THE FIRST FOSSIL HUNTERS
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Adrienne Mayor

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“Mayor has done an admirable job of tracking down ... a paleontological bonanza centuries before the first dinosaur remains were recognized by modern science.”
—Richard Fortey, London Review of Books

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

April 2011. 400 pages. 63 halftones. 17 line illus. 1 tables.
Pa: 978-0-691-15013-0 $18.95 | £12.95
Rethinking the Other in Antiquity
Erich S. Gruen

“Did ancient Greeks regard Persians and Egyptians as servile ‘barbarians,’ by way of indicating their own superiority? Did Romans believe that Carthaginians were essentially perfidious, Gauls and Germans primitive, Jews weird and despicable? With deep learning and a graceful style, Gruen shows that these modern generalizations are wide of the mark, and that ancient attitudes toward foreigners were nuanced and by and large positive. The book invites us to inquire whether scholars have projected onto the classical world a sense of ethnic ‘otherness’ more characteristic of our own.”
—David Konstan, Brown University

Prevalent among classicists today is the notion that Greeks, Romans, and Jews enhanced their own self-perception by contrasting themselves with the so-called Other—Egyptians, Phoenicians, Ethiopians, Gauls, and other foreigners—frequently through hostile stereotypes, distortions, and caricature. In this provocative book, Erich Gruen demonstrates how the ancients found connections rather than contrasts, how they expressed admiration for the achievements and principles of other societies, and how they discerned—and even invented—kinship relations and shared roots with diverse peoples.

Erich S. Gruen is the Gladys Rehard Wood Professor of History and Classics (emeritus) at the University of California, Berkeley.

Aesopic Conversations
Popular Tradition, Cultural Dialogue, and the Invention of Greek Prose
Leslie Kurke

“Leslie Kurke is one of the sharpest and most original scholars of ancient Greek literary culture writing today. Informed, intellectually precise, and always engaged, her work has long been a pleasure and an education. Here she brings all of her considerable theoretical experience to the life and work of that least refined of ancient authors: Aesop. A hick, a foreigner, a slave, Aesop speaks with no kind of authority and yet by all accounts he is wise. Kurke takes this central conundrum as the starting point for a wide-ranging exploration of what it means in ancient Greek culture to be highbrow or lowbrow, gold or dross. Along the way there are some surprising diversions, numerous clever insights, and quite a lot of sophisticated and not so sophisticated fun.”
—James Davidson, University of Warwick

Delving into Aesop, his adventures, and his crafting of fables, Aesopic Conversations shows how this low, noncanonical figure was—unexpectedly—central to the construction of ancient Greek literature.

Leslie Kurke is professor of classics and comparative literature at the University of California, Berkeley.

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FORTHCOMING

Eco-Republic
What the Ancients Can Teach Us about Ethics, Virtue, and Sustainable Living
Melissa Lane

“This is a provocative and powerful book. Lane recommends the ethical vision of Greek antiquity rather than a society of individuals following legal rules. Such a vision is, Lane argues, a sustainable one—bringing ethics, ecology, and politics together.”
—Justin Champion, Royal Holloway, University of London

An ecologically sustainable society cannot be achieved without citizens who possess the virtues and values that will foster it, and who believe that individual actions can indeed make a difference. Eco-Republic draws on ancient Greek thought—and Plato’s Republic in particular—to put forward a new vision of citizenship that can make such a society a reality. Melissa Lane develops a model of a society whose health and sustainability depend on all its citizens recognizing a shared standard of value and shaping their personal goals and habits accordingly. Bringing together the moral and political ideas of the ancients with the latest social and psychological theory, Lane illuminates the individual’s vital role in social change, and articulates new ways of understanding what is harmful and what is valuable, what is a benefit and what is a cost, and what the relationship between public and private well-being ought to be.

Melissa Lane is professor of politics at Princeton University.

NEW

Augustine’s Confessions
A Biography
Garry Wills

“Garry Wills rescues Augustine’s Confessions from its posterity, peeling away layer after layer of anachronistic reactions to the text and providing an invaluable aid to readers. A master restorer, Wills gives us a picture carefully cleaned of a millennium-and-a-half of varnish…. This is vintage Wills—punchy, clear, well-argued, and beautifully translated, both linguistically and culturally.”
—Peter Brown, author of Augustine of Hippo: A Biography

In this brief and incisive book, Pulitzer Prize–winning historian Garry Wills tells the story of the Confessions—what motivated Augustine to dictate it, how it asks to be read, and the many ways it has been misread in the one-and-a-half millennia since it was composed. Following Wills’s biography of Augustine and his translation of the Confessions, this is an unparalleled introduction to one of the most important books in the Christian and Western traditions.

Garry Wills is the best-selling author of many books on religion and American history, including the Pulitzer Prize–winning Lincoln at Gettysburg (Simon & Schuster).

Lives of Great Religious Books
2011. 176 pages.
Cl: 978-0-691-14357-6 $19.95 | £13.95
NEW

Imperialism, Power, and Identity
Experiencing the Roman Empire
David J. Mattingly

“Mattingly critically examines accepted ideas about the Roman Empire and evaluates them on the basis of recent archaeological analyses. He provides excellent, up-to-date discussions of such issues as Roman imperialism, colonialism, and the expression of identity through material culture. This book will be important in providing a set of new ideas about many current themes regarding the Roman world.”
—Peter S. Wells, author of The Barbarians Speak: How the Conquered Peoples Shaped Roman Europe

Andrea Carandini’s archaeological discoveries and controversial theories about ancient Rome have made international headlines over the past few decades. In this book, he presents his most important findings and ideas, including the argument that there really was a Romulus—a first king of Rome—who founded the city in the mid-eighth century BC, making it the world’s first city-state, as well as its most influential. Rome: Day One makes a powerful and provocative case that Rome was established—if not built—in a one-day ceremony, and that Rome’s first day was also Western civilization’s.

“Despite what history has taught us about imperialism’s destructive effects on colonial societies, many classicists continue to emphasize disproportionately the civilizing and assimilative nature of the Roman Empire and to hold a generally favorable view of Rome’s impact on its subject peoples. Imperialism, Power, and Identity boldly challenges this view using insights from postcolonial studies of modern empires to offer a more nuanced understanding of Roman imperialism.”

David J. Mattingly is professor of Roman archaeology at the University of Leicester and a fellow of the British Academy.

Miriam S. Balmuth Lectures in Ancient History and Archaeology
2010. 368 pages. 38 halftones. 14 line illus. 15 tables. 17 maps. CL: 978-0-691-14605-8 $39.95 | £27.95

FORTHCOMING

Rome
Day One
Andrea Carandini
Translated by Stephen Sartarelli

“A fascinating examination of how Rome began some twenty-eight centuries ago, written by an archaeologist whose many years of excavation have profoundly altered our understanding of the city and its history. Challenging, and often controversial, this book is a rewarding read both for the long-standing enthusiast and the newcomer to the subject.”
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Andrea Carandini is professor of archaeology at the University of Rome, La Sapienza.

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The Symptom and the Subject
The Emergence of the Physical Body in Ancient Greece
Brooke Holmes

“Brilliant and important, this book tackles nothing less than the discovery of the body as a cultural and conceptual category in Greek antiquity. The book ranges over Homer and archaic poetry, the Sophists, philosophy, tragedy, and—most unusually and originally—the medical writings of the Hippocratic corpus, to construct a compelling account of historical developments.”
—Leslie Kurke, University of California, Berkeley

The Symptom and the Subject takes an in-depth look at how the physical body first emerged in the West as both an object of knowledge and a mysterious part of the self. Beginning with Homer, moving through classical-era medical treatises, and closing with studies of early ethical philosophy and Euripidean tragedy, this book rewrites the traditional story of the rise of body-soul dualism in ancient Greece. Brooke Holmes demonstrates that as the body (sōma) became a subject of physical inquiry, it decisively changed ancient Greek ideas about the meaning of suffering, the soul, and human nature.

Brooke Holmes is assistant professor of classics at Princeton University.

2010. 360 pages.
Cl: 978-0-691-13899-2 $45.00 | £30.95

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Playing Gods
Ovid’s Metamorphoses and the Politics of Fiction
Andrew Feldherr

“This fascinating book is a major achievement. Insightful and often brilliant, it sets a new standard for sustained close reading of Ovid. Andrew Feldherr brings the discussion of the politics of Ovidian metamorphosis to a new level of critical sophistication. What he has to say about the nature of poetic fiction, the ethics of representation and interpretation, and the complex interrelationship of poetics and politics is bound to stimulate, provoke, and in most cases convince.”
—Joy Connolly, New York University

This book offers a novel interpretation of politics and identity in Ovid’s epic poem of transformations, the Metamorphoses. Reexamining the emphatically fictional character of the poem, Playing Gods argues that Ovid uses the problem of fiction in the text to redefine the power of poetry in Augustan Rome. The book also provides the fullest account yet of how the poem relates to the range of cultural phenomena that defined and projected Augustan authority, including spectacle, theater, and the visual arts.

Andrew Feldherr is professor of classics at Princeton University.

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James B. Pritchard (1909–1997) was professor of religious thought at the University of Pennsylvania and curator of Syro-Palestinian archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

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Hugh Bowden

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

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

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In recent decades, scholars have argued that the Roman Republic’s political culture was essentially democratic in nature, stressing the central role of the ‘sovereign’ people and their assemblies. Karl-J. Hölkeskamp challenges this view in *Reconstructing the Roman Republic*, warning that this scholarly trend threatens to become the new orthodoxy, and defending the position that the republic was in fact a uniquely Roman, dominantly oligarchic and aristocratic political form.

Karl-J. Hölkeskamp is professor of ancient history at the University of Cologne.

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Victor Davis Hanson is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow in Classics and Military History at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

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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.

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Donald B. Redford is a professor at Pennsylvania State University.

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Jed Z. Buchwald is the Doris and Henry Dreyfuss Professor of History at the California Institute of Technology. Diane Greco Josefowicz teaches in the writing program at Boston University.

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Barbara J. Sivertsen has been managing editor of the Journal of Geology for over twenty-five years.

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Alexander Nehamas is the Edmund N. Carpenter II Class of 1943 Professor in the Humanities at Princeton University.

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