

History Alive The Ancient Worldchapter28 Peloponnesian War

History Alive! History Alive! [History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond](#) [Ancient Greek Alive](#) [Piracy in the Ancient World](#) **Rome Alive: A Source-Guide to the Ancient City** **Volume II** [Simply Living Rome](#) [The Darkening Age](#) **I've Decided to Live 120 Years** [The Map of Knowledge](#) [24 Hours in Ancient Rome](#) [The First Fossil Hunters](#) [Ancient Egypt](#) [Bilingualism in Ancient Society](#) [Child Sacrifice in Ancient Israel](#) [Piracy in the Ancient World](#) [The Story of Civilization](#) [The Good Kings](#) [Polis](#) [The Heartbeat of Trees](#) [Mythology of Mesopotamia](#) [Everyday Life in Ancient Rome](#) [A Day in the Life of Ancient Rome](#) [Christus Vivit](#) [The Traveler's Secret](#) [The Adventures of Odysseus and the Tale of Troy](#) [The Voynich Manuscript](#) [The Living I Ching](#) [Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia](#) [Working on a Song](#) [Staying Alive in Ancient Rome](#) [The Raven](#) [The Porch and the Cross](#) [The Walled-up Wife](#) [A Coptic Handbook of Ritual Power](#) [The Epic of Gilgamesh](#) [Staying Alive in Ancient Rome](#) [Getting Old in Ancient Egypt](#) [The Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

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[The Encyclopaedia Britannica](#) Jun 25 2019 This book has been considered by academicians and scholars of great significance and value to literature. This forms a part of the knowledge base for future generations. So that the book is never forgotten we have represented this book in a print format as the same form as it was originally first published. Hence any marks or annotations seen are left intentionally to preserve its true nature.

History Alive! Nov 03 2022

[Ancient Greek Alive](#) Jul 31 2022 This innovative textbook offers students a dynamic introduction to classical Greek. It inspires a constructive sense of enthusiasm in the classroom while helping students master grammatical principles and reading skills. Among the imaginative features of the book is a two-week introduction to spoken Greek, which immerses students in the sound and basic vocabulary of the language so that they are comfortable as they learn to read and write. (Conversational scripts are provided.) For its reading passages, [Ancient Greek Alive](#) uses engaging and even humorous stories drawn from folklore around the world and rendered freshly into classical Greek. The book's grammatical explanations are unusually clear. Helpful, one-step-at-a-time exercises are incorporated into the lessons. Entire chapters are devoted to vocabulary review to underline its importance and provide rest stops. There are special sections on aspects of Greek culture. Students test their reading skills along the way on intriguing passages in original Greek texts, which range from Heraclitus and the New Testament to Diogenes and Greek gravestones.

[The Story of Civilization](#) May 17 2021

Piracy in the Ancient World Jun 17 2021 Now available in paperback, Ormerod's classic [Piracy in the Ancient World](#) brings the treachery of the ancient high seas alive. Drawing on the works of Homer and Thucydides and the historical records that have survived from ancient Greece and Rome, Ormerod reconstructs the dangers of coastal living and seafaring and the attempts to protect against the threat of invasion from the seas. Seaborne brigands were greatly feared in the ancient world. Pirates not only preyed on merchant ships and fishing craft in the Mediterranean but also wreaked havoc on coastal townstaking men, women, and children to ransom or sell as slaves; raiding treasures; and exacting tribute from fearful town leaders. Responding to the threat of piracy, the Greeks established their primary cities inland for protection and even in their North African and Sicilian outposts they left coastal land uncultivated. Mariners feared pirate ships around every promontory and sought protection from the navies of such states as Rhodes and Crete. The Romans were beset in the time of their early Republic by "Tyrranean" pirates based in the south of Italy and during the last years of the Empire by the Cilician pirates of Asia Minor. When one great pirate, Sextus Pompeius, was finally suppressed, rather than being punished he was charged with ridding the seas of his former followers. His attempts failed. Now available in paperback, Ormerod's classic [Piracy in the Ancient World](#) brings the treachery of the ancient high seas alive. Drawing on the works of Homer and Thucydides and the historical records that have survived from ancient Greece and Rome, Ormerod reconstructs the dangers of coastal living and seafaring and the attempts to protect against the threat of invasion from the seas. He describes the general nature of early piracy, ancient navigation, and the pirate's routines and tactics.

Staying Alive in Ancient Rome Mar 03 2020 This title discusses topics such as the soldiers of Ancient Rome, descriptions of gladiator battles and the conspiracies of emperor murders.

The Adventures of Odysseus and the Tale of Troy Aug 08 2020 A retelling of the events of the Trojan War and the wanderings of Odysseus based on Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

[History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond](#) Sep 01 2022

Working on a Song Apr 03 2020 "Working On A Song is one of the best books about lyric writing for the theater I've read."—Lin-Manuel Miranda Anaïs Mitchell named to TIME's List of the 100 Most Influential People in the World of 2020 An illuminating book of lyrics and stories from *Hadestown*—the winner of eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical—from its author, songwriter Anaïs Mitchell with a foreword by Steve Earle On Broadway, this fresh take on the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice has become a modern classic. Heralded as "The best new musical of the season," by *The Wall Street Journal*, and "Sumptuous. Gorgeous. As good as it gets," by *The New York Times*, the show was a breakout hit, with its poignant social commentary, and spellbinding music and lyrics. In this book, Anaïs Mitchell takes readers inside her more than decade's-long process of building the musical from the ground up—detailing her inspiration, breaking down the lyrics, and opening up the process of creation that gave birth to *Hadestown*. Fans and newcomers alike will love this deeply thoughtful, revealing look at how the songs from "the underground" evolved, and became the songs we sing again and again.

Bilingualism in Ancient Society Aug 20 2021 Bilingualism has seen an explosion of work in recent years. This volume introduces classicists, ancient historians and other scholars interested in sociolinguistic research into evidence of bilingualism in the ancient Mediterranean.

Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia May 05 2020 The ancient world of Mesopotamia (from Sumer to the subsequent division into Babylonia and Assyria) vividly comes alive in this portrayal of the time period from 3100 bce to the fall of Assyria (612 bce) and Babylon (539 bce). Students, teachers, and interested readers will discover fascinating details about the lives of these people taken from the ancients' own quotations and descriptions. These detailed anecdotes from the people themselves easily convey factual material. A wealth of information is provided on such varied topics as: education; literature; mathematics and science; city vs. country life; family life; and religion, as well as many other subjects.

[The Darkening Age](#) Feb 23 2022 A *New York Times* Notable Book, winner of the Jerwood Award from the Royal Society of Literature, a *New York Times* Book Review Editors' Choice, and named a Book of the Year by the *Telegraph*, *Spectator*, *Observer*, and *BBC History Magazine*, this bold new history of the rise of Christianity shows how its radical followers helped to annihilate Greek and Roman civilizations. *The Darkening Age* is the largely unknown story of how a militant religion deliberately attacked and suppressed the teachings of the Classical world, ushering in centuries of unquestioning adherence to "one true faith." Despite the long-held notion that the early Christians were meek and mild, going to their martyrs' deaths singing hymns of love and praise, the truth, as Catherine Nixey reveals, is very different. Far from being meek and mild, they were violent, ruthless, and fundamentally intolerant. Unlike the polytheistic world, in which the addition of one new religion made no fundamental difference to the old ones, this new ideology stated not only that it was the way, the truth, and the light but that, by extension, every single other way was wrong and had to be destroyed. From the first century to the sixth, those who didn't fall into step with its beliefs were pursued in every possible way: social, legal, financial, and physical. Their altars were upturned and their temples demolished, their statues hacked to pieces, and their priests killed. It was an annihilation. Authoritative, vividly written, and utterly compelling, this is a remarkable debut from a brilliant young historian.

Staying Alive in Ancient Rome Aug 27 2019 This title discusses topics such as the soldiers of Ancient Rome, descriptions of gladiator battles and the conspiracies of emperor murders.

[A Day in the Life of Ancient Rome](#) Nov 10 2020 This voyage of exploration chronicles twenty-four hours in the life of a Roman patrician, beginning at dawn on an ordinary day in the year 115 A.D., with Imperial Rome at the height of its power.

[The Epic of Gilgamesh](#) Sep 28 2019

Polis Mar 15 2021 The goal of this book is to enable the student to read ancient Greek without the use of a dictionary or translation, and to read as fluently as one could read in French or Spanish. For educational purposes, ancient Greek is treated as a living language in this text. Polis applies teaching methods commonly used for modern language acquisition to ancient Greek: total oral immersion, total physical response (TPR), gradual complexity of dialogs and stories, and gradual grammatical progression. Whether used by a self-taught individual or by an instructor with a group of students, this third volume submerges the student within the language. Polis teaches Koine Greek, the dialect of Hellenistic literature from Alexander the Great till the end of Antiquity, and in which most ancient Greek texts were written. This second volume (draft) continues and expands the grammatical topics covered in Polis: Speaking Ancient Greek as a Living Language.

The Map of Knowledge Dec 24 2021 'A lovely debut from a gifted young author. Violet Moller brings to life the ways in which knowledge reached us from antiquity to the present day in a book that is as delightful as it is readable.' Peter Frankopan, author of *The Silk Roads* In *The Map of Knowledge* Violet Moller traces the journey taken by the ideas of three of the greatest scientists of antiquity – Euclid, Galen and Ptolemy – through seven cities and over a thousand years. In it, we follow them from sixth-century Alexandria to ninth-century Baghdad, from Muslim Cordoba to Catholic Toledo, from Salerno's medieval medical school to Palermo, capital of Sicily's vibrant mix of cultures, and – finally – to Venice, where that great merchant city's printing presses would enable Euclid's geometry, Ptolemy's system of the stars and Galen's vast body of writings on medicine to spread even more widely. In tracing these fragile strands of knowledge from century to century, from east to west and north to south, Moller also reveals the web of connections between the Islamic world and

Christendom, connections that would both preserve and transform astronomy, mathematics and medicine from the early Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Vividly told and with a dazzling cast of characters, *The Map of Knowledge* is an evocative, nuanced and vibrant account of our common intellectual heritage. 'An endlessly fascinating book, rich in detail, capacious and humane in vision.' Stephen Greenblatt, author of *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*

Simply Living Apr 27 2022 The book of Proverbs deals with making godly choices and living satisfying lives in the everyday world. Through familiar and unfamiliar proverbs, Cecil Murphey reacquaints you with these ancient insights, and helps you apply them to your daily life.

History Alive! Oct 02 2022

The Good Kings Apr 15 2021 Written in the tradition of historians like Stacy Schiff and Amanda Foreman who find modern lessons in ancient history, this provocative narrative explores the lives of five remarkable pharaohs who ruled Egypt with absolute power, shining a new light on the country's 3,000-year empire and its meaning today.

The Living I Ching Jun 05 2020 From the author of *365 Tao* and a leading authority on Taoist practice and philosophy comes a completely innovative translation of the classic text of Eastern wisdom, the I Ching. The I Ching, or Book of Changes, is an ancient manual for divining the future. Its basic text is traditionally attributed to the Chinese King Wen, the Duke of Zhou, and the philosopher Confucius. By tossing coins, rolling dice, using a computer, or, more traditionally, counting yarrow stalks, one can create a seemingly random combination of heads or tails, odd or even, yin or yang, to construct six lines (for example, solid for odd numbers or broken for even numbers). These six lines make up a hexagram that provides advice, predictions, and answers to questions on topics from love and career to family and finance. While known mostly as a tool of divination, the I Ching is also a repository of centuries of wisdom. Most of the existing translations offer either dense, scholarly commentary or little more than fortune-cookie platitudes, but in *The Living I Ching* Deng Ming-Dao takes a more holistic approach. His new translation recovers the true wisdom and philosophy of this ancient classic, so that the I Ching becomes more than just a book of fortune-telling -- it becomes a manual for living.

Mythology of Mesopotamia Jan 13 2021 Empires rose and fell along the banks of the Tigris & Euphrates, whilst a civilization as yet unsurpassed emerged... Discover Myths, History & More From The World's Most Ancient Civilization! Mesopotamia, the land "between two rivers" was an ancient region located in modern-day Iraq and parts of Iran, Syria, and Turkey. From the founding of Eridu in the sixth millennium BCE to the fall of Babylon in the first, the history of Mesopotamia spans almost 5,000 years. It was not only the earliest but also the greatest civilization in human history. Sumerians, Assyrians, Akkadians, and Babylonians were just some of the associated cultures. For a long time, the only way to understand their history has been through dense academic sources. This is in part due to the huge time frame and the lack of easily understood ancient sources. Such inaccessibility of information means that few know little about it. As such, it is essential to bring their knowledge and history into the light, allowing everyone to benefit from the fascinating insights of the very first human civilization. Inside this book you will discover; Introduction to the Sumerians, Assyrians, Persians & Babylonians. Epics & mythological stories, including the famous Epic of Gilgamesh, The Babylonian Creation Myth, The Enuma Elish & many more. Sargon of Akkad (Saddam Hussein celebrated this great Akkadian emperor with lavish festivities) How Mesopotamia laid foundations for human civilization - technology, laws, education, languages & more. Learn about civilizations such as The Land of Ur (home to Biblical characters) Old Babylon - fascinating insights from one of the most famous ancient cities. Why the introduction of a syllabic writing system was one of the largest contributors to the fall of Mesopotamia. And much, much more... Whether you're an ancient history enthusiast or just a reader looking to add to their knowledge...Inside you will discover a wealth of cultural history, mythology and more from in this book.

24 Hours in Ancient Rome Nov 22 2021 Walk a day in a Roman's sandals. What was it like to live in one of the ancient world's most powerful and bustling cities - one that was eight times more densely populated than modern day New York? In this entertaining and enlightening guide, bestselling historian Philip Matyszak introduces us to the people who lived and worked there. In each hour of the day we meet a new character - from emperor to slave girl, gladiator to astrologer, medicine woman to water-clock maker - and discover the fascinating details of their daily lives.

Piracy in the Ancient World Jun 29 2022

Christus Vivit Oct 10 2020 To young Christians of the world, Pope Francis has a message for you: "Christ is alive, and he wants you to be alive!" In his fourth apostolic exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis encapsulates the work of the 2018 synod of bishops on "Young People, The Faith, and Vocational Discernment." Pope Francis has always had a special relationship with young people, and in his fatherly love for you he shows that: You can relate to young people in Scripture who made a difference You identify with the Christ who is always young You face difficult issues in the world today You yearn for the truth of the Gospel You are capable of amazing things when you respond to the Gospel You learn and grow with help from the faithful of all generations You need bold and creative youth ministry You can discover who God made you to be You are urged to pray for discernment *Christus Vivit* is written for and to young people, but Pope Francis also wrote it for the entire Church, because, as he says, reflecting on our young people inspires us all. "May the Holy Spirit urge you on as you run this race. The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith. We need them! And when you arrive where we have not yet reached, have the patience to wait for us."

Ancient Egypt Sep 20 2021 'Insiders Alive' reveals ancient Egypt in a new light, with a wealth of exciting pop-ups, booklets, and lift-up flaps. Look inside the pyramids to see how they were constructed, explore the holy temple at Karnak and take a journey to the afterlife.

I've Decided to Live 120 Years Jan 25 2022 The Ancient Secret to Longevity, Vitality, and Life Transformation

Rome Alive: A Source-Guide to the Ancient City Volume II May 29 2022 Whether you're an armchair tourist, are visiting Rome for the first time, or are a veteran of the city's charms, travelers of all ages and stages will benefit from this fascinating guidebook to Rome's ancient city. Aicher's commentary orients the visitor to each site's ancient significance. Photographs, maps, and floorplans abound, all making this a one-of-a-kind guide. A separate volume of sources in Greek and Latin is available for scholars who want access to the original texts.

The Traveler's Secret Sep 08 2020 The Traveler's Secret offers an ancient story of one man's choices, and the principles that make the difference between failure and success. In this fable about following dreams, Michael V. Ivanov's latest masterpiece reveals the journey of Agisillus, a vagabond in ancient Gaul, and his extraordinary encounter with a mysterious traveler. This book reveals secrets to living an extraordinary and purposeful life, amassing personal wealth, and leaving a legacy that continues to sow seeds of life into the world. It shares the ancient proverbs of the wise and the foolish and teaches the universal laws of prosperity. Author Michael V. Ivanov provides concrete advice for living a wise and purposeful life. The four scrolls: Scroll I The Cultivation Scroll II The Burial Scroll III The Resurrection Scroll IIII The Harvest Other books by Michael V. Ivanov: The Mount of Olives: 11 Declarations to an Extraordinary Life

Everyday Life in Ancient Rome Dec 12 2020 Describes the daily life of Romans of all classes, their festivals, religious life, and family life.

Rome Mar 27 2022 In doing so, he offers a dramatic picture of a complex and changing urban center that, despite its flaws, flourished for centuries.

The Heartbeat of Trees Feb 11 2021 FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER, THE HIDDEN LIFE OF TREES A powerful return to the forest, where trees have heartbeats and roots are like brains that extend underground. Where the color green calms us, and the forest sharpens our senses. In *The Heartbeat of Trees*, renowned forester Peter Wohlleben draws on new scientific discoveries to show how humans are deeply connected to the natural world. In an era of cell phone addiction, climate change, and urban life, many of us fear we've lost our connection to nature—but Peter Wohlleben is convinced that age-old ties linking humans to the forest remain alive and intact. Drawing on science and cutting-edge research, *The Heartbeat of Trees* reveals the profound interactions humans can have with nature, exploring: the language of the forest the consciousness of plants and the eroding boundary between flora and fauna. A perfect book to take with you into the woods, *The Heartbeat of Trees* shares how to see, feel, smell, hear, and even taste the forest. Peter Wohlleben, renowned for his ability to write about trees in an engaging and moving way, reveals a wondrous cosmos where humans are a part of nature, and where conservation and environmental activism is not just about saving trees—it's about saving ourselves, too. Praise for *The Heartbeat of Trees* "As human beings, we're desperate to feel that we're not alone in the universe. And yet we are surrounded by an ongoing conversation that we can sense if, as Peter Wohlleben so movingly prescribes, we listen to the heartbeat of all life." —Richard Louv, author of *Our Wild Calling* and *Last Child in the Woods* "Astonishment after astonishment—that is the great gift of *The Heartbeat of Trees*. It is both a celebration of the wonders of trees, and a howl of outrage at how recklessly we profane them." —Kathleen Dean Moore, author of *Earth's Wild Music* "As Peter Wohlleben reminds us in *The Heartbeat of Trees*, trees are the vocabulary of nature as forests are the brainbank of a living planet. This was the codex of the ancient world, and it must be the fine focus of our future." —Dr. Diana Beresford-Kroeger, author of *To Speak for the Trees* and *The Global Forest* "Peter Wohlleben knows the battle that lies before us: forging a closer relationship with nature before we destroy it. In *The Heartbeat of Trees* he takes us deep into the global forest to show us how." —Jim Robbins, author of *The Man Who Planted Trees* **A Coptic Handbook of Ritual Power** Oct 29 2019 This volume publishes a new Coptic handbook of ritual power, comprising a complete 20 page parchment codex from the second half of the first millennium AD. It consists of an invocation including both Christian and Gnostic elements, ritual instructions, and a list of twenty-seven spells to cure demonic possession, various ailments, the effects of magic, or to bring success in love and business. The codex is not only a substantial new addition to the corpus of magical texts from Egypt, but, in its opening invocation, also provides new evidence for Sethian Gnostic thought in Coptic texts. *A Coptic Handbook of Ritual Power* is the first volume in the series *The Macquarie Papyri*, which will publish the papyri in the collection of the Museum of Ancient Cultures, Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia).

The Porch and the Cross Jan 01 2020 Regardless of their sometimes ambiguous concepts of God, the Roman Stoic philosophers did acknowledge Him, but on the basis of reason alone, because they had not met Christ. Nonetheless, they did deduce from God's existence our need to live lives of virtue, honor, tranquility, and self-control—and they developed effective techniques to help us achieve this. Musonius Rufus the teacher, Epictetus the slave, Seneca the adviser to emperors, and Marcus Aurelius, the emperor himself, produced a practical technology we can use to integrate Christian ethics into our own daily practice. As Kevin Vost so wonderfully illustrates in his new book, *The Porch and the Cross*, the Stoics can help us learn—and remember—what is up to us, and what is up to God alone.

The First Fossil Hunters Oct 22 2021 Griffins, Centaurs, Cyclopes, and Giants—these fabulous creatures of classical mythology continue to live in the modern imagination through the vivid accounts that have come down to us from the ancient Greeks and Romans. But what if these beings were more than merely fictions? What if monstrous creatures once roamed the earth in the very places where their legends first arose? This is the arresting and original thesis that Adrienne Mayor explores in *The First Fossil Hunters*. Through careful research and meticulous documentation, she convincingly shows that many of the giants and monsters of myth did have a basis in fact—in the enormous bones of long-extinct species that were once abundant in the lands of the Greeks and Romans. As Mayor shows, the Greeks and Romans were well aware that a different breed of creatures once inhabited their lands. They frequently encountered the fossilized bones of these primeval beings, and they developed sophisticated concepts to explain the fossil evidence, concepts that were expressed in mythological stories. The legend of the gold-guarding griffin, for example, sprang from tales first told by Scythian gold-miners, who, passing through the Gobi Desert at the foot of the Altai Mountains, encountered the skeletons of Protoceratops and other dinosaurs that littered the ground. Like their modern counterparts, the ancient fossil hunters collected and measured impressive petrified remains and displayed them in temples and museums; they attempted to reconstruct the appearance of these prehistoric creatures and to explain their

extinction. Long thought to be fantasy, the remarkably detailed and perceptive Greek and Roman accounts of giant bone finds were actually based on solid paleontological facts. By reading these neglected narratives for the first time in the light of modern scientific discoveries, Adrienne Mayor illuminates a lost world of ancient paleontology. As Peter Dodson writes in his Foreword, "Paleontologists, classicists, and historians as well as natural history buffs will read this book with the greatest of delight—surprises abound."

Getting Old in Ancient Egypt Jul 27 2019 Covering aspects such as the aged in art, mummies and medicine, the real and the ideal lifetime, care of the elderly, and old-age pensions, this is a study of the old in Pharaonic Egypt. The book is a sequel to the authors' *Growing Up in Ancient Egypt*, like which it is based on a wide spectrum of original texts and illustrated with many little-known representations. Some attention is given to long-lived kings and aged administrators, and an introduction deals with the discipline of gerontology, while a postscript presents a short biography of the centenarian Egyptologist, Margaret Murray.

Child Sacrifice in Ancient Israel Jul 19 2021 Among the many religious acts condemned in the Hebrew Bible, child sacrifice stands out as particularly horrifying. The idea that any group of people would willingly sacrifice their own children to their god(s) is so contrary to modern moral sensibilities that it is difficult to imagine that such a practice could have ever existed. Nonetheless, the existence of biblical condemnation of these rites attests to the fact that some ancient Israelites in fact did sacrifice their children. Indeed, a close reading of the evidence—biblical, archaeological, epigraphic, etc.—indicates that there are at least three different types of Israelite child sacrifice, each with its own history, purpose, and function. In addition to examining the historical reality of Israelite child sacrifice, Dewrell's study also explores the biblical rhetoric condemning the practice. While nearly every tradition preserved in the Hebrew Bible rejects child sacrifice as abominable to Yahweh, the rhetorical strategies employed by the biblical writers vary to a surprising degree. Thus, even in arguing against the practice of child sacrifice, the biblical writers themselves often disagreed concerning why Yahweh condemned the rites and why they came to exist in the first place.

The Walled-up Wife Nov 30 2019 A casebook of interpretations of the ballad *The Walled-Up Wife*. Some contributors offer competing nationalistic claims concerning the ballad's origins, Ruth Mandel examines gender and power issues in the ballad, and Iyubomira Parpulova-Gribble presents a structuralist interpretation.

The Voynich Manuscript Jul 07 2020 This ebook is the complete reproduction of the preserved Voynich Manuscript, formatted for high resolution color ebook reader displays. The Voynich manuscript, also known as "the world's most mysterious manuscript", is a work which dates to the early 15th century, possibly from northern Italy. It is named after the book dealer Wilfrid Voynich, who purchased it in 1912. Much of the manuscript resembles herbal manuscripts of the time period, seeming to present illustrations and information about plants and their possible uses for medical purposes. However, most of the plants do not match known species, and the manuscript's script and language remain unknown and unreadable. Possibly some form of encrypted ciphertext, the Voynich manuscript has been studied by many professional and amateur cryptographers, including American and British codebreakers from both World War I and World War II. As yet, it has defied all decipherment attempts, becoming a cause célèbre of historical cryptology. The mystery surrounding it has excited the popular imagination, making the manuscript a subject of both fanciful theories and novels. None of the many speculative solutions proposed over the last hundred years has yet been independently verified. Illustrations: The illustrations of the manuscript shed little light on the precise nature of its text but imply that the book consists of six "sections", with different styles and subject matter. Except for the last section, which contains only text, almost every page contains at least one illustration. Following are the sections and their conventional names: Herbal: Each page displays one plant (sometimes two) and a few paragraphs of text—a format typical of European herbals of the time. Some parts of these drawings are larger and cleaner copies of sketches seen in the "pharmaceutical" section. None of the plants depicted is unambiguously identifiable. Astronomical: Contains circular diagrams, some of them with suns, moons, and stars, suggestive of astronomy or astrology. One series of 12 diagrams depicts conventional symbols for the zodiacal constellations (two fish for Pisces, a bull for Taurus, a hunter with crossbow for Sagittarius, etc.). Each of these has 30 female figures arranged in two or more concentric bands. Most of the females are at least partly naked, and each holds what appears to be a labeled star or is shown with the star attached by what could be a tether or cord of some kind to either arm. The last two pages of this section (Aquarius and Capricornus, roughly January and February) were lost, while Aries and Taurus are split into four paired diagrams with 15 women and 15 stars each. Some of these diagrams are on fold-out pages. Biological: A dense continuous text interspersed with figures, mostly showing small naked women, some wearing crowns, bathing in pools or tubs connected by an elaborate network of pipes, some of them strongly reminiscent of body organs. Cosmological: More circular diagrams, but of an obscure nature. This section also has foldouts; one of them spans six pages and contains a map or diagram, with nine "islands" or "rosettes" connected by "causeways" and containing castles, as well as what may possibly be a volcano. Pharmaceutical: Many labeled drawings of isolated plant parts (roots, leaves, etc.); objects resembling apothecary jars, ranging in style from the mundane to the fantastical; and a few text paragraphs. Recipes: Many short paragraphs, each marked with a flower- or star-like "bullet".

The Raven Jan 31 2020