

'a nearly extinct integrity, an eccentric passion for quality and a wonderful survivor. We are all in Eland's debt.'

COLIN THUBRON



## Welcome to the Eland Catalogue, No. 13

In 1982, John Hatt set up Eland. His office was his attic, perched at the top of his house on a grid of 19th-century terraced streets. Thus was Eland born, earning its identity from a South London street named after a large African antelope, which had been nicknamed by a Dutch-African back in the 17th-century, half-remembering the German slang for an elk. Only later did we find out that there had been an old Devonian family of bookseller-publishers called Eland, who worked in the close of Exeter Cathedral, a football stadium in Leeds and an Anglo-Saxon manor in Yorkshire that survived the Norman conquest. But it is to the large, docile, spiral-horned antelope that we owe our brand name.

They sound fine animals these African Elands. A bull can stand six feet tall at the shoulder and weigh over two thousand pounds, so can pretty much barge his way through anything in his path, especially when backed up by the rest of the herd. Unlike publishers they tend to avoid lunch, preferring to eat at dawn and dusk and digest with a siesta in the middle of the day. When the herd moves in the night, they create a distinctive castanet-like chorus from the clack of their hooves.

For tens of thousands of years the Bushmen have honoured the Eland as a trickster god, who assists in trance, dance and spirit travel. The Eland has now and then been domesticated (their milk keeps well) but they are essentially nomadic, which is true for those who work at Eland, who have spent as much of their time as journalists, writers, editors, musicians and dragoman-guides as behind a desk. And that is as it should be, for the purpose of the Eland list is to delight in the fascinating diversity of our world.

We can never quite define what we are looking for until we stumble across it but it needs to be observant of others, capable of summing up a spirit of a place and catching the moment on the wing – aside from such everyday literate skills as being funny, wry, intelligent, humane, universal, self-deprecating and idiosyncratic – plus the whole book has to be held together by a page-turning gift for story telling.

John Hatt's Eland was the first of a wave of travel lists that emerged in the early 1980s, quickly joined by Century Travellers, the Penguin Classic Travel Library, Picador and Virago. You wouldn't have wanted to put any money on it, but it is only the Eland list that has endured. Indeed once the wheel of fashion had turned and travel was no longer cherished by the corporate masters, we have been able to cherry-pick the best of the titles from the Century, Picador and Penguin lists.

E-editions of all our Eland classics now enable our books to be read in parts of the world where bookshops do not exist. Otherwise Eland continues, very much as it first started, with eight revived titles a year, topped up by the occasional new travel book that comes our way. By the end of this year we will have brought the library of red-top paperbacks to a row of 115 titles, excluding 15 collections of travel writing, our 16 Poetry of Place booklets and a dozen original works.

It is a classic tale of the Hare and the Tortoise, or should one say the Leopard and the Eland. For one of the defining characteristics of the Eland is that it is no good at high speeds but 'can trot along at fourteen miles an hour indefinitely.'

BARNABY ROGERSON

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# E<sup>L</sup>AND

61 Exmouth Market, London, EC1R 4QL

Email: [info@travelbooks.co.uk](mailto:info@travelbooks.co.uk)

Extracts from each and every one of our books can be read on our website, at [www.travelbooks.co.uk](http://www.travelbooks.co.uk).

‘John Hatt founded the incomparable Eland thirty-five 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*

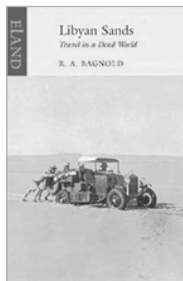
**RALPH BAGNOLD**

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*

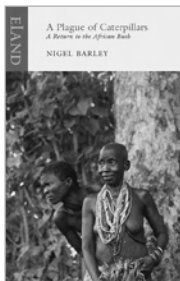
NIGEL BARLEY

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 Durrell did for animal collecting.'

DAILY TELEGRAPH

'... touching and hilarious.'

RICHARD ADAMS



# The Innocent Anthropologist

*Notes from a Mud Hut*

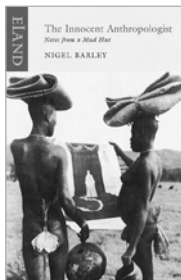
NIGEL BARLEY

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

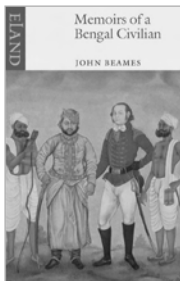
JOHN BEAMES

ISBN: 978-0907871-095

Format: 334pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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: £12.99

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*

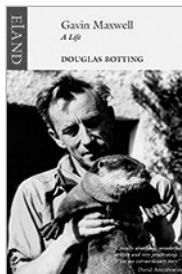
DOUGLAS BOTTING

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

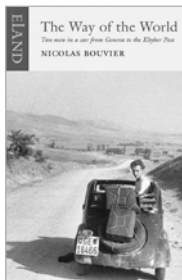
A cult classic, *The Way of the World* is one of the most beguiling travel books ever written. Reborn from the ashes of a Pakistani rubbish heap, it tells of a friendship between a writer and an artist, forged on an impecunious, life-enhancing journey from Serbia to Afghanistan in the 1950s. On one level 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



# The Japanese Chronicles

NICOLAS BOUVIER

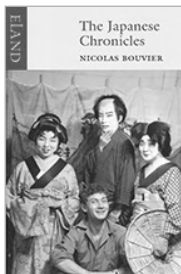
Translated by Anne Dickerson

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

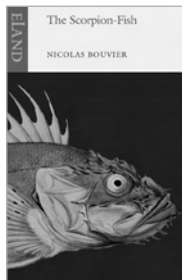
Translated by Robyn Marsack

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 habitues 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

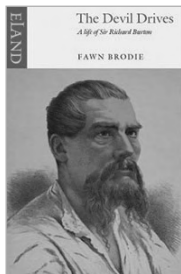
*A Life of Sir Richard Burton*

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: £12.99

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: £12.99

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?’

TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

‘Fresh, appreciative and funny?’

JASON GOODWIN

# Juliet

## *A Life in Memories*

Edited by Georgiana Campbell

ISBN: 978-1903651-063

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £10.00

Place: Pakistan, Moscow, USA, England



To mark the tenth anniversary of the death of Juliet Peck, the courageous foreign news reporter, who died at the age of 45, her children Fynn Crawley Vergos and Lettice Crawley Peck asked colleagues, friends and family to share their memories of their mother.

Fearless, beautiful, opinionated and fiercely independent, she was drawn to conflict-stricken corners of the world, by turns an aid-worker, a reporter and ultimately a spy. Twice widowed by the age of 35, she lost both husbands (war cameramen) to gunfire – Dominique Vergos in Peshawar and Rory Peck while trying to film the siege of the White House in Moscow in 1993. Immediately after Rory's death, she lost an eye to cancer; but the eyepatch only added to her mystique.

'This book is a chronicle of triumph in adversity, of a remarkable life and a wonderful woman. It is a tribute to courage, to the glory of the human condition, to a life that was not lived in vain.'

BRUCE ANDERSON, REACTION

# 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

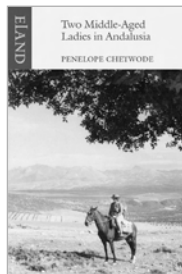
PENELOPE CHETWODE

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

'... unusual and life-enhancing.'

RAYMOND MORTIMER, SUNDAY TIMES



# My Early Life

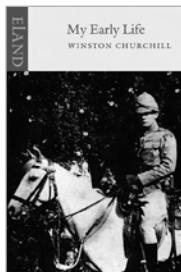
WINSTON CHURCHILL

ISBN: 978-0907871-620

Format: 388pp 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.’

# 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

# Transit of Venus

*Travels in the Pacific*

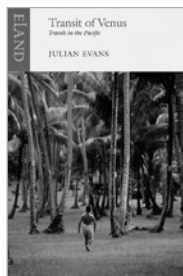
JULIAN EVANS

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*

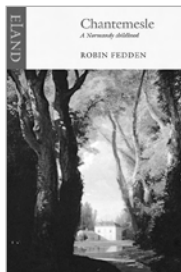
ROBIN FEDDEN

ISBN: 978-0907871-927

Format: 154pp 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 echoingly 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!

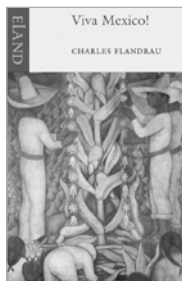
CHARLES FLANDRAU

ISBN: 978-1906011-130

Format: 176pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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

# Stamboul Sketches

*Encounters in Old Istanbul*

JOHN FREELY

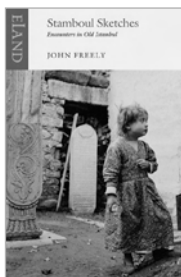
With photographs by Sedat Pakay

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



# 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

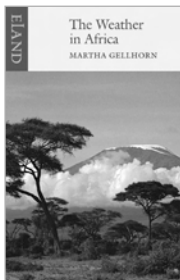
MARTHA GELLHORN

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: 416pp 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

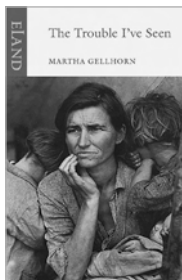
With an introduction by  
Caroline Moorehead

ISBN: 978-1906011-628

Format: 248pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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*

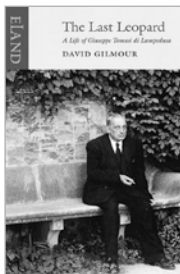
DAVID GILMOUR

ISBN: 978-0955010-514

Format: 334pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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*

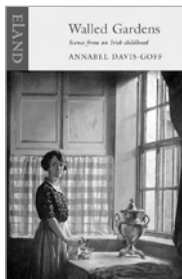
ANNABEL GOFF

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

# Africa Dances

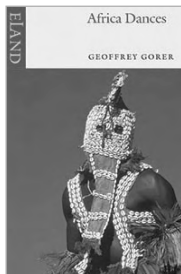
GEOFFREY GORER

ISBN: 978-0907871-187

Format: 296pp demi pb

Price: £9.99

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



# Goodbye Buenos Aires

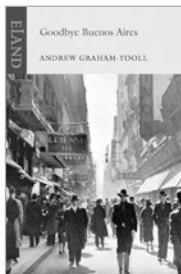
ANDREW GRAHAM-YOOLL

ISBN: 978-1906011-703

Format: 296pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Argentina



*Goodbye Buenos Aires* is a vivid and earthy celebration of Argentina, which chronicles the rise and fall of the British colony in the '20s and '30s through the imaginative biography of one of its charismatic representatives – a hard-drinking, womanising, emigré Scotsman, who cut his way through the bars and brothels of the city whilst trading with farmers up-country. It is also the portrait of an errant father by a son, a descriptive labour of love for Argentina by one of its leading writers and journalists.

‘... an elegy to an immigrant who lived through  
a turbulent swathe of Argentine history?’

LONDON MAGAZINE

‘Witty, brutal and beautifully crafted, there is probably  
no truer portrait of this remarkable country?’

THE SPECTATOR

# A State of Fear

*Memories of Argentina's Nightmare*

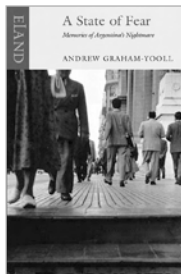
ANDREW GRAHAM-YOOLL

ISBN: 978-1906011-345

Format: 192pp 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

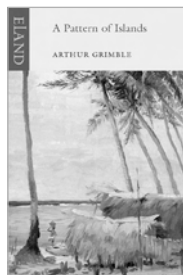
ARTHUR GRIMBLE

ISBN: 978-1906011-451

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price £12.99

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

# Forgotten Kingdom

*Nine Years in Yunan*

PETER GOULLART

ISBN: 978-1780601-113

Format: 224pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: China



Peter Goullart spent nine years in the all but forgotten, ancient Naxhi 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

# Cinema Eden

*Essays from the Muslim  
Mediterranean*

JUAN GOYTISOLO

Translated by Peter Bush

ISBN: 978-1900209-168

Format: 144pp demi pb

Price: £9.99

Place: Morocco/Turkey/Egypt



No European writer knows the Islamic shores of the Mediterranean as intimately as Juan Goytisolo, who has lived and worked amongst Muslims for half his life. In this series of essays Goytisolo celebrates a world where ritual matters and traditions are alive – where saints live, storytellers weave their enchantments nightly and where honour and dignity preserve the importance of the individual.

Like a window into a parallel universe, *Cinema Eden* is a fascinating journey in itself, and a thought-provoking reflection on our own society.

‘Goytisolo’s extraordinary gifts are  
simultaneously forceful and beguiling.’

OBSERVER

‘His works ... are like pages torn out of the book of experience.’

NEW YORK TIMES

# 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*

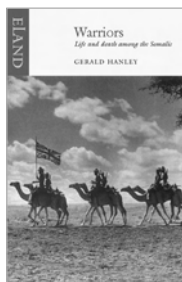
GERALD HANLEY

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

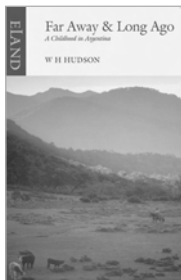
With an afterword by  
Nicholas Shakespeare

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

# A Time in Arabia

*Life in Hadhramaut*

DOREEN INGRAMS

With afterword by  
Tim Mackintosh-Smith

ISBN: 978-1906011-802

Format: 176pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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*

Edited & annotated  
by 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

# Holding On

MERVYN JONES

ISBN: 978-1906011-420

Format: 336pp 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: 208pp 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: £13.99

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

# 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



# The Street Philosopher & the Holy Fool

*A Syrian Journey*

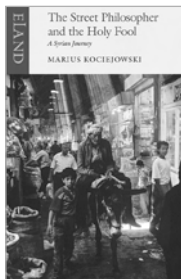
MARIUS KOCIEJOWSKI

ISBN: 978-1780600-727

Format: 272pp 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 (just 12 years ago), 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: 334pp 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

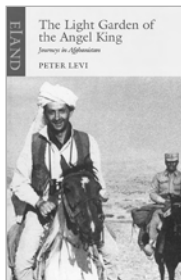
With a biographical afterword by  
James Owen

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 Year in Jamaica

*Memoirs of a girl in Arcadia*

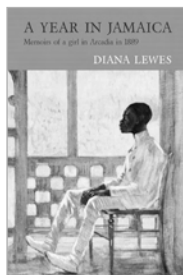
DIANA LEWES

ISBN: 978-1906011-833

Format: 224pp hardback

Price: £16.99

Place: Jamaica



*A Year in Jamaica* is a complex memoir telling the story of two simultaneous journeys: Diana Lewes's 1889 trip from England to visit her family's sugar plantations in the Caribbean and the internal rite of passage of a Victorian girl on her journey to adulthood. For it is in Jamaica that Miss Lewes tries to find a place for herself in the mysterious adult world, to understand its coded rules and hidden passions. Set primarily on a plantation called Arcadia, overlooking the sea and a distant Cuba from on high, Miss Lewes alternates between the acceptable pursuits of a Victorian gentlewoman - sewing, social visits, riding - and trying to find a more meaningful role for herself in this man's world. We see this intelligent and competent young woman appraising the society around her and struggling with its contradictions. Quite how complex those contradictions were is only finally revealed in the publisher's afterword.

With a personal foreword from Nicholas Noble, the great-nephew of Diana Lewes, who preserved and edited this extraordinary memoir.

‘... superbly written, takes you to the dark heart of a sugarland and its people.’

IAN THOMSON

# A Dragon Apparent

*Travels in Cambodia,  
Laos & Vietnam*

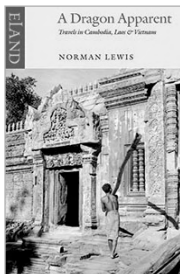
NORMAN LEWIS

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*

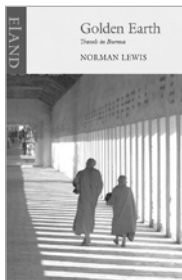
NORMAN LEWIS

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.’

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

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

NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS

# The Honoured Society

*The Sicilian Mafia Observed*

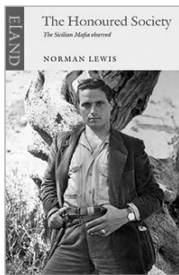
NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-0907871-484

Format: 272pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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*

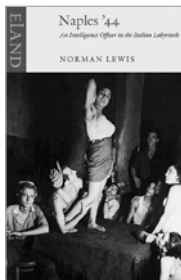
NORMAN LEWIS

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

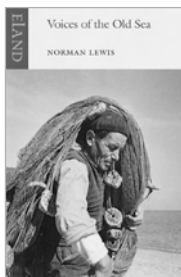
NORMAN LEWIS

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

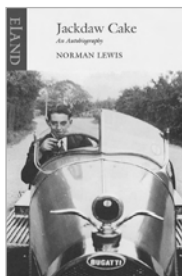
*An Autobiography*

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

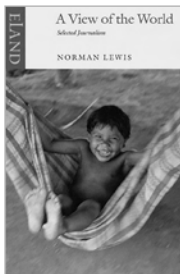
*Selected Journalism*

NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-0907871-439

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



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

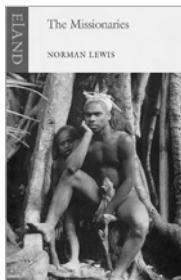
*God against the Indians*

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*

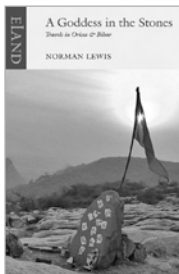
NORMAN LEWIS

ISBN: 978-1780601-083

Format: 326pp 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*

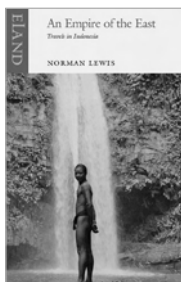
NORMAN LEWIS

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

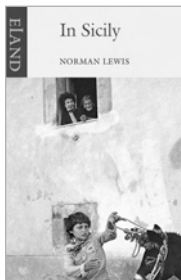
NORMAN LEWIS

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

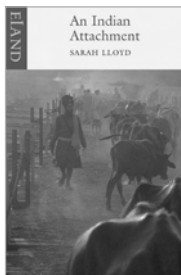
SARAH LLOYD

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

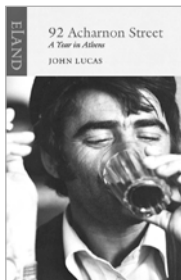
by Pamela Browne

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*

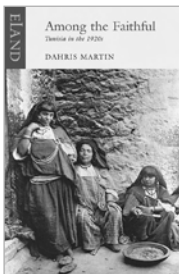
DAHRIS MARTIN

ISBN: 978-1780600-543

Format: 192pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Tunisia



Dahrnis 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.

Dahrnis 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*

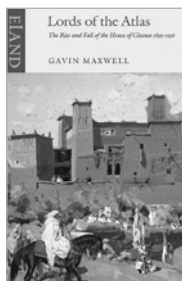
GAVIN MAXWELL

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*

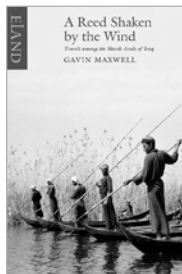
GAVIN MAXWELL

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

# 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

# Journeys of a German in England

*A Walking Tour of England in 1782*

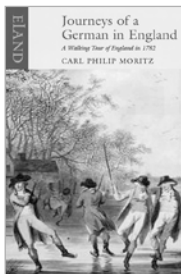
CARL PHILIP MORITZ

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

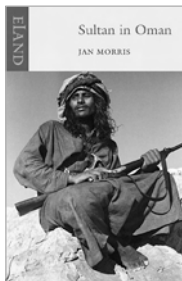
JAN MORRIS

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

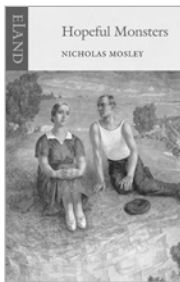
# Hopeful Monsters

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

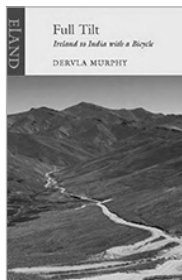
*Ireland to India with a bicycle*

DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN: 978-1906011-413

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £12.99



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 irrepensible zest for life, her  
warm humanity, her courage and good humour.’

IRISH INDEPENDENT

# The Waiting Land

*A Spell in Nepal*

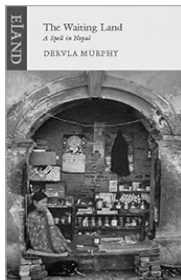
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN: 978-1906011-659

Format: 216pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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

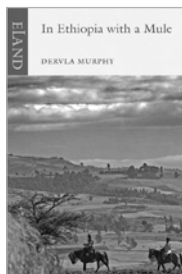
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN 978-1906011-673

Format: 280pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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 cardamon-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*

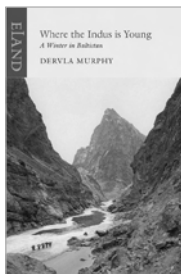
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN 978-1906011-666

Format: 280pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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

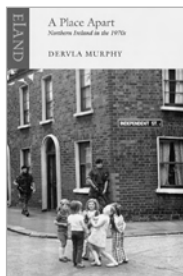
With afterword by  
David Ramsbotham

ISBN 978-1780600-116

Format: 256pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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

# Wheels within Wheels

## *The Makings of a Traveller*

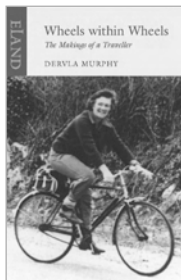
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN 978-1906011-4-06

Format: 283pp demi pb

Price £12.99

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 978-1906011-468

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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*

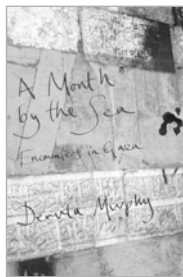
DERVLA MURPHY

ISBN 978-1780600-673

Format: 224pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Gaza



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.’

TLS

# Between River and Sea

*Encounters in Israel and Palestine*

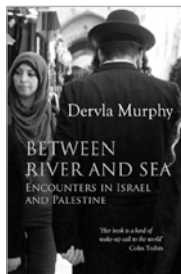
DERVLA MURPHY

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

# Sweet Waters

*An Istanbul Adventure*

HAROLD NICOLSON

Foreword by Nigel Nicolson,

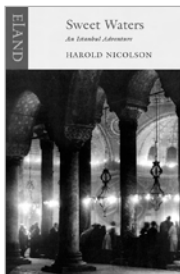
biographical afterword by Ariane Bankes

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: 336pp 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



# Dark Journey

*The legend of Kamelya and Murat*

IRFAN ORGA

ISBN: 978-1906011-819

Format: 220pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

Place: Turkey



*Dark Journey* is a disturbing, fast-paced story of a young Turkish woman's descent towards moral annihilation – one part Maupassant, one part *One Thousand and One Nights*. In the early Turkish republic, the options for an impoverished widow with a child are few, and the choices made by Kamelya lead to her estrangement from her son Murat. But blood ties, secrecy and fate bring them back together for a denouement that smoulders like a Greek myth, with pent-up love and its explosive corollary, deep-seated hate. *Dark Journey* springs from a sombre understanding of the ambivalence of human nature, a metaphor, perhaps, for the exiled Orga's Turkish republican homeland.

‘... an enthralling dramatic tale of passionate love and its corollary fierce hatred. But it is also a beautifully crafted morality tale.’

MARION JAMES, ZAMAN

# The Undefeated

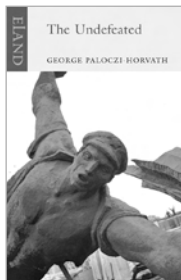
GEORGE PALOCZI-HORVATH

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

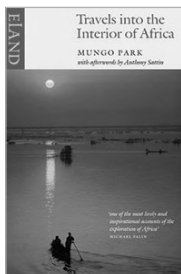
With afterwords  
by Anthony Sattin

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

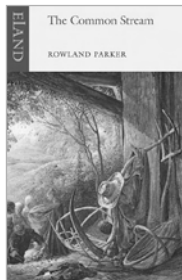
ROWLAND PARKER

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 reprints 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

# Lighthouse

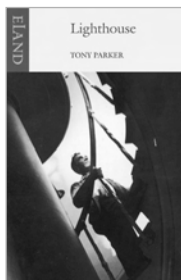
TONY PARKER

ISBN: 978-0907871-583

Format: 304pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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: 416pp demi pb

Price: £15.99

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: 336pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

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*

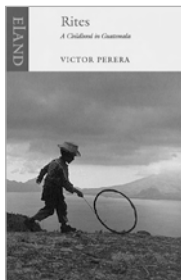
VICTOR PERERA

ISBN: 978-1906011-246

Format: 220pp 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

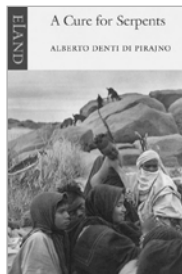
ALBERTO DENTI DI PIRAJNO

ISBN: 978-0907871-446

Format: 276pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

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: 320pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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

# The Villa Ariadne

DILYS POWELL

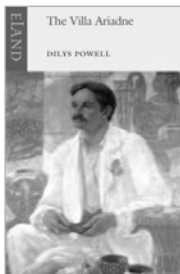
With a biographical afterword  
by Rupert Smith

ISBN: 978-1780600-352

Format: 224pp 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*

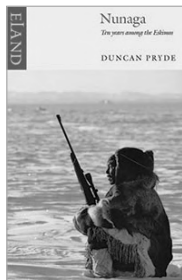
DUNCAN PRYDE

ISBN: 978-0907871-637

Format: 304pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

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*

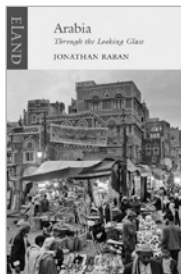
JONATHAN RABAN

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

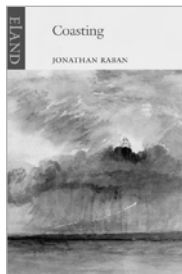
JONATHAN RABAN

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

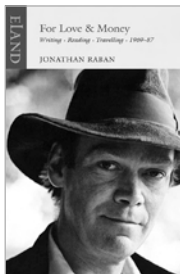
*Writing, Reading, Travelling, 1969–87*

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 at a particular junction of its history?”

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

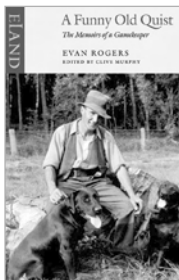
Edited by Clive Murphy

ISBN: 978-1096011-123

Format: 224pp demi pb

Price: £13.99

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*

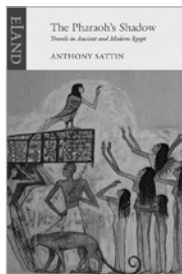
ANTHONY SATTIN

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

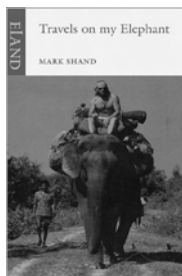
MARK SHAND

ISBN: 978-1906011-697

Format: 200pp 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*

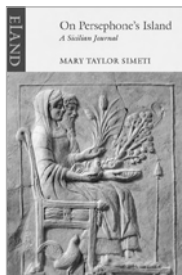
MARY TAYLOR SIMETI

ISBN: 978-1780601-076

Format: 320pp 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*

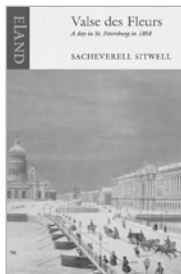
SACHEVERELL SITWELL

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



# 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 Fields Beneath

*The history of one London village*

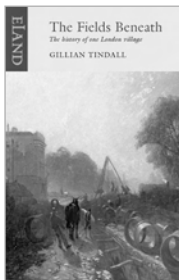
GILLIAN TINDALL

ISBN: 978-1906011-482

Format: 320pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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: 256pp 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*

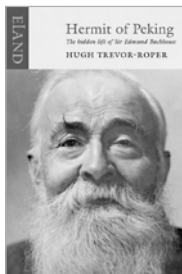
HUGH TREVOR-ROPER

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

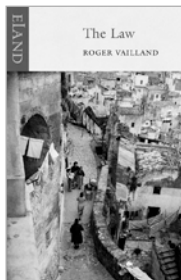
ROGER VAILLAND

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

# Bangkok

*The Story of a City*

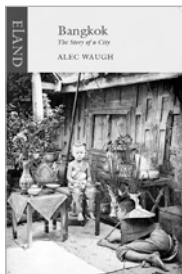
ALEC WAUGH

ISBN: 978-0955010-521

Format: 204pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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

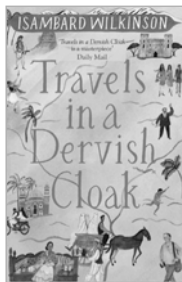
ISAMBARD WILKINSON

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: 400pp 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

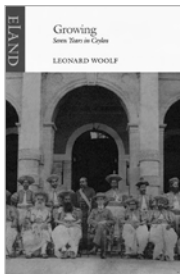
by Jack Sharp

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

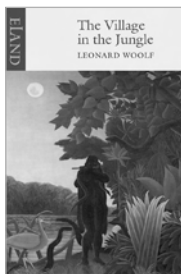
LEONARD WOOLF

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

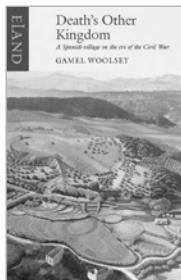
With an afterword by Michael Jacobs

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

# The Ginger Tree

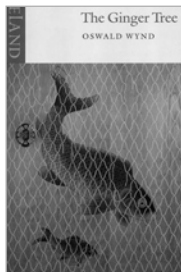
OSWALD WYND

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

# Through Writers' Eyes

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

THE TABLET

'Classic snippets of brilliant writing.'

WANDERLUST

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GALAPAGOS | HAMPSHIRE | HONEYMOONS | JAPAN  
LEBANON | MARRAKESH | PERSIA  
SICILY | SYRIA | TURKISH COAST

# Central Asia

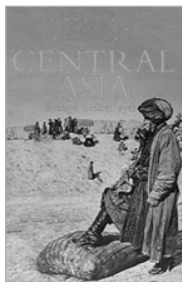
*through writers' eyes*

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*

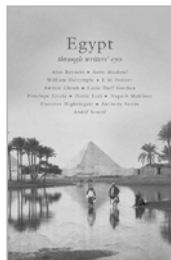
EDITED BY DEBORAH MANLEY AND  
SAHAR SOBHI ABDEL-HAKIM

ISBN: 978-0955010-569

Format: 248pp demi pb

Price: £12.99

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*

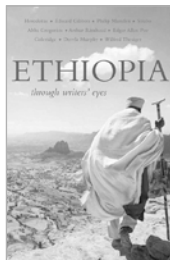
EDITED BY YVES-MARIE STRANGER

ISBN: 978-1780600-772

Format: 288pp 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

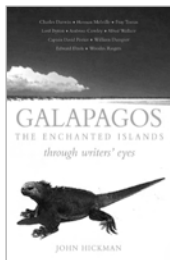
*through writers' eyes*

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, WOODES ROGERS

# Hampshire

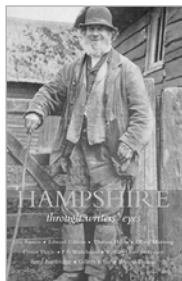
*through writers' eyes*

ALASTAIR LANGLAND

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

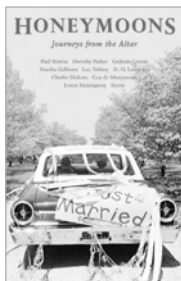
## *Journeys from the Altar*

ROGER HUDSON  
AND ROSE BARING (EDS.)

ISBN: 978-0907871-590

Format: 360/229 x 152mm hb

Price: £16.99



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*

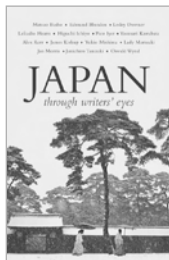
EDITED BY

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, NICHOLAS 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 HEARNS.

# 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

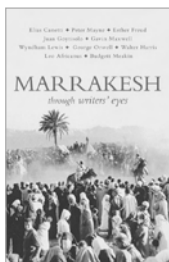
*through writers' eyes*

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, SACHA EVERELL SITWELL, GEORGE ORWELL, EDITH WHARTON, WYNDHAM LEWIS, ALI BEY, GAVIN MAXWELL AND LEO AFRICANUS



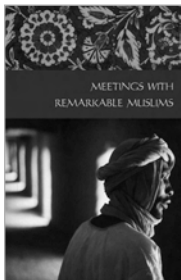
# Meetings with Remarkable Muslims

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

# Persia

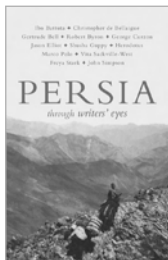
*through writers' eyes*

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

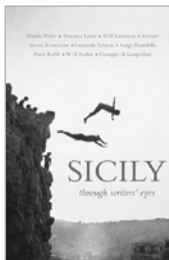
*through writers' eyes*

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

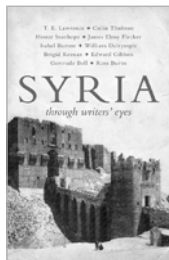
*through writers' eyes*

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

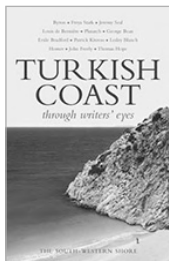
*through writers' eyes*

COLLECTED AND  
EDITED BY RUPERT SCOTT

ISBN: 978-1906011-093

Format: 246pp demi pb

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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.

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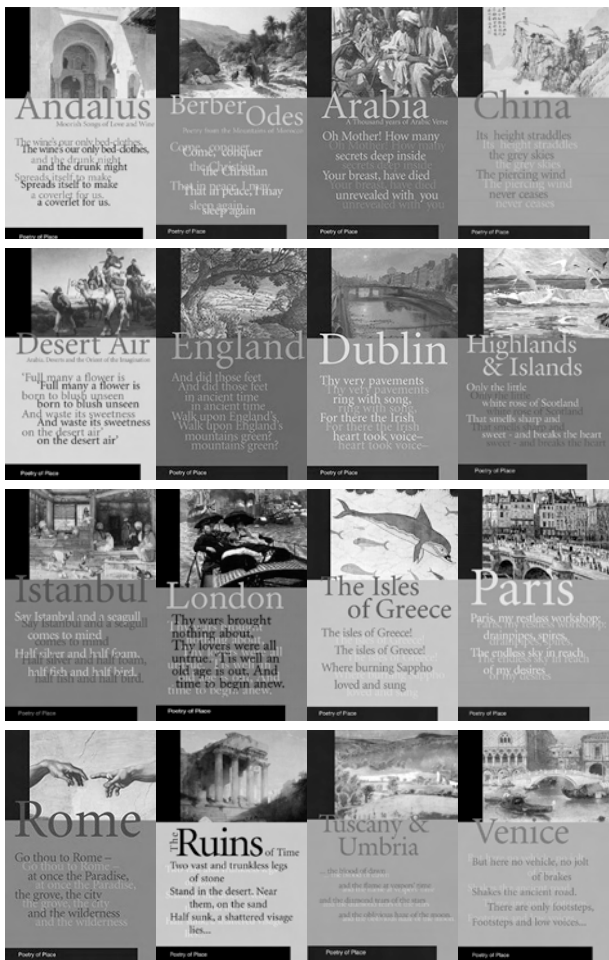
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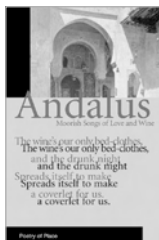
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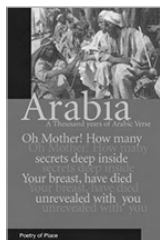
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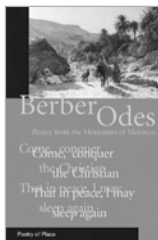
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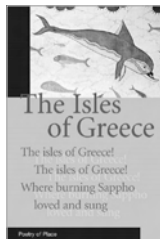
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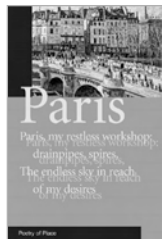
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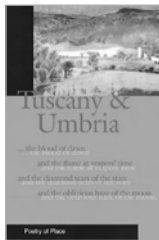
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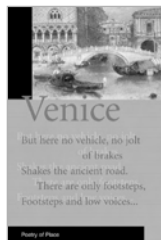
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