

ATHENÆUM BOOKSHELF

February 2010
(Books purchased for January 2010)

FEATURED SELECTIONS

AMBROSE BIERCE'S WRITE IT RIGHT

JAN FREEMAN

One hundred years after it was first published, the celebrated cynic's language peeves are deciphered, appraised, and annotated for 21st –century readers. Freeman writes a language column for the *The Boston Globe*.

229 p.

GENEROSITY: AN ENHANCEMENT

RICHARD POWERS

An Algerian refugee is studying in a Chicago institution when her teacher takes an interest in her. She seems to be extremely happy, despite the terror that she has undergone in her life. The observation leads to her genetic study and the discovery of the genotype for happiness. As it all goes public, the young woman's optimism is tested. **Chosen for the American Library Association's 2010 Notable Books List.**

296 p.

ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

AMERICAN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

HERBERT GOTTFRIED AND JAN JENNINGS

An essential guide for documentation of American vernacular architecture, design, and construction from the end of the Civil War to 1960.

471 p., ill.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF DELANO & ALDRICH

PETER PENNOYER AND ANNE WALKER

The definitive volume of the work of this important early 20th century architectural firm, whose designs included country estates, government buildings, and more.

224 p., ill.

BAUHAUS WOMEN

ULRIKE MULLER

Muller focuses her lens on the large number of female graduates of the early 20th century Bauhaus, and their profound effects on their respective fields of art and design.

152 p., ill.

CONVERSATIONS WITH FRANK GEHRY

BARBARA ISENBERG

Over the past several decades the author has been a confidant of Gehry, one of the world's most influential architects. This book explains the background thoughts that influenced his most famous projects, including the Guggenheim Bilbao, Grand Arena in Los Angeles, and others.

271 p., ill.

NEWTOWN SQUARE

CHRISTOPHER DRISCOLL AND JANICE ELSTON

A photographic look at this Philadelphia suburb, with many images from the collection of the Newtown Square Historical Preservation Society.

95 p., ill.

BIOGRAPHY

ABIGAIL ADAMS

The author attempts to draw back the curtain shrouding this founding mother, and reveal the feisty, savvy woman behind the nation's second president. 412 p., ill.

WOODY HOLTON

THE INTIMATE LIVES OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS

Fleming describes in detail the women behind the public lives of Washington, Franklin, Madison, Hamilton, Adams, and, of course, Jefferson. Learn about the jilted lovers, heartbreaks, and the strength of the true power behind the founders of our nation. 416 p., ill.

THOMAS FLEMING

THE MAGNIFICENT MRS TENNANT

A look at Gertrude Tennant's long and influential life as a London hostess, entertaining celebrities such as Oscar Wilde, Mark Twain, Henry James and Robert Browning. Newly discovered family papers bring her life to light in colorful detail. 304 p., ill.

DAVID WALLER

TRAVEL

STEPHEN FRY IN AMERICA

British comedian, actor, and author Fry tours the USA in a black cab from London, and sets out to visit all fifty states and to stop at quirky sites and meet the USA's most wacky people. Fry "stumbles upon" some very well known celebrities in the process. 313 p., ill.

STEPHEN FRY

HISTORY & POLITICS

BEYOND AMERICA'S GRASP

Cohen, the president of the Institute for Middle East Peace & Development, examines U.S. foreign policy blunders in the region, from Woodrow Wilson to George W. Bush. 284 p.

STEPHEN P. COHEN

PATTON, MONTGOMERY, ROMMEL

Accomplished military scholar Terry Brighton studies the three chief commanders in North Africa and Europe during World War II. A fresh look at how personal motivation and historical events propelled the careers of three masters of war. 426 p., ill.

TERRY BRIGHTON

1688: THE FIRST MODERN REVOLUTION

Pincus presents an alternative view of England's Glorious Revolution of 1688-1689, in the context of broader world events of the time and ensuing decades. It was this revolution, he argues, not the later one in France, that was the first truly modern revolution. 647 p., ill.

STEVE PINCUS

ZHIVAGO'S CHILDREN

Zubok presents a highly detailed study of post-Stalin Russian intelligentsia and their profound effect on post-war reforms which echoed far beyond the borders of Mother Russia. 453 p., ill.

VLADISLAV ZUBOK

MISCELLANEOUS

AMBROSE BIERCE'S WRITE IT RIGHT

JAN FREEMAN

The celebrated cynic's language peeves deciphered, appraised, and annotated for 21st –century readers.
229 p.

GILDED

DEBORAH DAVIS

Davis details the rise of Newport, Rhode Island, as the playground of America's rich and infamous, describing the extravagant homes and lifestyles of folks such as the Astors, Vanderbilts, Kennedys, von Bulows, and Doris Duke.
309 p., ill.

HOW WE DECIDE

JONAH LEHRER

New neuroscience discoveries show us how we make decisions using different parts of the brains, and how we can make better decisions.
302 p.

FICTION

THE CANTERBURY TALES

PETER ACKROYD

A retelling of Chaucer's medieval story full of comedy and tragedy, as a group of motley pilgrims make their way across England while telling stories.
436 p.

CHATEAU BEYOND TIME

MICHAEL TOBIAS

An eco-thriller in which a hidden chateau is really a refuge keeping rare animals from extinction.
247 p.

DEEPER THAN THE DEAD

TAMI HOAG

A group of California children discover a woman's body in 1985 and the FBI agent brought in to help uses the new technique of profiling to track a serial killer.
421 p.

GENEROSITY: AN ENHANCEMENT

RICHARD POWERS

An Algerian refugee is studying in a Chicago institution when her teacher takes an interest in her. She seems to be extremely happy, despite the terror that she has undergone in her life. The observation leads to her genetic study and the discovery of the genotype for happiness. As it all goes public, the young woman's optimism is tested. **Chosen for the American Library Association's 2010 Notable Books List.**
296 p.

I, ALEX CROSS

JAMES PATTERSON

Another installment of Patterson's Detective Alex Cross series. This time Cross vows to hunt down and personally slap the cuffs on the killer of his niece.
374 p.

IN TONGUES OF THE DEAD

BRAD KELLN

Father McCallum is placed in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Yale University to guard the Voynich Manuscript – a 500 year old religious book that no one has yet been able to translate. That is, until an autistic child visits the library ...
251 p.

INVISIBLE

PAUL AUSTER

The best selling author of *Man in the Dark* writes a compelling story starting in 1967 when a university student who is an aspiring poet meets an intriguing French couple. From there the story ranges over four decades from Manhattan to Paris and beyond, with three different characters serving as narrators giving their own perspectives.
308 p.

LA'S ORCHESTRA SAVES THE WORLD**ALEXANDER McCALL SMITH**

Lavender escapes from WWII London to a quieter life in the country. When she puts together an orchestra to raise morale in the town, she does not expect that one of the members would also raise long dormant emotions in "La" herself; from the author of the bestselling *No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* series. 294 p.

THE MAN IN THE WOODEN HAT**JANE GARDAM**

The author of *Old Filth* revisits her characters, telling the story of their long marriage from the point of view of Sir Edward Feather's wife Betty. 233 p.

NANNY RETURNS**EMMA McLAUGHLIN AND NICOLA KRAUS**

The heroine of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Nanny Diaries* returns to New York after twelve years abroad and encounters her former charge, now a sixteen-year old. 305 p.

THE ORIGINAL OF LAURA (DYING IS FUN)**VLADIMIR NABOKOV**

When the author of *Lolita* passed away in 1977, he left behind an unfinished manuscript in the form of handwritten index cards. Nabokov had asked that the cards be destroyed, but now, after the passage of so many years, his son Dmitri has chosen to publish what his father left behind. The story has not been fleshed out, it remains in its fragmented form and the volume includes images of the original index cards. 278 p.

THE PARIS VENDETTA**STEVE BERRY+**

An edge-of-your-seat thriller that involves a search for plundered treasure allegedly hidden by Napoleon Bonaparte before his death in 1821 tied together with global financial manipulations by a shadowy group. 418 p.

SUMMERTIME**J.M. COETZEE+**

The Nobel and Booker Prize winning author offers a fictionalized memoir. It is presented as the story of a young biographer seeking to write about the late author John Coetzee. He gathers information by interviewing those who knew the reclusive author in South Africa in the 1970s. Shortlisted for the 2009 Man Booker Prize. 266 p.

SUNFLOWERS**SHERAMY BUNDRICK**

The story of Vincent Van Gogh and the relationship he forms with a young prostitute who becomes one of his painting subjects. As the girl seeks refuge in the artist, Van Gogh battles with his own inner demons and a love grows between the two. 401 p.

TOO MUCH MONEY**DOMINICK DUNNE+**

Dunne's posthumously published novel returns to the high society world he knew so well, and skewered in novels such as *People Like Us*. Journalist Gus Bailey finds a slander suit distracting him from his latest project, a novel based on the death of a billionaire whose wife is none-to-keen to see the story investigated further. 275 p.

DETECTIVES**DYING FOR MERCY****MARY JANE CLARK**

While TV news co-host Eliza Blake is visiting a friend's estate in Tuxedo Park, macabre events start happening, beginning with a shocking suicide. When she and her colleagues investigate, it appears that Pentimento, the estate itself, holds the key to a fiendish killer, and that no one is safe. 377 p.

EVIDENCE OF MURDER**LISA BLACK**

Theresa MacLean is investigating the mysterious death of a new bride, found in the woods with no obvious cause of death. When the woman's former boyfriend expresses suspicions about his ex-lover's death, both he and Theresa worry about the safety of the woman's young daughter. 345 p.

THE FLEET STREET MURDERS**CHARLES FINCH**

Recently engaged to Lady Jane Grey, Charles Lenox is busy standing for Parliament and sleuthing out the strange murders of two journalists that may be closer to home than expected. From the author of *The September Society*. 306 p.

THE GOOD SON**RUSSELL D. McLEAN+**

A Scottish private investigator finds an apparent suicide to be suspicious ... and then the body count begins to rise. 240 p.

IMPROVING THE SILENCE**PETER TURNBULL**

A British police procedural in which a skeleton discovered in the woods turns out to be that of a police officer who disappeared nearly thirty years earlier. 186 p.

LONDON BOULEVARD**KEN BRUEN**

After serving three years in prison for a crime that he does not remember committing, a man finds himself on the streets again, only to have his violent past come back to haunt him while working for an ex-movie star. 250 p.

NECTAR OF THE GODS**GWEN WATKINS**

After the death of her husband and business partner, Sarah Bennett has to get her wine company and her personal life in order. However, when she travels to Australia, a routine wine tasting trip puts the wine industry and her own life at risk. 383 p.

THE PENGUIN BOOK OF GASLIGHT CRIME**EDITED BY MICHAEL SIMS**

The best crime fiction from the gaslight era gathered in a single volume. 248 p.

THE PRICE OF LOVE**PETER ROBINSON**

A collection of two novellas and several stories featuring Yorkshire policeman Alan Banks. In *Going Back*, Banks returns home for a family reunion, and in *Like a Virgin* he revisits the crime that led him to leave London. 356 p.

+ McNAUGHTON RENTAL**HOW TO USE THE MAIL SERVICE OF THE CIRCULATION LIBRARY**

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