ALL ABOUT HISTORY

ERIK THE RED & THE VIKING EXPLORERS

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- How epic voyages were achieved
- Why the age of exploration died

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Die-hard adventures of a gold prospector

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From sex rituals to temple harems

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How 7-year-old emperor aged three to Beijing gardener at 54

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Victorian for machines, folding pianos and more

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How the Nazi's surprise strike backfired

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From an MI6 cover-up to an escape to South America, historian Luke Daly-Groves offers a fascinating exploration and rebuttal of the many conspiracy theories surrounding the death of the twentieth century's most destructive dictator.

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Professor Frank McDonough, author of The Gestapo

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Welcome

We have two tales of exploration to bring you in this issue, both with their share of adventure and tragedy, but one far more successful than the other. Westeros, of course, with the great Viking explorers, lead by Eric the Red, but by no means stopping with him. We journey from the native Norse lands to England, Ireland, Greenland and finally what would come to be known as North America: journeys that inspired great sagas afterwards.

What drew these hearty travellers to venture forth and leave the comfort of home for the unknown winds and dark ideas of the sea? What secrets waited there? It's fascinating to take a closer look and you can learn even more by downloading after Viking Sagas this issue.

Go to page 20 for the link.

The other great explorer this issue is Sir Walter Raleigh, once a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, cast out and seeking redemption in his hunt for El Dorado, the legendary city of gold. Matthew Lyons brings us a great experience on the subject. Also, Daniel Khan takes us through the extraordinary life of Phyllis, the last empress of China. From sitting on the throne aged three, he would end his life as a humble gardener in communist China. It's an incredible and often tragic story of power, greed, hubris, malice and political manipulation. I hope you enjoy it and the rest of the issue.

Jonathan Gordon
Editor

Editor’s picks

Pharaohs Of Egypt
We've made some changes to our popular Timeline of the issue and hope you like this version. Read on and enjoy.

Viking Map
As well as your look at the stories of the great Viking explorers this issue we also feature a wonderful map charting their routes.

Princess Margaret
Walter Tapper has done an amazing job chronicling the life and heartbreak of a royal life. A real highlight of the issue.

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THE HOMESTEAD RACE

At noon on 22 April 1889, around 28,000 people lined up ready to race to the Unassigned Land in Oklahoma and claim new land. This was thanks to the Homestead Act, which allowed citizens to claim land for free.

The Homestead Act proved to be a success in opening up the West and encouraging settlement.

1889
DEFINING MOMENTS

STUDENTS IN THE SQUARE

The most famous image of the Tiananmen Square protests is of course a single protestor standing in front of a tank, but the event was much more than that. It started in the Square with students mourning the death of party officials Li Xiaolin and Hu Yaobang. These two figures were viewed as heroes, symbolizing the need for change and reform within China. The protest was sparked by demands for democracy and human rights.

1989
DEFINING MOMENTS

SOLO SAILING

Robin Knox-Johnston became the first person to circumnavigate the globe solo and non-stop when he returned to Falmouth on 26 April 1969. He had been taking part in the first Sunday Times Golden Globe Race along with a number of other competitors. He was, however, the only one to finish. It is estimated that 25,000 people tuned in to watch the race and listen to his commentary. He was awarded the £5,000 prize by the Family of Donald Bradfield. Another competitor in the race, who is believed to have committed suicide, was Richard Hughes.

1969
"For the moment... I was struck dumb with amazement, and when Lord Carnarvon, unable to stand the suspense any longer, inquired anxiously, ‘Can you see anything?’ it was all I could do to get out the words, ‘Yes, wonderful things’”

Howard Carter, Egyptologist and discoverer of Tutankhamun's tomb
ANCIENT EGYPT

We head down the Nile to rediscover wonders of the ancient world, celebrate the people who uncovered Egypt’s secrets and delve into the lives of its people.
The Pharaohs Of Egypt

Amenhotep I
1554 BCE
Known for his cultural and construction achievements during a 21-year reign. Amenhotep makes many additions to the Temple of Karnak, new chapels in honour of Amun, and was a patron for many new artistic works. He is deified after his death.

Hatshepsut
1479 BCE
Starting as queen consort before becoming Pharaoh in her own right (albeit alongside Thutmose III). Hatshepsut has been noted as the first great female leader in recorded history. Her greatest achievements were in opening up new trade routes with neighbouring kingdoms, helping to further enrich Egypt.

Narmer
2600 BCE
Regarded as the first king of Egypt, both upper and lower Egypt, Narmer's unification of the pharaoh into one state paved the way for future unification.

Khufu
2575 BCE
Known for building the Great Pyramid at Giza. Khufu's temple achievements are unknown. He is recorded by the Greek bio-Claud, but his burial site is unknown.

Pepi II
2160 BCE
Known for being the longest-reigning king in Egyptian history. His reign shows the decline in real power as local nobles began to influence politics at home, with Pepi II largely beyond the control of the Pharaoh.

Djoser
2630 BCE
Known for building the Step Pyramid at Saqqara, a revolutionary architectural and engineering achievement.

Djedefre 2580 BCE
Known for his successful campaigns in the Levant, and his pyramid at Giza, which was the first ever pyramid to be constructed.

Ikitkare 1980 BCE
Known for his successful campaigns in the Levant, and his pyramid at Giza, which was the first ever pyramid to be constructed.

Tutankhamun
1333 BCE
Known for his relatively short and given his age (only nine or ten when he ascended to the throne). Tutankhamun achieves a great deal in restoring the old gods and customs after the Amarna cult of Akhenaten. The discovery of his tomb in 1922 helped make him one of Egypt's most famous pharaohs.
Timeline

Ramesses II 1279 BCE
Following the religious restoration of Tutankhamun, Ramesses II begins to reestablish Egyptian political and military might in the region, embarking on several military campaigns and massive building projects such as Abu Simbel, which grants status of Ramesses' dominion.

Amenhotep III 1390-1352 BCE
Continuing Egypt's expansion in all directions, Amenhotep goes to the borders of the Levant and the Mediterranean Sea, while still maintaining a strong presence in Africa.

Xerxes I 486-465 BCE
Xerxes, the Persian king, leads his army to Egypt's borders on the Egyptian campaigns. This creates a conflict between the Egyptians and the Persians, leading to the Battle of Salamis.

Ptolemy I Soter 305-285 BCE
Ptolemy, a general for Alexander the Great, becomes the first ruler of the Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt and establishes a strong foundation for Egyptian independence.

Alexander The Great 356-323 BCE
Alexander's conquest of Egypt and the establishment of his rule in the region marks a significant period in Egyptian history, with implications on the region's future.

Seti I 1279-1272 BCE
Seti I, the father of Ramesses II, is known for his military campaigns against the Hittites and his role in the establishment of Ramesses' dynasty.

Akhenaten 1353-1336 BCE
Akhenaten is known for his heretical beliefs and the eventual end of his rule, which led to the eventual decline of his dynasty.

Caesarion 44 BCE
The son of Cleopatra and Julius Caesar, Caesarion is the last heir to the Ptolemaic dynasty, becoming a contender for the throne after Cleopatra's death.

Cleopatra VII 69-30 BCE
Daughter of Ptolemy XIII, Cleopatra becomes a powerful figure in the Mediterranean region, defending Egypt against Roman expansion and establishing her dynasty.
Luxor Temple

Thebes/Luxor, Egypt, 1390-1352 BCE

Luxor was a kingdom where the gods were of paramount importance. Temples were often grand affairs. Situated on the Nile, this was one of the most important buildings for miles around. It is believed that work started on it before the New Kingdom, but the earliest features that survive have been dated to the reign of Amenhotep III. The Temple of Luxor - constructed in what is now called Luxor but was once Thebes - is situated right next to the River Nile and was one of the most important buildings for miles around. It is believed that work started on it before the New Kingdom, but the earliest features that survive have been dated to the reign of Amenhotep III, who was ruling in the early to mid 14th BCE. Luxor was a grand affair. At one point, the largest and most significant religious centre in the kingdom, it was where the god Amun was symbolically shown every year, and where Tutankhamun, husband of Nefertiti and father of Tutankhamun, first contemplated the nature of God. Growing over 3000 years, it certainly wasn’t small, with expansions taking place under the reigns of Tuthmosis III, Hatshepsut and Ramses II. Even Alexander the Great made his mark, building a shrine with statues depicting him as an Egyptian pharaoh. The Romans later built fortifications around the temple that became known as Al Uqas, which later morphed into Luxor, which is what we call the area and temple in the present day.

Religion has always had a place on the site of Luxor. Some scholars believe that the ancient Egyptian temple we know today was built over an earlier temple, and a mosque was built in one of the interior courtyards in the 16th century. However, during the reign of the pharaohs it was connected to another temple three kilometres north - Karнак - by what has been called the Avenue of Sphinxes.

Avenue of Sphinxes

At around three kilometres long, this road, lined by about 1,500 sphinxes, was used once in a year during the Opet Festival, with Egyptians between Luxor and Karnak carrying statues of Amun and Mut. There were also temple chapels, half of which were built by Queen Hatshepsut.

Outside the walls

With the mighty Nile on one side and the Avenue of Sphinxes leading up to the entrance, the other two sides of the temple were surrounded by houses made of mud brick, workshops and shops. Thebes, situated in modern-day Luxor about 500 kilometres south of Cairo, was a bustling city and served as the capital of the kingdom during the Middle and New periods.

Court of Ramesses II

Built by the pharaoh, it was named after, the Court of Ramesses II was surrounded by a double row of columns, making 34 in total, with the room itself sitting at 31 by 31 metres. A number of statues stand between the columns, as well as a shrine to Thothmes III.
Birth Room of Amenhotep III
At the temple of Luxor, the ruins in one room show the supposed birth of the pharaoh Amenhotep III, linking him to the god's heritage as the god's wife, Ankh, and Horus, otherwise known as the Theban Triad, but this has never been confirmed. Nonetheless, there are two small chapels in the original part of the temple that are dedicated to Ankh and Horus.

The Theban Triad
The Temple of Luxor was supposedly initially dedicated to the gods Ankh, Horus, and Khonsu, otherwise known as the Theban Triad, but this has never been confirmed. Nonetheless, there are two small chapels in the original part of the temple that are dedicated to Ankh and Horus.

Alexander the Great
During his tenure as pharaohs from 332 to 323 BCE, Alexander the Great added his own mark to the temple of Luxor in the shape of a shrine to Amun. In an area that had originally been built by Amenhotep III, four columns were removed and a rectangular sandstone shrine was put in their place.

Hypostyle Hall
The hypostyle hall was a typical feature of religious architecture in ancient Egypt. Lining, thick columns reached upwards and stopped midway, with rows of pillars reaching up to the gods in the heavens. The one at Luxor had four rows of eight columns, each decorated with historic or religious motifs.

Court of Amenhotep III
Measuring about 45 by 56 meters, the Court of Amenhotep III was the first expanding of the Temple of Luxor beyond the original compound. It is surrounded by a double row of 58 columns with more in the shape of papyrus plants on three sides.
**THE Anatomy of AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DOCTOR**

**ANCIENT EGYPT, 3150-300 BCE**

**GOING PLACES**

Ancient Egyptian doctors were knowledgeable about medical practices across the known world. They traveled far and wide, helping both men and women. Some even went into battle with soldiers.

**SOLID TRAINING**

We know of the existence of medical schools in Alexandria and other locations across ancient Egypt, and every doctor went through training at one of these centers. These schools were some of the best in the ancient world, and graduates were better able to perform complex medical surgeries, immunizations, and the ability to fix broken bones.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

Doctors for some of the higher classes of Egyptians, doctors in Egypt could be male or female. One of the earliest mentions of a physician was a woman named Rehu, who was working around 1300 BCE in the service of a female doctor, but there may have been as early as 3000 BCE.

**ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE**

Natural remedies were used with what we would now call as scientific methods. Diseases seen through the lenses by the physicians' instruments were diagnosed and treated by various techniques. Incrustations and immunizations all used to place and bolster to invoke protection from the gods as protection.

**TOOL UP**

There was no medicine of tools in ancient medicine, and most doctors had some knowledge of herbs and plants. Implements included simple tools of their own making, bones saws, needles, loops, and thatched bandages. However, while these tools were used on patients, with some success, there was actually little understanding of how medicinal tools worked.

**WRITING IT DOWN**

Most of what we know about ancient Egyptian doctors and medicine today has come from papyri that have survived the ages. These papyri’s contain several more than 400 medical procedures, as well as scripts on many other medical procedures, and contain instructions to help the disease-causing demons.

**A HIGHER POWER**

In ancient Egypt, most doctors were also scribes. They were followed by priests and scholars of healing, curses, and spells. While some received parts of the body, others specialized in magic and rituals. Because of the aspect of magic, healers were high priests. Doctors had to be able to see and successfully keep their cause pure in body and spirit.
A Model Battle

One display of heroism occurred on 7th October 1940, when Pilot Officer Ken Mackenzie was chasing a damaged Messerschmitt BF109 over the south coast. Having used up all his ammunition, he was determined not to let the Luftwaffe fighter live to tell his tale. He then turned his Hurricane to the left, flying 10,000 feet, and used his wing tip to sever the port and starboard of the Messerschmitt, sending it spiralling into the sea and taking the outer section of its own wing with it. He was then set upon by two more 109s and sustaining damage to his Hurricane, he managed to avoid cliffs near Folkestone and boldly land his fighter in the first field he saw. The 24 year old Mackenzie quickly returned to action and claimed at least seven enemy aircraft destroyed during the Battle of Britain.

By the early stages of the Battle of Britain. Luftwaffe pilot Gerhard Schöpfel had already achieved the status of fighter ace, but during August 1940, he was to increase his victory tally significantly. His most successful day came on the 18th August, whilst leading an independent hunting patrol of Messerschmitt BF109F fighters across southern England. Whilst over the Folkestone area, he spotted the Hurricanes of No. 510 Squadron climbing out of Hawkinge, but rather than immediately attacking the RAF fighters, Schöpfel and his wingman dived underneath the aircraft to approach from their blind spot. Unseen by the Hurricanes, Schöpfel shot down the two-tailed-Charlies, expecting to see the remaining aircraft immediately breaking for cover, but they carried on their course. He managed to shoot down a further two Hurricanes, including the aircraft of RAF ace Donald McKay and Kenneth Law, both men to successfully bolt out of their stricken fighters.

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Hall of Fame

NOTABLE EGYPTOLOGISTS

The pioneers who built the foundations of modern Egyptology along with the scholars whose discoveries astounded the world

MARY BRODRICK
BRITISH 1893-1938

Brodrick’s interest in Egyptology began following her first holiday in Egypt during the 1920s. Setting in Paris, she studied at the Sorbonne despite the opposition she faced as a woman, and took part in excavations in Egypt, becoming one of the first women to do so. In 1933, she enrolled at University College London and started working for the British Museum, as well as the Egypt Exploration Society, while also translating various key works of Egyptology into English.

PIERRE MONTET
FRENCH 1896-1966

After over a decade of excavations at the city of Tanis, Montet discovered the two large tombs belonging to the pharaohs, Psusennes I, Amenemhat and Shoshenq II between 1939 and 1940. Amazingly, all three tombs were completely intact and full of treasures, including the incredible gold funerary masks worn by the pharaohs. However, arguably the most remarkable aspect of Montet’s discovery was that until then, Shoshenq II had remained an unknown king to scholars.

KAMAL EL-MALLAKH
EGYPTIAN 1927-1987

El-Mallakh was the main responsible for discovering the Khufu ship in 1954, which he found in one of the two pits he discovered just south of the Great Pyramid of Giza. An ancient Egyptian vessel from the reign of Pharaoh Khufu, the intact ship is one of the oldest and largest in the world, dating back to c.2500 BCE. Today, it can be found on display at the Solar Boat Museum in Giza, created specifically for the ship.

SIR WILLIAM MATTHEW FLINDERS PETRIE
BRITISH 1853-1942

After travelling to Egypt in 1880, to survey the Great Pyramid of Giza, Petrie was interested in document ancient monuments and archaeological evidence before they were destroyed by the work of careless tourists. As a result, he was keen to save as many Egyptian antiquities as possible. Publishing numerous articles on his findings, Petrie was introduced to Antino Komos who encouraged his career and provided him with funding. In 1882, he was named the first chair of Egyptology in England after he left his job as a chemist. Conducting numerous excavations during his lifetime, Petrie was known for using scientific methods and pioneered the use of sciences in the field.
**Hall Of Fame**

**AMELIA B. EDWARDS**
**British, 1872-1955**

Considered to be one of the founding fathers of modern Egyptology, Mariette was a key figure in the early development of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. During his career, he made several important discoveries, including the Tomb of Tutankhamun, which he later excavated in 1881.

**JEAN-FRANÇOIS CHAMPOLLION**
**French, 1790-1832**

Champollion was the first person to decipher the hieroglyphics of the Rosetta Stone. Using his knowledge of Coptic, the last phase of the Egyptian language to which he was fluent, Champollion decoded that hieroglyphics were phonetic and hieroglyphs, made in 1682, were crucial to the understanding of ancient Egyptian language. Following his success, Champollion was appointed as the director of the Egyptian Museum at the Louvre and he carried out expeditions to Egypt from 1816 to 1830.

**AUGUSTE MARIETTE**
**French, 1821-1881**

Considered to be one of the founding fathers of modern Egyptology, Mariette was a key figure in the early development of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. During his career, he made several important discoveries, including the Tomb of Tutankhamun, which he later excavated in 1881.

**KARL RICHARD LEPSIUS**
**Prussian, 1810-1884**

A pioneer of modern Egyptology, Lepsius’s work has proven crucial in our understanding of Egyptian monuments today. In 1842, he led an expedition to Egypt funded by King Frederick Wilhelm IV of Prussia, which uncovered a total of 67 pyramids and 130 tombs. Publishing his findings in 12 volumes, including the various inscriptions he recorded, Lepsius’s efforts have proven invaluable to modern Egyptologists — as many of the sites he described have since deteriorated. His career continued to rise after the expedition and by 1865 he had been appointed lawyer of the Egyptian collection in Berlin, followed by another appointment as the director of the National Library in 1873.

**HOWARD CARTER**
**British, 1874-1939**

Carter is undoubtedly one of the most famous Egyptologists in history, as the man who discovered the tomb of King Tutankhamun in November 1922. Remarkably, the discovery was made after Carter persuaded his associates and financial leader, Lord Carnarvon, to allow one final campaign in the Valley of the Kings after their previous excavations had proven futile. The tomb was opened to reveal the tomb’s remains. Carter spent the next nine years cataloging the tomb for conservation and cataloguing the newly-found treasures.

**MARGARET MURRAY**
**British, 1903-2006**

Murray first became involved in Egyptology after enrolling at University College London in 1923 to study under the famous Egyptologist, Flinders Petrie. Six years later, she was appointed as a junior lecturer in Egyptology, becoming the first female archaeology lecturer in the UK. Among her various achievements, Murray excavated The Osiris, the Temple of Osiris, located in Abu Simbel, with Petrie, and she also published a monograph on a wide range of topics associated with ancient Egypt.

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The famous “Cursed of the Pharaohs” has persisted since Carter’s discovery, despite the fact no such curse was ever found.
Q&A With...

CHARLOTTE BOOTH

The archaeologist and writer talks us through the important role that sex played in Egyptian life.

In Bed With The Ancient Egyptians

Charlotte Booth

Charlotte Booth is the author of more than a dozen books on the ancient Egyptians as well as a regular guest on historical TV shows covering the Egyptians. She also worked with the Museum of London Archaeology on the Bedouin dig at Liverpool Street.
Q&A With...

11:16 PM

HOW WOULD YOU COMPARE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEX AND SEXUALITY TO TODAY?

The only real difference in attitude is for the Egyptian royal family, where for political reasons kings married their sisters, daughters, and granddaughters. Numerous marriages were not acceptable for non-royals. But for a modern Western perspective, Queen Victoria married her first cousin Albert. Princess Charlotte and Princess Diana were both cousins once removed and Camilla’s great-great-grandmother was the mistress of Prince Charles’s great-great-grandfather, King Edward VII. The modern British royal family are less concerned. Sex, however, in ancient Egypt was generally seen as a means of procreation but that didn’t stop people having sex. For fun. Marriage was quite facile and divorce was essentially the woman moving out of her husband’s home to live without capital for men and women to have multiple partners throughout their lives. They even had a saying that reflects this, which is along the lines of “You are only ever certain of who your mother is.”

DO WE HAVE A SENSE OF WHAT COUNTING WAS LIKE? WAS THERE A DATING SCENE IN ANCIENT EGYPT?

The only evidence we have of “counting” as such is from the New Kingdom, where poetry describes people being interested in someone of the opposite sex, and descriptions of them being loved, but there is no evidence of people counting in the same sense that we do today. That is not to say that it didn’t happen. People got married when they were very young so it seems unlikely to be prolonged, and perhaps at village gatherings and small times together was the way it happened. Sadly no records exist about this.

HOW SURPRISED WERE YOU TO FIND THERE WAS SO LITTLE DOCUMENTATION ABOUT CHILDHOOD FROM THIS ERA?

Very. The literature on pharaonic Egypt was very thin, some suggest as low as 0.3% and this would have been even less among women. In medical and medical knowledge associated with children was passed on orally from local wise women. Men generally did the recording keeping and they weren’t involved in medicine so it’s not surprising that this knowledge was unrestricted.

SEX AND PROSCRIPTIONS WERE IMPORTANT IN EGYPTIAN RELIGIOUS STORIES. ARE THERE ANY EXAMPLES THAT ILLUSTRATE THIS?

Certainly the creation myth which describes the creation of gods and the creation of the first generation of gods through “copulation with his hand” — he essentially self-created the next generation of gods, Shu and Tefnut, who then copulated in the traditional way to create the next generation of gods, Nut and Geb — who copulate in the traditional way, and so on and so forth. In the creation story of the Osiris of Hermopolis, the creation of creation itself was brought into creation through the copulation of four couples — each made up of a sire and a brood. Therefore sex and procreation are at the forefront of all life in Egypt.

DID SEX EVER PLAY MUCH OF A PART IN RELIGIOUS PRACTICE?

The only evidence of a sexual role within religious practice is that of the (God’s Wife of Amun) at Karnak temple. These priestesses performed the harms of the god Amun. It was considered a very important and powerful role and was initially built by senior royal women. It fell out of fashion in the 26th dynasty. The role of God’s Wife was a complex one and they were responsible for rituals that involved the king’s legitimacy to rule as well as the maintenance of both truth and justice) throughout the whole world. They were often depicted in close proximity to Amun confounding or blessing him. There is speculation whether there was a sexual aspect to the role although this is not recorded.

IN THE ROYAL FAMILY, KINGS MARRIED THEIR SISTERS, DAUGHTERS AND GRANDDAUGHTERS?

“IT IS PROBABLY A TUMOUR” ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEX IN MORE RECENT CENTURIES CLOUDED OUR RECORDS OF EGYPTIAN LIFE?

I think the attitudes of the founders of Egyptology in the 19th century cheapened the books and records that were written at the time — and indeed the volume of the Tutankhamon Papers was kept in London under lock and key and was viewed by appointment only. The things have moved on and books on the history of ancient Egypt written after the 1950s present the evidence for the reader to see.

HOW MUCH HAS PUNISHMENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS EGYPT IN MORE RECENT CENTURIES CLOUDED OUR RECORDS OF EGYPTIAN LIFE?

I think the attitudes of the founders of Egyptology in the 19th century cheapened the books and records that were written at the time — and indeed the volume of the Tutankhamon Papers was kept in London under lock and key and was viewed by appointment only. The things have moved on and books on the history of ancient Egypt written after the 1950s present the evidence for the reader to see.
Sights of the River Nile

1. Pyramid of Djoser
   Sakkara
   The reason for the Djoser Pyramid being such an important landmark is also the reason why you can't currently enter it: it's the oldest intact large stone structure in the world and quite likely to be the first of the Egyptian pyramids. Built between 2680 BCE and 2660 BCE, the pharaoh Djoser, it was designed by the famous doctor and priest Imhotep, standing 62.5 metres high. While you can't enter the pyramid itself, you can explore the complex and how the whole structure was put together, which in its entirety was a template for so much that was to follow. Renovation of the entire structure has been in progress, but there remain concerns that it won't be stable enough to accept visitors for some time. The whole complex, though, is 40 acres, so there's plenty to look around, including the imposing entry hall, the stunning roofed colonnade corridor that takes you in and into a series of intact shrines of the pharaoh himself.

2. Temple of Philae
   Aswan
   The beautifully detailed and dramatic reliefs of this temple are just one of the compelling reasons to check out this site on your Nile journey. The whole complex is a wealth of historical monuments thanks to the fact that it was maintained and added to by pharaohs and emperors over the years. It's actually one of the more modern temples of the ancient era having been built around the early 4th century BCE. Like a number of other great historical sites around the Nile, the Temple of Philae doesn't actually stand in its original location. Rising water levels caused by dam construction along the Nile were threatening to engulf the famed holy site in honour of the Egyptian goddess Isis, but a UNESCO rescue project saw every stone moved and reassembled from Philae Island to Agilkia Island. Thankfully this process was a big success and visitors can continue to enjoy its treasures, including a stunning evening Sound and Light Show.

This temple is open from 7am to 4pm from October through to May and then 7am to 5pm June through to September. Tickets appear to start at £9.50 with concessions at £7.50.
TEMPLE OF KARNAK
LUXOR

Karnak remains the second largest religious site in the world covering 200 acres, situated just inland at the west of Luxor, which has been the ancient Egyptian capital Thebes when it was built. It was the centre of religious life for multiple pharaohs and was constantly being added to and adorned with each new ruler.

The end result is a massive complex of temples and pavilions each with their own focus and some amazing reliefs to look at. The main focus of the complex is the Great Temple of Amun, greatly embellished from its first modern design after Tutu was moved the capital to Thebes and upgraded this temple to better reflect its new significance. Statues and inscriptions line every wall, paying tribute to kings and gods in equal measure.

And beyond it all is probably the most picturesque element of Karnak, the sacred lake. It would have been used for ritual washing and navigation by the people of the time. It was also the home of sacred game, where one of the symbols of Amun. A Sound and Light Show is available in the evenings, a pickup from Luxor taking you to and from the complex.

The Karnak Temple Complex is open from 8am to 5.30pm in the winter months and 6am to 6.30pm in the summer. Please start at 90EGP and 100EGP for concessions.

ABU SIMBEL TEMPLES
GENA

This incredible complex, built at the direction of Ramses II, is impressive on a number of levels. You might be blown away by its sheer scale and detail. You may be impressed that it's built into the rocks. Then again, you may also be aghast at the fact that it was moved 600 meters west and 40 meters up the valley from where it originally stood. Abu Simbel was another UNESCO preservation project that helped to stop this temple from being lost to the Nile after the Aswan dam changed the water levels.

Now Abu Simbel is safe and dry, but has lost none of its jaw-dropping grandeur from its relocation. In case you were wondering whether not it was something of a vanity project for Ramses II, four giant statues of the pharaoh himself stand to welcome you at the entrance. Inside, records of his great victories adorn the walls as well as tributes to the gods, most notably Amun, after which the first temple is named, along with Ramses II.

His is not the only temple, though, as a second to his chief wife Neretnert is also on the site. Inside you will find a sanctuary dedicated to Hathor, goddess of joy, music and motherhood, which is also well worth checking out. It really is a quite remarkable place to visit.

This site is open as early as 6am, and tours end at 6pm. At night, there is a Sound and Light Show at the evenings. However, stay must start at 200EGP and 250EGP for concessions.

5 TEMPLE OF KOMombo
COMombo

While many temples from the ancient Egyptian portfolio would feature dedications to more than one god, Komombo is unique in that it was built as a dual temple, the entire complex modelled to equally honour Sobek and Haroeris. The northern part of the temple is dedicated to the Falcon-Headed Haroeris, god of light, and the southern part belongs to crocodile and Sobek, god of fertility.

Sitting right on the river Nile, just south west of the town of Komombo, you get a fantastic view of the temple if you approach from the river. The temple must have taken some damage over the years through natural forces and floods scarring for materials, but it has stood up remarkably well in a number of places. Some relics have retained their striking colours, particularly in the courtyard of Sobek and Haroeris as you enter.

To make it a full day trip, consider visiting the nearby town of Aswan, which has a famous market on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The temple is open from 6am to 6pm in winter and open an additional hour in the summer months. Please start at 100EGP or 300EGP for students, and include the Crocodile Museum.
Historical Treasures

THE BOOK OF THE DEAD

UNCOVER THE SPELL BOOK THAT COULD SAVE YOUR SOUL. EGYPT, 1991-30 BCE

In a culture where the gods feature heavily in everyday life, what happens after death is always important. Ancient Egypt was no different, and that’s where the Book of the Dead came in. A more accurate translation of the title would perhaps be the Book of Going Forth by Day, or Spells for Going Forth by Day—fourteen spells that can be agreed is that no two copies of the book are the same. The Egyptian afterlife saw the deceased go through a series of challenges before facing their heart weighed in the Hall of Truth. If they were truthful and their heart weighed less than the white feather of Maat, the soul would then cross over Lily

"IF YOUR HEART WAS FOUND TO BE TOO HEAVY, IT WOULD BE THROWN ON THE FLOOR!"

Take heed to the库h of needs—let they need to know how to get these. That's where the Book of the Dead came in, providing a manual of spells for navigating the afterlife and reaching paradise. According to historian Margaret Murray, it contained details on how to overcome the dangers of the afterlife by enabling them to assume the forms of several mythical creatures and to give them the passwords necessary.

By the time of the New Kingdom, the books were commonplace instead of being reserved for the wealthy. They were custom-made by scribes, with individual spells and passwords for each individual as each journey through the afterlife was different. Depending on the life that had been lived, different spells would be written and the number would depend on how much could be afforded, but there was one spell that almost every copy featured: Spell 125. This was what you had to say to Isis, Thoth, Anubis, and the 42 judges in the Hall of Truth if your heart was weighed. Saying the right thing was incredibly important— if your heart was found to be too heavy, it would be thrown on the floor to be eaten by the monster goddess Ammit and your soul would cease to exist.

Some have taken the Book to be a magic book, full of spells for transformations. However, this has been vehemently refuted, as the spells would only work in the afterlife. And the afterlife was a guarantee—it just might have ended in the Hall of Truth if you didn't have your trusty guide on you.

SET PEN TO PAPER

This particular book of the dead was written on Papyrus, although other forms existed. However, the earliest spells were inscribed on the walls, often in the names of deities.

GOD BEST HIS SOUL

The god-like equals the most important part of the afterlife, which was a continuation of life on Earth. The goal had to be pleased and rewarded. Here, Anubis is weighing the deceased's heart against Maat on a scale.

A PERSONAL TOUCH

Many have been a source of magic, and the Book of the Dead was considered a magical text in the illustrations. In this image, the deceased are depicted in a variety of ways, including being tarred and feathered or wearing the rays of the sun god Ra.

AT GREAT LENGTH

These spells could be incredibly long. Here, it covers a total of 2,200 words or 1,275 lines, in a height of 25 characters, which is staggering, to say the least.
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Born To Roam

ERIK THE RED

AND THE VIKING EXPLORERS

Braving freezing oceans, icebergs and storms, the Norse explorers made amazing discoveries—just how did they do it?

Written by Jon Gane
Born To Roam

On 5 June 793 CE death washed over Lindisfarne, the most holy island in Britain. Flee across the sea, the Norse horde sailed to strip the gold and treasures from the church of the island. The waves that washed ashore struck down the holy men and tore out anything they could find of value. A record of the time describes how “the heathens poured out the blood of saints around the altar, and trampled on the bodies of men in the temple of God. Like dogs in the streets.” So it was that the Viking Age had begun.

At the time people were shocked that such a sacred location could be tainted. Little did they know that 100 years was only the first of many such attacks throughout Britain and Europe. Even today we think of the Norse we picture gun-squadding Vikings hoisting wine axes. Yet this is to misunderstand the situation. Viking comes from the old Norse word Viking, which specifically referred to those who took part in raids. Very few Norse would have been native and even then it was an activity only undertaken for part of each year. Most Norse stayed at home without even crossing the land fright to anyone. Linking the settled Norse life with the ocean-crossing Vikings were the great explorers. Evidence of Norse trade and Norse travelers can be found over a particularly vast area.

In Athens and Constantinople they left basic instructions that can still be seen today. An Indian bronze Buddha has been found on an island near Sri Lanka that reveals the vast trading network the Norse participated in. Sails and maps to the Norse pulled onwards, yet perhaps the most amazing voyages the Norse made were into the west. This is the story of Erik the Red, Leif the Lucky, and the others who led the Norse into North America.

SEA-STEEDS & WAVE-SWINE

For the early Middle Ages sea and river were the motorways that allowed fast and easy transport of goods and people. Norse ships rode the ocean waves but could also exploit their shallow design to pass up rivers and reach ships where there was no harbor. Ships became the emblem of Norse success with everything from jewelry to tombs to children’s toys being shaped like them. To sail a ship across the ocean took years to master. Yet many steps in Norse exploration occurred by accident. By the 9th century the Norse had settled in northern England, the Orkneys, Skye, and the Faroe Islands. While traveling from Norway to Faroe a Norse mariner called Noddod was lost by contrary winds. The weather drove Noddod to a huge new island. Climbing a peak to search for human habitation he found no sign...
of smoke from fires. On the way back to his ship it began to snow so he called his new discovery "Snowland. Soon others would call it Iceland, and home.

ROOM TO BREATHE
With all the attendant dangers of a sea travel you might think the Norse would be happy enough at home. The Icelandic sagas give us clues about what drew people to come across the risks of losing everything, including their lives. There is a world of dangers where family bonds may claim the lives of hundreds over generations. In Kjall Saga a disagreement over a half game ends with one man losing his home, his wife and his son. Perhaps compared to life on shore the sea did not seem so risky.

Yet for all the apparent brutality there was also a world of laws and kings. It may be the kings that drove many from their homes.

Many sagas begin with Harald Fair Hair. He promised not to cut his hair until he had united all of Norway under his rule. When he did he transformed himself into Harald Fair Hair. In the sagas the free-mined landowners of Norway cannot stomach being ruled over by him and the Saga of Hazel and the People of Hazel shows how "They would rather leave their property in Norway than suffer aggression and injustice." The Laufala Saga he has a character declare "I will follow the example of noble men, and fly this land." They gathered their families, friends, household goods, and even the temples of their gods into their ships and crossed the ocean in search of new lands. In Iceland they found it. The first deliberate trip to Iceland in the wake of Harold's unexpected trip was performed by Fiski Valdarson some time in the 9th century setting out from the Fjord where he carried three sworn on board. Being unable to land on water sevens would only fly away if they could land. The first known landing flew back to the Fjord. The second settled back on the ship. When the third disappeared into the north-the west he knew Iceland was nearby.

Now that Iceland was fixed in the Norse mind others began to settle there. According to tradition the first settler was Ingolf Arnason.

LIFE AT HOME
What happened to those who did not take to the ships with the explorers?

When Viking sailors or Norse explorers returned they left behind a civilization that had to fashion without them, a civilization driven by raids and plundering. Norweyian fishermen did not have boats or fished at all. On the coast, the tide was one of the most important things. As the tide went out the Gals and in shortage of hands could not be used.

Life in Iceland was cold could be difficult. The hinds that had to be turned to and preserved. Children were given the role of watching over sheep and goats not only to see the animals kept safe but to stop them mashing on the cry. Fields of oats, rye and barley provided the main crops and much depended on the soil. The Icelanders term required twice as much land as in Norway. Milk from cows, sheep and goats could be obtained. The dwellers (Gobber Grorit) were a forest area which kitchen vegetables were grown. Special laws were enacted to make another person's livestock unrecognizable. Not stop the theft of one, as well as setting toound there was the daily harvest of raising fish and birds and each man would be someone to catch and find his food.

In Iceland the houses were built almost entirely of stones, and they needed to maintain homes. When the powerful man left the house was an overseer on their farms to manage the work and other info. The hall would serve meals.

In Iceland was fun and laughter for those left behind. Erik the Red's saga tells of a man burned by a fire and put on a plate where "many bread games were played, there was something and plenty of other entertainments" to lighten the life of the household.

With access to arm and community amusements and others Iceland at the high seas people were able to take and enjoy. For children there were toys like bobbin models, or to make sense from wood. recycled materials.
who took his family to escape from a Blood feud. On reaching Ireland, he cut the wooden pillars of his clefted seat into the sea, declaring he would not settle anywhere the gods denied him to wash ashore. This may strike us as an unusual method for initiating a home, but the Norse made use of other methods following washed-up treed carvings and coffee containing the dead husked at sea. The greatest advantage Ireland offered was the plentiful becalmed land. In Britain or Ireland a new home had to be carved out from an already occupied area. On Iceland the only difficulty was choosing where you wanted to live. Even in unpopulated regions, though, some will still find reasons to quarrel.

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Erik the Red seems to have had a knack for both discovery and disappearance. Two sagas that feature his side, The Greenland Saga and The Saga of Erik the Red, both describe him as a fighter. Forced from Norway because of involvement in slayings, Erik settled in Iceland. The change of scenery did him no good and he soon killed the first and another murder called Hjalti. A feud threatened to draw in other families and disintegrate the whole island. Erik needed no more on again, but where to?

At some point in the late 11th century there had been another lucky accident for the Norse: A ship commanded by Gunhildr Elinsson travelling from Norway to Iceland was swept off course and ran aground. He explored three small islands but did not land, opting to return to his injured fisherman. A later trip, recorded in a lost saga by Snorri Sturluson, tells of the first time he led his crew on an expedition back from Iceland. Erick equipped a ship for a voyage and gathered a crew for this new adventure. Perhaps he had followed the advice given in The Eyrbyggja Saga, a later Norse saga, which tells a traveller to “always keep the ships in good condition or it is all too late.” Keep your ship attractive; for then your cupboards will never run empty and you will be well manned.”

The chapter concludes by explaining the importance of.

9 STEPS TO LAUNCH A VIKING VOYAGE

Before you set out on an adventure here are the things you need to do.

1. Cut down trees

Some ships used fresh timber in their construction, allowing wood to be beehive-shaped. Usually the wood was salvaged from ships, though pine and oak were preferred. Long, straight trees were needed for the planks while the frame required curved shapes.

4. Gather your supplies

A typical Viking ship could be very basic. The main source of food was beef, pork, and fish. Oat, barley, or rye were eaten. Plenty of waders and ropes made up the majority of the kit. Sheep and goats might also be taken to add more variety to the diet.

7. Pray to your gods

A shipbuilder's prayers were important before a voyage. After the ceremony, if the god or gods approved, the Norse believed their vessel would be successful. If not, they might prefer to have their boat burned with the men aboard.
**Erik The Red And The Viking Explorers**

2 **Build your ship**

Flaxen cushions used simple tools like the axe or adze to shape wood. Ship construction and the whole thing was held together by metal nails. A vessel could be built in single winter. Checks between planks or they could even work with ropes or animal hide mixed with tar.

3 **Get your crew**

This depended on whether you were setting out on a trading party or a mission of exploration. For charters, parties were often from the ranks of the small landholders. Commoners also needed to come from the class but would include women and even slaves. A large Longship might hold 300 people but 25 to 30 was more common on a small journey crossing the Atlantic.

5 **Bring your animals on board**

When embarking a poor land cannot be brought with you. Chickens or fowls were easy to manage but sheep, cattle and pigs were too much to take along even though some beasts were more than modern varieties.

6 **Seal your water barrels**

Fresh water was stored in barrels or bags made from sheepskin, but it was only the fresh water that was used. It was possible to drink from the sea from time to time.

9 **Navigate**

If they had the sun and stars to guide their ships, studying wildlife like birds and whales also gave clues as to the direction of land. The Vikings used other signs to tell where the land was on cloudy days.

8 **Set your sail**

While Vikings were skilled sailors with vast experience, they relied on sails to catch the wind. The single square sail offered enormous stability. Legumes material was woven into sail and stretched.
Born To Roam

"HE CALLED IT GREENLAND - A COUNTRY WITH A GOOD NAME, HE SAID, WOULD ATTRACT MORE SETTLERS"

Public relations. The same book asks why it is men make such perilous trips. ‘One motive is name and glory. A second motive is curiosity, for it is also in man’s nature to wish to see the things he has heard about. The third is desire for gain for men seek wealth wherever they have heard that gain is to be gotten, though, on the other hand, there may be great dangers too.’ All of these could apply to Erik, as well as his more obvious need to feed. To his friends he promised he’d return if he succeeded in discovering this land below the horizon.

From Ireland Erik quietly made landfall. A tumbling wilderness of rock and cracking ice covered his new land. Geese born en route down to the cinnamon sea so Erik took his ship to Scater for warmer welcoming homes. In summer they searched and in winter they hunted down to survive the crushing cold. After three years of exploring Erik returned to Ireland to announce his discoveries. He called it Greenland - a country with a good name, he said, would attract more settlers. It was large. The next year he sent a fleet of 26 ships to Greenland, though only 14 survived.

VINLAND THE GOOD

Erik’s Greenland prospered. Never to be as populous as Ireland, its soil and growing season being more difficult, Greenland did offer opportunities for those willing to take risks. Many things necessary to survival had to be imported to Greenland; iron and timber were the most obviously lacking goods but these could be brought from traders. The Icelanders feared the law an arriving ship soon became a bustling market. In return for the required seed and iron traders would have with commodities highly sought after back in Europe. Greenland offered hunters walrus ivory, walruses and sealskins. The best ship’s ropes were made from walrus hide, which had the additional benefit of being an emergency ration. When one ship was wrecked the crew ate the walrus hide with butter spread on it and they survived. Supported by these trades Greenland survived and traders grew rich.

Our trader who made the sounds of Norse settlements was called Bjarni. While trying to reach Greenland Bjarni apparently took a wrong turn. He had warned his crew before departure that “Our voyage must be regarded in this fashion, seeing that not one of us has ever been to the Greenland Sea.” Winds turned savage and drove his crew desert. Eventually they sighted land. Three times Bjarni crew asked him if the various lands they sailed past were Greenland, and three times Bjarni crew thought they did not match the descriptions of Greenland he had heard. Finally the ship, struggling eastward, found Greenland. Perhaps understandably Bjarni gave up his voyaging after this.

On Greenland Erik the Red had created a new home for himself and his men. Word of Bjarni’s journey reached them and many mocked the helpless captain for being utterly spiritless. He had not bothered to explore his exciting discoveries. Later, Erik’s son went to Bjarni to hire of him this spot. Leif tried to convince Erik to join him in his last adventure but Erik thought himself too old. He had had enough of salt spray and freezing storms for his lifetime. No more shoveling on a deck with only a leather sack called a habit to sleep so far for.

Leif’s exploration soon found that the first island Bjarni had discovered was nothing but a flat and rocky upland dominated by mountains of ice. The next land they found was flat and wooded, with broad and slow meanders of stream. Given this promising land did not contain Leif and the ship sailed further. In the final land they discovered the crew found the land covered with a sweet dew, rivers and lakes stocked with fat fish, and finally they discovered vines with juicy fruit. This land Leif called Vinland, and he thought it good.

THE VINLAND SAGAS

Others heard of Leif’s discovery and soon wanted to follow. Leif’s brother Thorvald was among the most eager. Being his brother’s ship Thorvald explored Vinland’s wooded expanses and the islands filled with animals to hunt. After a nose of exploring he would find a location that he thought would make a good homestead. While returning to his base he saw three skin canoes on the shore, each with three men underneath. The Norse had met the Native Americans, the Natives had turned bloody. Eight of the natives were there, two were instantly killed. The ninth fled into the woods. Only now did Thorvald see villages in the distance.

The Norsemen returned to their ship but more canoes spilled out into the bay surrounding them. Thorvald had his men put up their shields as arrows fell on them from all sides. Most clattered harmlessly into the sea but one struck Thorvald in the arm. Mortally wounded, the captain was taken ashore and buried, the spot he had picked out for his home. He was gathered wood and fruit, so valuable in Greenland, and returned home.

Back in Greenland another of Erik the Red’s sons, Thorfinn, was determined to recover the body of his dead brother. Aiding him in the search was a dependable man Thormodson took his wife.
Erik The Red And The Viking Explorers

REVIVING THE VIKINGS

The Viking world was richer, more marvellous and wider than most people today imagine, says writer and historian Eduardo Albert

In general, how accurate is the pop culture image of the Vikings in literature and film? Not as accurate as the classics of Tennyson and Masefield, despite the fact that a number of written works, notably the sagas, provide an accurate picture of Viking society. There are even a number of modern writers who have attempted to recreate the world of the Vikings in their works, using ancient texts and archaeological evidence to create a realistic picture. However, it is important to remember that the Viking world was a complex and diverse society, and that many of the stories that have been told about them are the result of creative licence and the desire to entertain.

Do we have a sense of how much the expansion of the Norsemen into other nations was? Did the Norsemen see themselves as conquerors, or were they more interested in trade and exploration? The Norsemen certainly saw themselves as conquerors, and their expansion into other nations was driven by a combination of economic and military motivations. They were interested in trade and exploration, but they also wanted to expand their power and influence. This was particularly true in the case of the Vikings, who were known for their military prowess and their ability to adapt to new environments. They were not afraid to use force to achieve their goals, and they were willing to engage in conflict with other nations in order to gain control of their resources.

As in any other period, Viking society and the Norse age of exploration? Yes, the last technological advances that the Vikings could profitably use were the perfection of the wooden sword. These beautiful, well-crafted swords were also surprisingly light, making it possible for the Swedes to trade for higher prices, thus feeding their economy. As the Vikings moved into the Baltic Sea and the North Atlantic, they developed new shipbuilding techniques and began to explore new areas. These new ships were larger and more seaworthy, and they allowed the Vikings to travel further from their homelands than they had before. As a result, the Vikings began to expand their frontiers and take advantage of new opportunities for trade and conquest.

What do you think brought an end to the Viking age? The increasing strength and organization of the European kingdoms. The Viking Age began with the breakdown of the Carolingian Empire, and it continued to exist as long as the central power of kings was weak. As the kings consolidated their power over their territories, the risks associated with raiding ships began to outweigh the potential profits.

A popular depiction of vikings taken from a 17th century manuscript.

As of 2005, 60 people still live in the Viking settlement of Gisburne.
SAGAS – FACT OR FICTION?

Are the sagas ancient history or fantastic tales for fools?

There is no single collection of works called the sagas. The sagas are a series of prose works created at various times and in various places. Most were written in the 13th and 14th centuries but may derive from 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries. Some deal with purely fictional events and people but offer certain historical records. Now we see to test the facts from the stories in the sagas.

On the surface, there are many events that tell the tales compiled in Sagas. Where the stories tell a man named Leif who was killed by a blizzard’s storm the saga “Leif.” The Red has been killed by the land of a viking—a hero with a single leg and huge size. Both sagas, Thormond dwarf, is clearly more plausible than the others. Other tales honor heroes, and the central things are mostly ignored, but they may well have shaped some part of the same themselves believed strongly in them. The sagas no doubt preserve earlier oral accounts of the past, but must be viewed as integral in many ways. No one truly believed that the Norse reached North America.

Thus in 1001, Leif and his wife Maria are supposed to be visited by the island of Vinland, at which time剪影s were made to New England. The sagas contain the fragments of three separate but well-established expeditions to North America, those from Greenland and Iceland. During the time, the story went around 1000 CE, near the time the sagas describe a visit to the island. We may never know the full extent of Norse exploration in the New World, but archeology’s confirmation massive the saga cannot be ignored any longer.

“They discovered vines with juicy fruit, this land leif called Vinland, and he thought it good.”
Erik The Red And The Viking Explorers

Erik was lured from Iceland for being too free. He left for Greenland and made his fortune there. He founded the first permanent settlement there. Erik was a thrifty man and a hardy seafarer. He founded a settlement in Greenland, which was named “Eriksfjord.”

Erik set sail from Iceland with a large crew and a fleet of ships. The voyage was long and arduous. Erik was determined to found a settlement in Greenland, which was then uninhabited.

The voyage was successful, and Erik established a settlement in Greenland. Erik and his followers lived off the land and established a thriving community.

DECLINE & FALL

The Sagas depict a decline in the power and influence of the Norse settlements in Greenland. The climate became colder, and the Norse struggled to survive. The settlement eventually declined, and Erik and his followers were forced to leave Greenland.

The Norse settlements in Greenland were eventually abandoned, and Erik and his followers were forced to leave. The cause of this decline is not clear, but it is likely that the harsh climate and lack of resources played a role.
**From seafarer to entrepreneur**

Erik "The Red" Thorvaldsson was born in Iceland by 950 A.D. He spent his first years in Greenland, where he established a Norse settlement. He returned to Iceland in 982 as a successful trader and entrepreneur. He continued to expand his realm, with ships reaching as far as Novaya Zemlya.

**Discovering the Americas**

Leif Erikson, following the sighting of a fellow viking, and the mysterious land west of Greenland, discovered what is now known as New Foundland, Newfoundland. He named the land Vita.Land. A crew established a settlement, the first known to exist in North America. The discovery of potential riches led to the eventual settlement of Iceland.

**Born in America**

Thorfinn Karlsefni followed in the wake of Leif Erikson and even explored the southern boundary of Leif's territory. Together with his wife and his son, Thorvald Karlsefni, they established the settlement of Vinland, near the modern-day area believed to be the first undiscovered European base in the New World.

**Poor winds, good fortune**

Axel Hafsteinn was attempting to reach Greenland when he was blown off course and sighted what we now know as New Foundland, Canada. He named it "Gleisgrau," after the settlement in Iceland. He returned to Iceland to report his discovery and the settlement of New Foundland.

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**KEY**

- Leif Erikson
- Early Voyages
- Erik The Red
- Thorfinn Karlsefni
- Bjarni Herjulfsson
- Settlers
**Family business**
The Viking explorer, Njalakvi, is credited with discovering Ireland in 850 AD. Apparently, he was very efficient in the Faroe Islands. Erik the Red and his extensions left Iceland on distant travels.

**Religion and riches**
Popular stories of English missionaries have been cited as evidence that in some way made a cessation of Christianization efforts to spread Christianity among Europe. This leads to such belief in their encounters and actual good sources of analogues.

**First landings**
The earliest record of the Vikings landing in England was 1065 when the Danes invaded Walmsley. Popular tales continued until 1066 when the previous unchallenged Riche joined together to form a more cohesive army and began conquering limits.

**Seeking trade**
Many explorations by Viking traders have been suggested, but one of the more compelling is that the collapse of the Western Roman Empire resulted in a massive decline in trading opportunities. Facing Scandinavians with few ways to trade, new markets were looked for.
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The Quest For Riches

Walter Raleigh's

Hunt for El Dorado

How the quest for a mythical golden empire in South America consumed the last 30 years of Sir Walter Raleigh's life

Written by Mathew Lynn

Not many people have the distinction of putting a non-existent place on the map, but Sir Walter Raleigh was one of them. That place was El Dorado, a legendary city of gold located in what is now Venezuela.

But even the word 'elix' is too precise. El Dorado could at different times be a city, a kingdom, or an empire. Later the search for it morphed into the search for a mine. At first, even in the 1500s when the phrase first seems to have been coined by the Spanish conquistadors, it was a man covered head to foot in gold dust - el dorado, the golden one - a participant in a tribal ritual of the Chibchas in the Colombian Andes. Always, though, consciously or otherwise, it is a loose, seductive metaphor for the riches that might be undiscovered in the vast northern hinterlands of South America.

The name el dorado was bequeathed to Raleigh and, arguably, without Raleigh's own fame, El Dorado might have sunk into obscurity with the other mythical golden cities such as Paktul, Cibila or Quirina, which the Europeans believed existed in the Americas. But Raleigh was bequeathed the first person to fall under its spell. In fact, by the time it reached him in the 1580s, the Spanish had made several attempts already to find it.

It is Raleigh, though, who ignites the story.

The dream begins

Raleigh seems have first heard of El Dorado in the early autumn 1586, almost certainly from a Spanish conquistador named Don Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa, who had been captured by Raleigh's privates in August of that year while returning home across the Atlantic. With 30 years of experience in the New World behind him, Sarmiento was about as old as a man as you could get.

Thinking of the two great Incas and Aztec empires that Spain had conquered some 50 years earlier, the existence of a third could hardly have seemed as absurd to Raleigh as it does to us now. It may even have been from Sarmiento that Raleigh heard of Don Antonio de Ojeda, another conquistador, who believed he had reached the border of El Dorado in the Guatemalan Highlands on the upper reaches of the Orinoco in an epic 18-month trek that had concluded in 1585.
The Quest for Riches

Beersin was in some sense Raleigh's principal rival; he would launch two more expeditions over the coming decade. And this rivalry embodied a key truth about El Dorado for Raleigh. It was, of course, always about the gold. But firing over that gold with Spain sharpened its importance - if Raleigh found El Dorado he would be bringing England a fortune that would rival the flood of American treasure on which Spanish power rested. Without that wealth, as Raleigh later pompously said, Spain's monarchy would be merely "large of figs and oranges".

Race for the prize

Whether Raleigh would ever have gone in search of El Dorado if he had remained in Elizabeth's favour is a moot point. But in 1592 he secretly married Bess Throckmorton, one of Elizabeth's ladies in waiting, for which incense Elizabeth sent both of them to the Tower. They would not stay there, but Bess was banished from court and Walter's star seemed permanently tarnished. The conquest of El Dorado, then, would be a suitably grand - and vastly enriching - way to erase the two-steps of the past.

In 1594, Raleigh sent one of his men, Jacob Whiddon, on a reconnaissance mission to the coast around Trinidad and the Orinoco delta, which covers some 36,000 square miles. The following year he raised the enormous sum of £60,000 to finance the expedition. Of way of companion, Forster's first venture to find the Strait of Magellan in 1577 had cost £75. The

There was never another prison in England that could be found more unsightly and loathsome.

Raleigh, El Dorado was originally intended to be eight-streng, but Raleigh was too impatient to be away. He left from Plymouth with four ships and perhaps 250 men on 6 February 1595.

Raleigh's ships were off the coast of South America - at Trinidad, to be precise - by 22 March. On 7 April, in the evening, Raleigh's men attacked the Spanish garrison at the island's colonial capital, San José. This was a strategic necessity. Raleigh could not safely go upriver and leave his ships at the mercy of the enemy. But there was another goal too. Raleigh had discovered that Bessie himself was in San José, and he wanted to talk. "I gathered from him as much of infinite as he knows," Raleigh wrote. This included, tantalisingly, the story of a master of menations named Juan Martinez, who Bessie told him had lived in Mexico for seven months and, Bessie said, gave the city its Spanish name, El Dorado. How close to his prize Raleigh must have felt, facing this.

Further on and higher up

Most of what we know of what happened next comes from Raleigh's own account written on his return to England, The Discoverie of Empire of the Goldes, which was widely read. It is, in its own way, a fascinating document, at once evocative, evasive and artistically compelling. But it is not a success story. Raleigh took his men upriver with enough food for a month. Conditions - and morale - were dreadful. A hundred men, five small, shallow open-topped boats, torrental rains, intense heat, no real direction. They were "driven to lie in the rain and weather in the open air - without shift, lying most rustilly - in the burning sun, and upon the

Sir Walter Raleigh

The journey through South America's steam was long and arduous.
Walter Raleigh’s Hunt For El Dorado

From Queen’s Favourite To State Villain
Ralegh expert Anna Beer discusses the famous explorer’s downfall and her own fascination with the subject.

What drew you to Sir Walter Raleigh in the first place?

Concedibly, it was his account of his first journey in search of the gold of El Dorado. I was studying English Literature at university, getting a bit bogged down with everything, when suddenly I read this account written 400 years earlier of this incredible expedition and it just felt so real and so exciting and I was hooked: what made it even more interesting was the fact that they didn’t find any gold.

Why was Raleigh so keen to go against the Spaniards?

The simple answer is that Spain was the most powerful country in Europe at the time and their power and ambitions was to invade England - which they repeatedly tried to do - could be paid for by the gold from South America. Raleigh saw that gold existing everywhere in the European political balance, so it gave Spain a huge unfair advantage over the other countries.

Doesn’t Raleigh’s trial and imprisonment seem suspect?

Yes it was the pretext, as I see it, was a show trial. A new regime was coming in, James was coming in, and Raleigh sort of gave himself up on a plate as the scapegoat. There is a really critical argument that it was engineered so that the new line could have this dramatic trial, remove his enemies and consolidate his power. This problem for James was that at his trial, Raleigh was not going to go quietly, he just defended himself brilliantly and turned himself overnight from the most hated man in England to a hero.

Why does Raleigh’s legacy remain highly controversial?

His colonial and imperial legacy is probably the most problematic. This is a man who became a kind of poster boy for this century and particularly early 20th century imperialist and colonialist aspirations for British imperialism. He was seen as the conceptual founder of the British Empire, the visionary behind it. The facts are that Raleigh was active in Ireland (the example with the massacre at Drogheda) and early attempts to colonise both North and South America. One man’s struggle or actions don’t make an empire, or whilst it is usual to celebrate him as the ‘founder’, it’s equally reductive to blame one individual for Britain’s colonial actions - he was just one man among many scrambling for a foothold in the Americas.

Read the full interview with Anna Beer at Historyonlines.co.uk

See Anna Beer at the Oxford Literary Festival on 7 April at 4pm. Use discount code History19 to save on tickets.
ship to explore the region south of the Orinoco. Following intelligence from Kreynis that they had been searching too far north for the Manoa.

The last years of Elizabeth’s reign were not good ones for Raleigh, and their sequel was worse. In the autumn of 1601 Raleigh was convicted of plotting the overthrow of James I, who had come to the throne earlier that year. His sentence was suspended, but he would spend the next 12 years imprisoned in the Tower of London. Perhaps that sharpened the obsession, but Raleigh wasn’t alone in sharing it. In March 1606, the young heir to the throne, Prince Henry, sponsored an expedition to the region under Robert Harcourt. At the end of the same year, Sir Thomas Roe led another expedition. Raleigh was one of its sponsors, alongside Roe himself and the Earl of Southampton. It would be some 18 months before Roe returned. He had concluded that Manoa—the golden city of El Dorado—did not exist.

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**The Quest For Riches**

_Ezraeta Casspinna Aqueronana_

_Whenever Raleigh not native people, he showed them a portrait of Elizabeth I_

Ever a servant of Elizabeth, as Sir Walter Raleigh travelled through South America he made sure to spread word of her majesty and explained her greatness and role in his projects. He had understood. Using the local word for tribal leader he explained the importance of the queen’s portrait.

“I would make them understand it was the servant of a queen, who was the great lady of the North, and a virgin, and had more cauciq under her than some trees in the forest, that she was, the enemy of the Spanish in respect of their tyranny and oppression, and that she delivered all such notices about her in war by them oppressed, and having faced all the coast of the northern world from their senoritas, had sent me to free them also,” he wrote in 1606.

“I showed them her Majesty’s picture, which they admired and honoured, as it had been easy to have brought them to understand their services to the queen of this kingdom, very famous and admirable, whom they now call Ezratea Casspinna Aqueronana, which is as much as Elizabeth the Great Princess.”

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**Daniel Defoe called the expedition the greatest enterprise undertaken by any private person in the world**

This seems not to have obtained Raleigh in the slightest. His confidence in the existence of abundant gold in the region remained unshaken. In 1698, he was released from the Tower and authorised to return to Guiana in search of a potential gold mine that he had seen in the sandy soil close to what was now San Thome. Raleigh had instructions not to engage the Spanish militarily. James’ policy towards Spain was one of peace and reconciliation.

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**New gold dream**

Raleigh sailed from Plymouth on 12 June 1657 with 14 ships under his command. With him were the intrepid Laurence Reyntis and Raleigh’s 22-year-old son, Wat. Illness on the voyage across accounted for the lives of 42 men, including Raleigh’s second in command, John Digby. Raleigh himself collapsed on the deck, hitting his head. He couldn’t eat solid food for 20 days or more; he survived, said he, on the occasional stewed prunes. By 14 November, when the fleet arrived off the coast of South America, it was apparent Raleigh was too ill to lead the expedition. Reyntis would take charge in his stead. Under him were five captains—the fleet only had the ships with draught shallow enough to penetrate the Orinoco delta—and five company commanders, among them Wat. There were some 500 men in total: 150 rowers, 100 mariners, 200 soldiers—many of men—Raleigh described them to Kreynis.

They steamed up the Orinoco on 10 December. Only three ships survived the powerful currents and shoals of the delta, and they reached San Thome on 2 January 1658. Towards the end of the morning, Raleigh’s preparations for the expedition had been thorough. They had also been quite public. The Spanish garrison was small—it comprised just 15 men, including a number of invalids—but it was as prepared as it could be.

Kreynis was surprised by an ambush in the sun. Later, after midnight, it was said, and certainly after much debate— they stormed the town. Wat Raleigh, carrying the plenipotentiary, led the charge. “Come on my heart!” he shouted. He was fled by a musket ball in the throat. Four other Englishmen died in the taking of the town. Back at the coast, Raleigh knew nothing of this for a month. Then, on 31 January he heard from a native source that two of the five captains had died in the fighting. Two weeks later he received a letter from Kreynis. “I never knew what sorrow meant till now,” Raleigh later wrote to his wife with the news.

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** Suicide mission**

Up in San Thome, Kreynis—who must have known that by attacking the Spanish town he had breached the moral and political conditions of the Englishman’s deal with James I—was falling apart too. Only a few Spanish had fled; the rest—men, women, children, and Kreynis was fearful they would retreat with reinforcements. Moreover, of course, he had no peace idea where the mine might be. Did he even believe there was one?

Kreynis was worried, losing all respect from those who served him. “At last we found his delay more182/183 fal’s and himself a mere ‘Marxian’,” one of his captains said. “For he was false to all men and odious to himself.” Eventual some small craft was sent upstream, some ships were said they went as far as 300 miles into the interior. They took enough food for four days but then gave up, after they failed to find the treasure. Finding no information about the location of either a new mine or an existing one.

They returned to San Thome and found it subject to increasingly successful guerrilla raids. After 29 days of occupation the English left the town, and the Spanish burned it to the ground. The renown of Kreynis’ party ventured with Raleigh on the coast.” In 1657, Raleigh begged Raleigh’s forgiveness. “Seeing my son was lost, I cried not.” Raleigh told him. “But had unknown me by his obstinacy, and I would not favour colour in any sort his former kills.” Reyntis returned to his cabin and drew a knife through his own heart. Raleigh was executed in November the same year. James I was declared the emperor of the Americas as an excuse to revive the reason
change. Raleigh died for many reasons: the failure of his search for gold was only the last of them. What then, are we to make of that search, which cost Raleigh so much? There seems little doubt that his initial faith in the existence of El Dorado was real enough. But what about after he decided to turn back in June 1595? That is the point, after all, when talk of a mine first appeared as they sailed downriver. Was his delusion to make El Dorado simply too great to come true?

We don’t know. Samuel DeCher called the expedition “the greatest enterprise undertaken by any private person in the world.” He was wrong, surely, but there is something absurdly compelling about it. We are still, in a sense, in the grip of Raleigh’s imagination even now: absorbed in the epic scale of his failure after 400 years, asking ourselves the same questions his contemporaries asked, about the intensity of Raleigh’s fever, the singularity of his dream.

Walter Raleigh’s Hunt for El Dorado

Lope de Aguirre: Wrath of God, Prince of Freedom

Among the many Spanish attempts to find El Dorado, the most bloody was that of Lope de Aguirre in 1561.

Born in 1528, Aguirre had been a junior officer in a 1556 expedition to explore the headwaters of the Amazon and look for El Dorado in the lands of the Omegus nation on what is now the border of Brazil and Peru. The men were exhausted and starving, and Aguirre led a revolt against the expedition’s leader, Pedro de Heredia. He was installed as Governor of the Omegus by the Spanish crown in 1561. Aguirre then murdered Heredia’s replacement, Fernando de Guzmán, and took command of those men who were loyal to him. The rest were slaughtered.

Coming down to the Atlantic coast, Aguirre despoiled “all the coast of Caracas and the province of Venezuela and Rio de la Hacha” in Raleigh’s phrase. Aguirre’s approach was simple: anyone who didn’t recognize his authority would die. It is said, and first told by Raleigh himself, that when Aguirre was finally cornered, he killed his own children not being able to make them promise, he said, that they would ensure they wouldn’t have to endure the shame of having a traitor for a father.
End of A Dynasty

From child on a throne to communist prisoner, the story of the last Qing Dynasty emperor charts the massive changes in early 20th century China

Written by Dan Barish

Perhaps no one in world history has a thinner line of their biography quite like Puyi. He was emperor three different times. But Puyi was also a prisoner many times over, trapped both within grand imperial palaces and cramped prison cells. For 50 years, from his birth in 1906 until his death in 1967, Puyi was at the center of multiple revolutions, coups, and catastrophic world events. His story has been told in many ways— from his own autobiography to the big screen in Bernardo Bertolucci’s 1987 film, The Last Emperor. Yet much about Puyi remains unknown, the truth obscured by the intertwining of fact and propaganda in narratives of his life. In tracing his life story—from a childhood as the last emperor of the once glorious Qing Dynasty in China, through his time as a puppet ruler for the Japanese Empire in Manchuria, until his life under Communist rule—we reveal not just the fascinating details of one life, but the currents of global history from the age of empire through a century of revolution.

All Pomp, No Power

Much of what would become of Puyi’s life was set in motion long before he was born. The empire he would come to rule—the Qing Dynasty—was one of the world’s greatest during the 17th and 18th centuries. Puyi’s ancestors emerged from Manchuria, conquered the collapsing Ming Dynasty, and expanded the territory of China to an extent never seen before. Yet by the time Puyi was born that once grand empire was in a desperate state of decline. Over the course of the 19th century, domestic rebellions depleted the empire’s armies, corruption emptied the imperial treasury,
End Of A Dynasty

Proxi briefly lived back in the traditional era in China. His life took a grim turn at age 11 years old, his father passed away.

Proxi had three brothers and seven wives. He had ten children. His first wife was a concubine.

Wu-rong: A victim of a cultural and social system.

Fate of the Empress
The timeline of the tragic life of Wu-rong

13 NOV 1906
Wu-rong is born to an aristocratic family of the Guibul clan. Her father, Ronguan, served as a minister for domestic affairs in the imperial court. Her mother, Ann Caroli Vergan, died during childbirth.

1906-1922
Ronguan believes in gender equality and makes sure his daughter receives an education equal to that of her two brothers. She goes to an American missionary school in Tianjin and learns English.

10 NOV 1922
Despite having dedicated the throne, Proxi is still affected by superstitions as former emperor, one of which was marrying in a ceremony in the Forbidden City. He chooses Wu-rong from a selection of photos he had selected for him. She was his second choice, but it was in line with tradition. They marry in secret, as was the imperial custom. It is not believed that the marriage was consummated. However.

5 NOV 1924
The Beijing Coup led by Yang Kuang Shao. Proxi and Wu-rong get evicted from the Forbidden City and are sent to the Quiet Garden Villa in Tianjin. Here she unfortunately becomes addicted to opium.

JULY 1931
The Yangtze River floods, becoming one of the most lethal natural disasters of the 20th century, killing between 400,000 and 4 million people. Wu-rong donates much to the relief efforts.
and imperialist powers camer up the air. Now at the start of the 20th century, revoulution was in the air.

In those tumultuous decades before Pu Yi was born, the Qing was controlled by a powerful woman, the Empress Dowager Cixi. During the reign of her son, the Tongzhi Emperor, and then her nephew, the Guangxu Emperor, Cixi deftly maneuvered the political stage to ensure that regardless of who sat on the throne, true power remained in her hands. Late in 1898, Cixi made one final play selecting the three-year-old Pu Yi - the arm of her closest allies - to succeed the childless Guangxu as heir apparent of the Qing.

And so, on 11 November 1906, the young Pu Yi was taken from his father’s home in Beijing and transferred to the Forbidden City. It was a frenzied scene. As the confused two-year-old sat crying, a gaggle of servants scurried around the house making all the necessary preparations for the boy’s new life as heir apparent. But Pu Y’s time as heir to the throne was short-lived. His predecessor died the very next day. And only one day later, Cixi herself passed away. The timing of the death hardly went unnoticed, and many speculated that Cixi had hastened her nephew’s demise for fear he would oust her and undo her decisions, regardless of the circumstances of their deaths, with both Guangxu and Cixi gone, the fate of the empire was now placed in Pu Yi’s hands. He was officially enthroned as emperor on 3 December 1906 in an elaborate ceremony whose pomp was only marginally disturbed by the young emperor’s tears. For three days, Pu Yi sat inside the palace walls as emperor of the Qing Dynasty. Surrounded by crowds of servants and officials, Pu Yi’s days were filled with ordinary tasks of childhood: learning to read and cause mischief.

Outside the Forbidden City, however, China’s revolutionaries sought to do more than cause simple mischief. They sought to topple the regime and rid 20,000 years of imperial rule. The years following Pu Yi’s ascent to the throne were filled with assassinations, bombings, murders, and, finally, at the end of 1911, a revolutionary uprising.

On 12 February 1912, before he could read or write, the corps of the Qing Court attached Pu Yi’s name to an abdication edict that ended the reign of the Qing Dynasty and ushered in a new age of republican governance in China.

The Prison of the Forbidden City

The terms of the Qing’s abdication, however, were stricter than one might expect. The revolutionaries agreed to let Pu Yi and the Qing Court remain in the Forbidden City, provided they protect their private property as well as provide a generous stipend to support the imperial family. The ‘Articles of Favorable Treatment,’ as they were known, thus meant that the Qing Emperor was not only spared death, but allowed to live a life of considerable luxury.

Still just a child, Pu Yi was largely unaware of the dramatic change in his status. His life continued to be filled by pomp and ritual dressed in special clothing, addressed as His Majesty, surrounded by servants, and provided with foods of rare deliciousness for every meal. As Pu Yi himself later said, he lived the “most absurd childhood possible.” All the while, many around Pu Yi in the Forbidden City felt that he and the Qing would one day be restored to power.

That day appeared to come in the summer of 1917. Since the overthrow of the Qing, a series of warlords had battled for control over the country. One of them, a man named Zhang Xun, known as the “political watchdog” for his frequent attacks on the Qing exemplified by his refusal to cut his traditional hair. Yet his move into Beijing and restored Pu Yi to the throne. People around the city flew Qing flags, clapped traditional drums and orchestrate the return of the emperor. But just two weeks later, the Qing parloroma was returned to manage, as Zhang and his troops were chased out of Beijing by a rival warlord. Pu Yi was forced to abdicate, now for the second time.

In the years following his second enthronement, the newly enthroned Pu Yi grew increasingly inside the Forbidden City, describing it as a prison and even plotting elaborate escape attempts. He frequently expressed a desire to study abroad, and in 1929 in order to satisfy the young boy’s interest in the outside world, the government bought in an American tutor. Rudolf Knudsen was hired to
End Of A Dynasty

The Forbidden City
Some Interesting Facts and Figures

- The 500-year old drainage system of the Forbidden City is so good that the palace dry despite massive floods throughout the rest of Beijing in 2016.
- 1406 buildings make up the complex.
- 980 length of peripheral wall in metres.
- 3,428 number of emperors called it home.
- 8,728 rooms estimated across the palace.
- 24 people visited the city in 1911.
- 500 years emperors called the city home.
- 720,000 square metres occupied.
- 16 million people visited the city in 2016 and 2017.
- It's called the Forbidden City because people were not allowed to enter or leave without the express permission of the emperor.

It instructs Puyi in English, history, geography and a variety of other subjects, Johnston encouraged Puyi to embrace some elements of Western culture while still honouring him as his emperor. But at the same time, Johnston believed deeply in traditional Confucian values and thought the failure of this teaching under Puyi's leadership

In the early 1900s, it seems that Puyi himself had become increasingly interested in power. According to him, "To my early years I began to understand that my textbooks had something to do with me and I grew interested in how to be a good emperor. In 1911, an emperor was an emperor, and to what heavenly significance there was in this." Puyi's tutor encouraged this line of thinking, telling him stories of former emperors and officials, who, temporarily deposed from power, patiently waited to be called back into service. As the capital of a short-lived president, warlords and other would-be leaders fought for control of Beijing, Puyi lived quietly in the centre of the city, tending his plants, awaiting the next chance he would have.

Those were of course many who found the situation - a twice dethroned emperor living in the centre of a republic - bizarre, and perhaps even dangerous. In 1915, two years before he would help to found the Communist Party, the young Mao Zedong wrote that, "no one who has been emperor does not want to be emperor again." Mao argued that the safest thing to do was to kill Puyi and remove the threat of another restoration attempt.

In Search of a Throne

Puyi's life inside the Forbidden City - though not his life, even if he lived in it - became more and more dreary. On that day the troops of yet another warlord, Peng Yuxiang, cut the phone lines, dispersed the palace guards and unceremoniously kicked the former emperor and his entourage out of the palace. Over the imposing walls of the Forbidden City, Puyi was told that he was now an ordinary citizen of the Republic - meaning that while he had no special privileges, he also had the same rights as anyone else, including, he was assured, the right to one-day run for President. For the moment, Puyi seemed to have little interest in politics and certainly not in running for office. For several years after, Puyi lived the life of a socialite in Tianjin, attending banquets, throwing parties, and hosting dignitaries. Slowly but surely, however, Puyi grew restless, and dreams of restoration crept into his mind.

Then, in 1928, Puyi was struck with news that centered his desire not only for power, but also for revenge. In July of 1928, soldiers affiliated with Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalist Army set explosives at the mausoleum of Puyi's ancestors, devastating their tombs and knocking their tombs, supposedly filling 20 trunks with 50 million dollars' worth of imperial treasures. Puyi was enraged. As he said, "Fools only need a month or two to revenge at a cost I could have left everything to the will of heaven and not tried to do something
"In 1928, Hu Shih was struck with paralysis. He pronounced this: 'I desire now to live for my country. I desire now to die for my country.'"
End Of A Dynasty

Puyi’s autobiography, “From Emperor To Citizen,” was written with the assistance of the author al-Sherif, and with a ghost writer from the People’s Publishing House.

victory by sneakily donning Qing robes during rituals before the enthronement ceremony. Puyi emerged not as the restored Xuantong Emperor this reign name from the Qing Emperors, but as the newly anointed Kangxi Emperor, dressed in a military uniform and forced to accept a subordinate position to the emperor of Japan.

Over the course of the next decade as Emperor of Manchukuo, Puyi was tested out for tours around the territory, visiting barracks and farms to show off the productivity of the state. And on two occasions he visited Japan, taking part in elaborate tours with Japanese Emperor Hirohito, always made to play the supporting role. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Puyi made his first ever radio address, pretending support of Japan’s war efforts. All the while, Puyi harbored dreams of returning to Beijing and once again sitting on the throne, not as puppet king of Manchukuo, but as the head of the great Qing Empire.

Imprisonment and Rebirth

On 9 August 1945, Russia declared war on Japan, and Puyi knew his time in Manchukuo was short. From that night on, he said, “I slept in my clothes” and “kept a pestle in my pocket.” Puyi also learned away hundreds of jewels, hiding them in false bottoms of his suitcases, hoping that the measures would buy him safe passage. But as he was preparing to flee, Puyi was captured by Russian troops and taken to prison in Siberia.

In 1946, he was released briefly to testify at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, otherwise known as the Tokyo War Crimes Trial. Over the course of a week, Puyi refused to say little more than that he had been a puppet of the Japanese, always fearing for his life if he did not comply with their plans. He frequently claimed he could not remember even the most basic details about his life, and both in the halting manner of his speech and the often times incomprehensible content of his testimony, it appeared impossible to imagine Puyi as the leader of an empire of any sort. After political reeducation. Stripped of his servants, his privileges, and any dreams of power, Puyi was forced to confess to his crimes, not only of collaborating with the Japanese, but also of his long life of decadence. Finally, on 4 December 1995, Puyi’s reeducation was deemed complete and he was released from jail. He returned to Beijing to live a quiet, yet purposeful, life. Puyi was presented to both the domestic and international press as a true pupil of communist teachings. Upon his release, he told the world that, “Puyi, who was once emperor, is now dead.”

Reflecting on his many parts from emperor, Puyi now said he had been granted one final throne: “When I was released from custody and became a free citizen, I became an emperor for the fourth time – one of 650 million emperors and empresses who together rule China under the glorious leadership of the Communist Party and its Chairman, Mao Zedong.”

Thus, although Mao had written in 1949 that Puyi – already at that point an ex-emperor twice over – should be killed. Puyi in fact proved useful to Mao and the Communist propaganda. In many ways, Puyi spent his life fighting the currents of history, born to rule a once glorious dynasty in an age when emperors were disappearing from the map, and never up searching for a pattern for his dream of restoration and in the process was used many times over as a puppet for others’ power. Puyi died quickly of cancer in Beijing in 1967, and in his death, fully cleared the stage for the next era of leadership in China: the cult of Mao – the man whom Puyi credited with enabling his fourth and final time as emperor.
Earning him a Best Actor Oscar nomination, Willem Dafoe is inspiring as legendary painter Vincent van Gogh in the film *Eternity's Gate*. Covering the artist's final years, we find a complex, troubled soul struggling to make sense of himself and his connection to those around him, including friend and fellow artist Paul Gauguin (Oscar Isaac) and a confiding priest (Matthew McConaughey).

**1888**
- **FEB**
  - Vincent escapes Paris heading south to Arles in search of a new light.
- **MAR**
  - Vincent visits the Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, which inspired such paintings as *Fishing Boats on the Beach*. This is the place where painted the well known painting *The Starry Night*.
- **APR**
  - Vincent has an emotional breakdown, hospitalised at the Asylum of Saint-Paul de Mausole where he paints *The Hospital Ward*.
  - Dripping with paint, Van Gogh points his gun at Gauguin, gouging it out of his eye.
- **FEB**
  - Gauguin leaves for Martinique just before the anniversary of his friend's death.

**1889**
- **JAN**
  - After a troubled spell, Vincent returns to Paris, but his eyes are lost and he has a mental breakdown.
- **APR**
  - Vincent leaves Saint-Rémy for Arles to stay with his brother Theo and his family.
  - In Arles under the care of the doctor, van Gogh makes friends, including a young woman, and paints on The Portrait of Dr. Gachet.
  - Returning from a brief stay at his brother's in Paris, Vincent, in a state of great melancholy, works on his final paintings such as *Wheatfield with Crows*. On the 29th of July, Vincent dies of a gunshot wound at Theo's side.

**SEE AT ETERNITY'S GATE IN CINEMAS & ON DEMAND FROM 29 MARCH**
The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations was the brainchild of Queen Victoria’s consort, Prince Albert, and inventor Henry Cole. The purpose of the exhibition was to display the greatest international achievements in culture and industry, although it was also an opportunity for Britain to show off its own supremacy to the world.

Held in the Crystal Palace, a building constructed especially for the Exhibition, around 100,000 objects from 14,000 exhibitions were on display from May to October 1851. Lots of different countries agreed to take part, including America, France, Russia, Australia and New Zealand. Despite fears from critics that the exhibition would be a failure, an estimated six million people travelled to London to witness the latest marvels. The Exhibition broke down social barriers as visitors from all different classes came to see the displays - by the end of May, an entrance ticket could be bought for just a shilling per person. Many Victorian Art lovers paid a visit, including renowned authors Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll, and a massive £86,000 was raised in profits, which continues to fund scientific research to this day.

**The Facsimile Machine**

*The Victorian Fax Machine*

Made by: Frederick Bakewell  Date: 1848

Physicist Frederick Bakewell presented his prototype facsimile machine, an “image telegraph”, at the Great Exhibition. A predecessor to the fax machine, the device was written with insulating ink on celluloid and placed around a rotating transparent cylinder. The image would then be transferred by a pendulum-driven stylus, with another second stylus marking a chemically treated paper using an electrical current as the source cylinder rotated.

Bakewell’s prototype was an improved version of the facsimile machine developed by Scottish inventor and clockmaker Alexander Bain. Using his knowledge as a clockmaker, Bain built his own experimental facsimile machine in 1843, which was supposed to scan a two-dimensional surface using a stylus on a pendulum. However, Bain never demonstrated his device and by the time he applied for a patent seven years later it had already been awarded to Bakewell.

Therefore, Bakewell was the first person to demonstrate facsimile transmission when he appeared at the Great Exhibition. Nevertheless, there were problems with both Bakewell’s and Bain’s facsimile machines, and it wasn’t until 1853 when the first commercial operating facsimile machine to transmit images came into use, when physicist Giovanni Caselli introduced the Pneurograph machine in France.

“The beginnings of a groundbreaking invention”
KEY FIGURES

Meet the four people behind one of the most iconic moments of the Victorian Era

PRINCE ALBERT

Prince Albert was fascinated with advancements in the arts, science, trade and industry. He was the President of the Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition, and ensured the profits made from the event were used to improve the state of industrial education and extend the influence of science and art upon productive industry with the founding of various museums including the V&A and the Natural History Museum.

HENRY COLE

In 1848, British inventor Henry Cole, inspired by national displays he had seen in Paris, proposed to hold a similar exhibition in London but on an international scale. He hoped it would not only educate the public but improve the booming manufacturing industry in Britain. The idea quickly garnered the support of Prince Albert and he organised it along with other members of the Royal Society of Arts.

JOSPEH Paxton

Architect Joseph Paxton was the man behind the Crystal Palace. Over 200 designs for the building had been rejected but Paxton's idea, to use large sheets of iron and glass, won both praise and easy to erect and take down. It took eight months to build the Crystal Palace with a workforce of 2000 men and after the Exhibition concluded, the whole building was relocated to Sydenham Hill, where it burned down in 1854.

THOMAS COOK

Businessman Thomas Cook played a key role in the success of the Great Exhibition. As the founder of travel agency Thomas Cook & Son, he organised excursions for around 150,000 people from Yorkshire and the Midlands to see the Exhibition in Hyde Park, London, during the six months it was on. This included 1600 children from 20 local Leicester, Derby and Nottingham, who travelled to the capital thanks to his arrangements.

THE TEMPEST PROGNOSTICATOR

Who knew leeches could predict the weather?

Made by: Dr George Merryweather Date: 1850

Dr George Merryweather's Tempest Prognosticator was arguably one of the weirdest inventions to appear at the Great Exhibition. Knowing that medical leeches were sensitive to changes in atmospheric pressure, Merryweather believed that they could be used to predict an approaching storm, and set out to create a device to prove his theory.

He created his design for the Atmospheric Electromagnetic Telegraph, conducted by Animal Instincts, the original name for his prognosticator to suit various Prize Points. The device consisted of 12 glass bottles in a circle, with a leech in each one, and above there was a bell surrounded by 12 hammers. In each bottle was a wormhole that attached to one of the hammers - the idea was that when a storm approached, the leeches would climb up the bottle necks and move the wormholes, causing the bell to ring.

Merryweather tested his machine for over a year before the Exhibition, and he hoped that his invention would be used widely around the world and abroad. Unfortunately, interest in his prognosticator did not catch on and he failed to sell a single one. Although Merryweather's device will always be remembered for its eccentricity.
The Tara Brooch
Stunning Celtic Craftsmanship
Displayed by: G & S Waterhouse
Date: c.650 - 750

One of the most breathtaking objects to be shown at the Great Exhibition was the Tara Brooch, which had been discovered at Ballynoo in Co. Meath, Ireland. Made from gold, niello, and garnet, it is decorated with fine filigree work representing animal and abstract motifs, and set with pearls, amethysts, glass, enamel, and amber.

The brooch was purchased by Dublin jeweller George Waterhouse, who showcased it at various international exhibitions, including the Exposition Universelle in Paris, 1855. To add more value to the piece and to increase its appeal, Waterhouse renamed it the 'Tara Brooch', after the Hill of Tara, the traditional seat of the High Kings of Ireland. Indeed, it proved popular with visitors as well as Queen Victoria, who liked Celtic brooches and even bought a facsimile of the Tara Brooch at the Great Exhibition.

The Tara Brooch has often been credited with helping to fuel the demand for Celtic Revival jewellery, which had increased in demand since the 1840s. It was eventually purchased by the Royal Irish Academy in 1872 and later passed onto the National Museum of Ireland, where it can still be seen on display today.

Prince Albert’s Model Cottage
Tackling Britain’s Poverty
Made by: Henry Roberts
Date: 1850 - 1851

The Society for Improving the Conditions of the Labouring Classes built a number of different model homes designed to provide better living conditions for the poor. With the prince’s intervention the Society was able to erect a model home in the Wellington-City Gardens, near the Exhibition. Designed by Henry Roberts, a founding member of the Society and an architect, the homes were built using hollow bricks and wrought iron rods, materials which were less expensive and ensured the houses would remain dry, insulated, and fireproof. All hard-working laborers included bathrooms in his design, a novelty that did not usually feature in houses of this time.

The model homes proved to be a popular exhibit, with around 250,000 visitors coming to see them, including the queen herself. In fact, mention to the homes was so positive that their designs were replicated, changing the design of housing for the poor.

**“A real show-stealing display”**

**The Koh-i-Noor Diamond**
The Hyped-up Exhibit
Displayed by: Queen Victoria Date Acquired: 1849

One of all the exhibits at the Great Exhibition, the display of the Koh-i-Noor diamond was without a doubt one of the most hyped. Following the British Conquest of the Punjab in 1849, Maharaja Duleep Singh - who was just a ten-year-old boy - reputedly paid 1 million rupees for it. The Koh-i-Noor is part of the last Treaty of Lahore. Today, it forms part of the British Crown Jewels. Queen Victoria agreed to display the Koh-i-Noor at the Exhibition and for security reasons, it was placed in a red curtain and kept in a glass safe surrounded by a glazed bird cage. Rumours of its size caused members of the press and the public to flock to the display, only to be left disappointed by its dull and simple appearance. In response to the negative reactions, the Koh-i-Noor was moved to another case with gas lamps and small mirrors to allow it to sparkle more. Unfortunately, the press reviews continued and once the exhibition closed, Prince Albert had the Koh-i-Noor recut and published at a cost of £8000. The size of the diamond was significantly reduced but the brilliant cut allowed it to reflect light better, leading to a much-improved appearance.

**“Disappointing display with a brighter future”**
A FOLDING PIANOFORTE
For Music on the Go

Made by: William Jenkins Date: c.1920s

At the Great Exhibition, there were a number of different musical instruments on display and various types of pianos, including the upright piano and the double piano. However, none were as useful or as wonderful as the folding pianos. Created by British inventor and manufacturer William Jenkins, the piano was made from walnut, carved and decorated in an Elizabethan style. When collapsed, it was only 1.5 inches from front to back, making it easy to carry and manoeuvre.

Jenkins registered his piano at the Exhibition with a very catchy title, as ‘Expanding and Collapsing Pianoforte for gentlemen’s yachts, the saloons of steam vessels, ladies’ cabins, etc.’ Clearly, Jenkins envisioned that his piano would be taken on the go but unfortunately, there is little information to indicate that his invention was successful.

Having said this, it is possible that Jenkins’ work helped to influence others, as there was a rise in the making of so-called ‘yacht pianos’, with various companies, such as Chappell & Co., jumping on the bandwagon. While these collapsible pianos became popularly known as ‘yacht pianos’, it is more likely that they would have been bought for small rooms rather than for yachts.

“A fun idea that faded into the background”

THE MONKEY CLOSETS
The First Public Flushing Toilets

At the Great Exhibition, a plumber named George Jennings exhibited his ‘Monkey Closets’ in the retiring rooms of the Crystal Palace. For just a penny, visitors would get a clean and well-scented show, which gave birth to the popular phrase “to spend a penny.” Visitors were fascinated with the flushing public toilets, with 675,000 pennies spent over the six months that the Exhibition was open.

Following the end of the Exhibition, the Crystal Palace was relocated to Sydenham Hill and the Monkey Closets were due to be closed. However, Jennings managed to convince the organisers to keep the toilets and they went on to raise an extra £1,000, following the success of Jennings’ invention. Public toilets slowly began to appear all over London and while not many Victorian public toilets survive, the remains of one of Jennings’ Monkey Closets was discovered in Hyde Park, back in 2016.

THE ‘DETECTOR’ LOCK
The Great Lock Controversy of 1851

Made by: Jeremiah Chubb Date: 1818

For over three decades the ‘Detector’ lock, invented by Jeremiah and locksmith Jeremiah Chubb, held the distinction as one of the strongest locks in the world, until finally the most skilled of thieves. The strongest lock would jam if unauthorised attempts were made to open it and could only be used with either a regulating key or the correct key when turned counter-clockwise.

The famous ‘Detector’ lock was used widely across Britain by the time it was displayed at the Great Exhibition – in fact, its reputation was so great that Chubb was actually commissioned to create the safe that housed the Fish & Ship diamond exhibit. However, when American locksmith Alfred C. Hobbs arrived to showcase his own prevent lock at the Exhibition, he vowed to be the first man to unlock the famous ‘Detector’ lock.

Unsurprisingly, Hobbs’ declaration was met with some amusement as visitors gathered to witness the spectacle, with Chubb sending a man to watch the attempt. Using just a few small tools, Hobbs picked the lock in 21 minutes, and he even did it a second time, to prove it was no fluke. Leaving the audience amazed, Hobbs went on to sell his new-fangled fame by going on a lock picking tour of England.

“A display that left the Victorians shocked”

Chubb’s Lock
STANDARD IX

STEAM LOCOMOTIVES
The Power of the Railway
Made by: Thomas Crampton and Robert Stephenson and Company Date: 1851

The Great Exhibition, aimed to highlight Britain’s industrial power, so it is hardly surprising that numerous steam locomotives were placed on display. This particular one, No.166 Chatham, was a Crampton locomotive designed by the British engineer Thomas Crampton and built by manufacturers Robert Stephenson and Company for the South Eastern Railway in 1851. It would have interested visitors of the Exhibition as many of them would have travelled by railway to get there. Crampton locomotives like The Follies were distinctive in their use of a 4+2 wheel arrangement, with their heating wheels, two large driving wheels and no trailing wheels. While another one of Crampton locomotives, Liverpool, won a gold medal at the Exposition; they were not much used in Britain - they worked best on very straight railways and so they were not suited to the curves and gradients of the British railways, although they did well on the Continent. Interestingly, Stephenson also had another exhibit, a hydraulic press, on display. It had the distinction of being the largest object at the Exhibition, weighing a massive 1,944 tons. Operated by just one man, it had been used to lift the heavy metal bars during the building of Britannia Tubular Bridge in Runcorn, which Stephenson designed.

“A locomotive that ran out of steam”

VICTORIAN MAJOLICA
A Touch of French Elegance
Displayed by: Minton & Co Date: 1849

British ceramic manufacturers Minton & Co introduced majolica, a new form of pottery, to the public for the first time at the Great Exhibition. Two different types were developed by French ceramist Leon Arnaud for Minton, the first being a tarnished glazed majolica and the second being a enameled, hard-wearing lead-glazed earthenware, originally known as “Painlevé ware.”

Arnaud developed majolica in 1849 and they proved to be a major hit, as they were soon replicated widely. Many of the designs imitated the style of porcelain made by French manufacturer Sevres, and this style became popular throughout England during the 1860s. Interestingly, Minton was the only British ceramic manufacturer to be awarded a Council Medal, the highest award given by the Exhibition jury.

Minton was also known for his pot-ware, a type of stoneware porcelain, which could also be found at the Exhibition. In fact, Queen Victoria liked Minton’s porcelain so much, she actually purchased a dinner service from them the day before the Exhibition.

“Awarded the Royal Seal of Approval”

THE COLT 1851 NAVY REVOLVER
A Controversial Display
Made by: Samuel Colt Date: c.1847 – 50

American firearms manufacturer Samuel Colt arrived at the Great Exhibition to present the prototype for his new single action revolver, the Colt 1851 Navy Revolver. It drew lots of attention at the Exhibition, a win for the rather lacklustre American section, and encouraged Colt to open a factory in London, which produced around 4,200 Navy revolvers.

However, despite Colt’s optimism, the Navy Revolver did not last long on the British market. With the end of the Crimean War, the factory was eventually closed in 1856, although the revolver remained as a gun that many Victorians would grow to associate with the American West. Aside from the revolver, Colt also presented the Colt Walker, at the time the most powerful handgun to have been created, and the Colt Dragoon Revolver, at the Exhibition.

However, the decision to allow weapons at the Exhibition proved to be an extremely controversial one. The Exhibition was among other things - supposed to promote world peace. Disappointed that weapons of war would be included, pacifists protested that they should be banned. Nonetheless, these objections were ignored and numerous countries, including France and Italy, included weapons in their exhibits.

“A gun that ultimately missed the mark”
Margaret: The true story of the tragic princess

Princess Margaret seemed destined for a charmed life but it all went wrong when she was unable to marry the love of her life.

Written by Melanie Glegg
Princess Margaret

When Princess Margaret was born in her mother’s ancestral home, Glamis Castle in Scotland, on 21 August 1930, no one could have predicted that she would one day become one of the most photographed and talked about women in the world. At the time of her birth, Margaret’s father, Albert, Duke of York, was second in line to the throne and although his older brother, David, Prince of Wales, was heir to their father George V, who was still in his thirties and yet to choose a wife and start his own family, it still seemed very unlikely that he would become king. However, as the happy, wholesome family life enjoyed by the Duke and Duchess of York and their adorable children became increasingly favourably compared to the sickly bachelor about town existence of his elder brother, many people, including King George and Queen Mary, began to openly wonder if perhaps the shy and retiring Duke, who was a dutiful son and loyal husband and father would not make a much better king than his brother. Some men might have jumped at this opportunity, but Albert was horrified as he had absolutely no desire at all to inherit the great powers and responsibilities that came with the crown and was apt at the prospect of this great burden falling upon his young daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret.

Although the Duke of York was the product of a social and rather unhappy royal childhood, his wife Elizabeth, who was a daughter of the Earl of Strathmore, had enjoyed a very different upbringing, as part of a large, warm and loving Scottish aristocratic family and was born for her own children to have the same happy, carefree experience. None for the Yorks was primarily his Piccadilly, their town house in London, with occasional excursions to their country home, Royal Lodge in the Windsor Great Park, which, despite the rather humble name was a seven-bedroom Georgian mansion set in 98 acres of grounds. The Duchess of York had mostly been educated at home by governesses and although she had done well and was fluent in French, it had not been especially rigorous and she was seen for her own daughters to also be educated at home rather than at school with the aim, as Randolph Churchill put it, of raising her daughters to be not more than merely very nicely behaved young ladies, which she felt to be far more important than any intellectual attainments. Much later, Margaret would complain about her lack of proper education, which she felt had not properly prepared her for a life in the public eye where she would be expected to meet and converse with people from all walks of life. But at the time she thoroughly enjoyed her carefree existence of not especially rigorous lessons punctuated by riding lessons, long walks with the family’s beloved pet dogs, bicycle rides, dancing and music - becoming a particularly accomplished singer and piano player along the way. Although her father had a difficult relationship with his parents, they doted on her two half-siblings. When Queen Mary later telling a friend that Margaret was “an unsuitable name and that one can’t help encouraging her.” The persistent rumours

Margaret’s Daily Routine

Free of most royal duties and responsibilities, Margaret enjoyed an indolent and pampered life.

Before her marriage, Margaret’s daily routine at Clarence House began at 7 am with breakfast and tea, after which she would spend the next two hours taking in bed, smoking, listening to the radio and reading the newspapers. At 11 am she would have a hour-long bath, after which she would spend half an hour doing her hair and make-up before going downstairs for a modest lunch. Lunch with her mother would follow at 2 pm and would involve four courses accompanied by a bottle of wine per person. Margaret would spend the afternoon lounging around, reading her records, sticking pictures in herphotobooks, practising cursive or writing letters, taking a walk at 4:30 pm for tea. An hour later, Margaret would start to get ready for the evening, rolling her hair and make-up and swapping her day dress for either a cocktail dress or a. She was going to a formal event, a screening or a party. Margaret would then descend to the downstairs room for shots before returning for her evening dinner, returning much later for more drinks and, often, a light supper at an invited dinner, which would be followed by smoking, dancing and drinking, with the princess often going to bed at around 3 am.

Margaret was extremely close to her father, who called her his “little gig” and was devastated when he died in 1952.

Although she loved to have fun and be the centre of attention, she was highly intelligent and loved to read and would carry her book with her at all times, often pausing to review her notes. Margaret’s hobbies included motorcycling, gardening and horse riding.

Although she loved to have fun and be the centre of attention, she was highly intelligent and loved to read and would carry her book with her at all times, often pausing to review her notes. Margaret’s hobbies included motorcycling, gardening and horse riding.
Margaret: The True Story Of The Tragic Princess

that Margaret had been born dead and dumb quickly disappeared after she began to appear more frequently in public and she and her sister were regularly enthralled by huge crowds when they went for their daily walk with their nanny, Clara Knight. Everything that the little princesses wore instantly became fashionable and their photographs often appeared on the front covers of newspapers and magazines—increasing public perception that perhaps their father would make a finer more suitable king than his scapegoat brother, who was 41 when he became king in January 1936 and still showed no signs of settling down. Margaret was six years old in the autumn of 1936 when the mounting crisis about her uncle’s relationship with American divorcée Wallis Simpson reached its peak with a series of impassioned family meetings that would eventually result in his decision to abdicate the throne and pass it to his younger brother, the Duke of York, making Margaret third in line to the throne after her sister, Elizabeth.

It was with much regret that the York family left behind their previous relatively private existence in Mayfair and took up residence in the vast and uncomfortable Buckingham Palace, where Margaret was given a room overlooking the Mall. Although their father, who had taken the name George VI, was unhappy in his new role, their more confident and outgoing mother was in her element and it was from observing her on the rare occasions that they took part in official and state functions that the two princesses learnt how to behave in public. Like their father, Elizabeth was shy and preferred a quiet life, but right from the very start, Margaret loved to be the centre of attention and relished the few opportunities that she had to shine the spotlight with her parents. However, this happy childhood was to be cut short by the outbreak of WWII in September 1939 just over a week after Margaret’s ninth birthday. At first, her parents encouraged her to send them to the safety of Canada but the Queen refused to even consider it, saying that “the children won’t go without me. I won’t go without the king and the king will never leave.” Instead, the family retreated to the relative safety of Windsor Castle, where the princesses remained for the rest of the war, sustained by regular visits from their parents, their lessons and preparations for the role and musical recitals that they put on in the castle’s state rooms. It was at Windsor that they made their broadcast to the children of the Commonwealth in October 1944, during which they emphasised with all the other children separated from their parents and concluded with a cheery “good night and good luck to you all.” As German bombings made life England unendurable and it became increasingly likely that Windsor Castle would become a target, the princesses slept in a bomb shelter beneath one of the towers. Margaret was 14 when the war finally ended in 1945, and like most of her peers was ready to make up for lost time and have some fun, beginning on VE Day itself when she and Elizabeth, carefully chaperoned by 16 hand-picked members of the royal household including the king’s equerry Peter Townsend, wound out of one of Buckingham Palace’s back doors incognito in order to mingle with the crowds and share the nation’s joy. For the first time, the two princesses walked freely through the capital’s streets, even joining in a choir line around Trafalgar Square. Later, Princess Elizabeth would recall that it was “one of the most incredible nights of my life” but for her sister Margaret, who was much more outgoing and even more hungry to experience all the excitement that life had to offer, it was a revelation.

Before she was out of her teens, Margaret was the undisputed leader of her own clique, known as the “Margaret Set,” of well-connected, wealthy, party-loving young aristocrats—all of whom had plenty of money to burn and an apparently endless appetite for fun, fashion, champagne and dancing, which they did all night in the most exclusive nightclubs in London or at weekend parties at their various stately homes. However, although her name was romantically linked with a few of the more eligible and handsome young men, most notably “Johnny,” the Earl of Dalhousie and heir of the Duke of Buccleuch, and ‘Sunny,’ the Earl of Marchmont and heir of the Duke of Montrose, both of whom were considered very suitable matches for the King’s younger daughter, she seemed to gravitate automatically in any of them. The reason...
Princess Margaret

Margaret's Style Moments
We take a look at how Margaret's style changed over the decades.

Margaret travelled to Paris on more than one occasion to be fitted for dresses by Christian Dior. Perhaps the most notable of these occasions was the beautiful evening gown that he designed for her 21st birthday. Margaret's wedding dress was one of Norman Hartnell's most exquisite creations, admirably kept up simply as possible. It was made from silk organza with over 30 meters of fabric. Being used for the skirt alone.

After her wedding, Margaret's style became more mature and even more glamorous. She often wore the outfits she had bought just before her wedding, which could also be converted into a stunning matron.

In the 1940s, Margaret developed a style for evening dresses and Gowns. Although she enjoyed wearing the more traditional gowns created by her husband's sister, she also liked to look romantically elegant on special occasions.

Margaret was known for her love of elegance, often wearing beautiful evening gowns that adorned her figure. In her later years, she wore his grand evening gowns for various public appearances. A few years after her husband's death, he paid tribute to her by using diamonds in her crown for the first time.
Margaret: The True Story Of The Tragic Princess

Princess of Fashions

Thanks to her glamorous style, Princess Margaret was one of the most photographed women in the world.

From her early childhood, Margaret's fashion choices had been the subject of intense scrutiny. She was often seen in the society pages, wearing the latest trends in clothes and accessories.

For this would become clear shortly after her father's death in February 1962, when rumours began to fly around the royal household about Margaret's unusual relationship with King George's secretary Captain Peter Townsend, a war hero who was 18 years older than her and recently divorced from her first wife. Margaret had been devoted to her father, who liked to say that while her sister Elizabeth was his "public" Margaret was his "joy," and was so devastated by his death that she had to be given sedatives.

Townsend, who had been a great friend of the king, had proved invaluable at this time and the pair had grown close, with the result that eyebrows were raised when he was appointed Comptroller of Margaret's mother's household, which had moved to Clarence House after the king's death. The public didn't become aware of the situation until after the coronation of Margaret's sister Elizabeth in 1953, when a few sharp-eyed observers noticed the young princess removing a piece of hat from "Townsend's shoulder" - a curious instinctive gesture between a senior member of the royal family and one of her mother's staff. With the relationship out in the open, Townsend proposed to Margaret, who gladly accepted - much to the dismay of her mother and sister, who were inclined to give their permission but foresee difficulties ahead.

Thanks to Townsend's divorced status, according to the Royal Marriages Act 1772, permission for Margaret to marry before the age of 25 would have to be granted by her sister but even with that permission, there was still the hurdle of the Church of England and British Cabinet to be overcome, with both of whom were disinclined to look favorably upon the possibility of the princess marrying a divorced man and warned that Margaret would be unable to have a church wedding and might even have to live abroad, like her uncle, the Duke of Windsor, if she went ahead with the marriage.

Although the plan was never dropped, it was eventually abandoned due to the lack of official support and the fact that Townsend was pregnant. When he was 25 years old, Margaret was considerably heartened by the fact that the public was almost unanimously in favour of the marriage and viewed her decision with a great deal of sympathy. The suffering and losses that had afflicted much of the population during the war had softened social attitudes towards divorced people and it was increasingly felt that the stigma that they carried was inappropriate and out of step with the times. In the summer of 1953, keen to see her sister happy and with Margaret's 25th birthday rapidly approaching, Princess Elizabeth worked with the Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, herself a divorced man, to put together a proposal that would allow Margaret to marry and retain her royal title and position albeit with the loss of her place in the succession. However, it was doomed to failure and at the end of October, Margaret and Townsend informed that if she went ahead with the marriage, which at 25 she was now free to do without the permission of her sister, she would lose not just her place in the succession but also her title, royal income and associated rights and privileges. It was a terrible blow to make and Margaret finally had to concede defeat, which she did in a public announcement a few days later. She and Townsend would not meet again for another 30 years, when they had

Margaret even presented with the new Silver Badge in 1952.

“Margaret increasingl threw herself into her hedonistic lifestyle and, already prone to petulance, became even more difficult, capricious and rude”
Princess Margaret

A private memorial at Kensington Palace, after which she told a friend that Townsend, who was by now very elderly, "had not changed at all." Deeply distressed by the end of her romance and dreams of marrying the man that she had loved for several years, Margaret immediately threw herself into her hedonistic lifestyle and, already prone to petulance, became even more difficult, capricious and rude. Once again her name was linked to a parade of titled, eligible bachelors but there were no serious romances until 1959 when she met the photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones at a dinner party. Often bored and resentful of the royal existence that she felt had robbed her of her true happiness, Margaret was envious by Antony's bohemian lifestyle and wide circle of celebrity friends—although she might have been rather less thrilled if she had known that she was not only not his only girlfriend but that he was also involved in a three-way affair with his married friends Jeremy and Camilla Fry, who would later give her a suite to Antony's daughter shortly after his wedding to Margaret. He would whisk her on to his own yacht to his flat in distinctively downmarket Rottenrow, where Margaret would attempt to cook dinner for them. When they went out for the night, with Antony usually seizing his trademark fabulous slim single trench coat, Margaret was infuriated with Antony but it's not certain if it would have become anything more if she had not received word in October 1959 that Peter Townsend was about to marry a Belgian woman, who was no younger than Margaret and bore a remarkable resemblance to her. Within a few days of the news breaking, Margaret informed her sister that she was also engaged.

Margaret and Antony, who was created 6th Earl of Snowdon the following year, were married in Westminster Abbey on 5 May 1960. The couple moved into a huge apartment in Kensington Palace after returning from their honeymoon, which was a six-week cruise of the Caribbean in the royal yacht Britannia, and were briefly very happy together. However, cracks were beginning to appear before their son David was born in November 1961 and by the time their daughter Sarah arrived in 1964, the marriage was very definitely on the rocks. Although Margaret greatly enjoyed hobnobbing with her husband's bohemian circle of friends, she found the fact that he often prioritised his work and other pursuits over her demands and was also increasingly worried that he was having affairs with other women, which in the mid-1960s led her to speculate by having extra-marital relationships and flirtations of her own, allegedly with a number of famous musicians and Hollywood stars, although none of these romances have been proven.

The breakdown of the Snowdon marriage was also exacerbated by the vast quantities of alcohol and, allegedly, other substances being consumed that led to violent fights and poor behaviour on both sides. By 1973, when Margaret met Rodney Llewellyn, who was 17 years her junior and would be her companion for the next eight years, the marriage had completely broken down and when news of her relationship with Llewellyn broke in February 1974, it was swiftly followed by an announcement that Margaret's marriage was at an end after 16 turbulent years. Margaret never commented after her divorce to Antony was finalised in 1978, preferring instead to retreat to Rome and divide her time between Kensington Palace and trips to her holiday home on Mustique. The salacious stories that had emerged in the wake of her failed marriage had done much to harm her popularity, despite the fact that she was the president of several charities and patron of many more. Sadly the last three decades of her life were increasingly marred by poor health, which was largely the result of heavy drinking and smoking, which she gave up only after having part of her left lung removed in 1985. She also suffered cardiac problems and had more than one stroke, which had left her seriously debilitated by the time of her death, following mother stroke in February 1992, at the age of 77. After her death, her cousin Lord Linlithgow speculated that Margaret's life had been "a life unfilled" and certainly it is not easy to wonder just how difficult her path might have been if she had lived in a later, more liberal time and had been permitted to be true to herself and marry the man she loved.
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The Adventures of Captain Jack

A whimsical woman combined her own stories with her vivid imagination to create a colourful life in Colorado

Written by Ann MacClellan Griffin

"I was born November 4, 1842, in New Lantern, Nottingham, England."

So begins a seemingly plain and humble autobiography by a woman who was anything but plain or humble. Ellen Elise Jack's book, The Fate Of A Fairy Or Twenty-Seven Years In The Far West, would later tell of the spunky little woman's amazing adventures. And although her facts were often embellished with a good dose of fiction, her story is very much worth telling.

When she was seven years old, Ellen met a 'fairy queen' at Nottingham's annual Green Fair who touched her on the head. "This child was born to be a great traveler, and if she had been a male would have been a great mining expert," she said. "She is a Reinvention, born to find hidden treasures. She will meet great sorrows and be a widow early in life. Fire will cause her great trouble and losses." Ellen had already lost one sister in a fire. And as a woman, she had a brief romance with a man, 'Carl,' who stabbed her in a fit of jealousy after seeing her in the company of her male cousin. Ellen recovered, and when her sister Lelia and her husband sailed to New York, Ellen successfully begged to go along.

Ellen loved New York, but fell ill and was unable to return to England with her sister until she was well. Upon boarding another ship, she recalled the force of assisting a doctor in amputating the leg of a young fish peddler. But she also met first officer Charles E. Jack. The couple married at Liverpool in 1860 and returned to New York. Before Jack was called for duty during the Civil War.

The Jack's first child, Nettie, was born between 1862 and 1864. During this time, Ellen claimed she took charge of a ring preserved to her husband by General Robert E. Lee, attended a president's reception with her husband and met President and Mrs. Lincoln, and toured Europe. After Charles Jack returned from the war with heart trouble, Ellen gave birth to a son. Both the infant and Nettie died just before the Jacks moved to Chicago.
Ellen Elliott Jack

Over the next three years another daughter, Jenny, was born. The family also lost everything in a fire and briefly fared in Kansas before returning to Brooklyn. Ellen lost child’s disease was born just before Charles Jack died in 1873.

Ellen next built a hotel called the Iron Inn, but it burned in March of 1875 as she rescued her daughters and their nurse from the second floor. Days later, three years later, soon afterwards Ellen made friends with psychic Madame Clifford who, like the ghostly queen, told Ellen she was “born to find hidden treasure.” Ellen decided to head west, leaving Jenny with her mother-in-law. She arrived in Denver in about 1880, where she ran into her former servant, Jennie. The woman advised her to go to Guanella, but Ellen went to Leadville first. There, she witnessed “Caries’ Funk” and another gambler kill each other in a shooting.

Ellen heard Jennie’s advice and headed to Guanella, where she arrived in the spring of 1881. Ellen’s first night in Guanella was spent at the Guardian House where she paid a dollar to sleep in the lobby of the crowded hotel. The landlady advised Ellen to hide her valuables on her person, as “this is a very much place Ellen!” Ellen followed the woman’s advice, saying she had “diamonds and government bonds sewn up in my boot.”

The next morning, Ellen was exploring the town when a stray bullet passed through her cloak. Ellen identified the shooter as Wild Bill, who scared her so badly that she shot him. "You low-born scoundrel, but Ellen implored them to leave Wild Bill alone. For her is a dying man." Bill killed her gun in wake, which the officers took to examine. Ellen herself discovered a group of prospectors pillaging Jack’s cabin. Ellen said one of them was Luke Keller, a "big Mack with a long gold earring" who "came to me dancing and trying to mock my hair." Ellen cut a lock of his golden hair for Colonel to keep, and a friendship was formed.

Eventually Ellen constructed some buildings. She rented one of them to Jeff McCoy, whom she had met on her trip to Guanella. McCoy opened a saloon which became "headquarters for the fugitives, and it was very crowded at night. He was quite the businessman; once, the Guardian Daily News-Democrat revealed that the guest of honor at a funeral in the saloon was really only a passed-out drunk. The joke was a profitable one for Jeff McCoy," the paper explained. The supposed victim, "burning candles at his head and feet, was better for business purposes, so McCoy said, than a free lunch or brown bread. McCoy also opened a gymnasium and "boxing school" next to the saloon.

Ellen would later attribute a large scar on her forehead to another raid. Jack’s cabin was set on fire and was on theAgainst the fantasy of a woman who was Ellen Jack, who was not a miner, but a mineral heroine and legend. The story was told to her by a group of children, the death of the husband and sons to become a successful prospector survive a shooting attempt and to have born herself who worked with men, all added up to one formidable woman and one that could draw a crowd.

Having already established herself as a champion of Guanella according to the Golden Daily News: "in the morning one of the prospectors was trying to propose to a native woman, and the woman ran away leaving her husband behind. The couple was content to live together, believing in the idea that men were friends of the women who worked with them and the men who lived with them. Ellen had also places already new advertisement for Jack’s cabin, which appeared on the same day as Mining for Tourists

Ellen Jack turned to homesteaders and old-west entrepreneurs to make money in her later years.

Having published her autobiography in 1895, Ellen Jack was receiving herself not just as a mining entrepreneur and widow, but also as a folklore hero and legend. The story was told to her by a group of children, the death of the husband and sons to become a successful prospector survive a shooting attempt and to have born herself who worked with men, all added up to one formidable woman and one that could draw a crowd.

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The Adventures Of Captain Jack:

"He gave me the gun, for you were too big a coward to get it, and you shall never have it."
Ellen Elliott Jack

Searching For Silver
Ellen Jack was there for the height of Colorado's Silver Boom

4,235 g/mt
(grams per metric ton) of silver produced from the Black Queen Mine

$3,900
per ton in modern money

2,125

$8.2 million
worth of silver mined during Colorado silver boom

240 million
total ounces of silver mined from Colorado Mineral Belt

Mickey's funeral. "The business will be carried on as heretofore," he said, "and Mrs Jeff Mickey will be glad to see old friends."

Within a month of Mickey's death, Ellen went on Jack's cabin and ventured "into the mountains in Wild Cat Gulch where the Indians camped," looking for mining investments. This time her partner was sometime outlaw Bill Edwards, who promised to share any gold discoveries if Ellen would bail him out of jail. Edwards kept his promise and for the first time, Ellen made money from the Big Gringo and Maggie Jack mining claims. She also became half owner of the Black Queen Mine near Crystal City.

In 1872 a fire at Jack's Cabin, Redmond Walsh, proposed to Ellen. The couple traveled to Denver, but the night before the wedding, Ellen dreamt of children crying and awoke with a sense of doom. During the ceremony, the children's crying sounded again, as well as a man's voice. Stunned, Ellen dropped the ring on the floor, but Walsh "grabbed my hand and put the ring on my finger without any more ceremony."

Afterwards, Walsh left Ellen at a hotel and did not return. Ellen caught the train back to Gummison the next morning. Walsh eventually returned too, but spent much of his time away from home. A few months later, he asked Ellen to take out a note for $2,600, explaining that the Black Queen's payroll was short. But the miners only received half of their promised pay. A cashier from the bank informed Ellen that Walsh had duped her, and advised that Walsh had his eye on her half of the Black Queen. "We be your lookout for that man," she said. "We would not hesitate to take your life to get that mine."
The Adventures Of Captain Jack

Ellen also caught Walsh planting dynamite under her window as his debts hovered after her.

Walsch, it turned out, was married to another woman. Ellen confronted him and recalled that his face turned into an incarnated demon, and such a malevolent fiend she never saw on a human face before. The next day, he tried to make Ellen sign a contract dashing half of her property to him. When she threw it in the fire, Walsh “grabbed me and tried to stick my head in the fire. I fought to him and screamed until two men came and took him by the collar; then he let go of me!” Ellen told, “I was nearly all burned and my face and neck were in blisters.”

Ellen also caught Walsh planting dynamite under her window as his debts hovered after her. She divorced him but spent two years battling him in court. Next, in 1888, she was arrested for applying to the pension list to try by Charles Jack, because nobody knew her by that name. It took almost a year to gain an acquittal, at which time she was embodied in another suit with the other owners of the Black Queen. Ellen’s money troubles continued, she nearly lost the Black Queen in 1899, but managed to invest in the Little Wandle mine. Property she purchased in Occay in 1899 was rented to pay an outstanding bill.

In 1904 Denver’s Queen Bee, a feminist newspaper, devoted to the interests of humanity, women’s political quality and individuality,” at last defended Ellen. “Captain Ellen E. Jack is back on her claim near Garrison; again, the paper reported. “The powers that be have had the rascal Captain Jack arrested for defending her claims at the point of her pistols... Men are simply absurd or they would let her alone and fight professional pugilists and small dogs. It is shameful how the lots of creation will condense to haggle a plucky woman just because they like to have a winning fight.”

Ellen was likely not aware of the article for she never mentioned it. Her autobiography ends after her account of a trip through Utah and Arizona, as well as her marriages on God and how far society had come. “So cheer up, for the aura fire is breaking through the dark circle of apportionment,” she concluded. “And this is the prophecy of the Fated Fairy and a wandon for twenty-seven years in the far West!” Ellen’s adventures, however, were far from over. In February, 1903, the Aspen Daily Times reported that Ellen sold her interest in the Black Queen and was heading to Cripple Creek. “She is a good sorter and will make a strike in that camp,” the paper predicted. In Cripple Creek, however, Ellen did not invest in any

times and only rented a lodging house above a grocery store. By 1903 she was in Colorado Springs, where it was reported a year later that she had established a mining claim in nearby Cheyenne Canyon called the Mars group with four gold and copper mines. These also was a tent court called Camp Jack. Ellen said the claims were averaging $25 per ton. Beginning in about 1907, Ellen began generating photographic postcards, featuring herself in various scenarios. In the earliest known image, she poses along with several men, two burros and some equipment. The image is captioned hopefully, “Miss Capt Jack Looking for a Company to Help Mine.” Next, in 1909, the Colorado Springs Gazette reported that Ellen had located a case “of wonderful formation,” but was keeping it locked: a secret until she could purchase the property and turn it into a tourist attraction. Ellen did establish a resort in Cheyenne Canyon, calling it “Captain Jack’s Bathers.” Visitors were told colourful stories of her adventures in Ellen sold them her postcards and copies of Fire of A Fairy. During 1912, her advertisement in a tourist’s guide to the Pike’s Peak region commanded, “Stop at Captain Jack’s!” Ellen maintained a separate home in Colorado Springs, where a purposely remembered seeing her “brilliantly coloured patron in the trees in front of her house.” In 1913 she filed for patents on her Gora No. 1 and Mars No. 1 mining claims. Unfortunately, a flood that washed out the road to Captain Jack’s was her undoing. Her heart failed and she died on June 18. She was buried in Colorado Springs Cemetery. Her long-forgotten daughter Jenny appeared in the hopes of gaining something from her mother but received nothing.

Ellen rival mine operator, Nora Gaines, purchased Ellen’s mint in 1913. The Colorado Springs Gazette noted that the “New Captain Jack is now being constructed on the High Drive” would offer rent to film historians, and later. Nora sold just nine years later. The property was abandoned, and the “mining cabin” were torn down in 1966. Today Captain Jack’s Mountain Bike Trail outside of Colorado Springs is named for her.
At dawn on 1 January 1945, Allied airfields across Holland, Belgium, and northern France were shocked to find swarms of German aircraft coming pouring out of the morning gloom. For months the Luftwaffe had played shy, staying behind their own lines and avoiding major confrontations, but now they unleashed a savage blow to try and re-establish their own air superiority over North West Europe. It would be the last great charge of the once vaunted Luftwaffe, and a pyrrhic victory.

In June 1944 the Allies had landed in Normandy under a blanket of aerial support. After establishing their beachhead in Normandy, they had broken out, again with air power proving a crucial factor. Northern France had been liberated, followed by Belgium and the southern portions of Holland. An attempt to secure the rest of Holland had failed in September 1944, and then in December the Germans...
had counter-attacked through the lines of the Ardennes. Although they had knocked seven towns against the Allied and especially American forces, their offensive had ultimately failed. By the end of the year the Allies were well positioned and building up their forces. The Royal Air Force’s Bomber Command had been reinforced to the east of Belgium and southern Holland, with the United States Army Air Force’s 8th and 15th Air Forces in southern Belgium and France. Both had established air supremacy over their front lines, and provided thousands of sorties and effective fighter, bomber and medium bomber sorties every day to support the ground forces.

On the other side of the lines, the German Luftwaffe had been on the back foot for months. Through 1944 the Allied Combined Bomber Offensive (COBO) had been massively effective in destroying the Luftwaffe. Not only were factories and air production facilities damaged or destroyed, but as German war production was increasingly dispersed to avoid air raids, the transport networks were so disrupted that coordinating and assembling components was ever more difficult. The bombing raids forced the German air forces to divert resources to fighter production, and then concentrate those forces on home defense. The generals who provided tactical support of the ground forces, which had for so long been a cornerstone of German counterattack doctrine, were left staring at a scene where the German army was coming under intolerable pressure. New innovations like the Me-163 Komet as fighter were too little, too late, and the Luftwaffe suffered high casualties against the massed Allied bombers, especially the American B-17s. Large scale fighters such as the F-10 Mustang could reach right across Germany and not only engage defenders, but also increasingly shoot down trains far behind the lines. Lack of aircraft and fuel already hampered training efforts, and now new pilots were being rushed through these courses and sent to the front with entirely inadequate skills.

On the other hand, the Allies were now ready to strike. The vast industrial power of the United States coupled with the output of the UK meant that aircraft were added to short supply. Aircrews trained in the safe skies of America, Canada and South Africa were entering the system in such numbers that in 1944 and 1945 thousands of newly qualified aircrew were streamed into ground training due to lack of requirement. From the US, 8th Air Force Bomber Command could now regularly provide over a thousand heavy bombers at night to raid Germany, while the USAAF Eighth Air Force attacked by day. The only area where Allied air power was really lacking was in a shortage of transport aircraft.

**Operation Bodenplatte**

Air power was crucial to ground operations in Western Europe.
Greatest Battles

Operation Bodenplatte (Silverplate) was intended to provide a flash-bang against Allied airpower. It would provide the Luftwaffe with vital breathing space from the relentless attacks to recover some of its previous strength. As a concept, it was always highly unlikely that it was going to work. The numbers of aircraft available to the Germans were meager, and the collective resources of the Allied air forces far too high. When originally conceived by the Luftwaffe High Command over the summer of 1944, the concept had been to carefully husband their forces and gather together thousands of fighters to attack in a series of stunning blows to overwhelm Allied defensive, striking at heavy concentrations of aircraft in a series of strategically chosen areas.

The numbers of aircraft available to the Germans were too low, and the collective resources of the Allied air forces far too high, and it was necessary it would be done at night and quite suddenly. The Luftwaffe now lacked the skills and knowledge how for such large-scale operations. Tandem-engined Ju-88 night fighters would be used not only for the surprise but for the psycho effect, or, in their words, to strike the enemy at the point where they would cross the lines. At this point the night fighters would turn back, leaving the fighters on their own to fly off and lose altitude and to their targets—rocks and covered over by morning's fog and smoke. To make matters worse, security concerns meant that large numbers of unit numbers would be kept until later for help in the battle against the enemy, otherwise, the night fighters would be unknown until after the attack. This way, the night fighters could in effect land and fly, and go in for the attack.

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Operation Bodenplatte

2ND TACTICAL AIR FORCE

305 AIRCRAFT DESTROYED
190 AIRCRAFT DAMAGED
401 AIRCRAFT WAVED
4145 PERSONAL KILLED

LUFTWAFFE

280 AIRCRAFT DESTROYED
65 AIRCRAFT DAMAGED
143 AIRCRAFT WAVED
21 PERSONAL KILLED

AIRCRAFT DAMAGED

AIR MARSHAL SIR ARTHUR RENNIE

Generalleutnant ADOLF GALLAND

An excellent fighter pilot, Galland succeeded in 2011 as a result of his shooting, where shooting is to

HAWKER Typhoon

The type 252 was powered by the 2100 hp Rolls-Royce Merlin V-12 engine, designed for high-altitude

MESSERSCHMITT ME262

The jet-powered Bf 110 was based on the Heinkel He 177 and was powered by two Junkers Jumo 004 jet

- the ideal target for attackers. On several airfields entire squadrons of aircraft were either taken to,
  or simply sitting on the runway, awaiting take-off and enemy targets.

The RAF fighter designated 23/744 was the first to be shot. Three Mosquito Typhoons were at the
  end of the runway and two had already begun their take-off. About half of the remaining Typhoons were
damaged, including the two taking off, although one of the waiting pilots claimed to have shot down an
  attacking Mosquito. The Wall Rood W 005 was not impaired given the low level of the raid. More than 30
  RAF aircraft were destroyed, and as many damaged, many of them beyond repair. In total, 289 aircraft were
  destroyed, but 200 others were lost to anti-aircraft fire, or when those RAF aircraft already airborne
  engaged them.

At 03:55 at Eware, Brussels, the attackers found their first Aichi reversible aircraft. Reversible engines
  were used to increase the range of the aircraft, for example, for long-range missions over the target area.

It was estimated that the aircraft could only fly for a maximum of 25 minutes before the engines
  were switched off. Over 10 aircraft were destroyed on the ground, mostly already damaged, and many
  as many again damaged. While it was reported that 70 aircraft were shot down, in reality, the
  actual number was much higher.
Greatest Battles

1 JAN 1945

After laying low for a while, the Luftwaffe commit to one more massive attack on the Allies.

01 Crossing the coast

The northern German attacks crossed the South coast at 0635, and on to their objectives. Due to light visibility, the German aircraft were dispersed into small formations, each flying on an even and not being told about the operations, and around 20 aircraft were lost to friendly fire.

02 First engagement

At 0800, 79 P/Os, led by F/Lt. L. W. Leith, of No. 415 Squadron RAF, sighted one of the German formations while he was on a dawn reconnaissance patrol over the North Sea. He engaged them in his Supermarine Spitfire Mk.Vb, and shot down eleven of them. In total, 19 German aircraft were shot down, and the Allies suffered only two further aircraft casualties, but the German air armament remained virtually unchanged.
Operation Bodenplatte

10 Licking their wounds
After the attack the German formations had been reduced to a few stragglers, and the last damaged aircraft looked whenever they could.

09 Last shots
At 07:40 the last Luftwaffe aircraft was shot down—Marek, a Me 109, near Hamburg, bringing Operation Bodenplatte to an end.

08 Catching the leaders
The leader of the German formation was sighted as he circled back. He was shot down, and another Me 109 was lost the next minute. The leader's aircraft turned back.

07 Dogfight over Brussels
The German pilots took off at 06:40 and were in 1500 feet. At Brussels, at 07:40, they attacked the American aircraft. This was the first action of the operation, and it marked the beginning of the end for the Messerschmitt Me 109s.

06 U.S.A.A.F. strike back
The American bombers were at 18,000 feet. They attacked the German formation, and 16 aircraft were shot down. The Germans managed to hit 506 US bombers, and 600 US casualties, for no loss to the Luftwaffe.

05 Caught coming home
At 05:30 the Me 109s attacked 52 US bombers, but the Messerschmitts were shot down before they could do any damage.

04 First objective reached
The Messerschmitts, Bf 109s, and Ju 88s of the German formations, in a series of attacks, were shot down. The Messerschmitts were a threat, but the Ju 88s were more dangerous. The first objective was achieved.

03 Accidental flypast
At 05:00, the pilots of the Messerschmitts, Ju 88s, and Junkers Ju 88s were50 hunting for the American bombers. The Ju 88s were able to sneak in and out of range, but the Messerschmitts were too fast. The pilots were not aware of the American presence until it was too late.

02 Lifting their spirits
The pilots of the Messerschmitts, Jun 88s, and Junkers Ju 88s were celebrating their success. They had managed to shoot down 506 US bombers, and 600 US casualties, for no loss to the Luftwaffe.
AMERICA JOINS THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Congress ratifies the Treaty of Versailles and heralds a new age of international cooperation and diplomacy for the 20th century.

What was the background to the creation of the League of Nations?

You need to go back to the First World War. The American president, Woodrow Wilson, expressed support in principle for the idea as far back as 1918, which was before America even came into the war. He said that America should join such an organisation if it was set up. At the end of the war in November 1918, the Allies, the Americans, the Germans - will make peace. So the League of Nations was the first thing on the agenda when the Paris Peace Conference meets to draw up the treaty in January 1919. The League of Nations covenant becomes the first 26 articles of the Treaty of Versailles with Germany in June 1919.

What was the purpose of the League of Nations?

The League grew out of a body of progressive thinking in America and...
Geneva Going Grey over Wool Shortages

Tailors are reporting a shocking and debilitating shortage of grey wool in the city of Geneva and the immediate area that is greatly impacting the production of suits for the local population. Accusations abound that the arrival of hundreds of ageing white men to the city is the main cause of the shortage. The LOI refused to comment.
The ‘What If’ Newspaper

LEAGUE OF NATIONS BOOK CLUB

New to the world of international diplomacy? Make friends and share ideas in the reasoning environment of the newly formed League of Nations Book Club. Our next this month are Jim葛思 Fort Shout The World by John Reed and The Economic Consequences of The Peace by John Maynard Keynes.

“The Americans would not have been willing to give the League strong backing”

Why didn’t America join the League of Nations?

For the US to join the League of Nations, the US needed to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. Under the US constitution, you needed a two-thirds majority in the Senate to ratify that agreement. Wilson didn’t like that. Because he knew that there was a lot of opposition in the Senate to ratifying the league, but he thought the Senate would not give due to the need to ratify the peace treaty with Germany. There was no historical precedent for the Senate doing that, rejecting a peace treaty. Wilson was a Democrat, and the Republicans had gained a small minority in the Senate midterm elections in November 1928. So Wilson’s party didn’t have a majority to get this treaty approved. He was only going to get the treaty passed if he can split the Republicans and get the moderate Republicans to jump up with the Democrats. Most of the Republicans were willing to accept the League of Nations subject to what are called reservations that come from Senator Henry Cabot Lodge. The most important of the Lodge reservations is it reserves Congress right to declare war under the constitution. In other words, America would not be automatically bound to go to war if the League of Nations council decided that there should be military action. Wilson is not prepared to accept the reservations, and so you have a kind of deadlock. Because Wilson refused to compromise with the Republicans, he says the Democrats should vote against the League of Nations covenant rather than accept it with reservations. So the compromise position is rejected, and Wilson can’t get it through on his own. He makes a key move in the 1920 elections, but the Democratic ticket and that really the end of it.

Is there a scenario where they could have joined?

It’s a question of whether there could have been some kind of compromise between Wilson and the moderate Republicans on the basis of a modified peace treaty, or even a peace treaty that dropped the League of Nations altogether. There was some pretty wide support among Republicans for a treaty guarantee with France against German aggression, which is what Wilson prepared at the Paris peace conference, but that collapsed when the Senate refused and didn’t ratify the peace treaty. If the Americans had given that guarantee, Britain would have done as well, and France would have been protected by our Anglo-German powers against German aggression.

What if the US had joined the League of Nations in some form?

Well, in some form, it’s a key thing. If the Americans had joined but not really been prepared to join in much more than anoven paper and kind of象征性 about it, then they would have done even more preach the same thing that Britain and France did. The majority of the British and French governments were sceptical about the League, but they joined in order to encourage the Americans, thinking that Wilson was going to be able to get America in. When Wilson went into
do that, Britain and France were left with the primary responsibility of making the operation work. The Americans would not have been willing to give the League strong backing, but if the Americans had taken part that would have been useful for economic sanctions.

**Would US involvement have changed the League’s activities in the run-up to the Second World War?**

One question mark is whether the Americans would have accepted any mandates. One of the areas Britain wanted to take a mandate for was Armenia, where massacres and genocide had taken place. In 1920, Armenia ended up being divided between Turkey and Russia. As far as the League's humanitarian activities are concerned, if Armenia had been in it might actually have weakened the capacity to intervene in the international labour organization, because the Americans went on the whole line that European countries in their protection of labor conditions and recognizing trade unions. It might have led to pushes in other directions, for example imperialism. The Americans were very concerned about controlling the international liquor trade and narcotics trade.

**Would anything else have changed?**

The biggest single question mark is whether, if the Americans had gone in, it would have strengthened the League’s ability to impose economic sanctions. A good example of this is the Armenian crisis of 1920. It’s probably the most determined attempt by the League to stop an aggression, because all of the League’s members agreed to impose economic sanctions against Italy. The Americans were not part of the League, and oil companies continued to export to Italy. Had America been in it might have put more pressure on the Italians to halt their war against Armenia.

**Could America’s involvement have altered the League’s perceived lack of power?**

It would have depended on how the Americans interpreted their role in the League. It would be necessary for the Americans, with the big cities in the 1920s, to have said to Britain and France that they need to take a firm line against aggression. If the Americans had just been in as a neutral only I think the League would have continued to lack credibility. If the Americans had given a firm guarantee with Britain and France against German aggression that could really have made a difference in the early and mid-1930s when Hitler begins remanufacturing. It’s a kind of lost opportunity to stop German aggression before it becomes impossible to stop without a major war.

**Would there have been any other major impacts?**

One thing is American isolationism in the 1930s. There’s a very strong reaction in the mid-1930s against the consequences of American involvement in the First World War. Congress passes neutrality acts in 1935, 1936 and 1937 which provide that if another war breaks out in Europe or Asia, America will not join any money, will not sell any weapons to the countries that are at war, and will not travel on Allied or enemy passenger ships. If America had been in the League that de facto reaction would have been even stronger than it actually was, given the view of many people that the League of Nations was something that was a completely unacceptable infringement on American sovereignty. So it could actually have been counter-productive.

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**BAKE SALE FOR WORLD PEACE**

As it is well known among UN members we have a distinct lack of income from our member states and very little will to invest in the world peace we all seek, so join us for our bake sale to raise funds this coming Thursday.

**Lessons for the UN**

The ultimate failure of the League of Nations, created to prevent a conflict on the scale of the Great War, was the outbreak of World War II. As such, it is no surprise that the member states felt no pull towards reconstituting that organization when peace was finally achieved, and renewed vigor for cooperation was found. From its ashes and its failed promises rose the United Nations.

The UN features several mechanisms that have made it a more successful organization for maintaining peaceful relations between nations. The US being involved and having a powerful Security Council gives the US teeth that the UN never had. Committees on health, labour, education and child welfare also mean it is lacking more than just high level diplomacy, but the fostering of democratic and humanitarian values too. Mistakes have been made over the years, but it has proven to be a much healthier organization.
THE HISTORY OF KENSINGTON PALACE

Discover the social and political significance of this magnificent royal residence

Mary purchased Nottingham House in 1689, transforming it into a palace with the help of renowned architect Sir Christopher Wren. The palace was a beloved residence of the early Georgian monarchs, with King George I subletting parts of the palace and initially redesigning the King's State Apartments. After his death, King George II and Queen Caroline stayed at the palace extensively, turning it into the centre of court life during their reign.

The palace is also remembered as the birthplace and childhood home of Queen Victoria, who chose to reign from Buckingham Palace following her accession to the throne in June 1837. Today, it is the home to the younger generation of royals, most notably Prince William and Harry and their families, as well as serving as a popular tourist attraction, welcoming more than 600,000 visitors to its splendid sights every year.
THE HISTORY OF KENSINGTON PALACE

A ROYAL REFIT
After the death of his wife, Queen Anne, King William II moved most of his time at Kensington Palace. He decorated the King's Gallery, the palace's largest state apartment, which was originally decorated with green walls. It was opened to the public during George I’s reign, with red carpet and gold-leaf walls.

SOCIAL CLIMBING
The Great Staircase is decorated with paintings featuring portraits of the royal family and their nobility. In 1722-1727, the gallery was redecorated under the direction of George I, who wanted to show his interest in the arts and his desire to be part of European society. The decorations were intended to impress visitors and show the King’s wealth and power.

Clever Craftsmanship
The most important part of the King's Gallery is the painted ceiling, located above the staircase. It is a true masterpiece of the Baroque period, with intricate designs and vivid colors. It is said to have been painted by the artist Francesco Solimena, who was renowned for his skill in creating realistic and dynamic scenes.
A LANDMARK MOMENT

It is well known that Queen Victoria suffered a stroke and received education during her time at
Hornsey School. It was in this period that she
would assume the role of Queen of England.

ELEGANT GARDENS

Queen Caroline spent much of her time in
the gardens of her residence, Kensington
Palace, with her gardens designed by the
architect John Webb. The gardens included
elaborate gardens of Milfield and Marylebone.
THE ROYAL ARTIST

Princess Julia, Queen Victoria's daughter, sculpted a white marble statue of her mother in her coronation robes to celebrate the queen's Golden Jubilee in 1887. It was installed in the palace gardens, where it can still be admired today.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

There, Princess of Wales, lived at Kensington Palace both during her marriage to Prince Charles and after their divorce. The palace dates to 1689 and has been the residence of many members of the Royal Family.

HIGH FASHION

This gentleman’s court suit, dating from 1700–50, is a perfect example of the clothing Georgian monarchs wore. These suits were not just fashion statements; they were extremely important and symbolic of status and power, as they were often embroidered with the monarch's coat of arms.
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Did you know?

Vikings may not have eaten as much meat as you might imagine. Animal bone remains suggest it was not the bedrock of the domestic diet.

On the Menu

VIKING BARLEY FLATBREAD

Ingredients:
- 1 1/2 cups barley flour
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 tsp yeast
- 1 tsp honey
- 1/2 tsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt

Did you make it? Let us know!

www.historyanswers.co.uk

METHOD

1. Put the barley flour, all-purpose flour and yeast into a large mixing bowl and combine them together lightly, just to blend the powders together a little.

2. In a small measuring cup or jug, mix together the salt, oil, honey and warm water (just warm, not boiling). Once well mixed together, pour the liquid into the flour and yeast mixture and begin to blend the ingredients together.

3. Continue to stir and mix the ingredients in the bowl until the mixture begins to pull away from the side of the bowl, meaning that it is now forming an cohesive dough.

4. Lightly flour your work surface and tip the dough onto it. It should be slightly sticky at this point, so you will need to knead for ten minutes, adding small amounts of flour if necessary, until it is smooth and elastic. You'll know it's elastic when you can poke it and the dough springs back.

5. Place the dough back in the mixing bowl, brush with a little oil and cover with cling film or a damp cloth for 90 minutes, allowing the dough to double in size in a warm place.

6. Preheat your oven to gas mark 7 (220°C or 425°F), ensuring a baking stone or a turned over baking sheet.

7. Remove the dough from the bowl onto your lightly floured work surface and punch it down to flatten. Cut into six evenly-sized pieces and then roll each one out to 2mm (1/10 inch) rounds about 13cm (5 inches) thick.

8. Place each round in turn onto the oven on your stone or baking sheet, cooking for about four minutes or until the bread is puffed and the surface is dry. Transfer to a cooling rack once done.

9. For added flavour, brush the flatbreads with a little mixed or white-hot-tempered and sprinkled with herbs, salt and pepper for additional seasoning.

FOOD FIT FOR EXPLORERS NORTH ATLANTIC, 10TH CENTURY
America has for much of its history presented itself at the forefront of Europe's colonial powers—a noble—foiled in the Wars of Independence—role, with a constitution for its citizens and no interest in territorial conquest. Yet as this authoritative new book argues, this narrative of anti-imperialism crumbles in the face of the fact that the United States has itself owned foreign territory for more than 100 years.

Daniel Immerwahr charts American history from the nation's founding onwards through the lens of the ‘Great American State’. This term for the empire that America effectively assembled from the time of the 1800s creation of an ‘American territory’ in the US, which he argues was its first colony. Many of the territories were acquired following the 1898 war with Spain, including the Philippines which officially became independent in 1946, Puerto Rico and Guam. Although a variety of scholars have traced these topics, says Immerwahr, when historians have come to write narratives of the country as a whole, the territories have been sidelined. The author, who dedicates his book to the uncharted, documents a vast range of events including America’s occupation of the Guano Islands, precipitated by efforts to lessen the US agricultural crisis, the impact of World War I on peace process on colonial systems, and the Philippine War of 1899 to 1913, after Afghanistan the longest war the United States has fought.

"Achieves a strong grounding in its source material and the wider history of empire studies"

How To Hide An Empire not only places those events centre stage as significant matters in American history but also offers readers important insight into the United States' frequently contradictory and ambiguous messaging around its territories—claiming or declaring a territory's rights under the constitution for example when it suited political means—as well as into the roots of the United States' interventionism. There are also explorations of how those 'mainland' American citizens have been of three territories at various points in US history. For example, a discussion of President Roosevelt's 'twinity' speech following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; Hawaii, and in greater United States territories such as the Philippines. In 1944, President Roosevelt's statement of his speech to give more prominence to Pearl Harbor... Immerwahr suggests the speech was amended by Roosevelt because of Hawaii seeming more American than the territories. This tells us how little the territories appear to have featured in mainstream American identity. Rather than a brief interruption at the turn of the 20th century, the nation has been slowly taught to deny or downplay its colonialism rather than celebrate it.

How To Hide An Empire is a scholarly work which achieves a strong grounding in its source material and the wider history of empire studies, but also an accessibility in its approach and tone, meaning it should be a valuable resource for historians and the public alike. With colonial empires still a source of much debate in the public arena, and with many researchers constantly trying to give a voice to individuals and communities who have been identified within mainstream history, Immerwahr's study is timely and raises weighty questions on themes of identity and belonging that are all very relevant today.

11:20 PM

REVIEWS
The books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world this month

HOW TO HIDE AN EMPIRE
An endlessly fascinating study deconstructing the myth of anti-imperialist America

Author: Daniel Immerwahr Publisher: The Bodley Head Price: £25 Released: Out Now
A HISTORY OF WOMEN IN MEDICINE
An examination of the forgotten lives of female physicians

Author: Sinead Spearing  Publisher: Pen & Sword History
Price: £5.99  Released Out Now

Today the world swells with images of painted bars and homeostatics, cauldrons and black cats to it as a wind that has carried a myriad of meanings throughout the centuries. Often shorthand for something to be feared, it was once used to describe the prioritises and female physicians of an ancient tribe, women who were to be suspected, not persecuted.

A History of Women in Medicine: Causing Interest. Physicians, witches bring these women and their world vividly to life once more. What emerges is the tale of an ungainly forgotten group of women who had a unique understanding of the land in which they lived and the healing powers inherent in the natural world. These ancient women traveled from place to place offering medical care and spiritual comfort and as they did, their reputations saw them vanishing wherever they tread.

Sinead Spearing’s fascinating work brings together chronicles including an allusions, fullness, religion and literature to examine what became of these women and what led the church to attempt to silence them. In doing so, she walks on a broad range of stories to track the origin of the modern figure of the witch and its supposed connections to Suficism, drawing on not only written works but also of women suspected of witchcraft.

This is a vast subject and Spearing’s book is an excellent introduction to it. It would have widespread appeal, bringing these forgotten voices to the fore again.

ON THE BASIS OF SEX
A fascinating life given a by-the-numbers treatment

Certificate 12A  Director: Mimi Leder  Cast: Felicity Jones, Armie Hammer, Justin Theroux, Kathy Bates, Sam Waterston  Released Out Now

A fascinating insight into a very private life of a very public figure. The film is not an easy watch, but it is a rewarding one. The story of this woman is one of struggle and resilience.

The acting is superb, with Sam Waterston delivering a powerful performance as a young woman with no experience in politics. The film also features wonderful cameos from Felicity Jones and Armie Hammer, adding depth and intrigue to the story.

Despite some criticisms regarding the treatment of female characters, the film is a must-watch for anyone interested in women’s rights and equality.
SCOURSES IN LOVE: THE MAKING OF A PHILOSOPHER

An eye-opening biography that re-examines the Socrates we know

Author Armand D'Angour Publisher Bloomsbury

Price £20 Released Out Now

Who was Socrates? D'Angour guesses that for the majority of people who know something about him, Socrates will be “a thinker who talks, or philosopher of ancient Greece.” If your answer was along these lines, then you need to pick up this book.

From the outset, D'Angour makes it clear that he is offering “a new, historically grounded perspective on Socrates' personality, early life, and the origins of his style of thinking.” Until now, Socrates' younger years have been shrouded in mystery, but through re-examining the sources we have, D'Angour discovers Socrates the human, not just the philosopher.

Not only does this bring Socrates back down to earth, but D'Angour introduces the woman who was pivotal in his life. He argues that Socrates' relationship with Aspasia, who has traditionally been cast as a brothel-keeper and prostitute, was shaped by her own philosophical thinking thanks to her own intellectual ideas.

Furthermore, D'Angour makes the convincing argument that in Plato's Symposium, Diotima is not a fictional character but rather a disguise for Aspasia. Plato stated that Diotima's doctrine of love (as according to D'Angour, Aspasia) is influenced by Socrates, his thinking, and therefore, the very foundation of Western philosophy.

It is a conclusion that goes against the traditional narrative, suggesting that as a woman, Aspasia has become an overlooked figure thanks to prejudices. This book is not only clearly well-researched, but it is also enjoyable to read.

ANCIENT MAGIC

A spirited immersion into the magical lives of ancient peoples

Author Philip Matyszak Publisher Thames & Hudson

Price £14.95 Released Out Now

In the modern era, magic is a word generally reserved for cultural matters like magicians' demonstrations and fantasy fiction such as J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter universe. But for the ancient peoples, magic and 그리스 (Greeks) was an entirely different concept - a vital part of their everyday life, rooted in the very laws of nature. As Philip Matyszak discusses in his introduction to this illuminating practitioner's guide, the word 'magic' as we define it today did not exist because magic was defined to be everywhere, instead as the "true natural forces" to bring about a desired result.

The author invites us to explore over 2,500 years of magical history and culture, and dive into the minds of our ancestors, imagining we are part of their community. This narrative technique may not be to all moderns' taste, but it allows the book to flow and to provide a more immersive experience.

Exempting its introduction, Ancient Magic is composed into a simply self-contained chapter, with titles including Masters Of Magic, Magical Creatures, and The Magic of Love And Fare. Fantasy fiction fans will be familiar with some of the material explored, including tales of vampires and werewolves, to use the modern names. And the lasting influence of the ancient era is seduced to us in refences to phantasms and superstitions of today.

Gods, goddesses, guardians of magic, and the citizens who sought to know their powers struggle to make the pages of this enjoyable and attractively presented book, which should appeal to enthusiasts of ancient history and magical material alike.
Cinema has long been fascinated by the tragic life of Post-impressionist Vincent van Gogh (1853-1903). Among a roster of reviews, documentaries and shorts, Vincent Minnelli's Love of Life (1996), Robert Altman's Vincent & Theo (1990) and Maurice Pialat's uncommercial Van Gogh (1991) are the most well-known. More recently, the experimental animated feature Loving Vincent (2017), recreated van Gogh's story in the diverse style of his iconic paintings. The Polish Polish US production proved a hit and on the back of this, comes Julian Schnabel's no less bold, at Eternity's Gate.

Willem Dafoe is far too old at 62 to play a man who died aged 37. Yet the discrepancy works as a piece of radical casting. Dafoe - who has received an Academy Award nomination for the role - delivers a nuanced, soulful performance. Set during the final years of a relatively short life, van Gogh suffered from severe mental health issues, being a peripatetic existence. Dafoe's weary face produces a suitably haggard look, inventively reflecting English and timeless beyond the artist's years. Schnabel has done a contentious thought of experiencing brief bursts of godliness and joy, before moving to reveal deep voids of emotion, without receding to overcome, is a triumph.

Schnabel sees the artist as a man. Vincent isn't just using pioneering techniques to paint things others ignored or found odd. The intention behind the work is direct communion with nature. "When I look at a flat landscape I see narwhal," he tells Gauguin (Oscar Isaac). "Painted reality is its own reality," he adds, crystallising his egocentric point with whom he shared a combustible relationship.

Suffice it to say, Escher's observations sit at counterpoint to extended, dialogue-free passages, where van Gogh traverses through rural landscapes, allowing renowned cinematographer Benoit Debie to capture pove-like images the artist's much-loved state of mind or sense of wonder at the natural world. These sequences are stirring.

Let's not forget that the art world is full of toil, tension and duress. Despite the wrapping of the famous figure into a cautionary tale - in certain scenes and shots, used to symbolise van Gogh's state of mind, it simply distract too much.

As Eternity's Gate offers an imaginative reading of van Gogh's artistic vision and processes, one in keeping with the artist's religious fervour and Schnabel's portrayal of the man as a quasi mystic. Every stroke of the brush is an act of saving and a never-ending Search to reach beyond the realm of the quotidian and ordinary. Therefore scenes with van Gogh painting his masterpiece in open field at sunrise aren't a mistake, but the thoughtful and considered depiction of a sacred visual or form of spiritual transcendence.
This lavish historical epic won every Academy Award it was nominated for, but does it win any points for accuracy?

01. Beat the beginning of the film. Puig attempts to control suicide after he is taken as a political prisoner by the puppet republic of China. While Puig was a prisoner, he was attempted to kill himself and so this particular scene is fictional.

02. The film accurately depicts the Kangaroo Court trial with Puig accused of treason. The Kangaroo Court trial took place in the Forbidden City and went on to the Imperial University where Puig was executed.

03. Puig's Scottish tutor Turgut Selim Pas mag played by Sir Ian McKellen. This is the actual tutor that Puig had in school and never went to the Forbidden City to be executed.

04. The main character in The Last Emperor played by Chow Yun-Fat is actually an actor. The actor is a Chinese actor who is not related to Puig.

05. Following his release from the Forbidden City, Puig found work as a gardener, which is correctly portrayed in the film. It also depicts the former emperor visiting the Forbidden City as a means of something that Puig was known to have done.
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