ALL ABOUT HISTORY
RICHARD III AT WAR
From Barnet to Bosworth, the bloody rise and tragic fall of the last Plantagenet king

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Today Richard III is commonly remembered for two things: his part in the disappearance of the Princes in the Tower, and for being the ‘car park king’ whose remains were uncovered in Leicester in 2012. Less well known, however, is that he was the last English king to die in battle.

Richard was a seasoned warrior whose death at Bosworth in 1485, at the hands of Henry Tudor, was his only known defeat. While the way in which Richard usurped the throne led his enemies to depict him as a monstrous villain, they couldn’t deny he was a formidable soldier. For instance, the contemporary historian John Rous, who went as far to compare Richard to the Antichrist, admitted “if I may say the truth to his credit, though small in body and feeble of limb, he bore himself like a gallant knight and acted with distinction as his own champion until his last breath”.

In this month’s issue, we explore how conflict - and the 30-year power struggle we call the Wars of the Roses, in particular - shaped Richard III’s entire life. From witnessing the siege of his home by Lancastrian forces aged seven, to learning the art of war in the Scottish borderlands as a teen, to fighting side by side with his brother at Tewkesbury, and finally defending his own crown. Turn to page 32 to read all about it!

Jack Parsons
Editor
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DEATH OF A PRESIDENT

The assassinated President John F Kennedy lies in state in the United States Capitol in Washington, DC on 24 November 1963, two days after he was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald. Kennedy was the first US president to lie in state in the rotunda – also known as the “hall of the people” – for more than 30 years. 250,000 mourners arrived to pay their respects with many waiting into the night to say a final farewell. 1963
WAR OF THE WORDS
Orson Welles (arms raised) rehearses his radio adaptation of HG Wells’s classic, The War Of The Worlds, ahead of its 30 October broadcast. Claims that the story of an alien invasion sparked panic across the United States are largely a myth, with minor incidents seized upon and exaggerated by contemporary newspapers. This was in part an effort to boost sales as well as censure the relatively new medium of radio, which was fast becoming a rival to traditional print news. 1938
TROOPS LEAVE AFGHANISTAN

Soviet tanks and troops leave Afghanistan following a nine-year war in the Central Asian country, which had started when Soviet troops first entered the country in December 1979. The Soviets had a long military history with Afghanistan, competing with Britain for its territory in the 1800s. The Soviet involvement heightened the tensions of the Cold War and led to America secretly arming many of the Afghan tribes.

1989
British archaeologist Howard Carter and an Egyptian worker remove an item from the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun, discovered by Carter and the Earl of Carnarvon in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. As the pharaoh was only nine when he died, the tomb was relatively small, but the many treasures buried with him reignited interest in Ancient Egypt. It remains the most complete tomb of a pharaoh ever discovered.
“In Spain, the dead are more alive than the dead of any other country in the world”

García Lorca, Spanish poet
From Roman occupation to the Reconquista, imperial power to civil war, discover how history has shaped Spanish culture

**ALL ABOUT**

**SPAIN**

The long reign of Spain

Making a matador

Join the resistance

10 Spanish icons

Written by David Crookes, Jessica Leggett
Reign of Spain

Discover the country's long history from incredible cave paintings to modern day

**ANCIENT ART**
The world’s oldest known cave paintings, created by Neanderthals, have been discovered in Cantabria, Northern Spain. In particular, the prehistoric art located in the El Castillo cave dates back to over 40,000 years ago.

**THE ROMANS ARRIVE**
Though it took 200 years, the Romans conquered the Iberian Peninsula and renamed it Hispania. Ruling for seven centuries, the Romans had a lasting impact on the region’s culture, most notably on the language.

**A DEVASTATING WAR**
A successful invasion by Napoleon, Emperor of the French, led to the Peninsula War between France and Spain, the latter supported by Britain and Portugal. The invasion and war led to revolts and economic crisis in Spain, turning it into one of Europe’s poorest countries.

**AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT**
As the Bourbon dynasty succeeded to the Spanish throne, it coincided with the Enlightenment movement that was sweeping Europe at the time. King Charles III was an enlightened despot who initiated a series of political, social and military reforms.

**END OF DYNASTY**
The Hapsburg dynasty ended with the death of King Charles II, who was childless. The War of the Spanish Succession ensued as European powers fought over the monarchy, with Philip of Anjou – grandson of the French King Louis XIV and Charles’s nephew – eventually assuming the Spanish throne.

**CONFLICT IN EUROPE**
The balance of power in Europe changed following the Thirty Years’ War. France successfully challenged Spain’s supremacy on the continent, while the latter also had to accept the independence of both Portugal and the Dutch Republic.

**THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION**
Queen Isabella II’s 35-year reign was brought to an end after she was deposed. The Revolution lasted eight days in total. Isabella was only three years old when she was proclaimed queen in 1833.

**NEW REPUBLIC**
After the Glorious Revolution, Amadeus of Savoy was elected king of Spain in 1870 but he abdicated less than three years later. The First Spanish Republic was subsequently established but it soon faltered, and the monarchy was restored under Isabella’s son, Alfonso, in 1874.

**TIMES ARE CHANGING**
Though Spain remained neutral during World War I, it was hit hard economically and fell into high debt. King Alfonso XIII went into exile as he lost support and anger rose, and the Second Spanish Republic was established.

Spanish Flu gained its name because Spain could report on it freely during WWI, while the belligerents censored their media.
**A NEW ERA**

As the Roman Empire declined, Germanic tribes took advantage and invaded Hispania. They eventually conquered the whole of the peninsula. The Visigothic king Leovigild established his new capital in modern-day Toledo.

**ISLAMIC SPAIN**

Muslim forces from North Africa quickly overpowered the Visigoths when they invaded Hispania, resulting in the death of Roderic, the last Visigothic ruler. Learning flourished under Muslim rule with newly established libraries and colleges.

**THE SPANISH INQUISITION**

In Spain, Inquisitors were legally obliged to give 30 days notice to the accused so they had the chance to confess. Estimated numbers for those killed during the Inquisition range from 2,000-300,000 and even into the millions. The Spanish Inquisition was officially abolished in 1834 after 356 years.

**THE GREAT PLAGUE**

An estimated 500,000-600,000 Spaniards lost their lives. That was just under 8% of Spain’s population.

**A GOLDEN AGE**

During the reign of the Hapsburg dynasty, beginning with King Charles I, Spain was transformed into the world’s first global empire with colonisation in the new world and a prosperous trade network.

**DAWN OF AN EMPIRE**

After the Emirate of Granada was conquered by Queen Isabella I of Castile and King Ferdinand II of Spain, the Reconquista was completed and Spain was fully unified – a process that had begun with Isabella and Ferdinand’s marriage in 1469.

**THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR**

An estimated 500,000 people were killed during the Civil War. Around 200,000 of those were civilians who were executed. An estimated 100,000 were killed by Francoist repression following the Nationalist victory.

**FRANCOIST SPAIN**

A military dictatorship under General Francisco Franco began in Spain after the Nationalists secured victory in the Spanish Civil War. Franco violently repressed political opposition and ruled Spain for the rest of his life, remaining today as a controversial figure in Spanish history.

**ROAD TO DEMOCRACY**

Before his death, Franco restored the Spanish monarchy and was succeeded by King Juan Carlos I, marking Spain’s transition from a dictatorship to democracy. Today, Spain has a constitutional monarchy with King Felipe VI on the throne.

Ironically, the Romans had employed some Germanic tribes in roughly 416 CE, to drive out other German invaders.
From the Arabic for ‘castles of red’, this stunning Moorish palace sits on top of a hill and dominates the skyline of a particularly beautiful part of Spain’s Andalusia. It is testament to the achievements of the Arabs who once ruled over this land, although it has changed much since its construction due mainly to the Christian conquest of 1492.

When it was constructed in 889, the Alhambra replaced Roman fortifications but it was soon neglected and left to rot for many decades. It was the emir Muhammad ibn al-Ahmar who decided to bring it back to life in the 13th century after he had established the Nasrid Kingdom of Granada in 1230. His arrival heralded 200 years of economic and cultural prosperity and the Alhambra came to reflect such cross-wealth.

Indeed, the Alhambra continued to evolve. Yusuf I, the seventh Nasrid ruler, turned it into a royal palace in 1333 and, 15 years later, he commissioned the construction of its imposing, arched entrance, the Puerta de la Justicia, or Gate of Justice. Together with his father Ismail I and son Muhammad V, Yusuf developed the Palacio Nazaries, the Nazareth Palaces complex. It was a strong seat of power in Europe, also proving elaborate, elegant and ornate.

Muhammad XIII, also known as Boabdill, was the last Nasrid emir to enjoy it. He surrendered what had become a citadel of defensive towers and high walls to the Christian Spanish kingdoms of Aragon and Castile. It allowed Spanish royals Ferdinand and Isabella to turn it in their Royal Court and, from that moment on, it was fashioned in a Renaissance style.

With many Muslims having moved to Africa, more buildings were constructed including a church, a Franciscan Monastery and homes. The building of the Palace of Charles V in 1527 also got underway, adopting a Mannerist style, although it never became home to a monarch and it was without a roof for some 430 years. Today the Alhambra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Long road
The main road of the Medina of Alhambra was the Calle Real, or the Royal Street as it’s known in English. It cut through the palace and fortress complex, thereby creating north and south sections. To the north were the palaces and gardens enjoyed by the nobility. To the south was a smaller residential area with mosques and bathhouses.

The Court of the Myrtle
The Court of the Myrtles or Patio de los Arrayanes is one of the oldest and best-preserved courtyards in the Alhambra. It takes its name from the brilliant green myrtle bushes accentuate the whiteness of the surrounding stone. It also boasts a 34-metres-long pond, which used to be home to sparkling goldfish.

Bonitaiting hall
The Sala de los Reyes means Hall of the Kings and it was an important location since it is where large feasts and celebrations took place. Divided into seven parts with a large space 30 metres long, it was located in the Palace of the Lions and it got its name from the 10 kings of the Nasrid dynasty painted on the ceiling by Christian artists in the 14th century showing scenes of chivalry.

The emperor’s chambers
While Charles V famously renovated the Alhambra, destroying Moorish original features to build his Renaissance-style halls, these chambers were aside for him while the building work was completed. Though they were lavishly decorated, the Holy Roman Emperor never deigned to actually stay in them.

Hall of the Abencerrajes
The rival North African family Abencerraj were believed to have been murdered, having been locked in the hall on the orders of Muhammad XII, the last Nasrid ruler of the kingdom of Granada. It is said he grew angry when one of the family’s knights fell in love with his wife.

Court of the Lions
The main courtyard of the Palacio de los Leones was commissioned by Muhammad V of Granada some time after 1362. Its architecture was a mix of Moorish and Christian influences and it measured 35 metres in length and 20 metres in width, with 124 white marble columns surrounding it. The courtyard is divided into four to symbolise four parts of the world and there’s a fountain of 12 lions in the centre, hence the name.
THE SYMBOLIC HAT
Matadors wear a distinctive black hat called a montera which was introduced in 1835 by bullfighting great Francisco Montes Reina. Covered in astrakhan fur, lined with velvet and kept on the head via an artificial ponytail, it had been widely worn by men and women living on the Iberian Peninsula. Matadors toss the hat to dedicate a kill to a particular person or the general public.

NARROW NECKTIE
As well as the short jacket (chaquetilla) with its reinforced shoulders, the upper body section of the traje de luces includes a vest, white shirt (camisa) and a narrow necktie (called a corbatín in Spanish). This is typically black but other colours are also used. In all cases, it slips over the shirt, with the bottom part covered by the vest.

PAIRS OF SOCKS
Two pairs of socks - las medias - are worn over the feet and legs. The pair closest to the skin is made of cotton while the pair worn over the top are fashioned out of silk. These have been in a variety of colours but today they tend to be pink.

STUDY FOOTWEAR
When matadors began dodging and stabbing bulls in 1724 rather than fight on horseback, footwear became crucial. Matadors wear zapatillas - flat black slippers decorated with a lace that lend the wearer a flat-footed gait. Ribbed soles grip the floor of the ring although some matadors have removed them in wet weather.

SUITE OF LIGHTS
Montes also introduced the overall costume the traje de luces, or suit of lights. It got its name from the intricate embroidery of ornamental needlework as well as the silver and gold sequins that cover parts of it, and it was similar to a degree to the clothes worn by the majo - the Spanish people from the lower classes of society who would dress extravagantly from the late 18th century.

SEEING RED
Matadors are dressed by the sword servant about an hour before a fight, going through a ritual only a privileged few can watch. Matadors facing the bull alone in the third stage of a fight, waving a red cape (muleta) to attract and wear out the bull before using the tempered steel sword (estoque). Muletas were said to have been first used by Francisco Romero in 1726.

TIGHT TIGHTS
Until the 17th century, matadors wore tight-fitting tights made from suede but the traje de luces made use of silk decorated with gold. Called taleguilla, these tights are held up with braces that are hidden by the clothing. Bullfighters once wore looser tights but they like to be in well-fitting clothing since it leaves fewer opportunities for the bull to catch them with their horns.
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Flamenco is a form of art which originally came from Andalusia in southern Spain. It comprises music, singing, hand clapping and dancing and it draws great influence from the Romani and Arabic cultures going back as far as the 9th century. Over time, flamenco has evolved from being performed in private gatherings into a professional, commercial pursuit, with the dancing involving much hand and footwork in a highly emotional and focussed display of expression. More than 50 different flamenco styles, or palos, have emerged dealing with themes as varied as religion and death, although the timing of the dance moves depends on the rhythm of the accompaniment.

**WHAT YOU’LL NEED...**

- CASTANETS
- DRESS
- SHOES
- GUITARIST
- PASSION

---

**Playing music**

The playing of a guitar during flamenco is known as toque. Flamenco guitars produce notes at a higher volume to be heard over the dancer’s footwork.

**Men and women**

Although many people tend to associate flamenco dancing with women, men have also traditionally performed. Some songs have been gender-specific.

**Importance of dance**

During the Golden Age of Flamenco between 1869 to 1910, dancing replaced singing (or cante) as the main component.

**Clapping along**

Another key aspect of flamenco is palmas in which hand clapping is used as a form of percussion (palmas), allowing for a strong tempo.

**Enjoying a fiesta**

Before flamenco became popular in music cafes (cafes cantantes) during the golden era, 18th century flamenco fiestas (juerga) could last for days.

**Traditional dress**

The traje de flamenca is the traditional dress worn by woman during Andalusian festivals, with a shawl over the shoulder.

---

**FIGURE YOUR FEET**

Rhythmic feet stamping is a key component of all flamenco dances. Tuck in your belly and keep your knees bent and, with your toes touching the floor, lift and tap your heels. Now try the golpe - this involves stamping your feet so that the heel and front of the foot hit the ground at the same time. Try alternating these techniques.

**FEEL THE MUSIC**

Flamenco dancing (or baile as it’s known in Spanish) is accompanied by music, typically the guitar. You will need to feel the music and move your feet in time to it. Practise planta - hitting the ground with the front part of your sole – and look to get faster with your various footwork, striking the floor with different intensity.
How not to... view flamenco

It is important to understand flamenco’s status as being reflective of Andalusian, Extremaduran and Murcian culture. For after the civil war of 1936 to 1939, Spanish dictator Francisco Franco adopted flamenco as a national rather than regional dance in a bid to repress the country’s cultural diversity. It led to the secret police clamping down on flamenco concerts and gatherings which it felt were a display of lower-class dissent. After all, flamenco had long been used by socially marginalised communities to send out a political message.

Franco’s regime believed flamenco to be useful in attracting visitors to Spain and the efforts to ‘rebrand’ were found in contemporary culture. A notable film – the beautifully-told musical drama, *Los Tarantos* – drew upon flamenco for its narrative, for instance, while being set among Barcelona’s Gitano, thereby underlining the national perspective. It was little wonder that, following Franco’s death, steps began to be taken to reclaim flamenco and it was revitalised during the 1980s.

4 FAMOUS... FLAMENCO DANCERS

CARMEN AMAYA
BARCELONA, SPAIN, 1913-1963
Dubbed her generation’s greatest Spanish gypsy dancer, Amaya mastered fast footwork usually associated with male dancers.

JOSE GRECO
MONTORIO NEI FRENTEI, ITALY, 1918-2010
Greco popularised flamenco in the US during the 1950s and 1960s.

VICENTE ESCUDERO
VALLADOLID, SPAIN, 1892-1980
Escudero was criticised for his refusal to adhere to the rules but his style is said to be one of the most natural.

MATILDA GONZALEZ
SEVILLE, SPAIN, 1935-PRESENT
In 1975, Matilda Coral was awarded the golden key of flamenco dance, the Llave de oro de Baile – the only person to receive the accolade.

How to... move your arms

03 MOVE THOSE ARMS
Now move on to the braceo – the way you move your arms. Pull your shoulders back and position your hands in front of your belly, ensuring your shoulders are pointing out starkly from your sides. Lift your arms in a wide, natural, smooth circular motion, twisting and turning your hands until your fingers almost touch way above your head.

04 TWIST THE WRISTS
Turn your wrists and move your fingers, opening and closing your hands to the rhythm of the music. Hand and finger movement in combination with arm movements should feel natural. The idea is that the fingers are also dancing and that you’re feeling the emotional intensity. Men tend to keep their fingers closed while women separate them.

05 SHIFT YOUR HIPS
Continue the movements with your arm and your feet. You can place your hands on your hips, ensuring the elbows are pointing out at the side. Move your hips in time to the music and be as spontaneous as you like. Flamenco is as romantic as it is emotional, entertaining and run so feel free to be sensual in your moves.

06 WEAR YOUR EXPRESSION
Your head movements and facial expressions are also important and they are indicative of el duende, the heightened state of emotion and authenticity. Listen out for the music and turn your head in time with the rhythm, doing what you feel is right. Flamenco is difficult to master so don’t worry if you don’t get it right first time. You’ll soon connect.
Why was Gaudí’s cathedral never finished?  Tiffany Hester

When famed architect Antoni Gaudí was placed in charge of the Sagrada Familia project, a Roman Catholic Church in Barcelona, in 1883, he knew that he would not live to see it completed. He envisioned a masterpiece that combined both Gothic and Art Nouveau architectural styles and devoted the rest of his life to the project, creating 3D models of his design so that the church could be completed in the future without him.

Gaudí died in 1926 in a tragic tram accident, at which point only roughly a quarter of the church had been completed. Progress on the project has been slow since it is funded through private donations, and work has been disrupted numerous times due to protests and of course, during the destructive Spanish Civil War when work ground to a halt. Since Gaudí’s death, numerous architects and builders have been involved in the church’s construction, on a quest to finally get it finished.

Although it is still unfinished, the church attracts over three million visitors a year and is the most visited tourist attraction in Barcelona, and an iconic landmark of Spain. Currently, the Sagrada Familia is on course to be completed in 2026, the centenary of Gaudí’s death and 144 years after construction first began.

What is the story behind the Osborne bull?  Gage Berger

Silhouettes of bulls can be found dotted across the Spanish landscape. They were created in 1956 for the Osborne sherry company as an advertisement for their Veterano brandy. In 1994, a new law prohibiting roadside advertising of alcohol required the bulls to be removed. However, they had become a cultural icon and campaigners fought to save them. As a compromise, the bulls remained but were painted entirely black, covering up the Osborne branding.

Why was the bombing of Guernica so significant?  Susie Lake

Bombed for three hours by German pilots in league with Francisco Franco and his fascist forces, the Basque town of Guernica was left decimated by the attack. Considered one of the worst atrocities of the Spanish Civil War, it is believed to be the first deliberate attack against civilians from the air. It caused international outrage, particularly after journalist George Steer highlighted Germany’s involvement in his account published in The Times. Picasso immortalised the bombing in his painting ‘Guernica’.
Before Darwin changed the world
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DAILY REVIEW

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Following the Nationalist victory at the end of the Spanish Civil War in 1939, thousands of Spanish Republicans fled across the border to France. Refusing to accept Franco’s fascist regime, many of them formed a guerrilla resistance determined to overthrow him and his government. These resistance fighters were also known as the Spanish Maquis, a name given to those who took part in the French Resistance during World War II. In their biggest move against the Francoist regime, they invaded Spain via the Aran Valley in October 1944, which was named Operation Reconquest of Spain.

GETTING READY
In the early hours of the morning, the Spanish guerrillas were preparing to invade Francoist Spain through the Pyrenees. The scheme had been planned with the help of the French Resistance, whom the guerrillas had fought with during World War II after fleeing to France in exile at the end of the Spanish Civil War.

ON THE MOVE
Around 4,000 men, armed and ready, began to make their way down from the guerrilla camps located in the Pyrenees mountains towards the Aran Valley, where they planned to cross the border from France into Spain. Though the men had weapons, they were ill-equipped compared to Franco’s Nationalist army.

A TREACHEROUS JOURNEY
Making their way through the snow-covered Pyrenees to the Aran Valley was not an easy feat for the men, particularly as winter was approaching. However, the guerrillas had also launched smaller invasions along other valleys in the Pyrenees in the previous weeks in order to distract Franco’s army and allow the main invasion to go ahead as smoothly as possible.
SEIZING COMMAND
The guerrillas finally began to approach the towns and villages of the Aran valley after a long journey. It did not take long for the men to overtake these towns and villages, raising the Spanish Republican Flag high for all to see. Despite this success, the capital of Aran, Vielha, still remained out of Republican hands.

CONSOLIDATING CONTROL
The French Resistance started to send supplies such as food, ammunition, weapons and fuel across the border to support the guerrillas. In the meantime, the men got to work installing a Republican government in the valley, with plans to hold anti-Franco meetings in the various plazas they had seized.

SENDING FOR REINFORCEMENTS
With the news that the guerrillas had successfully entered the Aran Valley, more men made their way through the Pyrenees – eventually around 7000 guerrillas would cross the border during the operation. Nonetheless, the rebels could not match the large force that Franco was sending to take back control of the border.

A WAITING GAME
The guerrillas had hoped that their arrival, along with the establishment of a Republican government, would spark rebellions in support of their cause across the country. They waited for this uprising in vain – they had not considered that many citizens were too traumatised from the Civil War and too scared of Franco’s cruel repression to take part in a revolt.

FUTILE HOPE
As the first day drew to close, the invasion appeared to be going well but in reality, it was doomed to fail. Just over a week later, Franco’s forces arrived and forced the guerrillas back across the border, taking 1,400 men prisoner. Though the invasion was quashed, domestic guerrilla strongholds could still be found in Spain, most notably in Catalonia.
Hall of Fame

SUPER SPANIARDS

Meet ten of Spain's most iconic figures, from mighty monarchs who built an empire to some of the biggest names in art and literature.

**SAINT ISIDORE OF SEVILLE C.560-836**

Isidore was raised and educated in Seville and he succeeded his brother, Leander, as bishop of the city following the latter's death around the year 600. He held this position for over three decades, during which time he became noted for his intellectual skills. Isidore famously spent the last two decades of his life compiling the *Etymologies*, an encyclopaedia of knowledge collected from hundreds of classical sources. Comprised of 20 volumes and divided by subject, it covers a wide range of topics from animals and cities to lore of the late classical world. It was the most used textbook in the Middle Ages.

Isidore was officially canonised as a saint in 1598.

**EL CID C. 1043-1099**

El Cid was a Castilian military leader and nobleman who fought for both Christian and Muslim leaders - effectively becoming a mercenary - and was celebrated for his prowess on the battlefield. In 1094, El Cid defeated the powerful Almoravids to become the ruler of Valencia and a hero of the Reconquista. Since his death, El Cid's legend has continued to grow, most notably due to the 12th century epic poem *The Song Of The Cid*.

El Cid is considered a national hero in Spain.

**QUEEN ISABELLA I OF CASTILE 1451-1504**

To say that Isabella achieved a lot during her reign is an understatement. Queen of Castile through her own right, she also became the queen consort of Aragon through her marriage to King Ferdinand II - their union joined the two kingdoms together and paved the way for the unification of Spain under their grandson, Charles V. Together, the couple completed the Reconquista, which had taken almost 800 years, and they financed Christopher Colombus's 1492 voyage to the New World, leading to the creation of the Spanish Empire.

In Castile, Isabella dealt with the large debts incurred by her half-brother, King Henry IV, as well as reorganising the government and reducing the crime rate.

Isidore was nominated as the patron saint of the internet by the late Pope John Paul II, although the Vatican has not made this official yet.
HERNÁN CORTÉS 1485-1547
Conquistador Hernán Cortés famously conquered the Aztec Empire following a three-month siege of the capital, Tenochtitlán, in 1521. He built Mexico City on the remains of the capital and it was soon full of Spanish colonists, thereby establishing Spain’s place in the New World. Two years later, Cortés was appointed as the governor of New Spain but concerns over his power led to him being removed in 1528 – his attempts to be restored to his position ultimately failed.

KING PHILIP II 1527-1598
Though his official reign began in 1556, Philip had actually been regent of Spain since 1543 on behalf of his ailing father, Charles V. For over five decades, he ruled Spain as it reached the zenith of its power and influence and became a global empire. At the same time, his reign coincided with the flourishing of art and literature that was subsequently known as the Spanish Golden Age. As a devout Catholic, Philip led the Counter-Reformation against Protestantism and famously sent the doomed Spanish Armada to overthrow Queen Elizabeth I and Protestant England in 1588.

MIGUEL DE CERVANTES 1547-1616
Miguel de Cervantes is widely cited as one of Spain’s greatest writers as the creator of Don Quixote. Translated into over 60 languages, Don Quixote is frequently regarded as the world’s first modern novel and is still in publication today, more than four centuries since it was first released. Cervantes was also a playwright and poet, although his work in these areas never received the critical acclaim or popularity that his novels did.

CLARA CAMPOAMOR 1888-1972
Clara Campoamor was one of three women elected to the Constituent Assembly after women were given the right to stand in the elections for the first time in 1931. A strong advocate for women’s rights, Campoamor became the first woman to give a speech to the Constituent Assembly as she fought for universal suffrage to be included in the draft for the Spanish Constitution of 1931. Her efforts were successful as women were granted the right to vote in December 1931, although Campoamor lost her parliamentary seat two years later. With the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Campoamor fled into exile and refused to give up the names of her Republican allies to Franco.

ALICIA DE LARROCHA 1923-2009
Described as one of the greatest Spanish pianists in history, Alicia de Larrocha had an extremely accomplished career, which began when she was just three years old. By the time she was 24, De Larrocha had started touring internationally and throughout her life she played in venues across Europe, America and South Africa. As well as the Prince of Asturias Award for the Arts, De Larrocha won numerous Grammy Awards and in 1995, she became the first Spanish artist to win the UNESCO prize.

PABLO PICASSO 1881-1973
Among his many accomplishments, Pablo Picasso famously co-founded and pioneered the Cubism movement alongside Georges Braque, as well as co-inventing the technique of collage. As his style of painting developed throughout his life, Picasso’s art also assumed neoclassical, surrealist and symbolist elements, emphasising his willingness to experiment with his work. Picasso’s paintings are divided into periods, with some of the most notable including the Blue Period from 1901 to 1904 and the Rose Period from 1904 to 1906, which were defined by shades of blue and shades of orange and pink respectively. Undoubtedly, he was one of the most influential and celebrated artists of the 20th century.

PENDÉLOPE CRUZ 1974-N/A
From her regal performance as the Queen of Spain to her comedy rendition of Valentina Valencia in Zoolander 2, Penelope Cruz’s acting range knows no bounds. For almost three decades, she has starred in television dramas and films, both in her native Spain and in Hollywood, and has received critical acclaim for many of her performances. Cruz is the first Spanish actress to have won an Academy Award as well as the first to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
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“Richard was a highly experienced soldier who until that fateful day had never been defeated in battle.”
Richard III at War

England’s last Plantagenet king is often portrayed as a villain, but he was a talented soldier who played a leading role in the final battles of the Wars of the Roses

Written by Tom Garner

It is 22 August 1485. On a Leicestershire battlefield an English king is fighting for his life. He has been betrayed and unhorsed, but unlike the rest of his army he refuses to retreat. Now alone and without his helmet, the monarch is surrounded by enemies. He receives a cut to his lower jaw. Although he fights on, he takes multiple blows to the head. He is brought to his knees and a fatal blow from a halberd cuts through his skull. For good measure, a sword then slices into the back of his head. This king is Richard III and with his death, the rule of the Plantagenet dynasty came to an end, and arguably, Medieval England itself. The battle’s victor, Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, was the last Lancastrian claimant to the English crown. As Henry VII, he and his descendents, which including his son Henry VIII and granddaughter Elizabeth I, would redefine the nation.

In theory, Richard should have won the Battle of Bosworth but he suffered a catastrophic defeat. As his defeat was so decisive, you might assume that Richard was not just a failed king but also a poor warrior. In fact, Richard was a highly experienced soldier who until that fateful day had never been defeated in battle. He was personally courageous and could fight vigorously despite having a disability. In an age where martial achievement was highly prized Richard was recognised, even among his enemies, as a “gallant knight”. Today he is best remembered for the murder of the Princes of the Tower, but even after his death Richard’s battlefield courage was never questioned. His military career is therefore worth exploring because it reveals a side of the king that Tudor propaganda could not dispute and it may perhaps rehabilitate some of his maligned reputation.

A military upbringing

Born on 2 October 1452, Richard was named after his father, the third Duke of York, and was the youngest surviving son of Cecily Neville. Nobody could have predicted that he would one day be king, but his father’s political ambitions dictated his fate.

In 1452, the Lancastrian Henry VI had been on the throne for 30 years but he was a weak monarch who lost his inherited lands in France. The year after Richard was born, the Hundred Years’ War ended in a humiliating English defeat. The calamity caused Henry to have a mental breakdown. The Duke of York, who had a strong claim to the throne, was appointed Protector of England.

The term ‘Wars of the Roses’ wasn’t coined until the 19th century. Instead the conflict was known to contemporaries as the ‘Cousins’ War’
the Realm by Parliament of England and ruled on Henry’s behalf. Although the king regained his mental faculties, York was reluctant to relinquish power and civil war broke out in 1455. The conflict between the houses of York and Lancaster became known as the Wars of the Roses and would rage for 30 years, only ending with Richard’s battlefield death at Bosworth.

Richard grew up in a tense atmosphere where military fortunes influenced his childhood. York was initially successful but after his defeat at Ludford Bridge in 1459 he sent his eldest sons into exile. The seven-year-old Richard remained at Ludlow Castle with his mother and youngest siblings. The Lancastrians pillaged Ludlow and Cecily was reputedly “unmanly and cruelly treated” by the soldiers. Richard may have been witness to his mother’s assault.

York fought back, and Henry was captured at the Battle of Northampton but then took a drastic step. He persuaded Parliament to accept him as Henry’s heir but this brazen attempt to claim the throne led to further conflict.

Henry’s queen, Margaret of Anjou, raised an army and the Lancastrians decisively defeated York at the Battle of Wakefield in December 1460. York was killed (along with Richard’s elder brother Edmund) and his head was displayed wearing a paper crown to mock his royal ambitions. Richard, who was only eight years old, was profoundly affected by his father’s death and oversaw his formal burial many years later.

His eldest brother Edward, Earl of March, was now the Yorkist leader and despite the setback at Wakefield events moved quickly. Cecily sent Richard to the Burgundian Netherlands for safety but Edward won the Battle of Mortimer’s Cross on 2 February 1461. He then entered London with his powerful ally the earl of Warwick on 4 March.

Edward was proclaimed as King Edward IV and on 29 March he won a very bloody but decisive victory at Towton. The Lancastrians were routed and Richard was able to return to England. In June that year, Edward was crowned at Westminster Abbey, and Richard became Duke of Gloucester, which was a title he would hold until he became king himself.

Four years later, the 12-year-old Richard moved to the household of Warwick, who was the most powerful nobleman in England. Edward appointed Warwick as Richard’s tutor and it was under his tutelage that he served his military apprenticeship. Over the course of five years, the young prince followed Warwick around his northern fortresses. Serving in the north of England was arduous but Richard would have been familiarised with the frequent border warfare with Scotland.

In military terms this would have been invaluable for a prince who was being taught the art of warfare in a tough environment by a highly experienced commander.

However, the fraught politics of the era returned and Richard witnessed the disintegrating relationship between Warwick and Edward. In 1464, Edward married Elizabeth Woodville who was a relatively lowborn noblewoman. Warwick, who had been a staunch Yorkist, disapproved of the match and resented Edward’s patronage of the Woodville family.

Richard returned to court in 1469 but Warwick revolted in the same year and captured Edward before imprisoning him. The king was released in September 1469 and it is possible that Richard negotiated with his former mentor to free his brother. Edward soon appointed Richard to the high military post of Constable of England. In September 1470, Warwick revolted again and Edward and Richard fled to the Netherlands. Warwick released Henry VI from captivity in the Tower of London and restored him in a spectacular volte-face that earned him the sobriquet of ‘Kingmaker’. Edward received Burgundian support and landed in England with Richard in March 1471. His military training was about to be put to the test.

**Battle of Barnet**

Edward, who was a daring military commander, quickly outmanoeuvred Warwick and successfully took London. Henry VI was recaptured and Warwick offered battle 16 kilometres from the capital near Barnet in Hertfordshire on 14 April 1471. This was Richard’s first major battle and he would have to fight his former tutor. Chroniclers

Richard’s brother, King Edward IV, was supposedly 6’5”, making him the tallest British monarch of all time.
for the Battle of Barnet name no Yorkist commanders, other than Edward IV, but it is assumed that Richard played an important role. The Yorkists were outnumbered and the battlefield was shrouded in fog, which was made worse by smoke from artillery fire. Richard reputedly commanded Edward’s right flank and he got lost in the fog while trying to find the duke of Exeter’s Lancastrian soldiers. Despite the danger, he managed to manoeuvre around Warwick’s left flank and put pressure on the Lancastrians. Edward was then able to fight from the centre and Warwick’s men were outflanked. The Lancastrians began to fight each other in the fog and a rout ensued where Warwick was killed. The death of the Kingmaker was a blow to the Lancastrians and Edward was now on the offensive. Barnet was also a success for Richard who been slightly wounded. His military apprenticeship was over and he accompanied his brother to destroy the last serious Lancastrian resistance in England.

Clash at Tewkesbury

Henry VI, who had been forced to accompany Edward to Barnet, was sent back to the Tower and the Yorkist brothers pursued the Lancastrians across England. Henry VI’s heir, Prince Edward of Westminster - his son by Margaret of Anjou - had landed in the southwest and linked up with the duke of Somerset and earl of Devon to form an army. The Lancastrians aimed to link up with Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke in Wales by crossing the River Severn at Gloucester.

However, the Lancastrians were refused entry into Richard’s ducal capital and they marched north to the next crossing at Tewkesbury. The Yorkists hotly pursued the Lancastrians and caught them forming an irregular battle line on 4 May 1471. The battlefield was on formidable high ground that was dominated by streams, ditches, hedges and woods. Tewkesbury Abbey was behind the Lancastrian positions and it was in this difficult terrain that Richard fought his first confirmed command.

Richard led the Yorkist vanguard and immediately began an assault. The terrain bogged down the attack and the Lancastrians retaliated with arrows and cannon fire before Somerset charged the Yorkist right flank. Richard rallied his men and reformed his lines to face Somerset. His counterattack was so strong that the Lancastrians faltered. Edward then unleashed spearmen from a hidden position against Somerset’s division and the Lancastrians fled. The ground they ran over became known as the Bloody Meadow for the fierce fighting that occurred there.

Edward now attacked from the centre while Richard assaulted the unprotected Lancastrian right flank. With the battle turning against him, Somerset personally killed Lord Wenlock in anger because his

“The ground they ran over became known as the Bloody Meadow for the fierce fighting that occurred there”
The Lancastrians deploy

After arriving outside Tewkesbury following a forced march, the Lancastrians deploy in three divisions known as ‘battles’ in fields south of the town. Somerset and the earl of Devon command the right and left flanks respectively. Lord Wenlock has command of the centre, accompanied by Prince Edward of Westminster. Queen Margaret of Anjou is the Lancastrian figurehead but she takes refuge away from the battlefield.

Richard attacks

Edward IV’s army arrives on the field and he commands the Yorkist centre. Lord Hastings commands the right and Richard the left. Ditches, dykes and hedges dominate the battlefield and Edward hides 200 spearmen away from his left flank as a precaution. Richard begins the battle by bombarding Somerset’s division with volleys of arrows and artillery fire. The noise creates chaos and confusion among the Lancastrian lines and Somerset attempts to advance and outflank Richard’s position.

Wenlock fails to assist Somerset

Richard turns his division to face Somerset and many of his men shelter behind a hedge before attacking. The Lancastrian momentum breaks and a section of Edward IV’s division assist Richard. Somerset appeals to Wenlock for reinforcements but the Lancastrian centre remains in its position. The Yorkist spearmen then appear from the woods on the left and attack Somerset’s rear. His men flee towards Tewkesbury.

Somerset kills Wenlock

Edward IV uses Richard’s determinedly successful fighting against Somerset to launch a general advance. The tall king is highly visible and fights with great vigour. Somerset retreats to the Lancastrian centre, denounces Wenlock as a traitor and personally kills him. It is later written that Somerset kills Wenlock by striking his brains out with an axe.
05 The Bloody Meadow

Many Lancastrians become trapped near the River Severn and either drown or are killed by the pursuing Yorkists through dykes and hedges. Such is the scale of the killing that the area becomes known as the Bloody Meadow.

06 A futile sanctuary

Somerset and other Lancastrians take refuge in Tewkesbury Abbey but Edward drags them out after two days, quickly has them tried, and executes them. The Yorkists are victorious and the Lancastrians lose around 2,000 men including Somerset, Devon, Wenlock and Prince Edward. Queen Margaret is captured and paraded back to London in triumph.

HOUSE OF YORK

Troops: c.4,000-5,000

Edward IV

By May 1471 Edward had spent years fighting for and defending his crown against the Lancastrians. Tewkesbury was to be the final reckoning for the throne of England.

Strengths
- Physically imposing, highly experienced, undefeated in battle

Weaknesses
- Edward had only recently won the Battle of Barnet and had exhaustively pursued the Lancastrians across the kingdom

Yorkist Spearmen

Edward IV hid a reserve of 200 spearmen at Tewkesbury to surprise the Lancastrians if they attacked.

Strengths
- Easy to hide, quick to deploy

Weaknesses
- Designed to be deployed as a reserve during an emergency

Lancastrian Longbowmen

Longbowmen were a key feature of every English army during the late medieval period and were used on both sides during the Wars of the Roses.

Strengths
- Extremely accurate archery.

Weaknesses
- Vulnerable to opposing archers

Artillery

Cannons played an increasingly important part during the Wars of the Roses and Yorkist guns had a significant impact on the Lancastrian lines.

Strengths
- Capable of firing barrages with a significant psychological impact

Weaknesses
- With some projectiles weighing up to several hundreds of pounds the cannons were heavy, cumbersome and extremely slow to load and fire

HOUSE OF LANCASTER

Troops: c.5,000-6,000

Edmund Beaufort

A diehard Lancastrian, the Duke of Somerset had been imprisoned by the Yorkists for several years before escaping overseas. He returned to England in 1470 to assist the restoration of Henry VI.

Strengths
- Loyalty to the Lancastrian dynasty, a favourite at the court of the duke of Burgundy

Weaknesses
- Militarily experienced but frequently unsuccessful in battle, particularly in command

Troops: c.5,000-6,000

LEADER

HOUSE OF LANCASTER

LEADER

Yorkist Spearman

Yorkist SPEARMEN

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KEY WEAPON

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KEY WEAPON

Longbow

The longbow was Welsh in origin and had been used to great effect by the English during the Hundred Years’ War. Every Englishman was required to train on the longbow from a young age, so archers were often highly skilled.

Strengths
- Cheap to produce, deadly against armoured infantry and cavalry

Weaknesses
- Required years of training. Bowstrings were vulnerable to rain.
The captive Henry VI officially died that night of “melancholy” but it is more likely that Edward ordered him to be murdered. It is unknown what Richard’s direct involvement in Henry’s death was, but he was now Edward’s favourite general and a seasoned soldier at the age of 19.

It should also be noted that in adolescence, Richard had developed idiopathic scoliosis (curvature of the spine) that lifted his right shoulder higher than his left. This condition commonly developed between the ages of ten and 18 and as he grew older his curved spine would have put pressure on his lungs and perhaps caused shortness of breath.

However, Richard would not have been considered deformed. He did not limp and good tailoring and custom-made armour could disguise the scoliosis. Perhaps the only effect the condition would have had on Richard was that it might have made him more determined to prove himself as a warrior, particularly compared to his strapping brother Edward. Richard’s fighting capabilities were certainly undisputed, which was no mean feat for someone with a slight disability.

Chastising the Scots

For the rest of Edward’s reign, Richard was his preeminent commander. Barnet and Tewkesbury gave him prestige while his roles as Constable and Admiral of England allowed him a considerable military authority second only to the king. Richard’s interest in martial affairs was genuine and his book collection reflected a fascination with chivalry.

When Edward invaded France in 1475, Richard opposed the resulting Treaty of Picquigny because it denied him the chance to emulate the exploits of his father, who with Lord Talbot, had almost captured Charles VII in 1441 during a daring campaign.

By the late 1470s, Richard rarely appeared at court because of his administrative duties in governing the north of England. He was also able to gain further fighting experience from Anglo-
“LOYALTY BINDS ME”

Richard’s personal motto “Loyaulte me lie” (“Loyalty Binds Me”) is sometimes considered a historic irony. The virtue of loyalty seems almost laughable considering that he likely ordered the deaths of his nephews, Edward V and his brother Richard, the Duke of York, after usurping the crown. However, Richard was often true to his motto and to understand him better we need to learn why loyalty was, important to him.

Despite the controversy surrounding the Princes in the Tower, Richard showed few signs of disloyalty to his Yorkist family before 1483. He venerated the memory of his father and was also genuinely devastated when his wife and son died in close succession between 1484-85.

Richard’s greatest display of loyalty was to his brother Edward IV. It never wavered despite the fact that Richard was educated in the household of Warwick the Kingmaker who later betrayed Edward and briefly deposed him. Richard shared his brother’s exile and fought as his right-hand man at Barnet and Tewkesbury before becoming his steadfast representative in the north of England. His loyalty was in marked contrast to his elder brother George, Duke of Clarence.

Despite being a Yorkist, Clarence defected to the Lancastrians and was later convicted of treason and executed on Edward’s orders. It is generally agreed that Richard played no part in his brother’s murder and may even have tried to save him.

Nevertheless, these marked displays of familial loyalty may ironically have led Richard to usurp the throne from his nephew in 1483. His primary loyalty was to his interpretation of how the kingdom should be ruled. Richard had grown up in an England that was ravaged by civil war and he had governed fairly in the north to restore the peace. He may have believed that a strong monarchy could not exist while a child was on the throne. In Richard’s view, the 12-year-old Edward V could be manipulated by his scheming Woodville relations and that could not be allowed to further destabilise the kingdom.

Usurpation was not unusual in the Middle Ages and it is likely that Richard took the throne out of a combination of desperate motives, opportunity and self-preservation. Hard though it may be to understand, Richard’s actions towards the Princes in the Tower were not borne out of personal malice. To use Oliver Cromwell’s phrase, it was probably ‘cruel necessity’ that drove Richard in 1483.

It is possible that Richard was loyal to a vision of Yorkist England that necessitated making pragmatically cruel decisions for national stability. However, if that required the murder of children then it is not surprising that Richard’s concept of loyalty comes under such severe scrutiny.

Scottish warfare. In 1480, James III of Scotland broke his treaty with England and the Scots began extensive border raids.

Edward appointed Richard as his Lieutenant General in the north and an Italian visitor to England, Dominic Mancini, noted, “Such was his renown in war that whenever a difficult and dangerous policy had to be undertaken, it would be entrusted to him.” James’s brother, the Duke of Albany, treacherously promised to assist Edward in return for the Scottish crown. Albany accompanied Richard when the English invasion began in the summer of 1482. Richard commanded approximately 20,000 men and laid siege to the important border town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. Berwick had changed hands many times over the centuries but in 1482 it was under Scottish rule. While the English laid siege to the town James III assembled an army to march south but he was imprisoned by his own nobles at Edinburgh Castle. Richard broke off from Berwick and marched north, leaving Thomas, Lord Stanley in charge of the siege.

He burned Scottish towns and villages en route before capturing Edinburgh by early August. Richard had reached the Scottish capital without losing any men and controlled the city by ordering his troops to refrain from molesting the citizens or stealing goods. The Scots asked for a truce and Richard won great concessions.

Albany would swear allegiance to James in return for restored estates and the English would peaceably leave Edinburgh if the Scots abandoned Berwick. The Scots, who were in no position to fight, agreed and Richard eagerly sped back to Berwick. Some Scottish troops attempted to raise the siege but Richard forced them back. The town’s castle fell on 24 August and Berwick has remained English ever since.

The Scottish campaign was the most triumphant of Richard’s military career. When Edward IV heard the news of Berwick’s capture he was exultant.

He jubilantly wrote of Richard to the pope and thanked, “God, the giver of all gifts, for the support received from our most loving brother, whose success is so proven that he alone would suffice to chastise the whole kingdom of Scotland.”

Usurpation and rebellion

Richard’s success in Scotland was not celebrated for long as events overtook his life. Edward IV died on 9 April 1483 and was succeeded
Wars of the Roses

by his 12-year-old son Edward V. As the new king’s only surviving paternal uncle, Richard believed he was vulnerable against the machinations of the Woodville family and took action to secure his position. He was named as Lord Protector of England during his nephew’s minority and personally intercepted the young king under armed escort en route to London.

Richard lodged the king in the Tower of London, where he was joined by his nine-year-old brother. He then declared the boys to be illegitimate and was crowned as Richard III on 6 July 1483. His nephews disappeared shortly afterwards in the tower, which was not surprising given that the citadel was England’s most formidable fortress, and secrets could be easily contained. The mysterious fate of the Princes in the Tower permanently stained Richard’s reputation, along with his usurpation of Edward V’s crown.

Nevertheless, at his accession his military position was very strong. Richard was not only king, but also England’s most preeminent general. His main Lancastrian opponent was Henry Tudor but he was living in exile in Brittany.

Despite this, rebels rose up in several English counties in Henry’s favour and the Duke of Buckingham declared his support for them. This was significant because Buckingham had been one of Richard’s supporters and was one of the most powerful men in England. Richard’s military response was swift. In two weeks between October and November 1483 he quashed the rebellion. Support for Buckingham failed to materialise and Richard marched south to cut a wedge between the duke in Wales and rebels in England.

Buckingham’s army disintegrated and he was captured and executed. Meanwhile, Henry had sailed with a small fleet to Plymouth but some of his ships were forced to return to France after a storm. Henry himself returned to France after he learned of Buckingham’s failure.

Richard was victorious but the rebellion was unsettling. A few hundred rebels escaped to France and allied with Tudor while the revolt showed that there was a viable rival to the throne. It also showed that the king did not enjoy the total support of former Yorkists, which would have important consequences in the near future.

Death at Bosworth

Richard ruled uneasily throughout 1484 but on 7 August 1485 Henry landed in Wales with a small invasion force of 2,000 men. The king responded quickly and raised 8,000 men, which he based at Leicester. Richard did not want to delay in case Henry managed to persuade his powerful stepfather Thomas, Lord Stanley (along with his brother Sir William Stanley) to join him. The two opposing armies, along with Stanley’s, all met in an area near Market Bosworth in Leicestershire.

Each army had grown with Richard’s numbering 10,000, Henry’s 5,000 and Stanley’s a further 4,000-6,000. Henry commanded a largely mercenary force of French, Breton, Scottish, Welsh and English troops while Richard’s was raised entirely within England. Without the hovering presence of Stanley, Richard held the advantage and was contemptuous of his rival.

From what we know of Richard’s character he was fascinated by chivalry so he probably welcomed a battle to settle the score with Henry in combat. Both armies deployed their vanguard into a frontline on 22 August while Stanley’s force positioned itself equidistant away from the battlefield. A swamp lay in between and as Henry advanced around it, Richard ordered an attack. During this fighting Henry was spotted and pointed out to Richard by scouts. He decided

UNEARTHING A KING

AUGUST 1485
AUGUST 2012
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2012
4 FEBRUARY 2013

After Richard III is killed at Bosworth, his severely wounded body is draped naked over a horse and paraded by Henry Tudor’s victorious army to Leicester. The dead king’s body is buried by the Greyfriars Friary, which was a Franciscan holy order, at their friary church in Leicester shortly afterwards.

After centuries of speculation, Leicester City Council, University of Leicester Archaeological Services and the Richard III Society begin to conduct an excavation at a car park on the site of the old Greyfriars Friary. The dig is the brainchild of Philippa Langley, a member of the Richard III Society who had launched a project called Looking for Richard. In Search of a King.

On the first day of the dig, archaeologists uncover human bones near where a parking space labelled ‘R’ used to be. An uncovered male skeleton reveals a man with severe injuries who also had scoliosis (curvature of the spine). The press is later told “strong circumstantial evidence” indicates that the skeleton might be that of Richard III. The bones are taken away for further study.

In what becomes a famous press conference, the University of Leicester confirms that Richard III’s skeleton has been discovered. The evidence is overwhelming and includes DNA and bone analysis, radiocarbon dating and archaeological evidence. Lead archaeologist Richard Buckley confirms, “The individual exhumed at Greyfriars in August 2012 is indeed King Richard III.”

Over 30 cannonshot were found at Bosworth, more than any other discovered on a European medieval battlefield

Richard III’s skeleton was discovered under a car park on the site of the Greyfriars Friary

Richard III is now prominently interred at Leicester Cathedral

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Across 2012, the Staffordshire Hoard was discovered and exhibited in Birmingham and Hull. The Hoard’s 4,000 objects, dating from 500–1000 AD, are the largest collection of Anglo-Saxon gold ever found. The Staffordshire Hoard is now held by the British Museum in London.

Looking for Richard: In Search of a King. Society who had launched a project called Looking for Richard. In Search of a King.

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Richard III at War

RICHARD’S WOUNDS

Researchers identified at least ten injuries on the king’s skeleton. Some may have been inflicted after death to abuse the body.

1. The fatal blows
   At the base of the skull, a section of bone has been sliced off by a large, sharp-bladed weapon, like a halberd. There is a second deep penetration hole, perhaps caused by a sword. Either injury would have been fatal.

2. Frontal attack
   There is a cut mark on the lower jaw, likely a knife injury. This, together with both fatal blows, suggests that Richard had lost his helmet in the battle.

3. Head injuries
   A. The top rear of the skull has been clipped three times by a sharp-bladed weapon, such as a sword. Painful blows, though not fatal.
   B. A small penetration wound on the skull top, consistent with that of a dagger, was forceful enough to split the bone.
   C. The rectangular hole in the right cheek is again similar to a dagger injury.

4. Misshapen spine
   Rather than a wound, the remains curved backbone was consistent with Richard having scoliosis. However, this would have only led to one shoulder being slightly higher than the other, rather than the exaggerated hunchback William Shakespeare claimed the king had.

5. Side stabbing
   A cut on the tenth rib indicates a stab wound from a knife or dagger. As armour would have protected this area during battle, this may have been a post-death injury.

6. Insult injury
   Again likely inflicted upon Richard’s armour-removed corpse, a stabbing wound from behind by a dagger or sword pierced the right buttock and jabbed straight through the body. It was almost certainly done as a form of humiliation.

7. Despatched without dignity
   The way the hands were crossed in the grave suggests they were bound together. The grave itself, hastily dug, was too short for Richard’s body. There was no evidence of a coin, shroud or clothing.

8. Foot note
   Richard’s skeleton was found almost complete, though the feet were missing. This is not believed to be sinister – they may have been lost during earth movements when a Victorian outhouse was built near to the grave.

A B C
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Richard’s skeleton was found almost complete, though the feet were missing. This is not believed to be sinister – they may have been lost during earth movements when a Victorian outhouse was built near to the grave.

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Breaking Down Barriers
How a Jazz Age mega-star put racism under the spotlight

Written by Jessica Leggett

You know, friends, that I do not lie to you when I tell you I have walked into the palaces of kings and queens and into the houses of presidents. And much more. But I could not walk into a hotel in America and get a cup of coffee, and that made me mad. And when I get mad, you know that I open my big mouth. And then look out, 'cause when Josephine opens her mouth, they hear it all over the world.

This is a small excerpt of the speech Josephine Baker gave to 250,000 people at the historic March on Washington on 28 August 1963. The only woman to address the crowd that day and wearing her military uniform, Josephine's words resonated with their fight for liberty, equality and dignity – a cause she had spent the last four decades fighting for in the face of adversity and controversy.

Josephine was a woman unlike any other. A trailblazer for African-Americans, her name is synonymous with the Jazz Age that swept through the 1920s and 1930s.

As one of the best entertainers in Paris, she dazzled audiences with her stage performances at a time when African and European cultures merged to define an era of frivolity and razzmatazz, turning Josephine into a star.

This stardom was in stark contrast to Josephine's humble beginnings, which fuelled her crusade against racism. Born to stage performers in St Louis, Missouri, on 3 June 1906, Freda Josephine McDonald was thrown into a world of poverty, racism and discrimination. Living off meagre scraps of food, she worked as a waitress and as a live-in cleaner for white families – one of her mistresses beat her regularly and made her sleep in the basement.

By the time she was 15 years old, Josephine had dropped out of school and married twice, earning money by dancing steps that she had learnt in America's urban black centres. Later in life, Josephine would reflect on her childhood and confess, “I danced to keep warm.”

Scouted for her dancing, she ran away to join a vaudeville troupe and got divorced again, although she kept her second husband's surname 'Baker' for professional purposes.

Moving to New York City, Josephine attracted attention during the Harlem Renaissance, considered the rebirth of African-American arts. Initially rejected from the chorus lines for being “too skinny and too dark” a determined Josephine learnt the routines anyway in case another dancer fell ill. When the opportunity came, she joined the chorus lines and stole the shows with her comedic performances. Wearing caricatured blackface, she appeared in the Broadway productions Shuffle Along and The Chocolate Dandies in 1921 and 1924 respectively. Catching the eye of a recruiter for an all-black dance troupe in France, Josephine
left for Europe with an offer of $1,000 a month to join the Parisian stage. Arriving in the City of Lights, Josephine met other African-descended women celebrated for their erotic dances, a stark difference to the racial prejudice that she experienced in America.

Josephine’s big break came when she debuted in La Revue Nègre at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées on 2 October 1925. Her seductive and funny dance moves entranced audiences who kept coming back for more, even after Josephine moved to performing at the Folies-Bergère.

“Her seductive and funny dance moves entranced audiences who kept coming back for more”

However, when she performed the Danse Sauvage in her iconic banana skirt, Josephine cemented her celebrity status for good.

The Danse Sauvage was the epitome of unbridled sexuality, resonating with the sexual freedom of the Jazz Age. It was set in the African jungle and Josephine never shied away from her African heritage, instead choosing to firmly embrace it by bringing traditional black dances

When Josephine Baker was refused service because of her skin colour at New York City’s elite Stork Club in 1951, it left another diner instantly outraged. Walking over to Josephine’s table the diner took her arm and voiced her support for her before the pair defiantly stormed out of the club together. This was none other than Hollywood superstar Grace Kelly and this moment marked the start of her long and close friendship with Josephine.

Grace came to Josephine’s aid once again when the latter was swimming in debt and evicted from her Les Milandes estate in 1969. Grace had been married to Prince Rainier III of Monaco since 1956 and was now known as Princess Grace of Monaco. She offered Josephine a permanent home in Monaco along with financial assistance, even arranging for her to perform on the stage once again.

After embarking on a tour that saw her perform in locations such as New York, Paris and London, Josephine returned to Monaco in 1974. The following year, Princess Grace financed Josephine’s comeback revue Josephine at the Bobino Theatre in Paris, a celebration of her 50 years in show business, along with her husband and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. It was a great success and that evening, a dinner was held in Josephine’s honour, where the two women were pictured sat next to each other.

This was the last time the pair were together as Josephine suddenly died four days later.

After Josephine’s funeral in Paris, Grace arranged for her body to be brought to Monaco for a private family service and at her insistence, Josephine was buried in the Monaco cemetery.

A formidable friendship

Baker performs at the Folies-Bergère music hall, circa 1925

After Josephine’s arrival in Monaco in August 1969, she was pictured with Princess Grace
such as the Charleston and the Black Bottom to Paris and incorporating African themes into her performances. Audiences loved Josephine’s work because her dances indulged the stereotype that black people were primitive, exotic and foolish.

She catered to this to propel her burgeoning career, pulling faces and crossing her eyes throughout her performances to make her dances goofy yet sexy. Her tactics worked because by the late 1920s, Josephine had become the highest-paid entertainer in Europe, touring the continent.

Josephine built a new life for herself in Paris, a place without the racial segregation of the Jim Crow laws, or abuse. When discussing her life in St Louis, Josephine commented, “It was one of the worst cities in America for racial discrimination... I have very bad memories of that time.” It is no wonder that Josephine fell in love with France, which offered her freedom and safety.

Her success was unprecedented for an African-American woman at the time, with her popularity allowing her to move from the stage to the silver screen. In 1934, she became the first black woman to star in a major motion picture when she played the titular character Zouzou.

Just as captivating on-screen as she was on stage, women flocked to emulate Josephine’s style through clothing, makeup and her famous spit curls - she even released a hair pomade called Bakerfix and a skin darkening lotion called Bakerskin for her fans to buy.

Encouraged by her career in Europe, Josephine wanted to achieve fame in America. In 1936, she travelled to New York City to perform in the famous Ziegfeld Follies, her first performance in America since she had left for Paris. But Josephine was shattered when newspaper critics published scathing reviews that laughed and ridiculed her, topped off with a barrage of racism – one stinging critic derogatorily referred to her as “the negro wench”. Heartbroken, Josephine fled back to France and in 1937 she married French industrialist Jean Lion and began the process to become a French citizen, renouncing her US citizenship.

When WWII broke out two years later, Josephine wanted to help her adoptive country. In her own words, she stated that, “France made me what I am, they gave me their hearts. Surely I can give them my life.”

Putting her fame to good use she worked for the French Resistance, as her performances gave her the perfect cover to travel throughout Europe without suspicion. She attended glittering parties filled with Axis officials, charming them to gain information for the Resistance.

Of course, it is unlikely that charm alone would have persuaded the enemy to divulge their secrets. In fact, they supposedly trusted Josephine and

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**Josephine’s looks for stage and screen**

**The banana skirt 1925**
Josephine’s banana skirt has gone down in history as one of the most iconic looks of all time. Made from a string of 16 artificial bananas, it complemented her seductive Danse Sauvage and propelled Josephine to stardom.

**Screen siren 1934**
This is one of the beautiful gowns that Josephine wore for her big debut in the French film, *Zouzou*, created by the costume designers Pascaud and Zanel. Exuding elegance, Josephine looked every inch a movie starlet and far removed from her banana skirt.

**Captivating in Cuba 1951**
Josephine wore lots of stunning dresses during her career, including this strapless gown for a studio portrait in Havana, Cuba, during her tour of Latin America. By this stage, Josephine was in her mid-50s and her gown collection reportedly cost $150,000.

**The final bow 1975**
Pictured during her final ever performance at the Bobino Theatre in Paris, Josephine’s love for stylish decadence never faded. With a large feather headpiece and dripping in jewels, her last show gown was certainly a show stopper.
held a misguided belief that she was on their side, because of an Associated Press report from 1935, which stated Josephine supported Benito Mussolini’s invasion of Ethiopia. This declaration had stemmed from her hope that the invasion would bring an end to the Ethiopian empire, which still practised slavery.

Nonetheless, Josephine was firmly on the Allies’ side. To pass on confidential information undetected, she wrote it in invisible ink on her music sheets or concealed information in her underwear - counting on her fame to prevent a strip search. She even accepted an honorary role as a sub-lieutenant in the Women’s Auxiliary of the Free Free French Air Force and raised thousands of francs for the Free French Forces.

When Germany invaded France, Belgium and the Netherlands in 1940, refugees flooded into Paris and Josephine volunteered her help, visiting shelters and hiding Jewish refugees from the Nazis. She even housed her friends from the French Resistance in the château she rented at Les Milandes in the south of France, helping them to obtain visas.

In 1941, Josephine undertook a secret mission in the French Colonies located in North Africa. Under the guise that she had gone to recover from a bout of pneumonia, Josephine was actually there to establish a liaison and transmission centre with British intelligence. She also helped to develop a network that made Spanish Moroccan passports for Eastern European Jews, which allowed them to escape to South America.

Not forgetting the Allied troops who were risking their lives, Josephine travelled throughout the war entertaining them with morale-boosting performances for free. She partly conducted these trips hoping that after the war, the men would remember her efforts to cheer them up would stop them developing any racist notions.

After the war, Josephine became the first American woman to receive the Croix de Guerre and Rosette de la Résistance for her efforts, and was also awarded the Légion d’Honneur.

As the ravages of the war finally came to an end, Josephine decided to make a change. No longer would she sit by and watch as racism continued to run rife in America, making her feel like an outcast in her birth country. Now married to her fourth husband, Jo Bouillon, Josephine returned to America in 1948.

Immediately, she experienced the same bitter racism as before, with 36 hotels refusing to give the couple reservations when they arrived in New York City. Though unsurprised, an appalled Josephine decided to investigate discrimination herself and travelled to the south in disguise, so that her status would not affect the way she was treated. Documenting her experiences in a French magazine, Josephine’s accounts of racism shocked readers across the pond.

Despite her popularity across Europe, Josephine struggled to find American venues that would allow her to perform. Instead, she chose to do a tour of Latin America between 1950 and 1951 that was a great success, most notably in Cuba.

One of them, Copa City in Miami, was a game changer for Josephine. The owner, Ned Schuyler, wanted to sign Josephine but she refused, knowing that the audience would be segregated.

“To pass on confidential information undetected, she wrote it in invisible ink on her music sheets or concealed information to her underwear”

A publicity portrait of Josephine Baker in military uniform from 1944.
Desperate to get her aboard, Schuyler promised to desegregate his club and invite prominent African-Americans to the show. Josephine agreed and her show in Miami was a hit, particularly with African-American critics who praised her efforts towards desegregation.

Encouraged by her success in Miami, Josephine toured the States and stepped up her demands. She refused to perform in segregated venues and stayed in the best hotels, a stark contrast to her hotel experience just a couple of years earlier. Thanks to her efforts casinos across Las Vegas became desegregated. However, her efforts are not as widely known as those made by her male counterparts such as Martin Luther King or Sammy Davis Jr.

During her visit to Argentina, Josephine made headlines by refusing to perform in segregated venues. She was released but a propaganda campaign by the left side of politics, distancing herself from her activities, while many venues refused to book her fearing that she had become too controversial.

The lawsuit caused problems for Josephine. FBI started following Josephine and kept a file on her for some time. She was briefly arrested and interrogated by Cuban police for being a suspected communist at the suggestion of the FBI.

She was released but a propaganda campaign led by the American government, persuading other countries to prevent her from performing, was successful and many of her contracts were subsequently cancelled.

Josephine's politically charged speeches about racism were highlighting an issue that the American government wanted to keep buried.

As a friend of Senator Joseph McCarthy, Winchell embraced McCarthyism and routinely condemned those he suspected of communism without sufficient evidence. Thanks in part to Winchell, the FBI started following Josephine and kept a file on her activities, while many venues refused to book her for being a suspected communist and refusing to perform in segregated venues.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted for 381 days. The percentage of registered black voters in Mississippi rose from 7% in 1964 to 67% in 1969, after the passing of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

The entertainer and activist adopted children from all over the world.
However, they could not do the same to Josephine since she held a French passport. Their successful propaganda campaign removed the platform that Josephine had carved out for herself and to ensure she could not return to the States with her outspoken comments, her US working visa was revoked. With no option left, Josephine returned to home to Paris and persevered with openly denouncing racism in the States across the pond.

Now in France, Josephine decided to take a different approach. Having previously suffered a number of miscarriages, Josephine had to have a hysterectomy during the war and never had biological children of her own. Hoping to show that different races could live together peacefully, between the early 1950s and the mid 1960s, she adopted 12 children from all over the world.

Affectionately naming them her ‘rainbow tribe’, the family lived in her château at Les Milandes, which she had officially purchased in 1947. Turning her home into a theme park, Josephine welcomed the public so that they could witness her family project. Before adopting her 12th child, she separated from Bouillon and they finalised their divorce in 1961.

After a decade away, Josephine returned to America to give her speech at the 1963 March on Washington alongside Martin Luther King. When King was assassinated five years later his wife, Coretta Scott King, offered Josephine the unofficial leadership of the Civil Rights Movement. Josephine was tempted but she ultimately refused, scared that as the head of the movement her children would be in danger. Her fears were justified considering that the FBI was still gathering information on her, even though they had determined that she was not a communist.

In her later performances, Josephine was known for descending the stairs in an eye-catching dress.
How female authors navigated the freedoms of the Gothic genre to shout about their oppression

Written by Beth Wyatt

During the 19th century, a hungry, increasingly literate audience of Victorians consumed the novel, transforming writers into household names. But most remarkably of all, the era ushered in a wave of female pioneers, an early form of girl power which vitalised literature with rich stories, and inspired feminists of the future.

The Gothic genre which played a hand in this victory, with its frightful form offering opportunities to explore themes and issues previously sidelined or ignored in other works. Amidst the eerie castles, striking landscapes and Medieval settings, these female writers could call into question male-dominated society, turn traditional power dynamics on their head, and use the supernatural as a vehicle for the sensual.

This isn't to say that the genre was always empowering, as texts such as Bram Stoker's Dracula prove. With his contrasting depictions of the virtuous Mina Harker and salacious Lucy Westenra, author is perceived to have been assailing the 'New Woman' - a term used at the end of the century to describe the females who were trying to push against the barriers dictating what they could not (and should not) achieve.

But although female novelists led the way in breaking new ground, this was under intense scrutiny and prejudice. Many used male aliases, criticism was levelled at their deviation from 'feminine' matters - Mary Shelley was described as having a "masculine mind" - and some of their families felt compelled to rewrite aspects of their characters after their deaths, for example Jane Austen's brother Henry purposefully played down her ambitions, intentions, and knack for social critique. Nevertheless, their accomplishments were many, and their books have brought joy to generations of readers. In this bicentenary year of Emily Brontë's birthday, and the publication of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, discover how Gothic fiction shaped the lives of ten talented women.
Ann Radcliffe (1764-1823)

A pioneer of Gothic's first generation

Hailed as the “Great Enchantress” and the “Shakespeare of Romance writers”, Ann Radcliffe was one of the most influential novelists of her era, and made a marked impact on the Gothic genre. Especially acclaimed for *The Mysteries Of Udolpho* (1794), Radcliffe became known for a number of innovations, particularly for her use of the ‘explained supernatural’—her tales were concluded with natural, yet complicated, explanations. Some critics felt cheated by this device, and Radcliffe dispensed with it in her final (posthumously published) novel *Gaston de Blondeville* (1826), instead crafting a real ghost. But it has also been suggested that the ‘explained supernatural’ was authentically Gothic, delving into the fear of the supernatural rather than supernatural beings themselves. Radcliffe’s works—which soaked up the Enlightenment values common before the French Terror—were so in demand that she was paid extraordinary sums for the final two novels published in her lifetime—£500 for *The Mysteries Of Udolpho* and £800 for *The Italian*, when £80 was the average. It is impossible to say what more Radcliffe might have achieved, had she not largely stopped publishing aged 33, a decision thought to rest on her sensitivity to criticism.

Emily Brontë (1818–1848)

Author of a classic so unique it baffled critics

Gothic fiction originated in the 18th century, but Gothic influences can be seen in novelists’ work throughout the Victorian period. Emily Bronte’s *Wuthering Heights* (1847) begins with a nightmare experienced by narrator Lockwood, which calls to mind many essential elements of the genre. Falling asleep reading Cathy’s childhood diary Lockwood suddenly sees an icy hand reaching to him through the window, carrying the voice of Catherine Linton, pleading to be let in. This haunting episode sets the tone for the novel, and the significance of Heathcliff’s home in the text is suggestive of the Gothic narrative that historic buildings exude the stories of owners past. *Wuthering Heights* was the first time Emily had written for the public, apart from a volume of poetry written under pseudonyms with her sisters Charlotte and Anne, published in 1846. Her work had previously only been for her and her Anne, their curiosities primed by an isolated childhood, spent learning about politics from their father’s newspapers, and writing stories for each other. Like most female novelists of her era, Emily’s talents are appreciated far more today than they were then—contemporary critics were aghast at, and baffled by, *Wuthering Heights’s* wild power.
Charlotte Brontë

(1816–1855)

A potent blend of romance and realism changed ‘the novel’ forever

Like sister Emily, Charlotte Brontë alluded to the Gothic in her work, and was seemingly inspired by the pioneering Ann Radcliffe. In both *Jane Eyre* (1847) and *Villette* (1857), Charlotte depicted buildings seemingly in thrall to supernatural forces, with episodes including Jane sighting an apparition in Thornfield Hall. But in line with Radcliffe’s ‘explained supernatural’, these happenings are given logical explanations, though much fear is stirred along the way. It has been argued that Charlotte’s mix of romance and realism in *Jane Eyre* was her crowning success. She also demonstrated her fierce ambition, and consideration of women’s position in society, in much of her work. Confronted by the realisation that women writers were looked down on — and critique such as the claim (by a female reviewer) that if *Jane Eyre* was written by a woman, it was the work of one who has “long forfeited the society of her own sex” — Charlotte strove to highlight the realities of life for 19th century women, and to also champion their rights and talents.

This commitment to the cause shaped Charlotte into a feminist heroine for modern women, and has helped to secure her glowing reputation, already kindled by her iconic stories.

“I am no bird; and no net ensnares me: I am a free human being with an independent will.”

*Jane Eyre*

Jane Austen

(1775–1817)

There was more to Austen than snapshots of gentry life

The ever popular Jane Austen is known for her witty critiques of the upper and middle classes of her time, but she was also a talented satirist of other genres. *Northanger Abbey* (1817) offers a clever parody of Gothic fiction, notably that of Austen’s contemporary Ann Radcliffe. Austen’s Gothic-obsessed heroine Catherine Morland supplies the humour, thanks to her courtier Henry Tilney mocking the genre on the pair’s journey to Northanger Abbey, imitating Radcliffe’s *The Romance Of The Forest*, merged with *The Mysteries Of Udolpho*. Austen — who valued the individuality of her flawed heroines — is said to have been influenced in childhood by her family to appreciate a quick wit, and this resulted in her sharp writing. In the *Quarterly Review*, popular novelist Walter Scott intimated that the Gothic ‘romance’ moulded in the 1790s by himself and others, had been supplanted by tales of ordinary life, with Austen leading the charge. But he couldn’t help adding to this praise, the contrast of his fictional world to Jane’s depictions of “the middling classes of society”: “Presenting to the reader, instead of the splendid scenes of an imaginary world, a correct and striking representation of that which is daily taking place around him.”

“If adventures will not befall a young lady in her own village, she must seek them abroad.”

*Northanger Abbey*
Mary Shelley (1797–1851)
The mother of Frankenstein and science fiction

The daughter of feminist icon Mary Wollstonecraft and radical thinker William Godwin, Mary Shelley was destined for big things. Her stunning debut Frankenstein has enthralled for 200 years, and its origin – from a ghost story contest organised by Lord Byron in Geneva during 1816, "the year without a summer" – has become legendary. In a "waking dream", Shelley, then 18, saw "with shut eyes, but acute mental vision" the "pale student of the unhallowed arts kneeling beside the thing he had put together". Her vision resulted in the Romantic era's most recognisable work, which is often credited with establishing the science fiction genre in England's literature. Shelley utilised Gothic devices to examine the corrupt nature of power, and was among the Gothic writers of her generation to feature "the double", which reached its height with Robert Louis Stevenson's The Strange Case Of Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde. Upon Frankenstein's publication, critics were of the impression it was written by a man – Sir Walter Scott theorised that Mary's husband Percy Bysshe Shelley was the thinker behind the pen – and when the novel's true author was revealed, critics mostly ignored its politics, which examined the social, scientific and economic problems of Mary's time.

An 1831 Illustration of Frankenstein's Creature

"God, in pity, made man beautiful and alluring, after his own image; but my form is a filthy type of yours..."
Frankenstein

Louisa May Alcott (1832–1888)
The children's author also explored the darker side of life

Little Women, the beloved classic which has never been out of print, was undoubtedly Louisa May Alcott's big success, but she much preferred her work for adults, and intriguingly dabbled in Gothic fiction. Going by the name A M Barnard, her thrillers blended elements of madness, violence, and perversity, material deemed "unfit" for a female writer. Alcott's work was championed by a new generation in the 1970s when these tales were rediscovered and published in the anthology Behind A Mask (1866). As a child Alcott had acted in dramas with her sisters, and she preferred to play the "lurid" parts - "the villains, ghosts, bandits and disdainful queens". Alcott - who had grown up in poverty - was driven by a strong social awareness. She believed in abolition, prison reform and temperance, with her main campaigning centring on women's suffrage. Alcott's writing was notably feminist for its time, with her most famous character Jo March known for her fierce independence and refusal to ascribe to the expectations of others as to how girls of her time should behave. Alcott was delighted about the fact that when Concord, Massachusetts allowed women to vote in school board elections in 1879, she was the first to register.

"Nothing is impossible to a determined woman."
Behind A Mask

The four March girls of Little Women were loosely based on Alcott and her own sisters
Charlotte Perkins Gilman

A multifaceted American writer and feminist icon

Gilman's haunting novella *The Yellow Wallpaper* (1892), about a woman confined to her bedroom, draws on her own experience of mental illness.

She suffered from postpartum depression following the birth of her daughter Katharine, and underwent the controversial 'rest cure', which prohibited intellectual stimulation and most exercise. Her tale features Gothic themes to explore the protagonist's heightening distress. The room's sense of a prison - including barred windows - links to the motif of the insane asylum, and Gilman's language is ambiguous as to whether the events are grounded in reality or the supernatural. The movements of the “repellent” wallpaper as seen by the woman synchronise with her deterioration. Gothic ideas are also evident in the novella’s ending. Consciously reversing the Gothic scene of a heroine fainting out of terror, Gilman has her protagonist’s husband faint upon seeing his wife.

Today Gilman is celebrated as a feminist icon - she divorced her husband (sending their daughter to live with him and his second wife), entered into a happy marriage with her first cousin, and dedicated herself to the women's suffrage campaign. *The Yellow Wallpaper's* slim size in no way diminished its stature - the novella's message about the unrealistic domestic expectations placed on women inspired many.

**Charlotte Smith**

(1749-1806)

William Wordsworth was a fan of the poet and novelist

Charlotte Smith embarked on her career as a gentlewoman poet, and her success gave her the confidence to publish prose under her own name. Like Ann Radcliffe, her novels were satirised by Jane Austen in *Northanger Abbey*. Smith often incorporated the Gothic setting of the manor house - which has been suggested was a metaphor for the nation - and it was argued that she used the form of the courtship novel to criticise primogeniture laws.

Another device was that of the ‘wanderer’ figure as a means of exploring social issues. In *The Old Manor House* (1793), Orlando Somerive's travels in America lead him to become opposed to imperialism and slavery. While, as above, Smith did later criticise slavery, she had also benefited from its existence - her husband Benjamin was the son of an East India Company director, who owned plantations in Barbados, and his and Smith's annual income had depended on slave labour.

Smith also became a vocal supporter of the French Republic, but later altered her opinion as a result of the Terror. Eventually Smith's popularity declined, but she was remembered by William Wordsworth as “a lady to whom English verse is under greater obligations than are likely to be either acknowledged or remembered”.

“Silene, who declines The garish noontide's blazing light; But when the evening crescent shines, Gives all her sweetness to the night.”

*The Horologe of the Fields*

Smith's novel *Celestina* challenged gender assumptions
Clara Reeve (1729–1807)
Created the ‘literary offspring’ of Walpole’s Otranto

Clara Reeve may not be as well known as her more famous contemporaries, but she made an intriguing contribution to Gothic fiction with *The Old English Baron* (1778), inspired by Horace Walpole’s *The Castle Of Otranto* (often thought of as the first Gothic novel). The book’s preface describes it as “the literary offspring of Otranto, likewise designed to unite the most attractive and interesting circumstances of the ancient romance and modern novel”. The model proved popular – an eighth edition materialised in 1807, and there were many additional reprints throughout the century. Reeve grew up reading classical works on republicanism and when the French Revolution came, she welcomed the development, and made a call for change, “The revolution in France will be a standing lesson to princes and to people of all countries; it is a warning to kings, how they oppress and impoverish their people; it warns them to reform the errors and corruptions of their governments, and to prevent the necessity of a revolution.” This text foresaw an important role for women, invoking a theme of works including Mary Wollstonecraft’s *Vindication Of The Rights Of Woman*. Although Reeve’s thinking here was more conservative, encouraging discipline, order, and hierarchy as in counter-revolutionary works by women.

“Though I have been dead these fifteen years, I still command here, and none can enter these gates without my permission.”

*The Old English Baron*

Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865)
Charlotte Brontë’s biographer dipped her toes into Gothic literature

Elizabeth Gaskell delved into all sorts of genres, from social commentary to Gothic. She had Gothic tales printed in *Harper’s Magazine*, with supernatural devices offering a means of examining themes such as power, weakness, oppression and redemption. Gaskell’s devout Unitarian faith instilled in her the social values which lay deep in the pages of her books. *Mary Barton: A Story of Manchester Life* (1848) was acclaimed by Charles Kingsley in *Fraser’s Magazine* for explaining to the middle classes Chartism, “Do they want to know why poor men, kind and sympathising as women to each other, learn to hate law and order, queen, lords and commons, country-party and corn law leagues, all alike - to hate the rich in short? Then let them read *Mary Barton*.”

Gaskell was neither a radical nor impassioned feminist; she spoke of understanding and communication rather than drastic change. But she understood well the two lives writer women had to lead. Describing the publication of *Jane Eyre*, she wrote, “Henceforward Charlotte Brontë’s existence becomes divided into two parallel currents – her life as Currer Bell, the author; her life as Charlotte Brontë, the woman. There were separate duties belonging to each character – not opposing each other; not impossible, but difficult to be reconciled.”

“Such whispered tales, such old temptations and hauntings, and devilish terrors”

*Lois the Witch*

Gaskell died while writing her final novel *Wives and Daughters*
HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE COLUMBUS, THE NORSE WERE THE FIRST EUROPEANS IN THE NEW WORLD

Written by Ben Gazur

This is an exclusive excerpt from Viking Sagas
Available now from MyFavouriteMagazines.co.uk
The famed longships of the Norse were perfectly designed to skim the rough seas of the North Atlantic. On board could be a band of warriors bent on conquest or a community ready to settle some newly discovered land. Having colonised Iceland in the 9th century it was only a matter of time before the Norse ships strayed even further westward. In the *Grœnlendinga saga*, we have the Norse account of expeditions into North America.

**Erik the Red and Greenland**

When charges of manslaughter were brought against Erik the Red and his father, Thorvald, the pair fled their home in Norway. Crossing the sea, they joined those Norse who had already settled in the aptly, if uninvitably, named Iceland. Here Thorvald died, while Erik the Red married Thjodhildr, and raised their sons, Leif, Thorvald and Thorstein, and his daughter, Freydís, who would all play crucial roles in the Norse voyages into the West.

Erik’s violent past was not left behind in Norway. After killing Eyiulf the Foul and the famed dueller Hrafn, Erik and his family had to move on again. A change of scenery did not end the quarrels. A fight over a loaned set of wooden beams erupted between Erik and a man named Thorgest. Others took sides in the dispute and battles and bloodshed resulted. A meeting of the people in the area declared Erik an outlaw. Clearly, Erik needed a new home again.

Word had reached Erik of a land beyond the western sea so he equipped a ship for a voyage and gathered a crew for this chancy trip. To his friends he promised that he would return if he succeeded in discovering this land below the horizon. He left it unspoken as to what fate would befall his crew on the ocean if he failed to locate it.

From Iceland, Erik struck land quickly and he named the spot Midiokul. A vast wilderness of rock and towering mountains of ice seemed to loom over this new country. Glaciers spilled down into the churning ocean. In the summers Erik led his crew on expeditions to locate sites for settlements. In the winters, they dug in to survive the biting cold. After three years, Erik sailed once more for Iceland to tell people of his discoveries. When he told the tales of his voyage he named his newfound land of ice and stone Greenland – saying that a country with a good name would be more attractive. The next summer Erik returned to his Greenland, trailed by another 25 ships. Only 14 made it.
safely to their new home. While his father Erik was colonising Greenland, Leif sailed back to Norway. He visited King Olaf and this Christian monarch preached the new faith to Leif. Leif was taken with Christianity and, along with his crew, was baptised before returning west in search of his father.

**Bjarni’s voyage west**

While still a young man, Bjarni, a relative of one of the first settlers in Iceland, was filled with a desire to travel. Bjarni grew rich by plying his trading vessel between Norse settlements. Every other year he travelled. Bjarni grew rich by plying his trading vessel between Norse settlements. Every other year he would set his sails for home, however, and spend a winter with his father, Herjölf. One winter, Herjölf decided to follow Erik to Greenland and the old man sold his farm. Among his crew was a Christian from the Hebrides who had composed a famous song about the dangers of the stormy sea and rolling waves that would face them. His song called on the Christian God to watch over the ship. Perhaps his song was heeded by the new god for despite the dangers of the voyage, the ship reached Greenland safely, and Herjölf settled there.

After a trading voyage that winter, Bjarni returned to Iceland to hear the news that his father had left Norway for Greenland. Perplexed, he decided to keep to his custom of spending the season with his father and turned his ship towards the west. Bjarni asked his crew whether he would follow him and not a man left his service despite Bjarni warning, “Our voyage must be regarded as foolhardy, seeing that not one of us has ever been in the Greenland Sea.”

They soon discovered how foolhardy they had been when all of the dangers listed in the Christian’s song were visited on them.

For three days they sailed until the land they had left behind was hidden by the water. The good wind that had eased them across the waves fell and a terrible north wind started to blow. A fog descended that hid the sky from them. For many days and nights they had no notion of where they were going. When the Sun once again showed its face, they could navigate and hoisted their sails. On the first sight of land, they sailed straight for it.

“Is this Greenland?” the crew asked Bjarni. He did not believe so, so they sailed on. The next land they found was green and pleasant with hills and woods. “Is this Greenland?” No, replied Bjarni again for there were no great and ice-bound mountains. The third land they discovered was covered with trees in a flat expanse. Once again Bjarni did not think it was Greenland and denied his crew the chance to land there to take on food and supplies. At this his shipmates grumbled but they sailed on anyway.

The next land was a mass of rock and ice, which raised the crew’s hopes of an end of their voyages but proved to be only an island in the great sea. Through gales, Bjarni commanded his ship onwards. Finally they found a land that seemed to match the descriptions of Greenland that had come to them. The ship made for land. On the spit of land above their landing spot they discovered the home of Bjarni’s father. Bjarni decided to give up voyaging and lived there with his father for the rest of the old man’s days.

**Leif sets forth**

Word of Bjarni’s haphazard voyages into the further west spread. Hearing of the lack of spirit Bjarni had shown in not exploring these new lands, people mocked him, but others took up the challenge of following his course through. Leif, son of Erik the Red, travelled to visit Bjarni to hear of his travels, and bought a ship from him.

Leif tried to persuade his father to join him on this new great exploration. At first Erik refused, feeling himself too old for the rigours of the long voyage. Salt spray and foaming ocean swells were thought more suitable for the young. Leif told him they could use his good luck on such a daring mission and succeeded in luring his father to the ship with praise of his skills. On the way, the horse Erik was riding stumbled and threw the old man. Erik took this for a divine sign that he had gone too far. No more lands were to be his for the taking and Erik returned to his home. Leif set sail for the lands beyond the west without him.

First the ship came to the island Bjarni had discovered that was nothing but a flat and rocky outcrop dominated by mountains of ice. No grass grew and all the necessities of life seemed absent. Leif called this Helluland, for it seemed to be nothing but flat rocks (Hella’ in Old Norse). They could not settle here and so Leif set out on his ship again.

The next land they found was flat and wooded, with broad and safe beaches of sand. Leif declared this land too would have a fitting name and called it Markland (Forest Land). They set out from this more promising land in hopes of greater discoveries.

For two days and nights they travelled with a northeasterly wind in their sails. They landed on an island a short distance from a greater land. In the
fine weather they explored the island. Seeing the dew on the lush grass, they tasted it and found it the sweetest water in the world. Taking their ship to the land across the narrow gulf, the tide fell and the ship was grounded on a sandbank. Despite the dangers, they abandoned the ship in a small boat and crossed to the mainland. They discovered rich rivers and lakes in an abundant land. As the tide lifted the ship again, they rowed out and took the vessel up one of the rivers into a lake for safety.

The vines of Vinland

Once ashore, the crew decided to build a long house there. The nearby rivers teemed with the largest salmon any of them had seen and as winter drew in, the grass barely withered. There would be no need to supply cattle with fodder. Even in the depth of winter, the nights were nowhere near as long as those in Greenland or Iceland. The longer days shone on a land that had no frost.

Leif split the company in half. One group would stay and guard the house while the other would explore the land they had discovered. On no account were the explorers to stay away overnight.

One night it was found that Tyrker the German had not returned with the foragers. This Tyrker was a loyal friend of Leif and Erik the Red, and Leif had not returned with the foragers. This Tyrker were the explorers to stay away overnight. Leif split the company in half. One group would stay and guard the house while the other would explore the land they had discovered. On no account were the explorers to stay away overnight.

One night it was found that Tyrker the German had not returned with the foragers. This Tyrker was a loyal friend of Leif and Erik the Red, and Leif was angry with Tyrker’s companions for losing him in this strange land. With 12 men he set out to recover his friend. Only a short distance from the settlement they discovered Tyrker in a state of bewilderment. He babbled to the men in German and could not be understood. Rolling his eyes and grinning madly, Tyrker began to explain his discoveries in the Old Norse tongue. Having gone only a little further than the others, he stumbled on something new. “I have found vines and grapes,” he told them. Tyrker swore that his homeland was famed for its grapes and that he knew what he was talking about. Despite grapes not being native to North America, there was presumably some delicious berry there that produced a sufficiently intoxicating drink when fermented.

It was from this discovery of vines that it is said that Leif named the new land Vinland. Leif now set his crew to cutting timber and collecting fruit. The cargo was loaded on the ship in the spring and they set out into the rising sun for home.

Leif the Lucky

With fair winds and a calm sea, the ship made its way swiftly back to Greenland. Within the sight of the ice mountains and valleys of their destination the crew called to their captain, “Why are you steering so much into the wind?” Leif had been turning the ship for some time. He asked if anyone could see anything out on the waves. None of the crew could, but then none of the crew could match Leif’s hawk-like vision. “I see a ship or raft,” Leif told them and pointed. Now they saw it too and the ship steered ever closer. “If they need help we will give it, and if they seek a fight we will be better prepared.” On the ship they discovered a party in need of help.

When Thor, leader of those in the ship, heard Leif’s name, he asked whether he was son of the famous Erik the Red. Leif said that he was and invited them onto his ships, with as many of their possessions as it could hold.

For this rescue of those lost in the midst of the sea he became known as Leif the Lucky. Leif took Thor and his wife Gudrid into his own home. That winter illness struck the settlers and Thori died, as did Erik the Red. While Leif had no plans to return to Vinland his brother, Thorvald, felt there was more exploring to do. He borrowed his brother’s ship and set out.

Thorvald’s voyage

Following Leif’s advice, Thorvald made for the place his brother had previously settled. Over winter, Thorvald and his 30 men took in provisions from the rich lands around them. When spring arrived, Thorvald loaded a smaller boat to explore the western coast during the summer.

The land they found was wooded and welcoming. The forests came down close to the sea and the beaches were of soft and pale sand. The islands and rivers offered many places to explore. Despite their searches, they found no animal lairs or signs of human habitation until they came to one of the western islands. There they found a wooden structure clearly set up to hold grain and keep it safe. Finding nothing else, Thorvald returned to the Norse settlement in the autumn.

The next summer they explored the eastern coast. As they crossed the sea, a high wind pushed them onto the rocks and damaged the keel of the ship. Putting ashore, they repaired the keel and Thorvald named the place Keelness. Sailing on after the mending, they came to a place of safe anchorage. The land there about was fair and fine. Thorvald looked at it and declared that this was where he would make his home.

Returning to the ship, the men stopped. There on the sand they saw three small mounds that had not been there before. Approaching, they could make out three canoes made of skin, each concealing three indigenous men, whom the Norse named Skraelings. Underneath the party divided into three to approach them. All but one of the hiding men were captured. The eight that they had seized they killed on the spot, but the ninth escaped into the woods. Returning to the headland, they looked about and in the distance discerned villages.

Then, as if placed under a powerful charm, the Norsemen were overcome by a sudden need to sleep. Only a voice booming out of the sky was able to
“There on the sand they saw three small mounds that had not been there before”

call them back. *Awake, Thorvald, thou and all thy company, if thou wouldst save thy life, and board thy ship with all thy men, and sail with all speed from the land!” This the Norsemen did but even as they made it to their ship, innumerable canoes filled the sea. Thorvald called for the ship to put up its war-boards, shields to protect his men from arrows. Putting his faith in his ship’s defences Thorvald offered no attack but let the arrows of the Skraelings clatter harmlessly against them. The Skraelings gave up the battle and retreated.

Thorvald called to his men to see if any had been wounded. None had taken so much as a scratch but the captain had not been so lucky himself. He showed his crew the shaft of an arrow, which had glanced through the war-boards and taken him under the arm.

Knowing that his end would come soon, Thorvald ordered his men to flee as quickly as possible back to their own settlement.

He only asked them to bury him at the point that he had thought would make a good home for his old age. “Bury me there,” he told them, “and place a cross at my head, and another at my feet, and call it Crossness for the rest of time.”

At the settlement, they gathered wood and grapes before sailing back to Greenland, bringing with them the tale of Thorvald’s discoveries and of his death.

The death of Thorstein
On Greenland, while Thorvald had been exploring, his brother Thorstein Eriksson had married Gudrid, one of those Leif the Lucky had rescued at sea. When Thorstein heard of his brother’s death, he wanted to sail to Vinland and recover his body. He crewed Thorvald’s own ship with 25 sturdy men and set out to the west. His wife Gudrid accompanied him.

For a whole summer it is said that their ship was buffeted by the sea and gales, so that they never knew where they were. By winter, they had reached the western settlement of Greenland and sheltered there. Homes were found for all of the crew except for Thorstein and Gudrid, who instead had to shelter on their ship. Shivering on the wooden deck, they were visited by a grim looking man. “I am called Thorstein the Swarthy,” he announced to Gudrid and Thorstein Eriksson. The swarthy man offered them a house to live in and Thorstein Eriksson and Gudrid gladly accepted the offer.

But death came among the settlers in that season. Many of Thorstein Eriksson’s band sickened and died. Thorstein had coffins made for the dead and carried them back to his ship so that the bodies could be returned to their family. Then the disease entered Thorstein the Swarthy’s home, carrying off his wife. As Thorstein the Swarthy’s wife Grimhild lay dead on her bed, she seemed to move. The house moaned as if all the timbers of the building shifted and groaned against each other. Thorstein Eriksson sickened after this strange sign. Gudrid did all she could to comfort her husband, yet he died. As she grieved over her husband’s body, Thorvald the Swarthy sought to ease her suffering. He promised to accompany Gudrid home and carry with them all the bodies of the dead.

Then the dead man sat up and spoke loudly. “Where is Gudrid?” he asked three times. Shocked, Gudrid did not know whether to answer the corpse so Thorstein the Swarthy asked, “What do you want?”

“I wish to tell Gudrid of the fate which is in store for her, so that my death may not sadden her too harshly, for I am at peace in a glorious place. I must tell you, Gudrid, that you will marry a man of Iceland, that many years of happy marriage shall be yours, and from you shall spring a large and famous progeny full of noble virtues. You shall travel the world — from Iceland to the far south before returning to take the veil in a church.” Having prophesied the future with his dead tongue, Thorstein Eriksson returned to his bed.

Thorsten sold up his farm and possessions. He attended to Gudrid on her return to her home and returned the bodies of the dead to their families.

Karlsfni’s travels
The same summer that had seen Gudrid return saw a ship arrive in Greenland from Norway, captained by Thorfinn Karlsfni. This wealthy captain was welcomed into Leif the Lucky’s home and passed the winter there. Karlsfni soon found himself in love with the widow Gudrid and could not resist proposing marriage between them. At the time there was much talk of another voyage to Vinland. People clamoured for Karlsfni to lead the expedition and he accepted. With 60 men and five women who were all promised an equal share of the profits of the journey, Karlsfni and Gudrid set out. Since it was their intention to found a permanent settlement in Vinland, they loaded many cattle onto their ships too. Leif loaned them the use of the long house he had constructed in Vinland for the duration of their trip, though he would not give it over to them forever.

The ships soon found the site of Leif’s expedition. A huge whale was driven onto the sand where they captured it and stripped it of its flesh so that they...
would not go hungry that season. The cattle they set to wander freely over the land, though the bulls turned wild and vicious in their freedom. Soon the settlement was full of timber from the expansive forests, and their larders stocked with fish from the rivers and game hunted in the woods. Winter was not hard for the settlers. It looked like life in this new western land was promising.

The Skraelings came in the first summer. Many emerged from the forest but when they approached the settlers’ cattle, the anger of the bull and its bellowing scared the Skraelings into retreat. Fleeting from the bull, the Skraelings stumbled towards Karlsefni’s home and attempted to get inside. Karlsefni barred the doors. Since none could speak the language of the other, understanding was slow to be reached. The Skraelings then set out furs and other goods to trade. Karlsefni saw that the natives were eager to get some of the Norse weapons but he forbade any of his men to swap their sharp blades for goods. In place of weapons, he offered milk from the herd and a deal was struck.

Despite the peaceable outcome, Karlsefni had the settlement surrounded by a strong wooden palisade. In this safe place, Gudrid was delivered of a baby beside the sea. The Norse passed the winter in peace but Karlsefni had made up his mind to return to Greenland. The ships were loaded with the timber of the land, the furs the Skraelings had traded to them, and the bounty of the vines.

**The wrath of Freydis**

By now, Vinland was thought of as a place where men might make their fortunes. It chanced to happen that just as Karlsefni returned from the North American settlement, a ship carrying brothers from Norway arrived in Greenland. These siblings, Helgi and Finnbo, were received by the daughter of Erik the Red, a haughty woman called Freydis. She asked the pair to join her in a voyage to Vinland, with the brothers to receive half of the spoils they won. Helgi and Finnbo hastily agreed. Each promised to take an equal number of men, but Freydis immediately broke her word and carried an extra five men on her vessel. She tried to convince her brother Leif to give his home in Vinland to her, but once again he would only lend the house for as long as she was there. It was only on arrival in Vinland that Helgi and Finnbo discovered Freydis’ treachery. It had been agreed that the ships would stay together but it happened that the brothers’ ship landed first near the settlement. Finding Leif’s empty house, they moved their goods into it. Freydis was outraged at their bold move and stormed at the brothers that they must remove themselves from the home lent to her by her brother. With ill grace, the two left and set up a house beside the sea.

The only record of the voyage

There’s just one source for this saga. The *Grœnlendinga saga* (or the Saga of the Greenlanders) comes down to us in a single manuscript written in the late 14th century called the *Flateyjarbók*. A fire, flood or the nibbling of rats might have deprived us of one of the only written sources that describes the Norse exploration of North America. Most experts place the composition of the saga in the 12th or 13th century, at least a century after the events described, but much of it has proved historically reliable, if liberally sprinkled with fabulous inventions.

The *Flateyjarbók* was written for Jón Hakonarson, a wealthy farmer in Iceland with an interest in literature. Thanks to an introduction, we know that it was written by two priests – Jón Pétursson and Magnús Pétalfröðsson – which may explain the favourable depiction of Christianity in the text. Made from 225 fine vellum leaves, the writing in the *Flateyjarbók* contains many sagas of the kings of Norway and poems. Some of these are found elsewhere, but the *Grœnlendinga saga* is found nowhere else but the *Flateyjarbók*.

The manuscript remained on the island of Flatey for centuries. In 1651, King Frederick III of Denmark sent out a request for all old manuscripts in his kingdom to be added to the royal library. The *Flateyjarbók* left its home and would not be returned to Iceland until 1971, where it is now considered to be one of the national treasures of the country.
The settlement set to the task of gathering goods that could be profitably returned to Greenland, with Freydis felling valuable wood for timber. As winter drew in, the brothers suggested that all of the settlement could come together in the playing of games. For a time there was peace between the factions but soon the games led to arguments, and arguments led to open hostility. Now no one passed from Freydis's house to the brothers' and it was as if there were two camps drawn up for battle.

In the depth of that winter, Freydis crept from her bed and, cloaked in her husband's furs, crossed to the brothers' house. Barefoot, she passed over the dewy grass. Opening the door, she woke Finnbogi from his sleep. "What do you want?" he asked brusquely. Freydis queried whether he was happy in this new land. Finnbogi replied that the land was plentiful and that there was no cause for the breach between the two groups of settlers, and so Freydis offered a solution.

She and her followers would leave Vinland if Finnbogi gave them his ship since it was the larger of the vessels that had carried them there. To be rid Finnbogi gave them his ship since it was the larger.

"When the Skraelings next came, they arrived in greater numbers."

In search of Vinland

The earliest written account of the discovery of Vinland comes from around 1075 in the writings of Adam of Bremen, who documented the journeys into the west.

"It is called Vinland because vines producing excellent wine grow wild there. That unsown crops also abound on that island we have ascertained not from fabulous reports but from the trustworthy relation of the Danes."

However, the failure of the Norse to establish lasting colonies on the North American continent led to their discoveries being mostly forgotten about in Europe. While Norse settlements have been discovered in North America by archaeologists, such as at L'Arse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, the exact locations described in the saga are still debated. At one point in the saga we are told that on the shortest day of the year, the Sun was visible between ‘dagnalastaða’ and ‘eyktarstaður’. If we knew what exact times of day were meant by these terms, we would be able to identify the latitude of the Norse settlements. We might also be able to identify the unfortunate natives who were dubbed ‘Skraelings’.

It says much about Norse culture that the first meeting with the Skraelings was a massacre for which no cause is given. Inuit folk tales tell of killing a foreigner, using the term for European, and knowing that they would return to seek revenge.

The mystery of the vines of Vinland also persists. Tyrker might have been sure they were grapes, but we still do not know what berries the Norse actually discovered in North America – they possibly could have been cranberries or bunchberries. Whatever they were, the wine that was produced from them was certainly potent enough to tempt others to follow in search of them.
Medieval murders

Rais may have inspired the French folktale of Bluebeard
Gilles de Rais was a man of means. Born into the House of Montmorency-Laval, he received rich rewards and kingly favours for his distinguished military service. He was also supposedly a bloodthirsty 15th century serial killer, responsible for the abduction, torture and murder of hundreds of children. In a storm of occultism, alchemy and Satanic worship, the reputation and privileged life of the once celebrated French noble was destined to come to a brutal and shuddering halt.

Born in 1404, Gilles de Rais was orphaned at a young age. He married into a vast fortune but he wasn’t content to sit back. Instead, Rais determined to prove himself on the battlefield. He soon became a celebrated and feared warrior, famed for his bravery and nerve, as well as his strategic brain and loyalty to France. Rais enjoyed an unblemished record and when the Dauphin of France needed someone to fight alongside Joan of Arc in her crusade against the English, Rais was the obvious candidate.

As Joan’s reputation soared so too did that of Rais and he distinguished himself during the Hundred Years’ War. He was at Joan’s side throughout the decisive Siege of Orléans in 1428-9 and provided her with vital strategic insights that turned the tide against the English who had dominated the Hundred Years’ War since Agincourt in 1415. For his part in that decisive victory Rais was appointed a Marshal of France and when Joan went to her death in 1431 her comrade’s star shined brighter than ever.

Baron de Rais was the model of piety. He constructed a magnificent place of worship named the Chapel of the Innocents. Filling its choir stalls with boys whom he auditioned and selected personally, he entertained his subjects with a magnificent play that he had penned, telling the story of the Siege of Orléans. He squandered his money on hundreds of costumes that were worn once, destroyed and made afresh for every performance. Those lucky enough to be in the audience were treated to unlimited lavish refreshments too, with the bill footed by Rais.

That lifestyle didn’t endear him to other members of his family and as Rais grew older, his coffers grew depleted. He set extravagance aside to concentrate on salvation, but whilst others looked to heaven, Gilles de Rais had other ideas. Rais ploughed his remaining fortune into the employment of alchemists and sorcerers in the vain hope that they might be able to conjure up some cash.

Later, his servants claimed that Rais had succeeded in raising a demon during one of their unspeakable rites. The hellish visitor promised the baron that a fortune would be his on one condition - he must supply innocent blood to complete the ceremony. Beyond the walls of Rais’ castles people were beginning to talk.

By day the lands around his immense estates were much like any other. By night, however, if rumours were to believed, then those lands became the playground for servants claimed that Rais succeeded in raising a demon.
devilish forces and none was more devilish than Gilles de Rais. He and a priest named François Prelati held Satanic ceremonies in Rais’ homes. Unholy rites and the blackest enchantments were performed to sate the inhuman lusts of the wealthy marshal. Something very rotten indeed was lurking in the lands of Gilles de Rais.

The horrifying story began to unravel when an adolescent boy with the surname Jeudon was sent to Rais’ home at Machecoul carrying a message from the baron’s cousins, Roger de Briqucville and Gilles de Sillé. Young Jeudon disappeared, seemingly swallowed up by the castle itself. He was the first of innumerable children to vanish from the area. Many of them worked as pages in the households of nobles, but their disappearances – if noticed at all, by their aristocratic masters – were chalked up as runaways.

The die was cast when Rais took a priest hostage during an argument in 1440. The priest was the brother of the treasurer of Brittany and Rais hoped that he could negotiate a ransom, ensuring that his debts would be written off in return for the priest’s safe return.

Instead, Jean de Malestroit, Bishop of Nantes, ordered an investigation into Rais’ outrageous behaviour and suddenly found himself dealing not just with a rogue noble, but with a bona fide mass murderer.

Malestroit turned his evidence over to the secular lawmakers and they gathered statements from terrified witnesses and families, grieving for children whom had disappeared into the yawning darkness of Gilles de Rais’ castles. For all his chapels and heroism, it seemed that there
France, they hadn't dared to speak out against him before. Soon the arrested men were falling over themselves to confess, hoping to escape the threat of torture. They told of the horrific fate that met the abducted children when they were invited into the lavish home of Gilles de Rais. Treated as honoured guests, the innocent youngsters were, allegedly, first given a suit of fine clothes then treated to a magnificent feast that included lavish servings of hipocras, an exceptionally strong liquor. Once the children were in a torpor they were taken by Rais and his co-conspirators, one of whom was the very cousin who had employed young Jeudon.

The children were subjected to a horrifying sexual assault before they were murdered, usually by decapitation, though on occasion Rais broke their neck instead. Rais himself admitted that once the children were dead, he subjected them to further sexual abuse before he disembowelled and

was nothing the baron enjoyed more than depravity and terror, all of it culminating in a spree of child killings.

Gilles de Rais and his servants, Etienne Corbillaut (aka Poitou) and Henriet, were arrested and charged initially with the kidnap of the priest, a charge that was eventually amended to murder, heresy and sodomy.

At first Rais refused to enter a plea but when he was threatened with torture and excommunication - the latter a more terrifying prospect for him than execution - Rais and his servants confessed to the charges. From those confessions a picture of sickening depravity and violence emerged. As word of the trial spread even more witnesses came forward to claim that their children had gone to Rais seeking food or work, never to be seen again. Afraid of repercussions and with neither money nor status to raise charges against the wealthy and celebrated Marshal of

**Motives for murder**

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**Sadism**

The motive put forward at the trial of Gilles de Rais was simple enough. He was motivated by sexual sadism to torture and kill.

**Greed**

When Rais' money ran out and the Crown refused a mortgage, did he really offer his victims to a demon who promised him riches?

**Ego**

Court evidence suggested by holding dominion over life and death itself, Rais was attempting to emulate the great tyrants of history, such as Caligula.

**Werewolf**

One of the most fanciful claims is that Rais was a werewolf. This outlandish accusation, of course, never made it as far as court.

**Madness**

When his friend and comrade, Joan of Arc, died, was it possible that Rais, deranged with grief, turned to murder to vent his despair?

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The children were subjected to a horrifying sexual assault before they were murdered, usually by decapitation, though on occasion Rais broke their neck instead. Rais himself admitted that once the children were dead, he subjected them to further sexual abuse before he disembowelled and
dismembered them. He preferred male victims and revelled in the act of dissection, fascinated by the innards of the children. Only when he was sated did he burn their remains, removing all trace of their presence.

Eyewitnesses claimed to have seen innumerable youngsters going into Rais’ castles, with none ever emerging. To add fuel to the fire, the captain of his guard testified that he had personally witnessed servants dragging human remains from the cellars of one castle. When asked why he hadn’t intervened his answer was simple, they were only peasants, so why would anybody care?

Rais’ victims ranged in age from as young as six to approximately 18. Though the exact number of victims was never established, it appeared to be somewhere between 80 and 100, with the first having been the youngster known as Jeudon. The highest estimates have risen as high as 600, but there is little to support that figure. In fact, there was little hard evidence to support any figure at all. Yet Rais and his co-accused had confessed, evidence or not, and those confessions shook the land.

The only possible sentence for such crimes was death. Rais and his co-defendants were sentenced to be simultaneously hanged and burned at Nantes, with their execution set for 26 October 1440. In keeping with his noble birth, Rais apparently asked if he could die first before being laid to rest in Nantes in the church of Notre-Dames des Carmes. Both of his requests were granted.

Gilles de Rais and his former servants were taken to the Île de Biesse at nine o’clock on the morning of their execution, where an enormous crowd waited to greet them. Rais showed no fear and addressed the crowd with heartfelt contrition, asking his co-condemned to be courageous and welcome.
According to some sources, in 1992, Jean-Yves Goëau-Brissonnière, Freemason Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of France, organised a so-called retrial of Rais before a court of politicians and UNESCO experts. It returned a verdict of not guilty. Critics of the trial have pointed out that no one involved in the endeavour was a Medieval historian and it did little to sway those who believed Rais was guilty.

The grisly story of Gilles de Rais has persisted in the public consciousness, serving as one inspiration amongst many for the legend of Bluebeard, the most famous surviving version of which was written by Charles Perrault in 1697. The story of Bluebeard is that of a fearsome yet immensely wealthy nobleman whose wives have a nasty habit of disappearing. He is later found to have murdered them and stored their bodies in a locked room, which is discovered by his newest bride thanks to a magical key. Of course, Bluebeard is eventually vanquished and the forces of good prevail.

No human remains were found in Rais’ property and his victims were children. Therefore, his role in the story of Bluebeard is a somewhat generic one, that of a wealthy and well-connected pillar of the establishment who is secretly a monster. Another Brittany-based inspiration can be found in the story of Conomor The Cursed, who was haunted by the ghosts of his murdered wives. Ultimately, the question of Gilles de Rais’ guilt or innocence hangs on who we believe.

If weight is given to the confessions and eyewitness accounts then he was a guilty man. Yet on the other hand, what if those who cried foul were right, and Rais was really the victim, not the perpetrator?

The majority of historians today still conclude that Gilles de Rais was guilty of the crimes for which he was executed. It’s unlikely now that conclusive evidence will be found either way but until it is, Gilles de Rais remains the bogeyman of Medieval France, a real Bluebeard who terrorised the most innocent of all.

The salvation that death would bring them. At eleven o’clock, Gilles de Rais was hanged before his body was cut down into the flames. Though Poitou and Henriët were consumed entirely by fire, Rais’ remains were seemingly retrieved and taken away for burial.

Yet despite his crimes, Gilles de Rais was not vilified. Instead his noble birth, twinned with his remorsefulness and bravery as he faced the executioner elevated him to the very model of Christian penitence. A three day fast was held in honour of his piety. For decades after his death, the anniversary of the execution was commemorated by a practice in which parents whipped their children, to impress upon them the value of repentance.

In the centuries that have passed since Gilles de Rais went to his death, historians have studied the trial records and the eyewitness accounts of the murders, hoping to establish whether he was truly guilty of the crimes. Although his own confession sealed his fate, it was extracted under threat of torture and excommunication, so might he have been an innocent man? If so, what reason could there possibly be for framing this celebrated Marshal of France?

A possible motive might be found in the posthumous fate of Rais’ extensive lands. When he was found guilty, they were awarded to the Duke of Brittany, whose cousin, Jean de Malestroit, also happened to be one of the trial judges. Others have maintained that he was the victim of a church plot thanks to his associations with Joan of Arc and his kidnapping of the priest. Potentially, he had enemies in very high places. No physical evidence was ever presented to the courts despite the enormous number of alleged victims and with witch trials blazing a trail across Europe, Rais had the
Neil Armstrong was going down. Long before Apollo 11 entered the history books, Armstrong was a US Navy fighter pilot, serving in the Korean War. Just 21 years old, he was youngest officer in the VF-51 Screaming Eagles all-jet squadron. On his first mission, his Grumman F9F-2B Panther was strafed by antiaircraft fire as he carried out a low-altitude bombing at 350 mph (560 km/h). As he struggled to get his plane under control, his right wing clipped a pole just metres above the ground, ripping part of it clean off. Showing the nerves of steel that would define his illustrious career, Armstrong somehow managed to fly his wrecked jet back to safe territory before ejecting.

Born on 5 August 1930, in the small town of Wapakoneta, Ohio, Armstrong fell in love with airplanes at a young age. He took his first flight with his father, Stephen, at the age of six, before getting his pilot’s licence as a teen. However, aeronautical engineering was his real passion - understanding how planes fly, and how to make them fly better. He studied at Purdue University in Indiana, before being called up to the US Navy.

Three years, 78 combat missions, 121 hours in the air and five medals later, Armstrong retired from active service, completed his university degree, and began a new career as a test flight pilot. Armstrong was sent to the famous Edwards Air Force Base in California. Home to the High-Speed Flight Station, this was operated by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), the precursor to NASA. This desert base was where flying ace Chuck Yeager first broke the sound barrier in 1947, and the cutting-edge in aeronautics were developed. However, a test pilot’s life was never easy. On 22 March 1956, Armstrong was tasked with flying a modified B-29 Superfortress, which was to deploy a smaller Skyrocket plane in midair. But at 30,000 feet, one of the B-29’s four engines stopped working.

To maintain an airspeed suitable for deploying the Skyrocket, Armstrong and his co-pilot Stan Butchart had to enter a dive. As the Skyrocket successfully blasted off, one of the blades from the broken engine’s propellor flew off and took out two of the B-29’s other engines. Armstrong still managed to land the 33,800 kg bomber with just the one remaining engine.

Armstrong was involved in numerous other dangerous incidents. One of his fellow test pilots, William J ‘Pete’ Knight, who came up through the Air Force, attributed this to ‘pilot-engineers’ such as Armstrong tending to fly in a more mechanical and less instinctive fashion. However, others thought Armstrong’s ability to survive these disasters proved he was one of the best test pilots in the business.

Certainly NASA – as it was called by 1958 - thought so. But they still had a requirement that you had to be a military test pilot to become a NASA astronaut. Since he had left the navy, Armstrong was now a civilian. He was therefore ineligible to be part of the ‘Mercury 7’ team, which headed up the United State’s first space mission. However, in 1962, everything changed for Armstrong, for better and for worse.

Armstrong had married his first wife, Janet, in 1956 and together they had three children - Eric, Karen and Mark. However, tragedy struck when two-year-old Karen, who her father nicknamed ‘Muffy’, was discovered to have a malignant tumour in the middle part of her brain stem. The radiation and cobalt therapy treatment was too much for the little girl, and terribly weakened by the illness and the attempts to cure it, she caught pneumonia and died in January 1962.
“Aeronautical engineering was his real passion - understanding how planes fly, and how to make them fly better”
Helmet
The helmet wasn't just designed to protect the astronaut from the vacuum of space, but its gold tinted visor and sunshields protected against solar ultraviolet light, heat and damage from tiny meteorites.

PLSS remote control unit
Placed on the chest of the spacesuit, the PLSS remote control unit allowed the astronaut to control oxygen levels and suit temperature, as well as activate their radio and mount the Hasselblad camera that the astronauts used.

Lunar boots
The first famous footprints into lunar soil were left by boots that were made very much like the gloves, covered in a sturdy steel mesh and a silicone tread.

Although grieving, Armstrong used his work as a way of dealing with the pain of losing his daughter. It was all the more poignant then when, in September of that year, Armstrong was announced in the next batch of astronauts as NASA changed their policy on civilians. 'The New Nine' as the astronauts were termed, were among the best astronauts that NASA have ever had. Indeed, many of them went on to fly Apollo missions to the Moon, including Jim Lovell, Pete Conrad, and John Young, but even in 1962 it was recognised that Armstrong was the best of the best.

Following President John F Kennedy's declaration to send astronauts to the Moon by the end of the 1960s, training for the New Nine began in earnest. Their first space missions were to be part of Project Gemini, which was a series of missions into Earth's orbit aboard the tiny two-man Gemini capsules. Initially selected as back-up to Gordon Cooper on Gemini 5, his first voyage into space was as commander of Gemini 8, with fellow astronaut Dave Scott flying beside him as co-pilot.

Gemini 8 was perhaps the most ambitious spaceflight to have been attempted by that time. Armstrong and Scott's mission was to get into orbit, perform the first ever rendezvous and docking with an unmanned vehicle, make a number of manoeuvres and also send Scott out on a spacewalk before returning to Earth. However, after performing the docking the two spacecraft began to roll out of control.

Armstrong switched to the Gemini capsule's Orbital Attitude and Manoeuvring System, or OAMS, which is a system of thrusters used to control spacecraft attitude to counteract the roll, but it didn't work. The Gemini capsule undocked, but this only served to increase its roll to one rotation per second, forcing Armstrong to apply the Reentry Control System to counteract the spin. However, the rules said that once the Reentry Control System is switched on, the mission must end early and return to Earth.

It was later determined that a short circuit in the wiring had prevented one of the thrusters switching off. Armstrong and Scott received the NASA Exceptional Service Medal for their calm response to the crisis, and NASA learned a great deal about how to rendezvous and control two spacecraft that have docked together – a crucial learning experience ahead of the Apollo missions which would see multiple rendezvous and dockings. Indeed, the entire Gemini program was to prepare for Apollo. Armstrong was given command of Apollo 11, with Michael Collins as Command Module pilot and Buzz Aldrin as the Lunar Module pilot. However, flying in space was one thing, but
landing a spacecraft on the Moon and then taking off again was a completely different kettle of fish.

To train, the astronauts were given the flying bedsteads. This was the nickname for the Lunar Landing Research Vehicles (LLRVs) and their successor, the Lunar Landing Training Vehicle (LLTVs), which were skeletal contraptions with rocket thrusters strapped to them and literally a jet engine blowing upwards to counteract five-sixths of the LLRV’s weight to simulate the one-sixth Earth gravity on the Moon. While flying an LLTV, Armstrong experienced yet another of his dramatic near misses, once again displaying calmness in the face of danger. On 6 May 1968, Armstrong’s LLTV went out of control, forcing the Apollo astronaut to eject moments before the LLTV plummeted to the ground and exploded on impact. Armstrong parachuted safely to the tarmac below, but it is estimated that had he ejected just half a second later, his parachute would not have opened in time before he would have slammed into the ground from a height of 200 feet.

Ironically, the Lunar Landing Training Vehicle – the LLTV – had been seen as being less prone to accidents than the earlier LLRV, and more like what would be experienced when trying to land on the Moon. Armstrong was soon to find out what that was really like.

By the time the 16 July 1969 came around, Apollo 8 and Apollo 10 had each flown around the Moon, but had not landed. That was to be the mission for Armstrong’s Apollo 11. As the mighty Saturn V rocket blasted skywards, it was waved on by thousands of people watching below and millions of people on their TV sets. The flight to the Moon went by without a hitch and, after making 30 orbits of the Moon, the Lunar Module, named Eagle, was brought by Armstrong and Aldrin, detached from the Command Module named Columbia and piloted by Collins.

The next stop for Armstrong and Aldrin was a region on the surface in the Sea of Tranquility, which is not a sea at all, but a vast lava plain. The planned landing spot had been chosen because it seemed relatively flat and safe to land on, but during the descent, Armstrong and Aldrin noticed that they were going long and would touchdown several miles beyond where they were supposed to be.

This was not good; as they neared the ground, Armstrong and Aldrin could see that Eagle was heading straight for a boulder field and should the Eagle crash into one of the boulders it could damage the Lunar Module, preventing them from blasting off again and returning home. Although Buzz Aldrin was technically the Lunar Module pilot, Armstrong, as mission commander, took control.

With fuel running low, boulders looming up below, and Aldrin constantly rattling off altitude and velocity data, Armstrong remained calm with the eyes of the world upon him. His experience in dealing with crisis situations in flight, from the Korean War to the B-29, Gemini 8 and the LLTV and numerous other instruments, now set him up for the moments that would forever define his life.

With just 45 seconds of fuel left and engineers and mission managers in Houston holding their collective breath, Armstrong expertly brought the Eagle down to the lunar surface. Then came his famous radioed message to mission control, “Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed.”

After landing, the astronauts were meant to have a sleep period to rest before embarking on the first ever Moonwalk. Like children on Christmas Eve night, however, they were too excited to go to sleep, as NASA had timetabled for them. So the Apollo 11 team prepared their spacesuits and got ready to go...
Neil Armstrong

Armstrong's achievements

**Date of Birth**
5 August 1930

**Hometown**
Wapakoneta, Ohio, United States

**EDUCATION**

- **1944**
  Attended Blume High School, in Wapakoneta, Ohio

- **1950**
  Qualified as US Navy aviator

- **1955**
  Graduates from Purdue University with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering

- **1970**
  Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southern California

Armstrong also held honorary doctorates from a number of universities.

**EXPERIENCE**

- **1949-52**
  Served as a US Navy fighter jet pilot during the Korean War

- **1955-62**
  Test pilot for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA)

- **1962**
  Selected as one of the second batch of NASA astronauts

- **1969**
  Commander of the Apollo 11 mission, and the first person to walk on the Moon

- **1970-71**
  Deputy Associate Administrator for aeronautics at Aeronautics, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC

- **1971-79**
  Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio

- **1986**
  Appointed Vice-Chairman of the Rogers Commission investigating the Challenger space shuttle disaster by President Reagan

**AWARDS**

- **1969**
  Presidential Medal of Freedom

- **1970**
  NASA Distinguished Service Medal

- **1978**
  Congressional Space Medal of Honour

**Achievements**

- **1969**
  First to walk on the Moon

- **1970**
  First to step onto the surface of the Moon

- **1976**
  First to establish a permanent presence on the Moon

- **1977**
  First to plant the American flag on the Moon

- **1984**
  First to make a landing on the Moon

- **1992**
  First to break through the lunar surface

**Retirement**

- **1986**
  Returned to Earth after the Apollo 11 mission

- **1992**
  Announced retirement as an astronaut

- **1993**
  went on a worldwide tour

**Decorations**

- **1969**
  Presidential Medal of Freedom

- **1970**
  NASA Distinguished Service Medal

- **1978**
  Congressional Space Medal of Honour

**Head of NASA**

- **1970-71**
  Head of NASA's astronaut office and himself an astronaut

**Facts**

- **Date of Birth** 5 August 1930
- **Hometown** Wapakoneta, Ohio

**In all, they were out on the surface of the Moon for just two and a half hours**

head of NASA's astronaut office and himself an astronaut. A fuzzy video feed, watched by over half a billion people back on Earth, recorded what happened next. Armstrong, garbed in his bulky space suit, the portable life support system on his back, climbed down Eagle's ladder, before pausing. “I'm at the foot of the ladder,” he said, describing the ground below him. “The LM footpads are only depressed in the surface about one or two inches, although the surface appears to be very, very fine grained, as you get close to it. It's almost like a powder. Down there, it's very fine.” Another pause. “I'm going to step off the LM now.” Twisting around, Neil Armstrong dropped down onto the surface of the Moon. “That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind,” he said, words that will live long into the future.

They were also words that led to a degree of controversy. Did he or didn’t he say ‘a’ before ‘man’? Armstrong initially was adamant that he had and that it was only the poor radio link that had caused it to be inaudible, but later in his life he became unsure, while various studies analysing the recording often produced differing opinions. Nevertheless, everyone knows what he meant to say.

Armstrong was out alone on the lunar surface for nearly 20 minutes before Buzz Aldrin joined him. Together they planted the Stars and Stripes of the United States flag, had a telephone called with President Richard Nixon, and collected some moon rocks to bring home for scientists to study.

In all, they were out on the surface of the Moon for just two and a half hours. It’s a curious fact of history that there are hardly any photographs of Armstrong on the surface of the Moon. That’s because they only had one camera with them, and Armstrong carried it for the most part. There was little time for larking about; their scientific tasks were planned to the minute.

“It has a stark beauty all its own,” Armstrong said of the lunar landscape. “It’s different but it’s very pretty out here.” There was one final drama to play out. Back inside the Eagle, Armstrong and Aldrin prepared to lift off for rendezvous with Michael Collins in the Columbia, where they noticed that the switch to fire the rocket ignition had broken off, presumably knocked off by their bulky backpacks. Without being able to fire the engine, the two astronauts would never be able to go home.

Indeed, President Nixon had two speeches prepared: one to celebrate a successful mission, and another to mourn two lost astronauts stranded on the Moon to die.

Fortunately, he got to read the celebratory speech. Buzz jammed a ballpoint pen into where the switch was meant to be, the engine fired, and they departed the Moon.

After meeting and docking with Columbia, the three astronauts headed for Earth, ultimately splashing down into the Pacific Ocean to be retrieved by the USS Hornet.

After time spent in quarantine (in case they brought back any bugs from the Moon) the crew of Apollo 11 went on a worldwide tour, after which Armstrong announced his retirement as an astronaut.

outside and explore the Moon. Originally, it was to be the Lunar Module pilot that would be the first to open the hatch, climb down the ladder and planet the first footstep into lunar soil. However, before launch this was switched so that Armstrong would be first out.

The official reason given was because of the positioning of the hatch, which would make it difficult for the Lunar Module pilot to climb out first, but unofficially mission managers had doubts about Buzz Aldrin and his ‘ego’; they saw Armstrong as the more professional of the two.

Also, “just on a pure protocol basis, I figured the commander ought to be the first guy out,” remembered Deke Slayton, the...
After all, once you’ve been to the Moon and back, how can you beat that?

His life after Apollo 11 was distinctly more low key than his life before the mission, as he stayed out of the limelight.

For eight years he taught aeronautical engineering at the University of Cincinnati. He also served on the accident investigation boards for both Apollo 13 and the Challenger disaster in 1986.

Away from NASA and teaching, Armstrong served as a director for several companies. He divorced his first wife, Janet, in 1994 and married his second wife, Carol Knight, that same year. Although he seldom drew too much attention to himself, he often spoke publicly at NASA events, right up until his death on 25 August 2012 at the age of 82 as the result of complications following a heart bypass.

Even now it is still a shock that he is no longer with us, but a disaster in 1986.

President Richard Nixon welcomes the Apollo 11 astronauts, who are pictured aboard recovery ship, the USS Hornet. Left to right: Neil Armstrong (commander), Michael Collins (Command Module pilot) and Edwin Aldrin Jr (Lunar Module pilot)

‘Neil Armstrong took control’

Buzz Aldren reveals how disaster almost struck the Apollo 11 mission

Apollo 12 almost became the mission to land men on the Moon, rather than Apollo 11. What happened?

Originally it was scheduled for Apollo 11 to be the first lunar landing, then evidently without notifying the nation and the crew, it slipped to being Apollo 12 because of the overweight condition in Apollo 11’s original design.

It needed to be light enough to land, so they kept kind of working on it and not disclosing until a final decision was made. And so history was gonna play out a different way. And that again had a major impact on my life and career, and Neil Armstrong’s career, if it had remained too heavy to make a landing attempt.

You and Armstrong ran into some problems during the Apollo 11 mission, could you tell us more about that?

About four minutes into the landing sequence of Apollo 11, the display on the computer read 1201 and 1202.

They were error codes, the number of the alarm, and whatever information was displayed before whether it was velocity or movement over the ground – was not there any more.

Were you worried?

These codes were disturbing and distracting, but Mission Control didn’t know what the alarms meant either. Neil Armstrong, who was paying more attention than I was since he was looking out of the window, took manual control.

There were craters drifting by, but not many of them were identifiable. Neil said he thought we may be a little long – the Eagle had overshot its planned landing site.

The fuel tank was running low and Neil understood this. By experience, there were two minutes of fuel remaining and ahead was a crater that looked dangerous with giant rocks around it.

The easiest thing to do was just slow the rate of descent and fly over whatever it was, but that would take longer and burn more fuel and make fuel quantity at touchdown a little less. We were just over 30 metres (100 feet) from the surface, and Neil had to land somewhere.

What happened next?

I could see the shadow getting bigger because the Sun was behind us, and we were getting closer and closer to the shadow of the lander.

The dust began kicking up and, without trying to disturb Neil’s concentration, I gave him a little body language to get on the ground as soon as possible. And then it happened.

We touched down safely in the Sea of Tranquility. There had been just 15 seconds of fuel spare.

Were there any other teething troubles?

We then had a problem with the hatch. The pressure inside had to be low, but when we tried to pull the hatch down it wouldn’t come open.

I bent the door back and equalised the pressure. I watched out the window to see Neil go down the ladder. When it was my turn to back out, I remember the checklist said to reach back carefully and close the hatch, being careful not to lock it. It would have been very difficult to open it from the outside if I had.

The Moon’s surface can be best described as utter desolation, with no signs of life whatsoever. There were a few hours to collect precious rock samples and carry out experiments.

Once we were ready, I looked around at some of the lunar dust on the ground and saw the broken end of a circuit breaker. One of the spacesuits had knocked it out, but it was needed to start the engine and get us back home. The broken parts were still on the inside had to be pushed in, and only two people could fix this.

So, in the countdown procedure, I used a pen to push the circuit breaker in. This worked and the engine started. We could go home.

75
During its long history, Ancient Egypt boasted many pharaohs. Many of them tried to make a name for themselves by engraving tales of their achievements on the limestone slabs of temples, so their legacy would be solidified forever. No Egyptian ruler came close to Ramses II in their quest for respect, glory and remembrance. But was Ramses the Great, really quite so, well, great?

Born around 1303 BCE to Seti I and Queen Tuya, Ramses, like many young princes of Egypt, would learn much at his father’s side to prepare him for his accession to the throne. Since the time of the warrior Pharaoh Thutmose III, Egypt had lost land to the Hittites and Nubians, with whom the Egyptian people had long-standing tensions. Seti began to conduct many military campaigns to claim back land they believed to rightfully be theirs and to show his son that it was the Pharaoh’s responsibility to protect Egypt’s lands and people from any possible threats. Ramses embraced this right of passage and observed, learnt and remembered the practices passed on by his father and would even take his own sons, Khaemweset and Amunhirwenemef, on campaigns to depart the same knowledge onto them later in his life.

At the tender age of ten, Ramses received the honour and title of captain of the Egyptian army and at 14 was appointed Prince Regent, during which time he oversaw and implemented his father’s building projects, exercising the budding leader within him in the field and in the quarries. Though his exact age is still disputed, it is suggested that between his late teens and early 20s, Ramses ascended to the throne of Egypt after his father’s death and then became the third Pharaoh of the 19th dynasty.

Ramses II would go on to live out an astonishing reign as Pharaoh from 1279-1213, celebrating an unprecedented total of 14 Sed Festivals, living into his early 90s, out living most of his estimated 100-odd children and becoming the second longest reigning Pharaoh in all of Egypt’s history after Pepi II Neferkare. Many of his people, subjects and advisors had been born, lived their full lives and died knowing Ramses as Pharaoh. There was even panic among citizens that if he were to die, their world as they knew it would most certainly end. To many, he was a hero.

Many Egyptians who resided in the Delta-region were familiar with the Sherden sea pirates, thought to be allies of the Hittites. The pirates frequently plagued the sea routes to Egypt and attacked the cargo-laden vessels, which moved through them. When Ramses was only in the second year of his reign, he devised a strategy which posted a powerful naval contingent along the coasts. The pirates were lured in by their intended targets and then met with the full force of Ramses’s ships and troops. Their ships were sunk and many of the pirates were captured and brought aboard the Egyptian vessels to serve the Pharaoh.

This was Ramses’s first significant opportunity to underscore the relationship between the Egyptians and Hittites. Egypt under Ramses’s rule was not to be underestimated.

**Known to many as Ramses the Great, did this famous pharaoh really deserve his grand epithet?**

Written by Amy Best

“Ramses would go on to live out an astonishing reign as Pharaoh... outliving most of his estimated 100-odd children”
The mummified remains of Ramses II remain very well preserved.

**Defining moment**

**Building Pi-Ramesses**

A thriving city that eventually became one of the largest in all of Egypt, Pi-Ramesses stood to become the ultimate example of what Ramses the Great could add to Egypt’s growing infrastructure. It was a place of storehouses, docks and military facilities as well as people’s homes. It was divided into four quarters, each dedicated to an Egyptian or Asiatic god. It was a truly royal city, built for an egotistical ruler.

**c.1279 BCE**
In his fifth regnal year, Ramses would use another military conquest to enhance his now established reputation as a great military leader. Tensions between the Egyptian kingdom and the Hittites rose once again, with the Hittites recapturing land and trying to push their army lines further down the country under the instruction of Muwatalli II.

This campaign would span years and eventually come to a climax in the city of Kadesh in 1274. Fooled by two spies and choosing to act upon faulty intelligence, Ramses and his men were lured into an ambush. Staring both death and defeat in the face, Ramses made the decisive move to personally lead a counterattack against his enemies that hopelessly outnumbered his force.

Unexpectedly, this decision would force Muwatalli and his men to retreat to Kadesh’s city walls, unable to defeat the formidable Ramses.

After many years of success on the battlefield, capturing the cities of Dapur and Tunip by the end of his reign’s first decade, Ramses was able to surpass Thutmose III by carrying out the most military campaigns by any Pharaoh.

However, as tensions flared once again in the Northern territories, Ramses and Hattusili III, the then ruler of the Hittites, established what would become the first recorded example of an international peace treaty in history, in order to bring prosperity and to end the loss of life to their peoples. Despite his achievements in battle, Ramses was more than just an instinctive military commander. As a very religious man, his first act as Pharaoh was to travel to the city of Thebes to celebrate the religious festival of Opet, so that he could supposedly meet the god Amon of Karnak at the Temple of Luxor.

Upon his return from the festival, the Pharaoh made a detour in his journey to Abydos where he went to continue work on a temple that had begun construction under his father.

The architectural landscape of Egypt saw great development under Ramses. Numerous grand monuments were erected and restoration projects undertaken including the grand monuments to himself and his Queen Nefertari at Abu Simbel in Nubia, the mortuary temple, Ramesseum, in Luxor, the Hall at Karnak, the New Palace at Avaris, the completed complex at Abydos and hundreds of other buildings and statues of himself across the kingdom. Arguably one of the most significant developments of his time was the decision to move the capital from Thebes in the Nile Valley to a new site in the Eastern Delta, which he named Pi-Ramesses (which literally translated as ‘the House of Ramses’). Laden with lush gardens, smooth limestone terraces and towering temples, this location would go on to rival the magnificence of Thebes and become one of the most flourishing cities in Egypt, even up to a century after Ramses’s death. The need for skilled labourers and volunteers expanded industry and the improvements to the cities meant that the places where Egyptian citizens went about their everyday lives were now full of opportunity to carry out their civic duties.

Despite the arguably unquestionable triumphs of Ramses in war, architecture and society, no person’s path to the top is ever untarnished. It was not unlike new leaders to tear down monuments presenting the success of Pharaohs that came before them, but Ramses arguably did not follow in the footsteps of his predecessors out of spite, as many of them had, but out of a need to inflate his ego. Monuments, temples and statues erected by previous Pharaohs, including Chefren’s pyramid at Giza, were stripped of their materials in order to make way for all of the structures erected by Ramses. As for the buildings, walls and pillars...
that he did not order to be stripped, Ramses made sure that his cartouche and military achievements were inscribed deeply into the material so that they would be difficult to remove if any future ruler attempted to wash the Egyptian landscape of his accomplishments.

Although Ramses took note to ensure that his name could be found across his kingdom, certain huge events failed to be documented well or even at all. Some historical accounts have detailed a great departure of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt due to their poverty and ill treatment at the hands of the Egyptians.

It was also detailed that Egypt faced many plagues, which saw its people having to bring themselves back from the brink of utter devastation. However, both of these would-be significant and poignant events cannot be found in Egyptian texts or artefacts.

Did they simply not happen?

Or is it more possible that Ramses became obsessed with preserving a perfect - albeit false - legacy? This trait of embellishing the truth would also extend to his military victories.

The Battle of Kadesh was the most significant of Ramses' military career and we know now that there was no decisive victory, but in fact it was a draw of some sort.

Despite what Ramses had carved into the walls of his monuments and the story portrayed in the Poem Of Pentaur and The Bulletin, the battle allegedly did not end in the complete destruction of Ramses's forces because of last minute reinforcements from the Lebanese coast.

It was also claimed that Ramses's attempted to cover up his mistake in believing two Hatti spies, which led to himself and his men being ambushed. Instead he allegedly claimed that his men abandoned him, leaving him to win the battle alone, for which, he later punished them for.

Many of the other criticisms of Ramses come from the book of Exodus, in which he is portrayed to be a cruel and stubborn ruler.

In its texts, it is claimed that Ramses built Pi-Ramesses with the use of slave labour and not with skilled Egyptian labourers.

The book of Exodus further describes Ramses to be the villain of his own story, however, there is no actual evidence to support the claims made in the texts that the Ramses mentioned is in fact the son of Seti and Queen Tuya.

It could be said that no other Pharaoh contributed more to the Egyptian landscape than Ramses and that this was his intention. Archaeologists and scholars described his reign as the pinnacle of art and culture in Ancient Egypt. As for his military conquests, Ramses certainly proved himself to be a natural commander and formidable opponent.

However, it is very possible that with his extensive reach, Ramses was able to write the pages of history himself, embroidering the truth and leaving out misdemeanours in order to produce an image of him as the ultimate ruler. Despite what fiction he may have crafted, his legacy speaks for itself.

He was so influential to his kingdom that nine more Pharaohs after him took the name Ramses in his honour and he is still today regarded as one of the most celebrated and powerful Pharaohs of the entire Ancient Egyptian empire.

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**Hero or Villain?**

**RAMSES II**

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**First known peace treaty**

After decades of tensions, battles, loss of life and lands in the borderlands between the Egyptians and the Hittites, the conflicts were able to be brought to a close with the first known peace treaty. Ramses II and Hattusili II established and inscribed the treaty on a silver tablet, which was later copied onto clay. Its 18 articles communicated the need for peace between the Egyptian and Hatti peoples and their gods. **1258 BCE**

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**HEROISM**

With dozens of successful military campaigns, hundreds of great structures and the world’s first known peace treaty, Ramses was certainly some kind of hero.

**VILLAINY**

Ramses’s alleged megalomania and need to be seen as a god would have largely been able to explain how he achieved so much in Egypt.

**LEGACY**

The legacy of Ramses II is something that can’t be doubted or questioned. He was and still is the most famous and powerful Pharaoh to have ever lived.

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Was Ramses II a hero or a villain? Get in touch and let us know what you think:

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Greatest Battles

Doomed ambitions
The Ottoman Empire entered World War I with the hope of preserving its existence and possibly even expanding its territory. Instead the Armistice of Mudros (finalised on 30 October 1918) saw them agreeing to let the Allies occupy the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosporus.

Hands up!
Approximately 217,746 Ottoman soldiers were taken prisoner during WWI, 150,000 of them falling into the hands of the British. For their part, the Ottomans captured 34,000 Allied troops, a high number of which perished in captivity.

Although the Ottoman Empire had secretly allied with Germany on 2 August 1914, it was with a bombing raid on Russian ports in the Black Sea on 29 October that year that it really entered World War I. With an army of 210,000 men and, in Enver Pasha, a war minister hellbent on keeping the ‘sick man of Europe’ from dying, the Ottomans were a formidable foe.

Recognising the threat the Eastern power posed, Britain tried to tackle it head on but this resulted in the disastrous Gallipoli Campaign. Having failed to force a passage through the Dardanelles, Britain took a different tact, deciding to exploit the resentment fomenting within the Ottomans’ own borders.

When an Arab leader by the name of Hussein bin Ali declared an uprising against his Ottoman overlords on 10 June 1916, the British spotted an opportunity to hamper the enemy war machine.
by forcing it to concentrate soldiers on crushing the revolt, thereby deflecting troops away from the Suez Canal. Having promised the Arabs that Britain would ensure their independence once the war was won, Hussein’s son initiated the revolt by attacking the Ottoman garrison in Medina.

With the rebellion under way, British authorities in Egypt decided to send a young officer by the name of Thomas Edward Lawrence to Hejaz (now a region in Saudi Arabia) in October 1916 to aid the rebels. It was a relocation that would prove stunningly successful as Lawrence embarked on a glittering guerrilla campaign.

Having become a close advisor to Hussein’s son Faisal, the man who would become known as Lawrence of Arabia helped the smaller guerrilla force wage an efficient war against important Ottoman positions. They sabotaged vital communications and supply routes, preventing thousands of Ottoman soldiers from training their sights on the British forces fighting in the region under the command of General Edmund Allenby. A particularly clever strategy saw the tribal warriors repeatedly attacking the Hejaz railway line running south from Damascus, thereby forcing the Ottomans to continually defend the area and expend time and energy repairing sections of the line.

Yet while such small-scale successes did damage the Ottoman war effort, Lawrence’s first major victory wouldn’t come until the fall of Aqaba, a strategically vital port on the Red Sea.

Having proven that a well-organised guerrilla force could hamper a far larger, better-armed enemy, Lawrence’s efforts were supported by the British authorities, who by September 1918 had set their sights on Damascus.

Despite the legend of TE Lawrence liberating Damascus with his Arab army behind him (a myth popularised by the Hollywood film on his life), it is often argued that the Australian Light Horse brigade entered the city walls first, and the city’s governor offered its surrender to the Australians. An Indian regiment had also apparently passed through, meaning that TE Lawrence would have ridden into well-trodden ground.

Whoever entered the city first, the capture of Damascus on 1 October was relatively straightforward given that the Ottomans were already retreating.

However, the city was only there for the taking due to a combination of Lawrence’s campaign and the decisive Allied victory at the Battle of Megiddo, an encounter fought in the Holy Land, which paved the way for the capture of Aleppo.
**Greatest Battles**

### HOTCHKISS M1909

**KEY WEAPON**

First produced in 1909, this gas-operated light machine gun could be belt or strip-fed.

**Strengths:** This easily movable gun had an equally mobile tripod.

**Weaknesses:** Parts of the M1909 regularly broke and were often difficult to replace, although this was partly due to poor training.

### GENERAL EDMUND ALLENBY

**LEADER**

Allenby conceived and executed the final Allied advance in the Middle East brilliantly.

**Strengths:** Allenby was experienced in the crucible of war and an astute tactician who excelled at getting the best out of his men.

**Weaknesses:** Nicknamed ‘the Bull’ due to his ferocious temper, Allenby often terrified his subordinates.

### DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

**KEY UNIT**

This cavalry force played a key role in the defeat of the Ottoman armies in the Middle East.

**Strengths:** Fast and highly mobile, the Desert Mounted Corps often overwhelmed Ottoman positions.

**Weaknesses:** These horsemen were lightly armoured and therefore afforded little protection against Ottoman guns.

### Allied Powers

**TROOPS 57,000**

**CAVALRY 12,000**

**GUNS 540**

### Greatest Battles

#### Unleashing sabotage

Orchestrated by TE Lawrence, Arab irregulars raid key rail routes around Deraa. German general Otto Liman von Sanders reinforces east of the River Jordan, believing it will be the focus of British general Edmund Allenby’s attack.

#### Confusion and diversion

Bombing raids by the RAF on Ottoman communication hubs, most notably at El Afule, starve the enemy of information. When the 53rd Division of XX Corps advances on the east of the Judea Hills, it looks like the beginning of the expected attack – yet it is primarily a diversion.

#### An enemy hoodwinked

After many ruses disguising his actual troop locations, Allenby’s main thrust launches at the Plains of Sharon. It begins at 4:30am with an intense artillery bombardment. The shells rain down for barely 15 minutes, and are instantly followed by a massed infantry advance. Heavily outnumbered, the vulnerable Ottoman line is swiftly broken. The infantry surge punches an ever-widening gap through collapsing defences unprepared for such a ferocious assault.

#### The cavalry advances

The yawning hole in the Ottoman line allows the Desert Mounted Corps to gallop through. As Liman has committed almost all his forces along the front, there is little in reserve, leaving Allenby’s cavalry to progress rapidly northwards across favourable ground without encountering much resistance. Within two days of the artillery barrage, the towns of El Afule and Beisan have fallen to the Mounted Corps, blocking the enemy’s retreat.

#### Minutes from capture

Riding for Nazareth, where Liman has his headquarters, the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars arrive on the 20th just after dawn. Ottoman communications are so scrambled, so the cavalry unit’s approach is the first the general knows of the scale of the battle. He escapes, one account saying still in pyjamas, eventually reaching Deraa.
**GENERAL OTTO LIMAN VON SANDERS**

**LEADER**
Born in 1855, this Prussian-born general commanded the immovable Ottoman defence during the bloody Gallipoli Campaign.

**Strengths:** Liman knew how to frustrate an Allied advance despite the odds being stacked against him.

**Weaknesses:** By September 1918, the German was commanding a battered Ottoman force.

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**OTTOMAN FOURTH ARMY**

**KEY UNIT**
This field army was divided in two, with one half confronting the Allied bridgeheads, while the other half defended the vital Hejaz Railway.

**Strengths:** The Fourth Army was sent to defend a key position.

**Weaknesses:** Unfortunately the Fourth Army was badly understrength by this point.

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**BATTLE OF MEGIDDIO**

**CENTRAL POWERS**

- **TROOPS 32,000**
- **CAVALRY 3,000**
- **GUNS 402**

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**ENDGAME FOR THE OTTOMANS**

The ragtag remnants of three routed armies fall back towards Damascus but there is no respite from the harrying allied pursuers. The city is captured on 1st October, a prelude to hostilities ceasing when the Armistice of Mudros is signed later that month, ending Ottoman involvement in World War I.

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**DERAA FALLS**

A defensive stand at Deraa becomes impossible when its airstrip and German planes are wrecked by bombs from Allied aircraft. The town is abandoned to Arab rebels as the Ottomans flee.

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**ADVANCES EAST OF THE JORDAN**

New Zealand Major General Edward is tasked with protecting the Allied right flank. His 11,000-strong mounted infantry advance when it is clear that Ottoman communications are too disrupted to organise a counter-attack. Instead, the Ottoman Fourth Army hastily retreats, ordered back by Liman. While the disorganised withdrawal is harried by air strikes and Arab forces, Chaytor captures the city of Amman.

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**CARNAGE ALONG THE ESCAPE ROUTE**

Following its initial move, the 53rd Division redeploy to block any eastern Ottoman retreat, but stiff resistance prevents it reaching the Wadi Fara, a route into the Jordan Valley. Mustafa Kemal’s force rushes down the narrow gorge, but is seen from above. Allied aircraft bomb and machine-gun the column. Rapidly wrecked vehicles and wagons totally block the road. Death and destruction ensues.

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**THE EIGHTH ARMY DISINTEGRATES**

The Allied infantry continues to advance on the Ottoman Eighth Army, while its northerly retreat route is blocked by the rapid cavalry advance. Practically encircled, it is further harried by RAF raids. With many men killed, captured or fleeing the battlefield, effective resistance subsides, leaving the Seventh Army commanded by Mustafa Kemal (the future Turkish leader) desperately exposed. There is one avenue of retreat - east into the Jordan Valley.

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**MG08 MAXIM**

**KEY WEAPON**
This reliable sled-mounted machine gun saw action in many conflicts.

**Strengths:** The MG08 was a heavy gun to carry.

**Weaknesses:**
Although the lewd in mind may think they have landed on their feet, you would be wise to stay on your toes instead. During the Pornocracy - or the Age of Harlots, as it is also known - you are just as likely to find yourself stabbed in the back as you are to get caught up in a bacchanalia.

The women of the aristocratic House of Theophylact, particularly Theodora and her daughter Marozia, pull the strings in the Papal States, deciding for themselves who will be pope, as well as brutally dispatching those they don’t like.

Although many historians will blame these ‘harlots’ for the period’s horrors, this is merely reflective of the distrust and sexism often directed toward powerful women. Others prefer to refer to this nadir in the history of the Papal States as the saeculum obscurum (Latin for dark age) as neither man, woman nor beast comes out free of sin in the eyes of God.

WHERE TO STAY

For glamour, gluttony and gold there is no more exciting city than Rome. It is the epicentre of politics and culture, and home to the highs and lows of society. There is no better place to forge your career and no better place to see it smashed to a thousand pieces.

Spend your evenings on the Isola Tiberina, an island in the middle of the River Tiber, to experience the pleasures and dangers of the night. Hang around with the right people long enough and you too could see yourself taking the role of pope.

Dos & don’ts

- **Follow orders**
  - With the majority of popes earning their position only at the whims of the ruling nobles in Rome, not doing what you are told after can end in disfigurement or, even worse, death.

- **Bring your bow**
  - Hunting boar is a favourite pastime of the upper classes. Have your horse ready and waiting when you leave mass.

- **Blind your rivals**
  - One of the popular ways to see off a rival during this time is to blind them. This way, they no longer pose a threat, but remain alive to suffer!

- **Learn your proverbs**
  - While no-one will expect you to walk the walk during this period, boning up on the Bible will ensure you can at least talk the talk.

- **Look to the pope for guidance**
  - With their constant gambling, orgies and drinking, it’s safe to say you would be better off teaching yourself the word of God.

- **Be afraid to fight**
  - When the Saracen raiders invade, you don’t want to be caught between the sheets.

- **Take the job of pope**
  - It may sound glamorous, but most who accept the post meet a suspicious end.

- **Visit Castel Sant’Angelo**
  - This is a beautiful papal residency, but also serves as a prison for foes of the ruling classes.

Where to stay

**For glamour, gluttony and gold there is no more exciting city than Rome. It is the epicentre of politics and culture, and home to the highs and lows of society. There is no better place to forge your career and no better place to see it smashed to a thousand pieces.**

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WHO TO BEFRIEND
Marozia
As well as being the mistress, murderess, mother and grandmother of popes, this canny noblewoman became senatrix and patrician of Rome, and queen consort of Italy. Ever since she was the teenage lover of Pope Sergius III, producing a bastard heir, she aligned herself with those who could help her further consolidate power, while killing those that stood in her way. Despite years of supreme influence, and ensuring the House of Theophylact dominated the Papal States for years to come, things did not end well for Marozia. She was toppled by her own scheming son Duke Alberic II, who imprisoned her in a tower for five years until her death in 937.

Extra tip: Embrace your inner cuckold. The most popular way to get in Marozia’s good books is to be weak and easily controlled.

WHO TO AVOID
Pope John XII
A synod of bishops once called this pontiff a ‘monster without a single virtue to atone for his many vices’. It is perhaps no surprise then that he mutilated many of them for their treachery. The grandson of Marozia, he ascended to the papacy around the age of 18 in 955. He lived a life of brazen immorality, making the sacred Lateran Palace his brothel. Fittingly, he died in 964 after being caught in the act of adultery. As a ruler, he was cruel and duplicitous, but also foolish, turning the Holy Roman Emperor Otto I into an enemy, and almost being dethroned by him in 963.

Helpful skills

Seduction
In a time where sexuality is a valuable tool, learning the art of seduction will help you get what you want.

Gambling
A popular activity for everyone from the lowliest citizen to the pope himself. How better to make money and powerful friends?

Ruthlessness
You’ll get nowhere following the righteous path. You must be willing to turn on your family, lovers and friends if you wish to stay ahead.
What if...
The Meiji Restoration had failed?

If Japan’s revolution of 1868 had not panned out, the surviving shogunate may have sided very differently during the World Wars

Written by Jonathan O’Callaghan

INTERVIEW WITH... DR ALISTAIR SWALE

Dr Alistair Swale is currently a senior lecturer in screen and media studies at the University of Waikato, New Zealand. He is the author of The Political Thought Of Mori Arinori: A Study In Meiji Conservatism and The Meiji Restoration: Monarchism, Mass Communication And Conservative Revolution.

What precipitated the overthrow of the 260-year-old Tokugawa shogunate in Japan in favour of the young Emperor Meiji?
The most common point for talking about the Meiji Restoration is the arrival of the “black ships” [from the United States] under Commodore Perry in 1853, when they sailed into Uraga harbour, near Edo [the former name for Tokyo]. It was a fairly graphic demonstration of a Western power’s capacity to enter into the inner precinct of Japan without any consequence. Perry said he would come back in a year’s time and get a response from the Japanese in terms of whether they would open the country or not. And when they did come back, the Japanese acquiesced to a point, and opened up some ports to the Americans.

At the time, the Tokugawa shogunate had lost one of its main reasons for existing, which was maintaining the policy of isolation. So in this one major event you find the bakufu [the Shōgun’s officials] exposed as actually not having the technical wherewithal to repulse the westerners. And perhaps even worse actually letting them land, and in several years’ time setting up a trade agreement with the Americans. From this point, the position of the shogunate becomes untenable.

Imperial and shogunate forces clashed from 1868-1869. How bloody was the Boshin War?
There were conflicts, but I think it’s actually remarkable how limited the conflicts were. Probably one of the most pivotal was just south of the capital, when the shogunate sent forces to take a letter to [Emperor Meiji, who was in league with the western rebels]. They were met by forces of the Satsuma and Chōshū clans, and repulsed over several days. The shogunate forces were not a match for the combined expertise and determination of the new players in the game.

The most bloody and prolonged fighting happened on the north east of the country, where the Aizu clan was determined to pursue the conflict further. But I think if you consider the degree of what was at stake, it’s remarkable that there was not more loss of life.

What were some of the major ways the Meiji Restoration changed the country?
Within three years of the Restoration, the clans were abolished and replaced with the nomenclature of prefectures. Also you have the beginning of the breaking down of a traditional caste system. For centuries the warriors, the samurai, were in a position of authority. As a caste they were at the top of the social order. And it is often said they had the authority to dispatch anyone of an inferior caste just for a perceived slight. So that’s the second thing that really begins to get undone in the wake of the restoration.

Did the Restoration end the Japanese policy of seclusion and did this change the country’s standing with the rest of the world?
I don’t think it changed the notion of isolation completely. From 1853 onwards, the shogunate had been forced to open ports, and been forced to do trade deals with various nations. The moment that they did treaties with one nation, other nations claimed the same provisions. And by the time you get to the mid to late 1860s, the shogunate itself is developing quite a tight relationship with the French government, and there are substantial missions being sent from Japan to Europe. So even by 1868, which was the year of the Restoration, the shogunate navy was in fact relatively modernised.

To say that natural isolation was still going to be something that you could go back to, I think that was probably unrealistic and a fait accompli that was accepted by both the shogunate and the western clans that toppled them. I don’t think either would think keeping the Western powers out was an option.

What would have happened if the Meiji Restoration had failed?
The single largest legacy of the shogunate continuing would be that they would be hard pressed to implement reforms. The transition from having a patchwork of clans to a unified nation state where the entire country is under one government, I think that would have been more difficult to implement.

The other thing is the shogunate would have struggled to accept the kind of homogenising of the national populous that happened under the Restoration government [such as disestablishing the privileges of the samurai class]. I don’t think the shogunate would have been able to push that through, so I don’t think they would have been able to create the kind of military force that could project into other parts of Asia quite as effectively. They could have certainly had geopolitical conflicts with China, the Korean peninsula, and conceivably with Russia as well. But it’s really a moot point just how far they could have succeeded, not just transforming the military but also the fabric of the nation.

“If you consider... what was at stake, it's remarkable that there was not more loss of life”
What if… THE MEIJI RESTORATION HAD FAILED?

The samurai would have remained a privileged class if the Japanese revolution failed.
Would the shogunate have been able to keep control?
I think it would be tenuous. It would have emboldened the Western powers to get more involved. Even if the shogunate managed to hold on, I think it would mean that Japan would not have been so successful at modernisation.

To what extent did the Restoration cause Japan to modernise and would the shogunate have resisted this?
Both the shogunate and the Restoration forces recognised the need to modernise the military hardware. The question was how far you take some of these reforms.

There is the famous phrase, ‘wakon-yōsai’, that means ‘Japanese spirit, Western learning’. That seems to have been implemented in a pragmatic way throughout the early stages of the Restoration. Especially in the first 10 years following Restoration, there’s a very complex process of negotiation, almost bit by bit, where people are trying to sort out how far you can adopt certain things from Western culture and still stay Japanese.

I think there is a realisation after time that you could still cut your hair, wear Western clothes, and nonetheless pursue the original aims of preserving the integrity of the country.

Could Japan still have won the 1904 Russo-Japanese war without Restoration’s widespread modernisation?
Under the [shogunate], would they have been able to develop the military prowess to trouble the Russians? It’s possible. Russia was a fairly powerless state in terms of international situation and governance, and the shogunate did already have a record for developing a fairly strong naval presence. The more serious question that plays further along is what would have happened to Japanese relations with other Western powers. The Satsuma clan had a relationship with England that was very strong and certainly filtered into the development of the navy and commerce.

The French influence probably would have stayed with the shogunate, but of course there was the Franco-Prussian War in the early 1870s. It probably would have meant, because of their

How would it be different?

- **A storm brews on the horizon**
The Dutch warn the ruling shogunate in Japan that American Commodore Matthew C Perry will soon arrive to demand that the country’s ports are opened to the US for trading. 1852

- **The arrival of the black ships**
Commodore Perry arrives at the port of Uraga, at the entrance of Tokyo Bay, demanding that the shogunate opens up ports for the US to begin trade negotiations. His fleet was known as the “black ships”, with the Japanese seeing just how far behind their navy and technology lagged compared to the rest of the world. He says he will return in 1854, leaving Japan to decide whether they will abandon their policy of national seclusion and embrace the rest of the world. July 1853

- **Perry leaves Japan empty-handed**
Commodore Perry returns but is rebuffed by the shogunate. He sails back to the US, unable to strike a trade agreement. February 1854

- **Loyalists struggle to gain support**
With no anti-foreigner sentimentality in the country after the ports are kept closed, the loyalists aren’t able to gain support in the country. 1857

- **The clans fail to rise up**
The shogunate manages to keep the clans at bay, sending expeditions to tame the Chōshū clan and others, and quelling any chance of an uprising or a Restoration in the country. 1862

- **The end of national seclusion**
Commodore Perry returns, and in March the Treaty of Kanagawa is signed opening up the ports of Hakodate and Shimoda to the Americans. February 1854

- **Other countries want in on the deal**
First Great Britain in October 1854, then Russia in February 1855 and Holland in November 1855, all sign deals to get a piece of the pie. October 1854

- **The American presence grows in Japan**
The shogunate agrees to open more ports to the Americans, under pressure from from the US Consul who had arrived in Shimoda two years earlier. 1858
antagonism with the English, that [Japan] could have come quicker to an alignment with the German-speaking nations. Instead of having a strong English influence, they would have had a much more Germanic influence, and that would have interesting implications for World War I. Japan came into the war on the side of the English, the Allies, but it would be interesting to conject what Japan’s role in World War I would have been had it in fact sided with Germany.

How might this have affected Japan’s more substantial role in World War II?
If they had ended up being strong enough to be taken seriously as a power in the confrontation with Russia in the early 20th century, and then struck up an alliance with Germany in World War I, what that implies is they might well have been on the losing side. That probably would have chastened aspirations for military expansion thereafter, and it might have led to a greater or earlier desire to remain neutral. So that could have meant Japan would not have been in the position it was, in the 1930s, where it had Korea, Manchuria, this broad web of territories and influence, it would have had quite a distinct complexion.

Overall, what would a failed Meiji Restoration have meant for Japan?
The fundamental issue here is that the shogunate’s premise of existing and structure made it inherently weak and vulnerable. It’s highly debatable how long they could have held that position unreconstructed. Every compromise they made in terms of the structure of the government and the introduction of new reforms would have made it look more self-contradictory and weak, and ripe for further attack.
This shrivelled human heart was found inside its lead, heart-shaped case lined with silver, known as a 'cist', in County Cork, Ireland, back in 1863. In some cases, particularly if the man or woman was wealthy, the heart was removed from the body after death and buried separately. It is believed that the heart dates back to the Middle Ages, and could have been used for rituals of devotion, magic and love. Such love magic was used to bind one person to another romantically, for example in times of love sickness.

PROGNOSTICATOR
C. 1500
In line with Medieval understanding, this instrument used to determine the most auspicious time to conduct bloodletting in patients. The prognosticator calculated this according to the position and movements of the Moon, and the 12 signs of the zodiac are also engraved all the way around it. Astrology had a big influence on medicine and by the end of the 14th century, physicians in various countries were legally obliged to consult the position of the stars before proceeding with an operation.

“The idea was to trap a devil in a glass, stone or mirror, where they would be forced to answer questions”

MIRROR OF FLORON
16TH CENTURY
Angels were not the only supernatural beings involved in magical divination, as some people tried to summon demons. The idea was to trap a demon in a glass, stone or mirror, where they would be forced to answer questions. This magic mirror is associated with the demon Floron. To work, a magic mirror was supposed to be made from polished steel, inscribed with the names of angels, and the maker had to be chaste and clean to successfully trap Floron. Beyond divining secrets of the past, present and future, magic mirrors were also used in rituals associated with love and healing.

Elias Ashmole
ENGLISH 1617 – 1692
Antiquary and politician Elias Ashmole had an interest in magic, notably in astrology and alchemy. His fascination with divination led to his interest in the life of John Dee and he attempted to write a biography on him, although this never materialised. Ashmole founded England’s first public museum, The Ashmolean.
**CEREMONIAL SWORD**
**LATE 16TH CENTURY**

Though this sword dates back to the 16th century, the rock crystal reliquary in the handle actually dates back even earlier. Rock crystal was popular because of the strong belief in the power of natural materials and it could be used to hold relics since the sacred fragment inside could be visible and would transmit its power of protection to the person who held it. This sword was actually a ceremonial weapon and given as a gift for a betrothal or marriage - as it is adorned with the Bourbon coat of arms, it was possibly a gift given to Princess Henrietta Maria for her marriage to King Charles I of England.

**CORAL BROOCH**
**1600-1800**

This bright coral brooch depicts the Archangel Michael defeating the devil and is a powerful image of good triumphing over evil. As coral was a natural material, it was believed to protect against harm, therefore making it an ideal choice for this brooch. To have a lucky charm or talisman was not uncommon and in fact they still persist to this day, as the belief that an object can offer the owner confidence, control and protection can be physically and mentally comforting.

**POPPET**
**1909-1913**

The use of poppets, small effigies believed to bewitch the people they represent, has long been associated with witchcraft. This particular one is made of stuffed fabric and is wearing an Edwardian style black dress, with its head skewered by a small stiletto dagger. Dolls like this one were used to cause injury and death, with the idea that injuries made to the poppet would correspond to the person it symbolised. The practice of sticking pins into a representative image or effigy was a common ritual of malevolent magic.

**BARN DOOR**
**17TH CENTURY**

Carved into this barn door are various hexafoil markings, which were most likely intended to protect the barn against witchcraft. These inscriptions were developed from the human need to protect property and of course, a belief in magic. Apotropaic charms such as these markings were made in consultation with cunning folk, otherwise known as folk magicians, who would visit homes to offer their advice. These charms usually consisted of geometrical shapes or religious monograms carved into supports of the home, such as on the beams or on lintels, to protect them from witches.

**WITCH’S LADDER**
**19TH CENTURY**

This Witch’s Ladder was found in the roof of a house in Somerset where, according to 19th and 20th century articles, a purported witch lived. It was believed that this witch used it as a metaphorical ladder, perhaps to gain access to a house or to cast a curse on someone. However, historians today believe that this object was actually a sewel, a tool for driving deer. For years, it has been labelled as a ‘Witch’s Ladder’ at the Pitt Rivers Museum, because the curators at the time wanted to identify it, provide an explanation and put it on display.

**BULL’S HEART**
**UNKNOWN**

If an animal such as a cow or a sheep was believed to have died as a result of witchcraft, then its heart may have been cut out and stuck with pins, needles or even thorns. Afterwards, the heart would either be hung up to roast over a fire or placed inside a chimney, where it could smoke and shrivel and subsequently cause pain to the witch’s heart. This particular one is a bull’s heart that was pierced with iron nails and thorns before it was smoked. Although piercing poppets was deemed an act of witchcraft, piercing animal hearts was not considered in the same vein, since it was intended to harm witches.
You’ve probably never read a history book like this before. Front and centre in *Agrippina: Empress, Exile, Hustler, Whore* is someone who author Emma Southon calls “the most extraordinary woman in the Roman world”, but the way in which her biography is told is something else entirely.

Roman women generally weren’t thought of as having their own agency – in fact, even today they’re usually referred to as the wives, mothers or sisters of others. Agrippina the Younger, as the sister, niece, wife and mother of Roman emperors, was certainly no exception. When you think of Roman power, her name usually isn’t at the forefront of your mind. Even when you think of Roman women, your mind probably wanders to Livia, Lucretia or Messalina. But Agrippina the Younger was a trailblazer, and Southon is on a mission to show you why.

From the very first page, you’ll be enthralled in the tale. The very first line of the introduction sets the tone, “This is the story of an extraordinary woman.” From there, Southon weaves a tapestry of life in Ancient Rome – especially that miserable life women faced – and condenses the history of the nation from kingdom to empire into an entertaining seven pages. Southon approaches her writing with an obvious sense of humour (like the pithy dedication “To all my Difficult Aunts”) and it honestly just makes it a joy to read.

Agrippina the Younger is a tricky subject to tackle. All of the evidence we have about her, as Southon explains, is through what people wrote down of her interactions with men. That’s all we have – and why the book’s subhead exhibits how she’s been viewed as a result: empress, exile, hustler, whore.

In fact, the book itself is split into five chapters (daughter, sister, niece, wife and mother) to show her in her relationships with family members. But despite that, Southon paints the picture of a woman in her own right. Agrippina was a woman who made her own life in a male-dominated society (and it was because of her determination to be seen as an equal that she was murdered by her own son).

It’s hard to put down so having the standard history-book plates is only really an afterthought.

Although the book seems to be aimed at readers in their 20s or 30s with a smattering of pop culture references, nothing is dumbed down. Sources are evaluated, everything is explained in context and Southon has the air of someone who knows exactly what they’re talking about.

What’s especially great about *Agrippina* is Southon’s obvious deep interest in her central figure and she knew that those she would be sharing the story with would be as interested as her. The book was published through Unbound, a company that makes sure books are funded directly by those who would want to buy the finished product. Without this website, it’s unlikely that anything like this would have gone to print and honestly, that really would have been a shame.

A refreshing take on arguably one of the greatest Roman women to have lived, it’s a must-read book for anyone who is interested in the ancient world.
KING EDWARD VIII

A fresh perspective on how an American adventure shaped the royal rebel

**Author** Ted Powell  **Publisher** Oxford University Press  **Price** £25  **Released** Out now

Edward VIII famously spent his life abroad after he abdicated the British throne in 1936. However, while the Duke of Windsor’s exile with his wife, the American divorcee Wallis Simpson, is well documented, Ted Powell’s new biography showcases Edward’s hitherto overlooked early odyssey in the United States.

*King Edward VIII: An American Life* explores how as a young Prince of Wales, Edward surfed in Hawaii, partied in New York, hobnobbed with Hollywood stars, and even learned to perform lasso tricks from a cowboy. While newspapers from Boston to San Francisco recorded it at the time, the revelation that Edward had torrid affairs with American women before he met Wallis may well shock British readers.

However, Powell is no monarchical mud-raker, sharing Jazz Age gossip simply for salacious thrills. The royal historian documents all this to offer a fresh perspective on Edward’s character, his brief reign, and his decision to abdicate. Through private correspondence and previously unseen sources, Powell makes a compelling case for Edward being torn between his obligations to the crown and his adoration for the American Dream.

The author explicitly claims *King Edward VIII: An American Life* counters the established view he was a shallow, pleasure-seeking Nazi sympathiser, which might be a stretch. Edward’s regrets about visiting Hitler’s Germany are detailed, but fears that he was mixed up (knowingly or otherwise) in Nazi plots – shared on both sides of the Atlantic, by Churchill and Roosevelt – are ignored.

Though Powell carefully avoids framing Edward and Wallis’s marriage as a Cinderella story, this remains too romantic a royal portrait to be the definitive word on the controversial king.

THE SILK ROADS ILLUSTRATED

This picture book offers a more well-rounded approach to global history

**Author** Peter Frankopan  **Publisher** Bloomsbury  **Price** £17  **Released** Out now

For the longest time world history was written from a Western perspective. Modern Europe was regarded as the heirs to the mighty Romans, who in turn were heirs of the intellectual Greeks. If the Greeks’ roots were traced back to Ancient Egypt it only cemented the view that the Mediterranean was the cradle of civilisation. While no serious historians of the last 30 years believe it was that simple, this traditional view is still taught in schools as a foundation for introducing the subject.

*The Silk Roads Illustrated* is here to put that right. Written by the professor of global history at Oxford University, it traces the links between East and West, showing how people, trade, religion, science, conflict and even disease have travelled back and forth, influencing cultures on either side. This ranges from the ancient laws of King Hammurabi, to Genghis Khan’s terrifying huns, the rise of Europe, the World Wars and present-day politics.

Keen readers may remember that Peter Frankopan put out a hardback history called *The Silk Roads* in 2015, covering the same topic. However, this abridged version is aimed at younger readers. Frankopan takes time to explain famous figures and concepts they might be unfamiliar with, while chapters remain concise enough for short attention spans.

As its title suggest *The Silk Roads Illustrated* is also accompanied by beautiful artwork from Neil Packer. Intricately detailed maps, as well as vivid scenes imagining everything from the building of Baghdad to the trenches of Normandy, bring the book to life.
The title Timelines of Everything: An Illustrated History of Time is a bold statement and while it is impossible to incorporate every aspect of history into one book, this one comes pretty close. It is filled with more than 100 colourful, illustrated timelines on a wide range of topics including the age of dinosaurs, early imperial China, the Reformation, dance and the story of robotics – just to name a few.

While this book is aimed at children aged nine to 12 years old, it has a lot to offer for anyone who is interested in learning something new about history, from watershed moments to key breakthroughs. The timelines are packed full of information but are easy to follow and understand, keeping it accessible to all ages. It is fun to flick through this book and land on a topic that you had never considered reading about before. Although some of the annotations on the timelines are rather brief, it is enough to pique a reader's interest and perhaps inspire some historical research of your own.

While this 320-pages collection offers a staggering breadth of topics, it is disappointing that it also contains a couple of errors. For instance, the picture used alongside the description of writer and philosopher Mary Wollstonecraft is in fact a portrait of her daughter, Frankenstein author Mary Shelley. This is a minor point in comparison to the lovely presentation and material included in the book.

For all humankind's curiosity, there have always been some among us possessing a particular strength of character willing them on to go that extra mile. Through centuries explorers have traversed frozen landscapes, deserts, mountains and jungles to place another piece of the jigsaw linking up the known world.

From conquistadors and scholars to artists and captains, humans have long been testing the limits of their endurance, so tells The Great Explorers – a collection of essays edited by explorer, author and conservationist Robin Hanbury-Tenison which delves into the lives of “40 of the greatest men and women who changed our perception of the world”.

Effectively organised into seven thematic sections – including the oceans, polar ice and new frontiers – the mini biographies celebrate famed explorers such as Christopher Columbus, James Cook, Lewis and Clark, and Roald Amundsen, as well as more obscure names like Nain Singh (first man to survey Tibet), James Bruce (discovered the source of the Blue Nile), and Alexander Mackenzie (first east to west crossing of North America).

The scope of achievements is impressive, as is the diversity of the figures who feature. Middle Eastern explorer, archaeologist and poet Gertrude Bell is deservedly included, as is Victorian naturalist and botanical artist Marianne North.

The Great Explorers is a concise yet illuminating book bringing together some of history’s most fascinating adventurers in all their complexities. Casual readers should enjoy discovering new insights into these ages of discovery, while enthusiasts eager to build their knowledge will find the collection to be an engaging foundation.
THE STAIRCASE

This gripping docu-series considers the long-term impact of a 17-year-old murder trial on all involved

Certificate 18  Director Jean-Xavier de Lestrade  Distributor Netflix  Released Out now

In 2001, Kathleen Peterson was found dead in pool of blood, at the foot of the stairs of her home in North Carolina. Her novelist husband, Michael, said that she had fallen, but he was tried for murder. As intriguing as the case at the heart of this true-crime documentary is, The Staircase doesn’t just twist and turn its way through the shocking trial. It also explores the fallout for all those involved – including Michael, his extended family, and even his lawyer – over the next decade.

The 13-part series on Netflix includes eight episodes that debuted in 2004, another two released in 2013, and three more shot last year. Watched in one go, it makes for an epic saga that confirms Jean-Xavier de Lestrade as an auteur of the long-form documentary.

There is nowhere the French filmmaker’s camera doesn’t go. He is welcomed into the Peterson’s home, where he interviews many of Michael and Kathleen’s grown-up children. He is also given a front row seat for Peterson’s trial, which makes for a crass fulcrum for later episodes, but the director doesn’t draw on his masses of archive footage to revisit it, instead relying on a hasty summation from Michael’s lawyer.

The Netflix series comes with bonus material, including a featurette on how some experts think Kathleen’s injuries are consistent with an attack by a bird of prey. There is also an audio-only episode from Netflix’s true crime podcast series, You Can’t Make This Up. While ‘The Owl Theory’ is an interesting aside, the latter will give binge-watchers whiplash. Its presenters adopt a jovial tone to their deep dive of Peterson’s trial, which makes for a crass coda to de Lestrade’s masterpiece.

While its as tense as a true crime shocker, The Staircase is a smart, considered study that doesn’t serve up easy answers.
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As the movie depicts, Mary Shelley was the daughter of philosophers Mary Wollstonecraft and William Godwin. However, she also had an older maternal half-sister, Fanny who was raised by Godwin after her mother’s death, but is not included in the film.

Mary was really sent to Scotland to stay with the Baxter family and she had a difficult relationship with her stepmother. Her father claims in the film that the visit would offer her freedom – it is believed he sent her in real life to discover radical politics.

William Godwin really did disapprove of his daughter’s relationship with Percy, who was already married, and threatened to disown her. She was surprised and upset when her father stuck to his word, but they eventually reconciled in later life after Percy’s early death.

Percy, Mary, and her stepsister Claire did indeed travel to Geneva, Switzerland, to stay at Lord Byron’s home, where Shelley became inspired to write *Frankenstein*. The film also accurately portrays Claire falling pregnant with Byron’s baby.

Though the film shows the death of Mary’s daughter and mentions the suicide of Percy’s wife, it does not portray other darker aspects of her life, such as Fanny’s suicide is not mentioned despite it occurring in 1816, the same year that Shelley began to write *Frankenstein*.
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