Support the museum with the purchase of a Bookshop gift card

Let your friends know you’re thinking of them with a gift card to one of Atlanta’s most inventively curated bookstores, or purchase one for yourself in support of the Carlos Museum and in anticipation of leisurely browsing.

Available in denominations of $25 and $50.

The Carlos Museum Bookshop: New and favorite books for adults

HOW TO ORDER

Please email your request and/or general questions with your shipping address and phone number to Bookshop Manager Mark Burell at mburell@emory.edu, and you will receive a call to process your order.

Most orders for books in stock will be shipped within five business days. If a book is temporarily sold out, it may take longer to fulfill orders due to current shipping delays, but orders will be processed as quickly as possible.

Free curbside pickup options are now available three days a week by appointment. If you are unable to come by for pickup, we can sometimes deliver for free to local addresses within a four mile radius of the museum.

Click HERE for lists of great books about books, books for coping with crisis, books of world folktales and myths, and books for kids.

Remember, all purchases support the Carlos Museum, so stock up today!

NEW THIS WEEK

Vesper Flights

Lowest Flights

Just published! Best-selling author of *H is for Hawk* Helen Macdonald brings together a collection of her best loved essays, along with new pieces on topics ranging from nostalgia for a vanishing countryside to the tribulations of farming ostriches to her own private vespers while trying to fall asleep. Meditating on notions of captivity and freedom, immigration and flight, Macdonald invites us into her most intimate experiences: observing songbirds from the Empire State Building as they migrate through the Tribute of Light, watching tens of thousands of cranes in Hungary, seeking the last golden orioles in Suffolk’s poplar forests, and the unexpected guidance and comfort we find when watching wildlife. $27, hardcover.

NEW THIS WEEK

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents

Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people’s lives and behavior and the nation’s fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people like Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball’s Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, even Wilkerson herself, she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. Beautifully written, original, and revealing. $32, hardcover.
Beginning in 17th-century Mecca and Medina, this new book takes us around the globe: through 11th-century Yemen and Khorasan, into 16th-century Spain, Istanbul, and India, to 19th-century Persia and the African savannah, through 20th-century Russia, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq, before finally arriving in present-day Europe and America. From the first believer, Khadija, and the other women who witnessed the formative years of Islam to award-winning architect Zaha Hadid in the 21st-century, Hossein Kamaly celebrates the lives and groundbreaking achievements of these extraordinary women in the history of Islam. $24.95, hardcover.

The culture of irezumi is deep and rich in meanings, shapes and motifs that have gone from color woodblock prints to being applied to the skin to beautify and protect their bearers. This richly illustrated book reveals the meaning and the secrets behind the most significant motifs from traditional Japanese tattooing such as mythological and supernatural creatures, animals, Buddhist deities, flowers, and historical characters. The origin and meaning of each visual representation is discussed with a brief review of the history of Japanese tattoo art, followed by each subject with a gallery of original designs by the author and a glossary. $29.95, hardcover.

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.

The ancient world of the Mediterranean and the Near East saw the birth and collapse of great civilizations. While several of these are well known, for all those that have been recorded, many have been unjustly forgotten. This thorough guide explores those civilizations that have faded from the pages of our textbooks but played a significant role in the development of modern society. From the Hyksos to the Hethitites and everyone in between, this new book provides a unique overview of humanity’s history from approximately 3000 BC-550 AD. A wide range of illustrated artifacts and artworks as well as specially drawn maps help to tell the stories of 40 lost peoples and allow readers to take a direct look into the past. $34.95, hardcover.
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.

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.

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.
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.

Plato’s Alarm Clock: And Other Amazing Ancient Inventions

Many of the ancients were much more advanced that 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—once the hardest metal 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.

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.
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; and 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.
Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures

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.

Strange Rites: New Religions for a Godless World

People are looking elsewhere for the intensity and unity that religion once provided, making their own personal faiths—theistic or not—mixing and matching spiritual, ritualistic, personal, and political practices in order to create their own bespoke religious selves. In so doing, we’re carrying on a longstanding American tradition of religious eclecticism, DIY-innovation and “unchurched” piety. Our era is not the dawn of American secularism but rather a brand-bolstered resurgence of American pluralism, revved into overdrive by commerce and personalized algorithms. $28, hardcover.

How to Read Art: A Crash Course in Understanding and Interpreting Paintings

Carlos Museum best seller! This charmingly illustrated, highly informative field guide to understanding art history explains the aesthetics of schools of painting from the Renaissance masters and Impressionists to the Cubists and Modernists. In the first part of the book, the author reveals how to read paintings by considering five key areas: shape and support, style and medium, compositional devices, genre, and the meaning of recurring motifs and symbols. The second part explores fifty paintings through extracted details, accompanied by insightful commentary, training the reader and viewer to understand context and discover meaning within art. $18.95, paperback.

Fat: A Cultural History of the Stuff of Life

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.
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.

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.
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.

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.

This recent addition to the Yale *Little History* series tells the riveting stories of some of the great archaeologists and their amazing discoveries around the globe: ancient Egyptian tombs, Mayan ruins, the first colonial settlements at Jamestown, mysterious Stonehenge, the incredibly preserved Pompeii, and many, many more. In 40 brief, exciting chapters, the book recounts archaeology’s development from its 18th-century origins to its 21st-century technological advances. $15, paperback.

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. 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 is 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.

A Carlos Museum Bookshop favorite author! An endlessly fascinating work of scientific thought and synthesis, this is famed naturalist Edward O. Wilson’s 21st-century statement on Darwinian evolution. Asserting that religious creeds and philosophical questions can be reduced to purely genetic and evolutionary components, and that the human body and mind have a physical base obedient to the laws of physics and chemistry, Wilson demonstrates that the only way for us to fully understand human behavior is to study the evolutionary histories of nonhuman species, many of them found to have advanced societies based on altruism and cooperation. $15.95, paperback.

Frédéric Chaubin’s award-winning architectural curiosity, Cosmic Communist Constructions Photographed, explores 90 buildings in 14 former Soviet Republics. In their puzzle of styles and their outlandish strategies, these buildings are extraordinary remnants of a collapsing Soviet Russian system. At the same time, they immortalize many of the ideological dreams of the country and its time, from an obsession with the cosmos to the rebirth of identity. **Bargain price: $19.98**, hardcover.
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.

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.
Princesses Behaving Badly 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 neighborhood gets its comeuppance, and learn how to save a fortune on pregnancy tests—urinating on barley grains will answer that question. $24.95, hardcover.
The Black Death: A Personal History

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.

The Sarpedon Krater: The Life and Afterlife of a Greek Vase

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.

The Source of Self Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations

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.

Cosmological Koans: A Journey to the Heart of Physical Reality

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.

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 enthrall anyone who craves the satisfaction of actually understanding the writing which adorns Egyptian monuments and artifacts. $24.95, hardcover.
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.

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.

Far more than merely another history of exploration, The Boundless Sea shows how maritime networks gradually formed a continuum of interaction and interconnection. Working chronologically, Abulafia moves from the earliest forays of peoples taking hand-hewn canoes into uncharted waters to the routes taken daily by supertankers in the thousands. History on the grandest scale and scope, written with passion and precision, this is a project few could have undertaken. Abulafia, whom The Atlantic calls “superb writer with a gift for lucid compression and an eye for the telling detail,” proves again why he ranks as one of the world’s greatest storytellers. $39.95, hardcover.

A comprehensive story of coffee from its discovery on a hill in ancient Abyssinia to the advent of Starbucks. Mark Pendergrast (bestselling author of For God, Country & Coca-Cola) reviews the dramatic changes in coffee culture over the past decade from the disastrous “coffee crisis” that caused global prices to plummet to the rise of the Fair Trade movement and the “third-wave” of quality-obsessed coffee connoisseurs. As the scope of coffee culture continues to expand, Uncommon Grounds remains more than ever a brilliantly entertaining guide to the currents of one of the world’s favorite beverages. $24.99, paperback.
The Secret Lives of Color

Kassia St. Clair’s best-selling book turns her lifelong obsession with colors and where they come from (Van Gogh’s chrome yellow sunflowers or punk’s fluorescent pink, for example) into a unique study of human civilization. A former assistant books and arts editor at The Economist, her popular columns on color for Elle Decoration sparked this book. $20, hardcover.

The Golden Thread: How Fabric Changed History

From colorful 30,000-year-old threads found on the floor of a Georgian cave to the Indian calicoes that sparked the Industrial Revolution, The Golden Thread weaves an illuminating story of human ingenuity. Design journalist Kassia St. Clair guides us through the technology and cultural customs that would redefine human civilization, as fabric allowed mankind to achieve extraordinary things (traverse the oceans and shatter athletic records) and survive in unlikely places (outer space and the South Pole). She peoples her story with a motley cast of characters, including an ancient Chinese empress credited with inventing silk, Richard the Lionheart, and Bing Crosby. $23.95, hardcover.

The Rumi Prescription: How an Ancient Mystic Poet Changed My Modern Manic Life

To writer, activist, and Emory alumna, Melody Moezzi, Rumi’s writings became a lifeline. In The Rumi Prescription, we follow her path of discovery as she translates Rumi’s works for herself—to gain wisdom and insight in the face of a creative and spiritual roadblock. With the help of her father, who is a lifelong fan of Rumi’s poetry, she immerses herself in this rich body of work, and discovers a 13th-century prescription for modern life. $27, hardcover.

Mythos: The Greek Myths Reimagined

A new modern collection of Greek myths stylishly retold by legendary writer, actor, and comedian Stephen Fry. Fry transforms the adventures of Zeus and the Olympians into emotionally resonant and deeply funny stories without losing any of their original wonder. $29.95, hardcover.
This book by noted Egyptologist Toby Wilkinson includes stories of god-kings from great rulers such as Khufu and Ramesses II to less famous monarchs such as Amenemhat I and Osorkon; powerful queens such as Tiye, the beautiful Nefertiti, and the infamous Cleopatra as well as ordinary women who are often overlooked in official accounts: Hemira, a humble priestess from a provincial Delta town, and Naunakht, whose will reveals the trials and tribulations of family life. $16.95, paperback.

Hatshepsut, Nefertiti, and Cleopatra controlled the totalitarian state as power-brokers and rulers. Egyptologist Kara Cooney delivers a fascinating tale of female power, exploring the reasons why it has seldom been allowed through the ages—and why we should care. $16.99 paperback.

Boudica, or Boadicea, queen of the Iceni, led a famous revolt against Roman rule in Britain in 60 AD, sacking London, Colchester, and St. Albans, and throwing the province into chaos. Although later defeated by the governor, Suetonius Paulinus, her rebellion sent a shock wave across the empire. This book is an account of what we know about the real woman from classical literature written for the consumption of readers in Rome, from the archaeological evidence, and from her extraordinary posthumous career as the earliest famous woman in British history. $29.95, paperback.

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.