

# ATHENÆUM BOOKSHELF

May 2009  
(Books purchased for April 2009)

## FEATURED SELECTIONS

### THE KINDLY ONES

JONATHAN LITTELL

Combining exhaustive research with historical epic, Littell's novel is the fictional memoir of a former Nazi officer who had morphed into a middle class factory owner in post-war France. Little won the Prix Goncourt, for *The Kindly Ones*. 983pp.

### PAULINE BONAPARTE: VENUS OF EMPIRE

FLORA FRASER

A fascinating figure in her own right, Pauline Bonaparte was deeply loyal to her brother, Napoleon. Noted for her looks and passions, she was immortalized by Antonio Canova's statue, a copy of which may be seen at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia. 287pp., illus.

## ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

### ARCHITECTURE IN CONSERVATION

JAMES STRIKE

A look at the need to respond sensitively to the limitations of an environment when adapting or adding to historic properties. 163pp., illus.

### THE GARDNER HEIST

ULRICH BOSER

One museum, two thieves, and the Boston underworld. The story behind the lost Gardner masterpieces and the art detective who vowed to get them back. 260pp., illus.

### GILDED MANSIONS

WAYNE CRAVEN

The colorful story of America's first millionaire society. 383pp., illus.

### HISTORIC SYNAGOGUES OF PHILADELPHIA AND THE DELAWARE VALLEY JULIAN H. PREISLER

Mr. Preisler catalogues Jewish houses of worship, both past and present, in this short work of photographs and brief descriptions. Of particular note is Beth Shalom in Elkins Park, which is the only synagogue in the United States designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and is also one of only four United States synagogues listed as a National Historic Landmark. 127pp., illus.

### PHILADELPHIA ROWHOUSE MANUAL

RACHEL SIMMONS SCHADE, AIA

A practical guide for Philadelphia rowhouse homeowners. 49pp., illus.

## BIOGRAPHY

- A LIFE IN TWILIGHT: THE FINAL YEARS OF J. ROBERT OPPENHEIMER** **MIKE WOLVERTON**  
Most remember Oppenheimer, the brilliant atomic physicist, as leader of the Manhattan Project and “father of the atomic bomb.” However, many have forgotten that Oppenheimer was accused of having Communistic leaning during the McCarthy era. Philadelphia based author Wolverton examines the final years of this complex man’s attempts to restore his reputation amidst the pop culture of the 1960’s. 339pp., illus.
- PAULINE BONAPARTE: VENUS OF EMPIRE** **FLORA FRASER**  
A fascinating figure in her own right, Pauline Bonaparte was deeply loyal to her brother, Napoleon. Noted for her looks and passions, she was immortalized by Antonio Canova’s statue. 287pp., illus.
- SOMEWHERE TOWARDS THE END** **DIANA ATHILL**  
Now in her 91<sup>st</sup> year, Athill reflects on her age, the losses and the gains that it brings. 182pp.
- WEDLOCK** **WENDY MOORE+**  
This work reads more like fiction than the history of Mary, Countess of Strathmore. One of 18<sup>th</sup> century England’s richest heiresses, she fought against a brutish husband and an uncaring society. 366pp., illus.
- THE WOMAN BEHIND THE NEW DEAL** **KIRSTIN DOWNEY+**  
Francis Perkins, one of the most influential women of the twentieth century, changed the landscape of American society and business. 444pp., illus.

## HISTORY & POLITICS

- HUNTING EICHMANN** **NED BASCOMB+**  
Adolph Eichmann was the operational manager of Hitler’s “final solution,” the monstrously evil plan to commit genocide upon the entire Jewish race with ruthless, mechanical efficiency. This book uses newly declassified information to provide a detailed account of how Israel’s new spy agency tracked, captured, and secretly transported Eichmann back to Israel to stand trial in 1961. 390pp., illus.
- PHILADELPHIA FREEDOM** **DAVID KAIRYS**  
Kairys’ memoir of his time as a Civil Rights lawyer during a turbulent time in American History. 424pp., illus.
- PLAIN, HONEST MEN** **RICHARD BEEMAN**  
Historian Richard Beeman captures the debate and the characters of the men who labored to create a government that would allow America to flourish. 495pp., illus.
- SECRET WARS** **GORDON THOMAS**  
Thomas’s wide-sweeping history chronicles a century of triumphs and failures inside M15 and M16, on the one hundredth anniversaries of Britain’s security and secret intelligence services. 430pp.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### ALADDIN'S LAMP

From the shores of classical Asia Minor through Athens and Alexandria, Freely takes readers on a fascinating stroll, uncovering how Greek science came to Europe through the Islamic world. 303pp., illus.

JOHN FREELY

### A COURSE CALLED IRELAND

Coyne's humorous documentation of his recent trip to Ireland, where he traveled the country golfing and finding his heritage. 311pp., illus.

TOM COYNE

### WHY WE MAKE MISTAKES

Author Joseph T. Hallinan has won the Pulitzer Prize and recently reported for *The Wall Street Journal*. His latest work examines the reasons behind human error, from various points of view. 283pp.

JOSEPH T. HALLINAN+

### YOU ARE HERE

Here, for the first time in a single span, is the life of the universe, from quarks to galaxy superclusters and from slime to Homo sapiens. *You are Here* is a portable history of the universe. 294pp.

CHRISTOPHER POTTER

## FICTION

### THE ALEXANDER CIPHER

An Egyptologist in Alexandria is on a hunt to discover the final resting place of Alexander the Great, which proves to be a dangerous endeavor. 320pp.

WILL ADAMS+

### DANTE'S NUMBERS

The premiere of a new film version of Dante's *Inferno* sparks superstition and a string of murders while a man tries to control the situation as well as protect a young starlet. 386pp.

DAVID HEWSON+

### ETTA

An imagined portrayal of Etta Place's life and times with the Wild Bunch, led by Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. 314pp.

GERALD KOLPAN

### FAULT LINE

Centering on a conspiracy in America, two lawyers and a soldier must put aside their differences and stop a faceless enemy. 308pp.

BARRY EISLER+

### THE GOOD PARENTS

A story of familial love when two parents must endure haunting obstacles in order to find their teenage daughter. 349pp.

JOAN LONDON

### THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY

Post WWII, a British author begins corresponding with members of an exclusive club in the British Isle of Guernsey and discovers a literary underworld formerly protecting citizens from Nazi persecution. 278pp.

MARY ANN SHAFFER AND ANNIE BARROWS+

**THE KINDLY ONES****JONATHAN LITTELL**

Combining exhaustive research with historical epic, Littell's novel is the fictional memoir of a former Nazi officer who had morphed into a middle class factory owner in post-war France. Little won the Prix Goncourt, for *The Kindly Ones*. 983pp.

**LIFE SENTENCES****LAURA LIPPMAN+**

A look at memories and how they alter the reality of the past in regards to a writer returning to her hometown to begin a new non-fiction book, focusing on a missing child as its foundation. 344pp.

**OLD CITY HALL****ROBERT ROTENBERG+**

A man blatantly confesses to killing his wife in their bathtub, but refuses to speak to anyone after his explanation in what wrongly appears as an open and shut domestic murder case. 372pp.

**PATHS OF GLORY****JEFFREY ARCHER+**

When asked, "Why Climb Mt. Everest?" George Mallory famously quipped, "Because it is there." Archer novelizes Mallory's life, his complete absence of fear, and his pursuit of his goal to be the first man to stand on the summit of Mt. Everest; his death in the attempt; and the quest to solve the mystery of his disappearance. 372pp.

**RUN FOR YOUR LIFE****JAMES PATTERSON AND MICHAEL LEDWIDGE+**

Detective Michael Bennett must stop a killer dubbed the "Teacher" from continuing to punish the poorly mannered elite of New York. 373pp.

**SHATTER****MICHAEL ROBOTHAM+**

Psychologist Joe O'Loughlin returns, trying to prevent a suicide and finding himself locked in a deadly duel with a very clever killer. 433pp.

**STILL LIFE****JOY FIELDING**

A riveting tale of suspense about a successful young woman who, lying in her hospital bed after a horrific car accident plunges her into a coma, realizes that although she is unable to see or communicate she can hear everything. 369pp.

**AUDIOBOOKS****THE READER (CDs)****BERNARD SCHLINK\***

A young German boy begins an affair with a woman twice his age who suddenly disappears, and they are only reunited when she is on trial for a hideous crime.

**DETECTIVES****THE BELLINI CARD****JASON GOODWIN**

Investigator Yashim travels to Venice in search of a missing painting from Istanbul.

**THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT****BARBARA VINE+**

A young successful politician is bombarded with anonymous letters detailing his adventurous affair with an attractive married woman after a birthday surprise goes awry.

**DON'T LOOK TWICE****ANDREW GROSS**

Along with co-author, James Patterson, Gross has previously written five bestsellers. Gross' latest suspense novel hovers around a drive by shooting in Greenwich, Connecticut and its unlikely connection to an international gambling scheme at an upstate casino.

**EXECUTION DOCK****ANNE PERRY+**

Commander William Monk returns to prosecute a notorious sex trade kingpin in London's seedy underworld.

**FACE OF A KILLER****ROBIN BURCELL**

A new series about FBI forensic artist Sydney Fitzpatrick, who begins a deadly investigation into her father's murder while a potentially innocent man awaits execution.

**THE LEOPARD'S PREY****SUZANNE ARRUDA**

American adventuress Jade del Cameron returns to British East Africa and quickly launches a dangerous investigation after her beau is accused of murder.

**LONG LOST****HARLAN COBEN+**

Dodging unknown assailants, Myron Bolitar is back and teams up with a long lost lover to absolve her of criminal charges as well as uncover buried secrets.

**MANNA FROM HADES****CAROLA DUNN**

A confounding case of daring theft, double crosses, and a delightful cast of characters confronted by murder most foul.

**MURDER ON THE SHORT LIST****PETER LOVESEY**

A collection of short stories encompassing fantastic murders.

**TRUE DETECTIVES****JONATHAN KELLERMAN+**

Two estranged brothers are forced to team up and find a young girl, when they are confronted with L.A.'s secret and dangerous side.

**THE TOURIST****OLEN STEINHAUER**

A retired, formerly undercover CIA agent is reinstated when a long sought after assassin is arrested.

+ McNAUGHTON RENTAL

\* Gift of Lorraine J. Zwolak, Esq.

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### **Picking up Books at the Library**

Stockholders are always welcome to pick up their books at the library. If you wish to be notified when a book is waiting, please let us know, and provide us with an email address (or alternately, a telephone number where there is an answering machine), and we can alert you when a book is waiting for you. If you are pressed for time, you may request that a book be left for you at the front desk.

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