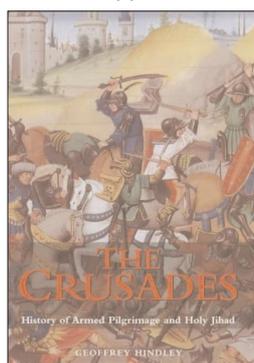
Since the 19th century, Westerners have laid siege to the Tsangpo Gorge in Tibet. The colonial British saw it as a strategic prize, 1920s botanist Frank Kingdon-Ward saw it as a geographical puzzle to solve, and Oxford educated American Tibet scholar, Ian Baker (discoverer of the hidden waterfall in the 1990s) saw it as a hidden Buddhist realm. More recently, kayakers have seen the rapids as the last great whitewater challenge. They paid with their lives. For all, the reality was unimportant. All heaped their own perceptions on the mythology that had come before. This title combines adventure, travel, history and myth to tell the story of the search for the hidden falls of Shangri-La.

The Crusades

History of Armed Pilgrimage and Holy War

Geoffrey HINDLEY

300pp Hb \$52.95



The Crusades were pilgrimages for some, for others an excuse for pillaging. This volume tells of an institution that periodically disrupted European history for over three centuries, troubled Christian consciences and embittered Muslim attitudes towards the West. It offers portraits of the major personalities who took part, from Godfrey of Bouillon, the first Latin ruler of Jerusalem, to Etienne the visionary French peasant boy who inspired the tragic 'Children's Crusade', and shows how the Crusades helped shape Europe, the modern world and relations between Christian and Muslim countries to this day. Hindley focuses on several themes, including women as pilgrims, rulers and warriors, the Knights Templar as pioneer bankers and international trade across religious frontiers.

Sydney's Aboriginal Past

Investigating the Archaeological and Historical Records

Val ATTENBROW

226pp Lp \$49.95

Now out in a paperback edition, this incredibly popular guide is half its original price. This book offers a fascinating insight into Aboriginal life before colonisation in 1788 and during the first 30 years of white settlement. It also contains an extensive 'Sites-to-visit' supplement, with information on how and where to find some of the places where archaeological evidence of Sydney's Aboriginal past can be seen.

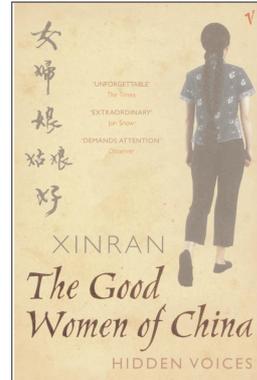
The Good Women of China

Hidden Voices

XINRAN

240pp Pb \$22.95

For seven years, Xinran hosted a daily radio phone-in program for Radio Nanjing during which she discussed women's lives and invited women to call in and talk about themselves. Broadcast between 10 and 12 at night, *Words on the Night Breeze* soon became famous all over China for its powerful, honest discussion of what it means to be a woman in today's China. It started in 1990, a time when China seemed to be opening up, both for the Chinese and for the world. Xinran's program revealed aspects of women's lives that had never been talked about in public before. She felt as if she was opening a tiny window into a huge fortress, whose inhabitants had not previously communicated with the outside world. Soon she was receiving over 200 letters a day from women telling their stories. She realised that she knew far less than she had thought about what it means to be a Chinese woman and embarked on a journey of discovery to collect their stories. The stories presented in this collection tell of almost inconceivable suffering: rape, sexual abuse, the separation of parents from their children, the suppression of human emotion in order to survive the Communist regime. And yet this book is about love - and how, despite cruelty, despite politics - the female urge to nurture and cherish remains.



Masterminds of Terror

The Truth Behind the Most Devastating Terrorist Attack the World Has Ever Seen

Yosir FOUDA & Nick FIELDING

208pp Tp \$29.95

Based on the only interviews ever carried out with the two main conspirators of the September 11 attacks, this is the account of how Ramzi Binalshibh and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed plotted the assaults on the World Trade Centre, the Pentagon and Capitol Hill in 2001. Using investigative material, the authors build a vivid picture of how the catastrophic acts of terrorism were devised over the course of two years and provide material relating to the covert operations that preceded the disaster, the majority of which is previously unpublished. The book contains the full written justification for the attacks by Binalshibh, as well as the entire text of Fouda's interview with the terrorists, which was carried out in hiding as both men were being hunted down. Also included are interviews with close relatives of the hijackers, revelations of Mohammed's connections with the first attack on the Twin Towers in 1993, details of the role played by Binalshibh and Mohammed in the killing of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, how the two men built al-Qaeda's Far Eastern network and an expose of the secret communications between Binalshibh and hijack leader Mohammed Atta.

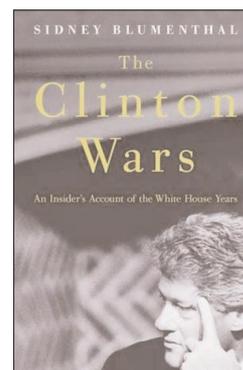
The Clinton Wars

An Insider's Account of the White House Years

Sidney BLUMENTHAL

822pp Hb \$49.95

This is an insider's account of Clinton's years in the White House. The author, formerly a political journalist, held the title Assistant to the President from 1997-2001, which in effect meant that he was minister without portfolio, intellectual in residence and political strategist. He was also personal adviser to the President and First Lady. Blumenthal is therefore well-placed to tell the real story of the Presidency, from the Monica Lewinsky affair (he had conversations from morning to night with Bill and Hillary the day the story broke) to the relationship with Tony Blair (Blumenthal is credited with introducing the two men and helping cement the relationship). His remarkable book ends with the inside story of the fight to elect Al Gore in 2000 and extend the legacy of the Clinton-Gore Administration. Every page of this unrivalled, authoritative book, with its intimate insights into Clinton's personality and politics, attests to Blumenthal's literary skill, profound understanding of politics and unique perspective on crucial events of our recent past. Concurrently on our new titles stand is Hillary Clinton's account of those years: **Living History: Memoirs** (562pp Hb \$55.00). Hillary writes with candour, humour and passion about her upbringing in suburban, middle-class America in the 1950s and her transformation from Goldwater Girl to student activist to controversial First Lady. This is her revealing memoir of life through the White House years. It is also her chronicle of living history with Bill Clinton, a 30-year adventure in love and politics that survives personal betrayal, relentless partisan investigations and constant public scrutiny.



The Mammoth Book of How it Happened

Ancient Rome

Jon E LEWIS

516pp Pb \$24.95

Using memoirs, letters and official reports, this book provides a vivid account of the Roman way of war, empire building, civilisation and pax. It covers all the great events of Roman history, from the Battle of Mylae, the triumph of the barbarians to Rome's social, cultural and religious life in all its grandeur and depravity. Sources as varied as inscriptions, temple visits, household accounts and gladiatorial games open a window into a world of Ancient Rome, a civilisation which still marks contemporary landscape with its roads and aqueducts, the Western calendar, our laws, traditions and thoughts.

The Default Country

A Lexical Cartography of Twentieth Century Australia

Jay ARTHUR

216pp Tp \$39.95

Embedded in Australian English are the descriptive norms of another entirely different country - a place 'narrow, hilly and green', our 'default country'. Australia by contrast is the 'wide, brown land'. Jay Arthur's thought-provoking work investigates typical descriptions of Australia and their implications. Her narrative plots the discrepancies between the words we use and the intrinsic nature of Australia. Her 'word maps' interpret the relationship between Australian English and the country, between language and landscape. A must for students of Australian studies, from literature to architecture, painting to politics, mining to environmental studies. In a perfect world, every library would have a copy and every 'Australian' writer would have read it with enough enthusiasm to apply it. *Shelley*

In Baghdad

A Reporter's War

Paul McGEOUGH

304pp Pb \$24.95

As war loomed, reporters from around the world swarmed into Iraq. But in the end, Paul McGeough was one of a handful to cover the entire war from Baghdad. Keeping a daily diary, McGeough documented the death of the innocents and the cheap propaganda on both sides; the heroic efforts by doctors and nurses in filthy, under-supplied hospitals; the collapse of the regime; the American conquest of Baghdad and the rampant looting that tore away the last vestiges of Saddam. His personal diaries are a unique insight into life for reporters behind enemy lines - from the stress of colleagues dying around them to daily battles with a regime that saw them virtually become human shields and always potential hostages. It is an extraordinary feat to be the sole Australian reporter to have experienced such raw history in the making. But Paul McGeough's remarkable achievement is to have written such a compelling narrative of the closing days of the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein while under real and present danger.

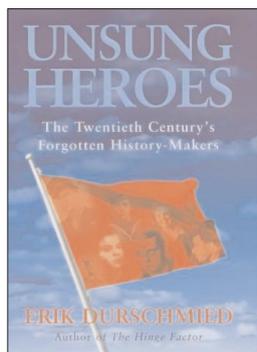
Unsung Heroes

The Twentieth Century's Forgotten History-Makers

Erik DURSCHMIED

467pp Hb \$55.00

There are instances of heroic deeds that had no immediate witness, such as Scholls's attempt in 1943 to raise their nation's conscience, suppressed by Hitler's propaganda machine. The Canadian physicist Dr Slotin acted in 1946, but since 'the bomb' was supposed to be fail-safe, his feat was not released to the public. A KGB commissar gagged Captain Marinesco in 1945, just as Moscow's rulers silently did away with Colonel Maletier in 1956 as a hindrance for their political ambition. In the case of Parteinogenosse Duckwitz in 1943, nobody discovered that he was behind the betrayal of the Nazi plan, and he wouldn't publicise his disloyalty to the Fuhrer. It took faith and courage for a Palermo priest to go up against the Sicilian Mafia in 1993. Holding out against impossible odds was a Yankee pilot in a clapped out aircraft in 1941, and a British battalion against an entire army in Korea in 1951. And there is the sergeant who in 1916 blundered into an 'impregnable fortress', then took it single-handedly. These are a few brave men and women who dared to stand up and be counted. Some had to pay a bitter price for remaining loyal to their principles, but all of them changed the course of history.



The 3rd edition of **The Oxford Classical Dictionary** (1640pp Hb \$295.00) has been revised and is now better than ever. This is the reference book for anyone interested in the Graeco-Roman world, featuring over 6,200 entries written by the best classical scholars in the world, with most entries having full bibliographies.

Maury Klein's **Rainbow's End** (345pp Tp \$31.95) is a very well written account of the US stock market crash of 1929. Klein gives us a vivid portrait of life in America in the 1920s as well as an explanation of the economic and financial factors contributing to the crash. Highly recommended.

Parecon: Life after Capitalism (311pp Hb \$42.00) by Michael Albert is a highly praised, very original look at how a good society can be built. 'Parecon' is short for participatory economics - a prescription for a new economy, an alternative to capitalism - which is built on familiar values including solidarity, equity, diversity and people democratically controlling their own lives.

Dayton McCarthy's **The Once and Future Army** (303pp Hb \$55.00) examines the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) from 1947 to 1974, after which time it continued to function under the new title of the Army Reserve. The CMF has been largely ignored by historians despite the important role it once played and this book aims to bring its role and the story of its post-war citizens into the public domain.

The essays on the histories of madness and asylum in **Madness in Australia** (269pp Tp \$35.00), edited by Catherine Coleborne and Dolly Mackinnon, form the first interdisciplinary collection of its kind in Australia. Covering the mid-19th to the late 20th centuries, the book reflects the development of ideas about Australian constructions of madness and ongoing debates about psychiatry and mental health.

Evan Gottesman's **Cambodia After the Khmer Rouge** (428pp Hb \$85.00) is the first account of the turbulent 12 years after the Vietnamese army overthrew the Khmer Rouge in 1979. Drawing on previously unexplored archival sources, interviews and secondary materials, he describes how Cambodia struggled to emerge from the chaos, despite a Western diplomatic and economic embargo, a Vietnamese occupation and a civil conflict fuelled by the Cold War.

In **The Archaeology of Mesopotamia** (253pp Pb \$49.00), Roger Matthews places the discipline within its historical and social context and explains how archaeologists conduct their research through excavation, survey and other methods. In four fundamental chapters, he uses illustrated case studies to show how archaeologists have approached central themes such as: the shift from hunting to farming; complex societies; empires and imperialism as well as everyday life.

John Donne's **Essays in Divinity** (209pp Hb \$99.95) is an attempt by a profoundly philosophical mind to grasp the meaning of time and eternity and the link between the two. Ostensibly a commentary upon the first verse of Genesis and Exodus, it is in fact an exegesis composed in the manner of the recent humanists of the 16th and early 17th centuries that takes the reader well beyond biblical explication. This edition features a lengthy introduction and commentary.

In **Exploring Twentieth-Century Music: Tradition and Innovation** (228pp Pb \$55.00), Arnold Whittall considers a group of important composers of the 20th century including Debussy, Webern, Schoenberg, Stravinsky, Bartók, Janáček and Britten. He moves between the cultural and the technical, the general and the particular, to explore the various contexts and critical perspectives which illuminate certain works by these composers.

The Cambridge Companion to Darwin (504pp Pb \$49.95) provides clear, lively and balanced introductions to the most recent scholarship on Darwin and his intellectual legacies. The contributors (including Daniel Dennett, Michael Ruse and Kim Sterelny) examine Darwin's main scientific ideas and their development, his science in the context of its times and the influence of Darwinian thought in recent philosophical, social and religious debate.

Surveying Bolivia's economic, social, cultural and political evolution from the arrival of man in the Andes is **A Concise History of Bolivia** (272pp Pb \$39.95) by Herbert Klein. This book brings the history of this society up to date, covering the fundamental changes which have occurred since the 1952 National Revolution and the return of democracy in 1982.

The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy (333pp Tp \$69.30) edited by Christopher Shields, provides a comprehensive treatment of the principal figures and movements of philosophy from its origins before Socrates through Plato and Aristotle and into its final developments in late antiquity. The contributors offer in-depth, accessible essays on the Presocratics, the Sophists, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the major Hellenistic schools and the Neoplatonists.

Dave

What Philosophers Think

Sangroom BAGGINI 272pp Pb \$29.95

What does evolution mean today? Do we have free will? How is technology changing the way we understand life? Where is God? Does art have a value? Is science the new philosophy? What are the ethics of making war? How does language hold meaning? Is freedom possible? These are only some of the questions addressed in this collection of interviews with some of the world's leading philosophers and intellectuals. The interviews cover a wide range of themes, including sex, religion, politics, language, consciousness, evil, feminism and art. They offer an insight into the minds behind the great ideas of today.

Thinking it Through

An Introduction to Contemporary Philosophy

Kwame APPIAH 432pp Hb \$59.95

This is a thorough, vividly written introduction to contemporary philosophy which examines some of the most crucial questions of human existence: the nature of mind and knowledge, the status of moral claims, the existence of God, the role of science and the mysteries of language among them. The author shows us what it means to 'do' philosophy in our time and why it should matter to anyone who wishes to live a more thoughtful life. *due July*

Forbidding Wrong in Islam

Michael COOK 200pp Pb \$39.95

This is a short, accessible survey on the Islamic injunction, incumbent on every Muslim, to forbid wrongdoing. Using anecdotes and stories from Islamic sources to illustrate the argument, the author unravels the complexities of the subject. Moving backwards and forwards through time, he demonstrates how the past informs the present. By the end, the reader will be familiar with a colourful array of characters from Islamic history ranging from the celebrated thinker Ghazzali, to the caliph Harun al-Rashid, to the Ayatollah Khomeini. The book educates and entertains, but at its heart is an important message about the Islamic tradition, its values and the relevance of those values today.

The New Buddhism

The Western Transformation of an Ancient Tradition

James COLEMAN 272pp Pb \$31.95

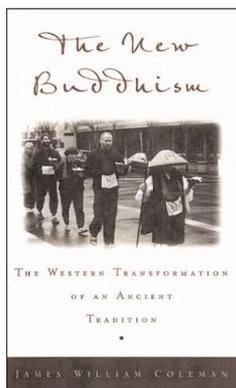
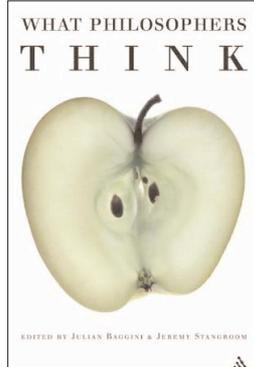
In our multicultural society, faiths formerly seen as exotic have become attractive alternatives for many people seeking more satisfying spiritual lives. This is especially true of Buddhism, which is the focus of constant media attention, thanks partly to celebrity converts, major motion pictures and the popularity of the Dalai Lama. Following this recent trend in the West, author James Coleman argues that a new and radically different form of this ancient faith is emerging. Exploring the appeal of this exotic faith in postmodern society and questioning its future in a global consumer culture, this book provides a thorough and fascinating guide to Western Buddhism today. *due July*

William Tyndale

If God Spare My Life: Tyndale, the English Bible and Sir Thomas More

Brian MOYNAHAN 448pp Pb \$26.95

William Tyndale (1494 - 1536) is one of history's most famous martyrs. Being out of sympathy with the contemporary English church and suspected of heresy, he left England in 1522 and matriculated at Wittenberg two years later, where he got to know Luther. In 1525, he translated the New Testament and, by 1531, the Pentateuch. He had reached the book of Jonah when he was burned for heresy near Brussels. This account ties Sir Thomas More, newly named patron saint of politicians, to the betrayal and burning of Tyndale. The extraordinary feud between the two men is examined in detail and the book also includes portraits of Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Cardinal Wolsey. Burnings alive, early printing, book smuggling and the linking of More, 'the man for all seasons', to the betrayal and execution of the most quoted writer in the language (84 per cent of the King James New Testament is word-for-word Tyndale), form the backdrop to one of the most astonishing lives in British history.



A new informative paperback series among our philosophy shelves are the **Routledge Philosophy Guidebooks**. Ideal for students, these studies focus on a major philosopher and a certain text, looking at the background, the intent and the contribution of the work to contemporary thought. The guides also clarify certain dense and complex ideas.

Husserl and the Cartesian Method by A D Smith (Pb \$28.00) is just one of these guide books, essential for the understanding of a work that many find dense and disguised with philosophical jargon. Along with many other guides in the series is **Descartes and the Cartesian Method** by Gary Hatfield (Pb \$29.95) and **Hegel and the Philosophy of Right** by Dudley Knowles (Pb \$29.95). The variety and clarity of these introductions make them essential for students or readers of philosophy.

A new book both students and general readers of philosophy will find interesting is **Philosophy and This Actual World** by Martin Benjamin (Pb \$46.95). Benjamin aims to merge the space between academic philosophy, which has become so technical and structured, with the questions and concerns of the educated non-specialists. By aiming to unify the two, Benjamin states that genuine philosophical questions come from the person as a whole, not just the educated specialists. From there he focuses on ethics, knowledge and will, in clear and accessible writing.

Just weeks after the 9/11 attacks on New York, Giovanna Borradori sat down in two separate interviews with two of the most influential philosophers of our time, Jurgen Habermas and Jacques Derrida. The outcomes, which appear in **Philosophy in a Time of Terror** (Hb \$59.95), were a profound evaluation of one of the most monstrous terrorist attacks ever committed. Overcoming their historical antagonism to appear together within one book for the first time, the two philosophers, guided by Borradori, show that philosophy has an invaluable contribution to make in the understanding of terrorism. Each dialogue is accompanied by an essay, which is helpful for anyone who finds Habermas or Derrida perplexing, as they are renowned to be. In conclusion, each philosopher acknowledges the enormity of the challenge ahead, agreeing (unintentionally, I suspect) in some aspects along the way.

The work of Theodor Adorno on popular culture, often controversial and always unsettling, ranges from critiques on radio, film, television and astrology. No better insight into the work of this German philosopher can be found than in **Adorno on Popular Culture** by Robert Witkin (Tp \$56.00). I personally find this collection of essays extremely helpful in the understanding of Adorno, particularly his work in America. Witkin's handling of his subject is clear and accessible and, as you finish reading each essay, the ideas of Adorno slowly begin to emerge into comprehension. An intriguing book about a philosopher who unsettled the settled.

Another Century of War? (Pb \$33.00) by Gabriel Kolko is an essential book for anyone who wants to understand the current crisis in the Middle East and what future may be awaiting us if nothing is solved. Kolko, whose past work has been influential in the understanding of modern warfare and its consequences, finds the roots of the cause within the Foreign American Policy, stating that policies that have produced disasters in the past will continue to do so. This book has been very popular in our Political Theory section.

First published in 1983 and now recently published in the ever-popular Routledge Classics series, **Heart and Mind: The Varieties of Modern Experience** (Pb \$29.95) by Mary Midgely is an entertaining book (strange for a philosophy title to be entertaining) about morals. Midgely, in her stylish prose, looks at choices and how to make them. She also looks at where the feelings of right and wrong come into it and how this affects our decisions. Her views are optimistic (also strange for a work of philosophy), in the end focusing on what it means to be human and that to be able to make choices is something special in itself. *Tristan*



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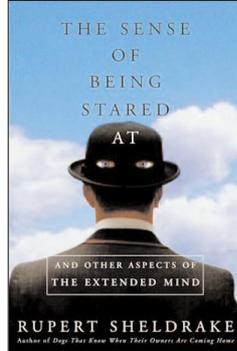
If you are after one of the fine titles from Cambridge University Press, please ask us first. We stock virtually all titles held by Cambridge in Australia, plus a few more!

The Sense of Being Stared At And Other Aspects of the Extended Mind

Rupert SHELDRAKE 384pp Hb \$56.95

This is fascinating and a little spooky too. Sheldrake takes what has long been dismissed as paranormal (and/or supernatural) occurrences and repositions them as ordinary and natural abilities favoured in evolution's selection process. This seemingly new perception of an 'extended mind' is in fact an ancient, if somewhat neglected, understanding of consciousness. Sheldrake suggests that we (humans and animals) emit mental fields and he details many animal case studies as a bridge to documenting such common human phenomena as telephone telepathy, premonitions and the sense that you're being stared at. This groundbreaking book provides a new way of thinking about ourselves and our relationships with other people, with animals, and with the world around us. *due July*

Cara



Asimov's Elephant

The Latest from Ockham's Razor

Robin WILLIAMS (editor)

256pp Pb \$24.95

This is a collection of the best of *Ockham's Razor* radio transcripts from 1996 to 2003, featuring prominent speakers from a range of scientific fields who talk about aspects of their work. The talks explore contemporary social and philosophical issues, in conjunction with recent research in areas such as health, agriculture, the environment, physics, genetics, mathematics and more. Many of the subjects which were introduced on *The Science Show* during the last seven years have particular currency today. Issues such as cloning technology and its implications for humanity; biological warfare and what can be done to eliminate the dangers; the ramifications of salinity and the need for sustainability; the importance of vaccination; and the reasons behind people's reluctance to use public transport. Robyn Williams provides a lively, provocative and stimulating collection. *due July*

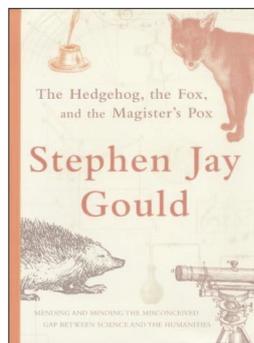
The Hedgehog, the Fox and the Magister's Pox Mending and Minding the Misconceived Gap Between Science and the Humanities

Stephen Jay GOULD

208pp Hb \$55.00

This is the book which the famous Harvard evolutionary biologist finished shortly before his death in May 2002. His point of departure is the Greek soldier-poet Archilochus' proverb about the cunning fox versus the persistent hedgehog. In his inimitable style, Gould mines rare and idiosyncratic sources to debunk the common notion of science and the humanities as mortal foes. It amounts, ultimately, to a broadside at E O Wilson, whose book, *Consilience* (Pb \$26.00), posited a reductionist model of the disciplines joined in a kind of Chain of Being, with particle physics on one end, ethics and religion on the other and biology somewhere in between. Admitting his annoyance that Wilson got to the term first, Gould argues that consilience (a word originated by the philosopher of science William Whewell in 1840) more correctly applies to his own theory than Wilson's. While this book is a fine read, rich with learning and insight, it has its cryptic, unreadable moments, possibly because Gould's publisher - out of respect for the deceased author? - decided to issue the book largely untampered with. *due July*

Cara



How Far is Up?

John & Mary GRIBBIN

144pp Hb \$27.95

How far is it to the edge of the Universe? It is less than 80 years since astronomers began to realise that even the distances to the stars are tiny steps on a truly cosmic scale, and that the Milky Way Galaxy in which we live is just one island in an immense ocean of space. John and Mary Gribbin tell the story of how the cosmic distance scale was measured, the personalities involved and the increasingly sophisticated instruments they used. Astronomers can now study light from objects so distant that it has taken ten billion years on its journey across space to us, travelling all the time at a speed of 300,000 kilometres per second - that's how far up is!

Earth Alive!

From Microbes to a Living Planet

Mary WHITE

192pp Hb \$49.95

Mary White has to be one of the most successful authors in Australia. Her four-part saga *The Greening of Gondwana* (Lh \$65.00), *After the Greening* (Lh \$65.00), *Listen... Our Land is Crying* (Lh \$75.00) and *Running Down: Water in a Changing Land* (Lh \$49.95), told the story of the evolution of the Australian environment through time and how that history has determined the parameters for sustainable land and water use; while *Reading the Rocks* (Lh \$50.00) outlined the evolution of animals as seen in Australian fossils. In revealing the even bigger picture than the first five books encompass - the history of Life and the Biosphere - this book gives a new perspective and reveals the significance of Life's bacterial ancestry and the continuing enormous importance of the invisible world of microorganisms that still sustain the living Earth. Here she sets out the life support principles of this planet that underpin our survival. This book is essential reading.

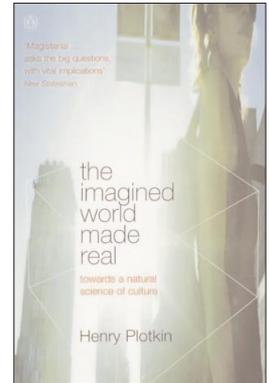
Shelley

The Imagined World Made Real Towards a Natural Science of Culture

Henry PLOTKIN

298pp Pb \$24.95

Human beings are fundamentally creatures of culture. The ability to share knowledge, beliefs and skills is the defining characteristic of our species, and one of the most complex phenomena on earth. Our lives are dictated by the products of culture - such as marriage, money, nationhood - and wars are fought over it. Science itself is a construction of culture, and natural sciences are the most powerful forms of knowledge we have, from explanations of the origins of the universe to the molecular structure of life. So can the natural sciences be used to understand culture or should this be left to the 'human sciences' - psychology, sociology and anthropology? Here, Henry Plotkin shows that natural science, in particular evolutionary theory, is in fact essential to exploring our culture. He illustrates how nature and nurture have intertwined in the development of human intelligence from its earliest beginnings. And how, by fusing the biological and the social, we can achieve a 'natural science of culture' - one that reveals human culture as the extension of processes that are actually billions of years old.



DNA: The Secret of Life

James WATSON

446pp Hb \$65.00

Along with Francis Crick, James Watson discovered the double helix structure of the DNA molecule, realising how it was able to reproduce itself and how, through its immense variety, it was able to pass on genetic instructions from one generation to the next. This discovery paved the way for 50 years of explosive scientific achievement, of extraordinary importance both in strictly scientific terms and for its technological and social significance. From Dolly the sheep to GM foods to designer babies, science-related newspaper headlines have been dominated by the implications of their work. In this beautifully produced and illustrated book, Watson tells the story of this research and its impact on the world in which we live, from its beginnings to the present.

Looking for Spinoza

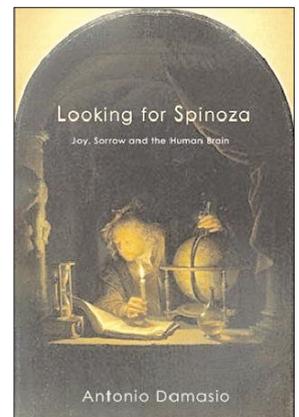
Joy, Sorrow and the Feeling Brain

Antonio DAMASIO 355pp Hb \$65.00

From the author of *Descartes' Error* (Pb \$34.00) and *The Feeling of What Happens* (Pb \$27.95), this unusual book combines

Damasio's report on what neuroscience tells us about feelings and emotions and why he thinks Spinoza prefigured some of the modern ideas on emotions, feelings and ethics. The results of Damasio's own research and that of others has convinced him that the traditional dichotomy between reason and emotion is wrong, and that the brain functions by mapping the body. He also speculates that feelings - joy, pain, well-being, sorrow - not only contribute to the survival of the species, but impel humans toward ethical behaviour and cooperative social organisation, and that the beginnings of emotional behaviour can be recognised in the simplest of organisms.

Dave



Echo of the Big Bang (215pp Hb \$44.95) by Michael Lemonick tells the story of the Microwave Anisotropy Probe (MAP) which spent a year in space measuring the cosmic microwave background radiation in unprecedented detail. Written by an outstanding science writer, this is both a personal and scientific tale of discovery about the history and structure of our universe.

Mind Over Matter: Conversations with the Cosmos (319pp Hb \$58.30) by K C Cole, is a delightful collection of short essays by a prizewinning science journalist who has the ability to find the connections between the far reaches of scientific research and the richness of everyday life, as well as the politics that shape the fate of our world.

Practical Cryptography (410pp Tp \$99.95) by Niels Ferguson and Bruce Schneier is an attempt to bridge the gap between the promise of cryptography and the reality of cryptography. The authors - both seasoned cryptographers - describe the real-world constraints and realities of cryptography and show how to engineer secure cryptographic systems.

Two new books on steganography (the science of hiding messages) are **Hiding in Plain Sight** (335pp Pb \$65.95) by Eric Cole and **Disappearing Cryptography** (350pp Pb \$113.85) by Peter Wayner. The first is an excellent introduction to the subject and includes a CD-ROM containing the source code from the book and several popular steganography tools. The second is a very comprehensive look at steganography and watermarking, now in its second edition and supported by a website. Also new is **Codebreakers: Arne Beurling and the Swedish Crypto Program During World War II** (259pp Hb \$86.95) by Bengt Beckman. It tells the story of how a Swedish mathematician in 1940 broke the German code used for strategic military communications.

Facts and Mysteries in Elementary Particle Physics (340pp Pb \$41.95) by Martinus Veltman is a comprehensible overview of modern particle physics accessible to anyone who wants to know how the universe works at its most basic level. The author, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, provides clear explanations of quantum mechanics and special relativity, as well as esoteric subjects like scaling, the Higgs particle and renormalisability, as well as thumbnail sketches of many particle physics personalities.

The almost 70 articles in **Essential Sources in the Scientific Study of Consciousness** (1192pp Tp \$139.00) edited by Bernard Baars et al, reflect the breadth and depth of the rapidly growing scientific study of consciousness. This book contains both foundational and cutting edge works on the nature and functions of consciousness and is essential reading for anyone with a serious interest in the subject.

Sputnik: The Shock of the Century (310pp Tp \$34.00) by Paul Dickson is a very readable account of the impact the launch of Sputnik on 4 October 1957 had on the world in general and the United States in particular, using recently declassified documents, as well as the recollections of those alive at the time.

An excellent, detailed look at the early days of the Soviet space program is **Sputnik and the Soviet Space Challenge** (537pp Tp \$75.00) by Asif Siddiqi. Together with his **The Soviet Space Race with Apollo** (488pp Tp \$75.00), this is the definitive history of the first 30 years of the Soviet manned space programs, from the end of WWII to the collapse of their moon program in the mid-1970s.

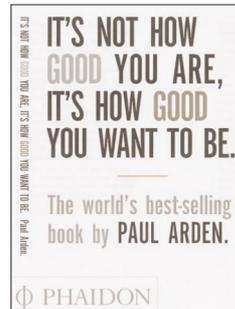
Julian Havil's **Gamma: Exploring Euler's Constant** (266pp Hb \$68.00), aims to teach mathematics using a historical approach, teaching the practical skills that students need, but in the context of the history of the time when these skills were first developed. He has chosen to concentrate on the work of mathematicians of the 18th century and Euler in particular. This work will be of interest to both teachers and students who have a little probability and statistics and a good calculus course behind them, as well as a rigorous course in algebra.

Prime Obsession: Bernhard Riemann and the Greatest Unsolved Problem in Mathematics (422pp Hb \$56.95) by John Derbyshire is a fascinating account of an epic mathematical mystery that continues to challenge and excite the world. Posited a century and a half ago, the Riemann hypothesis is an intellectual feast for the cognoscenti and the curious alike. This is an engrossing tale of a relentless hunt for an elusive proof - and those who have been consumed by it. If one book on the Riemann hypothesis isn't enough for you, we also have Karl Sabbagh's **Dr Riemann's Zeroes** (289pp Hb \$39.95).

Robert Hooke was the subject of the excellent biography **The Man Who Knew Too Much** (Hb \$66.00) by Stephen Inwood, and now available is **London's Leonardo** (224pp Hb \$59.95), a collection of essays on Hooke's life and work by Jim Bennett, Michael Cooper, Michael Hunter and Lisa Jardine. Dave

It's Not How Good You Are, It's How Good You Want to Be

Paul ARDEN 127pp Pb \$12.95
What caught my eye was the simple design of the cover, which in itself proves Arden's thesis set out in the very title of this little self-help business book. He aims to motivate the talented and the timid to make the unthinkable thinkable and the impossible possible. There are insights into such diverse subjects as the value of being fired and why it is often better to be wrong than to be right. For those of you who need a boost, start with this, the best introduction to marketing your ideas from one of the best creative directors in the world.



Shelley

Verbatim

Erin McKEAN (ed) 353pp Pb \$40.00
For 30 years, *Verbatim: The Language Quarterly* has published amusing, interesting and occasionally useful essays on concept, usage, jargon, wordplay, lexicography, linguistics, blunders, malapropisms and anything else remotely tied to the English language. Here, collected for the first time, are some of the most fascinating, funniest and strangest pieces that first debuted in its pages. This is a smart and sassy collection for anyone seeking the highly scholarly or the completely frivolous. From the roots of medieval words to the components of a British football chant, this book will offer something for every language lover and word nerd to enjoy.

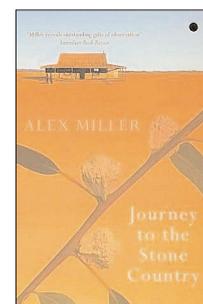
The Lives of the Muses

Nine Women and the Artists they Inspired

Francine PROSE 416 pp Hb \$45.00
"Happy be whosoever the Muse shall have loved." Hesiod joins the literary legion of poets, critics and artists who attempt to pen the enigma surrounding the Muse. A term given to a human form of an artists' inspiration, derived from the myth of the nine serene sisters born from one amorous encounter between Zeus and the goddess of memory, Mnemosyne. In this deeply engaging and extensively researched book, Francine Prose presents her readers with nine thoughtfully written, introspective accounts of the complex partnerships of creativity. What was it about the serial muse, Lou Andreas-Salome, that inspired the likes of Rilke, Gillot and Freud, let alone her turbulent yet platonic relationship with Nietzsche? Did the 'golden afternoon' of 4 July 1862 herald the children's classic *Alice in Wonderland*, or highlight Charles Dodgerson's illicit obsession with his 'child friend' and inspiration, 10-year-old Alice Liddell? Is it fair that some of the more contemporary muses such as Suzanne Farrell could achieve such a degree of cult status when her 'artist', the legendary George Balanchine, created the ballet *Meditations* solely under her intoxicating 'musedom', while other fellow sisters such as the unlucky Yoko Ono, were publicly scorned by cohorts of Lennon fans for attempting to escape the submissive role and pursue her own artistic endeavours? In conjunction with accounts of dynamic duos Dante and Beatrice, Edward and Charice Weston, Isak Dinesen and Denys Finch Hatton, Dr Johnson and Hester Thrale, and Dali and Gala, this book challenges and compels us to understand the mystery of the Muse, whilst documenting the history of the seductive marriage of Eros and creativity. A thought-provoking and enthralling read. Diana

Miles Franklin Literary Award Winner 2003

Australia's most prestigious literary award for the "novel of the year which is of the highest literary merit and presents Australian life in any of its phases." The award this year goes to Alex Miller's **Journey to the Stone Country** (Hb \$39.95), in which the story moves from Melbourne to the forbidding and beautiful isolation of the highest ranges of the Bowne Basin, the ancient heartland of the Jangga people in remote North Queensland, an area in danger of destruction. In his acceptance speech, Miller pleaded with thinking Australians to act as they did with the damming of the Franklin River before this spectacular area is lost forever. The work is fiction but the main characters are real people and the story follows a true line.



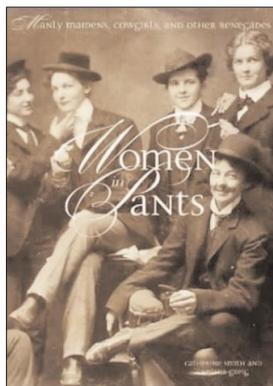
Women in Pants

Manly Maidens, Cowgirls, and Other Renegades

Catherine SMITH & Cynthia GREIGG

184pp Hb \$88.00

Despite what most people may think, American women have always worn pants. Featuring an unusual (and really interesting) collection of vintage photographs from the 1850s to the 1920s, this book documents an almost forgotten revolution in clothing. Defying convention, Victorian dress reformers - as well as farmers, labourers, miners, cowgirls and sportswomen - openly wore trousers, while other women disguised themselves in men's attire to get good jobs, go to combat, engage in relationships with other women or experiment with gender identity. Candid, often humorous, quotes from contemporary newspapers and magazines complement the photographs and enhance our understanding of the culture and time in which these women lived. For some, wearing pants was a necessity; for others, it was an act of defiance; for still others, it was just fun.



Michelle

The Right to Die?

An Examination of the Euthanasia Debate

Miriam COSIC

295pp Pb \$24.95

Voluntary euthanasia is a hot topic. It stirs our deepest fears and triggers an intense emotional response. And yet, if any subject requires calm thought and cool assessment, this is it. How are we to die? The increasingly heated debate goes on to the heart of how we, as a society, value life and the compassion with which we treat those who are suffering incurable diseases. The ethics of euthanasia need to be looked at clearly with the hindsight of history and the practical experience of countries that have already addressed some of the issues involved.

Elders

Wisdom from Australia's Indigenous Leaders

Peter McCONCHIE

144pp Pb \$32.95

Through superb photography and the words of the nation's indigenous leaders, this unique and significant book surveys indigenous peoples and their traditional and contemporary ways of living. Compiled by an experienced photojournalist, this book is a series of chapters authored by tribal elders from around Australia, speaking simply and movingly. Each chapter describes an important aspect of tribal life and the elder speaks on behalf of his or her tribe - explaining what rituals they hold to and what understandings of the world they have. They talk about subjects such as The Land, The Sea, Spirit, Law, Family, Healing Ceremony, Song and Hunting. This is the most representative account of Aboriginal people's lives, cultures and beliefs in book form. *due July*

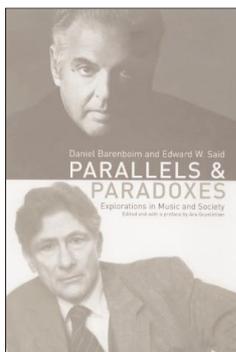
Parallels and Paradoxes

Explorations in Music and Society

Edward SAID & Daniel BARENBOIM

208pp Pb \$25.00

Israeli Daniel Barenboim, director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin State Opera, and Palestinian Edward Said, eminent literary critic and leading expert on the Middle East, have been close friends for years. This text is a series of their discussions about music, politics, literature and society. They talk about the differences between writing prose and music; the compromising politician versus the uncompromising artist; Beethoven as the ultimate sonata composer, Wagner; great teachers and the power of culture to transcend national differences. Also new from Edward Said is **Freud and the Non-European** (84pp Hb \$38.00), in which he explores the profound implications of Freud's Moses and Monotheism for Middle East politics today. Quite apart from the spirit of Freud's deliberately provocative reminders that Judaism's founder was a non-Jew and that Judaism began in the realm of Egyptian, non-Jewish monotheism, Israeli legislation countervenes, represses and even cancels Freud's carefully maintained opening out of Jewish identity toward its non-Jewish background.



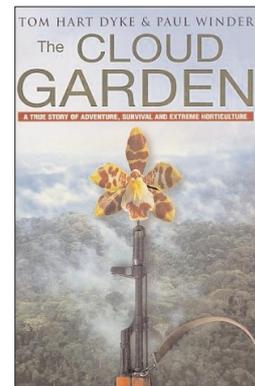
The Cloud Garden

A True Story of Adventure, Survival and Extreme Horticulture

Tom HART DYKE & Paul WINDER

323pp Pb \$32.95

The Darien Gap is a place of legend. The only break in the Pan-American highway, which runs from Alaska to the tip of South America, it is an almost impregnable strip of swamp, jungle and cloud forest between the vast landmasses of North and South America. Stories of abduction and murder there are rife and in recent years more people have successfully climbed Everest or trekked to the South Pole than have crossed the Darien Gap. In 2000, Tom Hart Dyke, a young botanist, set off to Central America with one thing on his mind - orchids. He knew that in order to find the rare and beautiful species he so fervently admired, he would have to visit some of the most inhospitable places on Earth. Unbeknown to Tom, another young explorer, Paul Winder, was backpacking through the area at the same time. Though he sometimes worked freelance in London, Paul was a fearless and intrepid traveller, happier scaling volcanoes than lounging on beaches. In every bar and cafe along his route, rumours abounded of the Darien Gap - and the more he heard, the greater became his desire to make the journey. Pure chance brought Paul and Tom together in northern Mexico. They formed an instant bond and their fate was sealed.



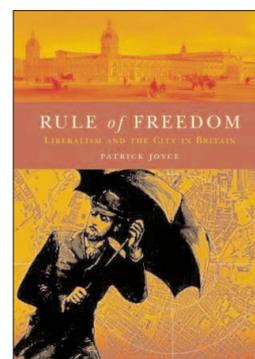
Rule of Freedom

Liberalism and the Modern City

Patrick JOYCE

276pp Hb \$51.00

The liberal governance of the 19th century state and city depended on the 'rule of freedom'. As a form of rule it relied on the production of certain kinds of citizens and patterns of social life, which in turn depended on transforming both the material form of the city (its layout, architecture and infrastructure) and the ways it was inhabited and imagined by its leaders, citizens and custodians. Focusing mainly on London and Manchester, but with reference also to Glasgow, Dublin, Paris, Vienna, colonial India, and even contemporary Los Angeles, Patrick Joyce creatively and originally develops Foucauldian approaches to historiography to reflect on the nature of modern liberal society. His consideration of such 'artefacts' as maps and censuses, sewers and markets, public libraries and parks, and of civic governments and city planning, are intertwined with theoretical interpretations to examine the impersonal, often invisible, forms of social direction and control built into the infrastructure of modern life and the ways in which these mechanisms both shape culture and social life and engender popular resistance.



Looking forward...

If you thought you'd read all of Charlotte Bronte, here is a surprise due next month. A long lost short story will be published by Penguin at \$4.95. Written when Charlotte was 23, **Standcliffe's Hotel** is an example of her early work, written for the private entertainment of her brothers and sisters, a decade before she found a public audience with **Jane Eyre** (Pb \$9.95). Also due is a very interesting book dealing with the science and history of shadows, **The Shadow Club** by Roberto Casati (Hb \$35.00). Due in September is the best debut crime writing Cara has read in four years, **Want to Play?** by P J Tracey (Pb \$29.95).

Looking back...

Shelley recommends **The Day After Roswell** by Philip Corso (Pb \$16.95). Corso comes up with the answer to American government and its extreme abilities in manipulation. He said, "the cover up is the disclosure and the disclosure is the cover up". "I have found this little aphorism very useful when considering anything to do with US government." **Fiskadoro** by Denis Johnson is a surreal allegory that presents the vision of a possible American future. It is set in a post-apocalypse society where the inhabitants of Twicetown await the second comings of the gods Jesus, Quetzalcoatl and Bob Marley. Cara describes it as "highly entertaining Florida quirky". Tristan recommends an "insightful epic" by J M Cootzee, **The Life and Times of Michael K** (Pb \$22.95). In South Africa, whose civil administration is collapsing under the pressure of years of civil strife, an obscure young gardener named Michael K decides to take his mother on a long march away from the guns towards a new life in the abandoned countryside. But everywhere he goes, war follows him.

Ann

Ooh La La! Language Book Centre has new carpet - the same blue you see downstairs in Abbey's - so now we really do look like one big shop. If you haven't been upstairs lately, make a detour next time you are in. You'll be amazed at the range of books in other languages and all the courses available to learn another language or English as a Second Language. You'll also see what a wonderful Children's section we now have. This is also where we have the Reference section for Abbey's, with dictionaries from mini to very, very major, such as **The Shorter Oxford** (\$299 or \$345 Thumb-Indexed), **The Macquarie Dictionary Federation Edition** (2 vol slipcase \$149.95), **The Compact Oxford English Dictionary** (\$795) and **The Oxford English Dictionary Version 3** on CD-ROM (\$850). Opposite Reference is Writing and Publishing, as well as Linguistics, and near the stairs is Latin and Classical Greek, surely one of Abbey's singular specialties.

Is anyone following up on Proust? I recently noticed another enticing title in Literary Criticism, Malcolm Bowie's **Proust Among the Stars** (\$23.95 Pb 348pp incl index), which is for both Proust fiends and general readers.

I'm sure you already know my predilection for biography. I want to recommend **The Gate** by Francois Bizot (\$32.95 Pb 285pp), translated from French. This could just as easily be in Asian History as Biography. Bizot was studying the ancient temples at Angkor Wat in 1971 when he was captured by Khmer Rouge soldiers and held, chained to a tree, for many months while he was interrogated, just in case he was an agent of the CIA. He is the only captured Westerner to have escaped alive, probably because he spoke Khmer and was able to establish a rapport with his interrogator. Later, he was an essential participant in the negotiations when the French Embassy and the people seeking shelter there were evacuated in 1975. The Cambodian situation was very complicated, with America and North Vietnam both entering the struggle between the revolutionaries and the government. This book is a heartbreaking attempt to understand the cruelty of civil war. Bizot now holds the Chair of South East Asian Buddhism at the Sorbonne. Not a biography in the conventional sense, simply the story of an exceptional period in his life.

We've sold a great many copies of Anthony Beevor's **Berlin: The Downfall 1945** (\$35.00 Pb 490pp). Much to my surprise, I enjoyed it enormously, although I can't swear to reading every word about the battles, more about the rivalries and plots. Beevor is so much in control of his research that he can tell you much quirky information, which lightens the book. For instance, the abbreviation for the air raid shelters in Berlin (Luftschutzraum) was LSR, which Berliners translated to 'lernt schnell Russisch' or 'Learn Russian Quickly!'

Are you a crossword enthusiast? One of my very best customers has reminded me about the new **Collins Dictionary and Thesaurus**, in which the bottom third of each page is taken up by a thesaurus for some of the words above (including an opposite word). It comes in several formats, including paper \$24.95 and vinyl \$19.95, and includes a useful Good Writing Guide at the rear. This is a very handy back-up tool if you are going on holiday and don't want to take a big dictionary with you, or you may want to leave one in your holiday house or give it as a house-guest present.

I recently had a nice conversation with an absent-minded Professor of Mathematics from Oxford who told me that our shop put Blackwell's to shame (he was looking at our Mathematics section, of course). He was setting off to walk from Manly to the Spit Bridge, so I was able to give him advice. When I was showing him our range of books on Australia in the Travel section, I noticed the gorgeous book done by our new Lord Mayor, Lucy Hughes Turnbull, **Sydney: Biography of a City** (\$82.35 Hb 533pp incl index). This is a wonderful mix of history and illustrations to have on hand. We could even get it signed for you. Just ask.

I really enjoyed William Dalrymple's **White Mughals** (\$27.95 Pb), which has been a big seller in both hardback and paperback. Ostensibly about the romance between a Muslim Princess and an 18th century British general, it is also about the battles between the Indian Princes and, most interestingly, about the easier relationship between the British and the Indians - a relationship which changed markedly (and not for the better) after the arrival of certain self-important British Governors, including the future Duke of Wellington. A terrific achievement. Look also at his books in Travel such as **In Xanadu**, **From the Holy Mountain**, **City of Djinn** and **Age of Kali** (all \$24.95 Pb).

Responding to the TV programme, I picked up **The Inquisition** (\$22.95 Pb 318pp incl index), a good popular history by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh (authors of **The Holy Blood and Holy Grail** \$24.95 Pb). It says something of our conception of the Inquisition when I tell you that I found it in Spanish History, but of course this is only one small part of the story. This book begins in 13th century France, following the Albigensian Crusade, through the Roman and Spanish Inquisitions and on to the present day activities of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith. You'll now find it in Religion, not Spanish History.

I hope you enjoyed the Sunday night TV episodes on Dickens and Jane Austen. We've increased our standard stock quantity of Claire Tomalin's biography of Nellie Ternan, **Invisible Woman: The Story of Nellie Ternan and Charles Dickens** (\$29.95 Pb). You'll find this in Biography under T (or sometimes under D!) and it is such a good story. After the first edition, several local people wrote to Claire Tomalin to confirm her interpretation of events. I notice she was also a consultant on the Jane Austen episode. Her biography **Jane Austen: A Life** (\$22.95 Pb) is considered one of the best.

Tomalin's *Whitbread Award*-winning biography, **Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self**, sold many more copies than expected. The publishers in Britain do not plan to reprint and the paperback is not due until October. If you would prefer the hardback, we can get copies of the US edition for \$65.

Have you noticed that the immortal Penguin Classics have been getting new covers? All very lovely and appropriate but, more importantly, the prices have remained low. I checked out prices for Dickens, in response to the TV programme, and found you can still buy 552 pages of great writing for \$8.95! This was for **Oliver Twist**, which for good measure contains a glossary of contemporary slang, Dickens' own introductions to several editions, a map of London, a Dickens Chronology, introduction and Cruickshank illustrations!

There are some interesting books about Dickens in both Biography and Literary Criticism, ranging from an abridged edition of **Dickens** by Peter Ackroyd (\$24.95 Pb), **The Mystery of Charles Dickens** by Peter Ackroyd, read by Simon Callow (cassette \$21.95), a House of Stratus reprint **Charles Dickens** by G C Chesterton (\$29.95 Pb), **The Cambridge Companion to Charles Dickens** (\$49.95 Pb) or, in the lively Weidenfeld & Nicholson 'Lives' Series, **Charles Dickens** by Jane Smiley (\$21.00 Pb). Sometimes I think Dickens' life was every bit as melodramatic as his stories.

I was tidying up after our recent stocktake and was reminded of two sections which did not have proper section headers. These are Prehistoric Life (at the bottom of Life Science) and Plants and Animals (at the bottom of Earth Science). In both sections, there are more big books on the top shelf, which don't fit in on the lower shelves. Take particular care of **Orchids of Australia** by John Riley and David Banks, illustrated by Riley (\$120 Hb 308pp incl index), which has had superb reviews. You may also order a Limited Edition copy (\$385 boxed, signed and numbered with loose prints, published by University of NSW Press). A good investment, I think. To digress, this book and its superb illustrations from the once-amateur Riley contrasts with the famous Gould who, it seems, actually did very few

of his now very valuable illustrations. Read all about the cad in a book by Isabella Tree, **The Bird Man: The Extraordinary Story of John Gould** (\$49.95 Hb 246pp incl index) in New Science or 'Science-History and Biography'.

The Plants and Animals section contains all the specific guides to local fauna, such as **The Green Guide to: Snakes and Other Reptiles of Australia, Sharks and Rays of Australia, Mammals of Australia, Dangerous Creatures of Australia, Parrots of Australia, Frogs of Australia, Spiders of Australia** (all \$16.95) and **Insects of Australia** (\$17.95). More for the expert, we have **Mammals of Australia** 5th edition, edited by Ronald Strahan (\$115 Hb 756pp incl index). We also have the 4th edition, which seems to be the same text with a different jacket, for \$94 (one copy only).

We have Volume 2 of **The Field Guide to Eucalypts** by Brooker & Kleining, 2nd edition updated (\$129.95 Hb), covering South Western and Southern Australia. Another title for the expert is **Predators with Pouches: The Biology of Carnivorous Marsupials** edited by Jones, Dickman & Archer, published by the CSIRO (\$185 Hb 486p).

An addition to the usual bird books such as **Field Guide to the Birds of Australia** by Pizzey & Knight (\$45 vinyl cover 575pp incl index) is **Australian Birds Simply Classified** 4th edition by Donald and Molly Trounson (\$54.95 Hb 236pp incl index). This offers photographs of each bird, from the new Photographic Index of Australian Wildlife, and has matching text and distribution maps on the opposite page.

An unusual book, part travel and part natural history, is **The Eye of the Whale** by Dick Russell (\$59.95 Hb 688pp incl index), which describes an epic passage from Baja to Siberia of a Californian grey whale. Botanists will be interested in **The Plant Book: A Portable Dictionary of the Vascular Plants** 2nd edition (\$76.95 Hb), which fills the gap between professional and amateur.

Some of the titles in the Prehistoric Life section are: **Lost World of the Moa: Prehistoric Life of New Zealand** by Worthy & Holdaway, photographs by Rod Morris (\$169 Hb 718pp incl index) or **The Complete Dinosaur** by Farlow & Brett-Surman, illustrated (\$80 Lp 752pp incl index) and **In the Shadow of the Dinosaurs: Early Mesozoic Tetrapods** edited by Fraser and Sue (\$209 Hb 435pp incl index). An interesting paperback is **Emergence of Life on Earth: A Historical and Scientific Overview** by Iris Fry (\$68 Pb), a mix of history, science and philosophy.

I'm reading and enjoying a biography which, like **The Bird Man**, is housed in Science-History & Biography (so don't miss it) called **Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA** (\$24.95 Pb 380pp incl index). A fascinating story of an uncompromising, yet naïve, female scientist dedicated to her work. It is so exciting, I find myself reading late into the night. I remember reading Watson's now classic, **The Double Helix** (\$22.95 Pb) many years ago and being surprised by the personal ambitions and machinations of scientists (so I was naïve also)! Biology and especially genetic research is very much in the news just now. I notice in New Science, **Watson and DNA: The Making of a Scientific Revolution** (\$49.95 Hb), a biography of Watson by Victor McElheny. Also a big, glossy book to accompany a forthcoming TV series, **DNA: The Secret of Life** by James Watson (\$65 Hb). I wonder if McElheny refers to Watson as 'Honest Jim', as did some of the researchers at King's College, London (who did most of the early work). Perhaps for the general reader the Brenda Maddox book will be an easier read. If you want to read another biography of a famous scientist, look for Georgia Ferry's book, **Dorothy Hodgkins: A Life** (\$29.95 Pb).

It's nice cold weather, especially at Manly, where it doesn't get too cold! A great time to be happily curled up with a book. Enjoy!

Eve

Abbey's Bestsellers



Books -
Where Ideas Grow

Non-Fiction

- 1 **Berlin: The Downfall 1945** by Anthony Beevor (Tp \$35.00)
- 2 **The White Mughals** by William Dalrymple (Tp \$27.95)
- 3 **Colour: Travels Through the Paintbox**
by Victoria Finlay (Pb \$24.95)
- 4 **Stupid White Men** by Michael Moore (Pb \$22.00)
- 5 **The Clash of Fundamentalisms: Crusades, Jihads and Modernity** by Tariq Ali (Pb \$33.00)
- 6 **Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded**
by Simon Winchester (Hb \$35.00)
- 7 **Growth Fetish** by Clive Hamilton (Pb \$24.95)
- 8 **Troublesome Words** by Bill Bryson (Pb \$23.00)
- 9 **The Experience of Middle Australia**
by Michael Pusey (Pb \$34.95)
- 10 **Who's Who in the Roman World** by John Hazel (Pb \$29.95)

The winner of \$300 worth of Blackwell Publishing titles from our May competition was Richard Flook from Cremorne.



Fiction

- 1 **Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code**
by Eoin Colfer (Pb \$19.95)
- 2 **The Dream of Scipio** by Iain Pears (Pb \$22.95)
- 3 **The Twenty Seventh City**
by Johnathon Franzen (Pb \$21.95)
- 4 **Dead Air** by Iain Banks (Pb \$22.95)
- 5 **Oryx and Crake** by Margaret Atwood (Hb \$45.00)
- 6 **The Grand Complication** by Allen Kurzweil (Pb \$22.95)
- 7 **The Life of Pi** by Yann Martel (Tp \$27.00)
- 8 **The Quiet American** by Graham Greene (Pb \$21.95)
- 9 **Cosmopolis** by Don DeLillo (Pb \$30.00)
- 10 **Spartan** by Valerio Manfredi (Pb \$25.00)



Now in Paperback

From Armageddon to the Fall of Rome by Erik Durschmied \$22.95

Brilliantly analyses 17 of ancient history's most fascinating and brutal battles, some of which changed the shape of the world and set the borders of our future.

Newton: The Making of a Genius by Patricia Fara \$25.00

This book investigates the different ways in which Newton's life and works have been interpreted at different times. It charts his transformation into a scientific genius, explaining the changing attitude of the scientific community towards Newton's ideas, from Berkeley to Einstein. *due July*

The New Rulers of the World by John Pilger \$25.00

Pilger exposes injustice wherever it occurs and is not shy in his condemnation of those responsible, those faceless powers behind globalisation, who are the new rulers of the world. *due July*

In Defence of Sin by John Portman \$29.95

Titillating, intriguing and occasionally unsettling, this book will allow readers to judge for themselves if they should follow the Ten Commandments, or if sin is now simply a thing of the past.

Time and Chance by Sharon Penman \$22.95

This second part of the trilogy about Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine opens during the glory years of their reign. While Henry redefined the role of medieval kingship, Eleanor gave birth to their children, founding a dynasty that would endure for 300 years. But even in these happy times, shadows were lurking... *due July*

The Autograph Man by Zadie Smith \$22.95

Alex-Li Tandem sells autographs. He hunts for names on paper in a huge network of desire, collecting them, selling them and occasionally faking them; offering people a little piece of fame. To him, enlightenment is some part of himself that cannot be signed, celebrated or sold.

I Have Landed by Stephen J Gould \$27.97

These essays from *Natural History* magazine illuminate and elucidate the puzzles and paradoxes, great and small, that have fuelled the enterprise of science and opened our eyes to a world of unexpected wonders. *due July*

Standing in the Rainbow by Fannie Flagg \$22.95

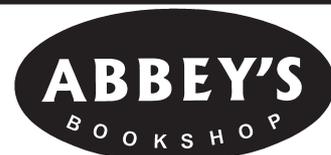
The time, 1946-2000, the place is Elmswood Missouri. World War I has ended and the joyous transitions to peace are being - mostly - embraced. At the heart of the novel is the indomitable Neighbour Dorothy, broadcasting daily (with Mother Smith on the organ), from her front room, to an eager audience across the state. Humour and poignancy, wit and nostalgia are the ingredients Flagg mixes to create the cocktail of small-town southern American life to perfection. *due July*

Editors: Ann Leahy

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