INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1602, the Bodleian Library is one of the oldest libraries in Britain and the largest university library in Europe. Since 1610, it has been entitled to receive a copy of every book published in the British Isles.

The Bodleian’s collections, built up through benefaction, purchase and legal deposit, are exceptionally diverse, spanning every corner of the globe and embracing almost every form of written work and the book arts. With over thirteen million items and outstanding collections, the Bodleian draws readers from every continent and continues to inspire generations of researchers who flock to its reading rooms as well as the wider public who enjoy its exhibitions, displays, public lectures and other events. Increasingly, its unique collections are available to all digitally.

Bodleian Library Publishing produces beautiful and authoritative books which help to bring the riches of Oxford’s libraries to readers around the world. We publish approximately 25–30 new books a year on a wide range of subjects, including catalogues and other titles related to our exhibitions, facsimiles, illustrated and non-illustrated works, and children’s books and stationery. We have a current backlist of over 150 titles.

All of our profits are returned to the Bodleian and help support the Library’s work in curating, conserving and collecting its rich archives and helping to maintain the Bodleian’s position as one of the pre-eminent libraries in the world.

Cover image Detail from Heinrich Berann’s panorama of Yellowstone National Park, 1991. US National Parks Service, from Why North is Up, page 4

Image opposite Clarendon Building, Bodleian Libraries © Greg Smolonski

All prices and information are correct at time of going to press and may be subject to change without further notice.

Design by Sue Rudge Design & Communication
Every map tells a story. Some provide a narrative for travellers, explorers and surveyors or offer a visual account of changes to people’s lives, places and spaces, while others tell imaginary tales, transporting us to fictional worlds created by writers and artists. In turn, maps generate more stories, taking users on new journeys in search of knowledge and adventure.

Drawing on the Bodleian Library’s outstanding map collection and covering almost a thousand years, Talking Maps takes a new approach to map-making by showing how maps and stories have always been intimately entwined. Including such rare treasures as a unique map of the Mediterranean from the eleventh-century Arabic Book of Curiosities, al-Sharīf al-Idrīsī’s twelfth-century world map, C.S. Lewis’s map of Narnia, J.R.R. Tolkien’s cosmology of Middle-earth and Grayson Perry’s twenty-first-century tapestry map, this fascinating book analyses maps as objects that enable us to cross sea and land; as windows into alternative and imaginary worlds; as guides to reaching the afterlife; as tools to manage cities, nations, even empires; as images of environmental change; and as digitized visions of the global future.

By telling the stories behind the artefacts and those generated by them, Talking Maps reveals how each map is not just a tool for navigation but also a worldly proposal that helps us to understand who we are by describing where we are.

JERRY BROTTON is Professor of Renaissance Studies at Queen Mary University of London. NICK MILLEA is Map Librarian at the Bodleian Library.

ALSO OF INTEREST

Treasures from the Map Room: A Journey through the Bodleian Collections
Edited by Debbie Hall
9781851242504
HB £35.00

VISIT THE EXHIBITION

Bodleian Libraries, Oxford
Talking Maps
July – November 2019
Many people have a love of maps. But what lies behind the process of map-making? How have cartographers through the centuries changed their craft and established a language of maps which helps them to better represent our world and users to understand it?

This book tells the story of how widely accepted mapping conventions originated and evolved – from map orientation, projections, typography and scale, to the use of colour, map symbols, ways of representing relief and the treatment of boundaries and place names. It charts the fascinating story of how conventions have changed in response to new technologies and ever-changing mapping requirements, how symbols can be a matter of life or death, why universal acceptance of conventions can be difficult to achieve and how new mapping conventions are developing to meet the needs of modern cartography.

Here is an accessible and enlightening guide to the sometimes hidden techniques of map-making through the centuries.

MICK ASHWORTH is Director of Ashworth Maps and Interpretation Ltd and Consultant Editor to The Times Atlas of the World. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.
From medieval maps to digital cartograms, this book features highlights from the Bodleian Library’s extraordinary map collection together with rare artefacts and some stunning examples from twenty-first-century map-makers.

Each map is accompanied by a narrative revealing the story behind how it came to be made and the significance of what it shows. The chronological arrangement highlights how cartography has evolved over the centuries and how it reflects political and social change.

Showcasing a twelfth-century Arabic map of the Mediterranean, highly decorated portolan charts, military maps, trade maps, a Siberian sealskin map, maps of heaven and hell, C.S. Lewis’s map of Narnia, J.R.R. Tolkien’s cosmology of Middle-earth and Grayson Perry’s tapestry map, this book is a treasure-trove of cartographical delights spanning over a thousand years.

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50 Maps and the Stories they Tell
Jerry Brotton and Nick Millea

ALSO OF INTEREST, see p.24
London Map Journal
9781851245222
HB £9.99

144 pp, 196 x 196 mm
c. 80 colour illus
9781851245239
PB with flaps £12.00
July 2019

The Selden Map of China
A New Understanding of the Ming Dynasty
Hongping Annie Nie

Dating from the seventeenth century at the height of the Ming Dynasty, the Selden Map of China reveals a country very different from popular conceptions of the time, looking not inward to the Asian landmass but outward to the sea. Discovered in the stacks of the Bodleian Library, this beautifully decorative map of China is in fact a seafaring chart showing Ming Dynasty trade routes. It is the earliest surviving example of Chinese merchant cartography and is evidence that Ming China was outward-looking, capitalistic and vibrant.

Exploring the commercial aims of the Ming Dynasty, the port city of Quanzhou and its connections with the voyages of the early traveller Zheng He, this book describes the historical background of the era in which the map was used. It also includes an analysis of the skills and techniques involved in Chinese map-making and the significance of the compass bearings, scale and ratios found on the map, all of which combine to represent a breakthrough in cartographic techniques.

The enthralling story revealed by this extraordinary artefact is central to an understanding of the long history of China’s relationship with the sea and with the wider world.

ALSO OF INTEREST, see p.23

Lost Maps of the Caliphs: Drawing the World in Eleventh-Century Cairo
Yossi Rapoport & Emilie Savage-Smith
9781851244911
HB £37.50

HONGPING ANNIE NIE is a Teaching and Research Associate of the University of Oxford China Centre and a Senior Member of St Anthony’s College, Oxford.

96 pp, 259 x 237 mm
c. 40 colour illus
9781851245246
HB £20.00
June 2019
This innovative collection of essays shows how linguistic diversity has inspired people across time and cultures to embark on adventurous journeys through the translation of texts. It tells the story of how ideas have travelled via the medium of translation into different languages and cultures, focusing on illustrated examples ranging from Greek papyri through illuminated manuscripts and fine early books to fantasy languages (such as J.R.R. Tolkien’s Elvish), the search for a universal language and the challenges of translation in multicultural Britain.

Starting with the concept of Babel itself, which illustrates the early cultural prominence of multilingualism, and with an illustration of a Mediterranean language of four millennia ago (Linear A), which still resists deciphering, it goes on to examine how languages have interacted with each other in different contexts.

The book also explores the multilingual transmission of key texts in religion, science (the history of Euclid), animal fable (from Aesop in Greek to Beatrix Potter via La Fontaine, with some fascinating Southeast Asian books), fairy tale, fantasy and translations of the great Greek epics of Homer.

It is lavishly illustrated with a diverse range of material, from papyrus fragments found at Oxyrhynchus to Esperanto handbooks to Asterix cartoons, each offering its own particular adventure into translation.
How were the first fonts made? Who invented italics? When did we work out how to print in colour?

Many of the standard features of printed books were designed by pioneering typographers and printers in the latter half of the fifteenth century. Although Johannes Gutenberg is credited with printing the first books in Europe with moveable type, at the height of the Renaissance many different European printers and publishers found innovative solutions to replicate the appearance of manuscript books in print and improve on them. The illustrated examples in *Typographic Firsts* originate in those early decades, bringing into focus the influences and innovations that shaped the printed book and established a Western typographic canon.

From the practical challenges of polychromatic printing or printing music staves and notes to the techniques for illustrating books with woodcuts, producing books for children and the design of the first fonts, these stories chart the invention of the printed book, the world’s first means of mass communication. Also covering title pages, maps, printing in gold and printing in colour, this book shows how a mixture of happenstance and brilliant technological innovation came together to form the typographic and design conventions of the book.

JOHN BOARDLEY is a writer and design consultant.

208 pp, 245 x 190 mm
70 colour illus
9781851244737
HB £25.00
March 2019
Oxford Botanic Garden has occupied its central Oxford site next to the river Cherwell continuously since its foundation in 1621 and is the UK’s oldest botanic garden. The birthplace of botanical science in the UK, it has been a leading centre for research since the 1600s. Today, the garden holds a collection of over 5,000 different types of plant, some of which exist nowhere else and are of international conservation importance.

This guide explores Oxford Botanic Garden’s many historic and innovative features, from the walled garden to the waterlily pool, the glasshouses, the rock garden, the water garden and ‘Lyra’s bench’. It also gives a detailed explanation of the medicinal and taxonomic beds and special plant collections.

Lavishly illustrated with photographs taken throughout the seasons, this book not only provides a fascinating historical overview but also offers a practical guide to the Oxford Botanic Garden and its work today. Featuring a map of the entire site and a historical timeline, it is guaranteed to enhance any visit and is also a beautiful souvenir to take home.
This story is about a brave and kind Anglo-Saxon princess called Frideswide who lived in Oxford a long time ago and just happened to be brilliant at climbing very tall trees. Her talent came in useful one day when a wicked king tried to kidnap her. How did she and her friends escape, and what happened to the king and his soldiers?

With stunning illustrations by award-winning artist Alan Marks, Saint Frideswide’s legend is retold for young children as a tale of adventure, courage in the face of danger, friendship and kindness, with a few surprises along the way.

The church Frideswide founded in Oxford was on the site of what is now Christ Church, and the princess’s medieval shrine can still be seen inside the Cathedral.

This beautiful picture book is sure to be treasured by any child who loves tales of adventure. It will appeal to children learning about the Anglo-Saxons, to readers who like feisty heroines and to visitors to Oxford, as a meaningful souvenir of their visit.

JACKIE HOLDERNESS is currently the Cathedral Education Officer at Christ Church, Oxford. She has written and published a wide range of educational books and materials. ALAN MARKS has illustrated children’s books for several decades and has been awarded the Carnegie Medal and the Smarties Prize for his work in book illustration.

But, one day, a message arrived from a nearby kingdom. Algar, the King of Mercia, said he wanted to marry Frideswide. He threatened that if the princess refused him, he would attack Oxford and kidnap her by force. His soldiers were already on their way. Frideswide’s father and mother were very worried.

‘I have an idea,’ said Frideswide’s dearest friend, Hilla. ‘We can use the river to escape by boat. We could hide in the woods at Byncey, where there are many briars and thorn trees.’

But a few days later, without warning, Algar’s men came back, hacking their way into the forest. ‘Quick!’ whispered the princess, ‘Climb into the trees!’ The three women hid themselves in the branches. They held their breath. But the puzzled soldiers did not find them and had to tell a furious Algar that the princess had completely disappeared.

Hilla said, ‘We need to find a safer place to hide. Let’s use the river again and row all night. We can hide in the daytime.’

Silently, they sped through the darkness, through curtains of weeping willow, until their arms and hands were sore from rowing.

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The Princess who Hid in a Tree
Jackie Holderness
Illustrated by Alan Marks

This story is about a brave and kind Anglo-Saxon princess called Frideswide who lived in Oxford a long time ago and just happened to be brilliant at climbing very tall trees. Her talent came in useful one day when a wicked king tried to kidnap her. How did she and her friends escape, and what happened to the king and his soldiers?

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Silently, they sped through the darkness, through curtains of weeping willow, until their arms and hands were sore from rowing.
Since this handbook was first published in 1994, interest in the book as a material object, and in the ways in which books have been owned, read and used, has burgeoned. Now established as a standard reference work, this book has been revised and expanded with a new set of over 200 colour illustrations, updated bibliographies and extended international coverage of libraries and online resources.

It covers the history and understanding of inscriptions, bookplates, ink and binding stamps, mottoes and heraldry, and describes how to identify owners and track down books from particular collections via library and sale catalogues. Each section features an evaluated bibliography listing further sources, both online and in print. Illustrated examples of the many kinds of ownership evidence which can be found in books are also shown throughout. Relevant to anyone seeking to identify previous owners of books, or trace private libraries, this title will also support the work of all book historians interested in the history of reading or the use of books and in the book as a material object. An essential handbook for anyone working in provenance research.

DAVID PEARSON is a leading expert on provenance and historic books. He retired in 2017 from a career in libraries and now writes and teaches on book history.

c. 448 pp, 234 x 156 mm
c. 200 colour illus
9781851245109
HB £50.00
April 2019

Published in North America by Oak Knoll Press

PRAISE FOR THE FIRST EDITION

It has immediately become indispensable.
David McKitterick, Times Literary Supplement

For the first time, scholars can turn to a well-organized, comprehensive, and accurate account of book ownership.
John Bidwell, Library Quarterly
Korean Treasures: Volume 2
Rare Books, Manuscripts and Artefacts in the Bodleian Libraries and Museums of Oxford University
Minh Chung

Many important and valuable rare books, manuscripts and artefacts related to Korea have been acquired by donations throughout the long history of the Bodleian Libraries and the museums of the University of Oxford. However, due to an early lack of specialist knowledge in this area, many of these Korean items were largely neglected. Following on from the publication of the first volume of these forgotten treasures, this book collects together further important and often unique objects.

Notable items include the only surviving Korean example of an eighteenth-century world map, hand-drawn, with a set of twelve globe gores on a single sheet; rare Korean coins and charms including excellent examples of the 1423 Chosŏn t’ongbo 朝鲜通寶; official correspondence from the archives of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, shining a light on the history of Christian missions from the opening of Korea in the 1880s until after the Korean War; photographs from the end of the nineteenth century up to the 1960s showing village and street scenes; a rare silk coat with inner armour plates of lacquered hide; a massive iron padlock inlaid with silver character inscriptions, bronze shoes and spears with parallel-edged blades; spectacles with dark crystal lenses and frames of horn; an elaborately decorated bow, arrows and quiver for wearing with court dress and many other rare artefacts.

MINH CHUNG is Head of the Bodleian China Centre Library and Korean Collections of the University of Oxford (2001-) and Chair of the Korea Library Group, UK. He was Head Librarian of Teikyo University in Durham (1990–2001) and Subject Consultant (Japanese and Korean) to the Library of the University of Durham (1999–2001).

160 pp, 250 x 210 mm
120 colour illus
9781851245260
HB £35.00
May 2019

ALSO OF INTEREST
Korean Treasures: Volume 1
Minh Chung
9781851242870
HB £35.00

KOREAN HOUSEWIFE'S KEY-RACK. The every-day tools are symmetrical of good and bad. This belt is the animal who lives in the moon. It pounds in a manner this snake, from which the belief of immortality is made. The inscriptions are 'Felicitas', 'The age of the gods', 'Perpetuity', 'A wonderful good'. These are usual presents to a bride.

REANNOUNCED

Medieval Manuscripts from the Mainz Charterhouse in the Bodleian Library, Oxford
A Descriptive Catalogue
Daniela Mairhofer

Medieval Manuscripts from Würzburg in the Bodleian Library: A Descriptive Catalogue
Daniela Mairhofer
9781851244915
HB £200

Also of interest

Lost Maps of the Caliphs
Drawing the World in Eleventh-Century Cairo
Yossef Rapoport and Emilie Savage-Smith

The Bodleian Library is one of the few libraries outside Germany with a substantial number of medieval manuscripts from the German-speaking lands. These manuscripts, most of which were acquired by Archbishop Laud in the 1630s, during the Thirty Years War, mainly consist of major groups of codices from ecclesiastical houses in the Rhine-Main area, that is Würzburg, Mainz and Eberbach. Their potential contribution to the religious and intellectual history of these foundations and to the study of German medieval culture as a whole is immeasurable.

These volumes contain descriptions of over one hundred medieval manuscripts, mostly Latin, from the Charterhouse St Michael at Mainz, founded in the early 1320s. Dating from the tenth to the fifteenth centuries, they reflect the spirituality and literary interest of the Carthusian order.

This is the first major publication on the Mainz Charterhouse manuscript collection. Published in two volumes, it provides authoritative and superbly detailed descriptions, including information about the physical characteristics, decoration, binding and provenance of the manuscripts. Each manuscript is illustrated.

About a millennium ago, someone in Cairo completed a large and richly illustrated book guiding the reader on a journey from the outermost cosmos and planets to Earth and its lands, islands, features and inhabitants. This treatise, known as *The Book of Curiosities*, was unknown to modern scholars until a remarkable manuscript copy surfaced in 2000.

*Lost Maps of the Caliphs* provides the first general overview of *The Book of Curiosities* and the unique insight it offers into medieval Islamic thought. The authors use *The Book of Curiosities* to re-evaluate the development of astrology, geography and cartography in the first four centuries of Islam. Early astronomical ‘maps’ and drawings demonstrate the medieval understanding of the structure of the cosmos and illustrate the pervasive assumption that almost any visible celestial event had an effect upon life on Earth. *Lost Maps of the Caliphs* also reconsiders the history of global communication networks at the turn of the previous millennium. It shows the Fatimid Empire, and its capital Cairo, as a global maritime power, with tentacles spanning from the Eastern Mediterranean to the Indus Valley and the East African coast.

Not only is *The Book of Curiosities* one of the greatest achievements of medieval map-making, it is also a remarkable contribution to the story of Islamic civilization.
New Stationery Range

Journals

The Bodleian Library’s exciting new range of journals showcases gorgeous illustrations from our collections on the covers. Designed to be easily portable or to fit in a small bag, each hard cover journal is 207 x 140mm, with 160 lined pages of high quality paper. Every journal is finished with a sturdy elastic band closure, ribbon marker and elastic pen holder. An expanding wallet for storing papers is also included on the inside back cover. Produced to a high standard with careful attention to finishing and details, they make the perfect gift for all writers and stationery lovers.

Tolkien: Treasures

Catherine McIlwaine

Featuring highlights from the Tolkien archives held at the Bodleian Library, this book explores many aspects of J.R.R. Tolkien’s life and work, from his childhood in the Midlands and his experience of the First World War to his independent studies at school and university. Bringing together his exquisite illustrations for *The Silmarillion*, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* and the intricate maps he created showing the topography of Middle-earth – the land he invented – this is the perfect introduction to Tolkien’s creative imagination, giving a unique insight into the life of this extraordinary writer, artist and scholar.

Catherine McIlwaine is the Tolkien Archivist at the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford.

144 pp, 196 x 196 mm
100 colour illus
9781851244966
PB with flaps £12.00
June 2018
This lavishly illustrated book explores the huge creative endeavour behind Tolkien’s enduring popularity. Using pages from his manuscripts, drawings, maps and letters, it traces the creative process behind his most famous literary works – *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion* – and reproduces personal photographs and private papers, some of which have never been seen before in print.

Tolkien drew on his deep knowledge of medieval literature and language to inform his literary imagination. This book charts the main themes in Tolkien’s life and work including the influence of northern languages and legends on the creation of his own legendarium; his concept of ‘Faërie’ as a literary construct; the central importance of his invented languages and visual imagination in his fantasy writing; as well as the encouragement he derived from the literary group known as the Inklings.

Bringing together the largest collection of original Tolkien material ever assembled in a single volume, this book draws on the Tolkien archive at the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford and at Marquette University, Milwaukee, as well as private collections. The many worlds of J.R.R. Tolkien – scholarly, literary, creative and domestic – are brought together in these pages, offering a rich and detailed understanding and appreciation of an extraordinary author.
Martin Lister and his Remarkable Daughters

The Art of Science in the Seventeenth Century

Anna Marie Roos

This is the extraordinary and compelling story of how a scientific father and his two artistic daughters created the first comprehensive, illustrated account of the biology of molluscs.

T.R. Birkhead, author of The Wonderful Mr Willughby (Bloomsbury 2018)

Martin Lister, royal physician and fellow of the Royal Society, was an extraordinarily prolific natural historian with an expertise in shells and molluscs.

Disappointed with the work of established artists, Lister decided to teach his daughters, Susanna and Anna, how to illustrate the specimens he studied. The sisters became so skilled at this that Lister entrusted them with his great work, Historiae Conchyliorum, assembled between 1685 and 1692. This first comprehensive study of conchology consisted of over 1,000 copperplates of shells and molluscs collected from around the world. Martin Lister and his Remarkable Daughters reconstructs the creation of this masterwork, from the identification of the original shells to the drawings themselves, and from the engraved copperplates to the draft prints and final books.

Susanna and Anna portrayed the shells not only as curious and beautiful objects, but also as specimens of natural history rendered with sensitivity and keen scientific empiricism. Beautiful in their own right, these illustrations and engravings reveal the early techniques behind scientific illustration together with the often unnoticed role of women in the scientific revolution.

‘Invention … does not consist in creating out of void, but out of chaos’ – Mary Shelley

In the 200 years since its first publication, the story of Frankenstein’s creation during stormy days and nights at Byron’s Villa Diodati on Lake Geneva has become literary legend. In this book, Daisy Hay returns to the objects and manuscripts of the novel’s genesis in order to assemble its story anew.

Frankenstein was inspired by the extraordinary people surrounding the eighteen-year-old author and by the places and historical dramas that formed the backdrop of her youth. Featuring manuscripts, portraits, illustrations and artefacts, ‘The Making of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein’ explores the novel’s time and place, its people, the relics of its long afterlife and the notebooks in which it was created. Hay strips Frankenstein back to its constituent parts, revealing an uneven novel written by a young woman deeply engaged in the process of working out what she thought about the pressing issues of her time: science, politics, religion, slavery, maternity, the imagination, creativity and community. This is a compelling and innovative biography of the novel for all those fascinated by its essential, brilliant chaos.
Most of us are aware that words such as geometry, mathematics, phobia and hypochondria derive from Ancient Greek, but did you know that marmalade, pirate, sketch and purse can also trace their linguistic origins back to the Athens of 500 BCE?

This book offers a word-by-word look at the influence of Greek on everyday words in English, telling the stories behind the etymological developments of each example and tracing their routes into modern English via Latin and European languages. It also explains connections with Ancient Greek culture, in particular mythology, politics and warfare, and includes proverbs and quotations from Greek literature.

Taken together, these words show how we are deeply indebted to the language spoken in Athens 2,500 years ago for the everyday vocabulary we use when conducting our daily business.

The English language is rich with eponyms – words that are named after an individual – some better known than others. This book features 150 of the most interesting and enlightening specimens, delving into the origins of the words and describing the fascinating people after whom they were named.

Eponyms are derived from numerous sources. Some are named in honour of a style icon, inventor or explorer, such as pompadour, Kalashnikov and Cadillac. Others have their roots in Greek or Roman mythology, such as panic and tantalize. A number of eponyms, however, are far from celebratory and were created to indicate a rather less positive association – into this category can be filed boycott, Molotov cocktail and sadist.

Encompassing eponyms from medicine, botany, invention, science, fashion, food and literature, this book uncovers the intriguing tales of discovery, mythology, innovation and infamy behind the eponyms we use every day. The perfect addition to any wordsmith’s bookshelf.
The early members of Apollo took their oaths solemnly. In his farewell address as Worshipful Master, Brother Ireland – ‘the elder statesman of the Lodge’. He warned them ‘to be particularly cautious in Oxford Masonry’ – ‘gave a short lecture to the Brethren with regard to their address as Worshipful Master, Brother Ireland – ‘the elder statesman of University Lodge No. 711, 1832.

(opposite) The Past Master’s jewel, presented to William Beach, 1853.

Over the past 200 years, many thousands of undergraduates have been initiated into membership of Apollo – the Masonic lodge of the University of Oxford. These have included such diverse figures as Oscar Wilde, Osbert Lancaster, Samuel Reynolds Hole, Cecil Rhodes, Edward, Prince of Wales and his brother Leopold, Charles Canning, Hugh Trevor-Roper, Godfrey Elton and Roger Makins.

Drawing on archives held in the Bodleian Library, this book is the first serious attempt to set the story of Apollo in the context of Oxford life and learning as well as its wider social and political diaspora. From the devastating numbers lost in the First and Second World Wars, as well as those decorated for bravery, to the significant number of Olympians who were members of the lodge, it also charts the lodge’s charitable work, its changes of location, social events and adaptation to twenty-first-century life in Oxford.

Illustrated with archival material, portraits and Masonic treasures, this is history in a minor key, but a minor narrative with major implications, documenting the remarkable numbers of Oxford freemasons with distinguished careers in government, law, the army and the Church.

JOE MORDAUNT CROOK, C.B.E., F.B.A., is a celebrated architectural historian; he is a former Slade Professor and Waynflete Lecturer at the University of Oxford, and a former Public Orator and Professor of Architectural History at the University of London. JAMES W. DANIEL, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a member of Apollo for over fifty years and a former Grand Secretary (chief executive) of the United Grand Lodge of England, has written and contributed to many publications on Freemasonry.

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JOE MORDAUNT CROOK, C.B.E., F.B.A., is a celebrated architectural historian; he is a former Slade Professor and Waynflete Lecturer at the University of Oxford, and a former Public Orator and Professor of Architectural History at the University of London. JAMES W. DANIEL, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, a member of Apollo for over fifty years and a former Grand Secretary (chief executive) of the United Grand Lodge of England, has written and contributed to many publications on Freemasonry.

Over the past 200 years, many thousands of undergraduates have been initiated into membership of Apollo – the Masonic lodge of the University of Oxford. These have included such diverse figures as Oscar Wilde, Osbert Lancaster, Samuel Reynolds Hole, Cecil Rhodes, Edward, Prince of Wales and his brother Leopold, Charles Canning, Hugh Trevor-Roper, Godfrey Elton and Roger Makins.

Drawing on archives held in the Bodleian Library, this book is the first serious attempt to set the story of Apollo in the context of Oxford life and learning as well as its wider social and political diaspora. From the devastating numbers lost in the First and Second World Wars, as well as those decorated for bravery, to the significant number of Olympians who were members of the lodge, it also charts the lodge’s charitable work, its changes of location, social events and adaptation to twenty-first-century life in Oxford.

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ABSURDITY, n. A statement or belief manifestly inconsistent with one’s own opinion.

In 1881 Ambrose Bierce, journalist and former soldier for the Union army in the Civil War, began writing satirical definitions for the San Francisco Wasp, and then for William Randolph Hearst’s San Francisco Examiner. Bierce was launched on a journalistic career that would see him liked and loathed in equal measure – and earn him the title of ‘the wickedest man in San Francisco’.

In his column, Bierce, a contemporary of Mark Twain, brought his biting black humour to bear on spoof definitions of everyday words, writing deliberate mistranslations of the vocabulary of the establishment, the Church and the politics of his day, and shining a sardonic light on hypocrisy and deception.

These columns formed the beginnings of a dictionary, first published in 1906 as The Cynic’s Word Book. Over 100 years later, some of Bierce’s redefinitions still give us pause for thought – REPORTER, n. A writer who guesses his way to the truth and dispels it with a tempest of words; UN-AMERICAN, adj. Wicked, intolerable, heathenish; POLITICS, n. The conduct of public affairs for private advantage – making for a timely new edition of this irreverent and provocative satire.

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The University of Oxford: A Brief History
Laurence Brockliss

The University of Oxford is the third oldest university in Europe and remains one of the greatest universities in the world. How did such an ancient institution flourish through the ages?

This book offers a succinct illustrated account of its colourful and controversial 800-year history, from medieval times through the Reformation and on to the nineteenth century, in which the foundations of the modern tutorial system were laid. It describes the extraordinary and influential people who shaped the development of the institution and helped to create today’s world-class research university.

Institutions have waxed and waned over the centuries but Oxford has always succeeded in reinventing itself to meet the demands of a new age. Richly illustrated with archival material, prints and portraits, this book explores how a university in a small provincial town rose to become one of the top universities in the world at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Each item in this lavishly illustrated book tells a unique story about natural history, the history of science, the adventures of collecting or the museum itself. Highlights include the only specimen with soft tissue in existence of the iconic dodo, the giant tuna brought back from Madeira on a perilous sea crossing in 1846, crabs collected by Darwin during his voyage on the Beagle, David Livingstone’s tsetse fly specimens and Mary Anning’s ichthyosaur. Also featured are the first described dinosaur bones, found in a small Oxfordshire village, the Red Lady of Paviland (who turned out to be a man who lived 29,000 years ago) and a meteorite from the planet Mars.

Since its establishment in 1860 as a separate institution, the Oxford University Museum of Natural History’s world-renowned collections have become a key centre for scientific study and its much-loved building an icon for visitors around the world. The museum currently holds over seven million scientific specimens including five million insects, half a million fossil specimens and half a million zoological specimens. It also holds an extensive collection of archival material relating to important naturalists such as Charles Darwin, William Smith, Frederick William Hope, William Jones and James Charles Dale. This book gives a unique insight into the extraordinary wealth of information that can be gleaned from the items in these important collections, both from the past and for the future.
EDMUND DULAC was born in France but resident in London from the early 1900s, where he made his name as an illustrator of luxurious picture books. MARINA WARNER is an award-winning writer, critic and historian. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and of the British Academy.

The much-loved tales from *The Thousand and One Nights* first appeared in English translation in the early nineteenth century. The popularity of these ancient and beguiling tales set against the backdrop of Baghdad, a city of wealth and peace, stoked the widespread enthusiasm for and scholarly interest in eastern art and culture, which had been a dominant fashion in Europe for almost a century.

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