All About History

England's Bloodiest Witch Hunt

300 victims in a land gripped by terror...
On the trail of the Witchfinder General

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Disbanding the Beatles

Inside Russia's frozen lake fight

Photography in Focus
From flash bulbs to Instagram filters
The shadow of the Witchfinder General looms long over history. Matthew Hopkins presided over England's worst witch hunt, dispatching 300 people to the gallows between 1644 and 1647. His influence could also be felt at the Salem trials over half a century later, with many of the Puritan settlers that turned on each other in Massachusetts coming from the same eastern counties in which Hopkins went about his bloody business. Even today the pop culture imagery of the witch – pointed hat, broomstick, black cat – has its roots in the mid-17th century. Hopkins' personal legend also lives on, inspiring the 1968 Hammer Horror film *Witchfinder General. This is all the more impressive as Satanic panics were old in Britain by the time Hopkins came to power, more closely associated with Tudor times (Henry VIII passed England's first law against witchcraft in 1547) and the later reign of the witch-obsessed James VI & I.

However, while Hopkins' dark charisma must have been captivating, perhaps we shouldn't point the finger of blame entirely in his direction. At the time Hopkins was operating, Britain was engulfed in a civil war, which had whipped up sectarianism and suspicion for him to tap into. Find out what really happened from page 30.

**Jack Parsons**
Editor

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**Editor's picks**

**Crown the ultimate monarch**
Are you a Ricardian, an Elizabethan or perhaps even a Victorian? Vote for your favourite king or queen in our poll now!

**Russia crushes Germany**
In a very different type of cold war, find out how Russian hero Alexander Nevsky rebuffed an invasion by Teutonic Knights in an epic battle on a frozen lake.

**Batista: Cuban heel?**
With Raul Castro stepping down, look back at the dictator he and his brother Fidel overthrew. Does Fulgencio Batista deserve his reputation as a villain?
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ROCKET MAN

Joseph Duo, a Liberian militia commander loyal to the government, exults after firing a rocket-propelled grenade at rebel forces on a key strategic bridge. Taken during the final throes of the civil war, the image made front pages across the world, opening many people’s eyes to the 14-year conflict for the first time. After the war, Duo, who was a child soldier, completed his high school education and even earned a degree in criminal justice.

2003
Crowds fill the Sydney Harbour Bridge on its opening day, 19 March 1932. The tallest steel arch bridge in the world, it was nicknamed ‘the iron lung’ because it kept so many employed during the Great Depression. The bridge’s grand unveiling was briefly interrupted by Captain Francis de Groot, a member of a right-wing extremist group, who rode in on a horse and cut the ribbon with his sword before the state premier, Jack Lang, could.

1932
HELP FROM ABOVE

A US Army nurse tends to wounded soldiers aboard a C-47 transport plane in March 1944. Also known as a Dakota or Skytrain, this World War II aircraft could carry up to 18 stretcher cases and a medical crew of three. However, with its reinforced floor and cargo doors, the C-47 had a variety of uses so could also carry troops ready for deployment and goods weighing over 2,700 kilograms, including Jeeps and even light trucks.

1944
COCKNEY CORONATION

Boys blow paper blowers at a street party in London during Queen Elizabeth II's coronation celebrations. While these parties were held across the country, Mrs P Watson from Bethnal Green remembers those in the East End being particularly special: “All along the street, parties were getting under way, bunting across the width of the street, Union Jacks in your face from door to door, big flags hanging from every window.”

1953
EDISON EXHAUSTED

If you've had a long day at work, spare a thought for American inventor and businessman Thomas Edison. This picture was taken at 5.30am after five continuous days and nights spent perfecting the phonograph, the first device that could record and replay audio. Edison, who also patented the light bulb, stock ticker and over 1,000 other inventions, claimed he used to work an average of 20 hours a day.

1871
“There are always two people in a picture: the photographer and the viewer”

Ansel Adams, American photographer
PHOTOGRAPHY

Discover how this medium has evolved, transformed our culture and captured key moments in history

Develop and print photos

Vietnam War photographer

How a flash camera works

History’s greatest snappers

Written by David Crookes, Rebecca Greig, Jessica Leggett
The invention of photography

From the pinhole camera to first digital device, explore how photography has developed.

**Camera Obscura**
A camera obscura is a natural phenomenon in which an image can be projected through a small opening onto an opposite surface. This may have been used in prehistoric times but the earliest known record of this process can be found in the work of Mozi, a Chinese philosopher lived c. 470 -391 BCE.

**Drawing Aid**
The camera obscura was predominantly used by astronomers to safely observe eclipses, but in the late 16th century, they were adopted by artists. A biconvex lens and a diaphragm restricting the aperture gave a brighter and sharper picture, so they could be used to trace images onto drawing paper. From the 17th century, portable versions were commonly used as pinhole cameras.

**The Brownie**
Eastman took accessible photography a step further with the introduction of the Kodak Brownie. It was a very simple and cheap box camera, and it truly introduced the idea of the 'snapshot'. It was very popular and various iterations of it remained on sale right up until the 1960s.

**First Kodak Camera**
Eastman’s Kodak camera went on the market with the slogan ‘You press the button, we do the rest’. It was a very simple box shape with a fixed-focus lens and single shutter speed. This meant that anyone could take photographs and leave the complicated development process to somebody else, making photography a lot more accessible.

**Introduction of Film**
George Eastman developed dry gel on paper or film to replace the photographic plate so that photographers didn’t have to carry toxic chemicals around.

**First 35mm Cameras**
The first 35mm stills camera was developed and mass-produced by Oskar Barnack of German Leica Camera. 35mm film later became the standard for all cameras.

**Instant Cameras Invented**
While traditional cameras were being refined and developed, the Polaroid Model 95 was introduced, which was the world’s first instant-picture camera. The camera invented by Edwin Herbert Land used a special chemical process to produce fixed positive pictures from the exposed negatives in under a minute.

**First Digital Photograph**
Almost 20 years before Kodak produced the first digital camera, the first digital photograph was taken. The photo was a digital scan of a shot initially taken on film.

'Photography' comes from the Greek words 'photos', light, and 'graphe', or drawing. The earliest known use of it as we use it was in 1839 by astronomer Sir John Herschel.

The first digital camera was only 0.01 megapixels.
JOHANN HEINRICH SCHULZE
A German professor of anatomy proved that the darkening of silver salts was caused by light and not heat, as previously thought. This revelation along with the camera obscura provided that basic technology necessary for the photographic process.

VIEW FROM THE WINDOW AT LE GRAS
French inventor Nicéphore Niépce produced the first successful landscape picture using a camera obscura filled with a pewter plate. He snapped a view of the courtyard of his country estate, Le Gras, but the exposure took a staggering eight hours, so the sun seems to appear on both sides of the building.

THE DAGUERREOTYPE
Louis Daguerre had discovered that a latent image forms on a plate of iodised silver and that it can be developed and made visible by exposure to mercury vapour. The exposure wasn't permanent though, and when exposed to too much light would disappear. By 1837, Daguerre had figured out how to fix the image using table salt and later that year he produced a photograph of his studio on a silvered copper plate - the first daguerreotype.

THE INVENTION OF DRY PLATES
The idea of physician Richard Leach Maddox in 1871 of suspending silver bromide in a gelatine emulsion led to the introduction of factory-produced dry plates coated with gelatine containing silver salts. This was truly the beginning of modern photography.

FIRST COLOURED LANDSCAPE
Taken by Louis Arthur Ducos du Hauron, a French pioneer in colour photography, the first coloured landscape showcased the world in colour. He masterminded the process and the shot depicts his native southern France.

WET PLATE IMAGING
The wet plate collodion process for making glass negatives revolutionised photography. Frederick Scott Archer invented the process and paper prints could be easily made from the glass negatives.

NIKON F INTRODUCED
This was Nikon’s first SLR camera and was pretty advanced for its time. It was the first SLR system to be used seriously by professional photographers, especially by those photographers covering the Vietnam War.

FIRST POINT AND SHOOT
Konica introduced the first point-and-shoot, autofocus camera Konica C35 AF named Jasupin, and thus made photography more accessible than ever before.

FIRST PROFESSIONAL DIGITAL CAMERA
Kodak released the first professional digital camera system that was transformational for photojournalists out in the field. It was essentially a modified Nikon F-3 camera with a 1.3-megapixel sensor.

People never smiled in photos because they had to stay still for so long during the exposure.

Every two minutes we snap more pictures than the whole of humanity in the 1800s.
It’s easy to forget that before digital photography took off in the mid-1990s, there was a long time between snapping your photo and finding out what it actually looked like when it was developed.

Developing and printing film required a chemical process that could easily go wrong if you muddled up your timings or even just exposed the film to natural light. Colour photography was particularly complicated and Kodak built its empire on the motto ‘You press the button, we do the rest,’ allowing customers to send film cartridges to their factories to be processed by professionals. This job was later taken up by chemists worldwide.

However, black and white photography was more straightforward and both professional and amateur photographers often developed and printed their own pictures in darkrooms.

**Use the clock**
Both the film development and printing processes have to be carefully timed, so make sure you have a clock handy.

**Hang me up to dry**
You’ll need somewhere dust-free to dry your film reels and your final prints. This doesn’t have to be in a darkroom.

**Darkroom conditions**
To make sure you don’t destroy your film the moment you remove it from its cartridge, make sure you have a red light.

**Enlarge your pictures**
This device, which burns a large-scale image from your negative onto printing paper, has been in use since the 1860s.

**Chemical treatment**
You’ll need developer to make the image appear, stop bath to stop development, and fixer to make the image permanent.

**Cut the film**
Once you have developed the film, you can cut out each image and discard any pictures you don’t want to keep.

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**What you’ll need…**

- Red light bulb
- Development tank
- Enlarger
- Chemicals
- Tray
- Developer
- Stop bath
- Fixer

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**01 Spool your film**
Make your sure red light is on before exposing film, then pop off the film cassette’s lid with an end cap remover, which works similarly to a bottle opener (scissors would also work). Partially remove the film and begin wrapping it around a stainless steel film reel. This is fiddly, so you may want to practise it before doing it for real in the dark.

**02 Chemically treat film**
Place the reel in a development tank, then pour the developing solution over it. Seal the cap and turn the tank upside down continuously every ten seconds for nine minutes. Pour the solution away and add the stop bath, repeating the process for ten to 30 seconds. Do this again with the fixer, agitating for ten seconds a minute for two to five minutes.
How not to... Overexpose image

When print photographs come out wrong, they are often described as overexposed. This is when the image looks unnaturally washed out because the film has been exposed to too much light. If the final image is totally blank, this means you likely removed the untreated film from its cassette in normal light, rather than the soft, safe glow of a darkroom. You can similarly ruin a shot if the shutter speed on your camera is too long or your aperture is too wide, as this also allows too much light onto the film. But adjusting the exposure of your image also allows you to get more creative - perhaps to counteract for natural lighting to capture a better shot or intentionally deviate from what’s expected to produce something more artistic.

Hang out to dry

Once the fixer is poured away, wash away any chemical residue with water, then peg the film negatives up to a washing line. Use squeegee tongs (or just very clean fingers) to remove any excess water, then leave it to dry somewhere clean and dust-free. If need be, the treated film can now be exposed to normal light.

Bathe paper in trays

You won’t initially see any difference in the printing paper but once it’s bathed in trays of chemicals, the image will slowly appear. First, quickly and smoothly slide it into developer solution. After 60 seconds, use tongs to transfer it to a tray of stop bath. Then after ten seconds, transfer it again to a tray of fixer to soak for 30 seconds.

Use an enlarger

Inspect the dried negatives with a magnifying glass. Cut out your preferred shot with scissors, careful to only slice through the guidelines. Place in a slide and insert into an enlarger, which - under a red light - projects the image onto printing paper. Expose the paper to the projection for five to 25 seconds depending on how dark you want the final image to be.

Finished result

Like with the processing of the film, once you’ve completed the chemical treatment you’ll need to wash off the residue. Soak your print in a tray of water (ideally at 20°C/68°F) for two minutes, emptying and refilling the dish several times. While the image will need to dry, you’ve now successfully developed and printed your photo!

4 Types of photo film

Daguerreotype

1839, France

The earliest practical photographic process didn’t use film. Light-sensitive chemicals were formed on a silver-plated copper sheet.

Photographic plates

1850s, Great Britain

Photographic plates came before photographic film. Light-sensitive chemicals was painted onto glass plates to create an image.

Flexible film

1885, United States

The first flexible film roll was sold by George Eastman but this original film just consisted of a coating on a paper base.

Polaroid

1973, United States

Polaroid introduced an instant film containing chemicals that will complete the developing and fixing process after each exposure.
A helmet would be a war photographer’s only protection when serving on the front line. Some correspondents clearly wrote ‘press’ or the name of their news agency in bold letters on it to better distinguish them from the fighting soldiers. However, the rim of a helmet would also get in the way of the camera when shooting, so some daredevils opted not to wear them at all, favouring a bucket hat that shielded them from the tropical weather - but nothing else - instead.

A picture’s not always worth a thousand words
Back in the 1960s, American news organisations could often afford to send large teams of both war photographers and reporters to Vietnam (especially once it became a hot-button political issue). However, during a firefight in the jungle it was easy to get separated from the writer, so photographers had to be prepared to note down what they had seen.

No weapons
Cameras mightier than the gun
While soldiers would sometimes try and foist a gun on the war correspondents that came with them, most would refuse. Don McCullin once told The Guardian: “A gun has no place in a photographer’s kit. You are there as an objective observer.” However, Michael Herr conceded that he did carry a weapon, but only when the authorities told him he couldn’t join a patrol if he didn’t.

Every shot counts
In the hey-day of analog cameras, there were no memory cards that could store hundreds, if not thousands of shots. Instead, SLR cameras used 35mm roll film, which could capture around 16 single images. This meant war photographers had to carry lots of film with them - a daunting task if they joined troops away from base for more than a few days.

Capturing the war from every angle
War photographers would generally use a standard 35mm lens, which allowed them to take both close-ups or wide-angle shots. But they would also carry multiple cameras with different lenses fitted - such as a telephoto lens for added zoom - so that they could quickly capture different shots of the unfolding action without having to adjust lenses.

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Lenses
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35mm film
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SLR camera
Point and shoot
While really any single-lens reflex (SLR) camera could do, the war photographer’s camera of choice in Vietnam was the Nikon F. As well having as interchangeable viewfinders and viewing screens, it was extremely robust. In fact, one even saved British photojournalist Don McCullin’s life, catching a round from an AK-47 in its casing as he crossed a Cambodian rice paddy in 1970.

FLAK JACKET
POCKETS, POCKETS, POCKETS
Not to be mistaken for a bulletproof vest, a flak jacket offered multiple layers of nylon that might shield you from shrapnel but couldn’t stop a bullet. Rather flak jackets with lots of pockets served as a utility vest, allowing war correspondents to keep essentials - rolls of film, lens-cleaning cloth, press passes, cigarettes - within easy reach. They also reduced the need for a cumbersome kit bag.

COUNTERCULTURAL VIEWS
ZOOM IN, DROP OUT
While many war photographers were veterans from Korea and even World War II, the Vietnam War was also home to a new generation of photographers like Tim Page who were, in Michael Herr’s words, “apolitically radical, wigged-out crazies”. While this put them at odds with the top brass, it meant they could talk to the ‘grunts’ (average age 19) in the lingua franca of the 1960s counterculture.

NOTEBOOK
A picture’s not always worth a thousand words
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LENSES
CAPTURING THE WAR FROM EVERY ANGLE
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PLAY MORE THAN 600 PLANES FROM 6 NATIONS ON WARTHUNDER.COM
The term ‘paparazzo’ (plural: paparazzi) was introduced to the world as the name of the persistent news photographer in Federico Fellini’s 1960 film, La Dolce Vita. While the character was depicted as a lovable rogue, his name derived from a term for a large mosquito, which is how Fellini thought the scandal sheet snappers looked as they buzzed around celebrities on Rome’s Via Veneto.

While news photographers were nothing new in the late 1950s, it was at this time that the Italian capital became a mecca for American movie stars in the wake of Hollywood’s post-studio slump. This opportunity proved irresistible to the newspapers, and soon the Eternal City was swarming with home-grown and international photographers, aggressively competing to get the best shot of the stars.

**A Paparazzo**

**Fighting with Flashes to Get the Best Shot on the Via Veneto**

**Rome, 1948-1968**

**Review the Papers**

A messenger boy would deliver the previous day’s papers for the photographer and reporters to review. This would have usually been done while enjoying an espresso and a leisurely cigarette sat out of the front of a nearby café. In particular, photographers would check to see if any of their shots had made the front page that day.

**News Briefing**

All of the newsroom staff would gather for a briefing from the editor to discuss yesterday’s jobs, big stories and angles on new ones. This is when the photographer would be briefed on the essential photographs for the day and any potential front-page stories would also be flagged. Any scandals and rumours from the night before would be shared, too.

**Job List**

After the planning meeting, the photographer would be given a job list of the essential pictures to get for the day. This would usually consist of back-to-back jobs with the understanding that if a story broke unexpectedly, their schedule would have to dramatically change.
KIT PREPARATION
The photographer had to prep their kit for a full day of shooting. As well as their Rolleiflex camera and enough film to last the day, they might carry multiple lenses, a flash gun and a notebook. They’d also carry a pen to mark the film, so that darkroom staff could later identify which reels were the most important ones.

HEAD OUT TO FIRST JOBS
Photo-calls and events were often how the day started. These jobs often involved jockeying for position to get the best shot, so photographers would get there early and wait in place in order to get the best view possible. Car chases weren’t unheard of when it came to capturing the best possible image.

LUNCHTIME DRINK
After a long morning fighting for position, photographers would often head back to the newsroom to drop off their first few film reels of the day and grab a quick lunchtime drink in the newsroom bar. Afternoon and evening jobs were usually when the day picked up.

A RIDE ALONG THE VIA VENETO
As the city’s VIPs headed out for the evening, so too did the paparazzi. Cameras at this time weren’t particularly quick, so photographers might only have one chance to get the shot they needed. Drivers would zip them around on the back of Vespas so that they could chase down celebrities, and using the flash was always a must in order to capture action.

HIT THE BAR
After a long day out in the field, a hard-earned drink was a must. One drink could turn into many, but it was a great way to stay in the loop and get inside information from fellow photographers, journalists or even VIPs. This is also when violence and confrontations were all too frequent. The paparazzo would still be carrying their camera, but no longer had the safety of a getaway vehicle, so alcohol-fuelled anger from overprotective bodyguards often ended the night.
For over half a century, wherever a pack of newspaper photographers gathered to get a picture of a glamorous Hollywood star or a grisly murder scene, the sound of an exploding flashbulb was not far behind. Black, boxy and able to fold up like an attaché case, this camera was most likely a Graflex Speed Graphic.

Photojournalists used this iconic camera to capture some of the greatest press images of all time—most notably Joe Rosenthal, who won a Pulitzer Prize for snapping six US Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima in 1945. It could be used almost anywhere for anything—a handheld while chasing a story, to capture action shots at sports events, or as a top-notch studio camera.

First produced in 1899 by WF Folmer, the original featured a built-in focal plane shutter, which meant that you could use lenses that did not have a shutter themselves—known as barrel lenses. However, future versions did not have a focal plane shutter. The camera was available in a range of formats, most famously 4x5 inches.

Despite its name, the speed graphics camera was painfully slow to operate. The focal plane shutter speed had to be set by selecting both an aperture and a spring tension. For each shot, the photographer had to change the film holder, open the lens shutter, cock the focal plane shutter, remove the dark shade from the film holder, focus the camera and then release the shutter.

If using a lens with a shutter, then the photographer would have the task of setting that too. Plus if they were shooting indoors, the photographer would also have to change the flashbulb each time. Missing a perfect picture must have been all too familiar for the press photographers at this time. When the easy-to-use 35mm film hit the market in the 1960s, the Graflex rapidly faded into obsolescence.
**Viewfinder**
The viewfinder is located at the top of the camera and helps the photographer to line up the subject in the frame. Vertical and horizontal lines were engraved on the finder's lens in order to help with composition and when not in use, it can be folded down and compactly closed.

**Ground-glass screen**
This is a piece of glass that's surface has been ground down creating a matte finish. The ground-glass viewer helps with manual focusing and is inserted into the back of the camera and the camera is set to its widest aperture. This projects the scene on the ground glass upside down. The photographer focuses and composes using this projected image. Ground-glass focusing is done before you load the film into the camera.

**Focusing panel**
The focusing panel provides side shields to aid focusing on the ground-glass screen. The panels help to shield some of the light in order to help the photographer see the projected image more clearly.

**Barrel lens**
Due to the inclusion of a focal plane shutter, the speed graphics camera can use barrel lenses that don't have built-in shutters.

**Focus knob**
This knob was used with the focusing scale on the focusing rails to create a sharp image of objects closer than 30 metres. For objects further away, it would be set to infinity on the scale.

**Open the camera**
The camera folds up completely into a box shape. To open the camera, press the concealed spring at the top and the bed will fold down and the side arms will lock.
Hall of Fame

Iconic Photographers

From scientific study to capturing the horrors of war, meet the shutterbugs who pioneered photography.

**Eadweard Muybridge**  
Born: 1830  
Died: 1904

An innovator in the field of photography, Eadweard Muybridge is often hailed as the 'father of motion picture' thanks to his photographic experiments. He was the inventor of the zoopraxiscope, the forerunner to movie projectors, creating groundbreaking images of humans and animals in motion. One of Muybridge's most famous photographic studies, titled *The Horse in Motion*, proved that a galloping horse could lift all four of its legs off the ground simultaneously. He ultimately produced over 100,000 motion images. Muybridge was known for his research into animal locomotion. Muybridge was known for his research into animal locomotion.

**Anna Atkins**  
Born: 1799  
Died: 1871

Often cited as the first female photographer, Anna Atkins created the first photographic book to be commercially published. A botanist, she used the cyanotype process to develop photograms of algae and plants using light-sensitive paper - the method dyed the paper blue, hence the term 'blueprint'. Atkins is said to have made at least 10,000 images, taking around ten years to capture them all, and she produced three volumes of her book in total.

**Joseph Nicéphore Niépce**  
Born: 1765  
Died: 1833

Credited with creating the world's first permanent photographic image, Joseph Nicéphore Niépce paved the way for future photographers. From at least 1816, he spent years experimenting before finally inventing the heliography process to capture the first photograph - his earliest surviving example dates back to 1825. Niépce wrote to the Royal Society in England about his work, but his paper was rejected due to his refusal to fully disclose his process. He formed a partnership with Louis Daguerre, but this was cut short by Niépce's death four years later. Daguerre would go on to invent the daguerreotype process for photography, which eclipsed Niépce's work.

**Dorothea Lange**  
Born: 1895  
Died: 1965

As a photojournalist, Dorothea Lange became famous for humanising the Great Depression in America through her pictures. Working for FDR's Farm Security Administration, she highlighted the suffering of the rural poor and in doing so, influenced the development of documentary photography. Her most famous and evocative photograph, *Migrant Mother*, has become an iconic image of the Depression era. Lange also photographed Japanese Americans being interned in camps following the attack on Pearl Harbor, but her US government employers refused to publish the images over fears that they would lead to a public backlash over their treatment.

After discovering that his wife had an affair, Muybridge shot her lover dead, but was acquitted on the grounds of 'justifiable homicide'.
Yousuf Karsh was one of the greatest portrait photographers to have ever lived. Known for his use of dramatic lighting, Karsh was propelled into the spotlight thanks to his powerful portrait of Winston Churchill, taken in 1941. Throughout his remarkable career, which spanned six decades, he captured various portraits of political figures, celebrities, artists and many more. During this time, more than 20 of his photos ended up being used on the cover of Life magazine.

Margaret Bourke-White was a groundbreaker in the field of photography. Initially hired for Fortune magazine in 1929, she became the first Western photographer to be allowed to take pictures of the Soviet five-year plan. Bourke-White also became the first female photojournalist for Life magazine, producing the photo that would grace its first ever cover, as well as the first female American war correspondent. It is said that she was the only foreign photographer in Moscow when the Germans invaded in World War II, and she also captured the haunting images of the survivors at Buchenwald concentration camp.

Cartier-Bresson was a trailblazer for spontaneous, candid photography. He travelled all over the world as a photojournalist, and he was even taken as a prisoner of war by the Nazis during World War II. Among Cartier-Bresson's most famous collections is his coverage of the communist victory in China, as well as the aftermath of Gandhi's assassination in India. In 1952, he published his book Images à la Sauvette, which remains one of the most celebrated photographic works to this day.

For six decades, Helen Levitt took to the streets of New York City to capture the gritty, spontaneous photographs that she was celebrated for. Levitt became a pioneer of colour photography later on in her career and received a Guggenheim grant in 1959 and 1960 to carry out her work. Unfortunately, most of her colour photography was stolen in 1970. While photographers past and present have admired Levitt’s work, she remains relatively unknown to the wider public.

Arbus made a name for herself through her intimate black-and-white photographs, many of which focused on the marginalised groups in society - such as the mentally ill and the transgender community. Her 1967 exhibition New Documents caught media attention and propelled her into the public eye. Arbus fought her own battle against depression and sadly committed suicide in 1971. Ever since her death, millions of people have flocked to exhibitions of her photographic work.
When Polaroid’s instant camera was first launched in 1948, it worked using peel-apart film. As the name suggests, you had to peel this apart, removing the paper from the print. This was because pulling the positive receiving sheet from the negative film would develop the photo, but the process would leave the image wet from the chemicals that were sandwiched between the two. Shaking it would help dry the image. But later Polaroid film placed the image between layers of clear plastic, so shaking it had no real effect, as the print never touched the air. In fact, shaking this type of Polaroid while it was still developing actually risked distorting the image!

Why did colour photography take so long to perfect?

**Theresa Newton**
Scottish physicist James Clerk Maxwell proved colour photography was possible only 22 years after the first black and white shot was taken. While his use of red, green and blue filters was too complicated to take off, his three-colour theory helped inspire Auguste and Louis Lumière’s 1905 Autochrome film. Kodak perfected the colouring process in 1935 and reduced the cost so that colour film was accessible to everyone by the 1970s.

Who took the first selfie?

**Lloyd Matthews**
The first person known to have snapped a picture of themself was Robert Cornelius. An amateur chemist from Philadelphia, 30-year-old Cornelius tried his hand at photography just months after Louis Daguerre announced the invention of his early camera, the daguerreotype. To make sure his camera was exposed to the most light, Cornelius set it up outside the back of his family’s silver-plating store. He removed the lens cap, posed for a self-portrait and wrote “The first light picture ever taken, 1839” on the back of it.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Why do you shake a Polaroid?

**Lisa Barsar**
When Polaroid’s instant camera was first launched in 1948, it worked using peel-apart film. As the name suggests, you had to peel this apart, removing the paper from the print. This was because pulling the positive receiving sheet from the negative film would develop the photo, but the process would leave the image wet from the chemicals that were sandwiched between the two. Shaking it would help dry the image. But later Polaroid film placed the image between layers of clear plastic, so shaking it had no real effect, as the print never touched the air. In fact, shaking this type of Polaroid while it was still developing actually risked distorting the image!
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there is perhaps no other name so closely connected with the horrors of the witch-hunting era in England than that of Matthew Hopkins, the man responsible for more confessions of and executions for witchcraft than any other individual in English history. Under Elizabeth I and then James I, witchcraft was a felony, and witchcraft-related crimes could mean the death penalty for those convicted at the assize courts. Despite the initial spate of executions under the Witchcraft Acts of 1562 and 1604, however, by the mid-17th century, official persecution for witchcraft had greatly dwindled, with magisterial interest in the crime on the wane for the preceding several decades. With the advent of the English Civil Wars, this changed; a deadly cocktail of social, religious and political breakdown led to unique and volatile conditions that ignited a new fear of the enemy within, a fear that found expression in renewed attacks on that most deadly of foes: the witch.

It was this very shift that allowed Hopkins and his ideas to flourish fatally unchecked during the brief span of his witch-hunting career. Born the son of a Puritan clergyman, according to Hopkins, his mission was inspired by personal experience. In 1644, nearby to his home in Manningtree, Essex, a group of witches apparently used to meet for their Friday Sabbats, and he listened in on their diabolical conversations. Terrifyingly, Hopkins found he had not been careful enough; the witches had caught wind of his eavesdropping, and as punishment had sent a spirit in the form of a bear to kill him.

Hopkins met a man with a similar mindset – John Stearne – in March 1645. The pair set on a deadly path together, which would wreak havoc across rural England. Amid the speculation, worry and suspicion bubbling beneath a country divided, in the county of Essex, local magistrates Sir Harbottle Grimston and Sir Thomas Bowes were encountering tales that were alarming indeed. Witches, it was said, were rife, causing illness, suffering and death to local people and livestock. Even worse, these witches were members of the very communities they were tormenting; a threat from within at a time when it was more crucial than ever to be united.

One of those suspected was aged, one-legged Elizabeth Clarke from Manningtree, who was accused by tailor John Rivet of bewitching his wife. Supposedly, it was Elizabeth Clarke's name (according to Hopkins) that had been whispered by the Manningtree witches. Amid a heady combination of accusation, fear and fate, Stearne, with Hopkins assisting, was at the forefront.
In the 16th and 17th centuries, Puritans followed a strict moral code in order to live a life that was centred around following God’s laws. Thou shalt not...

1. Celebrate Christmas
Puritans outlawed Christmas as they said it encouraged excessive drinking, dancing and eating and gave “liberty to carnal and sensual delights”. During the Civil Wars, there were riots in London as a series of shops that had opened on Christmas Day came under attack. Celebrations took place in secret.

2. Ignore the superstitions
Witches were part of a wider tapestry of superstition in the Early Modern period. Forgetting to carry a luck bone, getting out of the wrong side of the bed, tripping over, turning back to get something you’ve forgotten when embarking on a journey, and dropping bread and butter with the butter side down were all considered bad luck.

3. Converse with papists
After the failed Gunpowder Plot, suspicion and hysteria about Catholics grew to extraordinary heights and an entire industry of anti-Catholic pamphlets, playing cards and poetry sprang up, much of it hinting to the motives of Charles I and his French (and Catholic) wife Henrietta Maria.

4. Take your medicine
17th-century medicine was a risky affair, not only because of a limited knowledge of the body and the risks of being coned by a ‘quack’, but because the boundary between magic and medicine was often conflated. Concocting your own medicine with herbs was enough to see you condemned.

5. Go to the theatre
Theatre was closed down at the start of the Civil Wars, perhaps because of its historic role in rebellion – memories of the 1601 failed uprising of the Earl of Essex still lingered. When the Puritans took control, they associated theatre with licentiousness and even prostitution, and thought the theatres were best left closed.

6. Dance around the maypole
The tradition of Morris Men dancing around a maypole was deemed too licentious for Puritans, while the ritual of women collecting flowers from the woods to decorate maypoles was particularly problematic, as there was no way of policing what women ‘got up to’ in the woods.

7. Enjoy sports
Sports were viewed with the same suspicion as other gatherings – they encouraged debauchery when the emphasis should be on the teachings of God. But there was also a fear that physical exercise and competition might lead to the men committing ‘sodomitical’ acts. Many local ‘Olimpick Games’ in villages were cancelled.

8. Mention Scotland...
Scotland would not go quietly into republicanism, and the Presbyterian Covenanters rebelled against Cromwell when he took control of England. They got as far as crowning Charles II ‘King of Scots’ at Scone before Cromwell mounted a successful invasion and took over the country.

9. …or Ireland
Ireland was often described as lawless and ungovernable during the Early Modern period. Cromwell mounted a brutal and violent invasion before introducing harsh laws against the majority Catholic population and forcibly indenturing many to go and work on plantations in the Caribbean.

10. Upset the Fifth Monarchists
Fifth Monarchists were an apocalyptic sect who believed that Jesus was about to descend and begin a 1,000-year reign, pre-empting the Day of Judgement. They became particularly obsessed with the year 1666 – the ‘year of the beast’ – and were able to secure key positions for themselves in the Puritan regime.
of the mission to uncover what lay behind the accusations. Elizabeth was arrested and searched, and before the sorry affair reached its end, the poor, elderly woman had confessed to owning devilish imps, having sexual intercourse with Satan, and had implicated numerous others into the bargain.

In the wake of this startling development, further suspects were taken in for questioning, and thanks in large part to the dubious methods employed by Hopkins and his associates, confessions of all manner of dark crimes came to light. The witches of Essex were a plague on the area, responsible for causing much suffering to innocent people. Central to the plethora of scandalous details related before the eager witchfinders was the confession of making a pact with the Devil and the owning of imps or familiars. These spirits – appearing in a variety of seemingly innocent forms such as cats, dogs, ferrets and birds - carried out the witch’s evil tasks on her behalf. Unbelievable as such beliefs may seem, Hopkins and Stearne, along with a goodly proportion of the population, were in no doubt as to the existence of such creatures. The witch hunters had more reason than most to believe such claims; they had witnessed them first-hand, as Elizabeth Clarke introduced one after another of her familiars to those who watched her. No doubt merely the old woman’s pets, but in the heightened atmosphere of suspicion, fear and sleep deprivation, all present were convinced that what they saw confirmed the existence of a witch and her devilish imps.

What could persuade someone to confess to such clearly fantastical things? In the questioning of Elizabeth Clarke, Hopkins and Stearne hit upon a winning formula. The suspect was stripped and her body searched; those carrying out the task briefed on the variety of seemingly innocent marks, moles or lumps that actually betrayed the places from where a witch fed her imps. Such ‘teats’ were often concealed from view, but their use was glaringly apparent to the trained eye. Other marks betrayed the pact the witch had made with the Devil. The goal now was to extract a confession, and, as a bonus, to get the suspect to incriminate others in the process. The suspected witch was not to be allowed to sleep until this aim was achieved. Appointed ‘watchers’ remained with her at all times to enforce this, and also to keep a look out for the expected appearance of the suspect’s imps, sure to come to be fed by their mistress once enough time had passed. Keeping someone from sleep for a prolonged period of time against their will is hard but not impossible: suspects were walked back and forth repeatedly across the room in which they were held, feet rubbed raw, legs aching, body and spirit crying out for mercy at any cost. The price was high: the deeds related under such conditions were enough to send many desperate, exhausted people - Elizabeth Clarke among them - to the noose.

Although they were welcomed by many, there were criticisms of the work of the witchfinders from the start, and by the summer of 1645,
the pair moved on, passing across the county border into Suffolk and leaving the dungeons of Colchester Castle to hold a crop of suspected witches awaiting trial.

It was in this county that the greatest excesses of Hopkins and Stearne were carried out, as with carefully honed techniques, they set about their work afresh, leading to one of England’s largest witch trials and executions for the crime of witchcraft in England’s history. The two men parted company, covering one half of the towns and villages as each they worked their way through those that showed signs of being most receptive to their scheme. With fear and suspicion ratcheted to unprecedented levels, under the Puritan zeal of Hopkins and Stearne, it was in the summer of 1645 that England experienced its only true witch craze.

As was true of previous spates of witchcraft prosecution in England, those accused before the eager witchfinders were mostly women; often old, disliked or known for immoral or undesirable behaviour. Women were also viewed as an easy target for accusers, and to defy feminine gender norms was deeply threatening to English village society. If denouncing troublesome women for witchcraft was all it took to be rid of them for good, then that was to be done. It was also believed that women were more likely to not only be taken in by the schemes promises of the Devil, but also to spread what they learned to others. Under Hopkins’ careful questioning, tales of hardship, poverty, bereavement and loneliness

“TO DEFY GENDER NORMS WAS DEEPLY THREATENING TO VILLAGE SOCIETY”

CONJURING THE WITCH

The legacy of Matthew Hopkins’ bloody trail of terror could be felt at Salem and even today, says witchcraft historian Dr John Callow

Is there a direct link between the depiction of Royalists as demonic, and the witch hunt in East Anglia?

This is certainly what historians now think, largely as the result of ground-breaking work by Professor Mark Stoyle. The Civil Wars militarised and brutalised English society to an unprecedented extent and, at the outbreak of the conflict, Prince Rupert [of the Rhine] seemed to embody all that was to be most feared: the ethos of the ruthless, swaggering, foreign professional soldier, hardened to looting and the massacres of the Thirty Years’ War. As a consequence, the stories that gathered around Rupert from 1642-44, concerning his employment of familiar spirits – namely his great white dog ‘Boy’ – witchcraft and shape-shifting, were easily projected onto village women, once the prince’s military reputation was shattered at the Battle of Marston Moor.

What role did the fear of Catholicism play in the shaping of this image?

The idea of the ‘other’ – the fearful, corrosive outsider – is a common theme in most witch persecutions. Minorities are always at risk. In Counter-Reformation Germany, the Protestant was often identified as the would-be witch; in the Spain of the Inquisition, it was the Jew; in 15th-century France, it was Joan of Arc as the liberated woman who adopted men’s clothing. In the same way, deadly folktales about Cardinal Wolsey – once a local boy made good, turned after his fall from power into a ‘witch master’ – began to transfer themselves onto Prince Rupert. The irony, here, is that Rupert was a dedicated Calvinist; a temperate drinker and very far from being a rake. It was his uncanny good fortune in battle – just like Wolsey’s sudden rise to power – that appeared suspect and unnatural.
were shaped and molded to fit the narrative he now expected to find; these women had been seduced - in many cases, quite literally - by the Devil himself.

It was in Suffolk also that it became clear, however, that witchcraft was not exclusively a female issue; several men found themselves accused and arrested on suspicion of witchcraft-related crimes. Brandeston vicar John Lowes was the most prominent of these. Aged over 80, known for being quarrelsome and determined in an argument, Lowes tragically fell victim to Hopkins’ witch-hunting fervour and the long-standing dislike by his parishioners. Accused of being guilty of murder by witchcraft, owning and feeding imps and being the very head of a coven of dangerous witches, Lowes refused to admit to anything that might incriminate him. It was only after Hopkins had the elderly man swum (a type of water torture) in the moat at Framlingham Castle that Lowes at last began to cooperate, broken by a man whose determination to win outshone even his own. Before a triumphant Hopkins, Lowes confessed to causing harm and death by witchcraft, including sending his imps to cause deadly mischief at sea - capsizing ships on more than one occasion. He also revealed marks on his tongue and head,showing where he fed his familiars, and was taken before a magistrate before being imprisoned with the growing number of other suspects.

The accused were tried at the Bury St Edmunds assizes on 26 August, the fear of news that Royalist forces were advancing on the area further heightening the atmosphere of panic that gripped those involved. 18 were found guilty of causing death and injury by witchcraft and sentenced to death for the next day, marking not only the largest yield in a single trial for Hopkins, but also the largest single execution for witchcraft in English history. The condemned women and men spent their final night in a barn, where all but one made a pledge to say nothing further until the end. The assizes were suspended until further notice due to the pressure of the Royalist advance, leaving some estimations a couple of hundred suspected witches under lock and key, untried.

It was too late for Lowes and his companions, however, and they went to the gallows in one of the worst travesties of the period. Although Stearne was allegedly present at the execution on 27 August, having recorded the fact in his later justification of their witch-hunting excesses, the whereabouts of Hopkins is unknown. Although they continued to operate for the next couple of years, extending into Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire and leaving pockets of witch-hunting fever in their wake, Bury St Edmunds heralded the beginning of the end for Hopkins and Stearne.

Criticisms of the pair and their work across East Anglia and beyond had been gaining volume for some time, and they would never again be able to act so freely. Printed two years later, Hopkins’ pamphlet, The Discovery of Witches, details the main criticisms against the witch hunters, along with Hopkins’ refutation of them.

Was Matthew Hopkins’ Satanic panic an anomaly during the Civil Wars?

After a period of marked decline from the 1620s, the Civil Wars re-ignited an interest in witches and a burgeoning, popular literature about their fearful magic. After the deadly hatred surrounding the last of the Lancashire witch trials had died down, the figure of the witch had often been viewed by dramatists as a comic or pitiable one. The trouble was that these jokes and the sometimes entirely fictionalised accounts of their careers could – and often were – taken in deadly seriousness at times of crisis and societal breakdown. The hurried reprinting of earlier witchcraft tracts and trial accounts during the 1640s-50s created conditions in which persecution could flourish. Beyond any doubt, the East Anglian outbreak of 1645-47 was the most dramatic and deadly cycle of witch hunting ever undertaken in England.

But Hopkins and his companion, John Stearne, were the symptoms of this canker rather than the cause. The collapse of traditional authority, a vacuum at the heart of the legal system, and an upsurge in popular fears about the efficacy of witchcraft created the climate in which Hopkins and Stearne might flourish. Certainly they were not the only witch hunters operating during the period; the trials did not stop with Hopkins’ death in 1647, but radiated out to Kent in the 1650s. As late as the 1680s, the services of witchfinders were being sought and contracted by concerned citizens in the Devon boom-town of Bideford, where accusations of witchcraft, once again, surfaced. It was not until the 18th century, with the acceptance of Cartesianism, a transcendent notion of God, and the rise of the philosophes that the Devil was undermined his world and work, through the devil and witches.

How much of today’s pop culture view of the witch can be traced back to this era?

There is no doubt that the modern image of the witch – crooked, old and poor, complete with a pointed hat, broom and black cat – stems from the mid-17th century. You only have to look at the title page of Hopkins’ Discovery of Witches to see the stereotype, seated around the hearth and surrounded by her quarrelsome familiar spirits. [This] witch could live next door; sour the milk, sicken the livestock and kill the babe in the cradle. That is what made her so dangerous, fearsome and compelling.

Embracing the Darkness: A Cultural History of Witchcraft is available now for £20 from I.B.Tauris.
Just as the English Civil Wars led to a witch panic, religious turmoil also sparked similar suspicion across Europe throughout the 17th century.

**English Civil Wars**

**UNHOLY ROMAN EMPIRE**

Charles Van der Camere, lieutenant of Bouchin in the district of Hainault, was by his own admission a prolific witch hunter; he claimed to have convicted more than 80 suspects in a two-year period alone. The lack of central control and loopholes in the judicial system meant that wily men such as Camere could take full advantage of the situation. In total, Camere is believed to have unjustly brought over 150 people in front of the witch trials. The execution of children as witches makes his reign particularly disquieting; out of 34 tried, 16 were put to death.

**Basque 1609–1614**

With people running terrified from an outbreak of witch hunting across the French border, over 2,000 found themselves interrogated and tortured at the instigation of witch hunters in the Basque region during this period. In the mass panic, there was little discernment between who was accused; lords, priests and villagers alike were interrogated. Gender and age were also no guarantee of safety, with women, men and children swept up and executed. This period of terror finally came to an end when the Spanish Inquisition ironically stepped in to stop the religious fervour. When witchcraft could not be proved, the hunt was brought to a close.

**Spanish Netherlands 1610–19**

When witchcraft could not be proved, the hunt was brought to a close.
Baden-Baden, Germany 1627/31
Dr Martin Eschbach, highly prominent councilor of the margrave of Baden-Baden, built up a reputation as a rooter-out of witches in the German city and its environs. With the area full of religious tensions due to the enforced conversion from Protestant to Catholic, Eschbach used torture to make suspects confess and the accusations of children were used to round up further suspects - their parents. Even government officials came under threat: the wife and sisters of the local prince's official were executed before Eschbach went for the man himself. About 200 recorded deaths resulted from Eschbach's activities, with many others banished or imprisoned.

Pierre de Lancre 1553-1631
Granted the power to rout out witches by King Henri IV himself, Lancre led a witch hunt in the Labourd area with devastating consequences. He started work in 1609, after the number of accusations of witchcraft in the area caused official concern - a task he committed himself to with great enthusiasm. The deadly judge was finally relieved of his post, but not before an estimated 80 people were executed in the four-month period he was active.

Johann von Schönenberg 1525-1599
Archbishop of Trier, Johann von Schönenberg presided over a set of German witch trials that, starting in 1581, lasted for over a decade. The witch hunt may have claimed 368 lives in the city of Trier alone, with the final death count much higher: in two villages, it was said only one woman was left alive. Schönenberg belatedly attempted to rein in the terror, fearing for central control, but the damage was already done.

Nicholas Rémy 1530-1616
This lawyer-turned-witch-hunter took great pride in his work; according to Rémy, he was responsible for the death of over 900 witches, and even if only less than 150 can be substantiated, his dedication to the cause cannot be doubted. His written works were also highly influential, acting as a 'guide' to other hunters of witches. It is thought that he turned to witch hunting after his son died, supposedly cursed by a beggar woman.

Georg Scherer 1540-1605
Responsible for Vienna's only witch burning, Scherer earns a place in the list of witch hunters due to his ferocious persecutions of Elisabeth Plainacher in roughly 1583. The 70-year-old Lutheran woman was accused by Scherer of causing fits in her granddaughter Anna after no other cause could be found, and after questioning and torture, she confessed that she had been the one responsible. Despite intervention from Vienna's mayor, Elisabeth was burned as a witch.

Balthasar von Dernbach 1548-1605
During his stint as prince-abbot at the monastery of Fulda, in 1602 fanatical Dernbach unleashed terror and persecution throughout the area, with the final death toll at over 200. Accusations included copulation with the Devil, carrying his children and murder. This witch hunter didn't work alone, with a fellow minister at the monastery boasting of his blood-thirsty streak. Thankfully, the trials did not long outlast his death, bringing this brutal episode to an end.
**English Civil Wars**

The methods used to ‘discover’ a witch were slayed by many. Walking and waking was seen as excessive and likely to produce false testimony, this was brought home in the case of one woman who, after being kept awake for days, confessed the names of her familiars. After being allowed to rest, however, she took it all back, remembering nothing of what had been said. ‘Swimming,’ in which the accused was dunked in a pond with their limbs bound, was likewise criticised as not only barbaric but also illegal.

Furthermore, it was said that Hopkins made bargains and promises with suspects that he had no business making, his silver-tongued whispering inducing confession and accusations that should not have stood up in a court of law. Hopkins was also accused of being in the business of witchfinding for the financial gain, conveniently identifying large numbers of witches in order to line his own pockets. The fact he was wined and dined by the magistrates of the towns he visited - especially when so many were going hungry - added further to the ire displayed towards the Witchfinder General. Some records show that the dastardly duo charged towns up to £1,000 for their efforts. Both Hopkins and Stearne made protestations in person and later in print, but the damage to their names had been done, and their protestations were of no use.

How was it, then, that Hopkins managed what he did? There is little doubt that Hopkins believed in his self-appointed cause. The Bible said not to allow a witch to live, and, as a devout Puritan, Hopkins followed this injunction to the letter. The times in which he operated were unique for their turbulence and uncertainty, with many strange portents of doom and destruction in 1645 leading those who witnessed them to believe that the End Times were near, as the country continued to tear itself apart. Fire was seen to streak through the sky. Crops failed. Illness and famine went hand in hand, and the country was in judicial and legislative chaos. With the additional spark of religious discord and animosity towards Catholicism, it is all too evident how witch hunting could flourish.

Despite the self-appointed title of ‘Witchfinder General’ used by Hopkins, this was not a role in any official sense, nor was it one that conveyed the power to act as judge. True, John Stearne had been given a warrant granting him permission to examine suspected witches in Essex, but that was from a local magistrate, and not blanket permission to launch a crusade, and it did not provide the authority with which the pair began quickly to act. The lack of proof of official paperwork is problematic, especially as the witchfinders would have needed some form of permission to move about the carefully policed area as freely as they did.

It has been suggested that Hopkins had sinister connections that allowed him to work with impunity, but if so, no evidence of this intriguing assertion survives. But the initial impetus to root out witches was helped by Hopkins and his witch hunting would have got off the ground without his input. A staunch Puritan, it is significant indeed that most of the original spate of Essex witchcraft accusations came from Grimston’s own estates, and those that did not take place in areas under his jurisdiction. Certain of the social, moral and spiritual disturbance that could prevail if such evil activities were left unchecked, the magistrate was instrumental in paving the way for the excesses to follow. It is not known for certain how many lost and ruined lives Hopkins was responsible for before his short yet deadly witch-hunting career came to an end. Although the more extreme estimates should be taken with a pinch of salt, it is thought that perhaps a third of English witchcraft executions were from his period of operations. Furthermore, Hopkins was indirectly responsible for even more deaths, as many suspects perished in the stinking gaol conditions of the times - victims of disease and abuse as they awaited trial.

There are many claims regarding the eventual fate of this infamous man. One of the most popular (and perhaps satisfying) is that Hopkins was set upon by an angry mob, and either drowned or hanged after being discovered to be a witch himself. Other far-fetched ideas include that he escaped to America, where he continued his nefarious work under an assumed name and influenced the Salem witch trials. Evidence shows, however, that death came for Matthew Hopkins in the form of consumption, carrying him off in 1647 - a fact attested to by his former partner John Stearne and also the burial register for Mistley parish church.

Never again did England see the persecution of witches at such a high level. Public and educated opinion had turned enough in favour of reason and a dismissal of superstition, and although popular belief in the existence of witches remained strong into the 19th century and beyond, the number of executions for the crime dwindled again after Hopkins left the scene. English executions for witchcraft came to an end altogether in the 1680s, but the name of Matthew Hopkins continues to inspire horror, fascination and mystery even today.
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A port located on the northern coast of Egypt, Alexandria was one of over 70 cities said to be founded by the mighty Macedon king Alexander the Great. Shortly after it appeared in roughly 331 BCE, it replaced Memphis as the home of Egypt’s ruling Ptolemy dynasty. Not only that, but Alexander supposedly designed the plan for the city himself.

The city is perhaps most famous for its great lighthouse, Pharos, one of the original seven wonders of the world. Alexandria was also home to one of the greatest libraries the world has ever known. With a hefty amount of original Greek and Egyptian works, the shelves also boasted a number of foreign texts that had been translated into Greek for study. While no one knows when exactly the library was destroyed by fire, it was most likely when Julius Caesar sided with Cleopatra in a bitter war against her brother, Ptolemy XIII, in 48 BCE.

The city itself was considered the largest in the Mediterranean world in the 1st century BCE. For years it was the centre of Hellenic science and learning, and it served as the capital of Egypt from its inception to its surrender to Arab forces in 641 BCE. Alexandria still stands today, on the west side of the Nile Delta.
Is for Bastet

Do you want your home protected from evil spirits and disease? Call on Bastet, the Ancient Egyptian goddess of the home, women's secrets, cats and fertility. She was the daughter of the sun god Ra, and her cult was centred in the city of Bubastis - people even made pilgrimages there to bury their dead cats.

Is for Croesus

The last king of Lydia was known for his piety with the rich offerings he made to Apollo at Delphi - mostly of solid gold. In fact, Croesus was an incredibly wealthy and powerful man, capturing nearly all of the Greek towns on the coast of Asia during his reign. Born the son of a king, Croesus did have other siblings, but we know that he was crown prince as he served as governor of Adramyttion, which was the usual position given to a Lydian heir. Croesus had two sons but as one was mute and thus considered unfit to rule, the burden of being crown prince fell to the other, Atys. Until he died in a hunting accident. But the royal succession was never going to be a problem for Croesus. As he prepared for war against the Persians, he consulted the oracle at Delphi and was allegedly told that if he went into battle, one great empire would crumble - he just didn't realise that it would be his.

Is for Delphi

According to the Ancient Greeks, Delphi was the centre of the world. This island held a temple dedicated to the god Apollo, which was home to a famous oracle that would offer guidance to both Greek city-states and individuals. Known as the Pythia, this oracle was said to channel prophecies from Apollo himself, while in a dream-like trance. To obtain an augury, you would be expected to offer laurel branches, money and a black ram to sacrifice. The ceremony would involve the Pythia bathing in Delphi's Castalian Spring before descending into a special chamber of the temple, which was filled with the smoke of burning barley meal and laurel leaves. Sat on covered tripod cauldron, the oracle would inhale the fumes, before making their judgment. Traditionally the Pythia would only be consulted once a year, but at the peak of the Delphi's popularity there were three Pythiai in office. The Pythia was also always a woman and when she died a replacement was chosen from the priestesses of the island temple. The Delphic temple of Apollo was established in the 8th Century BCE and the last prophecy was given there around 393 CE, when Roman emperor Theodosius closed all of the pagan sites to make way for Christianity.
Before the Romans were the Etruscans, the main inhabitants of northwest Italy between the 8th and 3rd centuries BCE. While a lot of the civilisation’s culture was destroyed by the Romans, some of was assimilated into the Roman way of life. For example, the mighty empire’s famous gladiator fights actually began as an Etruscan funeral rite.

Somewhat similar to Ancient Greece, Etruria was made up of independent city-states linked by a common religion, language and culture. Militarily, the Etruscans dominated Italy’s waters and the Greeks actually referred to them as ‘scoundrel pirates’.

However, when the Etruscans lost to Syracuse at the Battle of Cumae in 474 BCE, things took a downward turn. Syracusan tyrant Dionysius I destroyed many Etruscan ports and the civilisation’s decline began. It would finish with the Romans as treaties and alliances could only stave off the inevitable. The few cities that survived Rome’s ruthless expansion would finally find themselves Romanised in the 1st century BCE.

Ancient Greek philosophers Hippocrates and Galen argued the human body was composed of four humours – black bile, phlegm, blood and yellow bile. These humours were influenced by the natural elements (earth, water, air and fire, respectively) and the seasons, but any imbalance between them could result in illness. This philosophy influenced medicine until well into the 1800s.

Invented around 400 BCE by the Ancient Greeks, this crossbow fired wooden bolts at the enemy. The weapon was made out of horn, wood and animal sinew, and a U-shape extension at the back end of it allowed the user to rest it on their belly, distributing the weight and making it easier to use.

If you were wandering around in Anatolia in approximately 1900-800 BCE, chances were that you were in land controlled by the Hittite Kingdom. This civilisation that made its home in part of modern-day Turkey was a major player in the Mediterranean, with both the Babylonians and Egyptians considering it their equal and keeping diplomatic communications going alongside several treaties.

The Hittite capital was the city of Hattusa, which was one of the largest urban settlements of its time, and its ruins can still be visited near the modern town of Boğazkale. It was at Hattusa that the king lived – the man who was the head priest, top military commander and supreme judge all in one. In the early years of the kingdom, he was helped by a council of nobles known as the pankus.

However, the kingdom fell at the hands of the Assyrians. After being overrun, the Hittites paid tribute to the Assyrian Empire before finally merging into the Neo-Assyrian Empire around 800 BCE.
The Ishtar Gate was a colourful and impressive sight.

**IS FOR ISHTAR GATE**

The inner city of Babylon was guarded by a series of gates and the eighth was the Ishtar Gate, named after the Babylonian goddess Ishtar. It was thought to have been built around 575 BCE under the orders of King Nebuchadnezzar II as part of his plan to enhance the city and was one of the original seven wonders of the world until it was replaced by the Lighthouse of Alexandria.

The highly decorative gate featured bulls, lions and dragons representing different Mesopotamian gods and was made of glazed bricks, coloured tiles, bronze, cedar and possibly lapis lazuli. It towered an impressive 11.5 metres.

Often used for religious processions, the gate was excavated in 1902-14 and reconstructed in Berlin, Germany, in 1930. However, there isn't enough room at Berlin's Pergamon Museum for what was originally a double gate, so the smaller front is on display and the rest is in storage.

Looking for someone to get the Golden Fleece for you? Jason's your man! A mythological character who was supposedly the son of a king, he appeared in front of a usurper and asked for the throne as it was his right. The usurper, Pelias, demanded that Jason fetch the Golden Fleece in return for the crown.

Jason put together a group of heroes – the Argonauts – and headed to Colchis in modern-day Georgia, overcoming various obstacles along the way like an island full of murderous women and the dreaded Harpies. When they finally arrived at Colchis, Jason was tasked with yoking fire-breathing bulls and sowing dragons’ teeth before he could steal the Golden Fleece with the help of a sorceress princess named Medea.

Upon their return to Jason's homeland, Medea murdered Pelias, causing the pair – now married – to take refuge in Corinth under King Creon. Jason’s wavering loyalty towards his wife and his love for Creon’s daughter, Creusa, inspired Greek dramatist Euripides’ famous play *Medea*. According to the play, the protagonist, Medea murdered Creon, Creusa and her own sons. There’s no one version of Jason’s death. While some say he committed suicide out of grief, others say he was crushed by a rotting part of his ship, the Argo, as he slept under it.

It’s probably fair to say that Knossos is best known for its relation to mythology than its part in the Minoan civilisation. It’s the home of the labyrinth, commissioned by King Minos and built by Athenian inventor Daedalus (father of the fabled Icarus, who flew too close to the Sun). The labyrinth has also lived on thanks to its main resident that was half man, half bull, all Minotaur.

But Knossos was more than just a legend. It was the bustling capital of Minoan Crete, inhabited from the seventh millennium BCE all the way up to its destruction in roughly 1375 BCE – around the end of the Minoan civilisation. Before its demise it was a centre of trade and Knossos even enjoyed relations with other Eastern Mediterranean cities.

While Knossos itself was a city, it’s the palace that is associated with the myths mentioned above. The grand building was the centre of Minoan life and it was first excavated in 1878, and Sir Arthur Evans uncovered almost the entire building about 50 years later. It was Evans who dubbed the civilisation ‘Minoan’ after King Minos, the civilisation’s most famous ruler.
is for Leonidas

If you’ve heard of Leonidas before, it’s probably from the film 300 – but this is the real story. Born in about 530 BCE, Leonidas I became king of Sparta in around 490. He was the son of King Anaxandrides and his older half-brother had died under mysterious circumstances in the same year. Despite how he came to the throne, Leonidas was a good king, trained to be a hoplite warrior with sharp political acumen.

The Persian ruler, Xerxes, had his eye on Greece and launched an invasion. To reach his desired location, Attica, he had to make his way through Thermopylae but Leonidas was ready to intervene. In 480 BCE, he led at least 6,000 soldiers from different Greek city-states to stop the Persian force.

When things went awry, most of the Greek troops fled. Leonidas and his 300 Spartan soldiers all stayed and fought to the bitter end. When the Persians beheaded Leonidas’ corpse, it was seen as an insult and fuelled the Greek hatred for the Persians for years to come.

is for Mithraism

This Roman mystery cult is still a mystery today as no sources preserve the mythology of the deity Mithras. However, we do know that he appeared in Persia in the late 1st century BCE and then disappeared again in the late 4th century. We also know that the temples were always in underground caves and, strangely, they all featured similar reliefs of Mithras killing a bull – today known as the tauroctony.

A lot of Mithras’ temples can be found in Rome, Ostia, Numidia, Dalmatia and Britain as well as along the Danube border in the north – at least 420 have been identified. The sites are often close to fresh water, which was necessary for some of the rituals.

Mithras’ cult was entirely male and there were seven degrees of initiation, according to Saint Jerome, with ritual meals at each stage. Having said that, some do argue that the different levels were actually grades of priests but the cult had no professional clergy as far as we’re aware.

is for Numidia

Making up the modern-day country of Algeria on the north coast of Africa, Numidia had a chequered past. The region had the beginnings of an empire in 200 BCE but it was mainly made up of nomadic Berber tribes and bands, and it was split into two halves – Massylii and Masaesyli. It didn’t become a unified land until just after the Second Punic War, which raged from 218 to 201 BCE. While King Massinissa of Massylii had allied with Rome, Syphax of Masaesyli had made a friend in Carthage – a relationship that ultimately saw him being unthroned by Massinissa.

With the support of Rome behind him, Massinissa ruled Numidia for almost 50 years. His main aim was to make his kingdom an agrarian society, which was a move away from the old nomadic system. He also took some Carthaginian territory and became one of the most powerful people in North Africa.

After Massinissa’s death in 148 BCE, Numidia had a number of different rulers but none seemed to work out so both Julius Caesar and Augustus divided it. It wouldn’t be until the rule of Septimius Severus from 193 to 211 CE that it would be reunited and known as Numidia once again.
**is for Ostracism**

If you wanted to get rid of a citizen threatening Athens, ostracism was the way to do it. First there would be a meeting where the people decided on if they would hold an ostracism vote. When the day came, citizens wrote the name of whoever they wanted banished and the one with the most votes had to leave for ten years.

**is for Phidias**

While little is known about Phidias’ life, a lot is known about his work. The Athenian sculptor, who was active between around 490 and 430 BCE, was one of the most famous artists in the ancient world and he has been credited with creating the images of Zeus and Athena that still persist today.

Some of Phidias’ statues made it to Athens’ Acropolis like the Athena Promachos, the Lemnian Athena and the colossal figure of Athena made for the Parthenon. But none of those were considered to be Phidias’ masterpiece - that accolade goes to his statue of Zeus, completed in 430 BCE, which was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Unfortunately no original examples of Phidias’ works survive today and the sculptor’s final years are also unknown. We know that he didn’t die in prison, as was previously believed, but he may have been exiled from Athens by his enemies who disliked his close friendship with Pericles, an Athenian general and statesman. What we are sure of, however, is that he influenced a considerable number of future Greek and Roman artists.

**is for Retiarius**

Easily the most iconic gladiator in the Roman arena, the retiarius fought with a three-pronged trident and net. They became popular in the 1st century CE and usually wore very little armour – just an arm guard, shoulder guard and a wide belt. A retiarius would also be armed with a dagger, or pugio, held in his left hand. As a result of their lack of armour and weaponry, they were the lowest-ranking gladiators out of the various different types.

A retiarius would usually be matched with a secutor, or pursuer, and the net was used to entangle the fully armed opponent.
S is for Stater

In the 7th century BCE, a world first occurred – in the Lydian Empire, the Lydian Stater was brought into circulation. Arguably the first coin officially issued by a government in the world, it became the model for all subsequent coinage. The Staters were made from a mixture of gold and silver known as electrium and their weight equalled their value.

T is for Tyrian purple

Trying to dye something purple in the Phoenician city of Tyre in the Bronze Age? Extract the colour from murex shellfish. Thanks to its striking colour and resistance to fading, Tyrian purple was highly desirable and expensive. It was exported as far across the Mediterranean as Carthage before being adopted by the Romans as the colour of the emperors.

U is for Ustica

This small island off the north coast of Sicily is the home of one of the best-preserved Middle Bronze Age settlements in the Mediterranean and has been occupied on and off ever since. First belonging to the Phoenicians, it was colonised by the Greeks who named it Osteodes, or Bone Island, after the 6,000 Carthaginian mercenaries who had been left to die there. It was later taken over by the Romans who named it Ustica.

V is for Vestal Virgins

If you were to serve the Roman goddess Vesta, you could be lucky enough to be chosen as a Vestal Virgin, known collectively in Latin as the Vestales. The girls who were chosen were between the ages of six and ten by the chief priest and served for 30 years. Once the time was served, the women could marry but it was considered unlikely to do so – after all, they had effectively been married to Vesta and were considered sacred. Their most pressing concern was tending the sacred fire of Vesta in the Roman Forum. If it went out, it could mean the end of the empire.

The Virgins were so highly regarded in Rome that they were free of many of the restrictions other women faced, such as being able to handle their own property. However, this also meant that the punishments for breaking their chastity vows were severe – Plutarch wrote that one was “buried alive near the gate called Collins”.

Byzantine emperor Justinian wearing Tyrian purple
W IS FOR WAR ELEPHANT

Want to make an impression on your enemies? Use some war elephants. Although most famously used by Hannibal in the Second Punic War, they weren’t exclusively employed by the Carthaginians in the ancient Mediterranean. The Greeks also used them in battle but the Romans preferred to make them fight in the arena - but they were perhaps one of the only animals to be pitied by the Roman people.

X IS FOR XERXES

Born around 519 BCE, Xerxes I became one of Persia’s most famous kings. After restoring peace to his kingdom, he set about his next task: conquering Greece. He tried in 480 BCE but proved unsuccessful - something that historians have termed the beginning of the end of his dynasty - and instead he began an extensive building project in Persia. His ignominious end would come in 465 BCE when he was murdered.

Y IS FOR YAMM

When looking through the Phoenician pantheon of gods, it’s impossible not to stumble across Yamm. The god of the sea was often depicted as tyrannical and angry - probably because he was closely associated with chaos. It’s possible to see some connections between Yamm and his Greek equivalent, Poseidon, as both were associated with horses. However, Yamm may have been a touch more bloodthirsty - if you forget your sacrifice, he could tear your ships apart at sea.

Z IS FOR ZENOBIJA

Not many women got a chance to rule in the ancient world - but Queen Zenobia made sure she had her time on the throne. After marrying Odaenathus, a Romanised Arab and ruler of Palmyra, it’s thought she had him killed around 267 CE and proclaimed power in the name of their son. This was only the beginning.

Zenobia ended the idea that Palmyra was submissive to the Roman Empire. The best part was that Emperor Gallienus was powerless to stop her. Then the next emperor came along and he wasn’t much better - he had no choice but to accept her sovereignty. That was how Zenobia achieved her aim of making Palmyra equal to Rome. But that was never going to be enough. The queen managed to keep the dreaded Persians at bay while annexing neighbouring states like Syria and Anatolia. It only took her a year to take control of Egypt in 270 CE.

It was in Emperor Aurelian that Zenobia would finally meet her match. He stormed Palmyra but the queen was overconfident and when she tried to flee, she was captured at the Euphrates River. We may never know if she committed suicide or was brought to Rome but her legacy lives on as a forceful woman who took on one of the greatest empires the world has ever seen - and she almost won.
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Both a pioneer of the Computer Age and the daughter of Lord Byron, the world’s first computer programmer was a complex character. Intelligent, confident and daring, Ada Lovelace was a tech visionary that was ahead of her time. Not only did she write the first computer program, she foresaw a digital future in which machines could do more than basic maths. She is held up as an inspiration for women in science and her life is often romanticised. But behind her ground-breaking achievements was a complex character, who spent her entire life wrestling with both her mental and physical health before her tragic death at the age of just 36.

Augusta Ada Byron was born in London in 1815. Her mother, Lady Annabella Byron, was a clever, upright and deeply religious woman. Meanwhile, her father was the poet Lord Byron, of “mad, bad and dangerous to know” infamy. Ada was named after Augusta Leigh, Byron’s half-sister with whom he was widely suspected of committing incest.

It is perhaps no surprise that, just a few weeks after her birth, Ada’s parents separated. Lady Byron became exasperated with her husband’s maddening behaviour. Finalised in March 1816, the nasty split caused an embarrassment in society, forcing Lord Byron to escape England and pursue a life abroad. He never returned to English soil and he died eight years later in Greece, having never laid eyes on his daughter again.

Lady Byron, a highly educated woman, provided her daughter with the same rigorous training in science and maths that she herself had received as a child. She hoped it would prevent Ada, who was energetic and inclined to mood swings from a young age, from following the same destructive path as her father. It was an unconventional education for a 19th century girl but it marked Ada’s introduction to the scientific world.

Ada enjoyed her education and developed a love for machines. Growing up during the industrial revolution, she loved to study diagrams of the ingenious inventions that were emerging. In 1828, at the age of 12, she started designing her own, drawing up plans for a steam-powered flying machine. It was clear that from a young age Ada was destined to be a forward thinker.

She continued to develop her mathematical skills despite the recurrent bouts of illness that she suffered from as a child, which plagued her for the rest of her life. When she was a teenager, Ada contracted a nasty case of measles that left her partially paralysed and bed bound for almost a year. It took her a couple of years to recover properly and eventually be able to walk again, albeit with crutches.

Her studies may have demanded her attention, but Ada was always bursting with curiosity and it wasn’t long before she started asking questions about her father. After all, the stigma of being Lord Byron’s daughter followed her wherever she went. Lady Byron forbade Ada from ever speaking about him.
“The science of operations, as derived from mathematics more especially, is a science of itself, and has its own abstract truth and value.”

- Ada Lovelace
but she didn’t stop Ada from reading his poetry, which she allegedly found rather boring. Lady Byron’s biggest fear was that her daughter had inherited the same dysfunctional personality that had made her ex-husband prone to melancholy, torrid love affairs and racking up debts.

Even with her mother’s best efforts to suppress her Byronic tendencies, Ada had the same disobedient streak as her father. Aged just 17, she embarked on an affair with her tutor and attempted to elope with him, only to be thwarted by his family. Lady Byron managed to cover up the scandal so Ada was luckily left relatively unscathed by her romantic escapades. However, judging by her pursuits in later life, this experience did nothing to extinguish her taste for rebellion.

Due to her wealth and position in society, Ada had opportunities that were denied to the majority of other women. She surrounded herself with some of the foremost scientific thinkers of her day, including the Scottish astronomer and polymath Mary Somerville. Somerville was an ideal role model, and she fostered Ada’s love for mathematics and became her tutor, all the while encouraging her interest in technology.

It was through Somerville that Ada was introduced to mathematician and mechanical engineer Charles Babbage at a party in 1833, the same year in which she had tried to elope. He was the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge and the inventor of the Difference Engine, a mechanical calculator. He demonstrated his partially built machine to Ada and it captivated her mind, sparking a friendship that became a life-long partnership.

After witnessing the Difference Engine in action, a determined Ada wanted to further her education in mathematics. In a letter to her tutor at the time, Dr William King, she stated: “I find that nothing but very close and intense application to subjects of a scientific nature now seem to keep my imagination from running wild.” King allegedly agreed with his pupil that “a course of severe intellectual study” was what she needed - no doubt believing that this would cure Ada of her unruly tendencies.

Ada’s understanding of the Analytical Engine eclipsed that of her contemporaries. The computer programme Ada created to calculate Bernoulli numbers
Making connections

For the next two years, Ada committed herself to mathematics and corresponded with both Somerville and Babbage. She attended various society parties where she made connections with prominent male figures including the physicist Michael Faraday, scientist and inventor Charles Wheatstone, and even renowned author Charles Dickens. In the meantime, Lady Byron was on a mission to find Ada a husband, hoping that marriage would keep her on the straight and narrow.

Enter William King, 8th Baron King, a friend of Mary Somerville's son (not to be confused with Ada's tutor). King was a decade older than Ada but the pair quickly fell in love. Their engagement was almost ruined when Lady Byron insisted that Ada tell her fiancé about her previous liaison with her tutor. In most cases, this would have spelled the end of the relationship but thankfully for Ada, William decided that he still wanted to marry her.

In July 1835, Ada married William and she became Lady King. Between 1836 and 1839, the couple had three children together: two sons, Byron and Ralph, and one daughter, Annabella. Always predisposed to illness, Ada particularly suffered from ill health after the birth of her daughter, taking months to recover. In 1838, William was made the earl of Lovelace and Ada, as his wife, became countess of Lovelace, the moniker that she is best remembered by.

More often than not, marriage signalled the end of a woman’s ‘wilder’ pursuits in favour of dedicating herself to household chores and her children. This was not to be the case for Ada, particularly as William, a scientist himself, encouraged his wife to further her education. Ada needed no convincing as she wished to return to mathematics after the birth of her last child.

Through Babbage, Ada contacted Augustus de Morgan, a renowned mathematician and professor at University College London. De Morgan agreed to send Ada the material he used to teach his students so that she could study from it, as Victorian women were not allowed to actually attend university lectures. They corresponded regularly between 1840 and 1841 and with de Morgan guiding her, Ada immersed herself in advanced calculus.

While pursuing her own studies, Ada remained interested and attempted to get the publishers of the journal *Scientific Memoirs* to agree. However, they ruled against him and infuriated, Babbage demanded that Ada withdraw her paper before it could be published. Considering all of the work and effort she had put into the paper, Ada refused. It led to a temporary breakdown in relations between the two of them, although they eventually reconciled.

From friends to foes?

Ada and Babbage did not always have a picture-perfect partnership.

On the surface, the friendship between Ada and Charles Babbage was certainly an unusual one. When they met, she was a vivacious 17-year-old while he was two decades older than her with a difficult personality. They formed a correspondence that lasted until Ada’s death in 1852 and their work is hailed in the world of computer science. But as it turns out, this unlikely pair did not always get along.

When Babbage first conceived his Difference Engine, it attracted the interest of the government, which provided him with funding to build it in 1823. Unfortunately, Babbage came unstuck as the resources of his time limited his ability to create a functioning Engine and he was never able to complete it. Instead, he turned his attention to the Analytical Engine, which was far more advanced, but he couldn’t secure government funding after his previous failure.

Angered, Babbage voiced his criticism of the government in a preface he wished to add to Ada’s translation and additional notes on Menabrea’s article. Ada did not object, provided that Babbage signed the preface to make it clear that it was not her work. But Babbage wanted to leave it unsigned and attempted to get the publishers of the journal *Scientific Memoirs* to agree.

However, they ruled against him and infuriated, Babbage demanded that Ada withdraw her paper before it could be published. Considering all of the work and effort she had put into the paper, Ada refused. It led to a temporary breakdown in relations between the two of them, although they eventually reconciled.
Ada Lovelace

Hidden Figures

Victorian women who were pioneers of maths and science

Caroline Herschel 1750-1848
A German astronomer, Caroline was the first woman to discover a comet when she was observing the night sky in August 1786. Recognised for her contributions to astronomy, King George III of Great Britain even hired her to work as an assistant to her own brother, astronomer William Herschel. Through her work, Caroline also added more than 550 stars to the star catalogue that had been created by John Flamsteed, the first-ever appointed royal astronomer in the United Kingdom.

Mary Somerville 1780-1872
Responsible for introducing Ada to some of the best scientific brains of the 19th century, Mary Somerville was a science writer and polymath. Along with Caroline Herschel, she was the first honorary female member of the Royal Astronomical Society. She played an instrumental role in the discovery of Neptune thanks to her work on a hypothetical planet in our Solar System. She also had achievements outside of astronomy, publishing various works to great success, most notably Physical Geography in 1848.

Lady Annabella Byron 1792-1860
Just like her daughter, Lady Byron also had an affinity for mathematics. She was the child that her parents had desperately longed for and she received a brilliant education. Tutored by a Cambridge university professor, Annabella became accomplished in science, literature, philosophy and maths. It was her particular love for the latter that led to Byron awarding her the condescending nickname ‘princess of parallelograms’. After the end of their marriage, Annabella dedicated herself to philanthropy and education reform.

Sofia Kovalevskaya 1850-91
Sofia’s tutor noted her aptitude for mathematics as a young girl and encouraged her studies. It paid off, as she became the first woman in Europe to obtain a doctorate in mathematics and her work on partial differential equations made her famous. She was a professor of mathematics at the University of Stockholm and the first woman to be elected to the Russian Academy of Sciences as a corresponding member. Sofia was also an editor for a scientific journal, the first woman to hold such a role.

Hertha Ayrton 1854-1923
An engineer, mathematician and inventor, Hertha’s friends nicknamed her after a feisty protagonist from a Swedish novel, which she later adopted. She invented an improved version of the electric arc and conducted work on ripples in sand and water. Hertha was the first woman to read her paper before the Institution of Electrical Engineers as well as the first to be nominated as a fellow of the Royal Society in 1902, which awarded her the Hughes Medal four years later for her work in electricity.

Philippa Fawcett 1868-1948
Daughter of suffragist Millicent Fawcett and niece of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (the first practicing British female doctor), Fawcett was surrounded by formidable women. Gifted in mathematics, she became the first and only woman to beat the male ‘Senior Wrangler’ (highest scorer) in the tripos (mathematics) exams at the University of Cambridge. She went on to lecture in mathematics at Newnham College, Cambridge, and died just one month after the university finally allowed women to gain bachelor degrees.

in Babbage's work. In 1837, he proposed a more advanced calculating machine, the Analytical Engine, which would become the forerunner to the modern computer. Three years later he travelled to the University of Turin to explain the concept of his machine. This inspired Luigi Menabrea, the Italian mathematician and future prime minister, to write an article discussing the Analytical Engine that Ada was asked to translate into English in 1842.

After showing Babbage her work, he suggested that Ada add her own annotations to Menabrea’s article, as she understood his research better than most people. When Ada’s translation was eventually published in 1843, she included a supplement she humbly titled Notes. However, this was a little more than a postscript - it was three times the length of Menabrea’s original article. Crucially, within those pages Ada included what is widely considered to be the world’s first ever computer programme. She outlined an algorithm for the Analytical Engine, which would allow the machine to perform a complex equation and identify what are known as Bernoulli numbers.

However, to call Ada ‘the first computer programmer’ is a contentious point. The Analytical Engine was not built during her lifetime, so her conceptualised programme was never properly tested. She collaborated with Babbage on her Notes and sent him copies for advice and revisions, so it is...
The Enchantress of Numbers

believed that Babbage influenced her ideas. Indeed, he had created his own potential computer programmes in 1836 and 1837, which were unpublished.

Babbage’s work existed long before Ada created her algorithm but hers was the most complete and the one that was published. In spite of the controversy, there is no denying Ada’s monumental contribution to the Analytical Engine. She was a visionary who saw beyond the Engine’s mathematical capabilities and its potential in ways that no one else did, believing that it could be programmed to achieve so much more.

This included her belief that the Engine “might compose elaborate and scientific pieces of music of any degree of complexity or extent”. As it turned out, the world was not ready for Ada’s advanced proposals, and it would take over a century for technology to catch up enough to actually put them into practice.

System error
Despite her remarkable work, Ada’s behaviour spiralled in the last decade of her life. She regularly consumed wine and laudanum, an opiate, to deal with the pain from her ever-frequent periods of illness. Prescribed by her doctor, it became clear that Ada was addicted to the concoction. Her mood swings, present since childhood, became gradually more extreme while she also suffered from hallucinations.

With her husband frequently away on business, Ada was left to fill her spare time with an array of illicit lovers. She was outspoken, flirtatious and her indiscreet affairs were scrutinised by society. Coupled with her shocking, unwomanly behaviour, she was compared to her scandalous father. Yet Ada, who spent most of her childhood rigorously controlled by her mother, honestly could not have cared less about the opinions of others.

"The Analytical Engine has no pretensions whatever to originate anything. It can do whatever we know how to order it to perform... But it is likely to exert an indirect and reciprocal influence on science itself."

- Ada Lovelace
“Mathematical science shows what is. It is the language of unseen relations between things. But to use and apply that language, we must be able fully to appreciate, to feel, to seize the unseen, the unconscious.”

- Ada Lovelace

I am always interested in reviewing the reputations of women who seem to have been unjustly treated by history. In the cases of Ada Lovelace and her mother, I wanted to offer a fresh appraisal of Lady Byron, who was known in her lifetime as a generous philanthropist and far-sighted educational reformer with the acumen of a banker and the heart of a dove. Ada, conversely, has been exalted in a way that has obscured the complex and vibrant personality of a tragically flawed young woman. I set out to write a mother-daughter study that would establish how much Ada was influenced by the father she never knew and by the mother who was both fiercely ambitious for her clever child and terrified of the stresses that might overturn a delicately balanced mind.

Ada’s letters refer to other scientific papers, which were evidently lost or destroyed in the great conflagration which took place during her last weeks of life when the family were desperately trying to defend her name. In 1850, two years before her death, she was working on “light-filled drops” and seeking support from Michael Faraday, the greatest experimenter of the day. It was almost impossible for Ada to work without using a male colleague; that was the nature of the times. It’s possible that she was working towards an early version of a spectroscope.

In his own day, Byron became known as the greatest poet of the age. His death at Missolonghi in 1824 transformed a scandalous and exiled libertine into a hero. Today, his poetry is little read and his role in the Greek War of Independence...
Babbage once dubbed Ada ‘the Enchantress of Numbers’ for the way she could manipulate them as if by magic. However, the numbers also enchanted her. Ada was a compulsive gambler. She devised mathematical schemes that she thought would give her a statistical advantage. These all failed spectacularly and she squandered her substantial fortune, reportedly losing £3,200 in one go at the Epsom Derby. Ada was forced to quietly pawn the Lovelace family jewels – twice – in order to pay her creditors.

By 1852, it was obvious that Ada was seriously unwell and it’s believed that she suffered from uterine cancer, which unfortunately became terminal. Ada was prescribed cannabis by her doctors to deal with the excruciating pain when opiates stopped working altogether. She continued to correspond with friends and it seems that in August, Charles Dickens paid Ada a visit, reading her a passage from one of his novels.

By the end of the summer, Lady Byron had moved in to take care of her ailing daughter. In a twisted act, Lady Byron hid Ada’s painkillers so that the torturous agony would force her daughter to repent for her sinful ways. Aware that she was nearing the end, Ada supposedly made a confession to her husband. What she divulged is unknown, but it upset William so much that he abandoned her on her deathbed.

Following months of suffering in unbearable pain and excessive bloodletting by her doctors, Ada finally passed away in November 1852. She was the same age as her father when he died and even though she barely knew him, there was no denying that Ada was her father’s daughter. After a lifetime of separation, she requested to be buried next to him in Nottinghamshire, much to her mother’s horror.

Despite their revolutionary content, Ada’s Notes on the Analytical Engine were not appreciated in her lifetime. For over a century, she was only remembered as a footnote in biographies of Lord Byron. But Ada’s work was republished in 1953 and her contribution to computing was quickly reevaluated. In 1979, a computer language was named in her honour. Today she is an idol for many women working in mathematics, science and engineering around the world - finally receiving the recognition that she long deserved.

The Enchantress of Numbers

has been forgotten, except by the Greeks. The statue of him that Greece presented to Britain is trapped on a traffic island: a sadly fitting symbol for an increasingly mythical and neglected figure. Ada, by contrast, is going from strength to strength. In 2018, we celebrate the first decade of Ada Lovelace Day. Ada is the only woman in the world who has a day dedicated to her. But a Lord Byron Day? Forget it.

Do you think Ada’s tumultuous life was a rebellion against her mother’s wishes for her not to become like Lord Byron?

In personality, Ada was far closer to Byron than to her mother. Ada’s knowledge of her father and his history encouraged her to break with convention. In her early teens, she tried to elope. Later, she adopted an incognito, cooked her own meals, dispensed with a maid, took lovers and entertained men at midnight in the room she called her sanctum. Ada was, in fact, far more of a rebel than her father. She wanted to be treated as the equal of a man. The achievement in which she herself took the greatest pride was to be addressed as a professional working colleague by men like Charles Babbage. That, in the 1840s, was a remarkable thing. Women weren’t even allowed to step foot into scientific institutions like the Royal Society.

Why do you think Ada’s complex personality is brushed under the carpet in favour of her work?

Our fascination with technology makes us want to focus on the extraordinary thought that, had the world listened to Ada Lovelace, we could have had a universal computer by the mid-19th century. Ada herself predicted what Babbage’s machine could achieve. Her close friendships with Charles Wheatstone and Michael Faraday shows that the crucially missing electrical aspect of Babbage’s engine lay within the reach of her inventive mind.

Why do you think Ada has become a trendy figure in popular culture in recent years?

Ada has become a source of inspiration for our technology-driven age. We have an Ada Digital Institute, books about Ada for children, a superb graphic novel about Ada by Sydney Padua, documentaries about Ada and almost annual conferences about Ada. We celebrate her not only for the combination of imagination and scientific genius that she displayed in her notes on Charles Babbage’s unbuilt Analytical Engine, but because she was a woman so exceptionally ahead of her time. Ada belongs to our age even more than to her own.
The Middle Ages valued martial prowess as the ultimate virtue. Skill with sword, mace and lance was required by knights if they were to survive the wars that plagued Europe, so tournaments developed where knights could demonstrate their warrior abilities and prepare for conflicts. Early competitions were bloody affairs with melees where knights fought en masse and death was fairly common. Soldiers entertained the crowds and offered an outlet for violence but this seriously depleted the small pool of manpower a king could call on.

Over time, rules developed that turned these frenzies of bloodletting into chivalric events that provided a relatively safe way of showing a knight’s skill. From the 1400s onwards, knights in jousts wore full armour and restricted their weaponry to lances. To handle such an unwieldy weapon was a mark of attainment that could bring wealth as well as honour. For those seeking to move up in society, as well as nobility wishing associate themselves with the romantic values of the age, the jousting lists were events worth risking their lives for. If you want to win – and survive – a joust, here are ten things you need to know.

Training starts early

To become a knight, a boy would leave his home at around seven years old. First as a page, then as a squire, he would serve an older knight to learn the ways of war. Mastering the joust took years of practice and simply carrying the lance was a test of strength. To develop their skills, pages and squires would begin by riding a wooden horse pulled by other squires. Of course, in real jousts your opponent would be trying to knock you down, too. To practice for this, squires rode at quintains – shields attached to a rotating pole. At their most basic, these consisted of sacks to pierce with a lance but more extravagant quintains might be dressed up to resemble an enemy. When the shield was struck, the quintain turned and a wooden arm with a heavy weight attached would swing at the rider. If the squire hit the quintain at the wrong speed, he was almost certain to be knocked from the saddle.

Choose your tournament type

Once you are a trained knight, you are ready to enter your first tournament – so long as you have a well-trained horse, armour and sufficient prestige to be accepted. Now you must choose which type of competition you wish to enter. Tournaments were held for many reasons like at the celebration of a marriage, the signing of a treaty, coronations of kings and queens, or even just to enliven the boredom of long sieges.

A challenge in the joust could take place ‘à plaisance’, with weapons designed for safety, or ‘à outrance’, with the deadly weapons of war. Even friendly matches could turn lethal though, so make sure that your competition is one that’s worth entering.

An international tourney could bring you fame throughout Europe but it could also bring scandal. In 1362, seven knights dressed up as the Seven Deadly Sins and allegedly challenged all comers to defeat them, shocking pious observers.

How to win a joust
Choosing your opponent in a joust was matter of utmost importance – your hopes of victory and honour would be decided the moment you picked them. Nobility, ability and rank all had to be considered when choosing an adversary. Like many other aspects of the joust, there was an air of theatricality about this. Commonly a challenge was announced by striking the shield of your desired opponent. French writer Jean Froissart records squires simply being sent to deliver this call to arms. In later periods, complex Trees of Honour were constructed. These structures were hung with the shields of competitors and those wishing to joust merely had to touch their lance to the shield of the man they wished to face. At Henry VIII's Field of the Cloth of Gold tournament, the Tree of Honour was made of intertwined hawthorn and raspberry branches to represent the binding together of England and France.

While size isn't everything, in jousting it does count for a lot. In fact, one knight, Marx Walther, apparently liked to carry a ridiculously large lance with a young boy sat on it just to prove his strength before a tournament. A wiser choice for most would perhaps have been one of the following varieties of lance.

A. **The heavy lance** This lance was typically around three metres long and made of solid ash wood 2.5 centimetres thick. It was designed for the shock of cavalry collisions on the battlefield.

B. **Coronal** A blunt, pronged crown placed on the tip of the lance, the coronal helped to catch the shield of the opponent and made unhorsing them easier. It also made penetrating armour less likely.

C. **Bourdonasse** This hollow lance was used in jousts after 1500. Up to 3.6 metres long, it splintered easily on contact, making for much more dramatic but safer combats.

D. **War lance** A heavy lance with a sharp metal tip designed to pierce armour, the war lance was known to be deadly if accurate contact was made with the opponent.

**Power or accuracy**

When King Duarte of Portugal came to write his treatise On Horsemanship, he dedicated a large portion of it to jousting. Controlling your horse was key to winning a joust. In the lists, horses could reach 40 kilometres per hour and managing that momentum could give you a devastating blow but failing to would make you miss your mark. Go too slowly and you will be an easy target for your adversary. Go too fast and you are less likely to set your lance where you mean it.

A well-bred and trained horse was a valuable part of a knight’s state. Death was a risk to the horse as well as the rider in a joust. Overtaxing your horse by riding it too hard could be disastrous. King Henry VIII “ran so freshly and so many courses that one of his best courser [jousting horses] was dead that night”.

Heraldic shields helped identify jousters to the crowd.
Positioning your lance is everything

The joust developed out of an earlier type of combat between spearmen on horses. They wielded their spears in their hands and to gain control, they began to couch their spears under their arm – it’s from this that the lance evolved. As lances grew longer and heavier, aiming the point became harder. The weight of the lance could be carried on the leg or the saddle, or even on a hook built into your armour.

The ideal was to lower your lance gracefully as you approached the centre of the tilt (or ride) but in the heat of bout this could become difficult. One of the issues identified by King Duarte in his writing about jousts is that knights sometimes closed their eyes at the moment of collision. Other writers offered a solution – it is easier to keep the eyes open until the last moment if you keep your mouth open.

“The ideal was to lower your lance gracefully as you approached the centre of the tilt (or ride) but in the heat of bout this could become difficult”
Scoring points

When jousts stopped being about incapacitating your opponent, ways were needed to determine who had won each bout. In 1466, Sir John Tiptoft wrote his Ordinances, which set out how points were to be scored. The ideal outcome of a joust was to unhorse your foe, but points could also be won by shattering your lance into multiple fragments on your opponent, indicating that you had struck them.

Penalties could also be inflicted that would move you down the rankings. A spear that caught and broke on the foe's saddle was bad, but the worst thing a jouster could do was deliberately strike the opposing horse as this led to instant disqualification from the match. Killing a horse could even lead to ejection from the whole tournament. When Nicholas Clifford killed his foe Jean Boucinel in 1381 by hitting him in the throat, however, he suffered no punishment at all – the judge considered it to have been an accident.

"Killing a horse could even lead to ejection from the whole tournament"

Get others to sing your praises

In a society where honour and patronage were vital to worldly success, knights had to let others know just how formidable they were. Kings wanted their tournaments to be internationally famous – Edward III sent heralds throughout Europe to announce his great competition at Windsor in 1358, at the huge cost of £32. Heralds sometimes helped in the judging of the jousts as well as announcing the winners, so payments to them could be money well spent. Minstrels could be persuaded to literally sing your praises for the right price. At a tournament in 1352, a minstrel was paid the huge sum of 40 florins for his work. Whole chronicles could be filled with tales of jousts and Jean Froissart’s histories include a notable number of contests. It is thanks to these songs and stories that we know of the feats of individual jousters such as Amadeus VII of Savoy, who broke 47 lances in a single combat.
Get yourself to the medical tent

A knight in full armour falling from a speeding horse makes quite a crash. Broken bones occurred frequently and if not set properly, they could be fatal. If a horse fell on its rider then amputation may be necessary. Death in tournaments was such a drain on the numbers of knights that the Church threatened to excommunicate anyone who took part, and would deny burial by clergy to any who died. Tournaments survived this ban though, even as they claimed the lives of many notable lords and kings. Henry VIII suffered many jousting injuries – he was knocked out by a lance striking him through an open visor in 1524 and nearly killed by a fall in 1536. The latter accident left him unconscious for two hours leading to fears of his death. His injured leg became ulcerous and started the decline of a sporting young monarch into a grossly obese old man.

Get a taste of the tourney at one of these summer events

Joust! 23-24 June
Cardiff Castle, Wales
Get a taste of what Wales’ capital city was like in the Middle Ages at this family-friendly event. As well an epic jousting display, Joust! includes a village encampment and strolling musicians at Cardiff Castle. For more information, visit cardiffcastle.com.

Spectacular Jousting 30 June – 1 July
Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian
Enjoy the thunder of hooves and the clashing of lances in the annual competition at the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots. Another Spectacular Jousting event will be held Caerlaverock Castle on 28-29 July. For more, see historicenvironment.scot.

International Jousting & Medieval Tournament 24-29 July
Arundel Castle, West Sussex
Top challengers from across the globe will take part in a week-long event held at an 11th-century Norman fortress. There’s also a live performance from Medieval band Rough Musickle and have-a-go archery. For more information, head to arundel.org.uk.

Grand Medieval Joust 26-27 August
Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire
Experience a spectacle of speed and skill as four of the most masterful knights bid to take victory. Bolsover Castle will host living history encampments as well as a falconry display. For more information, take a trip to english-heritage.org.uk.

How to win a joust

In early tournaments, knights who lost forfeited their armour and horse to the victor. They would then have to pay a ransom to get it back from the knight who defeated them. William Marshal captured ransoms from 103 knights in a ten-month period of tournaments. As the rules of chivalry developed, mercenary tendency became unseemly. Later jousts culminated in grand gift giving ceremonies presided over by the ladies of the court. Prizes could be a gold plate, jewels, crowns, costly garments, weapons, armour, or even exotic animals like talking parrots. In Magdeburg in the 1280s, the first prize in a tournament was a beautiful woman, though the winner chastely paid her dowry to marry another man. In 1552, Amadeus IV of Savoy won three gold rings and three kisses from beautiful women. He kept the kisses but passed the rings to other worthy jousters – they grumbled that they would have preferred the kisses.
British Immigration

“On paper, it seemed like the perfect way to solve two dire problems”
In April 1948, an advertisement was placed in a newspaper in Jamaica that would forever change the United Kingdom. Taken out in The Daily Gleaner, it offered islanders the opportunity of a lifetime - safe passage to Britain in order to work. The docking of MV Empire Windrush in Tilbury in Essex, England, on 22 June that year, bringing hundreds of Caribbean men and women to Britain, marked the beginning of an undeniable cultural shift.

On paper, the idea seemed like the perfect way to solve two dire problems. Jamaica was still recovering from the devastating 1944 Atlantic hurricane season, which caused severe damage to the island. Meanwhile, postwar Britain was struggling to fill much-needed gaps in integral state-run services such as the brand-new National Health Service (NHS) and London Transport due to the war. However, the reality of their arrival was far more complex and often fraught with prejudice and discrimination.

How the first wave of Caribbean immigrants crossed the Atlantic and overcame prejudice to help rebuild and reshape war-torn Britain...
to the tremendous loss of life in the war. As part of the Commonwealth, a loose association of states that once belonged to the fading British Empire, citizens of Jamaica and other countries around the Caribbean were afforded the right to live and work in other Commonwealth countries thanks to the British Nationality Act 1948.

All around the Commonwealth, tales of Britain’s magnificence and excellence were touted in newspapers, presenting an idealised version of Britain to millions around the world. Citizens living in Commonwealth countries were promised a better quality of life and the opportunity to earn higher wages if they left their home for Britain, and hundreds jumped at the idea.

**Numbers Game**

While most Caribbean citizens who arrived on Empire Windrush in June were Jamaican men, according to the passenger logs, many also came from smaller, neighbouring islands such as the Bahamas, Trinidad and Grenada. Additionally, 66 Polish people who had been stranded in Mexico as refugees since World War II also made the journey across the Atlantic, hoping to restart their lives in Europe.

‘492’ has historically been the number that accompanies stories about the Windrush Generation, but a look at the passenger list shows that this only accounts for Jamaican men. Women and other Caribbean passengers, both male and female, who boarded at Trinidad or Bermuda were not counted and, as such, have found themselves removed from the Windrush narrative. Caribbean women have traditionally not been included in Windrush passenger statistics, possibly because it was largely assumed they were of less economic importance, travelling as companions to their menfolk. However, the majority of women on the ship were travelling alone, looking to carve a new path for themselves in England. If these forgotten passengers are included, the number of Caribbean men and women that arrived in Tilbury that fateful June is much higher. They would unknowingly lay down the foundation for a generation of Caribbean immigrants to arrive in Britain and shape the country – especially its capital – into becoming the multicultural hub it is today.

Many of the passengers on Windrush were skilled workers, eager and ready. Passenger lists show that there were electricians, plumbers, barristers, seamstresses and mechanics on board. However, most of the immigrants were also ex-servicemen who had fought for Britain during World War II and developed skills during the time that would now

**The fee for a ticket on Empire Windrush wasn’t cheap**

As most of the passengers aboard the Windrush held British passports because most of them were classed as subject citizens of the United Kingdom, it is hard to get an accurate number of the wide variety of Caribbean nationalities aboard. From the passenger log, however, we are able to tell who boarded the ship at which port – en route, it stopped at Trinidad, Jamaica, Mexico, Cuba and Bermuda before setting sail for England.

British-Caribbean shoppers stock up their cupboards at Brixton Market, a centre for world foods and goods

A black immigrant, possibly a member of the Windrush generation, at work in a Leicester shoe factory
be beneficial to Britain. Of these ex-servicemen was Sam King, the man who would become the first black mayor of Southwark in 1983. King passed away in 2016 but during his 68 years living in Britain, his contributions to the country, his local area and the Caribbean community in London made him something of a figurehead for the Windrush generation. He had served in the Royal Air Force during the war but wasn’t granted permission to stay once it had ended. At a loss after given the options of marrying an English girl or finding himself accepted into the home of a ‘coloniser’, King returned home to Jamaica after the war, but found life there unsatisfactory.

After spending time in England and seeing the differences in the quality of education between the two countries, he decided to return. Though many Jamaicans were eager to go to Britain, and UK itself was in desperate need of workers, the fee for a ticket on Empire Windrush wasn’t cheap. To pay the £28.10 fare (roughly £900 today), King’s family sold three cows.

Accounts of the journey from the Caribbean to Britain are few and far between, but it seems to have been a fairly pleasant and uneventful one. Stowaways were reported, such as Averilly Wauchope, a dressmaker from Kingston who was discovered seven days into the trip. Instead of sending Wauchope back or punishing her for her transgression, a whip-round was set up and her fellow passengers not only raised enough money to pay her fare to England but also a few extra pounds for when she got there. Some (unfortunately unsubstantiated) accounts also attest to Wauchope catching the eye of Nancy Cunard aboard the ship, heiress to the Cunard shipping fortune. Cunard, on her way home from Trinidad, allegedly “took a fancy to her” and “intended on looking after her”, though it’s unknown if this came to fruition – just one of the many Windrush-related anecdotes that have been lost to history over the years.

As the ship drew closer to Tilbury, the atmosphere on board began to change. Excitement morphed into apprehension as the passengers began to realise they were heading into uncharted territory and didn’t know what to expect. Reflecting on the experience, King recalled in Forty Winters On that many began to fear the government would change their mind and the ship would be turned back.

Unfortunately, their fears weren’t entirely unfounded. King himself recalled standing outside the ship’s radio room and hearing people on the radio questioning why they were coming. Arthur Creech Jones, Labour’s colonial secretary at the time, was recorded defending them on the BBC saying, “These people have British passports. They must be allowed to land.” But he did add that it wouldn’t matter anyway because he doubted that they would last one cold winter in England.

Aware that there was a possibility tensions could be high once they docked in Tilbury and determined to keep morale high on the ship and quash any potential negativity from brewing among the Caribbeans and their soon-to-be British neighbours, King went around and told everyone, “Even if a man steps on your foot, you don’t hit back. It’s all about peace and love.”

GOING UNDERGROUND
“WELCOME HOME… 400 Sons of the Empire,” declared The Evening Standard newspaper, meeting the Windrush at Tilbury with a plane flying a banner embossed with this jubilant slogan. “500 Pairs of Willing Hands,” exclaimed The Daily Worker. While the press gave the Caribbean immigrants a warm welcome, the same could not be said for the government or the average British citizen.

No less than three government offices, including the now-defunct Colonial Office and the Home Office, could not decide who would be responsible for the incoming immigrants. 11 Labour MPs had written to prime minister Clement Attlee recommending them, yet in their

"'Lord Kitchener' became a famous Calypso musician
OSWALD DENNISON
“I got a job the first night in Britain. Everything was rationed. I was given a job handing out the rations. I don’t know why they gave me a job but it happened when I went to America too. And because I had a job I wasn’t too worried about finding somewhere to live,” Oswald Dennison told the BBC in 1998. “I had had a business at home then when I got work straight away there was no time to brood. All I had to do was go forward. I was disappointed to find prejudice here. Being snubbed – it affects some people badly. Some people, they never get over it until this day. But there are people like me who shrug their shoulders and say ‘life goes on’.

JOHN RICHARDS
“I know a lot about Britain from school days, but it was a different picture from that one when you came to face with the facts,” John Richards told the BBC in 2014. Richards appeared the ironic shorthand of Windrush arrivals above, on the right. “They tell you it is the ‘mother country’, you’re all welcome, you’re all British. When you come here you realise you’re a foreigner and that’s all there is to it. The average person knows you as a colonial and that’s all. You cut cane or carry bananas and that’s it. Anyone wants to diddle you, they say I just come off the banana boat and things like that.”
Many women went to work in factories

June 1948, the first meal given to the passengers lucky enough to receive accommodation there was roast beef, potatoes, vegetables, Yorkshire pudding and a pudding with custard. A bed and three hot meals at the shelter cost them around 33 pence a day, and most of the residents possessed about £5 to last them until they were able to find work.

Those unable to stay at the shelter were left to fend for themselves and organise their own accommodation, which proved difficult in a city that, at best, was wary of their sudden presence. Unofficial ‘colour bars’ were introduced, denying the new immigrants access to the basic facilities they needed to start a life in Britain. The now infamous “NO BLACKS. NO DOGS. NO IRISH.” signs were commonplace around the city, and many landlords specifically began excluding black people and children from renting their properties, making it particularly difficult for the Caribbean immigrants to access suitable housing.

Finding adequate housing wasn’t the only blockade the Windrush passengers came across either. A 1949 report into the conditions of “coloured people” in Stepney, East London, expressing concerns about the number of “coloured immigrants” who might “impair the harmony, strength and cohesion of our public and social life and to cause discord and unhappiness among all concerned”. Attlee responded two weeks later in defence of the passengers who had arrived on the Windrush: “It would therefore be a great mistake to regard these people as undesirables or unemployables. The majority of them are honest workers, who can make a genuine contribution to our labour difficulties at the present time.”

However, even while defending them, Attlee acknowledged their main fear – that the docking of Empire Windrush would lead to more “undesirables” arriving in the country – and he attempted to assuage them. “They may well find it very difficult to make adequate remittances to their dependants in Jamaica as well as maintaining themselves over here,” he said. “On the whole, therefore, I doubt whether there is likely to be a similar large influx.”

With Windrush on its doorstep, the Colonial Office was forced to step in and a deep air raid shelter in Clapham Common was reluctantly opened to house roughly 230 of the passengers. According to a Daily Express clipping from 23
described their leisure facilities as "very poor indeed"]: "There are only one or two clubs; the Colonial, which I understand is very limited. There is a club in Cable Street run by some Franciscan Brothers. Although it is a very fine effort made by these Brothers, the place is situated in rather a bad area, and the surroundings are not ideal. Another club is the Jamaican Club - this is more of a dancing place with drinks. In other words, there is no properly organised way in which these people could spend their leisure. To break the monotony of their very bad living rooms, there is the street with cafes, and in the evenings the pubs, or when they have the money, cinema, or to the West End to dance halls."

**BUILDING A NEW LIFE**

Despite being invited to Britain to work, many Windrush passengers found it difficult to find jobs that suited them. These were highly skilled men and women, many of whom were ex-servicemen and had been trained by the British Armed Forces, who were denied high-paying jobs in their fields simply because they were black. For many of the immigrants who had left good jobs in Jamaica to come to Britain, this was incredibly disheartening.

In an interview about the Windrush generation, Jack Howard Drake, an employee of the Home Office between 1965 and 1972, said of the discrimination: "We were quite happy to employ coloured people, providing they weren't visible. In other words, if they worked in the kitchens, that was alright, but employers felt that shoppers wouldn't like to see coloured hands handling food. They thought that ladies wouldn't be happy to buy their underwear from coloured girls."

It wasn't all bad, though, and things soon began to pick up. Three weeks after arriving in Britain, a report found that of the men and women who came on Empire Windrush, 76 found work in factories, 15 in the railway industry, 15 as labourers, 15 as farm workers and ten as electricians. Others were said to have gone into clerical work in other industries. State-run industries began hiring almost exclusively from Caribbean immigrants, especially the NHS and London Transport. The latter found this method of hiring so successful that they continued directly recruiting people from the Caribbean until 1970, by which time they had hired over 4,000 workers in this manner.

Unfortunately, difficulties were not limited to finding work. Many of the passengers from Empire Windrush had to deal with daily racism from their new British neighbours. "Some were welcoming," King once said. "But others weren't - they had an imperialist attitude. They thought people from the colonies should be planting bananas and chocolate. People were more aggressive, they were trying to say that we shouldn't be here." Some, King admitted, were a little kinder. "Others, it didn't really matter for them. And the rest? They were just nice, ordinary people."

But the Caribbean immigrants who first made Britain their home in 1948, and the ones who followed immediately in their wake, were a strong group. They knew they had to support one another to survive in a country that both needed them but didn't want them. In order to purchase suitable homes, they began using the 'pardner' scheme, a traditional Caribbean money-saving and management method that sees a group of people agree to put in a certain amount of money each month. Each member of the group then takes out money at previously agreed intervals, until each member has removed a lump sum and paid in the same amount. This allows people to make expensive purchases quicker and more easily.

They established stores, restaurants, clubs, churches and organisations within their community as well, such as the Notting Hill Carnival, creating a space for the Caribbean immigrant community for years to come - a space for cultural expression that still endures to this day.

While today the arrival of Empire Windrush is considered by many to be one of the key moments, if not the integral moment, that kick-started Caribbean immigration to Britain (culminating in over 1 million people considering themselves of Caribbean heritage currently living in Britain according to the 2011 Census), information about the ship itself and the men and women it carried is difficult to come by. The erasure of black history is nothing new in Britain - a 2016 petition to have black history officially added to the UK primary school curriculum failed to garner enough signatures for any changes to be made - but that Empire Windrush and its passengers aren't well documented and more visible is surprising.

The Windrush Generation who arrived on 22 June 1948 suffered many hardships, but immensely aided in building a postwar Britain back up to its former glory. They were also trailblazers that have become an emblem for the multicultural nation, marking the beginning of an era of mass migration to Great Britain. With the 70th anniversary of the ship's landing having been overshadowed by political scandal, it's all the more important that their contribution to British history is acknowledged.
What started life as a simple riverside manor house became one of Britain’s most lavish palaces. First renovated by Cardinal Wolsey, Hampton Court soon attracted the attention of Henry VIII. Home to the iconic Tudor king and his six wives, Henry VIII spent the equivalent of £18 million developing vast kitchens, a chapel, tennis court, bowling alleys, formal gardens and a communal toilet fit for 28 nobles. Since then, Hampton Court Palace has been lived in by a succession of British monarchs. It was a playhouse for James I, in which Shakespeare’s acting troupe first performed Hamlet and Macbeth. It became a gilded prison for Charles I during the English Civil War, and a passion project for William III, who had Christopher Wren remodel it and planted its famous hedge maze. Queen Victoria opened the palace up to the public in 1838, and in less than 45 years over 10 million visitors had been recorded – a huge number for the time!

Explore Hampton Court Palace’s 500 years of history for yourself, and find out what attracted all those Victorians by winning a family ticket for up to two adults and three children (age 5 to 15 years old). So you can make the most of your visit, we’re also throwing in a one-night stay at Holiday Inn London – Kingston South.

To be in with a chance of winning this historic royal palace getaway, all you have to do is tell us who the ultimate European monarch of all time is. Whether you prefer a mighty conqueror that amassed a vast empire, a just ruler that governed fairly, or perhaps a glorious leader who inspired legends with their derring-do, we want to know. Turn over the page to find out who you can vote for...

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Please be aware that answers must be submitted to the above website only or by sending this voting form to the above address. This competition is open to residents of the United Kingdom and Ireland only, though all votes will contribute to the poll’s overall winning monarch. Future Publishing has the right to substitute the prize for a similar item of equal or higher value. Employees of Future Publishing (including freelancers), their relatives or any agents are not eligible to win the prize. The editor’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Prizes cannot be exchanged for cash. Full terms and conditions are available upon request. From time to time, Future Publishing or its agents may send you related material or special offers. If you do not want to receive this, please state it clearly on your competition entry.

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To be in with a chance of winning our Hampton Court Palace getaway, simply select five kings and/or queens from the top 50 overleaf and number them in order of preference (1 = first choice, 5 = fifth choice).

Submit your answers online at historyanswers.co.uk, or post your top five monarchs from the selections to:
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Entries must be submitted by 5 July 2018.
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE MONARCH

Select from this top 50 list of European kings, queens and emperors to be in with a chance to win our top prize

**Charlemagne**
c. 747 - c. 814
This Frankish king and Christian emperor of the West conquered immense territories and defined the character of Medieval Europe.

**Alfred the Great**
849-99 CE
The only English monarch known as ‘the Great,’ this Anglo-Saxon king of Wessex successfully resisted Viking invasion.

**Æthelstan**
c. 895-949
This Anglo-Saxon warrior king ‘reconquered’ York from the Vikings, and proclaimed himself ‘king of all Britain’.

**Brian Boru**
c. 940-1014
The High King united Ireland under his leadership, famously defeating the Vikings at Clontarf, and establishing the powerful O’Brien dynasty.

**Cnut the Great**
c. 995-1035
Though he couldn’t control the tide, this Viking king ruled over the North Sea Empire, covering Denmark, Norway and England.

**David I**
c. 1080-1153
This Scottish king led a cultural revolution, introducing feudalism, founding monasteries and securing control of a large part of northern England.

**Edward the Confessor**
c. 1003-66
Remembered for his religious piety, much of Edward’s reign was peaceful and prosperous. However, his death brought about the Norman conquest.

**William the Conqueror**
c. 1028-1087
Also known as William I, this Norman noble seized the English crown after victory at Hastings in 1066, and transformed the country forever.

**Owain Gwynedd**
1100-70
This warrior king ruled much of Wales, AND successfully expanded his borders into England, later besting Henry II of England at the Battle of Croggen.

**Eleanor of Aquitaine**
c. 1122-1204
One of the Middle Ages’ most powerful women, Eleanor helped run Henry of Anjou’s empire and ruled England as regent while Richard I was at war.

**Richard I**
1157-99
Remembered as ‘Lion Heart,’ this warrior king fought Saladin during in the Third Crusade, but only spent six months of his ten-year reign in England.

**John**
1166-1216
Though he was forced to sign the Magna Carta, John was the first Norman king to speak English, and took an active interest in the country.

**Edward I**
1239-1307
Nicknamed ‘Long Shanks’ and ‘Hammer of the Scots,’ the English king is best known for trying to subdue Wales and Scotland, notably defeating William Wallace.

**Robert the Bruce**
1274-1329
This rebel king secured Scotland’s independence from England, waging a highly successful guerrilla war before subsequently winning papal recognition as the rightful monarch.

**Margaret I**
1353-1412
The queen consort of Norway and Sweden and sovereign of Denmark, she peacefully united all three Scandinavians nations under her rule.

**Henry V**
c. 1387-1422
Victorious against the French at the Battle of Agincourt during the Hundred Years’ War, he made England one of the strongest kingdoms in Europe.

**Mehmed the Conqueror**
1432-81
This emperor captured Constantinople, the Balkans and Anatolia, establishing the Ottoman Empire’s heartlands for the next 400 years.

**Isabella I**
1451-1504
This Castilian queen unified Spain through her marriage to Ferdinand II of Aragon, financed Christopher Columbus’ expeditions and established the Spanish Inquisition.

**Richard III**
1452-83
The last king of the Plantagenet dynasty may have murdered his way to the throne, but it is unlikely that he was the arch-villian that Shakespeare painted him as.

**Henry VII**
1457-1509
This English king ended the War of the Roses, founded the mighty Tudor dynasty and brought about stability after years of civil strife.

**Matthias Corvinus**
1443-90
The Hungarian king set about reconstructing the country after years of feudal anarchy, encouraged the ‘new learning’ of the Italian Renaissance in Hungary and conquered several neighbouring states.

**Henry VIII**
1491-1547
Best known for his six wives and breaking with Rome, England also flourished under this Tudor icon, who patronised the arts and amassed a mighty navy.

**Francis I (France)**
1494-1547
This French king was a Renaissance patron of the arts and scholarship, and a knightly king who waged successful campaigns in Italy, but was bested by Charles V.

**Suleiman the Magnificent**
c. 1494-1566
This emperor expanded Ottoman presence in Europe, Africa and the Middle East while reforming the legal system and patronising the arts and architecture at home.

**Charles V**
1500-58
A king of Spain and its American colonies as well as Holy Roman Emperor, this Hapsburg boasted an empire ‘on which the sun never sits’ long before Britain.
from invasion.

Ivan the Terrible 1530-84
While Russia's first tsar deserved the bloody reputation he garnered, he also forged a mighty nation state, instituting a central administration and building the iconic St Basil Cathedral.

Elizabeth I 1533-1603
The Virgin Queen presided over a golden age for England, having sent the first colonists to America and defeated the Spanish Armada, saving the country from invasion.

James VI and I 1566-1625
The ruler of Scotland and the first Stuart king of England, this peacemaker ended the long war with Spain, and his version of the Bible was the standard text for 250 years.

Gustavus Adolphus 1594-1632
The Swedish 'Lion of the North' fought wars with Poland-Lithuania, Russia and Denmark simultaneously, defended Lutheranism during the Counter-Reformation, and ultimately laid the foundations for the modern Swedish state.

John III Sobieski 1629-96
This elective king of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth successfully pushed back the Ottomans during the Siege of Vienna, and briefly restored his kingdom to greatness.

Philip II 1527-98
This king commanded the Spanish Empire at the height of its powers, and successfully conquered Portugal and defeated the Ottomans in an epic naval battle at Lepanto.

Charles II 1630-85
The king of England, Scotland and Ireland, Charles II advocated religious tolerance and power sharing, while presiding over colonisation and trade in India, West Indies and America.

Louis XIV 1638-1715
The Sun King was Europe’s longest-reigning monarch, and established France as the dominant power of the era while ruling supremely from the Palace of Versailles.

Anne 1665-1714
The last of the Stuart monarchs, Anne was also the first sovereign of Great Britain, presiding over the unification of England and Scotland.

Peter the Great 1672-1725
Through successful wars, this Russian tsar expanded his empire while seeking to modernise the vast state by introducing European culture and industry, and founded the city of Saint Petersburg.

George II 1683-1760
Personally led his troops at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743, defeating the French and becoming the last British monarch to lead his troops into battle.

Empress Elizabeth 1709-62
After seizing power in a bloodless coup, the tsarina steered Russia through the Seven Years' War, founded its first university and built the extravagant Winter Palace in St Petersburg.

Frederick the Great 1712-86
The original 'enlightened despot', this Prussian king helped popularise liberal ideals while establishing his state as the foremost military power in Europe.

Maria Theresa 1717-90
The only female ruler of the mighty House of Hapsburg held together her disparate empire through great strength of will and multiple challenges from Prussia and other foreign powers.

Catherine the Great 1729-96
The Empress of Russia for more than 30 years, she usurped the throne from her husband, advocated social reform and greatly expanded Russian territory.

Napoleon I 1769-1821
It took a million-man army to defeat the Emperor of France’s First Empire at Waterloo, while his much-lauded Napoleonic Code continues to influence European law.

Wilhelm I 1879-1888
The first emperor of a united Germany and king of Prussia, Wilhelm had the sense to appoint Otto von Bismarck to power while also keeping the Iron Chancellor in check.

Alexander II 1818-81
This Russian tsar emancipated the serfs, reduced the power of the landed aristocracy, loosened censorship, reformed education, the military and the courts among other things, but was still assassinated by socialist revolutionaries.

Victoria 1819-1901
Until recently, Victoria was Britain’s longest-reigning monarch, with the country becoming an industrial powerhouse and its empire spreading around the globe during her reign.

Olav V 1905-91
This Norwegian king was nicknamed ‘a king for all the people’ for his egalitarianism, won a gold medal at the 1928 Olympics, and resisted the Nazis during World War II.

Victor Emmanuel II 1820-78
The first king of a united Italy, Victor Emmanuel II worked with revolutionary leaders like Garibaldi in order to free Italy from the control of the French and Prussians.

George V 1865-1936
The great moderniser of the British royal family, George V changed their name to Windsor, made the first radio broadcast, and won public respect by visiting the frontlines and factories.

Albert I 1875-1934
This Belgian king remained with his troops during World War One, and commanded the forces that recaptured Ostend and Bruges from the Germans in 1918.

Wilhelmina 1880-1962
The Netherlands’ longest-serving queen reigned through both World Wars, though she was exiled to London during Nazi occupation. From here she inspired the Dutch resistance through radio broadcasts.

George VI 1895-1952
Made king after the sudden abdication of his brother Edward VIII, he remained at Buckingham Palace during the London Blitz to show unity with the people.

Competition
Bluffer’s Guide
Expedition of the Thousand [ITALY, 1860-1861]

Timeline

4 APRIL 1860
Hearing that a revolt has broken out in Sicily, Garibaldi decides to attack the Bourbon regime.

5 MAY 1860
Garibaldi recruits more than 1,000 northern men for his expedition to Sicily. Their ships land at the port of Marsala a week later.

15 MAY – 20 JULY 1860
Over the next two months, the Redshirts win a series of victories over the Neapolitan forces at Calatafimi and Palermo and capture the island.

7 SEPTEMBER 1860
Garibaldi triumphantly enters Naples, where he is greeted as a hero by huge crowds. King Francis II fled before the liberator arrived, heading by sea to Gaeta.
What was it?
In one of the most dramatic moments of Italy's unification, the revolutionary Giuseppe Garibaldi led an army of over 1,000 guerrillas to support a revolt in Sicily against their Neapolitan ruler, Francis II. While Garibaldi was a seasoned general of proven ability, the odds were stacked against him. His army - known as the Redshirts - was made of mostly untrained young idealists armed with rusty rifles. Meanwhile, Francis II boasted more than 20,000 highly skilled troops. However, the scarlet fighters quickly took the town of Marsala when they landed on Sicily's west coast. As they made their way to Palermo, hundreds of Sicilian rebels joined them. The Redshirts won further Sicilian support after Garibaldi had the Neapolitan troops running scared at Calatfimi. By July, they had seized nearly all of Sicily and by September, crossed the water and captured Naples itself. Though Garibaldi's efforts to march on Rome were checked, his ally King Victor Emmanuel II invaded the Papal States. Following a plebiscite, Garibaldi surrendered all of Sicily and Naples to Victor Emmanuel.

Why did it happen?
Italy had been a patchwork of city-states continuously fought over by other foreign powers since the 6th century. But when Revolutionary France dominated the country, the burgeoning Italian middle class were given a taste of participating in government. They were loathed to give this up after Napoleon's defeat in 1815, when the states were restored to their former rulers, including the Bourbons, the Austrian Empire and the Papacy.

The Italian Risorgimento (‘Rise Again’) movement quickly emerged, with the aim to unite Italy as an independent nation. The 1820s-30s saw numerous revolts break out in the Italian states, coming to a head with the First Italian War of Independence of 1848-49. After the failure of these liberal and republican revolutions, King Victor Emmanuel II became the driving force of the Risorgimento, with his Piedmontese army defeating the Austrians in 1859. After Garibaldi won the king southern Italy in 1861, Victor Emmanuel went onto to annex Venetia in 1866 and Papal Rome in 1870.

Who was involved?

**Giuseppe Garibaldi**
1807-1882
This Italian revolutionary learnt guerrilla tactics while fighting to liberate South America before returning to his fatherland.

**Victor Emmanuel II**
1820-1878
Originally the king of Sardinia-Piedmont, he was proclaimed King of Italy by a newly-assembled Italian parliament in March 1861.

**Francesco Crispi**
1818-1901
One of the masterminds behind Garibaldi's expedition, Crispi would go on to become a prime minister of the united Italy.
What if...

The Beatles had never formed?

Without the Fab Four to stand up to the record industry bosses, the sound of the Swinging Sixties would have been sanitised

Written by Nick Churchill

The runaway success of American stars like Frank Sinatra, Johnnie Ray and Elvis Presley ensured that by 1957, Britain's teenage market for short, catchy songs delivered by handsome men was firmly established and clamouring for home-grown talent.

But if a 16-year-old tearaway from Liverpool called John Lennon had decided not to enlist the services of one James Paul McCartney into his skiffle group, The Quarrymen, they might never have become The Beatles. And whatever happened next, it almost certainly would not have happened at all.

A self-confessed know-it-all, Lennon could easily have dismissed the younger McCartney out of hand, nomenclature wise he would have done very nicely out of that before a later career in acting beckoned, or maybe as a booking agent, or even a life as a promoter.

By 1962, as The Beatles scored their first hit, Love Me Do, Britain's nascent pop music industry was hitting its stride. Tommy Steele, Adam Faith, Helen Shapiro and, most significantly, Cliff Richard - Britain's answer to Elvis - were big stars, but they were safe, sanitised and as likely to be popular with parents as they were with the kids. They did as they were told, sang the songs they were given and traded the line.

That was never enough for The Beatles, who from the outset challenged the status quo by writing their own material, then turned their backs on touring and demanded unlimited studio time with complete creative freedom. As long as they remained bankable, the industry was in no position to refuse them. But without them to lead the charge, what would have become of their immediate musical contemporaries?

The Rolling Stones would still have formed, but without Lennon and McCartney to gift them their first Top 20 hit - I Wanna Be Your Man - they would either have continued to ape American rhythm and blues, or given in to Mick Jagger's attraction to fame and fortune and churned out a series of Tin Pan Alley hits.

Similarly, the members of The Kinks and The Who would have found one another through London's R&B and jazz scenes, but if they'd never heard The Beatles' early originals, would Ray Davies have co-opted music hall to create a new musical vernacular, or Pete Townshend have found the courage to cook up a rock opera?

In America, Brian Wilson herded The Beach Boys into a maelstrom of creativity as a direct result of The Beatles' Rubber Soul album, but without that catalyst, perhaps his demons would have consumed his talent even more completely, making it easier for the group to simply follow the money.

Dylan would still have happened, but The Byrds would never have married his vision of folk music to a Beatles beat and sounded the West Coast psychedelic sirens, leaving only the dystopian distortions of New Yorkers like The Velvet Underground or Midwestern agitpropers the MC5 to drive the creative imperative.

In a world without The Beatles, something else would have filled the commercial vacuum, as technology drove a new kind of teen audience through transistor radios, portable record players and the telly, but it would have looked and sounded very different indeed.

“McCartney may have done well as a TV presenter”

How would it be different?

- Paul meets John
  John Lennon's skiffle group, The Quarrymen, plays a church garden fete witnessed by Paul McCartney, who is subsequently introduced to Lennon. 6 July 1957

- John meets George
  Haunted by his dismissal of 'that chubby kid McCartney', Lennon invites 14-year-old guitarist George Harrison to join The Quarrymen. 6 February 1958

- Stones begin to roll
  Mick Jagger, Brian Jones and Keith Richards play their first gig as The Rolling Stones at the Marquee Club in London. 12 July 1962

- Ringo approached
  The Quarrymen invite drummer Ringo Starr to leave his safe gig in Rory Storm and the Hurricanes and join them. He declines. 18 August 1962

- Stones on their way
  Having produced hits for the likes of Jimmy Young and Dickie Valentine, Dick Rowe signs The Rolling Stones to Decca. May 1963

- Dylan stays true
  The album Another Side of Bob Dylan is released and its creator is lauded for resisting the urge to go electric and copy the Stones. 8 August 1964
Imagine all the people... thinking Cliff Richard and The Shadows were the pinnacle of pop music.

As well as being a music journalist and critic, Nick Churchill is the author of Yeah Yeah Yeah: The Beatles & Bournemouth.

What if... THE BEATLES HAD NEVER FORMED?

NICK CHURCHILL

O Jesus stalls Stones
Reacting to their stranglehold on the pop charts, Cliff Richard reminds fans that Jesus is bigger than The Rolling Stones.
5 August 1966

O Stones ground down
The Rolling Stones’ career is effectively ended when Jagger and Richards are arrested at the latter’s mansion on drugs charges.
12 February 1967

O The Devil in Iggy
As The Stooges release their debut album, Iggy Pop says the Devil has all the best tunes because he gave them to him.
5 August 1969

O Reagan assassinated
8 December 1980

O Lennon-McCartney, finally
Local artist John Lennon and vicar George Harrison reform The Quarrymen in Liverpool for their 60th anniversary and invite game-show host Paul McCartney to join them.
8 July 2017
5TH CENTURY BCE
Discus throwing was introduced to the Ancient Olympics’ pentathlon competition in 708 BCE, although Myron’s iconic Discobolus statue dates back to the 5th century BCE. The discus was made of stone, and later versions consisted of bronze, lead or iron. The size of the discuses varied between 17 to 35cm, with an average weight of 4kg. However, as boys threw a different weight to men, the discus could weigh anywhere between 1.5 and 6.5kg. Today, discuses are still made of metal, with a 22cm diameter for men and 18cm for women. As for weight, they are 2kg for men and 1kg for women.

CAVALRY SPORTS 1ST – 2ND CENTURY CE
To demonstrate their skills and expertise, the Roman cavalry performed in tournaments and practice battles known as the hippika gymnasia, wearing ornately decorated armour. This helmet, discovered in Ribchester, Lancashire in 1796, would have been worn during these cavalry games. It is made from copper alloy in a visor-style, with a hinged facemask, decorated with a scene depicting a conflict between the infantry and cavalry, and weights just over 1.3kg. The British Museum acquired the helmet in 1814, where it has been displayed ever since.

“The British Museum acquired the helmet in 1814, where it has been displayed ever since”

STOOLBALL 15TH CENTURY
The medieval sport of stoolball, an early bat-and-ball game, originated in Sussex, England, and has been played since at least the 15th century. It got its name from the milking stools that the girls would sit on – while the boys tossed balls to try and hit the stool, the girls would attempt to stop them with either their hands or a small paddle. The ball itself was made of cloth and stuffed with materials such as feathers, hair or grass. The game continues to be played today, and was finally recognised as an official sport in 2008.

CUJU 8TH – 10TH CENTURY
This ancient Chinese sport is recognised by FIFA as the earliest form of football, though it likely evolved separately in Europe. Although cuju is first mentioned between the 3rd – 2nd century BCE, the pictured particular style of ball originated during the Tang dynasty. It is made of eight pieces of cuspidate leather, and filled with air to replace the original design, which was just two pieces of leather stuffed with hair. Later on in the Song dynasty, the ball evolved again, with 12 pieces of leather and feather stuffing.

Emperor Taizu of Song 927 – 976
The founder of the Song dynasty, Emperor Taizu enjoyed a good game of cuju. A talented player, the Emperor was known for his freestyle skills – there is even a 13th century painting which depicts him playing! His support for cuju probably helped to promote the sport, which became popular during Song rule.
REAL TENNIS 16TH CENTURY
Known as ‘the sport of kings’, real tennis is the ancestor of modern tennis played today. Derived from a similar game that was popular in France during the 12th century, it had developed into a serious sport by the 16th century. Rackets were created around 1500, and were made with sheep-gut strings. As for the tennis balls, they had developed from being originally stuffed with animal hair to being made from strips of heavy cloth tape, wound into a ball and tied with twine, and finished off with a covering of white felt.

BADMINTON 16TH CENTURY
A version of badminton has been played since the times of Ancient Greece, with so-called ‘battledore and shuttlecock’ one of the oldest known racket sports. It became a popular sport among the upper class in Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries, and author Jane Austen wrote about playing it with her nephews in the early 19th century. Battledores (rackets) had parchment or leather stretched across the wooden frames and a wooden handle. Shuttlecocks were made with a cork core and feathers - a similar design to the ones used today.

FOOTBALL 15TH CENTURY
In 1981, the world’s oldest football was discovered behind the panelling of the Queen’s bedchamber in Stirling Castle, Scotland. Dated back to the 1540s and made from cow leather and a pig’s bladder, it is believed to have belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots, who lived there and was known to enjoy a game of football. It was likely a gift from her father, King James IV, who bought four footballs in the 1490s.

KI-O-RAHI PRE-18TH CENTURY
Ki-o-rahi is a traditional Māori sport, which was played a long time before the Europeans arrived in New Zealand, although little is known about its history. It involves two teams playing on a circular pitch, and the ball, called a ‘ki’, is made from flax woven together. It is a fast-moving contact sport, and is said to have influenced the game of rugby, with elements similar to dodgeball and tag. To this day, ki-o-rahi remains a popular sport in New Zealand.

BASEBALL 19TH CENTURY
When baseball first emerged in the United States of America during the 19th century, baseball gloves were not used, as they were seen as unmanly. It is believed that Charles C Waite was the first to use baseball gloves, which were flesh-coloured, in a game in 1875. By the 1890s it was common practice to wear padded gloves, popularised by pitcher AG Spalding and his company, which manufactured them. Gloves continued to develop, and in 1923 pitcher Bill Doak created a design for a larger, deeper pocket between the thumb and first finger - the forerunner to today’s modern gloves.

BOXING 20TH CENTURY
Hand protection used for fighting dates back to the Ancient Greeks, who used strips of ox hide wrapped around their hands - these were known as himantes. Today, the gloves that are used in modern boxing were developed during the 20th century. This pair belonged to Muhammad Ali, from his 1963 bout against Henry Cooper. In the fourth round, Cooper struck Ali with a left hook, almost knocking him out. Ali gained an extra 20 seconds to recover after it was noticed that one of his gloves had split, exposing the horsehair padding inside.

Muhammad Ali
AMERICAN 1942 – 2016
One of the greatest boxers to have ever lived, Muhammad Ali became an icon thanks to his success in the ring. He spoke out against racism and the Vietnam war, among many other issues, and became a symbol of the Civil Rights Movement and the counterculture of the 1960s.
Holy warrior
Prince Alexander Yaroslavich Nevsky leads the charge against the Northern Crusaders. Alexander is remembered as a great military leader, having already defeated Swedish crusaders at the 1240 Battle of the Neva River, which earned him the honorific ‘Nevsky’ for his victory. The prince is depicted with a halo as he was venerated as an Orthodox saint in 1547.

Crusader knights
The core of the Crusader army was made up of the Livonian Order of the Teutonic Knights. The Knights accepted only German noblemen into their ranks and they lived much like monks when not in battle. At Lake Peipus there were just 100 Knights out of an army of some 2,600.

Auxiliary support
Both sides made use of auxiliary and allied troops to round out their armies. The Teutonic Knights were supported by their own feudal troops, which included German and Danish knights as well as Estonian auxiliaries. Alexander’s force included Novgorod’s militia, Finns and nomadic steppe archers.

Cracks in the story
Despite its inclusion in this manuscript and Eisenstein’s spectacular Soviet movie, the beaten Knights did not actually fall through the ice of the frozen lake. This myth was perpetuated long after the original battle.

Chainmail armour
The most common form of armour among the Teutonic Knights, as well as other European knights in the early 13th century, was chainmail. Chainmail was composed of thousands of small rings linked to others to form a flexible and resilient defence.

National legend
This depiction of the Battle on the Ice was from the illuminated manuscript Life of Alexander Nevsky produced during Ivan the Terrible’s reign over 300 years later. The battle was also revived for Sergei Eisenstein’s 1938 epic Alexander Nevsky, which tried to paint the Medieval prince as a Marxist hero.
Novgorod, a wealthy trading city of northern Russia, was set in the midst of an incredibly hostile world. To the east lay the vast Mongol Empire, which had arisen suddenly in the Far East and swept westward, crushing all opposition before it. The hard-riding Mongols had only recently smashed a Russian army at the Battle of the Kalka River in 1223, and had thrown much of Russia under the yoke of a harsh tributary system.

To the north were hostile Swedes, and to the west, along the shores of the Baltic Sea, were the expanding territories of the Catholic German order of the Teutonic Knights. The knights had originally been established in the late 12th century to crusade against Muslim forces in the Holy Land but with the passage of time, it had switched its focus to northeastern Europe. Under the overall direction of a Hochmeister, or Grand Master, the zealous Teutonic Order ruthlessly battled the pagan Prussians and Lithuanians of the Baltic region as well as the Christian, but Orthodox, Russians.

Though never numerous, the knights - who were all drawn from the German aristocracy - were superb armoured cavalrymen and demonstrated a discipline on the battlefield unsurpassed elsewhere in contemporary Europe. Clad very simply in a white surcoat blazoned with a single cross of jet black and worn over armour, the Teutonic Knight was just as much a monk as a soldier, being celibate and adhering to a strict, monastic way of life. Personal possessions were few, even when counting weapons.

However, while the individuals may have lived frugally, the Teutonic Order itself was very wealthy. It had substantial endowments in many parts of Europe to fund its military activities. Also, whenever the Knights conquered Baltic lands, German colonists were quickly to follow. These settlers were taxed, further enriching the Order.

After Mongols began attacking Kievan Russian principalities in 1237, the Knights took the opportunity to grab more lands in beleaguered northern Russia. In early 1241, with papal approval, the Teutonic Knights of Livonia, an independent branch of the Order, together with other German knights and vassal knights of the king of Denmark, mounted a crusade against Novgorod. Prince Alexander Yaroslavich Nevsky, then just 20-years-old and living in exile, was recalled by the people of Novgorod to fend them off.

The prince was an excellent soldier and had been given the honorific of ‘Nevsky’ for a victory he had won over the Swedes at the Neva River in 1240. He had nonetheless been driven out soon afterward by Novgorodians unhappy with his rule. Seeing the Teutonic Knights attack as an opportunity to restore his own power, his first act on returning to Novgorod was to hang his political opponents. He then set off and then set out to scour his land of the German invaders, with the help of his elite druzhina bodyguards.

Despite the Crusaders martial prowess, Nevsky racked up victories. Suitably affronted, the Knights amassed a large force to defeat the prince once and for all. On 5 April 1242, the Teutonic Knights of Livonia, together with other German knights, their Estonian auxiliary troops and some allied Danish knights, totalling around 2,600 men, caught up with Prince Alexander’s 5,000-strong Russian army at Lake Peipus, which had frozen for the season. The Knights attacked the Novgorodian army, thundering across the ice. While it must have made an epic sight, their decision to do so was not as rash as it might sound, the Knights regularly used frozen rivers as roadways during wintertime campaigns.

But the heavily armoured Knights could not overcome the stout Russian defences and abandoned the field in defeat. The Novgorodian victory at Lake Peipus was significant in that it stopped the further progress eastward of the Teutonic Knights into Russia and helped establish the demarcation line in Europe between Western Christianity and the Orthodox East. Nevsky ruled Novgorod until his death in 1263, was declared an Orthodox saint in 1547, and remains a national hero.

BATTLE ON THE ICE
LAKE PEIPUS, RUSSIA, 5 APRIL 1242

Written by Marc Desantis
Greatest Battles

01 Crusaders approach
The Crusader army of Teutonic Knights of Livonia, their Livonian feudal vassals, roughly 1,000 Estonian auxiliaries and allied Danish knights, all under Hermann of Dorpat, the prince-bishop of Tartu, march to catch the Russian force under Prince Alexander. It is still freezing cold in early April in northern Russia.

02 Nevsky retreats
Learning of their approach, Alexander retreats eastward toward Russia. The Crusaders, numbering about 2,600, of which only a relative handful are Teutonic Knights of the Livonian Order, come upon Lake Peipus, where they find Alexander waiting for them. The surface of the lake is frozen solid.

03 Crusader deployment
The Crusaders’ battle order is not known but the Danish knights may be placed on the left wing, the Teutonic Knights stationed in the centre, and the other German knights on the right under Bishop Hermann. The unenthusiastic Estonian auxiliaries that have also marched on the crusade against Novgorod are taking up the rear.

04 Russians in the fray
As related by the Medieval Russian Novgorod Chronicle, Alexander stations his men right behind the uneven ice floes on the lakeshore at a site known as Raven’s Rock where he waits for the German assault. The prince has around 5,000 troops consisting of 2,000 militiamen from Novgorod in the front and centre of his line; his 600-man professional druzhina, or bodyguard; and the 400-strong druzhina of his brother, Andrey, from Suzdal, behind the militia. These are supported by tribal Finnish warriors and steppe nomad horse archers placed on the Russian right wing. Raven’s Rock is the slendestest crossing point of Lake Peipus.
ALEXANDER NEVSKY
LEADER
Alexander Nevsky was a politician of rare acumen as well as a great war leader. His rule had alienated the people of Novgorod but they turned to him when the Crusaders threatened their city.
Strengths: He was a master tactician who used the frozen lake to the best advantage.
Weaknesses: Alexander’s hold over Novgorod was not entirely secure.

ALEXANDER’S DRUZHINA
KEY UNIT
A druzhina was a personal army of a Medieval Russian prince. These mounted warriors, close comrades of their lord, were sworn to fight for Alexander and, if need be, die for him.
Strengths: It had high morale and was well armed and armoured.
Weaknesses: The druzhina was expensive to equip and maintain.

SWORD
KEY WEAPON
Russian warriors prized their swords and often decorated them and their scabbards with precious metals.
Strengths: The sword was a potent weapon; with it, a warrior was able to both attack and defend himself.
Weaknesses: While relatively expensive, Russian steel was a bit on the brittle side, so swords sometimes lacked flexibility.

Victory and defeat
The Teutonic Knights and their allies are forced to retreat. The Novgorod Chronicle says that Alexander’s men pursued the fleeing Crusaders across the icy lake. The Russians claim that 20 Knights are slain in the battle and six captured. Around 400 other Germans are killed or captured, as well as many Estonians. Russian losses are not known but the Livonian Rhymed Chronicle, a Medieval German source, reports them as being sizeable.

Outnumbered
The Teutonic Knights in the middle of the Crusader host strike the centre of the Russian line. A wild melee ensues, and many men are slain. In the centre, the Knights can make no headway against the stubborn Russian defence. Daunted by the sheer size of the enemy army, the Order’s Estonian auxiliaries flee. Massively outnumbered by the Russians, the Teutonic Knights are surrounded. With their fearsome charge having failed to dislodge the Russians, the Knights are cut up badly.

Hail of arrows
The advancing Danish vassal knights on the Crusader left wing are hit hard by the arrows of Alexander’s nomad horse archers on the Russian right wing. They receive scant support from the unreliable Estonian auxiliaries. Pummelled by the hail of missiles launched against them, the Danes quit the field.

Get Nevsky!
According to a Russian account of the battle found in the Life of Alexander Nevsky, the Crusaders’ primary aim is to capture or slay Alexander himself. The prince, however, is well protected by his druzhina of 600 warriors. These valiant warriors have pledged to give their lives for him. “Now is the time for us to sacrifice our heads for you,” they tell their prince. The Crusaders mount a charge across the ice in a standard knightly wedge formation against the defending Russians, hitting first the Novgorodian militia in the centre of Alexander’s line.
Fulgencio Batista

A young Batista came to power on a wave of populist support - not unlike the revolutionaries that chased him out of Cuba. So what went wrong?

In the weeks after Machado fled Cuba, the island was plunged into chaos and political factions engaged in open warfare.

Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar. The very name conjures the image of a failed and corrupt Caribbean dictator, a man who placed personal gain above the needs of his people. He is probably best known for his early morning escape into exile, along with several dozen family members and generals, on 1 January 1959 - paving the way for the triumph of the Cuban Revolution.

Following the insurgency, Batista was depicted as a stooge and a lackey of the US mafia and government by revolutionary journalists and scholars. He occupies a special spot of revulsion in Cuban history books, and his image is on display in the Cretin's Corner (Rincón de Los Cretinos), along with US presidents Reagan and the two Bushes, at the Museum of the Revolution in Havana.

On the face of it, he seems like a run-of-the-mill historical villain, but there is much more to his story than is widely known. Batista was born into abject poverty in eastern Cuba in 1901 to a mixed-race family with a polyglot of Afro-Cuban, Indigenous and European roots. His father was a part-time sugar cane cutter for the United Fruit Company and the family home was a simple thatched hut with a dirt floor. Batista's formal studies were cut short after the death of his mother forced him to work at a variety of odd jobs to help support his three younger brothers.

From this modest beginning, Batista went on to dominate Cuban politics for over 25 years. Starting his career as a stenographer for the military, he worked his way up the ranks. His big political break occurred in the aftermath of the collapse of the US-backed government of President Gerardo Machado in 1933. In the weeks after Machado fled Cuba, the island was plunged into chaos, and opposing political factions engaged in open warfare in the streets.

By this time, Batista was a sergeant in the army and part of a conspiracy of enlisted men to topple another US-backed government. Their efforts succeeded on 4 September 1933 and the uprising, known initially as the Sergeants' Revolt, ushered in Cuba's first revolution of the 20th century - the Revolution of 1933. Astute enough to know that the enlisted men did not have the skills and knowledge to run the government, Batista formed an unlikely alliance with the students and faculty at the University of Havana.
After paving the way for a democratic transition and serving as an elected president from 1940 to 1944, Batista allowed a peaceful transfer of power to Ramón Grau San Martín when his selected candidate lost the presidential election in 1944. Once out of power, Batista went on a tour of Latin American countries and proclaimed the virtues of democracy.

10 October 1944

Batista once said “My destiny is to carry out revolutions without bloodshed.”
“Although his government gained quick diplomatic recognition, the people of Cuba never accepted him as their legitimate leader”

Although his government gained quick diplomatic recognition, the people of Cuba never accepted him as their legitimate leader. Although his government gained quick diplomatic recognition, the people of Cuba never accepted him as their legitimate leader.
If his career had ended in 1945, the designation of hero would be appropriate - but his darkest moments were yet to come. After several years in self-imposed exile in Daytona Beach, Florida, Batista was elected to a seat in the Cuban Senate in 1948 as a prelude to a second presidential run in 1952. His popularity faded and public opinion polls indicated he was unlikely to win the presidency but instead of accepting that outcome, Batista tapped into his old military contacts and toppled the democratically elected government on 10 March 1952.

As if playing a role in a Greek tragedy, Batista destroyed his life’s work by seizing power in a coup. It is at this point that the Batista we know emerged. Although his government gained quick diplomatic recognition, the people of Cuba never accepted him as their legitimate leader. He tried to couch the coup in constitutional terms by keeping large parts of the governing document in place but few recognised him as the rightful president.

At first, Batista claimed that his rise to power was temporary and that he would quickly re-establish the normal order. But he clung to power for nearly seven years - even running unopposed in the elections of 1954. Civilian leaders formed political coalitions to negotiate his peaceful departure but all of their efforts were ultimately unsuccessful. As political opposition to his government intensified and a rural and urban guerrilla movement emerged, he responded with ever-greater violence. Political opponents were frequently tortured and their mutilated bodies were discarded in public areas to quell dissent.

As violence escalated, so did political corruption. Batista did not invent the institutional corruption that pervaded Cuban politics but he took it to unprecedented new levels. It worked in several ways. Major building and infrastructure projects required approval at several levels of government and a bribe was frequently required to push a project through to completion. Gambling in its many forms, from the national lottery to the casinos, was controlled in Havana by government officials, who were kept happy with backhanders from casino operators and a small number of mobsters from the US. Corruption went all the way to the top and Batista is known to have used it for personal gain. Some claim that he may have amassed a fortune exceeding $100 million as a result of corruption.

Batista’s actions plunged Cuba into a civil war with Fidel Castro and his fellow revolutionaries. Despite the impact on the island, Batista held onto power as long as he could. It was not until mid-December 1958 that he decided to abandon Cuba - and only after he discovered that some of his generals appeared to be plotting against him. When he fled, he left the island in chaos and closed the door of democracy for generations to come. His personal ambitions fundamentally altered the island’s history. Batista squandered the promise of democracy and desegregated the officer corps.

He lived out the rest of his life, till 1973, in relative luxury in Portugal and Spain, and he wrote a number of books trying to reclaim and recast his legacy. He argued that he brought about economic development in Cuba, but conveniently never fully addressed his unconstitutional power grab.

The second half of his career clearly places Batista in the villain category, but it is interesting to note that there were two distinct Batistas. The earlier one laid claim to a revolutionary populist pedigree as a mixed-race child of the poorest of the poor. He made significant contributions to the rural poor of Cuba and, perhaps most importantly, paved the way for a fragile democracy. However, his lust for power destroyed his achievements and the people of Cuba are still living with that today.

**Hero or Villain?**

**Fulgencio Batista**

**Heroism**

Batista made some contributions to Cuban society in his early career. He paved the way for a brief period of democracy and desegregated the officer corps.

**Villainy**

He destroyed his own legacy and plunged the island into a conflict that has never been fully resolved. His actions cost thousands of lives and changed Cuba.

**Legacy**

Batista squandered the promise of democracy and ushered in the Cuban Revolution. His personal ambitions fundamentally altered the island’s history.

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Was Fulgencio Batista a hero or a villain? Get in touch and let us know what you think.

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**Defining moment**

**Flight into exile**

All his political acumen could not provide him with legitimacy. In late 1958, after a series of defeats and a mounting urban and rural guerrilla campaign, he decided to flee. His departure in the early hours of 1 January 1959 left the island in chaos. Revolutionary forces led by Castro quickly established control. In the turmoil following the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, millions of Cubans have gone into exile. 1 January 1959.
The Republic of China is experiencing seismic changes. In the aftermath of the Xinhai Revolution, the Qing dynasty has been swept aside after nearly three centuries on the imperial throne. In its place is a new administration headed by men more used to controlling military divisions than ruling a country, so is struggling with the concept of democracy. While the so-called Nanjing Decade – 1927 to 1937 - offered a glimmer hope in the form of an economic boom and creative freedom, life in the fledgling Republic of China isn’t easy for anyone, even those at the top. Assassination, unrest and opposition are the watchwords of those who hope to govern and for the people, economic and industrial progress is slowed by in-fighting and sabre rattling amongst politicians, ambitious members of the burgeoning Communist Party and even disenfranchised warlords of the old order.

With war with Japan on the cards for 1937, the Republic of China’s time in the sun will be brief. memorable and far from idyllic.

WHERE TO STAY

The Astor House Hotel
You might only visit the Republic of China once, so make the most of it by checking into the Astor House Hotel in Shanghai, one of China’s oldest and grandest hotels. Once a humble sailor’s boarding house, the hotel flourished into a glamorous residence for foreign visitors. Even better, in 1912 you can still bag a room for less than £10 a night! Make the most of your stay because the Astor House’s days are numbered - it will be occupied by the Japanese in 1937.

Dos & don’ts

- Get out of the city
  Although the cities might be your natural destination, don’t miss the surrounding towns and villages for a glimpse of traditional China.

- Get the teahouse experience
  Tea is part of a rich cultural and social experience. Visit a teahouse and while away the hours with refreshment, conversation and friendship.

- Spend a night at the theatre
  Theatre in the Republic of China is changing. In 1930, women will even be allowed to train as jingxi actors for the first time in 300 years.

- Watch your national language
  The country wants to establish a national language but with so many candidates, you could be speaking a different dialect every other day.

- Encourage the opium trade
  Despite efforts by the Qing dynasty to suppress the opium industry before 1912, it’s easy to find. Don’t be tempted to indulge!

- Forget the millions in crisis
  In 1920, northern China will be decimated by famine. If you’re in a major city, look out for a relief society and help out if you can.

- Spend time with Westerners
  In the Republic’s early years, rich Westerners are everywhere. Don’t spend all your time with Western tycoons, though – get out and meet the Chinese people, too!

- Outstay your welcome
  If you hang around once the Communists seize power, you won’t be able to leave without wading through a minefield of bureaucracy, so don’t outstay your welcome.
Talking politics
Nothing is more divisive in the Republic of China than politics, with monarchists, communists and even warlords feuding for power. It’s a place where political discussion can lead to trouble.

WHO TO BEFRIEND
Lao She
Lao She, the pen name of Shu Sheyu, isn’t only one of China’s most celebrated novelists, but also a man who lived through and chronicled some of his country’s most tumultuous years. Well-travelled and hugely respected in the Republic of China, Lao She changed the face of writing in his native land, popularising satirical novels and capturing the changing face of the nation. Lao She’s works reflect the shifting cultural and social landscape of the Republic of China, so as your guide to the artistic heart of the Republic as well as the very best teahouses, Lao She is the man.

Extra tip: If you want to talk books with Lao She, it’s probably best not to mention the American translation of his 1937 masterpiece, Luòtuo Xiángzi. Titled Rickshaw Boy, the hard-hitting novel of life in Beijing was extensively rewritten, heavily edited and even given a happy ending to appeal to Western audiences.

WHO TO AVOID
Du Yuesheng
Better known as Big Ears, Du Yuesheng is a Triad leader who wields immense power from his Shanghai headquarters. Don’t be fooled by his portfolio of respectable businesses, because Du is a man who doesn’t only own hotels and banks, but politicians and police too. As a leader of the Green Gang, Du is the godfather of the Republic of China with interests in organised crime including extortion, narcotics and prostitution. Thanks to his business interests and wealth, he is as respected in polite society as he is feared. Getting on the wrong side of Du Yuesheng can be a death sentence.

Helpful skills

Financial acumen
If farming isn’t for you, China will experience a manufacturing boom thanks to reduced importing during World War I. For would-be tycoons, there’s some serious money to be made at Shanghai’s docks.

Talking politics
Nothing is more divisive in the Republic of China than politics, with monarchists, communists and even warlords feuding for power. It’s a place where political discussion can lead to trouble.

Farming
If you want to experience life outside of the cities, some farming skills might go a long way. Millions of Chinese citizens work the land for their livelihood.
On the Menu

ROAST PHEASANT

Many people living in Medieval Europe would not have been able to enjoy the mouth-watering taste of a roast pheasant. Introduced in England around the time of the Norman conquest in the 11th century, it was an expensive bird that was popular with royals and the rich upper classes who could pay for it.

Some 200 pheasants adorned the tables at the inauguration banquet of Neville, Archbishop of York, in 1465 and its popularity continued with the Tudors. Henry VIII had a pheasant breeder and techniques to enhance the flavour soon emerged. Cooks quickly figured out that hanging the birds from the ceiling for days improved the taste while there was a debate in 15th-century recipe books over potential accompaniments. While vegetables were rarely eaten by the rich, there was a suggestion that mustard and sugar should be added to the meat. Some others simply preferred salt.

Did you know?
Adding rich sauces to meat was an indicator of wealth – only the upper classes could afford them.

THE GAME THAT FED THE THRONES EUROPE, 11TH CENTURY

M any people living in Medieval Europe would not have been able to enjoy the mouth-watering taste of a roast pheasant. Introduced in England around the time of the Norman conquest in the 11th century, it was an expensive bird that was popular with royals and the rich upper classes who could pay for it.

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METHOD

01 Pluck the pheasant and trim off the wings before removing the entrails by cutting a slit in the vent and drawing them out. Alternatively, ask a butcher to prepare the bird for you.
02 Preheat the oven to 200°C and use some string to tightly tie the pheasant, ensuring that the knees are pulled in towards the stomach. Leave the skin on to seal in the juices when cooking.
03 Make sure to add some extra fat. Rub the bird’s skin with butter and/or place layers of bacon over the pheasant.
04 Place the bird in a roasting tin and cover it in foil. Put it in the oven, turning the heat down to 180°C. Roast the bird for 25 minutes per pound.
05 Keep basting the bird with the meat juices to keep it moist. Remember to be careful – the fat will be hot.
06 While the pheasant is cooking, create the mustard sauce. Mix your mustard ball, which is a blend of mustard flour and grated horseradish, with the brown sugar. Add as much or as little as you like depending on how you like the taste of the resulting sauce.
07 Remove the foil for the last ten minutes of cooking so that the skin browns nicely. To judge if the bird is properly cooked, skewer it to ensure the juices are running clear. If you use a meat thermometer, a hen pheasant should be 60°C and a cock pheasant 63°C.
08 Allow the bird to rest for 15 minutes and perhaps use the tail feathers for decoration. Serve with the mustard sauce either by coating the pheasant or placing some on the side of the plate. You could also simply add salt to taste.

Ingredients
- 1.25kg pheasant
- 40g Tewkesbury gold mustard ball
- Brown sugar
- 4 fatty bacon rashers
- 1 tbsp salt
- 6 tbsp butter

Did you make it? Let us know! /AllAboutHistory @AboutHistoryMag
Kitty Marion is a woman whose name ought to have reverberated through generations. Yet today the courageous suffragette and birth control campaigner is forgotten, erased from history despite – or seemingly because of – her dogged determination to transform women’s lives. Beside her in this obscurity have sat others who too sacrificed much in the fight for universal suffrage. The wider picture of just how far the suffragettes were willing to go to advance their agenda has been cast aside, the extent of their acts of arson and bombing pushed into the shadows by the dominance of a less radical narrative.

But as Fern Riddell reveals in this unique account, music hall artist Kitty was notorious in her time, and she and her sisters marched into their own form of warfare against the government that just could not be reasoned with. The book’s striking title is inspired by the message on a suffragette bomb discovered in Plymouth: “Votes For Women. Death in Ten Minutes.” Kitty, a German immigrant who moved to London as a child escaping her abusive father, joined the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU) to champion women’s rights after experiencing the sexual abuse rampant in the music halls. Horrified by the government’s force-feeding of suffragettes, she graduated from selling Votes For Women to playing a significant role in what Riddell describes as a nationwide campaign of terror. Kitty may have been a member of The Young Hot Bloods, a secret organisation within the WSPU formed to unite the younger women, who became the most militant of all. Her attacks in 1913 included burning to the ground the St Leonards home of MP Arthur Du Cros and setting fire to the Hurst Park racecourse as a tribute to the memory of Emily Wilding Davison (who died protesting at the Epsom Derby). Kitty was arrested several times over the years and was force-fed more than 200 times during one four-month imprisonment at Holloway Prison.

Death in Ten Minutes, evidently the product of tireless archival research, draws on material including Kitty’s unpublished autobiography and the suffragette’s scrapbook of newspaper cuttings detailing her attacks. The book never shies away from the complexities of the WSPU and its leadership, including the distinct fact that their most violent attacks did endanger the public, and the suggestion that Christabel Pankhurst failed to comprehend the impact her orders had on the women who carried out these acts. Riddell also makes a case for the suffragettes’ sanitisation of their own history, with their crafting of the posthumous memory of Emily Davison and the erasure of women like Kitty from the record.

“The book never shies away from the complexities of the WSPU and its leadership”

The greatest injustice to her sacrifices is how her story slept dormant in the shadows for so long. Death in Ten Minutes goes a hell of a way in remedying that, and Kitty emerges as a powerful heroine for our times. This is undoubtedly a blistering account of suffragette violence through the eyes of a phenomenal woman.
CUBA AND THE CAMERAMAN
A filmmaker's loveletter to a country - and Castro

Certificate 12
Director Jon Alpert
Cast Jon Alpert, Fidel Castro, members of the Cuban public
Released Out now

In his quest to highlight social injustices and agitate for reform in the United States in the late 1960s and early '70s, documentary filmmaker Jon Alpert became heavily invested in the socialist revolution in the neighbouring island state of Cuba.

In *Cuba and the Cameraman*, Alpert has collected the highlights of his numerous visits to Cuba, during which he gained unparalleled access to and built genuine relationships with the people of the country, from poor countryside farmers to Fidel Castro himself. This collection of footage is fascinating, accrued over 45 years, during which Alpert visited and revisited the same people, from the optimism of the 1970s, when the Cuban economy was robustly supported by the Soviet Union, through the collapse of the 1990s after the fall of the Iron Curtain in Europe, and right up to Castro's death in 2016. We see this evolving state of Cuba through these people, a trio of farmer brothers, a young city girl who turned into a housewife, and the ever-defiant, always charming but increasingly embittered Castro himself.

As a balanced account of Revolutionary Cuba, this film probably won't be of much help because Alpert is far from objective in his approach and commentary - and he freely admits as much. However, his infectious personality and unabashed enthusiasm towards his subjects (many of whom seem to become genuine friends of his) open up a view of Cuba that is rarely seen. While *Cuba and the Cameraman* is a deeply personal and subjective account of the country, it is an eminently watchable one.

CIVILISATIONS
Answering an age-old question with wit and wisdom

Author Mary Beard
Publisher Profile Books
Price £15
Released Out now

If you've ever thought of Mary Beard as simply being a classicist interested in the ancient world, think again. In *Civilisations: How do we Look & the Eye of Faith*, a companion book to the recent hit TV series, art takes centre stage. Split into two parts, Beard first considers how the human figure has been portrayed throughout history and also the relationship between art and religion, all in a bid to understand what 'civilisation' actually means. The journey takes her from statues in Ancient Greece to backpackers snapping selfies at Angkor Wat, to Istanbul's modern mosque and China's infamous terracotta warriors.

While this double-feature has a natural break, it's honestly hard to put the book down. Each chapter flows almost seamlessly into the next and the style hits the perfect point between engagingly anecdotal and authoritatively academic. Glossy photographs are displayed as anything from an inset image to a double-page picture and are evenly distributed rather than clumped together like the plates in most of today's history books. Captions also provide translations of any writing and information about what's happening in the image.

Even if you're not interested in the history of art, this book is still well worth a read. There are many interesting titbits that relate to today's views of the human body and how the ancient Greeks probably didn't see it that much differently to us. If you're looking to learn more on an interesting topic while being entertained by Beard's wit, this is a book you need to pick up.
“Their stories are naturally gripping but Wright has retold them with an engaging and comprehensive narrative.”

A compact book full of big adventures, Sharon Wright’s Balloonomania Belles: Daredevil Divas Who First Took to the Sky tells the stories of the first female aeronauts from the late 18th to the early 20th century. It pieces together a series of tales – from the glamorous to the horrifying – that together offer an interesting perspective on the history of these periods and of early aviation.

A repeated theme in these tales is the courage of the women involved. But, as well as being daredevil divas, many were dedicated and determined businesswomen. They went into the skies to work, to pay their bills and to feed their children. Many also went simply because they wanted to, and of course there is overlap in this. Their stories are naturally gripping but Wright has retold them with an engaging and comprehensive narrative. An enjoyment of the excitement and drama involved resonates through the book. The lives and exploits of the women featured are also well-situated in their historical context and are frequently supported by contemporary sources.

So, from the day in 1784 when Elisabeth Thible donned the costume of Minerva and sang opera from the skies to the moment in 1909 when Muriel Matters scattered pamphlets demanding women’s suffrage over London, Balloonomania Belles offers a varied history of trailblazing – or, perhaps better put, cloud-blazing – women. It is a lively and spirited read that may particularly appeal to those who are looking for an unusual twist or a different perspective for the next book on their reading list.

PIRATE

Arr you sure you want to be a buccaneer?

This fun, informative guide by Stephen Turnbull explores the Golden Age of Piracy in the Caribbean from 1650 to 1730. Broken down into easily digestible and clearly labelled sections, and supported by numerous illustrations, Pirate: The Buccaneer’s (Unofficial) Manual is intended to induct any and all new recruits into life under the infamous banner of the skull and crossbones.

Readers will find out how to dress the part, ready the cannons, attack other ships and much more besides. The guide is also peppered with curious facts and colourful stories – setting sail on a Friday was considered to bring bad luck, while earrings were worn to improve eyesight. Apparently, contrary to popular belief, it would seem that pirates weren’t actually made to walk the plank. And there were a lot of rats. Indeed, one Spanish captain reported killing over 4,000 on a single voyage.

While plunder, peg legs and parrots might be the first things that come to mind when imagining a pirate, Turnbull makes it clear to budding buccaneers that there is a lot more involved if they want to make a success of their dastardly career. Indeed, some might decide, upon reading, that piracy may not be the right move for them after all. The fate of Captain Kidd – hung then gibbeted for almost 20 years to act as a warning to others – must be considered.

Illustrated throughout with artefacts, documents and prints, the book promises to answer any questions about piracy you may have. In short, Pirate is interesting, energetic and easy to read. It’s a good book for seadogs and landlubbers alike and it should have a broad appeal.
The Post

Breaking the world's biggest story, one page at a time

Certificate 12A  Director Steven Spielberg  Cast Tom Hanks, Meryl Streep, Bob Odenkirk, Alison Brie, Sarah Paulson, Bruce Greenwood, Carrie Coon  Released Out now

A film about the now-well-documented deceptions around an old war, taking place 47 years ago, following the staff of a newspaper in editorial processes far removed from the instant communication of today’s interconnected, always-on, social-media world could easily feel redundant and trivial to 2018’s audiences. However, The Post can be considered anything but redundant.

Following *Washington Post* editor Ben Bradlee (Tom Hanks) as he scrambles to break a big political story brewing in Washington ahead of competitors – most prominently the *New York Times* – *The Post* transports the viewer back to the bustling, often frantic newsroom of the early 1970s. A mysterious leak of documents from the Pentagon results in a series of shattering revelations about the depth and extent of systematic deception by successive administrations on the Vietnam War, its progress – or lack thereof – and the deception by successive administrations on the revelations about the depth and extent of systematic deceptions around the Vietnam War, its progress – or lack thereof – and the catalogue of disastrous decisions that left the United States in an unwinnable bog of war in southeast Asia for decades. The *New York Times* gets the scoop but as it gets caught in a legal war with President’s Nixon’s attorney general, Bradlee and the *Post* owner Katharine Graham (Meryl Streep) must act quickly while weighing up the possible cost of publishing the stories from the thousands of leaked documents to the war effort, soldiers in the field, the nation and ultimately the newspaper’s existence, too.

Led by Hanks and Streep’s trademark mastery of their craft and the power of conversation to drive a narrative, the film paints a vivid portrait of life at a newspaper at a time when they were the central source of news for most Westerners, the entire story told through character developments and richly written conversations, fleshing out even minor players in the plot in a matter of minutes.

The events of the Vietnam War, the uncovering of the Pentagon Papers – the central subject of *The Post* – and the subsequent Watergate scandal are all abundantly known to anyone even remotely interested in contemporary socio- and geopolitical history. What Spielberg does in *The Post*, however, is make it feel fresh by giving us a new perspective, the one of the people tasked with breaking those stories, and telling us the story of their moral journey. The film does so in a way that doesn’t patronise its audience, instead letting us observe them face and overcome them in a relatable and believable way.

In addition to telling a well-covered story from a novel angle, *The Post* feels poignantly relevant today, where the complicated relationship between media and those in power is frequently brought to the fore in Spielberg’s carefully crafted true-life story, calling on us (but never preaching) to reflect on how power and news media are still interlinked today, albeit in different, maybe more subservient ways.

From the score, cinematography and production design, to the performances, characterisation, language and focus on conversation above exposition, *The Post* feels like an old-school film, but one that will resonate with viewers today.
In the movie, author AA Milne suffers with PTSD after fighting in World War I and moves his family from London to the countryside as a result. Although it is not confirmed whether Milne really did have PTSD, he was a passionate anti-war advocate.

In the film, Milne’s wife Daphne publishes ‘Vespers’, his heartfelt poem to her, in the magazine *Vanity Fair* without his knowledge. In truth, Milne had promised Daphne that she could keep any money she made if she was able to sell it to a publication.

Christopher is portrayed as a neglectful mother who leaves her son in the care of a nanny. This isn’t quite true as Christopher Milne has said that his mother would often play with him as a child, and it was her who came up with a lot of the material for Winnie-the-Pooh.

Christopher was inspired to name his teddy after a bear called Winne that he saw at London Zoo. The film also doesn’t take any dramatic license when Christopher is forced to have his photo taken inside the wild animal’s enclosure years later – this really happened!

At the end, Christopher reconciles with his parents after years of tension caused by the fame and attention that Milne’s books brought. In reality, things weren’t that easy. Christopher only saw his mother once in the 15 years she lived after his father’s death.
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A MODEL AIRCRAFT

THE SUPER SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE

On 5th March 1936, Eastleigh Aerodrome near Southampton was to play host to one of the most significant events in the history of British aviation. As Vickers Supermarine’s chief test pilot Joseph ‘Mutt’ Summers strapped himself into the cockpit of the Supermarine Type 300 interceptor prototype K5054, he knew that he would be flying one of the most advanced aircraft the world had ever seen. During a brief eight minute flight, the aircraft showed so much promise, that on landing, Summers reputedly told the engineers waiting on the ground ‘Don’t touch a thing!’

The Supermarine Type 300 was soon given the name “Spitfire” and an enduring aviation legend began to take shape. Arguably the most famous fighter aircraft of all time, the Spitfire proved its pedigree during the savage dogfights of the Battle of Britain and went on to serve valiantly in every theatre of conflict during the Second World War. Produced in more numbers than any other British combat aircraft, the basic Spitfire airframe proved to be so adaptable that the aircraft saw significant upgrade and improvement throughout its sixteen year service life. Using what was essentially the same airframe, the last Spitfires were producing more than double the power of the first machines and its maximum take-off weight and rate of climb had also doubled.

The graceful, sweeping lines of the beautiful and distinctive Supermarine Spitfire sometimes make it difficult to imagine that this was actually one of the most deadly fighter aircraft the world has ever seen. Representing Britain’s defiance in the face of adversity and her prowess in the field of aeronautical excellence, the Spitfire is as iconic today, as she was ground breaking when she first took to the skies 80 years ago.

Airfix kits allow you to recreate hundreds of different iconic aircraft, tank and car scale models in the comfort of your own home. Being the iconic aircraft that it is Airfix produce a wide variety of Spitfires in a variety of different scales and schemes. Within the Airfix range, alongside the classic kits, there is a Supermarine Spitfire Mk1a Starter Set which contains glue, paintbrush and 4 acrylic paints, everything you need to create a stunning 1:72 scale model.

A55100 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk1a STARTER 1:72
A02102 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.Va 1:72
A05125 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.Vb 1:48

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