

ATHENÆUM BOOKSHELF

April 2010
(Books purchased for March 2010)

FEATURED SELECTIONS

THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS

REBECCA SKLOOT

Henrietta Lacks' cells remain alive today, though she died sixty years ago. Now utilized in labs globally, HeLas were the first human cells to be successfully reproduced. The Polio vaccine, cancer treatments, and gene mapping are all possible through the use of Lacks' cervical tumor sample. The author shares her dogged 30-year quest to discover the details left out of scientific texts, exploring medical history as well as racial struggles and cultural differences. 369 p., ill.

SOMETHING IS OUT THERE

RICHARD BAUSCH

This collection of short stories engulfs the reader in the fragile complexity of human relationships in our times. Bausch manages to keep a redemptive spirit while sifting through mistakes, longings, and fears of his characters. 268 p.

ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

ARTS AND CRAFTS RUGS FOR CRAFTSMAN INTERIORS

LINDA PARRY AND DAVID CATHERS

A collection of rugs influenced by *The Craftsman*, the popular Arts and Crafts magazine published by Gustav Stickley from 1901-1916. 167 p., ill.

EDWIN HOWLAND BLASHFIELD

EDITED BY MINA RIEUR WEINER

More than one hundred new photographs of the American Renaissance muralist's work. 160 p., ill.

THE ICONIC HOUSE

DOMINIC BRADBURY

A look at 100 of the most important and influential architectural designs in the world. Ranging in style, materials, and traditions, it includes drawings, informative text, floor plans and vivid photographs. **This book does not circulate by mail.** 351 p., ill.

PHILADELPHIA'S WASHINGTON SQUARE

BILL DOUBLE*

Photographs and histories of Washington Square's buildings, including the Athenaeum. This book is part of the *Images of America* series. 127 p., ill.

BIOGRAPHY

THE STRANGEST MAN

GRAHAM FARMELO

A peek into the bizarre mind of Paul Dirac, the scientific genius who was a colleague of Einstein and winner of the 1933 Nobel Prize for physics. 539 p., ill.

TRAVEL

FROMMER'S NEW ORLEANS

The 2010 guide includes walking tours and architectural highlights.

MARY HERCZOG+

339 p., ill.

HISTORY & POLITICS

THE EMPEROR'S LAST CAMPAIGN

An examination of the Bonapartist migration to the Western Hemisphere after Napoleon's defeat. 503 p., ill.

EMILIO OCAMPO

THE IMPERIAL CRUISE

Bradley (*Flags of Our Fathers*) reconstructs President Roosevelt's Pacific cruise of 1905. Accompanied by his media-distracting daughter, Alice, and Secretary of War Howard Taft, a series of secret agreements were negotiated that would influence American Pacific involvements in the future. 387 p., ill.

JAMES BRADLEY

PARIS UNDER WATER

In 1910, the same flood that left Paris under water also mustered comradeship that superseded the social and political tension of the time. 262 p., ill.

JEFFREY H. JACKSON

THE POKER BRIDE

The forgotten history of Chinese sojourners during the gold rush of the American West is illuminated through this account of Polly, the Poker Bride. Discover the facts behind the lore of the concubine who was sold as a slave, wagered in a poker match, and eventually became the wife of a Connecticut Yankee. 218 p., ill.

CHRISTOPHER CORBETT

1789

An examination of three nations at the crossroads of history: Britain's struggle with India after its humiliating defeat in America; France's near bankruptcy and descent into chaos on the eve of revolution; and the new United States' declaration of the Bill of Rights, in the age of the tensions of slavery. 439 p., ill.

DAVID ANDRESS

THE TIME TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

An extensive and lively social history of 14th century England. The daily lives of serfs, merchants, and aristocrats are illuminated through accounts of mealtime rituals, fashion, medical curiosities, and occupation and income. 342 p., ill.

IAN MORTIMER

SCIENCE & MEDICINE

THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS

Henrietta Lacks' cells remain alive today, though she died sixty years ago. An intimate portrait of the woman whose cells were unwittingly utilized to test medical advancements from the polio vaccine to cloning and gene mapping. 369 p., ill.

REBECCA SKLOOT

MISCELLANEOUS

GO ORGANIZE!

MARILYN BOHN

A refreshingly simple take on organizing, just in time for spring cleaning.

240 p., ill.

THE POSSESSED

ELIF BATUMAN

If you love the notion of a funny book about reading Russian literature, then *The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People who Read them* is for you!

296 p.

REPORTING AT WIT'S END

ST. CLAIR MCKELWAY

Collects 18 of St. Clair McKelway's timeless pieces from *The New Yorker*, spanning from the 1930s to the 1960s. Together, they comprise a tribute to a long-forgotten New York, and renew the memory of one of its consummate chroniclers.

619 P.

FICTION

CAIRO MODERN

NAGUIB MAHFOUZ

Impoverished student Maghub's small deceptions become a runaway train as he attempts to scale the societal ladder during a time of major inequality in 1930's Cairo.

243 p.

A DEAD HAND

PAUL THEROUX

A travel writer finds himself playing detective on the dark streets of Calcutta when a dashing and mysterious woman requests his help.

279 p.

EIGHT WHITE NIGHTS

ANDRÉ ACIMAN

Intrigue, hope, and tension are explored as two Manhattan strangers take their guarded first steps together during the magic of the holiday season.

360 p.

FACE OF BETRAYAL

LIS WIEHL WITH APRIL HENRY

A young girl disappears and the Triple Threat, headed by reporter Cassidy Shaw, is on the case vying to find the girl alive before they become the next victims.

310 p.

THE FIFTH SERVANT

KENNETH WISHNIA

The political and religious struggles of fifteenth-century Prague can be felt as a Talmudic scholar searches for clues when a Christian girl is found murdered in a Jewish shop on Passover.

387 p.

THE INFINITIES

JOHN BANVILLE+

A playfully inventive medley of mischievous immortals and complex human relationships as a family gathers around the grandfather's deathbed.

273 p.

THE INFORMATION OFFICER

MARK MILLS+

Set in WWII Malta, a British officer investigates the murder of a young Maltese woman. Given that Malta is a stepping-stone for Nazi Germany to reach North Africa, the stakes are high as the officer races to maintain the country's loyalty.

276 p.

THE MIDNIGHT HOUSE

ALEX BERENSON

CIA agent John Wells is rushed in when two members of the Midnight House, a secret base used in interrogation of the toughest jihadis, are murdered. Clues lead him to Cairo and to a web of questions regarding the base's integrity.

385 p.

MONSIEUR PAIN

ROBERTO BOLAÑO

Bolaño masterfully weaves historical figures of 1939 Paris into this darkly ironic tale of artists and occultists.

ONE AMAZING THING**CHITRA BANERJEE DIVAKARUNI+**

When the walls of a visa office crumble during an earthquake, so do the barriers between the nine strangers trapped inside. Revelations of “one amazing thing” from each person’s life tenderize the urgent battle for survival.

134 p.
220 p.**THE SECRET LIFE OF EMILY DICKINSON****JEROME CHARYN+**

The brilliance, moxie, and prowess of Dickinson are brought to life here. This immersive read introduces a dynamic array of historical and fictional compatriots who will shape the way you understand Dickinson’s poetry.

348 p., ill.

SHADOW TAG**LOUISE ERDRICH+**

The complexities of marriage, family, and personal identity are explored through entries from Irene’s diaries. Her red diary, containing the secret truths of her life and marriage, is well hidden while she creates a false journal, used as a manipulation tool against her snooping husband.

255 p.

SOMETHING IS OUT THERE**RICHARD BAUSCH**

This collection of short stories engulfs the reader in the fragile complexity of human relationships in our times. Bausch manages to keep a redemptive spirit while sifting through the mistakes, longings, and fears of his characters.

268 p.

DETECTIVES**ASSASSINS OF ATHENS****JEFFREY SIGER**

Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis explores the underbelly of Athens nightlife while investigating the murder of the son of one of Greece’s most prominent families.

275 p.

CITY OF DRAGONS**KELLI STANLEY**

A crime novel that takes the reader through an intimate tour of San Francisco in 1940. Miranda Corbie investigates a murder during a Chinese New Year celebration, despite the police’s attempt to cover it up.

338 p.

KISSER**STUART WOODS**

Stone Barrington yet again finds himself twisted in the scandals of Manhattan’s high society. (Large Print ed.,)

390 p.

MURDER IN THE PALAIS ROYAL**CARA BLACK**

Someone wants revenge on P.I. Aimée Leduc. A mysterious sum of money appears in the firm’s bank account following the near fatal shooting of her partner. When her alibi doesn’t check out, she struggles to persuade the detective that she is being framed.

291 p.

A NIGHT TOO DARK**DANA STABENOW+**

The latest book from bestselling author Stabenow finds P.I. Kate Shugak uncovering the mystery of disappearing bodies in a rugged Alaska town with a newly opened mine.

322p.

THE POISONING IN THE PUB**SIMON BRETT**

It begins with food poisoning, but will it end in murder? In this Fethering mystery, Jude and Carole are determined to save the local pub from impending bankruptcy after a series of mysterious disasters.

297p.

THE SERPENT POOL**MARTIN EDWARDS**

In this Lake District Mystery, Hannah Scarlett reopens a suspicious drowning case. Interference of the local authorities, enigmatic personal relationships, and curious parallels to the life and writings of Thomas de Quincey make for a multidimensional puzzle.

271 p.

THE SPIES OF SOBECK**P.C. DOHERTY**

Amerotke, Chief Judge of the Hall of Two Truths must race against time to save Pharaoh-Queen Hatusu from the secret murderous sect, the Arites.

304p.

SPLIT IMAGE**ROBERT B. PARKER+**

Jesse Stone teams up with PI Sunny Randall upon the discovery of a body in a trunk. As the suspects escalate from low-level mobsters to high-profile crime figures, the sparks between Jesse and Sunny do as well.

277 p.

WILD PENANCE**SANDI AULT+**

Jamaica Wild confronts Native American lore and a mysterious death as a Bureau of Land Management agent in New Mexico.

297p.

*** Gift of the Author
+ McNaughton Rental**

HOW TO USE THE MAIL SERVICE OF THE CIRCULATION LIBRARY

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