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A fresh and accessible introduction to a fascinating subject, this is a book that will interest general readers, as well as students and scholars of classics and religion.

Hugh Bowden is senior lecturer in ancient history at King's College London.

April 2010. 256 pages. 28 color illus. 149 halftones. 12 line illus.

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Joan Breton Connelly is professor of classics and art history at New York University.

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Pa: 978-0-691-14384-2 $35.00 | £24.95

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Machiavelli praised his military genius. European royalty sought out his secret elixir against poison. His life inspired Mozart’s first opera, while for centuries poets and playwrights recited bloody, romantic tales of his victories, defeats, intrigues, concubines, and mysterious death. But until now no modern historian has recounted the full story of Mithradates, the ruthless king and visionary rebel who challenged the power of Rome in the first century BC. In this richly illustrated book—the first biography of Mithradates in fifty years—Adrienne Mayor combines a storyteller’s gifts with the most recent archaeological and scientific discoveries to tell the tale of Mithradates as it has never been told before.

The Poison King describes a life brimming with spectacle and excitement. Claiming Alexander the Great and Darius of Persia as ancestors, Mithradates inherited a wealthy Black Sea kingdom at age fourteen after his mother poisoned his father. He fled into exile and returned in triumph to become a ruler of superb intelligence and fierce ambition. Hailed as a savior by his followers and feared as a second Hannibal by his enemies, he envisioned a grand Eastern empire to rival Rome. After massacring eighty thousand Roman citizens in 88 BC, he seized Greece and modern-day Turkey. Fighting some of the most spectacular battles in ancient history, he dragged Rome into a long round of wars and threatened to invade Italy itself. His uncanny ability to elude capture and surge back after devastating losses unnerved the Romans, while his mastery of poisons allowed him to foil assassination attempts and eliminate rivals.

The Poison King is a gripping account of one of Rome’s most relentless but least understood foes.

Adrienne Mayor is visiting scholar in classics and history of science at Stanford University.

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In addition to the editor, the contributors are David L. Berkey, Adrian Goldsworthy, Peter J. Heather, Tom Holland, Donald Kagan, John W. I. Lee, Susan Mattern, Barry Strauss, and Ian Worthington.

Victor Davis Hanson is the Martin and Ilie Anderson Senior Fellow in Classics and Military History at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He is a recipient of the National Humanities Medal.

April 2010. 264 pages.
Cl: 978-0-691-13790-2 $27.95 | £19.95

“Though the technology has changed, the nature of war and strategy has remained constant over the chasm of the centuries and millennia. This book makes the ancient Greeks and Romans relevant to our modern conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.”
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More than ever, this masterful work provides an original and important perspective on Alexander and his empire.

Pierre Briant is the Professor of the History and Civilization of the Achaemenid World and the Empire of Alexander the Great at the Collège de France.

May 2010. 216 pages. 10 halftones. 2 maps.
Cl: 978-0-691-14194-7 $26.95 | £18.95

“Pierre Briant is a scholar of the highest international standing. His book is set apart from the plethora of biographies of Alexander the Great by its focus on his origins and aims, the way he administered and organized his empire, and especially his impact on the areas he conquered, the last of which almost no other books address.”
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From the Renaissance to today, the idea that the Roman Republic lasted more than 450 years—persisting unbroken from the late sixth century to the mid-first century BC—has profoundly shaped how Roman history is understood, how the ultimate failure of Roman republicanism is explained, and how republicanism itself is defined. In Roman Republics, Harriet Flower argues for a completely new interpretation of republican chronology. Radically challenging the traditional picture of a single monolithic republic, she argues that there were multiple republics, each with its own clearly distinguishable strengths and weaknesses. In clear and elegant prose, Roman Republics provides not only a reevaluation of one of the most important periods in western history but also a brief yet nuanced survey of Roman political life from archaic times to the end of the republican era.

Harriet I. Flower is professor of classics at Princeton University.

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This is the first modern edition and first English translation of one of the earliest and most important works in the history of geography, the third-century Geographika of Eratosthenes. In this work, which for the first time described the geography of the entire inhabited world as it was then known, Eratosthenes of Kyrene (ca. 285–205 BC) invented the discipline of geography as we understand it. This is the first collation of the more than 150 fragments of the Geographika in more than a century. Each fragment is accompanied by an English translation, a summary, and commentary. Duane W. Roller provides a rich background, including a history of the text and its reception, a biography of Eratosthenes, and a comprehensive account of ancient Greek geographical thought and of Eratosthenes’ pioneering contribution to it. This edition also includes maps that show all of the known places named in the Geographika.

Duane W. Roller is professor emeritus of Greek and Latin at Ohio State University.

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Brooke Holmes is assistant professor of classics at Princeton University.

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Jeremy McInerney is the Davidson Kennedy Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

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David W. Anthony is professor of anthropology at Hartwick College. Jennifer Y. Chi is associate director for exhibitions and public programs at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University.

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Sofia Kotzabassi is professor in the Department of Medieval and Modern Greek Studies at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Nancy Patterson Ševčenko is an independent scholar. Don C. Skemer is curator of manuscripts in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University Library.

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