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A Free Newsletter for Abbey's Customers

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The Collapse of Globalism And the Reinvention of the World

John Ralston SAUL 324pp Hb \$ 32.95 I've been a fan of Saul's since **The Doubter's Companion** (Pb \$24.95) was published in the mid-90s, so forgive my lack of brevity. This is the book of the year for all who enjoy clarity of thought and a witty economy of expression - somewhat difficult to find on the subject of politics, money and power! Saul believes that while grand ideologies and economic theories don't vanish overnight, it does happen. He



cites the wild open market theory (30+ years), Communism (70 years in Russia, 45 years in Europe), Keynesianism (45 years) and now Globalisation (30 years), which he baldly describes as dead. His précis that Globalisation has been most wholly embraced by societies built upon Greek and Judaeo-Christian mythologies is simply brilliant. He then outlines the way in which Globalisation was conceived as old-fashioned religiosity with fundamentalist certainty and rigidity of thought. While the economic collapse of 1973 opened the door to Globalisation, it took less than 20 years for its failures to become apparent. 1995 was the year in which the rise of Globalisation peaked, when the old system of international trade agreements (GATT) was reconfigured as a new and improved, powerful organisation known as the WTO. Saul makes the point that the context of a centralised body, neutral in and of itself, to deal with commercial trade issues was to set the stage for the beginning of the end. Civilisation as it is commonly understood (now) was reconceptualised at that point in time through the prism of economics and, as such, had run into a wall. On the other side, the grass wasn't greener, it was a matter of industrial regulation and most likely a secondary outcome of the agricultural industry. This absolutist theory of commercial exchange inspired much criticism as the myriad contradictions of Global orthodoxy were held up to scrutiny. Globalisation insists on a peculiar moral righteousness underpinned by maximum trade, unrestrained self-interest and governments alone respecting their debts, which has led to unbridled violent nationalism and stupefying debt growth (a big thank you to the crucifixion theory of economics enforced by the IMF). With a nod to the South Sea Bubble of the 17th century, the recurring corporate ineptitude and duplicity (and those ENORMOUSLY salaried CEO's), coupled with an inability to self-critique, has led to the downfall of many of the corporate superstars of the new world ideology. The global economic leadership has been totally irrelevant through the catastrophes of Yugoslavia, Rwanda, the Congo and now Dafur. The American war against Iraq ended the 50year-old Western alliance of WWII and allowed many nations old and new to rethink and redefine their relationships to each other, with mixed results. Both negative and positive forms of nationalism are on the rise. but at present it is the fear-based doctrines of exclusion that are in the ascendant. Just look at the way the last election here in Australia was won by demonising the refugees. According to Saul, the greater a nation's power, "actual or imagined", the more intense the fear of its citizens, as previously held certainties come undone in the post-Globalisation vacuum. Where this might lead is up to us. "Choice not chance" could be the rallying cry, if there is the freedom to choose without being bullied or flattened by the corporate wheels of so-called progress. Cara



Blackwell Month

Buy any Blackwell title this month and go in the draw to win your selection of Blackwell Publishing books to the value of \$300. We stock a large range of Blackwell titles, especially Philosophy, Modern and Ancient History. Here are some of our most recent and popular titles:

Zarqawi: The New Face of al-Qaeda

by Jean-Charles Brisard Tp \$41.95 In recent months, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has emerged as the driving force behind the world's most feared terrorist organisation, al-Qaeda. As Bin Laden's apparent successor, al-Zarqawi has been labelled "public enemy number one" by the US government. Brisard offers a vivid and compelling account of Zarqawi's rise to power as the incarnation of international terrorism and Islamic extremism.



New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society by Tony Bennett (et al) Tp \$56.95

This book updates Williams' classic text **Keywords: A Vocabulary** of **Culture and Society** (out of print) by reflecting the transformation in culture and society over the last quarter century. It includes many of Williams' original entries, but with new discussions of their history and use over the last 25 years.

Israel/Palestine: Hot Spots in Global Politics by Alan Dowty Pb \$43.95

Of all the "hot spots" in the world today, the apparently endless clash between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East seems unique in its longevity and resistance to resolution. Is this conflict really different from other ethnic and nationalist confrontations, and if so, in what way? Dowty demystifies the conflict by putting it in broad historical perspective, identifying its roots and tracing its evolution up to the current impasse.

Books in the Digital Age by John Thompson Pb \$76.95 In the first major study of the book publishing industry in Britain and the US for more than two decades, Thompson shows that the digital revolution has had, and continues to have, a profound impact on the book publishing business, although the real impact of this revolution has little to do with the e-book scenarios imagined by many commentators.

The Antiquity of Nations by Anthony Smith Pb \$62.95 Smith provides a fresh interpretation of the character of modern nations. Departing from conventional wisdom, he argues the case for a deeper understanding of their character, based on an ethnosymbolic analysis of the myths, memories, symbols and traditions of pre-modern ethnic communities.

The New Western Way of War by Martin Shaw Pb \$53.95

Shaw charts the development of a new warfare, after Vietnam, through the Falklands, the Gulf, Kosovo and Afghanistan, and argues that, in Iraq and the War on Terror, the USA has consistently flouted the key rules that enabled Western states to fight these earlier wars successfully.





All mail order purchases will be entered automatically. Winner will be contacted 1 October.

Happy Father's Day

Dad does deserve his day! What better way to show it than a present that keeps on giving in a world that keeps changing: Geographica: The Complete Illustrated Reference to Australia and the World (630pp Lp 49.95); SNAP: Extraordinary Pictures by Award-Winning Sports Photographers (244pp Lp 39.95) or Family History Made Easy: How to Trace Your Family Tree and Find Relatives in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales (160pp Lp 26.95).

For historical fathers, we have an amazing selection of both ancient and modern reads, but the latest goodies are: Lisa Jardine's The Awful End of Prince William the Silent: The First Assassination of a Head of State with a Hand Gun (175pp Hb 35.00), brilliant legal historian Alex Castles' Ned Kelly's Last Days: Setting the Record Straight on the Death of an Outlaw (268pp Pb 26.95); Geoffrey Robertson's The Tyrannicide Brief: The Story of the Man Who Sent Charles I to the Scaffold (429pp Hb 55.00); and Gerald Stone's 1932: A Hell of a Year (429pp Hb 45.00), which tells the story of the critical turning point for an Australia balanced between its colonial past and independent future.



On the biographical front: Don't You Have Time to Think? (486pp Hb 49.95) is edited by Michelle Feynman, granddaughter of the coolest scientist who ever lived, Richard Feynman (1918-1988), and it is bound to inspire Dad, who doesn't get time, but likes to think. Jeffrey Watson's Killer Caldwell: Australia's Greatest Fighter Pilot (282pp Tp 35.00) is a biography of a Sydneysider who bluffed his way into the RAAF and then devised the vital "shadow shooting" technique so successful in the North African campaign. Jimmy McDonough's Big Bosoms and Square Jaws: The Biography of Russ Meyer (463pp Hb 55.95) is a story of greed, lust and the American way and will appeal to anyone who likes a good yarn with plenty of sex, booze and rock'n'roll.

For scientific Dad, Philip Ball's Critical Mass: How One Thing Leads to Another (644pp Pb 32.95) is one of those truly fascinating, comprehensive and captivating works on human interrelatedness, while Foster & Kreitzman's **Rhythms of Life** (278pp Pb 27.95) is about the biological clocks that control the daily lives of every living thing (and will prove to Dad he is no island!) For self-improvement Dad, these two may just change his life for the better: Testosterone Inc: Tales of CEO's Gone Wild (402pp Tp 26.95) and Willing Slaves: How the Overwork Culture is Ruling our Lives (368pp Pb 24.95) by Madeleine Bunting.

To make Dad laugh, buy him: The Secret of Success is a Secret: And Other Wise Words from Sean Condon (247pp Pb 22.95), who argues with Colin Powell at a BBQ. Cathy Wilcox's The Bad Guys are Winning (128pp Pb 19.95) provides a delightful, drug-free, non-GMO remedy to the seriousness of globalisation, peace, religion, science and sex. If Dad is depressed, Matthew Johnstone's I Had a Black Dog (Pb 16.95) should point him towards recovery, whereas Bradley Trevor Grieve's Dear Dad (86pp Pb 14.95) is the perfect way of showing Dad how much he means to his family. Shellev

Fiction

Misfortune

531pp Tp \$32.95

Wesley STACE Lord Geoffrey Loveall is the richest man in England, a reclusive, heirless lord of the sprawling manse of Love Hall. He arrives home one fateful morning with a most unusual package - a baby that he presents as the inheritor to the family name and fortune. In honour of his beloved sister, who died at the age of five, he names the baby Rose. The household, relieved at the continuation of the Loveall line,



assiduously ignores the fact that this Rose is, in fact, a boy. Rose grows up inside the endlessly fascinating maze of halls and lawns that make up Love Hall, along with the two inquisitive and ebullient servant children who are her only friends. All three are educated by Rose's adoptive mother Anonyma in the musty recesses of the Octagonal Library. Rose grows up blissfully unaware of her own gender, casually hitting boundaries at Love Hall's yearly cricket match and learning to shave her face even as she continues to wear more and more elaborate dresses, as befits a growing young lady. Until, of course, the fateful day when Rose's world comes crashing down around her and she is banished from Love Hall as an impostor by those who would claim her place as heir. Filled with unexpected plot twists, outrageous characters, odd details and a vivid, velvety historical background, this is an epic, Dickensian story.

Your Cheatin' Heart

Annie McCARTNEY 288pp Tp \$29.95 In 1977, naive, 21-year-old Maggie Lennon leaves Northern Ireland to look for a summer job in America. What she finds is a job as an all-night DJ for Radio WA1A radio, a boss called Zollie D Follie and a best friend, Sharla Emma-Lea Ayn, who introduces her to dope, shaved legs and sex with blonde-haired surfers. And there's no going back from that. When the radio station relocates to Tennessee, Maggie's life is turned upside down by two men: Nate,



the handsome son of a rich Southern family; and Buford, a Country and Western rock star. But as Maggie's professional life takes off and she becomes a player in the music business, so her love life crash-lands. Who knows how it happens, Maggie must be crazy, but pretty soon she's standing with a gun in her hand, Buford's girlfriend, Sue Lynne, is lying on the floor and the police are on their way...

Specimen Days

Michael CUNNINGHAM Like his Pulitzer-Prize winning The Hours (Pb \$22.95), Cunningham links three visionary narratives, this time dealing with the relationship between man and machine. The first, a ghost story set at the height of the Industrial Revolution, tells the story of man-eating machines. An ecstatic boy, barely embodied in the physical world, speaks in the voice of the great visionary poet Walt Whitman. He works at an oppressive factory connected to the making of a mysterious substance with some universal function and on which the world's



308pp Tp \$29.95

economy somehow depends. The slight boy can barely operate the massive machine, which speaks to him in the voice of his devoured brother. A woman who was to have married the brother is now the object of obsessive interest by the boy. In a city in which all are mastered by the machine, the boy is convinced that the woman must be saved before she too is devoured. This grisly, but ultimately transformative, story establishes three main characters who appear, reincarnated, in the other two sections of this startling modern novel.

The Sea

John BANVILLE 200pp Pb \$30.00 When Max Morden returns to the coastal town where he spent a holiday in his youth, he is both escaping from a recent loss and confronting a distant trauma. The Grace family appeared that long ago summer as if from another world. Drawn to the Grace twins, Chloe and Myles, Max soon finds himself entangled in their lives, which are as seductive as they are unsettling. What ensues will haunt him for the rest of his years



and shape everything that is to follow. Banville is one of the most sublime writers working in the English language and this compelling and profoundly moving novel could be his best.

This Thing of Darkness

Harry THOMPSON

618pp Tp \$32.95 This is an epic novel of sea-faring adventure set in the 19th century charting the life of Robert Fitzroy, the captain of The Beagle and his passenger Charles Darwin. Fitzroy, the Christian Tory aristocrat, believed in the sanctity of the individual, but his beliefs destroyed his career and he committed suicide. Darwin, the liberal minor cleric doubts the truth of the Bible and develops his theory of evolution, which is brutal and unforgiving in human terms. The two friends became bitter enemies as Darwin destroyed everything Fitzroy stood for.

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Fiction

Grace

Robert DREWE 432pp Hb \$45.00 We meet Grace Molloy, 29-year-old exfilm reviewer for Now magazine, in a crocodile park in the Kimberleys, having fled from a deluded, yet persistent, stalker in Sydney. Eventually she is able to stop 'looking over her shoulder' and embrace her new life as a park tour guide. Grace seems to have unconscious ties to the land, having been named after the skeletal remains



of the first modern woman, discovered by her anthropologist father. Drew's first novel in around 10 years interweaves perhaps too many stories; that of Grace, her father, the stalker, an escaped detention camp prisoner (which seems to be a platform for Drew's strong feelings on the subject) and a gaggle of ancient Northern Territory women, pickled in alcohol and tobacco to make sense of it all. Despite its overcrowding, this is a compelling and enjoyable novel, which seems to aim to provoke, rather than satisfy. Ann

A Case of Knives Peter ROSE

395pp Pb \$22.95

The cast: Julia Collis, a brilliant but unconventional publisher; Candy Collis, an opera singer with a bright future and a dark mother; Matthew Light, a young actor, taken under Julia's wing as a teenage boy, obsessively in love with Roman Anthem, the 21-year-old grandson of a legendary Australian prime minister, renowned for his good looks, despised by Julia. The scene: Valhalla - an incestuous household of steely alliances, lopsided infatuations and dark impulses. The plot: Roman Anthem is missing and no one knows why. Witty, satirical and full of intrigue, set against a backdrop of opera, publishing and politics, Rose's transition from poetry delivers a novel as sharp as its title.

Thunder God Paul WATKINS

322pp Pb \$19.95

In a time of violent change, a young man, struck by lightning, is believed to be marked by the gods as a keeper of the Norse religion's greatest secret. Stolen from his family, he grows up among mercenary warriors. Upon finally returning home, he finds that war has broken out against the rising tide of Christianity. To save the Norse faith and himself, he embarks upon a journey that takes him far beyond the boundaries of the known world, where he must confront not only his own gods, but the gods of a people yet more savage.

The Big Over Easy

Jasper FFORDE 398pp Tp \$32.95 "It looks like he died from injuries sustained during a fall..." It's Easter in Reading - a bad time for eggs - and no one can remember the last sunny day. Humpty Dumpty, well-known nursery favourite, large egg, ex-convict and former millionaire philanthropist, is found shattered beneath a wall in a shabby area of town. Following the pathologist's careful reconstruction of Humpty's shell, Detective Inspector



Jack Spratt and his Sergeant Mary Mary are soon grappling with a sinister plot involving cross-border money laundering, the illegal Bearnaise sauce market, corporate politics and the cut and thrust world of international Chiropody. As Jack and Mary stumble around the streets of Reading in Jack's Lime Green Austin Allegro, the clues pile up, but Jack has his own problems to deal with. And on top of everything else, the Jelly Man is coming to town...

The Compulsive Spike Milligan

Spike MILLIGAN, Norma FARNES (ed)

435pp Pb \$24.95 This second superb collected work of one of Britain's best-loved comedians is an excellent companion to the sensational original, The Essential Spike Milligan (Pb \$24.95). When Spike died in 2002, he left behind one of the most diverse legacies in British entertainment history, as well as a legion of devoted fans and admirers. His themes ranged from environmental issues and war, to nostalgia and depression, his prolific output covering



some of the most evocative events of the 20th century, in a twisted comic and harrowingly honest style. This second anthology includes more of the best from his war memoirs, his novel Puckoon (Pb \$18.95), his children's stories, poetry and drawings, plus a wonderful collection from his voluminous correspondence from the 1960s onwards, with such varied recipients as the House of Commons, the Director-General of the BBC, *Private Eye* and British Telecom.

The Return from Troy

Lindsay CLARKE 400pp Pb \$29.95 Following The War at Troy (now in Pb \$22.95), this is the second volume of Clarke's masterful retelling of the stories surrounding the Trojan War. Part one charts the return of Agamemnon to Mycenae, his murder by his wife Clytaemnestra - in revenge for sacrificing their daughter and the consequences of that killing. The second part focuses on the adventures of Odysseus on his long struggle to return home to Ithaca and his wife Penelope. Both volumes end in an afterword that relates the mythological themes and motifs of the stories to crucial aspects of contemporary experience.



Children's

Hitler's Canary

by Sandi TOKSVIG 275pp Hb \$25.00 Bamse Skovlund is 10 when the Germans invade Denmark in 1940. His older brother becomes quickly attracted to the Resistance, while their father advocates appeasement and good manners. Their mother is the most famous actress in Scandinavia, and Bamse is used to drama, but soon it becomes apparent that real life has its own adventures - and dangers. As the Germans impose martial law on the Danes, Jewish citizens are singled out for deportation, but a popular upswell of assisting the Jews to escape to neutral Sweden takes

place. A beautifully written story of how ordinary people can do extraordinary things, inspired by the belief that good deeds can never be wrong and that there is never anything so simple as 'bad them' and 'good us' in wartime. Based on true stories related by the author's father and, while simply presented, very moving. Recommended for any reader from 10 to adult.

reviewed by Lindy Jones

Naked Bunyip Dancing by Steven HERRICK

195pp Pb \$14.95 Another verse novel from this award-winning poet is always a joy! This time the poem is told in many voices - those of Class 6C, a wonderfully diverse mob of kids. Their new teacher is guite unusual and his methods a little strange, but in the course of the year the kids learn a lot about themselves, what they can do (and a little bit about Bob Dylan). Charmingly illustrated by Beth Norling, this is poetry for readers who don't like poetry, or a novel for those who like something different.

The Spook's Curse by Joseph DELANEY

257pp Hb \$27.95 I for one have been eagerly awaiting this book! My pick of last year's books was The **Spook's Apprentice** (now available in Pb \$17.95), a marvellous and atmospheric story about young Thomas Ward. This book takes up the tale six months later. Thomas accompanies his Master to Priestown, where an ancient and malevolent power is wakening in the Catacombs under the city, and evil in the guise of the greedy Quisitor dominates the streets. When the Spook is captured and condemned by the Quisitor, Thomas finds that once again he has to overcome his own fears in order to do what is right. A fabulous sequel, continuing all the best qualities of the first book and expanding them very satisfactorily. If you want deft and skilful narration, believable characters, a storyline with moral choices, dilemmas and seamless flow, and imaginative touches rarely found in formulaic writing, this is the series to read!



ABBEY'S BOOKSHOP

Biography

A Woman in Berlin

ANONYMOUS 320pp Hb \$39.95 Between 20 April and 22 June 1945, this anonymous author wrote about life within the falling city as it was sacked by the Russian Army. Fending off the boredom and deprivation of hiding, the author records her experiences, observations and meditations in this stark and vivid diary. Accounts of the bombing, rapes, rationing of food and overwhelming terror of death are rendered in the dispassionate, though determinedly optimistic, prose of a woman

fighting for survival amidst the horror and inhumanity of war. Newly translated into English, this diary has been unavailable since the 1960s. It is an astonishing and deeply affecting account of a woman fighting for survival amidst the horror and inhumanity of war.

Oh the Glory of it All

Sean WILSEY 496pp Tp \$32.95 This strange, fascinating, complicated and self-involved memoir about the author's boyhood among San Francisco's social elite is marvellous fun. He spares no one, least of all himself, in producing this tale, but it's his depiction of his stepmother that is completely enthralling. She's preternaturally evil, dripping with jewels and, if you want a sense of her values, rent the movie Gaslight. The scheming lead who sweet-talks a wealthy heiress into marrying him and then drives her mad with drink and double-talk, is step-mama



according to Wilsey. His mother is no saint, however, once suggesting to him that they commit suicide together. When that didn't happen, she formed an international group of children to bring about world peace and hopped around the globe with Wilsey in tow. His father used a jet helicopter to drop him off at the video arcade, and did nothing as he is pushed out of San Francisco and sent hurtling through five high schools till he finally lands at an unorthodox reform school/therapeutic community in Italy. In essence, this is the travails of a poor little rich boy, but he's a helluva lot more interesting than Richie Rich ever was! Cara

Place of Reeds

Caitlin DAVIES 436pp Tp \$34.95 I found myself enthralled by Davies' memoir of Botswana in the 1990s. She moved there in her 20s, ostensibly to teach, but in reality to continue her relationship with Ron, the Botswana man she fell in love with while studving in America. Davies spent 12 years learning the language and the cultural mores of a country almost totally alien to her previous life as an English woman. Initially nervous and desperate for approval from the family and friends of Mozambia (Ron's African



nickname), she grew into a strong and sensible person, one who worked hard and was prepared to stand up against injustice without losing either her perspective or her sense of humour. After marriage to Mozambia, for practical reasons in the main, adoption of his daughter with another woman was followed a few years later by the birth of their own, Yarubi. In the meantime, increasing urbanisation and violence were taking a toll on rural life in Maun, where they now lived. AIDS, politics and a crisis that divided Davies from both her husband and his family serve to illustrate how yawning a chasm existed between her and those she loved in the country she had come to call her own. Inflexibility of belief and tradition won - or lost - in the end, and she moved back to London with Rubi to begin her life anew. The overwhelming impression is of Davies' courage, naïve optimism and strength. She is unsparing in her criticism of herself first and foremost, but brims with humour and sorrow, love and compassion, when talking of her life and loves in Botswana. This is a remarkable tale. Cara

A Man's Got to have a Hobby

William McINNES 236pp Tp \$32.95 McInnes, star of Sea Change and Blue *Heelers*, takes us back to the long Australian summers of the 1960s and 70s, and the last of the baby boomer childhoods. With humour and affection, he writes about his family. He recalls summer holidays that seemed to go on forever, when he and his mates would walk down to fish in the bay, a time when the Aussie battler stood as the local Labor candidate and watched out for his mates, and a time when the whole family would rush into the lounge room to



watch a new commercial on TV. This is a book about people who aren't famous, but should be. It's about cane toads and families, love and hope and fear, laughter, death and life. Most of all, it is a realistic, down-to-earth book by a man who had a great time growing up.

The Other Side of Israel

Susan NATHAN 288pp Tp \$32.95 Amidst army occupations and suicide bombers, it is easy to overlook the one million Arabs who are legal citizens of Israel, especially given that many of their towns are not found on official maps and that many of their homes exist without the licences necessary to protect the state from reclaiming their land. These are two of the more palatable problems raised by Nathan, a British Zionist, who moved from Tel Aviv to the all-Arab Israeli town of Tamra. Yet, rather than being a simple narrative of a Jewish woman's experiences in



an Arab town, Nathan intertwines interviews with prominent Israelis and Palestinians with her own personal account of both Jewish and Muslim reactions to her move. Refreshingly, she refuses to hide from the bigger issues, courageously making bold statements on the direction she believes the state of Israel needs to take if any resolution is to be reached in this ongoing issue which has far-reaching consequences. This is an insightful eyewitness account of the Arab-Israeli experience, the 'other side of Israel' that we hear so little about. due September Chrissie

Bali to Baghdad and Beyond Rodney COCKS

320pp Tp \$32.95

"As I surveyed the smoking wreck . . . one thing was apparent: I had become desensitised to death, destruction and terror. I wasn't shocked, disgusted, surprised or numb. For me, sadly, it was just another day." This is a remarkable first-hand account of life at the UN front lines and in recent post-conflict hot spots. Rodney Cocks was a UN Military Observer in East Timor and a member of the de-mining team in Iraq following the fall of Saddam. He is currently a UN security adviser in the former Taliban and AI Qaeda stronghold of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan. Narrowly surviving two deadly terrorist acts - the Bali bombings and the devastating suicide attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad - he assisted the injured and dying in the horrific aftermaths. This young Australian's memoir also takes us behind the scenes to glimpse the realities of humanitarian and military service. An inspirational story of selflessness and courage, it reveals the terrible legacy of war in the 21st century.

Layla's Story

Vanessa GORMAN

336pp Tp \$29.95 This superbly written book is a testament to love and truth. Gorman, an accomplished documentary producer, chronicles the sad-but-true consequences of leaving procreation too late, as well as demanding complete control over the very act of giving birth. Her story is a cautionary tale for every Australian woman who believes career takes precedence over love and family; and for any woman who believes childbirth is something easily accomplished as you hit the age of 40. I read this book in one sitting; it made me laugh, it made me cry - a lot. Most of all, it changed something deep inside - it made my heart grow. Thank you, Vanessa. Shellev

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From the Academic Presses

How the Cold War Transformed the Philosophy of Science (418pp Pb \$59.95) by George Reisch is the first in-depth study of the development of philosophy of science in the United States during the Cold War. It documents the political vitality of logical empiricism and Otto Neurath's Unity of Science movement when these projects emigrated to the US in the 1930s and follows their depoliticisation by a convergence of intellectual, cultural and political forces in the 50s.

In Shakespeare Goes to Paris (240pp Hb \$59.95), John Pemble looks at French reaction to Shakespeare since they 'discovered' him in the 18th century. He shows how writers from Voltaire to Gide found themselves baffled, frustrated and overawed by a playwright who broke all the rules of French classical theatre and challenged the primacy of French culture.

Classical Athens and the Delphic Oracle (188pp Pb \$49.95) by Hugh Bowden explores the importance placed on consultations at Delphi by Athenians in the city's age of democracy. It demonstrates the extent to which concern to do the will of the gods affected Athenian politics, challenging the notion that Athenian democracy may be seen as a model for modern secular democratic constitutions.

Medieval Philosophy (334pp Hb \$59.95) by Anthony Kenny is the second volume in the New History of Western Philosophy series. It takes the reader through more than a millennium of thought from 400 AD onwards and sets the philosophers and their ideas in historical context and explains the significance and impact of each wave of new ideas.

In Laws of Fear (234pp Pb \$49.95), Cass Sunstein attacks the increasingly influential Precautionary Principle - the idea that regulators should take steps to protect against potential harms, even if causal chains are uncertain and even if we do not know that harms are likely to come to fruition. Focusing on such problems as global warming, terrorism, DDT and genetic engineering, he argues that the Precautionary Principle is incoherent. Risks exist on all sides of social situations and precautionary steps create dangers of their own.

Drawing upon many recently declassified documents, Richard Breitman and his co-authors demonstrate in **US Intelligence** and the Nazis (495pp Pb \$49.95) what US intelligence agencies learned about Nazi crimes during WWII and about the nature of Nazi intelligence agencies' role in the Holocaust. It examines how some US corporations found ways to profit from Nazi Germany's expropriation of the property of German Jews.

Particular Friends: The Correspondence of Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn (351pp Pb \$59.95) includes every letter that could be located and the text of each has been freshly transcribed and fully annotated. Their correspondence spans nearly 40 years and reveals both men in new ways as many details of their lives and friendship emerge which are not mentioned, or only briefly alluded to, in their diaries.

Managing Politics and Islam in Indonesia (264pp Pb \$49.95) by David Porter examines the politics of Islam and the state in Indonesia over recent decades, during which there has been a notable resurgence of Islamic political movements. It argues that after a period in the late 1980s and 1990s, when the state worked to bring religious authority and institutions within state-prescribed limits, there was a change whereby Suharto incorporated Muslim interests within the political system.

In A Bitter Revolution: China's Struggle with the Modern World (357pp Pb \$32.95), Rana Mitter begins with the student demonstrations of May 1919 and takes the reader through the resulting social turmoil and political promise, the devastating war against Japan in the 1940s, Communism and the Cultural Revolution and the new era of hope in the 1980s which culminated in the Tian`anmen uprising.

Dave

History

The Long Summer **How Climate Changed Civilization**

Brian FAGAN 284pp Pb \$29.95 The Earth's climate has always been in flux: glacial periods and warm ones have slowly and relentlessly alternated for millennia. But the period of global warming of the last 15,000 years is without precedent and it set the conditions which enabled civilisation to arise. It is our 'long summer'. From the almost unimaginably hostile climate of the late Ice to the onset of 'Little Ice Age', which began in 1315 and lasted half a millennium, this book tells the remarkable story of how human history has been influenced by the planet's ever-changing climate.



Confronted with such challenges as severe droughts in south-western Asia and the ripple effects of the Medieval Warm Period, our ancestors have proven themselves to be at their most resilient and adaptable. Deploying all the resources of new climatology from the past century, from tree rings to deep cores of glaciers, Fagan provides us with an historical context in which to understand the unprecedented global warming of today, as we try to anticipate an uncertain climatic future.

100 Hieroglyphs Think Like an Egyptian

Barry KEMP

256pp Hb \$39.95 Egyptian culture is divided from us by several millennia, a lost people and a dead language. We can discover much about this fascinating civilisation from its physical remains, but perhaps the greatest insights into the Egyptian mind come from their hieroglyphs. They reveal the priorities, concerns and beliefs of the Egyptians as a whole worldview. Unlike the Western alphabet, which is an arbitrary set of symbols not anchored in reality, each Egyptian hieroglyph visually denotes a concept central to Egyptian thinking. The language and its written form are



intimately bound up with the imaginative world of the Egyptians. Here Barry Kemp presents 100 Egyptian hieroglyphs to provide access to this unique culture. Kemp takes us on a journey through the Egyptian mind, revealing not only aspects of dayto-day life in Ancient Egypt, but gradually building a picture of the historical and mythological references that were the cornerstones of Egyptian thought. This fascinating book helps us get inside a long-vanished world.

Terry Jones' Medieval Lives Terry JONES & Alan EREIRA

256pp Pb \$19.95

Was medieval England full of knights on horseback rescuing fainting damsels in distress? Were the Middle Ages mired in superstition and ignorance? Why does nobody ever mention King Louis the First and Last? And, of course, those key questions: which monks were forbidden the delights of donning underpants... and did outlaws never wear trousers? Did you know, for example, that medieval people didn't think the world was flat? (That was a total fabrication by an American journalist in the 19th century). Did you know that they didn't burn witches in the Middle

Ages? (That was a refinement of the so-called Renaissance). In fact, medieval kings were not necessarily merciless tyrants. Peasants entertained at home using French pottery and fine wine. This book reveals Medieval Britain as a vibrant society teeming with individuality, intrigue and innovation. Jones laces the latest academic research with his own increasingly avuncular humour.

I Never Knew That About England

Christopher WINN 278pp Hb \$32.95 This is the ultimate journey around England. Winn takes us to each county, to see where history happened, where people and ideas were born, where dreams took flight and where men and women now rest from their labours. Crammed with facts and information, this book celebrates the places and people that make the country unique and includes history, legends, firsts, supremes, unusuals, inventions, birthplaces and gossip. You'll be able to visit the bridge where Pooh and Piglet played Poohsticks and see where Alfred burnt the cakes. In a small village in Bedfordshire, you can visit the graveyard where Long John Silver and Wendy rest.



History

Medici Money Banking, Metaphysics and Art in **Fifteenth-Century Florence**

273pp Hb \$45.00 Tim PARKS The Medici ruled Florence at the high point of the Renaissance. Their power derived from their bank. The Church condemned usury as a sin and made it illegal, so the Medici made their bank indispensable to the church. They avoided taxation by running the city themselves, completely subverting its claims to being democratic. The bank finally collapsed in 1494,

but for five generations the Medici had dominated Renaissance Italy. They were to shape attitudes to morals and money in the modern world. This is their fascinating and often bloody story.

1599 A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare

James SHAPIRO 416pp Hb \$49.95 1599 was an unusually fraught year - England was bracing itself for a Spanish invasion, fighting in Ireland and the government was rigourously cracking down on the satires, sermons, histories and plays that did not meet its approval. So how did Shakespeare, at the age of 35, go from being an exceptionally talented writer to one of the greatest ever, if not because his work emerged from a deep

engagement with his times? This lively book recounts social and political history, mixed with a recreation of Shakespeare's year, in which the Globe Theatre was established and four of his most famous plays were written. A well-written and detailed examination of the man, his work and this one pivotal year. Lindv

Singapore Burning Heroism and Surrender in World War II Colin SMITH

628pp Hb \$49.95

Mike Dash

Churchill called it "the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history." This description of the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942, after Lt-Gen Percival's surrender led to over 100,000 British, Australian and Indian troops falling into the hands of the Japanese, was no wartime exaggeration. The Japanese had promised that there would be no Dunkirk in Singapore and that was so - no one was spared and its fall led to imprisonment, torture and death for thousands of Allied men and women. In this extraordinary book, using much new material from British, Australian, Indian and Japanese sources. Colin Smith has woven together the full and terrifying story of the fall of Singapore and its aftermath. Here, alongside cowardice and incompetence, are forgotten acts of enormous heroism; treachery, yet heartrending loyalty; Japanese compassion, as well as brutality, from the bravest and most capricious enemy the British ever had to face.

Thua

The True Story of India's Murderous Religion Mike DASH

356pp Hb \$49.95

Never in recorded history has there been a group of murderers as deadly as the Thugs. For nearly two centuries, groups of these lethal criminals haunted the roads of India, slaughtering travellers whom they met along the way with such efficiency that, over the years, tens of thousands of men, women and children simply vanished without trace. Dash has devoted years to combing archives in both India and Britain to discover how

the Thugs lived and worked. Painstakingly researched and grippingly written, this book tells the full story of the Thugs' rise and fall from its beginnings in the late 17th century to its eventual demise at the hands of British officer William Sleeman in 1840.



Roderick KEDWARD 740pp Hb \$60.00 Everyone tries to pigeonhole France. The views of the vast numbers who go there on holiday or those who discuss the French from across the Channel and Atlantic range from adulation to ill-tempered irritation. France and the French, it seems, remain resolutely mysterious and inexplicable. Kedward has spent his entire adult life immersed in the study of France. He knows Paris intimately, but is just as much at home



in the regions and "la France profonde", the remote back country. Here he brings to life the great and often terrible dramas of modern France the two cataclysmic wars, the Algerian disaster, the student and worker revolt of 1968 - but also explores the French workplace, immigration, minorities, the role of women and the relationship of politics to place, everyday life and collective memory.

Aboriginal Victorians A History Since 1800 **Richard BROOME**

Early settlers saw Victoria and its rolling grasslands as "Australia felix" (happy south land), a prize left for Englishmen by God. However, for its original inhabitants. this country was home and life, not to be relinguished without a fierce struggle. Broome tells the story of the impact of European ideas, guns, killer microbes and a pastoral economy on the networks of kinship, trade and cultures that various Aboriginal peoples of Victoria had developed over millennia. From first settlement to the present, he shows how Aboriginal families



have coped with ongoing disruption and displacement, and how individuals and groups have challenged the system. With painful stories of personal loss, as well as many successes, he outlines how Aboriginal Victorians survived near decimation to become a vibrant community today.

Big Questions in History Harriet SWAIN (ed)

What wins wars? Why do empires rise and fall? What makes a great leader? What causes nationalism? How do spiritual movements spread? These are questions in the forefront of our minds today, but they meant just as much to people in the past. How did earlier generations tackle them? And how far can historians use the lessons of the past to help find some answers? Drawing on examples ranging from ancient Greece to Blair's Britain, leading historical thinkers address 20 of the really big questions that have been asked over the centuries about the course of human events. While Richard Evans asks what history



280pp Hb \$49.95

is, Ian Kershaw considers how personality affects politics, Lisa Jardine looks at the impact of technology on social change, Felipe Fernandez-Armesto measures the influence of geography and Colin Renfrew considers how civilisations develop. Others examine why revolutions happen, how spiritual movements spread, why economies collapse, how intellectual movements start, and what impact our physical bodies and our private lives have on changing history.



ci Money

Briefly Noted...

Some of the most amazing (and scary) creatures of the past were the ichthyosaurs, plesiosaurs and mosasaurs who swam the ancient oceans. In the first book about these amazing animals in nearly a century, **Sea Dragons** (313pp Pb \$43.00) by Richard Ellis draws upon the most recent scientific research to vividly reconstruct their lives and habitats.

In **The Elements of Murder** (421pp Hb \$59.95), John Emsley (**Nature's Building Blocks** Pb \$59.95) gives detailed histories of five of the most toxic elements - arsenic, antimony, lead, mercury and thallium, highlighting some of the most famous murders and how the murderers used the chemical properties of elements to hide what they were doing. He shows how the elements have been behind many modern day environmental catastrophes including accidental mass poisonings from lead and arsenic, and the Minamata Bay Disaster in Japan.

Venus is not only our nearest planetary neighbour, it is also almost the same size as Earth - and yet it is startlingly different in so many other ways. Patrick Moore's **Venus** (191pp Pb \$29.95) is an excellent survey of what we currently know about this planet where the Sun rises in the west and a day is longer than a year.

Nerve Endings (240pp Hb \$36.95) by Richard Rapport tells the story of the discovery of the synapse, which led to the 1906 *Nobel Prize* for Medicine being jointly awarded to Santiago Ramón y Cajal and Camillo Golgi. This was a time when someone working with a microscope in their kitchen could still make major scientific discoveries!

In **The Labyrinth of Time** (405pp Hb \$55.00), Michael Lockwood takes the reader on a fascinating journey into the nature of things. He investigates philosophical questions about past, present and future, our experience of time, and the possibility of time travel. And he provides the most careful, lively and up-to-date introduction to the physics of time and the structure of the universe. He guides us step by step through relativity theory and quantum physics, introducing and explaining the ground-breaking ideas of Newton and Boltzmann, Einstein and Schrödinger, Penrose and Hawking.

In **The Artful Universe Expanded** (321pp Hb \$59.95), John Barrow draws out the deep links between our aesthetic inclinations - our art, our music, our appreciation of form, pattern and landscape - and the mathematical and physical structure of the Universe of which we form a part. He challenges the commonly held view that our sense of beauty is entirely free and unfettered. This revised edition includes new essays on topics including the beauty of vases, the fractal nature of Jackson Pollock's art, life on extrasolar planets, multiverses, and the question of whether we might be living in a simulated universe (and if so, how would we know?).

David Wells' **Prime Numbers** (272pp Hb \$38.95) is a fascinating look at the math and mystique of prime numbers. This book brings to life the strange attraction of primes, from their current use in codes and cryptography to the Fermat and Fibonacci numbers, Goldbach's Conjecture, the Mersenne primes and the number mysticism of old Pythagoras.

Astronomy Hacks (388pp Hb \$49.95) by Robert Thompson is a handy field guide that covers the basics of observing and what you need to know about tweaking, tuning and adjusting your telescope.

The uncertainty of science is puzzling. It arises when scientists have more than one answer to a problem or disagree amongst themselves. In **Uncertain Science...Uncertain World** (256pp Pb \$39.95), Henry Pollack guides the reader through the maze of contradiction and uncertainty, acquainting them with the ways that uncertainty arises in science, how scientists accommodate and make use of uncertainty, and how in the face of uncertainty they reach their conclusions. It enables the reader to evaluate uncertainty from their own perspective and find out more about how science actually works.

Jeremiah Horrocks was a man ahead of his time. In 1639, he was the first person to see the image of Venus on the face of the Sun. He appreciated the true scale of the solar system, charted the positions of the planets more accurately than ever before and formulated a valid theory for the wanderings of the moon. Both Newton and Halley drew heavily on his work. His short but dramatic life is chronicled in **The Transit of Venus** (242pp Pb \$26.95) by Peter Aughton. Dave

Science

Warped Passages Unravelling the Universe's Hidden Dimensions

Lisa RANDALL 512pp Hb \$49.95 This is a book about extra dimensions. Incredibly readable and illustrated throughout, it allows the general reader to understand the questions that scientists are dealing with at the frontiers of research today. Randall gives an introduction to developments in early 20th century physics, particle physics and string theory, including branes, and addresses current debates about relativity. quantum mechanics



and gravity. She allows the reader to understand the kind of problems that extra dimensions might solve, and the kind of speculation needed even to imagine them. She also illustrates the questions that are still left wide open.

The Xeno Chronicles Two Years on the Frontier of Medicine

Inside Harvard's Transplant Research Lab G Wayne MILLER 320pp Hb \$49.95 Dr David Sachs of the Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital may not be a household name, but within medical science he is

a giant. An immunologist and surgeon, Sachs has made significant contributions in the field of organ transplantation. But his real passion - and the possibility for a revolution in medicine - lays in xeno-transplantation: using animal parts to treat sick people. 'Xeno' might save the lives of untold



thousands. It could also lead to a multi-billion-dollar business. Sachs's decades of work and hopes have all converged on a genetically engineered cloned pig named Goldie, whose organs have been designed not to be rejected by their recipients. Experiments begin, but just as Sachs begins to get unprecedented results, he loses his biggest financial support and the collaboration of an important outside lab. He is almost 62. Time and money are starting to run out. Miller's absorbing, dramatic narrative account of a brilliant scientist's attempts to achieve a breakthrough offers an illuminating look into the minds, hearts, labs and practical realities of those on the very forefront of medical science.

Beyond Oil The View from Hubbert's Peak

Kenneth DEFFEYES 202pp Hb \$39.95 With world oil production about to peak and inexorably head toward steep decline, what fuels are available to meet rising global energy demands? That question, once thought to address a fairly remote contingency, has become ever more urgent, as a spate of books has drawn increased public attention to the imminent exhaustion of the economically vital world oil reserves. Deffeyes, a geologist who was among the first to warn of the coming oil crisis, now takes the next logical step and turns



his attention to the earth's supply of potential replacement fuels. The book includes chapters on natural gas, coal, tar sands and heavy oils, oil shale, uranium, and (although not strictly an energy resource itself) hydrogen. A concluding chapter on the overall energy picture covers the likely mix of energy sources the world can rely on for the near-term future, and the special roles that will need to be played by conservation, high-mileage diesel automobiles, nuclear power plants and wind-generated electricity. An acknowledged expert in the field, Deffeyes brings a deeply informed, yet optimistic, approach to bear on the growing debate. His main concern is not our long-term adaptation to a world beyond oil, but our immediate future: "Through our inattention, we have wasted the years that we might have used to prepare for lessened oil supplies. The next 10 years are critical."

Science

How We Got Here

A Slightly Irreverent History of Technology & Markets Andy KESSLER 262pp Pb \$24.95

Kessler ties up the loose ends from his provocative bestseller, **Running Money** (Pb \$24.95), with this history of breakthrough technologies and the markets that funded them. He unpacks the entire history of Silicon Valley and Wall Street, from the Industrial Revolution to computers, communications, money, gold and stock markets. Indeed, this is the book Kessler wishes someone had handed him on his first day as a freshman engineering student at Cornall or on the day be started on Wa



Cornell or on the day he started on Wall Street.

Evolution of the Insects

David GRIMALDI & Michael ENGEL

Insects are the most diverse group of organisms in the 3-billion-year history of life on Earth, and the most ecologically dominant animals on land. This magnificent book chronicles for the first time the complete evolutionary history of insects - their living diversity, relationships and 400 million years of fossils. Whereas other works have focussed on either living species or fossils, this is the first



755pp Hb \$150.00

comprehensive synthesis of all aspects of insect evolution. Illustrated with 955 photo- and electronmicrographs, drawings, diagrams and field photos, many in full colour and virtually all of them original, it will appeal to everyone from professional entomologists and students to insect and fossil collectors, and naturalists.

Roving Mars

Spirit, Opportunity and the Exploration of the Red Planet

Steve SQUYRES

320pp Hb \$49.95

It's the age-old question: is there life on Mars? This is the story of the Mars Exploration Rover mission, the most ambitious attempt yet to explore the surface of another planet and the first great voyage of exploration of the 21st century. If so much as a fossilised microbe is found, it will change fundamentally the way we view our place in the universe. Squyres is the charismatic scientist behind the Mars mission. Considered the leading authority on all things Mars, he uses his firsthand knowledge to bring this historic mission into perspective. Features a 16-page photo insert.

Rhythms of Life The Biological Clocks that Control the Daily Lives of Every Living Thing

Leon KREITZMAN, Russell FOSTER 320pp Tp \$29.95 Why are people who work anti-social shifts more illness-prone and die younger? What is jet-lag and can anything help? Why do teenagers refuse to get up in the morning, and are the rest of us really 'larks' or 'owls'? Why are most people born (and die) between 3am and 5am? And should patients be given medicines (and operations) at set times of the day, because the body reacts so differently in the morning, evening and at night? The answers lie in our biological clocks, the mechanisms which give order to all living things.

Travel Long Way Round

Ewan McGREGOR & Charley BOORMAN

361pp Pb \$24.95 From London to New York, Ewan and Charley chased their shadows through Europe, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russia, across the Pacific to Alaska, then down through Canada and America. But as the miles slipped beneath the tyres of their big BMWs, their troubles started. Exhaustion, injury and accidents tested their strength. Treacherous roads, unpredictable weather and turbulent politics challenged their stamina. They were chased by paparazzi in Kazakhstan, courted by men with very large guns in the Ukraine, hassled by the police, and



given bull's testicles for supper by Mongolian nomads. Yet despite all these obstacles, they managed to ride more than 20,000 miles in four months, changing their lives in the process. As they travelled, they documented their trip, taking photographs and writing diaries by the campfire. This is the result of their adventures - a fascinating, frank and highly entertaining travel book about two friends riding round the world together and, against all odds, realising their dream.

Ticket to Ride

Sara DARMODY Pb \$24.95 After a lifetime of winning nothing, Darmody strikes it rich in a contest so bizarre most people think it's an urban legend - the Green Card lottery. Her prize: the right to live and work in America forever. Fingerprinted, stripped, xrayed, measured and investigated, she's warned that unless she commits serious time to her new country and uses her Green Card, she loses it. Thus, duly armed with an ugly backpack and a tattered map, she sets off to discover the US of A by way of a truly legendary American ticket to ride, the Greyhound bus! She soon realises the Greyhound is night-crawler territory, favoured by the desperately poor, the despicably odoured and the dubiously paroled. She



gradually becomes at one with her new tribe as each trip becomes a private *Jerry* Springer show on wheels, filled with truly memorable characters and their tales of woe and wonder. due September Cara

EXTRA EXTRA!!

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Rat Scabies and the Holy Grail

Christopher DAWES 322pp Pb \$34.95 Dawes lives in a quiet street in Brentford, Middlesex, opposite Rat Scabies, former drummer with *The Damned*, who once set his drums on fire while still playing them in concert. Life with Rat as a neighbour isn't run-of-the-mill, but things turn even stranger when Rat announces that the two of them are going on a search to find the Holy Grail. The sacred relic has eluded everyone from King Arthur to Adolf Hitler, but Rat reckons he knows where it's stashed. Once they've written a list of things to do ("Buy metal detectors!"), they get to work unravelling the mystery, which involves



the Knights Templar, the ancient sorcerer Kings of France, a shadowy secret society called the Priory of Sion and the remote and spooky village of Rennes-le-Chateau in France, where it looks as though someone - or something - wants to stop them from finding out anything at all ... This is a psychedelic road trip, a rich historical yarn and a testimony to the sometimes odd nature of certain friendships.

The 8.55 to Baghdad Andrew EAMES

Andrew EAMES 400pp Pb \$24.95 Travel journalist Eames was in the ancient Syrian city of Aleppo when he met an elderly lady who had known Agatha Christie. Fascinated by the exotic history of this quintessentially English crime writer, he decided to retrace the trip from London to Baghdad which she made in 1928 - a journey which was to change Christie completely and led to her other life as the wife of an archaeologist in the deserts of Syria and Iraq. Travelling from London to Baghdad by train on the eve of the Iraq war, through the troubled areas of the Balkans and the Middle East, Eames found stark contrasts to the old Orient Express route, as well as some unexpected connections with the past.

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Miscellaneous

The Tyrannicide Brief

The Story of the Man Who Sent Charles I to the Scaffold

Geoffrey ROBERTSON 352pp Hb \$55.00 In 1649, no lawyer in the country would accept the brief of prosecuting Charles I, except one, the 44year-old John Cook. The charge was treason - not, of course against himself, the monarch, but against his people - bringing evidence to show that Charles had begun wars which cost the lives of innumerable Englishmen and had sanctioned murder, rape and pillage. Cook was a farmer's son from Leicestershire, who had studied at Oxford and travelled widely in Europe. He was a political visionary, concerned for social justice and liberty of conscience, and especially with reforming the old, barbaric legal system. He had little sympathy



MERICAN

GOTHIC

with Cromwell's strict protectorate - and at the restoration in 1660, with the other 'regicides' who signed the king's death warrant, he was arrested, tried, and brutally hung, drawn and quartered. In this gripping account of a sensational life, which uses Cook's own moving speeches and letters, Robertson relates the call for a republic to the debates of today. More significantly, he presents the indictment of Charles I as a precedent for trials of modern war criminals and leaders - Goering, Pinochet, Milosevic - who have oppressed their own people.

American Gothic

A Life of America's Most Famous Painting Stephen BIEL 160pp Hb \$33.95

Probably no painting ever achieved iconic status so quickly as Grant Wood's flat, meticulous rendering of two people, a house, a pitchfork and a barn. Its title refers to the architectural style of the building in the background, but from its first appearance before the public in 1930, American Gothic has been regarded not as a work of art but as a work of rhetoric - a crafted, compelling statement about American life with which the viewer may or may not

agree. Which aspect of that life and what kind of statement has fluctuated, as Biel's lively history shows. He does a terrific job laying out the various aesthetic and political preoccupations of the relentlessly self-regarding American century, and how they attached themselves to the work, which turns 75 this year. Because Wood was both an Iowan and a confirmed bohemian, the carefully staged composition was at first understood to be a pointed satire of Midwestern Puritanism; as the Depression sank in, the grim pair came to convey a noble tenacity that rallied a stricken nation. By the eve of WWII, the painting's shift from "irony to identification" was complete. The once equivocal pair came to stand for a humourless and universal American "us" whose claim to authenticity might be questionable or objectionable, but never hesitant or insincere. These confident and lucid readings recover layers of complexity from a deceptively simple work.

Informal English

Jeffrey KACIRK 239pp Pb \$24.95 Gleaned from antiquated dictionaries, dialect glossaries, studies of folklore, nautical lexicons, historical writings, letters, novels, and miscellaneous sources, this book offers a captivating treasure trove of linguistic oddities that will not only entertain but also shed light on America's colloquial past. Among the gems are: "surface-coal" - cow dung, widely used for fuel in Texas; "bone-orchard" - in the Southwest slang for a cemetery and "puncture lady" - a southwestern expression for a woman who prefers to sit on the



sidelines at a dance and gossip rather than dance, often puncturing someone's reputation. Whether the entries are unexpected twists on familiar-sounding expressions or based on curious old customs, this wide-ranging assortment of vernacular Americanisms will amaze and amuse even the most hard-boiled curmudgeon.

Ideas A History from Fire to Freud

Peter WATSON 672pp Hb \$69.95 In this hugely ambitious and exciting book, Watson (author of **Terrible Beauty** Tp \$45), relates the history of ideas from prehistory to the present day. The book begins over one million years ago with a discussion of how the earliest ideas might have originated. Looking at animal behaviour that appears to require some



PETER WATSON

thought - tool-making, territoriality, counting, language (or at least sounds) and pair-bonding - Watson moves on to the ape-man and the development of simple ideas such as cooking, the earliest language, the emergence of family life. All the obvious areas are tackled - the Ancient Greeks, Christian theology, the ideas of Jesus, astrological thought, the soul, the self, beliefs about the heavens, the ideas of Islam, the Crusades, humanism, the Renaissance, Gutenberg and the book, the scientific revolution, the age of discovery, Shakespeare, the idea of Revolution, the Romantic imagination, Darwin, imperialism, modernism, Freud - right up to the present day and the internet.

On This Earth Photographs from East Africa

Nick BRANDT 132pp Hb \$75.00 This is not wildlife photography in the conventional sense, it is photography of the wild animals of Africa as a fine art form. The close portraits and the sweeping vistas are designed to stir the emotions of the viewer. Brandt's is a very



personal and emotional vision, bordering on idyllic and shot through with a kind of stylised glamour that adds to the simple grace and beauty of the animals. He says he's afraid that he's running out of time to capture their beauty so these photos are his effort to find a way to honour their legacy, an elegy in sepia tones that wouldn't be out of place in the finest of galleries. Absolutely stunning! *Cara*

Griffith Review #9 Up North Julianne SCHULTZ

230pp Pb \$16.95

The northern part of our continent is a place of myth and mystery, at least to those who don't come from there. In this issue, the contributors consider the otherness (or otherwise) of 'up north.' As usual for this excellent publication, there is a diverse mix of essays, memoirs, fiction and reportage. David Malouf relates his first trip to the exotic and unfamiliar north Queensland and how it compelled him in his writing. Regina Ganter points out non-indigenous settlement of Australia started in the north, well before white colonisation on the east coast. Peter Stanley looks at the legacy of the bombing of Darwin in WWII, while others look at the myth of the Brisbane Line. Reaching further afield, other essayists consider Australia's relationship with Indonesia, Wilfred Burchett in Hiroshima and ex-pats in PNG. Well worth a look for its interesting and thought-provoking articles! Lindy

A Little History of British Gardening Jenny UGLOW 352

352pp Tp \$35.00

Did the Romans have rakes? Did the monks get muddy? This lively 'potted' history of gardening in Britain takes us on a garden tour from the thorn hedges around prehistoric settlements to the rage for decking and ornamental grasses today. It tracks down the ordinary folk who worked the earth - the apprentice boys and weeding women, the florists and nursery gardeners - as well as aristocrats and grand designers and famous plant-hunters. Coloured by Uglow's own love for plants, and brought to life in the many vivid illustrations, it deals not only with flowery meads, grottoes and vistas, landscapes and ha-has, parks and allotments, but explains, for example, how the Tudors made their curious knots; how housewives used herbs to stop freckles and how the suburbs dug for victory in WWII.

News from Eve Abbey

Have you had fun spending your Reward Dollars? If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, then you probably already have an Abbey's Card, but if you have just picked it up at our shop, you may not have an Abbey's Card. A card costs you nothing, yet you receive various benefits, not least being a six monthly discount on your purchases in the form of Reward Dollars. To get an Abbey's Card, just fill in the form at the counter. For those who still have Discount Dollars after our June Sale, just a reminder that these need to be used by the end of September.

Mary Ellen Jordan's **Balanda: My Year in Arnhem Land** (\$24.95 Pb 224pp) is an unassuming, personal report on her time spent in an aboriginal township in Arnhem Land. A linguistics graduate from Melbourne University, full of ideals, she went there to help, but came away puzzled as to how she could help. Find this in our Aboriginal Studies section, below Pacific Studies and next to Australian History.

The world bestseller, **The Da Vinci Code** (\$19.95), is a very complicated puzzle indeed. If English is not your first language, you may prefer to read it in your mother tongue, so go upstairs to Language Book Centre, where they have this title in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Greek, Dutch, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Korean and even Lithuanian! Or you could choose to have the story read aloud for you (5 CDs \$49.95 or 4 cassettes \$35).

I notice on our website a book by Andrew Sinclair which will certainly interest anyone whose name is Sinclair (or St Clair). This is **Rosslyn: The Story** of the Rosslyn Chapel and the True Story Behind the Da Vinci Code (\$29.95 Pb). Find this in Medieval History. Of course they are all true stories.

Fans of Cormac McCarthy's **Border Trilogy** (\$25 Pb) - which contains **All the Pretty Horses**, **The Crossing** and **Cities of the Plain** - will be anxious to read his latest book, **No Country for Old Men** (\$30 Pb 309pp). This is again set in the mythic

landscape between Texas and Mexico, and concerns a load of heroin, a great deal of missing money and many dead bodies. It is again violent, but not gratuitous. It reads as a biblical story about how man conducts his life. The typeface, paper and production are excellent, as befits great writing.



More good news about top-class writing is that Annie Proulx's latest collection of short stories is in stock. It is called **Bad Dirt** (\$22.95 Pb 219pp). Eleven stories, all set in Wyoming. Read these to discover a view of America different to the one offered in films and magazines. I think her short stories are her best writing. There is a touch of Roald Dahl about these stories, and you should take note of the marvellous names she gives to her characters.

Those people who regularly come to our Zonta Meet the Author Events at Abbey's in November may remember meeting famous portrait artist, Judy Cassab. Brenda Niall has written a good biography of her fascinating and difficult life. Born in Vienna in 1920 to Hungarian Jewish parents, she survived the Holocaust hiding in Budapest and later migrated to Australia, where with great determination she made her place as an artist of passion and determination. Judy Cassab (\$49.95 Hb 320pp). The next Zonta Meet the Author Event will be the last Wednesday in November (30th), which you may want to put in your diary.

Many people have been buying Colm Toibin's latest book. (How do you pronounce his name? Perhaps the Irish enthusiasts who have bought this book can tell me?) It is called **Lady Gregory's Toothbrush** (\$22 Pb 125pp incl bibliography, which he calls Sources). Augusta Gregory was both conservative and radical, an architect of the Irish Literary Revival and an outspoken opponent of censorship. Despite predictions of spinsterhood, she lived a passionate double life, not least in her involvement with Yeats in the Abbey Theatre.

Colm Toibin is the very subtle writer who is the author of the novels: **Master**, about Henry James, **Blackwater Lightship**, **Story of the Night**, a gay novel set in Argentina, and **Heather Blazing** (all \$22), as well as the non-fiction **Bad Blood: A Walk Along the Irish Border** written in 2001 (\$21), **Homage to Barcelona** (\$22) and **Love in a Dark Time: Gay Lives from Wilde to Almodova** (\$22).

There is yet another biography of one of those 19th century British female travellers. This time it is Lady Hester Stanhope, who decided she didn't want to be a spinster in polite London society, so she set off for the Middle East in the days when it was regarded as "heart-beguiling Araby". She was

the first European woman to enter Palmyra, along with her younger lover. She dressed in exotic male attire, regarded herself as Queen of the Bedouin and a political force in Lebanon, and never returned to England. Lorna Gibb is the author of Lady Hester: Queen of the East (\$45 Hb 268pp incl index).



Lady Hester was Prime Minister William Pitt's niece and hostess, so for more on those times and the prodigiously intelligent Pitt, look at **William Pitt the Younger** (\$24.95 Pb 652pp incl index), which is by William Hague, the current politician.

I was smiling when I read the description of Lady Hester gallantly handing out glasses of wine "in her best crystal glasses" to the people bailing water out of the caique (which eventually sank) on her way to Egypt. It reminded me that people did travel differently in those days. So I was interested to follow this up with a book about travel in earlier times. **Medieval Travellers: The Rich and the Restless** by Margaret Wade Labarge (\$24.95 Pb 286pp incl index) describes the journeys of important personages on the road in the 13th and 15th centuries, and how important it was to display one's proper place, alive or dead!

Don't forget that classic good story about Lady Jane Digby, who also ended up with a Bedouin, **A Scandalous Life** by Mary Lovell (\$22.95 Pb). This is a constant seller for people who like to read about unconventional, courageous lives. The biographer has to write well to complement such lives. I also recommend Mary Lovell's book on Richard and Isabella Burton, **A Rage to Live** (\$27.95 Pb) and her book on those fascinating women, **The Mitford Girls** (\$26.95).

ABC Sunday night TV has been showing modern interpretations of Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. Imagine that! I remember when Neville Coghill's new and racy translation was all the rage. I saw *The Miller's Tale*, which was a bit over

the top, but nicely so, in keeping with Chaucer's bawdy tale. As they say, human nature doesn't change. If you want to compare, you can find The Canterbury Tales published by both Penguin and Oxford Worlds Classics (\$10.95 each). The Penguin edition is the Neville Coghill translation, which came out in 1951 and was revised in 1958. The Oxford translation is by David Wright. Both contain explanatory notes and can be found in Poetry. In the Classics section, you can find the Everyman Edition (\$16.95 612pp), which is in Middle English. Also in Poetry is the big Riverside Chaucer, 3rd edition 1987 (\$75 Pb). Printed in double columns, this has 1,327 pages and is really for the serious student. In Audio Books, there are 3 CDs, with various readers, of the Modern English Verse Translation (Vol 1 \$37, Vol 2 \$35, Vol 3 \$36). Upstairs, we even have an illustrated edition of The Canterbury Tales for children, edited by Selina Hastings (\$19.95 Hb).

There really are some marvellous books up in the Children's section. Lindy has been away, birdwatching in Central Australia, so I have been doing a bit of shelving there. You will always find a treasure to take home. There is an especially good selection of children's poetry and nursery rhyme books. I have chosen a new arrival called The Rainbow Book of Nursery Rhymes by Sam Childs (\$27.95 Pb 219pp incl index). Although paperback, it is large and very sturdy, has glossy pages with wonderful illustrations and opens easily. Elise, my youngest granddaughter, and I are going to have fun with this. There is an especially good selection of books for preschoolers, which has now taken over another stand next to Writing and Publishing.

I noticed an unusual book in the Australian History section which will be of particular interest to certain people. This is Robert Kearney's **Silent Voices: The Story of the 10th Battalian A.I.F. in Australia, Egypt, Gallipoli, France and Belgium During the Great War 1914-18** (\$29.95 Pb 416pp), which combines research and personal accounts from members of the Fighting Tenth.

The *Eureka Prizes* were awarded in August to some of the hardworking scientists of Australia. Because Abbey's is a minor donor, some of our booksellers went along to witness the all-tooseldom acknowledgement of excellence in science. A highlight of the evening was hearing astronaut Dr Paul Scully-Power describe the experience of returning to Earth in the space shuttle as Andy Thomas was doing just that aboard *Discovery*.

A reminder about our Email Alerts, which may interest you. To subscribe to Alerts, visit our website at www.abbeys.com.au, click on Keep in Touch, then Mailing Lists. No charge, of course. (Keep in Touch also provides details of New Arrivals, Film Tie-ins and loads of other information, including current and back issues of Abbey's Advocate and Crime Chronicle). I receive the Email Alerts myself and usually find at least one title that I haven't noticed and want to look at. We have so very many new and interesting titles at Abbey's, we just can't fit everything into the Advocate or Chronicle. You can choose from History, Philosophy, Science & Mathematics or Food Wine. Or subscribe to all four. Christian, David, Lindy and Jo-Anne prepare these Alerts, including short, one-line resumes of each title (and I'm always amazed at how they manage to do it).

Keep well,

Έve

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Abbey's Bestsellers - August 2005

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Now in Paperback

The Shakespeare Miscellany by David & Ben Crystal \$24.95

This compilation, in the tradition of the Victorian miscellany, gathers together essential facts and fascinating insights into the plays and poems, the man behind them (insofar as this is known) and the context in which he worked.

Stories of English by David Crystal Pb \$26.95

This wonderfully entertaining history of the English language shows how the many strands of English (including Standard English, dialect and slang) developed to create the richly varied language of today.

A Bit on the Side by William Trevor \$22.95

Beautifully humane, the 12 stories contained here explore the subject of adultery.

Dictators: Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia by Richard Overy \$27.95

This first major study of the two dictatorships sets out to answer the question: How was dictatorship possible? It is a chilling analysis of powerful ideals corrupted by the vanity of ambitious and unscrupulous men.

Country by Tim Flannery \$25.00

Travelling thousands of kilometres, Flannery encounters Aboriginal cultures and examines Europeans trying to understand this land. He begins to understand how Australia's deserts and rainforests have shaped human responses to the continent, and how kangaroos have evolved to handle the intricate challenges of the island. Flannery's remarkable enquiry into the evolution of the kangaroo is the centrepiece of the book.

The Human Story by Robin Dunbar \$24.95

Of the dozen or so hominid species once in existence, why are we the only one to have survived? What is it that sets us so firmly apart from all the other creatures with whom we share the planet? How and when did that separation come about?

Himalaya by Michael Palin \$24.95

Having risen to the challenge of seas, poles, dhows and deserts, the highest mountains in the world were a natural target for Palin. In 6 months of hard travelling rarely attempted before, he takes on the full length of the Himalaya including the Khyber Pass, the hidden valleys of the Hindu Kush, ancient cities like Peshawar and Lahore, the mighty peaks of K2, Annapurna and Everest, the gorges of the Yangtze, the tribal lands of the Indo-Burmese border and the vast Brahmaputra delta in Bangladesh.

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