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“Timely and generous, this is a splendid piece of work, with a friendly, informed, and subtle tone.”
—Michael Wood, author of *On Empson*

**Comparing the Literatures**

Literary studies are being transformed today by the expansive and disruptive forces of globalization. More works than ever circulate worldwide in English and in translation, and even national traditions are increasingly seen in transnational terms. To encompass this expanding literary universe, scholars and teachers need to expand their linguistic and cultural resources, rethink their methods and training, and reconceive the place of literature and criticism in the world. In *Comparing the Literatures*, David Damrosch integrates comparative, postcolonial, and world-literary perspectives to offer a comprehensive overview of comparative studies and its prospects in a time of great upheaval and great opportunity.

**DAVID DAMROSCH** is the Ernest Bernbaum Professor and Chair of Comparative Literature and director of the Institute for World Literature at Harvard University, and a past president of the American Comparative Literature Association.

—Elaine Showalter, *New York Times*

**The Drama of Celebrity**

In this fascinating and deeply researched book, Sharon Marcus challenges everything you thought you knew about our obsession with fame. Icons are not merely famous for being famous; the media alone cannot make or break stars; fans are not simply passive dupes. Instead, journalists, the public, and celebrities themselves all compete, passionately and expertly, to shape the stories we tell about celebrities and fans. The result: a high-stakes drama as endless as it is unpredictable.

Whether you love celebrity culture or hate it, *The Drama of Celebrity* will change how you think about one of the most important phenomena of modern times.

**SHARON MARCUS** is the Orlando Harriman Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. She is a founding editor of *Public Books* and the author of the award-winning *Between Women: Friendship, Desire, and Marriage in Victorian England* (Princeton).
“A masterclass in literary interpretation.”
—Sarah Young, University College London

Lectures on Dostoevsky

Joseph Frank (1918–2013) was perhaps the most important Dostoevsky biographer, scholar, and critic of his time. His never-before-published Stanford lectures on the Russian novelist’s major works provide an unparalleled and accessible introduction to some of literature’s greatest masterpieces. Written in a conversational style that combines literary analysis and cultural history, Lectures on Dostoevsky places the novels and their key characters and scenes in a rich context.

JOSEPH FRANK was professor emeritus of Slavic and comparative literature at Stanford and Princeton. MARGUERITE FRANK, a published mathematician who holds a PhD from Harvard, was married to Joseph Frank. MARINA BRODSKAYA is a professional interpreter and translator. ROBIN FEUER MILLER is the Edythe Macy Gross Professor of Humanities and professor of Russian and comparative literature at Brandeis University.

“Beautifully written and impeccably researched, this book belongs in the mainstream of novel studies.”
—Nancy Armstrong, Duke University

Human Forms

The 120 years between Henry Fielding’s Tom Jones (1749) and George Eliot’s Middlemarch (1871) marked both the rise of the novel and the shift from the presumption of a stable, universal human nature to one that changes over time. In Human Forms, Ian Duncan reorients our understanding of the novel’s formation during its cultural ascendancy, arguing that fiction produced new knowledge in a period characterized by the interplay between literary and scientific discourses—even as the two were separating into distinct domains. The first book to explore the interaction of European fiction with “the natural history of man” from the late Enlightenment through the mid-Victorian era, Human Forms sets a new standard for work on natural history and the novel.

IAN DUNCAN is professor and Florence Green Bixby Chair in English at the University of California, Berkeley. His books include Scott’s Shadow: The Novel in Romantic Edinburgh (Princeton).
“This is a fine work of scholarship, impressively argued and written with great lucidity and energy. A new view emerges of how the *Ars Poetica* should most productively be read.”
—Denis Feeney, Princeton University

**Horace’s *Ars Poetica***

For two millennia, the *Ars Poetica* (*Art of Poetry*), the 476-line literary treatise in verse with which Horace closed his career, has served as a paradigmatic manual for writers. Rarely has it been considered as a poem in its own right, or else it has been disparaged as a great poet’s baffling outlier. Here, Jennifer Ferriss-Hill for the first time fully reintegrates the *Ars Poetica* into Horace’s oeuvre, reading the poem as a coherent, complete, and exceptional literary artifact intimately linked with the larger themes pervading his work.

**JENNIFER FERRISS-HILL** is associate professor of classics and senior associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Miami and the author of *Roman Satire and the Old Comic Tradition*.

“In this stimulating, erudite, and impassioned defense of literary tradition, Peter Mack shows how authors work to transform existing materials and narratives into something new and challenging. Writing with equal verve and insight on Chaucer, Elizabeth Gaskell, and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o, Mack reminds us of the need to read carefully, widely, and deeply, and to embrace a republic of letters that moves beyond familiar notions of the nation and the canon, the literate and the oral, and class and identity.”
—Andrew Hadfield, University of Sussex

**Reading Old Books**

In literary and cultural studies, “tradition” is a word everyone uses but few address critically. In *Reading Old Books*, Peter Mack offers a wide-ranging exploration of the creative power of literary tradition, from the middle ages to the twenty-first century, revealing in new ways how it helps writers and readers make new works and meanings.

**PETER MACK** is professor of English at the University of Warwick. His books include *A History of Renaissance Rhetoric, 1380–1620; Rhetoric and Reading in Montaigne and Shakespeare*; and *Elizabethan Rhetoric*. 
“Novel, we hardly knew you: The Victorian fiction whose familiarity we took for granted emerges from Freedgood’s account uncannily recognizable yet hauntingly estranged. Ambitious, serious, and fearlessly irreverent.”
—Leah Price, Harvard University

**Worlds Enough**

Now praised for its realism and formal coherence, the Victorian novel was not always great, or even good, in the eyes of its critics. As Elaine Freedgood reveals in *Worlds Enough*, it was only in the late 1970s that literary critics constructed a prestigious version of British realism, erasing more than a century of controversy about the value of Victorian fiction. By re-examining the critical reception of the Victorian novel, *Worlds Enough* suggests how we can rethink our practices and perceptions about books we think we know.

**ELAINE FREEDGOOD** is professor of English at New York University. Her previous books include *The Idea in Things: Fugitive Meaning in the Victorian Novel* and *Victorian Writing about Risk: Imagining a Safe England in a Dangerous World*.  

2019. 184 pages.  
Hardback 9780691193304  $35.00 | £30.00  
E-book 9780691194301

“Comprehensive, punchy, and clever, *Overwhelmed* is packed with intellectual energy, ceaseless curiosity, and an insouciant disregard for methodological decrees.”
—Russ Castronovo, University of Wisconsin–Madison

**Overwhelmed**

What happens to literature during an information revolution? How do readers and writers adapt to proliferating data and texts? These questions appear uniquely urgent today in a world of information overload, big data, and the digital humanities. But as Maurice Lee shows in *Overwhelmed*, these concerns are not new—they also mattered in the nineteenth century, as the rapid expansion of print created new relationships between literature and information. An unexpected, historically grounded look at how a previous information age offers new ways to think about the anxieties and opportunities of our own.

**MAURICE S. LEE** is chair and professor of English at Boston University. He is the author of *Uncertain Chances: Science, Skepticism, and Belief in Nineteenth-Century American Literature* and *Slavery, Philosophy, and American Literature, 1830–1860*.  

2019. 296 pages. 9 b/w illus.  
Hardback 9780691192925  $39.95 | £34.00  
E-book 9780691194219
“One of the most nuanced studies of Ethiopia and modern black cultural production, Black Land deploys uncommon subtlety and verve in insightful readings of a wide swath of material.”
—Ivy Wilson, Northwestern University

Black Land

As the only African nation, with the exception of Liberia, to remain independent during the colonization of the continent, Ethiopia has long held significance for and captivated the imaginations of African Americans. In Black Land, Nadia Nurhussein delves into nineteenth- and twentieth-century African American artistic and journalistic depictions of Ethiopia, illuminating the increasing tensions and ironies behind cultural celebrations of an African country asserting itself as an imperial power.

NADIA NURHUSSEIN is associate professor of English and Africana studies at Johns Hopkins University. She is the author of Rhetorics of Literacy: The Cultivation of American Dialect Poetry.

“The beautifully written, paradigm-shifting work promises to be a must-read for the next wave of feminist modernist studies.”
—Madelyn Detloff, author of The Value of Virginia Woolf

The Passion Projects

It’s impossible, now, to think of modernism without thinking about gender, sexuality, and the diverse movers and shakers of the early twentieth century. But this was not always so. The Passion Projects examines biographical projects that modernist women writers undertook to resist the exclusion of their friends, colleagues, lovers, and companions from literary history. Many of these works were vibrant efforts of modernist countermemory and counterhistory that became casualties in a midcentury battle for literary legitimacy, but that now add a new dimension to our appreciation of such figures as Radclyffe Hall, Gertrude Stein, Hope Mirrlees, and Sylvia Beach, among many others.

MELANIE MICIR is assistant professor of English and an affiliate faculty member of the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Washington University in St. Louis.
"Quaint, Exquisite is a beautifully written book…. [Lavery] is an invigorating, compelling collaborative critical voice which demands, and amply repays, the reader’s time and thought.”
—Gail Marshall, *Times Higher Education*

**Quaint, Exquisite**

From the opening of trade with Britain in the 1850s, Japan occupied a unique and contradictory place in the Victorian imagination, regarded as both a rival empire and a cradle of exquisite beauty. *Quaint, Exquisite* explores the enduring impact of this dramatic encounter, showing how the rise of Japan led to a major transformation of Western aesthetics at the dawn of globalization.

**GRACE E. LAVERY** is assistant professor of English and affiliated faculty in the Program in Critical Theory and the Center for Japanese Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

“Brilliant and revelatory, *Novel Relations* shows us that the boundaries between text and self are less secure than we might wish them to be.”
—Elaine Freedgood, New York University

**Novel Relations**

*Novel Relations* engages twentieth-century post-Freudian British psychoanalysis in an unprecedented way: as literary theory. Placing the writing of figures like D. W. Winnicott, W. R. Bion, Michael and Enid Balint, Joan Riviere, Paula Heimann, and Betty Joseph in conversation with canonical Victorian fiction, Alicia Christoff reveals just how much object relations can teach us about how and why we read. These thinkers illustrate the ever-shifting impact our relations with others have on the psyche, and help us see how literary figures—characters, narrators, authors, and other readers—shape and structure us too.

**ALICIA MIRELES CHRISTOFF** is assistant professor of English at Amherst College.
“Instructive and touching.”—Adam Gopnik, *New Yorker*

**The Last Utopians**

In this lively literary history, Michael Robertson introduces readers to a vital strain of utopianism that seized the imaginations of four American and British writers during an extraordinary period of literary and social experiment. These writers believed in radical gender and class equality, envisioning new forms of familial and romantic relationships, and were committed to living a simple life rooted in a restored natural world.

**MICHAEL ROBERTSON** is professor of English at The College of New Jersey and an award-winning author.

April 2020. 336 pages. 17 b/w illus.  
Paperback 9780691202860 $19.95 | £16.99  
E-book 9781400889600

“[A] fascinating visual history.”  
—Bryan Cheyette, *Times Literary Supplement*

**How the Other Half Looks**

New York City’s Lower East Side, long viewed as the space of what Jacob Riis notoriously called the “other half,” was also a crucible for experimentation in photography, film, literature, and visual technologies. Sara Blair traces the career of the Lower East Side as a place where image-makers, writers, and social reformers tested new techniques for apprehending America.

**SARA BLAIR** is the Patricia S. Yaeger Collegiate Professor of English and a faculty associate in the Department of American Culture and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.

June 2020. 304 pages. 8 color + 79 b/w illus.  
Paperback 9780691202877 $21.95 | £18.99  
E-book 9781400889242

“This is an ambitious and meticulously researched study.”  
—Emily Zobel Marshall, *Times Literary Supplement*

**The Tar Baby**

*The Tar Baby* offers a fresh analysis of this deceptively simple story about a fox, a rabbit, and a doll made of tar and turpentine. Tracing its history and its connections to slavery, colonialism, and global trade, Bryan Wagner explores how the tar baby story, thought to have originated in Africa, came to exist in hundreds of forms on five continents. He concludes with twelve versions of the story transcribed from various cultures in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**BRYAN WAGNER** is associate professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *Disturbing the Peace*.

2019. 280 pages. 12 b/w illus.  
Paperback 9780691196916 $22.95 | £18.99  
E-book 9781400885619
The Worlds of J. R. R. Tolkien

This book takes you to the places that inspired J. R. R. Tolkien to create his fictional locations in *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit*, and other classic works. Written by renowned Tolkien expert John Garth and prepared with the full cooperation of the Tolkien estate, *The Worlds of J. R. R. Tolkien* features a wealth of breathtaking illustrations, including Tolkien’s own drawings, contributions from other artists, rare archival images, and spectacular color photos of contemporary locations across Britain and beyond, from the battlefields of World War I to Africa. An illustrated journey into the life and imagination of one of the world’s best-loved authors, Garth provides a unique exploration of the relationship between the real and the fantastical and is an essential companion for anyone who wants to follow in Tolkien’s footsteps.

JOHN GARTH is the author of the award-winning *Tolkien and the Great War* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). A writer, editor, and consultant, he gives talks and teaches courses internationally. He is also a regular contributor to the *Guardian*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and other leading publications.

“No other book explores the central role that house and home play in the biographies of authors and artists with so much sophistication, acumen, and tenderness. There is a lot to like in *Lives of Houses*.”
—Deidre Shauna Lynch, author of *Loving Literature: A Cultural History*

Lives of Houses

What can a house tell us about the person who lives there? Do we shape the buildings we live in, or are we formed by the places we call home? And why are we especially fascinated by the houses of the famous and often long-dead? In *Lives of Houses*, a group of notable biographers, historians, critics, and poets explores these questions and more through fascinating essays on the houses of great writers, artists, composers, and politicians of the past.

KATE KENNEDY, a writer and broadcaster, is the Associate Director of the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing and a Research Fellow in Life-Writing at Wolfson College, University of Oxford. HERMIONE LEE is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Oxford. Her books include biographies of Virginia Woolf, Edith Wharton, and Penelope Fitzgerald.
“A lively and instructive read, full of insight and response that bring a new voice to the poem’s reception.”
—A. R. George, author of *The Babylonian Gilgamesh Epic*

**Gilgamesh**

*Gilgamesh* is the most ancient long poem known to exist. It is also the newest classic in the canon of world literature. Lost for centuries to the sands of the Middle East but found again in the 1850s, it tells the story of a great king, his heroism, and his eventual defeat. It is a story of monsters, gods, and cataclysms, and of intimate friendship and love. Acclaimed literary historian Michael Schmidt provides a unique meditation on the rediscovery of *Gilgamesh* and its profound influence on poets today.

**Michael Schmidt** is a literary historian, poet, novelist, translator, and anthologist as well as an editor and publisher. His books include *The Novel: A Biography* and *The First Poets*. A fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, he received an OBE in 2006 for services to poetry and higher education.

“Magisterial. This is a fine, often profound book, the work of a very valuable poet and novelist who has thought long and hard about poetry and the many contexts surrounding its writing.”
—Michael Hulse, coeditor of *The 20th Century in Poetry*

**The Music of Time**

Poetry helps us to make sense of our world, transforming what the Russian poet Osip Mandelstam called the “noise of time” into a kind of music. *The Music of Time* is a unique history of twentieth-century poetry by one of today’s most acclaimed poets, blending incandescent personal meditations with rare insights into a broad range of poets who distilled the essence of the moment, gave voice to our griefs and joys, and gave shape to our collective memory.

**John Burnside** is a poet, novelist, and memoirist whose many books include *Still Life with Feeding Snake* and *On Henry Miller* (Princeton). He is professor of English at the University of St Andrews and a regular contributor to the *London Review of Books*. 
“Here is a delightful set of variations on themes, a gathering of stories we don’t quite know in these tellings of old tales.”
—Peter Holland, University of Notre Dame

**Shakespeare and the Folktale**

Shakespeare knew a good story when he heard one, and he wasn’t afraid to borrow from what he heard or read, especially traditional folktales. *The Merchant of Venice*, for example, draws from “A Pound of Flesh,” while *King Lear* begins in the same way as “Love Like Salt,” with a king asking his three daughters how much they love him, then banishing the youngest when her cryptic reply displeases him. This unique anthology presents more than forty versions of folktales related to eight Shakespeare plays. *Shakespeare and the Folktale* can be read for the pure pleasure these lively tales give as much as for the insight into Shakespeare’s plays they provide.

**CHARLOTTE ARTESE** is professor of English at Agnes Scott College and the author of *Shakespeare’s Folktale Sources*.

2019. 392 pages.  
Paperback 9780691190860 $19.95 | £16.99  
Hardback 9780691190853 $85.00 | £70.00  
E-book 9780691197920

“Enchanting.”
—Victoria Rimell, *Times Literary Supplement*

**The Book of Greek and Roman Folktales, Legends, and Myths**

Captured centaurs and satyrs, incompetent seers, people who suddenly change sex, a woman who remembers too much, a man who cannot laugh—these are just some of the colorful characters who feature in the unforgettable stories that ancient Greeks and Romans told in their daily lives. Together they created an incredibly rich body of popular oral stories that include, but range well beyond, mythology—from heroic legends, fairy tales, and fables to ghost stories, urban legends, and jokes. This unique anthology presents the largest collection of these tales ever assembled. Complete with beautiful illustrations, this one-of-a-kind anthology will delight general readers as well as students of classics, fairy tales, and folklore.

**WILLIAM HANSEN** is professor emeritus of classical studies and folklore at Indiana University, Bloomington, and one of the world’s leading authorities on classical folklore. His books include *Anthology of Ancient Greek Popular Literature*. 

2019. 584 pages. 26 b/w illus.  
Paperback 9780691195926 $22.95 | £18.99  
E-book 9781400884674  
A Choice Outstanding Academic Title of the Year
“An outstanding translation.”—Elisabeth Krämer, author of *German Women’s Life Writing and the Holocaust*

**The Castle of Truth and Other Revolutionary Tales**

Hermynia Zur Mühlen (1883–1951), one of the twentieth century’s great political writers, was not seemingly destined for a revolutionary, unconventional literary career. She rebelled, leaving her upper-class life to be with the Hungarian writer Stefan Klein, and supporting herself through translations and publications. *The Castle of Truth and Other Revolutionary Tales* presents English readers with a selection of Zur Mühlen’s best political fairy tales.

**JACK ZIPES** is professor emeritus of German and comparative literature at the University of Minnesota.

April 2020. 216 pages. 17 b/w illus.
Paperback 9780691201252 $19.95 | £16.99
E-book 9780691201269

“The selection of stories in this collection is excellent.”—Steve Ridgely, author of *Japanese Counterculture*

**Japanese Tales of Lafcadio Hearn**

Lafcadio Hearn (1850–1904) was one of the nineteenth century’s best-known writers, his name celebrated alongside those of Mark Twain and Robert Louis Stevenson. Born in Greece and raised in Ireland, Hearn was a true prodigy and world traveler. Hearn taught literature and wrote his own tales for both Japanese and Western audiences. *Japanese Tales of Lafcadio Hearn* brings together twenty-eight of Hearn’s strangest and most entertaining stories in one elegant volume.

**ANDREI CODRESCU** is a poet, novelist, essayist, and NPR commentator.

2019. 224 pages. 11 b/w illus.
Paperback 9780691167756 $22.95 | £18.99
E-book 9780691189659


**Told Again**

Originally published in 1927, *Told Again* is an enchanting collection of elegant fairy tales, showcasing the formidable talents of Walter de la Mare, one of the most celebrated writers of children’s literature during the first half of the twentieth century. His abundant literary gifts can be savored once more in this beautiful new edition.

**WALTER DE LA MARE** (1873–1956) was a highly acclaimed poet, short story writer, and novelist. **PHILIP PULLMAN** has written many books, including the best-selling and award-winning children’s series *His Dark Materials*.

2019. 248 pages. 38 b/w illus.
Paperback 9780691196299 $17.95 | £14.99
E-book 9781400851997
“The River Twice is lyric philosophy.”
—Tracy K. Smith, Poet Laureate of the United States

The River Twice

Taking its title from Heraclitus’s most famous fragment, The River Twice is an elegiac meditation on impermanence and change. The world presented in these poems is a fluid one in which so much—including space and time, the subterranean realm of dreams, and language itself—seems protean, as the speaker’s previously familiar understanding of the self and the larger systems around it gives way. Kathleen Graber’s poems wander widely, from the epistolary to the essayistic, shuffling the remarkable and unremarkable flotsam of contemporary life. One thought, one memory, one bit of news flows into the next. Yet, in a century devoted to exponentially increasing speed, The River Twice unfolds at the slow pace of a river bend.

KATHLEEN GRABER is the author of two previous collections of poetry, The Eternal City (Princeton), which was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award, and Correspondence. She is associate professor of English at Virginia Commonwealth University.

2019. 112 pages.
Paperback 9780691193212 $17.95 | £14.99
Hardcover 9780691193205 $45.00 | £38.00
E-book 9780691194295

“Eleanor Wilner’s poems, old and new, are political in the best sense—her deep commitment to justice enhances her commitment to making good poems, which she achieves by wit, astonishing lyric skill, and compassionate intelligence. This is a gorgeously important selection of the work of one of our best poets.”—Daisy Fried, author of Women’s Poetry: Poems and Advice

Before Our Eyes

Before Our Eyes gathers more than thirty new poems by Eleanor Wilner, along with representative selections from her seven previous books, to present a major overview of her distinguished body of work. A poet who engages with history in lyrical language, Wilner creates worlds that reflect on and illuminate the actual one, drawing on the power of communal myth and memory to transform them into agents of change.

ELEANOR WILNER is the author of seven previous collections of poetry, most recently Tourist in Hell and The Girl with Bees in Her Hair. In 2019, she received the Frost Medal for distinguished lifetime achievement in poetry. She teaches in the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College.

2019. 232 pages.
Paperback 9780691193335 $17.95 | £14.99
Hardcover 9780691193328 $45.00 | £38.00
E-book 9780691194127
“Italian modernist poetry begins not, as everywhere else, in the anonymous city, but in the lore, sights, and especially the sounds of Giovanni Pascoli’s peasant village. The closely perceived local becomes, without rhetorical flourishes, the universal, and in this brilliant translation yesterday’s Italian becomes today’s American English.”
—Eliot Weinberger

**Selected Poems of Giovanni Pascoli**

Giovanni Pascoli (1855–1912)—the founder of modern Italian poetry and one of Italy’s most beloved poets—has been compared to Robert Frost for his evocation of natural speech, his bucolic settings, and the way he bridges poetic tradition and the beginnings of modernism. Featuring verse from throughout his career, and with the original Italian on facing pages, *Selected Poems of Giovanni Pascoli* is a comprehensive and authoritative collection of a fascinating and major literary figure.

**T AJE SILVERMAN** teaches poetry and literary translation at the University of Pennsylvania.

**MARINA DELLA PUTTA JOHNSTON** is a lecturer in Italian at the University of Pennsylvania.

“With an urbane wit and a sense of fun, enlivened with sensibilities from our own time, Burt’s reimagined re-creations of Callimachus have a wonderful freshness about them.”—Stephen Scully, Boston University

**After Callimachus**

Callimachus may be the best-kept secret in all of ancient poetry. Loved and admired by later Romans and Greeks, his funny, sexy, generous, thoughtful, learned, sometimes elaborate, and always articulate lyric poems, hymns, epigrams, and short stories in verse have gone without a contemporary poetic champion, until now. In *After Callimachus*, esteemed poet and critic Stephanie Burt’s attentive translations and inspired adaptations introduce the work, spirit, and letter of Callimachus to today’s poetry readers.

**STEPHANIE BURT** is a poet and critic and professor of English at Harvard University. Her books include *Don’t Read Poetry* and *Advice from the Lights: Poems.*

**MARK PAYNE** is professor of classics and comparative literature at the University of Chicago. He is the author of *Theocritus and the Invention of Fiction*, *The Animal Part*, and *Hontology.*
“John Took offers a splendidly comprehensive and well-informed account of Dante’s work. Full weight is given to the ways in which the poet’s writings reflect and respond to historical context. But above all the poetry itself is seen, rightly and enthusiastically, as a ‘coruscation of delight.’”

—Robin Kirkpatrick, University of Cambridge

Dante

For all that has been written about the author of the Divine Comedy, Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) remains the best guide to his own life and work. Dante’s writings are therefore never far away in this authoritative and comprehensive intellectual biography, which offers a fresh account of the medieval Florentine poet’s life and thought before and after his exile in 1302.

JOHN TOOK is Professor Emeritus of Dante Studies at University College London. His books include L’Eterno Piacer: Aesthetic Ideas in Dante and Dante, Lyric Poet and Philosopher: An Introduction to the Minor Works.

“Engaging from start to finish, Becoming George Orwell is an outstanding piece of critical and scholarly work.”

—William E. Cain, coeditor of The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism

Becoming George Orwell

Is George Orwell the most influential writer who ever lived? Yes, according to John Rodden’s provocative book about the transformation of a man into a myth. Rodden does not argue that Orwell was the most distinguished man of letters of the last century, nor even the leading novelist of his generation, let alone the greatest imaginative writer of English prose fiction. Yet his influence since his death at midcentury is incomparable. No writer has aroused so much controversy or contributed so many incessantly quoted words and phrases to our cultural lexicon, from “Big Brother” and “doublethink” to “thoughtcrime” and “Newspeak.” Becoming George Orwell is a pathbreaking tour de force that charts the astonishing passage of a litterateur into a legend.

JOHN RODDEN has taught at the University of Virginia and the University of Texas at Austin.
On October 14, 1964, Vladimir Nabokov, a lifelong insomniac, began a curious experiment. Over the next eighty days, immediately upon waking, he wrote down his dreams, following the instructions in An Experiment with Time by British philosopher John Dunne. The purpose was to test the theory that time may go in reverse, so that a later event may generate an earlier dream. The result—published here for the first time—is a fascinating diary in which Nabokov recorded sixty-four dreams (and subsequent daytime episodes) on 118 index cards, providing a rare glimpse of the artist at his most private.

VLADIMIR NABOKOV (1899–1977) was a Russian-American writer whose books include the novels Lolita, Pnin, Pale Fire, and Ada.

GENNADY BARABTARLO (1949–2019) was professor of literature at the University of Missouri.

“...fascinating, readable, exhaustive. It is the definitive biography this important literary figure deserves.”
—Elisabeth Ladenson, author of Dirt for Art’s Sake: Books on Trial from “Madame Bovary” to “Lolita”

NATHALIE SARRAUTE
A Life Between

Ann Jefferson

July 2020. 464 pages. 27 b/w illus.
Hardback 9780691197876 $39.95 | £34.00
E-book 9780691201924

A leading exponent of the nouveau roman, Nathalie Sarraute (1900–1999) was also one of France’s most cosmopolitan literary figures, and her life was bound up with the intellectual and political ferment of twentieth-century Europe. Ann Jefferson’s Nathalie Sarraute: A Life Between is the authoritative biography of this major writer.

ANN JEFFERSON is professor emerita of French at the University of Oxford and the author of several books on French literature and culture, including Genius in France: An Idea and Its Uses (Princeton).
“Insightful and joyful, this book is a masterpiece. It invokes and provokes rather than explains. It reminds rather than lectures. It is different than any book I have ever read. And it works. Drawing on the past in the best sense of the term, it reminds us that we are part of a long tradition. Few books make the case for liberal education as creatively as this one does.”
—Johann N. Neem, author of What’s the Point of College? Seeking Purpose in an Age of Reform

How to Think like Shakespeare

How to Think like Shakespeare offers an enlightening and entertaining guide to the craft of thought—one that demonstrates what we’ve lost in education today, and how we might begin to recover it. In fourteen brief, lively chapters that draw from Shakespeare’s world and works, and from other writers past and present, Scott Newstok distills vital habits of mind that can help you think more deeply, write more effectively, and learn more joyfully, in school or beyond.

SCOTT NEWSTOK is professor of English and founding director of the Pearce Shakespeare Endowment at Rhodes College.

“The college classroom is a place where students have the opportunity to be transformed and inspired through learning—but teachers need to understand how students actually learn. Robert DiYanni and Anton Borst provide an accessible, hands-on guide to the craft of college teaching, giving instructors the practical tools they need to help students achieve not only academic success but also meaningful learning to last a lifetime. Proven in the classroom and the workshop arena, The Craft of College Teaching is an essential resource for new instructors and seasoned pros alike.”

—Virginia Maurer, Harvard University

The Craft of College Teaching

Robert DiYanni and Anton Borst
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Bonnie Costello
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OF RELATED INTEREST

"This edition of George Eliot’s translation of Spinoza’s Ethics makes this important text accessible at last.”
—Suzy Anger, University of British Columbia

Spinoza’s Ethics

In 1856, Marian Evans completed her translation of Benedict de Spinoza’s Ethics while living in Berlin with the philosopher and critic George Henry Lewes. This would have become the first edition of Spinoza’s controversial masterpiece in English, but the translation remained unpublished because of a disagreement between Lewes and the publisher. Later that year, Evans turned to fiction writing, and by 1859 she had published her first novel under the pseudonym George Eliot. This splendid edition makes Eliot’s translation of the Ethics available to today’s readers while also tracing Eliot’s deep engagement with Spinoza both before and after she wrote the novels that established her as one of English literature’s greatest writers.

CLARE CARLISLE is Reader in Philosophy and Theology at King’s College London, and a regular contributor to the Times Literary Supplement.

“Filled with acumen and understanding, Inside the Critics’ Circle carefully dissects the reviewing process, a subject that academics and the reading class will find fascinating, relevant, and disturbing.”
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Inside the Critics’ Circle

Taking readers behind the scenes in the world of fiction reviewing, Inside the Critics’ Circle explores the ways that critics evaluate books despite the inherent subjectivity involved, and the uncertainties of reviewing when seemingly anyone can be a reviewer. Drawing on interviews with critics from such venues as the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and Washington Post, Philippa Chong delves into the complexities of the review-writing process, including the considerations, values, and cultural and personal anxieties that shape what critics do.

PHILLIPPA K. CHONG is assistant professor of sociology at McMaster University.
OF RELATED INTEREST

“The Song of Songs

The Song of Songs has been embraced for centuries as the ultimate song of love. But the kind of love readers have found in this ancient poem is strikingly varied. Ilana Pardes invites us to explore the dramatic shift from readings of the Song as a poem on divine love to celebrations of its exuberant account of human love. Pardes looks at Jewish and Christian interpreters of late antiquity who were engaged in disputes over the Song’s allegorical meaning, at medieval Hebrew poets who introduced it into the opulent world of courtly banquets, and at kabbalists who used it as a springboard to the celestial spheres. She shows how feminist critics have marveled at the Song’s egalitarian representation of courtship, and how it became a song of America for Walt Whitman, Herman Melville, and Toni Morrison. Throughout, Pardes highlights the unparalleled beauty of its audacious language of love.

ILANA PARDES is the Katharine Cornell Professor of Comparative Literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Lost in Thought

In an overloaded, superficial, technological world, in which almost everything and everybody are judged by their usefulness, where can we turn for escape, lasting pleasure, contemplation, or connection to others? While many forms of leisure meet these needs, Zena Hitz writes, few experiences are so fulfilling as the inner life, whether that of a bookworm, an amateur astronomer, a birdwatcher, or someone who takes a deep interest in one of countless other subjects. Drawing on inspiring examples, from Socrates and Augustine to Malcolm X and Elena Ferrante, and from films to Hitz’s own experiences, Lost in Thought is a passionate and timely reminder that a rich life is a life rich in thought.

ZENA HITZ is a Tutor in the pioneering great books program at St. John’s College in Annapolis, Maryland. She has a PhD in ancient philosophy from Princeton University and studies and teaches across the liberal arts.

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MARTIN MYRONE is senior curator of pre-1800 British art at Tate and visiting tutor in the history of art at the University of York. AMY CONCANNON is curator of British art, 1790–1850, at Tate. ALAN MOORE is widely regarded as one of the most influential writers in the history of comics. Published in association with Tate

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