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NEW THIS WEEK
Cities of the Classical World: An Atlas and Gazetteer of 120 Centres of Ancient Civilization

From Alexandria to York, this unique illustrated guide allows us to see the great centers of classical civilization afresh. The key feature of Cities of the Classical World is 120 specially drawn maps tracing each city’s thoroughfares and defenses, monuments and places of worship. Every map is to the same scale, allowing readers for the first time to appreciate visually the relative sizes of Babylon and Paris, London and Constantinople. There is also a clear, incisive commentary on each city’s development, strategic importance, rulers, and ordinary inhabitants. This compelling and elegant atlas opens a new window on to the ancient world and will transform the way we see it. $24.95, paperback.

NEW THIS WEEK
The Louvre: The Many Lives of the World’s Most Famous Museum

More than 7,000 years ago, men and women camped on a spot called le Louvre for reasons unknown; a clay quarry and a vineyard supported a society there in the first centuries AD. A thousand years later, King Philippe Auguste of France constructed a fortress there in 1191, just outside the walls of a city far smaller than the Paris we know today. During the French Revolution, it first opened its doors to display the nation’s treasures. Throughout the centuries, the Louvre has expanded to become home to a legendary collection whose often complicated and mysterious origins enliven a colorful narrative that rivals the building’s grand stature. $30, hardcover.
NEW THIS WEEK
The Europeans: Three Lives and the Making of a Cosmopolitan Culture

Drawing from a wealth of archival materials, historian Orlando Figes examines the interplay of money and art that produced the first age of cultural globalization. At the center of the story is a poignant love triangle: the Russian writer Ivan Turgenev; the Spanish prima donna Pauline Viardot, with whom Turgenev had a long relationship; and her husband Louis Viardot, an art critic, theater manager, and republican activist. Together, they acted as a kind of European cultural exchange: they either knew or crossed paths with Delacroix, Berlioz, Chopin, Brahms, Liszt, the Schumanns, Hugo, Flaubert, Dickens, and Dostoyevsky, among many other towering figures. $23, paperback.

NEW THIS WEEK
Lakota America: A New History of Indigenous Power

This first complete account of the Lakota Indians traces their rich and often surprising history from the early 16th to the early 21st century. The book explores the Lakotas’ roots as marginal hunter-gatherers and reveals how they re-invented themselves as a horse people who ruled supreme on the vast high plains. Red Cloud, Crazy Horse, and Sitting Bull are iconic figures in the American imagination, but in this ground-breaking book they emerge as something different: the architects of Lakota America, an expansive and enduring Indigenous regime that commanded human fates in the North American interior for generations. $22, paperback.

NEW THIS WEEK
Beowulf: A New Translation

Nearly 20 years after Seamus Heaney’s translation of Beowulf, and 50 years after the standard translation that continues to torment high school students around the world, there is a radical new verse translation of the epic poem by author Maria Dahvana Headley, which brings to light elements that have never before been translated into English. From its jarringly contemporary opening words—“Bro! Tell me we still know how to talk about kings!”—her brash translation uses modern slang and social media slang to revitalize this ancient story, while recontextualizing the binary narrative of monsters and heroes into a tale in which the two categories often entwine, justice is rarely served, and dragons live among us. $15, paperback.

NEW THIS WEEK
Warfare: The Definitive Visual History

The most wide-ranging and visually arresting history of wars and warfare ever published, this beautiful oversize book documents every major war or significant period of conflict in over 5,000 years of human history. A must-have reference gift for military enthusiasts and general readers alike, no other book about warfare contains such a diverse selection of imagery including contemporary paintings and photographs, objects and artifacts, and specially commissioned artworks, maps, and diagrams. $40, hardcover.
NEW THIS WEEK
Ex Libris: 100+ Books to Read and Reread

Selected and assayed for adventurous readers by the former chief book critic for The New York Times, this handsomely bound and illustrated collection recommends the best novels and memoirs by some of the most gifted writers working today; favorite classics worth rereading; and nonfiction works that illuminate our social and political landscape and some of today’s most pressing issues, from climate change to medicine to the consequences of digital innovation. There are essential works in American history (The Federalist Papers, speeches by Martin Luther King, Jr.); books that address timely cultural dynamics (Kolbert’s The Sixth Extinction, Boorstin’s The Image); classics of children’s literature (Harry Potter, Sendak); and novels by acclaimed contemporary writers like Don DeLillo, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Ian McEwan. $25, hardcover.

NEW THIS WEEK
The Poster: 200 Years of Art and History

The poster is a versatile marketing tool widely used from the 19th century to today for everything from political events to movies. A good poster has many layers, going beyond advertising to make statements about style, history, fashion, and taste. It is these layers that can turn a poster into a work of art. This beautifully illustrated and comprehensive history showcases 480 posters by more than 200 artists and designers. The book includes Art Nouveau, Bauhaus, Pop Art, and contemporary posters from preeminent artists such as Alphonse Mucha, Egon Schiele, Pablo Picasso, and Andy Warhol as well as from noted designers ranging from Lucian Bernhard to Saul Bass. $60, hardcover.

NEW THIS WEEK
7 Greeks

This important translation by one-of-a-kind author and critic Guy Davenport features a variety of works by seven Greek poets and philosophers who lived from the 8th to the 3rd centuries BC. Salvaged from shattered pottery vases and tattered scrolls of papyrus, everything decipherable from the remains of these ancient authors is assembled here. The collection features Archilochos; Sappho; Alkman; Anakreon; the philosophers Herakleitos and Diogenes; and Herondas. Davenport was described by Bookforum magazine as having left behind “an oeuvre that is one long lesson in the history of civilization, and to read any part of it—story, essay, or translation—is to be enthralled by his unflagging intellectual energy and engagement.” $17.95, paperback.

NEW THIS WEEK
Solutions and Other Problems

For the first time in seven years, Allie Brosh—beloved author and artist of the extraordinary #1 New York Times bestseller Hyperbole and a Half—returns with a new collection of comedic, autobiographical, and illustrated essays. Solutions and Other Problems includes humorous stories from Allie Brosh’s childhood: the adventures of her very bad animals; merciless dissection of her own character flaws; incisive essays on grief, loneliness, and powerlessness; as well as reflections on the absurdity of modern life. $30, hardcover.
NEW THIS WEEK
The Aztecs

The Aztec Empire was known as an alliance between the three city-states of Mexico (Tenochtitlan, Texcoco, and Tlacopan) from 1428 to 1521. These three city-states oversaw the area in and around the valley of Mexico and controlled most of central Mexico. This beautifully illustrated book showcases the beauty and artistry of the Aztec culture with unpublished finds such as rare feather shields, impressive stone sculptures, precious mosaic masks, and gold works as well as brilliantly colored, illustrated manuscripts that bring the world of the Aztecs to life. $39.95, hardcover.

NEW THIS WEEK
Philosophy in the Garden

This new British title explores one of literature’s most intimate relationships: authors and their gardens. For some, the garden provided a retreat from workaday labor, for others, solitude’s quiet counsel. For all, it played a philosophical role: giving their ideas a new life. What unites the authors discussed here—Proust, Woolf, Colette, Rousseau, Orwell, Emily Dickinson, Kazantzakis—is not any one ideal, but a devotion to the garden itself: to its philosophical fertility. Despite being bookworms and paper moths, they did some of their best thinking al fresco. (Even Jean-Paul Sartre, whose hero in *Nausea* was sickened by a chestnut tree.) $18, hardcover.

NEW THIS WEEK
Palestine: A Four Thousand Year History

This rich work traces Palestine’s millenia-old heritage, uncovering cultures and societies of astounding depth that stretch back to the very beginnings of recorded history. Starting with the earliest references in Egyptian and Assyrian texts, the author explores how Palestine and its identity have evolved over thousands of years, from the Bronze Age to the present day. Drawing on a rich body of sources and the latest archaeological evidence, Masalha shows how Palestine’s multicultural past has been distorted and mythologized by biblical lore and the Israel-Palestinian conflict. $16.95, paperback.

NEW THIS WEEK
Afropean: Notes from Black Europe

This UK import is an on-the-ground documentary of areas where Europeans of African descent are juggling their multiple allegiances and forging new identities. Here is an alternative map of the continent, taking the reader to places like Cova Da Moura, the Cape Verdean shantytown on the outskirts of Lisbon with its own underground economy, and Rinkeby, the area of Stockholm that is 80% Muslim. Johny Pitts visits the former Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow, where West African students are still making the most of Cold War ties with the USSR, and Clichy Sous Bois in Paris, which gave birth to the 2005 riots, all the while presenting Afropeans as lead actors in their own story. $21.95, paperback.
Spectacle of Illusion: Deception, Magic, and the Paranormal
Organized thematically within a broadly chronological trajectory, this compelling book explores how illusions perpetuated by magicians and fraudulent mystics since the early 18th century can not only deceive our senses but also teach us about the inner workings of our minds. Mesmerism and spiritualism gave rise to professional magicians such as Houdini who set out to debunk paranormal claims. The book also relates the interactions between magicians, mystics, and scientists over the past 200 years. Illustrated throughout with entertaining and bizarre drawings, this unnerving volume highlights how unreliable our minds can be. $35, hardcover.

Gun Island: A Novel
A dealer of rare books, Deen is used to a quiet life spent indoors. But as his once-solid beliefs begin to shift, he is forced to set out on an extraordinary journey, one that takes him from India to Los Angeles and Venice via a tangled route through the memories and experiences of those he meets along the way. There is Piya, a fellow Bengali-American who sets his journey in motion; Tipu, an entrepreneurial young man who opens Deen’s eyes to the realities of growing up in today’s world; Rafi, with his desperate attempt to help someone in need; and Cinta, an old friend who provides the missing link in the story they are all a part of. It is a journey that will upend everything he thought he knew about himself, about the Bengali legends of his childhood, and about the world around him. $17, paperback.

Hamnet: A Novel of the Plague
International bestseller! A luminous portrait of a marriage, of a family ravaged by loss, and an unforgettable re-imagining of a boy whose life has been all but forgotten. In Tudor England, with the black death creeping across the land, a penniless young Latin tutor falls in love with an extraordinary young woman. Agnes walks her family’s land with a falcon on her glove and, although socially awkward, is a gifted healer. Once she settles with her husband in Stratford-upon-Avon she becomes a fiercely protective mother and a steadying force in the life of her young husband as he builds a career on the London stage. But then their young son falls dangerously ill . . . $26.95, hardcover.

Underland: A Deep Time Journey
New in paperback! Acclaimed nature writer Macfarlane delivers an epic exploration of the Earth’s underworlds as they exist in myth, literature, memory, and the land itself. Traveling through the dizzying expanse of geologic time—from prehistoric art in Norwegian sea caves, to the blue depths of the Greenland ice cap, to a deep-sunk “hiding place” where nuclear waste will be stored for 100,000 years—he takes us on an extraordinary journey into our relationship with darkness, burial, and what lies beneath the surface of both place and mind. $17.95, paperback.
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atlas of a Lost World: Travels in Ice Age America</strong></td>
<td>Craig Childs</td>
<td>Renowned writer Craig Childs blends science and personal narrative to upend our notions of where the first people in the Americas came from and who they were. The first people in the New World were few, and their encampments fleeting. How they got here, persevered, and ultimately thrived is a story that resonates from the Pleistocene to our modern era, and it reveals how much has changed since the time of mammoth hunters as well as how little. Through it, readers will see the Ice Age and their own age in a whole new light. $17, paperback.</td>
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<td><strong>Vesper Flights</strong></td>
<td>Helen Macdonald</td>
<td>Best-selling author of <em>H is for Hawk</em> 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.</td>
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<td><strong>A History of Islam in 21 Women</strong></td>
<td>Hossein Kamaly</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents</strong></td>
<td>Isabel Wilkerson</td>
<td>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.</td>
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**Artcurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd, and Strangely Wonderful in Art History**

Everyone knows Monet, thanks in no small part to ubiquitous reproductions of his water lilies on a million products. But did you know that Monet’s paintings were originally deemed unbelievably ugly and vulgar? And you probably know the tale of Vincent van Gogh’s suicide; were you aware there’s pretty compelling evidence that the artist didn’t die by his own hand but was accidentally killed or even murdered. Or how about the fact that one of Andy Warhol’s most enduring legacies involves Caroline Kennedy’s moldy birthday cake and a collection of toenail clippings? Based on the popular ArtCurious podcast, this is a colorful look at the world of art history, revealing fascinating stories behind the world’s great artists and masterpieces. $17, paperback.

**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.

**Collision of Worlds: A Deep History of the Fall of Aztec Mexico and the Forging of New Spain**

Spaniards led by Cortes joined forces with tens of thousands of Mesoamerican allies to topple the mighty Aztec Empire, a template for the forging of much of Latin America and the globalized world. The violent clash and the Aztec-Spanish war of 1519-21 and the new colonial order it created were millennia in the making, entwining cultural developments of both sides of the Atlantic. Mesoamerican archaeologist David Carballo offers perspective with a focus on the physical world, similarities and differences in trans-Atlantic perspective, and their interweaving in conquest and colonialism as well as the resilience of Native peoples. $34.95, hardcover.

**The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria, and Hubris**

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.
Forgotten Peoples of the Ancient World

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 Hephthalites 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.

Hieronymus Bosch: The Complete Works

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.

Life Changing: How Humans Are Altering Life on Earth

We are now living through the “post-natural phase,” where the fate of all living things is irrevocably intertwined with our own. We domesticated animals to suit our needs and altered their DNA. And this was only the beginning. As our knowledge grew, we found new ways to tailor the DNA of animals more precisely; we’ve now cloned police dogs and created a little glow-in-the-dark fish. Through climate change, humans have now affected even the most remote environments and their inhabitants, and studies suggest that through our actions we are forcing some animals to evolve at breakneck speed. Today, it’s not just the fittest that survive; sometimes it’s the ones we decide to let live. $28, 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.
Tell Them of Battles, Kings, & Elephants

In 1506, a young Michelangelo is invited by the Sultan of Constantinople to design a bridge over the Golden Horn. Michelangelo flees Rome (and an irritated Pope Julius II) and arrives in Constantinople for this truly epic project—da Vinci’s design had already been rejected! Once there, he explores the beauty and wonder of the Ottoman Empire, sketching and describing his impressions along the way, and becomes immersed in cloak-and-dagger palace intrigues as he struggles to create what could be his greatest architectural masterpiece. This stunning French novel is constructed from real historical fragments but expands outward in all directions. $19.95, hardcover.

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.

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.
**A Garden Eden: Masterpieces of Botanical Illustration**

From Byzantine manuscripts right through to 19th-century masterpieces, through peonies, callas, and chrysanthemums, these exquisite reproductions dazzle in their accuracy and their aesthetics. Whether in gently furled leaves, precisely textured fruits, or the sheer beauty and variety of colors, we celebrate an art form as tender as it is precise, and ever more resonant amid our growing awareness of our ecological surroundings and the preciousness of natural flora. A gorgeous book from the art publisher Taschen. **Bargain price: $19.98**, hardcover.

**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.

**Scandals, Vandals, and Da Vincis: A Gallery of Remarkable Art Tales**

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.

**Blooming Flowers: A Seasonal History of Plants and People**

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.
I Am Ashurbanipal: King of the World, King of Assyria

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.

Star Stories: Constellations and People

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.

Time of the Magicians: Wittgenstein, Benjamin, Cassirer, Heidegger, and the Decade That Reinvented Philosophy

Just published! As the horrors of World War I come to a close, the stage is set for a great intellectual drama that will unfold across the next decade. The lives and ideas of this extraordinary philosophical quartet will converge as they become world historical figures. But as World War II looms on the horizon, their fates will be very different. This book, which features not only philosophers but some of the most important economists, politicians, journalists, and artists of the century, traces the paths of these remarkable lives, illuminating with rare clarity their challenging and brilliant ideas. $30, 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.
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.

Despite a wingspan of six feet and a height of over two feet, looking like a small feathered bear, the Blakiston’s fish owl is one of the most mysterious birds on earth. Avian conservationist Jonathan Slaght and his team set out to locate the owls in the forests of eastern Russia to craft a conservation plan. This quest sends them on all-night monitoring missions in freezing tents, mad dashes across thawing rivers, and free-climbs up rotting trees to check nests for precious eggs. At the heart of this story are the fish owls themselves: cunning hunters, devoted parents, singers of eerie duets, and survivors in a harsh and shrinking habitat. Longlisted for the 2020 National Book Award. $28, hardcover.

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.
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. **Bargain price: $19.98, hardcover.**

His works – only 35 of them - draw record visitor numbers at art institutions from Amsterdam to Washington, DC, and special crowd-control measures at the Mauritshuis, The Hague, where thousands flock to catch a glimpse of Girl with a Pearl Earring. In his lifetime, however, Vermeer’s fame barely extended beyond his native Delft and a small circle of patrons. After his death, his name was largely forgotten, except by a few Dutch art collectors. This compact Taschen edition presents the calm yet compelling scenes so treasured in galleries across Europe and the United States in one high quality monograph. **Bargain price: $19.98, hardcover.**

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 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.**
**Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World’s Largest Owl**

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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.**

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**Frédéric Chaubin: CCCP**

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This fascinating book recounts the remarkable story of the discovery of the ancient Maya. Enduring disease, war, and the torments of nature and terrain, Stephens and Catherwood meticulously uncovered and documented the remains of an astonishing civilization that had flourished in the Americas at the same time as classical Greece and Rome, and had been its rival in art, architecture, and power. They were the first to grasp the significance of the Maya remains, understanding that their antiquity and sophistication overturned the West’s assumptions about the development of civilization. $17.99, paperback.

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Perhaps the most spectacular of all Greek vases, the Sarpedon krater—loomed 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. 

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

The Handbook of Yoruba Religious Concepts

This newly revised edition provides a readable and thorough overview of the Yoruba tradition and its influence in the West. The author describes the 16 Orisha, or spirit gods, and shows us how to work with divination, use the energy centers of the body to internalize the teachings of Yoruba, and create a sacred place of worship. The book also includes prayers, dances, songs, offerings, and sacrifices to honor the Orisha. $16.95, paperback.

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
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.

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.

From the beautiful apsaras of Hindu myth to the swan maidens of European fairy tales, stories of flying women reveal the perennial fascination with and ambivalence about female power and sexuality. Anthropologist Serinity Young examines the motif of the flying woman in a wide variety of cultures and historical periods. She considers the Valkyries of Norse legend, who transport men to immortality; winged deities like the Greek goddesses Iris and Nike; figures of terror like the Furies, witches, and succubi. Throughout, Young demonstrates that female power has always been inextricably linked with female sexuality and how to control it. $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.

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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.

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Imported from the UK. Life for the average Egyptian had little connection with the pharaonic splendor of royal courts. The author draws from ancient manuscripts to tell the story of the ordinary population of ancient Egypt: often strange, at times amusing, ultimately very recognizable. We meet a number of fascinating people, including a woman who married a man twice her age and turned to the god Imhotep to help her conceive a son; Kenhirhopshef, a man seemingly obsessed with making lists; and Paneb, the “bad boy” of Deir el-Medina.

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The lives of pharaohs and commoners alike were dominated by the need to honor, worship, and pacify the huge pantheon of deities, from the benevolent to the malevolent. This book examines the evolution, worship, and eventual decline of the numerous gods and goddesses that made Egypt the most theocratic society of the ancient world and made Egyptians, according to Herodotus, “more religious than any other people.”

With hundreds of illustrations and specially commissioned drawings, this title remains the most comprehensive and authoritative guide to the deities that lay at the heart of Egyptian religion and society.

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