

ATHENÆUM BOOKSHELF

August 2009
(Books purchased for July 2009)

FEATURED SELECTIONS

THE FOOD OF A YOUNGER LAND

MARK KURLANSKY+

A look at the Federal Writer's Project of the Great Depression, which sent writers of all backgrounds throughout the nation to gather ideas on American cookery and its impact on national life. Featuring a broad spectrum of interesting recipes from America's pre-fast food days, Kurlansky comments on the eating habits based on seasons and traditions, which helped form attitudes and customs throughout the nation. 397pp., illus.

IN THE VALLEY OF KINGS

DANIEL MEYERSON

Complete with historic photographs, Meyerson brings the real story behind Howard Carter's legacy after he discovered King Tut's tomb. A diligent archaeologist, Carter often struggled more than succeeded, especially when he came head to head with critics, which nearly led to his downfall and almost sealed off the coveted tomb forever. 230pp., illus.

VANISHED SMILE: THE MYSTERIOUS THEFT OF THE MONA LISA

R.A. SCOTTI

Almost 100 years ago the Mona Lisa disappeared from the Louvre and while no one initially noticed, the fervor pushed Leonardo's masterpiece into the spotlight. Scotti delves into the historic drama surrounding the disappearance and investigates the accusations against Pablo Picasso, as well as looking into the clues that finally led police to the painting after 2 years. 241pp., illus.

ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

NEWPORT VILLAS

MICHAEL C. KATHRENS

A survey of the gilded mansions of Newport, Rhode Island during the late 19th century and the architectural, as well as, social, revival of the summer resort town featuring the citizens' glamorous lifestyles. 383pp., illus.

POCKET GUIDE TO LOS ANGELES ARCHITECTURE

JUDITH PAINE McBRIEN

One hundred must-see architectural highlights including a wide range of renovated gems and famous landmarks such as Grauman's Chinese Theatre. 143pp., illus.

10 ARCHITECTURAL WALKS IN MANHATTAN

FRANCIS MORRONE AND MATTHEW A. POSTAL

Featuring the great buildings, spaces, and neighborhoods of Manhattan; includes Madison Square, Art Deco structures in Midtown, the Beaux-Arts grandeur of Grand Central Terminal, and the well-known Central Park. Complete with maps, transit information, and color photographs. 303pp., illus.

VANISHED SMILE: THE MYSTERIOUS THEFT OF MONA LISA

R. A. SCOTTI

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre in Paris, seemingly right under the noses of the museum staff. Scotti examines the theft and eventual trial of Vincenzo Peruggia for the notorious crime. 241pp., illus.

BIOGRAPHY

BYRON IN LOVE

EDNA O'BRIEN

O'Brien brings readers the essential and enchanting truths of Lord Byron's short, yet epic existence. An irresistible poet of the 19th century with insatiable personal desires, artists and historians alike are fascinated by his alluring temperament, his inspiring career, and his political work for the liberation of Greece. 228pp.

CHEEVER

BLAKE BAILEY

A chronicle of John Cheever's secret personal life and a look at his inner demons, in addition to his fiction centered on postwar America. 770pp., illus.

MISTRESS OF THE MONARCHY

ALISON WEIR

The life of Katherine Swynford, Duchess of Lancaster, and her scandalous affair with John of Gaunt, a married man, of which eventually bore British sovereigns such as Queen Elizabeth II. 392pp., illus.

ZIEGFELD

ETHAN MORDDEN

A look at Florenz Ziegfeld, who created the glamorous world of show business, and transformed sensuous young ladies into the infamous Ziegfeld Girls. 335pp., illus.

HISTORY & POLITICS

THE AMERICAN FUTURE

SIMON SCHAMA

The author uses historical examples to discuss four key issues of the 2008 U.S. presidential election; war, religion, race, and immigration. 408pp., illus.

FORDLANDIA

GREG GRANDIN

Insight into Henry Ford's Brazilian brain child Fordlandia, where he attempted to instill an American lifestyle in the jungles of the Amazon. However, the project quickly backfired as the settlement was rejected by the indigenous inhabitants. 416pp.

IN THE VALLEY OF KINGS

DANIEL MEYERSON

Narrative nonfiction look at Howard Carter, the discovery of King Tut's tomb, and the subsequent consequences and curses. 230pp., illus.

THE MYTH OF THE RATIONAL MARKET

JUSTIN FOX

Chronicling the frequent up and downs of Wall Street; focusing on the efficient market theory and the modern financial industry, which encompasses numerous risks and rewards. 382pp.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE FOOD OF A YOUNGER LAND

MARK KURLANSKY+

A look at the Federal Writer's Project of the 1930's, which sent writers of all backgrounds throughout the nation to gather ideas on American cookery and its impact on national life. Featuring a broad spectrum of interesting recipes from America's pre-fast food days, Kurlansky comments on the eating habits based on seasons, regions, and traditions, which helped form attitudes and customs throughout the nation. 397pp.

LIFE ASCENDING

An assessment of ten great inventions of evolution and how they transformed all forms of life as well as the planet, ranging from the complex nature of DNA to the various modes of reproduction.

NICK LANE

344pp., illus.

THE PLEASURES AND SORROWS OF WORK

An exploration of the joys and perils of the modern workplace; de Botton searches for what makes jobs individually fulfilling or disastrous.

ALAIN de BOTTON

326pp., illus.

FICTION**ANDEAN EXPRESS**

A hodge-podge of characters from all walks of life converge on a Bolivian train; featuring a well-to-do recent high school graduate who becomes ensnared by a former classmate heading towards an unwelcome arranged marriage.

JUAN de RECACOECHEA

172pp.

THE ANGEL'S GAME

A young author with a troubled past is commissioned to write a haunting book in exchange for a fortune, but things become oddly eerie while working and living in an abandoned mansion.

CARLOS RUIZ ZAFON

531pp.

AWAKENING

A man poisoned by snake venom requires the expertise of a reclusive veterinary surgeon who sifts through abandoned houses, ancient rituals, and a long-ago tragedy, which forces survivors into a deadly secrecy, from the author of *Sacrifice*.

S.J. BOLTON

393pp.

BETWEEN THE ASSASSINATIONS

A showcase of characters in Kittur, India featuring fantastic women; rich and poor, a loyal little girl, an extremist student, and a childless couple, from the acclaimed author of *The White Tiger*.

ARAVIND ADIGA+

339pp.

THE DAKOTA CIPHER

Ethan Gage, accompanied by an odd-ball Norwegian, sets out to explore the Louisiana Territory, prior to Lewis and Clark, under Thomas Jefferson's orders to investigate wild reports of woolly mammoths and Indians. The pair secretly vies for the mythical Thor's Hammer while encountering hostile British loyalists, Indians, and the disciples of an Egyptian snake cult.

WILLIAM DIETRICH

368pp.

DEATH IN THE FAMILY

A modern critical edition of James Agee's manuscript; a novel based on his childhood and his attempts to understand his father's death.

James Agee EDITED BY MICHAEL A. LOFARO

582pp.

DRAWING IN THE DUST

Archaeologist Page Brookstone is recruited by a young Arab couple to investigate their grounds after claiming their home is haunted by extreme feelings of love and desire. After unearthing religious remains that may alter history, she attempts to reveal a love affair that contrasts with centuries-old interpretations.

ZOE KLEIN+

358pp.

FREE AGENT

Commissioned to persecute Nazi war criminals in 1945, M16 agent Paul Dark faces traitorous charges at the hands of a KGB agent in Nigeria nearly 25 years later, prompting Dark to flee London and confront the alleged treason head-on.

JEREMY DUNS+

342pp.

IN THE KITCHEN**MONICA ALI+**

Gabriel, an executive chef, is trying to juggle reality and his dreams when the discovery of a dead man in his kitchen produces a seductive young woman, with peculiar ties to the deceased, who changes the course of Gabriel's life and alters his future. 436pp.

THE MEMORY COLLECTOR**MEG GARDINER+**

A forensic psychiatrist is summoned to evaluate an erratic man with amnesia, who may be the key to preventing a biological disaster in San Francisco. 354pp.

THE SECRET SPEECH**TOM ROB SMITH+**

It's 1956 in the Soviet Union and a former state security office is tormented by his past deeds and as he vies for the affection of his adopted daughters, while someone consumed by vengeance threatens the post-Stalin calm. 407pp.

THE STORY SISTERS**ALICE HOFFMAN+**

Three sisters leading very separate lives must meet their fates alone while struggling with love, loss, detectives, and demons. 325pp.

STRANGERS**ANITE BROOKNER+**

A man overwhelmed by loneliness jets off to Venice where he encounters an intriguing younger woman; however, upon his return to London he is confronted by an ex-girlfriend; these two women cause him to reassess the smallest details of his life and will bring him to a paramount decision. 235pp.

WANDERING STARS**SHOLEM ALEICHEM**

A love story about two wandering celebrities who flee their small Russian town and join a Yiddish acting company; from the author whose stories inspired *Fiddler on the Roof*. 425pp.

THE WEDDING GIRL**MADELEINE WICKHAM+**

A young woman is engaged to a wealthy man who idolizes her and is facing the wedding of a century, but a long ago secret resurfaces and when "I do" gives you déjà vu, it could be a problem. 327pp.

THE WINNER STANDS ALONE**PAULO COELHO**

Taking place over the course of twenty-four hours during the Cannes Film Festival, *The Winner Stands Alone* is set in the exciting worlds of fashion and cinema. 343pp.

AUDIOBOOKS**JIM MORRISON****STEPHEN DAVIS***

An account of the great rock legend of The Doors with detailed accounts of his strict upbringing, his explosion into Los Angeles' avant-garde music scene, and his tumultuous personal life. 12 tapes.

DETECTIVES

THE BAKER STREET LETTERS

MICHAEL ROBERTSON+

Two attorneys, brothers, occupy Sherlock Holmes's old residence on Baker Street and receive a letter, addressed to the legendary detective, from a child with a missing father in Los Angeles. A story of wits that Holmes's fans will adore. 288pp.

BITTER TIDE

ANN STAMOS

The debut novel for the Ellis Island Mystery Series features Ellis Island's superintendent Joseph Hannegan trying to cleanse the corrupt and solve an immigrant's murder. 411pp.

BRIMSTONE

ROBERT B. PARKER+

Everett Hitch and Virgil Cole return a year after their bout in *Appaloosa* to save Virgil's lost love Allie, who turned to prostitution for survival but seeks redemption in a local church housing a dangerous leader. 293pp.

DEATH WORE WHITE

JIM KELLY

A man is murdered among other motorists while stranded in a blizzard and it is up to rookie Detective Inspector Peter Shaw to solve the clueless case under the wing of his veteran partner with a suspicious past. 399pp.

DIAMONDS IN DISGUISE

TESSA BARCLAY

The newest addition to the Gregory Crowne series finds Greg in Rome to investigate a missing painting after being summoned by his unusual grandmother. 218pp.

FINGER LICKIN' FIFTEEN

JANET EVANOVICH+

Bounty hunter Stephanie Plum is recruited by a murder witness who is due to receive a million dollar reward for the capture of the figure who beheaded a celebrity chef. 308pp.

HARD STOP

CHRIS KNOPF

Sam Acquillo is coerced into the elite and corrupt social scene of the Hamptons when a very important woman goes missing. 264pp.

KENNEDY'S BRAIN

HENRY MANKELL

Upon discovering her adult son dead by apparent suicide, a mother and her ex-husband investigate the dark underworld of the AIDS epidemic in search of the truth. 328pp.

MURDER IN THE DARK

KERRY GREENWOOD

Phryne Fisher decides to attend the Last Great Party of 1928 in Melbourne despite warnings to keep away, but when one of the party's hosts, Gerald Templar, discovers his adopted son has vanished; Fisher must unmask a dangerous assassin dubbed the Joker before she's next. 266pp.

WILD SORROW

SANDI AULT

Jamaica Wild is searching for an injured mountain lion in an arctic storm when she stumbles upon a desecrated body while taking refuge in an old Indian school. 293pp.

+ McNAUGHTON RENTAL

*** Gift of Flora Becker**

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