



Unity Books

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 1999



CHRISTMAS! HOLIDAYS! SUMMER!

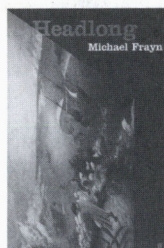
Yes — that serious book purchasing time has fast descended upon us.

With this in mind, we've put together a selection of truly desirable, absorbing, and fabulous titles that we hope will be positively perfect Christmas presents or holiday reading. The selection of a mere 60 (or so) books for this newsletter was an exquisite form of torture for the unity staff as the store is literally stuffed with books all screaming 'I'm the best!!!' So how to choose??

Well — what we decided to do is exclude all of those publicity winning best-sellers eg: Frank McCourt's *Tis*, the new Jo Seager cookbook, the new Bruno Lawrence biography, *Vintners Luck* by Elizabeth Knox etc — you know the sort of thing. Of course, Unity does stock all of these *big-uns* but we have assumed that you'd like to hear about the best of the tempting new volumes that are hot off the press, along with a sprinkling of good, old, almost-forgotten, reliables.

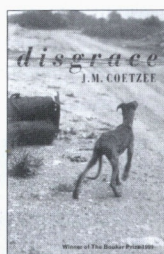
So here they are, the books that Unity hopes will get your hearts and minds pumping for the festive season.

☆ FICTION ☆



Headlong – Michael Frayn. pb \$29.95 (Faber)

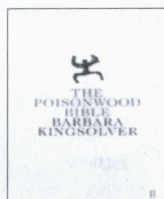
Funny, clever, shortlisted for the Booker; and ideal gift for a friend of either gender — provided they will let you read it too!



Disgrace – J.M. Coetzee. hb \$49.95 (Secker)

Winner of this year's Booker. A powerfully written and unforgettable glimpse of modern South Africa. Political, yes, but gripping and highly readable.

The Poisonwood Bible – Barbara Kingsolver. pb \$29.95 (Faber)



This amazing novel is one of our favourites of 1999. A family saga which starts in the Congo in the late 1950's, it's the story of a missionary family told through four daughters and their mother. It's also the story of the transformation of the colonial Congo into the Rwanda of the 1990's. A perfect holiday gift: the female Unity staff unanimously agree!

The Archivist – Martha Cooley. pb \$24.95 (Abacus)

Reviewers have raved, calling this 'scholarly and sophisticated'. The archivist of the title is responsible for the papers of T.S. Eliot, and the conflict between his carefully structured existence and the demands of a graduate student give a fascinating insight into the life of a famous poet. You'll be reaching for Eliot's *Collected Poems*!



My Movie Business – John Irving. pb \$39.95 (Bloomsbury)



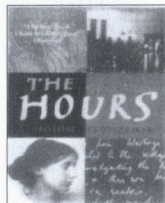
Not truly fiction, but a must for all John Irving fans. This memoir tells of the author's involvement, or lack thereof, in the films that have been made of his books. This promises to be both controversial and entertaining — something he manages with all of his writing.

A Star Called Henry – Roddy Doyle hb \$49.95 (Cape)

Set at the beginning of the century, this novel follows Henry's life through the 'troubles'. With an Irish love story at its heart, do expect something different from Doyle this time around.



The Hours – Michael Cunningham. pb \$24.95 (Fourth Estate)



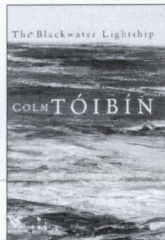
Unity discovered Cunningham years ago (we brag) and now the rest of the world follows. He's the winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for fiction with this novel — and this one features Virginia Woolf. It's readable, powerful, and for everyone who loves a book with depth and width and a fine ear for a story.

Daughter of Fortune – Isabelle Allende pb \$29.95 (Flamingo)

This wonderful novel, set in Chile and California (during the Gold Rush), is the ideal present for that special woman in your life, your friend, your wife, your mother, or yourself. Don't miss it.



The Blackwater Lightship – Colm Tóibín. pb \$34.95 (Picador)



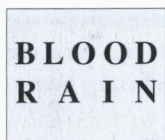
Shortlisted for the Booker and set in Ireland, this is a sweeping family saga from a powerful writer who is at home with non-fiction and with fiction. A book about listening and coming to terms with life; there are lessons for everyone here.

Blue at the Mizzen – Patrick O'Brian hb \$29.95 (Harper Collins)

It's here at last — the latest in the Aubrey Maturin sequence. This historical maritime adventure series could solve your problems for that adventure-loving, hard-to-find-a-book-for male.



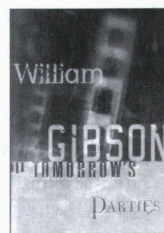
Blood Rain – Michael Dibdin. pb \$29.95 (Faber)



For all those who loved *Midnight in Sicily*, a new Aurelio Zen novel with Mafia connections. He is sent to Catania and will need all of his cunning and skill to survive. A great new mystery for Xmas.

All Tomorrow's Parties – William Gibson pb \$29.95 (Viking)

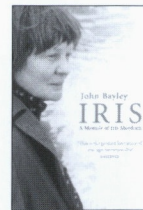
This is set in the same world as his earlier *Virtual Light*. Alongside Iain Banks' latest, *The Business* \$29.95, and Neal Stephenson's *Cryptonomicon* \$39.95, these are essential for the intelligent reader of cutting edge lit.



★ BIOGRAPHY ★

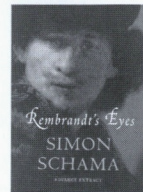
Iris – John Bayley. pb \$22.95 (Abacus)

A deeply moving tribute to the woman he adored, John Bayley writes a compassionate account of his life with writer Iris Murdoch. It covers their 40 plus years together and gives great insight into their lives.



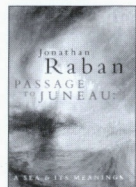
Rembrandt's Eyes – Simon Schama hb \$69.95 (Allen Lane)

A new book from the author of *Landscape and Memory*, combining biography and art history, complete with luscious illustrations of Rembrandt's work.



Passage to Juneau – Jonathan Raban. hb \$49.95 (Picador)

Have you read this man? Well this is the one! Raban takes us on an exquisitely detailed sailing trip from Seattle to Juneau. He befriends us on the journey, spilling all — historical and natural history facts as well as personal passions. Powerful and tragic.



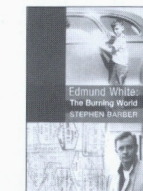
Gore Vidal – Fred Kaplan hb \$59.95 (Bloomsbury)

What hasn't this man accomplished and who doesn't he know? Vidal gave Kaplan a free hand in writing this hugely entertaining biography. American literature, culture, politics, history, and loads of gossip — its all in here.



Edmund White – The Burning World – Stephen Barber hb \$69.95 (Picador)

How much of White's own writing is autobiographical? We find out as Barber's book pieces it all together, taking us along on the fascinating journey of White's life — a journey inextricably interwoven with the evolution of gay culture. Extraordinary and compelling.



Derek Jarman – Tony Peake. hb \$57.95 (Little, Brown)

This is the tale of a painter, a gardener, a designer, and, more famously, a film maker. This is also a tale of wild parties and wilder sex, of the devastation caused by AIDS, and of inimitable courage and grace.



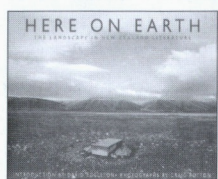
A big fat definitive biography.

★ NEW ZEALAND BOOKS ★

Here on Earth: The Landscape in N.Z. Literature

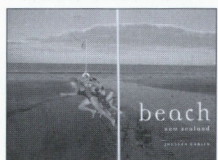
Eggleton & Potton \$39.95

A highly original anthology which links a wide range of prose and poetry from our best-loved authors with Craig Potton's beautiful photographs. An elegant gift for readers at home and overseas.



Beach – Jocelyn Carlin. hb \$39.95 (David Bateman)

A breathtaking collection of new photographs by a notable local photographer; it captures the essence of New Zealanders and their relationship with the beach. This is a book to return to again and again. It's a perfect portrait of a country and a great gift at any time.



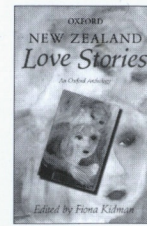
Out of the Mist and Steam: A Memoir – Alan Duff pb \$29.95 (Tandem Press)

From the author of *Once Were Warriors*, the memoir of the first 30 years of his own extraordinary life — from a background of violence and abuse growing up in Rotorua, to imprisonment in England, and on to his return home and the inspiring road to fame and fortune.



New Zealand Love Stories: An Oxford Anthology Fiona Kidman (Ed.). hb \$45.00 (O.U.P)

Kidman has discovered that we are a nation of passionate people. These writers, from 19th century Marriott Watson, to contemporary Emily Perkins and Paula Boock, describe many kinds of love, most of them extremely passionate. An ideal gift for your nearest and dearest.



The Resurrection of Phillip Clairmont – Martin Edmond pb \$34.95 (A.U.P)

At the centre of this book is the brilliant but enigmatic and controversial painter described by Colin McCahon as 'the best of the very best'. Edmond is a thoughtful and engaging writer — this book is a wonderful gift for anyone interested in really good writing and seeking an insight into the cultural life of our country.



Seeing Voices: New Zealand Poets Reading – CD \$31.95 (A.U.P)

The perfect present to send overseas, this CD features 44 tracks from 12 poets reading their own works — including Albert Wendt, Anne French, Kapka Kassabova, and Michele Leggott. Included is a booklet profiling each poet.



★ HISTORY ★

The Penguin Book of War: Great Military Writings John Keegan. hb \$64.95 (Viking)

John Keegan, the doyenne of contemporary military historians, has compiled a fascinating anthology of war from ancient to recent times, which includes literature, fiction, poetry, and non-fiction. Contributors range from Thucydides to Andy McNab, and are as diverse as a French Knight's experience at Agincourt to the bombing of Nagasaki.

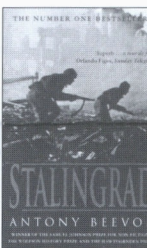


The First World War – John Keegan pb \$40.00 (Pimlico)

A companion piece to the author's *Second World War* and equally compelling. Keegan provides the best overall account on the Great War in a single volume, tying together the complexities of the war and its lasting effect on the rest of the Twentieth Century.

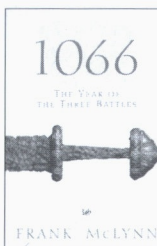
Stalingrad – Anthony Beevor pb \$39.95 (Penguin)

Highly readable and widely acclaimed chronicle about the defining battle of World War II. One of our best selling history books this year. A good quality paperback for all history buffs.



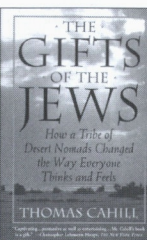
1066: The Year of the Three Battles – Frank McLynn pb \$40.00 (Pimlico)

Renowned biographer McLynn revises traditional notions of this tumultuous year. He explodes a number of myths surrounding these three battles and uniquely examines the role of the Norwegian King Harald Hadrada.



The Gift of the Jews – Thomas Cahill pb \$34.95 (Anchor)

Fascinating second book in a planned seven volume series; *The Hinges of History*. Here the author of *How the Irish Saved Civilisation* shows us how a 'tribe of desert nomads changed the way everyone thinks and feels today'.

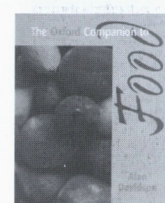


★ COOKBOOKS ★

The Oxford Companion to Food —

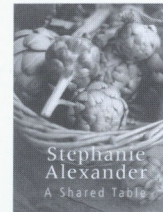
Alan Davidson (Ed.). hb \$130.00 (O.U.P)

A magnum opus from one of the world's greatest authorities on food, with guest articles by more than 50 specialist authors. Here Inca and Roman delicacies rub shoulders with contemporary dishes such as 'sonofabitch stew' in 2500 entries. For a matching set, add the new edition of *The Oxford Companion to Wine* ed. Jancis Robinson (O.U.P) hb \$130.00



A Shared Table – Stephanie Alexander hb \$69.95 (Viking)

The latest, lavishly illustrated, sumptuous offering from one of the world's leading food writers. A great gift for friends with style.



Take a Vine Ripened Tomato – Julie Biuso pb \$34.95 (New Holland)

Acclaimed 'Best Mediterranean Cuisine Cookbook' at the Versailles World Cookbook Awards (and she's a New Zealander!). This is a beautiful gift that makes summer cooking exciting and oh-so-simple.



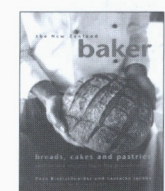
Simple Café Food: Secrets from the Garnet Road Foodstore Julie le Clerc. pb \$29.95 (Penguin)

The title says it all — the secrets of all the great café chefs, made simple for all us café cruisers. And the colour photos will drive you wild with desire.



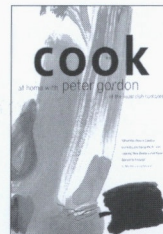
The New Zealand Baker – Dean Brett Schneider & Lorraine Jacobs. pb \$39.95 (Tandem Press)

A delicious gift for anyone who likes to bake! There is a comprehensive reference section on basic principles, ingredients, and techniques, follows by a selection of recipes from N.Z.'s best bakers and bakeries.



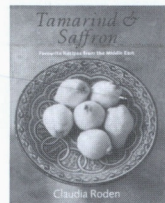
Cook at Home with Peter Gordon Peter Gordon. hb \$69.95 (Hodder & Stoughton)

One of the essential cookbooks to own this year. New Zealand's own Peter Gordon, of the 'Sugar Club' restaurant and cookbook fame, gives us dishes and menus to cook at home. Wonderful photographs for divine and easy-to-prepare dishes.



Tamarind & Saffron: Favourite Recipes from the Middle East – Claudia Roden hb \$69.95 (Viking)

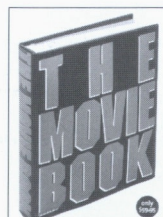
World authority Claudia Roden brings us recipes for every occasion in this striking hardback with gorgeous photos.



★ LUSCIOUS BOOKS ★

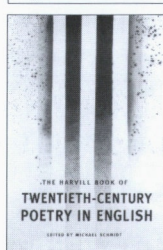
The Movie Book. hb \$85.00 (Phaidon)

This hefty volume brings together 500 diverse people who have made a landmark contribution to the medium of cinema. Each entry is illustrated by single photo that reveals a key aspect of that person's work. An extravagant gift for the movie nut.



The Harvill Book of Twentieth-Century Poetry in English – Michael Schmidt (Ed.). hb \$69.95

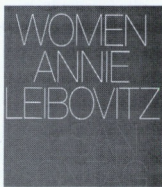
A exceptional collection of more than 100 poets, their work illustrating the evolution of poetry in the English speaking world since 1900. Many of the obvious big names are included, but there are also some inspired choices — and yes, our own Baxter and Manhire feature.



★ WOMEN ★

Annie Leibovitz and Susan Sontag hb \$139.95 (Jonathan Cape)

Annie needs no introduction. This is a large extravagant collection of photos of women from all walks of life.



Century: One Hundred Years of Human Progress, Regression, Suffering & Hope – 1899 to 1999 in Photographs – Boxed Edition. hb \$99.95 – Special Price (Phaidon)

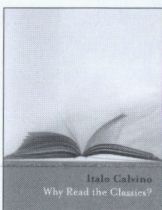
The sub-title says it all. We can't think of a single person who wouldn't like this book as a gift. It is an extraordinary record of the Twentieth Century and it is enormous.



★ BRAINY STUFF ★

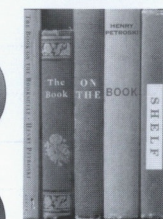
Why Read the Classics – Italo Calvino hb \$59.95 (Cape)

A collection of essays by Calvino on his classics; the writers, poets, and scientists who have meant the most to him. A beautiful hardback for the very serious reader.



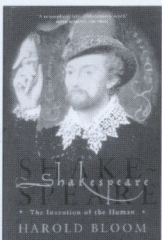
The Book on the Bookshelf – Henry Petroski hb \$65.95 (Knopf)

The 'poet laureate' of technology turns his eyes towards books and bookshelves, and discusses bookselling, book buying, and book collecting through the centuries. The perfect present for the bibliophile.



Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human Harold Bloom. pb \$39.95 (Fourth Estate)

Bloom's theory is that Shakespeare was, through his dramatic characters, the inventor of human personality as we understand it today. A feast of arguments and insights, this book has had fabulous reviews everywhere and is FUN!



Kant and the Platypus: Essays on Language and Cognition – Umberto Eco. hb \$69.95 (Secker & Warburg)

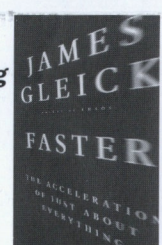
Here Eco examines how much our perception of things depends on cognitive ability and how much on linguistic resources. Brainfood for the philosophically minded and fabulous looking too!



★ SCIENCE ★

Faster: The acceleration of Just About Everything James Gleick. hb \$49.95 (Little, Brown)

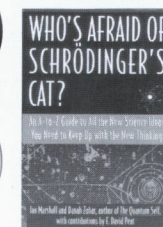
An examination of the human condition at the turn of the millennium. A must for the serious science reader or that busy person who wonders why they never have enough time.



Who's afraid of Schrodinger's Cat?

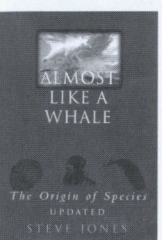
Marshall and Zoahr. pb \$35.95 (Quill)

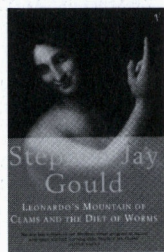
The subtitle says it all: 'An A-to-Z guide to all the new Science ideas you need to keep up with the new thinking'. Organised alphabetically by subject, from Antimatter to Wormholes. Don't be afraid — this is for everyone who wants to know and understand.



Almost Like a Whale: The Origin of the Species Updated – Steve Jones. hb \$64.95 (Doubleday)

Steve Jones updates the origin of species with modern examples and discoveries. A major work by one of the big names in science writing.





Leonardo's Mountain of Clams and the Diet of Worms – Stephen J. Gould. pb \$26.95 (Vintage)

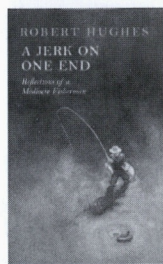
The latest collection of essays on natural history from the master. A delightful mix of natural history and biography.

☆ **SPORT** ☆

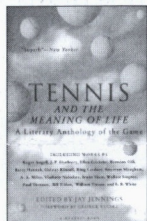
A Jerk on One End

Robert Hughes. hb \$39.95 (Harvill)

Art critic / historian Hughes' fine meditation on the art of fishing, based on his lifelong relationship with the somewhat spiritual / mystical pastime. The book for the fisherman with a soul.



Tennis and the Meaning of Life

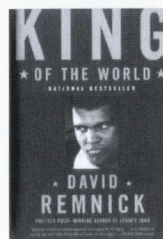


Jay Jennings (Ed.) pb \$37.95 (Harcourt Brace)

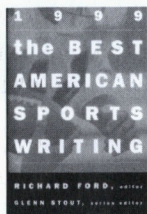
A collection of fiction and poetry on the metaphysics of tennis by authors famous (eg: Maugham, Theroux, Nabakov, Milne) and unknown. Terrific example of the 'sport as a metaphor' genre.

King of the World – David Remnick pb \$32.00 (Vintage)

Amongst the plethora of recent books on Muhammad Ali this stands alongside Thomas Hauser's brilliant biography as the best. Shot through with superb portraits of his contemporaries, such as Liston, Mailer, and Malcom X, this is as much a social history as a sports book. Outstanding.



The Best American Sports Writing 1999 – Richard Ford (Ed.) pb \$32.95 (Houghton Mifflin)

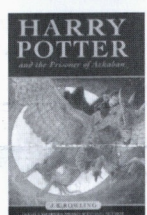


This ninth annual edition continues the high standards of previous volumes. Amongst this excellent collection there are superlative pieces on Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan, ten-pin bowling and deer hunting by Remnick, Halberstan, Friedman and David Mamet respectively.

☆ **CHILDREN'S BOOKS** ☆

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban JK Rowling – hb \$24.95

Yes, the third adventure is now here!



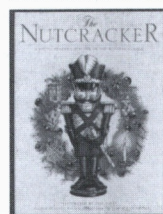
The Night Before Christmas

Clement C. Moore. hb \$24.95 (Courage Books)
Gorgeously illustrated by Christian Birmingham, this large format book is an essential item on every child's shelf for Christmas reading, and at this price — it's a steal.



The Nutcracker – Adapted for children from the classic. hb \$24.95 (Courage Books)

Another absolutely sumptuous large format book for the Christmas season. Again the price makes this irresistible.



Mad about Madeline: The Complete Tales

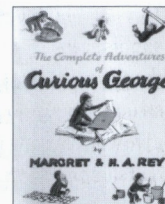
Ludwig Bemelmans hb \$79.95 (Viking)

An ongoing bestseller at Unity, this large volume contains the six classic Madeline stories. With its perfect, simple rhyme and its delightful drawings, this will appeal to girls both young and those 'not so young any more but who remember Madeline with total clarity'.



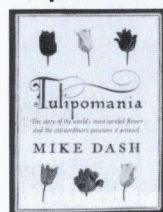
Complete Adventures of Curious George Margaret and H.A. Rey. hb \$76.95 (H.M.C.)

The original seven stories (published between 1941 and 1966) about the curious little monkey who, when confronted with city living, gets into endless difficulties. The illustrations are perfect and innocent naughtiness rules. No child can resist.



BOOKS FOR THAT PERSON WHO THINKS THEY'VE READ EVERYTHING

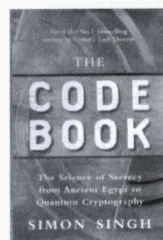
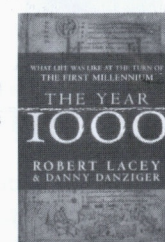
Tulipomania – Mike Dash. hb \$39.95 Special Price (Gollancz)



The story of the world's most coveted flower and the extraordinary passions it aroused. Ideal for history lovers but equally fascinating for business book readers as it chronicles the first great stock market crash in history. For all those who enjoyed *The Orchid Thief*, *Cod*, *Zarafa*, *The Potato*, and *Nathanial's Nutmeg*.

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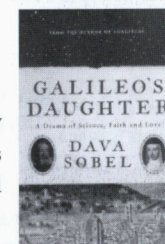


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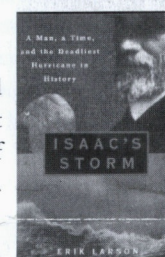
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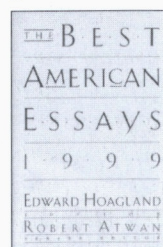
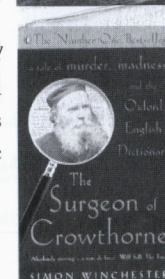
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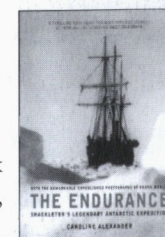


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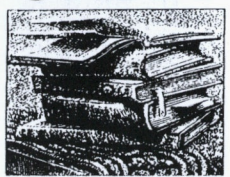
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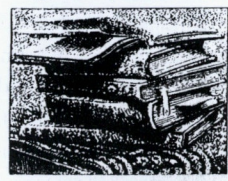


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