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February 2022

*We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books*

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February Year 2022

Contents

February Year 2022.....	1
Biographies & Memoirs / History / Military / British.....	4
Peace, War and Whitehall: A Memoir by Field Marshal Lord (Charles) Guthrie, with a foreword by HRH the Prince of Wales (Osprey Publishing)	4
Education & Training / High School / Coaching	5
NSCA's Guide to High School Strength and Conditioning: A Resource for Professionals, Coaches, and Teachers by NSCA – National Strength & Conditioning Association, edited by Patrick McHenry & Michael J. Nitka (Human Kinetics)	5
History / Anthropology / Archaeology	7
The Inca Empire: An Illustrated History by David M Jones (Lorenz Books).....	7
History / Energy	8
Energy in the Americas: Critical Reflections on Energy and History edited by Amelia M. Kiddle (Energy Histories, Cultures, and Politics Series, Vol. 2: University of Calgary Press)	8
History / Military / World War II / Arts & Photography	9
The War on the Eastern Front: The Soviet Union, 1941-1945 – A Photographic History by Alexander Hill (Pen & Sword).....	9
History / World.....	10
National Geographic Ultimate Visual History of the World: The Story of Humankind from Prehistory to Modern Times by Jean-Pierre Isbouts (National Geographic)	10
Home / Design / Biographies & Memoirs	11
Bunny Mellon Style by Linda Jane Holden, Thomas Lloyd & Bryan Huffman, with a foreword by Tory Burch (Gibbs Smith)	11
Literature & Fiction	12

Mona Passage: A Novel by Thomas Bardenwerper (Syracuse University Press)	12
Literature & Fiction / Arts & Photography.....	14
The Art of Oz: Witches, Wizards, and Wonders Beyond the Yellow Brick Road illustrated by Gabriel Gale, text by John Fricke (Rizzoli International Publications, Inc.).....	14
Literature & Fiction / Detective / Thriller	15
The Dockland Murder by Mike Hollow (Blitz Detective Series, Vol. 5: Allison & Busby) ..	15
Philosophy / Politics / History / Western U.S.	16
Whatever Happened to Tradition?: History, Belonging and the Future of the West by Tim Stanley (Bloomsbury Continuum)	16
Philosophy / Religion & Spirituality	17
A Hebraic Inking: C. S. Lewis on Judaism and the Jews by P. H. Brazier, with a foreword by Alan Shore (Pickwick Publications)	17
Religion & Spirituality / Biblical Studies / New Testament.....	19
Luke-Acts in Modern Interpretation edited by Stanley E. Porter & Ron C. Fay (Milestones in New Testament Scholarship Series: Kregel Academic)	19
Religion & Spirituality / Christianity	20
The Arc of Spirituality: The Western Love Affair with God by Robert P. Vande Kappelle (Wipf & Stock).....	20
From the Depths of the Heart: Annotated Translation of the Prayers of St. Gregory of Narek by Abraham Terian (Liturgical Press Academic).....	21
Religion & Spirituality / Occult.....	22
Taking Up the Runes: A Complete Guide to Using Runes in Spells, Rituals, Divination, and Magic by Diana L. Paxson (Weiser Books).....	22
Science / Cosmic.....	23
The Invisible Universe: Why There's More to Reality than Meets the Eye by Matthew Bothwell (Oneworld Publications).....	23
Sports & Entertainment / Venues.....	25
Movie Theaters by Yves Marchand & Romain Meffre, with an essay by Ross Melnick (Prestel)	25
Bibliography	26
Biographies & Memoirs / History / Military / British.....	26
Peace, War and Whitehall: A Memoir by Field Marshal Lord (Charles) Guthrie, with a foreword by HRH the Prince of Wales (Osprey Publishing)	26
Education & Training / High School / Coaching	26

NSCA's Guide to High School Strength and Conditioning: A Resource for Professionals, Coaches, and Teachers by NSCA – National Strength & Conditioning Association, edited by Patrick McHenry & Michael J. Nitka (Human Kinetics)	26
History / Anthropology / Archaeology	26
The Inca Empire: An Illustrated History by David M. Jones (Lorenz Books).....	26
History / Energy.....	26
Energy in the Americas: Critical Reflections on Energy and History edited by Amelia M. Kiddle (Energy Histories, Cultures, and Politics Series, Vol. 2: University of Calgary Press)	26
History / Military / World War II / Arts & Photography	26
The War on the Eastern Front: The Soviet Union, 1941-1945 – A Photographic History by Alexander Hill (Pen & Sword) History / World	26
National Geographic Ultimate Visual History of the World: The Story of Humankind from Prehistory to Modern Times by Jean-Pierre Isbouts (National Geographic).....	26
Home / Design / Biographies & Memoirs	26
Bunny Mellon Style by Linda Jane Holden, Thomas Lloyd & Bryan Huffman, with a foreword by Tory Burch (Gibbs Smith)	26
Literature & Fiction	26
Mona Passage: A Novel by Thomas Bardenwerper (Syracuse University Press)	26
Literature & Fiction / Arts & Photography.....	26
The Art of Oz: Witches, Wizards, and Wonders Beyond the Yellow Brick Road illustrated by Gabriel Gale, text by John Fricke (Rizzoli International Publications, Inc.) Literature & Fiction / Detective / Thriller	27
The Dockland Murder by Mike Hollow (Blitz Detective Series, Vol. 5: Allison & Busby) ..	27
Literature & Fiction / Military.....	27
The Spandau Complication by Bob Orkand (Casemate Fiction Series: Casemate Publishers)	27
Philosophy / Politics / History / Western U.S.	27
Whatever Happened to Tradition?: History, Belonging and the Future of the West by Tim Stanley (Bloomsbury Continuum)	27
Philosophy / Religion & Spirituality	27
A Hebraic Inkling: C. S. Lewis on Judaism and the Jews by P. H. Brazier, with a foreword by Alan Shore (Pickwick Publications)	27
Religion & Spirituality / Biblical Studies / New Testament.....	27
Luke-Acts in Modern Interpretation edited by Stanley E. Porter & Ron C. Fay (Milestones in New Testament Scholarship Series: Kregel Academic)	27

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity	27
The Arc of Spirituality: The Western Love Affair with God by Robert P. Vande Kappelle (Wipf & Stock) Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Saints	27
From the Depths of the Heart: Annotated Translation of the Prayers of St. Gregory of Narek by Abraham Terian (Liturgical Press Academic).....	27
Religion & Spirituality / Occult.....	27
Taking Up the Runes: A Complete Guide to Using Runes in Spells, Rituals, Divination, and Magic by Diana L. Paxson (Weiser Books).....	27
Science / Cosmic.....	27
The Invisible Universe: Why There's More to Reality than Meets the Eye by Matthew Bothwell (Oneworld Publications).....	27
Sports & Entertainment / Venues.....	28
Movie Theaters by Yves Marchand & Romain Meffre, with an essay by Ross Melnick (Prestel)	28

Biographies & Memoirs / History / Military / British

Peace, War and Whitehall: A Memoir by Field Marshal Lord (Charles) Guthrie, with a foreword by HRH the Prince of Wales (Osprey Publishing)

I am delighted that Field Marshal Lord Guthrie has decided to write his memoirs. Having been Colonel of the Welsh Guards for the past forty-six years, I saw at first hand Lord Guthrie's inspiring leadership when he commanded the First Battalion in Berlin and South Armagh from 1977-1980.

These memoirs recount his remarkable forty-two year career that culminated in his appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff, and the first Welsh Guardsman to become head of the Aired Services. It is a record of extraordinary service to the Regiment, the Army and our nation. Lord Guthrie's period of service covered a demanding era in the Army's history, a time of great social change as well as enormous challenges both in the United Kingdom and abroad. – Charles, HRH the Prince of Wales

Field Marshal Lord Guthrie of Craigiebank, GCB, GCVO, OBE, DL, commanded at every level in the British Army from platoon to army group, and was Britain's senior military commander at a time of great change. He oversaw the modernization of the armed forces following the Cold War years and led Britain's military involvement in operations in the Balkans and Sierra Leone.

Guthrie was commissioned into the British Army in 1959 at a time when Britain's influence was shrinking throughout the world, and **Peace, War and Whitehall** describes his operational experience with both the Welsh Guards and 22 SAS in Aden, Malaya, East Africa, Cyprus and Northern Ireland.

In [Peace, War and Whitehall](#) Guthrie tells how as a senior officer he commanded the Welsh Guards during an operational tour of the Bandit Country of South Armagh at the height of the Troubles, before leading an armored brigade in Germany in the midst of the Cold War, and eventually being appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Rhine and Northern Army Group as the Cold War ended and the former Yugoslavia began to disintegrate into savage internecine warfare.

Lord Guthrie was Commander of NATO's Northern Army Group, 1992–93, Chief of the General Staff, 1994–97 and Chief of the Defence Staff, 1997–2001. He became a member of the House of Lords in 2001.

Pithy, humorous, engaging but above all wise... will guide future generations of our military leaders, but will also fascinate the general reader for their insights into how world-changing decisions are made. – Professor Andrew Roberts

A lively and engaging account of a life well lived... [a] fascinating memoir. – Lady Antonia Fraser

Charles Guthrie has been one of Britain's foremost soldiers as well as a terrific personality throughout his remarkable life. It is great that he is now telling his own story. – Sir Max Hastings

[Lord Guthrie's] boldness and humour make the book fizz. – Michael Portillo

There is profound wisdom in these engaging memoirs, written with wry humour and a deceptively light touch. – *The Spectator*

The memoirs are full of humour, reflecting not only the enduring ethos of Welsh Guardsmen, but of Lord Guthrie himself. Anecdotal and unassuming, the memoirs capture the spirit of adventure and the gift of friendship that Lord Guthrie joined the Army for, as well as the pressures of high command.

They also have a strong educational value for anyone who wishes to develop the leadership qualities and personal attributes for a successful career in the Armed forces.

He took great care of the men and women under his command and was always sympathetic to the demands faced by Service families.

Field Marshal Lord Guthrie is rightly regarded as the 'Father of the Welsh Guards.' His legacy to the Regiment and Armed Services has been profound. These memoirs are an enduring tribute to a remarkable career. – Charles, HRH the Prince of Wales

[Peace, War and Whitehall](#) details Lord Guthrie's extraordinary career from a young platoon commander through to Chief of the Defence Staff. <>

Education & Training / High School / Coaching

[NSCA's Guide to High School Strength and Conditioning](#)

Written by a team of contributors within the world-renowned National Strength and Conditioning Association, [NSCA's Guide to High School Strength and Conditioning](#) summarizes the primary duties and responsibilities of the various positions and roles that contribute to developing a safe and effective program.

Editors are Patrick McHenry and Mike Nitka. McHenry, MA, CSCS,*D, RSCC, earned a master's degree in physical education from the University of Northern Colorado. He has been a frequent presenter at local, state, national, and international conferences, including the national conference of the NSCA. Nitka, MS, CSCS,*D, RSCC*E, FNSCA*E taught freshman physical education and junior health education at Muskego High School in Wisconsin for 38 years and coached football and wrestling, winning every level of championship Wisconsin offered. Nitka currently serves as an adjunct professor of exercise science at Carroll University.

The book provides insights into the benefits of offering a strength and conditioning program at the high school level and offers advice for the implementation of such a program. Examples are also provided for strength-and-conditioning-related PE curriculums to demonstrate how those types of programs can work and how they connect to the SHAPE America national standards and grade-level outcomes.

[NSCA's Guide to High School Strength and Conditioning](#) is loaded with information that can be practically applied to any high school program. Coaches learn the variables to consider when designing a resistance or cardiovascular training program and 13 detailed protocols for conducting assessments so they can objectively evaluate movement and performance. Detailed exercise descriptions include beginning position, movement phases, breathing guidelines, modifications and variations, and coaching tips. The descriptions, along with accompanying photos, teach proper technique for

- 28 common resistance training exercises.
- 10 bodyweight exercises.
- 12 anatomical core exercises.
- 11 static and dynamic stretching exercises.
- 12 plyometric exercises.
- 10 speed and agility drills.
- 5 cardio machines.

Sample warm-up sequences and exercise sessions for resistance, plyometric, speed and agility, cardiovascular, and circuit training are also provided – all of which follow the programming guidelines and recommendations for high school student-athletes.

[NSCA's Guide to High School Strength and Conditioning](#) is a must-have manual for all high school strength and sport coaches. This comprehensive manual provides the necessary information to guide or assist any high school coach in establishing an excellent strength and conditioning program! – Stewart Venable, CSCS

[NSCA's Guide to High School Strength and Conditioning](#) provides coaches the tools to build an athlete's confidence, protect their body, and elevate their performance in any activity or sport. – Joe Kenn, MA, CSCS, RSCC*E, SCCC, MSCC, PN1, NSCA College Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year and NSCA Professional Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year

The [NSCA's Guide to High School Strength and Conditioning](#) describes the roles and duties of a high school strength and conditioning professional, provides strength and conditioning-related resources, and presents detailed guidelines for exercise technique

and program design. The book includes the evidence-driven information that will help any high school strength and conditioning professional – including both coaches and teachers – to become the best practitioner possible. This valuable resource is one that readers will turn to for years to come as they build a solid strength and conditioning community for their student-athletes. <>

History / Anthropology / Archaeology

The Inca Empire: An Illustrated History by David M Jones (Lorenz Books)

The history of the Incas fascinates the modern world. **The Inca Empire** separates fact from fiction, exploring the native peoples of Peru and the Andes, their mythologies and ancient belief systems, and the amazing beauty of Inca art and architecture.

Author David M Jones studied Anthropology and History at the University of California, Berkeley. He obtained his PhD in the Archaeology of the Americas at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London. He is co-author of the *Blue Guide Mexico* and has written many articles on Mesoamerican and South American art for *The Grove Dictionary of Art*.

The Inca Empire combines striking illustrations with lively text. An in-depth history of the ancient peoples of South America including the Paracas, Chavín, Nazca, Moche, Wari, Lambayeque-Sipán, Tiwanaku, Chimu and Inca. Readers discover the breathtaking developments in Andean art, from the mysterious lines etched in the Nazca desert to the temples erected at Kotosh, La Galgada and Aspero. This large format new edition discusses the sophisticated politics, power and warfare with insights into the brutal rituals and symbolic complexity.

The first half of **The Inca Empire** concentrates on the history of the many Inca kingdoms and the mythological rituals and beliefs of the Incas themselves. Readers discover the cultures of ancient South America from the Paracas and Chavin, to the Nazca and Moche civilizations, uncovering the powerful social organization of the Kingdom of Chimu and the Inca Empire. Readers enter the ancient world of Inca mythology and learn about the rainforest gods of the Andes – jaguars, serpents and monkeys – and the human and animal sacrifice involved in paying them homage.

The second half of **The Inca Empire** focuses on the day-to-day lives of ordinary Inca people and explores the beautiful art they created. Stunning photographs and illustrations of archaeological excavations, preserved architecture and artifacts provide clues to their lifestyle, detailing the progression from the first Preceramic villages to sophisticated societies found by the Western conquistadors. Readers unearth jewels from Inca temples in Kotosh, La Gatgada and Aspero with this spectacular guide to their art and crafts, and examine the unique wonder of Inca ceramics, metalwork and fabrics.

Authoritative and groundbreaking, **The Inca Empire** combines more than 1000 photographs and illustrations with engaging text. Specialist archaeological expertise, timelines, fact boxes and a detailed glossary make this book an outstanding source of reference for specialists and general readers.

History / Energy

[Energy in the Americas](#): Critical Reflections on Energy and History
edited by Amelia M. Kiddle (**Energy Histories, Cultures, and Politics Series, Vol. 2**: University of Calgary Press)

Understanding the history of energy and the evolving place of energy in society is essential to facing the changing future of energy production. Across North and South America, national and localized understandings of energy as a common, public, or market good have influenced the development of energy industries.

The editor of [Energy in the Americas](#), Amelia M. Kiddle, is Associate Professor of History and Latin American Studies at the University of Calgary and a specialist in the history of Mexican foreign relations. The book has 14 contributors.

[Energy in the Americas](#) brings the diverse energy histories of North and South American nations into dialogue with one another, presenting an integrated hemispheric framework for understanding the historical constructions of contemporary debates on the role of energy in society. Rejecting pat truisms, this collection historicizes the experiences of producers and policymakers and assesses the interplay between environmental, technological, political, and ideological influences within and between countries and continents.

Breaking down assumptions about the evolution of national energy histories, [Energy in the Americas](#) broadens and opens the conversation. De-emphasizing the traditional focus on national peculiarities, it favors an international, integrated approach that brings together the work of established and emerging scholars. This is an essential step in understanding the circumstances that have created current energy policy and practice, and the historical narratives that underpin how energy production is conceptualized and understood.

This is an impressive collection that crosses borders in more ways than just geographical territory. Covering different cases from Canada to Patagonia, the authors encourage us to rethink the history of energy in all of its varieties: petroleum, hydro, coal, nuclear, solar, thermal, and more. The timeliness and necessity of the exercise cannot be underestimated in the era of climate change. – Myrna Santiago, Professor of History, Saint Mary's College of California

This collection showcases research by many of the leading energy historians studying North and South America today. Collectively, the chapters document the tumultuous history of energy production, policies, and politics across two continents during the past century. What is truly unique about [Energy in the Americas](#), however, is its hemispheric perspective. By bringing together energy histories from North and South America, this collection shows how global energy systems were shaped by distinctive national factors, while also revealing previously hidden continuities in the Western Hemisphere's energy history. – Jeffrey T. Manuel, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Broad in scope, [Energy in the Americas](#) provides a hemispheric perspective on the historical construction of contemporary debates on the role of energy in society. <>

History / Military / World War II / Arts & Photography

[The War on the Eastern Front](#): The Soviet Union, 1941-1945 – A

Photographic History by Alexander Hill (Pen & Sword)

The RIA-Novosti press agency – now known as Sputnik in the West – has one of the best archives of Soviet Second World War photographs and for [The War on the Eastern Front](#), Alexander Hill has made a superb selection of them.

Hill teaches at the University of Calgary and is a leading expert on the military and political history of Russia and the Soviet Union since 1917. He is a former editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Slavic Military Studies* and the author of *The Red Army and the Second World War*.

Every aspect of the struggle is depicted in [The War on the Eastern Front](#) – the fighting on the front lines and behind the lines, aerial combat and naval warfare, the ordeal of living under German occupation, the war industries and Lend-Lease and the massive sacrifices made at every level of Soviet society to defeat the Germans.

The photographs and captions take readers through the entire course of the war, from the Nazi-Soviet Pact and Soviet expansion into Poland, Finland and the Baltic Republics, through Operation Barbarossa and the German advances of 1941 and 1942, to the momentous battles at Stalingrad and Kursk and the sequence of massive offensives mounted by the Red Army that drove the Wehrmacht back to Berlin.

The landscapes over which the armies moved, and the shattered towns and cities they left behind, are recorded in [The War on the Eastern Front](#) as are individuals whose faces were captured by the camera during this devastating conflict over seventy years ago. According to Hill, the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 was both a traumatic and a formative experience for many tens of millions of the citizens of the Soviet Union. The figure of 27 million that is now commonly given for Soviet war-related deaths does not do justice to the collective suffering that the war brought on the Soviet peoples – a figure that includes many millions of Soviet Jews killed as part of the Holocaust. In the aftermath of the war, for a Soviet survivor not to have known of someone who had lost their life would have been the exception rather than the norm – a far cry from the situation for the Western Allies.

Although during the Cold War the Soviet contribution to the defeat of the Axis alliance was played down in the West, since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 this has been less so. Western readers now have far greater access to a broader range of quality historical work on the Soviet experience of its part of the Second World War – still known today in Russia and many former Soviet republics as the Great Patriotic War. This broader range of work has been made possible to a large extent by the opening up of Soviet-era archives, and those archives have included not only historical documents but also photographs. [The War on the Eastern Front](#) takes advantage of this greater post-Soviet availability of Soviet photographs to provide what is arguably the most comprehensive photographic history of the Great Patriotic War available outside the former Soviet Union.

Many of these photographs were published at home or abroad – being provided to foreign news outlets and governments as well as the Soviet press. Many of the pictures that were taken were, however, far too raw or honest in their portrayals of what was going on at the front or in the rear for them to be published during the war or during the Soviet period. Although some of those photographs have since then found their way

into publications in the West, many have not, and certainly not as part of a single-volume collection such as this.

In its twenty-four chapters [The War on the Eastern Front](#) uses the photographs in the archives of the RIA-Novosti press agency inherited from the Sovinformbiuro to chart the course of the Soviet Union's wartime experiences. It does so starting with Soviet preparations for war in the 1930s and the small-war precursors to the Great Patriotic War of the late 1930s and 1940, before examining in some detail the titanic struggle that was the Great Patriotic war itself. It concludes with a final chapter looking at the aftermath of the war and its commemoration. Each chapter is provided with an introduction to set the scene for the photographs in that chapter, with each photograph being provided with a caption – some relatively brief but many providing more significant detail on what the photograph shows or on the context in which it is to be understood. In providing readers with the introductions and captions, Hill says he has made use of much of his own work, with page references to those works provided in brackets in the text.

Regardless of any political turmoil in governmental relations between the former Allies in the war against the Axis, it is important to remember and celebrate the wartime alliance between the Soviet Union and Western allies, and the sacrifices made by the Soviet peoples in securing victory. [The War on the Eastern Front](#) contributes to maintaining that memory of events and the people who participated in them. These unforgettable images, over 300 of them, record vividly, as only photographs can, the brutal conflict on the Eastern Front and the extraordinary experience of the soldiers and civilians who were caught up in it. <>

History / World

[National Geographic Ultimate Visual History of the World: The Story of Humankind from Prehistory to Modern Times](#) by Jean-Pierre Isbouts
(National Geographic)

With [National Geographic Ultimate Visual History of the World](#) readers follow the fascinating threads of human history amply illustrated with maps, archival imagery, and photographs.

History comes to life in this comprehensive overview of humankind, from earliest times to the present day. Each page is filled with stunning visuals and thought-provoking text. From the Babylonian Empire to the Persian Gulf War, from the Xia and Shang Dynasties of Bronze Age China to the new space race, from Egyptian hieroglyphics to the digital age – [National Geographic Ultimate Visual History of the World](#) is the sweeping story of the history of civilization.

Author Jean-Pierre Isbouts is a scholar of humanities and history and a professor at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, California. He has published widely on the origins of human civilization. An award-winning filmmaker, Isbouts has also produced TV programs including *The Search for the Last Supper*.

History comes to life in this book, in which the monumental story of humankind unfolds through millennia of accomplishments and conflicts, tradition and change.

This narrative illuminates the powerful forces that have shaped the past and inform the present. [National Geographic Ultimate Visual History of the World](#) begins with the Dawn

of Humankind – prehistory up to 3000 B.C.E. – and continues through Cultures of the Bronze and Iron Ages; The Classical Age; The Ages of Faith, Conflict, and Discovery; The World at War; and The Modern Age, encompassing recent political strife and the global pandemic – an inclusive around-the-world journey incorporating epochs and events in the early Americas, Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East as well as the Western world.

A lush array of art and photography depicts locales, architecture, people, and artworks. Evocative illustrations imagine life at key moments through time, from Ice Age hunters tracking prehistoric bison to people going about their daily lives in Crete's Minoan settlements. Readers also meet celebrants sacrificing at the priestly altar of the First Temple in Jerusalem and watch Pickett's Charge, the infamous assault during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Interspersed throughout the narrative are time lines of notable dates, summarizing the events of each chapter. Intriguing sidebars, salient quotations, and fascinating facts will satisfy both serious readers and casual browsers.

[National Geographic Ultimate Visual History of the World](#) features:

- A compelling narrative capturing the sweep of time from the dawn of civilization to the present.
- More than 700 stunning images – both photographs and works of art – representing every time and place.
- Dozens of maps created by National Geographic's expert team of cartographers.
- Time lines of notable dates, chronicling the pivotal moments of history.
- Illustrated sidebars highlighting significant people and places, arts and occasions.
- Lively quotations bringing the voices of history alive.

Profound yet accessible and filled with iconic National Geographic maps, illustrations, and images, [National Geographic Ultimate Visual History of the World](#), a monumental volume, is a history lover's dream sure to become an instant classic. <>

Home / Design / Biographies & Memoirs

[Bunny Mellon Style](#) by Linda Jane Holden, Thomas Lloyd & Bryan Huffman, with a foreword by Tory Burch (Gibbs Smith)

This fascinating story of an American style icon Bunny Mellon, an art collector and philanthropist with her husband Paul Mellon, reveals how her style developed and how she became a self-confident, hands-on designer of homes and gardens in a privileged world.

[Bunny Mellon Style](#) is one of the most unintentionally influential women of 20th -century design. Readers take a look inside the family homes she designed, get the flavor of her collaborations with French designers of fashion and jewelry, and begin to understand her vast and lasting influence on the world of design.

Authors are Linda Jane Holden, Thomas Lloyd and Bryan Huffman. Holden is the author of *The Gardens of Bunny Mellon*. Lloyd, grandson of Bunny Mellon, is President of the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation. Huffman is an interior designer based in Charlotte, NC with a client base that spans the East Coast and extends into Texas.

Original research by the authors uncovered Mellon's personal writings and correspondences. They talked with people who knew her, who were employed by her,

and who spent time in her home and gardens. From published works, they extracted information about personal relationships between Mellon and Jackie Kennedy Onassis, designers Billy Baldwin, Balenciaga, and Givenchy. Blending stories and accounts from such a wide variety of viewpoints results in a unique perspective of this extraordinary woman who moved in the upper echelon of society but preferred not to be noticed in the public eye. [Bunny Mellon Style](#) reveals Mellon's style in furnishings, art, and collectibles; her dietary habits and penchant for picnics; her personal investment in designing every aspect of her homes, secondary buildings, and gardens.

Mellon's eye for home and garden design evolved from her youth. Then her style flourished with the design and building of Oak Spring, the main family home with husband Paul Mellon in Upperville, Virginia. Bunny's aesthetic further infused Mellon homes in Washington, DC, New York, Cape Cod, Nantucket, Paris, and Antigua. Fascinating photographs and writing reveal Mellon's style in furnishings, art, and collectibles; her use of restraint, which anchored her design philosophy; and her regard for the details that pervaded the composition of all her homes.

An abundance of imagery – including professional and archival photography, watercolors, whimsical drawings, and sketches – brings this story of a fascinating woman to life.

Never short on entertaining stories of life with Bunny, [the authors] share details that cannot be found from mere research and interviews. They reveal the real Bunny Mellon and her original approach to true style. – Country Zest

I blame Bunny for the bags under my eyes today. I thought I would flip through the images before bed but this beauty is so much more. I read for hours and have more to go. – Holly Phillips in The English Room

Speaking of tastemakers with buzzworthy Sotheby's sales, chances are even your most privileged friends would envy the collection of legendary socialite, horticulturalist, and tastemaker Bunny Mellon. Inspire them with a forthcoming tome on her many stylish residences as well as her fashion and jewelry collections. – Hadley Keller in House Beautiful

Everyone copies her, everyone references her, including me. – Tory Burch, from the Foreword.

To be blasé about Bunny Mellon should make you resign from whatever business you are in. – Billy Baldwin, from Billy Baldwin: An Autobiography

[Bunny Mellon Style](#) engenders the highest regard for a woman who was self-disciplined and self-taught, who loved learning from historic texts, who was accomplished in many ways, and who was as utterly unpretentious and down-to-earth. The book reveals Mellon's unerring eye and her vast and lasting influence on the world of design. A tribute by her grandson Thomas Lloyd is both surprising and warm. <>

Literature & Fiction

[Mona Passage: A Novel](#) by Thomas Bardenwerper (Syracuse University Press)

[Mona Passage](#) is a novel telling the story of two neighbors in San Juan, Puerto Rico: Galán Betances, a Cuban emigrant, and Pat McAllister, a young Coast Guard officer. During long evenings spent together talking on their Calle Luna rooftop, a deep friendship develops based on shared traumas and a common desire to heal.

Author Thomas 'Buddy' Bardenwerper served for five years in the US Coast Guard. He is currently pursuing a JD and a master's in public policy at Harvard Law School and the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government.

In **[Mona Passage](#)**, when Galán learns that his sister, Gabriela, is going to be committed to a mental health facility in Cuba, he plans her escape to Puerto Rico. Pat, whose Coast Guard cutter patrols the Mona Passage for drug traffickers and migrants, warns Galán that such a journey will be treacherous – perhaps fatal. Aware of the dangers but determined for Gabriela to live a full life, Galán hands over all the money he has to a Dominican smuggler based out of a San Juan nightclub, and Gabriela begins her terrifying journey.

Knowing that his cutter may be all that separates Galán and Gabriela – and haunted by the human suffering he has witnessed at sea – Pat must decide: Will he remain true to his oath, as his older brother had done in Iraq? Or will he risk his own future – and perhaps his freedom – for his closest friend?

On a moonless night, two armed vessels converge in the **[Mona Passage](#)**, and three lives change forever.

A suspenseful, humane novel, moving in its portrait of families divided by the hostilities of their governments, in this case Cuba and the United States. – Tobias Wolff

Thomas Bardenwerper will keep you engaged to the very last page with this well-crafted and often thrilling exploration of moral quandaries that challenge us all. – E. J. Dionne Jr., author of *Code Red*

*What would you risk for a sister, a brother, a friend, a stranger? **[Mona Passage](#)** is one of those rare novels that will expand your heart.* – Janet Benton, author of *Lilli de Jong*

An engrossing five-star read from a talented new author – not to be missed! – Jim Howe, author of *Red Crew*

Captures the maritime mood that evokes Hemingway and marries it with the terse, tense dialog of Elmore Leonard. He wraps it all in a political swirl of current events, romance and a plucky plot. – Michael Fabey, a Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist and author of *Crashback: The Power Clash Between the U.S. and China in the Pacific*

[Mona Passage](#) is a fast-paced storm of an adventure that seizes you on the first page, and doesn't let go until the very end. – Adrian Bonenberger, author of *Afghan Post*

This exciting debut novel brims with elements from Bardenwerper's days at sea. I recommend it for anyone who wants to understand those souls caught on the edge of the American empire. – Brian Castner, author of *The Long Walk*

Bardenwerper has crafted a chilling tale of intrigue and courage, which covers the range of human emotion and demonstrates the lengths to which people will go to circumvent the law, even if it means risking one's life or ending a career. – Peter McShane, author of *Save a Life, Take a Life; Green Beret Medic in Vietnam and the Passage Home*

[Mona Passage](#) is a gripping story of a Cuban émigré's attempt to reunite with his sister, a dangerous plan that tests his friendship with a young US Coast Guard officer. <>

Literature & Fiction / Arts & Photography

The Art of Oz: Witches, Wizards, and Wonders Beyond the Yellow

Brick Road illustrated by Gabriel Gale, text by John Fricke (Rizzoli International Publications, Inc.)

In [The Art of Oz](#), artist and visionary Gabriel Gale brings to life the creatures from L. Frank Baum's beloved series, from the iconic characters in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* to many others.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was the best-selling American children's book of the twentieth century, and the classic 1939 movie of this quintessential American fairy tale left a permanent mark on the hearts and imaginations of devoted fans throughout the world. In [The Art of Oz: Witches, Wizards, and Wonders Beyond the Yellow Brick Road](#) Oz archeologist Gale brings to life all the creatures and inhabitants from L. Frank Baum's beloved series, many illustrated in the book for the first time: wicked witches and their armies, mythical beasts, elemental fairies, robots, insects, one-legged and two-sided people, and many more sky, land, sea, and underground creatures.

Gale is an architect and artist whose enchantment with the Oz books began in childhood. In 2017 and 2018, he published two books in his three-book series *Ages of Oz*, which launched his own conception of a 1,000-year Oz universe based on the characters and intentions of Baum's original books. Writer John Fricke is a preeminent Oz historian; his past books include two about the entire Oz phenomenon and two about the famous MGM Wizard of Oz film.

[The Art of Oz](#) debuts the first-ever 'Google Map' of the Land of Oz.

Gale has mapped the country and animated all the creatures he found there. He has sketched Emerald City, the buildings and habitats of the enchanted Land. Through illustrations, in original and precise style, Gale portrays each character in detail, often with attention to anatomy, structure, size and scale. Gale's delightful renderings are also accompanied by excerpts and drawings from the fourteen books in Baum's Oz series and the most famous inhabitants of Oz – Professor H.M. Woggle-Bug, T.E., Dorothy, the Cowardly Lion, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, Toto, Glinda the Good, and the Wizard – add context to this magical endeavor.

No doubt Gabriel Gale's splendid book will inspire the imaginations of both young and old for generations to come. – Michael Patrick Hearn, author of *The Annotated Wizard of Oz*

[The Art of Oz](#) is a great book for the whole family to share and for anyone entranced by the fantasy and everlasting magic of Oz. In this must-have book, Gale brings to life all the creatures from Baum's beloved series in fantastical and vivid renderings, from the iconic characters in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* to many others that are visualized in the book for the first time. <>

Literature & Fiction / Detective / Thriller

The Dockland Murder by Mike Hollow (**Blitz Detective Series, Vol. 5:** Allison & Busby)

The author of this series is Mike Hollow, who was born in West Ham and grew up in Romford, Essex. He studied Russian and French at the University of Cambridge and then worked for the BBC. In 2002 he went freelance as a copywriter, journalist and editor. Hollow also works as a poet and translator. **The Dockland Murder** is Book 5 of 6 in the *Blitz Detective Series*.

In **The Dockland Murder** it's November 1940.

Darkness descends and another anxious night begins for those tasked with guarding the industrial heartland of London from enemy attack. As a policeman patrols the Royal Albert Dock, something catches his eye – a man is sprawled awkwardly across a nearby barge, a dagger lodged in his back.

Detective Inspector John Jago of West Ham CID discovers the victim was a dock worker by day and a Home Guard volunteer by night – and there are things even his wife doesn't know about his past. As the investigation unfolds, Jago uncovers a widening circle of secrets ranging across family tensions, the last war and a far-flung corner of the British Empire.

I was enthralled – Mike Hollow and DI Jago have a new fan. – Peter Lovesey

*Highly enjoyable series. **The Dockland Murder** moves the story along but stands well on its own. Good plotting and a well told story. – Roger Gardiner*

Recommend this series! I really enjoyed the books: well written, historically accurate and informative, interesting and enjoyable plots. I hope there are more – can't leave the key characters the way the last book ended off! – Susan Jones

Titles in *The Blitz Detective Series* include:

1. ***The Blitz Detective***
2. ***The Canning Town Murder***
3. ***The Custom House Murder***
4. ***The Stratford Murder***
5. **The Dockland Murder**
6. ***The Pimlico Murder***

Literature & Fiction / Military

The Spandau Complication by Bob Orkand (**Casemate Fiction Series:** Casemate Publishers)

The Spandau Complication takes place in Cold War Berlin where US Army Major Harry Holbrook is caught in the midst of assassination attempts and has to put his trust in an unknown contact and the reliability of information that may allow him to foil another assassination.

Author Bob Orkand, a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry, served on the staff of the U.S. Commander Berlin at the height of the Cold War. In Vietnam, he was operations officer of an airmobile infantry battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division. He commanded a mechanized infantry battalion in the prototype Volunteer Army brigade and later was Pentagon spokesman on the Volunteer Army project. After retirement, he was president and publisher of the *Centre Daily Times* in State College, Pennsylvania.

He has a degree in English from Columbia University, where he was awarded the Bunner Medal in American Literature. This is his debut novel.

In [The Spandau Complication](#), hot on the heels of a dressing-down by the U.S. Commander Berlin, U.S. Army Major Harry Holbrook receives an unexpected luncheon invitation from the Soviet commandant of Spandau Prison, where the last three remaining Nazi war criminals are incarcerated. A contact in East Berlin alerts H9 (s)-8olbrook that the Red Army faction will attempt to assassinate West Berlin Mayor Willi Brandt and the U.S. Commander at the opening of the Fifth Annual German-American Volksfest. Holbrook tries to help foil the plot. Coming to trust his contact, Holbrook knows he should act when he is tipped off that a Mossad terrorist attempts to assassinate two of the three Spandau prisoners upon their release from the prison...

Orkand draws on his experiences as a U.S. Army officer stationed in a divided Berlin for his fiction debut... Military buffs may appreciate the glimpse into a slice of cold war life.
– Publishers Weekly

Casemate has a long history of publishing high quality military history non-fiction. Lately, they have expanded their range of work to include well written novels using wartime settings. – WWII History Magazine

Set in the divided city of Berlin in the mid-1960s where recent incidents have brought the world closer to nuclear war than ever before, [The Spandau Complication](#) brings a complex tapestry of events to a breathtaking conclusion. <>

Philosophy / Politics / History / Western U.S.

[Whatever Happened to Tradition?](#): History, Belonging and the Future of the West by Tim Stanley (Bloomsbury Continuum)

The West feels lost. Brexit, Trump, the coronavirus: we hurtle from one crisis to another, lacking definition, terrified that our best days are behind us. The central argument of [Whatever Happened to Tradition?](#) is that people can only face the future with hope if they have a proper sense of tradition – political, social and religious. They ignore the past at their own peril. The problem, argues Tim Stanley, is that the Western tradition is anti-tradition, that people have a habit of discarding old ways and old knowledge, leaving them uncertain how to act or, even, of who they really are.

Stanley is a writer, journalist and broadcaster. He held fellowships in history at Sussex University and Royal Holloway before joining the *Daily Telegraph* as a columnist and lead writer.

[Whatever Happened to Tradition?](#) is an exploration of the philosophy and history of tradition, its uses and abuses, its beauty and necessity. Tradition is not just a pretty thing, much less dead or to be curated – it is the past brought to life, guiding readers through the present, offering a roadmap to the future.

In [Whatever Happened to Tradition?](#) readers see how tradition can be both beautiful and useful, from the deserts of Australia to the court of nineteenth-century Japan. Some of the concepts defended in the book are highly controversial in the modern West: authority, nostalgia, rejection of self and the hunt for spiritual transcendence. Readers even meet a tribe who dress up their dead relatives and invite them to tea.

Stanley illustrates how apparently eccentric yet universal principles can nurture the individual from birth to death, plugging them into the wider community, and creating a bond between generations. He also demonstrates that tradition, far from being pretentious or rigid, survives through clever adaptation, that it can be surprisingly

egalitarian.

The good news, he argues in [Whatever Happened to Tradition?](#), is that it can also be rebuilt. It's been done before. The process is fraught with danger, but the ultimate prize of rediscovering tradition is self-knowledge and freedom.

This is a rich and reflective book, based on wide reading and personal experience. – Literary Review

[Whatever Happened to Tradition?](#) is stuffed with marvellous vignettes... the reader is left feeling grateful for the abundance of knowledge and the ebullient conviction with which it is shared. – Allison Pearson, Telegraph

The writer he most resembles is Roger Scruton... Since Scruton died last year, there is a vacancy for a political philosopher who will defend the traditions of this nation with all his heart and all his considerable brain. I suspect we may have found his successor. – Allison Pearson, Telegraph

This book is brilliant. It's really radical in a way that all the other stuff that says it's radical is not. It really gives you an idea that there is something else outside this airless bubble of the self we are stuck in today. I find that kind of inspiring. – Adam Curtis, filmmaker

He persuasively presents tradition as rooting us in the world and in society, and as subtly adaptable. – Jane O'Grady, the Daily Telegraph

Roger Scruton's death deprived public discourse of its most intelligent and cogent defender of tradition, but Tim Stanley's [Whatever Happened to Tradition?](#) steps bravely into the breach. – Church Times

Tim Stanley suggests in his engaging way that fidelity to the past determines future happiness – for our civilisation, not just our souls. – Christopher Howse, The Spectator

Historical, philosophical, wide-ranging, witty and surprising, Stanley's [Whatever Happened to Tradition?](#) makes a passionate case for why fidelity to the past is essential to happiness in the future. <>

Philosophy / Religion & Spirituality

[A Hebraic Inkling: C. S. Lewis on Judaism and the Jews](#) by P. H.

Brazier, with a foreword by Alan Shore (Pickwick Publications)

An apologist, philosophical theologian, and Oxford academic, C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) valued the Jewish religious tradition. Underpinning Lewis's corpus is an enlightened, foundational respect for the Jews as God's chosen people.

Much of Lewis's mature understanding came from his wife, Joy Davidman (Lewis referred to her as a Jewish Christian), born to American Jewish parents; she was an adult convert to Yeshua Ha Mashiach – Jesus Christ.

[A Hebraic Inkling](#) examines the Jewish-Hebrew heritage in Lewis's life and works by analyzing key texts: theological and philosophical, literary and apologetic, biblical. As a boy and young man Lewis reflected much of the implicit anti-Semitism inherent to the public school educated Edwardian establishment; this is replaced by deep respect when he became a Christian. Along with the Hebrew Scriptures, the book examines Lewis on Hebraic poetry (Reflections on the Psalms), the "The Incarnation Nation," the Messiah in the Hebrew scriptures, supersessionism, Israel, his rigorous stand against anti-Semitism, and how Christians are enfolded into the chosen people.

An independent theologian and scholar living in London, author P.H. Brazier holds degrees in Fine Art, Education, and Systematic Theology. A retired teacher, the author is the caregiver for his wife who has severe epilepsy.

With marriage revelation, Brazier in [A Hebraic Inklings](#) gets deeply personal: a familial witness. When one of Joy's children – David – sought to return to his mother's birth-faith, Lewis moved all to accommodate his wishes and raise him as a Jew, after Joy's untimely death.

According to Allen Shore in the foreword to [A Hebraic Inklings](#), he had read enough about Lewis to be at least somewhat aware of the path of his pilgrim's way and the milestones that marked its progress: the first gentle context of his childhood, the rude thrust from the nest brought about by his mother's death, the Orwellian horrors of the public school, rescue in the form of 'Old Knock' Kirkpatrick, the war, the budding career of the young academic, his atheism, his romance with 'Northerness' and myth, his encounter with McDonald's 'goodness,' his famous walk and talk with Tolkien and Dyson and his self-identification as "the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England."

Brazier in [A Hebraic Inklings](#) covers this familiar territory, as many others have done, but he does so in a way that provides insight into an element of Lewis' faith that has been, up to now, overlooked. It is that not only did Lewis arrive by incremental steps to acceptance of the gospel, once he has accepted it, he seems to have come fairly quickly to the realization that the gospel he had surrendered to and the God he had encountered through it were integrally bound to the wider context of salvation history borne witness to by the children of Israel and their prophets. In short, because C. S. Lewis' God was integrally connected with the both the history and the destiny of the Jewish people, so was he.

And, of course, who would have dreamed that this seemingly insulated don would encounter the embodiment of this realization literally in the flesh in the person of Joy Davidman. Brazier truly brings Davidman to life. And like her, Shore's own understanding of Jewish identity was truly revolutionized after his surrender to Yeshua.

Brazier also brings to the fore the extent to which Lewis' reverence for the Hebrew Bible informs his understanding on the new covenant. One of his most penetrating analyses that draws upon this sensibility is that of the portrait of Frank and Sarah Smith in *The Great Divorce*. In that volume, as Brazier leads readers to realize, Lewis has consciously echoed the style and cadence of the prophet Isaiah and the Book of Psalms.

I am and have been a Jewish believer in the gospel for close to fifty years.... Lewis played a formative role in that faith decision. Like many others before me, I was much taken by the patient and friendly tone of Lewis's apologetic writing as he adduced the arguments to make his case.... C. S. Lewis's God was integrally connected with both the history and the destiny of the Jewish people, and so was he. – Alan Shore, Missionary, State of Washington

[A Hebraic Inklings](#) is the first book-length study focusing upon Lewis's understanding of Jewish attitudes toward Scripture. In addition to offering a comprehensive view of Lewis's theological understanding of God's selection of the Hebrews as his chosen people, Brazier deftly demonstrates the personal influence Joy Davidman had upon Lewis's mature understanding of Jewish culture, ideas, and traditions. Well-researched, erudite, and articulate, [A Hebraic Inklings](#) is a welcomed addition to Lewis scholarship. – Don King, Professor of English, Montreat College

Brazier's work is replete with well-researched, surprising nuggets. <>

[Luke-Acts in Modern Interpretation](#) edited by Stanley E. Porter & Ron C. Fay (**Milestones in New Testament Scholarship Series**: Kregel Academic)

[Luke-Acts in Modern Interpretation](#) is a biographical and interpretive history of Luke-Acts scholarship. The book explores the lives and work of ten interpreters who have significantly influenced the study of the Lukan writings over the past 150 years. The chapters contain short biographical sketches of the scholars that illuminate their personal and academic lives, summaries and evaluations of their major works, and analysis of the ongoing relevance of their work in contemporary scholarship on Luke-Acts.

Key thinkers surveyed in [Luke-Acts in Modern Interpretation](#) include:

- Adolf Harnack
- Martin Dibelius
- F. F. Bruce
- Loveday Alexander
- C. K. Barrett
- Richard Pervo

An introduction and a conclusion by editors Stanley E. Porter and Ron C. Fay trace the development of Luke-Acts scholarship from the 1870s to the present and examine how these ten scholars' studies have shaped the field.

Fay is assistant professor of biblical studies at Liberty University. Porter is president, dean, professor of New Testament, and Roy A. Hope Chair in Christian Worldview at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario.

Porter and Fay conclude the introduction to [Luke-Acts in Modern Interpretation](#) by noting how important Baur and the Tübingen hypothesis has been, not only in Pauline studies, where it is certainly well-known and remains influential, but also in the study of Luke-Acts. Baur and his followers transformed study of Luke-Acts in a variety of ways, especially in relation to date and purpose, but also in terms of historical reliability and theology. As a result, much of subsequent study of Luke-Acts has been driven by the issues identified and promoted by Baur. The flow of the Baur hypothesis, although modified in various ways by its proponents, again surged in the early-to-mid twentieth century, even if it was again countered by renewed interest in Luke as both a historian and theologian. Today there is another surge in Baur-influenced hypotheses, countered by a reassertion of the significance of understanding Luke-Acts within its historical context.

This book is a handy guide to many of the most prominent and influential figures in critical Luke-Acts scholarship. For those wanting to get their feet wet in the world of Lukan studies, this is a great place to start. – Craig S. Keener, F.M., Ada Thompson Professor of Biblical Studies, Asbury Theological Seminary

Luke-Acts represents the largest portion of the New Testament. It was long neglected but has been at the center of much New Testament discussion in recent times. This survey of major contributors provides a wonderful orientation to the issues that swirl around these two important parts of the New Testament. It prepares one well for engagement with the issues tied to these books. – Darrell L. Bock. Executive Director for

Cultural Engagement, Howard G. Hendricks Center for Christian Leadership and Cultural Engagement; Senior Research Professor of New Testament Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary

[Luke-Acts in Modern Interpretation](#) is an important collection of studies in the *Milestones in New Testament Scholarship* series. The two-volume work known as *Luke-Acts* warrants scholarly scrutiny not only because this work represents almost one quarter of the entire New Testament, but because it preserves a vital link between Jesus, his life, and ministry and the first generation of the church that emerged in the aftermath of his death and resurrection. Editors Stanley Porter and Ron Fay have assembled an impressive roster of contributors who have reviewed the history of scholarship concerned with *Luke-Acts* and have done so with critical judgment and keen insight. – Craig A. Evans, John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins, Houston Baptist University

Those invested in understanding the recent history of scholarship on *Luke-Acts* will find in [Luke-Acts in Modern Interpretation](#) a valuable deposit of historical insight into biblical studies. The essays provide more detailed pictures of a number of the significant scholars who have been a part of the scholarly historical and theological dialogue about *Luke* and *Acts*. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity

[The Arc of Spirituality: The Western Love Affair with God](#) by Robert P. Vande Kappelle (Wipf & Stock)

[The Arc of Spirituality](#) invites readers on a journey through Western history, a journey that begins with the pioneering concepts of ancient Israelites who understood spirituality communally and covenantally. Continuing biblically with wisdom and apocalyptic conceptions, [The Arc of Spirituality](#) examines Western Christian spirituality as it developed historically through twelve phases, culminating in the modern period with ethical, ecumenical, pluralist, and ecological expressions, and most recently, with postmodern secular alternatives.

Having described his own journey in previous volumes, in this culminating book, Robert P. Vande Kappelle builds on earlier writings such as *Response to the Other*, *The Second Journey*, and *The Church Alumni Association* to tell the story of the Western world's unfolding love affair with God.

Vande Kappelle, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania, and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, is the author of twenty-seven books.

The goal of spirituality is always God, and while God makes the journey interesting, it is never easy, for there are no clear steps to follow or learn. At some point readers discover it is more about unlearning than learning, enriched more by subtraction than by addition. Each chapter concludes with questions for discussion or reflection.

Despite new chapters and themes, [The Arc of Spirituality](#) has many things in common with Vande Kappelle's earlier books. While these works are companion volumes, *Arc* is best read as a sequel, for it borrows freely from *Second Journey* while following a broader and less nuanced understanding of spirituality. In *Arc*, Vande Kappelle thinks of spirituality as a 'love affair with God,' a relationship that, while described religiously and theologically, can also be described holistically and naturally, how one relates to God is how one relates to others, nature, and oneself.

[The Arc of Spirituality](#) examines Western Christian spirituality as it developed historically through twelve phases, beginning with the spirituality of ancient Israel and postexilic Judaism and culminating in the present with 'secular' spirituality. While these phases are not necessarily progressive in nature, they can be seen to summarize or typify particular eras or epochs of Western history. In presenting twelve phases of spirituality, Vande Kappelle says his intent is not to provide detailed analysis on ways of being spiritual, but rather to offer historical and literary perspective on the distinct spiritual ethos of a cultural or historical period, often by examining the life and thought of representative personalities. As readers will notice, his approach is more evocative than analytical, suggestive rather than descriptive. His goal is to present each phase of spirituality as a stage in a journey, with the understanding that somehow the journey is the goal.

[The Arc of Spirituality](#) is not a handbook on spirituality, not a step-by-step instruction manual on how to be more spiritual. Spirituality is the journey of a lifetime. While spirituality requires effort, it is also effortless, in that it requires letting go. In the journey of spirituality, progress is expected; there are steps forward, certainly; but also many more backward. Orthodox or traditional spirituality – called first-half-of-life spirituality – is formulaic and instructional; it can be taught. Second-half-of-life spirituality is more caught than taught, for there are no clear steps to follow or learn.

[The Arc of Spirituality](#) is useful for individual or group study. The narrative, while continuously inspiring, necessarily takes readers through dark alleys and down deep rabbit holes in spirituality's never-ending quest to know and experience the transcendence around us and within. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Saints

[From the Depths of the Heart: Annotated Translation of the Prayers of St. Gregory of Narek](#) by Abraham Terian (Liturgical Press Academic)

St. Gregory of Narek (ca. 945–1003), Armenian mystic poet and theologian, was named Doctor of the Church by Pope Francis on April 12, 2015. Not so well known in the West, the saint holds a distinctive place in the Armenian Church by virtue of his prayer book and hymnic odes – among other works. His writings are equally prized as literary masterpieces, with the prayer book as the magnum opus.

Author Abraham Terian, professor emeritus of Armenian theology and patristics at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, Armonk, New York, is a recipient of the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in the Humanities award and Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia.

Terian in the preface to [From the Depths of the Heart](#) says that the papal proclamation of April 12, 2015, declaring St. Gregory Narek a Doctor of the Universal Church has lately created a profound and widespread interest in the saint. His prominence rests primarily on his prayers, each of which opens with the epigraph "Speaking with God from the depths of the heart" Their inherent beauty in the native tongue and their depth of thought and feeling have endeared *Surb Grigor Narekats`t* to his Armenian readers for a millennium. Terian says he chanted some of these prayers on his knees as a teenager at ~~San~~ Old Jerusalem and has received copies of the prayer book as prizes at the local Holy Translators' School. Growing up with them and having cherished them for decades, he sometimes felt destined to translate them, more so after becoming a theologian and teaching Armenian theology for years.

Much has been written about Gregory's highly complex yet rhythmically gripping language. Terian says that rendering his prayer book literally and coherently, with as little loss of the original beauty as possible, is challenging. The text is not incomprehensible, and it is not difficult to follow. Complexities are exegetically and theologically explicable and the syntactical difficulties are grammatically soluble. For one who has spent decades with the most difficult texts in Classical Armenian, especially those attributed to the Hellenizing School of translators and authors of the

sourcebook is a distillation of Paxson's years of experience with the runes and teaching others.

[Taking Up the Runes](#) is not intended to be the one, true, and only approach to rune lore. It is a study guide that integrates material from a variety of sources. Each chapter in part 1 presents the name, shape, pronunciation, and meaning for two runes. The understanding of their meaning is derived first from their names and then from the Anglo-Saxon rune poem (which includes all the nines in the Elder Futhark plus several additional runes that are not discussed) and the Icelandic and Norwegian rune poems. Thus some of the runes have three sets of verses, while others have only one. However, even when a rune only appears in the Anglo-Saxon poem, the concepts for which it is a gateway may be found in the Eddas, sagas, and histories. Since runic studies are an evolving discipline, Paxson also summarizes the ways in which some of the most important modern writers on rune lore interpret and use the runes as well as offering her own.

Understanding the runes also requires a knowledge of the spiritual and cultural context in which they developed and were used. The sections on each pair of runes are therefore followed by a section titled "Study and Experience" which discusses related myths, history, and customs. This section also contains suggestions for experiential and ritual work that help readers to internalize the runes' meanings.

In part 2 of [Taking Up the Runes](#) readers find rituals for group use based on each pair of runes. There are other ways to arrange the material, by studying one rune at a time, for instance, or by addressing the runes in different combinations. Just as in divination, in which the meanings of the cards shift according to their arrangement, readers find that the runes cast new light upon each other's meanings with each new pairing.

Everything regarding runes is covered in the definitive and essential workbook, [Taking Up the Runes](#), from their history and how to make one's own rune sets, to how to work with them on a psychic, spiritual, and magical level. <>

Science / Cosmic

[The Invisible Universe: Why There's More to Reality than Meets the Eye](#)

by Matthew Bothwell (Oneworld Publications)

[The Invisible Universe](#) is a guide to that part of the Universe human eyes can't see from a dazzling new voice in popular science.

From the discovery of entirely new kinds of galaxies to a window into cosmic 'prehistory', Dr. Matthew Bothwell shows readers the Universe as they have never seen it before – literally.

Bothwell is Public Astronomer at the University of Cambridge and a science communicator who gives astronomy talks and lectures on almost any area of astronomy.

According to Bothwell, since the dawn of the species, people all over the world have gazed in awe at the night sky. But for all the beauty and wonder of the stars, when people look with just their eyes they are seeing and appreciating only a tiny fraction of the Universe. What does the cosmos have in store for humans beyond the phenomena they can see, from black holes to supernovas? How different does the invisible Universe look from the home people thought they knew? Bothwell takes readers on a journey through the full spectrum of light and beyond, revealing what they have learned about the mysteries of the Universe.

[The Invisible Universe](#) is a guide to the ninety-nine percent of cosmic reality people can't see – the Universe that is hidden, right in front of their eyes. It is also the endpoint of a scientific detective story thousands of years in the telling. It is a tour through the Invisible Universe.

Throughout the book, concepts are well explained, using metaphors and analogies to create an accessible writing style... An engaging read overall, this book will be of interest to anyone wanting to know more about how we've learned what we know about the Universe. – Chris North, BBC Sky at Night

Matthew Bothwell's excellent book is a compelling read. He sets the latest fascinating discoveries in their historical context, and highlights the mysteries that challenge future astronomers. The coverage is comprehensive and clear. The book stands out in a crowded field and deserves very wide readership. – Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal
Matthew Bothwell has opened a new window onto the night sky for his readers... A unique and compelling read that will open your eyes to the beautiful and multifaceted universe that scientists are exploring today. – Emily Levesque, author of *The Last Stargazers*

Matt's book is an excellent introduction to how astronomers have learnt 'what's out there', particularly using radiation invisible to the human eye. He deftly conveys ideas with a cheerful and infectious enthusiasm, using humour, vivid analogies and personal anecdotes to bring our understanding of the Universe to life, without losing any scientific rigour. Highly readable, it offers an increased sense of wonder at the workings of the cosmos. – Carolin Crawford, Emeritus Gresham Professor of Astronomy

[The Invisible Universe](#) shows everything in a new light. In clear language this book takes you from the familiar to the deeply strange, from blue skies to black holes and beyond, showing how much we've learned and the immensity of what we have yet to understand. – Ken MacLeod, author of the award-winning *Fall Revolution* series
Matt Bothwell guides us through the world of astronomy and astrophysics with an engagingly written, up-to-date view of some of the key current frontiers. He opens our eyes to wavelengths beyond the light we can see. His journey includes galaxies, black holes, star formation, dust, gravitational waves, dark matter and dark energy – all with interesting historical context, accessible explanations and richly peppered with accurate analogies. A compelling read. – Andrew Coates, Professor of Physics at UCL and Deputy Director (Solar System) at UCL's Mullard Space Science Laboratory
This book bursts with information without once becoming dull or over-complicated. Ideas are introduced at an accessible level, and unique analogies put abstract concepts and almost inconceivable quantities into a context that we can understand intuitively.... Readers of all ages who want to gain a better understanding of the unseen Universe will find something here to enjoy. – Astronomy Now

Explaining difficult concepts in a digestible way, [The Invisible Universe](#) is a must-read for those seeking a straightforward route into the world of astronomy. One can't help being attracted to Bothwell's infectious passion for science, prompting us to stare out at the night sky and wonder what other discoveries lie hidden amongst the stars. – Reaction

A highly recommended and enjoyable read, especially if this is your first guidebook for this armchair trip... Dr. Bothwell examines each topic with the right mix of history, anecdote, analogy, science and implications... captivating. – Starvind

[The Invisible Universe](#) offers an excellent, eye-opening view into the universe. Engaging, readable, passionate, the book is a must-read. Highly recommended. <>

Sports & Entertainment / Venues

[Movie Theaters](#) by Yves Marchand & Romain Meffre, with an essay by Ross Melnick (Prestel)

We were both in complete darkness for close to an hour already, waiting for the light of dawn to dimly illuminate the neo-Gothic interior whitened by three decades of abandonment in the United Artists Theatre in Detroit. We were concerned about the success of our long exposures with our respective 35mm devices fitted onto frail tripods. This was our first foray into a movie theater, and our fascination with these venues was born there.... – from the book

Following on the heels of their incredibly successful *The Ruins of Detroit*, [Movie Theaters](#) is a major new project by the prolific French photographer duo Yves Marchand and Romain Meffre, poignantly eulogizing and celebrating the tattered remains of hundreds of movie theaters across America.

They are in every American city and town – grandiose movie palaces, constructed during the heyday of the entertainment industry, that now stand abandoned, empty, decaying, or repurposed. Since 2005, the acclaimed photographic duo Marchand and Meffre have been traveling across the US to visit these early 20th-century relics. In hundreds of lushly colored images, they captured the rich architectural diversity of the theaters' exteriors, from neo renaissance to neo-Gothic, art nouveau to Bauhaus, and neo-Byzantine to Jugendstil. They have also stepped inside to capture the commonalities of a dying culture – crumbling plaster, rows of broken crushed-velvet seats, peeling paint, defunct equipment, and abandoned concession stands – as well as their transformation into bingo halls, warehouses, fitness centers, flea markets, parking lots, and grocery stores. Using a large format camera, the photographers' carefully composed images range from landscape exteriors to starkly beautiful close-ups.

According to Marchand and Meffre in [Movie Theaters](#), when the film industry began to take off at the beginning of the twentieth century, the reproducibility of the medium allowed for a large-scale diffusion, and going to the cinema became a prime leisure activity. To charm the millions of spectators and "create the psychological conditions of dream and travel," the major studios opted for seductive, eclectic decors inspired by the canons of the great European opera houses and theaters, adorning interiors with the formality of culture and luxury in order to gain legitimacy.

The film industry and its movie theaters became mass culture: at once creators of and sites of diffusion for the American mythology, witnesses to and protagonists of the national narrative. But as soon as technology was able to allow the individualization of the means of diffusion with the arrival of television in the 1950s, the idea of movie theaters was in fact condemned to decline.

Marchand and Meffre in [Movie Theaters](#) say they devoted over fifteen years to this project, from venue to venue, from one request to the next, from one meeting to the following, alternating refusals and successes, but, above all, with many surprises.

Presented in [Movie Theaters](#) in a gorgeous oversized format, this illustrated eulogy for the American movie palace is certain to become a modern-day classic. <>

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