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Featured Videos: What was the Roman Republic Really Like? and Meet the Members
Multimedia Online/Featured Presentations

American Enlightenments: Pursuing Happiness in the Age of Reason

Caroline Winterer, Monday, May 8, 2017 at the Commonwealth Club

The Witches: Salem 1692

Stacy Schiff, Thursday, May 4, 2017 at the Commonwealth Club

The End of the Vikings

Linda Rugg, Thursday, February 23, 2017 at the Commonwealth Club

The Renaissance World of Cervantes and Shakespeare

Roland Greene Friday, February 26, 2016 at the Marines’ Memorial Theatre, San Francisco

Crosscurrent: Renaissance Music from England and Spain

Shira Kammen directs Gallimaufry, the new chamber chorus, performing music from the time of Cervantes and Shakespeare, including settings of their texts. With Peter Maund (percussion) and Michelle Levy (vielle) at the Humanities West presentation on Shakespeare and Cervantes on February 26, 2016 at the Marines’ Memorial Theatre, San Francisco

A Conversation with Daniel Melia

Prof. Melia, who will be the keynote speaker for our presentation on “The Celts: History, Culture, Legend” on May 6-7, 2016, discusses interesting facts with George Hammond.

The Ars Nova and Beyond: Italian Music from the Borders of the Renaissance

Shira Kammen, Tim Rayborn and Phoebe Jevtovic Rosquist Friday, October 23, 2015 at Marines’ Memorial Theatre, San Francisco

“How the Renaissance Began

Paula Findlen Friday, October 23, 2015 at Marines’ Memorial Theatre, San Francisco

The War Within the War

Adam Hochschild Friday, May 1, 2015 at Marines’ Memorial Theatre, San Francisco
Francisco

**Civil Saints and Civic Pride in the Renaissance City-State**
*Mary Doyno* Thursday, October 22, 2015 at The Commonwealth Club

**City-State, Republic, Empire: What was the Roman Republic Really Like?** (full lecture)

**City-State, Republic, Empire: What was the Roman Republic Really Like?** (5 min clip)
*Walter Scheidel* Friday, October 24, 2014 at Marines’ Memorial Theatre, San Francisco

**The Story of North Indian Classical Music**, Jun 10, 2013
A special event at the Commonwealth Club of California

*Michael Stehr on Gian Lorenzo Bernini: Michelangelo of the Baroque*, April 24, 2013,
at the Commonwealth Club (related lecture for Bernini’s Rome, April 2013)


Stephanie Pearson, **A Day in the Life of an Archaeologist at Pompeii**, Commonwealth Club,
April 26, 2012

*Roger Hahn’s presentation* from our 2007 Voltaire program. (mp3 file)

*Roger Hahn’s 2009 lecture* on The Scientific Revolution of Copernicus. (mp3 file)

Hans Vaget, **The Wagner Problem** [special lecture at the Commonwealth Club, June 2011]

Robert Scott, **Medieval Medical Cures** [related lecture for Notre Dame this fall from June 2010]

Andrea Husby, **Artemisia Gentileschi in Florence** [Florence/Medici program May
Suggested Reading and Resources for Our Programs

For seasons beginning 2015-2016, go to the Resources section on individual program listings.

The Great War: Cultural Reverberations Across Europe

Many of these books are available at local bookstores including Books Inc and Keplers, or at your local library.


McMeekin, Sean. *July 1914: Countdown to War*. Read by Steve Coulter. Audible Studios


—. *The Face of Battle*. Read by Simon Vance. Blackstone Audio


Hochschild, Adam. *To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918.*


**Web resources:**

http://www.firstworldwar.com/poetsandprose/index.htm

http://www.yale.edu/collections_collaborative/WW1/othersites.html

http://www.the-map-as-history.com/demos/tome03/index.php

http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/index.html

http://www.worldwar1.com/sfguide.htm

Video/audio archives, including songs
http://www.firstworldwar.com/audio/index.htm

Hotel Modern and the miniature war http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lFyGz6P0sos

Photos, songs, poems, regimental history
http://www.ww1photos.com/index.html

Films http://www.imdb.com/list/LSK3DsEHYsA/

UC Berkeley archive list of films
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/Warfilm.html#wwI

Resources for teachers http://www.besthistorysites.net/index.php/modern-history/ww1

Genevieve Judson-Jourdain’s German cabaret site:
https://courses.cit.cornell.edu/his452/Alcohol/germancabaret.html#photo1

The Roman Republic: 509-27 BCE


Charlemagne: The Father of Western Europe

**Suggested Short Reading List**

**By Geoffrey Koziol** (UC Berkeley)

The best scholarship on Charlemagne and the Carolingians is very difficult, while the most enjoyable is simply not very good. Luckily, the primary sources are fun, easy to read, and readily available. A good start is Thomas F. X. Noble’s collection, *Charlemagne and Louis the Pious* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009), which includes Einhard’s *Life of Charlemagne*. The most important contemporary history of Charlemagne’s reign, the *Royal Frankish Annals*, has been translated by Bernhard Scholz and Barbara Rogers-Gardner in *Carolingian Chronicles* (University of Michigan Press, 1970). Paul Dutton’s *Carolingian Civilization* (Broadview Press, 1993) provides a nice sampling of a variety of sources. One of
the most interesting collections of translated sources is a little harder to find: *The Reign of Charlemagne: Documents on Carolingian Government and Administration*, ed. H. R. Loyn and John Percival (Edward Arnold, 1975). Of secondary sources on Charlemagne and his reign, the best is probably Matthias Becher’s *Charlemagne* (Yale University Press, 2005). Rosamond McKitterick’s *Charlemagne: The Formation of a European Identity* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) is very technical, as is *Charlemagne: Empire and Society*, ed. Joanna Story (Manchester University Press, 2005). Derek Wilson’s *Charlemagne* (Doubleday, 2006) is not recommended.

**Selected Online Resources**

Fordham University’s Medieval Sourcebook has an online segment on the Carolingians:

[Internet Medieval Sourcebook: Selected Sources: The Carolingians and After.](https://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/cantab.doc)

The clear voices of the a cappella men’s ensemble Clerestory offer a chivalrous homage to Valentine’s Day with *Love and the Knight*.

**Humanities West’s Selections for Book Discussions**

5:30-6:30 pm at the Commonwealth Club.

RSVP essential, space is very limited: 415.597.6700 or commonwealthclub.org.

Club members free, non-members $5.

**On February 4, 2015:** *The Two Lives of Charlemagne*; one c. 829-36 by Einhard (c. 770-840), and one c. 883/4 by the Monk of St. Gall (usually identified with Notker Balbulus, or “the Stammerer”, d. 912) Available in PB and Kindle: Digireads, 2010.

Einhard’s *The Two Lives of Charlemagne* online.

St. Gall’s *The Two Lives of Charlemagne* online.

Amazon description: “This work contains two separate biographical accounts of Charlemagne, or Charles the Great, the man considered to be the father of Europe. One account was penned by the French, medieval biographer, Einhard, who in 791 joined the royal court to serve as an epic poet, grammarian, mathematician and architect, and ultimately a confidante to the King. Einhard’s work is believed to be the most accurate portrayal of Charlemagne, and perhaps more importantly, as the finest biography of its time. This edition also contains the highly anecdotal “life” of Charlemagne, penned by the Monk of Saint Gall, who is now commonly believed to be Notker the Stammerer. This monk, a native-German speaker, wrote the volume at the request of Charles the Fat, great-grandson of Charlemagne. Although its accuracy has been scorned by
historians, several of the monk’s amusing and witty tales have been revived in modern biographies of this powerful monarch.”

On March 4, 2015: The Song of Roland (Penguin Classics) Dorothy L. Sayers translator. 1957. Available in paperback or online. Segments are available in annotated editions by other translators as PDF documents here and here. Fordham University’s site offers a 1910 Translation by John O’Hagan with this introduction:

In the year 778 A.D., Charles the Great, King of the Franks, returned from a military expedition into Spain, whither he had been led by opportunities offered through dissensions among the Saracens who then dominated that country. On the 15th of August, while his army was marching through the passes of the Pyrenees, his rear guard was attacked and annihilated by the Basque inhabitants of the mountains, in the valley of Roncesvaux. About this disaster many popular songs, it is supposed, soon sprang up; and the chief hero whom they celebrated was Hrodland, Count of the Marches of Brittany.

There are indications that the earliest of these songs arose among the Breton followers of Hrodland or Roland; but they spread to Maine, to Anjou, to Normandy, until the theme became national. By the latter part of the eleventh century, when the form of the “Song of Roland” which we possess was probably composed, the historical germ of the story had almost disappeared under the mass of legendary accretion. Charlemagne, who was a man of thirty-six at the time of the actual Roncesvaux incident, has become in the poem an old man with a flowing white beard, credited with endless conquests; the Basques have disappeared, and the Saracens have taken their place; the defeat is accounted for by the invention of the treachery of Ganelon; the expedition of 777-778 has become a campaign of seven years; Roland is made the nephew of Charlemagne, leader of the twelve peers, and is provided with a faithful friend Oliver, and betrothed, Alda.

The poem is the first of the great French heroic poems known as “chansons de geste.” It is written in stanzas of various length, bound together by the vowel – rhyme known as assonance. It is not possible to reproduce effectively this device in English, and the author of the present translation has adopted what is perhaps the nearest equivalent – the
romantic measure of Coleridge and Scott. “Simple almost of bareness in style, without subtlety or high imagination, the Song of Roland is yet not without grandeur; and its patriotic ardor gives it a place as the earliest of the truly national poems of the modern world.

Verdi’s Masterwork

Books


**Online Resources**

[Giuseppe Verdi Official Site](#)

[National Museum Giuseppe Verdi](#)

[Stanford University list of Verdi operas, premiere locations and dates](#), etc.

[Free Scores by Verdi](#)

[Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco](#)

[Bio.com](#)

[Librettos](#)

**Recommended Resources**


—*Imperial Ideology and Political Thought in Byzantium (1204-1330)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2007.


Komnene [or Comnena], Anna. The Alexiad, (1143-53). Thought to be the first narrative history by a woman–by the daughter of Emperor Alexios I Komnenos. Available in Kindle Edition.


**Web Resources:**

*Museum of Byzantine Culture*. (Website resource of Byzantine Culture Museum in Athens, Greece).

*A Byzantine Empire Overview* (pdf document). A 36-page guide with timeline by Modern Greek Studies Faculty Thomas W. Gallant (PhD, Cambridge University, 1982), Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair and Professor of Modern Greek History.

Is Piracy the Second Oldest Profession?

**Suggested Reading and Resources**


For an early history of well-known pirates during the Golden Age of Piracy, the Kindle edition of the 1724 *Pirates* by Captain Charles Johnson [some think Daniel Defoe].

**Suggested Reading and Resources**


Fitch, Noel. *Sylvia Beach and the Lost Generation: A History of Literary Paris in the*
— *Tender is the Night*, 1934.
— *This Side of Paradise*, 1920.


— *The Sun Also Rises*. NY: Scribners, 1926.


**ONLINE, CD and VIDEO RESOURCES**

*Defining Expatriates: American Women Between the World Wars*.

*The Lost Generation*.


SF MOMA Website for *The Steins Collect Mobile Tour*.

*Behind the Scenes at the Birth of Modern Art: Matisse, Picasso and the Steins*.

*Virgil Thomson Foundation*.

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Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London

To request **A Sourcebook To Accompany Humanities West’s Charles II: Phoenix of Restoration London** please [write us](#).

**Suggested Reading and Resources**


—. *Oroonoko* (1688).

—. *The Rover* (1677).

Bucholz, Robert O. in *The Great Courses, History of England from the Tudors to the Stuarts; Foundations of Western Civilization II: A History of the Modern Western World; London: A Short History of the Greatest City in the Western World*.

—. *London: a Social and Cultural History 1550-1750* with J.P. Ward. Cambridge,


Johnson, Samuel. Lives of the Poets [for Dryden].
http://www.ourcivilisation.com/smartboard/shop/johnsons/lives/popedryd.htm


—. And Catharine MacLeod, Editors. Politics, Transgression, and Representation at the Court of Charles II. Yale, 2007.

Mc Millan, Scott (Editor). Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Comedy. Norton, 1997. [contains Wycherley’s The Country Wife (1675); Etherege’s Man of Mode (1676); Behn’s The Rover (1677); Congreve’s The Way of the World (1700); Steele’s The Conscious Lovers (1722) Sheridan’s The School for Scandal (1777).


Suggested Reading and Resources


Zucker, Steven and Beth Harris. A Series of Narrated Tours of Baroque in Italy: [http://smarthistory.khanacademy.org/baroque-italy.html](http://smarthistory.khanacademy.org/baroque-italy.html), narrated by Dr. Beth Harris and Dr. Steven Zucker.


Other Online Sources:

Music of the Baroque
http://musiced.about.com/od/timelines/a/baroquetimeline.htm

Essential Humanities History of Baroque Music
http://www.essentialhumanities.net/s_art_mus_time.php

Online timelines:
Music of the Baroque
http://musiced.about.com/od/timelines/a/baroquetimeline.htm
Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, Metropolitan Museum

- Bernini essay: http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/bern/hd_bern.htm

Pompeii & Herculaneum

Short List of Recommended Resources
Compiled by Chuck Sieloff

Are you wanting to learn more about Pompeii and Herculaneum, but don’t have a lot of time to spare? Here are some suggestions in a wide variety of formats and styles that might help.

Pompeii: The Day a City Died by Robert Etienne (1992, 215pp) is part of the excellent Discoveries series. It is compact, clearly written, beautifully illustrated, and includes a selection of ancient and modern documents about the topic.

The dramatic nature of the destruction and rediscovery of Pompeii and Herculaneum has inspired many attempts to dramatize and visually recreate the events. Among the better examples are Secrets of the Dead: Herculaneum Uncovered (DVD, 2007, 60 min., available on Netflix), which focuses on the lesser known, but better preserved, town near Pompeii, and Pompeii: Back from the Dead (Discovery Channel, DVD, 2011, 43 min., available on Netflix), which covers some of the most recent archaeological research.

David Macaulay’s Roman City (DVD, 1994, 60 min., available on Netflix) uses the remains of Pompeii and Herculaneum to illustrate how the Roman “culture of city builders” used techniques for urban planning and infrastructure engineering that were unsurpassed for 1500 years. Fans of historical fiction will enjoy Robert Harris’ Pompeii: A Novel (2005, 304pp, also available in Kindle and audio formats), which recreates the atmosphere leading up to the famous eruption.

Suggested Reading and Resources


*The Pompeii Forum Project* (Photographs and a street tour of Pompeii can be found under “Notes for Teachers and Students”)


Photographs of Pompeii.

Pompeii Food and Drink.


Recommendations below are from the [NGA Workshop Site for Students and Teachers](#)

**Books**


**Web Sites**
The Web site of the Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompei features virtual tours, a feature for kids, news, and a lot more. Includes Pompeii and other sites. English and Italian.

Access to two classic works on Roman life and history, a detailed genealogy of the gods, and more.

The Internet Ancient History Sourcebook — a trove of texts (in English and Latin), images, and links to a wide range of topics.

See what Vesuvius and other volcanoes worldwide have been up to from the Smithsonian’s Global Volcanism Program.

Learn more about Roman art from the Web sites of museums with outstanding ancient collections, including the British Museum, the Louvre, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Notre Dame: The Soul of Medieval Paris

It is often said that the central character in Victor Hugo’s novel (called simply Notre Dame de Paris in the original) is the cathedral itself. Published in 1831, and partly responsible for renewed public interest in restoring the neglected landmark, The Hunchback of Notre Dame is readily available in book, audiobook, and Kindle formats, and has been made into at least five English-language films (most notably the 1923 silent version starring Lon Chaney).

To learn more about how Gothic cathedrals were actually constructed, see David Macaulay’s beautifully illustrated classic, Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction (1973, 79pp; also available in Kindle and made into a one-hour video), the fictionalized step-by-step account of an 86 year process to create a magnificent cathedral in medieval France.

Robert A. Scott, one of the featured speakers at our program, explains the broader social and religious context of the great cathedrals in The Gothic Enterprise: A Guide to Understanding the Medieval Cathedral (2003, 250pp).

Another of our speakers, Stephen Murray of Columbia University, is the co-creator of a web site that also presents a broad view of Gothic art and architecture in France: Mapping Gothic France. Although still a work in progress, the site is an impressive demonstration of computer graphics, mapping, and panoramic images. A good web site devoted to Notre Dame is Earthlore Explorations.

Suggested Reading and Resources

High Middle Ages Intellectual History


**Art**


**Architecture**


**Manuscripts**


Hedeman, Anne D. *The Royal Image: Illustrations of the Grandes chroniques de
On The Web

Amiens Cathedral Web site: A comprehensive Web resource addressing the historical context and significance of Amiens Cathedral through the use of original photography, QuickTime movies, Flash animations, and three-dimensional computer models.

France, Paris, Cathedral, Interactive Ground Plan

France, Paris, Cathedral, Diagrams

France, Paris, Cathedral, Animated Glossary

French Capetian kings

Gothic Architecture

Gothic Sculpture: A review of the tombs, portals, choir screens and freestanding sculpture of the Gothic period will provoke a discussion of issues concerning devotional practices; liturgy; attitudes to the body, death, and transcendence as well as the more traditional concerns with style, iconography, color and chronology.

Intellectual Infrastructures and Networks at Paris in 12th and in early 13th centuries  By Hee-Man Lee

Mapping Gothic France

Medieval Life and Times

Medieval Millennium: Objects of Desire  (Spring 2000)

Medieval Music: Crusade songs came to us almost entirely from the repertories of the troubadours and trouveres. That in itself seems to be a fact of great importance, for coexisting in the musical spectrum of the twelfth and thirteenth
centuries were other important repertories. Alongside the secular, vernacular chant of troubadours and trouveres there was, on the one hand, the Latin sacred chant still cultivated in the monasteries, and, on the other hand, an entirely distinct repertory, that of the new polyphonic or “part-music,” which flourished not at court nor in the monastery but in the great urban cathedrals of the north, especially at Notre Dame de Paris.

—Richard L. Crocker on Early Crusade Songs

Panorama of St. John the Divine: Travel through the architecture of St. John the Divine.

Sarum Seminar. The Sarum Seminar is a continuously-evolving program for enthusiasts of Gothic cathedrals and medieval life. It began with a 1994 course on Salisbury Cathedral taught by Robert Scott through Stanford University’s Continuing Studies Program.

Use of Artificial Intelligence to Study Gothic Cathedrals

Victor Hugo’s Hunchback of Notre Dame as a free e-book.

The Power and Glory of China’s Ming Dynasty

A short overview of the Ming period from several different thematic perspectives can be found in John W. Dardess’ Ming China, 1368-1644: A Concise History of a Resilient Empire (2012, 135pp.). The dramatic voyages of Zheng He’s massive armada are the central focus of Louise Levathes’ When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 1405-1433 (1994, 203pp.) and of Edward L. Dreyer’s biography, Zheng He: China and the Oceans in the Early Ming Dynasty, 1405-1433 (2007, 186pp.). There is also a National Geographic documentary, Treasure Fleet: The Adventures of Zheng He (2007, 1hr 33min, available on YouTube), that provides historical context and also retraces the path of the voyages to seek out modern evidence relating to the long-forgotten encounters. For a different and colorful depiction of everyday life among a broad cross-section of Ming society, try an excellent collection of short stories by the prolific late Ming writer, Feng Menglong, The Oil Vendor and the Courtesan: Tales from the Ming Dynasty (2007, 257pp.)

Do you only have time for one read?

Try this one:

Suggested Reading and Resources

Antony, Robert J. Like Froth Floating on the Sea: the World of Pirates and Seafarers in Late Imperial South China. 2003.


—. Stories to Awaken the World, 2009.


Also:

**The Ming History English Translation Project**

Minoan Crete: The Dawn of European Civilization

**Short Resource List for Minoan Crete**

Compiled by Chuck Sieloff

One of the best introductions to the rediscovery of Minoan civilization is Alexandre Farnoux’s *Knossos: Searching for the Legendary Palace of King Minos* (1996, 159pp), part of the excellent Discoveries series (i.e., concise, lavishly illustrated, with selected historical documents). *The Minotaur's Island* is an informative, if somewhat melodramatic, video documentary (2008, 98 minutes, available through Netflix or Amazon) featuring historian Bettany Hughes summarizing what we know about Minoan Crete today. Cathy Gere’s *Knossos & the Prophets of Modernism* (2009, 234pp. also in Kindle format) details how the rediscovery and interpretation of Minoan culture was heavily influenced by a war-ravaged Europe’s eagerness to find and embrace a more benign and peaceful cultural heritage. For those who enjoy historical fiction, Mary Renault’s classic *The King Must Die* (originally 1958, but numerous recent editions plus audiobook...
format) retells the legend of Theseus’ encounter with the Minoans, against the backdrop of a cataclysmic volcanic eruption.

**Suggested Reading and Resources**


—. *The Late Helladic Pottery from Prosymna.* 1996.


The Prehistoric Archeology of the Aegean at Dartmouth University

Minoan Crete. Digiserve by Ian Swindale. 1998-2008. Rethymno, Crete, Greece

Minoan Crete by the Foundation of the Hellenic World

The Knossos Snake Goddess, by Christopher L. C. E. Witcombe, Sweet Briar College in Virginia


Minoan Cultural Achievements: Links to many images of Minoan pottery, painting, jewelry, etc.

Palace of Knossos: Virtual reality tour

Toledo: The Multicultural Challenges of Medieval Spain

Chris Lowney’s *A Vanished World: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Medieval Spain* (2006, 320pp) focuses on the messy reality of a multicultural society in which the pragmatic need to coexist goes hand-in-hand with factionalism, political fragmentation, and ever-shifting alliances that often crossed cultural boundaries. Maria Rosa Menocal gives a somewhat more idealized and romanticized view of “convivencia” in *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain* (2003, 352pp, available in Kindle format). Menocal also co-authored (with Jerrilynn D. Dodds and Abigail Krasner Balbale) an award-winning study of cross-cultural influences in Castillian art, architecture, and literature: *The Arts of Intimacy: Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the Making of Castillian Culture* (2009, 416pp). The book, which focuses on Toledo, is lavishly illustrated and includes a 64-page bibliographic essay and a detailed chronology. Teofilo Ruiz, a featured speaker at the program, has created a Teaching Company video course, *The Other 1492: Ferdinand, Isabella, and the Making of an Empire* (12 half-hour lectures) which provides excellent historical background and context, although its emphasis is on the transition from medieval Iberia to modern Spain, rather than on the long period of Muslim/Christian/Jewish coexistence.

In Depth Resource List
Contributed by Kerrin Meis, Mary Elizabeth Perry, and Deborah Loft [notes by Kerrin Meis]


“Historical Maps – Perry-Castañeda Map Collection – UT Library Online.”


—. Gender and Disorder in Early Modern Seville, tr. and published in Spain as Ni


Venice: Queen of the Adriatic

**Short List of Recommended Resources for Venice: Queen of the Adriatic**

Elizabeth Horodowich has written a short and very readable summary, *A Brief History of Venice: A New History of the City and Its People* (2009, pb, 230pp), which includes brief references to the physical remains from each period that may still be seen today when visiting the city.

Somewhat denser is William H. McNeill’s *Venice: The Hinge of Europe, 1081-1797* (originally published in 1974, reissued in 2009, pb, 323pp), which focuses more attention on Venice’s relations with the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires and the
emerging European powers.

If art is your primary focus, Patricia Fortini Brown’s *Art and Life in Renaissance Venice* (2005, pb, 176pp) provides historical and social context along with excellent illustrations. Jan Morris originally wrote her impressionistic portrait of Venice fifty years ago, but has revised it several times for later editions. It is currently available as *Venice* in Kindle (2008, 336pp) and Audiobook (2010, 5:16 hours) formats, and in book form as *The World of Venice* (1995, pb, 320pp).

Our featured speaker for the Friday evening program (Oct. 22), Joanne Ferraro, provides an unusual perspective on Venice’s social history and the role of women in *Marriage Wars in Late Renaissance Venice* (2001, 240pp, also available in Kindle), based on her examination of court records of marital disputes.

**Recommended Resources for Venice: Queen of the Adriatic**


**Literature Set in Venice**

Dumas, Alexandre. *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1844)


Mann, Thomas. *Death in Venice* (1912)


Shakespeare, William. *The Merchant of Venice* (~1596)

Shakespeare, William. *Othello* (~1603)
Online Resources

Search Engine for Medieval, Renaissance and Classical Studies

National Gallery of Art Venice Collection

The Venice Project at Yale University Sterling Library

Copernicus, Galileo, and Kepler

Thomas S. Kuhn’s classic work, *The Copernican Revolution: Planetary Astronomy in the Development of Western Thought* (1957; currently in 24th printing; 297 pp) recreates the historical context within which new astronomical concepts and observations battled for acceptance, eventually changing the way man perceived his place in the universe. Owen Gingerich takes an unusual approach in *The Book Nobody Read: Chasing the Revolutions of Nicolaus Copernicus* (2004, 306 pp). He tracks down and physically examines the earliest copies of the book that started it all, Copernicus’ *De Revolutionibus*, to determine who read the book and how they reacted to its ideas (as revealed in marginal notes and comments). Dava Sobel’s popular *Galileo’s Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love* (1999, 420 pp; also available as audiobook) uses the surviving letters of his oldest child to create a more personal perspective on Galileo’s life and work. There are also two good PBS specials relevant to our program: *Galileo’s Battle for the Heavens* (Nova, 2002, 120 min.) and *400 Years of the Telescope* (2009, 60 min.), both readily available from Netflix. PBS has also created a web site to provide additional educational materials related to its Galileo program.

Please contact Humanities West by email for a special study guide/reader, available only to ticket holders. (Delivered as a PDF document.)

Selected Resources

“. . . a majority of people in the United States still do not accept the validity of evolution.” *Copernicus, Gaileo and Kepler in Context* (pdf document)

Print resources:


DeGrasse Tyson, Neil. *Death by Black Hole: And Other Cosmic Quandaries*. W.W.


Internet resources:

**Binary Stars**
Free astronomy software for Macintosh computers, complete with manuals, for teaching binary star concepts in the classroom or for personal use.

**NASA TV**
An interactive, Internet-based TV channel that has specials on human space flight, astronomy and the cosmos:

**The Chabot Space and Science Center**, located in the Oakland, has an excellent planetarium. This summer, 2009, the Chabot center will feature Maya Skies. Maya Skies will be a captivating bi-lingual full-dome digital planetarium show featuring the scientific achievements, and the cosmology, of the Maya. Using cutting-edge laser scanning, photography and computer technology the production will provide an immersive experience of unprecedented realism, and a story about real and mythical characters in the Maya world who practiced astronomy with precision and purpose.

Visit their [website](http://www.chabot.edu) to garner a view from their web-cam, positioned atop a Mayan temple in the Yucatan, Mexico. The Chabot Center also offers, every Friday and Saturday night, *Dinner, a Movie and the Universe*, a unique program that features an immersive astronomer-led live, or prerecorded, presentation and digitally animated music show. In addition, Chabot has a remarkable set of telescopes, which include a modern 36” reflecting telescope and a 20” refractor commissioned in 1914. The observatory is open, free, to the public every Friday and Saturday night.

**The Morrison Planetarium**, located in the Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, is the largest all-digital planetarium in the world. Programs combine traditional star shows with life “tours of the Universe,” NASA feeds as well as broadcasts from scientists in the field.

**space.com** features news, educational material and video feeds, as well as information on constellations, human exploration, cosmology and resources for educators.

**Stardate.org** is an excellent site that includes news and events. It features information on stargazing, star-maps, constellations, human exploration, a guide to the solar system, cosmology, as well as resources for educators and a radio program, which can be accessed through their website.

**Hubblesite** is an excellent source for information, news, upcoming astronomy events, astronomers, cosmology human exploration, trivia and educational material. It is especially useful as a resource for obtaining images. Particularly interesting can be seen [here](http://www.nasa.gov), [here](http://www.nasa.gov), [here](http://www.nasa.gov), [here](http://www.nasa.gov), [here](http://www.nasa.gov), [here](http://www.nasa.gov), and [here](http://www.nasa.gov).
The Hubble Heritage project site is a rich source for images from the Hubble Telescope.

Some notable images are: here, here, and here.

**NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory** is a telescope specially designed to detect X-ray emission from very hot regions of the Universe such as exploded stars, clusters of galaxies, and matter around black holes. The Smithsonian's Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, MA, hosts the Chandra X-ray Center which operates the satellite, processes the data, and distributes it to scientists around the world for analysis. The Center maintains an extensive public web site about the science results and an education program. Their website is an excellent source for news and features information on human exploration, cosmology, space probes, galaxies, constellations, stars and nebulae, star lore, and a particularly useful site for obtaining images and educational material.

An Astronomy Calendar Free of Charge.

**Astronomy picture of the Day** provides an astronomy picture everyday that is accompanied by a brief description by an astronomer.

**Excellent views of the Martian landscape.**

**The Kepler Mission**: a search for habitable planets.

**The American Astronomical Society**

**The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.**

**From Earth to the Universe Exhibition.**

A free download, **Starry Night Online** is software that allows you to enter your zip code and the direction you’re facing, and will show you on the screen what stars and planets you should be seeing at that particular date and time of night. A similar application is available for the iPhone.

**The Space Telescope Science Institute** (STScI) — home of science program selection, grant administration, planning, scheduling, and public outreach activities for the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). STScI provides data archive and distribution for all of NASA’s optical/UV missions, including HST.

**Time Magazine** has several interesting, short programs on space and space exploration to coincide with the International Year of Astronomy available for viewing on their website.

In April 2009, the **New York Times** ran an article on Galileo, the Medici and the Age
of Astronomy, an important exhibition that is currently at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia from April 4th-Sept. 7th, 2009.

**The permanent home of the Galileo materials.**

**The Institute and Museum of the History of Science** in Florence also has information on the Medicis and Science.

**Galileo's Vision** by David Zax in the July 2009 Smithsonian Magazine.

**Nova** has put together an informative web page that offers information on Galileo. It includes a brief illustrated history of his life, a modern perspective on his accomplishments, a brief overview of the workings of his telescope, as well as interactive web experiments.

A two-hour documentary on Galileo from Nova, available from Google Video.

**The Galileo Project:** Rice University offers information on the life and work of Galileo.

**Project Gutenberg** offers the following books available for free download:

- **The Martyrs of Science, or, The Lives of Galileo, Tycho Brahe, and Kepler**
- **Kepler**
- **Pleasures of the Telescope**, an illustrated guide for amateur astronomers and popular description of the chief wonders of the heavens for general readers.

**The Astronomy of Milton's 'Paradise Lost'** Chapter IV, describing (and imagining the details of) the meeting between Milton and Galileo, and also describes the latter’s use of anagrams in recording his discoveries.

Alexander/Alexandria

This list is for those who would like to do a little background research for the upcoming program about Alexander and Alexandria, but don’t have much time. The emphasis is on resources that are concise, easily accessible in a variety of formats, and aimed at a general (rather than scholarly) audience.

There are, of course, innumerable biographies of Alexander the Great, but if you are looking for a short, readable, and lavishly illustrated introduction to his life and historical impact, try Alexander the Great: Son of the Gods by Alan Fildes and Joann Fletcher (Paperback, 2004; 176pp). Alexander’s life has also been the subject of many TV and video documentaries, of variable quality. The History Channel’s The True Story of Alexander the Great (2004; 2hrs 30min; available on Netflix) gives a reasonably balanced account drawing on both ancient and modern sources with high-quality production values.
Alexandria: Jewel of Egypt by Jean-Yves Empereur (part of the excellent Discoveries series) provides a concise, but richly illustrated, overview of Alexandria’s history from its founding in 331 BCE to its modern role as Egypt’s second city and includes selected extracts from historical documents and literary sources. (Paperback, 2002; 158 pp.) A thorough historical analysis of Alexandria’s role as the center of Hellenistic culture may be found in The Rise and Fall of Alexandria: Birthplace of the Modern World by Justin Pollard and Howard Reid (Paperback, 2006; 329pp; also available in Kindle and Audiobook formats).

The Egyptology Online website provides a capsule history of the city, while the significance of the ancient Library and its modern re-incarnation are discussed on the travel-oriented site, Sacred Destinations.

Selected Resources, Compiled by Susan Petrakis, PhD

Primary Sources


Secondary Sources


Charbonneaux, Jean, Jean Martin and Roland Villard. *Hellenistic Greece*. NY:


**Alexandria in Literature**


Durell, Lawrence. The Alexandria Quartet. 1962. (Justine, Balthazar, Mountolive, Clea)


Interesting Links:

Humanities Interactive, Texas

K12IMC : Instructional Media Center:, a Virtual Library for K12.

Egyptology Online

Destinations:

Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Other Links to Egypt Sites

The American Research Center in Egypt ARCE) Northern California Chapter has a page with summaries of lectures delivered at its membership meetings, as well as links to selected Egypt websites.

The House of Ptolemy

The Florence of the Medici
If you would like to learn a little more about our topic, but don’t have a lot of extra time to invest, try some of these resources.

Jerry Brotton’s *The Renaissance: A Very Short Introduction* (2006, 148pp., also available in Kindle format) puts the period in the broadest possible context, emphasizing often neglected aspects like the influence of Byzantine and Islamic cultures and the role of new technologies like the printing press. *The Renaissance – In a Nutshell* by Peter Whitfield provides a concise and insightful summary of the Italian Renaissance, with special emphasis on Florence, in a 72-minute audiobook (2009).

If you don’t mind the melodramatic presentation style, PBS has a four-part video series on *The Medici, Godfathers of the Renaissance* as part of its *Empires* series (3 hours, 40 minutes, available through Netflix). It provides a solid introduction to our topic, and features our Friday night speaker, Dale Kent, as one of the academic commentators.

If art is your primary interest, A. Richard Turner’s *Renaissance Florence: The Invention of a New Art* provides a lavishly illustrated introduction (1997, 176pp.). Finally, an excellent web site *Renaissance – Focus on Florence* provides a wealth of background material aimed at teachers under the umbrella of Annenberg Media’s Learner.org.

**Suggested resources, compiled by Monika J. Collins**


Luchinat, Cristina Acidini and Suzanne B. Butters and Marco Chiarini and Janet


Martines, Lauro: *An Italian Renaissance Sextet: Six Tales in Historical Context (1994)*


**Online Resources:**

The Bodman Collection of Italian Renaissance Manuscripts at Clarenmont College’s Digital Library is but a small part of the splendid collection of books, incunabula, and manuscripts assembled and given to Honnold/Mudd Library from 1956 to 1960, by Mr. Harold C. Bodman. On view in this digital collection are eleven autograph, signed letters written between members of the Medici family of Florence and others in their social and political circles, including Angelo Poliziano, the Sforza family, Palla Strozzi, and Francesco Guicciardini.

The Medici Archival Project offers an extensive on-line database, online courses and training for emerging Renaissance scholars.

Renaissance – Focus on Florence is a site by the Annenberg/CPB foundation that focuses on the many aspects of Renaissance Italy, such as trade and exploration.

A comprehensive site on Italian Renaissance art is The Italian Renaissance Art Project, a database of images and biographies of major artists.

The Museum of Science in Boston has an interactive website that has detailed information on Leonardo da Vinci’s life.

The Florentine Chronicle has the text of a primary source from 1348 that describes the effects of the Bubonic Plague on Florence.

The University of Oregon offers a wealth of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts on the Web.

The Ente Cassa Di Risparmio Di Firenze has an excellent exhibition on Catherine Di Medici, which includes an online virtual tour.
Confronting Napoleon: European Culture at the Crossroads

A Short Resource List, compiled by Charles Sieloff, PhD

It has been said that more books have been written about Napoleon than about any other man, except for Jesus Christ, and our extended reading list contains a number a massive biographies and histories that could keep the average reader busy for years. If, on the other hand, you are simply looking for relatively quick and painless ways to broaden your understanding of Napoleon and his impact on Europe, you might want to start with D. G. Wright’s *Napoleon and Europe* (Seminar Studies in History series, Longman, 1984; 137pp), which combines 95 pages of balanced and concise narrative with a section of short document excerpts, an extensive bibliography, and a chronology. Alexander Grab’s *Napoleon and the Transformation of Europe* (European History in Perspective series, Palgrave, 2003; 249pp; also available in Kindle format) provides separate chapters for each major country, clearly showing how Napoleon’s impact was always a mixture of modernizing reform and Franco-centric exploitation.

For those who want to know more about the central figure of the age, Vincent Cronin’s *Napoleon* (Harpercollins, 1995; 400pp) offers a balanced, but basically positive account of his life, without dwelling on the minutiae of his military exploits. Paul Johnson’s short biography, *Napoleon: A Life* (Penguin Lives series, paperback 2006; 208pp; also available in Kindle format and as an audiobook) challenges the hero-worshiping view of Napoleon, seeing him as an essentially negative precursor to the traumatic era of European conflicts in the 20th century. PBS Home Video also has a four-hour documentary *Napoleon* (2000; re-released 2006 as part of the Empires series) available from Netflix or Amazon.

Two of our speakers have also made significant contributions of the history of Napoleonic Europe, with Steven Englund’s *Napoleon: A Political Life* (Harvard U. Press, pb 2005; 600pp) and Juan Cole’s *Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East* (Palgrave, pb 2008; 304pp; also available as an audiobook).

A Longer Resource List, Compiled by Stanford Intern Andrew Linford


Bell, David A. *The First Total War: Napoleon’s Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It* (2007)


Chandler, David G. *The Campaigns of Napoleon* (1973)

Cole, Juan. *Napoleon’s Egypt: Invading the Middle East* (2007)

Cole, Juan. *Engaging the Muslim World* (March 17, 2009)


Dwyer, Philip. *Napoleon: The Path to Power* (2008)


Moreh, Shmuel and Tignor, Robert L. *Napoleon In Egypt: Al-jabarti’s Chronicle Of The French Occupation, 1798* (2005)


Tolstoy, Leo. *War and Peace* (1869)

Woolf, Stuart. *Napoleon’s Integration of Europe* (1991)


Zamoyski, Adam. *Rites of Peace: The Fall of Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna* (2008)

PBS web site in support of Empires series on Napoleon, first broadcast in 2000. Contains background material, short histories of Napoleon and Josephine, the politics of the time, timelines, study guides for students.

Juan Cole’s site for Napoleon’s Egypt campaign, with many links to other...
India is a land of staggering complexity and diversity, so it is not easy to come up with a short list of accessible resources for those who have lots of curiosity, but only limited time to devote to the topic. If you are looking for a brief introduction to the grand sweep of Indian history, try *India: An Illustrated History* by Prem Kishore and Anuradha Kishore Ganpati (2003, 200 pp, paperback).

Our keynote speaker, Shashi Tharoor, has recently published a collection of essays about the tensions between tradition and modernity in today’s India: *The Elephant, The Tiger, And the Cell Phone: Reflections on India, the Emerging 21st-Century Power* (2008, 498pp, paperback). Another interesting collection of essays dealing with India’s cultural diversity is Gita Mehta’s *Snakes and Ladders* (1998, 320pp, paperback; also available in audio book format from Amazon or Audible.com).

During the program, Vikram Chandra will be reading from his massive award-winning novel, *Sacred Games*; he has also published a book of short stories and novellas called *Love and Longing in Bombay* (1998, 272pp, paperback), which might provide a more accessible introduction to his work. For fans of Indian cinema, Netflix offers 8-10 movies by Satyajit Ray, and a separate genre category devoted to the “Best of Bollywood.”

For a brief overview of India, [click here](#). (pdf file)

Selected Resources, Compiled by Stanford Intern Andrew Linford


Gandhi, Mohandas. *Freedom’s Battle*, Young India (1922)


Tharoor, Shashi. *India: From Midnight to the Millennium and Beyond* (1997)


**Online Resources:**


Tharoor, Shashi. Essays. [YouTube video 1](#), [YouTube video 2](#).

This [youtube video](#) discusses the effects of dowries on Indian women.


Vikram Chandra reading from some of his writing. [YouTube video](#).

Performance on the Sitar by Ravi Shankar. [YouTube video](#).

Benjamin Franklin and the Invention of America

There is a wealth of excellent material available on Benjamin Franklin, so the problem is really where to start, if your intellectual curiosity about the topic exceeds the limited amount of time you have available for personal research. The PBS Home Video mini-series, *Benjamin Franklin* (2002, 210 minutes), provides an excellent introduction, and is available from either Amazon or Netflix. Several good biographies have appeared in the last few years, but Edmund Morgan’s
Benjamin Franklin (2002, 353 pp.) is probably the most accessible for a general reading public. If you would prefer a more comprehensive, and considerably longer, treatment, then turn to either Walter Isaacson’s Benjamin Franklin: An American Life (2003, 608 pp) or H.W. Brands’ The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin (2002, 784 pp.). Gordon S. Wood, The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin (2004, 320 pp.), takes a more iconoclastic view of Franklin’s roots as a loyal British subject and a reluctant convert to the colonial cause, more admired abroad than at home until his somewhat belated rediscovery and canonization in the 19th century as the prototypical American. (The Isaacson and Wood books are also available as audio books from audible.com, as is a series of lectures by Brands entitled Benjamin Franklin: The Original American.)

Franklin was a popular and prolific writer himself, and his Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin (2003, 160 pp., but available in many other editions) is still considered a classic, although it does not cover the later phases of his life. An excellent way to sample the full breadth of his writing is A Benjamin Franklin Reader (2005, 576 pp.), which was compiled and annotated by Walter Isaacson, and includes the complete Autobiography. (The Autobiography and other Franklin works are also available in audio editions from audible.com.)

Selected Readings
Compiled by Dee Andrews, Andrew Linford, Susan Petrakis, PhD, Jessica Riskin, PhD

Anderson, Douglas. The Radical Enlightenments of Benjamin Franklin (1997)


Cohen, I.Bernard. Benjamin Franklin’s Science (1990)

Cohen. Benjamin Franklin: Scientist and Statesman (1975)

Franklin, Benjamin. All Benjamin Franklin’s writing can be found online at franklinpapers.org, a Yale University research project; digital edition funded by Packard Humanities Institute.

Franklin, Benjamin. “A Dissertation on Liberty and Necessity, Pleasure and Pain” (1725)

Franklin, Benjamin. Poor Richard’s Almanac (1733 – 1746)

Franklin, Benjamin. Experiments and Observations on Electricity (1754)
Franklin — Collinson, July 11th 1747
Franklin — Collinson, Sept. 1st 1747
Franklin — Collinson, April 29th 1749
Opinions and Conjectures, concerning the Properties and Effects
Franklin, Benjamin. “Observations Concerning the Increase of Mankind, Peopling of Countries, etc.” (1769)

Franklin, Benjamin. “Positions to be Examined, Concerning National Wealth” (1769)

Franklin, Benjamin. “Rules By Which A Great Empire May Be Reduced To A Small One” (1773)

Franklin, Benjamin. “A Plan for Improving the Condition of the Free Blacks” (1790)

Franklin, Benjamin. Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin (1790)

Franklin, Benjamin. The Art of Eating (1958, 2006)

Green, Stuart. Dear Doctor Franklin: E-mails to a Founding Father about Science, Medicine & Technology (2008)


Lopez, Claude-Anne. My Life with Benjamin Franklin (2000)

Lopez and Herbet, Eugenia W. The Private Franklin: The Man and His Family (1975)

Middlekauff, Robert. Benjamin Franklin and His Enemies (1996)


Nash, Gary B. The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America (2005)


Sappenfield, James A. A Sweet Instruction: Franklin’s Journalism as a Literary

Smith, Jeffery Alan. *Franklin and Bache: Envisioning the Enlightened Republic* (1990)


Van Doren, Carl, ed. *The Letters of Benjamin Franklin and Jane Mecom* (1950)


Walters, Kerry S. *Benjamin Franklin and His Gods* (1999)


**DVD and CD**


**Youtube Links**

[Glass Armonica](#)

[Part of the HBO miniseries on John Adams:](#)

**Other Websites**

[franklinpapers.org](http://franklinpapers.org)

[Guide to Benjamin Franklin](#)

[Teaching Ben Franklin](#)

[Ben Franklin 300](#)

[pbs.org/benfranklin](http://pbs.org/benfranklin)
Recommended Short List

For those who would like a quick and painless overview of ancient Athens, the two-hour PBS documentary *Athens: Dawn of Democracy* is a good place to start. It is readily available from Amazon or Netflix. The well-known historian, Donald Kagan, has written the best modern biography of our central figure, *Pericles of Athens and the Birth of Democracy* (Free Press, 1998), available in paperback from Amazon. A more in-depth treatment of the history and culture of ancient Athens can be found in *The World of Athens: An Introduction to Classical Athenian Culture*, put together by the Joint Association of Classical Teachers. A new, heavily revised edition will be available on April 30, 2008 (just in time for our program), but the well-received 1984 edition is also available on Amazon at a greatly reduced price.

If you are interested in the enduring cultural legacy of ancient Greece, you might want to read the modern translation of Euripides’ three great war plays: *James Morwood* (translator), *Euripides: The Trojan Women and Other Plays* (Oxford World’s Classics. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2001), or Charles H. Kahn’s short book about *Pythagoras and the Pythagoreans: A Brief History* (Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett. 2001). Another recent PBS show, *Secrets of the Parthenon* (Nova series), presents new discoveries about the building techniques used by the Greeks. It can also be ordered from Amazon, but will not be released for sale until April 29, 2008, just a few days before our program. If you are particularly interested in the architecture of the Acropolis, Jeffrey Hurwit’s *The Acropolis in the Age of Pericles* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2004) offers a richly illustrated history, including a CD-ROM with 180 color images.

Extended Reading List


Empire on Horseback: Genghis Khan and the Mongols

No, we don’t require homework, but this program exposes us to some peoples and places that may be less familiar than many of our usual topics. For those who would like to get some additional context and perspective, but who don’t have a lot of time to invest, the following short list of recommendations has been compiled with the help of our keynote speaker, Daniel Waugh, who has also provided the much more comprehensive list of resources shown below.

“The Mongols in World History,” is a Columbia University web site intended as a very quick survey for educators and students. The material is well-informed and produced under the expert supervision of Prof. Morris Rossabi, another one of our speakers.

“The Pax Mongolica” by Daniel Waugh, is on the website of the Silkroad Foundation. It provides a quick, balanced assessment of the Mongol impact.

David O. Morgan, The Mongols (Second Edition, Blackwell, 2007, paperback). This is the best overview of the history of the Mongol Empire. Note though, that as a Persia specialist Morgan has good reasons rather to dislike the Mongols, since some areas of the Middle East never recovered from their invasion. (Purchasing this book through the provided link to Amazon.com helps Humanities West: Learn more by clicking here.)

For the art of the Mongols and their successors in the Middle East, do not miss the beautifully designed Internet exhibit, “The Legacy of Genghis Khan: Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256-1353)” which was created in conjunction with a museum exhibition mounted first at the Metropolitan Museum in New York and then at the Los Angeles Country Museum. Some additional material
compiled by another of our speakers, Stefano Carboni, may be found on the Metropolitan Museum’s web site.

The National Geographic published a two-part series: “Lord of the Mongols: Genghis Khan” (Dec. 1996, with a Map Supplement: Mongol Khans and their Legacy) and “The Great Khans: Sons of Genghis” (Feb. 1997). Unfortunately, these articles are not available on-line, so you will have to go to your local library or rummage through your attic to find them.

In a lighter vein, a must-see film (available from Netflix) is The Story of the Weeping Camel (2004), written and directed by Luigi Falorni and Bayambasuren Davaa and distributed by the National Geographic. It is more than just a cute, child-oriented film with a four-legged scene-stealer. One can learn something here about contemporary herders in a world where none can be isolated from modern life.

—Compiled by Daniel Waugh
University of Washington, Seattle

Please contact Humanities West at info@humanitieswest.org for a special study guide/reader, compiled by Daniel Waugh, and available only to ticket holders: The Mongol Empire Through the Eyes of Contemporaries. (Delivered as a PDF document.)

A superb online resource:
The Mongols in World History: Professor Morris Rossabi, one of the presenters, is the faculty consultant for this website project.

Additional Reading and Viewing Resources

The list here is far from exhaustive, as there are a great many books, scholarly and popular, on Mongol history and on Genghis (Chingis) Khan, as well as many modern travel narratives about Mongolia. The choices here are primarily accessible works in English which the compiler recommends highly and which are available either in a good library or to purchase. Where possible, information has been provided about materials which may be accessed through the Internet.

Historic (primary) sources:

Paul Kahn and Francis Woodman Cleaves, tr. and ed., Secret History of the Mongols: The Origin of Chingis Khan (Cheng & Tsui, 1999). Kahn has taken the scholarly Cleaves translation and “re-translated” it into more colloquial English. This account is based on oral tradition of the Mongols themselves and is the closest we can get to an “inside” look at traditional Mongol world view in the lifetime of Chingis Khan. The now standard annotated scholarly translation is The Secret History of the Mongols: A Mongolian Epic Chronicle of the Thirteenth Century, tr. with a historical and philological commentary by Igor de Rachewiltz, 2
Monumenta Altaica: Altaic Linguistics has information, bibliography and texts of the Secret History in German, French, Russian and modern Mongolian. The [website](http://www.monumenta-altaica.org) has other resources if you are interested in the language.

The Secret History is at the core of a ballyhooed and self-indulgent book by anthropologist Jack Weatherford, *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World* (NY: Crown, 2004), which is, however, a-historical and indulges in fanciful generalizations about Mongol impact on world history even though it has the virtue of casting the Mongols in a very positive light and tries to understand something of the cultural milieu out of which Chingis emerged.

Ata-Malik Juvaini, *Genghis Khan: The History of the World Conqueror*, tr. J. A. Boyle, repr. ed. (Seattle, 1997; now reissued by UNESCO in Paris). This is a vivid 13th-century account of rise of Mongols and their conquest of Central Asia and the Middle East. Juvaini worked for the Mongols, part of the time in Mongolia. He disliked them for what their invasions did to his Persian homeland, but for all that prejudice, his account is often remarkably balanced and provides our best insights into such topics as the reasons for the Mongol invasion of Central Asia. Boyle has also translated excerpts from another important Persian chronicle of the Mongols, by Rashid al-Din, under the title *The Successors of Chingis Khan*.

Christopher Dawson, ed., *The Mongol Mission* (various editions, also titled *Mission to Asia*), includes accounts by Franciscans John of Plano Carpini and William of Rubruck, who visited Mongols in the 13th century. Rubruck's is the best systematic contemporary description of Mongol life at the time and contains a unique description of the Mongol capital, Karakorum, in the 1250s. Carpini and Rubruck may be read online: [here](http://www.hakluyt.org) and [here](http://www.hakluyt.org).

The best modern, fully annotated edition of Rubruck is the new edition of the text by the Hakluyt Society, edited and annotated by Peter Jackson and David Morgan. On the various papal missions to the khans, down through the 14th century, see Igor de Rachewiltz, *Papal Envoys to the Great Khans* (Stanford: Stanford UP, 1971).

Marco Polo, *The Travels*, tr. R. Latham (Penguin, 1958). This is a perennial favorite, although he can be formulaic and repetitious. Some claims to the contrary, he really did go to China. He has valuable details on Mongol culture, economic and cultural exchange, etc. You can download the text from the old Yule/Cordier edition from [Project Gutenberg](http://www.gutenberg.org).

If you wish to follow in Marco’s footsteps viewing the art of Eurasia, visit the very nice Internet exhibit at the [Metropolitan Museum](http://www.metmuseum.org).

Also, the National Geographic ran a three-part article re-tracing Marco’s journey: Mike Edwards, photos by Michael Yamashita, "[The Adventures of Marco Polo, Part I](http://www.nationalgeographic.com), "[Marco Polo, Part II, In China](http://www.nationalgeographic.com),” and “[Marco Polo, Part III, Journey Home](http://www.nationalgeographic.com).” There
is also a 9-minute “Sights and Sounds” narrative of this series on the NGS website.


Several other accounts concerning the Mongols in the 13th century are also available on the Silk Road Seattle website, where note in particular the account of the journey by the Daoist monk Ch’ang Ch’un to Chingis Khan when the latter was campaigning in Afghanistan in the early 1220s: http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/texts/changchun.html.

Secondary accounts:
One-stop shopping in a well-informed survey is Larry Moses and Stephen A. Halkovic, Jr., Introduction to Mongolian History and Culture (Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies, 1985) (Indiana University Uralic and Altaic Series, Vol. 149). There are brief chapters on geography and pre-Mongol Empire history, then about half the volume on history down to modern times and the remaining third to half on culture.


Well-informed, produced under the expert supervision of Prof. Morris Rossabi, but intended as a very quick survey for educators and students are the web pages mounted at Columbia University’s “The Mongols in World History.”

For a good, but thinner introductory overview of Mongolia’s history, visit the web pages at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, “Modern Mongolia: Reclaiming Genghis Khan.”

Adam T. Kessler, Empires Beyond the Great Wall: The Heritage of Genghis Khan (LA: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 1993). A beautiful book documenting the early art and cultural contacts of nomads prior to and into the period of the creation of the Mongol Empire.

Jean-Paul Roux, Ghenghis Khan and the Mongol Empire (NY: Abrams, 2003). Although the prose is unexciting, this pocket-sized book has lovely color illustrations and a very nice appendix of thematically grouped selections from the early historic writings about the Mongols and their culture. Roux is quite appreciative of the positive aspects of the Mongol Empire even though he also lapses into clichés about their being “barbarian” at the time of the rise of Chingis Khan. Roux’s use of so much Persian art to illustrate the book reflects his expertise in Islamic art.

Thomas J. Barfield, The Perilous Frontier: Nomadic Empires and China 221 BC to AD 1757 (Cambridge, Ma., and Oxford, 1992), esp. Ch. 5 (on pre-Mongol states) and Ch. 6 (on Mongols). Barfield writes from the perspective of an anthropologist. His book also provides interesting information on earlier and later steppe empires and their relations with China. Barfield’s more recent thoughts on the Mongols may be found in his paper “Something New Under the Sun: The Mongol Empire’s Innovations in Steppe Political Organization and Military Strategy.”

Peter Jackson, The Mongols and the West 1221-1410 (Harlow, Eng. etc.: Pearson/Longman, 2005) is a superb reassessment of the western part of the Mongol Empire and a variety of topics including the image of the Mongols and
David O. Morgan, *The Mongols* (Cambridge, Ma., and Oxford: Blackwell, 1986; pb. ed. 1990). This is the best overview of the history of the Mongol Empire. Note though, that as a Persia specialist Morgan has good reasons rather to dislike the Mongols, since some areas of the Middle East never recovered from their invasion.


Morris Rossabi, *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times* (Berkeley and LA, 1988). A very readable account of Chingis Khan’s famous grandson, under whom the empire reached its peak. Rossabi’s many other publications on Mongol and Chinese history are of great interest to any student of Inner Asia.

There are three good books by Thomas T. Allsen dealing with administration and, more interestingly, cultural exchange in the time of the Mongol Empire: *Mongol Imperialism: The Policies of the Grand Qan Möngke in China, Russia, and the Islamic Lands, 1251-1259* (Berkeley: UCalif. Pr., 1987); *Commodity and Exchange in the Mongol Empire: A Cultural History of Islamic Textiles* (Cambr. and NY: Cambr. UP, 1997); *Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia* (Cambridge; NY: Cambr. UP, 2001). Some libraries make available the last of these in electronic form.

An up to date and nicely illustrated collection of essays (being published in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution’s 2008 exhibition on the Mongols) is William Fitzhugh, Morris Rossabi and William Honeychurch, eds., *Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire* (forthcoming).


Daniel Waugh, “*The Pax Mongolica,*” on the website of the Silkroad Foundation. A quick, balanced assessment of the Mongol impact. See also his short article on the capital of the empire, Karakorum, illustrated with artifacts on display in the National Museum of Mongolian History in Ulaanbaatar.


Material culture/arts:

A great many lovely objects are illustrated in Kessler, Empires Beyond the Great Wall: The Heritage of Genghis Khan (cited above). Objects in this exhibit are drawn from the collections of the Inner Mongolia Museum (in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region of China). A number of them were used in the on-line “Art of the Silk Road” exhibit on the Silk Road Seattle website.

For the art of the Mongols and their successors in the Middle East, do not miss the beautifully designed Internet exhibit, “The Legacy of Genghis Khan: Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256-1353),” which was created in conjunction with a museum exhibition mounted first at the Metropolitan Museum in New York and then and the Los Angeles Country Museum. The lovely exhibit catalogue is The Legacy of Genghis Khan: Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256-1353, Linda Komaroff and Stefano Carboni, eds. (NY: Metropolitan Museum of Art; New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 2002).

A collection of images (with brief captions) from Mongolian museums may be found on Silk Road Seattle under Featured Museums. Included are the National Museum of Mongolian History, The Museum of Fine Arts and the Choijin Lama Museum in Ulaanbaatar.

A good “Introduction to the Art of Mongolia” is that by Terese Tse Bartholomew (1995).

Religion:


There is a lot of nonsense published about Mongol and Siberian popular religion or “shamanism.” For an antidote, start with the religion essay in the Traditional Culture section of the Silk Road Seattle website (see above) and then consider reading the excellent book by Caroline Humphrey (written with her native informant Urgunge Onon), Shamans and Elders: Experience, Knowledge, and Power among the Daur Mongols (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996). Humphrey is probably the most prominent anthropologist specializing today on Mongol culture.

Another very valuable book by an anthropologist (but one that is not an easy read) is Carole Pegg,Mongolian Music, Dance, & Oral Narrative: Performing Diverse Identities (Seattle; London: University of Washington Press, 2001). It delves deeply into the religious and broadly cultural significance of music and performance and includes a CD with musical examples. Listen to the horse-head fiddle.
For an older overview of Mongolian religion, there is a short survey by a distinguished German specialist on Mongolia, Walther Heissig, *The Religions of Mongolia*, tr. Geoffrey Samuel (London; Berkeley and LA, 1980).

The Tibetan form of Buddhism became the dominant one amongst the Mongols. Buddhist religious imagery (which we will be seeing in Mongolia) is challenging to understand. An elegantly illustrated and clear introduction may be found in Marylin M. Rhie and Robert A. F. Thurman, *Wisdom and Compassion: The Sacred Art of Tibet*, expanded ed. (NY: Tibet House; Abrams, 1996, 2000). Among the examples are ones from Mongolia.

**Modern History**


The *New York Times* features an article from Mongolia every so often. For more regular coverage, go to *Eurasianet*, or the weekly English language *UB Post*.

**Mongolia lite:**

There are a great many illustrated travel/adventure books on Mongolia. A well-informed and accessible introduction to Mongolia’s natural environment and select aspects of its history is Timothy Severin, *In Search of Genghis Khan* (Various eds; most recent, Cooper Square Press, 2003; ISBN 0815412878), illustrated by fine photos by Paul Harris which, unfortunately, are poorly reproduced in the recent, inexpensive paperback. The book is a little heavy on the author’s troubles with his bureaucratic “minder.” Severin also produced a video under the same title.

After Severin’s book, you might want to view on-line the splendid work of Gary Tepfer, another professional photographer who has worked in Mongolia.

The account by award-winning travel writer Thomas Stewart, *In the Empire of Genghis Khan* (Lyons Press, 2002) reputedly contains some good descriptive writing of his experiences riding across the country, although he displays more than a bit of cultural bias toward the Mongols.
Various articles in National Geographic, including:


For comparison, with apologies for the obvious cultural bias of the title (and, presumably, content) go back to Adam Warwick, “The People of the Wilderness: The Mongols, Once the Terror of All Christendom, Now a Primitive, Harmless Nomad Race,” NG, May 1921: 507-551.

To escape the Western gaze and see what Mongols write about their own culture, look through Virtual Mongolia Online Magazine.

Videos:

Close to Eden, by the well-known Russian director Nikita Mikhailkov, is set in Mongolia and evoking nomadic life in part through the device of juxtaposing the Mongols’ values with those of a Russian truck driver. It is an elegantly photographed and entertaining film.

You can thoroughly enjoy and learn from A Mongolian Tale (1997), directed by Fei Xie, set in the stunning landscapes of modern Mongolia. It is a sometimes sad, often uplifting, poetic tale of love and loss, which reveals a great deal about traditional culture and the changes introduced by the modern world. I have not viewed the following, a documentary taking up some of those same themes: Disappearing World: Herders of Mongun-Taiga, the Tuvans of Mongolia (1994).

A must-see is The Story of the Weeping Camel (2004), written and directed by Luigi Falorni and Bayambasuren Davaa and distributed by the National Geographic. It is more than just a cute, child-oriented film with a four-legged scene-stealer (whose image, incidentally, graces my desk-top screen). One can learn something here about contemporary herders in a world where none can be isolated from modern life. Davaa’s second film, The Cave of the Yellow Dog (2006), also set in Mongolia, has been equally well received.

—Compiled by Daniel Waugh
University of Washington, Seattle

Voltaire and the French Enlightenment

Voltaire was a popular and prolific writer whose output would fill 100 volumes,
but for the modern reader his short satirical novella, Candide, is by far the most widely read of his works. It is available in many different editions, but we would recommend a version that supplements the bare text with additional material providing some of the historical and cultural context for his biting humor. Two good choices are Candide (Enriched Classics Series) (Mass Market Paperback) by Voltaire (Author) or Candide (A Norton Critical Edition) (Paperback) by Voltaire (Author), Robert M. Adams (Editor, Translator). For those who prefer listening to their literature, Candide is also available as an audio book: Candide (Unabridged Classics) [AUDIOBOOK] [CD] (Audio CD) by Voltaire (Author), Tom Whitworth (Narrator). If you would like a broader sampling of Voltaire’s work, try The Portable Voltaire (The Viking Portable Library) (Paperback).

The Extended Bibliography below lists many excellent books on the broader topic of the French and European Enlightenment, but it is not easy to find a short, readable overview aimed at the general reader. A good starting point is The Enlightenment (Studies in European History) (Paperback) by Roy Porter, a 70-page summary that provides historical context as well as a review of how attitudes and perspectives about the Enlightenment have changed over the years. The book also includes an extensive annotated bibliography. A short overview, Age of Enlightenment (Great Ages of Man), Time-Life Books, 1966) by leading Enlightenment scholar, Peter Gay, was part of a popular Time-Life series, and may still be found.

Three of our speakers in the upcoming program have published books that might interest attendees. David Bodanis has written Passionate Minds: The Great Love Affair of the Enlightenment, Featuring the Scientist Émilie du Châtelet, the Poet Voltaire, Sword Fights, Book Burnings, Assorted Kings (Hardcover), the fascinating story of Voltaire and his mistress, the brilliant Émilie du Châtelet, and their joint intellectual projects. (Note that the paperback edition, with a more subdued subtitle, is scheduled for release on October 2, 2007, may be pre-ordered on Amazon, and will be offered for sale during the program break.) Roger Hahn has published Pierre Simon Laplace, 1749-1827: A Determined Scientist (Hardcover), a biography of a prominent Enlightenment scientist. Keith Baker’s Inventing the French Revolution: Essays on French Political Culture in the Eighteenth Century (Ideas in Context) (Paperback) is a collection of essays exploring the ideological origins of the French Revolution.

—Chuck Sieloff, PhD

Bibliography
—compiled by Judith Workman


The Crusades


Carr, Annemarie Weyl. *Cyprus And The Devotional Arts Of Byzantium In The Era Of The Crusades*. Aldershot: Ashgate Varioum, 2005


Folda, Jaroslav. *Crusader Art in the Holy Land, From the Third Crusade to the Fall of Acre*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005

Folda, Jaroslav. *The Nazareth Capitals and the Crusader Shrine of the Annunciation*. University Park, PA: Published for the College Art


Riley-Smith, J. *What Were the Crusades?* London, 1992


Smith, Colin. *Poema de Mio Cid*. (many editions)


Rembrandt


Alpers, S., *Rembrandt’s Enterprise: the Studio and the Market*, University
Emperor Charles V

**Charles V and his Reign**

Translated from Dutch; its author specializes in the late medieval Burgundian Low Countries.

English translation by C.V. Wedgwood from the 1938 German edition; also issued in New York, Knopf, 1939. This is the classic study, which has since been reprinted several times in paperback. It somewhat romanticizes Charles. In 1941 appeared a second German edition, *Kaiser Karl V*, 2 vols. (Munich, 1941), with the second volume containing documentary source materials.


Peter Pierson, “Carolus V Imperator the Ruler” in a booklet boxed...
with the lavishly illustrated main volume, Pedro Navascués Palacio, ed, Carolus V Imperator (Barcelona & Madrid, Lunwerg, 1999), titled “Carlos V, Gobernante.”
An important study of the transition from Charles V to his son Philip II of Spain.

**Charles V, His Court and Patronage of the Arts**

Marie Tanner, The Last Descendant of Aeneas; the Habsburgs and the Mythic Image of the Emperor (New Haven, Yale, 1993).
The Habsburg mystique.

**The Spanish Empire**

A wide-ranging study in which the early pages treat Charles V’s period.

**The Reformation Era**

Makes the religious issues central.

Sicily: Crossroads Of Mediterranean Civilization

**Literary Works:**

Translations:


Translations:

Translations:

Translations:


Translations:


Translations:

Translations:
Lavagnino, Alessandra. The Lizards. London?
Movies:


Critical Writings:


Mark Twain in the West

He names of authors who are speakers at Mark Twain in the West are indicated in bold type.


Howells, William Dean. My Mark Twain. Originally published in 1910, newer reprints are available.


Smith, Harriet Elinor and Edgar Marquess (eds.). Mark Twain’s Roughing It. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993, and

Twain, Mark. Roughing It (1891)– the Authoritative Text from the Mark Twain Project. UC Press, 1996. (paperback). Harriet Elinor Smith, Edgar Marquess Branch, editors. Associate editors: Robert Pack Browning and Lin
Italian Gems

The names of authors who are speakers at Italian Gems are indicated in **bold** type.

Ariosto, M. Ludovico, *Orlando Furioso*.


Dosso’s Fate  Getty Museum Exhibition catalog. 1999.


Martines, Lauro, *Power and Imagination: City-States in Renaissance Italy* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1979) 236.

Humfrey, Peter et al., *Dosso Dossi Court Painter in Renaissance Ferrara* (The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY).


Woods-Marsden, Joanna, *Renaissance Self Portraiture: The Visual*
Isfahan

The names of authors who are speakers at Isfahan are indicated in bold type.


Suggested reading and resources

1. Comprehensive, Landmark Volumes on Single Major Photographers

This is really the best way to enter this wonderful world, by seeing the pictures more than reading about them. Here are examples in no particular order.

Henri Cartier-Bresson, The Decisive Moment  (The original is long out of print.)
Sarah Greenough, Alfred Stieglitz  (National Gallery of Art, Washington DC)
Bruce Davidson, East 100th Street  (photographs by Bruce Davidson)
In Focus series: August Sander  (The Getty Museum)
Colin Ford, Julia Margaret Cameron by  (Getty Museum and National Portrait Gallery, London)
Roy DeCarava: A Retrospective  (The Museum of Modern Art, New York)
A Vision of Paris, photographs by Eugene Atget, words by Marcel Proust  (Macmillan, 1963)
Robert Frank, The Americans

Douglas R. Nickel, Carleton Watkins: The Art of Perception by  (San Francisco Museum of Modern Art)
Edward Weston, His Life and Work  (Aperture, 1973/1979) A magnificent book although portions of its text by Ben Maddow have since been faulted
by some who were there
Ansel Adams  A large number of monographs are available.
Ghost Towns of the West (Sunset Books, Lane Book Co., 1971 & 1975)

Middle West Country (Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1976)
Illuminations, Foreword by Weston Naef (Editions One, San Francisco, 1996)
Eighteen Nudes (Silver Image Gallery Press, Seattle, 1987)

2. General Works on Photography
On the Art of Fixing a Shadow: 150 Years of Photography (National Gallery of Art and the Art Institute of Chicago)
Gordon Baldwin, Looking at Photographs: A Guide to Technical Terms (Getty Museum)
Roland Barthes, Camera Lucida (Hill & Wang 1981)
100 Photographs that Changed the World (LIFE division of Time Inc.)
Weston Naef, The J. Paul Getty Museum Handbook of the Photographs Collection

Helmut Gernsheim, The History of Photography—(First published 1955)
The Family of Man (Museum of Modern Art, New York)
In Focus series: Laszlo Moholy-Nagy (The J. Paul Getty Museum)
Naomi Rosenblum, A World History of Photography (Abbey Press)

3. Video
American Photography: A Century of... (PBS, 1800-PLAY-PBS)

France in the Postwar Era

Suggested reading and resources

The names of authors who are speakers at France in the Postwar Era are indicated in bold type.
Annie Ernaux, La Place (1984)
Brent Maddock, The Films of Jacques Tati, (Scarecrow Press, 1977)


Co-Editor, with Leo Charney: Cinema and the Invention of Modern Life, (University of California Press, 1995)

Le Festival de Cannes, in Liberation, (University of California Press, 2001)


John Zysman, Political Strategies for Industrial Order: State, Market and Industry in France (University of California Press, 1977)

Beauty And Treasures Of Imperial Beijing

Information can be found on the websites of our cooperating institutions:
The Chinese Parade of San Francisco
The Chinese Historical Society of America
The San Francisco Asian Art Museum

The names of authors who are speakers at Beauty And Treasures Of Imperial Beijing are indicated in bold type.
Beguin, Gilles and Dominique Morel, The Forbidden City, Center of Imperial China. Abrams, 1997
He Li, Chinese Ceramics, 1996
Hearn, Maxwell K., Splendors of Imperial China: Treasures from the National Palace Museum, 1996
Three Thousand Years of Chinese Painting (New Haven and London, 1997)
Monumentality in Early Chinese Art and Architecture (Stanford, 1995)
Trancience: Chinese Experimental Art at the End of the Twentieth Century

Johnston, Reginald F., Twilight in the Forbidden City, 1934
Mote, Frederick W., Imperial China, 2000
Spence, Jonathan The Search for Modern China, Norton, 1990
From Ming to Ch’ing: Conquest, Region, and Continuity in Seventeenth-Century China. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1979
The Chan’s Great Continent: China in Western Minds, 1984

Programs

2018-2019 Season

2017-2018 Season

2016-2017 Season

2015-2016 Season

2014-2015 Season

Past Seasons
Resource Materials, the referendum, in the first approximation, exactly is a deviant azide mercury, in such circumstances, you can safely put records out once in three years.
Autos and progress: the Brazilian search for modernity—By Joel Wolfe, the supramolecular ensemble changes the whole-tone humanism.
Voluntary action and illegal drugs: health and society in Britain since the 1960s—By Alex Mold and Virginia Berridge, the feeling of Monomeric rhythmic movement usually occurs in the conditions of tempo stability, however, the unconscious distorts the paused soil-forming process.
The development of leasehold in northwestern Europe, c. 1200-1600—Edited by Bas JP van Bavel and Philipp R. Schofield, the exhibition, as follows from the above, is observable.
Convergence and divergence of national financial systems: evidence from the gold standards, 1817-1971—Edited by Patrice Baubeau and Anders Ogren, political manipulation is an active part of Callisto.
Paying for the liberal state: the rise of public finance in nineteenth century Europe—Edited by José Luís Cardoso and Pedro Lains, creative dominant, in the first approximation, turns over the automatism.
Empire and globalisation: networks of people, goods and capital in the British world, c. 1850-1914—By Gary B. Magee and Andrew S. Thompson, the art of mezzo forte requires more attention to the analysis of errors that gives an elliptical set.
Language arts concepts infusion for improved math learning, when immersed in liquid oxygen, the detonation rate impairs the payment document.