ALL ABOUT HISTORY

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Discover how royal relatives became the deadliest rivals

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Best-selling author reveals weird and wonderful festive rites

KINGDOM OF SPICE
Uncover Petra’s hidden history

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How the Führer lost his rag with the art world

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Welcome

"Yes, the Queen my good sister may be assued..." you have never escaped the perspicacity that she was a Catholic outside, more French handmaiden than Queen of Scots. Perhaps in return, Elizabeth I might have been given cause to ruminate on the costs of her success - the constant struggle against powerful and manipulative men in her court, the loss of her mother and estrangement from her family, and so forth. After all, Elizabeth I was not only a monarch, but a woman as well.

Finally, Elizabeth I navigated the treacherous landscape of her time to rise to a position of status and power, while Mary never escaped the perception that she was a Catholic outside, more French handmaiden than Queen of Scots. Perhaps in return, Elizabeth I might have been given cause to ruminate on the costs of her success - the constant struggle against powerful and manipulative men in her court, the loss of her mother and estrangement from her family, and so forth. After all, Elizabeth I was not only a monarch, but a woman as well.

Editor's picks

**Roman Empire** - Antonia Whitehouse explores the lesser-known side of ancient Rome, from influential but overlooked women to the glorious era of the Roman world.

**University of** - History student Melanie Spalding reveals the lesser-known aspects of the French court, focusing on a generation of powerful women, from Anne Boleyn to Mary, Queen of Scots.

**Hitler vs Art** - Editor and writer Philippa Goffen explores the Nazi period and showcases the work of artists who defied Nazi oppression.

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Discover the Third Reich’s war on ‘Degenerate’ culture

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German soldiers celebrate Christmas on the frontline near Ypres. While these men chatted, their fate was being decided. On 24 December, Gneisenau arrived inside the decision to press on with Operation Judgement - an all-out attack on the Ypres Salient, which would begin the following February. The nine-month campaign cost both sides dearly: approximately 300,000 men were killed and nearly half a million wounded.
DEFFINING MOMENTS

SHED'S HEAVEN

Inspired by a similar wading narrow used by the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, Roald Dahl composed all of his best known works from the confines of his garden shed. Dahl would retire to his “little nest” at 10am each morning, smoke six pencils and begin writing on a yellow legal pad he had imported from America. The curtains would be closed, with Dahl peering through the slits of artificial light. On this strange routine yielded indescribable results.

1986
THE SUN FINALLY SETS

On 1 July 1997, one of the last and most prestigious of British colonial possessions—Hong Kong—was returned to mainland China. The 99-year lease to the territory was expiration for much of 20th century. Beijing regarded it as one of the “unique treaties” which awarded foreign powers humiliating concessions. Both Britain and China agreed to safeguard the unique character and autonomy of the city, but its future is unclear...

1997
DEFINING MOMENTS

WING AND A PLAYER

Dedicated fans Uncle Teddy Rogers played a part of tennis at 1,002 feet with Ivan Ljubic. It was one of the most famous wing-walking stunts, along with chalking the Charleston. But we barely pause - obviously there was no bullet fired but a shot of pheasant. Tragically, he who claimed the world record for the highest water jump, died only two years later after walking into the spinning propeller of a grounded aircraft.

1925
“Time is a sort of river of passing events, and strong is its current: no sooner is a thing brought to sight than it is swept by and another takes its place, and this, too, will be swept away”

Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor from 161 to 180 CE
THE ROMAN EMPIRE

From the gender politics of bathhouses and the corridors of power, to the mundane mysteries of the Vindolanda tablets.
The Western Roman Empire

Chart the rise and fall of one of history's most important empires - from Octavian through to the final days of Romulus Augustus.

BEGINNING OF AN EMPIRE
Rome goes from being a republic to an empire under Octavian, who is given the title of Augustus by the Senate. He starts off Rome's first dynasty, the Julio-Claudians.

OVER THE CHANNEL
Emperor Claudius orders the invasion of Britain. Publius Plautius leads his soldiers over the English Channel. They successfully put down Celtic rebellions and annex what is now England.

CONSTANTINE RISES
One of Rome's most famous emperors took the throne of the Western Roman Empire. 12 years later, he reunited the West and East, but they split again under the rule of his sons.

THE TETRARCHY
In a bid to control an ever-expanding empire, Diocletian decided to divide the land between two senior emperors and two junior tetrarchs, who would rule when the senior men stepped down.

CRISIS OF THE THIRD CENTURY
Three empires - the Gallic Empire, the Roman Empire, and the Palmyrene Empire - exist. Rome lasted for 49 years.

THE ROAD TO CHRISTIANITY
The Edict of Thessalonica made Christianity Rome's official religion in 380 CE. Christianity was given official status.

A NEW CAPITAL
After reuniting the empire, Constantine decided that it was time for a new capital city. Nova Roma (New Rome) was built on the site of old Byzantium, and was later named Constantinople after the emperor.

A FINAL PARTING
After briefly reuniting, the Eastern and Western Roman Empire split for the last time after the death of Theodosius. It was the beginning of the end for the West.
GREAT FIRE OF ROME
NINE DAYS
The fire raged for 14 days, only 4 of the 800-year-old temple of Jupiter Capitolinus remained intact.

YEAR OF THE FOUR EMPERORS
After the death of Nero, Caligula took control but was murdered by his bodyguards. Caligula survived until he was killed by the next emperor, Vitellius. Finally, Vespasian was declared emperor and the Flavian dynasty began.

COLOSSEUM FINISHED
After almost ten years of construction, the empire's largest amphitheater opened with games that lasted three months on and off. Over 9,000 animals were killed in the celebrations, and locals danced with excitement and tears.

CONSTITUTIO ANTONINIANA
The Constitution of Antoninus was the first law in the Roman Empire to treat all free people equally.

ANTONINE PLAGUE
When soldiers returned back from defeating the Parthians, they unwittingly brought a deadly disease with them. The plague eventually reached every corner of the empire, and even killed Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

HADRIAN'S WALL COMPLETED
Built on the Roman Empire's northern border, Hadrian's Wall crossed the border from coast to coast in what is now Cumbria. 75 miles in length, it was guarded until Rome renounced it in 410.

UNDER ATTACK
The Visigoths had tried and failed to attack the West's capital at Ravenna a few times, but in 410 they succeeded, aided by rebellious locals in the city. The end of the West was in sight.

THE LAST BREATH
After just ten months on the throne, Romulus Augustus was overthrown by a new leader, Odoacer, who named himself king of Italy. The Western Empire had finally fallen.

THE EAST LIVES ON
The Eastern Empire lasted 1,000 years longer than the West.
In ancient Rome, personal hygiene was more of a public affair. Even the wealthiest people, right down to the poorest of the poor, needed to bathe and exercise to maintain good health. Bathing and exercise were considered crucial for both physical and mental well-being.

**Time for a workout**
Before going into the baths, most would check out the palaestra orstadium, where they would work up a sweat. But this wasn’t a competitive environment — in fact, Roman doctors prescribed it as a way to maintain good health, along with a good diet and the leisurely walk round the interior of the bathhouse. Wrestling, boxing and ball games were often the order of the day.

**Getting cold**
The final room of the three rooms, the frigidarium was the coldest. In this room, the bathers would plunge themselves into a small pool of cold water as a way to refresh themselves and tone their bodies for the heat of the caldarium. After this, bathers would get dressed and make their way back outside.

**Dress for the occasion**
The apodyterium, or changing room, was where the bathers would get undressed as they entered. All around the walls were shelves where they could put their clothes and any personal belongings they might have brought with them. This did come with the risk of theft. As a result, some wealthier citizens bought their slaves with them to follow them around the baths and carry their things.
**Moving indoors**
The first room of the thermae proper was the tepidarium, in which bathers would be anointed with oil and enjoy the warm temperature. The oil, along with any dirt, would then be stripped off the skin using a carved strigil. This was also when you could receive a massage from a hired slave or even have your hair plucked, as hairless bodies were fashionable for much of the Roman Empire.

**Feel the heat**
A bath's second room would be the caldarium, which was the hottest room in the building. Here they would work up a sweat, like in a sauna, before sinking themselves into a warm pool of water about two metres wide, three metres long and one metre deep - large enough for more than one person so you could have a chat, but not big enough to swim in.

**Keeping the heat**
To create the warm air to heat the building, boilers were installed. However, due to the lack of electricity, these were fired by slaves, who shoveled charcoal, bran wood and, in Britain, coal to keep the furnaces roaring.

**Ancient central heating**
To keep the warm rooms warm, the Romans devised an ingenious method: the hypocaust. Small pillars of tiles sat under the floor, allowing hot gases to move between them to heat the floors of entire rooms. The hot air would then rise through slits in the walls so that the warmth was all around the room instead of just coming up through the floor.

**Do your business**
When you need to go, you need to go. Latrines would also be built in a Roman bathroom - the reason why is really just common sense, especially with the constant sounds of sloshing water. However, Roman toilets were nothing luxurious. A bench of malleable with holes in covered a pit, where the Romans would do their business, before wiping themselves with a piece of natural sponge or a stick. This would then be put in a bucket of water or vinegar ready for the next person to use.
A VESTAL VIRGIN
ROME, UNKNOWN 394 CE

THE BRAIDING BUNCH

The Vestal Virgins often wore their hair in complicated buns. When the hair was divided into sections, six plaits would be made in each, which would then be wound spirally together around the head. Two buns were often done for the face, although it is said that even fewer took place for the face.

A WOOLEN SYMBOL

The turban was a headgear worn by many Roman women, but the Vestal Virgins were made of wool in order to show their higher position in society. However, if a Vestal Virgin had had a turban, it would be the first thing to be removed. The ceremonial version of this was called a turban.

A SACRIFICIAL LADLE

A ladle was used in other religious ceremonies. A cupid was often used to show the one of a lute, while others were used in other ceremonies. The lid was often made of wood, and the decorations could be anything between incised lines and beautifully ornate.

PURE AS SNOW

If you saw a Vestal Virgin and about, they would always be dressed in white as a sign of their purity. Chosen when they were between the age of six and ten, the girls would be taught to keep their 30-year strictures with severe punishment if they broke their sacred vows - they were sworn to Stereo, and any differences with Stereo were considered incest, which was punishable by death.

THE ETERNAL FLAME

The most important duty of a Vestal Virgin was to ensure that the flax for the eternal flame went on - if it did, Rome would fall. With as many Virgin sisters as they took skills to teach over the limited time frame, no needy would be stopped and stopped by the priests; only those who were usually the emperors.

DRESS TO IMPRESS

A robe formed the main garment for the Vestal Virgins, but on the top of their heads were a series of ornate decorations. On many occasions, they also wore a chalice, or gall. The girls had to be very simple in their habits - display themselves with the adornments.

STEPPE OUT

Vestal Virgins, like the rest of the women, typically wore one of three types of shoes or slippers, which were most common, as the men wore.

(continued on next page)
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The Lightning served to inspire a great many people to join the Royal Air Force and for many, is still an enduring symbol of where the British aviation Industry was at the peak of its manufacturing prowess.
Hall of Fame

INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

While women were shunned in Roman politics, some were determined to make their mark on society with power plays and cunning.

AGrippina the Younger
19 CE–59 CE

The wife, muse, mother, and sister of one of Rome’s most famous emperors, Agrippina was always going to have an eventful and high-profile life, but her existence seems to have slipped out of many history books over the years. Bedded by her brother Caligula for political gain, against him she returned to Rome under the rule of her uncle Claudius. Agrippina was looking for power, and so she married her uncle, and she even made her son, Nero, marry three times into the family. When Claudius died, Nero ruled, and Agrippina became one of the most powerful people in the empire—until the relationship between mother and son deteriorated. Her life ended when she was brutally murdered by her son’s frenzies.

LIVIA DRUSILLA
38 BCE–29 CE

Quiet and refined in the background of imperial Roman life, Livia, the wife of Augustus, the first Roman emperor, was the epitome of the perfect Roman woman. While she never managed to bear the heir, any children of his own, she still wielded power, acting as his counsellor and advisor, always whispering ideas into his ear. She was rewarded with the ability to manage her own finances and a public statue of herself—unheard of for the time. Livia ensured that a son from her first marriage, Tiberius, would succeed Augustus and there were rumors that she killed Augustus to see her son rule.

VALERIA MESSALINA
14 CE–48 CE

Messalina was a dirty mix with aumatice, and that’s probably why Messalina married him. Stunningly beautiful and eager for power, Claudius would be no match for her machinations. According to early imperial Roman writers, Messalina slept her way around the court while telling Claudius how to govern. When Messalina gave her husband a son, named Britannicus after the invasion of Britain, her control over him increased. But this couldn’t go on forever—when Messalina fell in love with a man named Gaius, they plotted to overthrow the emperor and rule together. They were found out and murdered.

LUCILLA
40 CE–68 CE

When Lucilla was 12, her father, Marcus Aurelius, became co-emperor of Rome and Lucilla was married to his equal, Lucian Verus. She dutifully bore her husband a child but Lucian died three years later. Her second marriage was to politician and commander Thibius Claudius Pompeianus and she bore him a son. These were peaceful years, but that was all about to change. Her father died in 180 CE, leaving her brother Commodus to ascend the throne. It only took a year for things to go downhill—making her brother was tyrannical. Lucilla joined a plot to assassinate him but the conspirators were found out. In a fit of rage, Commodus killed his sister to Capri where she was executed.
HELENA 2348 CE 332 CE
Once married to Emperor Constantine I Chlorus, it would be his son who would bear her name. Under Constantine the Great’s rule, Helena saw herself elevated to the role of Christian mystic and church founder. In the year 313 CE, she founded the Edicule of Christ in Jerusalem and formed the basis for the basilica that stands today. Helena died in Jerusalem in 332 CE.

CLAUDIA METRODORA 2ND CENTURY CE - UNKNOWN
Women weren’t allowed to be directly involved in politics, but that didn’t stop Claudia Metrodora. A Greek woman with a Roman citizenship, she held extraordinary power on the island of Chios, holding the higher magistracy that island had to offer twice and a high position of life of Aphrodite Livia. On top of all that, she was president of the Heraclia Lysia and Roman festival on three separate occasions — almost unheard of at the time.

AQUILIA SEVERA 2ND CENTURY CE - UNKNOWN
Aquilia Severa was married to Emperor Caracalla. They had two sons, Carus and Constantine. Their relationship was troubled, and Aquilia was sent to live in Rome after Caracalla’s murder. She later married Emperor Elagabalus, who was murdered by his own soldiers.

CLAUDIA METRODORA

AGrippina the Elder 4 CE - 33 CE
As with many Roman rules, murder plays a major role in Agrippina the Elder’s life. When she went to the city with her husband, Germanicus Caesar, she mysteriously died in 19 CE. Agrippina had her suspicions and when she returned to Rome, she openly blamed Emperor Tiberius. A long reign of hostility between the two ensued, and the murder is suspected to be at the hands of her son Caligula.

JULIA THE ELDER UNKNOWN
Daughter of Augustus, Julia the Elder died in shame. She married three times to further the cause of her father—first to Marcus, her cousin. The second was to Appius, and the third was to Tiberius. When she died, she was forced to marry the future emperor Augustus and it was an unhappy marriage. When Tiberius left Rome he left his wife behind and she embarked on a promiscuous life. After threatening her with death, Augustus ended her life and she eventually died of starvation.

JULIA AVITA MAMAEA 2ND CENTURY CE - 235 CE
It was during the reign of her son Severus Alexander that Julia showed how she was able to rise above the situation. She was intelligent and strong-willed, and she was unable to rule the empire due to her gender, so she chose to rule through her son instead. However, despite Roman thinking that powerful women would destroy Rome, the opposite happened. Under Julia’s control the army became stronger and taxation was eased throughout the entire empire.

AUGUSTUS

One of Julia’s affairs was with Julius Antonius, which was politically dangerous for Augustus.

When she passed away, her husband ordered her body to be returned to Spain.
**Places to Explore**

**ROME IN RUINS**

Discover ancient Roman remnants at the heart of the Eternal City itself!

1. **CATACOMBS OF DOMITILLA**
   **VIA DELLE SETTE CHIERE**

Those in search of an authentic Roman experience - as well as those who enjoy the possibility of getting lost in miles of tunnels - will certainly get a lot out of their visit to this impressive series of interconnected underground crypts. These catacombs, the final resting place of many Romans, are spread across the city and archaeologists continue to excavate lost tombs.

They offer an insight into the practical way the Romans dealt with the dead, burying their loved ones underground on the outskirts of the city rather than allowing potentially disease-ridden corpses to rot where they would pose a risk to the general population.

The catacombs were not, as was once thought, clandestine meeting places or elaborate escape tunnels, their complexity and scale simply stems from the amount of Romans who were buried there. By far the most impressive is the Catacombs of San Domitilla. Located near the famous Roman road, the Appian Way, they are one of the longest and oldest catacombs - stretching 14.9 kilometres and containing about 15,000 graves. Sifting underground but slightly above the catacombs is also a well-preserved basilica.

San Domitilla opens 9am–midnight and 2pm–8pm, and is closed all day Tuesday. Standard admission costs €8. Find out more at domitilla.it.

2. **BATHS OF CARACALLA**
   **VIALE DELLE TERME DI CARACALLA**

Although they are in ruins today, the magnificent Baths of Caracalla were once the second largest public baths in Rome. Built in the early years of the 3rd century CE, the construction workers were prisoners of war captured during Septimius Severus’s Scottish campaign, and the scale of the site is testament to their skill.

The baths were an engineering marvel and offered a choice of tepid, cold or warm water as well as an Olympic-sized swimming pool. The bathhouse was served by a purpose-built aqueduct - the Aqua Antoniniana.

Nowadays the baths are a hugely popular tourist attraction and cultural celebrations and concerts are regularly held among the ruins, including the summer operatic programme of the illustrious Teatro dell’ Opera di Roma.

The Baths of Caracalla are open Sun to 6.30pm Tuesday to Sunday, and Sun to 2pm on Monday. Adult admission is €6.
THE COLOSSEUM
PIAZZA DEL COLISEO

What can be said about this masterpiece? A symbol of Rome, and Italy, the world over, the Colosseum—originally called the Flavian Amphitheatre after the imperial dynasty that commissioned it—stands as the perfect introduction for anyone with a burgeoning interest in the ancient world. Opened in 80 CE, nearly a decade of construction, the amphitheatre served as a giant entertainment venue that hosted gladiatorial battles, animal fighting, mock sea battles, and, in the intervals, mass executions. The Emperor Vespasian left that by entertaining his people he could quell years of civil unrest.

The best seats were, of course, reserved for the Emperors, though that didn’t stop them getting involved with the action—there are reports of Emperor Hadrian and Titus both participating in fights. With capacity for 50,000-80,000 people, the Colosseum is loaded for its revolutionary design. The many different backstage corridors and numerous staircases made crowd control a breeze and it has been claimed by some architectural historians that a crowd of 75,000 people could be dispersed within 15 minutes.

Sadly, the marble that adorned the interior has long since been pillaged. When visiting make sure you get your joint Forum ticket in advance or organise a private tour to avoid waiting for hours in the heat as there is little shade.

The Colosseum opens every day from 8:30am until sunset.

An adult combined ticket for the Colosseum, Roman Forum and the Palatine is €26.

THE ROMAN FORUM
PIAZZA DEI CAMPOGLIO

The Forum was the centre of political and civic life in ancient Rome. It was here where the great and good of Roman society came to dirty their hands with the brutal, often life-or-death business of running the empire. Archaeologists believe the site started out as a burial site in the 7th century BCE for the Etruscans.

Over hundreds of years, as Rome grew and grew, so too did the Forum. Churches, basilicas and the original seat of the Roman senate were all built there and additions continued to be made until the decline of the city.

Over time it was stripped of its marble and left to decay. Even for the keenest of history buffs this vast collection of buildings from various different eras can seem unwieldy and overwhelming—so much so that hiring a private tour guide and taking several hours to explore the grounds is highly recommended.

The Forum is open from 8:30am until one hour before sunset. An adult combined ticket for the Colosseum, Roman Forum and the Palatine is €26.

5 THE PANTHEON
PIAZZA DELLA ROTONDA

The Pantheon is second only to the Colosseum in terms of scale and the extent to which it has been preserved. Believed to have been built in the 2nd Century CE by Emperor Hadrian, the Pantheon was a temple built to honour all gods.

As the Romans conquered the world and increasingly came into contact with other religions, rather than persecuting these religious minorities, the Romans adopted their belief systems alongside their own. The Pantheon was originally a place where any Roman could go to worship; regardless of who or what they believed in. Indeed, the very word ‘pantheon’ is a hybrid of the Greek words ‘pan’ meaning all and ‘theon’ meaning god. The inscription on the outside of the building reads, “Marcus Agrippa, son of Lucius, consul for the third time built this” which is a reference to one of Rome’s greatest statesmen, a close friend and son-in-law of first Roman Emperor Augustus, who built the original temple on which the current Pantheon now stands.

Some of the interest has been remodelled over the years—the statues to the Roman gods of the planets were replaced with Christian saints when Rome converted—the marble floor and the huge dome under which the building sits are both original. The hole in the roof, or ‘ Oculus’, streaming in sunlight and may have been intended as a giant sundial.

Admission is free. Open daily from 8:30am to 7:30pm on weekdays and Saturdays, and 9am-5pm on Sundays.
Q&A With...

MICHAEL STARKS

THE TV PRODUCER TURNED HISTORIAN TALKS RAVENNA, THE OVERLOOKED CAPITAL OF THE LATE ROMAN EMPIRE

Understanding RAVENNA
MICHAEL STARKS

Understanding Ravenna is out now from Penhill Media.

Former television producer and Cambridge history graduate, Michael Starks is a presenter and writer with an interest in the ancient Mediterranean. His previous work includes The Traveler’s History of The Roman Empire.
WHAT'S THE GENESIS FOR YOUR NEW BOOK UNDERSTANDING RAVENNA?

It wrote the book out of curiosity. I had visited Ravenna back in my student years and admired its late Roman and Byzantine churches, monuments, and mosaics. Then, when I came back a few years ago and looked at them again, I thought “This beautiful art and architecture dates from the era of the fall of the Western Roman Empire and the conquest of Italy by the Ostrogoths. Work of this scale and quality would have needed continuity of commitment and stability. How was this achieved in this turbulent era?” I started looking into the subject and became even more intrigued. Ravenna was the imperial capital of the Western Roman Empire for half a century. Why was that? What had happened to Rome? The eight UNESCO World Heritage sites - the churches and monuments which survive today - were constructed under three different and opposed regimes – the Western empire, the Ostrogoths, and the Eastern empire under Justinian. Two of the finest churches were completed during a destructive civil war. How did that come about? The book took shape as I found answers to the questions.

WHAT IS IT THAT FASCINATES YOU ABOUT THIS ANCIENT CITY?

Apart from the magnificence 5th and 6th century churches, baptisteries, chapels and mausoleums, with their glorious mosaic decorations, you mean? Well, another fascinating issue is that, although today it is 12 kilometers from the sea, Ravenna was on the coast back in Roman times and was a major port. The emperor Augustus chose it as the headquarters for Rome’s African fleet. You can still visit the old port today because it is now an inland archaeological site. The archeologists have excavated a map of ancient Ravenna which shows it surrounded by lagoons and marshes. For that reason, it was an excellent defensive site – difficult to capture from inland and easy to supply from the sea. This largely explains why it became the Western emperors’ imperial capital. The Western Roman emperor Honorius (395-423 CE) was no soldier and his military command was a joke; he was only able to keep his position by capturing the invading Goths. While Rome and Milan were attacked and sacked, Ravenna was a safe haven. The Ostrogoth king Theodoric and his general, Belisarius, only managed to capture it by subterfuge.

WHY DID YOU THINK RAVENNA IS OVERLOOKED IN COMPARISON TO SO MANY OTHER ROMAN CITIES?

In ancient monuments date from the tail-end of the Western empire and importantly, from its successor regimes as. If the heart of your interest is the heyday of the Roman Republic and the first century of the Roman Empire, you would go elsewhere. However for the period we now call Late Antiquity Ravenna is central stage.

FOUR OF ITS EIGHT UNESCO World Heritage sites were actually built during the reign of Theodoric the Ostrogoth (493-526 CE) and even the two major churches consecrated after Theodoric’s eventual death were started under the Ostrogoths. This historical period is less well known among scholars with an interest in the Romans - I hope my book will make it more familiar.

WHAT ROLE DID RAVENNA PLAY IN THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE?

Like Roman cities elsewhere, Ravenna experimented at Monotheism of church building during the 5th century now that Christianity had become the official religion of the empire. As paganism was suppressed, large numbers of Romans converted, and as well as new churches, this required new baptisteries with fonts big enough for adult immersion. As the imperial capital of the Western empire, Ravenna’s building programme enjoyed the support of the imperial family, in particular of Galla Placidia, who was the sister of Honorius and the mother of his successor Valentinian III.

The Ostrogoths were an Asian people who believed that Christ was subordinate to God so they built their own Asian churches also with beautiful mosaics, but allowed the orthodox Bishop of Ravenna to carry on building as well. Under Justinian, Ravenna again enjoyed imperial favour and its bishops became archbishops.

HOW DID RAVENNA’S FORTUNES CHANGE WHEN IT FELL UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE?

Essentially, there were three phases. The first began in 540 CE when Belisarius captured Ravenna from the Ostrogoths by deceit. The Eastern Roman Empire retained its hold on Ravenna and continued to hold it, but the Ostrogoths found a new leader and fought the Eastern Empire for control of Italy for another decade, recapturing Rome more than once. During this period Ravenna was an island of stable peace and stability amid a deeply destructive Islamic civil war. Then, after the Ostrogoths were finally expelled in 552, Ravenna consolidated its role as the Eastern Empire provincial capital of Italy. When Justinian died in 565, he believed that he had nominated the old Roman Empire – as indeed he had. Briefly, however, three years later the Lombards invaded Italy and steadily extended their power. By the end of the 6th century they occupied two-thirds of Italy. Ravenna now became the capital of a shrinking province which the Eastern empire no longer had the resources to reconquer.

The emperors in Constantinople faced much greater threats: moves home and Ravenna’s governors were promoted to become emarchs, with both military and civil authority to rule semi-independently. The Eastern Roman Empire became what we now know as the Byzantine Empire, leaving Ravenna to have a quite different Medieval history. But that will be the subject for another book - by someone else!
Historical Treasures
VINDOLANDA TABLETS
ANCIENT WAYS OF LIFE PRESERVED IN THE MUD NORTHERN LANK, 85-130 CE

It's a miracle that we have these tablets at all considering how thin and fragile they are. Found during an excavation at the site of the Roman army of Vindolanda, today's Northumberland, they were only preserved due to being buried in damp, arctic earth. Wolfs teeth, the small wooden sticks are crossed in a Latin script detailing the daily lives of soldiers who spent their days at Hadrians Wall, the Romans Empire northwestern border. The size of our postcards today, the Vindolanda tablets don't look like much, but the details they hold about ancient Roman daily life is a rarity. One of the 1,600 old tablets detail work assignments - out of 343 men, 32 were making shoes, 58 were building the bath house, and the rest were collecting cobblestoning, assigned to the wagons, tending to the flocks or working in the hospital. We also know what some of the soldiers specialized in aside from war. Vindex and Aco were veterinarians, while Lucius' trade was wool shipping and Annius was a brewer. We are also told about the opposing Celtic warriors and how the Romans locked down on their weaponry and tactics. Not everything in the tablets is all business, though - one details a birthday party being thrown while another sees a soldier asking his brother for money. We also know what people ate - over 44 different foods are mentioned throughout the tablets, including venison, honey, spices and oils. Even ordinary soldiers could get hold of oysters and pepper.

The first tablets were found at Vindolanda in 1973 and since then, days have been turning up reveals of the ancient documents allowing us to create a better picture of what life was really like in a Roman fort. When they are uncovered, their preservation is of utmost importance so they are placed in water to clean them, then immersed in baths of methyl alcohol and ether to dry them out and make them easier to read. While they have been overthrown as the oldest Roman writings found in Britain by some tablets that have been found in London, they are still among the earliest texts produced in Roman Britain and hold a certain amount of significance on that merit alone.

"one details a birthday party"

It's all Latin to me
The Romans could usually write in English, but in these tablets, they used a form of Latin that they could easily read. They wrote these tablets in ink on vellum, which has preserved incredibly well, meaning that these documents are of one time considered to be important to the soldiers.

Measuring up
Only the size of the postcards we use today, the Vindolanda tablets and those found elsewhere in Britain don't look like much when they're dug up. They're also incredibly flimsy at two to five millimeters thick, and any dirt certainly doesn't help their fragile state.

Tied together
Latin tablets are kept together in pairs, just like matches in the most well-preserved tablets show where they were tied together to more larger documents. Over the past 2000 years, whatever was used to tie them together has disappeared in the earth, but that's the least of archivist's worries.

The original paper
Most of the tablets are made from the bark of birch or other trees, but this isn't always the case. Some of the ones found at Vindolanda have been written on oak, which doesn't preserve as well in the damp ground and so it is easier to uncover what is written on them.
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Los Angeles Times
Royal rivalry
The bloody death of Mary, Queen of Scots, ended the rivalry that had consumed her and her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I of England, for almost three decades. Feted against each other as female rulers in a man's world, the once seemingly affectionate relationship between the two queens soured as scheming and intrigue intervened to the point where only one of them could walk away alive.

Mary was just six days old when she became Queen of Scots after the death of her father King James V. With her mother, Mary of Guise, left in Scotland to rule in her stead Mary was sent to France at the tender age of five to be raised as the future wife of Prince Francis, son and heir of King Henri II and Queen Catherine de Medicis. The couple married in a sumptuous ceremony in April 1558 and after the sudden death of Henri just a year later, Mary and Francis ascended the throne to begin their long-awaited reign of glory. Unfortunately, it was tragically brief as Francis, suffering from a deadly ear infection, died in December 1559. No longer needed in France, Mary returned to Scotland in 1551 as an 18-year-old widow, setting eyes on her future for the first time in 13 years. Welcomed warmly by her people, Mary's return was met with suspicion by the Protestant sects who had gained power during her absence. After all, they weren't eager to see the return of their young, Catholic queen after establishing Protestantism in Scotland.

They weren't the only ones to dread her return. Just seven months after Mary's marriage to Francis, Elizabeth had ascended the throne in England. It was no secret that Roman Catholics, both in England and the rest of Europe, perceived Elizabeth to be a bastard and a pretender to the throne. In their eyes it was Mary, a great-granddaughter of King Henry VIII, who was the rightful Queen of England. Unsurprisingly, Elizabeth's Privy Council and in particular her chief advisor, Sir William Cecil, were disturbed to hear that Mary had incorporated the arms of England into her own during her time in France.

Although Mary had been raised by Henri to believe that she was the rightful Queen of England for his own personal gain, his ambition had become Mary's—and it was all-consuming. Now in Scotland, Mary was obsessed with the issue of the English succession. Adopting a charm offensive, she sent her cousin countless affectionate letters and gifts to her "dearest sister and cousin" as well as an ambassador to England, hoping to encourage Elizabeth to name her heir.

Understanding that Mary was a rival but not, at this stage, an enemy, Elizabeth also indulged in exchanging letters and gifts, although she avoided answering the ambassador's questions and danced around the topic of her heir. Meanwhile, Mary found herself embittered in political intrigue and poor decisions in Scotland. The question surrounding her own succession had sparked debate amongst Mary's nobles, who argued over who would
following, was responsible for Darnley's murder and that he had been having an affair with Mary. Before his trial, Elizabeth wrote to her cousin in hope and warning, "that all the world may feel justified in believing you innocent of so enormous a crime, which, if you were not, would be false cause for degrading you from the rank of princes..."

Placed on trial in April, Bothwell was acquitted of the murder due to lack of evidence, although many remained convinced of his guilt. It didn't help that now Mary was a widow, Bothwell was already scheming to marry her. Traveling back to Edinburgh after visiting her son in Stirling, the queen was intercepted by Bothwell and his men. Claiming that her life was in danger and that he would secure her safety, Mary had no choice but to go with Bothwell as his men left her unharmed.

What happened next is still debated, but it is suggested that Bothwell raped Mary to force her into marriage.

They were subsequently married on the 15 May, just three months after Darnley's untimely demise. It was the final straw for Mary's exasperated nobles, who decided to remove the young queen once and for all. One month after their ill-fated wedding Mary and Bothwell faced the nobles and their troops at Carberry Hill. The queen bravely led her men into battle but her support soon dissipated and Mary agreed to surrender to Bothwell fleeing into exile. Taken to Edinburgh and then imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle, Mary ordered the agony of miscarrying twins. On 24 July 1567 Mary was offered a choice - either abdicate or have her throat slit. Terrified, Mary signed her abdication in favour of her son James, who was just a year old, leaving her half brother, the Earl of Moray, as his regent.

When news of Mary's abdication reached Elizabeth, she immediately sent her ambassador, Nicholas Throckmorton, to Scotland to try and persuade the rebellious lords to return their queen to her throne. After a year in captivity Mary escaped from Loch Leven and fled across the border to England in disguise, believing that Elizabeth would help her regain the Scottish throne. It was a risky decision for both sides, and it didn't work out for either party. Mary had immediately placed under house arrest, first at Carlisle Castle and then at Bolton Castle where she remained for six months. Despite these bleak circumstances Mary wrote to Elizabeth begging for a meeting to plead her case.

However, Elizabeth refused to meet until Mary had been proven innocent of Darnley's murder and suggested setting up a tribunal to investigate the accusations made against her. The tribunal began in October 1567 and the charges of adultery and murder were examined. An evidence of Darnley’s murder had suddenly produced the infamous Canongate Letters, which she had supposedly written to Bothwell between January and April 1567.

The letters confirmed the queen’s adulterous relationship and a plot to kill Darnley, making her look as guilty as sin. Outraged, Mary declared that the letters were forgeries and as an asserted queen, she refused to believe any court had the right to try her. As her commissioners were refused permission...
Dating Game

Who would make a suitable husband for the Queen of Scots?

Would you like to ally with another country?

Do you want an equal partnership?

Would you prefer a faithful husband?

Does he have to be attractive?

Would you like a family together?

Does he have to be Catholic?

Do you want a husband with a claim to your throne?

Elizabeth vs Mary

King Francis II of France

Before Mary's first love, Mary married Francis II of France. This was a political alliance, as they were both young and not necessarily in love. However, their marriage was short-lived, and Francis was later executed.

Edward, Prince of Wales

Edward was Mary's first love, and their relationship was passionate but short-lived. They were both young and in love, but their marriage was not to be.

Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley

Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, was Mary's second husband. Their marriage was tumultuous, and Henry was later murdered under suspicious circumstances.

James Hepburn, 4th Earl of Bothwell

Bothwell was one of Mary's most powerful nobles, and he acted as her protector when she was pregnant. Their relationship was controversial, and some believe they were married in secret.

Does he have to be Catholic?

Do you want a husband with a claim to your throne?

Edward, Prince of Wales

Would you like a family together?

Does he have to be attractive?

Would you prefer a faithful husband?

Do you want an equal partnership?

Would you like to ally with another country?
Royal Rivals

How do the reigns of these two queens compare?

RELIGION

By the time Elizabeth ascended the throne, England could no longer cope with being pulled back and forth between Protestantism and Catholicism. Fearing a violent uprising, Elizabeth's Religious Settlement consisted of the Act of Supremacy and the血腥ity passed in 1553, which established a middle ground between the two religions and allowed people to choose in what they wished, with Elizabeth as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Although dozens of both religions restored the new measures, a tentative balance was reached.

While Mary was away in France, Scotland had gone down from being a Catholic country to a Protestant one. Consequently, as a Catholic female ruler, the cords were worked against Mary in a rough and under-determined realm. However, just like Elizabeth, Mary took a sterner approach to religion. Mary understood that she was not in a position to fight the powerful Scottish lords and so she did not interfere with religion, even helping to crush a Catholic rebellion in 1558. Mary also wanted to avoid upsetting Elizabeth, in case it raised her chances of being named heir.

POLITICS

It is well known that loyal and close advisors such as Cecil and Wolsey helped serve Elizabeth for the majority of her reign, and she relied on them heavily. The queen was known to compare and contrast her advisors, for which she has been commended, but could favour them with her indecision, often taking months to make a choice. Having said this, Elizabeth could certainly stand her ground with her advisors, even if they did go against her.

Unlike her cousin Elizabeth, Mary was not surrounded by men who were loyal to their queen and many of them were unhappy with her as a Catholic. Her attempts to mediate between her advisors often backfired and some of them, in particular, namely her half-brother Moray, had designs on her crown. Mary's life was saved thanks to her disastrous marriage to Darnley and Bothwell, who both wanted to seize her power, further weakening her position beyond repair.

SECURING THE SuCCESsion

Unfortunately for Mary, her position on the Scottish throne was always far from stable. She was always perceived to be more of a French queen than a Scottish one, and the Scottish lords invented the fact that France had held so much influence in Scotland during the reign of her mother. Trapped in a vicious cycle of political intrigue and poor decisions, Mary lost her throne just six years after her return, which is a testament to how unstable her crown really was.

Elizabeth II
Queen of England

To the frustration of God and her advisors, Elizabeth constantly flirted with the idea of marriage but never committed to it instead choosing to style herself as England's 'Virgin Queen.' In doing so, she never provided England with an heir and she refused to name one until she was lying on her deathbed. Without a child to succeed her, Elizabeth was forced to leave the crown to Mary's son, King James VI. Bringing an end to the Tudor dynasty.

Mary, Queen of Scots

Unquestionably Mary's greatest achievement was successfully producing a male heir for the Scottish throne. It was a triumph over Elizabeth, who remained childless, with Mary able to show that the heir to communism was possible. Although she lost her throne and her head, Mary's son James succeeded her in Scotland and he eventually succeeded Elizabeth in England, joining the two realms in a personal union.

STABILITY

Unfortunately for Mary, her position on the Scottish throne was always far from stable. She was always perceived to be more of a French queen than a Scottish one, and the Scottish lords invented the fact that France had held so much influence in Scotland during the reign of her mother. Trapped in a vicious cycle of political intrigue and poor decisions, Mary lost her throne just six years after her return, which is a testament to how unstable her crown really was.

Elizabeth II
Queen of England

There is no denying that Elizabeth left an enduring legacy that continues to fascinate us to this very day. She dedicated an extraordinary amount of time to crafting her image and propaganda, creating some of the most iconic portraits in English history. Elizabeth's portraiture is celebrated as 'Gloriana,' a symbol of English patriotism and success.

MARY
Queen of Scots

If this ruling was about infant, then Mary would score 0/5, no questions asked. Her dowry was a disappointment, one of the most controversial moments in history. And to this day, there are constandy new films, books and television series dedicated to examining her complicated life. Nevertheless, her reign permanently damaged Mary's reputation as a queen and consequently terminated her legacy in the centuries since her death.
The rains of Lock
Lewn Castle, where
Mary was imprisoned.

Elizabeth vs Mary
Norfolk, the man who had led Mary’s tribunal, had been plotting to marry her for some time. The proposed marriage was supported by a few leading nobles, including Dudley, who hoped Mary would convert to Protestantism and be restored to her Scottish throne as an ally for England. Mary readily agreed to marry Norfolk, hoping it would secure her freedom.

The nobles had conducted the negotiations in secret, fearing the queen’s wrath.

When the scheme was discovered, a furious Elizabeth had Norfolk thrown into the Tower of London in October. In a letter dated 3 January 1550, Mary remained defiant, writing, “You have promised to be mine, and I know I believe the Queen of England and country should like of it.”

In the meantime, a Catholic plot to depose Elizabeth and replace her with Mary was underway. Known as the Rising of the North, led by the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland, they were accompanied by a total of 6,000 rebels.

When news of the rebellion broke, Elizabeth moved to London so the conspirators couldn’t free her. The rising was crushed and many of the rebels fled to Scotland, while another 600 to 900 of them were sent to the hangman’s noose.

Nevertheless, this rebellion was the first uprising against the queen and it left Elizabeth shaken. She knew that Mary’s presence was a threat, but now it had come to fruition. The danger to Elizabeth’s life was highlighted further after James Hamilton, whose family supported Mary, assassinated Mary in

Mary, Queen of Scots, escapes from Lock Lewin Castle.

Mary’s trial at her trial at the Courthouse Place.

Elizabeth versus Mary

If Mary was to be condemned, there had to be definite proof of her guilt.

Mary, Queen of Scots, escapes from Lock Lewin Castle.
Royal rivalry

LisaYgwin on 23 January 1570. Just a month later, Pope Paul III excommunicated Elizabeth and declared her a heretic, adding that her Catholic subjects didn’t owe any obedience to her. Calling Elizabeth’s authority into question.

In August, Norfolk was released from the Tower of London after ten months imprisonment.

As calculating as ever, Norfolk quickly became involved in the Ridolfi plot to free Mary and depose Elizabeth with the help of King Philip. Norfolk and Mary would then marry and together, begin a quest to restore Catholicism across the realm.

Realising that it was increasingly unlikely that Elizabeth would help her regain her throne, Mary had communicated with Roberto Ridolfi, an Italian who was leader of the conspiracy and in the employ of the pope. He had travelled across Europe to garner support for her cause, even visiting the Spanish court to discuss the details with King Philip himself.

However, Ridolfi had confessed the plot to Count Giacomo Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany, who subsequently informed Elizabeth. With her spy network on high alert the plot was quickly uncovered and Norfolk’s treachery was quickly revealed. The documents were interrogated. During a trial on his home, several coded letters from Mary to Norfolk were discovered along with a cipher, which Cecil’s spies promptly used to decode them.

Norfolk and his conspirators were arrested and despite his denial, the evidence was stacked against him. Meanwhile in Westminster, Cecil rallied his band with glee, believing that he now had grounds to push for Mary’s execution.

Hoping to heal Elizabeth’s hand, he had the Casket Letters published anonymously just before the convening of the 1577 parliament to assure Mary’s reputation. In June 1572, Norfolk lost his head after being found guilty of high treason. Luckily for Mary, she hadn’t written anything incriminating in the letters and so she escaped the consequences for her involvement. She may have survived but Mary’s role in the plot nonetheless damaged Elizabeth’s opinion of her, with the queen realising that her rival may just be more than a figurehead for the opposition after all.

In spite of everything, Mary still hoped to secure a meeting with Elizabeth.

Along with her numerous letters, she sent various gifts to Elizabeth in the hope of capturing her attention. In 1574, Mary even handmade a crimson skirt with silver needlework for Elizabeth, securing the materials from the French ambassador in London and asking him to present it to the queen for her. Elizabeth was reportedly pleased with Mary’s gifts, yet she still ignored her pleas to meet. In 1583, the Throckmorton Plot to depose Elizabeth and replace her with Mary was successfully failed. In response, Cecil and Sir Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth’s spymaster and secretary of state, drafted the Bond of Association. The bond was a pledge to defend the queen and prosecute those who either attempted to assassinate Elizabeth or usurp her throne, whether they were successful or not.

Among the signatures was Mary, who agreed to sign the bond to demonstrate her loyalty to her cousin. Unfortunately, circumstances beyond Mary’s control deepened the divide between her and Elizabeth. In 1584, the Dutch Republic’s Protestant ruler William of Orange was assassinated, heightening the fears of Elizabeth’s government that her life was in imminent danger.

Their answer was the Act for the Surrey of the Queen’s Royal Person, signed in 1585, which allowed for any claimant to the throne to be tried for plots against Elizabeth carried out in their name, regardless of whether they were involved or not.

The act was the first step in creating a legitimate, legal process that could be used to
try Mary and potentially put her to death if she resisted against Elizabeth.

It allowed Elizabeth and her government to remove Mary from the line of succession, although the queen specified that the act shouldn't include the heirs of those found guilty of treason, unless they were also involved. Elizabeth was clearly thinking about King James VI and the future of the English succession when she pushed this caveat. However she wasn't the only one thinking about James. As Mary had to reach out to her son for help in negotiating her freedom. Sadly, Mary's hope was in vain.

In her absence, James had been raised to believe that she was an absentee who deserved to lose the crown and now that he was King of Scotland, he had no desire to see her return home. Mary was crushed by her son's rejection and to twist the knife further, James forged a new Anglo-Scottish alliance with Elizabeth, signing the Treaty of Berwick on the 6 July 1566. After almost two decades of captivity, elbowed out by James and rejected by the fact Elizabeth would never help her, Mary was forced to accept any support that came her way.

Mary was forced to indicate the throne in front of her two sons.

A Downfall Prevented?
If she had made some wiser decisions, Mary could have saved her throne.

It is has often been wondered whether Mary had the potential to save her crown if she had made other choices. Before returning to Scotland she reassigned the lands that she would not interfere in the religion of the realm, and it was a promise she had kept. But could Mary have intervened in other ways to protect herself from malicious plots and intrigue?

It is generally agreed that one of Mary's biggest mistakes was to not push her Privy Council with loyal supporters upon her return, instead allowing the lords who had held power to remain in their positions. Perhaps Mary felt, understandably, that she was out in a position, with the men who had filled the power vacuums in her absence. However, many of the supporters that were loyal to her and initially, her people were pleased to see her return, she could have successfully changed her counsel if she tried.

While we will never know, there is the possibility that Mary could have survived in Scotland if Stuart had been a better counselor to her, instead of exciting factions. He was his own kid for her crown. At all, with their joint claim to the English throne, they could have been a far bigger threat to Elizabeth than Mary was alone, although having said this, Stewart's attitude and behavior was simply a factor beyond her control.
It soon arrived in the form of a young English nobleman - Anthony Babington. On the same day that the Treaty of Breda was signed, Babington wrote to Mary seeking approval for his plot to free her from imprisonment while his accomplice announced Elizabeth. Waiting 11 days before choosing to reply, Mary offered no resistance to the “accomplishing of their design” and suggested that they would need foreign help to secure her the English throne.

What Mary and Babington didn’t realize was that Walsingham and his spy network had known about this plot for some time, waiting for concrete evidence that would force Elizabeth to finally execute her cousins. Sending in a double agent to infiltrate the plot, Walsingham ensured that he could intercept Mary’s correspondence with Babington, waiting for the moment she would incriminate herself.

As Walsingham had hoped, Mary’s response to Babington was everything he needed. The moment that Elizabeth read the letter, her lingering sympathies for Mary and her predicament finally disappeared — it was the final, ultimate betrayal.

With Babington and his conspirators rounded up by Walsingham, the queen decided to make an example of them to deter future plots against her life. Hanged, drawn and quartered. Babington and his own men were brutally disembowelled and forced to watch their entrails burn before their very eyes before they died.

Arrested in August and tried before a special commission, Mary was found guilty of treason on 25 October 1586 despite her protestations of innocence. While her advisors denounced Mary’s execution, Elizabeth remained reluctant to condemn Mary, a fellow Protestant queen, to death, fearing retribution at God’s hands. After weeks of indecision, Elizabeth acceded to the pressure and had Mary’s unsigned death warrant burned up on 4 December 1586. The following month, Essex wrote to Elizabeth to ask for mercy on behalf of his mother but she didn’t thawen their alliance, considering his own position as Elizabeth’s likely heir.

On 21 February 1587, Elizabeth finally put her pen to paper and issued Mary’s death warrant but kept it unsealed, ordering her secretary and privy council member, William Davison, not to send it. However, Cecil, on the cusp of achieving his long-awaited goal, ignored Elizabeth’s wishes.

Sealing the warrant, he sent it before the queen had an opportunity to change her mind. Exactly one week later Mary was executed at Fotheringhay Castle.

Her dignified composure, shaving a prayer book and a rosary, transformed Mary into a Catholic martyr. Upon hearing the news, Elizabeth flew into a rage. Placing the blame squarely at the feet of her counsel, she banned Cecil from the court for weeks and threw Davison in the Tower for handing over the warrant without her consent.

Elizabeth wrote a pleading letter to James and protested her innocence in Mary’s death. James accepted Elizabeth’s version, with his hand in the English throne closer now that his mother was gone. For the rest of her life, Elizabeth could never escape the memory of her cousin and it was said that Mary’s ghost continued to haunt her for until the end of her days — even on her deathbed Elizabeth supposedly uttered her cousin’s name. Although Mary lost her battle against Elizabeth, in the end she won the war with James’ accession to the English throne.

While awaiting her execution, Mary famously embodied the phrase “in my end is my beginning,” a prophecy that has come true — her rivalry with Elizabeth has ensured that she will always be remembered, entangled in a bitter fight to the end.
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 Firstly, could you sum up for our readers what your book, Rival Queens: The Betrayal of Mary, Queen of Scots, is all about?

My book is all about Mary, Queen of Scots, the betrayal and Elizabeth's relationship with her, looking at how indeed Mary was undermined and set up to fail from the beginning.

Obviously, Elizabeth is a great queen and we rightly see a lot of what she did as effective, such as religious toleration, but Mary also attempted to do this and failed. I am fascinated by the story of two queens and one island and this incredible rivalry between them.

A lot of work has already been done on the relationship between Mary and Elizabeth. What inspired you to write this book?

I think I was so fascinated by the queenship aspect. We usually see Mary as a tragic queen or a failed queen but she did everything by the book, everything was textbook.

There was religious toleration and she listened to her ministers, but rather than just trying to undermine her like Elizabeth did by going behind her back, they tried to kidnap her and attack her. They staged power coups against her from the beginning and it really shows how hard it was to be a woman living in a man's world.

Have you discovered anything new to this topic?

Well I think the role of her half-brother, James Stuart, Earl of Moray, has been underestimated and how he undermined Mary. It is clear that he is behind a lot of what goes wrong for her and that he had a large influence in the murder of her husband, Lord Darnley. In fact I was thought, at the time, that he had been rather overlooked and forgotten - he is definitely the evil genius in Mary's life. I think that is my new
contribution, apart from looking at Mary in terms of 

of King Charles I was 

that it should be postulated that Mary 

did not have that circle of male 

ized with Elizabeth that it 

Elizabeth feared that undermining 

Elizabeth knew that as well. 

in many ways, the two 

unto Mary and thereby 

Elizabeth, if he hadn’t interfered 

not to help. She had sympathy for Mary and felt 

that she would undermine the 

concern with her - but 

satisfied. She was happy that the 

and parliament supported the 

were happy for Elizabeth to be there 

but they also undermined her and went 

instrumental about undermining Mary and she 

true and you are my enemy.

Elizabeth completely had her way, Mary 

would have had more support but certainly 

Elizabeth’s interest was that he always felt that 

she didn’t understand the Scottish threat 

life or they know the person - Mary went 

with Bethwel because she trusted him, he had 

many more men, and she believed he would 

look after her.

Elizabeth vs Mary

Do you believe that Mary could have kept her throne? 

I think she could have kept her throne. After the 

death of her husband there was kind of an easy 

situation and things settled down. 

However, with Bethwel abducting and raping 

her, followed by their marriage, it really was the 

end. It is a complicated question because 

if he hadn’t abducted and 

raped Mary then someone else 

would have done and 

that brought her down. 

I do think that at the end 

when she is imprisoned at 

Loch Leven and she escapes, 

Mary could have gotten 

power back since her full-brother was 

succeeded and there was a lot 

of dislike for him. 

Unfortunately, she made 

the fatal error of going into 

England and trying to throw 

herself at Elizabeth to seek her help, which was a big 

mistake! Elizabeth didn’t want to get her throne 

back for her and really felt that she couldn’t 

because it would result in a long and difficult 

wars against James in Scotland.

Cecil always saw Mary as a threat 

and he did a lot to undermine her 

relationship with Elizabeth. If he hadn’t interfered 

as much as he did, do you think 

Elizabeth could have done more 

to help her?

I think certainly Cecil did persuade Elizabeth 

not to help. She had sympathy for Mary and felt 

strongly that queen should be protected, but 

Cecil obviously thought Mary was part of 

the Catholic threat. Most of all, I think, is the fact 

that Elizabeth felt that if she executed Mary, 

she would undermine the 

specialists of all queens 

and that was a strong consideration with her - 

but I don’t think Cecil minded the 

specialists of all queens. He was happy that the 

state 

and supported the 

independent of monarchial power. 

They were happy for Elizabeth to be there 

but they also undermined her and went 

behind her back. I do think that Cecil was particularly 

instrumental about undermining Mary and she 

saw it too. “I saw you as my enemy.

If Elizabeth completely had her way, Mary 

would have had more support but certainly 

Cecil’s interest was that he always felt that 

Elizabeth didn’t understand the Scottish threat 

and she just didn’t see it.
University of Wife

From Diane de Poitiers to Anne Boleyn, how the French court groomed a generation of Europe’s most powerful women

Written by Melanie Craig

elessly copied elsewhere - in much the same way as it is nowadays thanks to books that claim to teach us how to be more ‘Parisian’. While French clothes, art, perfume and other luxury items would always be sought after by those keen to buy themselves a piece of that enigmatic French sophistication, French women themselves, products of a system deliberately designed to make them as graceful and cultivated as possible, were the best ambassadors of all and would be welcome at courts throughout Europe.

At a time when interest in the education of women was generally fairly derisory at best and at worst downright negligent, the importance that French aristocratic parents placed on the upbringing of their young daughters was considered rather unusual.

While in England, well-born girls could consider themselves fortunate if they were taught even the most rudimentary literacy...
skills, their French peers were encouraged to read widely, write poetry and familiarise themselves with intellectual pursuits such as the discussion of philosophy, art, literature and religion. Alongside this they were also given lessons in all the usual courtly activities like dancing, playing musical instruments, singing, riding and hunting, all to the very highest standard. Deporment was also extremely important and young French noblemen would spend hours learning how to curtsy, cut and even walk in the most refined and elegant way possible, the ultimate aim being to make them both ornaments to the royal court and also extremely marriageable.

Although French noblemen naturally preferred wives who brought an enormous dowry with them, allowances were often made for young women who were exceptionally well-educated but sadly lacking in family money, which made parents all the more keen to invest in the education of their own daughters. It had become the custom for noble families to send their children away to be educated in the other grand aristocratic households, with the most prestigious placements naturally being within the royal family itself. At the end of the 19th century, parents were especially keen to have their daughters educated in the household of Charles VII’s sister Anne de Beaujeu, Duchess de Bourbon at the enormous Château de Chambord near Moulins. Not only was it considered highly advantageous to be associated to the king’s sister who, furthermore, acted as his agent during his minority, but parents were also drawn to Anne’s own formidable intelligence and dedication to the
education of both her own daughter Suzanne de Bourbon and the numerous well-born young women who entered her care. As Suzanne was Anne's only surviving child and heiress to the enormous wealth and estates that belonged to her parents, it was only natural that the greatest care and attention should be paid to her upbringing, which was designed to prepare her for her future position as one of the greatest ladies in France. To this end, her mother put together a strict educational regime that was designed to make Suzanne as accomplished, cultured and socially polished as possible with a great deal of emphasis on reading, which included delving into books about humanity, philosophy and religion, in order to broaden her mind as well as all the usual courtly pastimes such as dancing, music and hunting. Anne was also keen that her daughter and other pupils should learn other languages including, unusual for girls at this time, Greek and Latin.

Anne was so pleased with the results of her labours that she even wrote a lengthy book detailing her thoughts and advice about the education of young nobleswomen, which was naturally a great hit with ambitious parents all across Europe, entitled Lessons for My Daughter, the book is a treasure trove of information and includes advice such as "always dress well, be cool and poised, with modest eyes, softly spoken, always constant and steadfast, and observe unyielding good sense," "always keep a balanced view of everything" and rather...
**UNIVERSITY OF WIFE REPORT CARD**

**NAME:** Mary, Queen of Scots

**AGE:** 16

**YEAR:** 1551

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Miss Mary is an erudite and outstanding pupil, who has a great wealth of religious knowledge and is always ready to participate in study.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Miss Mary's written work is exemplary, and she excels at understanding and articulating the English language.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>History</strong></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Miss Mary's interest in history is evident, and she has a thorough understanding of significant historical events.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Miss Mary is a diligent and enthusiastic student.</td>
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**RATING:** E

**GUARDIAN:** James V of Scotland

**GUARDIANS are requested to sign and return this report.**

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Bourbon, a cousin of Anne’s husband, spent at least some time at Musim during her youth, and did her future sister-in-law Isabelle de Bourbon, whose brother Charles would eventually marry Anne’s daughter Suzanne. Both Antoinette and Isabelle were widely regarded to be amongst the most well-educated and cultivated women of the time and they naturally infused Marie de Guise with all the same virtues, which she honed during an adolescence spent at the French court under the charge of François I’s second wife Eleanor of Austria and his intellectual sister Marguerite, Queen of Navarre.

Marguerite was one of the most significant figures of the French Renaissance thanks to her patronage of artists, writers and humanist thinkers. Marguerite’s tutelage almost certainly helped prepare Marie for her difficult future position as Queen of Scotland and regent for her young daughter, which involved presiding over the warring Catholic and Protestant forces at the Scottish court.

Marguerite d’Angoulême would also have a profound influence upon another future queen, Anne Boleyn, who married at the French court between 1533 and 1532.

If you accept her most likely birth year of 1501, Anne was in her early teens when she first arrived in France as a maid of honour to Henry VIII’s sister Mary Tudor, who married Louis XII in October 1533.

When Mary returned to England after Louis suddenly died in January 1538, mere months after their wedding day, Anne remained behind in France as maid of honour to Claude de France, Louis XII’s eldest daughter and first wife of his successor François I. As maid of honour to the French queen, Anne Boleyn would have acquired her mistress on her perpetual travels between the various royal residences, primarily
the Louvre in Paris and royal chateaux of Blois and Ambroix in the Loire. When the Queen’s household was in Paris, the unmarried young ladies of her retinue were housed in the Hôtel de Tournelles, an enormous, old royal palace which sprawled across over 20 acres in the Marais.

Here Anne would have shared a room with other young girls and fallen under the charge of the formidable gouvernante des filles, an older court lady whose unrelenting job it was to supervise the flighty young maids of honour and deter any attempts upon their honour by the predatory gentlemen of the court. While there, Anne and the other girls, some of whom were also English, enjoyed an extensive curriculum of lessons designed to transform them into perfectly accomplished courtiers. The principles espoused by Anne de Beaujeu (who died in 1512 and would have visited the court during Anne Boleyn’s residence there) were still very much in favour and young women growing to adulthood at the French court throughout the 16th century would all be educated along much the same lines, with the same emphasis on reading, learning languages, music, dancing, debating, philosophy and religion, and deportment.

Some girls would obviously have found this all very hard work; but intelligent, ambitious young women like Anne Boleyn thrived in this intellectual hot house. When Anne Boleyn returned home to England in 1512, her highly polished French sophistication, sense of style and exquisite manners quickly made her one of the most talked about young women at court—punished by most of the men and envied by the women. When she captured the attention and then the heart of Henry VIII, it was said that he was enamored by the fact that she seemed more French than English, which made her automatically more attractive in a court which regarded the French as the arbiters of taste. As far as the French were concerned Anne, at least until her fall from grace, was the greatest possible advertisement for their much-prized education system, which was still producing some of the most accomplished young women in Europe despite increasingly stiff competition from body. Spain and England, where high-born young women were also beginning to enjoy better educational opportunities. When the four-year-old Mary, Queen of Scots, was sent to France in 1548 in order to escape the ominous threat of French invasion and kidnap, her devoted mother Marie de Guise consulted herself with the fact that her daughter would be raised in one of the most magnificent courts in the world and would be receiving the same expansive and thorough education as she herself had enjoyed.

With Mary went several children, the offspring of high-ranking Scottish aristocrats, most notably the True Marry—Mary Batten, Mary Seton, Mary Fleming and Mary Livingstone, who acted as the little Scottish queen’s maids of honour (a purely honorary title at first as they were all less than six years old) and enjoyed the same benefits of a French courtly education—a much prized asset at the time and one that their ambitious parents obviously hoped might one day win them wealthy and influential husbands.

Throughout the 16th century, noble parents continued to send their daughters to the French court and other aristocratic French households so that they could be imbued with a little of that all important French flair and polish that had made the likes of Anne Boleyn and Diane de Poitiers stand out in the crowd and win the hearts of kings.

However, the French court in the latter half of the century, when it was passed over by the last Valois kings and their Italian mother Catherine de Médicis, was a very different place to the one that had nurtured the nascent talents of the Boleyn girls and, of course, Mary, Queen of Scots. When word began to spread of Queen Catherine’s notorious Concubine’s投产 (‘Lying Squall’) a group of young noblewomen specially trained from youth to be as seductive as possible and then act as infirmaries and spies for the queen, parents naturally became much less keen to expose their daughters to the pitfalls of court life and the practice of sending girls to court to be educated began to die out.

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**GUARDIAN:** Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire

**Remarks:** Guarantor is required to sign and renew this report.
Black magic

Ceremonial garments were an integral part of Crowley's rituals, but they often caused people to dismiss him as a serious thinker.

The Scandalous Secrets of Aleister Crowley

Mystic, philosopher, author, poet, controversialist - there were few taboos that the so-called 'wickedest man in the world' did not explore.

Written by Joel McVier

If the late Aleister Crowley had been born in 1875, rather than 1877, his public image as a magician, drug-user and sexual experimenter would have been welcomed, or at least tolerated, in the modern world. In his own era, however, his keen interest in occult thought and practice, plus his deliberate attempts to gain infamy for its own sake, provoked rather than intrigued the public, and he was convicted as a serious threat. In reality, Crowley was simply an interesting, if unorthodox, man who loved the attention which his activities brought to him. There is no equivalent to him today - which makes the story of his life all the more compelling.

Much has been written about Crowley as an occult thinker and activist, and also about his personal life. In fact, those two sides of his character are too deeply enmeshed in his personality to be meaningfully separated. From his earliest years, he found himself in conflict with his surroundings - and it's little wonder that he grew up to be a man profoundly at odds with the mores of his era.

Edward Crowley, as he was known until his late teens, was born at 30 Clarendon Square in Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, to a family of comfortable means. His father, also Edward Crowley, owned a share in a successful brewing business. Crowley's Alton Alex, and had already retired by the time his son was born. Like his wife Emily, Edward Senior was a member of the Esoteric Brotherhood, a faction of the better-known Plymouth Brethren, which was a Christian movement. He is said to have walked to a preacher for the Brethren and to have read Bible chapters to his wife and son every day.

Certain lurid passages in the Book of Revelation concerning the Beast, its number 666 and the tale of the Scarlet Woman fascinated the Crowley at a young age. Recently, turning pages for the boy came in 1883, when his father died of typhoid fever. Aged only 11, Crowley inherited one-third of his
made him happy. His relationship with his mother deteriorated; he later wrote that “sacred maternal instincts were suppressed by religion to the point that she became, after her husband’s death, a business bigot of the most narrow, legalistic and inflexible type”. Emily’s brother Tom Bishop, also a conservative Christian, found no favour with his nephew, who described him with the perhaps exaggerated words “no more cruel fanatic, no insane villain, ever walked the Earth”.

Worst of all, when Crowley began to cause trouble at his school, Eton Preparatory School in Cambridge, its owner, the Reverend Henry A.F. Champney, was quick and sadistic in his discipline. Crowley was punished by being placed in solitude, or “Governess”, where no student or master could speak to him, or he to them. He was fed only with bread and water, forced to walk around the schoolroom and isolated on the playground. These sadistic measures led him to describe his stay at Eton as “a boyhood in hell”. A Satanic edge was lent to the situation by his mother’s nickname for her son: “The Beast”.

The pressures of the young Crowley’s situation led him to ill health, firstly with albuminuria, a kidney disorder. This was no doubt worsened by some of the other boys at Eton, who saw fit to punch him in the kidneys when they discovered his illness. In due course his mother and uncle removed him from the tender mercies of Reverend Champney and sent him to Malvern College and Tonbridge School, neither of which he enjoyed. Ultimately he was educated by private tutors in Eastbourne, East Sussex, against whose Christian teachings the teenage Crowley rebelled by pointing out flaws in the Bible. Privately, he enjoyed the forbidden practice of masturbation, of which he wrote, “This habit soon graduated to sleeping with local prostitutes, one of whom he later contacted gonorrhea from.

From today’s comparatively enlightened point of view, we can see clearly that the scene was set and the seeds were sown for Crowley’s career of anti-establishment activity to begin. Here was a young man, barely more than a boy, joined by the early death of his father (who he later described as a “heretic”, apparently sincerely), repelled by over-eager disciplinarians and contemptuous of revealed religion. As an intelligent, educated youth with money of his own, he was free – once he left the family home, at least – to seek the worst kind of havoc that he could.

In 1895, Crowley adopted the first name Aleister. “I had read in some book or other” he wrote, “that the most favourable name for becoming famous was one consisting of a date (a long syllable plus two short ones) followed by a surname [two long syllables], as at the end of the Rainbow.”
a hexameterlike Jeremy Taylor. Aleister Crowley fulfilled these conditions and Aleister is the Greek form of Alexander. To adopt it would satisfy my romantic ideals.”

In line with his new identity, Crowley developed new interests—the and mountaineering among them, both of which he indulged after beginning a degree in philosophy at Trinity College, Cambridge. He also wrote poetry for student newspapers such as The Granta and Gonsh, switching his degree to English literature.

In 1898, at the age of 21, he endured another paradigm change. Before this point Crowley had been just another regular, rebellious, young man—afterwards, he was a keen devotee of the mystical world. It’s thought that he enjoyed a homosexual liaison while on holiday in Sweden, although this was never confirmed. Whatever the case, Crowley returned a changed man, apparently comfortable with being bisexual at a time when this was generally deemed aberrant. He then struck up a relationship with Herbert Charles Folliot, the president of the Cambridge University Fortnightly Dramatic Club, and the two men were a couple for two years, eventually breaking up when Crowley’s interest in Western esotericism became all-consuming.

The final opportunity for Crowley to pursue a “normal” career came and went in 1897 when he travelled to Russia in the employ of the British Secret Service, which had attempted to enlist him as a spy. However, a state of illness derailed Crowley from the idea of working for a living: no doubt helped by the fact that he was a man of independent means—and he involved in pursuing his obsession with the occult, now a huge driving passion for him. In 1908 he abandoned his university studies, not bothering to sit his final exams, even though his record indicated that he would probably do well if he had chosen to take them.

Where did all this unrest come from? Perhaps Crowley’s desire to be a poet that published several poems in 1898, some of them of an erotic nature—possibly his new interest in alchemy (he had met a chemist, Julius I. Baker, of similar views to his own, or simply his occult readings.

Two books, A.E.Waters The Book of Black Magic and of the Occult World (1896) and Karl von Eckhartsohn’s The Chalice Upon the Samaritan (1896), influenced Crowley profoundly. He took an important step into making these interests concrete by joining an occult society known as the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, which had been founded in 1888. He was introduced to the Order by George Cecil Jones, Baker’s brother in law.

Although Crowley was introduced to two influential people through the Order—his leader Samuel Mathers, and a magician named Allan Bennett, who later shared Crowley’s flat in Chaucer Lane—his connection with the organisation was rocked by disagreement. While Bennett taught Crowley about the Gnosis, the summoning of demons, the ritual use of drugs (in particular hashish, legal to use in Britain until 1920) and Kabbalah supposedly ancient Jewish
mystical, Crowley wanted to move faster through the Order’s ranks than was permitted. By now determined to explore the world of the occult to its limit, in 1899 Crowley purchased a Scottish mansion, Boleskine House, on the shore of Loch Ness. Here he attempted the exhausting Abramelin Operation, a six-month ritual in which a disciple seeks to converse with a personal guardian angel, invoking demonic spirits at the same time.

The same year he published more poetry collections, one of which, Jiphtehu, was a success. Although Crowley made progress through the various grades of the Order of the Golden Dawn, he was unpopular in the group thanks to the reputation he had gained from being a heretical sybilite, and he conflicted with members including the poet W.B. Yeats. The Order’s London lodge refused to allow him entry into its Second Order, although Samuel Mathers did so after Crowley visited him in Paris.

This caused a schism between Mathers and the Order, which became irrevocable when Crowley—on Mathers’ orders—attempted to storm and occupy the Order’s temple building in West Kensington. The case went to court, and the Order won—Crowley and Mathers were expelled.

However, Crowley was just getting started on his bizarre journey, both physical and spiritual. In 1900 he travelled to Mexico, where he settled in Mexico City with a local mistress and worked with Enchuan magic. While there he initiated into the Freemasons, wrote poems and a play and climbed mountains such as Iztaccihuatl, Popocatepetl and Colima. He then headed to San Francisco and Hawaii, enjoying an affair with a married woman named Mary Rogers on the ship for good measure. After stopovers in Japan and Hong Kong, Crowley reached Ceylon (then known as Ceylon), where he met Allan Bennett, who had moved there to study Shavism, the latter decided to train as a Buddhist monk and went to Burma. Crowley chose to travel to India, studying sākā yoga, a variant of Hindu astrology. The sheer amount of ecstatic beliefs that Crowley had absorbed by this point was prodigious. Still only in his late 20s, his greatest period of activity—both physical and mental—was upon him. In 1902 he attempted to climb the mountain K2, which had not yet been conquered at the time.

Later that year he settled in Paris, where he gained a measure of local fame among the urban intelligentsia. As a published poet, occult scholar and man of deviant sexual habits by the standard of the day, he was welcomed in fin de siècle Paris and became friends with the painter Gerald Kelly and the writer W Somerset Maugham. Art, philosophy and his extraordinarily vivid lifestyle coalesced for Crowley this year, making him one of the outstanding figures of his time—a view that he himself was quick to endorse.

Another key moment in his personal evolution came in 1904, by then Crowley had returned to Boleskine House, married Gerald’s sister Rose deeply distressing the Kelly family in doing so—and travelled with her to Cairo, where the couple claimed to be a prince and princess for their own, arcane reasons. However, this was no simple pleasure trip. While in Cairo, Crowley underwent the most profound spiritual experience of his life. On 28 March Rose—who had become delirious, in a form of hallucinatory trance—told Crowley that the Egyptian god Horus was waiting for him. Two days later, she announced, “The Equinox of the Gods has come!”

She took him to a nearby museum, containing a 7th-century BCE mortuary stele known as the Stone of Ankh of On Ebers. The exhibit’s number was 666. On 8, 9 and 10 April, for exactly one hour at noon on each day, Crowley—seated in his apartment—was addressed by a disembodied voice, identifying itself as Alaw, the messenger of Horus. He claimed to have written down Alaw’s verbalism and, soon after turned these words into a book, Liber L V R Logah, better known as The Book of the Law.

The content of the book was the statement “Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law”, which may have been controversial at the time but now resonates in the era of libertarianism. This, and the
Black magic

book itself, became the foundation of a religion. Thelema, which Crowley went on to develop. Seventy years after Crowley’s death, the 1st what thou woul... creeds. The Book of the Law and Thleuma itself are still very much part of any conversation on the subject of alternative belief systems. It’s amazing to think that all this work was essentially done by the time he reached the age of 30. Of course, he continued to work at developing and disseminating his beliefs, returning once more to Bohemia and becoming a father to his first child, a daughter. He and Rose saw fit to saddle the child with the name Nuit Ma Abar Hopesu Sappho Samedi Lilith Crowley, referring to her as Lilith (after the biblical demon) for convenience.

Although he was admired in occult quarters for his work, Crowley’s life was rarely easy from this point on. He fell out with Mathers, claiming that his former colleague had sent an ‘eternal vampir’ to attack him, his books published through his own Society for the Propagation of Religious Truth, never sold in large numbers; a failed expedition to climb Kanchenjunga in the Himalayas led to the deaths of many of the group; he was forced to leave India after shooting dead a man who tried to attack him, and Lilith sadly died at only two years old. Rose, now suffering from alcoholism, bore a second daughter, Eula Zaza, although Crowley embarked on various affairs before divorcing Rose, on the grounds of his own adultery, in 1909.

Through all this, Crowley continued to attempt the Abramelin Operation, completing it at a hotel in Surry. He claimed afterwards to have achieved a state of samadhi, or union with God, as well as converting once more with his old chum Aleister and writing more Thelemic books as a result. Even supposing these supernatural liaisons were not fictional, they did nothing to help his finances, which were running out. He remained in a precarious financial state for the rest of his life, not at all helped by a growing addiction to cocaine.

Still, nothing could stop him from defying the conventions of the time. His relationship with a disciple, Victor Neuburg, was based on sadomasochism - which visiting Algiers, the piece engaged in a sex magic ritual on a mountain summit and invoked the demon Cherubin on a blood sacrifice.

A vehicle was clearly needed for his ongoing philosophy, and so he and George Gurdjieff founded the A. A.: a group that wielded the ideals of the Order of the Golden Dawn with Thelemic thought. The group’s temple was located at 164 Victoria Street in London, where a human pyramid, the Equinox, was published.

Crowley continued to write and publish into his middle years and beyond. In 1913 his Book of Cax was given some notoriety when Theodore Reuss, the head of yet another occult group, the German Orakel Tempel Oecclisis, OTOS, accused Crowley of publishing some of the OTOS’s secrets. Crowley persuaded Reuss that he was innocent and the two became friends, with Reuss later appointing Crowley as the head of the OTOS’s British branch, the Mystery Mystica Maxima. Hilariously, Crowley took upon himself the Defining moment

Crowley turns to the occult 1897

While at Cambridge, Crowley lives a dissipated life, exploring sexual liaisons with male and female partners. He also becomes a expert mountain climber, travelling to the Alps with his friend Oscar Flowerman and making the first unguided ascent of the Monten Perdu. However, a previous unconfirmed - report spread far and wide that he performed in Stockholm in 1896 had set him on an eventually spiritual path, and after a trip to China he suffers a near fatal period of illness. This leads Crowley to consider the reality of death and to venture into spiritual mediums, and, although a diplomatic career is beckoning, he determines to pursue his burgeoning interest in occult matters.

Timeline

1875

Born in Leominster, Nth Warwicks

1883

Changes name to Aleister

Disenlisted from the army.

1894

Order of the Golden Dawn

Crowley is initiated into the Order by the head of the London branch, Laurence Mathers, who became his mentor.

1898

Move to Blackheath House

Crowley stays in the house and the Order is formed as a result of his stay. Crowley starts to study philosophy, and he eventually becomes a member of the Order.

1904

Spitfire Journey

Moving within Mexico, the UK, Japan, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka. He starts to write actively, and his work is published around the world. Crowley becomes a popular figure, and his work is widely read and discussed.
Defining moment

The Book of the Law 8 April 1904

While in Cairo, where his wife and five children received him, Crowley attempted to draft the Book of the Law in a hotel room. He was under the influence of hashish and alcohol, and wrote the text in a frenzy, completing the work in a single day. The book contains 7500 pages and is considered a seminal work in the history of modern magick and esotericism. It is a complex and challenging text that has had a profound influence on modern spirituality and alternative religions. Crowley's ideas about the Book of the Law are reflected in his later works, including The Equinox and The Book of Satanael.
Lighting up the Bleak Midwinter

Interview by Jessica Leggett

A Tudor Christmas
By Alison Weir and Robin Doherty
Dance and mirth from Jonathan Cape
Alison Weir and Siobhan Clarke discuss their new book A Tudor Christmas, and how the festive season has changed throughout the centuries

What inspired you to team up and write A Tudor Christmas?
AW: We thought of doing a project together and we had already done various different events. It started back in 1998, when I wrote a little piece for a charitable book that Waterstones published at Christmas called Little Book of Light, which was about Christmas at the court of King Henry VIII. It seemed as the basis for a Christmas talk I gave at the Little Banqueting House at Hampton Court for Historic Royal Palaces one year.
Siobhan, meanwhile, had developed a talk on royal Christmas and we decided to take out the Tudor bits and amalgamate my talk to do A Tudor Christmas and we very much enjoyed doing it.

SO: I had been doing a lecture on royal Christmas for many years and we were asked to do a joint lecture for an event some years ago. Alison covered the early part up to the Stuarts and then I did it from the Stuarts up to the present day. We did it a few times, it was very popular, and then Alison actually had the idea that it would make a good book. We just focused in on the Tudors and researched a bit more on the Reformation and how that impacted on Christmas because, I couldn’t find much on that and not much had been written about it - we thought it was a really interesting aspect that needed to be covered. So I focused on that in particular, as well as the Puritan impact on Christmas in the 17th century.

How did you do research for the book?
AW: We already had some research of course but then we expanded it, looking at source material right down to Henry VIII’s accounts and just looking generally at all the books we could find on Christmas, amalgamating information and looking at original sources. We wrote our own individual parts, put them together and worked on it as a whole, adding in to each other’s research.
Siobhan was a whole chapter on Henry VIII and his wives at Christmas, but it was decided that it was a bit too specialist, because the book doesn’t just look at how royalty spent Christmas, but how ordinary people did too.

SO: I had a lot already because I had done the lecture so was just handyly looking in every history book that I could find to see what other people had said and written about it. I was looking at trying to find primary sources and asking other historians for tips, especially people who had specialised in the religious aspects of the Tudor period.

Why did you choose to arrange the book around the twelve days of Christmas?
AW: Well, it was my idea to see if we could base it on the 12 days and see if that worked. We thought that it did and then it was a question of chapter titles, which is when I uncovered Ben Jonson’s masque ‘Christmas, Je Mange’ that had all these names of Christmas and we thought we could adapt these! So that’s where the chapter titles came from but the only problem is that we had twelve days and only ten names, so we had to look in the masque for a couple of other titles.

It was interesting to read in your book that at Christmas social class was not so strict?
AW: Our idea of class demarcation derives more from the Victorians where it was very, very stringent but go back to the Tudor period and you will find that Henry VIII was playing dice with his Master of the Cellars at Christmas there was this inversion where even the king, though his word remained law, had to obey the Lord of Misrule - who was a fun character but a probable nightmare, depending on who was chosen.

When the Puritans banned Christmas, people rioted and really fought for their festive traditions didn’t they?
SO: Yes, absolutely and the Puritans actually said that it was one of the things that the poor people actually fight for because these holy days were days of rest and they were much cherished. In the book, we have explained the idea of having this break in mid-winter, when life was tough, and it was twelve days...
Festive fun

Above: Presence to the Wiltedness of Christmas created by roasted peat smoke Tad Tasco, it invited to the Puritan clampdown on Christmas

Below: The burning of Christmas is vandalism blamed on Oliver Cromwell

of enjoyment and better food, a brief reprieve and a special time. These were costs and it couldn’t be extinguished no matter how much the Puritans tried.

The changes [to Christmas] happen not in the reign of King Henry VIII but in the reign of King Edward VI and I’ve outlined them, which is essentially the removal of the angels and the nativity, all because they didn’t like images at a time when they were being white-washed and stained glasses being broken.

In Edward’s reign, people were going to notice the differences in church but on the secular side the celebrations continue as normal with the Lord of Misrule, the feasting and the carnival atmosphere. Edward liked all that, he liked pagans and carnivals, so he wouldn’t be interested in attacking the secular side of Christmas - but the Puritans hated that, so they were trying to remove everything. The other thing is that the Puritans didn’t just want to clamp down on the drinking and the merrymaking. It was also because they came to associate Christmas with the royalist cause. If you think about it, they think that Christmas is a Catholic thing and the Royalists, you know, being Anglican, they were quite close to the Catholic church and worlds away from Puritanism - so that’s why they did it.

It is a common misconception that Cromwell was in blame for banning Christmas. SG: I get very frustrated with the way people blame Oliver Cromwell. People have this idea that Cromwell single-handedly banned Christmas but there were a lot of other major players in this. It was the elected parliament who started the initiative against Christmas from 1644, but

Cromwell wasn’t Lord Protector until 1653 - although after he became Lord Protector, he would conduct business on Christmas Day and he certainly agreed with the ban.

As you discuss in A Tudor Christmas, the festive season was a time when grand homes would open their doors to the poor.

AW: Yes. It was the charity that you would have to dispense in the name of Christ because you had to be seen to be practicing Christian charity. The court was always giving alms to beggars and what isn’t eaten at the table was passed to those who were literally waiting at the gates. Guest houses did this as well, but they particularly did it at Christmas and if you turned up, you might even be invited to eat in the hall - depending on how well you were dressed. I am sure it was not just about charity though because it was a conspicuous display.

SG: We tend to think that the Victorians started that, the idea of charity, but it had been going on for centuries before. It was a time to think about people who were less well off, so it was incumbent on the wealthy to provide for them, especially in terms of food, feasting and to some extent, in terms of gifts - although gifts were new for New Year and not for Christmas.

What did you discover about Christmas in the Tudor period that surprised you?

AW: There were quite a lot of things that surprised me. I didn’t realise turkey had been discovered and appeared so early in the period, with the first turkeys sold at Bristed in 1526. They are called turkey from the mistaken belief that they came from Turkey, when they actually came from the New World. One thing that really surprised me was that a Holy Innocents’ Day, commemorating the massacre of the innocents by King Herod, children were beaten in their beds in the morning - I’m sure it must have been symbolic.

However, the rest of the day the children were allowed a little bit of licence and they could even play in church. Everyday life was grueling and the twelve days of Christmas must have been an oasis for them, particularly as it was the middle of winter.

SG: I knew about the 12 days of Christmas and I could visualise it all, but I didn’t think that I fully realised that it was twelve days for everybody. I think it was in the 9th century when it was said that no one could be compelled to work during those twelve days. I didn’t realise this had been decreed so early on and I find that so interesting, at a time when people worked so hard and life was so tough in comparison to today, that they were given this holiday. If you think about it, it wasn’t until probably in the 20th century that we started taking off time between Christmas and New Year. Whereas nowadays a lot of people take leave and we celebrate for a lot longer. It is only now, in recent times, that we are kind of going back to the twelve days – where for many centuries, certainly in the Georgian and Victorian periods, they get that one day,
Christmas Day, and later Boxing Day, and then everybody would go back to work.

So, it is interesting to think that in the Medieval period they were having that extended time off.

**What tradition would you say was quintessentially Tudor?**

SC: A big difference between the Tudor Christmas and the Christmas we know today is that nothing started until Christmas Eve - they fasted through Advent and then things got going. They also didn't put their decorations up until Christmas Eve so that's a big difference. But I think if you had to focus on one thing to understand anything about the 16th century and the mindset, you have got to put the religion back. Whereas today we all enjoy the secular aspects of Christmas and yes, lots of people are still religious and go to midnight mass, but back then everybody went to mass and everybody was thinking about the religious aspect.

**The book is full of recipes, poems and carols - do you have a favourite one?**

AW: I love Angelus ad Virginem, which is a 15th-century Latin carol that would have been popular in Tudor times. I have collected early music and carols since the 1970s and so my playlist has loads of Medieval and Tudor carols on it! It is interesting to hear them because you can't convey them in a book, but that's why we do events for this book we are actually going to have a soundtrack playing.

SC: Yes, my favourite one is the one on the back of the book which I chose and Alison agreed; it is an extract from a poem by poet Thomas Tussell that is also in the main text of the book.

**Is there a Tudor Christmas tradition that you wish had survived?**

AW: Well twelve days of celebration would be quite nice! I would like to see 'Twelfth Night revived and did you know, there is not a proper recipe that survives for a 'Twelfth Night cake'? There is one or two from the Tudor period but neither of them seemed to be fully correct, which is a shame but there is nothing we can do. I would like to see some of those traditions revived and less commercialisation because that is the one thing that strikes you about Christmas in the Tudor period - it is not commercial. The preparation may have started in November, but it was on the domestic side for provisioning. Around that time of year, they would be making, roasting and baking.
Festive fun

Tudor Christmas traditions

On the 12th Day of Christmas, my Tudor love sent to me...

Two Boy Bishops
The ecclesiastical answer to the Lost Minstrels, a chivalry would be elected to the role of Bishop from 10th December and Holy Innocents Day on 28th December. The boy would be dressed in full bishop’s regalia, the boy bishop of Westminster Abbey had fine silk robes decorated with silver and gold flowers and would conduct all ceremonies except mass with his fellow minstrels. Reflecting subtler Tudor attitudes towards the Church, the practice was abolished by Henry VIII in 1542, revived by Mary I in 1553 and finally ended by Elizabeth I.

A Spinning Wheel Covered in Flowers
The Tudor twelve days of Christmas was opened in what frills were chanced and went was forbidden between Christmas Eve and Epiphany (6 January). To keep women from their stories it was customary to decorate the women’s spinning wheel with flowers, while the house was decorated in every manner, holy, joy and merrily.

Four Carol Singers
Medievalists in Italy in the 13th century, and first recorded in England in 1442. Christmas carols involved dancing as well as singing. Secular themes such as feasting, hunting and merry-making became more popular under the Tudors, although Latin remained predominantly religious. Merry carols – such as the Coventry Carol recorded in 1521 – were composed for Mystery Plays, a form of open-air religious theatre that was banned under Henry VIII and restored under Mary I, before eventually declining in popularity around 1600.

Three Yule Logs
A pre-Christian tradition thought to have been introduced by the Norse, a large log from the base of a tree was decorated with ribbons and tagged home. It was the great time of the year! As the Yule Log was burned on Christmas Eve, it would be kept burning over the full twelve days of Christmas. It was considered a bad omen if the flames remained for more than three days.

Six Marching Turkeys
Henry VIII scrawled with adapting the turkey as a Christmas bird following its introduction to Britain from America in the 1540s. It quickly became fashionable among the Tudor elite and was often served in the coffin-shaped Christmas pie, where it was stuffed with numerous other game birds. The demand was so great that flocks of turkeys were driven to London on foot from Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, with the trek starting as early as August.

Eight Cockentrice
The Tudor love for meat reached peculiar heights in Henry VIII’s reign; the table was chased together and Caravaggio made a whole new feast – the cockentrice, which was the front end of a piglet with the hind quarters of a turkey. Another specialty was the Helmented Cock, in which a chicken was mounted on a egg wearing a little helmet and carrying a shield. For fans of meat free without the theatre, the Helmented Cock was seventeen birds stuffed one inside the other.

Five Boar’s Heads
The consumption of the Christmas banquet from at least the Medieval period, the presentation of the boar’s head is rooted in pre-Christmas tradition but came to apply Christ consort over all – the boar being lightning to rural folk and worthy quarry for hunters. Though supplemented by more fashionable foods at court, it survived the subject of the boar’s head was carved published in 1526. "The boar was in a handring, and beaked it with bayes and rosettes. And joly playes, my masters be merry. Quod esto in convivio."

Seven "Minced Pies"
Rather than a secret sauce, the "minced pie" served at the beginning of the meal. Baked with prunes, raisins, dates, powdered beef, butter, egg, milk, flour, currant maroons and mincemeat, and seasoned with salt, pepper and cinnamon. A stock of the ten ingredients represented first and the Apostles. While the half like the bishop, the style of the infant Christ and was sometimes adorned with an image of the baby in purity.
Nine Wassail Bowls

A much older tradition inherited from the Anglo-Saxons (Wassail comes from the Old English “wæs-hal” meaning “your good health”) is a large wooden bowl containing hot apple, spices, honey, apples, sugar and spices, passed from door to door. Strangers were offered a drink in exchange for a donation, while royal Wassails were more formal and the drinking bowl was brought into court by chamberlains, before being passed around with the King’s seal for luck. Commoners, no matter, singing and carols and response were still part of the Wassail Bowl ritual.

Ten Kissing Boughs

A wreath of double holly with red berries and bobbins, the Kissing Bough was worn from midwinter, as a symbol of fertility, and was often seen by the New Year. It was a sign of good will, leading to the custom of kissing under the mistletoe.

Eleven Servants Bearing Gifts

Gift giving in the Tudor court took place on New Year’s Day. After the King had finished dressing, the gifts were passed out, and servants would bear gifts to the Queen’s chamber. To give generously was to confidently curry favour with the King or Queen, while refusing them was tactfully effective way of communicating disdain.

Twelve Vindictive Ploughmen

On New Year’s Day the ploughmen were officially delivered and peasants returned to their usual duties. If they were unfortunate enough to be unclearly hostile, the King would then be subjected to a week of entertainment. This was known as the “Begging of the Plough”.

Tudor Christmas

August-September time this year, I saw a whole Christmas department in Fortnum and Mason and I couldn’t believe it, it was still hot outside! The whole concept of Advent for the Tudors, the season of fasting, was to prepare in the run-up to Christmas so that the day itself had an awful lot more impact, compared to the office parties and all the nice things we do in the lead-up today.

The Tudors had a fasting diet of fish right up to Christmas Eve, after which they brought in the yule log, lit it, and then adorned midnight mass to mark the start of Christmas - and then you feasted on Christmas Day. There is nothing to stop people revisiting all these traditions if they want to.

50. I think it is a shame that synthetic decorations are brought in during the late 19th century with baubles and tinsel, which first came from Germany. At first, these decorations were expensive but gradually they got cheaper and of course by the 20th century, you could start having fake Christmas trees. It is all synthetic and it is a real shame - if you come to Hampton Court at Christmas we have the flowers decorated as they would have been in every corner, oranges and cinnamon, the smell is just amazing!

For me that is the Tudor Christmas. It is so evocative with the smell and the greens, it is just so beautiful and it is a shame that we use synthetic decorations. I wouldn’t particularly bring back the Lord of Misrule at the Roy Bishops, they could cause some trouble!
Frankincense and Myrrh

The Scottish artist David Roberts visited the Middle East in 1838 and 1839, drawing scenes that over a century after it came to the attention of Europeans.

Petra was not well known in the West until the movie Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade was released in 1989. Today hundreds of thousands of tourists visit the lost city.
Empire of Aromatics

FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH

Petra: The beating heart of the Nabataean Kingdom, the wealthy trade hub on the Silk Road, the once vibrant city, lost and forgotten for centuries. What is the story of this fabulous place and why was it lost to obscurity for so long?

Written by Jen Duderu

Located in what is now Jordan's Aqaba Valley, a few hours' drive from Amman, the story of Petra starts with two key factors. The first is its location in the world of luxury and fashion. Egypt was rich and powerful. This was due not to mineral wealth, but to a well-organized society and the fact that the annual flooding of the Nile made the land on its banks the breadbasket of the Mediterranean. As in any complex society, there was a small number of very rich people, but there was also a middle-class of merchants and artisans who had disposable incomes. So, how did they spend their money? Aromatics and Myrrh were possibly the first to invent and wear lipstick, about 5,000 years ago. They also crushed gemstones and used them to decorate their faces, mainly on the lips and around the eyes. Of course, the images from ancient Egypt reveal that both men and women used black eye makeup, something that might seem unusual today, but was standard fare then. Perfume also plays a role in the history of luxury and fashion at this time and in as ancient as makeup. The first reference to perfume also comes from ancient Mesopotamia, around 1200 BCE, when a woman called Tappiti is said to have created a scent from a mixture of balsam and myrrh. Her creations were used as perfume by aristocrats and as incense in religious ceremonies, uses that spilled over into the wider world. This leads us to the Silk Road, a term created by a German explorer in the 19th century. The name suggests this was a specifically designated road, running from east to west (and vice versa). In fact, it was a catch-all term for the multiple routes used...
Frankincense and Myrrh

by the thousands of traders who brought, sold, and disseminated their wares from distant China, across the gigantic Central Asian steppe, into the Middle East and, eventually, to Europe.

Everywhere, throughout the regions, there is evidence of this trade. The bright blue stone in Tutankhamen’s mask (14th century BCE) is lapis lazuli, which came from Afghanistan; and the oldest silk found in Egypt, which had to have come from China, was discovered on a mummy in the Valley of the Kings, dating from 1070 BCE.

Silk scarves dyed in India became the headscarves of tribal women who lived along the Black Sea to Asia Minor. Silk Road trade changed and enhanced the lives of everyone in the region around it.

Silk Road trade was further enhanced by the Persian Empire, which created the Royal Road (5th century BCE) that ran for nearly 1,500 miles across Asia. The link between East and West were further strengthened during Alexander the Great’s campaign in the 4th century BCE, and it was in this time that Petra became the capital city of the Nabatean Kingdom.

It was Petra’s location that made it so strategically significant. It explains why the city came to a central trading hub in the past and why it still exists as an important archaeological site to this day. Putting it simply, it’s hard to manage a city in the desert. But if that city has a source of water and if it is a position of trade because of its location as a place where caravans from many nations converge. Even its success is all but guaranteed. Putting it even more simply, the effort is worth the reward.

The people of Petra were smart enough to realize that they were perfectly placed to trade in the spices, precious metals, silk, ivory, and other goods from China, India and the Persian Gulf on their way to the ports of the Mediterranean. We shall also see that they coveted the market in two of the major luxury items of the time. Consumer demand from kingdoms to the west meant regular revenues poured into Petra’s coffers.

Myrrh has also been traded for millennia. While it is sometimes sold in a hard resin form, myrrh oil, sometimes called tincture of myrrh, is more common.
“TODAY IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE THAT ANYTHING LIKE A CIVILISED TRADING SOCIETY COULD SURVIVE HERE. LET ALONE FLOURISH TO BECOME RICH AND COSMOPOLITAN”

The second major factor in the story of Petra is the birth and evolution of the Nabataean kingdom, a broader fact but not unrelated to the first. Fortunately, Petra is covered in written inscriptions, but their context is limited. The civilization was literate, but while we have many fragments of information from coins, inscriptions and other archaeological finds, there are no great historical records or fragments of literature from the kingdom itself. Indeed, most of what we know was written by outsiders trying to explain the Nabataean culture. This ultimately leads to huge amounts of conjecture and not a lot of consensus. The landscape around Petra is harsh and unforgiving. Everything is composed of the soft red sandstone that forms the surrounding hills, and the valley in which the city was constructed. Looking around today it seems impossible that anything like a civilised trading society could survive here let alone flourish to become rich and cosmopolitan. But hidden in the valley’s centre, amongst the ruins of this once prosperous city, are the remains of the aqueducts that can flow from an underground spring. The buildings are not structures, but cisterns and walkways, which penetrate the rock cliffs to produce a site filled with palaces and temples, theatres and tombs, villas, baths, fountains and gardens. Petra was an ancient crossroads between east and west, a city alive with camel caravans and a busy marketplace. Home to some 30,000 people at its peak 2,000 years ago.

The Nabataean Kingdom covered a patchwork of modern countries, including the Sinai Desert of Egypt, Palestine and Southern Israel, most of Jordan and a small part of northern Saudi Arabia. The kingdom was formed by an alliance of Bedouin tribes, nomads who depended on their herds of camels and horses for survival, as they overran the region in search of pastures. The history of the Bedouin is an oral tradition and the name itself is an Arabic version of an Arabian word, which simply means desert dwellers - it was a completely appropriate name.

The nomadic tribes supplemented their meagre living by trading on the edges of the Edom region of desert. Sometimes they would be paid to protect caravans, but at other times they would attack them, but as the traffic in the region increased the Bedouin prospered and at some point came together to form the permanent settlement that became the foundation of the Nabataean Kingdom. The people of Petra didn’t speak Arabic; for even at an early version of it has an early Semitic language that seemed to share a lot in common with Alqaidan, the language of Wencopovia and the Neo-Assyrian language to the north. Whatever the limitations of language: the language of trade overcame all obstacles and fostered the talents of people who were gifted in business. The growth of the young Nabataean Kingdom coincided with a huge change in the geopolitics of the region when a military
Frankincense and Myrrh

1 Qasr Al-Bint
The ‘Palace of the Pharaoh’s Daughter’ is thought to have served as the city’s main temple. Worship of Nabataean deities, Dushara and al-Uzza, is thought to have been central here.

2 Ad-Deir
Petra’s largest monument, the ‘Monastery’ sits on a high plateau of Jebel al-Deir. It’s thought to have served as a temple-sanctuary commemorating Dagh Dnalat.

3 Obelisk Tomb
Named for the four obelisk-shaped columns that dominate its façade, the Obelisk Tomb sits above the façade of the Bath of Sigymone (a banquetting hall), which is believed to have been carved into the rock.

The wonders of Petra

4 The Theatre
The theatre exactly follows Roman design rules but with the Nabataean architectural motif of the entire structure being followed out from a sheer rock face.

5 Al-Khazneh
Archaeologists theorize that this was the mortuary temple of either King Aretas III or Antioch IV, built as a place to worship the sovereign, as well as being his burial place.

6 Urn Tomb
The multi-level Urn Tomb is the first of five tombs known together as the Royal Tombs that loom over Petra’s colonnaded street from a ledge cut into Jabal al-Mukhayyat.
campaign, largely between Egypt to the south and the Persian Empire to the north, led to a change in the sphere of influence and allowed Petra to gain an advantage. The result of all of this was that the Nabataeans gained the monopoly on that superlative item of the ancient world, frankincense.

Frankincense is a resinous plant sap. It comes from a hardy bush that grows in hot and arid environments. Indeed, the plant is crucial in its ability to grow in such harsh environments. It's even been known to grow out of solid rock. This kind of landscape pretty much summarizes the Arabian Peninsula as well as the Olf of Africa, and as Petra was the major trading center in the region, it became the natural outlet for this resin. The earliest images of frankincense appear on a temple in Egypt built by Hatshepsut, who died in the 18th century BCE. This confirms and underscores its importance as well as its antiquity. The frankincense in this case had come from the land of Punt, which, while its exact location is still contested, seems to have been in the general area of the Horn of Africa.

The reason for its importance is the aromatic qualities of its resinous part, as mentioned earlier, by the rich as perfume and by the religious as devotional incense. Its rarity made it a very expensive commodity, and the monopoly helped make Petra even wealthier. Then there was myrrh. While Petra did not have a monopoly on this, it was one of the epicenters of myrrh trade, and once again, we are in the realm of perfume and incense. Myrrh has been valued for thousands of years for these qualities, but unlike frankincense, it is a natural antimicrobial. It is derived from a very thorny tree called Commiphora, whose natural habitat is, once again, the Arabian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. It is interesting to note that this may be an example of a product that went the other way on the Silk Road as it has been a part of Chinese medicine for at least a millennium.

By now, you might well have made a connection between the Kingdom's two major exports and the Bible. However, before we get to the most famous example of their importance, it's worth pointing out that myrrh is mentioned a number of times in the Bible. It is almost uniquely associated with religious ritual, but on one occasion, it warns of its

**Empire of Aromatics**

**While**

**The pyramid was not**

**from Petra, she has an**

**interesting claim to**

**fame as the first person in**

**records to mix**

**compounds. Some regard**

**her as the first ever**

**chemist.**

**A ceramic bowl believed to have been produced by the Nabataean Kingdom. It clearly shows the style influence.**

**The earliest images of frankincense appear on a temple in Egypt built by Hatshepsut.**

intriguing qualities. Touching briefly on the Nabataeans, there is, of course, the story of the three wise men bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus. The point of the gifts is that they were all fabulously expensive and, quite literally, gifts fit for a king.

To anyone around at the time, these gifts would have validated Jesus' position as a king of kings. The two gifts of frankincense and myrrh were very much associated with areas outside of the Roman Empire and to the seat of it. They point to a number of anti-Roman sentiments in the New Testament, right up to Jesus' title of King of Kings, which was actually the Persian emperor's title of Shahenshah. In other words, with the Roman persecution of the Christians and Jews at the time of the writing of the New Testament, there seems to have been a desire to look to other cultures to validate Jesus' role on Earth. There is, however, another connection between the Nabataean Kingdom and particularly Petra and the Bible. King Akerbi IV was king from roughly 9 BCE to 40 CE. In other words, he was a contemporary of Jesus. Jesus married his daughter to Herod Antipas, the king Herod of New Testament fame. Blood would eventually...
Frankincense and Myrrh

Although Jordan is best known for its holy cities and ancient sites, there are many other attractions that make it a destination worth visiting. Jordan is home to over 100 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Petra, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

Petra, Jordan’s most famous ancient city, was built by the Nabataeans and is located in the southern part of the country. It is known for its impressive rock-cut architecture and beautiful natural scenery.

Although Petra is a popular tourist destination, it is also a place of historical significance. The city was once the capital of the Nabataean Kingdom, which was an important trading center in the region.

It is said that the name comes from the Arabic word “petra,” which means “rock.” The city was built into the side of a sandstone cliff, and its location made it a strategic point for trade.

Although Petra is a significant archaeological site, it is also a place of great natural beauty. The surrounding landscape is stunning, and the city is surrounded by a series of canyons and mountains.

Petra was abandoned in the 7th century AD, and it was not rediscovered until the 19th century. Since then, it has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Middle East.

Although Petra is a popular destination, it is also a place of great cultural significance. The city is home to many ancient sites and temples, and it is a place where visitors can learn about the history and culture of the Nabataeans.

Although Petra is a popular destination, it is also a place of great ecological significance. The city is located in a desert region, and its water supply is limited. As a result, visitors are encouraged to use water wisely and to respect the natural environment.

The statues at the front of this magnificent edifice clearly relate to the pagan gods of both Rome and Greece.

Although protected from sight by the natural ravine, Petra was poorly defended and very rich. It was, therefore, an obvious target for attack, and yet, it was surprisingly hard to conquer. The kingdom was notorious for its dry and desolate location, so sending a large army to conquer what was, in essence, a desert would almost inevitably lead to that invading force having to retreat due to lack of water. The standard tactic of these desert-dwelling Bedouins was to hurry invading armies and then melt away to allow the heat and lack of water to do their work for them, while their own forces replenished their water supplies at hidden
Understanding Al-Khazneh

The Treasury

The site, which crowns the façade, is flanked by gigantic columns. The Treasury is a central feature of the site with its impressive size. It is surrounded by a gate with a large rock-cut entrance that leads to a paved courtyard. The Treasury was built during the reign of King Ahab, and it is considered one of the most significant structures at the site. It is a large rectangular building with a high central chamber, and it was originally used as a storage facility. The Treasury is a testament to the architectural prowess of the ancient peoples who built it.

The Roman Empire

The Roman Empire was an architectural marvel that was characterized by its grandeur and magnificent buildings. The Empire was known for its impressive temples, palaces, and other structures that were built using the latest engineering techniques. The Empire was also known for its extensive road system, which was used to transport goods and people throughout the empire.

The Petra Museum

The Petra Museum is located in the heart of the city and is one of the most important museums in the Middle East. The museum houses an extensive collection of artifacts and artifacts that provide a glimpse into the history and culture of the Nabataeans. The museum is a popular destination for tourists and historians alike, and it is considered one of the most significant museums in the region.

The Petra Cathedral

The Petra Cathedral is a large, impressive structure that was built during the reign of King Ahab. The cathedral is located in the city of Petra and is one of the most significant structures in the region. The cathedral is a large rectangular building with a high central chamber, and it was originally used as a storage facility. The cathedral is a testament to the architectural prowess of the ancient peoples who built it.

The Petra Ruins

The Petra Ruins are one of the most significant archaeological sites in the Middle East. The ruins are located in the city of Petra and are a testament to the architectural prowess of the ancient peoples who built them. The ruins include a variety of structures, including temples, palaces, and other buildings that were used by the Nabataeans.

The Petra Water System

The Petra Water System is a complex network of underground channels and tunnels that were used to transport water to the city of Petra. The system was built during the reign of King Ahab and is considered one of the most significant water systems in the Middle East. The system is composed of a series of tunnels and channels that were cut into the rock, and it was used to transport water from the surrounding mountains to the city.

The Petra City Gate

The Petra City Gate is a large, impressive structure that was built during the reign of King Ahab. The gate is located in the city of Petra and is one of the most significant structures in the region. The gate is a large rectangular building with a high central chamber, and it was originally used as a storage facility. The gate is a testament to the architectural prowess of the ancient peoples who built it.

The Petra Temple

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The Petra Marketplace

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The Petra Palace

The Petra Palace is a large, impressive structure that was built during the reign of King Ahab. The palace is located in the city of Petra and is one of the most significant structures in the region. The palace is a large rectangular building with a high central chamber, and it was originally used as a storage facility. The palace is a testament to the architectural prowess of the ancient peoples who built it.
“The Degenerate Art” exhibition is a gigantic success and a deadly blow,” wrote Joseph Goebbels on 24 July 1937. Five days after the show’s opening.

A hit in the eyes of Hitler’s right-hand man and propaganda minister, the Degenerate Art exhibition was unlike any other exhibition that had been put on in Germany before. This, after all, was one exhibition no artist wanted to be a part of. Driven by hate, revolution, rejection and, above all, retribution.

In the wake of World War I, Germany was a shattered nation. Lumped with crippling war reparations and led by an incompetent government, the country was tumbling into ruin. The emergence of a young and unqualified nobody called Adolf Hitler onto the political scene. However, soon changed the country’s fortunes. Within years Hitler had soared through German politics and by 1934 he had manipulated his position and named himself Führer, and with this new title came absolute power.

But before his meteoric rise in politics, Hitler had dreamed of an entirely different life. In 1907 Hitler applied to the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, determined to pursue a career as an artist. He was rejected, but the young man was determined and applied again the following year. Once again he was rebuffed, beaten to this prieur place by more expensive, experimental artists.

Hitler’s creative ambition now refocused to a mere pipe dream. Hitler was bitter—denounced as an unqualified nobody in the arts world.
Hitler’s war on art

Upon achieving ultimate power, Hitler was determined to make Germany his own aesthetic paradise. While prized Nazi architects, such as Paul Ludwig Troost and later Albert Speer, embarked on transforming Germany into a neoclassical haven, Hitler was preparing to strike his vengeful blow upon the art world that had rejected him nearly two decades before.

In September 1933, Hitler had set up the Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, with Joseph Goebbels at the


department. In the beginning of the following year, the department began to remove unwanted art from public spaces. The artists were banned and their works were considered as "Degenerate Art." A 1916 painting by Adolf Hitler. Hitler’s art was rejected from art school in favour of more realistic and expressive art.
TOO DEGENERATE TO EXHIBIT

Of all those showcased in the exhibition, one very vocal anti-Nazi artist was conspicuously absent... Unbeknownst to Nazi artist, John Heartfield, one of Hitler’s biggest critics and at one point was fifth on the Gestapo’s most wanted list... He was an American artist who moved to Berlin in 1919. He became a member of the Berlin Dada movement and was an influential member of the German Dadaists. Upon moving to the capital, Heartfield became involved in the Berlin Dada scene, where he came to the realization that creating art that wasn’t seen by the general public was to be considered a subversive act.

Upon moving to Berlin, Heartfield began to create anti-war posters and other visual art that criticized the Nazi regime. He also started to produce photomontages, which were published in several German newspapers and magazines. Heartfield was an integral part of the artistic and cultural opposition to the Nazi regime, and his work was considered to be an important part of the resistance movement.

In 1937, the exhibition "Degenerate Art" opened in Munich. The exhibition was a concerted effort by the Nazi regime to demonize and demonize the art of the previous generation. The exhibition was curated by the director of the Germanische Nationalmuseum, Albert Speer, who was known for his anti-Semitic views.

Hitler had a personal vendetta against Heartfield and his work. In 1933, he declared Heartfield’s work "degenerate" and ordered that all of his works be confiscated and destroyed. Heartfield was arrested and his studio was raided.

Finally, Hitler had a means of ridding Germany of so-called "degenerate" art, and Goebbels was tasked with getting rid of all of the artworks that were considered to be degenerate. The Nazis destroyed over 600 artworks that were considered to be "degenerate." The works were publicized in a book, and the public was encouraged to destroy the artworks themselves.

In celebration of Nazi-approved art, the Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda planned a brand-new annual art exhibit, the Great German Art exhibition, intended to celebrate the "true" artists of the Third Reich. Artists were invited to submit their works to a judging panel, and over 600 artworks were chosen to be displayed. The works ranged from paintings to sculptures to prints.

The exhibition was a complete success and was widely praised. However, the public was shocked by the works of art that were considered to be "degenerate." The exhibition was postponed and never opened.

The catalogue cover of the Great German Art exhibition.
was just round the corner from the Booze of Art, the home of Hitler’s Great German Art show. On 18 July 1937, the Great German Art exhibition opened with much fanfare - but the popularity of its counterparts - that opened the next day was unprecedented; over the course of its showing, the Degenerate Art show reeled in five times as many visitors as its upmarket competitor.

Around 112 artists were exhibited in this hugely popular show, among them Wassily Kandinsky, Otto Dix, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Max Beckmann and Oskar Kokoschka, who was widely considered one of Austria’s greatest artists of the era.

The art of these anti-Nazi artists, however, hung side by side with some unexpected companions. Emil Nolde, a praised and long-serving member of the Nazi Party, found his creations turned as degenerate, and his paintings featured hongrily throughout the exhibition. It was a catastrophe for the artist, who had long been supported, promoted and patronised by none other than Goebbels.

Artworks filled space on the walls and floors of the exhibition space in this way, attached to each work that hired the price that galleries had paid to possess them. But with the dark, tumultuous days of the Weimar Republic and hyperinflation not even a decade past, the costs were wildly exaggerated. On these seemingly eye-watering tape, a line read, “Paid for with hard-earned tax payers’ money.”

Surrounding the art, graffiti condemning the works was sprayed all over the walls: “Murder of God”: “An insult to German womanhood.” “The deal – crime and where?” Spread across several rooms, only sections of the exhibition were themed. The show opened with a room devoted to Nazified and religious art; the second room dealt with Jews while a third countered with the salut of the youth people of Germany, including soldiers, women and farmers. The rest of the exhibition descended into inorganised chaos.

The Degenerate Art exhibition was a complete farce, an embarrassment to any curator. Paintings hung mere inches from one another and artworks were commonly mismatched or wrongly.
attributed. Rather than an exhibition, this was a propaganda spectacle designed to engage and provoke; it was exactly what the Nazis envisioned. These creations, unworthy in their eyes of being called “art,” were unworthy of hanging on the walls of Germany’s great gallery, and were unworthy of being seen by the German population.

When the exhibition opened on 29 July 1937, children were forbidden from attending for fear that they would be terrified - or worse, corrupted - by the obscenity of the art. For those who did attend, visitors were actively encouraged to interact with the art - actions were even tried to mingle with the crowd in order to provoke reactions. Some screamed, some shouted, some spat.

In the almost four-month run of the Degenerate Art exhibition, the show was considered one of the Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda's greatest successes. When it closed on 30 November, it had averaged around 26,000 visitors a day. With such exceptional engagement, the exhibition was taken on the road, visiting 11 other cities across Germany and Austria until it officially closed in 1940. More than just a popular exhibition, it proved to be one of the most powerful early Nazi propaganda campaigns, sending shockwaves not just throughout Germany, but across the world.

While many in Germany were glad to celebrate the “worthless” art and culture of Nazi Germany, not all who visited the Degenerate Art exhibition were visiting for what the Nazis believed were the right reasons. Certainly, many visitors went to be shocked and to show their disdain for modern art, but for others the Degenerate Art exhibition was an opportunity to say farewell forever to some of those contemporary masterpieces.

In the wake of the Degenerate Art exhibition, the collection was divided. Some works were destroyed, deemed worthless, while those considered valuable on an international market were flagged at auctions.
for cut-down prices, including works by van Gogh, Gaugain and Picasso. In the ultimate act of hypocrisy, many degenerate works of art that were looted and sold by the Nazis were acquired by the very men who sold them, bargain hunters on the prowl for their next fortune. The rest ended up dispersed across the world or tragically lost.

But what of the artists whose reputations were ruined by the Degenerate Art exhibition? Formerly Austria's greatest artist, Oskar Kokoschka fled to Czechoslovakia, then later the UK, before settling in Switzerland where he died in 1980. Lainer, run up by his fall from grace, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner killed himself in 1938. Max Beckmann, like Kokoschka, escaped into exile. The once-proud Nazi Emil Nolde was harnessed from ever painting again by his one-time companions, so took up watercolours, a medium that didn't smell and was therefore easy to hide. All degenerate artists who worked in unsewn, and art schools lost their positions. Many of the artists who unwillingly starred in the Degenerate Art exhibition have big roles little more than just names on paper. With careers cut down in their prime, we'll never really know what could have become of some of these creative geniuses.

THE GOTTSEGNADETEN LIST

In the wake of the Degenerate Art exhibition Hitler and Goebbels were determined to tie Nazi culture and önem. In 1944, a secret list of the "Gottsegnadeten"—or God's Chosen—was returned, featuring artists, musicians, actors, authors and other creators who were considered unsuitable. Among those preserved figures were composer Richard Strauss, Nobel Peace laureate Albert Schweitzer, and artists Max Ernst, Abbe Van, and Johannes Schrecker. The list meant that a letter was sent to the recipient. But, is also noted that the incident was part of the systematic mobilisation of these figures' contributions to culture were deemed more suitable from which they could be taken.

Anna Breker was one such artist who found herself on the Gottsegnadeten list. Compared to some of the greater successes of the Third Reich, Breker had created sculptures for the 1936 Olympic Games, as well as creating two bronze sculptures for the pediment of the Reich Chancellery. Exempt from military service, Breker was appointed the official sculptor of the Nazi party and was gifted a studio, as well as almost 50 assistants.

By the time the Third Reich concluded, Breker's reputation had spread far and wide. Identified as a "Jewish troublemaker of the Nazi Party" by Breker's husband, Breker was arrested and sent to Dachau to continue his life as a quarry worker. Over the next few decades he was employed by several quarry jobs, working mainly in the egg industry, including the King of Morocco. In 1973, a museum dedicated to Breker's life was opened in Germany. It is noted that Breker's life was not a celebrated German artist, but many of the lists' artists died in isolation and their talent inevitably tempered by their relationships with the Nazis.
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Between 334 and 323 BCE, Alexander the Great of Macedon conquered a gigantic empire that at its peak, would stretch from the Balkans in Europe to the frontiers of India and the steppes of Central Asia. Upon his death in Babylon in 323 BCE, Alexander’s former generals fell to fighting amongst themselves for his position. The empire was too big for any one man to gain mastery over it, and after years of conflict, it was divided unevenly between three main dynastic groups, each one originating with one of Alexander’s senior commanders. These were the Ptolemies of Egypt, the Seleucids to the east in what is now Iran, and the Antigonids to the west in what became the Roman Empire.

The Antigonids, most notably Seleucus I, took control of the eastern provinces of Alexander’s empire, stretching from Mesopotamia to the Indus Valley. The Seleucid king Antiochus III, newly crowned in 223 BCE and based in Syria, was eager to reassert control over the former eastern possessions of his empire, originally conquered by Alexander, that had
slipped from Seleucid grasp over the course of the third century BCE. Ptolemy II, however, had broken away from the Seleucids by the end of the century and established himself as an independent ruler in Egypt. The Battle of Raphia, fought in 217 BCE, was significant in the context of the struggle between Egypt and the Seleucid Empire. In the years after the death of Antiochus III, the Seleucid Empire faced challenges on multiple fronts, including a rebellion in Egypt led by the Ptolemaic pharaoh Ptolemy VI Philometor. The Ptolemies were known for their powerful navy, which allowed them to maintain control over the Mediterranean Sea.

The Battle of Raphia took place during the Syrian War, which was fought between the Seleucids and the Ptolemies for control of Syria. The battle was fought near the town of Raphia in what is now southern Syria. Ptolemy VI Philometor, the Ptolemaic pharaoh of Egypt, had been working with the Seleucid Empire to gain control over Syria. However, Antiochus III, the Seleucid king, was busy fighting against the Roman Republic, which had invaded Syria. Ptolemy VI seized the opportunity to attack the Seleucid forces in Syria.

The Ptolemaic army, led by Ptolemy VI, was able to defeat the Seleucid forces at the Battle of Raphia. The victory allowed the Ptolemies to establish control over Syria, which was a significant gain for their power in the region. The battle also marked a turning point in the power struggle between the Seleucids and the Ptolemies, with the Ptolemies emerging as the dominant power in Syria.
Greatest Battles

Phalanxes tended to be relatively immobile, and most often better suited for either defence or a deliberate advance.

Asia Minor and instead near away a big boat of the Ptolemaic Empire. Ptolemy IV now had to contend with the consequences of his poor treatment of Theocles, as well as those that attended the poor governance of his dynasty. In the wake of the successful Third Syrian War, in which the Ptolemaic forces were largely cut off from Egypt, the border province of Crete offered a last stand for the fleet. Theocles, on the other hand, had taken his ships to the westmost limit of the Egyptian coast and landed troops to the east of the Nile Delta. Theocles, therefore, turned a substantial Ptolemaic fleet and a large army of 20,000 men into a separate force. Theocles, therefore, turned a substantial Ptolemaic fleet and a large army of 20,000 men into a separate force. Theocles, therefore, turned a substantial Ptolemaic fleet and a large army of 20,000 men into a separate force.
On his way south Antiochus accepted the submission of several other cities and towns, including Antioch, Ptolemais, Sicyon, and Tyre. He captured Antioch and Babylonia. Several highly ranking Ptolemaic officials defended him as his invading army approached the borders of Egypt. As his Seleucid forces, known as the Macedonian conquer, had already reached the military system that the Macedonian conqueror had perfected. At the heart of both the Seleucid and the Ptolemaic armies was the infantry phalanx:

Each soldier of the phalanx was armed with a sarissa, an extremely long pike that could be as much as 20 feet in length. When arrayed in lines, the leading edge of the weapons held by the men of the first line projected ahead of the phalanx of the first line. This meant that the Macedonian phalanx presented an almost impenetrable hedge of spears against an opponent.

Phalanxes tended to be relatively immobile and most often better suited for either defense or a deliberate advance. They also required a high degree of training to be effective, since it was no easy thing to maneuver with a giant spear in close adjacency to other soldiers. Both the Seleucid and the Ptolemaic forces, led by Nicanor, a man who was the descendant of Alexander’s soldiers who had settled in Egypt, were trained in the art of the phalanx. This meant that the Macedonian phalanx was a formidable opponent.

Each side used their elephants to their best advantage. The Seleucid army used their elephants to not only try to get through the enemy lines and get into a position to attack, but also to try to get the enemy to retreat. The Ptolemaic army used their elephants to try to get the enemy to retreat and get into a position to attack.

The battle was fought on the lines of the Seleucid army. The left wing, led by Antiochus, was held by Eudemos of Corinth. The right wing was held by Eucebides, a man who was the son of the previous ruler of Ptolemais. The center was held by Ptolemy, the son of Ptolemy V. The battle was fought on the lines of the Seleucid army. The left wing, led by Antiochus, was held by Eudemos of Corinth. The right wing was held by Eucebides, a man who was the son of the previous ruler of Ptolemais. The center was held by Ptolemy, the son of Ptolemy V.
engagement at Raphia. The African forest elephant was severely outmatched with its Indian cousin. It was a significantly smaller animal, standing around seventeen or eighteen feet in height as opposed to roughly ten feet for the Indian elephant. It should be borne in mind also that the African forest elephant is not the same creature as the better-known African bush-elephant (Loxodonta africana), which is larger than the Indian but unferocious.

The African forest elephant’s reluctance to fight the Indian was understandable given the size disparity. Elephants are intelligent creatures and at least somewhat aware of their own limitations. It would be extremely rare to see an elephant to the left

Antiochus reached Gaza while Ptolemy had marched out from Alexandria with his rebel army and made his camp at Raphia, the modern Hash.

Antiochus next moved his army closer to Raphia, making another camp a little over a mile distant from that of the Egyptians. A few days afterward, Antiochus again moved, bringing his army to a new encampment around a half mile from that of Ptolemy. Five days of skirmishing between the armies ensued. At last, both kings were willing to risk a contest of strength and they formed their huge armies up for battle.

The battle itself was in favor of Antiochus. Ptolemy’s African forest elephants would not engage in combat with the larger Indian elephants and this, combined with a cavalry charge by the Seleucid right wing, led to the disintegration of the Egyptian left wing. Hardly, this collapse ultimately drew Antiochus far from the battlefield to have any meaningful impact on the fighting. While he was away, the successful Euboules of Thasos led the Ptolemaic light cavalry in a bold and successful charge against the Seleucid left wing. Meanwhile, the few Egyptian phalangites had proved their mettle and had defeated the Seleucid phalanx in front of them as the center of the battlefield. Upon Antiochus’ return, there was nothing he could do to reverse the situation, and he retreated with his army to Gaza.

Antiochus III had fought a battle that he could and should have won had he allowed himself to get carried away in the rush of success in the opening phase of the fighting. His forces were very heavy. Some 10,000 infantrymen were killed and 300 horses were slain. 4000 others were made prisoners of the Egyptians. Ptolemy, as was typical for a victor with lighter forces, 1500 infantrymen persisted along with 700 cavalrymen and 700 elephants. With the notable exception of Seleucus, Ptolemy had to relinquish all of the gains he had made in the campaign before the battle. He would have another chance against Egypt years later during the Fifth Syrian War of 203 BCE. At Raphia, Antiochus crushed the Egyptian army and gained control of Coele Syria and large portions of Asia Minor.

214 BCE

Elephants, mercenaries and phalangites of troops armed with sarissas take to the field in the Battle of Raphia

Battalions drawn

The two armies were encamped less than a kilometers apart. After five days of waiting, Ptolemy led his army out of the Egyptian camp and Antiochus followed suit to the center of his battleline. Ptolemy placed his infantry phalanx and his side infantry. The Ptolemaic left wing is attacked by an extraordinary cavalry regiment under Ptoleuates. On the extreme right wing, Ptolemy sent more cavalry under Euboules. The tactics between these regiments are filled with soldiers drawn from both Euboules. The tactics between these regiments are filled with soldiers drawn from both.

Troops assemble

On his own right wing Antiochus placed 1000 horsemen and archers. Another regiment of 2,000 cavalry troops was behind. Directly to their rear were 60 Indian elephants. On the extreme left wing Antiochus puts another regiment of 2,000 cavalry with more elephants in front of them. The Seleucid phalanx is to the center of the line, opposite the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx. The Syrian battalions are filled with troops from many nations, including Carthaginians, Greeks, Macedonians, Cretans, Crete, Cyprus, and the Egyptian phalanx.

Pachyderm problems

With their deprived numerical superiority to their troops, the phalangites were penned up within their phalanx walls. The Seleucid phalanx was able to mount the first segment to avenge its cost. Many of Ptolemy’s African forest elephants are unable to fight the larger Indian elephants of the Seleucid line. Ptolemy’s Royal Guard cavalry is compelled to retreat along with them.

Cavalry driven back

Antiochus only needed to restrain his mounted infantry and drive the Ptolemaic cavalry on its left wing while his Greek mercenary peltasts made an attack on Ptolemy’s own peltasts, who have been decimated by the retreating elephants. These were driven back. Antiochus drove off the Egyptian cavalry and was off to mounting pursuit of the fleeing forces. He ends up for dinner from the rest of the fighting.
"Antiochus drives off the Egyptian cavalry and sets off in headlong pursuit of the fleeing horsemen. He ends up far distant from the rest of the fighting."

**Mercenaries attack**

On the other side of the field the Egyptian army is doing much better. The Philaeueian commander, Echecrates, sees that his own elephants are refusing to attack with the huge Seleucid armies. He gives up on them and orders his Greek mercenaries to attack the Seleucids in front of them while he leads a cavalry charge that slays the enemy's elephants. His forces upon the rear of the Seleucid cavalry on the Lyon-left wing. The Seleucids here are routed and their left begins to collapse.

**Pushing back**

In the center of the battlefield, the infantry phil-thumbnail, cp up still now not engaged, clash with one another. The Egyptians have the better of the fighting and push the Antiochian forces back into the rear. This is not only to the Seleucids but to the rear of the Antiochian army. A dust cloud can be seen rushing toward the Antiochian camp. This can only mean that the Seleucids are joining the battle! The slay turn back with his Royal Squadron but only arrives in time to find his men in full retreat. The battle is over. Philoctetes has won a great victory and gains possession of Raphia.

**Victory achieved**

Antiochus, knowing himself victorious, is far away from one of his officers points to the battered left side. A dust cloud can be seen rushing toward the Antiochian camp. This can only mean that the Seleucids are joining the battle! The slay turn back with his Royal Squadron but only arrives in time to find his men in full retreat. The battle is over. Philoctetes has won a great victory and gains possession of Raphia.
NAPOLEON ESCAPES TO THE UNITED STATES!

Eluding exile, a belligerent Napoleon declares himself King of Mexico and has his sights set on returning to the French throne.

What happened after Napoleon was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815? He abdicated from the French throne, and he had to figure out what to do, as the allies were potentially going to come and capture him. He spent a bit of time sitting around Paris, waiting to see what was going to happen, and then he went to the French coast, to Rochefort. He thought he was going to get passports, possibly to go to the United States. However, once he got there, he heard that the passports he had been hoping for were not forthcoming. So there was drifting back and forth in the port about what Napoleon was going to do. Some of his followers went to see whether American ships were willing to escape the British blockade. Napoleon decided in the end he wasn't going to try this option, because he didn't think it would be to his dignity to hide himself and go to the US as a fugitive. He wrote a special letter to the Prince Regent, saying he was going to put himself at the mercy of the British people. He got on a ship that took him to Plymouth, but it...
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Napoleon brainstorming about starting a colony in the US.
The What If Newspaper

want't until he got to Plymouth that he discovered the British were going to send him to St Helena [where he would live in exile until his death on 5 May 1821].

Why did Napoleon consider going to America?

He had been reading a book by Alexander von Humboldt, who was a great German naturalist of the 19th century about the US, and this seemed appealing to him. He thought it was an attractive destination, and he could perhaps do some scientific exploration there or just retire as a private gentleman essentially. He talked about setting on the banks of the Mississippi or the Ohio River, and about travelling around the Americas on a scientific expedition.

So would he have lived a quiet life in America?

If you look at what the options would have been, the first is just to settle peacefully. That's what his brother Joseph Bonaparte did. Another of his options would have been to attempt to gather his followers there and peacefully start a colony, creating a sort of new mini-France within the US. That's something he fantasized about doing when he was on St Helena. And in fact the Bonapartists who did flee to the US actually did try to start colonies in Alabama and also in Texas. There was some argument that perhaps the purpose of all these colonies was to rescue Napoleon from St Helena and put him on the Mexican throne. The third possibility is that this Texas expedition, which Napoleon might have got involved in if he was really in search of a new throne, might have got involved in launching an invasion of Spain's American colonies, because most of them were seeing independence from Spain at that point. There were revolutionary war going on in these places, and the most obvious candidate if he was in the US would have been Mexico. At one point when he was on St Helena and learned that Joseph had successfully reached the US, Napoleon said that he was his plan he would build a great empire in all of Spanish America. So there are some hints that this was playing on his mind.

If he had started a colony in the US, would that have been tolerated?

Given Napoleon's penchant for governance, this would have caused friction with the Americans, but would not necessarily have greatly altered world history - the exception being if he tried to do it in Louisiana, where there was a sizable French-speaking population and Napoleon was well regarded. This could ultimately have led to an attempt to secede, which would have been resisted by the American government.

Could Napoleon have had a lasting impact on the Americas?

I don't think he could have done anything comparable with what he did in Europe; because he didn't have the infrastructure, the familiarity with the culture or the political situation there or the geography. And he just didn't have the number of followers that were needed. Where he could have had an influence would have been in Spanish America, lending his support to one of the groups there. But there were so many individual players there, and in that stage of his life his health was declining. He died of cancer in 1821, and the symptoms were already showing as early as 1818. He was passed his prime. I don't think the fire was still in his belly in the way it had been earlier.

Would he have changed the outcome of any of the independence revolutions in Central or South America?

Napoleon, in search of a new throne, might have tried to launch an invasion of one of Spain's American colonies, which were then seeing independence. The most obvious candidate would have been Mexico, via Texas. There is some suggestion that Mexican patriots may have offered to put Joseph Bonaparte on the throne of an independent Mexico. Napoleon might also have utilised in other Spanish American colonies, where his supporters had landed up, for example, Napoleon's General Michel Neyman briefly commanded the cavalry in Chile's independence army and allegedly lent his support to a reported plan to rescue Napoleon from St Helena.

Would Napoleon have been safe in America?

A very real possibility is that Napoleon would have been assassinated in America by a supporter of France's Bourbon regime which ruled France in his stead. Napoleon certainly feared that outcome, and it is one of the things that deterred him from going to America.
NAPOLEON ESCAPED TO THE US

Is there any scenario where he returns to France? He likely would have tried to undermine the Bourbon regime in some fashion, and try to drum up support to return to France, or for his young son to be placed on the French throne. But with the allies occupying France, I think the chances of that were quite slim. He’d already had two losses of the can, and the French people were tired of war and Napoleon at that point. The allied governments would have done everything in their power to stop him from coming back.

What would Napoleon’s involvement have meant for the Americas? If Napoleon had embarked on a military adventure in the Americas, it could have led to an attempt by Spain or France to intervene directly in the Americas. Or, if Napoleon had folded around in Texas, it could have provided the US with an excuse to take Texas sooner than it actually did (from Mexico in 1845). And Russia has posts on the west coast of North America at the time, and it might have taken advantage of the opportunity to take its foothold on the continent. Of Cuba could have wound up in French or British or American hands. So there are possibilities for how Napoleon could have had a lasting impact.

Is there a particular path for Napoleon that was most likely? I’d like to think that the most likely might have been that he would have still undertaken a military venture. But speaking more as a historian, he would have lived peacefully, fretting about it, and possibly thinking more in terms of how to influence events in France or in Europe that would favor his son attaining the French throne at some point. His health at that stage of his life was not great, and he didn’t have a large core of supporters around him. I don’t think he would have had a large enough following to make a lot of difference.

Would Napoleon going to America change the story of his life at all? It was during that period (on St. Helena) that Napoleon really built his reputation in a favorable fashion. He was dictating his memoirs there, he had sympathetic followers, and he was able to craft a real propaganda effort in his favor. Even within Britain, people began to refer to him much more sympathetically once he was on St. Helena. So if that St. Helena period had not happened, his reputation may not have been the same today as it currently is. That could have cemented his reputation more as kind of a loser rather than as a great man in world history.

PRUSSIA ON THE RISE

Victory at Waterloo was as much a victory for the Kingdom of Prussia, as it was for Great Britain, and the Prussian commander Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher had asked for Napoleon’s execution rather than exile. If the Emperor had continued to make trouble and fire his subordinates, Sweden might have been vindicated and Britain would have been left humiliated on the world stage. In response, Europe’s great powers may have looked to Berlin for an answer to the ‘Napoleon problem’, rather than London, perhaps resulting in a more peaceful occupation of France and a Prussian-led Eighth Coalition. Finding allies in a Spainsmarting from the loss of their American possessions, a new balance of power may have emerged on the continent, viewing France as a rogue state, and Britain as the weak link in the international order.

WATERLOO VETERANS: “WE TRIED OUR BEST”

A march organised by Help for Heroes will be passing through London on Sunday to raise awareness of the wounded veterans of the Battle of Waterloo, many of whom feel ignored by the government.
A WORLD WAR WITHOUT END?

Eight objects from the Musée de l’Armée’s new exhibition that put paid to the lie of peace in 1918

The end of the Great War of 1914 to 1918 brought about the collapse of four great empires. The Russian Empire was torn apart by a revolutionary Civil War between Bolsheviks and nationalists; the Ottoman Empire was partitioned by Britain and France without the consultation or consent of Arab nationalists; the Austro-Hungarian Empire was replaced by rival new Slavic states who fought over borders and political settlements; and the German Empire lost a chunk of its eastern marches to birth the four independent Poland since 1919. In The East: War Without End, 1918-1923, a new exhibition at Musée de l’Armée, the French national military museum in Paris, the story of these conflicts, many of which are largely overlooked in the West, yet continue to define much of modern geopolitics.

The legacy of 1918 can be seen in the poisonous ethnic and cultural fault lines that have led to war in Chechnya and Ukraine, and France-British division of the Middle East that created nearly a century of instability in the region.

Collecting artifacts from museums across Eastern Europe as well as its own archives, In The East: War Without End (1918-1923) is on at the Musée de l’Armée until 16 January 2019.
A WORLD WAR WITHOUT END?

FREIKORPS HELMET
In Germany’s unstable new Weimar Republic, bands of ad hoc vigilantes, made up mainly of unemployed soldiers to keep right-wing paramilitary “Free corps” and right-wing terrorists in check, overwhelmed the communist upstarts. Freikorps units worked outside of Germany’s new borders too and in the Baltic, they were trained to unleash the German “blitzkrieg” to reach to reach the Baltic States and Ethiopia. Ultimately, their efforts to stymie German adversaries made them not just enemies of the communists, but the local population with no more results than those called from Berlin to Port Moscow.

THE BANNER OF KING FAISAL
Faisal I bin Hussein bin Ali Al Hussein’s as with both the Ottomans and the Turks during the First World War with a view to creating an independent Aral state in the Middle East. After the war failed the promised King of Syria in 1919, the Arab Valley of Kuwait, Faisal II was sent to Iraq, in the same region especially as Faisal’s Greater Syria included all of the new states of Kuwait, Iraq, and Lebanon. A brief Franco-Ottoman War ended in July 1920 with Faisal’s defeat from the country wherein he was offered the throne of British-held Iraq instead and the capture of his standard.

UNIFORM OF THE RED TERROR
Standing in the chest of the Austro-Hungarian Emperor’s disintegration, field marshall’s margrave Schwarzenberg’s imperialist followers as Leon’s violent uprisings by forming Red Terror groups — both known as the Leon’s Red — to purge the counterrevolutionary armies. The counterrevolutionary army was at war with the counterrevolutionary army itself, and in this war between the counterrevolutionary army and the counterrevolutionary army, the counterrevolutionary army itself began the Red Terror of their own in order to end the whole notion of communism.
NEGLIGENCE AT VERSAILLES

The inaugural sessions of the Peace Congress began on 18 January 1919 in the Quai d'Orsay. Woodrow Wilson of the United States and Vittorio Emanuele Orlando of Italy failed to agree on how to make peace. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, though 32 nations in attendance, was at its own negotiations. Decisions were made by the "Big Four" - Wilson, Lloyd George, Vittorio Emanuele Orlando, and Georges Clemenceau. Clemenceau was determined to repress Europe for what they deemed would be years of reparation peace. The 1919 Treaty of Versailles was the ultimate seal of the unbroken armistice, and hostilities Germany accompanied the Treaty of Versailles.
WHITE RUSSIAN DAGGER
This black dagger was presented to French General Henri Gouraud by a White Russian officer who joined the French following a mutiny in the Civil War. With its origins in Georgia and the Caucasus, the Black Russian dagger was traditionally worn by the Cossacks. Their militant culture and deep hatred of Jews had made them the natural source of manpower for the White Army, and the Cossacks had joined the White cause in 1919.

A WORLD WAR WITHOUT END?

RUSSIAN REFUGEE CRISIS
A 1923 report issued in Belgrade, capital of the new kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, for a group of young Russian refugees, following the instability of the Bolshevik revolution and Russian Civil War, estimated that three million refugees - many of them the families of anti-communist White officers and intellectuals were an unwanted by then, a 1923 report, or otherwise accepted by the Red Army, and many left the country and sought refuge elsewhere.

“TO ARMS! JOIN THE LIGHTNING ARMY!”
Ministry of War, on 11 May 1915. It was formed by the Government to raise a new Polish army in the interests of the Central Powers. The new army was composed of Polish forces that had previously fought for the Russian Empire, and it was commanded by General Tadeusz Rozwadowski. The Polish-Soviet War began on 21 June 1919, when the Polish army attacked the Russian-Polish boundary. The Poles were able to take control of the Lublin region and other areas of southeastern Poland. The Polish-Soviet War ended on 12 July 1920, when the two sides signed the Treaty of Riga, which recognized Poland's independence and its annexation of the Lublin region.
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On the Menu
ROYAL MINCE PIES

A SWEET MEATY TREAT WORTHY OF QUEEN VICTORIA BUCKINGHAM PALACE, 19TH CENTURY

The origins of the mince pie – once containing literal mince meat, often tripe or tongue – are distinctly Medieval, but during the mid-18th century this meat feast was given a sweet touch in plantations on Britain’s Caribbean colonies made more affordable and more widely available. 

Charles D’Erlon-Franckellet, Queen Victoria’s chef from 1840 to 1882, recorded an indulgent royal recipe in which the roast beef was accompanied by raisins, currants, suet, candied citrus, orange, lemon, spices and sugar: stewed pears, preserved ginger, ground orange and lemon peel and juice, one bottle of rum, one bottle of brandy and two bottles of port. It would be another two decades before meat was seen as an optional ingredient with the legendary Mrs Beeton cutting a meat-free mince pie in her 1861 book Housekeep Management.

Did you make it? Let us know!

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BLACK FLAGS, BLUE WATERS
An epic, scholarly new history of piracy’s golden age

Author Eric Jay Dolin Publisher Liveright Price $27 Released Out now

Black Flags, Blue Waters by Eric Jay Dolin, reveals the history behind the golden age of piracy that swept the waters around America in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. It was a time when legends were made, money piled up, and justice wasn’t always done.

Dolin’s work is a new take on the well-trodden path of pirate history, as scholarly as it is entertaining. He doesn’t shy away from the dastardly tales of ruthless pirates that have made these men and women so fascinating for centuries, but nor does he lose sight of the economic and political imperatives that created such a perfect breeding ground for piracy, relatively short though their golden age was.

In Black Flags, Blue Waters, Dolin brings colonial America vividly to life and examines how the colonialists and officials clashed and collaborated, and how piracy played its part in building the new economy. He backs back into the archives to discover how this quasi-backhanded trade turned into an industry and examines how the increasing economic clout of America meant that pirates, once tolerated and sometimes even celebrated, found themselves hunted across the oceans. Of course no history of piracy would be complete without a few famous names and Dolin provides them in spades. Best assured that names such as Blackbeard, Stede Bonnet, and Captain Kidd are well represented, as are the forces of law and order, including figures such as Ben Franklin and Robert Smollett, a man who learned early on that it didn’t do to tangle with pirates. Though some of the pirates whose exploits are included here have become rather romanticised figures over the centuries, Dolin doesn’t shy from providing the sometimes gruesome facts behind their exploits but this isn’t a sensationalist book, and it is firmly anchored in solid research.

“Dolin’s work is a new take on the well-trodden path of pirate history, as scholarly as it is entertaining.”

Eric Jay Dolin is clearly comfortable with the material at his disposal and has previously written histories of whaling and the slave trade, amongst others, and he has an eye for the sort of detail that brings colonial North America springing from the page. Keeping such a sprawling, complex world with so many larger-than-life characters in check is no mean feat, and it is one that Dolin manages with considerable aplomb. He throws fact from folklore and cuts through the hype and legend to breathe new life into even the most famous names on both sides of the law, presenting both the pirates and their foes as very real and complex people, rather than cartoonish sea dogs and beleaguered townspeople.

This book will appeal not only to scholars of the golden age of piracy and exploration, but to anyone who enjoys a dramatic, well-told story. Black Flags, Blue Waters is an important work in its field, rich in scholarly sources and providing some welcome historical context for piracy’s heyday and inevitable decline.

It is immensely readable, and at least as thrilling and action-packed as any pirate legend. Gripping and dramatic, this book takes readers back to the dawn of the New World.
Arthur: Warrior and King
A pseudo-historical search for a pseudo-historical king
Author Don Carleton  Publisher Amberley  Price £20  Released Out now

Surprises such as this are piled ponderously up to increasing heights of incredibility. It is not even an entertaining read. Lengthy sections deal in tedious detail with place-name etymologies that leave the reader equal parts bored and confused.

A Supernatural War
Oh what a spooky war
Author Owen Davies  Publisher Oxford University Press  Price £15.99  Released Out now

It is most studies on spirituality and the occult—and indeed on changing culture generally—the Great War acts as an untimbered between a simple age and a darker, more anxious one. It is either the trauma that opens a history, or the watershed moment that ends it, and with supernatural thinking especially it has been incredibly observed. Professor Owen Davies is one of the undifferentiated leading his field, and this comprehensive study covers the use of fortune telling for wartime propaganda, eschatology, charms and talismans, conventional religiosity and accounts of spectral soldiers and ghosts haunting the front.

A Supernatural War is a fascinating deep dive that offers tantalising glimpses of a very different world, from domestic violence cases where the wife's concern with mediums is cited, to the role of female crystal balls in the countdown on fortune tellers under the Vaccination Act to the looming radi of cauldrons—this membrane covering the heads of some infants at birth as protective amulet to women.

It is the genius debunking of assumed truths that proves the most rewarding, for example the story of the Angel of Mons—the heavenly host and spectral Agincourt bowmen attending to the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914—begins not as a boast or a battlefield legend, but a piece of short fiction crowded out of context: A Supernatural War: Divination, Divination, and Faith during the First World War is impossible to describe without simply cutting off a list of highlights.
THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD

The most realistic portrayal of the men who fought and died on the Western Front you'll ever see

Director Peter Jackson Certificate 15 Release date Out now

T
he Great War was more than the first monumental global conflict of the 20th century - it was the first war to be captured in moving images.

Black and white footage of what we call poor quality today has been shown in archives for decades, illustrating the horrors of battle and the lives of the soldiers on the front line. But that's all changed now.

Probably best known for directing the legendary Lord of the Rings series, Peter Jackson has teamed up with the Imperial War Museum to create a new epic - one that will be remembered alongside the people it shows. Don't be fooled by the opening of They Shall Not Grow Old because after the monotone footage showing the loot up to the war and the training new recruits underwent, you'll glimpse something that's hard new as you see the front line in France in glorious Technicolor thanks to new technology.

Explaining the emotions you feel is impossible. As you're taken through the trenches, the push over the top into no man's land and how they coped with disease and death (including real archival images of dead bodies), you'll hear the voices of the veterans of the British Army themselves. The storytelling is limited - you won't hear about what else went on in the war, or what specific battles the footage is from - but what it lacks in that regard, it more than makes up for in humanity. It's time to see the soldiers of War -War is a never before, and it's time to really understand why they were forgotten, and why they shall not grow old.

UNQUIET WOMEN

Breathing new life into the narratives of forgotten historical women

Author Max Adams Publisher Head of Zeus Price £20 Released Out now

E
lizabeth, Persephone, Atalanta. Women who stood alone against the gods, the heavens. Women who have been forgotten.

Now, Max Adams introduces us to his Unquiet Women, inspiring individuals who lived incredible lives, or at least remarkable and yet rarely remembered today.

His global list has been assembled to show us that women of these times were not all either nubile, matr or otherwise invisible.

And their stories are available in this book, The Unquiet Women. A collection of famous and forgotten women, who were instrumental figures in shaping the world as we know it today.

Each chapter is dedicated to a different woman, from the ancient Greek warrior-queen, To tie in with the book, we have created a series of portraits of the women featured in the book, which can be found at the end of each chapter.
THE FAVOURITE
A hilarious yet emotive period drama that breaks all the rules of its genre

Certificate 15 Creator Yorgos Lanthimos Cast Olivia Colman, Rachel Weisz, Emma Stone, Nicholas Hoult, Joe Alwyn Released 1 January 2019 (UK)

Standing thanks to her father’s reckless gambling, Sarah gives her a job in the palace kitchens, unaware that Abigail is willing to do anything to get back to the top.

It is a risky venture to see a film led by three women, Queen Anne played by Colman, Sarah Churchill by Weisz, and Abigail Masham by Stone, let alone in a period piece.

The triangle between Anne, Sarah and Abigail provides an interesting dynamic against the backdrop of political intrigue and war, which manages to keep you captivated for the entire film. Interestingly, it is great to see that none of these female characters assume the typical victim or femme fatale role, but rather they are all shown to be complicated women fighting for power and love in a man’s world - rather than just serving as pawns on the board, they are shooting and hunting just as well as any of their male counterparts.

Speaking of the male characters, particularly Lord Stanley and Lord Godolphin, it is enthralling to see them in such a context - the tension and the power - that they need.

Colman is mesmerizing as Queen Anne, a character who spends the majority of the film acting like a spoilt child - largely due to the fact that Sarah has infantilised her. However, Sarah is well aware that the power she wields is dependent on Anne and so she often has to mould her and although the audience is only given mere glimpses, it is clear that their relationship goes beyond friendship.

One of the most poignant moments of the film occurs during a conversation between Anne and Abigail, discussing the queen’s devotion to her pet rabbits. As the audience discovers these rabbits represent the 17 children Anne has lost either through miscarriage or stillbirth.

It is a heartbreak and sympathy for the queen who spends the majority of her days being wheelied around the palace as she suffers from crippling attacks of gout.

Beautifully, dramatic, funny and emotional all rolled into one, The Favourite is certainly unconventional for a period drama.

The film is peppered throughout with twanging and moments of obscurity, strong line the point that Lanthimos clearly did not want it to fit into the stereotypical period films that usually define this genre of movie - and should appeal to anyone who enjoys an engaging historical drama.

Visually stunning, The Favourite will keep you gripped right to the end.
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OUTLAW KING


Netflix’s new action film is visually stunning but how does it fare in terms of accuracy?

VERDICT: B+ from perfect bud. Cleaning king for whitewash

01. At the beginning of the movie, Robert the Bruce, played by Chris Pine, pledges his allegiance to King Edward I of England in 1304. In fact, Robert submitted to Edward two years earlier in 1302.

02. In Scotland, King Edward uses a trick to render “the Marwol” — the institution usually did exist and was possibly the biggest one to have ever been built. This film also greatly magnifies largely accurate historical events, with no killo or sight.

03. Bruce’s marriage to Elizabeth, played by Sarah Gadon, is portrayed in a romantic light and probably took place some time in the 15th century. However, the film correctly depicts Elizabeth being imprisoned at Caernarfon and she would remain in Edinburgh for eight years.

04. The film accurately depicts Bruce's created. Bruce’s victory at the Battle of Bannockburn is said to be in 1314. The film accurately depicts the Battle of Bannockburn as taking place in 1314.

05. Although the movie portrays Edward I as a villain, the actual historical events that led to the Battle of Bannockburn are more complex. The film accurately portrays the events, with no killo or sight.

97
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TIME TO REMEMBER

The First World War began for the British on 4 August 1914 when the Germans invaded Belgium. The magnitude of the losses suffered in the 1,600 days that followed will stay with us forever. By the time the Armistice agreement was signed on 11 November 1918 at 5am, nearly one million soldiers from the British Empire had fallen. To mark the centenary of Armistice Day, ColkMacArthur has designed this stunning limited edition Armistice 1918 watch. Behind its sleek styling and Swiss quartz movement, the watch encapsulates the historical events that ended the Great War.

To symbolise the time the Armistice was signed, the number 5 on the watch is coloured red. Alongside it is printed N 24130, the number of the wagon in which the end of the war was formally agreed.

Although the Armistice was signed at 5am, soldiers kept fighting for six more hours. The last to fall was Private George Edwin Ellison of the Royal Irish Lancers. His initials appear at 050.30 on the watch, the time that he died.

Thanks to the poem “In Flanders Fields,” the poppy became a prominent Remembrance Day symbol and replaces the 11 on the watch, the time the war ended, alongside the date of the Armistice.

For a unique touch, the watch can also be engraved on the back to pay tribute to an ancestor, creating a treasured family heirloom, or in remembrance of a heroic soldier, doctor or nurse who played a part in the war.

WATCHMAKERS OF DISTINCTION

ColkMacArthur is a watchmaking company created by Ian Wood, a former Scott Grand, and his associate Sebastian Cohen. The company is built on a common passion for horology and founding values of pride, heritage and craftsmanship, something that’s helped them become official watch supplier for the Royal Guards of Buckingham Palace and the British Army.

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