

Bromley House Library Book List
March and April 2017
Non Fiction

ART

AUCOTT, Shirley Mary Annie Sloane ARE, 1867-1961: a portrait of the artist
(Leicester Art and Museums Service: 2016)
E 2988

KING, Ross Mad enchantment: Claude Monet and the painting of the water lilies
(Bloomsbury: 2016)
E 2989

Claude Monet's water lily paintings are among the most iconic and beloved works of art of the past century. Yet these entrancing images were created at a time of terrible private turmoil and sadness for the artist. The dramatic history behind these paintings is little known; Ross King's *Mad Enchantment* tells the full story for the first time and, in the process, presents a compelling and original portrait of one of our most popular and cherished artists.

Drawing on letters and memoirs and focusing on this remarkable period in the artist's life, *Mad Enchantment* gives an intimate portrayal of Claude Monet in all his tumultuous complexity, and firmly places his water lily paintings among the greatest achievements in the history of art.

LAING, Olivia The Lonely City: adventures in the art of being alone
(Canongate: 2017)
E 2990

When Olivia Laing moved to New York City in her mid-thirties, she found herself inhabiting loneliness on a daily basis. Increasingly fascinated by this most shameful of experiences, she began to explore the lonely city by way of art. Moving fluidly between the works and lives of some of the city's most compelling artists, Laing conducts an electric, dazzling investigation into what it means to be alone, illuminating not only the causes of loneliness but also how it might be resisted and redeemed.

PENDRED, Gerald A monograph on the life and work of Clifton Tomson
(1775 - 1828): a Nottingham animal and sporting artist
(Gerald Pendred: 1978)
E 2959

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BIOGRAPHY

AGEE, James Let Us Now Praise Famous Men

EVANS, Walker

(Penguin Books: 2006)

Ca 14084

In the summer of 1936, Agee and Evans set out on assignment for Fortune magazine to explore the daily lives of sharecroppers in the South. Their journey would prove an extraordinary collaboration and a watershed literary event when in 1941 *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* was first published to enormous critical acclaim. This unsparing record of place, of the people who shaped the land, and of the rhythm of their lives today stands as one of the most influential books of the twentieth century.

BENNER, Erica Be Like the Fox: Machiavelli's lifelong quest for freedom

(Allen Lane: 2017)

Ca 14085

Niccolò Machiavelli lived in a fiercely competitive world, one where brute wealth, brazen liars and ruthless self-promoters seemed to carry off all the prizes; where the wealthy elite grew richer at the expense of their fellow citizens. In times like these, many looked to crusading religion to solve their problems, or they turned to a new breed of leaders - super-rich dynasties like the Medici or military strongmen like Cesare Borgia; upstarts from outside the old ruling classes. In the republic of Florence, Machiavelli and his contemporaries faced a choice: should they capitulate to these new princes, or fight to save the city's democratic freedoms?

Be Like the Fox follows Machiavelli's dramatic quest for political and human freedom through his own eyes. Masterfully interweaving his words with those of his friends and enemies, Erica Benner breathes life into his penetrating, comical, often surprising comments on events. Far from the cynical henchman people think he was, Machiavelli emerges as his era's staunchest champion of liberty, a profound ethical thinker who refused to compromise his ideals to fit corrupt times. But he did sometimes have to mask his true convictions, becoming a great artist of fox-like dissimulation: a master of disguise in dangerous times.

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BIRKIN, Henry R. S. Full Throttle
(G. T. Foulis: 1932)
Ca 14075

GOFFIN, Magdalen Maria Pasqua
(Oxford University Press: 1979)
Ca 14086

Based on family diaries and letters, *Maria Pasqua* tells the story of a beautiful, unhappy woman who achieved fame in Paris as a child, and whose later life consisted of a hopeless and frustrated longing to return to the scenes of her childhood. Born in 1856, Maria Pasqua was blessed with an exceptional and unfading beauty. From an early age she was modelling for artists in Rome. When six her father took her to Paris where she was adopted by the Comtesse de Noailles, a member of the Baring family. The Comtesse was domineering and eccentric on the grand scale. She had an invincible faith in the salubrious benefit of the breath of cattle, and would keep a cow tethered to every ground floor window so that its wholesome breath could infuse the room. When she married a doctor turned country gentleman some twenty years her senior, Maria Pasqua, whilst still subject to the constant interference of the Comtesse, found herself cocooned within the enervating routine of a typical country house of that time. Madgalen Goffin has written a haunting and entirely delightful memoir which combines, to an extraordinary extent, humour, vitality and a most attractive sympathy for the tragedy of life.

GORHAM, Carl The Owl at the Window: a memoir of loss and hope
(Coronet: 2017)
Ca 14078

Shock is just one of many emotions explored in award-winning TV comedy writer Carl Gorham's account of his bereavement which is by turns deeply moving and darkly humorous.

Part love story, part widower's diary, part tales of single parenting, it tells of his wife's cancer, her premature death and his attempts to rebuild his life afterwards with his six -year old daughter.

Realised in a series of vivid snapshots, it takes the reader on an extraordinary journey from Oxford to Australia, from Norfolk to Hong Kong through fear, despair,

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pain and anger to hope, laughter and renewal. *The Owl at the Window* is a fresh and original exploration of what it means to lose a partner in your forties, and how Carl learned to live again.

KALANITHI, Paul When Breath Becomes Air
(Vintage Books: 2017)
Ca 14083

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, the next he was a patient struggling to live. *When Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a medical student asking what makes a virtuous and meaningful life into a neurosurgeon working in the core of human identity – the brain – and finally into a patient and a new father.

What makes life worth living in the face of death? What do you do when when life is catastrophically interrupted? What does it mean to have a child as your own life fades away? Paul Kalanithi died while working on this profoundly moving book, yet his words live on as a guide to us all. *When Breath Becomes Air* is a life-affirming reflection on facing our mortality and on the relationship between doctor and patient, from a gifted writer who became both.

MILLER, Sam Fathers
(Cape: 2017)
Ca 14080

In early 2014, after many years living abroad, Sam Miller returned to his childhood home in London. His father was dying.

When the editor, writer, critic and academic Karl Miller died later that year, the obituaries spoke of his brilliance and influence, of how he founded the *London Review of Books*, and how he had shaped the careers of some of the finest writers and poets of the second half of the twentieth century. But they gave little sense of Karl Miller beyond the world of work: the warm, funny, football-loving family man so adored by his children and grandchildren. In the months after his death, Sam began to write about his father. He had been told, long ago, a family secret involving his parents and a close friend. Now, by reading his father's papers and with the help of

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his mother, he was able to piece together a remarkable story. *Fathers* is the result: a tender, thoughtful exploration of childhood and parenthood, of friendship, love and loyalty.

SANTAMARIA, Abigail

Joy:

poet, seeker and the woman who captivated C.S. Lewis

(Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: 2016)

Ca 14077

Joy Davidman is known, if she is known at all, as the wife of C. S. Lewis. Their marriage was immortalized in the film *Shadowlands* and Lewis's memoir, *A Grief Observed*. Now, through extraordinary new documents as well as years of research and interviews, Abigail Santamaria brings Joy Davidman Gresham Lewis to the page in the fullness and depth she deserves. A poet and radical, Davidman was a frequent contributor to the communist vehicle *New Masses* and an active member of New York literary circles in the 1930s and 40s. After growing up Jewish in the Bronx, she was an atheist, then a practitioner of Dianetics; she converted to Christianity after experiencing a moment of transcendent grace. A mother, a novelist, a vibrant and difficult and intelligent woman, she set off for England in 1952, determined to captivate the man whose work had changed her life. Davidman became the intellectual and spiritual partner Lewis never expected but cherished. She helped him refine his autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*, and to write his novel *Till We Have Faces*. Their relationship-begun when Joy wrote to Lewis as a religious guide-grew from a dialogue about faith, writing, and poetry into a deep friendship and a timeless love story.

SHETTERLY, Margot Lee

Hidden figures:

the untold story of the African American women who helped win the space race
(William Collins: 2017)

Ca 14082

Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of professionals worked as 'Human Computers', calculating the flight paths that would enable these historic achievements. Among these were a coterie of bright, talented African-American women. Segregated from their white counterparts, these 'colored computers' used pencil and paper to write the equations that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.

Moving from World War II through NASA's golden age, touching on the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the women's rights movement, *Hidden*

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the burgeoning field of astronomy forever changed our understanding of the stars and our place in the universe.

WATKINS, Charles Uvedale Price (1747-1829): decoding the picturesque

COWELL, Ben

(Boydell: 2015)

Ca 14076

Uvedale Price achieved most fame as the author of the influential *Essay on the Picturesque* of 1794. This is the first biography of Uvedale Price, bringing out his contradictory and elusive character and revealing an astonishing cast of friends and acquaintances, including Gainsborough, Voltaire, William Wordsworth and Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

WILSON, David Mary Ann Cotton: Britain's first female serial killer

(Waterside Press: 2013)

Dd 03415

As one of the UK's leading commentators, David Wilson shows how some serial killers stay in the headlines whilst others rapidly become invisible - or "unseen". Yet Mary Ann Cotton is not just the first but perhaps the UK's most prolific female serial killer. But her own north east of England (and criminologists) apart, she remains largely forgotten, despite poisoning to death up to 21 victims in Britain's 'arsenic century'. Exploding myths that every serial killer is a 'monster', the author draws attention to Cotton's charms, allure, capability, skill and ambition - drawing parallels or contrasting the methods and lifestyles of other serial killers from Victorian to modern times. He also shows how events cannot be separated from their social context - here the industrial revolution, growing mobility, women's emancipation and greater assertiveness. And concerning the reticence of 'human nature', like Dr Harold Shipman, Cotton was allowed to go on killing despite reasons to suspect her. The book contains other resonances to aid understanding of how serial murderers can go undiscovered despite such things as coincidence, gossip, whispers or motives that become more obvious with the benefit of hindsight. It is also a detective story in which the persistence of a single individual saw Cotton tried and executed, events analysed first-hand from the archives and location visits as the author fills the gaps in a remarkable story.

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HISTORY

CRANE, Nicholas The Making of the British Landscape
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson: 2015)

Cc 02924

From our suburban streets which still trace the boundaries of long vanished farms to the Norfolk Broads, formed when medieval peat pits flooded - evidence of man's effect on Britain is everywhere. Packed with over 250 maps and photographs, compellingly written and argued, this highly acclaimed book will permanently change the way you see your surroundings.

DILLON, Alfred J. Recusant: treachery, torture and reason
(Dynasty Press: 2016)

Ca 14087

HUGHES, Bettany Istanbul: a biography of a city
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson: 2016)

Cc 03925

Istanbul has always been a place where stories and histories collide and crackle, where the idea is as potent as the historical fact. From the Qu'ran to Shakespeare, this city with three names - Byzantium, Constantinople, Istanbul - resonates as an idea and a place, and overflows its boundaries - real and imagined. Standing as the gateway between the East and West, it has served as the capital of the Roman, Byzantine, Latin and Ottoman Empires. For much of its history it was known simply as The City, but, as Bettany Hughes reveals, Istanbul is not just a city, but a story. In this epic new biography, Hughes takes us on a dazzling historical journey through the many incarnations of one of the world's greatest cities. As the longest-lived political entity in Europe, over the last 6,000 years Istanbul has absorbed a mosaic of micro-cities and cultures all gathering around the core. At the latest count archaeologists have measured forty-two human habitation layers. Phoenicians, Genoese, Venetians, Jews, Vikings, Azeris all called a patch of this earth their home. Based on meticulous research and new archaeological evidence, this captivating portrait of the momentous life of Istanbul is visceral, immediate and scholarly narrative history at its finest.

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poetry. This 1972 text brings 'taste' into contact with the social and economic bases of life.

FOOT, Mirjam The Decorated Bindings in Marsh's Library, Dublin
(Ashgate:2004)

Da 01761

Among the many books in original bindings in Marsh's Library, Dublin, a surprisingly large number are in decorated blind- or gold-tooled, calf, pigskin or goatskin bindings, which date from the 15th to the 19th centuries. The bindings come from all over Europe, ranging from Ireland to eastern Europe. While most were made in England, some fine and interesting examples from Germany, Italy, France, Spain and Holland are also included. In this volume, leading scholar Mirjam Foot first gives an overview of how books were bound by hand and then describes the bindings by country of origin, within each section treating them chronologically and by type of decoration.

SCHWALBE, Will Books for Living: a reader's guide to life
(Two Roads: 2017)

Da 01762

Why is it that we read? Is it to pass time? To learn something new? To escape into another reality?

For Will Schwalbe, reading is a way to entertain himself but also to make sense of the world, to become a better person, and to find the answers to the big (and small) questions about how to live his life. In this delightful celebration of reading, Schwalbe invites us along on his quest for books that speak to the specific challenges of living in our modern world, with all its noise and distractions.

In each chapter, he discusses a particular book-what brought him to it (or vice versa), the people in his life he associates with it, and how it became a part of his understanding of himself in the world. These books span centuries and genres (from classic works of adult and children's literature to contemporary thrillers and even a cookbook), and each one relates to the questions and concerns we all share.

Throughout, Schwalbe focuses on the way certain books can help us honour those we've loved and lost, and also figure out how to live each day more fully.

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LOCAL HISTORY

HALL, John (ed) The Story of a Village
(Edwalton Local History Society: 2004)
Cc 03916

HORTON, R. A. Aspley Hall: the house that died without a protest
(Horton: 1970)
CcX 03915

TURTON, Kevin A Grim Almanac of Nottinghamshire
(Stroud: 2005)
Ca 14074
A Grim Almanac of Nottinghamshire is a collection of stories from the country's past, some bizarre, some fascinating, some macabre - all absorbing.

WRIGHT, James A Palace For All Our Kings
(Triskele: 2016)
Cc 03914

MISCELLANEOUS

DIDION, Joan South and West: from a notebook
(Alfred A. Knopf: 2017)
Dd 03417
Joan Didion has always kept notebooks: of overheard dialogue, observations, interviews, drafts of essays and articles--and here is one such draft that traces a road trip she took with her husband, John Gregory Dunne, in June 1970, through Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. She interviews prominent local figures, describes motels, diners, a deserted reptile farm, a visit with Walker Percy, a ladies' brunch at the Mississippi Broadcasters' Convention. She writes about the stifling heat, the almost viscous pace of life, the sulfurous light, and the preoccupation with race, class, and heritage she finds in the small towns they pass through. And from a different notebook: the "California Notes" that began as an assignment from *Rolling Stone* on the Patty Hearst trial of 1976. Though Didion never wrote the piece, watching the trial and being in San Francisco triggered thoughts about the city, its social hierarchy, the Hearsts, and her own upbringing in Sacramento. Here, too, is the beginning of her thinking about the West, its landscape, the western women who

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MORRIS, Mervyn *Peelin Orange*

(Carcanet Poetry: 2017)

Db 2634

Peelin Orange is the definitive Collected Poems by one of Jamaica's leading voices, the current Poet Laureate, Mervyn Morris. These poems explore the everyday, the erotic, love and the melancholy and comedy of being. Often drawing upon Creole dialect, Morris explores his Jamaican heritage with trademark musicality. Each poem offers a pared-down shard of concentrated feeling and social observation. This Collected Poems is a landmark tribute to the winner of the Order of Merit (Jamaica) 2009 and highlights his distinguished contribution to West Indian Literature.

MORT, Helen *No Map Could Show Them*

(Chatto & Windus: 2016)

Db 2632

The poems of Helen Mort's second collection offer an unforgettable perspective on the heights we scale and the distances we run, the routes we follow and the paths we make for ourselves. Here are odes to the women who dared to break new ground – from Miss Jemima Morrell, a young Victorian woman from Yorkshire who hiked the Swiss Peaks in her skirts and petticoats, to the modern British mountaineer Alison Hargreaves, who died descending from the summit of K2.

MURRAY, Les A. *On Bunyah*

(Carcanet Poetry: 2017)

Db 2639

'Bunyah has been my refuge and home place all my life. This book concentrates on the smallest habitats of community, the scattered village and the lone house, where space makes the isolated dwelling into an illusory distant city ruled by its family and their laws.' This updated edition of *On Bunyah* tells a story of rural Australia in verse and photographs. From blood and fenceposts to broad beans and milk lorries, Les Murray evokes the life and landscape of his part of the country.

NICHOLS, Grace *The Insomnia Poems*

(Bloodaxe Books: 2017)

Db 2638

In her latest collection, *The Insomnia Poems*, Grace Nichols explores those nocturnal hours when Sleep (the thief who nightly steals your brain) is hard to come by, and the politics of the day hard to shut out, never mind the lavender-scented pillow. Here memories of her own Guyana childhood mingle with the sleeping spectres of

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dreams and folk legends such as *Sleeping Beauty*. A lyrical interweaving of tones and textures invites the reader into the zones between sleep and no-sleep, between the solitude of the dark and the awakening of the light.

OSMAND, Richard Useful Verses
(Pan Macmillan: 2017)
Db 2633

Richard Osmond's debut collection *Useful Verses* follows in the tradition of the best nature writing, being as much about the human world as the natural, the present as the past: Osmond, a professional forager, has a deep knowledge of flora and fauna as they appear in both natural and human history, as they are depicted in both folklore and herbal - but he views them through a wholly contemporary lens.

TOWNSEND, Sue Adrian Mole: the collected poems
(Michael Joseph: 2017)
Db 2627

Featuring poems scattered over nearly thirty years of writing and salvaged from the diaries 'authored' by one Sue Townsend, this slim volume features more than thirty pieces of Adrian's unique art.

From his timeless first documented poem - *The Tap* - via classic odes to his muse, first and only true love Pandora (I adore ya), we follow Adrian's life in verse form. We not only witness his burgeoning political anger in works like *Mrs Thatcher* (Do you weep, Mrs Thatcher, do you weep?) but also see in later poems his merciless examination of the hollow shell of masculinity as well as documenting his declining libido in tragic pieces like *To My Organ*.

PSYCHOLOGY

REGEL, Stephen Post-Traumatic Stress
JOSEPH, Stephen
(Oxford University Press: 2017)
Ba 475

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder that can develop after exposure to one or more traumatic events. It is a severe and ongoing emotional reaction to extreme psychological trauma, such as threat to life, being a victim of crime or sexual assault, witnessing someone's death, or a threat to one's physical and/or psychological integrity.

The new edition updated throughout, presents information in a helpful, practical,

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and accessible way that will be helpful to survivors, and their family and friends. The book begins with a description of PTSD and other related problems, often experienced by survivors, a short history of the developments in the field, information on common responses to trauma, theory, assessment, treatment and research findings.

YALOM, Irvin D. *Staring at the Sun: overcoming the dread of death*
(Piatkus: 2011)

Ba 476

Over the past quarter century Irvin Yalom has established himself as the world's leading group psychotherapist. In *Staring at the Sun*, he explores how the knowledge of our own mortality affects the unconscious mind of every human being. Tackling the effect of mankind's fear of death - both conscious and unconscious - on life and how we might live it, Yalom explains how we find ourselves in need of the comfort of therapy.

At age 70 and facing his own fear of death, which he discusses in a special afterword, Dr Yalom tackles his toughest subject yet and finds it to be the root cause of patients' fears, stresses and depression. If therapists are to deliver 'the gift of therapy', they must confront the realities of life for themselves and their practice, as must we all.

POLITICS & ECONOMICS

CLEGG, Nick *Politics: between the extremes*
(The Bodley Head: 2016)

F 1223

Politics has changed. For decades Britain was divided between Left and Right but united in its belief in a two-party state. Now, with nationalism resurgent and mainstream parties in turmoil, stark new divisions define the country and the centre ground is deserted. Nick Clegg witnessed this change from the inside. Here he offers a frank account of his experiences and puts the case for a new politics based on reason and compromise.

He writes candidly about the tense stand-offs within government and the decision to enter coalition with the Conservatives in the first place. He also lifts the lid on the arcane worlds of Westminster and Brussels, the vested interests that suffocate reform, as well as the achievements his party made despite them.

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HODGE, Margaret

Called to Account:

how governments and vested interests combine to waste our money

(Little, Brown: 2016)

F 1222

In a recent study of 61 hospitals, it was found that they bought 21 different types of A4 paper, 652 different kinds of surgical gloves and 1751 different cannulas.

Police forces could cut the cost of their uniforms by over 30 per cent if they all bought the same one. But they disagree on how many pockets they need.

Having committed to buy two new aircraft carriers, the MOD realised it didn't have the funds to buy them. The delayed delivery cost an additional £1.6 billion.

We've spent £500 million on an abandoned project to centralise 999 calls, £3.5 billion on privatising the Work Programme, £700 million on implementing Universal Credit (used by 18,000 people), £20 billion on medical negligence claims, £70 billion (and counting) dealing with nuclear waste at Sellafield, and countless millions on IT investments in the BBC, the Home Office, the NHS . . .

Waste is everywhere.

Fighting against this waste is the Public Accounts Committee, which oversees some £700 billion of public spending every year. As its chair from 2010-15, Margaret Hodge knows the excesses of government bodies better than anyone.

Conversational, witty, engaging and packed with anecdotes and insights about the biggest political figures of our time, *Called to Account* shines a light on some of the most fascinating - and alarming - issues that face Britain today.

HUNTINGTON, Samuel P.

The clash of civilizations:
and the remaking of world order

(Free: 2002)

F 1225

In 1993 the esteemed journal *Foreign Affaire* published an article entitled *The Clash of Civilizations?* by Samuel P. Huntington. According to the journal's editors it went on to generate more discussion than anything they had published since the Second World War. In the article, Huntington posed the question whether conflicts between civilizations would dominate the future of world politics. In the book, he gives the answer, showing not only how clashes between civilizations are the greatest threat to world peace but also how an international order based on civilizations is the best safeguard against war.

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F 1226

Europe is caught in its greatest crisis since the Second World War. The catalogue of ills seems endless: an economic crisis spread through most of Europe's Mediterranean tier that has crippled Greece and driven a wedge between northern and southern Europe terrorist attacks in Paris, Cologne, Brussels, and Nice growing aggression from Russia in Ukraine and the Baltic states and refugees escaping war-torn neighbours. The European Union's inability to handle any of these disasters was a driving factor in Great Britain voting to leave, and others may soon follow. The result won't just be a continent in turmoil, but also a serious threat to American and British security, the Atlantic, let alone the Channel, simply isn't big enough to keep European troubles in Europe. In *Europe's Last Chance*, Guy Verhofstadt, former prime minister of Belgium and current leader of the liberal faction in the European Parliament, provides the essential framework for understanding Europe today, laying bare the absurdity of a system in which each member state can veto legislation, opt in or out of the Euro, or close borders on a whim. But Verhofstadt does not just indict the European Union, he also offers a powerful vision for how the continent can change for the better.

RELIGION

WELBY, Justin *Dethroning Mammon: making money serve grace*
(Bloomsbury: 2016)

A 1729

In his first full-length book Justin Welby looks at the subject of money and materialism. Designed for study in the weeks of Lent leading up to Easter, *Dethroning Mammon* reflects on the impact of our own attitudes, and of the pressures that surround us, on how we handle the power of money, called Mammon in this book. Who will be on the throne of our lives? Who will direct our actions and attitudes? Is it Jesus Christ, who brings truth, hope and freedom? Or is it Mammon, so attractive, so clear, but leading us into paths that tangle, trip and deceive? Archbishop Justin explores the tensions that arise in a society dominated by Mammon's modern aliases, economics and finance, and by the pressures of our culture to conform to Mammon's expectations. Following the Gospels towards Easter, this book asks the reader what it means to dethrone Mammon in the values and priorities of our civilisation and in our own existence. In *Dethroning Mammon*,

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Johnson's storytelling is just as delightful as the inventions he describes, full of surprising stops along the journey from simple concepts to complex modern systems. He introduces us to the colourful innovators of leisure: the explorers, proprietors, showmen, and artists who changed the trajectory of history with their luxurious wares, exotic meals, taverns, gambling tables, and magic shows. Johnson compellingly argues that observers of technological and social trends should be looking for clues in novel amusements. You'll find the future wherever people are having the most fun.

MCDERMID, Val Forensics: the anatomy of crime

(Profile Books: 2015)

Bb 3654

The dead talk. To the right listener, they tell us all about themselves: where they came from, how they lived, how they died - and who killed them. Forensic scientists can unlock the mysteries of the past and help justice to be done using the messages left by a corpse, a crime scene or the faintest of human traces.

Forensics draws on interviews with top-level professionals, ground-breaking research and Val McDermid's own experience to lay bare the secrets of this fascinating science. And, along the way, she wonders at how maggots collected from a corpse can help determine time of death, how a DNA trace a millionth the size of a grain of salt can be used to convict a killer and how a team of young Argentine scientists led by a maverick American anthropologist uncovered the victims of a genocide.

In her novels, McDermid has been solving complex crimes and confronting unimaginable evil for years. Now, she's looking at the people who do it for real. It's a journey that will take her to war zones, fire scenes and autopsy suites, and bring her into contact with extraordinary bravery and wickedness, as she traces the history of forensics from its earliest beginnings to the cutting-edge science of the modern day.

PALIN, Steve

A Murmuration of Starlings:
the collective nouns of animals and birds

(Merlin Unwin: 2013)

Bb 3655

A flock of birds, even a skein of geese perhaps, but a cete of badgers, or a grist of bees? The collective nouns of animals and birds have long inspired and intrigued us.

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for me, in the months they're in flower!' The result is this beautiful, previously-unpublished book of all her accurate and informative illustrations, painted over a period of 45 years. This book today still serves Margaret's original purpose in that it is indeed an attractive way to learn the names of our delicate and beautiful wild flowers.