**NEW in the BOOKSHOP for Adults**

**Children of Ash and Elm: A History of Vikings**

Between 750 and 1050 AD, there was an unprecedented expansion of the Scandinavian peoples as traders and raiders, explorers and colonists, which reshaped the world between eastern North America and the Asian steppe. However, for a millennium their history has largely been filtered through the writings of their victims. Based on the latest archaeological and textual evidence, this new book tells the story of the Vikings on their own terms: their politics, cosmology, and their art and culture. From Björn Ironside, who led an expedition to sack Rome, to Gudrid Thorbjarnardóttir, the most traveled woman in the world, we see beyond the caricatures they’ve become in popular culture and history. $35, hardcover.

**Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art**

Anthropologist Rebecca Wragg Sykes shoves aside the cliché of the shivering ragged figure in an icy wasteland and reveals the Neanderthal you don’t know: our ancestor who lived across vast and diverse tracts of Eurasia and survived through hundreds of thousands of years of massive climate change. The reality of Neanderthals is complex and fascinating, yet remains virtually unknown and inaccessible outside the scientific literature. Based on cutting-edge paleolithic research and theory, this book lays out the first full picture we have of the Neanderthals, how they lived and died, and the biggest question of them all: their relationship with modern humans. $28, hardcover.

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Apollo’s Arrow: The Profound and Enduring Impact of Coronavirus on the Way We Live

This new book offers a riveting account of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic as it swept through American society in 2020, and of how the recovery will unfold in the coming years. Drawing on momentous historical epidemics, contemporary analyses, and cutting-edge research from a range of scientific disciplines, public health expert Christakis explores what it means to live in a time of plague, an experience deeply fundamental to our species. Featuring vivid examples ranging across medicine, history, sociology, epidemiology, data science, and genetics, this book envisions what happens when the great force of a deadly germ meets the enduring reality of our evolved social nature. $29, hardcover.

Thebes: The Forgotten City of Ancient Greece

Among the extensive writing available about the history of ancient Greece, there is precious little about the city-state of Thebes. Thebes has been long overshadowed by its better-known rivals, Athens and Sparta, but acclaimed classicist and historian Paul Cartledge brings the city vividly to life in his new book and argues that it is central to our understanding of the ancient Greeks’ achievements. From its role as an ancient political power, to its destruction at the hands of Alexander the Great as punishment for a failed revolt, to its eventual restoration by Alexander’s successor, he makes clear both the differences and the interconnections between the Thebes of myth and the Thebes of history. $30, hardcover.

Jewels of the Nile: Ancient Egyptian Treasures from the Worcester Art Museum

The new book by former Carlos Museum curator Peter Lacovara celebrates the important collection of Egyptian jewelry held by the Worcester Art Museum in Massachusetts, assembled by Laura and Kingsmill Marrs during the early part of the 20th century. The Boston couple were advised by Howard Carter, the archaeologist who would later achieve world-wide recognition for his discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922. Under his guidance, the Marrs couple purchased an outstanding selection of scarabs, amulets, jewelry and cosmetic articles, including rare blue-toned stone vessels. Essays focus on the history of ancient Egypt and the story of the collectors as well as on the conservation and research surrounding the pieces themselves. $49.95, hardcover.

Burning the Books: A History of the Deliberate Destruction of Knowledge

Libraries and archives have always been under attack since ancient times, and today the knowledge they safeguard still faces purposeful destruction and willful neglect as libraries are deprived of funding and fight for their very existence. This new history recounts the deliberate destruction of knowledge from ancient Alexandria to contemporary Sarajevo, from smashed Assyrian tablets in Iraq to the destroyed immigration documents of the U.K.’s Windrush generation. The author, the director of the Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford, examines both the motivations for these acts and the broader themes that shape this history. He also looks at attempts to prevent and mitigate attacks on knowledge, exploring the efforts of librarians and archivists to preserve information, often risking their own lives in the process. $29.95, hardcover.
Merpeople: A Human History

The world has been fascinated by merpeople and merfolk since ancient times. From the sirens of Homer’s *Odyssey* to Hans Christian Andersen’s *The Little Mermaid* and the film *Splash*, myths, stories, and legends of half-human, half-fish creatures abounded. In modern times “mermaiding” has gained popularity among cosplayers throughout the world. Historian Vaughn Scribner traces the long history of mermaids and mermen, taking in a wide variety of sources and highlighting over 100 striking images. From film to philosophy, church halls to coffee houses, ancient myth to modern science, he shows that mermaids and tritons are, and always have been, everywhere. $27.50, hardcover.

Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music

Around the turn of the 20th century, Richard Wagner’s works truly saturated European and American culture with colossal creations like *The Ring of the Nibelung*, *Tristan und Isolde*, and *Parsifal*. A mighty procession of artists, anarchists, occultists, feminists, and gay-rights pioneers saw him as a kindred spirit. Then Adolf Hitler incorporated Wagner (himself openly anti-Semitic) into the soundtrack of Nazi Germany, and his name is now almost synonymous with artistic evil. New Yorker writer Alex Ross restores the magnificent confusion of what it means to be a Wagnerian, ranging across artistic disciplines from architect Louis Sullivan to sci-fi author Philip K. Dick, from Theodor Herzl to W.E.B. Du Bois and Apocalypse Now. Wagnerism is a work of passionate discovery, urging us toward a more honest idea of how art acts in the world. $40, hardcover.

Magic: A History: From Alchemy to Witchcraft, from the Ice Age to the Present

Three great strands of belief run through human history: Religion is the relationship with one god or many gods, masters of our destinies; science distances us from the world, turning us into observers and collectors of knowledge; and magic is direct human participation in the universe, where we have influence on the world around us, and the world has influence on us. Oxford professor of archaeology Chris Gosden restores magic to its essential place in the history of the world, revealing it to be an enduring element of human behavior. From the curses and charms of ancient Greek, Roman, and Jewish magic, to global shamanistic traditions; from the alchemy of the Renaissance to the mysteries of modern physics, this history supplies a missing chapter of the story of our civilization. $30, hardcover.

Yurei: The Japanese Ghost

Newly revised! Combining his lifelong interest in Japanese tradition and his personal experiences with these vengeful spirits, Davisson launches an investigation into the origin, popularization, and continued existence of yurei in Japan. Juxtaposing historical documents and legends against contemporary yurei-based horror films such as *The Ring*, Davisson explores the persistence of this paranormal phenomenon in modern-day Japan and its continued spread throughout the West. $16.95, paperback.
This first-ever comprehensive history of Beringia, the Arctic land and waters stretching from Russia to Canada, breaks away from familiar narratives to provide a fresh and fascinating perspective on an overlooked landscape. The unforgiving territory along the Bering Strait had long been home to humans (the Inupiat and Yupik in Alaska, and the Yupik and Chukchi in Russia) before Americans and Europeans arrived with revolutionary ideas for progress. Rapidly, these frigid lands and waters became the site of an ongoing experiment: how, under conditions of extreme scarcity, would the great modern ideologies of capitalism and communism control and manage the resources they craved? $17.95, paperback.

This is a book about 10 women over the past 300 years who have found walking essential to their sense of themselves as people and as writers. The author traces their footsteps from 18th-century parson’s daughter Elizabeth Carter, who desired nothing more than to be taken for a vagabond in the wilds of southern England, to modern walker-writers such as Nan Shepherd and Cheryl Strayed. For each, walking was integral, whether it was rambling for miles across the Highlands, like Sarah Stoddart Hazlitt, or pacing novels into being, as Virginia Woolf did around Bloomsbury. Offering a beguiling view of the history of walking, Wanderers guides us through the different ways of seeing and of being as articulated by these 10 pathfinding women. $20, hardcover.

The Roman army was the single largest organization in Western antiquity, taking in members from all classes from senators to freed slaves. The Empire depended on its army not just to win its wars and defend its frontiers but to act as the very engine of the state. Gladius (the Latin word for “sword”) draws not only on the words of famed Roman historians but also on those of the soldiers themselves as recorded in their religious dedications, tombstones, and even private letters and graffiti. This research reveals the everyday life of these soldiers and their families, tasked with guarding the emperor in Rome, fighting on foreign battlefields, mutinying over pay, marching in triumph, throwing their weight around on city streets, or enjoying esteem in honorable retirement. $30, hardcover.

In his new book, acclaimed Egyptologist Toby Wilkinson chronicles the ruthless race between the British, French, Germans, and Americans to lay claim to Egypt’s mysteries and treasures. He tells riveting stories of the men and women whose obsession with Egypt’s ancient civilization helped to enrich and transform our understanding of the Nile Valley and its people and left a lasting impression on Egypt, too. Travelers and treasure-hunters, ethnographers and archaeologists: whatever their motives, whatever their methods, a century of adventure and scholarship revealed a lost world, buried for centuries beneath the sands. $30, hardcover.
This new book is the first-ever history of alphabetization from the Library of Alexandria to Wikipedia. This history was shaped by compelling characters, such as industrious and enthusiastic early adopter Samuel Pepys and dedicated alphabet champion Denis Diderot. Even though George Washington was a proponent, many others stuck to older forms of classification; Yale listed its students by their family’s social status until 1886. And yet, while the order of the alphabet now rules, it has remained curiously invisible. With abundant inquisitiveness and wry humor, historian Judith Flanders traces the triumph of alphabetical order and offers a compendium of Western knowledge from A to Z. $30, hardcover.

For many in the West, tarot exists in the shadow place of our cultural consciousness, a metaphysical tradition assigned to the dusty glass cabinets of the arcane. Its history, long and obscure, has been passed down through secret writing, oral tradition, and the scholarly tomes of philosophers and sages. Tarot explores the symbolic meaning behind more than 500 cards and works of original art, two thirds of which have never been published outside of the decks themselves. It’s the first ever visual compendium of its kind, spanning from medieval to modern and artfully arranged according to the sequencing of the 78 cards of the major and minor arcana. $40, hardcover.

Cognitive psychotherapist Donald Robertson weaves together the life and philosophy of Marcus Aurelius to provide a compelling modern-day guide to Stoic wisdom, a path followed by countless individuals throughout the centuries to achieve greater fulfillment and emotional resilience. Robertson shows how Marcus used philosophical doctrines and therapeutic practices to endure tremendous adversity and guides readers through applying the same methods to their own lives. $16.99, paperback.

Until the Americans killed Tecumseh in 1813, he and his brother Tenskwatawa were the co-architects of the broadest pan-Indian confederation in United States history. Tenskwatawa has been dismissed in the past as a talentless charlatan, but this new book shows us that while Tecumseh was a brilliant diplomat and war leader, it was Tenskwatawa, called the Shawnee Prophet, who created a vital doctrine of religious and cultural revitalization that unified the disparate tribes of the Old Northwest. Cozzens brings us to the forefront of the chaos and violence that characterized the young American republic, when settlers spilled across the Appalachians to claim lands won from the British, disregarding their rightful Indian owners. $35, hardcover.
The life of Goya coincided with an age of transformation in Spanish history that brought upheavals in the country’s politics, changes in society, the devastation of the war against Napoleon, and an ensuing period of political instability. In this revelatory biography, Janis Tomlinson draws on a wide range of documents to provide a nuanced portrait of a complex and multifaceted painter and printmaker whose art continues to captivate, challenge, and surprise us two centuries later. She explores the full breadth of his imagery—from scenes inspired by life in Madrid to visions of worlds without reason, from royal portraits to the atrocities of war—and sheds light on the artist’s personal trials, but also reconsiders the conventional interpretation of Goya’s late years as a period of disillusion, viewing them instead as years of liberated artistic invention. $35, hardcover.

From a succession of glittering, cosmopolitan capitals, Islamic empires once lorded over the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and swathes of the Indian subcontinent, while Europe cowered feebly at the margins. For centuries the caliphate was both ascendant on the battlefield and triumphant in the battle of ideas, its cities unrivaled powerhouses of artistic grandeur, commercial power, spiritual sanctity, and forward-looking thinking, in which nothing was off limits. This volume tells this history through its greatest cities over the 15 centuries of Islam, from its earliest beginnings in Mecca in the 7th century to the astonishing rise of Doha in the 21st. $35, hardcover.

Picking up where the widely praised Bookshops: A Reader’s History left off, this new book by journalist, teacher, and bibliophile Jorge Carrión explores the increasing pressures of Amazon and other new technologies on bookshops and libraries. Collecting the author’s essays on these vital social, cultural, and intellectual reading spaces as well as his interviews with the writers who love them—including Alberto Manguel, Iain Sinclair, and Han Kang, among others—Against Amazon is equal parts a history of books and bookshops, an autobiography of a reader, a travelogue, a love letter, and, most urgently, a manifesto against the corrosive pressures of late capitalism. $16.95, paperback.
Regarding the rise of steam power, why did manufacturers turn from traditional sources of power, notably water mills, to an engine fired by coal? Contrary to established views, steam offered neither cheaper nor more abundant energy, but rather superior control of subordinate labor. Animated by fossil fuels, capital could concentrate production at the most profitable sites and during the most convenient hours, as it continues to do today. Sweeping from 19th-century Manchester to the emissions explosion in China, from the original triumph of coal to the slow shift to renewables, Andreas Malm hones in on the burning heart of capital and demonstrates that turning down the heat will mean a radical reorganization of the current economic order. $29.95, paperback.

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer asks questions of nature with the tools of science. As a Potawatomi citizen, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In this elegantly bound and updated edition of her modern classic, and drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she argues that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. $35, hardcover.

Long heralded as a city treasure herself, expert “mudlarker” Lara Maiklem is uniquely trained in the art of seeking. Tirelessly trekking across miles of the Thames’s muddy shores, where others only see the detritus of city life, Maiklem unearths evidence of England’s captivating, if sometimes murky, history with some objects dating back to 43 AD when London was but an outpost of the Roman Empire. From medieval mail worn by warriors on English battlefields to 19th-century glass marbles mass-produced for the nation’s first soda bottles, Maiklem deduces the historical significance of these artifacts with the quirky enthusiasm and sharp-sightedness of a 21st-century Sherlock Holmes. $27.95, hardcover.

The Washington Post’s Pulitzer Prize–winning book critic uses the books of the Trump era to argue that our response to this presidency reflects the same failures of imagination that made it possible. Lozada has read 150 volumes claiming to diagnose why Trump was elected and what his presidency reveals about our nation, and uses these books to tell the story of how we understand ourselves. He dissects works on the white working class like *Hillbilly Elegy*; manifestos from the anti-Trump resistance like *On Tyranny*; books on race, gender, and identity like *How to Be an Antiracist*; polemics on the future of the conservative movement; and, of course, books about Trump. This is an intellectual history of our current era in real time. $28, hardcover.
Yale historian Valerie Hansen argues that the year 1000 was the world’s first point of major cultural exchange and exploration. Drawing on nearly 30 years of research on medieval China and global history, she presents a compelling account of first encounters between disparate societies. As people on at least five continents ventured outward, they spread technology, new crops, and religion. These encounters, she shows, made it possible for Christopher Columbus to reach the Americas in 1492, and set the stage for the process of globalization that so dominates the modern era. $30, hardcover.

This is an in-depth biography of the practice that has leapt forward over the centuries from the dangerous guesswork of ancient Greek physicians through the world-changing “implant revolution” of the 20th century. It links together the lives of the pioneering scientists who first understood what causes disease, how organs become infected or cancerous, and how surgery could powerfully intercede in people’s lives, and then shows how the rise of surgery intersected with many of the greatest medical breakthroughs of the last century, including the evolution of medical education, the transformation of the hospital from a place of dying to a habitation of healing, the development of antibiotics, and the rise of transistors and polymer science. $28.95, hardcover.

Philosopher John Gray discovers in cats a way of living that is unburdened by anxiety and self-consciousness, showing how they embody answers to the big questions of love and attachment, mortality, morality, and the Self. As examples: Montaigne’s house cat, whose unexamined life may have been the one worth living; Meo, the Vietnam War survivor with an unshakable capacity for fearless joy; and Colette’s Saha, the feline heroine of her subversive short story “The Cat” about the pitfalls of human jealousy. Exploring the nature of cats, and what we can learn from it, Gray offers a profound, thought-provoking meditation on the follies of human exceptionalism and our fundamentally vulnerable and lonely condition, and reveals how we can endure and adapt to both crisis and transformation, as cats have always done. $24, hardcover.
With designs for book jackets, magazines, and political pamphlets, John Heartfield (1891–1968) established himself as Berlin’s most innovative graphic designer of the Weimar period. While he was initially associated with the Dada movement, his affiliations with the communist party and the rise of Nazism eventually led him to change his approach, shifting his artistic output to spreading messages and fighting political opponents. Dissecting and reassembling press images with great verve and humor, Heartfield created photomontages that aimed to reveal the bitter truths of contemporary politics. This lavishly illustrated volume, full of wildly imaginative images, draws on the rich collection of Heartfield’s work found in the Akademie der Künste’s archives, given to the museum by Heartfield himself. $50, hardcover.

A compelling celebration of more than 90 of the world’s most influential composers from the medieval period to the present day, Composers reveals the fascinating stories of their lives, loves, and works. Biographical entries introduced with a stunning portrait of each featured composer trace the friendships, loves, and rivalries that inspired each musical genius and what drove each individual to create the musical masterpieces that changed the direction of classical music and are still celebrated and treasured today. This oversize edition features lavish illustrations with paintings or photographs of each composer alongside original musical scores and personal correspondence, images of their homes and where they worked, and personal effects and other important artifacts. $35, hardcover.

Now in paperback! Claudio Saunt is a professor of American History at the University of Georgia and has written before about Southeastern Native Americans and their struggles to survive in the early years of the American republic. Here, using firsthand accounts and original government records, he produces a new interpretation of the state-sponsored theft of Native lands and the brutal and lawless forced relocation of the peoples on that land, showing how the politics of slavery were another part of this terrible chapter in American history. Finalist for the 2020 National Book Award in nonfiction. $16.95, paperback.

This handsomely produced new graphic novel tells the life story of a pioneering female Italian baroque painter. Because of her gender, until recently Artemisia Gentileschi had been overlooked in the pantheon of Renaissance masters. In 17th-century Italy, Artemisia braved the male-dominated sphere of painting and the injustices inherent in a male-dominated world to become a groundbreaking and very successful artist. $29.99, hardcover.
Atlantis was first introduced by the Greek philosopher Plato in the fourth century BC as an island paradise with an ideal society. But the Atlanteans soon degenerate and become imperialist aggressors: they choose to fight against antediluvian Athens, which heroically repels their mighty forces, before a cataclysmic natural disaster destroys the warring states. Plato’s dialogues warn about the pernicious effects of wealth and power on a ruling class: Atlantis-style excess, corruption, and imperialism can lead only to decay and disaster. This ever-important tale should be prescribed reading for every political leader. $23.95, paperback.

In these 30 letters, Alan Macfarlane answers his granddaughter’s questions about how the world works, how it got to be as it is, what it could be, and where she fits in. What is the nature of good and evil? What is religion? How can I be truly me? Is right and wrong the same wherever you are? What is beauty? Does there have to be torture? Does money matter? Is knowledge always good? What is progress? What is truth? What is sex? Is democracy a good idea? Macfarlane, from a lifetime’s experience as a historian, anthropologist, and teacher, ranges through history and across the world’s cultures. Her questions are timeless. His answers add up to a classic. $14.95, paperback.

Religious historian Huston Smith once referred to it as the best-kept secret in history: did the ancient Greeks use drugs to find God? And did the earliest Christians inherit the same, secret tradition, a profound knowledge of visionary plants, herbs, and fungi passed from one generation to the next, ever since the Stone Age? This (need we say?) controversial new book revisits the evidence substantiating the use of psychedelics in the Eleusinian and Dionysian mysteries, which carried on for thousands of years and into early Christianity. The amateur archaeologist/author visits the sites and follows leads from archaeological chemists at the University of Pennsylvania and MIT to unveil the first scientific data for the ritual use of psychedelic drugs in classical antiquity. $29.99, hardcover.