

‘Is he not sacred, even to the gods, the
wandering man who comes in weariness?’

HOMER

Welcome to the Eland Catalogue, No. 15

Eland has the largest list of classic travel books in the world. When we use the word 'classic' we are not thinking to produce a set of hardbacks to look good on a bookshelf, but books that remain ever fresh, ever relevant, ever read. This is one of the reasons why Eland has always believed in paperbacks, books that can be bent and read as you travel, and which are cheap enough to give away. We currently sell 175 titles and are beginning to feel confident that wherever you travel, or are passionately interested in, there will be an Eland title to expand your horizon. Our ambition has always been to become a publishing house that you can place your complete trust in. We want to be part of that vital list as you check your pockets: passport, tickets, wallet, Eland.

Travel has always embraced a wide field of writing – adventure, memoir, history, exploration and anthropology – but we have found that the single distinguishing feature of great travel books is that the reader must relish the company of the writer. Humour, self-deprecation, wit, energy, bravery, sensuality and honesty are vital elements. The author also needs to be able to construct a narrative and know what to abandon. A diary is seldom a travel book, for as one of our writers explained to us, if your memory is not vivid enough, why write about it. I have explored all sorts of odd corners of North Africa and the Middle East over the last forty years, but hold it is an absolute standard that I want to read about things that I could not do. I wish writers to remain heroic in their aspiration as well as their craft. As the world becomes ever easier to travel in, we must demand more from our travel writers - learning the language, earning the locals trust and staying still long enough, to really understand a community, to tell their story with empathy and energy. In the words

of Pliny who explained to us many years ago: “The fortunate man is he to whom the gods have granted the power to write what is worth recording, or to write what is worth reading, and most fortunate of all is the man who can do both.” Or indeed the woman.

Eland has always been aware that a well-wrought travel book can be an incredibly precious testimony, as our global economy eats up indigenous communities, flattens jungles and excavates mountains. Despite the innately flippant nature of travel writing, never far removed from the random conversations of a passionate amateur, there can be a higher purpose: to testify to the lives that were once lived, to remember the freedoms, the laughter and the humanity within self-sufficient communities that have been swept away by our disposable, international culture. We delight in books that reveal other ways of looking at the world, alternative ways of living, thinking and experiencing contentment. The epic of Gilgamesh and Homer’s *Odyssey* are the earliest known travel books come down to us in written form, but they clearly connect us with the oral traditions of humankind, that began with clans of hunter-gatherers making a songline of their journeys and migrations. These real journeys were connected with the progress of the stars and the cycle of the seasons. They were passed down the generations as tales of experience not just route maps. Humankind has always done this, and we lose these stories of belonging at our peril.

Eland was founded in 1982 by John Hatt and has been run by Rose Baring and Barnaby Rogerson since 2002. We reprint at least four classic travel books a year. Many of our titles have been suggested by our customers, and so although Eland is entirely owned by its worker-directors, it often feels like a co-operative of passionate readers.

Barnaby Rogerson

Contents

Backlist

Eland Classics 7–153

Through Writers' Eyes 154–164

Poetry of Place 171–179

Index

By Country, by Region 180–185

By Author 186–189

Trade Details 190–192

ELAND

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Email: info@travelbooks.co.uk

Extracts from each and every one of our books can be read on our website, at www.travelbooks.co.uk.

‘John Hatt founded the incomparable Eland forty years ago. It remains for me, the quintessential travel publisher.’

MICHAEL PALIN

‘One of the very best travel lists.’

WILLIAM DALRYMPLE

‘Eland is one of those essential, inimitable and irresistible treasures that reminds us of what books can do that no other medium can match, and why travelling on the page, as well as across the world, remains one of the greatest adventures that any of us can imagine.’

PICO IYER

‘Eland is the ‘Ultima Thule’ for fine travel writing. Its list, teeming with the classics, is mouth-watering, its sumptuously produced books lifelong companions to treasure.’

JUSTIN MAROZZI

‘Eland has developed into Britain’s leading independent publisher
of inspirational travel writing.’

JAMIE DUNFORD-WOOD, TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE

‘Quite simply, the most consistently fine publishing
house in the English-speaking world, every title a cracker.’

NICHOLAS SHAKESPEARE

‘No British publisher has a list so enticingly eclectic or so
consistently rewarding. Eland has established itself
as a National Treasure.’

FERGUS FLEMING

‘Eland has revived, preserved and celebrated some of the very
best travel writing, keeping alive individual voices, travellers’ tales,
even glimpses of ways of life that our arrogant, disposable society
would have otherwise lost to history.’

RORY MACLEAN

‘Four cheers for Eland! For rescuing multitudinous wonderful
classics from scandalous obscurity. For introducing important
new authors to the reading public. For sticking doggedly to
high editorial and production standards. And, of course, for not
featuring a single celebrity autobiography on its noble list.’

SARA WHEELER

Libyan Sands

Travel in a Dead World

RALPH BAGNOLD

ISBN: 978-1906011-338

Format: 228pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Western Desert of Egypt,

Libya/Eastern Sahara



In the 1920s and 30s, a band of British officers stationed in Egypt began to explore the Western Desert which straddles the borders with Libya and the Sudan. Adapting a series of Model T Fords, Bagnold and his colleagues set out across territory hitherto traversed only by camel caravans. They mapped new routes across 'impassable' sand seas, in 'regions untrodden by man since the Stone Age'. They also uncovered inner strengths, an awed respect for the stern and beautiful environment and a tender relationship with the machines upon which their lives depended. Their knowledge went on to play a crucial part in the North African campaign during the Second World War. For these men formed the nucleus of the celebrated LRDG, the Long Range Desert Group. It is the quiet heroism of such men that is celebrated in Michael Ondaatje's triumphant novel, *The English Patient*.

'Libyan Sands is, without question, the classic work of 20th-century Saharan exploration.'

EAMONN GEARON, GEOGRAPHICAL

'Ralph Bagnold: the pioneer who made a romance of navigating the deep Sahara by car.'

JOHN WRIGHT

A Plague of Caterpillars

A Return to the African Bush

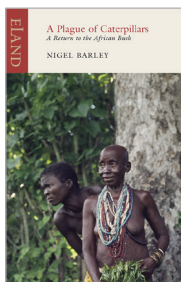
NIGEL BARLEY

ISBN: 978-1780601-519

Format: 144pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Cameroon



When local contacts tipped off Nigel Barley that the Dowayo circumcision ceremony was about to take place, he immediately left London for the village in northern Cameroon where he had lived as a field anthropologist for 18 months. The Dowayos, a mountain people, perform their elaborate, fascinating and fearsome ceremony at six or seven year intervals. It was an opportunity that was too good to miss.

Yet, like much else in this hilarious book – a cross between Colin Turnbull’s ethnography and Evelyn Waugh’s wicked humour – the circumcision ceremony was to prove frustratingly elusive, allowing Nigel Barley to concentrate on everyday life in Dowayoland and the tattered remnants of an overripe French colonial legacy.

‘He does for anthropology what Gerald

Durell did for animal collecting.’

DAILY TELEGRAPH

‘... touching and hilarious.’

RICHARD ADAMS

Not a Hazardous Sport

*Misadventures of an Anthropologist
in Indonesia*

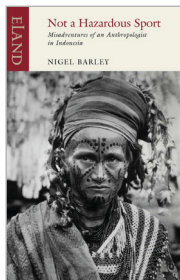
NIGEL BARLEY

ISBN: 978-1780601-434

Format: 192pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Indonesia



Nigel Barley travels to the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia to live among the Torajan people, known for their spectacular buildings and elaborate ancestor cults. At last he is following his own advice to students, to do their anthropological fieldwork 'somewhere where the inhabitants are beautiful, friendly, where you would like the food and there are nice flowers.' With his customary wit and delight in the telling detail, he takes the reader deep into this complex but adaptable society. The mutual warmth of his friendships allows Barley to reverse the habitual patterns of anthropology. He becomes host to four Torajan carvers in London, invited to build a traditional rice barn at the Museum of Mankind. The observer becomes the observed, and it is Barley's turn to explain the absurd complexities of an English city to his bemused but tolerant guests in a magnificent, self-critical finale.

'Another triumph.'

REDMOND O'HANLON

'... effortlessly jaunty prose, with an air of permanent good-natured amusement.'

ASIAN REVIEW OF BOOKS

The Innocent Anthropologist

Notes from a Mud Hut

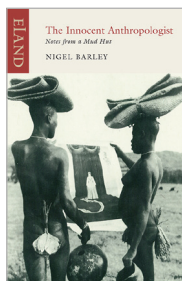
NIGEL BARLEY

ISBN: 978-1906011-505

Format: 192pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: West Africa



Studying a little-known tribe in the Cameroons was the author's first experience in fieldwork – and very nearly his last. Nigel Barley set up home in a mud hut in order to study the customs and beliefs of the Dowayo people. He knew how fieldwork should be conducted, but, as he rapidly discovered, the theory did not take into account the elusive nature of Dowayo society, which refused to conform to the rules.

In this honest, funny and compulsive account of his first year in Africa, Dr Barley – who survived boredom, disaster, illness and hostility – gives a wonderfully irreverent introduction to the life of a social anthropologist which nevertheless makes inspired reading.

'A riotously funny book which actually had me laughing out loud.'

GERALD DURRELL, MAIL ON SUNDAY

'Wit and wisdom shine through his pages.'

NEW STATESMAN

Memoirs of a Bengal Civilian

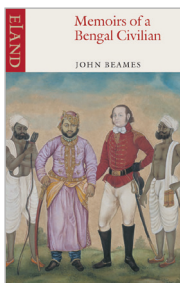
JOHN BEAMES

ISBN: 978-0907871-095

Format: 368 pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: India



No one could have invented John Beames, whose vibrant and original memoirs were discovered by chance in an attic almost a century after they were penned.

He arrived in India in 1858 and worked there as a civil servant for the next 45 years, defending powerless peasants against rapacious planters, improvising fifteen-gun salutes for visiting dignitaries and presiding over the blissful coast of Orissa. His acquaintances spanned from lofty Rajas to dissolute Englishmen.

Vivid, candid and without fear of authority, Beames was a defiant individual in a huge bureaucracy. He writes with the richness of Dickens.

‘... accounts like these illuminate the dark corners of history.’

TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

‘... he is incapable of being dull.’

LISTENER

Jigsaw

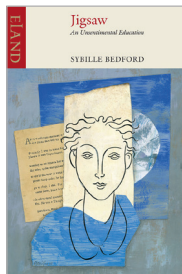
An Unsentimental Education

SYBILLE BEDFORD

ISBN: 978-0907871-798

Format: 368pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



This intensely remembered, partly autobiographical novel, describes the childhood of Billi, a girl growing up in Europe between the wars. When her father dies, she swaps life in a run-down German château for an exhilarating existence with her beautiful, talented and unreliable mother on the French Riviera.

Sent away to England for schooling, the gypsy-like Billi ricochets between short-lived tutors and a life of reading, friends and public lectures. Returning to the Mediterranean, her unorthodox education – academic, emotional and sexual – continues among the vibrant community of artists, exiles and intellectuals who have colonised the coast, coaxing her towards a life of literature.

‘A deliciously evoked return to worlds, and
a Europe, now almost vanished?’

JOHN FOWLES

‘... a tense, dense autobiographical novel ... strong writing,
wonderful settings, electrifying family dynamics ...?’

VICTORIA GLENDINNING

A Visit to Don Otavio

A Mexican Odyssey

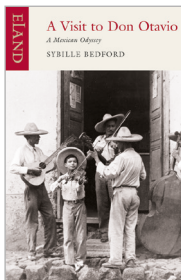
SYBILLE BEDFORD

ISBN: 978-0907871-873

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Mexico



Mexico, through the eyes of Bedford, is a country of passion and paradox: arid desert and shrieking jungle, harsh sun and deep shadow, violence and sentimentality. In her frank descriptions of the horrors of travel – through bug-infested jungle, trapped in a broiling stationary train, or in a bus with a dead fish slapping against her face – she gains our trust.

But it is the charmed world of Don Otavio which steals our imagination. She stays in his crumbling ancestral mansion, living a life of provincial ease and observing with glee the intense life of a Mexican neighbourhood.

‘... a book radiant with comedy and colour.’

SUNDAY TIMES

‘... a wonderful book.’

BRUCE CHATWIN

Journey into the Mind's Eye

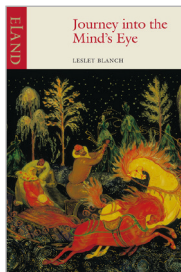
LESLEY BLANCH

ISBN: 978-0907871-545

Format: 352pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Russia



Lesley Blanch was four when the mysterious Traveller first blew into her nursery, swathed in Siberian furs and full of the fairytales of Russia. She was twenty when he swept out of her life, leaving her lovelorn and in the grips of a passionate obsession.

The search to recapture the love of her life, and the Russia he had planted within her, takes her to Siberia and beyond, journeying deep into the romantic terrain of the mind's eye.

Part travel book, part love story, Lesley Blanch's *Journey into the Mind's Eye* is pure intoxication.

'... the perceptions of a fine writer ... all
cast upon a gorgeous canvas.'

HARVARD REVIEW

'If you are interested in Russia – if you are interested in
love – this haunting book is one to read and re-read.'

PHILIP ZIEGLER

Gavin Maxwell

A Life

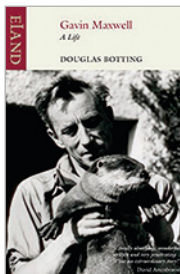
DOUGLAS BOTTING

ISBN: 978-1780601-069

Format: 605pp demi pb

Price: £18.99

Place: Iraq, Sicily, Morocco, Scotland



He became one of the most brilliant and quixotic of British travel writers, who wrote about Iraq (where he travelled with Wilfrid Thesiger in 1956 and acquired his first otter), Sicily (where he befriended both Communist peasants and Mafia hitmen) and Morocco (where he spent six years chronicling the rise and fall of a Berber dynasty). But he would become even more famous for his trilogy of books set in the north-west coast of Scotland, which was a true fulfillment of his affinity with nature and a love of wild things, most especially otters. But despite the success of *Ring of Bright Water*, *The Rocks Remain* and *Raven Seek thy Brother*, the vast bulk of his life remained a closely guarded secret. He was by turns a shark-hunter, a wartime secret agent, portrait-painter, racing car-driver, naturalist, poet and a social renegade. Often poised on the edge of bankruptcy he could also be insanely profligate and generous.

‘Totally absorbing, wonderfully written.’

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

‘Here is a life woven from the stuff of high romance, a tragic and fascinating quest.’

NEW YORKER

The Way of the World

*Two men in a car from Geneva to
the Khyber Pass*

NICOLAS BOUVIER

Translated by Robyn Marsack

ISBN: 978-0907871-538

Format: 328pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Turkey, Iran, Pakistan & Afghanistan

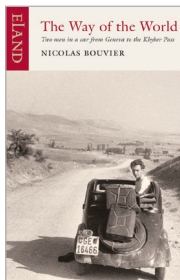
A cult classic, *The Way of the World* is one of the most beguiling travel books ever written. Reborn from the ashes of a Pakistani rubbish heap, it tells of a friendship between a writer and an artist, forged on an impecunious, life-enhancing journey from Serbia to Afghanistan in the 1950s. On one level it is a candid description of a road journey, on another a meditation on travel as a journey towards the self, all written by a sage with a golden pen and a wide, infectious smile. It is published here for the first time in English with the Vernet drawings which are such a dynamic part of its whole.

‘Nicolas Bouvier’s passionate and exhilarating travel stories have inspired generations of young Europeans onto the road.’

RORY MACLEAN

‘Bouvier is that rare author who alerts the reader to the transcendent dimension of travel, by which the genuine traveller is transformed. This courageous alchemy, transmitted on every page, is what makes *The Way of the World* a masterpiece.’

JASON ELLIOT



So It Goes

*Travels in the Aran Isles, Xian
and places in Between*

NICOLAS BOUVIER

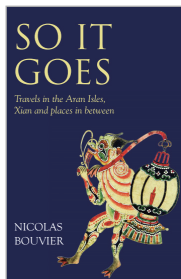
Translated by Robyn Marsack

ISBN: 978-1780601-144

Format: 192pp demi hb

Price: £14.99

Place: Aran Isles, Xian



Translated here for the first time into English, this collection of shorter travel writings from the golden pen of Nicolas Bouvier covers journeys undertaken in the 1970s, '80s and '90s. In the Aran Isles in mid-winter, he glories in the extremities of the wind outside while inside, feverish, he is enchanted by local tales which hum like a kettle on the fire. In Xian, he pays homage to the civilised brilliance and understatement of his guide, while in Korea he experiences the unchanging beauty of the Buddhist temple at Haeinsa and is marked forever by his climb of volcanic Halla-San. And the roots of his interminable curiosity and amusement are traced back to his childhood reading, and to the bitter war he conducted at the age of eight to rid himself of his arch-nemesis, Bertha.

'Nicolas Bouvier was a writer of rare grace and subtlety. Every essay here simmers with imaginative insight and wry humour. He has long been known to cognoscenti. Now, perhaps, his stature will be more widely recognised: one of the most brilliant, penetrating and individual travel writers of his time.'

COLIN THUBRON

The Japanese Chronicles

NICOLAS BOUVIER

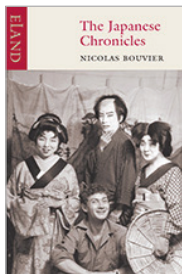
Translated by Anne Dickerson

ISBN: 978-1906011-048

Format: 224pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Japan



In *The Japanese Chronicles*, Swiss travel writer and photographer Nicolas Bouvier shares his intimate experience of Japan. Based on three decades of travel throughout the islands, his reports, recollections, and reflections take the reader beyond the commonplace into an unexpected Japan.

Whether describing village festivals or the suburbs of Kyoto, retelling Japanese myth and history, composing poems, reflecting on Noh performances or sketching memorable portraits in a few deft words, Bouvier brings his personal Japan alive in rich, evocative prose.

‘Some of the most resonant and perceptive travel writing
... a delight for lovers of travel and fine writing.’

KIRKUS REVIEWS

‘If you go to Japan, it is unthinkable that you should
leave without *The Japanese Chronicles*.’

LE FIGARO

The Scorpion-Fish

NICOLAS BOUVIER

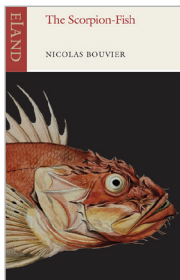
Translated by Robyn Marsack

ISBN: 978-1780600-444

Format: 160pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Sri Lanka



On an unnamed island that can only be Ceylon, the traveller checks into his 117th rented room, abandoned by his lover, almost broke and feverish. A book on Indian insects deepens his morbid fascination with the crawling inhabitants of this room; a pretty world of killers, barely distinguishable from the insect like habits of the local café, the charlatans and fake exorcists, the indolent landowners, merchants and priests. In this exhausted state, he grows antennae that are 'tensed between the real and the occult.'

The distinction between fact and fiction is blurred, but in this world of the imagination truths are sometimes crystal clear. A long-dead, levitating priest and the beautiful but deadly scorpion-fish, symbol of Bouvier's ambivalent relationship with the Island, are but two of the spectres which eventually lose their hold on the author, releasing him back to life.

'A dark-sparkling little masterpiece. I defy the reader to dislodge this book from his memory and dreams.'

GEORGE STEINER

The Devil Drives

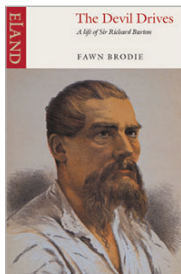
A Life of Sir Richard Burton

FAWN BRODIE

ISBN: 978-0907871-231

Format: 480pp demi pb

Price: £14.99



Richard Burton's life offers dazzling riches. He was one of the greatest Victorian explorers, an innovative translator and brilliant linguist, a prolific travel writer, a pioneer in the fields of anthropology and sexual psychology, a mesmeric lover, a spy and a publisher of erotica.

Fawn Brodie has created a vivid portrait of this remarkable man, who emerges from the richly textured fabric of his time. His travels to Mecca and Medina dressed as a Muslim pilgrim, his witnessing of the human sacrifices at Dahomey and his unlikely but loving partnership with his pious Catholic bride are all treated with warmth, scholarship and understanding.

'A first-class biography of an exceptional man ... Buy it, steal it, read it.'

J. H. PLUMB, NEW YORK TIMES

'The latest, far the best and surely the final biography of Sir Richard Burton, one of the most bizarre characters whom England has ever produced.'

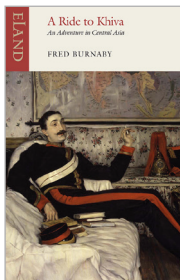
GRAHAM GREENE, OBSERVER

A Ride to Khiva

An Adventure in Central Asia

FRED BURNABY

With a Great Game preface
by Peter Hopkirk and a biographical
afterword by Barney White-Spunner



ISBN: 978-1780601-120
Format: 264pp demi pb
Price: £12.99
Place: Central Asia

In the winter of 1875, a young British officer set out across Central Asia on an unofficial mission to investigate the latest Russian moves in the Great Game. His goal was the mysterious city of Khiva, closed to all European travellers by the Russians following their seizure of it two years earlier. His aim was to discover whether this remote and dangerous oasis could be used as a springboard for an invasion of India. An immediate bestseller when first published in 1877, Burnaby's delight in a life of risk and adventure still burns through the pages, as does his spontaneous affection for the Cossack troopers and Tartar, Khirgiz and Turkoman tribesmen that he encounters on his way.

'So idiosyncratic, so endearing and so funny.'

ERIC NEWBY

'A great game classic.'

PETER HOPKIRK

Travels into Bokhara

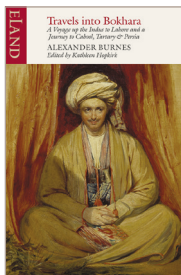
A voyage up the Indus to Lahore and a journey to Cabool, Tartary and Persia

ALEXANDER BURNES

Edited by Kathleen Hopkirk

Introduction and epilogue

by William Dalrymple



ISBN: 978-1906011-710

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Pakistan, Afganistan, & Central Asia

At the age of only 26, Alexander Burnes made two dangerous journeys beyond the frontiers of the Indian Empire, and brought back descriptions of Sind, Afghanistan and the Khanates of Central Asia including the hitherto inaccessible Bokhara. He travelled simply with an ear for languages, which he combined with a boyish charm, insatiable curiosity and irrepressible enthusiasm. His travels was a best-seller in its day and this brand new edition allows us to recapture the heady sense of excitement, risk and zeal of one of Britain's most accomplished secret agents before his assassination in Kabul.

'Burnes is the most mesmerising British official and traveller of the nineteenth century. Everyone from Lawrence of Arabia to Thesiger was shaped by his example.'

RORY STEWART

Turkish Letters

OGIER DE BUSBECQ

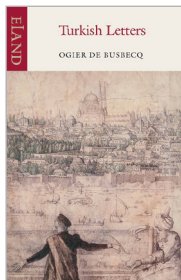
With an introduction
by Philip Mansel

ISBN: 978-0907871-699

Format: 172pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Turkey



Intelligent but unpretentious, gossipy yet honest, inquiring and unprejudiced – Busbecq is the sort of man we would all like to meet on our travels.

As Habsburg ambassador to the sixteenth-century court of Suleyman the Magnificent he missed nothing: the intrigue of Roxelana at court, the unloading of Spanish prisoners of war, the healthy yoghurt and fruit diet of country Turks, the brutal realities of super-power politics or the charming, but expensive, habit of being welcomed with flowers by the Janissary guards. Busbecq describes Constantinople as ‘created by nature to be the capital of the world’, and brings the city at the heyday of Ottoman power bursting back to life. *Turkish Letters* is eyewitness history at its best.

‘... a classic of travel literature and a boon to historians.’

ANDREW MANGO, TLS

‘Fresh, appreciative and funny.’

JASON GOODWIN

An Ottoman Traveller

Selections from the *Book of Travels* of Evliya Çelebi

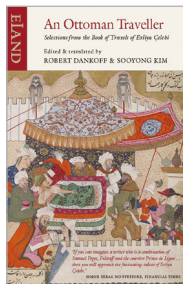
Translated and edited by
Robert Dankoff
& Sooyong Kim

ISBN 978-1906011-581

Format: 520pp demi pb

Price: £18.99

Place: Ottoman Empire and its neighbours



Evliya Çelebi was the Orhan Pamuk of the 17th century, the Pepys of the Ottoman world – a diligent, adventurous and honest recorder with a puckish wit and humour. He is in the pantheon of the great travel-writers of the world, though virtually unknown to western readers. This brand new translation by the foremost scholar of his age brings Evliya sparkling back to life, so that we can relish his charm and intelligence once more, whether he is describing high jinks in the bath-houses, being kidnapped by bandits, Ottoman Istanbul in its baroque heyday or a worldwide convention of trapeze artists.

‘It is typically brave of Eland, a superb publishing house that specialises in making available lost jewels of travel writing ... to bring out this unforgettable, fun yet brilliantly compelling selection.’

SIMON SEBAG MONTEFIORE, FINANCIAL TIMES

Two Middle-Aged Ladies In Andalusia

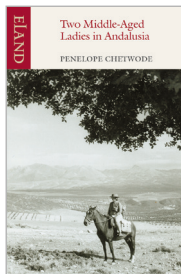
PENELOPE CHETWODE

ISBN: 978-1906011-680

Format: 158pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Southern Spain



Penelope Chetwode's middle-aged companion on her ride over the mule tracks and goat paths of Andalusia in 1961 was the twelve-year old bay mare, La Marquesa. This treasured animal, borrowed from the Duke of Wellington, brought her experience of native travel conditions to the expedition. Together the two travellers brought out the very best in their Spanish hosts, whether met on road, crude country Inn, cavehouse or during Penelope's frequent attendance at unexpected Church services. The result is a journey, through the region north from Granada, described with warmth and wit, humour and candour lit up by an infectious personal fascination for horses, God and Spain.

'Enchantingly self-revealing, without
being in the least self-conscious.'

DAILY TELEGRAPH

'... unusal and life-enhancing.'

RAYMOND MORTIMER, SUNDAY TIMES

My Early Life

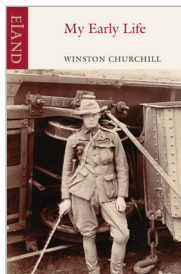
WINSTON CHURCHILL

ISBN: 978-0907871-620

Format: 350pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: India, Sudan, South Africa



The first twenty-five years of Churchill's life were full of adventure: night marches, cavalry charges, skirmishes on the North West Frontier, escape from a Boer prison-camp and a visit to the Cuban War. Acknowledged as his best book, his zest for life bursts right off the pages of *My Early Life*.

Yet this is more than just an adventure story. It is an elegiac portrayal of the halcyon period of Edwardian content before the First World War, and deeply revealing of one of the dominating personalities of the twentieth century. Here lie the roots of that restless, questing energy and dauntless ambition, born of absent parents and miserable schooling.

'The work I have enjoyed most this century.'

MAX HASTINGS, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

'The best of all his books.'

BILL DEEDES, THE WEEK

Birds of Passage

Henrietta Clive's Travels in South India 1798-1801

HENRIETTA CLIVE

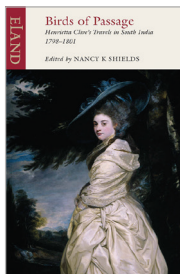
Edited by Nancy K. Shields

ISBN: 978-1780600-796

Format: 328pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: India



The Journals of Lady Henrietta Clive, a feisty, independent-minded traveller, are among the very earliest written accounts of India by a British woman. Married to Lord Edward Clive, son of Clive of India and Governor of Madras (1898 – 1803), she travelled through southern India with her daughters and retinue in the aftermath of the war against Tipu Sultan. In this their first publication, Nancy Shields skilfully interweaves extracts from the journals with passages from the diary of Charly, Henrietta's precocious twelve-year-old daughter, who went on to tutor the future Queen Victoria, first Empress of India.

Important as an historical and as a social document, and also as an early female travel text, *Birds of Passage* is illustrated with watercolours by Anna Tonelli, who accompanied the party of their voyage.

‘The journals of Lady Henrietta Clive are among the first written account of India by a British woman. *Birds of Passage*, a collection of extracts from her diaries collated by Nancy Shields, is a captivating encounter with a captivating continent.’

IMRAN KHAN

Against a Peacock Sky

*Two years in the life of a
Nepalese village*

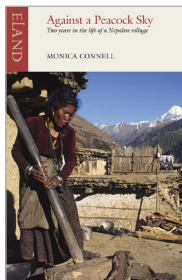
MONICA CONNELL

ISBN: 978-1780600-420

Format: 208pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Nepal



For two years in the early 1980s Monica Connell lived as a paying guest of Kalchu and Chola in the Nepalese Himalayan village of Talphi. Gradually she was accepted as a member of the family, sharing its joys and sorrows as well as taking part in its various tasks from mud-plastering the house to rice planting in the terraced fields. The village, in the remote Jumla region of western Nepal, was ten days walk from the nearest road, and its only contact with the outside world was through trading expeditions: north to Tibet for salt, and south to the Indian border for cotton and metalware.

‘A haunting book that achieves informed sympathy with Nepalese village life without the least trace of false romanticism.’

NIGEL BARLEY

‘Acutely observed and full of moments of startling empathy.’

MAIL ON SUNDAY

A Square of Sky

*A Wartime Childhood:
from Ghetto to Convent*

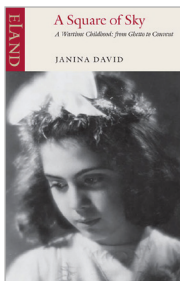
JANINA DAVID

ISBN: 978-0907871-736

Format: 428pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

Place: Poland



Until she was nine, Janina David led a sheltered life with her prosperous Jewish family in Poland. One year later they were all on the verge of starvation, sharing a small room in the Warsaw ghetto.

When it became clear that none of them were likely to survive, David was smuggled out to live with family friends. When their home became too dangerous, she was sent with false identity papers to a catholic convent, where she lived in constant fear of being discovered.

In this memoir David records the events around her through the eyes of a child, lonely and terrified, yet her determination to survive reads like a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

‘Written without self-pity, this is a book to make you marvel at the human capacity to survive unbroken and unembittered.’

SUNDAY TIMES

‘Like Anne Frank’s Diary, it scavenges hope from the ruins.’

NICHOLAS SHAKESPEARE, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

Three Women of Herat

Afghanistan, 1973-77

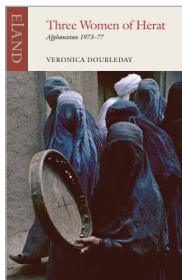
VERONICA DOUBLEDAY

ISBN: 978-1780601-977

Format: 280pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Afghanistan



It's Afghanistan before the Soviet invasion, and Veronica Doubleday and her husband settle in Herat, where John is planning to study the local musical tradition. Veronica makes friends with three very different young women, slowly immersing herself in the unfamiliar world of Herati female culture. Although constrained by tradition, these women are far from submissive, each skilfully exerting influence in the management of their lives. They welcome Veronica into their homes and include her in family events and celebrations. It's a world of intense friendships, music-making, support and laughter, as well as illness, hardship and sadness.

'I was fascinated by this story of ordinary life before the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. The three women are remarkable and unforgettable, and the story of how the author gained their friendship is like a novel.'

DORIS LESSING

'Three Women of Herat is a sensitive, knowledgeable and very moving account of an annihilated civilisation.'

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Transit of Venus

Travels in the Pacific

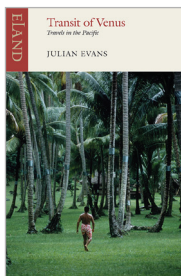
JULIAN EVANS

ISBN: 978-1786000-536

Format: 276pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Pacific Islands



Julian Evans journeys ever deeper into a world of gin-clear lagoons, palms and sand, in search of both remnants of the fabulous kingdoms of the nineteenth-century European imagination – fed by an abundance of fruits, fish and guilt-free sex – and their twentieth century reality. Ever since Captain Cook first went to Tahiti in 1769 to observe the transit of Venus across the sun, the Pacific has offered this promise of Paradise, shadowed by a darker underbelly.

With humour and honesty, Evans uncovers the modern reality: a brave new ocean where the islanders have money and booze, military coups and cold-war politics, but where, in the remotest atolls, beyond all our modernity and rationality, the old dreams continue to assert themselves.

‘Far and away the best book about the Pacific of our times’

NORMAN LEWIS

‘The best modern travelogue about the Pacific’

LONELY PLANET

Chantemesle

A Normandy Childhood

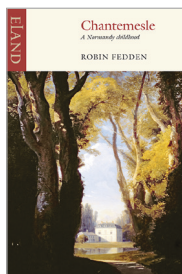
ROBIN FEDDEN

ISBN: 978-0907871-927

Format: 104pp demi pb

Price: £9.99

Place: France



Chantemesle is a lyrical evocation of growing up on the banks of the Seine. In this minutely observed landscape, where even the wind is a character in its own right, we meet Battouflet, the singing hermit of the hillside, solemn Clotilde, who lives in a château in the heart of the forest and a desiccated and disturbing spinster, Mlle. Firman.

Fedden writes with preternatural clarity, taking the reader with him into a long-forgotten yet echoing familiar world. When Fedden finds himself expelled from this realm by his emerging sexuality, he leaves us reeling with nostalgia for that timeless sense of the present that is the magic of childhood.

‘... an almost Proustian fidelity?’

NEW YORK TIMES

‘... clear and beautiful as a painting.’

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

‘... a minute distillation of landscape and feeling.’

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

Viva Mexico!

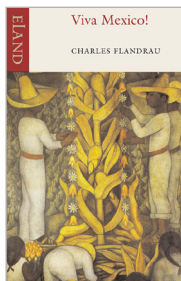
CHARLES FLANDRAU

ISBN: 978-1906011-130

Format: 164pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Mexico



Flandrau was a rich young American with an individual sense of humour, and no prejudices except against Western uniformity. His travel book, first published in 1908, is more than a ramble among the Mexican people. Based on his brother's coffee plantation, he spent the best part of five years in a country which he describes as 'one long carelessly written but absorbing romance'. His insights into the customs and character of rural Mexicans, and expatriate gringos, apply to this day.

'... probably the best travel book I have ever read.'

MILES KINGTON, THE TIMES

'A portrait that is both humorous and profound...'

STANLEY OLSON, TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

'His impressions are deep, sympathetic and judicious. In addition, he is a marvellous writer with something of Mark Twain's high spirit and Henry James's suavity.'

GEOFFREY SMITH, COUNTRY LIFE

Brazilian Adventure

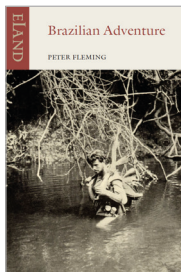
PETER FLEMING

ISBN 978-178060-200-4

Format: 376 pages, paperback

Price £14.99

Place: Brazil



'leaving England June, to explore rivers Central Brazil, if possible ascertain fate Colonel Fawcett; abundance game, big and small: exceptional fishing; room for two more guns' – read the advertisement in the Agony column of the Times. Colonel Fawcett and his son Jack had embarked on a journey in the summer of 1925 in search of a Lost World, and were never seen again.

This was altogether too much of a temptation for a young man with energy and in search for adventure. It is a journey which begins in a reckless spirit of can-do frivolity, but will slowly darken into something very personal and deeply testing, *“for which Rider Haggard might have written the plot and Conrad designed the scenery”*.

‘this is an extraordinarily good book...he is romantic; he has humour; and he faces facts.’

SIR JOHN SQUIRE, SUNDAY TIMES

‘crammed with sound observation, good writing, humour and a unique blend of disillusion, foolhardiness, and high spirits.’ J.B.Priestley

J. B. PRIESTLEY

The Hill of Devi

*An Englishman at the court of a
Maratha Maharajah in 1921*

E.M. FORSTER

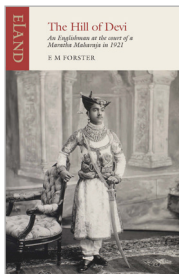
Publication Date: 2022

ISBN: 978-1780601-601

Format: 158pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: India



The Hill of Devi is composed of a collection of letters that Forster sent home (later topped by diary entries and reminiscences) that chronicles his infatuation and amusement with the court of the young Maharajah of Devas, a man Forster thought was “certainly a genius and possibly a saint.”

A light-hearted, loving and affectionate romp, packed full of laughter and the most exotic series of ceremonies and misadventures, *The Hill of Devi* vividly depicts India, its people and its customs in the early-20th century.

‘A classic account of a vanished side of India that
has never before been so graphically painted.’

RAYMOND MORTIMER, SUNDAY TIMES

‘... one feels that a close personal friend has
shared his impressions of India.’

KIRKUS

The Christian Watt Papers

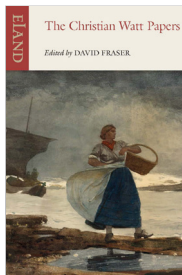
EDITED BY DAVID FRASER

ISBN 978-1780602-127

Format: pb 256 pages

Price: £14.99

Place: Scotland



It is a miracle that we can hear the voice of Christian Watt, so clear, so true, so forthright and so original. Born in 1833, she started working as a servant girl before her ninth birthday, and later learned the skills required of a laundry-maid, fish-gutter and ladies maid (travelling with a Duchess) before settling down and becoming a fish-wife, selling her husband's catch from door to door. As you will discover for yourself, she is as bright and opinionated as a button, knows everything about everybody in Fraserburgh and the wider community of Buchan on the north-east corner of Aberdeen, and fortunately for us, she is not shy in the telling of it. She will be felled by a tragedy that would have swept us all away. The death of all her male intimates: her husband, four brothers and her favourite child, all drowned by a sudden squall that sunk their fishing boat. But this catastrophe, which took away her menfolk and her sanity, led her to be cared for by a remarkable institution, Aberdeen's Cornhill Asylum, where a kindly doctor encouraged her to write in pencil.

'One of the most remarkable books I have ever read.'

JACK HOUSE, EVENING TIMES

Stamboul Sketches

Encounters in Old Istanbul

JOHN FREELY

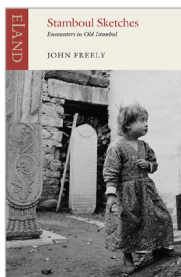
With photographs by Sedat Pakay

ISBN: 978-1780600-567

Format: 208pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Istanbul



Throughout the 1960s, John Freely explored the alleys, hidden corners and monuments of Istanbul, in between teaching, to create a legendary guidebook with Hilary Sumner-Boyd. But all the passages that were too personal, too capricious, too idiosyncratic, too indulgent of eccentric personalities, too wrapped up in the love of mid-afternoon banter, too indulgent of musicians, dancers, gypsies, dervishes, drunks, beggars, fishermen, poets, fortune-tellers, folk healers, mimics and prostitutes, were cut from their scholarly guide. *Stamboul Sketches* is fashioned from these off-cuts, a chronicle of chance encounters inspired by Evliya Çelebi, the Pepys of seventeenth-century Istanbul. It is a beautiful, quirky portrait of a city which, Freely says, ‘grabs you by the heart and never lets you go’.

‘Freely reveals a superb eye for the telling details.’

THE INDEPENDENT

‘John Freely has made me laugh harder than any man I know.’

JASON GOODWIN

The Book of Puka-Puka

A Lone Trader in the South Pacific

ROBERT DEAN FRISBIE

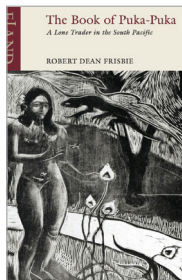
With a biographical afterword
by Anthony Weller

ISBN: 978-1780601-410

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: The Cook Islands



Originally published in 1929, *The Book of Puka-Puka* is not about travel, but rather staying still. It was not composed by a colonial administrator, a missionary or an anthropologist, but by a hedonistic South Sea trader who enjoyed fishing, picnics, swimming, sleeping and falling in love. All these things form the basis of *The Book of Puka-Puka*, a book that though grounded in Robert Dean Frisbie's personal experience is really about the beautiful island of Puka-Puka and its inhabitants. With his sensual eye and an unhealthy tolerance for rum, tobacco and casual sex, Frisbie produced an account that is exciting, powerful and packed full of vivid detail.

'The most graceful, poetic and sensitive writer
ever to have reported on the islands.'

JAMES MICHENER

'He immortalized the island. It is his most
endearing and most original book.'

THE DAILY MAIL

Travels with Myself and Another

Five Journeys from Hell

MARTHA GELLHORN

ISBN: 978-0907871-774

Format: 296pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



Out of a lifetime of travelling, Gellhorn has selected her ‘best horror journeys’. She bumps through rain-sodden, war-torn China to meet Chiang Kai-Shek, floats listlessly in search of U-boats in the wartime Caribbean and visits a dissident writer in the Soviet Union against her better judgement.

Written with the eye of a novelist and an ironic black humour, what makes these tales irresistible are Gellhorn’s explosive and often surprising reactions. Indignant, but never righteous and not always right, through the crucible of hell on earth emerges a woman who makes you laugh with her at life, while thanking God that you are not with her.

‘One of the funniest travel books of our time.’

DERVLA MURPHY

‘She is incapable of writing a dull sentence.’

THE TIMES

‘I just laughed until the tears ran down my face.’

HANNAH GORDON, RADIO 4

The Weather in Africa

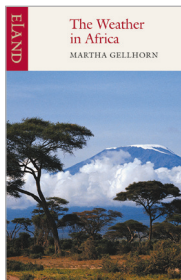
MARTHA GELLHORN

ISBN: 978-0907871-781

Format: 248pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: East Africa



Martha Gellhorn's three intertwined novellas are concerned with the integration of European outsiders into the dramatic landscape of East Africa. It makes an electric theme, which alternates between enchantment and rejection.

Two sisters, one beautiful, one plain, return unmarried from their adventures in the great world to their parents' hotel *On the Mountain*, where they are caught up in scandalous relationships. A heartbroken woman tries to escape the memory of her son's death on a doomed holiday *By the Sea*. A lonely, awkward young Englishman, orphaned by bombs in London, disoriented by years as a prisoner-of-war, seeks a new life *In the Highlands*.

'This is a stunningly good book.'

VICTORIA GLENDINNING, NEW YORK TIMES

'She's a marvellous story-teller, and I think anyone who picks up this book is certainly not going to put it down again.'

FRANCIS KING, BBC RADIO 4

The Face of War

Writings From the Frontline

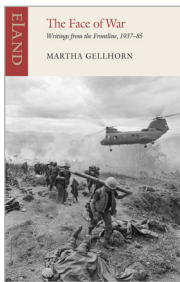
1937–85

MARTHA GELLHORN

ISBN: 978-1780601-052

Format: 319pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



James Cameron admired Martha Gellhorn above all other war-reporters “because she combined a cold eye with a warm heart”. But make your own judgements, and in the process find yourself plunged straight back into Madrid during the Spanish Civil War, feel the frozen ground of the Finno-Russian war, the continent-wide Japanese invasion of China, the massacres in Java, the murderously naive intervention in Vietnam and the USA’s dirty little wars in Central America. You will also experience the process of the Second World War by the seat of your pants. It is a tough way to learn history, but also one created in bite-sized chunks, which inspire just as often as they shock.

‘The best prose on its subject written by anybody.’

NEW STATESMAN

‘A powerful tribute to the innocent victims – the humble population caught up in the folly of war.’

YORKSHIRE POST

The View from the Ground

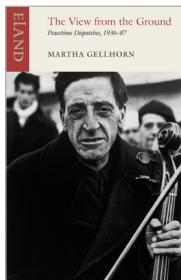
Peacetime Dispatches 1936-87

MARTHA GELLHORN

ISBN: 978-1780601-045

Format: 464pp demi pb

Price: £14.99



If you want to know about writing, about how to make others share the horror and intensity of an experience, try the first piece in this collection, *Justice at Night*. Martha Gellhorn wrote it as a 28-year-old, having just returned home to the States after four years in Europe, in 1936. What follows is a selection of fifty years of peacetime journalism, history caught at the moment of its unfolding, as it looked and felt to those who experienced it. It's about revolutions in the making, guilty acts of state terrorism, poverty, injustice and recovery. It vividly captures the range and intensity of Gellhorn's courageous work and is also a passionate call to arms, not only to remember the wronged and to bear witness to evil but to stand your ground in the face of it.

'Deep with humanity and beautifully written.'

THE GUARDIAN

'A sharp eye, retentive memory and a sparse, powerful prose.'

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

The Trouble I've Seen

MARTHA GELLHORN

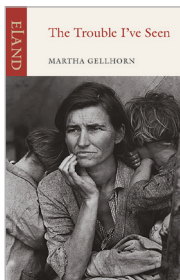
With an introduction by
Caroline Moorehead

ISBN: 978-1906011-628

Format: 248pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: U.S.A



These four interlinked stories encapsulate Martha Gellhorn's first hand observation of the Great Depression. Fiction crafted with documentary accuracy, they vividly render the gradual spiritual collapse of the simple, homely sufficiency of American life in the face of sudden unemployment, desperate poverty and hopelessness. Martha was the youngest of a squad of sixteen, handpicked reporters who filed confidential reports directly to Roosevelt's White House. They catch the mood of a generation 'sucked into indifference' and of young men who no longer 'believe in man or God, let alone private industry'.

'Lives and dances in the memory.'

HERALD TRIBUNE

'She achieves strength of effect without the least sacrifice of veracity, and though her work is saturated with pity never once did I find her lapsing into sentimentality.'

H.G. WELLS

The Last Leopard

*A life of Giuseppe Tomasi
di Lampedusa*

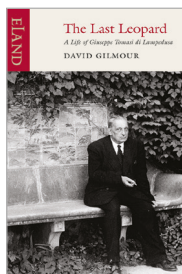
DAVID GILMOUR

ISBN: 978-0955010-514

Format: 248pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Sicily



David Gilmour's biography of Giuseppe di Lampedusa unearths the life story of the creator of *The Leopard*, one of the great novels of the twentieth century. A book whose imagery, once tasted, haunts the reader for ever, *The Leopard* describes the golden era of nineteenth century Sicily in all its sensual, fading, aristocratic glory. But beneath the surface lurk Sicily's millennial contagions – corruption, brutality and inequality. Who wrote this masterpiece, this work of art? The answer is as unlikely as one might hope. A fascinating meditation on what it is that makes a writer.

‘Outstandingly good ... Lampedusa has found
a biographer worthy of *The Leopard*?’

ALLAN MASSIE, DAILY TELEGRAPH

‘... a triumph of fine writing: elegant, witty, concise
– everything a good biography should be?’

IAN THOMSON, INDEPENDENT

Walled Gardens

Scenes from an Irish Childhood

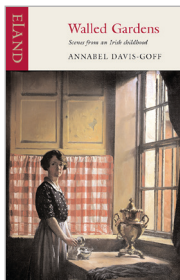
ANNABEL GOFF

ISBN: 978-1906011-024

Format: 276pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Ireland



Walled Gardens is a brilliant portrait of the Irish ascendancy, struggling through the post-war depression aided by drink, horse-racing and religion, and their own idiosyncratic adaptations to modern life. Seen from the troubled perspective of the daughter of an aristocratic family in decline, we watch the disintegration of a marriage in elegant but emotionally chilled surroundings, and the struggle to keep up appearances, and a collapsing roof, in front of the neighbours. By turns sad, absurd and funny, the story is ultimately liberating as failure leads to freedom.

‘Vividly entertaining ... written with a quality of mercy added to the acute perceptions of a child.’

MOLLY KEANE, SPECTATOR

‘Her narrative has the quality of brilliant social anthropology ... she writes with delicacy of touch and beauty of style.’

DAILY TELEGRAPH

Letters from Egypt

An Englishwoman on the Nile, 1862-69

LUCIE DUFF GORDON

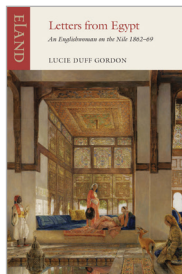
Publication Date: 2021

ISBN: 978-1780600-383

Format: 365pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Egypt



Lucie Duff Gordon lived the last seven years of her life in Egypt, in a ramshackle village house that was perched atop the ruins of the ancient temple of Luxor, which had been lived in by such pioneering antiquarians as Henry Salt and Belzoni before her. On one level she was an unlikely heroine – a middle-aged mother of three married to a civil servant at the Treasury. But on another she was the perfect observer, with an ear for languages, and had been brought up by free-thinking intellectuals who encouraged her to work as a translator. She has an original voice which shines across the centuries, witty, life-affirming, joyous, self-deprecating and utterly enchanted by the everyday life of her Arab neighbours.

‘... reveals a woman of courage, humour and passion.’

KATHLEEN FRANK

‘... perceptive and all-embracing.’

GEORGE MEREDITH

Africa Dances

GEOFFREY GORER

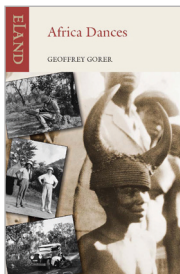
With an afterword by
Lamont Lindstrom

ISBN: 978-0907871-187

Format: 296pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: West Africa



In *Africa Dances* Gorer takes the reader on an odyssey across West Africa, in the company of one of the great black ballet stars of 1930's Paris. It is a devastating critique of colonial rule, which is shown to be destroying African society just as effectively as Christian missionaries undermine indigenous morality.

Africa Dances captures the rich physical and psychological detail of African village life – from food and architecture to dance and magic. Gorer witnesses men diving for three-quarters of an hour without coming up for breath, witch-doctors conjuring thunderstorms out of clear blue skies, and chameleon fetishists whose skin changes from a dirty white to almost black. This is a place where if you believe, you can.

'Extraordinary ... one of the most remarkable
travel books of our time.'

SUNDAY TIMES

'A book I could not put down from the first page to the last.'

DAILY TELEGRAPH

Forgotten Kingdom

Nine Years in Yunnan, 1939-48

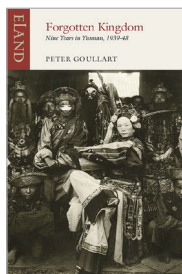
PETER GOULLART

ISBN: 978-1780601-113

Format: 255pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: China



Peter Goullart spent nine years in the all but forgotten, ancient Naxi Kingdom of South West China. He had a job entirely suited to his inquiring, gossipy temperament, for it was his mission to get to know all the local traders, merchants, inn-keepers and artisans so that he could report on which characters should be backed by a loan from the Co-Operative movement. In his company we get to hear about the love affairs and the social rivalries of his neighbours, attend magnificent banquets, meet ancient dowagers and handsome warriors as well as catching the sound of the swiftly running mountain streams, the coarse ribaldry of the market ladies and the happy laughter emerging from out of the wineshops.

‘There’s nothing else like *Forgotten Kingdom*
in the travel literature on China.’

PROFESSOR ERIK MUEGLER

‘This is a book about paradise by a man
who lived there for nine years.’

TLS

A State of Fear

Memories of Argentina's Nightmare

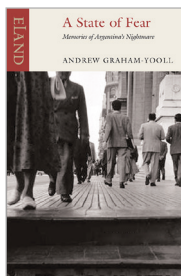
ANDREW GRAHAM-YOOLL

ISBN: 978-1906011-345

Format: 160pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

Place: Argentina



For ten hair-raising years, Andrew Graham-Yooll was the news editor of the *Buenos Aires Herald*. All around him friends and acquaintances were ‘disappearing’. Although the slightest mistake might have caused his own disappearance, he didn’t shrink from getting first-hand experience of this war of terror; he attended the clandestine guerrilla conferences, helped relatives trace the missing, and took tea with a torturer who wasn’t ashamed to make the most chilling confessions.

‘One of the most affecting books I have ever read.’

THE TIMES

‘... Graham-Yooll’s brilliant book is the portrait of a society that seems on the edge of final dissolution.’

SPECTATOR

A Pattern of Islands

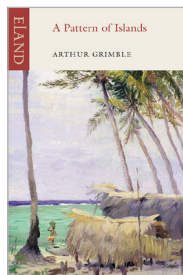
ARTHUR GRIMBLE

ISBN: 978-1906011-451

Format: 263pp demi pb

Price £14.99

Place: Pacific Islands



Arthur Grimble was sent to the South Seas as a young man at the twilight of the Edwardian era. For the next twenty years he lived in the Gilbert and Ellice islands as a colonial administrator and developed a rare passion for the language, life and landscape of his parish. Fortunately his island neighbours, a fascinating cast of fishermen, sorcerers, poets and fighters, began to trust this charming, happy and energetic young man, and the old men shared with him their treasury of stories from the pagan days when warfare was endemic and magic was an essential part of everyday life.

On one level an autobiographical memoir, *A Pattern of Islands* is also interwoven with the rich and complex culture of the region: the dances and legends, rituals, spells and way of life. In addition it is a rip-roaring adventure story, complete with shark fights, clan initiation rituals and being used as human bait for an octopus, all written with self-deprecating charm, an infectious wit and a zest for life and laughter.

‘His pages are enlivened with a gleaming humour - which enhances the book’s overwhelming attraction. A triumph!’

DAILY TELEGRAPH

Dinner of Herbs

Village Life in 1960s Turkey

CARLA GRISSMANN

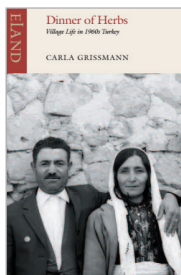
With a biographical portrait by
John Hopkins

ISBN: 978-1780600-437

Format: 200pp demi pb

Price £12.99

Place: Turkey



Carla Grissmann spent the better part of a year in the '60s living in a farming hamlet in remote Anatolia, some 250km east of Ankara. The hospitality, the friendship and the way in which the inhabitants of Uzak Köy accepted her into their community left a deep impression, and were remembered and treasured in a private memoir. Not for some forty years was it published, and yet it is one of the most honest, clear-sighted and affectionate portraits of rural Turkey, testimony to Proverbs 15:17, 'better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fattening ox where hatred also dwells.'

'More than anything I have read, it captures the hum of everyday life in an Anatolian village, the almost tangible good cheer.'

MAUREEN FREELY, CORNUCOPIA

'Extremely moving. Grissmann captures life in remote Anatolia with stark honesty and compassion.'

PAUL BOWLES

Warriors

*Life and Death among
the Somalis*

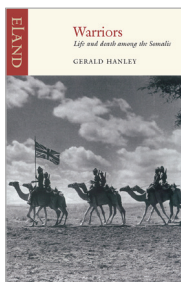
GERALD HANLEY

ISBN: 978-0907871-835

Format: 232pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

Place: Somalia



Somalia is one of the world's most desolate, sun-scorched lands, inhabited by independent-minded and fierce tribesmen. It was here that Gerald Hanley spent the Second World War, charged with preventing bloodshed between feuding tribes at a remote outstation. Rations were scarce, pay infrequent and his detachment of native soldiers near-mutinous.

In these extreme conditions seven British officers committed suicide, but Hanley describes the period as 'the most valuable time' of his life. He comes to understand the Somalis' love of fighting and to admire their contempt for death. 'Of all the races of Africa,' he says, 'there cannot be one better to live among than the most difficult, the proudest, the bravest, the vainest, the most merciless, the friendliest: the Somalis.'

'... travel writing at its best, observational writing at its most acute.'

OBSERVER

'The foremost writer of his generation.'

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Morocco That Was

WALTER HARRIS

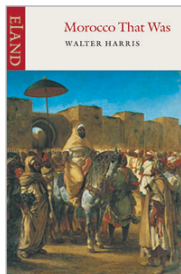
With a biographical afterword by
James Chandler

ISBN: 978-1906011-062

Format: 262pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Morocco



Until 1912 Morocco had never suffered foreign domination, and its mountainous interior was as closed to foreigners as Tibet. Walter Harris was the exception. He lived in the country for more than 35 years, and as *The Times* correspondent he observed every aspect of its life. He describes the unfettered Sultanate in all its dark, melodramatic splendour.

Harris was an intimate of at least three of the ruling Sultans and a man capable even of befriending his kidnapper. It is said that only three Christians had ever visited the walled city of Chechaouen: one was poisoned, one stayed for an hour disguised as a rabbi ... the other was Walter Harris.

‘This book is brilliant – alternately sharp,
melodramatic and extremely funny.’

ROUGH GUIDE TO MOROCCO

‘Among the funniest and best-written books I have ever read.’

EVENING STANDARD

Far Away & Long Ago

A Childhood in Argentina

W. H. HUDSON

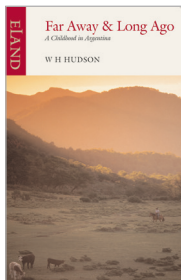
With an afterword by
Nicholas Shakespeare

ISBN: 978-0907871-743

Format: 248pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Argentina



Seen through the eyes of a young boy, the Argentine pampas is a land of freedom and endless exploration. In scintillating detail Hudson recalls its wild artichoke thistles, seasonal lakes, spectacular storms, unforgettable trees and its pulsating bird life. He also captures the idiosyncrasies of its human inhabitants and their multiracial households: Englishmen manufacturing sheep's cheese, obsessive breeders of piebald horses and long, companionable evenings filled with extempore ballads. Underlying it all are the violent realities of the times – tortured slaves, murderous, macho gauchos delighting in the agonising ritual of animal slaughter and the simple ever-present threat of nineteenth-century mortality.

'A masterpiece ... I was but one of many whose favourite book it was in childhood and beyond.'

KATHLEEN RAINE, THE TABLET

'He writes as the grass grows. It is as if some very fine and gentle spirit were whispering to him the sentences he puts down on the paper.'

JOSEPH CONRAD

The Purple Land

*An Adventure in Uruguay -
the Banda Oriental*

W. H. HUDSON

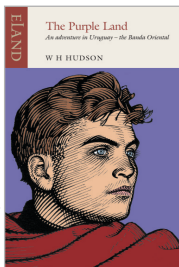
With an afterword by Andreas Campomar

ISBN: 978-1-78060-073-4

Format: 345pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Uruguay



The Purple Land tells the story of Richard Lamb, an idealistic young Englishman, who spirits his new wife, Paquita, to Montevideo to escape the vengeance of her Argentine father. Here, he is catapulted into a series of picaresque adventures: horse-stealing, duelling, imprisonment and fighting on the losing side of a civil war, all the while falling serially and unsuitably in love.

Rooted in Hudson's evocation of the simplicity and dignity of life on the pampas and his masterful depiction of its wildlife and landscape, *The Purple Land* is the first modern 'road novel'. It is also a narrative of transformation, the Creolisation of an Englishman, redeemed by the heightened exuberance, energy and warmth of South America.

‘... splendid imaginary amorous adventures of a perfect English gentleman in an intensely romantic land?’

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

‘... the best work of gaucho literature?’

JORGE LUIS BORGES

A Time in Arabia

Life in Hadhramaut

DOREEN INGRAMS

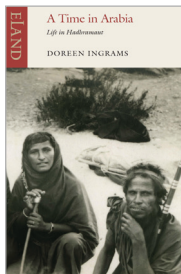
With afterword by
Tim Mackintosh-Smith

ISBN: 978-1906011-802

Format: 164pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Southern Arabia/Yemen



Doreen Ingrams and her husband were the first Europeans ever to live in the Hadhramaut, an extraordinary, isolated region of southern Arabia. Married to an Arabic-speaking British official, they arrived by boat, and during their ten-year residency travelled throughout the region by camel and donkey. Doreen kept a diary in which she detailed their adventures and described her unequalled access to the domestic quarters, to the women and children, the food, the scents, secrets, jewels and privileges of this extraordinarily rich traditional society.

A Time in Arabia is a precious document seen through the eyes of a decent, modest and compassionate woman.

‘There are deep insights into a closed and fascinating society... I suspect that the Hadhramis loved her, above all, for being such a fearless mucker-in.’

TIM MACKINTOSH-SMITH

Palestine Papers

1917–1922: Seeds of Conflict

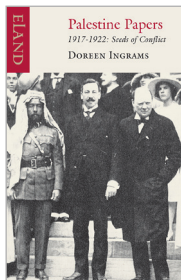
DOREEN INGRAMS

ISBN: 978-1906011-383

Format: 208pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

Place: Palestine/Israel



History caught in the making. No rhetoric, no apology, no bombast, just the original documents culled from the secret minutes of Cabinet meetings, the memos of Foreign Ministers and Directors of Secret Intelligence Services. An extraordinary work of dispassionate scholarship, which gives the vivid inside story of how the Balfour Declaration of 1917 was transformed by 1922 into the British Mandate of Palestine with its impossible dual objective of fostering Zionism and protecting the rights of the native Palestinians. It also brings to life the last period of British Imperial history, revealing the background and thinking behind such passionate Zionists as Winston Churchill and Arthur Balfour, as well as the prophecies of doom from experienced Arabists like T. E. Lawrence and Lord Curzon and the men in the hot seat – King Feisal, Herbert Samuel and Dr Weizmann. Proponents of both the ‘cock-up’ and ‘conspiracy’ schools of history will be delighted by this rich mine of evidence.

‘... a scholarly and impartial analysis of how British politicians made the fateful decision to pursue a pro-Zionist policy in Palestine?’

DAVID GILMOUR

Smelling the Breezes

*A Journey through the High
Lebanon in 1957*

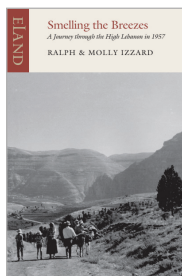
RALPH & MOLLY IZZARD

ISBN 978-1780601-984

Format: 270 demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Lebanon



Smelling the Breezes is an inspiring adventure that throws down a gauntlet about what can be achieved in a family holiday. Ralph and Molly Izzard walked the three-hundred mile spine of the Lebanese mountains, camping wherever they stopped – with their four children, two donkeys and Elias (their gardener-nursemaid-friend) as their sole travelling companions. Their magnificently successful portrait of Lebanon is rich with complexity and easy charm: broken castles, hashish smugglers, clan-feuds, festivals, forgotten temples, secretive headquarters and hospitable sheikhs. There is also a fascinating subtext for the modern reader. Ralph Izzard had been a heroic figure within Naval Intelligence in the War and was one of Ian Fleming's role models out of which he created the fictional James Bond.

“well written, informative and highly entertaining. Unpretentious.
Expertly structured”

DAILY MAIL

Holding On

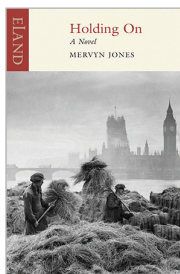
MERVYN JONES

ISBN: 978-1906011-420

Format: 309pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

Place: London



This is the story of a street in London's docklands and of a family who lived on it. The street was built in the 1880s, and the Wheelwright family (originally dockers) lived there until its demolition in the 1960s, when it was replaced with tower blocks. As a social document, the book rings with truth, but it is much more than that: its compelling narrative brings the reader right into the life of the Wheelwright family and their neighbours.

'Moving, intelligent, thoroughly readable
... it deserves a lot of readers.'

SUNDAY TIMES

'A remarkable evocation of life in the East End of London ... Mr Jones fakes nothing and blurs little ... It is truthful and moving.'

GUARDIAN

Mother Land

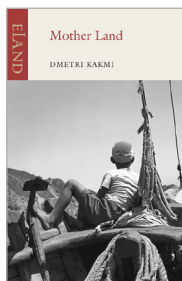
DMETRI KAKMI

ISBN: 978-1906011-635

Format: 232pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Aegean, Turkey & Greece



Mother Land is a minutely remembered description of a childhood on an Aegean island, marked by the furious opposition of hostile yet neighbouring cultures. A Greek boy born on a Turkish island tries to make sense of the escalating tensions between Greek and Turk and Muslim and Christian, between his cosmopolitan mother and his homeboy, fisherman of a father. It reveals with chilling clarity how violence begets violence, in even the most unexpected of people and how, despite anger and exile, reconciliation is possible.

Dmetri Kakmi has written a compulsive page-turner, something that is distinctive, original, humane and uplifting. It is also true.

'I am utterly entranced ... so clear, so truthful, so heart-breaking.'

MAUREEN FREELY

'A universal myth of loss ... beautiful,
evocative and carefully crafted.'

THE AGE, MELBOURNE

Red Moon & High Summer

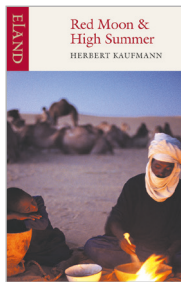
HERBERT KAUFMANN

ISBN: 978-0907871-347

Format: 234pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Sahara



This magical story, written for teenagers but enjoyed by all ages, tells the story of the young bard Mid-e-Mid, famed throughout the vast grazing lands of his Tuareg tribe for his mellifluous voice and quick-witted lyrics. A coming-of-age novel in the tradition of *The Catcher in the Rye*, it follows Mid-e-Mid in his bid to find his own route to manhood in true Tuareg style. Overcoming poverty to win camels of his own, he avenges the death of his father and wins the heart of his beloved, only to find that the solitary life of the wandering minstrel is his destiny.

Written by Herbert Kaufmann, a German journalist who lived in Africa in the 1950s and '60s, *Red Moon & High Summer* is a fast-paced adventure story saturated in Tuareg lore. Though fiction, it gives a truer and more vibrant picture of these mysterious, nomadic people than a whole shelf load of academic volumes.

'This deeply satisfying novel, written as it is with a profound understanding of the subject, reveals the joy, the desert and its enigmatic inhabitants, the Tuareg.'

CHRIS STEWART

Three Came Home

A Mother's Ordeal in a Japanese Prison Camp

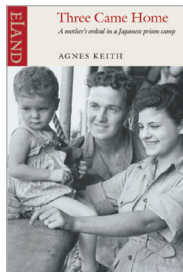
AGNES KEITH

ISBN: 978-0907871-286

Format: 304pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Malaysia



When the Japanese took Borneo in 1942, Agnes Keith was captured and imprisoned with her two-year-old son. Fed on minimal rations, forced to work through recurrent bouts of malaria and fighting with rats for scraps of food, Keith's spirit never completely dies. Keeping notes on scraps of paper which she hides in her son's home-made toys or buries in tins, she records a mother's pain at watching her child go hungry and her poignant pride in his development within these strange confines.

She also describes her captors in all their complexity. Colonel Suga, the camp commander, is an intelligent, highly educated man; at times her adversary, at others a strange ally in a distorted world.

'No one who reads her unforgettable account ... can fail to share her emotions with something very like the intensity of personal experience.'

TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

'... at once desolating and uplifting.'

BRITISH BOOK NEWS

One People

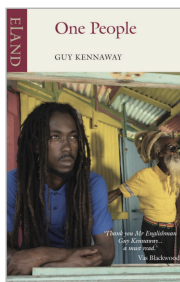
GUY KENNAWAY

ISBN: 978-1780601-960

Format: 208pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Jamaica



Set in the village of Cousins Cove, Jamaica, *One People* plunges us into a small community where everyone knows everyone's business, poverty is a way of life and dreams of escape trickle through fingers. Guy Kennaway's comic novel – sparkling with irreverent wit and written partly in Patwa – is cherished in Jamaica for its humour and humanity. It celebrates the essence of the island, where *'culture is something that comes from the ground up and good times do not require a whole heap o' money'*. First published in 1997, the book grew out of the tales that Kennaway listened to on the island during his first ten years as an idle expatriate.

'Lyrical, poignant and downright funny...'

GLASGOW HERALD

'Within the brilliant, witty and entertaining fiction, lies the most accurate account and explanation of today's Jamaica.'

HOWARD MARKS

'The vibes of modern Jamaica are captured in this gloriously candid book. In-your-face and utterly authentic, its pages are saturated with humour and humanity.'

STEVE BARRON

Peking Story

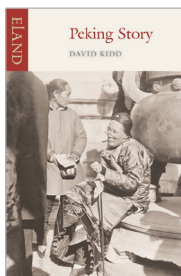
DAVID KIDD

ISBN: 978-1906011-000

Format: 176pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: China



A haunting and delicately observed description of the last days of Mandarin culture before the revolution, *Peking Story* is a testimony to a way of life, a culture, an aesthetic and a civilisation which has since completely disappeared.

As the American son-in-law of a revered official from an ancient Chinese family, David Kidd had unique access to the life – their sprawling mansion, the visits to ancestral temples, the moonlit picnics, demure servants, opulent ceremonies, lavish entertainments and cherished antique heirlooms, such as the set of braziers which had never lost the heat of their original founding due to the meticulous care of successive generations of owners. But it is the brooding sense of the inevitability of great change, and Kidd's sympathy with many of the goals of the revolution, which transforms this memoir into something tragically profound.

‘... simple, graceful, comic, mournful miniatures of an ominous catastrophe, the unprecedentedly swift death of a uniquely ancient civilisation?’

JOHN UPDIKE

Eothen

*Traces of travel brought home
from the East*

ALEXANDER WILLIAM KINGLAKE

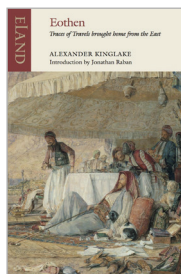
Introduction by Jonathan Raban

ISBN: 978-1-78060-427

Format: 284pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Turkey, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel



It took Kinglake seven years before he had finished crafting this lively, brilliant and rather insolent tale. The physical details of the journey, undertaken in 1834 across the Balkan frontiers of the Ottoman Empire, through Constantinople, Smyrna, Cyprus into the Near eastern cities of Jerusalem, Cairo and Damascus, are never as significant as the conversations, chance encounters and attitudes of the author. Packed full of an infectious charm and a youthful delight at the world, it is above all things funny as it lampoons the pomposity of earnest, middle-aged travellers seeking to establish themselves as professional authorities.

‘One of the most deliciously nasty books in English literature.’

JONATHAN RABAN

‘... sparkling, ironic and terrific fun.’

JAN MORRIS

The Street Philosopher & the Holy Fool

A Syrian Journey

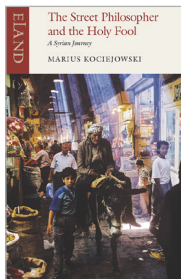
MARIUS KOCIEJOWSKI

ISBN: 978-1780600-727

Format: 300pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Syria



The Street Philosopher and the Holy Fool presents the unexpected face of Syria. Based on five journeys, undertaken over as many years, Kociejowski's book is entirely concerned with the slow journey towards friendship. So we learn nothing about coups or conspiracies, iconic monuments or historic travellers. Instead we meet a chance handful of Syrians, such as Myrna, a Christian faith-healing stigmatic, Yasser, a Palestinian refugee and political activist, Abu al-Tahib, a prince of fools, a modern desert father, Paolo Dall'Oglio, and the street philosopher and the holy fool of the book's title. It was written during the era of conversation, before the use of mobiles, and long before the current civil war. It was saluted as a travel classic on first publication (2004), but is now in danger of becoming a testament to the last of the old Levant.

'This superb book – destined, to my mind,
to become a travel classic.'

ADAM THORPE, TLS

Scum of the Earth

ARTHUR KOESTLER

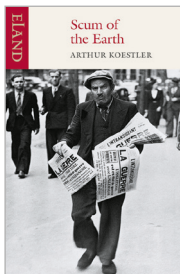
With an afterword by Walter Laqueur

ISBN: 978-0907871-491

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: France



At the beginning of the Second World War, Koestler was living in the south of France working on *Darkness at Noon*. After retreating to Paris he was imprisoned by the French as an undesirable alien even though he had been a respected crusader against fascism. Only luck and his passionate energy allowed him to escape the fate of many of the innocent refugees, who were handed over to the Nazis for torture and often execution.

Scum of the Earth is more than the story of Koestler's survival. His shrewd observation of the collapse of French determination to resist during the summer of 1940 is an illustration of what happens when a nation loses its honour and its pride.

'... a memorable story, vivid, powerful and deeply searching.'

TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

'This is a book in a thousand, by far the best book to come out of the collapse of France.'

GUARDIAN

The Hill of Kronos

PETER LEVI

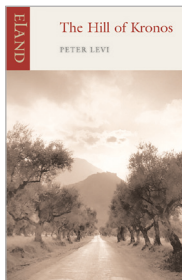
With an appendix of a dozen Greek poems

ISBN: 978-0955010-545

Format: 261pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Greece



In *The Hill of Kronos*, Peter Levi paints a radiant portrait of the Greece he came to know through a lifetime of exploration. As a young scholar he sought out its ancient spirit, the keys to its mythology and civilisation, in its ruined cities and majestic mountains. Later, as a priest working as a diplomat and a friend of the oppressed, he lived in Athens through the dark days of the dictatorship. Then the sinews of political life led back to secret alliances made during the civil war and the earlier occupation of Greece, back to murder, starvation and corpse-filled quarries. Lastly it is seen through the mature eyes of a family man, with the ripened sensibility of an acclaimed poet. This is a precious fusion of experience, a gift of insight from one philhellene to all those who have come to love Greece.

‘I have nothing but gratitude for this devoted, this splendid, this unique book: to read it is to have the experience of Greece itself.’

DILYS POWELL, THE TIMES

‘This book is lit up by the search for a poet’s fitting phrase.’

ROBIN LANE FOX

The Light Garden of the Angel King

Journey in Afghanistan

PETER LEVI

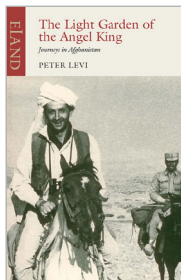
With a biographical afterword by
James Owen

ISBN: 978-1906011-550

Format: 272pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Afghanistan



From time immemorial, merchants, pilgrims and invaders from East and West have penetrated the high valleys of Afghanistan.

In this resonant account, Peter Levi seeks the clues which each migration left, in the company of the young Bruce Chatwin.

Since his journey, Afghanistan has suffered forty years of invasion and civil war, making it all the more poignant to rediscover 'this highway of archangels/this theatre of heaven/the light garden of the God-forgiven angel King.'

'...a beautiful book, a poetic evocation and worthy of a place beside *Eothen* and Robert Byron's *Road to Oxiana*.'

JAN MORRIS, THE SUNDAY TIMES

'...a poet as well as a scholar, a Jesuit as well as a poet.'

SIMON RAVEN

A Dragon Apparent

*Travels in Cambodia,
Laos & Vietnam*

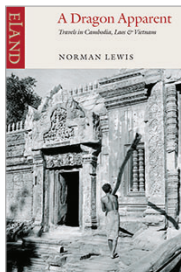
NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-0907871-330

Format: 336pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Cambodia/Laos/Vietnam



Travelling through Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the twilight of the French colonial regime, Norman Lewis witnessed these ancient civilisations as they were before the terrible devastation of the Vietnam war. He creates a portrait of traditional societies struggling to retain their integrity in the embrace of the West. He meets emperors and slaves, brutal plantation owners and sympathetic French officers trapped by the economic imperatives of the colonial experiment.

From tribal animists to Viet-Minh guerrillas, he witnesses this heart-breaking struggle over and over, leaving a vital portrait of a society on the brink of catastrophic change.

‘an absorbing and heart-aching glimpse of lands,
peoples and customs which have gone forever.’

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

‘Mr Lewis can make even a lorry interesting.’

CYRIL CONNOLLY, SUNDAY TIMES

Golden Earth

Travels in Burma

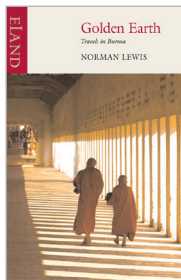
NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-0907871-385

Format: 296pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Burma



Norman Lewis describes a land of breath-taking natural beauty peopled by the gentle Burmese. This is a country where Buddhist beliefs spare even the rats, where the Director of Prisons quotes Chaucer and where three-day theatrical shows are staged to celebrate a monk taking orders.

Hitching lifts with the army and with travelling merchants, Lewis is treated with hospitality wherever he stops in this war-torn land, and reveals a country where ‘the condition of the soul replaces that of the stock markets as a topic for polite conversation’.

‘A truly great travel writer, perhaps the greatest we have.’

IAN THOMPSON, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

‘... the best ever written about Burma.’

NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS

The Honoured Society

The Sicilian Mafia Observed

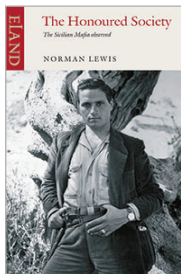
NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-0907871-484

Format: 272pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Sicily



Norman Lewis gives a fascinating and detailed account of how the Mafia was returned to power in 1944 by the unsuspecting US army, after Mussolini had come close to destroying it.

He looks at the Mafia in their homeland and how in their attempt to preserve Sicily for the Sicilians, despite countless invasions, they infiltrated every aspect of the island's life, corrupting landowners, police, the judiciary and even the church.

In one chilling chapter, Lewis details the escapades of eighty-year-old Padre Camelo who led his monks on sprees of murder and extortion, frequently using the confessional box for transmitting threats.

'The Mafia observed by one of the greatest writers of our time.'

OBSERVER

'... every page is horribly absorbing.'

THE TIMES

Naples '44

An Intelligence Officer in the Italian Labyrinth

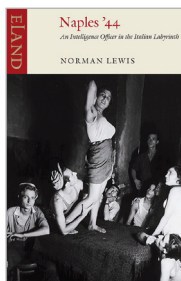
NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-0907871-729

Format: 192pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Italy



Lewis arrived in war-torn Naples as an intelligence officer in 1944. The starving population had devoured all the tropical fish in the aquarium, respectable women had been driven to prostitution and the black market was king.

Lewis found little to admire in his fellow soldiers, but gained sustenance from the extraordinary vivacity of the Italians. There is the gynaecologist who 'specialises in the restoration of lost virginity' and the widowed housewife who times her British lover against the clock. 'Were I given the chance to be born again,' wrote Lewis, 'Italy would be the country of my choice'.

'... one of the greatest of twentieth-century British writers and *Naples '44* is his masterpiece. A lyrical, ironic and detached account.'

WILL SELF

'One goes on reading page after page as if eating cherries.'

LUIGI BARZINI, NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS

Voices of the Old Sea

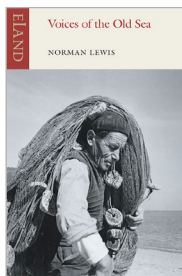
NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-1906011-611

Format: 222pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Spain



In the late 1940s, Norman Lewis settled in a remote fishing village on what is now the Costa Brava in Spain, relishing a society where men regulated their lives by the sardine shoals of spring and autumn and the tuna fishing of summer, and where women kept goats and gardens, arranged marriages and made frugal ends meet.

Over the course of three years he watches with sorrow and affection as the villagers struggle to hang on to a way of life unchanged for centuries. How long can their precarious economy, their ancient feuds and traditions – not least the evenings of impromptu blank verse in the bar – hold out against the encroaching tide of package tourism, which sidles insidiously into the village with the arrival of black-marketeer Muga?

‘His account of Farol on the Costa Brava is a quirky masterpiece.’

CHRIS HIRST, THE INDEPENDENT

‘... a haunting book that encapsulates a whole social revolution.’

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

Jackdaw Cake

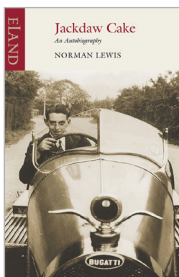
An Autobiography

NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-1906011-826

Format: 250pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



Norman Lewis moves from Spiritualist parents in Enfield to live with supremely dotty aunts in Carmarthen, whose baking of a weekly cake to feed the jackdaws gives the book its title.

Escaping his eccentric family by marrying the daughter of a Sicilian associate of the Mafia, Norman made a living as a wedding photographer and by dealing in cameras, while restoring and racing Bugattis for pleasure. Here we see his first journeys in Spain, Cuba and the Yemen, and a wartime spent in Algeria, Sicily and Italy, all of which acted as an apprenticeship for his career as one of the twentieth century's greatest travel writers.

‘... as a witness to his own times – the good, the bad and the ludicrous – he is unmatched?’

SUNDAY TIMES

‘... this book, hilarious, tender, beautifully written, is certainly one of Norman Lewis's best.’

LITERARY REVIEW

A View of the World

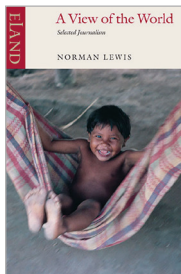
Selected Journalism

NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-0907871-439

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £14.99



Collected between these covers are twenty of Norman Lewis's finest pieces of travel writing, spanning a period of 30 years. He brings us face to face with Castro's executioner, with a tragic Ernest Hemingway and with the unchanged lifestyle of fishermen in an unspoilt Ibiza. He describes the gentle pleasures of Belize, the ferocious blood feuds of Sardinian bandits and the unpleasant duty of repatriating Cossacks to the Soviet Union in 1944.

At the heart of the collection is Lewis's famous report on the genocide of the Brazilian Indians, which led to the creation of Survival International – which campaigns for the rights of tribal peoples. This, Lewis felt, was the most important achievement of his professional life.

'Everything is portrayed with a brilliance which makes all other travel-writing read like the blurb on a brochure.'

TIME OUT

'*A View of the World* will carry Norman Lewis's reputation even higher than it already is. It is a triumph.'

PATRICK MARNHAM, LITERARY REVIEW

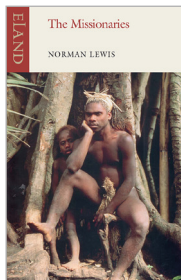
The Missionaries

NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-1906011-529

Format: 205pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



The Missionaries is a searing examination of attempts by North American fundamentalist Christian missionaries to convert indigenous tribes around the globe, and the genocide which so often results. In a distillation of a lifetime's observation on the ground, Norman Lewis contrasts the self-contained, peaceful traditions of the tribal people he so admires with the shameless violence, the bogus piety, the ruthless double standards and the mercenary greed of the men and women who seek to convert them.

By simply observing the two groups and describing their words and actions, Lewis leaves the reader devastated by man's capacity for cruelty and with no doubt as to which of the two – missionaries or tribespeople – inhabits the superior culture.

‘... a scathing and ironic indictment of which a
Voltaire or a Swift might be proud.’

SUNDAY TIMES

‘... compulsive, deeply upsetting and unforgettable.’

FINANCIAL TIMES

A Goddess in the Stones

Travels in India

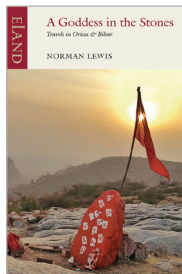
NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-1780601-083

Format: 240pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: India



Norman Lewis avoids the easy pleasures of travelling through the hill-forts of Rajasthan, visiting palace hotels and the Taj Mahal. Instead his travels in India begin in the impoverished, overpopulated and corrupt state of Bihar - the scene of a brutal caste war between the untouchables and higher-caste gangsters. From these violent happenings, he heads down the coast of Bengal and into the highlands of Orissa to testify and learn from the life of the 'indigenous tribals' who have survived in isolation.

'Lewis's senses are awake for sounds or smells and he can make you think twice about scenes you have seen ten thousand times before ... a joy to read.'

WILLIAM DALRYMPLE, SPECTATOR

'Lewis is one of the best travel writers I've read. He can bring anywhere in the world close to you because it's the people he is interested in, not the sunrises and sunsets.'

MICHAEL PALIN

An Empire of the East

Travels in Indonesia

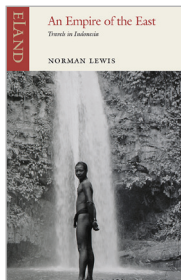
NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-1780601-021

Format: 280pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Indonesia



Norman Lewis was eighty-three years old when in 1991 he embarked on a series of three arduous journeys into the most contentious corners of Indonesia: into the extreme western edge of Sumatra, into East Timor and Irian Jaya. He never drops his guard, reporting only on what he can observe, and using his well-honed tools of irony, humour and restraint to assess the power of the ruling Javanese generals who for better or worse took over the 300-year old dominion of the exploitative Dutch colonial regime.

‘Mr Lewis has, with his inveterate skill, presented these purgatories with a light touch. His prose is almost edible. In old age he is writing better than ever.’

ANTHONY BURGESS

‘... a powerful work, made brilliant by its simplicity.’

MICHAEL FATHERS, INDEPENDENT

In Sicily

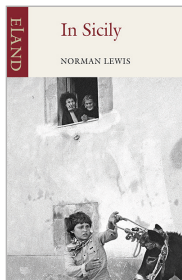
NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-1780600-093

Format: 184pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Sicily



This loving profile of an extraordinary country is based on Lewis's sixty-year fascination with all things Sicilian. From marrying the daughter of a mafioso exile in the 1930s, to his last trip to Sicily in the late 1990s, Lewis watched the island closely and returned frequently to chronicle its pleasures and its pain. His first wartime visit as a soldier led to numerous trips researching his acclaimed study of the mafia, *The Honoured Society*.

This final portrait of the island was written when he was in his early nineties. It interweaves memories of earlier trips with descriptions of Sicily as he now found it, all pinned down with his formidable style and rasping, dry humour. It is the last work of a man described Graham Greene as 'one of the best writers, not of any particular decade, but of our century.'

'...still travelling and writing beautifully.'

EVENING STANDARD

'...Sicily emerges as a beautiful, accursed and irresistible place.'

LITERARY REVIEW

The Tomb in Seville

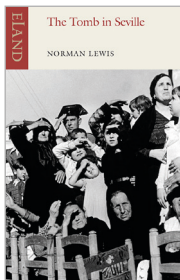
NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-1780600-086

Format: 192pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Spain



In 1934, Norman Lewis and his brother-in-law Eugene Corvaja travelled across the breadth of Spain on what turned out to be the eve of the murderous civil war. Commissioned by his Sicilian father-in-law to locate the tomb of the last Spanish Corvaja in the cathedral of Seville, when public transport came to a standstill, the two walked more than a hundred miles to Madrid, and were then forced via Portugal to Seville.

What is entirely in keeping with the mischievous character of Norman Lewis is that this, his very last book, is also his first. For the extraordinary set of misadventures distilled and honed by the nonagenarian writer in *The Tomb in Seville* were first described in Lewis's apprentice work, *Spanish Adventure*.

‘Crackles with poker-faced wit and stylistic brilliance.’

THE GUARDIAN

‘Full of feeling...and a love of the natural world.’

LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS

An Indian Attachment

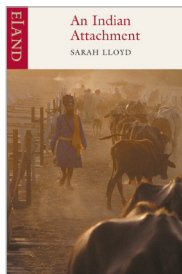
SARAH LLOYD

ISBN: 978-1906011-031

Format: 246pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

Place: India



An Indian Attachment tells the story of a love affair between Sarah, a young British woman of adventurous spirit, and Jungli, an impoverished, opium-addicted Sikh temple servant. But this is not just a cross-cultural love story. With totally convincing authority, it immerses the reader in the realities of rural India like no other book, made vivid by a meticulous examination of landscape and a description of the realities of desperate poverty, first in a remote Punjabi village in 1979 and afterwards in a fly-blown, rat- and snake-infested, ramshackle community which grew up around an authoritarian holy man.

‘a brilliant exposé of village India.’

JONATHAN KEAY

‘harder to put down than any thriller.’

JOHN MELLORS

92 Acharnon Street

A Year in Athens

JOHN LUCAS

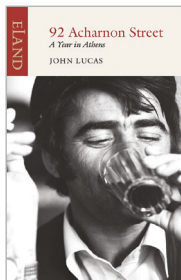
With photographs
by Pamela Browne

ISBN: 978-1906011-574

Format: 224pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Greece



Greece has always had its admirers, though none seems to have cherished the Athenian tavernas, the murderous traffic and the jaded prostitutes, the petty bureaucratic tyrannies, the street noise and the heroic individualists with the irony and detachment of John Lucas. 92 Acharnon Street is a gritty portrait of a dirty city and a corrupt country. Yet Lucas's love for the realities of Greece finally banishes the banality of a half-century of tourism. This is Greece as the Greeks would recognise it, seen through the eyes of a poet.

‘John Lucas writes about Greek culture and Greek people
with a sympathetic understanding born of love.’

MANOS GEORGINIS

‘Lucas is a dab hand at social observation ... his
language cackles with colloquial art.’

PETER ROBINSON, GUARDIAN

Among the Faithful

Tunisia in the 1920s

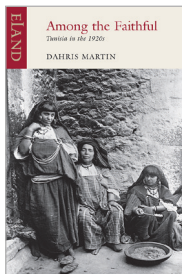
DAHRIS MARTIN

ISBN: 978-1780600-543

Format: 192pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Tunisia



Dahris Martin, a young American in search of sun, arrived in the holy city of Kairouan in the late 1920s. Befriended by the roguish Kalipha, she becomes part of his circle of friends and family.

Among the Faithful is a unique portrait of traditional Tunisian society. It tells of the deflowering of virgin brides, spirit possession and dances held for djinn. It sings the praises of the unsung: of Eltifa the blind musician, Zinibe who had a heart for all the world and the entrancing, dancing Aisha.

Dahris Martin witnessed domestic life in Tunisia from within, a privilege she shares without pretension, with affection and with a sure lightness of touch.

‘... a vivid account of life behind the veil.’

KATIE HICKMAN

‘... it opens a fascinating window onto Tunisia before the crowds.’

SUNDAY TIMES

Lords of the Atlas

*The Rise and Fall of the
House of Glaoua 1893-1956*

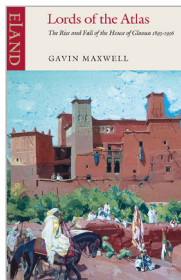
GAVIN MAXWELL

ISBN: 978-0907871-149

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Morocco



Set in the medieval city of Marrakesh and the majestic kasbahs of the High Atlas mountains, *Lords of the Atlas* tells the extraordinary story of Madani and T'hami el Glaoui, warlord brothers who carved out a feudal fiefdom in southern Morocco in the early twentieth-century.

Quislings of the French colonial administration, they combined the aggression of gangland mobsters with the opulence of hereditary Indian princes, and ruled with a mixture of flamboyance and terror. On returning from the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, T'hami ordered the severed heads of his enemies to be mounted on his gates. Yet in 1956, when the French left Morocco, the Glaoua regime toppled like a pack of cards.

'... one of the great adventure stories of the twentieth century.'

RICHARD FORD

'His best book.'

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

A Reed Shaken by the Wind

*Travels among the Marsh
Arabs of Iraq*

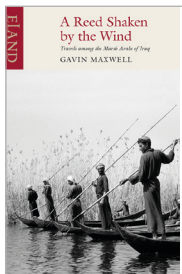
GAVIN MAXWELL

ISBN: 978-0907871-934

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Iraq



The Marsh Arabs of southern Iraq were one of the most isolated communities in the world. Few outsiders, let alone Europeans, had been permitted to travel through their homeland: a mass of tiny islands lost in a wilderness of reeds and swamps in southern Iraq. One of the few trusted outsiders was the legendary explorer Wilfred Thesiger, who was Gavin Maxwell's guide to the intricate landscape, tribal customs and distinctive architecture of the Marsh Arabs. Thesiger's skill with a medicine chest and rifle assured them a welcome in every hamlet, and Maxwell's training as a naturalist and writer has left an invaluable record of a unique community and a vanished way of life.

'... prose close to poetry.'

NEW YORK TIMES

'... an almost perfect book of travel.'

NEW YORKER

The Narrow Smile

A Journey Back to the North-West Frontier

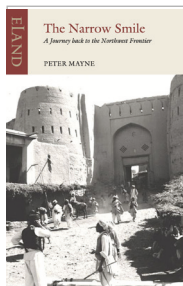
PETER MAYNE

ISBN 978-1-780602-097

Format: 260pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: North-West Frontier: Pakistan
and Afghanistan



The Narrow Smile is about people even more than their place, though we feel the heat and the dust as we travel to highland villages as well as the enchantment of high flowery valleys and the roof of the world beyond white with summer snow. Peter Mayne spent four years amongst the Pathan tribesmen during the Second World War, as a RAF officer seconded for special frontier duties, after which he served Pakistan as deputy secretary to the Minister of Refugees after the Partition.

So *The Narrow Smile* is a “journey back”, an unsentimental “sentimental journey” to rediscover old friends who held his attention, as hard as unrelenting as the mountains that for centuries have assured their independence: democratic to the point where no man admits the right of another to lead him: each one a compound of nobility and realism with an unbreakable code of honour. Mayne is sometimes serious, often very funny, but at all times compassionate.

‘one of the best pieces of writing about a remote part of the world...I have seldom enjoyed a travel book so much.’

THE OBSERVER

A Year in Marrakesh

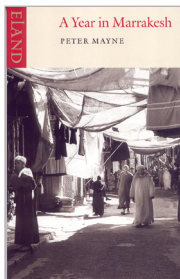
PETER MAYNE

ISBN: 978-0907871-088

Format: 192pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Morocco



Having learned to appreciate Muslim life while living in Pakistan, Peter Mayne settled down to live in the back streets of Marrakesh in the 1950s. Rather than watch from the shelter of the hotel terrace, he rented rooms, learned the language, made friends and became embroiled in conspiratorial picnics, hashish-laced dinners and in the enchantments and misunderstandings of the street, with its festivals, love affairs, potions and gossip.

By turns used, abused and cherished by his neighbours, Mayne wrote their letters for them and captured the essence of their lives in this affectionate and hilarious account.

‘Few writers have evoked the spirit of place as brilliantly as Peter Mayne, who was to Morocco what Norman Douglas was to Capri and Lawrence Durrell to Greece.’

TATLER

‘Captures the very essence of the place with an easy, natural style that makes it completely compelling.’

YORKSHIRE POST

Turkish Embassy Letters

MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU

With an introduction by
Dervla Murphy

Publication Date: 2021

ISBN: 978-1-78060-039-0

Format: 200pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Turkey



Mary Montagu was ‘one of the most extraordinary characters in the world’- a self-educated intellectual, a free spirit and a feminist but also a society wit with powerful friends in the Royal Court. In 1716 she travelled across Europe to live in Istanbul as the wife of the British ambassador. Her letters remain as fresh as the day they were penned, enchanted by discovering life of Turkish women behind the veil and by such innovative medical practice as inoculation. For two years she observed Ottoman society with affection, intelligence and an astonishing lack of prejudice. She is one the first modern travel writers and still one of the best, recording a lived culture through its own values and its own language. In her own words, “No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure more lasting.”

‘What fire, what ease, what knowledge of Europe and Asia’

GIBBON

‘Her letters have an immediacy and vivacity that remains as fresh as the mosaics on the ancient monuments she saw and the eastern gardens that gave her such delight’

ANITA DESAI

Journeys of a German in England

A Walking Tour of England in 1782

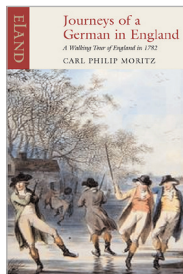
CARL PHILIP MORITZ

ISBN: 978-1906011-437

Format: 208pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

Place: England



In 1782 an enthusiastic young German landed in England. Through the fresh eyes of a foreigner we get a wonderful insight into what has or hasn't changed within the last two hundred years. In a series of letters home he describes his amazement at the number of English people who wore spectacles, the amount they drank, the dreadful food they ate, the expense of a simple salad, the drunkenness of the dons, the riotous behaviour in Parliament, and the high level of education among ordinary people.

'The writing is so fresh that you are startled
when a stage-coach appears.'

BYRON ROGERS, STANDARD

'This account of his travels has a clarity and freshness
quite unsurpassed by any contemporary descriptions.'

IAIN HAMILTON, ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

Sultan in Oman

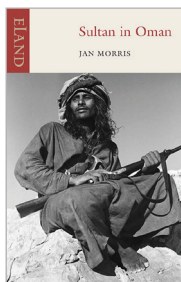
JAN MORRIS

ISBN: 978-1906011-178

Format: 168pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Arabia/Oman



In 1955 the winds of change were beginning to blow across the sultanate of Oman, a hitherto truly medieval state. Rumours of subversion mingled with the unsettling smell of oil to propel the Sultan on a royal progress across the desert hinterland, from his southern capital of Salala to the northern capital of Muscat. It was an historic journey – the first crossing of the Omani desert by motorcar. Jan Morris accompanied His Highness Sultan Said bin Taimur as a professional observer, and was inspired by the experience to write her major work of imperial history, the Pax Britannica trilogy.

‘A minor literary masterpiece.’

RICHARD CROSSMAN, NEW STATESMAN

‘The book is a hymn to a lost culture and a lost society; romantic without being sentimental, often extremely funny and brilliantly observed. It is the work of a great travel writer incapable of producing a trite or ungainly sentence.’

PHILIP ZIEGLER, DAILY TELEGRAPH

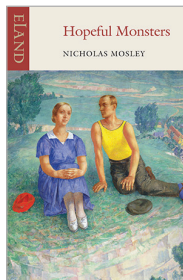
Hopeful Monsters

NICHOLAS MOSLEY

ISBN: 978-1906011-116

Format: 608pp demi pb

Price: £14.99



Through a dialogue between two lovers, a young physicist in England and an anthropologist in Germany, Nicholas Mosley retells the history of Europe in the twenties and thirties. The destructive power and attraction of fascism and communism is set against the changing relationship between man and science in the time of atomic power. And through it all runs their love for one another, like a life-giving stream twisting and turning through time, but running to the end.

Their story weaves together disparate landscapes taking the reader on a journey through Spain, London, Soviet Russia, North Africa and middle Europe. Simultaneously it takes us through the intellectual landscape of the new sciences – physics, biology, anthropology and psychology. This is a vivid, strange and compelling book, which captures a time of great intellectual excitement and great evil.

‘Quite simply, the best English novel to have
been written since the Second World War.’

A. N. WILSON, EVENING STANDARD

Full Tilt

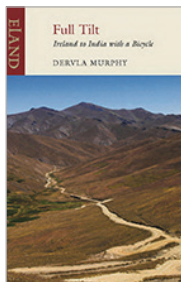
Ireland to India with a bicycle

DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN: 978-1906011-413

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £14.99



When Dervla Murphy was ten, she was given a bicycle and an atlas, and within days she was secretly planning a trip to India. At the age of thirty-one, in 1963, she finally set off and this book is based on the daily diary she kept while riding through Persia, Afghanistan and over the Himalayas to Pakistan and India. A lone woman on a bicycle (with a revolver in her trouser pocket) was an almost unknown occurrence and a focus of enormous interest wherever she went. Undaunted by snow in alarming quantities, and using her .25 pistol on starving wolves in Bulgaria and to scare lecherous Kurds in Persia, her resourcefulness and the blind eye she turned to personal danger and extreme discomfort were remarkable.

‘Continuously entertaining ... continuously astonishing?’

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

‘She avoided wolves, floods, robbery, had three ribs broken in a brawl in an Afghan bus... suffered extremes of heat and cold, ate everything, liked almost everybody?’

HOMES AND GARDENS

Tibetan Foothold

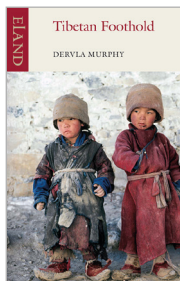
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN: 978-1906011-642

Format: 224pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: India/Himalayas



After her epic journey from Ireland to India in 1963, Dervla Murphy immersed herself in the life of the subcontinent, working for six months in an orphanage for Tibetan children in Northern India. She fell in love with the ‘Tiblets’ – the cheerful, uncomplaining, independent and affectionate children of the new Tibet-in-exile – but she also managed to explore India’s Tibetan frontier, leaving the reader panting in her wake. *Tibetan Foothold* not only confirmed Dervla’s status as a traveller, but also revealed her to be a truly independent voice and an acute observer of politics and society.

‘Humour and sturdiness are only the half of it:
Dervla Murphy is that rare traveller who can make
the world seem both wider and more intimate?’

OBSERVER

‘This is a moving – at times even harrowing – story. But
it is leavened by the writer’s irrepressible zest for life, her
warm humanity, her courage and good humour.’

IRISH INDEPENDENT

The Waiting Land

A Spell in Nepal

DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN: 978-1906011-659

Format: 216pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Nepal



The Waiting Land is the third in a series of books tracing Dervla's involvement with the self-sufficient mountain cultures of the Himalayas. Lured by the chance to work again with refugees (a group of five hundred Tibetans lodged in tents in the remote Pokhara valley), Dervla settles down to live in a tiny, vermin-infested room above a stall in a bazaar. Here she falls under the spell of the ancient land of Nepal, poised between East and West, between China and India, between Buddhism and Hinduism, yet true to its own distinct civilization. Dervla's understanding of the roots of the Nepalese past, and her own stamina, culminate in an epic trek into the remote Langtang region on the border with Tibet.

'She revels in bizarre experiences and strange encounters in a land where the only thing certain is that the unpredictable always happens.'

IRISH INDEPENDENT

'Dashing in her insight, beautifully responsive to environment, supportive to people of most sorts, sometimes exceedingly funny.'

TLS

In Ethiopia with a Mule

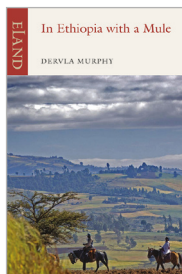
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN 978-1906011-673

Format: 280pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Ethiopia



Inspired by a childhood stories of Prester John and the Queen of Sheba, in 1966 Dervla Murphy bought Jock, an amiable pack-mule in order to trek across the highlands of this awesome, but troubled land. She wandered south from the Red Sea shore to Sheba's Aksum, and upto the icy roof of Africa, the Semien mountains. From there she descended to the ruined palaces of Gondar and skirted the northern shore of Lake Tana before crossing the drought-afflicted high ranges to Lalibela. Having exchanged the exhausted Jock (named after her publisher) for an un-cooperative donkey, Dervla completed her journey to Addis Ababa. Her real achievement, was not surviving three armed robberies or a thousand mile trail but rather the growing affection and understanding of another race.

‘One of the supreme virtues of Miss Murphy as a travel writer – she is human. She needs her drink; she craves her cigarettes; she is capable of losing her temper; she smuggles things through customs. A more virtuous figure would be far less endearing.’

DAILY TELEGRAPH

On a Shoestring to Coorg

An experience of southern India

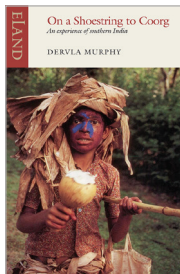
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN 978-1780600-123

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: India



Dervla Murphy and her daughter Rachel – with little money, no taste for luxury and few concrete plans – meander their way slowly south from Bombay to the southernmost point of India, Cape Comorin. Interested in everything they see, but only truly enchanted by people, they stay in fishermen's huts and no-star hotels, travelling in packed-out buses, on foot and by local boats.

Instead of pressing ever onwards, like so many travellers, they double back to the place they liked most, the hill province of Coorg and settle down to live there for two months. Dervla Murphy creates an extraordinarily affectionate portrait of these cardamom-scented, spiritually and agriculturally self-sufficient Highlands.

‘A travel writer of rare quality and freshness.’

THE OBSERVER

‘Murphy spans the wide range of sensation of India, where moments of great happiness come hard upon frustration and stench.’

THE GUARDIAN

Where the Indus is Young

A Winter in Baltistan

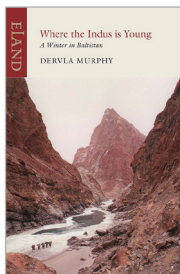
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN 978-1906011-666

Format: 280pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Pakistan/Himalayas



In *Where the Indus is Young*, Dervla Murphy's indomitable will is matched by that of four-footed Hallam and her six-year-old daughter Rachel. Together they make a mockery of fear, trekking through the awe-inspiring Karakorum mountains not only in the heart of winter, but close to Pakistan's disputed border with Kashmir. They work their way up beside the perilous gorge carved through the mountains by the Indus, lodging with locals and eating, sleeping and bargaining with the Balts, who farm one of the remotest regions on earth.

Despite the hardship, Dervla never forgets the point of travel, retaining enthusiasm for her magnificent surroundings and using her sense of humour to bring out the best in her hosts, who are often locked into the melancholic mood of mid-winter.

‘...the most appallingly fascinating travel book that I have ever read.’

JAN MORRIS, THE TIMES

‘... the lasting impression left by this book is one of sheer joy.’

COLIN THUBRON, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

A Place Apart

Northern Ireland in the 1970s

DERVLA MURPHY

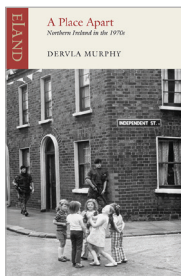
With afterword by
David Ramsbotham

ISBN 978-1780600-116

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Ireland



At the height of The Troubles, Dervla Murphy bicycled to Northern Ireland to try to understand the situation by speaking to people on either side of the divide.

Despite her own family connections to the IRA, she travelled north largely unfettered by sectarian loyalties. Armed instead with an indefatigable curiosity, a fine ear for anecdote, an ability to stand her own at the bar and a penetrating intelligence, she navigated her way through horrifying situations, and sometimes found herself among people stiff with hate and grief. But equally, she discovered an unquenchable thirst for life and peace, a spirit that refused to die.

‘Genial, tolerant and affectionate. It seems incredible that such a foul oyster should produce such a pearl.’

THE TIMES

‘An extraordinarily successful attempt to present Northern Ireland from inside out, with honesty, sympathy and understanding.’

TLS

Wheels within Wheels

The Makings of a Traveller

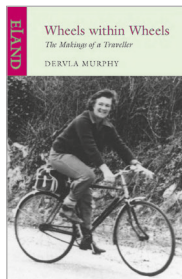
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN 978-1906011-406

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price £14.99

Place: Ireland, Autobiography



What is it that makes us who we are? In this beautifully written and searingly honest autobiography, the intrepid cyclist and traveller Dervla Murphy remembers her richly unconventional first thirty years. She describes her determined childhood self – strong-willed and beguiled by books from the first – her intermittent formal education and the intense relationship of an only child with her parents, particularly her invalid mother whom she nursed until her death.

Here lie the roots of Dervla's gift for friendship, her love of writing, her curiosity, her hatred of cant, her hardiness and her desire to travel. Bicycling fifty miles in a day at the age of eleven, alone, it seems only natural that her first major journey should have been to cycle to India.

'An extraordinary book, reflecting an extraordinary woman and one of the great travellers of our time.'

WILLIAM TREVOR, THE TIMES

'A giant of travel writing.'

MATTHEW PARRIS, BBC RADIO 4

The Island That Dared

Journeys in Cuba

DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN 978-1906011-4-68

Format: 422pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Cuba



Take a three-generation family holiday in Cuba in the company of Dervla Murphy, her daughter and three young granddaughters and you have a ‘Swallows and Amazons’ adventure in the Caribbean. They trek into the hills and along the coast, camp out on empty beaches beneath the stars and relish the ubiquitous Cuban hospitality. But this is just the start of a fully-fledged quest to understand the unique society created by the Cuban Revolution. For Dervla later returns alone to investigate the experience of modern Cuba with her particular, candid curiosity and creates a complex picture of a people struggling to retain their identity in the face of insistent hostility from America.

‘Fierce, highly moral and uncompromising, this is classic Murphy.

In an often anodyne world, she remains an original...she is a refreshingly defiant voice, straight-talking and no-nonsense.’

JUSTIN MAROZZI, THE FINANCIAL TIMES

‘Dervla Murphy’s travelogue is as close as any foreigner is likely to get to the life of Cubans on the brink.’

STEPHEN SMITH, DAILY TELEGRAPH

A Month by the Sea

Encounters in Gaza

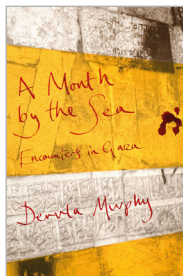
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN 978-1780600-673

Format: 258pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Gaza, Palestine



Over the summer of 2011, in her eightieth year, Dervla Murphy spent a month in the Gaza Strip. She met liberals and Islamists, Hamas and Fatah supporters, rich and poor. Used to western reporters dashing in and out of the Strip in times of crisis, the people she met were touched by her genuine, unflinching interest and opened their hearts to her. What she finds are a people who, far from the story we are so often fed, overwhelmingly long for peace and an end to the violence that has so grossly distorted their lives. The impression we take away from the book is of a people whose real, complex, nuanced voice has never been heard before.

‘Her book is a kind of wake-up call to the world.’

COLM TÓIBÍN

‘*A Month By the Sea* is a restless antidote
to the easy road of indifference.’

TOM ADAIR, SCOTSMAN

Between River and Sea

Encounters in Israel and Palestine

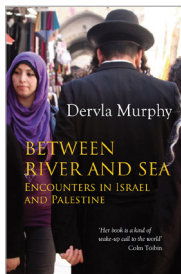
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN 978-1780600-703

Format: 442pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Israel, Palestine



Dervla Murphy describes with passionate honesty the experience of her most recent journeys into Israel and Palestine. In cramped Haifa high-rises, in homes in the settlements and in a refugee camp on the West Bank, she talks with whomever she meets, trying to understand them and their attitudes with her customary curiosity, her acute ear and mind, her empathy, her openness to the experience and her moral seriousness. Behind the book lies a desire to communicate the reality of life on the ground, and to puzzle out for herself what might be done to alleviate the suffering of all who wish to share this land and to make peace in the region a possibility.

‘There are no no-go areas for the wonderfully
intrepid Dervla Murphy.’

DONALD MACINTYRE, INDEPENDENT

Somebody Else

Arthur Rimbaud in Africa, 1880-91

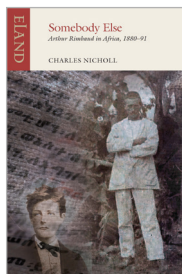
CHARLES NICHOLL

ISBN: 978-178060-169-4

Format: 405pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia



Rimbaud was the original enfant terrible. A poetic genius who destroyed all those who attempted to befriend him, most notoriously destroying the marriage and sanity of Verlaine. Having conquered the literary world of Paris, he decided to abandon France and take ship to the East, carrying only a brown suitcase fastened with four leather straps and a touch of fever. The subsequent period “the lost years” is the subject of this biographical quest. Charles Nicholl pieces together the shadowy story of Rimbaud’s life as a trader, explorer and gun-runner. We catch his trail in Somalia, in the alleys of Djibouti, up in the highlands of Ethiopia, in the souks of Cairo with twenty pounds of gold strapped around his waist and escorting a camel-train of Remington rifles across the Danakil desert.

‘Fascinating...superbly chronicled’

GUARDIAN

‘A thrilling hybrid of travelogue and detective story ... deserves to become a classic.’

IAN THOMSON, SUNDAY TIMES

Borderlines

A Journey in Thailand and Burma

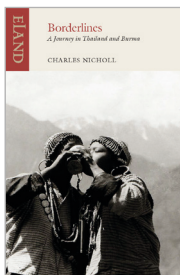
CHARLES NICHOLL

ISBN: 978-178061-687

Format: 238pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Thailand, Burma



In 1986 Charles Nicholl took three months off to travel through Thailand in order to learn about the spiritual traditions of forest Buddhism in the north of the country. But interesting things have a habit of getting in the way, be it on the streets of Bangkok or on the night train to the north, a chance meeting with an old French hand called Harry who has a hundred stories and many identities that wrap themselves around some intriguing projects. And so the travels unfold of themselves, a trip along the banks of the Mekong, a journey into the Golden Triangle and then across the border into Burma. Always beautifully told in a crisp, quick and elusive style, the book is a reminder that great adventures still exist.

‘A sort of literary Indiana Jones. His dark curiosity
leads him across closed borders and
keeps his travelogue bristling with anticipation.’

7 DAYS

‘Nicholl is in the front rank of travel writers.’

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

Sweet Waters

An Istanbul Adventure

HAROLD NICOLSON

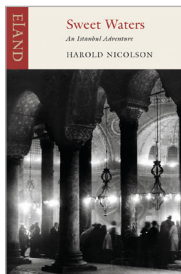
Foreword by Nigel Nicolson,
biographical afterword by Ariane Banks

ISBN: 978-1906011-079

Format: 208pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Turkey



Sweet Waters is a gripping novel set on the banks of the Bosphorous in old Istanbul. Beneath the surface sparkle of the waters there are deep and dangerous currents at play. These are the last years of the intrigue-ridden Ottoman Empire. Political intrigue and blackmail, love, friendship and ambition – all are tested as Balkan troops close in on the beleaguered city.

Sweet Waters contains magical descriptions of Istanbul before it was transformed into the bustling metropolis of today and a fictionalised description of Harold falling in love with Vita Sackville-West. It is a political thriller, a love story and a travel book in one.

‘The book contains some splendid descriptions of Constantinople in the dying days of the Sultanate.’

PHILIP ZEIGLER, DAILY TELEGRAPH

Portrait of a Turkish Family

IRFAN ORGA

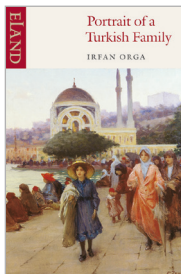
With a biographical afterword by
Ates Orga

ISBN: 978-0907871-828

Format: 310pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Turkey



Irfan Orga was born into a prosperous family in the twilight of the Ottoman Empire. His mother was a beauty, married at thirteen, who lived in the seclusion of the harem as befitted Turkish women of her class. His grandmother was an eccentric autocrat, determined at all costs to maintain her traditional habits. But the First World War changed everything. Death and financial disaster reigned; the Sultan was overthrown and Turkey became a republic. The family was forced to adapt to an unimaginably impoverished life. In 1942 Orga arrived in London, and seven years later he wrote this extraordinary story of his family's survival.

'This has to be one of the most remarkable
and enjoyable of all modern memoirs'

CAROLINE MOORHEAD

'This book is a little masterpiece'

ROBERT FOX, DAILY TELEGRAPH

The Caravan Moves On

*Three Weeks among
Turkish Nomads*

IRFAN ORGA

With an afterword by
Ates Orga

ISBN: 978-0907871-972

Format: 176pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Turkey



Irfan Orga, author of *Portrait of a Turkish Family*, journeys to the centre of Turkey to stay with the Yürük nomads in the High Taurus mountains. He learns their lore, listens to their legends, and lives to feel that heroes dead a thousand years and abducted princesses turned mad by grief are still palpably alive.

Orga enters a world untouched by politics or the march of events. He reconnects us with a once-ubiquitous, emotional landscape – a visceral place underpinned by elemental values.

‘... reads as freshly as if it were written yesterday.’

CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER

‘... a travel book of the best sort.’

THE TIMES

The Undeclared

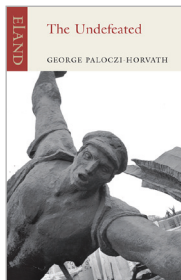
GEORGE PALOCZI-HORVATH

ISBN: 978-1906011-185

Format: 304pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

Place: Hungary



George Paloczi-Horvath was born in 1908 into the feudal nobility of Hungary. Despite his privileged background, he came to realise that his family's wealth was based on the exploitation of a brutalised peasantry. By the 1930s he was an active anti-Nazi and in 1941 he was forced to flee the country.

Returning after the war, he became a dedicated communist but this did not prevent him from being arrested, tortured and imprisoned by the communist regime. He spent 1,832 days in prison, many of them in the solitary confinement of underground prison cells. In 1954 he was eventually released, but after the Hungarian Revolution he was forced to escape with his wife and baby for sanctuary in Britain.

A new afterword by his widow, Agi Argent, describes how they survived.

‘As if Lewis Carroll and George Orwell had taken turns to rewrite each others’ masterpiece.’

OBSERVER

Travels into the Interior of Africa

MUNGO PARK

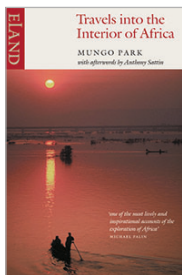
With afterwords
by Anthony Sattin

ISBN: 978-0907871-040

Format: 384pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: West Africa



Mungo Park's accounts of his journeys into West Africa in 1795 and again in 1805 provided Europeans with their first reliable description of the interior of the continent.

Though he failed in the object of his mission – to chart the course of the Niger river – he succeeded in leaving a unique record of everyday life before the exploitation of Africa by Europeans; as valuable today as it was then. His first-hand experiences of tribal justice, gold mining and the slave trade are recorded, as well as his own understated heroism. This is a story of courage, open-hearted friendship and betrayal.

‘One of the most lively and inspirational accounts of the exploration of Africa.’

MICHAEL PALIN

‘One of the most gripping adventure stories in the English language.’

DERVLA MURPHY, DAILY TELEGRAPH

The Common Stream

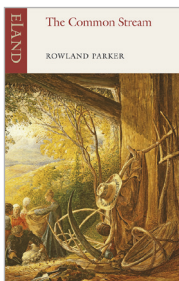
ROWLAND PARKER

ISBN: 978-1780600-758

Format: 288pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: British Isles



This is the story of a village in East Anglia, astride its common stream, a saga of continuity and change which stretches back across a landscape of two thousand years. It took Rowland Parker thirteen years of detective work to piece this jigsaw together, combing his way through archaeological repoints and manor court rolls, and collecting stories at the pub alongside his scholarly inspection of old wills and land tax returns. The intense focus he brought to his work was amplified by his desire to tell the story of the common man, his feuds and fun, his farms, fights, fornications and families.

‘... a book that brings those dusty old documents to vibrant life and reads at times like a detective story ...’

GRAHAM LORD, SUNDAY EXPRESS

‘Fascinating and pioneering.’

ANGUS WILSON, OBSERVER

Lighthouse

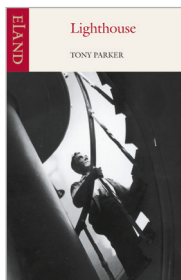
TONY PARKER

ISBN: 978-0907871-583

Format: 304pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: British Isles



What was it that led a man to make lighthouse keeping his life's occupation – to select a monotonous, lonely job, which took him away from his family for months at a time, leaving him in a cramped, narrow tower with two other men not of his own choosing?

Lighthouse keepers and their families opened their souls to Tony Parker, Britain's foremost oral historian and her most expert interviewer. With this revelatory portrait of a small community, living on the margins, he has given us an exceptional insight into both human nature and the British character.

'His books should be essential reading for every schoolkid, every politician and anyone who has anything to do with government. He gives an insight into the mechanics of people's lives and minds.'

BOB HARDY, FRANZ FERDINAND

'A splendid book which has enriched my understanding of human nature.'

SUNDAY TIMES

The People of Providence

A housing estate and some of its inhabitants

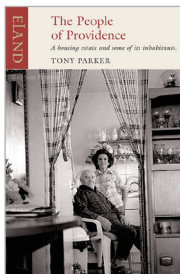
TONY PARKER

ISBN: 978-1906011-192

Format: 391pp demi pb

Price: £16.99

Place: London



Over a period of 18 months Tony Parker interviewed the residents of an ordinary housing estate in South London. He listened to an assortment of personalities including a vagrant, two policemen, an often-convicted fence who was the mother of five children, a pro-flogging magistrate, a local doctor and a seventy-five-year-old widower who spent ‘an hour or two in bed each week with one or other of about twelve different ladies I meet at our church’. The inhabitants of ‘Providence’ opened their hearts, revealing all their quirks, emotions and prejudices. These interviews prove that extraordinary stories are found not only in deserts and jungles. Even amid the bleak sprawl of South London, Parker discovered a community that is diverse and enthralling.

‘One of the most original, absorbing books I have read this year.’

OBSERVER

‘It is a triumph.’

TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

Begums, Thugs and White Mughals

The Journals of Fanny Parkes

FANNY PARKES

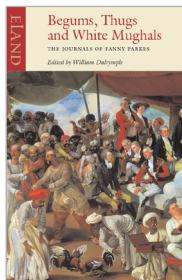
Edited by William Dalrymple

ISBN: 978-0907871-880

Format: 400pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: India



Fanny Parkes lived in India between 1822 and 1846. She was the ideal travel writer – courageous, indefatigably curious and determinedly independent. Her journals trace her transformation from a prim memsahib to an eccentric, sitar-playing Indophile, fluent in Urdu, critical of British rule and passionate in her appreciation of Indian culture.

Fanny is fascinated by the trial of thugs, the adorning of Hindu brides and swears by the efficacy of opium on headaches. To read her journals is to get as close as one can to a true picture of early colonial India – the sacred and the profane, the violent and the beautiful, the straight-laced sahibs and the ‘White Mughals’ who fell in love with India, married Indian wives and built bridges between the two cultures.

‘Her beautiful descriptive journals provide a remarkable insight into this crossroads in Anglo-Indian history?’

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

‘... extraordinarily modern and readable.’

The Last Time I Saw Paris

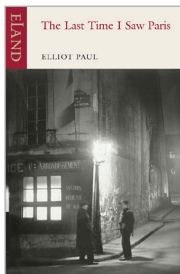
ELLIOT PAUL

ISBN: 978-1780600-741

Format: 352pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Paris



Elliot Paul, an American journalist, first walked into rue de la Huchette in the summer of 1923. ‘There,’ he wrote, ‘I found Paris.’

His biography of the street brings to life a cast of characters, from the stately M. de Malancourt to l’Hibou the tramp; from the culturally precocious Hyacinthe to a flock of prostitutes.

Their friendships and enmities, culture and way of life are woven into a tapestry as compelling as a novel. And as the threat of the Second World War grows, it endows their quiet, heroic lives with tragic poignancy.

The Last Time I Saw Paris is one of the great portraits of an unforgettable city.

‘... a small classic in the literature of Paris.’

SEBASTIAN FAULKS

‘A strongly written and compelling corrective
to the city of Hemingway.’

DAILY TELEGRAPH

Rites

A Childhood in Guatemala

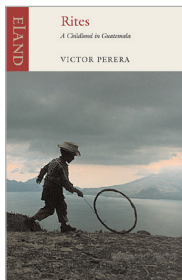
VICTOR PERERA

ISBN: 978-1906011-246

Format: 156pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Guatemala



Victor Perera's father, a talmudic scholar, was a first generation immigrant to Guatemala who began as an itinerant pedlar selling bolts of cloth to Indians. After arranging by post his marriage to a third cousin from Jerusalem, he gradually became one of the capital's leading merchants.

His son moved with a child's adaptability between the sheltered life of his bourgeois family and the catholic, antisemitic and sex-dominated world outside. While his Indian nurse, his white classmates, and his mestizo best friend were all destroyed by the violent character of life in Guatemala, Victor Perera managed to survive.

'Victor Perera is blessed with a salty wit, a marvellous turn of phrase and a cinematic eye for detail.'

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

'One closes this short book with a sharpened perception not only of life in mid-twentieth century Guatemala, but of life in Latin America as a whole.'

TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

A Cure for Serpents

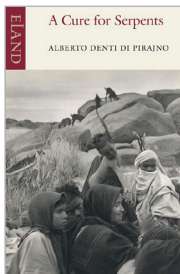
ALBERTO DENTI DI PIRAJNO

ISBN: 978-0907871-446

Format: 268pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Libya and other countries



In 1924, the irrepressibly curious Alberto Denti arrived in Libya to work in Italy's African colonies. With a natural ear for a story and a passionate interest in his work, he must have been as good a doctor as he is a writer. Though equally at home in an embassy or a brothel, Denti preferred the company of Berbers and Eritreans to that of his fellow Italians. He conjures up the dignity of local chieftains, the palpable charms of celebrated courtesans, the excitement of Tuareg entertainers and the love lost between himself and a wounded lion cub with all the charm of a man who boasted of the 'inestimable satisfactions known only to those who have lived in Africa'.

'In the class of book one wants to keep on a special shelf?

GOOD BOOK GUIDE

'... a cure for a great deal more than serpents.'

GUARDIAN

When Miss Emmie was in Russia

English Governesses before, during and after the October Revolution

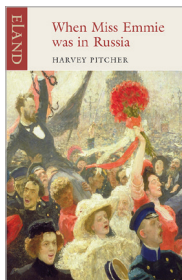
HARVEY PITCHER

ISBN: 978-1906011-499

Format: 263pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Russia



Miss Emmie is a curious, yet brilliantly achieved fusion of a book. At one level it is a social history chronicling the careers of five intrepid women who achieved an intellectual dignity, purpose and authority by working as governesses in Russia, achievements which would have been denied them in their homeland. On another it is an intimate portrait of pre-Revolutionary Russian society, which blows away the overblown stereotypes beloved by both Soviet and Tsarist apologists, to reveal a complex, liberal and humane society, full of enormous potential and past achievements. And as the revolution takes hold, so the book turns into a thriller and we follow, blow by blow, the extraordinary personal adventures of these women through revolution and civil war.

‘An enchanting book?’

PAUL SCOTT, COUNTRY LIFE

‘A vivid account of life in Old Russia.’

TLS

An Affair of the Heart

DILYS POWELL

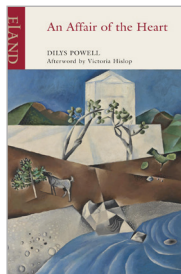
Afterword by Victoria Hislop

ISBN: 978-1-78060-156-4

Format: 269pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Greece



Dilys Powell's love affair with Greece and the Greeks began on a sun-baked archaeological dig in 1931. Joining her husband the archaeologist Humfry Payne on the remote peninsula of Perachora, she came to know the villagers who laboured on the site, camping beside them year after year, for months at a time.

Despite personal tragedy, the occupation of Greece and civil war, Powell's affair of the heart continued. She returned time and again through the '40s and '50s, and with each visit there was a reconciliation with her idyllic memories of the country. Both with Humfry and without, she explored remote mountains in the company of shepherds, isolated stretches of coast and island with local fishermen and olive-dotted hillsides with the subsistence farmers who worked them. Out of this she has fashioned a gem of a travel book.

'... a work which, in its genre and at its scale,
comes within sight of perfection.'

MICHAEL HAAG, INDEPENDENT

'A beautiful, exquisitely moving book.'

JOHN CONNELL

The Villa Ariadne

DILYS POWELL

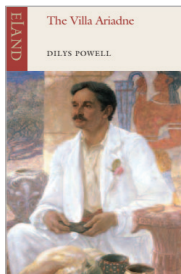
With a biographical afterword
by Rupert Smith

ISBN: 978-1780600-352

Format: 261pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Crete



The Villa Ariadne is a meditation on the island of Crete, centred on the house built by Sir Arthur Evans, the famous discoverer of Knossos. Dilys Powell captures the spirit of a place she loved dearly and a group of people she knew well, from local Cretans to the archaeologists Evans and Pendlebury. She also tells the story of its native inhabitant, the German General Kreipe, who was famously kidnapped on the island by Paddy Leigh-Fermor in one of the most audacious actions of World War II. Weaving the myths of the island with its archaeology, ancient history and modern tales, she gives us a loving portrait of this classical land.

‘... she wove a pattern of ancient and recent history
from the chiaroscuro of her recollections.’

MICHAEL HAAG, INDEPENDENT

‘Deeply engaging ... elevating and entertaining.’

TLS

Nunaga

Ten years among the Eskimos

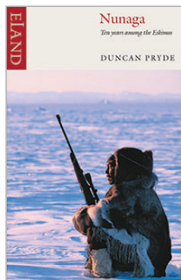
DUNCAN PRYDE

ISBN: 978-0907871-637

Format: 304pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Canada/Arctic



Duncan Pryde, a tough 18-year-old orphan and ex-merchant-seaman, left Glasgow to try his hand at fur-trading in the far north of Canada. His initiation into the realities of Eskimo life – the drink, the murderous blood feuds and the casual violence – reads with all the gripping pace of a thriller.

The environment suited him, and Pryde spent ten years becoming totally absorbed in this new life, even its most intimate manifestations. He learned to hunt seals and polar bears, witnessed the power of shamans, participated in wife-exchange and even ran his own dog sled.

His record of life in the Arctic is not only an astonishing adventure but also an unrivalled record of a way of life which, along with the igloo, has vanished forever.

‘... one of the best books about Arctic life ever written.’

SUNDAY TIMES

‘He tells stories, which he seems to have been born to do.’

TIME MAGAZINE

Arabia

Through the Looking Glass

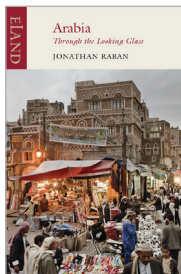
JONATHAN RABAN

ISBN: 978-1780601-397

Format: 312pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Arabia



Raban was provoked by Arabs holidaying in London, dressed in floor-length robes and yashmaks and remaining a people apart. He wanted to discover the reality of their home life and their world view. So he journeyed through Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Yemen, Egypt and Jordan on this quest.

What he discovered was a far cry from the camel, tent and sand dune archetypes of early European explorers. Oil wealth had seeped into almost every corner, and Bedouin encampments had been replaced by cosmopolitan boomtowns, camels by Range Rovers. The sons of Bedouin nomads were now studying medicine in Europe and engineering in New York. Yet in this fast-moving world, old certainties remained. Raban's gift for friendship creates a series of affectionate individual encounters which collectively create a true and invaluable picture of Arabian society.

'He writes with grace and perception.'

OBSERVER

'Fascinating and finely written.'

SUNDAY TIMES

Coasting

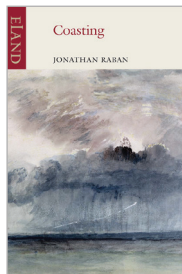
JONATHAN RABAN

ISBN: 978-1780601-380

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Britain



Coasting round Britain single-handed in an antique two-masted sailing boat, Jonathan Raban conducts a masterly exploration of England and the English at the time of Margaret Thatcher and the Falklands War. He moves seamlessly between awkward memories of childhood as the son of a vicar, a vivid chronicle of the shape-shifting sea and incisive descriptions of the people and communities he encounters. As he faces his terror of racing water, eddies, offshore sandbars and ferries on a collision course, so he navigates the complex and turbulent waters of his own middle age. *Coasting* is a fearless attempt to discover the meaning of belonging and of his English homeland.

‘Sharp...funny...a marvellous attempt to
discover the meaning of home’

IAN JACK, OBSERVER

‘Jonathan Raban is a marvellous stylist
and *Coasting* is his best book.’

AL ALVAREZ, OBSERVER

For Love & Money

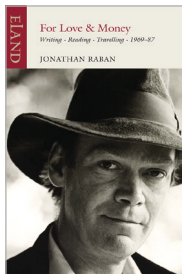
Writing, Reading, Travelling, 1969–87

JONATHAN RABAN

ISBN: 978-1780601-403

Format: 352pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



This collection of writing undertaken for love and money is about books and travel, and makes for an engrossing and candid exploration of what it means to live from writing. Jonathan Raban weighs up the advantages of maintaining an independent spirit against problems of insolvency and self-worth, confesses to travel as an escape from the blank page, ponders the true art of the book review, admires the role of the literary editor and remembers with affection and hilarity events from his eccentric life at the heart of literary London. Reading it is like embarking on a humane, rigorous and witty conversation.

‘... so cleverly concocted, so replete with
battered affection for the writer’s trade?’

JAMES CAMPBELL, THE GUARDIAN

‘Raban is never guilty of supposing that he can use lower
writing powers because what he is doing is only journalism.’

FRANK KERMODE, LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS

Hunting Mister Heartbreak

A Discovery of America

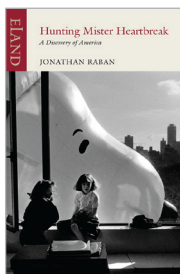
JONATHAN RABAN

ISBN: 978-1780601-373

Format: 336pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: U.S.A.



Following in the footsteps of countless emigrants, Jonathan Raban takes ship for New York from Liverpool, to explore how succeeding generations of newcomers have fared in America. He finds a country of massive contrasts, between the Street People and the Air People in New York, between small town and big city, between thrusting immigrants and down-at-heel native Americans.

Having outgrown his minute rented New York apartment, he heads for Guntersville, Alabama, where he settles for a few months as a good ol' boy in a cabin on the lake with a 'rented' elderly lab. From there he flies to the promise of Seattle, discovering its thrusting but alienated Asian community and thence to the watery lowlife of Key West. The result is a breathtaking observation of the States – a travelogue, a social history and a love letter in one.

'... the best book of travel ever written
by an Englishman about the United States.'

JAN MORRIS, INDEPENDENT

'... the finest writer afloat since Conrad.'

GEOFFREY MOORHOUSE, GUARDIAN

Old Glory

An American Voyage

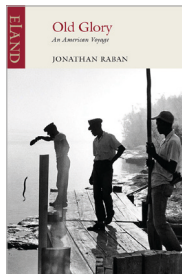
JONATHAN RABAN

ISBN: 978-1780601-366

Format: 424pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: U.S.A.



Navigating the Mississippi River from Minneapolis to New Orleans, Jonathan Raban opens himself to experience the river in all her turbulent and unpredictable old glory. Going wherever the current takes him, he joins a coon-hunt in Savana, falls for a girl in St Louis, worships with black Baptists in Memphis, hangs out with the housewives of Pemiscot and the hog-king of Dubuque. Through tears of laughter, we are led into the heartland of America – with its hunger and hospitality, its inventive energy and its charming lethargy – and come to know something of its soul.

But the journey is as much the story of Raban as it is of the Mississippi. Navigating the dangerous, ever-changing waters in an unsuitably fragile aluminium skiff, he immerses himself with an irresistible emotional intensity as he tries to give shape to the river and the story – finding himself by turns vulnerable, curious, angry and, like all of us, sometimes foolishly in love.

“... an extraordinary picture of the American nation?”

THE LISTENER

‘... shrewd, keen, malicious, touching and funny?’

SPECTATOR

Ask Sir James

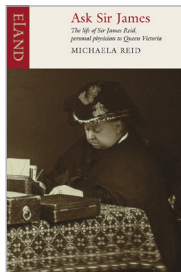
The life of Sir James Reid, personal physician to Queen Victoria

MICHAELA REID

ISBN: 978-1906011-154

Format: 315pp demi pb

Price: £14.99



In a dark cupboard of her house, Michaela Reid, the granddaughter-in-law of Sir James Reid, discovered forty pocket diaries and thirty-one of his large scrapbooks, as well as some two hundred letters and notes from Queen Victoria. Although Sir James was never allowed to see the Queen undressed, she summoned him four or five times a day, and he quickly became her confidant, privy to all the intimate aspects of her court and family life. It was he who was responsible for persuading Princess Christian to give up her opium addiction, as well as coping with John Brown's alcoholism. The doctor's memoirs have left us a vivid portrait of the Queen, who was eccentric and stubborn, and yet at the same time perceptive, endearing, and warm-hearted.

'An exceptionally well constructed biography.'

KENNETH ROSE, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

'This is an engaging story well told.'

ALAN BELL, LITERARY REVIEW

A Funny Old Quist

The Memoirs of a Gamekeeper

EVAN ROGERS

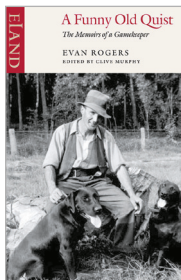
Edited by Clive Murphy

ISBN: 978-1096011-123

Format: 224pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Welsh Borders



Evan Rogers worked as a gamekeeper on the same Herefordshire estate for 68 years. His story takes us back to an idyll of rural England, when the land was tended by many, the villages were full of industry, the Big House full of guests and the kitchens proudly filled with local produce.

Rogers summons up a lost Arcadia of self-sufficiency, bird-song and wild flowers, but he is also too honest not to recall the appalling poverty and ignorance, and his own brutal father. Despite his half-suppressed memories of the First World War and his tough physique, he is a remarkably gentle man. Whether he is rescuing flamingos from ice, helping a young woman to give birth in the fields while gathering stones for a shilling a ton or simply doing his morning rounds, his company is enchanting.

‘Extraordinary is the proper word for it.’

COUNTRY LIFE

‘A refreshing and informative book, a social document of permanent value, as well as a good read.’

TLS

The Pharaoh's Shadow

Travels in Ancient and Modern Egypt

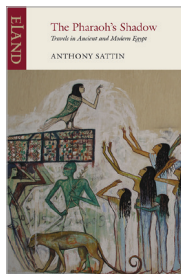
ANTHONY SATTIN

ISBN: 978-1780600-611

Format: 264pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Egypt



Anthony Sattin is a tireless and fearless researcher on the ground, ‘impervious to discomfort’, undaunted by pi-dogs and charlatans. So we follow him in taxis and trains, rickety buses and jam-packed pick up trucks as he bribes his way into moonlit temples, as he tracks down snake hunters in their reptilian lairs and as he travels from the deserts of Luxor as far as the damp streets of Liverpool in search of long manuscripts, and modern magic that might help explain eternal myths. Half travel, half Golden Bough, *The Pharaoh's Shadow* is also set to the pace of a detective thriller, yet what ultimately sustains and animates this fascinating work is Sattin's boundless love for Egypt and wonderful ability to convey his enthusiasm for even the most obscure details of the folk practices of Upper Egypt. It is a genuine labour of love.

‘... a strange, wonderful and often beautiful book.’

TIM MACKINTOSH-SMITH

‘... a gripping quest that captures the reader on the first page and does not release him until the final paragraph.’

WILLIAM DALRYMPLE, THE SPECTATOR

Travels On My Elephant

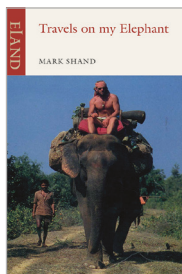
MARK SHAND

ISBN: 978-1906011-697

Format: 206pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: India



Tara was an elephant, and in Hindi her name means ‘star’. With the help of a Maratha nobleman, Mark Shand purchased Tara and rode her over 600 miles across India, from Konarak, on the Bay of Bengal, to the Sonepur Mela – the world’s oldest elephant market.

From Bhim, a drink-racked Mahout, Mark Shand learnt the skills of elephant driving. From his friend Aditya Patankar he learnt Indian ways. And with Tara, his new companion, he fell in love. So much so, that decades after their travelling days were over, Mark Shand was still fund-raising and campaigning on behalf of Indian elephants.

Travels on My Elephant is the story of their epic journey across the dusty back roads of India and a memorable, touching account of Tara’s transformation from a sad, scrawny beggar elephant to the star attraction who became Mark Shand’s devoted loyal companion.

‘I enjoyed this book immensely. Shand is the most engaging adventurer I have come across.’

IMRAN KHAN

‘A *Just So* story for our times.’

OBSERVER

On Persephone's Island

A Sicilian Journal

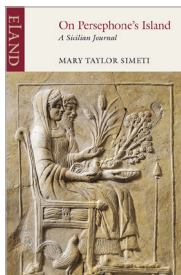
MARY TAYLOR SIMETI

ISBN: 978-1780601-076

Format: 287pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Sicily



This is a year of Sicilian life, its seasons and its sacred festivals, its gorgeous fruits and demanding family life, its casual assassinations and village feasts, its weather and the neighbours. It chronicles a life divided between an apartment in the city of Palermo with the weekends and summer devoted to sustaining life in an old family farm. What makes this journal truly exceptional is that Mary Simeti is both an outsider, (an American who had studied medieval history and worked as a volunteer on a social welfare programme) and an insider. For this journal was written after twenty years of immersion in Sicilian life, as wife to a Sicilian, mother to two Sicilian teenagers, as gardener, cook and carer for a suspicious mother-in-law.

‘Evocative & rich ... one of those rare pieces of literature that captures the mood & spirit of a place. Wonderful.’

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

‘Simeti has done a rare thing: she has written a happy book about Sicily and yet there is an undercurrent of sadness, one true to the reality of the island.’

WASHINGTON POST

Valse des Fleurs

A day in St.Petersburg in 1868

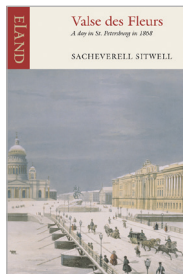
SACHEVERELL SITWELL

ISBN: 978-1906011-14-7

Format: 152pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Russia



Valse des Fleurs recreates one glittering winter's day in St Petersburg in its heyday. The Tsar is giving a ball, and in the run up we are given a glimpse of a lost generation of courtiers, servants, guards, officials and dignitaries later condemned to oblivion by the Russian Revolution. Though slim enough to read on the train from Moscow, *Valse des Fleurs* is the perfect introduction to the Imperial capital of the Tsars. It peoples the magnificent palaces – now turned into museums – with a haunting and evocative power.

‘... contains some of the finest prose written in our day.’

KENNETH CLARKE

‘... the best piece of sustained imaginative
prose Sitwell ever composed.’

NEIL RITCHIE

A Moroccan Trilogy

Marrakesh, Rabat and Fez

JÉRÔME AND JEAN THARAUD

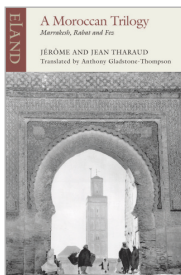
Translated by Anthony Gladstone-Thompson

ISBN: 978-178060-162-5

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £15.00

Place: Morocco



From 1917–19, the Tharaud brothers immersed themselves in Morocco while observing the determined imposition of the French Protectorate at first hand. With unique access to both colonial manoeuvres and a now-vanished Moroccan way of life, they settled for periods in Marrakesh, Rabat and Fez to absorb and observe. We join them on visits to the Sultan one day and to the shrine of Sidi Ben Achir – part shrine, part mental asylum – on another. They watch the son and heir of the Glaoui dynasty die from wounds received in a mountain battle, and lovers weaving and ducking across the rooftops of Fez to reach their trysting place. This is the first translation of these vivacious works into English, giving access to the majesty, the squalor and above all the liveliness of this extraordinary period of Moroccan history.

‘The Moroccan triptych is a model of the genre
... an eye of conscience for all of France?’

ROLAND LEBEL

‘a highly poetic gift for showing what might
be invisible to the rest of us.’

LÉON BÉRARD

Living Poor

*An American's encounter
with Ecuador*

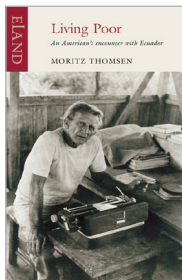
MORITZ THOMSEN

ISBN: 978-1906011-253

Format: 336pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Ecuador



At the age of 48, Moritz Thomsen sold his pig farm in California and joined the Peace Corps. For the next four years he lived in an impoverished village on the coast of Ecuador; its inhabitants were so poor that six chickens represented wealth, and cigarettes were bought one at a time, on credit. Thomsen discovered how difficult it was for an outsider to help, and most of his attempts were a mixture of tragedy and farce. This did not prevent him from entering into the hearts and minds of an alien people, becoming 'just another person in a poor village, working out my own problems and frustrations, making friends and enemies like one more citizen of the town.'

'A superb book that puts Thomsen in a class with W. H. Hudson.'

PAUL THEROUX

'Thomsen's style is simple but eloquent,
intensely moving, but humorous too.'

NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

The Saddest Pleasure

A Journey on Two Rivers

MORITZ THOMSEN

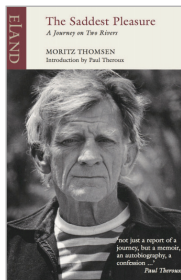
With an introduction by Paul Theroux

ISBN: 978-1-780601-038

Format: 298pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Ecuador



Travel book as memoir, memoir as novel, novel as polemic: that was how Moritz Thomsen described *The Saddest Pleasure*. He threads together a journey to and down the Amazon with a series of crystalline recollections of the events that have shaped him: a privileged childhood presided over by a bullying patriarch, combat missions in World War Two and a life-changing Peace Corps experience in Ecuador, from which he never went back to the US. What starts as an almost reluctant concatenation of memory and poignant, limpid descriptions of Brazil, grows into a shattering romantic symphony on human misery and life's small but exquisite transcendent pleasures. He spares the reader nothing.

'He remembers everything. His writing is not that of someone who is merely visiting, but that of a man who has taken root.'

PAUL THEROUX

The Fields Beneath

The history of one London village

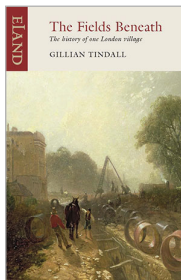
GILLIAN TINDALL

ISBN: 978-1906011-482

Format: 264pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: London



London, that city of villages, has never been so vividly, so honestly revealed as in this particular study of Kentish Town. Gillian Tindall takes us along the banks of London's long buried Fleet River, and along ancient hedgerows, drove lanes, wells and public houses of Kentish Town to reveal the fascinating history of individual tenants, traders, freeholders and landlords. *The Fields Beneath* is one of a precious handful of books (like Montaigne and Akenfield) which in their precise examination of a particular locality open out our understanding of universal themes. Through the microscope of local history we find a doorway to a better understanding of community and our role within society.

'Superb ... An effortless blend of scholarship, sleuthing and imagination ... a marvellous way of reading history ...'

FINANCIAL TIMES

'... a model for future writers ...'

V. S. PRITCHETT, NEW STATESMAN

Warrior Herdsmen

*Six Months with the Dodoth Tribe
of Northern Uganda*

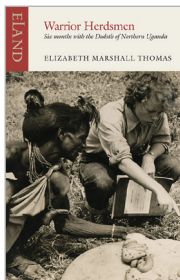
ELIZABETH MARSHALL THOMAS

ISBN: 978-1780601-106

Format: 204pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Northern Uganda



This is a personal journal of six months spent amongst the Dodoth, the tall, handsome cattle-herdsmen who live in the Northern tip of Uganda. It is also an adventure story, for during this period the Dodoth were caught up in an escalating cycle of violence with their age-old rivals, the Turkana tribe. The animating tension of this feud was fed by the tradition of cattle raids but it would explode into unexpected new heights of violence, as the newly independent nation states of Uganda and Kenya were drawn into police these ancient clan frontiers.

Elizabeth Marshall Thomas's writing is charged with a clarity and a lyrical eye for detail which brings their whole culture alive. For though she was not an anthropologist herself, she knew how to walk, talk and eat with Africans like an equal, having travelled as a girl with a mother who was the world's leading authority on the Bushman of the Kalahari.

'Rare knowledge and warm sympathy?'

HAROLD NICHOLSON

'Gripping account by an acute observer.'

THE SCOTSMAN

The Living Goddess

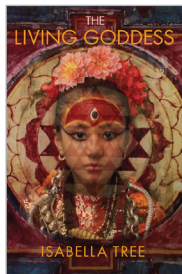
ISABELLA TREE

ISBN: 978-1780600-468

Format: 368pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Nepal



In a small medieval palace on Kathmandu's Durbar Square lives Nepal's famous Living Goddess—a child chosen from the Buddhist caste of goldsmiths whose role is to watch over the country and protect its people. Once she attains puberty, another girl takes her place. To Nepalis she is the embodiment of Devi and for centuries the kings of Nepal have sought her blessing to rule. Legends swirl about her. But the facts remain shrouded in secrecy and closely guarded by the Living Goddess's priests and caretakers.

Deeply felt and written over many years of travel and research, *The Living Goddess* is a profound, compelling and extremely moving book.

'A unique insight into an astonishing tradition.'

COLIN THUBRON

'... a fantastic and illuminating read – as much a book about the history of Nepal as it is about the Living Goddess.'

PRAJWAL PARAJULY

Hermit of Peking

*The hidden life of
Sir Edmund Backhouse*

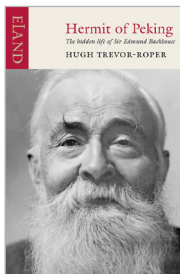
HUGH TREVOR-ROPER

ISBN: 978-1906011-017

Format: 416pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: China



The arrival of an unpublished memoir offering up a scandalous version of the hitherto blameless public life of the revered oriental scholar, Sir Edmund Backhouse, sets Hugh Trevor-Roper on the trail of an outrageous confidence trickster. One of the great detective stories of our age, told with a pace and an infectious delight in the process of historical research, the *Hermit of Peking* would have made an outrageously imaginative work of fiction but for the fact that it is all true. Trevor-Roper unearths scholars with bizarre sexual fantasies, eunuchs, rare manuscripts and a malicious dowager Queen, and sets them all against the backdrop of a decadent and intrigue-ridden Imperial court.

‘The reader is throughout amused, amazed and enthralled.’

THE TIMES

‘One of the great classic biographies of an incorrigible
rogue ... delightful and uproarious.’

COLIN WILSON, LITERARY REVIEW

The Law

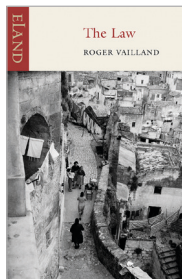
ROGER VAILLAND

ISBN: 978-0907871-118

Format: 264pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

Place: Southern Italy



The grotesque game of *The Law*, played in the taverns of southern Italy, is but a shadow of an even fiercer attitude to life; a potent metaphor for a vigorously hierarchical view of existence which rules over the mezzogiorno, the noonday culture of southern Italy.

In this novel we are not asked to pardon or condemn the passion of Donna Lucrezia, the assured self centredness of the learned aristocrat Don Cesare or even the sinister desires of Matteo Brigante, the controlling godfather. We are asked merely to observe. In this sense *The Law* seems less a work of pure fiction and more a series of shrewdly noted travel sketches.

‘One feels one knows everyone in the district ...
every page has the texture of living flesh.’

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

‘One is horrified by this novel but never bored.’

SUNDAY TIMES

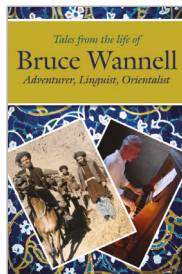
Tales from the life of
Bruce Wannell

Adventurer, Linguist, Orientalist

ISBN: 978-1-900209-25-0

Format: 351pp demi pb

Price: £15.00



Bruce Wannell was the greatest Orientalist traveller of his generation: a Paddy Leigh Fermor of the East, a Kim for our time. He lived in Iran through the Revolution and worked for a decade in the North West Frontier during the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. His curious combination of talents – linguist, musician, translator and teacher – brought him an international network of friendships with scholars, poets, spies, archaeologists, diplomats, artists and writers. He is remembered here by over seventy writers and friends, including Kevin Rushby, Lisa Chaney, Tim Mackintosh-Smith, Tahir Shah and William Dalrymple.

“Writing about Bruce is like trying to catch and pin
an exceedingly rare migrant butterfly – but a butterfly
with a huge brain, and an even bigger heart”

TIM MACKINTOSH-SMITH

“voracious appetite for travel, for exploration, and of
the mind...that intense and infectious ability to rejoice
in the moment and equally, to relish the future”

LISA CHANEY

Bangkok

The Story of a City

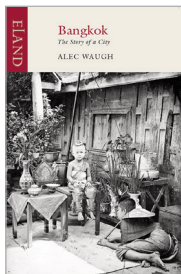
ALEC WAUGH

ISBN: 978-0955010-521

Format: 204pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Thailand



In Bangkok, Alec Waugh has created the most fluent, truthful and affectionate portrait not only of the city, but also of the dynasty and culture which created it. Cutting through confusion and veiled mystery, he unravels the plots, coups, wars, assassinations, invasions and countercoups of three hundred years of history as if they were this evening's street gossip. This loving description of the genius, fascination and enduring vitality of Thailand is told with Waugh's customary delight in life and sensual appreciation. The story is brought up-to-date with an afterword by Bruce Palling, former Times correspondent in Thailand.

‘... enough court intrigue, popular uprisings and revolutions to match any Hollywood epic, it's hard to put down ... a must read.’

THE TIMES

Travels in a Dervish Cloak

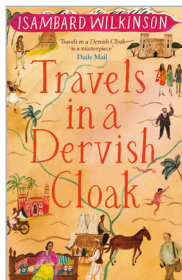
ISAMBARD WILKINSON

ISBN: 978-1780601-502

Format: 244pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Pakistan



Spellbound by his grandmother's Anglo-Indian heritage and the exuberant annual visits of her friend the Begum, Isambard Wilkinson became enthralled by Pakistan as an intrepid teenager, eventually working there as a foreign correspondent during the War on Terror. Seeking the land behind the headlines, Bard sets out to discover the essence of a country convulsed by Islamist violence. What of the old, mystical Pakistan has survived and what has been destroyed? His is a funny, hashish-and-whisky-scented travel book from the frontline, full of open-hearted delight and a poignant lust for life.

'A sparkling, prejudice-burning description
of his wanderings across Pakistan.'

JUSTIN MAROZZI, THE NATIONAL

'Enchanting, exuberant, witty, poignant and deeply
evocative ... *Travels in a Dervish Cloak* is a masterpiece.'

THE DAILY MAIL

The Road to Nab End

An Extraordinary Northern childhood

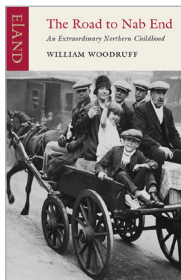
WILLIAM WOODRUFF

ISBN: 978-1906011-260

Format: 306pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Lancashire



From his birth in the carding room of a cotton mill in 1916 until he ran away to London, Woodruff lived in the heart of Blackburn's weaving community.

When he was four-years-old, the demise of Lancashire's supremacy in the cotton textiles industry due to the crash of 1920 meant his father was thrown out of work. From then on, including the period of the great depression, Woodruff and his family faced a life blighted by extreme poverty.

Reading this book today, it is hard to comprehend that within living memory – and in what was then the richest country in the world – so many couldn't even afford to buy enough food. For the ordinary Lancashire families, unemployment was an ever-present threat, 'If you worked you ate. If there was no work you went hungry'.

'Once started it is impossible to put this book down.'

TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

'The book is a masterpiece.'

INDEPENDENT

Growing

Seven years in Ceylon

LEONARD WOOLF

With a biographical afterword

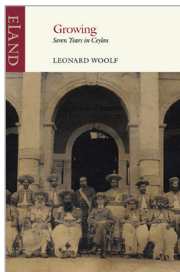
by Jack Sharp

ISBN: 978-1780600-710

Format: 208pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Sri Lanka/Ceylon



Growing is a portrait of a young man sent straight out from university to help govern Ceylon. It is doubtful that any Empire at any time has been served by such an intelligent, dutiful, hardworking and incorruptible civil servant as the young Leonard Woolf. He was determined to do what was good but discovered for himself that colonial rule, be it ever so high-minded, is fated to do wrong.

Growing is also a deeply affectionate account of the mystery, magic and savage beauty of Ceylon at the turn of the century, an island whose diverse beliefs and cultures Woolf had the time and wit to explore in detail.

‘He has a seemingly effortless way with words
which is beautiful and spellbinding’

J.J. EDELSTEIN, NEW REPUBLIC

‘The great quality in Woolf as an autobiographer
is his utter truthfulness ...’

MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE

The Village in the Jungle

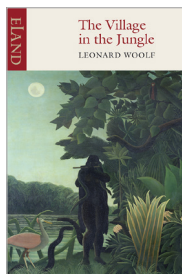
LEONARD WOOLF

ISBN: 978-0907871-293

Format: 216pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Sri Lanka/Ceylon



This novel set in Ceylon follows the lives of a handful of villagers hacking out a fragile existence in a jungle where indiscriminate growth, indifferent fate and malevolent neighbours constantly threaten to overwhelm them. It is as if Thomas Hardy were immersed in the heat, scent, sensuality and pungent mystery of the tropics.

Seven years as a colonial administrator gave Woolf firsthand knowledge of the injustice of colonial rule, and an acute psychological sympathy with the villagers. He skillfully incorporates local storytelling traditions and beliefs into his chilling narrative, to create a book which remains one of the best-loved in Sri Lanka to this day.

‘... not a work of art – it is a miracle in writing. At no time has the author’s more celebrated wife, Virginia Woolf, approached this height in workmanship?’

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

‘... A fatalistic as a Greek tragedy?’

NEW STATESMAN

Death's Other Kingdom

A Spanish village on the eve of the Civil War

GAMEL WOOLSEY

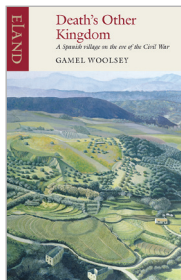
With an introduction by Alberto Manguel
and an afterword by Michael Jacobs

ISBN: 978-0907871-194

Format: 160pp demi pb

Price: £10.99

Place: Spain



As Malaga goes up in flames in 1936 and the civil war begins its monstrous destruction, Gamel Woolsey, an American poet married to Gerald Brennan, watches fear stalk through a traditional Spanish village. The villagers, wishing simply to be left to cultivate their cabbages, are caught in a cycle of violence which provokes hatred, anger and a thirst for revenge in even the most peaceful of souls.

This humane and sympathetic account puts the people of Spain first, whatever their political persuasion, and gives a gripping and harrowing account of the emotional effects of war in general, and of civil war in particular.

‘A beautiful and moving book.’

TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

‘A gem.’

HERALD TRIBUNE

Cut Stones & Crossroads

A Journey in the Two Worlds of Peru

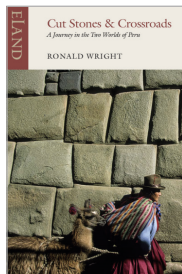
RONALD WRIGHT

ISBN: 978-1-78060-157-1

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Peru



Ronald Wright has created the very best travel book about Peru, for he has immersed himself in the music and language, as well as the history, politics and monuments of the indigenous Andean cultures of South America, in a way that no other travel writer has yet managed.

We get to share in his personal discoveries through the humour and good fellowship of the road, full of entertaining misadventures. But there is never any doubt that there is an ultimate purpose to these journeys: a passionate need to bear witness to the truth about the past, after centuries of persecution by an alien ruling class. So through the dense clouds of historical tragedy, Wright excavates hope that a revival of pride and dignity in Andean culture is possible.

‘... a superb travel writer.’

DERVLA MURPHY

‘...the best modern travel book on Peru that I know.’

JOHN HEMMING

On Fiji Islands

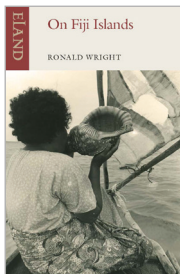
RONALD WRIGHT

ISBN: 978-1-780601-595

Format: 284pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Fiji, Pacific Ocean



The miracle of multi-cultural, multi-ethnic modern Fiji, still in touch with its traditions and proud of itself stands as a “what if” for all those other cultures in the Pacific, South and Central America that were eliminated. In this vitally important book, Ronald Wright seeks to understand how it was that Fiji of all places survives with its original culture intact, and how it resisted the destructive influence of wave after wave of land hungry colonisers, planters, slavers and empire-makers that elsewhere submerged indigenous cultures.

‘Superb.’

OBSERVER

‘I’ll gladly go with Wright wherever he goes next.’

WASHINGTON POST

Time Among the Maya

*Travels in Belize, Guatemala
and Mexico*

RONALD WRIGHT

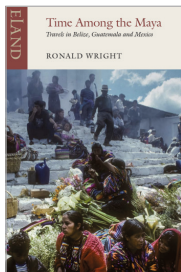
With an introduction by Pico Iyer

ISBN: 978-1-78060-158-8

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Belize, Guatemala, Mexico



Ronald Wright travelled through the old territories of the Maya (the jungles and mountains of Guatemala, Belize and Mexico) to explore the ancient roots of their culture and to map out what has survived. Despite civil wars and centuries of oppression by first an Hispanic, then Mestizo culture, he discovers a region where seven million people still speak Mayan languages and struggle to maintain their resilient, indigenous culture. It is at once a riveting journey, written with wit and wisdom, but also a study of a civilization. It is travel writing at its broadest and its best.

‘He is an historical philosopher with a profound understanding of other cultures?’

JAN MORRIS

‘...erudite, humorous, without bias?’

OBSERVER

Hard Lying

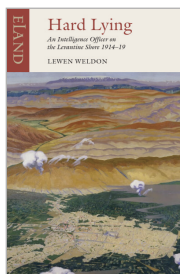
*An Intelligence Officer on
the Levantine Shore 1914 - 19*

LEWEN WELDON

ISBN: 978-1-78060-199-1

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £14.99



Working from a steam yacht based in Port Said or Famagusta, Weldon ran a network of spies and confidential agents onto the Levant coast behind Turkish lines during WWI. He was a fluent Arabic speaker and could conduct personal interviews on the shore, while landing and taking off agents – all conveyed by small boats through the surf under cover of night. This vivid tale of adventure becomes eyewitness history as we encounter Armenian's escaping the massacres, passionate Arab nationalists, resolute Turkish soldiers and a heroic network of Jewish volunteers. Weldon's modesty and self-deprecating Irish wit (complete with a few prejudices) underline the adventure, a story that simply had to be told. 'We were extraordinarily lucky with our agents. I don't think more than seven were actually captured. Six of these were hanged and one had his head cut off.'

'An Irish surveyor unexpectedly finds himself Captain of a spy ship dropping and retrieving secret agents along the Levant coast during WWI. A Lawrence of the sea, Weldon's memoirs are vivid, spiced with courage, knowledge and humanity; a gripping read, as well as a core document of British military intelligence in the Levant.'

The Ginger Tree

OSWALD WYND

ISBN: 978-0907871-033

Format: 312pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: China/Japan



In 1903 Mary Mackenzie sails for China to marry the British military attaché: a man who turns out to be every bit as chilly as the Peking winter. During one of his many absences, Mary has an affair with a Japanese soldier, Count Kurihama, but her pregnancy by him is impossible to keep secret.

Rejected by her husband, mother and country, and forced to leave her daughter behind, Mary flees to Japan. *The Ginger Tree* is the fictional account of her survival, isolated and alone, in this alien culture.

‘absolutely fascinating.’

DAME DIANA RIGG

‘By the end, it is the reader who sheds the tears
his heroine has kept back for forty years.’

NICHOLAS SHAKESPEARE, SUNDAY TIMES

‘Sensitively written, beautifully understated.’

JAPAN TIMES

Bengal Lancer

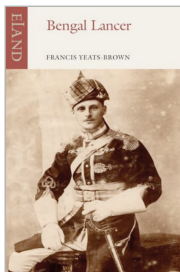
FRANCIS YEATS-BROWN

ISBN: 978-178060-201-1

Format: 208pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: India



When Francis Yeats-Brown set off in 1905 to take up a commission in the British Indian Army, little did he know how deeply he would fall in love with the culture of India and her spiritual traditions. Between duties with his regiment, and enjoying the off-duty life of an officer – polo and hunting, ponies and dogs – he would disappear in search of a guru to lead him in the essentials of yoga, meditation and Hindu mysticism. Yeats-Brown proves himself brave, funny and self-deprecating, such good company that we do not care that ultimately he never found the spiritual master he searched for, nor won the unattainable woman he desired. It is his idiosyncratic journey to establish some kind of truth, and the world he shows us on the way, that beguiles.

‘... my Guru was neither Hindu, Muslim nor Buddhist monk. He was not even an Oriental, at any rate by place or birth or ancestry. He was an Englishman and a professional soldier.’

LOWELL THOMAS

“I shall read this again, it’s good stuff.”

T.E. LAWRENCE

Through Writers' Eyes

'Eland has hit a goldmine with its
through writers' eyes series.'

THE TABLET

'Classic snippets of brilliant writing.'

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Central Asia

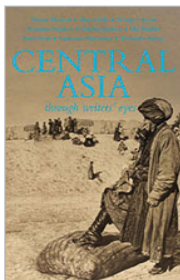
through writers' eyes

KATHLEEN HOPKIRK

ISBN: 978-1906011-840

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



Between these covers, the millennia of mercantile and cultural exchange along the Silk Route are celebrated by travellers and writers from Marco Polo to Sven Hedin, from William of Rubrick to Ella Maillart. Kathleen Hopkirk has spent a lifetime researching this vital heartland, traversed by five, inhospitable deserts but united by ancient chains of trading oases: from the Buddhist Empire of Kushan, to the scholarly Islamic centre at Bukhara. This mysterious homeland of Tartars, Turks, Mongols, Uzbeks, Uighurs, Tajiks, Scythians and Sarmatians gave the world terrifying conquerors of the stature of Gengiz Khan and Tamberlane. Later it became the centre of rivalry for influence in the area between the empires of Russia and Britain played out by spies, ambassadors, agents and travel writers for 150 years, itself a continuation of the old cultural rivalry between Persia and China for the soul of this vast region.

INCLUDING:

FITZROY MACCLEAN, MARCO POLO, GEORGE CURZON, AUREL STEIN,
CATHERINE MACARTNEY, ALEXANDER BURNES

Croatia

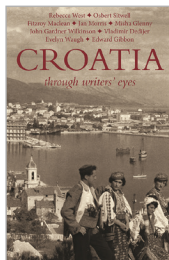
through writers' eyes

EDITED BY STEPHEN LAVINGTON AND
FRANCIS GOODING, AND WITH
INTRODUCTION AND EPILOGUE BY
PETER FRANKOPAN

ISBN: 978-0907871-897

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



Croatia, with its unspoiled dramatic coast, is a place of bewitching beauty, one of the hidden jewels of the Mediterranean. Yet most travellers know little more than that it was once part of Yugoslavia. Its ruined Greek cities, Habsburg gardens, border fortresses, Roman palaces and amphitheatres, Byzantine basilicas and walled medieval towns only mock our lack of knowledge with their unexpected diversity. Within these covers the traveller can immerse himself in the glory of Croatia's past, from Diocletian to independence, seen through the eyes of outsiders and Croats alike.

INCLUDING:

EVELYN WAUGH, EDWARD GIBBON, JAN MORRIS, FITZROY MACLEAN, MISHA
GLENNY, VLADIMIR DEDIJER, SIR JOHN GARDNER WILKINSON, OSBERT
SITWELL, GABRIELE D'ANNUNZIO, MARK THOMPSON

Egypt

through writers' eyes

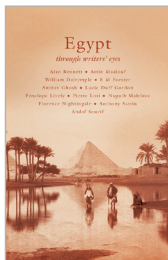
EDITED BY DEBORAH MANLEY AND
SAHAR SOBHI ABDEL-HAKIM

ISBN: 978-0955010-569

Format: 248pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Egypt



No land on earth has been so long observed as Egypt, which was attracting awestruck travellers back in the days of Herodotus and Julius Caesar. Then came pilgrims to Sinai, crusaders and Napoleon, followed by the Grand Tourists of the eighteenth century and those less grand with Thomas Cook in the nineteenth. The range of voices gathered here is dazzling: an ancient myth from a papyrus next to Naguib Mahfouz's account of Alexandria, Florence Nightingale describing Abu Simbel side by side with Ahdaf Soueif's description of Sinai. The medieval Cairo of Ibn Jubayr walks hand in hand with the modern city of the blind Egyptian thinker, Taha Hussein. Lucie Duff Gordon sails up the Nile, Edward Lane crawls through a sand-filled temple and Alan Bennett takes tea on the terrace of the Winter Palace Hotel at Luxor.

INCLUDING:

IBN BATTUTA, ALAN BENNETT, WILLIAM DALRYMPLE, E.M. FORSTER, TAHA HASSEIN, IBN JUBAYR, ROGER LANCELYN GREEN, PIERRE LOTI, NAGUIB MAHFOUZ, AMITAV GHOSH, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Ethiopia

through writers' eyes

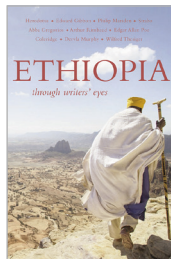
EDITED BY YVES-MARIE STRANGER

ISBN: 978-1780600-772

Format: 376pp demi pb

Price: £14.99

Place: Ethiopia



This book is the perfect companion to any exploration of Ethiopia, be it in the precarious saddle of an Abyssinian pony, or from the depths of an armchair. A compendium of all things Ethiopian, the book throws wide open precious windows of understanding, allowing you to gaze deeper into the landscape and people. As well as peopling the land with its own caste of priest-kings descended from Solomon and Sheba, Ethiopia has long attracted the attentions of eccentric adventurers, Jesuit explorers, foolish would-be conquerors, as well as saints and sinners in equal measure, and the keen interest of writers of all stripes.

What you have here is quite literally the best bits from whole libraries of past travel accounts, hand-picked by Yves-Marie Stranger, a long-time Ethiopia resident, trilingual interpreter and writer.

INCLUDING:

EDWARD GIBBON, JAMES BRUCE, RICHARD BURTON, THOMAS PAKENHAM,
ARTHUR RIMBAUD, WILFRID THESIGER, EVELYN WAUGH, DERVLA MURPHY,
PHILIP MARSDEN, ABBA GREGORIOS, PRESTER JOHN

Galapagos

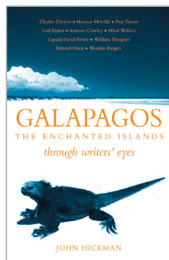
through writers' eyes

EDITED BY JOHN HICKMAN
AND WITH A PREFACE BY
KATIE HICKMAN

ISBN: 978-1906011-109

Format: 225pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



The Galapagos Islands, an 'enchanted archipelago' with natural volcanic beauty were made famous by the explorations of Charles Darwin. The near-miraculous survival of unique species of birds and animals on these remote Pacific islands gave birth to his revolutionary theory of evolution. John Hickman, who sailed past them as a young man and later went to serve as British ambassador to both Chile and Ecuador, knew them intimately. He always kept an ear open for the human stories behind the Galapagos, and discovered pirates and buccaneers, writers and exiles, real life Robinson Crusoes and Swiss Family Robinsons as well as the schemes of Spanish Kings, Inca Emperors and American filibusters.

INCLUDING:

CHARLES DARWIN, HERMAN MELVILLE, LORD BYRON, WILLIAM DAMPIER,
FRAY TOMAS, AMBROSE COWLEY, ALFRED WALLACE,
CAPTAIN DAVID PORTER, EDWARD DAVIS, WOODS ROGERS

Hampshire

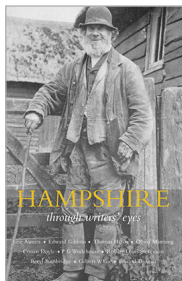
through writers' eyes

ALASTAIR LANGLANDS

ISBN: 978-1780600-987

Format: 384pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



Hampshire is a gentle county which doesn't shout its charms, even though her rounded downs and crystal-clear chalk streams are world renowned. These chalk hills are not however short of stories, for they guarded the ancient capital of Anglo-Saxon England – Winchester – and also sheltered the Arsenal of England – the two-thousand-year-old harbour of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth. It was also in Hampshire that such innate aspects of Englishness, as fly-fishing and cricket were first organized and played, and D-day was launched to liberate Europe.

Hampshire also has a surprisingly important role in nurturing the book. The novel reached its earliest flowering through the native genius of Jane Austen, while the county is also the birthplace of nature writing.

INCLUDING:

GILBERT WHITE, W HUDSON, EDWARD THOMAS, BERYL BAINBRIDGE,
OLIVIA MANNING, P G WODEHOUSE, SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Honeymoons

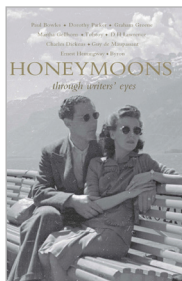
through writers' eyes

EDITED BY ROGER HUDSON
AND ROSE BARING

ISBN: 978-1780600-76

Format: 360 demi pb

Price: £14.99



At times tender, at others acerbic or humourous, this collection of honeymoon travels looks at the trials and tribulations of that first taste of married life. Extracts from celebrated novels alternate with less well-known passages, and descriptions of public marriages contrast with the private lives and emotions they evoke. From sexless wedding nights to honeymoon gothic, from unexpected revelations to shattered illusions and from journeys into the heart, or into the heart of darkness, the newlyweds find themselves exposed for the first time to their partners. It's a fascinating study of the complexities of human relationships, and of the courage of those who hitch their wagons together for the journey from the altar.

INCLUDING:

PAUL BOWLES, DOROTHY SAYERS, D. H. LAWRENCE, BYRON,
TOLSTOY, FLAUBERT, DOROTHY PARKER, A. N. WILSON,
THACKERAY, TROLLOPE, DICKENS, RUSKIN, MAUPASSANT,
MARTHA GELLHORN, GRAHAM GREENE

Japan

through writers' eyes

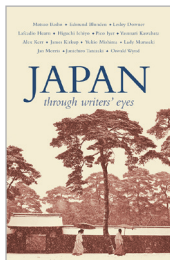
EDITED BY

ELIZABETH INGRAMS

ISBN: 978-1906011-086

Format: 336pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



Like a traveller in search of enlightenment, Elizabeth Ingrams has tracked down a wealth of writers who have turned their attention to these enigmatic islands. From the earliest European reports of Japan's sophisticated court culture, to eyewitness accounts of the explosion of the atom bomb at Nagasaki and of street life in present-day Ginza, she builds a complex picture of the islands and their people, their refined culture and religious beliefs as well as their changing lifestyles.

Exploring the country topographically, she begins in Tokyo, returning to the main island and its once inaccessible northern extremity via the distant islands of Okinawa and Hokkaido. Between these covers lie Pico Iyer's account of the rigours of training to become a Zen Buddhist monk in Kyoto, Nicolas Bouvier's reminiscences of living in a down-at-heel district of Tokyo in the 1950s, extracts from Basho's masterly *Narrow Road to the Deep North* and from Yukio Mishima's meditation on Japan, *The Temple of the Golden Pavillion*.

INCLUDING:

JAN MORRIS, PICO IYER, NICOLAS BOUVIER, YUKIO MISHIMA, MATSUO BASHO, JONATHAN SWIFT, ANTHONY THWAITE, RUDYARD KIPLING, MARCO POLO, ALEX KERR, KAZUO ISHIGURO, PIERRE LOTI, JUNICHIRO TANIZAKI, JAMES KIRKUP, HIGUCHI ICHIYO, LAFCADIO HEARN.

Lebanon

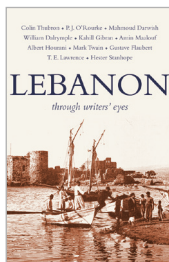
through writers' eyes

EDITED BY TED GORTON
AND ANDREE FEHALI GORTON

ISBN: 978-1906011-277

Format: 312pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



Lebanon has fallen prey to the rapacious appetites of most of the world's great powers – France, Ancient Egypt, Rome, Assyria, Alexander the Great, the Arabs, Crusaders, Persians, Mamlukes and Ottoman Turks. Vestiges of all these transient civilisations are still there: Phoenician tombs and Roman temples, Gothic castles, venerable mosques and churches all jostling for attention. The Lebanese themselves bear genetic witness to this history: dozens of ethnic and religious groups coexist uneasily, hemmed in between mountains and sea, stubbornly defending their rites and traditions in a mosaic-like society where politics informs religion and vice versa. Violence, beauty, poetry, struggle, humour, an occasional example of inspiring inter-cultural harmony – and bigotry – all are reflected through these writers' eyes.

INCLUDING:

COLIN THUBRON, P.J. O'ROURKE, WILLIAM DALRYMPLE, MARK TWAIN,
GUSTAVE FLAUBERT, T.E. LAWRENCE, MAHMOUD DARWISH, SIR JAMES
FRAZER, IBN BATTUTA, HERODOTUS, HOMER.

Marrakesh

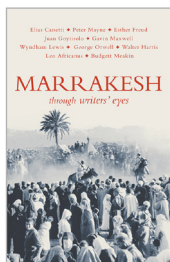
through writers' eyes

EDITED BY BARNABY ROGERSON
WITH A PREFACE BY TAHIR SHAH

ISBN: 978-0907871-996

Format: 312pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



Marrakesh is the drum that beats an African rhythm into the complex soul of Morocco. There has never been a more instantly exotic destination for it is like a dream landscape; in the background the steel blue of the High Atlas mountains with their snowy tops, then a hint of the desert, then vast, weathered, red earth ramparts, tall tapering palms, orchards of oranges and verdant olives. In the evening, life concentrates on that disordered square of marvels the Djemma el Fna – where story-tellers, fortune-tellers, cooks, musicians, acrobats and dancers weave their nightly magic – and the packed, festive alleys of the souk. This book explores the city's mystique through the researches, speculations and scholarship of forty writers who have succumbed to the enchantment of Marrakesh, giving the reader privileged access to a web of stories that enrich this beguiling city.

INCLUDING:

ELIAS CANETTI, ESTHER FREUD, PETER MAYNE, JUAN GOYTISOLO, SACH-
EVERELL SITWELL, GEORGE ORWELL, EDITH WHARTON, WYNDHAM LEWIS,
ALI BEY, GAVIN MAXWELL AND LEO AFRICANUS

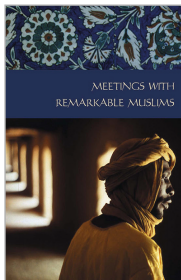
Meetings with Remarkable Muslims

EDITED BY ROSE BARING AND
BARNABY ROGERSON

ISBN: 978-0955010-507

Format: 314pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



Meetings with Remarkable Muslims is a collection of personal reminiscences of friendships and chance encounters which have left an indelible mark on the author. Throwing a bridge across the divide, it shows how immeasurably richer our lives are for sharing and understanding different cultural traditions – what a source of inspiration they can be.

This diverse collection of writers draws together a world which stretches from Morocco in the west to India in the east. What shines through is a common humanity – shared by both writers and subjects – a need to earn, to love, to protect, to enjoy and to make sense of life.

‘Every political leader in the Western world
should be forced to read this book.’

NICK SMITH, GEOGRAPHICAL

‘I have rarely come across such compelling travel writing.’

GAMAL NKRUMAH, AL-AHRAM

On Travel and the Journey Through Life

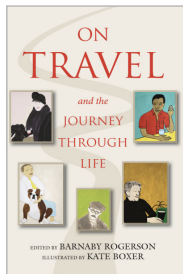
Edited by Barnaby Rogerson

Illustrations by Kate Boxer

ISBN: 978-1-78060-204-2

Format: 208pp demi pb

Price: £9.99



This collection *On Travel* is clever, funny, provoking and confrontational by turn. In a pyrotechnic display of cracking one-liners, cynical word play and comic observation, it mines three thousand years of wit and wisdom: from Martha Gellhorn to Confucius and from Pliny to Paul Theroux. ! It also offers practical tips to make the most of your trip, ranging from advice on cleaning a wound to tethering a camel. And it proves that travel – far from being an indulgent escape – is real preparation for the journey through life.

This little book is designed to do just that. Dipping into it, you will find thoughts from our earliest recorded history and from yesterday, from European writers and from aboriginal peoples. Many are exhortations to live consciously. Echoing through the book is a *carpe diem*, a call to pay attention to the details of the journey rather than focussing on the destination.

'The world is a book and if you do not travel
you read only one page.'

ST AUGUSTINE

Persia

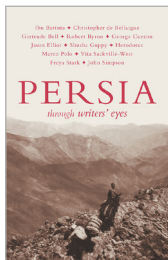
through writers' eyes

EDITED BY DAVID BLOW

ISBN: 978-0955010-552

Format: 416pp demi pb

Price: £14.99



The land of the Iranians, known to European travellers for centuries as Persia, is riven by mountain-ranges, made inhospitable by deserts, yet rich in plains, forests and jewel-like gardens. Home to the most sublime architecture in the world, and a breeding ground for poets, empires, mystics and saints, it has an enduring and invincible fascination. David Blow enriches our understanding with his knowledgeable selection of the best of three thousand years of descriptive writing. He allows us to visit the courts of Cyrus and Xerxes, to ride out with the Parthians and Sassanians and to make a passing acquaintance with both the Shah and the late Ayatollah Khomeini, with Hafiz and with Omar Khayyam.

INCLUDING:

HERODOTUS, AESCHYLUS, XENOPHON, MARCO POLO, IBN BATTUTA, SIR JOHN CHARDIN, SIR JAMES FRASER, GEORGE CURZON, ROBERT GRAVES, HAROLD NICHOLSON, FREYA STARK, ROBERT BYRON, SHUSHA GUPPY, JOHN SIMPSON AND CHRISTOPHER DE BELLAIGUE

Sicily

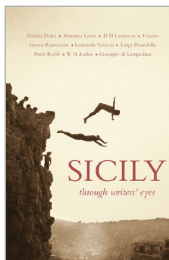
through writers' eyes

EDITED BY HORATIO CLARE

ISBN: 978-0907871-941

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



Sicily, at the epicenter of the Mediterranean, has endured more than its fair share of invaders and Imperial viceroys. It is a crucible of European culture, a place where the Phoenicians, Athenians, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Habsburgs, Bourbons and Byzantines all flourished, producing some of their finest and most distinctive art and architecture. Yet this always coexisted with a resilient indigenous culture, expressed in its own mythology, cuisine and wine as well as in its attachment to secret societies – from the Sicilian Vespers to the Mafia. These influences, along with some ineffable magic, have inspired many writers. Novelist and travel writer Horatio Clare has, with his own passion for Sicily, chosen a kaleidoscope of enchanting tales, detailing the island through the eyes of princes and peasants, from Palermo to Syracuse, and from arrival to departure.

INCLUDING:

W.H. AUDEN, CICERO, GOETHE, HOMER, IBN JUBAYR, GIUSEPPE DE LAMPE-
DUSA, D.H. LAWRENCE, NORMAN LEWIS, GAVIN MAXWELL, PLUTARCH,
DANILO DOLCI, LUIGI PIRANDELLO, MELISSA P, PETER ROBB, STEVEN
RUNCIMAN

Syria

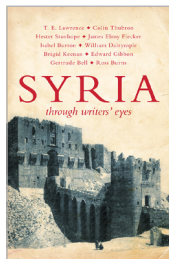
through writers' eyes

EDITED BY
MARIUS KOCIEJOWSKI

ISBN: 978-0907871-842

Format: 272pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



For centuries, visitors have responded to Syria with fascination. In these pages you will eavesdrop on William Dalrymple musing on Byzantine hermits, hear Robin Fedden on Crusader Castles, follow T. E. Lawrence through Aleppo and read the thoughts of Edward Gibbon, Hester Stanhope and Gertrude Bell amongst the ruins of Palmyra. Poet, travel writer and antiquarian book dealer Marius Kociejowski has poured his long experience and continued absorption with Syria into this wide-ranging but exquisitely discriminating collection.

With an introduction by Ross Burns, an epilogue by Peter Clark and ten original woodcuts by Mungo McCosh.

INCLUDING:

T.E. LAWRENCE, COLIN THUBRON, WILLIAM DALRYMPLE, ISABEL BURTON,
EDWARD GIBBON, GERTRUDE BELL, IBN BATTUTA, FREYA STARK,
JAMES ELROY FLECKER, ROSS BURNS, HESTER STANHOPE

The Turkish Coast

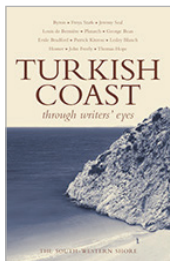
through writers' eyes

COLLECTED AND
EDITED BY RUPERT SCOTT

ISBN: 978-1906011-093

Format: 246pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



The Turkish coast between Izmir and Antalya is an area of drama and beauty – towering wooded mountains, river-cut gorges, isolated valleys, secretive headlands and remote coves. Rich in the ruins of antiquity, it remains comparatively unspoilt, a magnet for a trickle of discerning travellers and boat-borne holidaymakers wishing to explore its colours, scents and monuments. This collection brings the fascination of the region into sharp relief, travelling in the company of Hesiod and Homer, following the route of Alexander's army, sharing the excitement of the first British antiquarian explorers and game-hunters, as well as celebrating the delights of Turkish cooking and the steam-filled vaults of the hammam.

With a foreword by Jeremy Seal and an evocation of life in the ancient world by Ffiona Gilmore Eaves

INCLUDING:

LORD BYRON, LOUIS DE BERNIERES, HOMER, HESIOD, PLINY, PATRICK KINROSS, FREYA STARK, DAVID SUTHERLAND, EDITH WHARTON, JEREMY SEAL, GEORGE BEAN, THOMAS HOPE, JOHN FREELY, ERNLE BRADFORD.

Poetry of Place

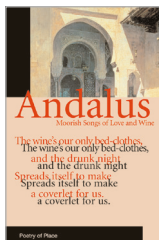
‘essential pocket-fillers for any distraction-seeking, day-dreaming traveller ... an excuse for some literary escapism and lots of coffee-bar time-wasting.’

TIME OUT

‘perfect fillers for the traveller’s stocking.’

SUNDAY TIMES





Andalus

Moorish Songs of Love and Wine

ED. & TRANS. BY T. J. GORTON

ISBN 978-0955010-583

Format: 126pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price: £5.99

Place: Spain

Moorish Spain is an elusive place, glimpsed in the haunted emptiness of the Alhambra's gilded halls or amidst the pillars of the Great Mosque of Cordoba. This collection of poetry fills those deserted spaces with the Moorish lust for life, and with a near-suffocating desire for love, wine, laughter, moonlit picnics and bare flesh.

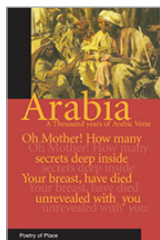
Arabia

ED. & TRANS. BY T. J. GORTON

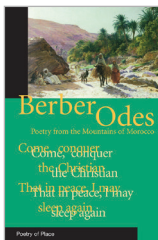
ISBN 978-1906011-208

Format: 128pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price: £6.99



Even before Islam, poetry was at the heart of Arabic culture. It developed wherever Arabic came to be spoken, from Damascus to Fez, Baghdad to Cairo, as well as in the Arabian heartland. This book takes us on a poetic journey through the classical age of Arabic poetry, from the years AD 600-1000.



Berber Odes

Poetry from the Mountains of Morocco

ED. MICHAEL PEYRON

ISBN 978-1906011-284

Format: 128pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price: £6.99

The poems in this volume come for the most part from the Middle Atlas region of central Morocco, which are representative of a particularly rich, Heroic Age culture that has survived in oral form, more or less unimpaired. Never before have these traditional odes been translated into English.

China

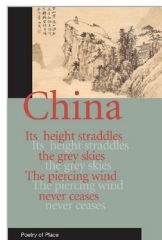
City & Exile

ED. ALEX MONRO

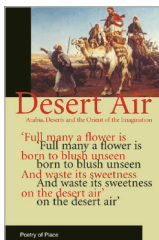
ISBN 978-1906011-307

Format: 80pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price: £6.99



There is no civilisation that can match China for its historical obsession with poetry. Beginning at least three thousand years ago, China's scholars captured the lives and habits of their people in verse, usually brushed out on bamboo, silk or paper.



Desert Air

Arabia, Deserts and the Orient of the Imagination

ED. BARNABY ROGERSON

ISBN 978-1906011-055

Format: 144pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price: £5.99

A pocket-sized collection of all the favourite verses that have inspired desert travellers. From Coleridge's *Kubla Khan* to Shelley's *Ozymandias*, through James Elroy Flecker, Byron, Longfellow and Heine. Also includes the great originals such as the *Rubáiyát* of Omar Khayyám and the Seven Golden Odes of Pagan Arabia.

Dublin

ED. JOHN WYSE JACKSON

ISBN 978-1906011-239

Format: 117pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price £6.99



From Oscar Wilde to Rudyard Kipling, from Jonathan Swift to WB Yeats and Samuel Beckett: the city of Dublin has enchanted and inspired some great poetry. This collection is the perfect companion for a visit to the Fair City, or indeed to any inn, bar or café in Ireland.

England

ED. A. N. WILSON

ISBN 978-1906011-215

Format: 112pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price £6.99



This collection delights in the power of an English ideal, in well constructed metre and memorable line, helping to create a legendary past of honesty, energy and innocence. Whether recited in the secrecy of the bath, or babbling with wild emotion over a windswept picnic, here is a sourcebook for passion.

Highlands & Islands

ED. MARY MIERS

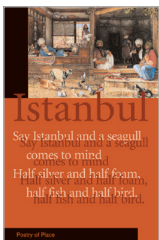
ISBN 978-1-906011-291

Format: 160pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price £6.99



This selection has been made by Mary Miers, who lives in the Highlands and has a long association with the Outer Hebrides through her forbears and her family home in South Uist. She combines a deep knowledge of the places, people and psyche of the Highlands and Islands with the eye of a travelling scholar of architecture.



Istanbul

ED. ATES ORGA

ISBN 978-0955010-590

Format: 159pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price £6.99

Istanbul, capital of two great empires, confluence of Asia and Europe, has called forth poetry throughout her long history, from paupers and sultans, natives and visitors alike. Between these covers, Sultan Süleyman, W. B. Yeats, Nâzım Hikmet, amongst many others, salute one of the world's most remarkable cities.

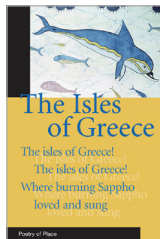
The Isles of Greece

ED. JOHN LUCAS

ISBN 978-1906011-161

Format: 128pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price £6.99



For travellers through the Aegean from Odysseus onwards, the Greek Islands have proved to be places of beauty and enchantment, but also of violence, of love and death. The Isles of Greece doesn't plot a course from island to island. Instead, it groups together poems and prose extracts in order to provide some sense of the glittering delights and dark tragedies that are part of the history and the present of all Greek islands.

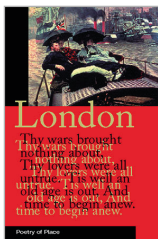
London

ED. BARNABY ROGERSON

ISBN 978-1903651-032

Format: 144pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price £6.99



London's poetry ranges from the up-beat rap of Benjamin Zephaniah to Wordsworth's dawn sigh over the beauty of Westminster Bridge, from half-charred lines of Anglo-Saxon to yesterday's lyrics retrieved from a pub floor. Like the city itself this collection is full of grief, irony and delight, and a connection to our political history.

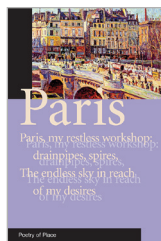
Paris

ED. HETTY MEYRIC HUGHES

ISBN 978-1-906011-314

Format: 160pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price £6.99



The poetic tradition of Paris is personal, irreverent, sexy and invigorating and this collection delights in the company of such swash buckling gallows-fodder as Francois Villon, and applauds the perpetual rebels, Rimbaud and Baudelaire. It is fitting inspiration for taking a day off from monuments and creating your own magic in your bed.



Rome

ED. GLYN PURSGLOVE

ISBN 978-1906011-222

Format: 145pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price £6.99

Glyn Pursglove has woven a delicate tapestry of ancient, medieval and modern poetry, from Virgil to Pasolini. It is a truly Olympian cast enough to fill the Pantheon, whose voices magically echo the city and its lessons to us. From Keats to Shelley to Byron, all were drawn to wither upon the bright glory of its ancient stones.

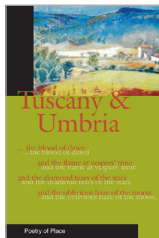
Tuscany & Umbria

ED. GAIA SERVADIO

ISBN 978-1906011-567

Format: 118pp/100 x 150mm pb

Price £6.99



Gaia Servadio is an Italian writer, long settled in Britain, who has retained a passionate relationship with her motherland and those who have expressed this in verse. The cast she has assembled has a spell-binding intensity, so that the reader twists between Byron and Dante, flickers between the imagery drawn by St Francis, Baudelaire and Milton, Gabriele D'Annunzio and Joseph Brodsky. Through her choices we see the two opposing natures of Italy, united by their differences.

The Ruins of Time

ED. ANTHONY THWAITE

ISBN: 978-0907871-989

Format: 80pp/100x150mm pb

Price: £6.99



The broken gate of a rocky citadel, the ivy-clad ruins of a Gothick tower – these are the physical icons of a romantic engagement with the past. They have always fuelled our passion for travel. And they have always provoked the poets. This vein of English verse is celebrated here in a brilliant collection.

Venice

ED. HETTY MEYRIC HUGHES

ISBN 978-1906011-567

Format: 144pp/100x150mm pb

Price £6.99



This little book offers a chance to travel back in time, to walk in the company of Byron, Pushkin, Shelley, Wilde, Goethe, Browning, Pound and Cocteau, as they respond to her provocations. Here we eavesdrop on those first remembered glimpses of the city, on meditations of her history and on that fascinating duality between the clarity of her surface – a Canaletto cityscape – and hermetic decadence.

Index by Country

AFGHANISTAN

- Full Tilt 93
- The Narrow Smile 87
- The Way of the World 16
- The Light Garden of the Angel King 69
- The Women of Herat 30
- Travels into Bokhara 22

AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA

- An Innocent Anthropologist 10
- The Devil Drives 20
- The Weather in Africa 40
- Africa Dances 47
- Warriors 52
- In Ethiopia With a Mule 96
- Travels into the Interior of Africa 110
- Warrior Herdsmen 137
- Ethiopia: through writers' eyes 158

ARABIA

- A Time in Arabia 56
- Sultan in Oman 91
- Arabia 122
- Arabia: Poetry of Place 173

ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC

- Nunaga 121

ARGENTINA

- A State of Fear 49
- Far Away and Long Ago 54

BELIZE

- Time Among the Maya 150

BRAZIL

- Brazilian Adventure 34

BRITISH ISLES

- My Early Life 26
- Holding On 59
- Jackdaw Cake 75
- Journeys of a German in England 90
- A Place Apart 99
- The Common Stream 111
- Lighthouse 112
- The People of Providence 113
- Coasting 123
- A Funny Old Quist 128
- The Fields Beneath 136
- The Road to Nab End 144
- Hampshire: through writers' eyes 160
- England: Poetry of Place 176
- London: Poetry of Place 178

BURMA

- Golden Earth 71

CANADA

- Nunaga 121

CENTRAL ASIA

- A Ride to Khiva 21
- Travels into Bokhara 22
- Central Asia: through writers' eyes 155

CHINA

- Forgotten Kingdom 48

Peking Story 64
Hermit of Peking 139
The Ginger Tree 152
China: Poetry of Place 174

CROATIA

Croatia: through writers' eyes 156

CUBA

The Island that Dared 101

CYPRUS

Eothen 65

ECUADOR

Living Poor 134
The Saddest Pleasure 135
Galapagos: through writers' eyes 159

EGYPT

Libyan Sands 7
Letters from Egypt 46
Eothen 65
Hard Lying 151
The Pharaoh's Shadow 129
Egypt: through writers' eyes 157

FRANCE

Chantemesle 32
Scum of the Earth 67
The Last Time I Saw Paris 115
Paris: Poetry of Place 178

GALAPAGOS

Galapagos: through writers' eyes 159

GREECE

Mother Land 60
The Hill of Kronos 68
92 Acharnon Street 83
An Affair of the Heart 119
The Villa Ariadne 120
Isles of Greece: Poetry of Place 177

GUATEMALA

Rites 116
Time Among the Maya 150

HUNGARY

The Undefeated 109

INDIA & NEPAL

Memoirs of a Bengal Civilian 11
Birds of Passage 27
Against a Peacock Sky 28
The Hill of Devi 35
Goddess in the Stones 78
An Indian Attachment 82
Tibetan Foothold 94
The Waiting Land 95
On a Shoestring to Coorg 97
Begums, Thugs and White Mughals 114
Travels On My Elephant 130
The Living Goddess 138

INDO-CHINA, VIETNAM, LAOS & CAMBODIA

A Dragon Apparent 70

INDONESIA

Not a Hazardous Sport 9
An Empire of the East 79

- IRAN
 The Way of the World 16
 Full Tilt 93
 Persia: through writers' eyes 167
- IRAQ
 A Reed Shaken by the Wind 86
- IRELAND
 So It Goes 17
 Walled Gardens 42
 Bengal Lancer 153
 A Place Apart 99
 Wheels Within Wheels 100
 Dublin: Poetry of Place 175
- ISRAEL
 Palestine Papers 57
 Eothen 65
 A Month by the Sea 102
 Between River and Sea 103
- ITALY
 The Honoured Society 72
 Naples '44 73
 The Law 140
 Rome: Poetry of Place 179
 Tuscany & Umbria: Poetry of Place 179
 Venice: Poetry of Place 180
- JAMAICA
 One People 63
- JAPAN
 The Ginger Tree 152
 The Japanese Chronicles 17
 Japan: through writers' eyes 162
- KOREA
 So It Goes 17
- LEBANON
 Lebanon: through writer' eyes 163
 Smelling the Breezes 58
- LIBYA
 Libyan Sands 7
 A Cure for Serpents 117
- MOROCCAN
 A Moroccan Trilogy 133
- MALAYSIA
 Three Came Home 62
- MEXICO
 A Visit to Don Otavio 13
 Viva Mexico 33
 Time Among the Maya 150
- MOROCCO
 Morocco That Was 53
 Lords of the Atlas 86
 A Year in Marrakesh 88
 Marrakesh: through writers' eyes 164
 Berber Odes: Poetry of Place 174
- PACIFIC
 Transit of Venus 31
 The Book of Puka-Puka 38
 A Pattern of Islands 50
 On Fiji Islands 149

PAKISTAN

- The Narrow Smile 87
The Way of the World 16
Travels Into Bokhara 22
Where the Indus is Young 95
Travels in a Dervish Cloak 140

PALESTINE

- Between River and Sea 103
Hard Lying 151
Palestine Papers 57
Month by the Sea 99

PERU

- Cut Stones & Crossroads 145

POLAND

- A Square of Sky 29

RUSSIA

- Journey into the Mind's Eye 14
When Miss Emmie was in Russia
118
Valse des Fleurs 132

SAHARA

- Libyan Sands 7
Africa Dances 47
Red Moon & High Summer 61

SCOTLAND

- Gavin Maxwell: A Life 15
Highlands & Islands: Poetry of
Place 176
The Christian Watt Papers 36

SICILY

- The Last Leopard 44
The Honoured Society 72
In Sicily 78
On Persephone's Island 131
Sicily: through writers' eyes 162

SOMALIA

- Warriors 52
Somebody Else 101

SPAIN

- Two Middle-Aged Ladies in
Andalusia 25
Voices of the Old Sea 74
The Tomb in Seville 81
Death's Other Kingdom 147
Andalus: Poetry of Place 173

SRI LANKA/CEYLON

- The Scorpion-Fish 19
Growing 145
The Village in the Jungle 146

SYRIA

- Hard Lying 151
The Street Philosopher and the
Holy Fool 66
Syria: through writers' eyes 169

THAILAND

- Borderlines 105

TUNISIA

- Among the Faithful 84

TURKEY

- The Way of the World 16

Turkish Letters 23
An Ottoman Traveller 24
Hard Lying 151
Stamboul Sketches 37
Dinner of Herbs 51
Mother Land 60
Eothen 65
Turkish Embassy Letters 89
Sweet Waters 106
Portrait of a Turkish Family 107
The Caravan Moves On 108
Turkish Coast: through writers'
eyes 170
Istanbul: Poetry of Place 177

URUGUAY

The Purple Land 55

U.S.A

The Face of War 41
The View from the Ground 42
The Trouble I've Seen 43
Hunting Mister Heartbreak 125
Old Glory 126

WEST AFRICA

A Plague of Caterpillars 8
The Innocent Anthropologist 10
Africa Dances 47
Travels into the Interior of Africa
110

Index by Author

- Abdel-Hakim, Sahar Sobhi 157
Aeschylus 167
Auden, W. H. 168
- Bagnold, Ralph 7
Bainbridge, Beryl 160
Banks, Ariane 106
Baring, Rose 165, 161
Barley, Nigel 8, 9, 10
Basho, Matsuo 162
Battuta, Ibn 153, 167
Beames, John 11
Bean, George 170
Bedford, Sybille 12, 13
Bell, Gertrude 169
Bennett, Alan 157
Bernieres, Louis de 170
Bey, Ali 164
Blanch, Lesley 14
Blow, David 167
Botting, Douglas 15
Bouvier, Nicolas 16, 17, 18, 19, 162
Bowles, Paul 161
Bradford, Ernle 170
Brodie, Fawn 20
Browne, Pamela 83
Bruce, James 158
Burnaby, Fred 21
Burnes, Alexander 22, 155
Burns, Ross 21, 169
Burton, Isabel 169
Burton, Richard 20, 158
Busbecq, Ogier de 23
- Byron, Lord George 159, 161, 170, 175
Byron, Robert 167
- Canetti, Elias 164
Çelebi, Evliya 24
Chandler, James 53
Chaney, Lisa 141
Chardin, Sir John 167
Chetwode, Penelope 25
Churchill, Winston 26
Cicero, Marcus Tullius 168
Clare, Horatio 168
Clive, Henrietta 27
Conan Doyle, Sir Arthur 160
Connell, Monica 28
Cowley, Ambrose 159
Curzon, George 57, 155
- Dalrymple, William 22, 78, 114, 141,
157, 163, 169
Dankoff, Robert 24
D'Annunzio, Gabriele 156, 179
Dampier, William 159
Darwin, Charles 159
Darwish, Mahmoud 163
David, Janina 29
Davis, Edward 159
De Bellaigue, Christopher 167
Dedijer, Vladimir 156
Dickens, Charles 161
Dolci, Danilo 168
Doubleday, Veronica 30
- Evans, Julian 31
- Fedden, Robin 32, 169

- Flandrau, Charles 33
 Flaubert, Gustave 161, 163
 Flecker, James Elroy 169, 175
 Fleming, Peter 34
 Forster, E.M. 35, 157
 Frankopan, Peter 156
 Frazer, Sir James 163
 Freely, John 37, 170
 Freud, Esther 164
 Frisbie, Robert Dean 38
- Gellhorn, Martha 39, 40-43, 43, 161,
 166
 Ghosh, Amitav 152
 Gibbon, Edward 156, 158, 169
 Gilmour, David 44
 Glenny, Misha 156
 Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von 168
 Goff, Annabel 45
 Gooding, Francis 156
 Gordon, Lucie Duff 46, 157
 Gorer, Geoffrey 47
 Gorton, T. J. 173
 Goullart, Peter 48
 Goytisolo, Juan 164
 Graham-Yooll, Andrew 49
 Graves, Robert 167
 Green, Roger Lancelyn 157
 Greene, Graham 161
 Gregorios, Abba 158
 Grimble, Arthur 50
 Grissman, Carla 51
 Guppy, Shusha 167
- Hanley, Gerald 52
 Harris, Walter 53
 Hassein, Taha 157
- Hearn, Patrick Lafcadio 162
 Herodotus 163, 167
 Hesiod 170
 Hickman, John 159
 Hickman, Katie 159
 Homer 163, 168, 170
 Hope, Thomas 170
 Hopkins, John 51
 Hopkirk, Kathleen 22, 155
 Hudson, Roger 161
 Hudson, W.H. 54, 55, 160
- Ichiyo, Higuchi 162
 Ingrams, Doreen 56, 57
 Ingrams, Elizabeth 162
 Ishiguro, Kazuo 162
 Izzard, Molly 58
 Izzard, Ralph 58
 Iyer, Pico 150, 162
- Jackson, John Wyse 175
 Jacobs, Michael 147
 John, Prester 69, 158
 Jones, Mervyn 59
 Jubayr, Ibn 157, 168
- Kakmi, Dmetri 60
 Kaufmann, Herbert 61
 Keith, Agnes 62
 Kennaway, Guy 63
 Kerr, Alex 162
 Kidd, David 64
 Kinglake, Alexander William 65
 Kinross, Patrick 170
 Kim, Sooyong 24
 Kipling, Rudyard 162, 175
 Kirkup, James 162
 Kociejowski, Marius 66, 169

- Koestler, Arthur 67
 Lampedusa, Giuseppe de 168
 Lane, Edward 157
 Langlands, Alastair 160
 Laqueur, Walter 67
 Lavington, Stephen 156
 Lawrence, D. H. 163, 169
 Lawrence, T. E. 158, 163
 Leo Africanus, Joannes 164
 Levi, Peter 68, 69
 Lewis, Norman 70-80, 162
 Lewis, Wyndham 164
 Lindstrom, Lamont 47
 Lloyd, Sarah 82
 Loti, Pierre 152, 157
 Lucas, John 81, 171
- Macartney, Catherine 155
 Mackintosh-Smith, Tim 56, 141
 Macclean, Fitzroy 155
 Mahfouz, Naguib 157
 Manning, Olivia 160
 Manguel, Alberto 147
 Manley, Deborah 157
 Mansel, Philip 23
 Marsden, Philip 158
 Martin, Dahris 84
 Maupassant, Guy de 161
 Maxwell, Gavin 15, 85, 86, 164, 168
 Mayne, Peter 87, 88, 164
 Melville, Herman 159
 Meyric Hughes, Hetty 178, 180
 Miers, Mary 170
 Mishima, Yukio 162
 Monroe, Alex 174
 Montagu, Mary Wortley 89
 Moorehead, Caroline 40
 Moritz, Carl Philip 90
- Morris, Jan 91, 156, 162
 Mosley, Nicholas 89
 Murphy, Clive 128
 Murphy, Dervla 89-103, 158
 Nicholl, Charles 104, 105
 Nicholson, Harold 106, 167
 Nicolson, Nigel 106
 Nightingale, Florence 1527
 Orga, Ates 107, 108, 177
 Orga, Irfan 107, 108
 O'Rourke, P. J. 163
 Orwell, George 164
 Owen, James 69
- Pakenham, Thomas 158
 Paloczi-Horvath, George 109
 P (Panarello), Melissa 168
 Park, Mungo 110
 Parker, Dorothy 1
 Parker, Rowland 111
 Parker, Tony 112, 113
 Parkes, Fanny 114
 Paul, Elliot 113
 Perera, Victor 116
 Peyron, Michael 174
 Pirajno, Alberto Denti di 117
 Pirandello, Luigi 168
 Pitcher, Harvey 118
 Pliny 166, 170
 Plutarch 168
 Polo, Marco 155, 162, 167
 Porter, Captain David 159
 Powell, Dilys 119, 120
 Pryde, Duncan 121
 Pursglove, Glyn 179
- Raban, Jonathan 122-126

- Ramsbotham, David 99
 Reid, Sir James 127
 Reid, Michaela 127
 Rimbaud, Arthur 158
 Robb, Peter 168
 Rogers, Evan 128
 Rogers, Woodes 159
 Rogerson, Barnaby 164, 165, 166,
 175, 178
 Runciman, Steven 168
 Rushby, Kevin 141
 Ruskin, John 156
- Sattin, Anthony 110, 129
 Sayers, Dorothy 161
 Scott, Rupert 170
 Seal, Jeremy 170
 Servadio, Gaia 179
 Shah, Tahir 141, 164
 Shakespeare, Nicholas 54
 Shand, Mark 130
 Sharp, Jack 145
 Shields, Nancy 27
 Simeti, Mary Taylor 131
 Simpson, John 167
 Sitwell, Osbert 156
 Sitwell, Sacheverell 132, 164
 Stanhope, Hester 169
 Stark, Freya 167, 169, 170
 Stein, Aurel 155
 Stranger, Yves-Marie 158
 Sutherland, David 170
 Swift, Jonathan 162, 175
- Tanizaki, Junichiro 162
 Thackeray, William 161
- Theroux, Paul 135
 Thesiger, Wilfrid 158
 Thomas, Edward 160
 Thomas, Elizabeth Marshall 137
 Thompson, Mark 156
 Thomsen, Moritz 134, 135
 Thubron, Colin 163, 169
 Thwaite, Anthony 162, 180
 Tindall, Gillian 136
 Tolstoy, Leo 161
 Tomas, Fray 159
 Tree, Isabella 138
 Trevor-Roper, Hugh 139
 Trollope, Anthony 161
 Twain, Mark 163
- Vailland, Roger 140
- Wannell, Bruce 141
 Wallace, Alfred 159
 Waugh, Alec 142
 Waugh, Evelyn 156, 158
 Weller, Anthony 38
 Wharton, Edith 164, 170
 White, Gilbert 160
 Wilkinson, Isambard 143
 Wilkinson, Sir John Gardner 156
 Wilson, A. N. 156, 176
 Wodehouse, P. J. 160
 Woodruff, William 144
 Woolf, Leonard 145, 146
 Woolsey, Gamel 147
 Wright, Ronald 148, 149, 150
 Wynd, Oswald 152
- Xenophon 167

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