TUDOR KING ARTHUR
What if Henry VIII’s brother had lived?

WIN!
TIGER TANK EXPERIENCE

HITLER’S
SUPER WEAPONS

V2 rocket terror • Giant tanks • Plot to nuke New York

Style Through the Centuries
Fashion from Roman silks to the Industrial Revolution

CASTAWAY VS RABID RATS
How a real Robinson Crusoe survived on a desert island

CASTAWAY VS RABID RATS
How a real Robinson Crusoe survived on a desert island

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Welcome

“I don’t believe a word of the whole thing,” declared Werner Heisenberg, the scientific head of Nazi Germany’s nuclear program, after hearing the news that the United States had dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima in August 1945.

Germany had a significant lead over the Manhattan Project, beginning its research in April 1939, with some of the best scientists, a strong industrial base, and sufficient materials. The Allies were concerned enough about the Nazi nuclear threat that Churchill and Roosevelt agreed that it had to be stopped at any cost. Codenamed Operation Peppermint, scores of British lives were lost as undercover agents led daring raids on the heavy water plant at Vemork, in German-occupied Norway.

However, as Heisenberg’s disbelief shows, the Nazis were actually far from developing the bomb. From nukes to Tiger tanks to more fantastical ray guns, even today we often think of the Nazis as having had the technological edge during World War II. However, as you’ll discover from page 30, the secret of Hitler’s so-called super weapons is that they were often motivated by panicked desperation, grounded in magical thinking (often of the most literal kind), and held up by systemic disorganisation.

Jack Parsons
Editor

Unleashing the longbow
Explore the Battle of Crécy in-depth, the first land battle of the Hundred Years’ War and a clash over the very nature of warfare

Peterloo Remembered
Marking its 199th anniversary this month, discover why this massacre was a landmark moment for British politics

Why was Darius great?
Inside the life and the legend of the Persian king who came from uncertain origins to rule from Eastern Europe to India

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Editor’s picks
CONTENTS

HITLER’S SUPER WEAPONS

30 From V2 rockets to Tiger tanks, discover the truth about Nazi Germany’s cutting-edge wunderwaffen programme

FASHION

16 Timeline
From tunics to leg warmers, explore centuries of style

18 Inside history
How did the Spanning Jenny work?

20 Anatomy of
Savile Row tailor

22 How to
Make your own Elizabethan ruff

24 Day in the life
How fast fashion led to the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire

26 Hall of fame
History’s greatest fashion icons

28 History answers
Your questions answered

FEATURES

42 The Sikh suffragette
Discover how Queen Victoria’s goddaughter used her royal status to fight for women’s rights

48 True survivor
How a real-life Robinson Crusoe lasted on a deserted island

60 Queen of the castle
8 women who ruled the roost in England’s mightiest fortresses

66 What do you see?
Spilling the truth on the Rorschach inkblot test’s origins

92 The best DNA ancestry kits
Explore your family history with this hot new trend in genealogy

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AboutHistoryMag
EVERY ISSUE

06 History in pictures
Photos with amazing stories

54 Greatest battles
A step-by-step look at Crécy, the first land battle of the Hundred Years’ War

70 Hero or villain?
Was Persian emperor Darius the Great really so, er, great?

74 Time traveller’s handbook
Survival tips for visiting King Cnut’s North Sea Empire

82 Bluffer’s guide
The Peterloo Massacre explained

84 Through history
The evolution of the crown

87 On the menu
Make your own madeleines

88 Reviews
Our verdict on the latest nonfiction books, novels and films

97 History vs Hollywood
A look back at Ridley Scott’s Crusader blockbuster, Kingdom of Heaven

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Tiger Day X tickets and an Airfix RAF Centenary Gift Set

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NAZI TREASURE TROVE

A soldier in the US Third Army surveys plunder Nazi forces had hidden inside a church at Ellingen, Germany. The Third Reich’s Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg, or ERR, systemically looted paintings, sculptures, books and other national treasures from occupied countries, stealing an estimated one-fifth of all the artworks in Europe. While the Allies returned around five million items between 1945-51, the mammoth task is ongoing.

1945
While modern-day London commuters will no doubt sympathise with this scene at Westminster Bridge, gridlock was a growing problem for the capital in the 19th century. As the population grew from one million in 1800 to 6.5 million by 1900, horse-drawn omnibuses began to fill London’s narrow streets from 1828, railways crisscrossed the city after Euston station was built in 1837, then famously went underground from 1863.
BUSTIN’ SURFBOARDS
Men ride wooden surfboards, while women catch a wave in an outrigger boat off Waikiki Beach, Hawaii. Though it was a long-standing Polynesian tradition, surfing nearly died out in the 19th century due to a lack of participants. However, it was revived as a modern sport by Duke Kahanamoku, a native Hawaiian and an Olympic swimmer, who established a surf club in Waikiki and promoted surfing around the world from 1910 onwards. 1930

DEFINING MOMENTS
NOT FOR TURNING

Though Margaret Thatcher would go onto win the re-election by a landslide, the Iron Lady was convinced she was for the scrapheap when this shot was snapped on the campaign trail. “I have not long to go.” Thatcher confided in her close aide, Sir John Coles, just before the public went to the polls. “My party won’t want me to lead them into the next election and I don’t blame them.” Thatcher was the UK’s first female prime minister.

1983
“Fashion is in the sky, in the street, fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening”

Coco Chanel
ALL ABOUT

FASHION
From the Roman obsession with silk to kickstarting the Industrial Revolution, discover why clothes are the fabric of society

Explore centuries of style

Inside the Spinning Jenny

Visit a Savile Row tailor

Make an Elizabethan ruff

Written by David Crookes, Jessica Leggett, Laura Lejeune
In a world that's constantly evolving, women's fashion in Europe has been controversial, trailblazing and sometimes surprising, but it's never been left behind!

**STICK A BROOCH ON IT**
In the early Medieval era, layering and tunics were in. Richly embroidered garments were often fastened with an ornate brooch, examples of which have been found in early Medieval graves.

**THE TUNIC EVOLVES**
In the later Medieval period, tunics evolved into simple kirtles, fastened with a decorative belt. Married women veiled their hair and towards the end of the century, wimples made their first appearance.

**THE END OF EMPIRE**
Though the Empire line persevered, simplicity was no longer the watchword. Gowns were richly decorated, colours were bold and the delicate bonnets of the Regency were replaced by elaborate hats.

**THE EMPIRE REIGNS**
In the wake of the French Revolution, opulence became something to avoid and the Empire gown came to the fore. The neoclassical-influenced gowns were loose, comfortable and often quite revealing!

**THE PROBLEM WITH PANNIERS**
With the emergence of the crinoline, skirts were no longer narrow but as wide as they could be. Padded with petticoats, the wider the gown, the richer the wearer.

**THE CRINOLINE COMETH**
At European courts, women wore panniers that were too wide for a woman to pass through a doorway at the time. The widest panniers had hinges so they could be adjusted to make movement more easy.

**CORSETS AND QUEENS**
Corsets were sold for children as young as three months. Empress Elisabeth of Austria was a fashion icon thanks to her coveted sixteen inch waist. Queen Victoria, meanwhile, favoured bloomers with a forty-two inch waist.

**THE JAZZ AGE**
After the privations of war, flappers flourished. They gloried in low-waisted, high-hemlines dresses and cut their hair into sharp, sleek bobs to go out on the town, to possibly dance the Charleston.
**All About the Headgear**

Fashionable women embroidered their modest dresses and really went to town on their headgear. Barbettes onto which decorative headpieces could be attached allowed women to model ornate hats and veils.

**The First Fashions**

With the emergence of tailoring, fitted kirtles were accessorised with bejewelled belts and furs. Headdresses grew higher and more elaborate, as wealthy women tried to outdo one another.

**Italian Law Hits Back**

Venetian chopines, a type of platform shoe, were legally required to be less than three inches high. If a Venetian shoemaker made higher heels, he faced a prison sentence of three months. Venice’s unlucky shoemakers could be hit with a fine of 25 lire for making high heels.

**Hoops and Stays**

With wide hooped skirts and fitted bodices the choice of every fashionable lady, fashion outweighed comfort as fabrics grew more opulent than ever and stays began to tighten.

**Make Mine a Mantua**

The mantua, a draped dress worn with stays and a decorated stomacher, was the choice of every lady of fashion. Ruffs were cast away in favour of low, decorated necklines.

**The Rise of the Ruff**

The century began with ruffs but as the years passed, necklines got lower and waistlines got higher. Bright colours were popular and farthingales continued to widen the most fashionable hips.

**The Little Ice Age**

As the climate cooled, layers were back and width was in. Corsets cinched the waist whilst farthingales broadened the hips, with cuffs and fabrics as elaborate as you could get.

**The Birth of the Bikini**

After 20 years in the wilderness, the bikini became the must-have item in a stylish woman’s wardrobe. It symbolised freedom, fashion and a glamour lifestyle spent in exotic climes.

**Padded Shoulders and Fitness Fashion**

Neon legwarmers and tracksuits hit the catwalk, whilst power dressing shoulder pads were a symbol of success. Team them with lacquered hair and stiletto heels for the ultimate 80s look.

**Britain’s Fashion Fortune**

The British fashion industry is worth £66 billion, and it’s growing. Jobs are supported by the UK fashion industry.

Today’s fashions are smarter than ever, from bras that monitor heart rate to a sweater that charge colour with your mood.
James Hargreaves may have been an illiterate weaver but he proved himself to be one of the great inventors of his generation. His Spinning Jenny, which was invented in 1764 and patented in 1770, replaced the traditional spinning wheel that had been used for centuries and paved the way for the Industrial Revolution.

Laboriously operated by hand in people’s homes, spinning wheels had long been the backbone of a flourishing ‘cottage industry’ in northern England but they could only spin one thread of cotton at a time.

Cloth merchants would provide the necessary raw cotton and pay a piecework rate to have it turned into cloth. The Spinning Jenny, however, allowed workers to operate eight or more spools at once, boosting productivity.

It was not long before merchants established ‘Jenny shops’ and ‘manufactories’ where they could spin wool en masse. However, the machine was not universally popular. As the Spinning Jenny kept up with the textile industry’s demands, the price of yarn fell, forcing weavers to accept lower wages. Hargreaves was forced to flee to Nottingham in 1768 as angry workers broke into his home and destroyed his machines. But the era of domestic spinning was over.

Even so, the Spinning Jenny did not last. While the machine led to greater scaling, its underlying process was the same as the traditional spinning wheel, relying on skilled labour to operate it, while only producing a weak, coarse thread.

Richard Arkwright not only refined the process so it produced stronger thread, but he hit upon the idea of powering the device with a water wheel. From this one central source of power, he could drive a whole network of machines.

While this meant he employed nearly 600 people Nottingham and Cromford in the 1770s, they didn’t require the same technical ability, so he could pay them significantly less. The water frame was then replaced by Samuel Crompton’s spinning mule and, in turn, the power loom as a new era of mechanisation dawned.

**Guiding the cotton**
In order to guide the threads in to the right place on the spindle, it was necessary to have a pressing faller wire. This was released with a hand lever once the spinning was complete, bringing the faller down on to the threads. A counter balance tightened the cords.

**Vertical spindles**
Before James Hargreaves created his invention, spindles on spinning machines had always been placed horizontally. Hargreaves, however, is said to have seen a small spinning wheel knocked on to its side and continue to work. He realised that the spindles on such contraptions could be placed vertically in a row, making it possible to draw and twist on many spindles at the same time.

**Lengthening threads**
With the thread extended and stationary, spinning the wheel ensured a twisting motion which would rotate the spindles and spin the thread into yarn. This would continue until the desired fineness was attained. If they were producing yarn that was intended to go across the length of a fabric (a warp), then it needed to be stronger than that going across the width (a weft).

**Large machines**
Initially the machines were small enough to be used within people’s homes but as time went on they became larger so factories were created to accommodate them. The cottage industry had thereby given way to the Industrial Revolution and, as well as refining and advancing the process of cotton spinning, profit margins shot up as a result.

**The rove**
A rack of spools situated about half way along the machine contained roving – long and narrow bundles of fibre, or unspun cotton. One end of each roving passed between two clasping horizontal bars of wood before being extended and attached to an opposite spindle. The fundamental idea was that the thread would be spun from the rovings to the spindles.
**Left-handed operation**

The operator would place his or her left hand on the handle of the carriage and move it close to the spindles. With the roving drawn through the clasp bars and attached to the spindles, the carriage would be pulled back to draw a length of yarn. The operator would then press down on the handle, raising the lower rail of the carriage to trap the roving. He or she could then begin turning the wheel.

**Moving carriage**

A crucial component of the Spinning Jenny was the carriage which ran horizontally across the frame and could be moved back and forth on wheels that ran on parallel rails. The carriage, in which the roving was clapped (enough for a single traverse), could reach the spindles on the far end and travel as far back as seven feet.

**Spinning wheel**

In order to work the Spinning Jenny, a single operator standing in front of the frame needed to rapidly turn the handle of a large driving wheel using his or her right hand. Within the groove of this wheel was a rope or a band that would be attached to a tin cylinder located deep within the machine’s frame. This would provide the momentum needed to move the other parts.

**Slackening off**

By backing the carriage up towards the spindles once the initial process was complete, the wheel could then be turned back on itself to cause the spindles to wind up the thread. At that stage, more roving could be attached and cops would be formed by near-endless, exhausting repetition.

**Tin cylinder**

The tin cylinder had a series of bands connected to pulleys at the bottom of the vertically-placed bobbin spindles. When the driving wheel was turned, the tin cylinder revolved and these bands would cause the spindles to rotate. The original Spinning Jenny had eight spindles and thread was spun on each one, but as the technology improved there could be as many as 80 spindles.

**Left-handed operation**

The operator would place his or her left hand on the handle of the carriage and move it close to the spindles. With the roving drawn through the clasp bars and attached to the spindles, the carriage would be pulled back to draw a length of yarn. The operator would then press down on the handle, raising the lower rail of the carriage to trap the roving. He or she could then begin turning the wheel.
Anatomy of THE Tailoring dummy

While stitching a suit together, a tailor would generally drape fabric on a model torso to get a sense of how it would look on the wearer. Tailor’s dummies, also known as dress forms, date back to the 15th century, when they would be used to demonstrate fashions to clients. Over time, full-bodied dummies were placed in shop windows to attract customers and the shop mannequin was born.

High-Class Clientele

Still known as the most eminent tailors in the world today, these suit makers first appeared on Savile Row, London, from 1803 onwards. Catering to the rich and powerful, famous clients have included Horatio Nelson (who died in a Savile Row cut suit at the Battle of Trafalgar), Napoleon III and Winston Churchill. One of the street’s most famous tailors, Henry Poole, is also credited with inventing the tuxedo in 1865, after the future King Edward VII requested a tailless evening jacket to wear to informal parties.

Sharp Pivoted Scissors

Pivoted scissors were produced en masse from 1761 and they proved perfect for accurately cutting delicate cloths. Those used by 19th century Savile Row tailors were heavy and long, weighing about five pounds and being roughly the length of a forearm. They’d work the scissors very intricately to the sixteenth of an inch.

Measuring Tape

British tailors began to use modern tape measures in about 1800. Before that, cloth was cut by the ell – a Medieval unit of measurement originally based on the approximate length of a man’s arm from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow. While this could vary by region, it roughly equated to 45 inches (114 centimetres).

Paper Pattern

Paper patterns had become widespread by the 19th century and while some would be produced from scratch to a customer’s specification, they were also made available for tailors to buy. They would be laid on to the cloth and chalked around. Manuals also existed including Tailor’s Guide, written in 1855 by Charles Compaing and Louis Devere.

Eye of The Needle

Tailoring and sempstressing alike have long been associated with causing bad eyesight, especially when focusing on intricate stitching in dim lighting. While Savile Row properties were initially residential, the tailors installed glass fronts and light wells to try and give themselves as much natural light in their workplace as possible.

Dressed To Impress

While a Savile Row tailor always dressed in sharp suits, they were usually working class men who were paid little and worked long hours – often up to 12 hours a day. In fact, it’s claimed when tailors first appeared on Savile Row, the resident surgeons were so appalled to be sharing a street with tradesmen they moved to Harley Street.
How to
SEW AN ELIZABETHAN RUFF
THE ULTIMATE TUDOR FASHION STATEMENT ENGLAND, 1560-1620

While some bishops still wear them on occasion and Vivienne Westwood has dabbled with them on the catwalk, the ruff is most famously associated with Elizabeth I. Emerging in the early 16th century, the ruff began life as a simple collar on the edge of a shift but over the decade became ever more elaborate as multiple layers, blackwork embroidery, decorative edging and lace became the fashion. Because of its natural springiness linen was the fabric of choice, much finer than the linens we can find today, and by the end of the decade elaborate pleating, starching and even waxing and wire under-structures had been utilised to create these fripperies of fashion.

Inspiration to make your ruff can be found in portraits of high society of the age, and you can easily chart their prominence and decoration through the Elizabethan era.

**WHAT YOU’LL NEED...**

- Half a metre of white linen, 1.5m wide & 5m white lace 2cm wide or less
- Linen thread and clear beeswax
- Basic sewing supplies (needles, scissors, ruler)
- Starch

**PREP YOUR FABRIC**

Cut three strips of linen 7.6cm (3”) wide and the width of the linen. Sew together with a flat fell seam to form one strip. Cut another piece of linen 41cm (16”) wide and 20cm (8”) deep for the neck band. Iron each short edge of the neck band in 1cm (0.5”), then in half lengthways. Fold each long edge in again to the middle and iron again.

**HEM AND DECORATE**

Use an overlock stitch to neaten all edges of your combined linen strip – please note, you’re best using a sewing machine for this. Then, using a running stitch, hem the strip up 6cm (0.25”) then sew on your lace. Iron the unhemmed edge as straight as possible to give the finished product a crisp look.

**Hand stitching**

Running stitch and whip stitch are the names of the hand stitches needed to construct a ruff.

**Drawing threads**

Use a technique called Drawing a Thread to find the grain of your linen when cutting your strips.

**Flat fell seams**

Join the strips, sew a seam and cut one side back. Fold the other in then over to hide all raw edges and whip stitch in place.

**Hand sewn eyelets**

Use waxed linen thread and button hole stitch to sew an eyelet. Buttons, hooks and eyes are also seen on extant ruffs.

**Frilly bits**

Period lace is difficult to find, using a small cotton lace is most accurate and can help to measure the pleats.

**Waxing thread**

To ensure your thread doesn’t tangle as you work, run it through clear beeswax before you start sewing.
How not to... Make an Elizabethan Ruff

None of the stitches or techniques needed to make an Elizabethan ruff are very complicated however accurate measuring, marking and cutting is imperative and can often be the most challenging part of ruff making. For instance if you cut your fabric off grain your ruff will ‘twist’ when it is finished and feel awkward to wear. Cutting fabric along the weft of the fabric your cartridge pleats will be wild and springy.

Whilst this looks terribly romantic and can be used to create a different look, neat pleats it does not make! For this example use a quilting guide to mark the cartridge pleat points. As the breakdown of the inches are marked in a square you can very easily measure both upwards and downwards accurately. If you mark these points incorrectly the pleats will not lie flat and your ruff will look messy very quickly.

---

03 CARTRIDGE PLEATING

Mark a series of small dots 6.35mm (0.25”) in and parallel to the unhemmed edge and 6.35mm (0.25”) apart. Mark a second line of small dots (0.5”) in from the edge, 6.35mm (0.25”) apart and directly above the first line. Using a piece of thread approximately 10cm (4”) longer than the linen strip, tie a knot in one end and sew in the first line of dots.

04 GATHER YOUR RUFF

Divide your neck band into quarters and mark them with a pin. Repeat for your linen strip. Pull evenly on the gathering threads and gather up the each section of the linen strip to each size of each quarter of the neck band until the strip is the same size as the neck band. Take your time and arrange the pleats as evenly as possible as you work. Tie off.

05 ATTACH THE NECK BAND

Fold out your neck back and with right sides together, whip stitch onto the ruff above the first stitching line of gathering. You do not need to sew through to the other side; just along the top of the pleats. Make your stitches about 6cm (0.25”) long. Repeat for the back, then whip stitch the ends closed. Make an eyelet in each end above the ridge of the gathers.

06 ARRANGE YOUR SETTS

Finally, wash the ruff and starch it - you can use a spray starch, but historically they would have made a potato starch (brought back from the New World to Elizabeth’s England in 1584). Then arrange the pleats – or ‘setts’ as they were known – with your fingers so they are even and approximately 4cm (1.5”) high. It’s ready to wear once dry!

---

3 FAMOUS... RUFF LOVING LADIES

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS
SCOTLAND, 1558-1560
Ruffs of the mid 16th century often had decoration along the edge in black, gold or silver.

QUEEN ELIZABETH
ENGLAND, 1573-75
The detachable ruff arrived, and extant examples show efforts by the maker to make a Ruff reversible. Laundry day was made a little easier as ruffs could simply be turned over and worn again!

ANNA DE LOOPER
NETHERLANDS, C. 1627
While closely associated with Elizabethan England, ruffs were worn all over Western Europe during the 16th century.
In the 1900s, New York City employed more than 30,000 workers in the garment-making industry. Most popular was the creation of the shirtwaist, a functional button-down blouse worn by many working class women. These were produced, most infamously, at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in Manhattan.

The women were exploited by subcontractors and bosses who cared little for the most basic workers’ rights, and there was also little attention to the building’s numerous fire hazards – it had already been ablaze twice in 1902. The fire on 25 March 1911, however, was by far the worst. While it led to new laws being introduced, it was too late for the 123 women and 23 men who perished.

### STARTING WORK
Most of the 500 garment workers at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory were Italian and Jewish immigrant women aged between 15 and 23 and they worked on the eighth, ninth and tenth floors of the Asch Building in New York City. They were expected to be ready for their 12-hour days at 7am, if not earlier, for which they would receive between $7 and $12 each week.

### CREATING GARMENTS
The work was relentless. The bosses would place a pile of material on one side of each worker’s sewing machine and they had to get through the lot by the end of the day. For those on piecework wages, the faster they worked, the more money they would receive but all would toil in spaces so cramped that other workers would often have to walk sideways to get down the aisles.

### TOILET BREAK
If the women became desperate for the toilet they had two options: to go during the one bathroom break they had each day or relieve themselves on the floor. The toilet was in a different building and, to stop the workers from sneaking out for a rest or stealing items, the owners locked the doors to the stairwells and exits.
LUNCHTIME
Lunch had to be squeezed into half-an-hour but it was a welcome break, not only from the pedal work involved in operating the sewing machines but the barking bosses who would shout at them all day. Even so, the only daylight would be seen by those working on the front row of machines nearest to the windows. Gaslights lit the rest of the factory.

UNION ACTIVISM
Garment workers had already gone on strike over their conditions, back in 1909 when 20 per cent of the Triangle workforce walked out. It prompted 20,000 workers at other factories to do the same but it was a struggle to get the Triangle bosses to agree to change and workers were denied union representation. Despite that, attempts to enlist others into the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union continued.

FIRE! FIRE!
Beneath the large work benches on which the sewing machines sat were large waste bins that contained paper patterns and scraps of material. As people were thinking about leaving for the day on 25 March 1911, it is thought that a lit match was accidentally dropped into one of these bins on the eighth floor. A manager tried in vain to extinguish it using water pails while a bookkeeper sought to warn those on the upper floors. The fire took hold.

EVACUATION ATTEMPTS
A passerby spotted smoke billowing out of the windows as the fire engulfed the entire floor. He raised the alarm while the women inside sought to evacuate as quickly as possible. Some managed to get down the fire escape before it collapsed under the heat and their weight. Others tried the lifts but those who looked to get out through the stairway exit doors found them locked. Many burned alive.

DEATH TOLL
Firefighters hoped to rescue them but their ladders only reached the sixth floor. In desperation, many women – some in groups – leaped from the windows and died on impact with the ground. The lift had also buckled under the weight of those trying to escape and while some managed to get to the roof and move to other buildings, the fire claimed 146 lives.

Clara Lemlich led the Uprising of 20,000 in 1909, rallying support for the striking shirtwaist workers at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company.
Hall of Fame
FASHION ICONS
Meet 10 of history’s most stylish figures, from fashion’s regal tastemakers to the style subversives that broke the mould.

QUEEN ELIZABETH I
ENGLISH, 1533-1603
Elizabeth is perhaps one of the biggest style influencers to have ever lived, with her fashion tastes setting the trends in England for the last half of the 16th century. The queen was extremely conscious of her appearance and went to great lengths to ‘self-fashion’ her image as a powerful female ruler. She wore detailed gowns made from sumptuous fabrics and decorated with luxurious jewels, befitting her status as queen. Courtiers flocked to imitate her style, hoping to catch Elizabeth’s attention, but the queen also passed her expensive dresses down as rewards for loyal service, for example to her ladies-in-waiting.

QUEEN ELIZABETH I
ENGLISH, 1533-1603
Elizabeth issued numerous sumptuary laws to ensure that her subjects dressed according to their rank and class, while also curbing spending on luxurious fabrics.

CHARLES II
ENGLISH, 1630-1685
When King Charles II returned to England in 1660 to reclaim the throne, he brought his love for French fashion with him. Yet just six years later and England at war with France, Charles decided to reform English male dress to end the dominance of French clothing at court. He introduced the vest, which was worn with a coat and breeches, and marked the beginning of the three-piece suit, while ending the male tradition of wearing doublet and hose.

LOUIS XIV
FRENCH, 1638-1715
There was no court in 17th century Europe that was as fashionable as the Sun King’s at the glittering Palace of Versailles. When he ascended the throne in 1643, France was languishing in comparison to Spain, the most dominant power on the continent. With finance minister, Jean-Baptiste Colbert, Louis developed a clothing and textile industry to rival the Spanish. To ensure that his subjects bought French cloth, Louis even made it illegal to import material from other countries. The king also implemented a strict dress code and many nobles bankrupted themselves in order to get their hands on the latest fashions to maintain their place at court.

LOUIS XIV
FRENCH, 1638-1715
The original power dresser, Louis XIV once ordered one of his son’s coats to be burned because, in his words it ‘was not made of our cloth’

King Louis invented French high fashion

“Elegance is the only beauty that never fades”
- Audrey Hepburn
**MARIE ANTOINETTE**  
**AUSTRIAN, 1755-1793**

Marie Antoinette’s first encounter with French fashion was certainly a daunting one. Arriving from Austria in preparation for her marriage to the French dauphin, she was required to change out of her Austrian clothes at the border into French ones, signalling her transformation from Austrian archduchess to the future queen of France.

Realising quickly that she could not exert any kind of political influence at the French court, Marie Antoinette turned to fashion as a way to express herself. Known for her extravagant tastes as queen, Marie Antoinette was often ridiculed for her lavish clothing but women across the country flocked to copy her style.

EMPERESS EUGÈNIE  
**SPANISH, 1826-1920**

The last Empress Consort of the French, Empress Eugénie, was one of the biggest trendsetters of the 19th century. Known for her love of exquisite jewels and luxurious gowns, Eugénie’s tastes were also influenced by her fascination with Marie Antoinette, with the empress even posining for a portrait dressed as her iconic predecessor. Along with English designer Charles Frederick Worth, Eugénie dominated every aspect Europe’s fashion scene from the cut, colour and fabric used right down to the length of hemlines.

COCO CHANEL  
**FRENCH, 1883-1971**

It is not an overstatement to say that Coco Chanel revolutionised fashion during the early 20th century. Taking inspiration from menswear, Chanel created simple, comfortable, yet elegant clothes that suited the rapid changing times in which women lived, drawing them away from the rigid, corset-style dresses that they were used to. For example, Chanel pioneered the use of jersey as a clothing material because it was affordable and draped well - at a time when it was generally reserved for men’s underwear.

**“Fashion passes, style remains”**  
- Coco Chanel

**AUDREY HEPBURN**  
**BRITISH, 1929-1993**

One of the most beloved actresses of the 20th century, nobody embodied elegance and class quite like Audrey Hepburn. As the muse for French designer Hubert de Givenchy, Hepburn wore many of his designs in both her personal and professional life, including the iconic little black dress from the film *Breakfast At Tiffany’s*. Renowned for her simple style and classic looks such as sailor stripes and ballet flats, Hepburn remains a fashion icon today, 25 years after her death.

**DIANA ROSS**  
**AMERICAN, 1944-N/A**

Diana Ross, the original diva, has been celebrated throughout her lifetime for her glamorous taste in clothing. With her love for sparkling gowns, sequin jumpsuits, glittering jewels and coloured furs, Ross has been a fashion-forward woman ever since she burst onto the Motown music scene in the 1960s. Known for embracing her natural afro, she is a style icon for women of colour everywhere and shows no signs of slowing down now that she is in her 70s.

**STEVE McQUEEN**  
**AMERICAN, 1930-1980**

Regularly touted as one of the most stylish men to have ever lived, actor Steve McQueen was an icon both on and off the screen. Known for his casual and masculine sense of style, McQueen was the American anti-hero who wore everything from biker leathers to double denim, with a penchant for timeless sharp suits. He popularised the combination of a turtleneck and a tweed blazer, which became one of the most iconic looks of the 1960s.

**PRINCE**  
**AMERICAN, 1958-2016**

The artist born Prince Rogers Nelson blurred the lines of gender and sexuality with his androgynous style, just as he blended different genres of music. He cultivated his own distinct look, characterised by sequins, fingerless lace gloves, cravats, cropped tops, high-heeled boots, and much more. From 1984, he became forever associated with the colour purple following the success of his film and song of the same name, *Purple Rain*. With his unapologetic style, Prince encouraged his fans around the world to be exactly who they were.
Why did Romans love silk?
Ben Price
The Romans adored silk and because it was an expensive luxury, it only adorned the wealthiest of citizens. The desire for silk lead to the opening of the Silk Road, a trade route with China, in 130 BCE during the Han Dynasty. Other commodities were also traded through the Silk Road, including spices and paper, but silk was the most sought after. However, it was associated with immoral behaviour and was considered a drain on the Roman economy, so laws were passed in Rome in an attempt to regulate the trade and use of silk.

Is it true that high heels were originally worn by men?
Gloe Hogg
Yes it is and believe it or not, high heels were originally valued for their practicality. Persian soldiers wore thick heels at the bottom of their shoes to steady their stance as they stood up in their stirrups in order to shoot their bow and arrows effectively. In 1599, the ruler of Persia, Shah Abbas I, sent his first diplomatic mission to Europe. Subsequently, interest in Persian culture spread and men of the European aristocracy began to wear heels to appear as masculine as those in the Persian cavalry. As the trend for heels filtered down through society, the aristocracy responded by increasing the height of their shoes further, to the point where they were completely impractical. This highlighted the wealth and status of the wearer, emphasizing that they did not need to work in the fields or indeed, walk very far.

It wasn’t just a case of status though – many men, such as King Louis XIV of France, wore high heels to increase their height. Under Louis, high heels became ornately decorated and red heels were popular at the Palace of Versailles, with King Charles II of England choosing to adopt them at his Restoration court. As women sought to appear masculine, they too began to wear high heels. During the Enlightenment era, men’s fashion shifted to simple, practical clothing and soon the heel became associated with effeminacy. It wasn’t long before women stopped wearing them as well and the high heel was not seen again until the 19th century.

Why are buttons on the opposite side for men and women’s clothing?
Susie Person
One of the most popular theories revolves around women’s clothing, which used to be more intricate and complicated than men’s. Many upper class women would have had maids to help them dress. As most were right-handed, it made sense to place the buttons on the left side to make the task a lot easier. Meanwhile, most men were able to dress themselves and so it was better for buttons to remain on the right-hand side.

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On 9 December 9 1965, a massive fireball streaked across the eastern United States, sparking reports of UFO sightings. In the tiny town of Kecksburg, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, several residents claimed that the fireball had crashed in the adjacent woods. Members of the local volunteer fire department reported that they had found an acorn-shaped object as large as a Volkswagen Beetle inscribed with Egyptian-style hieroglyphics, an object the US military supposedly removed under cover of darkness. Many explanations have been proposed, including the crash of a spy satellite, but most scientists concluded that the object was nothing more than a meteor.

The legend of the Kecksburg UFO might have remained the type of interesting but unconvincing local colour that makes up American folklore, except it was cited as evidence for Adolf Hitler's wunderwaffen. Meaning ‘wonder weapons’, the Nazi regime hoped this arsenal - which ranged from cutting-edge V2 rockets and the world's first fighter jet to the more outlandish, including giant guns built into cliff faces - would give Adolf Hitler's forces the tactical advantage needed to win World War II. In the hands of a small group of obsessive researchers into the Nazis’ supposed ability to manipulate time, space, and magic, the Kecksburg UFO transformed into a Nazi time machine, the first successful test of an astonishing technology that could catapult members of the Third Reich out of their collapsing regime at the war’s end to new lives in the postwar US. This technology, the story goes, is now in the hands of the American military to be used for their own nefarious purposes.

But to understand how a minor UFO report grew into a massive conspiracy for which no real evidence exists, we have to pull apart the threads that have tied together Hitler’s actual weapons programmes, a widespread belief in Himmler’s mastery of the occult, and the popular depiction of Nazis as ruthlessly efficient technocrats for whom the line between science and science fiction had completely blurred.

**FLYING INTO THE FUTURE**

The story of the wonder weapons actually began before World War II broke out, when the Führer began making plans for world conquest. Hitler had long fancied himself an artist and a visionary, and his war planning took on a similar air of the theatrical. One ongoing obsession was the desire to see New York City burn, turning the largest American city into what he called “towers of flame,” almost like the great fire that strikes the set and consumes Valhalla and the gods themselves at the end of Wagner's Ring Cycle, which Hitler may have attended just days before the outbreak of war. Those around Hitler were only too happy to help bring his vision to life – at least as long as the money was good.
In 1937, on a visit to the Messerschmitt aircraft factory in Augsburg, in south-eastern Germany, the company proudly displayed for Hitler the prototype of the Messerschmitt Me 264, a four-engine long-range bomber that they said would be capable of reaching New York City from Europe. Hitler was suitably impressed at this so-called ‘Amerika bomber’ and excitedly fantasised about the ruination of the United States. But the more practical men of the Messerschmitt company were in actuality pulling the wool over the Führer’s eyes. Willy Messerschmitt, the designer of the plane, did not actually have a working prototype when Hitler visited. Instead, Hitler saw a mock-up – a fake plane – that wasn’t capable of leaving the ground.

The theatrical subterfuge was designed to help the company win a lucrative contract from the Nazi government. No one at Messerschmitt actually had any idea how long it would take to develop a working prototype. It would take an additional five years, until 1942, before the Me 264 took to the skies. The plane took its first flight in December of that...
year and was capable of delivering a 6,600 kilogram (3,000 pound) bomb load. The plane could fly for 11 hours, making it theoretically capable of reaching New York City, but experts believe that it would not have been possible for it to travel all the way to America with a substantial bomb load because of the impact of the weight on its fuel consumption. Only one Me 264 bomber was ever used, and the project ended in 1944 due to a lack of resources.

Hitler, however, did not give up on his desire to see an ‘Amerika bomber’ put into production, and several other prototype planes were developed with the purpose of striking the United States’s eastern seaboard, even as military officials conceded that such plans were impractical at best. Most of these planes never left the ground or were built in such low numbers as to have had no effect. Nevertheless, from the mid-1930s through the end of the war, the Germans kept developing new models of bomber that were never put to effective use. Even those bombers that were effectively deployed saw unusual and impractical development. One model of the He-177 was fitted out to carry an atomic bomb, even though Germany had no atomic weapons and was unlikely to build one for many years to come. Despite Hitler’s fantasies of airborne destruction, his enthusiasm was rarely matched by practical appropriations of resources to bring them to life. When war broke out in the late summer of 1939, Hitler believed that conventional weapons would win him control of Europe. For the first few years of the war, Hitler’s government invested little in new technologies, particularly new aircraft. It was only in 1942, when it had become obvious that German aircraft were outmatched by their Allied rivals, which soon were able to bomb Germany with little opposition, that Hitler ordered resources devoted to the production of wunderwaffen that might give Germany the upper hand. Hitler’s commitment to these weapons, however, wavered with the practical realities of war. The case of the Me-262 fighter jet demonstrates the Führer’s inconsistent approach toward extraordinary weapons. Two companies, Heinkel and Messerschmitt, delivered to Hitler prototypes for the world’s first working jet fighter. Messerschmitt’s design received approval to go

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**TIGER TANK II**

One of the most feared tanks of World War II, the ‘King Tiger’ was actually fatally flawed

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**GAS GUZZLER**

While the Tiger II had a fuel capacity of 860 litres and operational range of 170km (110 miles) on good roads (220km cross country), in practice it required so much fuel it was only suitable for short distance campaigns, with full support. Many Tiger IIs were lost in battle simply because they ran out of fuel.

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**TOO BIG TO FAIL?**

Weighing 20 tons more than a Panzer V Panther, but fitted with the same engine and transmission, Tiger IIs were prone to breakdown. The overburdened drivetrain also often broke, while the double radius steering gear was too fragile, and its seals and gaskets also often leaked.

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**SLOW AND STEADY**

While it still had a road speed of 41.5km/h (25.8mph), the Tiger I’s added armour meant it weighed a whopping 69.8 tons. This had a huge impact on its mobility, meaning it couldn’t cross bridges and struggled to maneuver through boggy terrain.

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**Nazi propaganda emphasised Germany’s supposed military superiority**

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**Hitler’s Super Weapons**

This flying bomb – also known as a doodlebug – was the forerunner of the modern cruise missile. Only around 2,400 of 9,000 V-1s launched at Britain hit their target, but still killed 6,184 and injured 17,981. Destructive and made of cheap materials, the Nazis could also afford to lose missiles, while the Allies were forced to continuously mount expensive air defences.

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**V-1 FLYING BOMB**

Didn’t require a pilot, cheap
Prone to missing targets

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**Nazi Machines Of War**

V-1 Flying Bomb
into production, and the Luftwaffe’s General Adolf Galland said after a May 1943 test flight that it was akin to “being pushed by angels”. Yet Hitler vacillated about building and deploying a jet which, with a top speed of more than 870 km per hour (541 miles per hour), could outfly any Allied craft and might have turned the tide of the air war. Hitler worried about finding enough fuel for the planes, and he delayed production until January 1944. By that time, Germany’s shortages of fuel and spare parts put a serious dent in the effectiveness of the new jets, of which only 1,433 were put into military service. The Me-262, a technological marvel, contributed almost nothing except to absorb resources during critical months when Hitler’s tactical mistakes started to weigh on the German war effort.

ROCKETING TO FAILURE

Another of Hitler’s wonder weapons, the V-2 rocket, was of little interest to the Führer until a turn in the war demanded new weapons to counter losses. At the start of the war, Germany had an advanced rocketry programme led by the A-1 to A-3 models of the Aggregat rocket. But Hitler was uninterested in rockets and considered the programme unnecessary until the Luftwaffe’s loss of the Battle of Britain sparked in Hitler a desire for revenge. Unable to bomb Britain successfully with conventional aircraft, he ordered the development of vergeltungswaffen, or ‘revenge weapons’, which included the V-2 rocket. With these weapons, he

“SHORTAGES OF FUEL PUT A SERIOUS DENT IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NEW JETS”
planned to devastate Britain with 3,000 missiles per day, all without risking German planes over British skies.

But once again, the long years of delay between 1939 and Hitler’s order to start mass producing the V-2 in July 1943, and the simpler but more efficiently produced jet-engine-powered V-1 rocket shortly after that, took their toll. By the time a serious bombing campaign began in June 1944, which would claim thousands of civilian lives in Britain and on the continent, the Allies were already on the march through Europe, and sustained Allied attacks against German rocket launch sites ended the V-1 programme three months after it started. The V-2 programme took longer to start, beginning in September 1944, but ended as the war drew to a close, ceasing in March 1945.

More fantastical weapons, like a ray gun that would kill with powerful x-rays, never made it into production, due in part to Germany’s increasing lack of resources and also to the impoverishment of German science with the exodus of Jewish scientists, particularly physicists, under Nazi antisemitic restrictions. Hitler’s attitudes here, as in so many other cases, subverted his martial interests in the name of hatred. “If the dismissal of Jewish scientists means the annihilation of contemporary German science,” he was reported to have said, “then we shall do without science for a few years.” Hitler’s scientists worked to develop a nuclear bomb, the Uranprojekt, but Hitler’s policies undercut their efforts. The loss of eminent Jewish physicists reduced the effectiveness of those that remained, and military necessity saw many of those conscripted into service. The nuclear bomb project fizzled, starved of resources and talent.

Even though the shortcomings of the wonder weapons programmes were obvious to most of the scientists working on them, the SS, which had taken over many of these efforts near the end of the war, made unsupportable promises for the potential of the rockets to bring Britain and even America to heel. Armaments minister Albert Speer warned propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels to stop telling the public that the rockets would deliver “miraculous results” or that they were a “universal panacea” to Germany’s growing war woes. Speer, though, was in the minority, for by late 1944 German high officials had apparently come to place their hope and their faith in the long shot wunderwaffen to turn the tide of war.
 Were the Nazis Close to Building a Bomb?

When nuclear fission was discovered in 1938, it took only months for German scientists to launch an effort to weaponise it into the first nuclear bomb. The Nazi nuclear project was known as the Uranprojekt (Uranium Project) or Uranverein (Uranium Club). However, the German invasion of Poland in September 1939 ended that first effort when resources were needed to support the war effort, and many of the project’s physicists were drafted into the military. The Wehrmacht took up the project on the very day of the invasion of Poland, but Germany lacked the money and resources to create a working nuclear bomb. The project also suffered from an antisemitic rejection of theoretical physics as ‘Jewish’.

According to Albert Speer, the Nazi official in charge of arms and ammunition, in his memoir Inside the Third Reich, German scientists had the scientific and technical capability to build a nuclear bomb, but the cost of doing so was too high. He estimated that it would have taken all of Germany’s resources to develop a working bomb and that even if that were possible, one would not have been ready before 1947. Over the course of the war, Germany starved the programme of resources when officials determined that a nuclear bomb would not contribute significantly to victory, preferring to fund the more immediate success of the country’s rocket programme.

Number of German universities, institutions, and organisations working on parts of the nuclear program

9

Number of years the Allies feared Germans were ahead by in their nuclear arms race

2

The amount of uranium-235 calculated to be necessary for a nuclear weapon

1 TON

The amount of uranium metal produced in Germany during World War II

14 TONS

Percentage of German nuclear physicists active before 1933 who left Germany under the Nazis

50%

Critical mass of uranium-235 actually needed for a nuclear weapon

15-60KG

Amount of heavy water destroyed at the Norse Hydro heavy water plant in 1943

500KG

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

Despite the failure of the Nazis to win the war, the legend of Hitler’s wonder weapons would outlive the programmes themselves and give rise to subculture of fringe researchers who believed that Hitler’s scientists had nearly a supernatural command of science.

Polish researcher Igor Witkowski inspired the most famous legend of the wonder weapons. In his 2000 book Prawda o Wunderwaffe (‘The Truth about the Wonder Weapon’), Witkowski claimed that Polish intelligence showed him “Himmler directed his staff to build a new version of Thor’s hammer.”
classified documents that outlined the history of a device called Die Glocke, or The Bell. This bell-shaped metal device, measuring around 15 feet high and 9 feet wide (4.5 metres by 2.7 metres), was supposedly created by SS scientists working at the defunct Wenceslas Mine along what is today the Czech-Polish border.

The exact purpose of the Bell wasn’t clear to Witkowski, who reported that it produced damaging effects on plants and animals and might have served as an anti-gravity engine. No authentic records of the device have ever been seen publicly. Nevertheless, the idea of a bell-shaped anti-gravity machine – basically, a Nazi flying saucer – electrified speculators about history.

One was British writer Nick Cook, who popularised Witkowski’s claims in English. He, in turn, inspired Joseph P Farrell, the American author of Reich Of The Black Sun and The Giza Death Star Deployed, where he alleged, based only on speculation, that the Nazi Bell and the Kecksburg UFO were one and the same based on their size and shape, and that the device was a time machine that had been used to escape the collapsing Nazi regime.

While these fantastical ideas remained on the fringe for years, Farrell’s claims were picked up by television...
documentaries such as the History Channel’s *Ancient Aliens*, which employed Farrell’s publisher as a commentator. Soon, a global audience numbering in the millions heard that the Nazis had sent the Bell 20 years into the future, where it crashed near a small town in Pennsylvania.

The notion that the Nazis pioneered fantastical weapons also became a recurring theme of science fiction, as the genre – which boomed in the postwar years – tried to process the horrors of World War II. Perhaps the earliest example is Robert Heinlein 1947’s novel *Rocket Ship Galileo*, which was about a Nazi moon base.

Such ideas even fed – albeit more subtly – into *Star Wars*, where an evil empire aims to achieve galactic domination by deploying its endless armies of stormtroopers (a translation of ‘Sturmbteilung’, the Nazi paramilitary wing), channeling black magic (‘the dark side’) and constructing the ultimate wunderwaffen – the Death Star.

Today, the wunderwaffen still command just that – wonder. Over time, Hitler’s real but only partially successful effort to develop technologically advanced weapons have transformed in the public imagination into a pinnacle of scientific achievement and even a supernatural intervention in world history.

But the truth is less wonderful: these weapons were the result of desperation and wishful thinking, destructive but ineffective agents of war that sit uncomfortably between the respect afforded to individual scientists and the unimaginable evil of Nazi Germany.
Hitler’s Super Weapons

“WERNHER VON BRAUN WENT ON TO HELP DEVELOP THE SATURN V FOR NASA”

AMERICA RECRUITS NAZI ROCKET SCIENTISTS

The US secretly transported Nazi scientists to America to continue their rocketry work and create America’s space programme

After World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union jockeyed for every advantage, and the US government considered the advances of Nazi science and technology to be a potential asset. In the postwar years, the American government launched Operation Paperclip to recruit German scientists, many of whom were former members of the Nazi party, to carry on their research for the United States.

Eventually, the project brought more than 1,600 German scientists and engineers to America. A parallel project for nuclear scientists was known as the Alsos Project. The programme originated as Operation Overcast in the spring of 1945 and was originally intended to interview scientists about the Nazi war effort. But the US came to believe that the scientists could help with the ongoing Pacific war against Japan. After the end of the Pacific war, the effort continued in the hope of preventing the Soviets from acquiring German expertise. President Truman, who officially approved the programme in 1946, later said that it “had to be done” to stay ahead of the Soviets. Stalin reportedly expressed outrage that Soviet forces had failed to match the Allies in capturing Nazi scientists.

A large number of the scientists brought to America between 1945 and 1959 worked on the German rocket programme. Among the best-known scientists recruited for Operation Paperclip was Wernher von Braun, who helped develop the V-2 rocket for Germany and went on to help develop the Saturn V for NASA. Paperclip scientists also helped to develop America’s space suits, space life support systems, and the innovative swept wing for aircraft, whose backward angle improved flight performance at high speeds. By some estimates, the intellectual property developed by German scientists in the United States was worth more than $10 billion (£7.5 billion) to the American economy.

Former Nazi scientists received some of America’s highest awards as a result of their work for NASA and the Pentagon, including NASA’s Distinguished Service Medal and the Pentagon’s Distinguished Civilian Service Award.

The programme was not without controversy, however. While no Paperclip scientist was ever found guilty of a war crime, later investigations found that several, including Walter Schreiber, Arthur Rudolph, and Hubertus Strughold, had been connected to forced labour and human experimentation in the Third Reich.

Wernher von Braun, front left, with President John F Kennedy

The Saturn V rocket took Americans to the moon but was developed with the help of former Nazi scientists

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See one of Hitler's super weapons in action at the Tank Museum. The world's only running Tiger I will be wowing crowds at Tiger Day X on 15 September. This armoured extravaganza will see the Bovington museum's Tiger 131 appear in the arena with a Sherman Fury, Russian T-34 and more.

Visitors will also be able to explore 'The Tiger Collection' an impressive exhibition that has brought every member of the Tiger family together - including one in augmented reality. Here you will be able to find out how the Tiger 131 was captured and how the museum team brought it back to life. You can also discover more about the tank's formidable successor - the King Tiger. We have two adult tickets to Tiger Day X to give away plus an Airfix RAF Centenary Gift Set for one lucky winner. This model kit marks 100 glorious years of the Royal Air Force and includes three iconic aircraft for you to put together, including a World War I Sopwith Camel 2F.1, Battle of Britain era Supermarine Spitfire Mk. Ia and modern Eurofighter Typhoon F.Mk.2.

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A. FURY  B. FUZZY  C. FERDINAND

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Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was an unlikely suffragette, but she was one of Britain’s most influential campaigners for women’s right to vote. However, the contribution of this Punjabi princess has been overshadowed by her more famous comrades, such as Emmeline Pankhurst and Emily Wilding Davison. Sophia's story had been forgotten for a century, but her recent rediscovery is a triumph for those searching for the voices of women of colour, previously lost to history.

Sophia Alexandra Duleep Singh came from the powerful royal family of the Sikh Empire, which was based in northern India and modern-day Pakistan. Her grandfather was Ranjit Singh, the majestic ‘Lion of the Punjab’, who ruled for almost half a century. He was the last maharaja to successfully hold out against the British, and his people revered him as a hero. But when his son Duleep Singh came to the throne as a five-year-old boy, the British saw an opportunity to take the riches of this Indian kingdom for themselves. Duleep Singh was quickly deposed and sent to Britain so he could no longer pose a threat.

The former maharaja grew up resplendently amongst the British aristocracy, and as a favourite of Queen Victoria, he wanted for absolutely nothing. After embracing Christianity, he married Bamba Müller in 1864. Bamba was the daughter of a German banker and his Ethiopian mistress, and lived in Cairo when she met Duleep Singh. They married and had six children, including three daughters – Bamba (1869), Catherine (1871) and Sophia (1876).
Women's suffrage

The children grew up in the lap of luxury, as members of British high society, at Elveden House in Suffolk. Queen Victoria had given the maharaja many gifts, and Elveden was one of them. Duleep Singh tore out the interior of the house and converted it into a Mughal wonderland, adorning the stairs and hallways with designs based on the palatial opulence of Lahore. In the garden, parrots and peacocks roamed the grounds while the sisters played in their expensive dresses. It was a countryside idyll for the young Sophia.

However, in 1886, when Sophia was ten, her father uprooted the family and tried to illegally return to India. He had grown bitter over his lost kingdom, and wanted to instigate an uprising against the British and once again be the ruler of the Sikh Empire. The young family got all the way to Aden, in Yemen, before they were detained and placed under house arrest. After his failure, Sophia’s father deserted his wife and children, leaving them to fend for themselves while he kept trying, in vain, to reclaim his throne. Sophia’s mother despaired, and turned to drink, contributing to her early death just one year later, age 49. The former maharaja died impoverished in a Paris hotel room in 1893.

Sophia and her siblings were orphaned, but thankfully Queen Victoria - their godmother - had always looked kindly upon them, and set them up in a grace-and-favour apartment in Hampton Court Palace in 1894. Sophia was also granted a generous annuity of £25,000 to live on, and her education was managed by the queen herself.

Their entry into the highest echelons of British society was complete on 8 May 1895, the day the three sisters debuted. The evening of the ball, they were dressed in their finest silks, adorned with huge pearls and ostrich feathers. These were symbols of great wealth and power, but it was all an illusion - their father had run up massive debts, and the girls were reliant on the Queen’s good grace for their survival. They made their way to Buckingham Palace to be presented to Victoria.

The nation loved these daughters of once-mighty Punjabi royalty. The celebrity magazines of the day reported their every move, and suddenly Sophia found herself thrust into the public spotlight. Initially, she relished it - she was invited to many photo shoots, glittery events and interviews. It seemed the young princess was destined for a life of social frivolity.

One party the young women couldn’t resist was an invite to the Delhi Durbar, the 1903 celebration of Edward VII’s coronation held in British India. After travelling thousands of miles away from home, their trip to India had opened Sophia’s eyes to the true nature of the British Empire. While the British lived in palaces and dined on the finest foods, millions of Indians outside their walls were living in shams and dying of starvation. Despite their Indian heritage, the sisters couldn’t have felt more out of place.

Sophia tried to return to her luxurious, celebrity life after she came back to England, but she just couldn’t erase what she had seen in Delhi from her memory. So, in 1906, she made the bold decision to return to the subcontinent. This time, she journeyed to the Punjab - the rich, vast land that her family had been cheated out of decades before.

Her first stop was Lahore, the capital of the Punjab, now the jewel in Pakistan’s crown. The response she got there was overwhelming - the people recognised her as the granddaughter of Ranjit Singh, whose resilient reign was well remembered. In her diary, Sophia wrote that as she was walking close to a river in Lahore, “a crowd gathered around us... I heard lots of people saying who we were. I heard a murmur of ‘Ranjit Singh, Ranjit Singh’ echo around them”. Her experiences deeply moved her. Soon, the incendiary princess met up with Lajput Rai, a Punjabi leader deeply feared by the British. Sophia was impressed by his charisma, and when he introduced her as a granddaughter of the Lion of the Punjab, she realised how important her family had been to the region.

The princess returned to England with a new awareness of the unjust world, and a desire to do something about it. Sophia realised that despite her wealth and privilege, she was not immune to racism. At the same time, she also realised that her womanhood made her a second-class citizen. This hit home when her sister Bamba (who was studying to be a doctor in America) was turned out of university halfway through her course, as they declared that women were “unfit for the intricacies of surgery”. Bamba was heartbroken.

Sophia equated the fight for Indian independence to women’s struggle for liberation, and desperately wanted marginalised groups to have a voice in politics. After befriending many prolific suffragettes, she was radicalised at the home of Una Dugdale, and joined Emmeline Pankhurst’s Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1909. She soon became a leading member, and one of its key donors. A key catalyst for action came in 1910, when Prime Minister Asquith had refused to even entertain a bill that would have given women - albeit only a select few - the vote.
Grandfather

Ranjit Singh 1801–1839
Ranjit Singh was the fearsome ruler of Punjab, whose Sikh kingdom had held out against British incursions. His army was a mixture of South Asians of all religions, as well as Europeans. He defeated the Afghans and other invaders when they tried to take his kingdom, ushering in an era of stability. He was also a great patron of architecture, funding a large-scale restoration to the Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar, and donating gold to a Hindu temple so its roof could be plated.

Grandmother

Jind Kaur 1817–1863
Jind Kaur was Ranjit Singh’s final wife, and a formidable force in Indian politics. When Duleep Singh came to the throne aged five, Jind Kaur acted as regent. But when he was deposed, the loss of her son and kingdom caused her health to decline rapidly, though she remained determined to take back Punjab. Once renowned for her beauty and vitality, she became a mere shadow of herself. When she was allowed to be reunited with Duleep Singh, she came back to England with him, but died a few years later.

Maharaja Duleep Singh 1838–1893
Duleep Singh came to the throne at the age of five, but he was swiftly ousted and transported to England, far away from his ancestral homeland. He was brought up among the aristocracy and converted to Christianity, becoming quite the Anglicised gentleman. However, when he learned of his lost inheritance, he resolved to win back Punjab from the British. He reconverted to Sikhism on the way. But when the 1886 attempt failed, he sent himself into exile in France, still scheming against the British Empire.

Father

Catherine

Hilda Duleep Singh 1871–1942
After their father deserted the family, Queen Victoria footed the bill for their education. For a time, they had a German governess named Lina, who Catherine formed a very close bond with. Catherine toured the Punjab with Sophia and Bamba, and also took part in the campaign for female suffrage. She relocated to Germany and moved in with Lina, and it’s possible the two fell in love – a most scandalous relationship.

Bamba Sutherland 1869–1926
Bamba studied at Somerville College, Oxford, and was briefly in Chicago studying to be a doctor. Before long, she decided to go to India, but wanted a female travel companion. After posting adverts in newspapers, Bamba found a Hungarian noblewoman – Marie Antoinette Gottesmann – willing to take up the challenge. Bamba stayed in Lahore for the rest of her life, marrying a British doctor (Dr David Sutherland) based there.

Mother

Queen Victoria 1819–1901
In order to become ‘Empress of India’, Queen Victoria usurped the thrones of many Indian princes like Duleep Singh. However, she was fond of him – she wrote that he “is extremely handsome and speaks English perfectly”. He reciprocated, and named Queen Victoria the godmother of his children.

Bambha Müller 1848–1887
As a mixed-race illegitimate girl, Bamba had little prospects in life. Like Singh, she was a devout Christian, being raised by missionaries in Cairo. She met Duleep Singh while he was on his way back from India in 1864, and she fit his criteria for an “Eastern Christian” bride. She was hesitant, and preferred to devote herself to teaching children, but eventually agreed. Even though Bamba could only speak Arabic, their marriage was arranged shortly afterwards.

Godmother

Sophia came from an illustrious and mixed background...
Sophia was nicknamed the 'Hampton Court Harridan' for selling The Suffragette outside her royal apartment.

Sophia broke free from the crowd, passed the guards, and flung herself onto the car’s windscreen.

Help the troops

During World War I, when the suffragettes suspended their revolutionary activity, Sophia organised many fundraisers in support of the soldiers. She also volunteered as a nurse and was sent to Brighton Pavilion, which was used as a hospital for Indian soldiers — many of whom were shocked to discover they were being cared for by the great Ranjit Singh’s direct descendant.

Indians in Britain

Keen to support the endeavours of other members of the Indian diaspora living in Britain, she helped found the Lascars’ Club, a meeting place for South Asian maritime workers close to the East London docks, and raised money for Indian soldiers fighting in World War I who couldn’t afford uniforms.

Save the children

Though she never had any of her own, Sophia was deeply fond of children in her later life. As well as helping raise her housekeeper’s children, Sophia enthusiastically took in a number of evacuees during World War II. They stayed with her for six years, right up until Sophia’s death in 1948.

Women’s suffrage

Rebel with many causes

Sophia devoted herself to women’s suffrage, but it wasn’t the only goal she helped to achieve.

The WSPU could not let such a sexist attitude go unchallenged. So, on 18 November 1910, the women marched on Parliament. Sophia was one of 12 who led the protest of roughly 400. However, the suffragettes found 150 policemen waiting for them. Later dubbed ‘Black Friday’, the peaceful protest quickly turned ugly, with policemen brutalising and beating women to within an inch of their lives. Horrifically, there were also 30 cases of reported sexual assault — but many more may have gone unreported.

In the chaos, Sophia saw a policeman repeatedly smash a woman against the ground. She bravely threw herself into the fray, getting between the woman and the policeman. Once he recognised her as a suffragette, he fled. Her actions had helped the woman, but Sophia’s celebrity status saved her from receiving similar brutalisation.

This was not enough for Sophia, who was determined to get justice. She chased after the constable, demanding his badge number. Though he kept running, she got close enough to see it — V700 — and never forgot it. She began a letter-writing campaign to get him taken off duty, and her letters of complaint were so persistent that they made their way to the very top — Winston Churchill, then the home secretary, was forced to order ‘no further reply to her’. The policeman may never have been convicted, but Sophia had successfully humiliated the government.

Prime Minister Asquith often found himself in the crosshairs of the women’s rights campaigners, as he disowned female suffrage, and actively blocked its progression at every turn. Sophia knew who her next target had to be. As Asquith was making his way to the House of Commons from Downing Street on 6 February 1911, Sophia broke free from the crowd, passed the guards, and flung herself onto the car’s windscreen with a ‘Votes for Women’ poster. Nobody was hurt, but this was a bold action that nearly got her thrown into prison. However, her high profile meant that police were reluctant to send her to jail, where she could go on a hunger strike and attract even more attention to the women’s movement.

In 1913 she wound up in court again — this time for refusing to pay her taxes. As a member of the Women’s Tax Resistance League (and the only South Asian member at that), she was fundamentally opposed to paying taxes to an oppressive state, until women could have a voice in politics. When she was tried, Sophia rose to the jury, eloquently asking them, “If I am not a fit person for the purposes of representation, why am I a fit person for the purposes of taxation?”, echoing the sentiments of America’s Founding Fathers.

Though the judge ruled she should not go to prison, he allowed bailiffs to take some of her most precious jewellery and auction it off to pay her debts. One diamond ring was auctioned for £10, and other jewels were sold at values higher than Sophia’s unpaid tax, allowing the state to profit from her possessions. Luckily for Sophia, her suffragette comrades came to her aid. They rocked up to the auction, and placed winning bids for all her pearls and jewels, which they returned to their rightful owner.

Sophia was such a thorn in the side of the government that one Sir William Coddington, a Conservative MP, tried to have her evicted from
her Hampton Court apartment. As Sophia regularly sold the WSPU's newspaper *The Suffragette* outside the walls of the palace, the MP argued she brought disrepute to the British establishment and made a laughing stock of the monarchy who housed her.

Coddington asked "if anything could be done to stop her", but he was rebuffed - only King George V (Victoria had died in 1901) himself could decide whether Sophia should be evicted.

Although World War I stalled suffragette activities, Sophia remained a strong devotee of the cause. In 1915, she joined Emmeline Pankhurst and 10,000 other women in a procession supporting women's war work - labour that eventually helped them win the vote. Sophia's commitment to the cause never wavered, even after women had been granted equal voting rights in 1928. In a 1934 magazine similar to *Who's Who*, Sophia listed only one interest - "the advancement of women".

In her advancing age, Sophia moved to the Buckinghamshire countryside during World War II, leading a relatively quiet life for a firebrand feminist. She lived with her beloved pets, and enjoyed a warm relationship with her housekeeper - so much so that she was named godmother to her housekeeper's daughter, Drovna.

Drovna remembers her well - "she [Sophia] swung round and said 'on your knees, you've got to promise me that you will always vote'!"

After a long and fulfilling life, Sophia passed away on 22 August 1948, aged 71. Having renounced Christianity, Sophia had found her way back to Sikhism, the religion of her ancestors. She was cremated - a traditional Sikh funerary rite, which was controversial in Britain at the time - and her ashes were transported to India, where they were scattered in the winds of Punjab.

In her will, Sophia embodied the spirit that had guided her life. She left generous endowments to three girls' schools in India. Despite the bloody Partition and its legacy of ethno-religious conflict, Sophia made sure to leave equal amounts each to Sikh, Hindu, and Muslim schools for girls.

This August marks the 70th anniversary of her death, but her story lives on. Her courage has inspired women to keep fighting for their rights, even in the most arduous of times. Sophia might also be pleased that she remains something of a celebrity - Sophia has been commemorated on postage stamps, and journalist Anita Anand has published a comprehensive book on her - *Sophia: Princess, Suffragette, Revolutionary* - after discovering her photograph in a magazine.

As one of Britain's most daring suffragettes, this Indian princess who would be queen (or 'maharaní' in Punjabi) needs to be remembered for the activist she was, and how her deeds helped to advance all women in British society - including those living under the yoke of the British empire.

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**Tabloid Fodder**

Sophia's life of luxury brought her a great number of material possessions. She adored high fashion, and shopped for the finest silks and styles. She became a fixture of the society columns in magazines of the time, and celebrity reporters closely watched her every move. Sophia was invited to all the high society parties of the era, and she couldn't have been happier.

But signs of Sophia's radical behaviour began to emerge. She became one of the first women in Britain to ride a bicycle, a revolutionary act at a time when it was considered unladylike for a woman to sit even fractionally open-legged. Sophia's cycling scandalised the press, and people were keen to see what she would do next. Sophia was also a renowned dog lover. Her Pomeranian dogs were a megalodon to behold, and even beat those of Queen Victoria's at a predecessor of today's Crufts competition.

Though Sophia lost touch with her socialite self, she remained a dog lover for the rest of her life.

Indeed, when she was arrested for tax evasion in 1913, it was because she refused to pay tax on her five dogs - as well as a carriage and her servant.

Her celebrity has survived her death, and her image is once again in the public eye. She has inspired books, newspaper articles, postage stamps - and even high fashion collections.
A man with a long unkempt beard, barefoot and dressed in goatskin, waves a flaming torch on the beach of a remote island, desperately trying to attract the attention of a British ship as it passes by. While this scene sounds like something out of Daniel Defoe's novel *Robinson Crusoe*, it is actually from the true story of Alexander Selkirk, a Scottish mariner who survived alone on a South American island for several years. Living at the same time as Defoe, many have argued Selkirk - who became a celebrity when he returned to Britain - inspired the novelist's most famous character. So who was this real-life castaway?

**Off to sea**

Alexander Selkirk was born in 1676, in Lower Largo, Fife, Scotland. His father was a shoemaker and tanner, who had expectations that his son would follow him into the business. But if his early life is anything to go by, it is clear that Selkirk had a tempestuous nature that often got him into trouble. When he was just a teenager, he was ordered to appear in front of the Kirk Session, the local ecclesiastical court, for inappropriate behaviour in church. In 1701, he found himself in trouble with the Kirk again after he assaulted one of his brothers.

Deciding to flee from justice, Selkirk went to sea. He embarked on a career as a privateer - essentially licensed pirates whose activities were government sanctioned, as long as they only targeted the state's enemies. Joining up during the bitter War of the Spanish Succession, Selkirk attacked and looted Spanish and French ships in the Mediterranean and Caribbean.

In 1703, Selkirk joined the company of William Dampier, an Englishman who is better remembered for exploring parts of Australia, but also made his fortune as a privateer. Dampier was in charge of two ships, St George and Cinque Ports, which left England on an expedition to South America in September of that year.

Alexander, an adept navigator, quickly rose through the ranks to become the sailing master of Cinque Ports, which was commanded by the 21-year-old Captain Thomas Stradling. After a series of raids on Spanish ships along the South American coast, Cinque Ports was in poor condition, full of leaks and with a woodworm infestation making its way through the ship. The crew were not in a much better condition, suffering from a lack of food while the dreaded scurvy ran rife.

It was clear that Cinque Ports was barely holding itself together. Nearby was the island of Más a Tierra, which was located in the Juan Fernández Archipelago, around 400 miles off the coast of Chile. Stradling decided to head to the

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**“Alexander rose through the ranks to become the sailing master of Cinque Ports commanded by Captain Thomas Stradling”**

Written by Jessica Leggett
By the time he had written and published *Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe was already in his late 50s. It was an instant hit, prompting Defoe to write a sequel as well as several other novels, most notably *Moll Flanders* and *Roxana*. However, in his own lifetime, Defoe was best known as a firebrand political writer. Raised as a nonconformist Protestant, Defoe devoted much of his energy to protesting the rule of the staunchly Catholic King James II. The writer even participated in the Monmouth Rebellion against the king in 1685, though he managed to escape punishment after the Battle of Sedgemoor. It did not go unnoticed how popular his writings were and when James was deposed in 1688, Defoe found himself as a part-time advisor to the new Protestant king, William III (better remembered as William of Orange).

Defoe’s fortunes changed after William’s death in 1702. In May 1703, he was arrested for producing seditious libel thanks to his pamphlet *The Shortest-Way With The Dissenters*. Defoe had already been threatened with imprisonment for bankruptcy, and his financial situation did not improve after his release. He had no choice but to write propaganda for William’s successor, Queen Anne.

Unable to stay out of trouble, Defoe soon returned to his old ways and produced a number of political pamphlets that led to his imprisonment once again. He continued to write for the rest of his life. But despite his literary success, when Defoe died in 1731 aged 70, he was still drowning in debt.
island in September 1704, so that his ship could undergo the repairs that it desperately needed and set off once again.

But Selkirk had grown concerned about the state of the ship, believing that it was now unseaworthy. Attempting to reason with Stradling, Selkirk argued that Cinque Ports was bound to sink in its sorry state and that it was unsafe to continue the voyage.

The captain refused to listen and in protest, Selkirk – his temper flaring, as it did so often when he was back in Fife – demanded that he be left behind on the island, preferring to stay than head to a watery grave. Stradling readily agreed and Selkirk gathered his belongings, hoping that the rest of the crew would join his protest, forcing the captain to listen to him.

**Life on the island**

As Selkirk stood on the seashore and none of his shipmates followed, the weight of his decision hit him. Selkirk ran into the water as Cinque Ports pulled away and begged to be allowed back on board. Stradling gleefully refused, declaring that he was glad to be rid of him. Selkirk was suddenly left all alone on the uninhabited island, over 12,000 kilometres from home. As the ship sailed off into the horizon, the castaway reassured himself that another English vessel would come by within a few weeks or even months. But he was proved wrong, Selkirk would have to survive on his own for four years and four months.

Along with his personal belongings, Selkirk had a musket, a little food and a pot to boil it in, tobacco, rum, some navigational instruments and a copy of the Bible. The food was the first thing to go, but the verdant island provided him with plants and animals that he could eat. As well as picking wild berries, he would fish in the lagoons, and hunt wild goats. In fact, Selkirk eventually grew so adept at his new hunter-gatherer lifestyle, it was said that when his rescuers found him, he could catch a fleeing goat with his bare hands. He also learnt to milk the goats and even domesticated a few feral cats, who would kill the rats that attacked him while he slept.

As his clothes became ripped and torn, he took to wearing goatskins and walking around barefoot. While his ingenuity doesn’t quite compare to the fictitious Crusoe learning to make his own earthenware pots, Selkirk fashioned himself a new knife from a barrel hoop after his original one broke.

Completely alone, Selkirk became afraid that he would lose his ability to speak, so he read the Bible aloud and sung Psalms to himself. He would even talk to the animals.

As the days and months passed by monotonously, Selkirk kept track of them by carving marks into a tree. During this time, Selkirk did see several ships pass the island but refrained from drawing their intention in case they turned out to be Spanish vessels. The one time the Spanish did come into the bay and saw Selkirk on the beach, they chased him and fired their rifles, only to lose sight of him when he escaped up a tree. Eventually tiring of their sport, the Spanish left the island and abandoned Selkirk to his fate.

“Selkirk fashioned himself a new knife from a barrel hoop”
Selkirk was one of several stranded sailors that might have inspired Daniel Defoe.
A fortunate rescue

Rescue finally arrived for Selkirk when a British privateering ship, Duke, passed the island in 1709. Captained by Woodes Rogers, the crew noticed a bright beacon on the island that surprised them, as they believed it to be uninhabited. Who was on the island? Was it the Spanish? Rogers decided that the situation needed investigating and sent some men to explore the island.

Once they arrived on the shore, the men were astounded to discover a wild man waiting for them. Selkirk incoherently attempted to explain what had happened to him, but the men were unsure whether to believe his rather ludicrous story. They brought him back to the ship where fortunately for Selkirk, none other than William Dampier was serving as the pilot and was able to vouch for the marooner.

As it turned out, Selkirk had not been so crazy after all. Dampier told him that the ship did actually sink soon after he was deserted, drowning the majority of the crew. The few that survived, including Captain Stradling, had managed to escape the vessel on rafts only to be captured by the Spanish and thrown into prison.

Before Duke set sail once more, Selkirk helped the crew gather food and fresh water from the island. Noting that it would be useful to have Selkirk and his navigational skills on board, Rogers offered him the position of mate, which Selkirk gratefully accepted. After living in isolation for such a long time, Selkirk struggled to get used to ship life and was unable to digest the food onboard Duke, which had been heavily salted to keep it preserved.

However, this journey proved to be far more fortunate for Selkirk than his previous endeavours. The privateers kept finding smaller ships and towns to raid for treasures, soon amassing a great wealth, with Selkirk even commanding one of the boat crews. Upon his return to Britain in 1711, Selkirk had earned £800 – the equivalent of £14,000 in today’s money – making him a very wealthy man.
No place like home
Pulling into port in London, Selkirk’s story was soon the talk of the capital. Playwright Richard Steele interviewed him in detail about his experiences for the monthly periodical, The Englishman. Captain Woodes Rogers also included an account of Selkirk’s adventure and time on the island in his work, A Cruising Voyage Round the World, which was published in 1712.

However, it was not long before Selkirk found himself in trouble again, being charged with assaulting a shipwright in 1713. After this incident, Selkirk finally travelled back home to Lower Largo to see his family after being away from home for over eight years. They were amazed to discover he was still alive, having given him up for dead long ago. While they were overjoyed to see him, Selkirk found it difficult to immerse himself back into the community, just like he struggled to adapt to life on a ship.

Though Selkirk had hated his time on Más a Tierra, going so far as to contemplate committing suicide, it was said Selkirk would head to a cave, located at the top of a nearby hill, so that he could enjoy the solitude that he was used to.

Deciding that he needed to make a change, Selkirk returned to London in 1717 - this time eloping with Sophia Bruce, a young dairymaid. Whether he actually married Sophia is disputed, as not long after heading south Selkirk abandoned her for another woman, an innkeeper called Frances, whom he also wed.

While embroiled in this scandal, Selkirk was officially enlisted in the Royal Navy. But he earned extra money by cashing in on his infamy, telling his story of survival far and wide.

By 1721, he had left England once again with the Navy as part of an anti-piracy initiative. While he was away, Selkirk contracted yellow fever and succumbed to the disease off of the coast of Africa that same year. He left behind two wills, one addressed to Sophia and one addressed to Frances, who subsequently became locked in a battle over his possessions.

Origins of Robinson Crusoe
Two years before Selkirk’s death, Daniel Defoe published Robinson Crusoe. Many saw a resemblance between Selkirk and Crusoe but their stories actually differ greatly. For example, while Selkirk spent less than five years marooned, the character of Crusoe remained on his island for 28 years. Selkirk had also been deliberately left behind on Más a Tierra while Crusoe had been the sole survivor of a disastrous shipwreck. As for companionship, Selkirk was completely alone on the island, while Crusoe eventually gained a friend in Man Friday. Crusoe was also stranded in the Caribbean, not the Pacific Ocean.

Whether Selkirk and Defoe ever actually met is still debated, but it seems unlikely that a member of the London literati like Defoe could not at least have heard of Selkirk’s story. In fact, we know that Defoe did draw on The Englishman interview and the Rogers account, but they were far from his main source.

Rather Selkirk’s tale was one of many buccaneer survival stories that were popular in the 18th century, which Defoe drew upon for dramatic effect. This is why Robinson Crusoe is such a lurid tale featuring cannibals, earthquakes and tsunamis. It’s perhaps no wonder then that Robinson Crusoe turned out to be so popular that several reprints of the novel were issued in the first year alone. His story has overshadowed the fascinating real stories of castaways, Selkirk included, ever since.
Greatest Battles

**Genoese Crossbowmen**
First coming to prominence at the 1099 Siege of Jerusalem, by the time Philip recruited these Italian mercenaries for the Battle of Crécy, they were one of the Middle Ages’ most famous military organisations. Experienced at fighting both on land and at sea, their trademark crossbow fired armour-piercing steel bolts.

**John the Blind**
King John of Bohemia, one of France’s allies, demanded to fight at Crécy despite being completely blind. Not surprisingly, he did not survive long. The Black Prince was said to have been impressed with the monarch’s fighting spirit.

**Failing standards**
To add to the shame of Philip VI’s defeat, he apparently also lost the Oriflamme during the battle. It was said that this royal standard had been handed down from one French king to the next since the time of Charlemagne.

**Illuminating manuscript**
This illustration is from Jean Froissart’s history of the Hundred Years’ War, *Chronicles*. Patronised by Edward III’s queen Philippa of Hainault, the account has something of an English bias, but — covering events from the deposition of Edward II in 1327 to around 1400 — was regarded as the definitive study of the conflict across Europe for centuries.
One of the first major land battles of the Hundred Years’ War, the Battle of Crécy helped set the tone for the medieval conflict between England and France. However, it is also remembered as a revolution in the way war was fought, with the concept of chivalry clashing with new developments in military tech.

As so many wars do, the conflict began with a succession crisis. After the heirless French king Charles IV died in 1328, Edward III of England had a strong claim to the throne. This was because he was also the Duke of Aquitaine, in south-western France, while his mother Isabella of France was Charles IV’s sister. Meanwhile, Philip of Valois was the grandson of an earlier French king, Philip III.

Ultimately, the French nobility favoured one of their own and Edward seemed to accept the decision. But when the newly-crowned Philip VI confiscated Aquitaine in 1337, afraid of another king having influence in his realm, Edward raised an army. While he claimed to be fighting for the French throne, Edward did not seize territory when he invaded. Rather the Englishman led brutal raids known as chevauchée (‘horse charges’), in which he burned crops and pillaged towns. By undermining French morale and resources, Edward was trying to bully Philip into returning Aquitaine.

These raids continued throughout the early 1340s, but in 1344, while Edward’s marauders rampaged northwards, Philip rode out with his own army. Double the size of the English horde, Philip’s fighting force boasted around 35,000 men, the king having called on support from his allies from surrounding states, as well as hiring the formidable mercenary corps, the Genoese crossbowmen.

However, when the two sides met near the village of Crécy-en-Ponthieu, England shocked Europe by not just defeating the French, but slaughtering them. Though Edward was technically outmanned, caught offguard and not on his home turf, he had a crucial advantage: he was armed with cutting-edge weapons. While Philip relied too heavily on traditional mounted cavalry, Edward put his faith in 10,000 archers.

Armed with longbows, this force could rain down thousands of arrows in minutes. While this couldn’t pierce the knights’ armour in the same way crossbows could, it quickly felled their horses, putting them in a vulnerable position. Philip’s mercenaries might have evened the odds, except a brief rain shower slackened the fixed lines of their crossbows, limiting their range and effectiveness. In contrast, the English archers could remove their bowstrings and keep them dry under their coats.

Edward also had five cannons, which were at the time unheard of in European warfare. While they were too primitive to be effective, the sound and fury of them must have been terrifying.

Nearly a third of the French army were slain, including Philip’s own brother, Charles II of Alençon; his allies King John of Bohemia and Louis II, Count of Flanders; and 1,500 other knights and esquires. Philip himself escaped with a wound. In contrast, estimates of English losses range from around 150 to 200. England’s winning streak continued for the next few years, with victories at Calais and Poitiers, before finally being repulsed at Rheims in 1359.

A fragile peace was struck, but it didn’t last. The series of conflicts we call the Hundred Years’ War preoccupied both England and France for decades.
It’s claimed Crécy was the first time cannons were used on a European field. What’s more, Edward was packing five of these bad boys.

**Strengths:**
- The flash and boom would have been incredibly intimidating

**Weaknesses:**
- Extremely primitive artillery, dangerous to use

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**EDWARD III**

**LEADER**
The English king was an experienced tactician, having perfected some of the methods he used at Crécy against the Scottish.

**Strengths:**
- Cutting-edge military technology, reliable allies

**Weaknesses:**
- Significantly smaller army, fighting in retreat

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**BOWMEN**

**KEY UNIT**
Armed with a longbow, this force was like a medieval machine gun that could decimate the enemy when deployed en masse.

**Strengths:**
- Skilled bowmen could fire 8-10 arrows a minute, low cost

**Weaknesses:**
- Only effective in large numbers, vulnerable at close quarters

---

**CANNON**

**KEY WEAPON**
It’s claimed Crécy was the first time cannons were used on a European field. What’s more, Edward was packing five of these bad boys.

**Strengths:**
- Extremely primitive artillery, dangerous to use

**Weaknesses:**
- Only effective in large numbers, vulnerable at close quarters

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**Greatest Battles**

**England**

**INFANTRY** 5,000

**CAVALRY** 4,000

**ARCHERS** 10,000

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**01 Defensive position**
Realising that he would have to fight the pursuing French, Edward III waited for them on a ridge, with his flanks protected by the villages of Crécy-en-Ponthieu and Wadicourt as well the River Maye. In order to engage, Philip VI would be forced to advance through a narrow gap, then attack uphill.

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**02 Setting the stage**
The English king split his troops into three divisions, each made of dismounted men-at-arms with archers on either wing. The Black Prince led the vanguard, while Edward held back so that he could direct the action from higher ground. Legend claims he climbed a windmill to obtain the best view.

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**06 Hail of arrows**
As the French forces tried to extricate themselves, Edward loosed his longbowmen. Their arrows, capable of travelling some 200 metres, rained down on the French. The English archers moved forward, while efficiently maintaining rapid fire.

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**07 Uphill struggle**
While the archers’ arrows could not pierce the knights’ armour, it felled many of their horses, adding to the disarray and forming a barrier that made it harder for the rest of the French forces – especially those on horses – to make it up the slope. As they struggled to climb the hill, the longbow bombardment continued.
03 March to war
Sound battle tactics would have prompted Philip to encircle his enemy, cutting off Edward’s route to the coast and forcing him out into the open field, where Philip’s superior forces would have made short work of the invaders. Instead, he not only played into Edward’s hand, but he camped too far from the battle zone, forcing his men to arrive at Crécy late in the afternoon after a tiring march.

04 Mercenaries move out
Now 4pm, Philip dispatched his crack team of Genoese crossbowmen to ‘soften-up’ the English, but a sudden rainstorm loosened the strings of their weapons so they couldn’t fire the necessary range to inflict damage. The French king then ordered the charge of mounted knights, before having second thoughts and opting to delay.

05 Earning his spurs
Despite the constant volley of arrows, the size of France’s army meant large numbers still made it towards the English troops, where they clashed with the Black Prince’s vanguard. It’s claimed that the English king, while watching from his windmill, refused to send reinforcements to help the prince until he “earned his spurs”.

06 Fighting into the night
While the late August sun set around 7pm, Philip continued to send wave after wave of his troops charging up the ridge. Some 15 or 16 further attacks were attempted in the dark, each one brutally defeated by the English archers. At some point, Edward trundled out his cannons, which added to the missile fire.

07 The French flee
Around midnight, the French retreated. While an injured Philip feared the emboldened English would march on Paris, instead Edward made camp. The next morning, his spearmen moved across the battlefield murdering and pillaging the wounded, sparing only those that could be ransomed for profit.

France

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<th>INFANTRY</th>
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<th>CROSSBOWMEN</th>
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<td>12,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
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PHILIP VI LEADER
Though he was known as ‘Philip the Fortunate’, the first Valois king lost battle after battle.
Strengths: Superior battle numbers, fighting on French soil
Weaknesses: Reliant on outmoded techniques, weak leader

MOUNTED KNIGHTS KEY UNIT
These high-born ‘flowers of French chivalry’ were elite fighters at close quarters, but could be arrogant and behaved rashly.
Strengths: Skilled swordsmen on and off horse
Weaknesses: Expensive, increasingly outmoded

CROSSBOW KEY WEAPON
In the hands of Philip’s famed Genoese mercenaries, this should have been a deadly weapon – were it not for the weather.
Strengths: Required less brute strength, armour-piercing bolts, range up to 200 metres
Weaknesses: Took time to reload, a heavy shower slackened their strings
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Castles are often regarded as the ultimate symbol of masculine power, originating as machines of war, though more often operating as status homes for the nobility. But if you look more closely at the histories of England’s feudal fortresses you will find small groups of aristocratic women who were able to exert great influence within these walls and in some cases break away from traditional womanly roles as dictated by family and society.

We’ve dug through the archive of English Heritage, the charity responsible for the care and conservation of 400 historic buildings and sites across the country, including more than 60 castles, to discover the thrilling tales of incredible women. Read on to discover ladies who were determined not to let gender norms stand in their way, from a countess who spent 40 years battling to inherit her family estates, to a prime minister’s niece who adventured around Europe and the Middle East.

Women who ruled the roost in Britain’s mightiest fortresses

Written by Beth Wyatt
Isabel de Warenne is a name little known today, but she was in fact one of the most significant women in Medieval England, with impeccable ties to royalty – a relation of the kings of France and Scotland, and wife of William, son of King Stephen of England. As a young woman, Isabel became Countess de Warenne, following her father’s death on a crusade to the Holy Land, and she inherited vast estates stretching from Sussex to South Yorkshire. Her stability suffered a blow with the death of her husband in 1159. Isabel attracted the affections of William FitzEmpress, a younger brother of King Henry II – a match allegedly blocked by Archbishop Thomas Becket on the grounds of close blood relation – and after five years of widowhood, in April 1164 entered a much less illustrious marriage to the king’s half-brother Hamelin, the illegitimate son of Count Geoffrey of Anjou. Hamelin decided to make a statement with a new residence at Conisbrough, featuring a splendid keep which can still be seen today. The evidence doesn’t make clear whether Isabel visited Conisbrough Castle, though surviving documents suggest her personal interest in the Conisbrough estates was confined to the final year of her life, and after Hamelin’s death. Isabel’s high status afforded her the opportunity to hold some influence. The countess is documented as having been in personal control of her estates after her first husband’s death, and was described in one charter as a full honorial peer – Our lady, Isabel Countess de Warenne (Isabel comitissa Warennie domina nostra).

Eleanor de Montfort is known as the man who waged war against his king, Henry III, and who laid the foundations for England’s parliament with his more representative assemblies. But he wasn’t the only strong-willed personality in the family. His wife Eleanor, eligible bride though she had been as Henry’s sister (and a wealthy widow), was certainly not the ideal of a meek, submissive wife espoused by contemporary writers.

Eleanor played an active role during the Barons’ War. She acted as a communication hub between Simon and their sons, housed prisoners, and networked with supporters such as the Bishops of Lincoln and Worcester. She was known to be assertive, with long-term correspondent, Franciscan friar Adam Marsh once writing to urge Eleanor to lay aside quarrels and act in a spirit of moderation when counselling her husband.

In 1264 Simon effectively became England’s ruler when the king and his heir Edward were captured. But this all changed when Edward broke free a year later, and Simon and his eldest son were killed at the Battle of Evesham. Eleanor had travelled to mighty Dover Castle upon Edward’s escape, and it was here that, in the midst of her grief, she held siege against his army. In October 1265, 14 royalist prisoners held by Eleanor in the Great Tower fortified it against her after convincing their guards to release them. With this attack within, and Edward’s assault without, Eleanor used her diplomatic skills to negotiate a settlement which pardoned her supporters and allowed her to enter exile in France. She became a nun at Montargis Abbey and died a decade later.
Margaret Brotherton
c.1320-1399
Framlingham Castle, Suffolk
Margaret Brotherton spent the later part of her days living out that old adage ‘if you’ve got it, flaunt it’. The first woman to be made a duchess in her own right, Margaret enjoyed all the extravagances of nobility at Framlingham Castle. The keeper of the accounts recorded in 1385 that Margaret splurged on 70,321 loaves of bread, over half a ton of Spanish almonds and 40 casks of red herrings, plus gallons of red and white wine from France.

Around 1350 Margaret – who later styled herself ‘Countess Marshal’ despite her father’s hereditary position of Marshal of England going to the Earl of Salisbury – ignored a royal ban on her travelling to plead with the Pope for a divorce from John, Lord Segrave. She was unsuccessful and arrested on Edward III’s orders and tried for violating his ban. Segrave died three years later and soon after Margaret married Walter, Lord Mauny. But she attracted the king’s displeasure again for marrying Mauny without a licence, and he seized her lands. Margaret was detained following her trial, but her estates were restored to her by May 1354, and in 1355 she was pardoned for both her remarriage and her illegal travel.

Her prominent position in high society is clear when examining the company she kept. She exchanged new year’s presents with Henry Bolingbroke (the future Henry IV) – who sent his son John to be educated at Framlingham – and Richard FitzAlan, Earl of Arundel (a non-relation) described Margaret in his will as “my mother of Norfolk”. The countess was elevated to Duchess of Norfolk in September 1397, and died two years later aged almost 80.

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Blanche Arundell
c.1584-1649
Old Wardour Castle, Wiltshire
The tumult of England’s Civil War between Charles I and Parliament gravely affected women as well as men, and some aristocratic women also took up arms to defend their own. At the age of 61 Blanche Arundell ordered her men into action when the Roundheads came knocking at Old Wardour Castle, which was thinly defended while her husband Lord Arundell raised a regiment of horses for the king.

Blanche didn’t have the comfort of an army’s protection. Instead, her company consisted of her daughter-in-law, three grandsons, and a couple of dozen men of the household. These plucky, unlikely defenders, with the women of the house loading the men’s muskets, held out against an army of 1,300 Roundheads between 2-8 May 1643 – as told by a Royalist account – after Blanche refused terms of surrender: “She had a command from her Lord to keep it, and she would obey his command.” But, eventually, “so distracted between hunger and want of rest, that when the hand endeavoured to administer food, surprised with sleep it forgot its employment, the morsels falling from their hands”, the defenders surrendered and the castle was ransacked. Lady Blanche was separated from her children and taken prisoner before being released and offered sanctuary in Salisbury, where she learned her husband had been killed in battle. The castle’s ownership changed hands a few times – jumping between the family and Parliament – but its condition had deteriorated since the siege. The Arundells estimated the pillaging of the estate was a loss of £100,000 – a sum equivalent to approximately 1.4 million days of wages for a skilled tradesman of the time.

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Framingham Castle, Suffolk
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As one of the greatest heiresses of 13th century England, Isabella de Fortibus had more freedom than most Medieval women to forge her own path. But her vast estates (and widowhood from the age of just 23) meant she was perpetually harassed by a string of men, including cash-strapped kings.

Isabella, the eldest daughter of Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devon, was betrothed to William de Fortibus, Earl of Aumale aged 11 or 12. He died in 1260 and two years later Isabella’s brother died childless, meaning she inherited the family estates. Among her lands was the lordship of the Isle of Wight and Carisbrooke Castle became her main residence. But unmarried life wasn’t without its battles. In 1264 the younger Simon de Montfort secured the king’s agreement to marry Isabella and she was forced to seek refuge when he attempted to abduct her; while a failed attempt by Henry III to wed her to his son Edmund led to Edmund marrying Isabella’s daughter Aveline, 10, instead.

Isabella outlived her six children and her heir Aveline died in 1274, meaning the Crown lost its key to controlling her estates in the future. New king Edward I – Henry III’s son – changed tack and acquired Isabella’s northern lands by supporting a bogus claimant to the Aumale earldom and then buying him out. However, Isabella defied the king’s efforts to claim the Isle of Wight and in 1281 triumphed when he challenged her control of the island in court. But Isabella couldn’t defy age, and as she lay dying in November 1293 she was read a charter confirming the sale of the Isle of Wight and her other lands to the king. Isabella’s influence on Carisbrooke Castle – including the building or rebuilding of its Great Hall – can still be seen and felt today.

Learn more about castle queens

English Heritage is offering All About History readers the opportunity to attend two talks otherwise exclusive to English Heritage members:

Isabella de Fortibus: Widow, Heiress, and Lord

Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight
Wed 12 September, 6-7.30pm, £15
Discover the intriguing story behind one of the 13th century’s richest Englishwomen at this event held at her long-time residence.

Women through the Ages at Carisbrooke Castle

Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight
Wed 3 October, 6-7.30pm, £15
Isabella de Fortibus wasn’t the only Carisbrooke woman with a tale to tell – head down to the castle for this talk discussing the lives of Isabella, Charles I’s daughter Princess Elizabeth, and Queen Victoria’s doted youngest child Princess Beatrice.

To book your tickets for one of these exclusive events call 0370 333 1183, and let the events team know you are an All About History reader. For more information on English Heritage and a full summer events programme, visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/whats-on/
The 20th century spy and Middle Eastern explorer Gertrude Bell has been dubbed the 'female Lawrence of Arabia', but she wasn't the only modern woman to eschew marriage and embark on a life of adventure. Lady Hester Stanhope's archaeological expedition to Ashkelon (now in Israel) in 1815 is considered the first modern excavation in the history of Holy Land archaeology.

The socialite-turned-adventurer left England a few years after the death of her uncle, Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger. She had lived with Pitt at Walmer Castle from 1803 until he died in 1806, taking a particularly keen interest in the gardens. One occasion recalled in Hester’s writings tells how she elicited the help of “all the regiments that were in quarters in Dover... in levelling, fetching turf, transplanting shrubs, flowers”, with her uncle – who had been away – exclaiming on his return: “Dear me, Hester, why this is a miracle! I know 'tis you so do not deny it.”

By Pitt’s request, Parliament granted Hester a small pension upon his death and when the man she hoped to marry, Sir John Moore, was killed at the Battle of Corunna in 1809, she moved abroad. From 1810 she travelled the Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa. Hester wore Turkish or Arabian male dress, gathered immense knowledge of the regions she visited, and was received by rulers as an equal. From 1817 she lived in a deserted monastery, Djoun in Lebanon, became a recluse and studied the occult. Hester died there in poverty in 1839.
Anne Clifford 1590-1676
Brough and Brougham Castles, Cumbria

Dynasties can end in more of a whimper than a bang, but not for the great Cliffords, whose final member was a legend in her lifetime and beyond. Anne was twice a countess by marriage but would remain known as a Clifford, being the last direct member of a family whose lordship in Westmorland dated back to the 13th century. Independent and forthright, Anne spent 40 years battling to inherit the family estates which were rightfully hers.

Anne was the daughter of George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, and as a child was said to have been “much beloved” by Queen Elizabeth. The family’s northern estates included five castles in Westmorland and Yorkshire. When Anne’s two brothers – her only siblings – died young it looked as though she would inherit them. But when her father died in 1605, it emerged he had left his estates to his brother Francis – breaching a rule which stipulated that the lands should have passed to the eldest heir, whether male or female.

Backed by her mother Margaret, Anne embarked on a series of legal battles against her uncle, and later his son Henry.

Her determination – which never seemed to waver despite increasingly generous compensation proposals – was finally rewarded in 1643 when Henry died. Anne devoted her remaining years to restoring her neglected castles, including Brough and Brougham, and commemorated the works with inscriptions, which tellingly concluded with this Book of Isaiah passage: “And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places; thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in.”

Margaret Cavendish 1623-1673
Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire

Unkindly known as ‘Mad Madge’ today, Margaret Cavendish was one of the liveliest characters of 17th century England. She was the second wife of Marquess (later duke) William Cavendish who she met in 1645 in Paris at the exiled court of Queen Henrietta Maria. During a time of immense political upheaval, Margaret published a number of books including Opinions, Observations and Orations which tackled such weighty subjects as natural and political philosophy, gender studies and religion.

But Margaret is notorious for her eccentricity rather than her achievements. She whiled away many hours writing in her closet, but also revelled in making striking public appearances. One contemporary said there were “many soberer people in Bedlam”, while prolific diarist Samuel Pepys described Margaret’s unconventional outfits and called her “mad, conceited and ridiculous”.

But detractors threatened by Margaret’s overstepping of her station as a female failed to mention her work ethic – she was in all likelihood the most published woman of the 17th century, penning plays, essays, criticisms and poetry, plus some of the earliest proto-science fiction. She was also actively involved in running her husband’s lands, including Bolsover Castle, and in 1667 became the first woman to attend a Royal Society meeting.

Margaret’s devotion to William, who called her Peg, is evident in her biography of him, which enjoyably dissects the quirks of a very public figure. She notes that he took care to dress fashionably, unless the clothes were inconvenient for horse riding and “heroic actions”, and describes William as “heat and cleanly, which makes him to be somewhat long in dressing”. The soldiers serving under him in the Civil War clearly agreed: grumbling that he “lay in bed until eleven o’clock and combed till twelve”.

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Anne Clifford 1590-1676
Brough and Brougham Castles, Cumbria

Margaret Cavendish 1623-1673
Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire
Spilling the truth on the Rorschach inkblot test and how it took psychology into the mainstream

Whether we see two bowing waiters or a praying mantis, a giant moth or a sinister hooded figure, many of us at one time or another will have had our own distinct take on the striking imagery found in a Rorschach test. Created in 1921 by Swiss psychiatrist Hermann Rorschach, the ten ambiguous images made from folded over inkblots, have evolved from a simple test designed to spot signs of schizophrenia into cultural iconography that came to symbolise our increased fascination with psychotherapy in the mid to late 20th century.

Creative upbringing
Hermann was born in Zurich as the eldest of three children. Having lost his mother when he was just 12, his father, an art teacher, encouraged him to express himself creatively through painting and drawing. It was at this early age that his fascination with art (and particularly ink), which would so influence his psychoanalysis career, began to show itself. As a boy the young Hermann was a big fan of a popular game called Klecksographie. The idea was to collect inkblot cards and make associations and invent stories from them. So great was his love for the game that his nickname as a young man was Kleck – from Tintenklecks, the German word for inkblot.

As he got older he found himself torn between studying science and pursuing his artistic endeavours. He wrote to Ernst Haeckel, the German biologist who was famous for his precise illustrations of organisms, to ask for his advice. Haeckel responded that Hermann would be better off in pursuing a career in science. While still debating his choices he lost his artistic influence after his father died and at this point his direction now seemed set.

After deciding to abandon the idea of a career as an artist and pursue psychiatry, in 1904, Rorschach headed to the Académie de Neuchâtel in his native Switzerland, and he continued his medical studies at institutions in Bern, Zurich, Nuremberg and Berlin.

Open to interpretation
The zeitgeist that would give rise to Rorschach’s research found fallow ground in the early part of the 20th century, when the science itself was undergoing a revolution. Led by the likes of Freud and Jung – whose lectures Rorschach may have attended while a student in Zurich – psychoanalysis was starting to place a great emphasis on the unconscious mind.

Rorschach studied Freud’s dream theories, while Jung told his audiences that their underlying stories were far more crucial to the field of psychology than statistical methods.
Rorschach used the technique to study more than 400 subjects.

Rorschach tested patients with the condition using Klecksographie inkbots. He discovered they responded differently to those who didn’t have it.

Honing and further developing the images, Rorschach apparently used the technique to study more than 400 subjects, including 300 mental patients and 100 control subjects.

After much refinement the test consisted of ten inkblot images, some of which were black and

or simple analytics. Meanwhile, another Swiss psychiatrist Szyman Hens - whom Rorschach was aware of - had already been using inkbots to study the fantasies of his patients. Thinking back to the game he obsessed over as a child, Rorschach began to wonder why different people interpreted the same inkbots differently. Having taken an interest in schizophrenia, a term coined by Rorschach’s mentor Eugen Bleuler.
The Rorschach Test

white while some were multicoloured. In the first stage, a patient is shown the images and is asked to relay what they think the card looks like.

There are no ‘wrong’ answers, but the patients are instead free to interpret each image however they see fit. In the second phase, Rorschach would ask for elaboration on why they saw certain things. Rorschach argued that when a person is shown an ambiguous, meaningless image, the mind will impose its own meaning on the image.

The test subject’s reactions can then be scored by a psychotherapist, who might also consider whether the patient chose to interpret the whole images or just a particular detail, or whether they were particularly attracted to the coloured parts of the pictures. Their interpretations are then built into a profile of the test subject.

Take the Rorschach test

What your take on Rorschach images might say about you

The first image in the test is very often interpreted as a butterfly, a moth or a bat. According to most interpretations it can be viewed as a good indicator of how the subject approaches a new task, challenge or change.

If you’re seeing red then you’re not alone, because the red spots are often interpreted as blood and are arguably the card’s most definable features. This card can trigger sexual responses because many people see two humans together.

Like the second card, this one is normally viewed as two people interacting in some way. Experts say it can shine light on the test subject’s social interactions and comfort in those social interactions.

This image is specifically a ‘sex card’, with sexual descriptions reported more often than in other images. However, it is also often interpreted as another animal hide, skin or rug.

The ‘Mother Card’, this one is most frequently interpreted as women or children. It may cause difficulties in invoking a response if the test subject has concerns with female figures in their life.

This is the first multicoloured inkblot in the set and is most often seen as animals, and can be an indicator of a test subject’s ability to process complex situations if they are having difficulty interpreting it.
to diagnose whether a patient's difficulties were psychotic, neurotic, or organic in nature, and after
the Second World War many doctors working
with the Ministry of Defence used the Rorschach
test for the selection and monitoring of military
personnel. But its popularity in the UK began
to decline in the 1970s when the techniques were
attacked as unscientific.
This test gained huge popularity in the United
States though, where the idea of psychotherapy
was moving from the notion of it being practiced
in mental institutions, to a perfectly acceptable
method of dealing with the stresses and strains
of middle American suburban life. It had even
been deployed by the US during the Nuremberg
trials and used to gauge the innermost thoughts
of Nazi war criminals, while the US army also
began to use it to screen recruits for the army,
just as the UK had. By the 1960s it was the most
prominently used projective test in the United
States and ranked eighth in the list of tests used in
US outpatient mental health care.

Cultural impact
Despite its popularity, it has continued to be a
source of huge controversy and was criticised
extensively during the 1950s and 1960s for its lack
of standardised procedures and scoring methods.
Most personality tests are objective in that
they have standard methods of administration
and scoring. The Rorschach test is considered
projective, because the test taker must project
his or her thoughts and feelings onto ambiguous
images. Interpretation falls within the realm of the
tester’s judgment. The idea of ‘diagnosis being in
the eye of the beholder’ is also an issue which has
often torpedoed the test’s credibility.
Beyond psychology circles though, the test's
striking imagery has propelled it into mainstream
culture. The artist Andy Warhol created a
whole series of paintings based on the Rorschach
test, while in 1986 the Watchmen graphic novel
featured an ink-blot-masked character named
Rorschach. Indeed, Hillary Clinton claimed that
she herself was ‘a Rorschach test’, suggesting that
people see in her whatever it is they want to. It has
also frequently been featured on TV, movies and
even music videos throughout the years.

Known to be disturbing to test subjects suffering from
depression, this card is often interpreted as an imposing
animal, a skin or rug. It may reveal attitudes towards men
and is often described as the ‘Father Card’ for that reason.

Rorschach himself allegedly thought this was the easiest
blot to interpret. The fifth card usually elicits much more
simple responses in comparison to the others, and is often
commonly seen as a bat, butterfly or a moth.

A human is the most common answer to this multicoloured
card. This card can suggest a patient’s ability to interpret
and work with unstructured information. There are rarely
different responses to this image.

The final card is most frequently interpreted as crabs,
lobsters, snakes and insects. This is a generally regarded as
a ‘happy card’, providing subjects the chance to ‘sign out’
by discussing their feelings overall.
As his grand epithet suggests, Darius I of Persia has gone down in history as one of the good guys. He’s remembered as a conqueror, who consolidated his power at home before waging war across Europe and Asia to expand the mighty Achaemenid Persian Empire. But there’s more to the tale than meets the eye, with scant records of this ancient ruler, what there is was written by an unreliable narrator – Darius the Great himself.

Darius was born in 550 BCE, the same year Cyrus II established the Persian Empire by defeating King Astyages of Media. Seizing Astyages’s territory – which stretched from Iran to eastern Anatolia (Turkey) - for himself, Cyrus then set about smashing the Babylonians and Lydians in quick succession, upending the balance of power in the ancient Near East.

When Cyrus died in 530, his son Cambyses looked set to continue his father’s winning streak, conquering Egypt in 525. But the new king’s luck wasn’t to last. His brother Bardiya, who was believed to be dead, led a coup in Persia in 522.

As soon as he found out, Cambyses was set to rush back from Syria but, according to some ancient sources, the cap fell off the sheath of his sword when he jumped from his horse. The exposed blade pierced his thigh and he contracted a deadly, gangrenous infection.

In the ensuing power vacuum, Darius rose to power. However, the only way we know how Darius ascended to the throne is through inscriptions, the most famous being chiseled into the rock face at Behistun, in modern-day Iran. This is immediately suspicious – it’s essentially an autobiography legitimising his rule in a huge, visible piece of propaganda. We know about Bardiya’s revolt from Greek scholar Herodotus’s Histories, but he also got his information from the Behistun Inscription. So how much can we trust Herodotus here? Though the Greek is known as ‘the father of history’ for pioneering the field of study, his critics have been just as quick to call him ‘the father of lies’. Beyond a penchant for reporting gossip as solid facts, his chronicles are often filled with outlandish mythical creatures, such as flying snakes and fox-sized ants.

Nevertheless, Herodotus writes that after Cambyses’s death, Bardiya claimed the Persian throne for himself. While courtiers considered plotting against him, they lacked leadership - that is, until Darius arrived. A distant relative of Cambyses, Darius led the march on Bardiya’s royal palace in Susa and killed the usurper. With some debate - but probably very little - Darius was proclaimed king. Herodotus also claims that Darius went on a rampage and killed many of Bardiya’s supporters, which would have consolidated his power grab.

Written by Katharine Marsh

Defining moment

**Death of a king**

Cambyses was killed, apparently by falling from his horse onto his own sword, leaving a power vacuum within the Persian Empire behind. Many tried to fill it but in the end, Darius was successful. However, the only way we know this is through Darius’s own inscriptions. We don’t know what he could have left out or made up to serve his own purposes.

522 BCE

Darius the Great

The story of one of Persia’s most famous rulers paints him as a saviour - but did he write it himself?
Hero or Villain?
DARIUS THE GREAT

Defining moment

Building a capital
Ground is broken at the site that is to become Persepolis, one of the greatest capitals of the Achaemenid Empire. The audience hall (Apadana), the largest building on the terrace, had a roof over 20 metres high and the columns had capitals in the shape of bulls or lions. An inscription on the building reads, “Darius the great king, king of kings, king of countries... built this palace.”
c.515 BCE

“Darius led the march on Bardiya’s royal palace in Susa and killed the usurper”
However Darius came to the throne, he ruled for about 36 years and must have done something to earn the name ‘great’. The best place to start is probably the empire itself. The post-revolutionary Persian Empire was a mess, so the first order of business was to clean it up. Herodotus writes that Darius set up 20 provincial governorships and each nation that made up the empire was assessed for taxes. He then organised his land into tax districts, which were also used to muster armies. A new currency was issued with the gold daric and the silver siglos.

His treasury renewed, Darius set about upgrading the empire’s infrastructure. Roads were improved and way stations added so that Silk Road travellers could change horses and sleep. Members of the government apparently received passports that entitled them to food rations along these major roads. A canal was also built linking the Nile and the Red Sea. This canal was written about by more people than just Herodotus, so we know that it was a great boon for interregional trade as sailors could now cut through the Arabian peninsula. Granaries were built for the army, so they could maintain their supplies. The calendar was reformed and implemented all over the empire so that it used a more modern Babylonian system.

Then there was Persepolis. Darius founded a new capital, the ruins of which can be found today in Iran’s Fars Province, and still show signs of its ancient grandeur. Home to a grand palace that was completed during the reign of Darius’s son Xerxes, Persepolis played such an important role in Persian royal life that his grandson added further buildings to the city during his reign. But it was the audience hall, known in Persian as the Apadana, which would serve as another piece of propaganda. It could hold hundreds of people and a total of 72 columns held the roof more than 20 metres in the air. Just to cement the idea of the greatness of the man who built it, an inscription on what remains of the hall reads, “Darius the great king, king of kings, king of countries, son of Hystaspes, an Achaemenian, built this palace.”

Stone reliefs and carvings also depicted representatives from every corner of the empire in procession towards the king, bowing before his greatness. While this propaganda may have exaggerated how harmonious Darius’s empire was, his people did enjoy certain liberties. For instance, while Darius and many Persians practised Zoroastrianism, there’s no suggestion he imposed his views on others, with temples for all sorts of religions springing up across his empire.

Inscriptions left at different times give us some sort of timeframe for Darius the Great’s many conquests. We know that he invaded northern India before he built Persepolis, and inscriptions on his tomb suggest that before his death he conquered the mighty kingdoms of Cyrenaica (modern-day Libya) and Kush (in Sudan). Herodotus seems to have used these inscriptions to tell of Darius’s travels through Asia, eastern Europe and Africa, but it’s impossible to verify his account. The lack of contemporary sources, again, leaves us short.

However, there is one thing we know for certain - in his bid to expand his empire, Darius battled the Athenians at the Battle of Marathon, defeated by the Athenians at the Battle of Marathon, Darius’s forces fled back to their ships in an attempt to beat the Greeks back to Athens by sailing around Cape Sounion to attack Athens directly. Their siege of the city never came to fruition because the Athenians had returned just in time.

"While this propaganda may have exaggerated how harmonious Darius’s empire was, his people did enjoy certain liberties"
the Greeks. While Darius had consolidated Persia’s western conquests in the Aegean, in 498 the eastern Greek Ionian cities revolted.

Sensing that the Athenians were behind the trouble, Darius marched on Greece with plans to quell the uprising and place his own puppet ruler on the throne of Athens. The campaign started well with the subduing of the Aegean Islands. On their way, the Persians made a sacrifice to Apollo, who they identified with their own supreme deity, Ahuramazda, and then continued on attack Eretria. It took them a week but they overran the city. Then they moved on to Marathon, a village that had the best ground for Persian cavalry manoeuvres.

However, the Battle of Marathon in 490 did not go well for the Persians. After a few hours of fighting, the strong Greek flanks surrounded the Persian centre and that was that. The Persians fled to their ships and tried to reach Athens before the Athenian army could make its way home, but they were to be repelled again.

Not only had Darius’s dream of adding Greece to his long list of land failed, but word of the defeat may have emboldened other rebels throughout the empire, triggering a revolt in Egypt after Darius’s death, which caused further loss to the prestige of the once-mighty Persian military.

Darius’s death has no exact date – the closest we can get is a two-week window in 486. He was 64 and died after 30 days of illness, so we know that he wasn’t murdered in a coup by someone younger who wanted to take power.

He was liked enough that he could die in peace. He was embalmed, placed in his coffin and taken to Naqš-e Rustam to be buried. Outside his tomb were two inscriptions – one about his conquests, and the other about his philosophy. The latter said, “What things develop in my anger, I hold firmly under control by my thinking power. I am firmly ruling over my own impulses.” It was this self-control that led to his long and prosperous rule.

In fact, even his Athenian archenemies conceded that he was a good king. The playwright Aeschylus, who fought at Marathon, called Darius’s reign the golden age of Persia when he was writing 13 years later.

So does Darius deserve to be called ‘great’? It’s undoubtedly a title that he or his son came up with, but he does seem to share some of the characteristics that have qualified others, like Catherine II of Russia and Alfred of Wessex, to obtain the sobriquet. Given his record of tolerance and the way he brought order to a vast empire, it seems unlikely that he’d be called anything else, so long as you’re willing to take his word for it.

Darius I depicted on a gold daric coin from the 5th century BCE

Hero or villain?

**HEROISM**
He brought order to a chaotic empire and didn’t persecute those with different beliefs, which brought him respect, and he wasn’t ousted in a coup.

**VILLAINY**
No sources that exist today suggest anything particularly villainous about Darius, although the main source we have is the king himself.

**LEGACY**
Darius perhaps should be remembered more, but he is often overshadowed by Cyrus, who came before, and Xerxes, who ruled immediately after him.

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

© Getty Images
Although Norway, Denmark and Sweden have their charms, multicultural England gives you the chance to experience the customs of Anglo-Saxons, Britons and Scandinavians during your journey. You would also be relatively safer there as, after years of furious Viking invasions, Cnut has finally stemmed the flow of marauding, violent and crazed raiders through alliances and a lot of bribery (or ‘Danegold’ as the process of paying off Vikings is known.) Food options also vary, with everything from whale to game on the menu, alongside ale and the occasional glass of mead.

**Dos & don'ts**

- **Bring a Bible**
  Although paganism is still practised secretly by some, the official state religion is Christianity, so it would be in your best interests to keep a few hymns up the sleeve.

- **Dye your hair**
  The Vikings are partial to using hair dye to get those beautiful blonde locks, and you’d be wise to do the same if you’re looking to impress people on your journey.

- **Plan a holiday**
  You may have just arrived, but it’s not often you have such friendly relations between countries in Medieval times. Use this opportunity to visit the rest of the North Sea Empire.

- **Change your name**
  Vikings have the coolest names. In the past century, we have had Sweyn Forkbeard, Harald Bluetooth and Thorkell the Tall. ‘Chris Smith’ isn’t going to cut it here.

- **Get too attached**
  The North Sea Empire will struggle to survive the death of Cnut in 1035, so you might want to start warming up to the incoming Normans around 1066.

- **Spend too long in the cities**
  Although you would be able to witness the latest trends and perhaps taste more exotic cuisine, buildings in town are often infested with tapeworm and diseases.

- **Diss the Scandinavians**
  Distrust and dislike of Vikings is rife in England, but a large increase in their numbers, and a Danish king, means you shouldn’t be too loud with the jokes and quips.

**WHERE TO STAY**

Although Norway, Denmark and Sweden have their charms, multicultural England gives you the chance to experience the customs of Anglo-Saxons, Britons and Scandinavians during your journey. You would also be relatively safer there as, after years of furious Viking invasions, Cnut has finally stemmed the flow of marauding, violent and crazed raiders through alliances and a lot of bribery (or ‘Danegold’ as the process of paying off Vikings is known.) Food options also vary, with everything from whale to game on the menu, alongside ale and the occasional glass of mead.
WHO TO BEFRIEND

Emma of Normandy
It’s always good to make friends with someone who is well connected, and Emma of Normandy is certainly that. Wife to two kings (and, in the future, the mother to two more and stepmother to another), Emma can be counted on to give you the royal reception and feed you the latest gossip from court. Emma is one of the richest landowners in England, so you won’t need to worry about where the roof over your head is coming from.

Extra tip: Don’t mention her ex-husband, Ethelred the Unready. The previous King of England ordered a massacre of Danes in England on St Brice’s Day, in 1002, which included men, women and children. That’s a bit awkward when Emma and her family were from Denmark!

WHO TO AVOID

King Cnut
Today Cnut is best remembered as a mad king who arrogantly believed he could command the tide to not wash against his shore. In fact, the monarch wanted to illustrate to his courtiers that no man came close to god. However, for all his piety, this is not a king that you want to cross. His first attempt at invading England ended in failure, but he kindly returned the hostages he had taken before he left - after cutting off their ears and noses. Cnut also took exception to being beaten at chess by his brother-in-law, Ulf Jarl, responding by having him killed soon after.

Helpful skills

Sailing
Not only will you impress your Scandinavian associates, but being able to travel the seas will help you get involved in the booming trade routes made possible by the North Sea Empire.

Farming
Regardless of where you visit, you are going to have to be able to farm. Everything from basic survival to earning extra income relies on this ability.

Fashion Design
While the Anglo-Saxons will never embrace Viking culture, Scandinavian chic is all the rage amongst the upper classes seeking favour from the king. Learn to sew the most stylish garments and you’ll be a hit.
What if...

Arthur Tudor lived?

If Henry VIII's elder brother had become king, England might have fought against the Protestant Reformation and allied with Spain to colonise America together

Written by Jonathan O'Callaghan

INTERVIEW WITH... DR SEAN CUNNINGHAM

Who was Prince Arthur Tudor?
The long hoped for heir of Henry VII, who cemented his father's claim that he was uniting the Lancastrian and Yorkist royal houses. Arthur had lots of different strands of royal blood flowing into him, and he was expected to be a unifying king. He had a very elaborate christening at Winchester, and from that point on he's really trained to be the second Tudor king. He learns from a very early age how to be a lord, how to look after institutions, how to defend the law, how to run his lands and how to manage people. So by the time he died aged 15 and a half, he's really on the cusp of independent rule.

How did Arthur die?
Arthur and Catherine of Aragon were married in November 1501 in a spectacular ceremony. It was a very lavish celebration of dynasty and union between the Spanish kingdoms and England. They stayed in London for about a month, and probably travelled back to Ludlow [where Arthur had grown up] in time for Christmas. But right at the start of April near Easter Sunday he died. We think that was because of the 'sweating sickness', which was a disease that came over to England with Henry VII's army in 1485. It had flu-like symptoms of shaking, sweating and convulsions, then a coma and either death or recovery. It was just unlucky that there was a big outbreak in Worcestershire and South Shropshire in the spring of 1502. It was a new-ish disease that they didn't know how to deal with.

Could his death have been avoided, then?
If they'd not travelled for Christmas but stayed until March, they might have avoided the outbreak and both lived as man and wife for much longer.

Henry VIII and Catherine struggled to produce a male heir, do you think Arthur and Catherine would have had the same problem?
I don't see any reason why they wouldn't have had children. Obviously we assume that they tried to have children once Arthur and Catherine were married, [although] Catherine said she was still a virgin when Arthur died. I find it a bit unusual that after six months there's no evidence they slept together. Certainly Catherine would say it didn't happen because it was in her interests to marry Henry VIII. So would time have given them an heir? Possibly. I'm sure they would have been on the case to make sure there was an heir fairly soon. But of course Henry VII would have still been aligned with Elizabeth of York, [Prince] Henry might have been married to one of Maximilian's daughters, so there could have been other routes for a Tudor child to emerge under Henry VII and a bigger, broader family, with lots of secure European alliances through marriage.

What would have happened to Prince Henry if he hadn't assumed Arthur's throne?
The idea that Henry VIII might have been destined for the high church - [becoming] Archbishop of Canterbury - was put forward by Lord Edward Herbert of Cherbury, who wrote The Life And Raigne of King Henry VIII in the 17th century, but the claim was backed by no evidence; although he did use documents and state papers, some of which might now be lost. Henry did know much about the church and had a very solid interest in theology - as he showed in the late 1520s when the proceedings for annulment of his marriage gathered speed. As a royal cleric he would have been determined to show his pre-eminence and power. Since in reality he was not afraid to destroy the structures of ecclesiastical life when dissolving the monasteries, had he joined the high ranks of the church, I can see him launching a campaign to become Pope at some point in his life. He would have had a chance to use his charm and influence to win the election.

"Arthur had lots of different strands of royal blood flowing into him, and he was expected to be a unifying king"
What if... ARTHUR TUDOR LIVED?
Would King Arthur have continued his father’s close alliance with Spain?
Yes, I think he might have seen that as a natural connection. Arthur is very much aware of how this diplomatic picture is being set up through marriages. And in his letters to Catherine, once he’s old enough to write, there’s also a sense of affection. He is very taken with Catherine, so Arthur would have done everything to maintain that connection, especially if they’d had children pretty early on. The Spanish connection was quite firm, and he was happy to go along with that in the future.

How would this alliance have affected the conquest of the New World?
Well there’s an agreement with Spain and Portugal in the early 1490s, which kind of splits the Americas. I think if John Cabot hadn’t disappeared in 1498 on his second voyage, and if he had come back to England with much more solid evidence, I think we could have seen the English pouring into the northern part of America. Had England established a kind of northern outpost coming down from Newfoundland, I could have seen a way of England, with that Spanish connection through King Arthur, possibly coming to some sort of deal much earlier in the 16th century about the demarcation of colonies. Obviously we had to wait until the 1580s in the end for any kind of English colony to establish itself even temporarily, which was in Virginia and the Carolinas. So that would probably have happened much earlier.

Would Arthur have supported the English Reformation?
I’m sure there would have been pockets of Protestantism emerging, but I imagine Arthur would have been fairly conservative. It would have been harder to see it emerging in the way it did, simply because Henry VIII’s break with Rome really changed the whole picture in terms of religion. I imagine Prince Arthur would have been much more conservative in his views and therefore, if he was King Arthur, that process would have been much slower, and I’m sure he wouldn’t have had a need for the dissolution of the monasteries in the same form. I think it would have been less likely, certainly less likely in the form it did take, and probably would have been a much slower process, and probably more resisted. But I think the door would have been open to those ideas coming in at a lower level.

Do you think Arthur would have persecuted Protestants, as Henry VII had English Jews?
I think it’s fair to say that Arthur would have followed his father’s lead in theology and church matters. Jews would have remained banished from residing in England, unless as converts and then denizens. There is very little evidence for established Jewish communities outside of very small London-based Spanish and Portuguese merchant and medical groups in the later Tudor period.

Arthur would have defended the Catholic faith in England, persecuting heretics and lollards as previous kings had done.
Henry VIII, after all, received the title of Defender of the Faith for his attack on Luther’s writings in 1521, and I see no reason why King Arthur would not have been as resolute in defending traditional piety and church practice.

**Do you think King Arthur would have been as extravagant with his money as Henry VIII was?**

We certainly know that Henry spent a million pounds in 1509 to 1510, and half a million pounds in the six months just before the war with France in 1513. It was in the bank almost waiting for him when he became king.

But that money was really only created because Henry VII was using finance as a way of securing his position as king. It was money that was brought out of nobles’ pockets.

Had Arthur lived, Henry VII probably wouldn’t have gone to that process.

**Ultimately, what would the future of England have been like under King Arthur?**

Had Henry VII lived longer and had Arthur taken the throne in stable conditions as the husband of Catherine of Aragon and sure ally of Aragon and Castile in the later 1510s, then I think England would have become even more entangled in the politics and alliances connected to the Italian wars - with the Pope and papal states key movers.

Even if this was through financial loans and proxy support, Arthur’s reign would have been very much part of the orthodox pattern of religion and would probably have reacted as much of Europe did to the gradual rise of Lutheranism, Calvinism and protestant beliefs. England would still have felt the growth of these movements, but without the upheaval of the Dissolution and the establishment of the Church of England it would have been far harder for reformers to get the state to change religion and religious practice.

A different kind of clash would have come as some influential figures adopted Protestant beliefs, but it would have been a more drawn out process since the traditional fabric of religion in society would not necessarily have been torn apart as it was in the 1530 and 40s.

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**An unlikely king arises**

Following the death of his father, and as the only heir, Prince Henry is coronated as King Henry VIII. Two weeks prior, he had wedded his brother’s widow, Catherine of Aragon. 24 June 1509

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**A child is finally born**

After four failed pregnancies, Catherine gave birth to a surviving infant - but the girl, the future Mary I, does not solidify Henry VIII's succession and he grows more desperate. 18 February 1516

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**When not in Rome**

Henry, infatuated with a young Anne Boleyn, pushes for divorce from Catherine. After marrying Anne in 1533, he is appointed head of the Church of England, and separates from Rome by passing the Act of Supremacy. November 1534

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**A son is born**

After Anne Boleyn fails to produce a male heir, Henry has her executed on trumped charges. While he goes onto marry eight times, Henry’s third wife finally gives him a son, the future Edward VI. 12 October 1537

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**The end to a tumultuous reign**

King Henry VIII dies at the age of 55, in part due to his obesity and poor health. He was interred in St George’s Chapel in Windsor Castle, and survived by his last wife, Catherine Parr. 28 January 1547

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**A strong Spanish and English alliance**

With Arthur and Catherine’s marriage secured, England enjoys a long and prosperous alliance with Spain, working together against common enemies in Europe. 1504

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**England in the New World**

Following the surprising return of the explorer John Cabot, England decides to set up a colony in North America, under agreement with both Spain and Portugal. 1510

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**A name fit for a king**

Prince Arthur becomes King Arthur I after the death of his father, promising to continue his father’s reign, if with a more measured approach. 1520

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**Living the high life**

Now free of the burdens of being king, Prince Henry is able to enjoy sports and games with few responsibilities. In time, he is made the Archbishop of Canterbury. 1522

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**England remains a Catholic country**

With no need to split from papal authority, England remains a Catholic country aligned with Rome long into the future. 1530

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**A Tudor dynasty**

Prince Arthur dies peacefully in old age, and is buried alongside his only wife Catherine. He leaves behind a strong lineage of heirs, which keep the Tudor name in power for the foreseeable future. 1540
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Did you know?
At the time the protesters were calling for reform, only three per cent of the population in England and Wales had the right to vote.

Timeline

The French Revolution shocks Europe, as radicals – partly inspired by the American Revolution – overthrew the monarchy in the name of 'liberty, equality, fraternity'.

Economic and agricultural depression in Britain after the Napoleonic Wars that lasted several years, leading to public dissatisfaction.

A peaceful campaign for reform turns deadly as the gathered crowds at St Peter's Field are violently dispersed, culminating in Henry Hunt’s arrest.

Hunt is tried and sentenced to two and a half years in prison unlawful and seditious assembling for the purpose of exciting discontent – many others are also imprisoned.
What was it?

Around 18 peaceful protesters were killed and hundreds seriously injured when the authorities broke up a political meeting calling for universal suffrage. Around 60,000 to 100,000 men, women and children from across North West England had converged on St Peter’s Fields in Manchester for the event.

Some walked up to 30 miles to hear famous campaigner Henry ‘Orator’ Hunt speak. Despite the seriousness of the cause, there was a festive atmosphere, with bands playing music and people dancing.

Hunt and his fellow campaigners were calling on parliament to extend the vote to working men. This was at a time when only those who owned property of a certain value were enfranchised. Local magistrates feared that the protesters were actually violent revolutionaries and sent in the Manchester and Salford Yeomanry – a local force of volunteer soldiers – to arrest Hunt and disperse the crowd. While soldiers targeted those waving banners, many more were crushed in the panic as the yeomen rode in.

What were the consequences?

The yeomen’s actions made newspaper headlines. Journalist James Wroe coined the name ‘Peterloo Massacre’ comparing the violence to the Battle of Waterloo. An account detailing the brutality of the yeomanry in The Times shocked the country. Outrage only grew once it emerged that the regiment had sharpened their weapons beforehand, suggesting the attack was premeditated. A petition demanding political change garnered over 20 pages worth of signatures.

However, while public fury led to the yeomanry’s disbandment in 1824, the government’s first response was to introduce the so-called Six Acts. These laws restricted the press and public meetings, so that they couldn’t agitate for radical reform. But demands for suffrage continued and the Peterloo massacre became a rallying point for the subsequent and more successful campaigners, including the Chartists and Suffragettes. All British men finally gained the vote in 1918, all women in 1928.

Who was involved?

Henry Hunt
1773-1835
A pioneer of working-class radicalism, Hunt survived the massacre and continued to be an advocate for reform for the rest of his life.

Captain Hugh Birley
1778-1845
Birley was a magistrate and the commander of the yeomanry and reportedly led the charge that sparked the massacre.

Samuel Bamford
1788-1872
A witness to the massacre, Bamford was imprisoned for inciting a riot even though he was not involved in the violence.

The Representation of the People Act 1832 is introduced and makes changes to the electoral system. Although Peterloo paved the way for the Act, working class men were still without the vote.

The Chartist movement emerges amongst the British working-class with creation of the People’s Charter, a bill with six key points for electoral reform, influenced by Peterloo.
**Golden Diadem of Tutankhamun**

**1332 BCE**

King Tutankhamun’s diadem was found on his mumified head following the excavation of his tomb. Known as a cap crown, it held a linen skullcap on his head, which had decayed by the time the tomb was opened. Made from a band of gold, it is decorated with small discs of carnelian, a semi-precious stone, which are edged with blue lapis lazuli and turquoise. The diadem also features a vulture, representing the goddess Wadjet, and a cobra for the goddess Nekhbet, who protected Lower Egypt and Upper Egypt respectively. The diadem therefore signifies the unification of Egypt and Tutankhamun’s status as ruler.

**Imperial Crown of the Holy Roman Empire**

**10th Century**

Presumably made for Otto the Great, this crown was used by the Holy Roman Emperors until the end of the empire in 1806. It is made from eight plates of gold, giving it a distinct octagonal shape, which are held together with two strips of iron as well as a bejewelled cross and arch. It is adorned with precious stones and gems, such as sapphires and amethysts, while four of the plates are also decorated with biblical figures and scenes from the Old Testament, including King Solomon and King David.

**Crown of Margaret of York**

**1468**

Margaret of York, sister of King Edward IV of England, wore this crown for her wedding to Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy. Decorated with pearls, large roses of white enamel and smaller roses of red and black enamel, the crown also features Margaret’s initials as well as the letters C and M entwined with lover knots, in reference to her marriage to Charles. It is one of only two Medieval crowns to survive the period of the Commonwealth, as Margaret had presented the crown to Aachen Cathedral in 1474.

**Crown of Princess Blanche**

**1370**

This crown featured as part of the dowry for Princess Blanche of England, daughter of King Henry IV, for her marriage to Louis III, Elector Palatine. It is believed that the crown once belonged to Queen Anne of Bohemia, the wife of King Richard II, who Henry deposed. The crown follows typical Medieval design consisting of heavily bejewelled fleur-de-lis, with 12 of them in total supported by a circlet of 12 hexagonal rosettes. Sapphires, rubies, emeralds, diamonds and pearls all feature on the crown, and the lilies can be detached for easier transportation.

**Golden Diadem of Tutankhamun**

The golden diadem was discovered by Howard Carter in 1922.

**Imperial Crown of the Holy Roman Empire**

The crown is currently held in the Imperial Treasury at Hofburg Palace, in Vienna.

**Crown of Margaret of York**

Margaret’s crown is held in the treasury at Aachen Cathedral.

**Crown of Princess Blanche**

This crown is the oldest surviving one from England and has remained in Bavaria since Blanche’s lifetime.
CROWN OF ERIC XIV 1561
This crown was made for the coronation of King Eric XIV of Sweden. It originally featured his initials in green enamel but after his brother, John III, deposed him they were replaced with pearls. Subsequent monarchs of the Vasa dynasty used the crown until the abdication of Queen Christina in 1654. When the Bernadotte dynasty assumed the throne in the 19th century, they returned to using Eric’s crown albeit with some alterations – adding diamond rosettes to the bottom, replacing the orb at the top with a new orb of enamel blue, decorated with gold stars and set in diamond, with a new diamond cross to match.

ST EDWARD’S CROWN 1661
Created for the coronation of Charles II, this crown replaced the previous one which had been melted down by the Parliamentarians in 1649. It is made from solid gold, with a velvet cap, ermine trim and decorated various semi-precious gemstones including rubies, sapphires, aquamarines, peridot and white and yellow topazes which, until the 20th century, were hired for use in the crown and then removed after the coronation – they were permanently set in 1911. At the same time, the crown’s weight was reduced to 2.23 kg from its original weight of 2.6kg. It was last used in 1953 for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

CROWN OF LOUIS XV 1722
In keeping with French tradition, King Louis XV commissioned his own personal crown for his coronation. Made from gilded silver, the crown was originally adorned with sapphires, rubies, topazes, emeralds and diamonds along the band, set between two rows of pearls. Diamonds were also used to form fleur-de-lis at the bottom of the crown’s arches, with the regent diamond taking pride of place at the front, surrounded by eight of the Mazarin diamonds. A fleur-de-lis set with diamonds also topped the crown but in 1729, Louis had all the jewels removed and replaced with imitations, with this version of the crown now on display at the Louvre.

THE CORONA TUMULAR 18TH CENTURY
The Corona Tumular is the royal crown of Spain, created during the reign of King Carlos III. Why it was made remains a mystery but it is commonly believed to have been for the funeral of Queen Isabel, who died in 1766. The crown is made from gold-plated silver with no gems, unusual in comparison to other European crowns. However, it does feature the heraldic symbols for the two founding kingdoms of Spain, Castile and Léon, with a turret and lion respectively. It is a symbolic crown and has never been worn by a monarch, although it is present during the proclamation ceremonies for new monarchs.

PAHLAVI CROWN 1926
This crown was created for the coronation of Reza Shah, the founder of the Pahlavi dynasty. The year before, he had been elected monarch of Iran after the deposition of Ahmad Shah Qajar, ending the Qajar dynasty that had ruled for 140 years. Made with red velvet, gold, silver, pearls, emerald and over 3,000 diamonds, including the 60-carat yellow diamond at the front, this crown was inspired by the headdresses worn during the Sassanid Empire, between the 3rd and 7th centuries. It replaced the Kiani crown used by the Qajars and was last used for the coronation of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi in 1967.

ST Edward’s Crown is only ever used to crown a new monarch

The Corona Tumular is currently on display at the Royal Palace of Madrid

St Edward’s Crown is only ever used to crown a new monarch

The use of this crown ended after the dissolution of absolutism in Denmark

The Pahlavi Crown is now on display at the Central Bank of Iran in Tehran

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On the Menu
FRENCH MADELEINES

THE PÂTISSERIE THAT GIVES YOU PAUSE FOR THOUGHT, FRANCE, 18TH CENTURY

This small sponge cake is an iconic part of French baking, but is believed to have originated in the kitchens of Stanisław I, the deposed king of Poland. As the father-in-law of King Louis XV of France, Stanisław lived in exile at the Château de Commercy in Lorraine. One of his chefs, Madeleine Paulmier, supposedly created the little shell-shaped cakes, which were subsequently named in her honour. Louis and his wife tasted them in Lorraine and introduced them to court, where they soon took off like – ahem – hot cakes. However, another version of the legend claims they were created in the kitchens of famed diplomat, Prince Talleyrand.

If either of these claims to fame wasn’t enough to secure the cake’s place in French culture, the novelist Marcel Proust elevated them in his 1907 masterwork, *In Search of Lost Time*. In it, the narrator experiences flashbacks to his childhood after the “exquisite pleasure” of dunking a madelaine in a cup of tea. An ‘episode of the madeleine’ is now a byword for a sensory cue that triggers an involuntary memory in French.

Did you make it? Let us know!

METHOD

01 To begin, make sure that you have a madeleine tray to give the cakes their iconic seashell shape. Preheat the oven to 200°C, then generously grease the tray with butter.
02 Place the sugar and eggs into a mixing bowl and whisk until the mixture becomes nice and frothy. Add the orange-blossom water to give the madeleines a nice, zesty flavour.
03 Sift the flour and gently fold it into the mixture along with the baking powder, making sure not to lose the volume you have created.
04 Next, slowly add the melted butter and continue to stir the mixture until all the ingredients are combined together.
05 Cover the cake mixture and place it into the refrigerator for about an hour, until it looks like it has thickened.
06 Spoon the mixture, roughly one tablespoon for each mould, into the tray. Bake for 8-10 minutes, until the madeleines have risen a little in the middle and have gone a light, golden brown around the edges.
07 Remove the madeleines from the oven and allow them to cool for a couple of minutes. Carefully remove each one from the moulds and place onto a wire rack to cool further.
08 Once the madeleines have cooled down, lightly dust them with some of the icing sugar and serve immediately.

Did you know?

Proust’s drafts reveal he toyed with toast and biscotto before settling on his ‘madeleine moment’

Ingredients
(Makes 12 madeleines)
- 2 eggs
- 100g caster sugar
- 100g plain flour
- 1 tsp orange-blossom water
- ¾ tsp baking powder
100g butter, melted and cooled slightly, plus extra for greasing
- Icing sugar for dusting

On the Menu

Did you make it? Let us know!

www.historyanswers.co.uk /AllAboutHistory @AboutHistoryMag
Part of the reason the Romans were so successful at keeping hold of new territories was through the adoption of their conquered cultures. When they took Egypt or Gaul - even the Etruscans in their own homeland of Italy - they took on some of their gods. Britain was no exception.

Roman Britain has been studied extensively - there's a plethora of books on the subject and archaeological sites like Fishbourne and Hadrian's Wall still fascinate people today - and now Miranda Aldhouse-Green has added her name to the fray. But *Sacred Britannia: The Gods And Rituals Of Roman Britain* deserves its place in the fold.

Spanning from the very first Roman attempt to conquer Britannia by Julius Caesar to the fall of Rome, *Sacred Britannia* covers everything you could ever want to know about religion in the British Isles. Mystical druids, the different rituals in the city and the countryside, cursing others, the conversion to Christianity - it's all here in over 200 pages of crystal-clear writing. And if you can't find what you're looking for within the main body, perhaps the nine pages of extra notes and the seven-page bibliography will help you out.

It's also nice that some chapters are split into sections. The section on 'Town and Country', for example, is broken down by individual towns and cities. You can uncover how Cirencester (or Corinium) was different to rural Wanborough in Surrey and the archaeological finds in both places. Meanwhile, 'Gut-Gazers And God-Users' is split into small topics such as 'A gut-gazer from Bath' and 'Healing and harming on holy ground'. (For those unaware of ancient divination, don't be alarmed at 'gut-gazing' - it's just a way of telling the future.)

Because of the amount of information packed into the book, the use of both illustrations and plates provides some welcome levity. Some of the illustrations seem more like page fillers, like one of Julius Caesar (don't we all know what he looks like by now?), but others really help to boost our understanding. For instance, a map of southern Britain showing the pre-Roman tribal boundaries is incredibly helpful in creating a visual image of the land before the Romans arrived. But the real beauty is in the plates. 16 pages divided into two groups of eight, they're printed in full, glossy colour and they add some vibrancy to an otherwise black-and-white tome.

Perhaps best of all, you know you're in good hands when it comes to Aldhouse-Green. As previously mentioned, her writing style is very clear and it's obvious that she enjoys the subject matter. You also know that you can trust her facts as she's emeritus professor in the archaeology department at Cardiff University, as well as the author of three other books about Celts and Druids. It doesn't hurt that she's received a glowing review for *Sacred Britannia* from Dr Rowan Williams, former archbishop of Canterbury and master of Magdalene College, Cambridge. She uses her sources incredibly well and goes a step further to explain why some may not be so trustworthy. From the well-known Druids to the lesser-known Celtic gods, this is a book for any and all interested in Roman British religion. You won't be disappointed.

*Sacred Britannia* is well worth a read if you're into Roman Britain and ancient religion.
I n Historical Heroines: 100 Women You Should Know About, authors Michelle Rosenberg and Sonia D Picker take the reader through centuries of history, introducing the 100 women whom they believe we all need to know. Some are famous, some notorious and others might prove surprising as pirates, queens, scientists and more get their moment in the spotlight.

Having such a broad canvas will undoubtedly widen the appeal and readership of this entertaining book. It’s a quick and accessible read and with each woman’s achievements celebrated in a short biography, the pace is fast.

Although the format of short biographies means that occasionally stories will be familiar to some readers, there’s no time for a subject to outstay her welcome before the next comes along.

Rosenberg and Picker write with an engaging, light tone but their research is solid and their enthusiasm infectious. With a cast of characters ranging from polarising figures such as Marie Antoinette to legends including Sappho, Sacagawea and even Hedy Lamarr, more famed for her Hollywood career than her scientific discoveries, one can only imagine who was left on the cutting room floor.

Historical Heroines is like a greatest hits collection of the vibrant role women have played in history. That’s no bad thing and for a casual history fan who’s looking to widen their knowledge and perhaps delve into some of history’s most remarkable women, this book offers 100 great starting points.
Four of Henry II’s legitimate sons survived to adulthood: Henry, Richard, Geoffrey and John. They became engulfed in a power struggle that was brutal and barbaric, even by the standards of their age. Heirs betrayed their father. An uncle murdered his nephew. A mother was imprisoned and condemned to starve with her son. It’s no wonder legend claimed the house of Anjou was descended from the Devil!

In The Restless Kings: Henry II, His Sons And The Wars for the Plantagenet Crown, Nick Barratt captures the volatile and dramatic lives of Henry and his sons in an absorbing narrative. He details how they raced around Europe, governing and securing their lands. Henry II ruled over a vast realm, stretching from the borders of Scotland in the north to the Pyrenees in the south. Such extensive territory had him constantly on the move. Restless indeed, it was said he never stood still. Yet when John - then king and the last remaining son - died in 1216, this empire was all but gone. In chronicling their story, and exploring changes in territory, governance and attitude, Barratt shows how this one warring family helped to shape the future of two nations.

The Restless Kings raises some sharp points for discussion, and stresses the continued impact this, feuding family still has today. The Magna Carta must of course be mentioned, but the reforms of Henry II were also significant. While it will naturally draw in readers interested in the Plantagenets, this book may also appeal to those more widely interested in the history of governance.

King Tut’s treasures offer opulent eye candy in this coffee-table volume

King Tut’s treasures offer opulent eye candy in this coffee-table volume

TUTANKHAMUN

Author Zahi Hawass
Publisher Thames and Hudson
Price £30
Released Out now

The boy king of Ancient Egypt only ruled for nine years, but today Tutankhamun’s death mask is as iconic a symbol of the lost civilisation’s wealth and power as the Great Pyramids of Giza. However, the mask was just one of hundreds of riches uncovered when Howard Carter discovered the pharaoh’s resting place in 1922. The brilliantly illustrated Tutankhamun: Treasures Of The Tomb allows you to cast your eye over many of these gems in sumptuous detail.

From his vast sarcophagus to close-ups of ceremonial daggers, a shrine to the god Anubis to a golden chariot to ride in the afterlife, this coffee-table volume features over 300 photos – with 26 foldouts that ensure the intricacies are not lost in the gap between pages.

The images are all arranged in the order that Carter and his team excavated the tomb, with commentary from Dr Zahi Hawass, the preeminent Egyptologist of our time. Hawass’s descriptions provide much needed context for some of the lesser known objects, such as amulets and pots, shining a light on religious symbolism and secrets of everyday Egyptian life.

The photography is by Sandro Vannini, who has been building up an archive of Egyptian images for years now. The treasures are all shot in full colour and in an incredible high resolution, so you can appreciate the sparkle of jewels as well as the minute flaws of these ancient wonders. The decision to shoot most of the collection on a black background ups the contrast so the golden goodies seem to almost glow.
German occupation of the Channel Islands finally gets explored

**Certificate** 12 **Director** Mike Newell  **Cast** Lily James, Michiel Huisman, Glen Powell, Jessica Brown Findlay, Katherine Parkinson, Matthew Goode  **Price** £15  **Released** 27 August

Over the years, Wartime Britain has gradually become its own film genre, with a whole library of films on the subject to choose from. We’ve seen it all, from devastating London bomb sites to countryside evacuations, but it’s rare that cinema presents a glimpse at the German occupation of the Channel Islands, which in the winter of 1944 became the only part of the British Isles to be occupied by the Wehrmacht during World War II. Mike Newell’s comedy-drama The Guernsey Literary And Potato Peel Pie Society fills that gap.

Based on Mary Ann Shaffer’s purely fictitious novel of the same name, it tells the whimsical story of how the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society was accidentally invented in order to keep an illegal pig a secret from the Germans.

With good-natured English author Juliet Ashton (Lily James) at the centre, the film follows her journey to Guernsey in 1946 after being invited by a member of the society, which she intends to make the subject of an article for The Times Literary Supplement about the benefits of literature. But through making new friends and hearing their stories, Juliet quickly realises there’s a lot more to the society, and indeed to wartime Guernsey, than she first thought.

Though the film is set after the end of World War II, it features many a flashback into the grim depths of what the war was like for civilians, portraying the horrors of the period. However, it also still manages to be quaint. The juxtaposition of German occupation and friends gathered in a sitting room talking and laughing about books is both unusual and refreshing. The heavy material isn’t overwhelming, and the more sentimental parts aren’t too sentimental. The film is a balancing act – particularly where the drama and the comedy elements are concerned - but one it pulls off nicely.

Most of The Guernsey Literary And Potato Peel Pie Society’s successes are down to its characterisation and its marvellous cast, which is made up of gems of both British drama and comedy. Though certain members are a lot more guarded than others (for good reason), the society gels well and makes for good comfort viewing. It represents the light at the end of a long dark tunnel that is often missing from the war genre.

It feels a little strange describing the film as a war film; World War II may be at the centre of it, but it’s much more about family, community and doing the right thing. That being said, the drama and its gravitas often get lost in the small-scale comedy feel that’s potent throughout the film. It ought to please fans of period pieces and feel-good films to pop on during a rainy day, but fans of war dramas might not know what to make of it. For those looking for something a little different, The Guernsey Literary And Potato Peel Pie Society provides just that.

A fun but emotional look at island life during wartime, and the power of literature.

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**HISTORY TALK**

Writer-director Felix Randau discusses how he balanced fact and fantasy in Iceman, his all-action biopic of Ötzi, Europe’s oldest mummy

Q What inspired you to make a film about the life of Europe’s oldest mummy?

A I heard of the mummy right after the discovery, but the idea of making a film based on Ötzi’s fate came only four years ago. It is with film ideas as well as with love – you can live next to another person for years, and suddenly you realise that you have fallen in love. And you wonder how you could have been so blind before. But the film is only superficially about Ötzi. Behind it hides a timeless parabola about the circle of violence.

Q How much research did you do for the film?

A My claim was to be as authentic as possible, so not to tell a fairy tale, even if the film is of course a fiction. So I collected all the available facts about Ötzi, built the framework of the story out of it and then invented the missing parts. But, everything could have been exactly as we tell it in the movie.

Q Otzi and the other characters all speak in an extinct dialect, how do you think the audience will respond to it without subtitles?

A I think it’s ridiculous if actors speak modern languages in a historical film. If the characters in a movie taking place in ancient Rome speak polished Oxford English, I’m kicked out of the story. So we used a language invented by a linguist which could have been spoken at that time. The movie is easy to understand without subtitles, as all information opens up through action.

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Ötzi is in cinemas now, rated 15
Once upon a time, researching your family tree meant combing through dusty public records and picking the brains of elderly relatives for the maiden name of that long-lost aunt. Today, thanks to the internet, so much of this information is at the click of a button. However, rather than just compiling databases of births and deaths, increasingly online services are offering to analyse your DNA to unlock the secrets of your family tree.

First you buy your kit online, which generally consists of either swabbing your mouth or – rather inelegantly – spitting into a plastic tube. You then return your sealed-up saliva sample in a prepaid envelope, then after a few weeks, you log in online to view your results. This generally includes a list of living relatives and a breakdown of your ethnic origins.

Demand for these genetic genealogy kits has never been higher, with more people tested in 2017 than in all previous years combined. It’s thought 12 million people have sent off saliva to be scrutinised, with most of those tested in the US, suggesting 1 in 25 American adults now have access to their personal genetic data.

With such a huge reference pool to draw on, there’s never been a better time to get on board with a DNA test kit. But the home DNA test kit market is made up of many companies, with deals ranging from £50 to over £100, and each one offering slightly different services. Read on to discover our top picks.

**AncestryDNA**

*Price: £79*

Explore a gigantic database

It’s perhaps no surprise that the biggest name in tracing your family tree also offers one of the best home DNA kits. Ancestry’s claimed database of five million customers – more than double that of its closest competitor – increases the odds that you will be able to find successful family matches. Best of all, you can enjoy many of these features without being a regular subscriber to Ancestry’s conventional service.

Once you’ve sent off your saliva sample, you can expect results to be available online within six to eight weeks. AncestryDNA presents you with a pie chart estimating your ethnicity. You can then view a map of where your ancestors lived, read more about each ethnicity match and their region of origin, see how you compare to the native population and read about their genetic diversity and the population history. A feature called Genetic Communities even allows you to explore a timeline of specific groups – including Ulster Irish, African Caribbean or Central European Jews – and how they have migrated around the world. All of this is presented in an easy to follow way. AncestryDNA will also search their database for what it calls Cousin Matches, each one labelled with a ‘confidence level’ so you can work out how closely they are related to you. Oddly similar to a dating app, you can then send messages to your distant relatives to learn more about them.

In response to the growing trend of families taking DNA tests together, sharing results, and building family trees together, AncestryDNA makes it possible to manage other people’s test results.

An adult who takes a DNA test is considered the owner of that test but can assign other family members or friends to the role of managing the results and allow others to view them as well.

“*You can expect results to be available online within six to eight weeks*”
While MyHeritageDNA is the most affordable home genealogy service we could find, it spares no expense in how it reveals your test results. When you click on your email notification, it opens with a spinning globe set to music. This tune brings in different regional instruments as your ethnic composition is revealed— for instance, are you 60 per cent Indian? Cue the sitars! It’s a shame that, for all its theatrics, the service doesn’t offer you any further information to drill into and explore these regions or any other information about your DNA.

However, MyHeritageDNA also offers DNA matching. To protect your privacy, you have to opt in to this feature in the settings, but once you do it reveals genetic relatives that you can then contact. You can also create a family tree of your known family and explore what MyHeritageDNA claims is a database of billions of historical records to research your family history the old-fashioned way. Crucially, all of this is free beyond the cost of your initial DNA test, with no subscription fees. MyHeritage has not revealed the size of their customer database.

This UK-based service offers an unrivalled breakdown for those with British ancestry, allowing you to narrow your ancestry to specific counties such as Yorkshire, Devon and Cornwall. As well as allowing you to deep-dive into 21 UK ‘sub-regions’, users can explore four in Italy and four in China. LivingDNA also offers an in-depth look at your maternal and paternal lineage. It focuses on haplogroups, which is a group of people who share a common ancestor on their mother line or father line. You can read detailed overviews of your haplogroup, watch an animation of your ancient ancestors’ migration around the world, and explore a phylogenetic tree for more information. If this interests you, bear in mind that you can only view your father’s line if you have a Y chromosome. If you’re female, you can only view your mother’s line; if you’re male, you can view both parents’ ancestry.

While LivingDNA is an innovative service, it lacks the resources to manually resource your family tree or connect and communicate with DNA matches that other services do, while charging above average.
As you’d expect the ancestry features include a breakdown of your ethnic composition, the options to broadly explore your paternal and maternal lines, and discover how much DNA you share with Neanderthals. These are all presented in a series of colourful and informative graphs, which give you a trove of information to explore. With three million users, 23andMe doesn’t have as large a database as AncestryDNA, but this still provided us with over a 1,000 matches with third to fifth cousins. While you can’t view migration paths like you can with AncestryDNA, you can view a map of where your ‘DNA family’ are located. Depending on their level of privacy settings, you can also message these relatives directly. The health section offers reports on everything from the chance that your genetically predisposed to baldness or being lactose intolerant to whether you’re at risk of suffering from more serious conditions. This can include Parkinson’s disease, late-onset Alzheimer’s, and more. If you’re not interested in the health features, you can buy a 23andMe ancestry kit for just £79. If you change your mind, you can unlock the health features for an additional fee, but without providing another saliva sample.

“As you’d expect the ancestry features include a breakdown of your ethnic composition”
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HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD
Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
Director: Ridley Scott Starring: Orlando Bloom, Eva Green, Ghassan Massoud, Jeremy Irons Released: 2005

Does Ridley Scott favour action over accuracy in this Crusader epic about the Siege of Jerusalem?

01 Balian of Ibelin, played by Orlando Bloom, was indeed a real-life knight who served in Jerusalem during the Third Crusade. However, unlike in the movie, at no point did the nobleman work as a blacksmith as penance for his wife’s suicide.

02 King Baldwin IV, played by Edward Norton, really did suffer from leprosy – although he did not wear a silver mask to hide it, as in the film. It is also true that he defeated Saladin’s forces at the Battle of Montgisard, when he was just 16 years old.

03 Although the film portrays a romance between Balian and Princess Sibylla, in real-life no such relationship existed. However, Sibylla was married to Guy de Lusignan, the main antagonist of the movie, who became king of Jerusalem through their marriage.

04 As depicted in the film, the Crusaders did wander in the desert for three days without water before they were ambushed, sparking the Battle of Hattin. It is also true that Saladin’s forces crushed the Crusaders at Hattin before he marched to Jerusalem.

05 While Balian defends the city of Jerusalem as Saladin’s forces approach, the reality was far different. Balian barely escaped Hattin with his life and he only went to Jerusalem to get his wife and children – and only stayed after the people begged him to.

VERDICT Though it is not a completely inaccurate film, Scott has used a lot of artistic licence here.
Ramses II: Egypt's king of kings,

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Baritone | BENJAMIN APPL

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