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New this week

Small Architecture

Another beautiful Taschen art book! Whether in Japanese cities, where large sites are hard to come by or at the frontier between art and architecture, small buildings present many advantages and push their designers to do more with less. A dollhouse for Calvin Klein in New York, a playhouse for children in Trondheim, pop-up stores for fashion stars, vacation cabins, and housing for victims of natural disasters are all part of the new rush to develop the great small architecture. Bargain priced at $20, hardcover.

Plato’s Alarm Clock: And Other Amazing Ancient Inventions

Many of the ancients were much more advanced than we realize; there are recent inventions that had actually been discovered centuries earlier and then forgotten. From brain surgery in the Stone Age to Chinese whisky from the 7th century BC, to Damascus steel—one of the hardest metals in the world, which we no longer know how to make—this insightful book collects together the stories of hundreds of ancient devices, inventions, and breakthroughs from around the world and across the centuries. $16.95, hardcover.
NEW THIS WEEK
The Great Cities in History

This collection of essays by travel writers and historians tells the remarkable stories of cities from Uruk and Memphis to Barcelona and Tokyo. After visiting some of the astounding cities of the first millennium—Damascus, Baghdad, Teotihuacan, and Tikal—the book journeys to the medieval world, seeing the rise of powerful cities such as Palermo and Paris in Europe, Benin in Africa, and Angkor in Southeast Asia. The last two sections cover the early modern world up to contemporary cities such as London, New York, Los Angeles, and Sao Paulo. $16.95, paperback.

NEW THIS WEEK
The Banished Immortal: A Life of Li Bai

In his own time (701-762), Li Bai’s brilliant poems, shaped by Daoist thought and filled with an irrepressible lust for life, were never given their proper due. Nonetheless, his lines rang out on the lips of tavern singers, soldiers, and writers throughout the Tang dynasty, and his deep desire for a higher, more perfect world gave rise to his nickname: the Banished Immortal. This is an extraordinary biography of a poet whose ability to live, love, drink, dance, and mourn without reservation produced some of the world’s most enduring verses. $17, paperback.

NEW THIS WEEK
The War for Gaul: A New Translation

Here is a book about an unnecessary war written by the ruthless general of an occupying army, a dramatic propaganda piece that forces the reader to identify with the conquerors and designed, like the war itself, to fuel the political ambitions of the author. While letting Caesar tell his battle stories in his own way, classicist James O’Donnell also fills in the rest of the story in a substantial introduction and notes that explain why The War for Gaul is the “best bad man’s book ever written,” a great book that, as O’Donnell says, “gets war exactly right and morals exactly wrong.” $27.95, hardcover.

NEW THIS WEEK
Understanding Hieroglyphs: A Quick and Simple Guide

Just published and imported from the UK! If you’ve ever wanted to learn how to read hieroglyphs, this book is the perfect guide, teaching the basics about deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs with the help of hundreds of the most commonly used hieroglyphs arranged in easy-to-use tables with translations, plus examples from monuments, ancient documents, and museum exhibits. Fully illustrated throughout with line drawings, tables, and maps, this guide will enthral anyone who craves the satisfaction of actually understanding the writing which adorns Egyptian monuments and artifacts. $24.95, hardcover.
NEW THIS WEEK

The Club: Johnson, Boswell, and the Friends Who Shaped an Age

In 1763, the painter Joshua Reynolds proposed to his friend Samuel Johnson that they invite a few friends to join them every Friday at the Turk’s Head Tavern in London to dine, drink, and talk until midnight. The group came to include among its members Edmund Burke, Adam Smith, Edward Gibbon, and James Boswell. With the friendship of the “odd couple” Samuel Johnson and James Boswell at the heart of his narrative, Damrosch conjures up the exciting, often brutal world of late 18th-century Britain and an extraordinary group who helped to shape their age and our own. $20, paperback.

Hieronymus Bosch: The Complete Works of Life

Carlos Museum Bookshop best seller! Only 20 paintings and eight drawings are confidently assigned to this Netherlandish painter but in their fantastical visions they have secured his place as one of the most cultish artists in history. This beautiful compact edition offers the complete and haunting Bosch world through full spreads and carefully curated details, encountering his hybrid creatures, his nightmarish scenarios, his religious and moral framework, and his pictorial versions of contemporary proverbs and idioms. Along the way, art historian and Bosch expert Stefan Fischer reveals the most important themes and influences in these cryptic, mesmerizing masterpieces. Bargain price: $19.98, hardcover.

The Living Mountain: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria, and Hubris

Scottish nature writer Nan Shepherd encounters a world that can be breathtakingly beautiful at times and shockingly harsh at others, as her intensely poetic prose exploring and records the rocks, rivers, creatures, and hidden aspects of this remarkable landscape. She spent a lifetime in search of the “essential nature” of the Cairngorms; her quest led her to write this classic meditation (written during World War II) on the magnificence of mountains and on our imaginative relationship with the wild world around us. $22, hardcover.

How can we understand the COVID-19 pandemic? In The Pandemic Century, a lively account of scares both infamous and less known, a medical historian combines reportage with the history of science and medical sociology to artfully reconstruct epidemiological mysteries and the ecology of infectious diseases. We meet dedicated disease detectives, obstructive or incompetent public health officials, and brilliant scientists often blinded by their own knowledge of bacteria and viruses—and see how fear of disease often exacerbates racial, religious, and ethnic tensions. $17.95, paperback.
**Van Eyck**

Coffee table book of the year! Van Eyck lifted oil painting to previously unknown heights and helped determine the course of Western art. In 2020 the Museum of Fine Arts Ghent planned the largest ever exhibition of Van Eyck’s work. This lavishly illustrated catalogue unravels some of the myths that surround Van Eyck and his technique while showing his complete oeuvre and his influence in a new perspective, especially the eight restored exterior panels of the Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, from St Bavo’s Cathedral in Ghent. Click here to see sample pages. $85, hardcover.

**Slime: How Algae Created Us, Plague Us, and Just Might Save Us**

Algae created the Earth we know today, with its oxygen-rich atmosphere, abundant oceans, and coral reefs. Here we’ll meet the algae innovators working toward a sustainable future from seaweed farmers in South Korea, to scientists using it to clean the dead zones in our waterways, to the entrepreneurs fighting to bring algae fuel and plastics to market. Ruth Kassinger takes readers on an around-the-world, behind-the-scenes, and into-the-kitchen tour of cutting-edge slime technology. $16.99, paperback.

**Bunk: The Rise of Hoaxes, Humbug, Plagiarists, Phonies, Post-Facts, and Fake News**

This fascinating history of the hoax as a peculiarly American phenomenon examines what motivates hucksters and makes the rest of us so gullible. Disturbingly, the author (the former poetry curator in Emory’s Rose Library) finds that fakery is woven from stereotype and suspicion, race being the most insidious American hoax of all. From pretend Native Americans Grey Owl and Nasdijj to the deadly imposture of Clark Rockefeller and the made-up memoirs of James Frey, this book examines the ways that forgers, plagiarists, and fakers sell us lies about themselves and about the world. $18, paperback.

**Beyond the Nile: Egypt and the Classical World**

This milestone publication accompanied the 2018 international exhibition at the Getty, displaying the constantly evolving dynamics of cultural exchange, first between Egyptians and Greeks—during the Bronze Age, then the Archaic and Classical periods of Greece, and finally Ptolemaic Egypt—and later, when Egypt passed to Roman rule with the defeat of Cleopatra. With gorgeous photographs of more than 200 rare objects, including frescoes, statues, obelisks, jewelry, papyri, pottery, and coins. $65, hardcover.
**Art Africa**

Newly published! The common ground of the expressive objects in this anthology is their African origin; however, little is known about the artists who created them. On their journey through space and time the context in which these works of art must be seen has changed and thus their meaning has, too. Here they are brought together by ethnologist, art historian, and curator Franziska Bolz in a fascinating panorama of African art, at a bargain price. $14.95, paperback.

**Alaric the Goth: An Outsider’s History of the Fall of Rome**

New! Stigmatized and relegated to the margins of Roman society, the Goths were violent “barbarians” who destroyed “civilization,” at least in the conventional story of Rome’s collapse. But a slight shift of perspective brings their history shockingly alive. Alaric grew up near the river border that separated Gothic territory from Roman. In stark contrast to the rising bigotry, intolerance, and zealotry among Romans during Alaric’s lifetime, the Goths, as practicing Christians, valued religious pluralism and tolerance. Marginalized and demonized, Alaric and the Goths rioted for three nights and struck fear into the hearts of the powerful. $26.95, hardcover.

**Enlightened Contemporaries: Francis, Dōgen, & Rūmī, Three Great Mystics of the Thirteenth Century and Why They Matter Today**

Linking Christian, Buddhist, and Islamic mystical teachings within a vibrant historical context, this newly published study shows how these three spiritual masters, all alive during the same century, not only complement each other but also remain profoundly relevant in the 21st century. It also deftly examines how they all engaged the world in the context of five shared themes: spiritual love, nature, the body, the role of women, and balancing retreat from society with active involvement. $16.95, paperback.

**Freedom: The Overthrowing of the Slave Empires**

This new study focuses not on abolitionism or the brutality and suffering of slavery, but on the resistance of the enslaved themselves—from sabotage and absconding to full-blown uprisings—and its impact in overthrowing slavery. The author also looks at the whole Atlantic world, including the Spanish Empire and Brazil, all of which revolved around the enslavement of 12 million Africans. Yet it declined, collapsed, and was destroyed by a complexity of forces that, to this day, remains disputed, but there is no doubting that it was in large part defeated by those it had enslaved. $27.95, hardcover.
Just published! In 668 BC, Ashurbanipal inherited the largest empire in the world, which stretched from the shores of the eastern Mediterranean to the mountains of western Iran, ruling from his massive capital at Nineveh in present-day Iraq. This survey features images of objects excavated from all corners of the empire and highlights the British Museum’s unrivaled collection of Assyrian reliefs, bringing to life the tumultuous story of Ashurbanipal’s reign: his conquest of Egypt, the crushing defeat of his rebellious brother, and his ruthless campaign against the Elamite rulers of southwest Iran. $45, paperback.

Follow an epic animal race, a quest for a disembodied hand, and an emu egg hunt in constellation stories from diverse cultures. A world expert on cultural understandings of cosmology, Anthony Aveni provides an unconventional atlas of the night sky, introducing readers to tales beloved for generations. The constellations included are not only the typical Greek and Roman myths but also star patterns conceived by a host of cultures, non-Western and indigenous, ancient and contemporary. $26, hardcover.

Caravaggios, Rembrandts, Monets, the works of immortal artists … behind many of these brilliant paintings and sculptures are fascinating, unique histories, and award-winning writer Harvey Rachlin relates in exciting detail how nearly 30 of these works came to be created and how they survived burglary, forgery, revolutions, ransoms, vandals, scandals, religious sects, and shipwrecks to eventually come to their current resting places. $15, paperback.

Newly published! This beautifully illustrated book looks at the wealth of floral associations that has been passed down in perfumes, poems, and paintings; in the design of buildings, clothes, and jewelry; in nearly every religious, social, and political ritual. Exploring the first daffodils of spring and the last chrysanthemums of autumn, this is also a book about seasons. The author considers how the sunflower, poppy, rose, lily, and many other flowers have given rise to meaning, value, and inspiration throughout history, and why they are integral to so many different cultures. $22, hardcover.
Most of the Africans who were enslaved and brought to the Americas were from the Yoruba nation of West Africa, an ancient and vast civilization. In the diaspora caused by the slave trade, the guiding concepts of the Yoruba spiritual tradition took root in Haiti, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Brazil, and the US. This book provides an overview of the fascinating Yoruba tradition and its influence in the West. The book also includes prayers, dances, songs, offerings, and sacrifices to honor the Orisha. $16.95, paperback.

While “fat” describes the size and shape of bodies—their appearance—our negative reactions to corpulence also depend on something tangible and tactile. This unusual history offers reflections on how fat has been perceived and imagined in the West since antiquity. Featuring fascinating historical accounts as well as philosophical, religious, and cultural analyses, the book digs deep into the past for the roots of our current notions and prejudices. By exploring the complex ways in which fat, fatness, and fattening have been perceived over time, this book provides rich insights into the stuff our stereotypes are made of. $32, hardcover.

Just published! Mushrooms are only fruiting bodies, analogous to apples on a tree. Most fungi live out of sight, yet they make up a massively diverse kingdom of organisms that support and sustain nearly all living systems. In Entangled Life, the biologist Merlin Sheldrake shows us the world from a fungal point of view. Sheldrake’s vivid exploration takes us from yeast to psychedelics, to the fungi that range for miles underground and are the largest organisms on the planet to those that link plants together in complex networks known as the “Wood Wide Web.” Fungi throw our concepts of individuality and even intelligence into question. They are metabolic masters, earth makers, and key players in most of life’s processes. $28, hardcover.

Author and novelist Paul Kingsnorth was once an ardent environmentalist who fought against the depredations of a corporate world that seemed hell-bent on ignoring a looming climate crisis. But as the environmental movement began to focus on “sustainability” rather than the defense of wild places for their own sake and as global conditions worsened, he grew disenchanted with it. Full of grief and fury as well as passionate, lyrical evocations of nature and the wild, this book gathers the wave-making essays that have charted the change in Kingsnorth’s thinking. Here he articulates a vision of “dark ecology,” which stands in opposition to the belief that technology can save us, and he argues for a renewed balance between the human and nonhuman worlds. $16, paperback.
Newly published! Mathematics has always been a way of understanding and ordering the world, from sacred ancient texts and pre-Socratic philosophers to 20th-century logicians such as Russell and Frege and beyond. Here, Italian mathematician Paolo Zellini offers a brief cultural and intellectual history of mathematics from ancient Greece to India to our contemporary obsession with algorithms, showing how mathematical thinking is inextricably linked with philosophical, existential, and religious questions—and indeed with our cosmic understanding of the world. $27.95, hardcover.


Historian Jean Manco makes the latest genetic data—typically only available in scholarly research—engaging and accessible to the general reader and reveals data that have overturned the suppositions of population continuity that until recently were popular among geneticists and archaeologists. The result is an exciting new history of the English people and an entertaining analysis of their development. Featuring illustrations and charts to explain the recent research, this book is for anyone who is interested in the history of English ancestry and language. $16.95, paperback.

The Art of War Visualized: The Sun Tzu Classic in Charts and Graphs

Sun Tzu’s classic study of strategy and tactics is presented here as it’s never been read before, illustrated with 200 of award-winning cartoonist Jessica Hagy’s uniquely thought-provoking charts and graphs, making the 2,500-year old text accessible to a new generation of students, entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, seekers, and lovers of games and game theory. She knows how to communicate not only ideas but also the complex process of thinking itself, complete with its twists and surprises. For The Art of War Visualized, she presents her vision in evocative ink-brush art and bold typography. The result is page after page in which each passage of the complete canonical text (in its best-known Lionel Giles translation) visually interpreted in a singular diagram, chart, or other illustration, making the classic dazzlingly accessible for a new generation of readers. $14.95, paperback.

Gustav Klimt: Drawings and Paintings

One of our best-selling books of all time! In this beautiful and inexpensively priced monograph from the German publisher Taschen, all of Klimt’s major works are gathered alongside authoritative art historical commentary to trace the evolution of his astonishing oeuvre. With top quality illustration, we follow Klimt through his prominent role in the Secessionist movement of 1897, his candid rendering of the female body, and his lustrous golden phase when gold leaf brought a shimmering tone and texture to such beloved works as The Kiss and Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer I. $19.98, hardcover.
Emperor: A New Life of Charles V

The life of Emperor Charles V (1500-1558), ruler of Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, and much of Italy and Central and South America, has long intrigued biographers. But the elusive nature of the man and the control of his own image, together with the complexity of governing the world’s first transatlantic empire, complicate the task. One of the world’s leading historians of early modern Europe explores the crucial decisions that created and preserved this vast empire, analyzes Charles’s achievements within the context of both personal and structural factors, and scrutinizes the intimate details of the ruler’s life for clues to his character and inclinations. $35, hardcover.

Abandoned Places

Belgian airline pilot Henk Van Rensbergen indulged a passion for finding and photographing the most wonderful, secret, haunting, and long forgotten places in the world. While his crew was resting at the pool between flights, he explored deserted city palaces, overgrown factories, or desolate areas of nature, finding beauty in the decay. This engaging book of photographs, a revised edition with new material, lets us wander through abandoned places, including Abkhazia, a breakaway region bordering Georgia and Russia and the newest must-visit for every urban explorer. $22.50, hardcover.

Caravaggio: The Complete Works

Each painting of Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1571-1610) appears from recent top-quality photography, allowing for a vivid encounter with the artist’s ingenious repertoire of looks and gestures as well as numerous detail shots of his boundary-breaking naturalism, whether a grubby foot or the soft folds of a sagging stomach. Five accompanying chapters trace the complete arc of Caravaggio’s career from his first public commissions in Rome to his growing celebrity status, while the book’s detailed chronology traces his tempestuous personal life, in which drama loomed as prominently as in his chiaroscuro canvases. 

Bargain price: $19.98, hardcover.

What Great Paintings Say: 100 Masterpieces in Detail

This important addition to our understanding of art history’s masterworks puts some of the world’s most famous paintings under a magnifying glass to uncover their smallest and subtlest elements as well as what they reveal about a bygone time, place, and culture. Guiding our eye to the minutiae of subject and symbolism, this bestselling study allows even the most familiar of pictures to be rediscovered through myriad intricacies and intrigues. As we pick apart each painting and then reassemble it like a giant jigsaw puzzle, these celebrated canvases captivate not only in their sheer wealth of details but also in the witness they bear to the fashions and trends, people and politics, and loves and lifestyles of their time.

Bargain price: $19.98, hardcover.
If all goes well, human history is just beginning. Our species could survive for billions of years — enough time to end disease, poverty, and injustice and to flourish in ways unimaginable today.

But with the advent of nuclear weapons, humanity entered a new age, where we face self-made existential catastrophes: climate change, engineered pathogens, and artificial intelligence. Oxford University philosopher Toby Ord explores the cutting-edge science and shows how ending these risks is among the most pressing moral issues of our time. $30, hardcover.

Julian Baggini sets out to expand our horizons, exploring the philosophies of Japan, India, China, and the Muslim world as well as the lesser-known oral traditions of Africa and Australia’s first peoples. Interviewing thinkers from around the globe, Baggini asks questions such as: why is the West more individualistic than the East? What makes secularism a less powerful force in the Islamic world than in Europe? And how has China resisted pressures for greater political freedom? $12.99, paperback.
**Notes from an Apocalypse: A Personal Journey to the End of the World and Back**

In a time of worst-case scenarios, Dublin-based writer Mark O’Connell is consumed by what the future holds and, as the father of two young children, he finds the years ahead increasingly urgent. With an appropriate sense of the absurd, he crosses the globe in pursuit of answers, touring survival bunkers in South Dakota, ventures to New Zealand where billionaires are retreating and banking on civilization’s collapse, and engages with would-be Mars colonists, preppers, and right-wing conspiracists. And he bears witness to those places, like Chernobyl, that the future has already visited—real-life portraits of the end of the world as we know it. $27.95, hardcover.

**The Ends of the World: Volcanic Apocalypses, Lethal Oceans, and Our Quest to Understand Earth’s Past Mass Extinctions**

Using the visible clues five past devastations have left behind in the fossil record, *The Ends of the World* takes us inside “scenes of the crime” from South Africa to the New York Palisades to tell the story of each extinction. Brannen examines the fossil record—which is rife with creatures like dragonflies the size of sea gulls and guillotine-mouthed fish—and introduces us to the researchers on the front lines who, using the forensic tools of modern science, are piecing together what really happened at the crime scenes of the Earth’s biggest whodunits. $16.99, paperback.

**The Madness of Knowledge: On Wisdom, Ignorance, and Fantasies of Knowing**

Many human beings have considered the powers and the limits of human knowledge, but few have wondered about the power that the idea of knowledge has over us. Here is the first book to investigate this emotional inner life of knowledge: the lusts, fantasies, dreams, and fears that the idea of knowing provokes; in-depth discussions of the imperious will to know; Freud’s *epistemophilia* (or love of knowledge); and the curiously insistent links between madness, magical thinking, and the desire for knowledge. $35, hardcover.

**Irrationality: A History of the Dark Side of Reason**

From sex and music to religion and war, irrationality makes up the greater part of human life and history. Challenging conventional thinking about logic, natural reason, dreams, art and science, pseudoscience, the Enlightenment, the internet, jokes, lies, and death, *Irrationality* shows how history reveals that any triumph of reason is temporary and reversible, and that rational schemes, notably including many from Silicon Valley, often result in their polar opposite. Illuminating unreason at a moment when the world appears to have gone mad again, *Irrationality* is fascinating, provocative, and timely. $29.99, hardcover.
In the summer of 1885, three Frenchmen arrived in London for a few days’ intellectual shopping: a prince, a count, and a commoner with an Italian name. Julian Barnes unfurls the stories of their lives which play out against the backdrop of the Belle Époque in Paris. In this vivid tapestry of people (Henry James, Sarah Bernhardt, Oscar Wilde, Proust, James Whistler, among many others), place, and time, we have a fresh portrait of the Belle Époque; an illuminating look at the longstanding exchange of ideas between Britain and France; and a life of a man who lived passionately in the moment but whose ideas and achievements were far ahead of his time. $26.95, hardcover.

Art has the power to change our lives. For many, becoming an artist is a lifelong dream. But how to make it happen? In *How to Be an Artist*, art critic Jerry Saltz of *New York* magazine, one of the art world’s most celebrated and passionate voices, offers an indispensable handbook for creative people of all kinds. Saltz offers invaluable insight into what really matters to emerging artists: originality, persistence, a balance between knowledge and intuition, and that most precious of qualities, self-belief. Teeming with full-color artwork from visionaries ancient and modern, this beautiful and useful book will help artists of all kinds—painters, photographers, writers, performers—realize their dreams. $22, hardcover.

What enabled us to go from simple stone tools to smart phones? How did bands of hunter-gatherers evolve into multinational empires? In *Transcendence*, Gaia Vince argues that modern humans are the product of a nuanced coevolution of our genes, environment, and culture that goes back into deep time. She explains how, through four key elements—fire, language, beauty, and time—our species diverged from the evolutionary path of all other animals, unleashing a compounding process that turned itself into something marvelous. $30, hardcover.
Real princesses didn’t always get happy endings. Sure, plenty were graceful and benevolent leaders, but just as many were ruthless in their quest for power, and all of them had skeletons rattling in their majestic closets. Princess Stephanie von Hohenlohe was a Nazi spy. Empress Elisabeth of the Austro-Hungarian Empire slept wearing a mask of raw veal. Princess Olga of Kiev slaughtered her way to sainthood. And Princess Lakshmibai waged war on the battlefield with her toddler strapped to her back. $16.99, paperback.

Best seller! This thrilling history tracks three crucial books as they were passed hand to hand through seven cities over a thousand years. After the great library at Alexandria was destroyed, Baghdad, Cordoba, Toledo, Salerno, and Palermo were rare outposts of knowledge in a dark world. We enter into the sparkling intellectual life that flourished there, especially noting the role played by Arab scholars in improving the cornerstone ideas of Western thought, and how foundational works on math, astronomy, and medicine by Euclid, Ptolemy, and Galen eventually reached Venice, the major center of scientific printing, where their legacy was assured. $17.95, paperback.

Real princesses didn’t always get happy endings. Sure, plenty were graceful and benevolent leaders, but just as many were ruthless in their quest for power, and all of them had skeletons rattling in their majestic closets. Princess Stephanie von Hohenlohe was a Nazi spy. Empress Elisabeth of the Austro-Hungarian Empire slept wearing a mask of raw veal. Princess Olga of Kiev slaughtered her way to sainthood. And Princess Lakshmibai waged war on the battlefield with her toddler strapped to her back. $16.99, paperback.

Newly published! In the ancient world, if you needed a love charm, wanted to contact your dead wife, or needed the ability to fly like a bird, the magicians of Egypt were the ones who could make it happen. Historian Christina Riggs explores how the Egyptians thought about magic, who performed it and why, and helps readers understand why we’ve come to think of ancient Egypt in such a mystical way. Here you can learn how to cure scorpion bites as well as ensure that an annoying neighbor gets his comeuppance, and learn how to save a fortune on pregnancy tests—urinating on barley grains will answer that question. $24.95, hardcover.
A Carlos Museum Bookshop best seller! In this fresh approach to the history of the Black Death, John Hatcher, a world-renowned scholar of the Middle Ages, recreates everyday life in a mid-14th-century rural English village. By focusing on the experiences of ordinary villagers as they lived and died during the Black Death (1345–50 AD), Hatcher vividly places the reader directly into those tumultuous years and describes in fascinating detail the day-to-day existence of people struggling with the tragic effects of the plague. Dramatic scenes portray how contemporaries must have experienced and thought about the momentous events—and how they tried to make sense of it all. $18, paperback.

Perhaps the most spectacular of all Greek vases, the Sarpedon krater—looted from an Etruscan tomb in 1971—depicts the body of Sarpedon, a hero of the Trojan War, being carried away to his homeland for burial. It was decorated some 2,500 years ago by Athenian artist Euphronios, and its subsequent history involves tomb raiding, intrigue, duplicity, litigation, international outrage, and possibly even homicide. Nigel Spivey explores this history in a concise, stylish book that braids together the creation and adventures of this extraordinary object with an exploration of its abiding influence as a stellar work of Greek art. $25, hardcover.

Here is Toni Morrison in her own words—a rich gathering of her most important essays and speeches spanning four decades. These pages give us her searing prayer for the dead of 9/11, her Nobel lecture on the power of language, her searching meditation on Martin Luther King Jr., and her heart-wrenching eulogy for James Baldwin. She looks deeply into the fault lines of culture and freedom: the foreigner, female empowerment, the press, money, “black matter(s),” human rights, the artist in society, and the Afro-American presence in American literature. $16.95, paperback.

Could there be a civilization on a mote of dust? How much of your fate have you made? Using pleasingly paradoxical vignettes known as koans, which follow the ancient Zen tradition and have a flair for explaining complex science, physicist Anthony Aguirre tackles cosmic questions from the meaning of quantum theory and the nature of time to the origin of multiple universes, inviting the reader into an intellectual adventure of the highest order. Bestselling author/physicist Carlo Rovelli calls this “a gem of a book.” $18.95, paperback.
Is there an art to drinking alcohol? The Renaissance humanist Vincent Obsopoeus (ca. 1498-1539) thought so. In the wine-lands of 16th-century Germany, he witnessed the birth of a poisonous new culture of bingeing, hazing, peer pressure, and competitive drinking. Alarmed, and inspired by the Roman poet Ovid’s *Art of Love*, he wrote this how-to manual for drinking with pleasure and discrimination. Newly published, the latest in Princeton’s series of classical manuals for living and dealing with living. $16.95, hardcover.

Tu Fu (712-770 C.E.) has for a millennium been widely considered the greatest poet in the Chinese tradition. Most of Tu Fu’s best poems were written in the last decade of his life, as an impoverished refugee fleeing the devastation of civil war. In the midst of these challenges, his always personal poems manage to combine a remarkable range of possibilities: elegant simplicity and great complexity, everyday life and grand historical drama, private philosophical depth and social engagement in a world consumed by war. Gary Snyder wrote: “Tu Fu said ‘A poet’s ideas are noble and simple.’ But Tu Fu does not seem so simple to us. One of the world’s finest poets is made available here.” $18.95, paperback.

This international best-seller is an encyclopedic A-Z masterpiece, the perfect introduction to the very core of Western humanism. Author Clive James rescues, or occasionally destroys, the careers of many of the greatest thinkers, humanists, musicians, artists, and philosophers of the twentieth century. Soaring to Montaigne-like heights, *Cultural Amnesia* is precisely the book to burnish these memories of a Western civilization that James fears is nearly lost. $19.95, paperback.

Carefully curated, these 200 plus poems feature Oliver’s work from her very first book of poetry, *No Voyage and Other Poems*, published in 1963 at the age of 28, through her most recent collection, *Felicity*, published in 2015. This timeless volume, arranged by Oliver herself, showcases the beloved poet at her edifying best. Within these pages, she provides us with an extraordinary and invaluable collection of her passionate, perceptive, and much-treasured observations of the natural world. $30, hardcover.
In Bed with the Romans

This fascinating and intimate insight into ancient Egyptian sex and sexuality demystifies an ancient way of life, drawing on archaeological evidence and the written record to build a picture of what really went on in the bedrooms of the pharaohs and their subjects. Sex was a prominent part of ancient Egyptian society, featuring heavily in religion, mythology and artwork. Many of the trials and tribulations that were faced are as relevant today as they were in the past: marriage, divorce, and adultery are all discussed as well as prostitution, homosexuality, sexual health, and fertility. $16.95, paperback.

In Bed with the Ancient Egyptians

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