Issue #173



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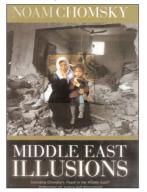
Middle East Illusions

Noam CHOMSKY

299pp Hb \$42.95

This is a combination of old and new work. It includes the full text of Peace in the Middle East?: Reflections on Justice and Nationhood (written between 1967 and 1973), as well as four essays on the Palestinian Intifada, Israel and the US global strategy at the turn of the millennium. Finally, there are further ruminations on the 'War on Terror' and the ways in which the

world has apparently changed since the events of 9/11. These essays are the work of several decades and Chomsky draws on a huge range of sources to document his analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. There are 42 pages of notes to get through before you reach the index! He is at his best when considering the intricacies of geopolitics (and Realpolitik) in the Middle East, disturbing as it



may be. Buy it, read it and talk about it.

Samuel Pepys **The Unequalled Self**

Claire TOMALIN 499pp Pb \$24.95 Pepys grew up under Cromwell, attended the execution of Charles I and later became a servant of the Stuarts and then a Jacobite with an abiding loyalty to James II and he rose high in his profession at the Navy Board. His father eked out a living as a tailor and many of Pepys' siblings died young. This ensured he felt destined to be the family member who would achieve



Cara

(ideally) great things. His sexual appetite was prodigious; Tomalin stops short of moral judgement about his behaviour and I was disappointed to discover how atrociously he behaved towards women. (In today's climate, he would be behind bars and good riddance to him!) Interestingly, he was capable of observing his behaviour accurately and without prejudice, which shows in many of his entries regarding his wife - a penniless, half-French girl of barely 14! As an observer of the pattern and texture of human life, he was in a class of his own, although he could have made a more than competent English Machiavelli, particularly in light of how he made sure his diary would be preserved for posterity. (We couldn't keep up with the demand for the hardback last Christmas, but we should have enough this time). Cara

See page 7 for fantastic savings on **Cambridge University Press paperbacks** plus some exciting new titles

> Labour Day Monday 6 October We are Open 10am - 5pm

PHAIDON MONTH

Buy any Phaidon title this month and go in the draw to win your selection of Phaidon books to the value of \$300. We carry a large range of Phaidon titles, especially Art, Architecture, Design and Media Studies. Here are some new titles:

Elliott Erwitt Snaps

Lp \$89.95 Containing over 500 pictures, this is a comprehensive survey of the work of photographer Elliott Erwitt. It features his famous images like Nikita Kruschev and Richard Nixon arguing in Moscow in 1959 and Marilyn Monroe with the cast of the movie The Misfits, along with many more personal images of places, things, people and animals. Erwitt's unmistakable, often witty style gives us a snapshot of the famous and the ordinary, the strange and the mundane over a period of more than half a century.



Art History and the Rise of Western Modernism David SUMMERS

As a starting point, the author argues that formalist, contextual and post-structural approaches fail to provide an adequate account of all art, particularly art produced outside the Western tradition. He believes there are profound problems at the heart of Western thinking about art and his new framework is an attempt to resolve these problems. In wide-ranging and revealing discussions of facture, places, centres, three-dimensional and planar images, virtuality and perspective, he creates a conceptual framework that always relates art to human use and enables us to treat all traditions on an equal footing within broad and universal categories.

Freedom

A Photographic History of Black America

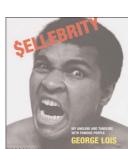
Manning MARABLE, Leith MUNNINGS Lp \$120 From the bonds of slavery to civil rights, from the Deep South to the northern metropolis, from the Harlem Renaissance to the riots in South Central LA, this book reveals the African-American struggle for equality from the first photographic records in the 19th century all the way to the present.

Sellebrity

George LOIS

Born in the Bronx to Greek immigrant parents, George Lois left art school in his sophomore year and ultimately landed in the advertising department at CBS. He joined Doyle Dane Bernbach as an art director in 1959, immediately establishing himself as the talented 'enfant terrible' of the American advertising industry. Presciently anticipating the personalitydriven ad world of today, Lois was one of the first creative directors to use celebrities - brilliantly and often outrageously - to express big ideas in ads, commercials, music videos and magazine covers.









Elliott Erwitt

Snaps .

October 2003

Fiction

Fanny **A Fiction**

Edmund WHITE

Playing somewhat fast and loose with the imagined lives of Fanny Wright (a once celebrated free-thinker) and Frances Trollope (mother of the novelist Anthony Trollope), Edmund White dazzles and delights using his trademark wit to illuminate their social milieu and their intimate relationships. Written in the form of a posthumously published biography of Miss Wright by Mrs Trollope, complete with amusing editorial comment, this novel rapidly has as much to say about the nature of idealism and hero-worship as it does about its official subject. Indeed, the many layers of commentary upon form and fashion, politics and education - not to mention the finer points of slave owning - are archly amusing and quite deliberately provocative. At first glance, this is a frothy confection filled with classical allusions and delusions of (lesser) grandeur, but at its heart this is a carefully constructed novel Cara which offers much food for thought.

Elizabeth Costello

J M COETZEE

224pp Hb \$35.00

326pp Hb \$49.95

Elizabeth Costello is an Australian writer of international renown: she is feted, studied and honoured. Famous principally for an early novel that established her reputation and from which, it seems, she will never escape, she has reached the stage. late in life, where her remaining function is to be venerated and applauded. One of a new breed of intellectual nomads, her life has become a series of engagements in sterile conference rooms throughout the world. She has made her life's work the study of other people, yet now it is she who is the object of scrutiny. But, for her, what matters is the continuing search for a means of articulating her vision and the verdict of future generations. Coetzee's latest work of fiction offers us a profound and delicate vision of literary celebrity, artistry and the private life of the mind.

Grass for His Pillow

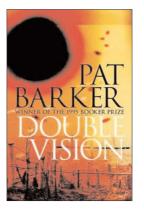
Lian HEARN

304pp Hb \$29.95

The journey continues... The sequel to Across the Nightingale Floor (Pb \$19.95) follows the separate fates of young lovers, Otori Takeo and Shirakawa Kaede, as they fight for survival in a violent time of war, famine and treacherous alliances. Takeo has pledged his life to the secret Tribe. His supernatural skills of invisibility and acute hearing make him their most deadly assassin. He must deny the spiritual vows of his upbringing, his birthright of Otori wealth, land and power - and his love for Kaede. If he does not serve the Tribe, they will kill him. Growing from boy to man, he chooses a path of danger and vengeance and learns of the prophecy that shapes his destiny. Kaede, destined to submit to a political marriage, must use her intelligence, beauty and cunning to assert her place in a world of all-powerful men - who must never know that she is carrying Takeo's child. In the ancient Oriental lands of the Otori, Lian Hearn (Gillian Rubenstein) has created a brilliantly imagined culture that has cast its spell over thousands of readers worldwide.

Double Vision

320pp Tp \$29.95 Pat BARKER Pat Barker's searing new novel deals with the atrocity of war and how two men struggle to come to terms with it. Stephen Sharkey and Ben Frobisher, journalist and photographer respectively, are regularly faced with the reality of war. After Ben dies on assignment in Afghanistan, Stephen embarks on a book about the images of war - a book that will be based largely on Ben's work. But the demands of the present - recurring nightmares of his time in Sarajevo, an affair with a woman 20 years his junior and a sudden emergency in the shape of



masked intruders - are turning Stephen's life into a war zone and threatening his peace of mind. Can he keep sight of the distinctions between image and reality, war and crime, past and present? due October

In the Walled Gardens

Anahita FIROUZ

418pp Pb \$21.95

This beautiful first novel conjures up a world that is now gone - an exotic, seductive place just before the revolution in Iran. Mahastee and Reza loved each other as children, when Reza's family worked for Mahastee's in a more noble time now long past. They have not seen each other since they were 16 and now chance has reunited them. Mahastee is now married to a man who is well-established and well-connected politically, a man she has grown to despise. Reza has grown up to become a revolutionary, leading underground meetings and living at the edge of fear. Their encounters are a portrait not only of an ill-fated love, but a country at odds with itself moving ever closer to a doomed collision.

Faithless

Tales of Transgression

Joyce Carol OATES

386pp Pb \$21.95

In this collection of 21 stories, the mysterious private lives of individuals are explored with vivid, unsparing precision and sympathy. By turn interlocutor and interpreter, magician and realist, Joyce Carol Oates dissects the psyches of ordinary people and their potential for good and evil with chilling understatement and lasting power. In Faithless, two adult sisters recall their mother's disappearance when they were children; in Ugly Girl, a bitterly angry young woman defines herself as ugly as a way of making herself invulnerable to hurt, and in so doing hurts others; in *Lover*, a beautiful woman locked into an obsessive love affair seeks her revenge in a bizarre, violent manner. Intense and provocative, this is a startling look into the heart of contemporary America from the modern master of the short story.

288pp Hb \$45.00

Yellow Dog

Martin AMIS

Even though this novel is one of the most highly anticipated of the year, not many of the people anxiously waiting for it to hit the shelves would know what to expect, other than it will be different and, to use a moderate term, outrageous. Xan Meo, 'dream husband' and owner of a cosy suburban home, is viciously beaten across the head one day while drinking in a local pub. The severe head injury changes Xan, whose personality switches dramatically, becoming anti-



husband and anti-father. Xan Meo's predicament runs parallel with the eventful lives of a colourful mosaic of characters, all dealing with their own problems: porno tycoon Cora Susan; tough guy Joseph Andrews; 'yellow' journo Clint Smoker; Henry England, King of England, and his wife and young daughter, the future Queen of England, who is the victim of an act of explicit photographic abuse. This lucid vision of contemporary life is funny, painful and masterful. Masculinity, violence, the relationship between men and women in the modern world, the future... Amis doesn't leave much left to be explored in this solid novel. The lives of each character are thread in a large piece of fabric which is life, each one learning to deal with the modern world and the things that change and the things that don't. A definite enjoyment. Tristan

Fires in the Dark

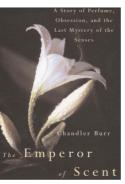
Louise DOUGHTY

480pp Pb \$29.95

This sweeping and well told story tells of Yenko, one of the Coppersmith Gypsies. Born in 1927 in Bohemia, he leads a traditional life as the beloved son of the leader of a particular tribe. Their way of life is increasingly under threat as the Depression and the political changes of the 30s impact upon the settled peoples they move amongst. Eventually the gypsies are sent to a concentration camp from which Yenko is the only one to escape; he spends the rest of the war in Prague letting go of his heritage in order to survive. A powerful novel that tells of a little known part of history, recreating it with verve and passion and, at times, harrowing detail. Lindy

Biography

The Emperor of Scent A Story of Perfume, Obsession, and the Last Mystery of the Senses Chandler BURR 480pp Hb \$34.95 Patrick Suskind's novel Perfume (Pb \$22.95) made real, this is the true history of a scientific genius with eerie powers of smell who uses his gifts to solve one of the body's last secrets - how the nose works. Luca Turin was born with an uncannily powerful nose, able to distinguish the

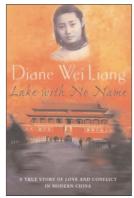


components of any scent, from the world's most refined perfumes to the air on the New York subways. A scientist, he kept his powers to himself, concentrating on other fields. But when, for the love of it, he began to write reviews of fragrances and those reviews took the world by storm, everything changed. The secret world of scent creation opened up and Turin discovered something astonishing - no one understands how our noses work. Billions of dollars are spent creating the scents all around us in a manner that amounts to glorified trial and error. The solution to the mystery of every other human sense had led to a *Nobel Prize*. Why should smell be any different? Turin has given his life to this great riddle.

Lake with No Name

A True Story of Love and Conflict in Modern China

Diane Wei LIANG 335pp Tp \$32.95 As a student at Beijing University in the 1980s, Diane Wei Liang took part in and witnessed one of the truly momentous political events of the decade, the Tiananmen Square massacre. In the same year that saw the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, the world stood by in horror as the full might of the Chinese military state fell on thousands of defenceless students demonstrating for freedom and democracy. Part historical and political document, part love story, part remembrance of a loving family and childhood dreams shattered



forever, this memoir is a personal account of one of the most traumatic and shameful passages in China's recent history. Throughout, as a symbol of hope, stands the 'lake with no name' - Weiming Lake - which lies at the heart of Beijing University campus. Famous for its beauty, for centuries it has been an inspiration to poets, lovers and those seeking a better future.

Looking forward...

The United States' pursuit of global domination is a recipe for planetary destruction, argues Noam Chomsky (does he ever sleep?) in **Hegemony or Survival** (Pb \$24.95) due December. The militarisation of space, the development of ballistic missile defences and the flouting of numerous international agreements are making the world far more dangerous and unstable, with potentially catastrophic consequences.

Looking back...

Francoise Gilot was a talented painter, strong minded, beautiful and only 21 when she met Picasso, who was 61. Life with Picasso (Pb \$26.95) is a frank and fascinating account of her relationship with a difficult genius. As well as tolerating Pablo's idosyncracies, Francoise also did much of the preparation for his works, and this alone gives an extraordinary insight into the practicalities and actual process of his art. I learnt more about techniques used in etching, pottery and painting than I did in art school. Also, stuck on holiday without a book, I read my 'nappy bag emergency', Dead Famous: Leonardo da Vinci and his Super-brain by Michael Cox (Pb \$10.95). A fantastic potted history for kids of the man, the Renaissance and more. Full of all sorts of information. Did you know that in 1994 Bill Gates paid \$30 million for Leonardo's Codex Leicester? A bargain! Check out the *Dead Famous* series if you want the low down and the high up on big names if you're in a hurry.

Mad Madge

Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle, Royalist, Writer and Romantic

Katie WHITAKER

436pp Hb \$65.00

Born into an East Anglian royalist family in 1623, young Margaret Lucas went into Court service, accompanying the Queen, Henrietta Maria, to Oxford during the Civil War and sharing her hair-raising escape to France in 1644. In Paris, she met and married William Cavendish, Marquis of Newcastle and a great horseman. They lived together in exile for 10 years as part of the emigre royalist circle that included aristocrats and the intellectual giants of the day, such as Descartes and Hobbes. Margaret had always loved poetry and philosophy and now she became a writer of plays, short fiction, fantasies, science fiction and verse, orations, letters, essays, an autobiography and a biography, six philosophical treatises and one utopia. She made her mark as one of the most determined and prolific female writers in an age when less than one per cent of published work was by women and society was shocked that she dared to publish under her own name.

Kids

reviewed by Lindy Jones

Bartlett and the Island of Kings by Odo HIRSCH Think Smart Hazel Green by Odo HIRSCH 203pp Pb \$14.95 236pp Pb \$14.95

Two new titles - as well written and as wonderfully plotted as usual - from Odo Hirsch to delight his many fans! In the first, the intrepid explorer Bartlett, and his companions Jacques le Grand and Gozo, set sail on an outrigger through a tropical archipelago. The last island they come to has an apparently dormant volcano and an unwelcoming medicine man holding court with four kings. They will have to use all their perseverance and inventiveness if they are to solve the mystery of this island! In the second, the feisty Hazel is back. This time she gets involved in the fight to save Volio's Bakery from being closed down by the new unknown owners of the premises. With all the courage and temerity she is capable of, she organises the kids in her building to make sure justice is done especially when she discovers who the new owner is!

Zoo Album by Richard MORECROFT, Alison MACKAY & Karen LLOYD-DIVINY 48pp Hb \$26.95

I have to say this is one of the most striking books I've seen this year! Amongst the animals featured are the lowland gorilla, Sumatran tiger, Tasmanian devil, Komodo dragon and the Andean condor. The information is based on animals at Taronga and Western Plains Zoos, with fact boxes, Keeper anecdotes and well-presented text. However, what lifts this book out of the ordinary is the quality of the illustrations, which are so detailed it is hard to believe they aren't photographs! A beautiful book for any age.

The Tree of Life: A Book Depicting the Life of Charles Darwin, Naturalist, Geologist and Thinker by Peter SIS 36pp Hb \$29.95 Exactly as the subtitle says, this is a book about Charles Darwin. It is a truly fascinating production, utilising Darwin's own words throughout, combined with a flowing narrative that, after the voyage of the Beagle, splits into three streams - public life, private life and secret life. The illustrations are intricate and involving, and will keep the reader absorbed for hours, child and adult alike. They will come away from this book marvelling at the achievements of both Darwin and Sis. I cannot recommend this highly enough, for ages 8 all the way up!

I Spy

Book and CD-ROM \$29.95

This is a great offer for a limited time. A hardback of one of the most popular puzzle books for children - either **I Spy Fantasy** or the 10th anniversary edition of **I Spy -** comes with (respectively) a CD-ROM of **I Spy Junior** (good for ages 3-5) or **I Spy Spooky Mansion** (ages 6-10), which contains Brain-Building Games for Kids. A lot of fun combined with a bit of disguised learning. Put one away for Christmas!

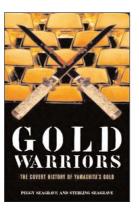
The Great Good Thing by Roderick TOWNLEY 210pp Pb \$14.95 Sylvie is a storybook princess and has an amazing life, but she can only live it when a Reader opens her book. After many years, a new Reader happens along and Sylvie breaks the cardinal rule of characters - she looks at the Reader. Not only that, she finds she can enter Claire's dreams, where her life doesn't follow the set patterns and where adventures are unscripted. This is a highly imaginative, finely written book with wonderful characters and the occasional flash of humour. It combines a marvellous story with a gentle meditation on the power of reading, imagining and remembering. Read it yourself before you give it to your favourite youngster.

Аввеч'я Воокзнор

History

Gold Warriors

The Covert History of Yamashita's Gold Sterling SEAGRAVE 384pp Hb \$49.95 In 1945, US intelligence officers in Manila discovered that the Japanese had hidden large guantities of gold bullion and other looted treasure in the Philippines. President Truman decided to recover the gold, but to keep its riches secret. It would be combined with treasure recovered inside Japan during the US occupation - and with Nazi loot recovered in Europe - to create a worldwide American political action fund to fight



communism. Overseen by General Macarthur, President Truman and John Foster Dulles, this 'Black Gold' gave Washington virtually limitless, unaccountable funds, providing an asset base to reinforce the treasuries of America's allies, to bribe political and military leaders and to manipulate elections in foreign countries for more than 50 years. Drawing on a vast range of original documents and thousands of hours of interviews, this book exposes one of the great state secrets of the 20th century.

The Struggle for Mastery Britain 1066-1284 David CARPENTER

The two-and-a-half centuries after 1066 were momentous ones in the history of Britain. In 1066, England was conquered for the last time. The Anglo-Saxon ruling class was destroyed and the English became a subject race dominated by a Norman-French dynasty and aristocracy. This book shows how the English domination of the kingdom was by no means a foregone conclusion. The struggle for mastery in the book's title is, in reality, the struggle for different masteries within Great Britain. Carpenter weaves together the histories of England, Scotland and Wales in a new way and argues that all three, in their different fashions, were competing for domination.

The White Headhunter

The Story of a 19th Century Sailor who Survived a South Seas **Heart of Darkness**

Nigel RANDELL

331pp Hb \$39.95

615pp Hb \$69.95

Master

The story of Jack Renton, the White Headhunter, has captured the Western imagination for over a century and until now his own account of his ordeal has been the only authenticated version. Escaping from his floating prison in an open whaleboat, he drifted for 2,000 miles across the Pacific, only to be washed up on the shores of an island shunned by all 19th century mariners, Malatia in the Solomon Islands. There he was stripped of his clothes and possessions by a tribe of headhunters and was forced to 'go native' to survive. Initially a slave to their chief, Kabou, he eventually became the man's most trusted warrior and adviser, loved by him "as my first-born son". Renton's own account, published after he was rescued, caused a sensation, though now we know that it airbrushes out most of the key events that brought about his transformation. There the

adventure might have been laid to rest, but for one small detail - the Malatians are masters of the art of oral history, passing detailed stories down from generation to generation. Researching the Renton legend, Nigel Randell spent seven years talking to the Malatians and piecing together a very different account from Renton's sanitised version. It is the story of a man who not only adopted their customs, terrible as some of them were, but who also transformed their island world.



Sacred Signs **Hieroglyphs in Ancient Egypt** Penelope WILSON

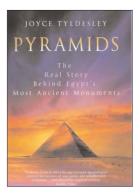
168pp Pb \$39.95

Hieroglyphs were far more than a language. They were an omnipresent force in communicating the messages of ancient Egyptian culture for over 3,000 years, used as monumental art as a means of identifying Egyptianess and for rarified communication with the gods. This exciting new study explores the cultural significance of the script with an emphasis on previously neglected areas such as cryptography, the continuing decipherment post-Champollion, and the powerful fascination that hieroglyphs still hold for us today.

Pyramids

The Real Story Behind Egypt's Most Ancient Monuments

Jovce TYLDESLEY 288pp Hb \$45.00 Just what is behind the building of the pyramids? Space ships, ley lines and all the other stories are they fact or fiction? The Old Kingdom pharaohs believed that death was the beginning of eternal life. They believed that they would rise from their tombs to shimmer in the deep blue night as an un-setting star. To help them on their way, they built pyramids - huge ramps or stairways charged with potent magic, leading directly to the sky. To understand the skills and

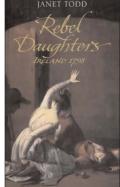


beliefs of the earliest pyramid builders, we must look backwards and trace the pyramid building society back to its roots. Then we can see not only how and why the Egyptians were able to build their pyramids, but how the pyramids helped to build Egypt.

Rebel Daughters Ireland 1798

Janet TODD

416pp Hb \$49.95 Two sisters, two rebellions. In 1797-8, London and Dublin society was scandalised by the elopment of Mary, daughter of the Earl of Kingston (a leading member of the Irish aristocracy) with her cousin Henry Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald was subsequently murdered by the Earl, and his own adopted father and the Earl elected to face trial before his peers in the Irish House of Lords. Ireland was in the throes of rebellion and the Earl's elder daughter, Margaret, helped organise a plot by the United Irishman to



use the trial as a flashpoint for revolution and an uprising of the United Irishman. The plot was foiled and the rebellion quashed (with cruel ferocity) by her brother George.

Frontier Justice

Weapons of Mass Destruction and the **Bushwhacking of America**

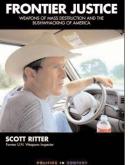
Scott RITTER 211pp Pb \$25.00 Ritter's last book War on Irag: What the Bush Team Doesn't Want You to Know (Pb \$9.95) left me completely convinced that there were no stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq before the bombing began. As former chief UN Weapons Inspector, Ritter now has people asking him if he's happy now that no weapons

have been found. He is far from happy. His clear, rational and extremely knowledgeable voice stands out in the current debate about the Bush presidency and the ongoing debacle in Iraq.

All the Shah's Men

An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror

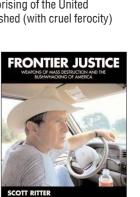
Stephen KINKER 258pp Hb 44.95 This account of the CIA's coup d'etat in Iran in 1953 is based on documents about the coup (including internal CIA reports) that have now been declassified. The narrative is at once a vital piece of history, a cautionary tale and a real-life espionage thriller.



Ann

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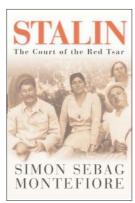
History

Stalin

The Court of the Red Tsar Simon SEBAG-MONTEFIORE

693pp Hb \$65.00 There have been many biographies of Stalin, but the court that surrounded him is untravelled ground. Simon Sebag-Montefiore has unearthed the vast

underpinning that sustained Stalin. Not only ministers such as Molotov or secret service chiefs such as Beria, but men and women whose loyalty he trusted only until the next purge. Here is the Stalin story from the inside, full of revelations: how the death of Stalin's wife was hushed up - was it suicide?: how the Soviet leaders and their families lived and partied inside the Kremlin walls; what happened on the first day of war with Germany in 1941; the fullest account of the meeting between Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill that settled the fate of the axis powers. And how the Great Terror - in which 10 million died - actually happened. due October



Koba the Dread

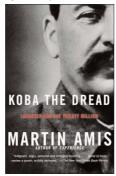
Laughter and the Twenty Million

Martin AMIS

336pp Pb \$24.95

Now in paperpack, this is a worthwhile, but puzzling, book. Amis seems to want to grab us by the shoulders, shake us and say, 'Don't you realise that Stalin killed 20 million people? Why doesn't anyone talk about it? Why has it been seen to be fashionable to align yourself with Stalin, yet anyone who reveres Hitler is immediately recognised as a nihilist.' All valid points, but Amis tars the Russian Revolution, Bolshevism and Stalinism with the same brush. He argues that Russia was much worse off for the Bolshevik revolution, pointing out that the period immediately afterwards saw the biggest peacetime decline in living standards in recorded history. (I welcome debate on this subject!) Amis seems to have an irrational and deeply felt hatred of Trotsky, and has decided categorically that he was a liar, with - as far as I can see - no evidence. He claims that Stalin did not lie to Trotsky about the actual day of Lenin's death, which led to Trotsky missing Lenin's funeral, a fact that may have cost him the leadership of the Bolskevik party. The only source Amis quotes is Volkogonov in Trotsky, who says nothing of the sort (I checked). In My Life (out of print), Trotsky claims he

was most upset at missing the funeral and shocked by the level of Stalin's deviousness, even in those early stages. Amis is not an expert on the period, but claims to have read several yards of books on the subject, (a claim which may be rivalled by many of our customers!) As with all of Amis's writing lately, he somehow turns this into a story about himself, boasting of his friendship with Cristopher Hitchens, (who now claims Amis is right, and was a big supporter of Blair and Bush in the Iraq war). By all means read this book, but you could do better to go back to Volkogonov's brilliant



trilogy: Stalin (Pb \$45.00), Lenin (Pb \$39.95) and Trotsky (Pb \$36.95). Ann

Howard's War

Alison BROINOWSKI

138pp Pb \$19.95

Why did John Howard lead Australia into a highly unpopular war with Irag? The war cost us more than \$700 million but, predictably, has made Irag and its neighbours more unstable and hasn't delivered any of the results our leaders promised - replacing Saddam Hussein with a democratic regime, finding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction or combating terrorism. And how could the war have been in our interests if it has made Australia a target for further terrorism, put us at odds with our Asian neighbours and fractured the United Nations? John Howard hasn't revealed his real reasons for his strange behaviour, but this book does.

Ralegh's Last Journey

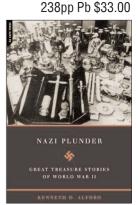
A Tale of Madness, Vanity and Treachery Paul HYLAND

242pp Pb \$27.95

A study in vanity and ambition, madness and resignation, Sir Walter Ralegh was the greatest courtier of his day, Elizabeth's favourite, dashing, brilliant, wily and powerful. Many books have been written about him, but none has taken as its subject his extraordinary last months, during the summer of 1618 when, his last voyage a failure and under great suspicion from James I, he was escorted back to London by Sir Lewis Stucley. The tragi-comic story of this journey, from Plymouth to the scaffold, of Ralegh's grotesque behaviour along the way, of the web of deceit and counter-treachery woven between him and his reviled and much misunderstood betrayer 'Judas' Stucley, and of their travelling companion, the French physician and double agent Dr Manourie, has not been told. Around this last journey will be linked the other players in the drama: Bess, Ralegh's handsome, resourceful and distracted wife; Carew, their 13-year-old son; and Samuel King, privateering captain and link with past glories. On countless occasions, Ralegh has the opportunity to escape, and refuses it; then, when he at last opts for freedom (in a false beard), he finds himself betrayed again.

Nazi Plunder Great Treasure Stories of World War II Kenneth ALFORD

WWII was the most devastating conflict in human history, but the tragedy did not end on the battlefields. During the war, Germany - and later, the Allies - plundered Europe's historic treasures. Between 1939 and 1945, German armed forces roamed from Dunkirk to Stalingrad, looting gold, silver, currency, paintings and other works of art, coins, religious artefacts and millions of books and other documents. The value of these items, many of which were irreplaceable, is estimated in the billions of dollars. The artwork alone, looted under Hitler's direction, exceeded the



combined collections of the Metropolitan Museum, the British Museum and the Louvre. As the war wound to its conclusion in 1945, occupying forces continued the looting. The story of these celebrated works of art and other vanished treasures - and the mystery of where they went - is a remarkable tale of greed, fraud, deceit and treachery.

The Way of a Ship A Square-Rigger Voyage in the Last Days of Sail 447pp Pb \$24.95

Derek LUNDY

Benjamin Lundy crossed oceans under sail in the late 19th century. Over 100 years later, Derek Lundy, his great-great nephew, has re-created that journey. In this book, he places Benjamin on board the Beara Head with a community of fellow seamen as they perform the exhausting and dangerous work of sailing a square-rigger across the Atlantic and around Cape Horn. Fed on a diet of pea soup, gristly salt horse, rock hard weevil-infested biscuits and just enough lemon juice to keep scurvy at bay, the seamen were dangerously malnourished and sleep-deprived. But their instinct was to give their all through the battering, screaming winds. The equation was simple: they would survive if the ship survived and so they fought to save the ship. Like Melville and Conrad before him, Derek Lundy adorns his story of an extraordinary journey with a profound knowledge of the sea and sailing, and

reminds us that an ocean voyage under sail is an overarching metaphor for life itself.

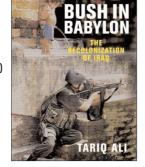


ABBEY'S BOOKSHOP

History

Bush in Babylon The Recolonization of Iraq

Tariq ALI160pp Pb \$25.00On 15 February 2003, over eight million people marched on
the streets of five continents against a war that had not yet
begun. This first truly global mobilisation, unprecedented in
size, scope or scale, sought to head off the occupation of Iraq
being plotted in the Pentagon. The turnout broke all records.
The pretext that the fiercely secular Ba'ath Party of Iraq had



any links with al-Qaeda was rejected as quickly as the hypocrisy of the threat from 'weapons of mass destruction' was exposed. The only nuclear stockpile in the region is situated in Israel. The pretext not only failed to convince, but served rather to fuel a broad-based opposition as millions now saw the greatest threat to peace coming, not from the depleted armouries of decaying dictatorships, but from the American empire and its allies, Britain and Israel. Ali argues that the national trauma of 9/11 was used to pursue an audacious imperial agenda and that the occupation of Iraq marks a turning point in post-Cold War politics. He exposes the key figures behind the corporate takeover of Iraq and reveals the depths of Iraqi opposition and resistance. Blending politics, history and culture, Ali examines the war and its consequences, and argues that the occupation of Iraq, as well as the resistance it provokes, will mark the politics of the 21st century.

From the Academic Presses

In **Margaret of Anjou: Queenship and Power in Late Medieval England** (240pp Hb \$90.00), Helen Maurer illuminates medieval queenship in a male-dominated world and convincingly reinterprets the full records of Margaret that have survived, including a wonderful cache of her letters. She draws a picture of a highly intelligent, conscientious woman, powerless without her husband's authority and much maligned in contemporary rumour.

In **Spinoza and the Irrelevance of Biblical Authority** (228pp Hb \$140.00), J Samuel Preus highlights Spinoza's achievement by reading his **Theologico-Political Treatise** (Tp \$32.00) in the context of a literary conflict among his contemporaries about biblical interpretation - a conflict fraught with political implication. His exposition of neglected primary sources surrounding Spinoza's work offers new evidence regarding his rhetorical strategy and intent in the Treatise.

Medieval Ghost Stories: An Anthology of Miracles, Marvels and Prodigies (162pp Pb \$35.00) by Andrew Joynes is a collection of ghostly occurrences from the 8th to the 14th centuries, found in monastic chronicles and preaching manuals, in sagas, heroic poetry and in medieval romances. The author's thoughtful commentary relates content and form to events of the time - the monastic reform movement following the first millennium, the growth in philosophical speculation during the 12th century renaissance and the channelling of ancient Norse beliefs by Christian authors into the saga literature of Iceland.

What is Gnosticism? (343pp Hb \$65.00) by Karen King is both a thorough and innovative introduction to the 20th century study of Gnosticism and a revealing exploration of the concept of heresy as a tool in forming religious identity. The author shows how historians have been misled by ancient Christian polemicists who attacked Gnostic beliefs as a 'dark double' against which the new faith could define itself.

Murder, mutilation, cannibalism, infanticide and incest - the darker side of classic fairy tales is the subject matter for **The Hard Facts of the Grimm's Fairy Tales** (325pp Pb \$36.95) by Maria Tatar. This updated and expanded second edition includes a new preface and an appendix containing new translations of six tales, along with commentary.

In **King Edward II: His Life, His Reign and Its Aftermath, 1284-1330** (604pp Hb \$91.00), Roy Haines examines Edward II's upbringing, character and the salient periods of his reign, situating him in the much wider context of his times, the 'empire' he inherited and the aftermath of his unregretted death.

Norman Conquest to the Magna Carta (258pp Pb \$47.00) is a wide-ranging history of England from 1066 to 1215. Starting with the build-up to the Battle of Hastings and ending with the Magna Carta, Christopher Daniell traces the profound changes that England underwent over the period, from religion and the life of the court through to art and architecture.

Introduction to Old English (332pp Pb \$59.95) by Peter Baker is an innovative introduction to the Old English language which focuses on what students need to know in order to engage with Old English literary and historical texts. Designed for a new generation, the book assumes no expertise in traditional grammar or in other languages.

In **The Global Reach of Empire** (Hb \$59.95), Alan Frost argues that globalisation began a great deal earlier than most people realise. In the second half of the 18th century, Britain sought to establish genuinely global trade for the first time in history. This is a study of British maritime and imperial expansion in the Indian and Pacific Oceans in this period, encompassing seaborne discovery, strategy in wartime and the creation of infrastructure necessary to support far-flung maritime activity, colonisation and trade. Frost places the colonisation of Australia in a broad context and shows its relationship to other imperial strategies of the period. *Dave*

Philosophy in Short

In his new book, **What is Good?** (Hb \$49.95), A C Grayling puts forth a simple question that people have been asking themselves for a long time: "How do I live a good life?" Grayling begins by analysing the question in a historical perspective. In this way, we see the two main views that have emerged: a secular view rooted in attitudes towards human nature and the human condition, and a transcendental view which locates the source of moral value outside the human realm. Though contrasted from the beginning, it is with modern times and the rise of science that these two views have starkly clashed. Grayling's book is revealing and insightful and its charm lies in its simplicity and wisdom.

One philosopher who pondered this question was Soren Kierkegaard. Alastair Hannay has written a meticulous biography on the enigmatic Danish philosopher **Kierkegaard: A Biography** (Tp 496pp \$59.95). It traces his life from his youth in Denmark to his adulthood, where he devoted himself to a life of philosophy and solitude. Hannay states that to understand Kierkegaard we need to realise the factors that directed this man to his philosophical expression and the subsequent mark he made on philosophy. An intriguing read that carves out Kierkegaard's place in Western philosophy.

If you did not interpret *The Matrix* as a philosophical statement on the nature of reality, or *The Terminator* as a metaphor for the mind-body dilemma, then this book may be of interest to you. In a fun and humorous way, **The Philosopher at the End of the Universe** (Pb \$32.95) by Mark Rowlands looks at the basic concepts of philosophy via some of the greatest science fiction films. In doing so, he emphasises the importance and profoundness of philosophy in relation to our everyday lives and has fun along the way. Rowlands, (who highly admires the philosophy of Arnold Schwarzenegger), takes the seriousness out of philosophy, making this book accessible and full of inspiring wisdom. Popular philosophy at its best.

Kuhn vs Popper: The Struggle for the Soul of Science (Hb \$29.95) by Steve Fuller is an important book that is intent on settling an old score regarding the nature of science. Fuller begins by looking at the two opposing views of two of the most influential thinkers of our time, Thomas Kuhn and Karl Popper. Kuhn's view, a pluralistic vision of science, has supposedly triumphed over Popper's more monolithic one in recent times. Fuller concludes that this should not be, stating that while Popper remained consistent in his view of science as 'the open society', Kuhn and his followers were under certain pressures relating to the Cold War. Not only is it an intriguing look at science and its personalities, but it puts forth a plea to understand science - an understanding which can be obtained by analysing the basis of what seperated Kuhn and Popper.

New in our political theory section is a book from Roger Scruton called **West and the Rest** (Pb \$24.95). This is an extremely thoughtful and important book that views the Western world post-9/11. With his analytical depth and clear interpretations of things in the political and religious world that may pass unnoticed, Scruton states that to understand Islamic terrorism, one must first comprehend what is different - and, in a sense, dangerous - about Western institutions, ideas and technology.

The Myths We Live By (Hb \$62.00) by Mary Midgley is a profound book dealing with science and how our idea of what constitutes science isn't always correct. Midgely argues that myth is not as opposed by science as we think. Myth is a web of powerful symbols that suggest certain ways of interpreting the world we live in. This book is so compelling due to its broad range of subjects, the social contract, technology, evolution, the mind and culture. A lucid telling of how, through better understanding ourselves, we can live better lives. *Tristan*

www.abbeys.com.au

FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Cambridge Shakespeare Library Shakespeare's Times, Texts and Stages; Shakespeare **Criticism; Shakespeare Performance**

Catherine ALEXANDER (ed) 3-Volume Set \$750.00 These three volumes represent the best Shakespeare criticism of the last 50 years. 140 articles have been organised under three main headings with substantial introductory essays. The first volume, introduced by Stanley Wells, includes pieces on Shakespeare's life and times, the texts of his plays and their staging in the period. The second, introduced by Terence Hawkes, covers the many different schools and trends of literary criticism applied to Shakespeare since WWII. The third, introduced by Peter Holland, includes performancecentred articles on staging, theatres, film and acting. The essays are all reprinted from Shakespeare Survey, the yearbook of Shakespeare studies and production, selected and ordered by Catherine Alexander. For over half a century, the world's leading editors and textual scholars, critics and theoreticians, actors and directors have written for Survey, whose outstanding strength has been the quality of its contributors and the accessible nature of its scholarship.

The Experience of Crusading Western Approaches Vol 1

321pp Hb \$150.00 Defining the Crusader Kingdom Vol 2 327pp Hb \$150.00 Marcus BULL, Norman HOUSLEY (editors)



2-Volume Set \$250.00

The study of the crusades is one of the most thriving areas of medieval history. This collection of 34 essays by leading researchers in the field reflects the best of contemporary scholarship. The subjects handled are remarkably wide-ranging, focusing on the history of the Latin East and its place in the context of Mediterranean trade and Near Eastern political developments. The essays range from the church's approach towards warfare in the pre-crusade era, to the way in which

historians in more recent centuries have chosen to reconstruct the medieval epoch. Published to celebrate the 65th birthday of Jonathan Riley-Smith, the leading British historian of the crusades, the volumes include an appreciation of his work on the crusades and on the military orders, as well as his contribution to the study of the Latin East.

Understanding Early Civilizations **A Comparative Study**

Bruce TRIGGER

776pp Hb \$120.00 As the first class-based societies in human history, early civilisations are of great importance to social scientists interested in the development of human complexity. This book offers the first detailed comparative study of the seven most fully documented early civilisations: ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, Shang China, the Aztecs and their neighbors, the Classic Maya, the Inca and the Yoruba. Unlike previous studies, equal attention is paid to similarities and differences in their sociopolitical organisation, economic systems, religious beliefs, knowledge, art and values. Many of this study's findings are surprising and provocative. They challenge not only current understandings of early civilisations, but also the theoretical foundations of modern archaeology and anthropology.

A History of Japan, 1582-1941 **Internal and External Worlds**

L M CULLEN 357pp Pb \$59.95 This book offers a distinctive and penetrating overview of the internal and external forces responsible for the making of modern Japan. The author takes an unusually broad approach that integrates a wide range of facets of Japanese history. He argues that Japan was not beset by economic, social and political problems before its opening in 1853 and that its development enabled it to cope with the challenges of the 1850s. This book differs from other accounts in trying to see Japanese history from a Japanese perspective, rejecting traditional Western interpretations

The Italians in Australia

Gianfranco CRESCIANI

192pp Pb \$37.95

Italians comprised the first truly large wave of immigrants to arrive from Southern Europe after WWII. Today, people of Italian background in Australia number around one million. Italians have made an enormous contribution to the development of Australian society and the author - the country's foremost expert on Italian life in Australia - provides the definitive account. This new edition brings to life the important story of the Italo-Australian community.

The Holy Reich

Nazi Conceptions of Christianity, 1919-1945

Richard STEIGMAN-GALL

294pp Hb \$75.00

Analysing the previously unexplored religious views of the Nazi elite, the author argues against the consensus that Nazism as a whole was either unrelated to Christianity or actively opposed to it. He demonstrates that many in the Nazi movement believed the contours of their ideology were based on a Christian understanding of Germany's ills and their cure. He also explores the struggle waged by the 'positive Christians' with the party's paganists, and demonstrates that this was not just a conflict over religion, but over the very meaning of Nazi ideology itself.

The Unbound Prometheus

Technological Change and Industrial Development in Western Europe from 1750 to the Present

David LANDES (2nd edition)

588pp Pb \$59.95

In this new edition, the author reframes and reasserts his original arguments in the light of current debates about globalisation and comparative economic growth. He begins with a classic account of the political, economic and social implications of the Industrial Revolution in Britain, France and Germany, then raises the much-debated question: why was Europe the first to industrialise? He then charts the economic history of the 20th century: the effect of WWI in accelerating the dissolution of the old international economy; the economic crisis of 1929-32; and Europe's recovery and unprecedented economic growth following WWII. He concludes that only by continuous industrial revolution can Europe and the world sustain itself in the years ahead.

Cambridge Paperback Specials Now all only	y \$19.95
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Simon de Montfort - Barrell	\$65.00
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Physics and Chance - Sklar	\$79.95
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Visions of the Future: Chemistry and Life Science - Thompson	\$65.00
Charles Darwin's Beagle Diary - Darwin	\$49.95
Dinosaur Impressions - Taquet	\$34.95



Science

Silent Flood

Australia's Salinity Crisis

Michael SEXTON

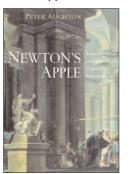
202pp Pb \$29.95

Salinity is the greatest environmental threat to Australia in the 21st century. This book examines the causes of salinity and its effects on the rural and urban environment. Michael Sexton produced the important ABC TV documentary *Salinity*, which looked at the devastating effects of salinity on rural and urban Australia. This book expands on the issues touched upon in the series and aims to arm readers with the most up to date facts and information, in language that they can understand, on a subject that affects all of us. Sexton's rationale is that the better we understand the problem, the sooner we can get on top of it. He has interviewed farmers, scientists, academics, environmental activitsts, landholders and local government representatives in his endeavour to bring readers a complete and accurate picture of this unfolding ecological disaster.

Newton's Apple

Isaac Newton and the English Scientific Renaissance Peter AUGHTON 214pp Hb \$59.95

In the aftermath of the English Civil War, the Restoration overturned England's medieval outlook and a new way of looking at the world allowed the genius of Isaac Newton and his contemporaries to flourish. Newton had a long and eventful life apart from his scientific discoveries. He was born at the beginning of the Civil War and his studies were disrupted by the twin disasters of the Great Plague and the Fire of London. A brilliant and enigmatic genius, he dabbled in alchemy, wrote over a million words on the Bible, quarrelled with his contemporaries



and spent his last years as Master of the Royal Mint, as well as President of the Royal Society. This book sets Newton's life and work against this dramatic intellectual rebirth. Among his friends and contemporaries were Samuel Pepys, the colourful diarist; John Evelyn, the eccentric antiquarian; the astronomers Edmund Halley and John Flamsteed; and Christopher Wren, the greatest architect of his age. They were all instrumental in the founding of the Royal Society and their aim was nothing less than to examine the whole field of scientific knowledge.

Six Degrees

The Science of a Connected Age

Duncan WATTS

368pp Hb \$56.95

'Six degrees of separation' is a cliche, as is 'it's a small world', both cliches of the language and cliches of everyone's experience. We all live in tightly bonded social networks, yet linked to vast numbers of other people more closely than we sometimes think. Only in recent years, however, have scientists begun to apply insights from the theoretical study of networks to understand forms of network as superficially different as social networks, and electrical networks, computer networks and economic networks, and to show how common principles underlie them all. Duncan Watts explores the science of networks and its implications, ranging from the Dutch tulipmania of the 17th century to the success of Harry Potter, from the impact of September 11 on Manhattan to the brain of the sea slug, from the processes that lead to stockmarket crashes to the structure of the world wide web. As stimulating and life-changing as James Gleick's **Chaos** (Pb \$24.95), this is a ground-breaking and important book.

Mapping Mars

Science, Imagination and the Birth of a World

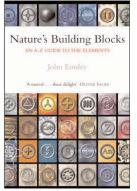
Oliver MORTON

368pp Pb \$24.95

Morton shows us the complex and beguiling role that mapping will play in our understanding of the red planet and, more deeply, what it means for humans to envision such heroic landscapes. Charting a path from 19th century visionaries to spy-satellite pioneers to science fiction writers and arctic explorers, he unveils the central place that Mars has occupied in the human imagination, and what it will mean to realise these dreams.

Nature's Building Blocks An A-Z Guide to the Elements

John EMSLEY 552pp Pb \$44.95 This delightful book features an informative, fascinating entry on each of the 100-odd chemical elements, arranged alphabetically from actinium to zirconium. Each entry comprises an explanation of where the element's name comes from, followed by a body element (the role it plays in living things), an element of history (how and when it was discovered), an economic element (what it is used for), environmental details (where it occurs and so forth), the

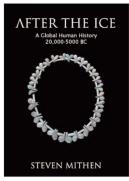


chemical information (facts, figures and narrative), plus an element of surprise (an amazing, little-known fact about it). Designed as a 'dipping into' source for the family reference shelf and for students, the book is intended for general readers with an interest in popular science, as well as those with a more professional interest.

After the Ice

A Global Human History 20,000 - 5,000 BC

Steven MITHEN 622pp Hb \$59.95 How did prehistoric men live? Where did they travel to? What did they do when they got there? Why did they create art? What did they believe? Did they fight wars? Where all people doing the same thing at the same time, everywhere in the world? These and hundreds of other questions are answered in this work. Mithen draws on the latest cutting-edge research in archaeology, cognitive science, palaeontology, geology and

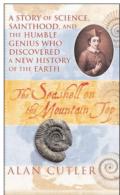


the evolutionary sciences to create a comprehensive picture of the minds, societies and landscapes of 22,000 years ago.

The Seashell on the Mountaintop

A Story of Science, Sainthood and the Humble Genius Who Discovered a New History of the Earth

Alan CUTLER 228pp Hb \$45.00 Dubbed "the founder of modern geology" by Stephen Jay Gould, the 17th century Danish scientist Nicolaus Steno was the first man to discover 'deep time': to suggest that the existence of fossils, particularly those far away from where the animals of which they are the remains would have lived (eg. the seashell on the mountaintop), demanded a much longer history for the Earth than the roughly 6,000 years suggested by the Bible. Steno's work was ignored for over a century. He dropped his geological studies without completing a university dissertation, converted to Catholicism



and later became a bishop. In 1988, he was beatified by Pope John Paul I. This work tells the story of this passionate and fascinating man, exploring his contributions to geology and his remarkable ideas on science and religion.

Charles Darwin

The Power of Place

Janet BROWNE

608pp Tp \$40.00

Following **Charles Darwin: Voyaging** (Tp \$52.00), Browne's eagerly awaited concluding volume of Darwin's biography looks closely at the wider publishing world of Victorian England and the different audiences which responded to Darwin's ideas. Darwin relied heavily upon his friends and family, his publishing contacts, his correspondence network, and the expanding geographical and economic horizons of Victorian Britain to distribute his views to the furthest corners of the Empire. This biography considers the Darwinian revolution from his point of view and what it was like to become a scientific celebrity. In my opinion, this is one of the best scientific biographies ever written.

Briefly Noted...

Introduced Mammals of the World (589pp Hb \$135.00) by John Long is a comprehensive book which provides an account of the movement of 337 species of mammals around the world. It provides details on the date of introduction, the person or agency responsible, the source populations, location of release and the fate of the introduction, as well as its impact, if known.

Beneath the Surface: A Natural History of Australian Caves (182pp Pb \$49.95), edited by Brian Finlayson and Elery Hamilton-Smith, looks at all the cave systems of Australia. It tells you all you need to know about the varieties of cave types and how they form, cave fauna (both invertebrate and vertebrate, including a whole chapter devoted to bats), fossils, Aboriginal relics and decorations in caves and contains a history of cave exploration and cave science in Australia.

General Spatial Involute Gearing (498pp Hb \$248.50) by Jack Phillips deals with the synthesis of involute teeth for general spatial gearing. It solves a problem open for 150 years and enunciates and proves a fundamental law which applies to all kinds of gearing.

Babylon to Voyager and Beyond (558pp Hb \$199.00) by David Leverington describes the fascinating story of planetary research from the time of the Babylonians and ancient Greeks to the modern era of space exploration. It outlines the key astronomical discoveries in their historical context, covering not only the successes, but also the main failures. It is written to be accessible to anyone interested in the history of astronomy.

In Perilous Planet Earth: Catastrophes and Catastrophism Through the Ages (522pp Hb \$150.00), Trevor Palmer places our present concern about the threat to Earth from asteroids and comets within an historical context, looking at the evidence for past events within geological and historical records. He argues that the better we understand our past, the greater the likelihood that we will be able to take appropriate action to preserve our civilisation for the future.

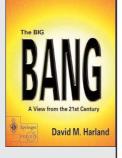
Recent Advances and Issues in Astronomy (259pp Hb \$84.95) by Christopher Pree et al presents the most significant astronomical developments of the past decade, including the results of recent investigations on extrasolar planetary systems, black holes and the existence of water in space. The authors aim to provide the reader with the means to stay abreast of recent advances and discriminate between news of another pretty astronomical picture and a really important astronomical result.

Don't Worry - It's Safe to Eat (268pp Hb \$49.95) by Andrew Rowell exposes the inherent anomalies of our food production system, using as examples three of the most potent issues of our time - BSE, genetic modification and foot and mouth disease. Presenting the untold story of these crises, the author uncovers how critical scientists were marginalised, while commercial interests, macroeconomic policies and trade concerns overruled common sense and health protection.

In The Big Bang: A View from the 21st Century (262pp Pb \$89.95), David Harland describes the historical development of particle physics and explains,

in a non-mathematical way, how particle physics has influenced the structure of the Universe from the very beginning of time. He describes how our understanding of the Universe has developed from the discovery that the Universe is expanding, to the idea that all matter originated in a hot, Big Bang. Then he explains the many subtle improvements to the basic theory that have been necessary to understand how the very smallest particles and earliest structures (the 'microscale') in the Universe evolved to produce the Universe as it is now (the 'macroscale').

ABBEY'S BOOKSHOP



In **Out of Eden: The Peopling of the World** (440pp Hb \$49.95), Stephen Oppenheimer (author of **Eden in the East: The Drowned Continent of Southeast Asia** Pb \$24.95) argues that all modern non-Africans can be shown to have sprung from a single exodus. He makes the case for there having been one migrant group of no more than a few hundred being forced out of its homeland by increasing salinity in the Red Sea some 80,000 years ago, and that all non-Africans today can trace their mitochondrial DNA to one woman from this group. Dave

Travel

Bamboo Palace Christopher KREMMER

It began as a travelogue, turned into a mystery, and finally made history. Christopher Kremmer's travels in Laos became a quest to solve one of Indochina's enduring puzzles - the fate of a 600-year-old dynasty overthrown by communist guerrillas in 1975. His adventures produced the award-winning travelogue, *Stalking the Elephant Kings*. But frustrated by a secretive regime, he failed to solve the mystery - or so he thought. Long after leaving Laos, he was sent a document written by a former inmate of a communist prison camp. By then, he had moved on, reporting from Afghanistan, Kashmir and Iraq, and writing his bestselling account of chaos along the old Silk Road, **The Carpet Wars** (Pb \$35.00). The prisoner's story lay collecting dust in a garage for five years until Kremmer returned home to Australia, realised its importance and decided to make one last effort to solve the mystery. The result is this extraordinary book, blending the author's enchanting portrait of a poor, landlocked country with the story of the last known survivor of the royal death camp.

Prague Pictures

John BANVILLE

192pp Hb \$29.95

Prague is the magic capital of Europe. Since the days of Emperor Rudolf II -'devotee of the stars and cultivator of the spagyric art' who, in the late 1500s, summoned alchemists and magicians from all over the world to his castle on Hradcany hill - it has been a place of mystery and intrigue. Wars, revolutions, floods, the imposition of Soviet communism, and even the depredations of the tourist boom after the 'Velvet Revolution' of 1989 could not destroy the unique atmosphere of this beautiful, proud and melancholy city. John Banville traces Prague's often tragic history and portrays the people who made it - the emperors, princes, geniuses, charlatans, heroes and scoundrels - painting a portrait of the Prague of today, revelling in its newfound freedoms, eager to join the European Community and at the same time suspicious of what many Praguers see as yet another totalitarian takeover. He writes of his first visit to the city in the depths of the Cold War, when he engaged in a spot of art smuggling, and of subsequent trips there, of the people he met, the friends he made, the places he came to know. due October

Two Great Dictionaries - Two Great Prices!

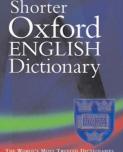
For a limited time, you have a chance to own the best dictionaries of the English language at a special price. The 20-volume Oxford English Dictionary, normally \$2,999, is now **\$2,003** and the 2-volume Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, normally \$299, is now **\$240**.

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the vocabulary of Shakespeare, Milton, Spencer and the King James Bible, as well as details of many rare and obsolete words. With either of these dictionaries, you will never again be lost for words!

Oxford English Dictionary 20 vols Shorter Oxford English Dictionary 2 vols



\$2.003

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224pp Tp \$29.95

Miscellaneous

The Baghdad Blog

Salam PAX 176pp Pb \$23.00 I must be behind the times, as I had no idea what a 'blog' is. Not finding anything in my New Shorter Oxford, I found this definition on the internet: "A frequent, chronological publication of personal thoughts and Web links." In September 2002, a young Iraqi calling himself Salam Pax began posting accounts of everyday life in Baghdad onto the internet. In the build-up to the invasion, thousands of people visited Salam's website every day, hooked on his uninhibited and

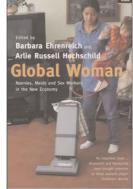


grimly compelling account of the slide into war and the last days of a long dictatorship. In writing this diary, Salam took a huge risk: had he been caught criticising Saddam, it would have cost him his life. His incisive and dryly funny articles soon attracted a massive worldwide readership. In the months that followed, as an American-led force gathered to destroy the Iragi regime, his diary became a unique record of the resentment, amusement and terror felt by an ordinary man living through the final days of a long dictatorship and the chaos that followed its destruction. Pax has this guote by Samuel Huntington on his home page: "the West won the world not by the superiority of its ideas or values or religion, but rather by its superiority in applying organised violence. Westerners often forget this fact. non-Westerners never do." Ann

Global Woman

Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy

Barbara EHRENREICH & Arlie HOSCHCHILD (eds) 336pp Pb \$24.95 Women are moving around the globe as never before. But for every female executive racking up frequent flyer miles, there are multitudes of women whose journeys go unnoticed. Each year, millions leave Mexico, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and other third world countries to work in the homes. nurseries and brothels of the first world. This broad-scale transfer of labour associated with women's traditional roles results in an odd displacement. In the new global calculus, the female energy that



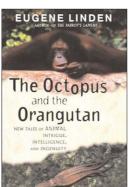
flows to wealthy countries is subtracted from poor ones, often to the detriment of the families left behind. The migrant nanny, cleaning woman, nursing care attendant or maid eases a 'care deficit' in rich countries, while her absence creates a 'care deficit' back home. Confronting a range of topics, from the fate of Vietnamese mail-order brides to the importation of Mexican nannies in Los Angeles and the selling of Thai girls to Japanese brothels, this book offers an unprecedented look at a world shaped by mass migration and economic exchange on an ever-increasing scale.

The Octopus and the Orangutan

New Tales of Animal Intrigue, Intelligence and Ingenuity Eugene LINDEN 242pp Pb \$24.95

This book finds intelligent behaviour in surprising new places, ranging from the octopus's garden to the crow's nest. The intelligence of the octopus is a

matter of debate, but the amazing feats these creatures are capable of seems to belie their brain size. In one story, a keeper gave some octopuses some less-than-fresh prawns. When the time came for seconds, one of the octopuses was ready and, maintaining eye contact with the keeper the whole time, grabbed the offending prawn and skilfully pushed it down the drain! In this entirely new collection of real life anecdotes, animals show they are cagey bargainers and tough negotiators both with their human keepers and with one another . Fascinating. Ann



Famous Last Words

Fond Farewells, Deathbed Diatribes and Exclamations Upon Expiration

Ray ROBINSON (editor) 177pp Hb \$22.95 This delightful little book is bound to bring a smile to the face of all who peruse it. By turns witty, gay, poignant, outrageous and just plain incomprehensible, these (in)famous final utterances are sure to provoke and charm in equal measure. Cara

Now we are Sixty (and a Bit)

Christopher MATTHEW, David ECCLES (Illus) 112pp Hb \$27.95 A sequel to the author's Now We Are Sixty (Pb \$19.95), this collection once again follows the rhymes and rhythms of the great A A Milne to remind those who are getting on in years of the wit, wisdom and whimsy Milne conjured up for those who were very young. It features a few more poems based on originals that Matthew had not tackled before, such as The Emperor's Rhyme and Sneezles. due October

Life at the Bottom

The Worldview That Makes the Underclass

Theodore DALRYMPLE

262pp Pb \$34.95

This work is an account of life in the underclass and why it persists as it does, written by a British psychiatrist who treats the poor in a slum hospital and a prison in England. Its insight is that long-term poverty is caused not by economics, but by a dysfunctional set of values, one that is continually reinforced by an elite culture searching for victims. It draws upon eyeopening, true-life vignettes that are by turns hilariously funny, chillingly horrifying and all too revealing.

The Light's on at Signpost

Memoirs of the Movies, Among Other Matters

George Macdonald FRASER

328pp Pb \$24.95

This is a collection of film-world reminiscences and trenchant thoughts on Cool Britannia, New Labour and other abominations. In between writing Flashman novels, George Macdonald Fraser spent 30 years as an "incurably star-struck" screenwriter, working with the likes of Steve McQueen, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Cubby Broccoli, Burt Lancaster, Federico Fellini and Oliver Reed. Here he shares his recollections of those encounters, providing a glimpse behind the scenes. Far from starry-eyed where Tony Blair and Co are concerned, he looks back to the Britain of his youth and castigates those responsible for its decline to "a Third World country, misruled by a typical Third World government, corrupt, incompetent and undemocratic."

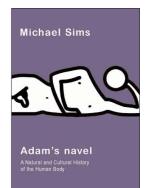
Adam's Navel

A Natural and Cultural History of the Human Body Michael SIMS

348pp Hb \$35.00

From earlobe to erogenous zone, every part of the body has its own incredible story to tell. This book takes us on a unique, offbeat and endlessly eye-opening tour of the human form from the tops of our heads to the ends of our toes, exploring the ways in which we have used, abused, perceived, adorned and celebrated our bodies over the centuries. Consider the purpose of eyelashes, the personal autograph of fingerprints, what we would do

without a big toe and why men have nipples. Contemplate the phenomenon of kissing, the meaning of tanning, piercing and plastic surgery. Ponder Samson's hair, Joan Crawford's eyebrows, Cleopatra's lips and the goddess with the beautiful buttocks. Drawing on anatomy, natural history and evolutionary theory, Shakespeare, Freud, mythology, the films of Hitchcock, pop songs and TV shows such as Sex and the City, this book offers a totally new way of understanding the miraculous piece of work that is the human topography. You'll never look at your body in the same way again.



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News from Eve Abbey

We've been moving some sections around again! I know it's a bit annoying, but I think we've made a few changes for the better (and I do enjoy it). We've given an extra stand to Mathematics. Having restocked all the Dover classic titles in Mathematics, which have stood the test of time and are great value and very well made, we found we didn't have enough space for these nice fat books. To make room, we moved 'Science -History & Biography' to where Economics was, and Economics has displaced Study Guides, which are now in with 'Literary Criticism - Author'.

So the entire back wall is now Science - all 20 metres of it! We are especially proud of this offering, just as we are very proud of our extensive wall of New Non-Fiction (which some customers complain about because there are just so many interesting new books that it's dangerous for them to come in and browse!)

Christmas is coming along soon, so next month the Advocate is replaced by our fabulous Summer Book Review, which our clever, hardworking staff have been preparing for some time. A great deal of work and care is put into it and I'm sure you will keep it by you to consult over the following weeks. Since I won't have a page in it, I'll make a few suggestions here, then remind you in the December Advocate of some other good books I've read this year.

Remember we have our nice mugs with Abbey's Bookshop and Language Book Centre logos, which are only \$3 each and make a good present for addicts like yourself! Also our T-shirts which say, "Where is Human Nature So Weak as in a Bookstore?" (\$19.95). We now stock a range of about 20 different badges (\$4.50 each) showing Latin quotations to suit any moment eg. Modus Omnibus Rebus (moderation in all things), Mens Sana in Corpore Sano (a sound mind in a sound body) or Amat Victoria Curam (victory likes careful preparation). These can be great conversation starters. Check them out. The makers shouldn't have to worry about copyright!

I also noticed a new addition to our Latin amusements in the Latin and Greek section upstairs. Fabulae Mirabiles by Victor Barocas is a cleanly produced hardback of 20 fairy tales in Latin, from The Three Little Pigs to Sleeping Beauty (\$31.00 Hb 95pp incl vocabulary).

Clyde Prestowitz, author of Rogue Nation: American Unilateralism and the Failure of Good

Intentions (\$49.95 Hb 328pp), came to the shop some weeks ago and said to email him if he made the bestseller list at Abbey's, so he could truthfully say he was an 'international' bestseller (which we have now done, as it was on our August Top 10).

CLYDE PRESTOWITZ

I naturally enjoyed the stream of consciousness

memoirs of Katherine Hepburn in Me: Stories of My Life (\$22.95 Pb 335pp) as told to Scott Berg. There will no doubt be a more searching biography to come. Meanwhile, there is Kate Remembered by A Scott Berg (\$49.95 Hb 336pp). Also remember that the bottom half of our excellent Film Studies section is devoted to Film Biography (shelved by name of film star, not author).

I especially enjoyed the memoir of Elizabeth Jane Howard, author of the Cazalet Chronicle stories. (Remember the lovely series on the

ABC?) It is called Slipstream: A Memoir (\$25 Pb 493pp). A lady of style and substance, and very well connected which helps. Kingsley Amis was only one of the famous men in her bed, including first husband Peter Scott (the bird man and son of Scott of the Antarctic), Laurie Lee, Arthur Koestler and Cecil Day-Lewis.



Unfortunately for her, Jonathan Cape did not approve of putting her many novels into paperback (because that meant Penguin, Cape's competitor), so she is not as well known as she deserves to be. The Cazalet novels were extremely autobiographical, as you will see. She mentions in the epilogue that the BBC insisted on putting the first TV series on in the summer, up against Wimbledon and the school holidays, then cancelled the rest of the series due to poor ratings. What a shame! And what a slave she made herself for Kingsley and his boys! Women did that in those days. The titles for the Cazalet stories are Casting Off, Confusion, Light Years and Marking Time (all \$19.95 Pb). Other titles are Falling and Something in Disguise (both \$19.95 Pb).

If you like nice fat books, you may enjoy the third title in Melvyn Bragg's trilogy which begins with The Soldier's Return and The Son of War (both \$20.95 Pb). The third in the series, in trade paperback, is Crossing the Lines (\$32.95 Pb 490pp). Set in 1950s Britain, it concerns the struggle to settle back into ordinary life in northwest Britain after extraordinary experiences as a soldier in faraway places. The man has changed, but the town has not. However, his son has the chance to move, to go to university, to cross the line of class. These books are a sort of social history of England. In the same category, I recommend the biography of Lorna Sage, Bad Blood (\$21.95 Pb), which describes her childhood in a country vicarage and council housing estate after the war and on to her appointment as an academic in East Anglia.

We've had several novels from Italy recently about young people discovering life, such as I'm Not Scared by Niccolo Ammaniti (\$23 Pb 215pp) and God's Mountain by Erri de Luca (\$22 Pb 155pp). Now we have a similar story set in 1943 in a tiny Italian village about to be overrun by German soldiers. A thwarted youthful romance and the unreal hope for a better life in America. A Kiss from Maddalena (\$28 Tp 342pp) is a nice story by Italian-American, Christopher Castellani. All these titles would also be more than suitable for young adult readers.

I came across a good story in Russian History. Brothers in Arms by Peter Duffy (\$54.95 Hb 297pp) tells the true story of the Bielski brothers of Belorussia, who established a community in the forest during World War Two to enable their Jewish relatives to escape the Nazis. The group eventually developed into a partisan band, protecting more than a thousand Jews. A great tale of survival. I'm sure there are many inspiring stories still untold.

Another find in Russian History is Journey for Our Time: The Journals of the Marguis de Custine Russia 1839 introduced by Simon Sebag-Montefiore (\$29.95 Tp 240pp). A customer placed a special order for this and I happened to be nearby when she collected it, so immediately made a special order for myself! More copies are due in December. This fascinating book was in the luggage of every diplomat sent to Russia. The Russian character hasn't changed much, whether under the Tsars or the Communists. Although he travelled to Russia to seek arguments against representative government, by the end of his voyage he had decided that, without change, there would be revolution in Russia within 50 years. A true classic of travel writing and political analysis. I wonder if the Marquis de Custine is that goldenhaired man wandering around the Hermitage in the film, The Russian Ark?

National Library of Australia has published a selection from some of the diaries of Jane Franklin, wife of Sir John Franklin, Arctic explorer and Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania. In 1839. she travelled to Melbourne, then overland to Sydney, in a quasi-official visit without her husband. This inquisitive and intrepid lady put down, in her minuscule handwriting, amazing details about life in early colonial NSW. It is called This Errant Lady: Jane Franklin's Overland Journey to Port Phillip and Sydney 1839 edited by Penny Russell (\$29.95 Pb 273pp).

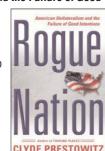
William Boyd is a writer with a dedicated following (including me). Not a bestseller, but a quality writer with a nice ironical sense of humour, some might say black humour. Some of his earlier books are Armadillo (\$23.00 Pb and recently made into a TV series), Brazzaville Beach (\$24.00 Pb) and A Good Man in Africa (\$23.00 Pb). His latest, which Anita Brookner calls a tour de force, is Any Human Heart: The Intimate Journals of Logan Mountstuart (\$22.95 Pb 503pp). His protagonist, Mountstuart, mixes with the movers and shakers of the 20th century. He is a spy, an art dealer, a writer and a man who makes his fair share of mistakes. Touching and funnv.

I'm enjoying local author Mardi McConnochie's first novel, which Chris Scott recommended to me. When this came out last year, Chris thought the author had committed hubris by transplanting the Bronte sisters to a fictional convict island off the coast of NSW in 1847, which is about the time Jane Eyre (\$7.95 Pb) was written. Shades of Rochester and Heathcliff appear in this exciting novel, Coldwater (\$21.95 Pb 390pp). It's had good reviews in America and Bronte fans will be especially interested. Good clear print, which should please older readers.

Our Twentieth 'Meet the Author' Event will be held in the shop on Wednesday 26 November (6-8pm, \$5 entry, proceeds to Zonta Club of Sydney Service Project). Authors expected include Anne Whitehead, Tim Bowden, Graeme Blundell, Guy Noble, John Bell and Chris Geraghty. Everyone welcome.

The big news is that Alan and Krissy have a new baby daughter called Elise. She may get called 'Dusty', because when Will (her almost 4year-old brother) had his first cuddle, he remarked, "She's a bit dusty" (as indeed she did seem, with the sun shining on the down on her cheeks)! Older sister Isabel, now seven, is full of love and importance and all goes well.

Best wishes to you all,



Έve

11

Abbey's Bestsellers -September

Non-Fiction

- Weapons of Mass Deception 1 by Rampton & Sheldon (Pb \$19.95)
- 2 Whitewash: On Keith Windschutle's Fabrication of Australian History by Robert Manne (Pb \$29.95)
- 3 Walking on Water: My Life in the Law by Chester Porter (Hb \$49.95)
- White Fella Jump up: The Shortest Way to Nationhood 4 Quarterly Essay by Germaine Greer(Pb \$12.95)
- The History Wars by Stuart MacIntyre (Pb \$29.95) 5 **Colour: Travels Through the Paintbox** 6 by Victoria Finlay (Pb \$27.95)
- The Closing of the Western Mind 7 by Charles Freeman (Tp \$40.00)
- 8 Tragically I Was an Only Twin by Peter Cook (Pb \$24.95)
- 9 Essential Spike Milligan by Spike Milligan (Lp \$29.95)
- 10 The Age of Consent: A Manifesto for a New World Order by George Monbiot (Tp \$35.00)

Fiction

- 1 The Bride Stripped Bare Anonymous (Pb \$24.95)
- 2 Harrius Potter et Philosophi Lapis by J K Rowling (Hb \$39.95)
- 3 The Child of an Ancient People by Anouar Benmalek (Tp \$34.95)
- Brick Lane by Monica Ali (Tp \$29.95) 4
- 5 My Life as a Fake (Hb \$45.00)
- 6 Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by J K Rowling (Hb \$45.00)
- 7 Pompeii by Robert Harris (Tp \$32.95)
- Time and Chance by Sharon Penman (Pb \$22.95) 8
- Seven Types of Ambiguity by Elliot Perlman (Tp \$35.00) 9
- 10 My Life as a Fake by Peter Carey (Hb \$45.00)

Now in Paperback

Master of the Senate: The Years of Lyndon Johnson Vol 3 by Robert A Caro 1,167pp Tp \$50.00 Book three, and winner of the US National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize, in Caro's monumental life of Lyndon Johnson. This is the most admired and riveting political biography of our era, which began with The Path to Power and Means of Ascent (both Pb \$41.95).

Il Gigante: Michelangelo, Florence and the David 1492-1504 by Anton Gill 338pp Pb \$24.95 At the start of the 16th century, Italy was a turbulent territory made up of independent states, each at war with, or intriguing against, its neighbour. In the midst of this turmoil, there existed the greatest concentration of artists that Europe has ever known. Influenced by the rediscovery of the ancient cultures of Greece and Rome, artists and thinkers threw off the shackles of the Middle Ages to produce one of the most creative periods in history - the Renaissance. This is the story of 12 years when war, plague, famine and chaos made their mark on volatile Italy, and when a young, erratic genius, Michelangelo Buonarroti, made his great statue - the David. It was to become a symbol not only of the independence and defiance of the city of Florence, but also of the tortured soul who created it.

On a Grander Scale: The Outstanding Career of Christopher Wren by Lisa Jardine \$35.00 The figure of Christopher Wren looms large in English national consciousness. The bold, imposing beauty of St Paul's Cathedral stands forever for the nation's achievement - its undamaged dome towering above the rubble of the Blitz in the Second World War, a symbol of London's indomitable fighting spirit.

The Future of Life by Edward O Wilson \$24.95

Our world is far richer than previously conceived, yet so ravaged by human activity that half its species could be gone by the end of the 21st century. In this book, Wilson describes exactly what treasures of the natural world we are about to lose forever and what we can do right now to save them.

A History of Venice by John Julius Norwich 673pp Pb \$29.95

A 1.000-year history of the Venetian Republic from its ancient settlement to its humiliating defeat by Napoleon in 1797. Lord Norwich marshals myriad personalities, battles, sieges and facts into a history of Venice's rise to power under the Doges.

White Eagle, Red Star: The Polish-Soviet War, 1919-20 by Norman Davies \$40.00 First published in 1983, this is now back in print. A neglected event in history, the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-20 was not the final episode in the wars of intervention, but an independent enterprise on the Polish side with minimal support from the Entente Powers.

Editor: Ann Leahy
Contributors: Eve Abbey, Tristan Copland,
David Hall, Lindy Jones,
Ann Leahy & Cara Willetts.

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Man Booker Shortlist 2003

- Brick Lane by Monica Ali (Tp \$29.95)
- Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood (Hb \$45.00)

The Good Doctor

by Damon Galgut (Pb \$29.95) Notes on a Scandal

by Zoe Heller (Hb \$35.00)

Astonishing Splashes of Colour

by Clare Morrall (Pb \$22.95)

Vernon God Little by DBC Pierre (Tp \$29.95)

The winner will be announced on 14 October. The Guardian has odds of 2/1 on Oryx and Crake, but our staff think that Brick Lane is a strong possiblilty, and Cara would be happy for Vernon God Little to win, which is one of the most original and funny novels she has read in a long time.