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Cover images
The cover shows close-ups of the outside of 128 Kensington Church Street, the 17th-century townhouse which, since 1974, has been the offices of Stacey International. These photographs were taken by Khaled Kasem, the photographer commissioned to work on *The Gentlemen’s Clubs of London* (page 7). The inside front cover depicts a view over lake Dokan, from Kurdistan (page 19). The inside back cover carries a watercolour by Susan Keeble for Grace Todino-Gonguet’s new book for children, *Tina the Turtle* (page 62).
The vibrance of modern Syria, as witnessed in its commercial centres like Damascus and Aleppo, reflects a cultural formalisation of great antiquity. Indeed, Syria is incontestably a fountainhead of ancient civilisation. Syria’s archaeological sites rival those of ancient Persia, Mesopotamia and Egypt. Its history recalls its role in the civilisation of Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome and the Byzantium. The country is a mosaic of cultural influences. Given such rich heritage, it is remarkable that today’s Syria remains relatively undiscovered and underrepresented in contemporary books.

*Syria, Cradle of Civilisation* aims to redress the balance. Through a lively and informed text – accompanied by both archive and commissioned photography and maps – this new work provides the definitive illustrated reference on the country’s complex history; it offers an unparalleled insight into the making of modern Syria.

Jonathan Tubb is an archaeologist and historian at the British Museum. He trained in Levantine archaeology at London’s Institute of Archaeology and began his field career in Syria.

Contributors to this book include Caroline Cartright, Rupert Chapman, Sam Moorhead, Hugh Kennedy and Gayth Armanazi.

200 colour and B&W photographs
270 x 300mm
256pp, hardback
ISBN 978 1 906 768560
October 2011
£40
Anthony Lejeune is an award-winning broadcaster, journalist and author. He read classics at Balliol and belongs to several clubs.

The Gentlemen’s Clubs of London

Clubland is another country, forever redolent of the past but, its few thousand, often influential inhabitants are an integral part of English life today, whether luxurious or mainly cosy, full of serendipitous historical relics and portraiture accumulated down the generations, they offer splendid wine and food at various levels of delight and mere familiarity.

The Gentlemen’s Clubs of London covers nearly fifty clubs. More than 400 photographs and engravings observe interior splendour and quaint details. The narrative is a distillation of old records and recollection, published histories and private accounts of individual clubs, and their members. It supersedes Anthony Lejeune’s previous work on this subject published over 30 years ago.

For those who have never stepped inside clubland’s sanctified environs, there are many revelations. For clubmen themselves, this is a book to treasure.

Anthony Lejeune is an award-winning broadcaster, journalist and author. He read classics at Balliol and belongs to several clubs.

400 colour and b/w photographs
270 x 300mm
296pp, hardback
ISBN 978 1 906 768201
March 2011
£35

NEW ILLUSTRATED REFERENCE SPRING 2012
Lucinda Lambton’s Colonial Caribbean

Written and photographed by Lucinda Lambton

It seems scarcely credible that there are Caribbean islands rich with a British architectural legacy that remains unnoticed to the rest of the world. Yet these are sensational beauties that have been wilfully forgotten, for their association with the age of slavery.

Here are Palladian sugar factories and slave hospitals, churches, castles and naval forts, all survivors from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. There are also the “Great Houses”. Whether in picturesque ruin or held up for dear life by crumbling mortar or flowering creepers, these are structures of style and elegance in which today’s islanders take pride.

Lucinda Lambton’s infectious curiosity and roving lens combine here to create a rarity of a book, which offers an entirely new perspective on these otherwise familiar islands of Jamaica, Barbados, St Lucia and their Caribbean neighbours.

Lucinda Lambton is a writer, photographer and broadcaster, working both behind and in front of the lens, nosing out architectural flights of fancy. She has written and presented many films for television, and is the author of the best-selling history of the lavatory, Temples of Convenience.
Oman is a country no visitor forgets. The ancient land of copper and frankincense, hub of sea and land routes linking India, Arabia and the Mediterranean; a country of rich ports, merchant houses and castles, Oman’s heritage has beguiled and intrigued visitors for centuries.

Its mountain ranges, fertile coastal strips, vast deserts and incense-bearing hills, once possessed a trading empire of its own.

A century ago, the country was in decline. Only on the accession of Sultan Qaboos in 1970 and the appropriate exploitation of its mineral wealth did the country begin to flower once more. Oman has since undergone a dazzling renaissance, economically, socially and culturally.

In this acclaimed book – now in its sixth edition – Sir Donald Hawley, Britain’s first ambassador to Oman in the 1970s and an acknowledged authority on the country chronicles the remarkable changes that have taken place in the last 30 years. Since Sir Donald’s death in 2008, his work has been updated by the hand of one of his successors.

The many photographs of the land and its people, architecture and arts will inspire the reader, while maps and diagrams amplify the text.

‘No other work on Oman can compare with this comprehensive study.’

Middle East Economic Digest

Oman
Sir Donald Hawley
Edited by Richard Muir

Oman is a country no visitor forgets. The ancient land of copper and frankincense, hub of sea and land routes linking India, Arabia and the Mediterranean; a country of rich ports, merchant houses and castles, Oman’s heritage has beguiled and intrigued visitors for centuries.

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256 pages (hardback)
304 x 235mm, portrait
348 colour and b/w photographs
28 maps and diagrams
ISBN 978 1 906 768584
£35
Jonathan Fryer is a writer and broadcaster. He is also a lecturer in comparative sociology and the politics of the Arab world, Africa and Asia at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

Kurdistan

Kurdistan is a success story of today’s Middle East’s great recent success stories. The area controlled by the Kurdistan Regional Government of newly federal Iraq occupies much of what is now northern and north-eastern Iraq. It has distinguished itself by its stability and strong economic growth.

Crisscrossed throughout history by armies of powerful civilisations invading from the surrounding plains, the mountainous terrain of the Kurdish heartland has in recent years become important in its own right because of its formidable mineral reserves.

Income from oil drilling has assured financial stability for the newly established regional government. The Kurds, meanwhile, have not lost sight of the natural bounty of their land – some of the best agricultural land in the Middle East – and of the importance of encouraging trade beyond its frontiers. Erbil, whose citadel lays claim to being the oldest continuously inhabited core-city in the world, is increasingly a hub radiating to Turkey, the Levant and the Gulf states to the south.

Kurdistan, A Nation Emerges is the first ever major photographic book on the land and its people. It combines the work of a team of international scholars to present an authoritative overview of Kurdistan’s long history, its cultural heritage, and modern society and the Kurds’ position in the political world of tomorrow.
Mankind’s mindless exploitation of the natural world has already driven many wild animals to the brink of extinction. Among the most threatened are many migratory species, whether avian, terrestrial or marine. Because in most cases these species cross national boundaries, the need for international conservation efforts is particularly great.

Albatrosses and petrels, migratory water-birds and raptors, whales, dolphins and other marine mammals; antelopes and forest elephants and even gorillas – these are just some of the key species that are the subject of this meticulously researched and marvelously illustrated book.
China is one of the most biologically diverse countries on Earth. Her habitats range across the deserts of the Gobi and Taklamakan, forested mountains, a tracery of rivers and lakes and the tropical forests of the far south.

Green China captures the glory of China’s natural world through Heather Angel’s breathtaking photographs, many taken specifically for this book. These wonderful images are coupled with an engaging and informed text to take the reader on a journey through a land of immense variety. This, truly, is ‘Green China’ – the largely untold story of China in the 21st century.

Throughout, special sections focus on the ancient kinship between man and nature, the role of nature in Chinese art, the extraordinary survival of the Siberian tiger, the other-worldly landscapes of karst rock formations, the multi-purpose bamboo and, of course, China’s treasured emblem, the giant panda. Green China is simultaneously a celebration of China’s natural world and a sharp reminder of what the world stands to lose.
In recent years, Qatar has emerged as a key international player, recognized by the world as a country of substantial financial authority and great promise politically and commercially. State-of-the-art production of its hydrocarbon resources has afforded the country new wealth and confidence. In many fields, from industry and commerce to political thinking, Qatar is establishing precedents.

This beautifully illustrated book, with over 300 specially commissioned photographs, coupled with an informed and engaging text, gives the reader a comprehensive survey of this land and her vibrant people.

David Chaddock is an engineer by profession and an international businessman. He has worked in developing markets for more than 30 years.

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Windtower
Anne Coles and Peter Jackson
Introduced by HRH The Prince of Wales

Windtowers have become the icon of the Gulf’s cultural heritage. These dramatic structures are not only highly functional, harnessing onshore breezes as a natural mode of air conditioning, but also beautiful.

This book is more than a comprehensive architectural study. Building upon a detailed survey undertaken by the authors in Dubai between 1969 and 1974, Windtower incorporates their latest historical, social and technical research into the way of life and culture of the Gulf’s inhabitants up to the on rush of wealth and change half a century ago.

Architectural plans and diagrams show the windtowers’ workings, and studies the few surviving courtyard houses in Dubai’s old quarter. Windtower contributes invaluablely to the social history of the Gulf.

200 colour and b/w photographs; 12 architectural drawings
300mm x 250mm
212pp hardback
ISBN 978 1 905 299249
£35

Dr Anne Coles is a social geographer who lived and worked in Dubai from 1968 to 1971. She is a research associate at Oxford University’s Department of International Development.

Peter Jackson studied architecture in London. He is the author of Historic Buildings of Harare. Since 2002 he has worked as an architect and architectural adviser in the UAE.
Richard Boggs is a writer and photographer who has travelled extensively in Arabia and Africa. He currently works for the British Council in Damascus, and is researching a new book on Syria.

“[Boggs’] writing is by turns poetic, jaunty and poignant. His pictures are both a dream and a reminder of the threats that lie just out of shot.”

Tim Mackintosh-Smith, author of Yemen: Travels in Dictionary Land
Legalize
The realistic way to combat drugs
Max Rendall
From very modest beginnings forty years ago illegal drugs have become a major concern in every country. Led by America, governments have introduced prohibitionist policies, but even the most grotesque legal sanctions have failed to make any impression on the problem and the streets of our towns and cities remain awash with drugs.

The international drug industry is second only to the arms trade in value, and it pays no tax. It has spawned corruption which threatens the stability of nations, and its scale makes it ineradicable.

Evidence of the failure of prohibition is everywhere. Anybody who wishes to can buy drugs. The price has never been lower. Drug-related criminal activity costs the nation billions of pounds a year and clogs up the courts and our prisons. Hundreds of millions of pounds are spent trying to prevent drugs reaching our shores, with very little success, and the NHS spends millions of pounds on drug-related illness.

Only by taking the money out of the drug trade can the world hope to make progress, and the only way to take the business away from the criminal gangs is to make drugs legal. Simultaneous international legalization of all drugs, with robust measures to control access to them, will not be easy to achieve, but it holds out the best chance of taming and controlling the menace of drugs.

Max Rendall worked as a surgeon in the NHS until his retirement. He has family experience of drug-taking and its treatment and, as a result of a chance encounter, has worked in an independent clinic for substance abuse for the past 8 years. The clinic has pioneered the use of opiate-blocking drugs in the UK. He has extensive first hand knowledge of addicts and their behaviour and has become increasingly drawn into the debate about effective drug policy.

The Hockey Stick Illusion
Climategate and the Corruption of Science
A.W. Montford
Here is the definitive exposition of the distorted science behind the iconic global warming graph centrally responsible for the global panic about climate change. From Steve McIntyre’s earliest attempts to reproduce the Michael Mann’s Hockey Stick graph, to the explosive publication of his work and the launch of a congressional inquiry, The Hockey Stick Illusion is a remarkable tale of scientific misconduct and amateur sleuthing. It explains the complex science of this most controversial of temperature reconstructions in layperson’s language and lays bare the remarkable tale of scientific misconduct and corruption behind the iconic global warming graph.

The book also covers the recent leak of the email archives of the Climatic Research Unit which has led to the resignation of its Director, Professor Phil Jones, and exposed the degree to which climate scientists on both sides of the Atlantic have hidden and manipulated data to support their claims.

Andrew Monford studied chemistry at St Andrews University. He is a respected blogger at Bishop Hill where his layperson’s explanations of the Hockey Stick debate have won wide acclaim. He lives in rural Scotland with his wife and three children.

Climate: The Counter-Consensus
Professor Robert Carter
Introducing by Tom Stacey
The counter-consensus to quasi-scientific hype and induced panic on climate change is at last assembling. The argument is not in the first place as to whether or not climate change has been taking place but whether any recent or anticipated warming of the planet is appreciably anthropogenic or (should it occur) harmful.

Tom Stacey, in his introduction, investigates the insistent propensity of Man to ascribe to his own inherent fallibility the misfortunes which may (or may not) confront his existence on earth.

Professor Robert (Bob) Carter, one of the world’s leading paleo-climatologists, assesses man’s worst-case contribution to carbon emissions taking place naturally (and beneficially) at 3% of 4% (which is 0.12%) and inspects the cycle of the earth’s unpredictable climate change, still insufficiently understood since the end of the last Ice Age.

‘... it’s a cracker. By the end, you’re left feeling... that the scientific case against AGW is so overwhelming that you wonder how anyone can still speak up for so discredited a theory without dying of embarrassment.’

James Delingpole on Climate: The Counter Consensus

Autumn 2011

Legalize
ISBN 978 1 906 768652
£9.99

The Hockey Stick Illusion
ISBN 978 1 906 768355
£10.99

Climate: The Counter-Consensus
ISBN 978 1 906 768294
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INDEPENDENT MINDS

The Independent Minds series, launched in autumn 2009 with The Wind Farm Scam presents the findings of distinguished scientists and scholars whose voices have been unheeded amid the muddled clamour of accepted wisdom on major issues.

The series pits common sense and scientific fact against the politically correct received wisdom on global issues.

The first four of the six titles of the series since its launch have been reprinted, two of these twice. They have led the debate worldwide on the vital climatic issues they treat.
The Wind Farm Scam
John Etherington
Foreword by Christopher Booker
The spectre of global warming and the political panic surrounding it has led to the adoption of a power source that is environmentally and economically counter-productive. In The Wind Farm Scam, Dr Etherington argues that wind turbines cannot generate enough energy to reduce global CO2 levels to a meaningful degree.

The intermittent nature of wind power cannot generate a steady output, a reality necessitating back-up from coal and gas-power plants which significantly negates any reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to the inefficacy of wind power there are ecological drawbacks, including damage to habitats and wildlife. There is the far-from-insignificant aesthetic drawback of the assault upon natural beauty which wind turbines entail.

Furthermore, wind power is being lavishly financed from their bills to support an industry that cannot be consulted nor informed that this subsidy is being paid for up to date for the English edition. The endorsements of Nigel Lawson and Valéry Giscard d’Estaing speak volumes of the National Heritage Fund. He is author of 10 works on the environment and related transport issues.

Climate: The Great Delusion
Christian Gerondeau
Foreword by Nigel Lawson
An internationally renowned engineer exposes the fantasy world of ‘global warming’ economics, and debunks the mythology of carbon-dioxide damage.

Gerondeau demonstrates the absurdity of the counter-measures to which the G8 countries are now committed. These complex and formidablely expensive measures:

• will be nullified by the actions of China and India, where such restrictions are economically and politically unfeasible
• will have no discernible effect on the carbon-dioxide in the atmosphere and climate change
• make no sense in the light of the impending exhaustion of hydro-carbon sources within the coming century
• will come to be viewed as a scarcely credible response to a global delusion amid harmless shifts in climate.

Having sold over 10,000 copies in France, under the title CO2 Un Mythe Planétaire, the book has been brought fully up to date for the English edition. The endorsements of Nigel Lawson and Valéry Giscard d’Estaing speak volumes for the authority of this work.

Christian Gerondeau – A major figure in French scientific and engineering circles, Christian Gerondeau was an adviser to France’s Prime Minister Jacques Chaban-Delmas and is President of the National Heritage Fund. He is author of 10 works on the environment and related transport issues.

When will the lights go out?
Derek Birkett
Introduced by Peter Walker of Worcester
Derek Birkett lays bare the facts of power engineering. He assesses the viability of the Government’s renewable energy policy and expectations and explains why official targets and pronouncements are essentially illusory.

Since the later 1990s the public and political mind has been preoccupied with global warming. In a bid to develop ‘renewable’ energy sources the damaging costs already being inflicted on the electricity consumer, domestic and commercial, have been obscured. Simultaneously, such novel technologies have come to threaten the stability of the nation’s electricity supply.

Birkett’s study reveals that the lavish incentives offered to developers of new technologies are only one of the many costs being passed on to the customer in the country’s scramble to meet pledges on reduction of carbon emissions. Furthermore, renewable energy technologies – notably wind power – are creating widespread uncertainty in the electricity supply chain, resulting in an ever greater dependency on supplies of gas. Meanwhile, the gratuitous cutting back of nuclear and coal power generation over the coming decade has the potential to provoke an economic emergency equivalent to the 2008 banking crisis.

Derek Birkett is the former Grid Control Engineer of Northern Scotland. He has a lifetime of experience in electricity supply to developers of new technologies are only one of the many costs being passed on to the customer in the country’s scramble to meet pledges on reduction of carbon emissions. Furthermore, renewable energy technologies – notably wind power – are creating widespread uncertainty in the electricity supply chain, resulting in an ever greater dependency on supplies of gas. Meanwhile, the gratuitous cutting back of nuclear and coal power generation over the coming decade has the potential to provoke an economic emergency equivalent to the 2008 banking crisis.

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EH Carter and RAF Mears

The original version of this widely admired and successful series was released in 1937. Carter and Mears’ *A History of Britain* tells the story of the British Isles as a straightforward chronological narrative. The fast-paced and muscular prose, paired with maps and illustrations, provides the matrix of British history in a coherent, vivid sequence of cause and effect. It incorporates related events in the world beyond; and the arts, religion and social changes.

This series is being edited by the experienced hand of David Evans. It is as well suited to today’s young setting forth to study history seriously as to adults – including parents – in need of a refresher course, indeed everybody who seeks properly to understand our collective story and to look beyond the random selection and often contentious teaching that have long dominated the curricula.

The sequence of publication is given on the back cover. The final two books, covering Churchill’s return in 1951 to 1989, the fall of Thatcher and of the Soviet Empire, and from that year to the present, are in preparation and will adhere to the Carter and Mears style and narrative formula.

EH Carter was Chief Inspector of Schools in the 1930s and ‘40s.

RAF Mears taught history at Warwick School between 1923 and 1933.

David Evans, who edits the restored series, is an historian and former head of History at Eton College.

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The Iraqi Cookbook
Lamees Ibrahim

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240 recipes
150 commissioned colour and b/w photographs
255 x 180mm
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£24.95

Dr Lamees Ibrahim was born in Baghdad and now lives in London. The Iraqi Cookbook is her first collection of recipes.

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Darrell D Baker

This, the first in a fully comprehensive two-volume edition, is an informed and authoritative guide to the known rulers of ancient Egypt from 3300 to 1069bc. The Encyclopædia of the Pharaohs includes an extensive chronology and some 350 entries, listed alphabetically, on the Pharaohs, in addition to a glossary of commonly-used terms, an index of Grecianized names and variant spellings and a list of apocryphal kings of the Fourteenth Dynasty and the royal titulary. This work is an indispensable addition to the desks of all Egyptologists and students of world civilisations generally.

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The Concise Encyclopædia of Islam

Cyril Glassé

"A miracle: 1,200 readable entries" The Economist
"Indispensable" Sunday Times
"Erudite, accurate, and comprehensive" Daily Telegraph
"A feast of fact and insight" Washington Post

The first edition of this Encyclopædia won worldwide acclaim. As a western scholar of the Islamic faith, Cyril Glassé straddles both cultures, and has a respect for and an understanding of both the current Islamic world and its complex past.

This unique single-volume work covers the contemporary Islamic scene, which includes a substantial entry on the Taliban. This third edition also contains an extensively revised chronology, which spans the history of Islam from its origins through developments in the Muslim world today.

1,300 entries, 2 colour picture sections, 14 maps, 5 diagrams
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Cyril Glassé is a graduate of Columbia University and a practising Muslim. His published work includes a translation of Margaret Von Berchen’s study of Islamic Jerusalem, the Guide to Saudi Arabia, and The Pilgrim’s Guide to Mecca. He has lectured on comparative religion around the world.

Also available: Very Simple Chinese
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Zenobia
Yasmine Zahran
Introduced by Professor Sabrq Hafez

Yasmine Zahran first encountered Zenobia, the 3rd-century Syrian Palmyrene queen who led the revolt against the Romans, in 1973 when she was working as a young archaeologist in the Levant. So began a lifetime’s preoccupation with the woman who ruled over the Egypt she conquered and quashed all Roman rule in her wake. Although she was eventually defeated by the Emperor Aurelian in 274, Zenobia’s life is a story of remarkable drama and achievement. In Zenobia: Between Reality and Legend, Yasmine Zahran explores the blurred line between the woman and the myth, and brings her world and time vividly and thrillingly to life through first-person narrative. This is history told with the energy of a novel, and the informed hand of a writer at her peak.

The Lakhmids of Hira
Yasmine Zahran
Introduced by Dr Robert Hoyland

The first Lakhmids are thought to have emigrated from Yemen in the second century. Establishing their empire across what is now Iraq and Syria, and bordering the lands of the Persians and the Ottomans, the Lakhmids became a major force among the great pre-Islamic Arab peoples. Lakhmid culture and learning spread widely, and carried much influence. Hira, the centre of the Lakhmid kingdom, was where the early Arabic alphabet was standardised. In The Lakhmids of Hira, Yasmine Zahran brings her lively yet informed style to bear on a hitherto unjustly neglected dynasty of Arabia’s history. Introduced by Dr Robert Hoyland, with a chronology and a detailed bibliography, The Lakhmids of Hira is a required addition to the shelves of any Arabist or Middle East historian.

With the confidence of a true scholar of her period, Dr Zahran permits herself the use of dramatized narrative to bring her history alive.

Arabia Felix
Alessandro de Maigret
Introduced by Professor Tony Wilkinson

Arabia Felix is the standard work on the history of the archaeological exploration of southern Arabia. What is now Yemen has archaeological treasures enough to tell the story of a major pre-Islamic civilisation of international significance. Alessandro de Maigret, doyen of the archaeologists of the region, sifts through all the research and archaeological evidence to present a definitive account of the evolution of a civilisation of high significance. Since its publication in Italian in 1996, this work has gained an international reputation as a valuable work of scholarship. Arabia Felix is re-issued here with a new introduction by Professor Tony Wilkinson.

“the best synthesis available of the history and archaeology of South Arabia.” Carl Phillips, UCL

Alessandro de Maigret’s archaeological discoveries in Yemen have contributed greatly to our understanding of that country’s early and pre-Islamic history. He has published widely on Bronze Age ruins and artefacts unearthed throughout the Near East, and is professor of Near Eastern Archaeology at the Instituto Universitario Orientale in Naples.

Looking for Dilmun
Geoffrey Bibby
Introduced by Dr Harriet Crawford

The quest for the real Dilmun, the lost civilisation of Arabia and the Gulf, began when the author Geoffrey Bibby revisited Bahrain half a century ago in order to explore the thousands of undated burial mounds scattered across the island. A brief season’s digging was enough to establish the existence of a major civilisation dating from around 2300BC. Thus began an undertaking to reveal the extent of Dilmun, a land which stretched beyond the confines of Bahrain, as far north as Kuwait and as far south as Saudi Arabia.

In this classic tale of discovery, first published in 1969, renowned scholar Geoffrey Bibby tells his story of archaeological detective work with style and humour. Looking for Dilmun is re-issued here for a fresh generation of readers, and introduced by Dr Harriet Crawford, one of today’s leading archaeologists of the region.

Geoffrey Bibby studied Arabic at Cambridge, having decided in his teens to be a ‘Middle Eastern archaeologist (the curriculum did not then include Oriental archaeology), and learned about the practical side of excavation while digging at Hadrian’s Wall in the north of England. His first job in the Middle East was with the Iraq Petroleum Company, which sent him to Bahrain. Bibby died aged 83 in 2001.
England’s Greatest Spy: ÉAMON DE VALERA

John J Turi

“John J Turi, in his book, England’s Greatest Spy, presents startling new evidence to prove that the man who led Ireland throughout most of the 20th century was not a sainted national leader of high purpose and moral principle. Instead, he was an agent for England, subverting Irish aspirations while working diligently to promote English interests in Ireland and America. Rather than lionize de Valera, as a succession of Irish writers have done for more than half a century, Turi puts him in the dock and exposes the ways and means by which every major decision of the Irish President worked to the benefit of England with disastrous results for Ireland.

In doing so, Turi sets Irish history on its head. He calls for a re-examination of almost the entire pantheon of 20th century Irish heroes and villains, saints and sinners. His work questions almost every article of faith in the Irish historical canon and answers questions that heretofore have gone unanswered, and challenges beliefs that have gone unchallenged.” Professor Donald McNamara

England’s Greatest Spy is fascinating reading not only for Irish scholars but also for history and mystery buffs everywhere.

150 x 225mm, 412pp, hardback, ISBN 978 1 906 768096
£19.95

John J Turi is a dedicated student of Irish history. Originally intending to write a biography of Irish patriot, Michael Collins, Turi’s pursuit of the truth diverted him into a decade of study of one of Ireland’s most respected statesman. As factual evidence accumulated, Turi found himself forced to reach an astonishing but definitive conclusion.

Nero

Vincent Cronin

Nero is history told on a grand and thrilling scale. Rarely has classical history had life breathed into it so convincingly and so utterly absorbingly. In this remarkable new novel, Vincent Cronin, a scholar of the ancient world, and Rome in particular, re-creates the life and times of this mighty emperor of the Roman Empire. Interwoven through the plots and intrigue, triumphs and disasters is the implicit notion (widely held by historians) that Nero himself caused the Empire’s demise through his misjudged ruthlessness and towering ego. The decline of Rome, the persecution of Christians (including St Paul) and the tragedy of Seneca play out grippingly through these pages, as Nero himself falls from his apogee to his nadir.

135 x 215mm, 266pp, hardback, ISBN 978 1 906 768140
£14.95

Vincent Cronin is the author of two classics on the Italian Renaissance and acclaimed biographies of Napoleon, Louis XVII and Marie Antoinette and Catherine “the Great” of Russia.

Chile Rediscovered

Vincent Cronin

A geologist, a microbiologist and a town planner take a journey into the strange regions of Chile’s secret heart. They are exposed to astonishing landscapes and species, and encounter a variety of Chile’s indigenous inhabitants. They are, respectively, a Chilean ex-fugitive from the Pinochet regime, a Frenchman, and an Englishman, who represents Cronin and reproduces the author’s Chilean journey in a semi-fictionalised form.

The beliefs and inner convictions of each, and their professional backgrounds, bear upon them as they interpret what they encounter in the scarcely habitable Patagonian islands and mainland of the south and the remote northern altiplano of the Aymaric heartland, thousands of feet above sea level, shrouded in millennia-old secrets. The three are friends, yet differ deeply in what they read into their rediscovery of one of the world’s strangest countries.

Chile Rediscovered is the work of a doyen of English letters.

135 x 215mm, 140pp, hardback, ISBN 978 1 906 768027
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Vincent Cronin’s book, The Last Migration was based on his own journey with the Gashgai of southern Iran. He widened his research and encountered a variety of Chile’s indigenous inhabitants. He then, respectively, a Chilean ex-fugitive from the Pinochet regime, a Frenchman and an Englishman, who represents Cronin and reproduces the author’s Chilean journey in a semi-fictionalised form.

The Last Banana

Shelby Tucker

Shelby Tucker first went to East Africa in 1967, arriving at Vaso de Gama had 469 years earlier, by sea, to visit his Oxford contemporary, Marios Ghikas who then farmed on the slopes of Kilimanjaro. Ghikas’ grandfather had been one of the first of many Greeks to settle in what was then German East Africa, yet Nyerere’s policy of “returning” land to the autochthons (folk) destroyed this community. Three stayed on. Marios was one. Anticipating nationalisation, he invited Tucker to visit again to help him spend “the last banana” of his “unremittable fortune”. Tucker returned in 1972, travelling overland. These were the first of 16 trips spanning 43 years that he has made to Africa. In The Last Banana Tucker (a descendent of slave owners), contrasts the moral force and fruits of the pioneer missionaries and explorers who brought Christianity to Africa with the triviality of modern travel and the surrealism of the “democracy” expounded in Africa today.

24 colour and b/w photographs, 140 x 220mm, 288pp, hardback
ISBN 978 1 906 768218
£17.99

Shelby Tucker read law at the University of Oxford, and is a writer and traveller, and the author of the bestselling Among Insurgents: Walking Through Burma. Tucker is an international authority on modern Burmese history. His acclaimed work Burma: The Curse of Independence, was published in 2001.
The Secret of the Sacred Panel
Nazi Art Theft, Conspiracy and the Crown of Thorns

In 1934, a panel from Van Eyck’s masterpiece, The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, was stolen from Ghent Cathedral. It has never been found.

In The Secret of the Sacred Panel, Dutch author Karl Hammer reports the amazing story told to him by Tom R., an art historian who as a very young man was enlisted to spy for the CIA and MI5 during the Second World War in order to trace the whereabouts of the vast horde of fine art stolen by the Nazis. His search for the missing altarpiece, the sacred panel, led to the greater and more compelling quest for the Arma Christi, the nails and crown of thorns of Jesus’ crucifixion.

The reader is taken into quite unexpected territory, encompassing Himmler’s obsession with the occult; the strange adventures of Otto Rahn, the Nazi ‘Indiana Jones’; Jewish mysticism and the reality of Jesus and his mission; the harsh truth about the Cathar heresy and the Knights Templar; and finally the enduringly appealing Rennes-le-Chateau mystery from an entirely new angle.

All of this is supported by Tom R.’s meticulous and wide research into religion, mysticism, and history.

A Dutch version of this book was published in 2006 and attracted unusual interest and hosts of references to The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail and perhaps inevitably The Da Vinci Code.

Karl Hammer is a Dutch investigative journalist, writer and photographer. After a career as a freelance radio presenter he went into humanitarian work, founding several international charity organisations and working as a youth coach. In addition to The Secret of the Sacred Panel, Karl Hammer is the author of De tranen van de wolf (The Tears of the Wolf), an account of the quest for hidden Nazi gold.

“Without emulating Dan Brown’s style (after all, this is non-fiction), this book should appeal to a ready-made audience of millions already hooked on this sort of challenge to the historical and religious status quo by The Da Vinci Code. It could easily be just another Grail hunting book, but it isn’t. It is a book of curious power that provokes raging thought even in the mind of one who knows these subjects inside out (or so she thought). It is an important book and as many people as possible should be given the chance to discover this for themselves.”

Lynn Picknett, co-author of The Templar Revelation and The Stargate Conspiracy

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Business traveller’s handbooks

Gorilla Guides

Travel handbooks for the business jungle
Don’t Toss Granny in the Begonias
Primrose Arnander and Marie-Hélène Claudel-Gilly
Illustrated by Kathryn Lamb

Continuing the popular series of proverbs from around the world, each paired with an English equivalent, Don’t Toss Granny in the Begonias sheds amusing and often intriguing light on the perhaps justly notorious rivalry between the French and the English. But more than this, Don’t Toss Granny in the Begonias highlights as many similarities between the cultures. Witness ‘Porter l’eau à la rivière’ and ‘To carry coals to Newcastle’. Or ‘Quand le chat n’est pas là les souris dansent’ – dancing mice as opposed to the English mice, who play in the cat’s absence.

Primrose Arnander is the author of Apricots Tomorrow, Unload Your own Donkey and The Son of a Duck is a Floater, three best-selling books of Arabic proverbs for Stacey International.

Kathryn Lamb has drawn cartoons for The Times, Daily Telegraph, Guardian and Spectator. She has held several exhibitions and drawn two books of sheep cartoons. Her cartoons are sold in the Cartoon Gallery, London.

Pavilions in the Air
Christopher Arnander and Frances Wood
Illustrated by Kathryn Lamb

Proverbs, those sage sayings and goblets of wisdom, invariably injected with gentle humour, are common to virtually all peoples and cultures on Earth. The Chinese are no exception. Gathered here are gems galore, which, while revealing much as to the Chinese national psyche, highlight particular traits and characteristics that span the globe.

Christopher Arnander is a former banker who worked for many years in the City and the Middle East. He is the author of a book on banking and is also an enthusiastic cartoon collector.

Frances Wood is head of the Chinese Department at the British Library and author of A Companion to China and The Blue Guide to China, among others.
British Olympic Heroes

Kitty Carruthers

Great Britain is one of only a handful of countries to have competed in every Olympic Games – Winter and Summer alike. Since 1896, nearly 500 Britons have won a gold medal. Those 60 whose stories are told here, if not always the most famous, are assuredly the most interesting; athletes whose sporting and personal lives have been inspiring, impressive and sometimes downright incredible.

Kitty Carruthers, who has herself shone at football, table tennis, squash, hockey and dressage, is a member of the International Society of Olympic Historians.

Tina the Turtle

Grace Todino-Gonguet is a travel writer whose three children asked her to now write something for them; Halimah and the Snake was the result. She lives in Oman.

Susan Keeble’s watercolours have been exhibited at galleries around the world, including Dubai, where she lived for five years. This is her fourth children’s book.

Stacey books for children

Grace Todino-Gonguet

Illustrated by Susan Keeble

What happens when a turtle cannot dive and stay underwater? For a creature that spends most of its time in the ocean, sometimes staying submerged for up to five hours at a time, it becomes a matter of life and death. It cannot feed off the algae and sea grasses that grow on the ocean floor. So the reptile swims round and round on the surface, unable to get the nutrients it needs. Getting weaker and weaker, it finally dies a lingering death. And that’s how workers in Sohar Port found Tina (literally, “Turtle in Need of Assistance”), a mature female green turtle.

Tina was suffering from “floating syndrome” – a common cause of death among sea turtles. She could have picked up an infection that made her sick. But most likely she swallowed a plastic bag that looked like a tasty jellyfish – her favourite treat. This is her story.

50 colour illustrations
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Grace Todino-Gonguet

Illustrated by Susan Keeble

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50 colour illustrations
210 x 250mm
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ISBN 978 1 906 76825 6
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Halimah and the Snake and other Omani Folktales
Grace Todino-Gonguet
Illustrated by Susan Keeble
Over the centuries, the travelling tribal peoples of Arabia established a tradition of story-telling. These tales of magic and mystery, passed from generation to generation of Bedouin tribes, spanned the Arabian peninsula, but were rarely, if ever, written down.

In Halimah and the Snake, Grace Todino-Gonguet has collected, and re-written for a fresh audience, a handful of gems from Oman’s folkloric heritage – there are many more. As with folktales and legends worldwide, the creatures and characters are at times terrifying and fantastic, the stories always enthralling, and invariably seek to impart some moral guidance to their young readers.

In this first collection we discover how three enchanted birds come to the rescue in the remote desert, learn what happens when a tree can talk, and revel in the suspense of an Omani equivalent of The Sleeping Beauty.

Arabian Star
Julia Johnson
Illustrated by Henry Climent
When little Ali is washed out to sea on his home-made raft, who would have thought his life would be saved by a passing oil tanker? Gradually the boy learns about life aboard Arabian Star, the surveillant crow, the welcoming crew, and the kind Captain who takes him under his wing as the ship sails down through the Suez Canal.

The Pearl Diver
Julia Johnson
Illustrated by Patricia Al-Fakhri
Saeed is going to learn how to dive – his father has promised to teach him!

It is the start of the pearlimg season and this is his first trip out on to the waters of the Arabian Gulf. Leaving the rest of his family behind on the shore, Saeed and his father join the crew of a pearlimg dhow and set out to spend the hot summer months on the high seas. He learns how the pearl divers hunt for the treasures of the seabed, and discovers the secrets and dangers of the sea.

This delightful story, supported by careful research from oral and written sources, some dating back more than a hundred years, offers a unique insight into the industry that sustained the Arabian Gulf right up until the discovery of oil.

Julia Johnson’s compelling narrative combined with the startling beauty of Patricia Al-Fakhri’s watercolours, make The Pearl Diver an outstanding read for children aged 8 – 12.

Saluki
Hound of the Bedouin
Julia Johnson
Illustrated by Susan Keeble
Hunting with falcon and hound has belonged to Bedouin life in Arabia for centuries, and the speed, courage and beauty of beast and bird have been immortalised in Bedouin folklore – in poetry and song, in tales both oral and written.

Julia Johnson’s collaboration with the watercolourist Susan Keeble is a captivating story of a Bedouin boy, Hamad, and his Saluki hound Sougha (the Gifted One). It recounts their mutual devotion and the adventures they share on Hamad’s journey to adulthood.

Julia Johnson has done much to keep alive the stories of the Bedouin and their way of life and to bring them to a younger readership in Arabia and throughout the world. Saluki, Hound of the Bedouin is, as always, thoroughly researched, and accurately and sensitively illustrated by Susan Keeble.
Chimes for Children
Nicolas Hill

The best books for children appeal to all ages and Chimes for Children is no exception. Witty, beautifully drawn and highly original it will surely, like Struwwelpeter (first published in 1845), remain in print for many years.

Full colour illustrations
210 x 250mm
40pp, hardback
ISBN 978 1 906 768133
£9.95

Now retired, Nicolas Hill, a grandfather who lives in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, recently surprised himself and his friends by writing and illustrating a collection of 42 new one-verse nursery rhymes.

The First Dog to be Somebody’s Best Friend

Written down by Tom Stacey and drawn by Angela Landels

This Inquisitive dog-loving Child (of which there are very many on Planet Earth) knows without being told that the Dog is Man’s Best Friend. But how did this come about?

This story was lost in the mists of time … for century upon century, until now!

At last, in 2007, Tom Stacey has found out and written down the full and Deeply Moving Story, which he has shared in every detail with Angela Landels. She has drawn the pictures of what exactly happened.

40 colour and b/w drawings
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