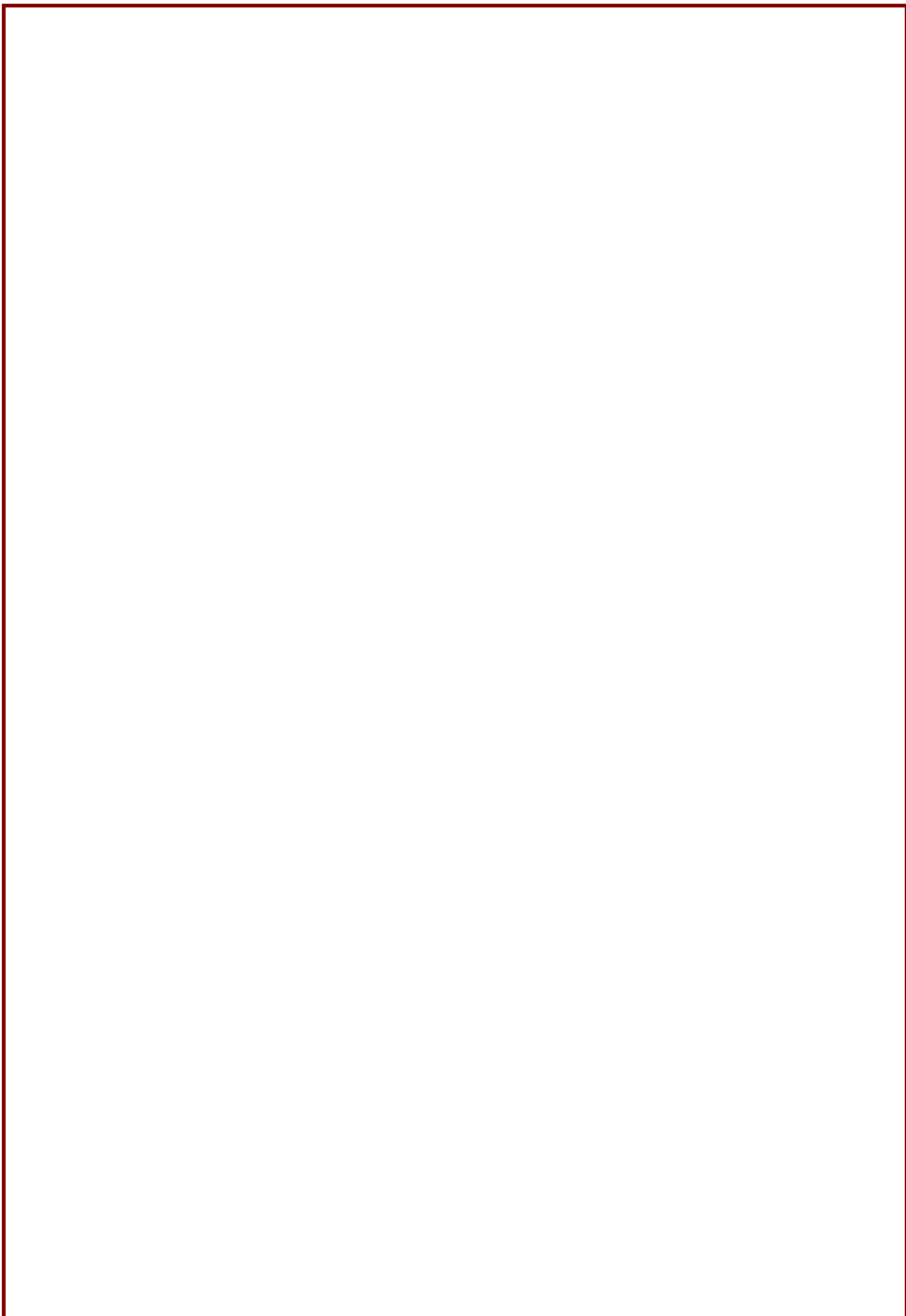




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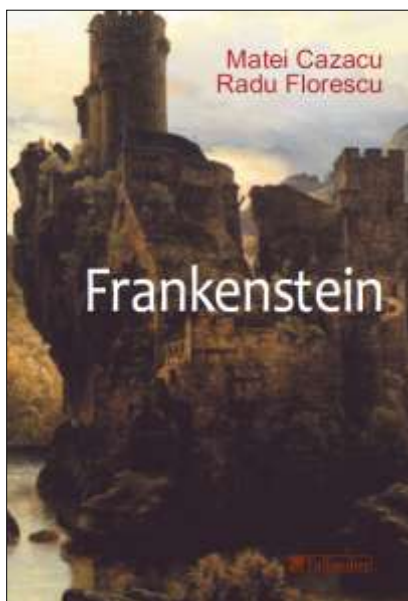
**CONSTANTINE THE GREAT by Pierre Maraval**



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## Frankenstein: a biography

Radu Florescu and Matei Cazacu

298 pages  
September 2011

**L**iterature brought him into the world then the cinema gave him a face.

The eponymous character of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel has entered the collective imagination even if creator and creation are sometimes confused. Few people though know the real story behind the birth of a legend.

On a dark and stormy night on the banks of Lake Geneva, the host, Lord Byron, presented a challenge to his friends - to write the best and most abominable ghost story. Byron's guests include Mary Shelley but that night while seeking to write something original she is unable to pen a single line.

To maintain a sense of realism Shelley draws heavily on the life of the eccentric German alchemist cum theologian Johan Conrad Dippel. A man – who lived in Castle Frankenstein and if rumour was to be believed carried out all manner of autopsies and medical experiments. So begins the story of Victor Frankenstein, a story where reality and fiction mingle freely.

Radu Florescu and Matei Cazacu return to the origins of the myth and by examining the lives of Shelley and Frankenstein they excavate the origins of a monster.

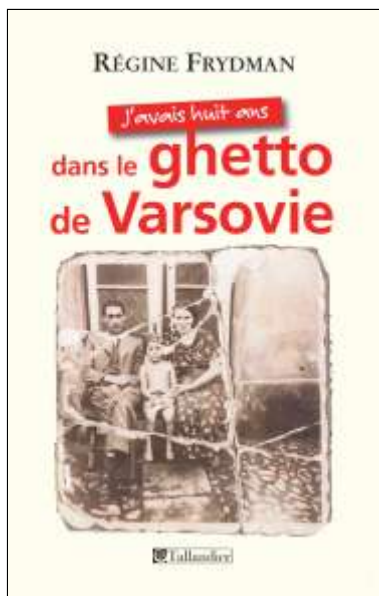
**Radu Florescu** is Emeritus Professor of History at Boston College.

A researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Research, **Matei Cazacu** runs courses at the University of Paris and the National Institute of Eastern Languages and Civilisations. He is a specialist on Romania and the Balkans. His numerous works include *Dracula* (Tallandier 2011).



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## I was an 8 year old in the Warsaw Ghetto: a memoir

Régine Frydman

254 pages  
September 2011

"There were people who got by, there were people who risked their lives for their families and children. Some of those living in the Ghetto were incredibly brave, they were also very inventive. People like my parents; they struggled and fought without ever thinking of their destiny which was ...death".

Régine Frydman miraculously survived the Warsaw Ghetto. She was just 8 years old in 1940 when the Germans imprisoned 450,000 Jews in an area measuring just five hectares. For the next three years the only constant was death. Régine would have succumbed like so many others had it not been for her father Abraham Apelkir, he risked his life to bring in food from outside the ghetto. He went on to hide his family in the homes of Polish friends, with priests and also in the countryside.

Here Frydman weaves her story and that of her father. Both bear witness to the terrible events; where dead bodies were left to rot on the pavements, the threat of a German raid was pervasive, shootings in the streets were commonplace, children fought each other for a heel of bread, and deportations to the camps was never far away.

**This is a rare document in the vein of Helen Berr's *Journal*.**

**Régine Frydman** was born in Warsaw in 1932. After the war she moved to France with her parents and her sister Nathalie who, born in 1940, spent the war hidden in an orphanage. Before dying in 1991 her father Abraham Apelkir recounted his experiences in Poland - the legacy of a generation.



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## The New Beyond the Map Atlas

A geopolitical atlas

Jean-Christophe Victor

226 pages

November 2011

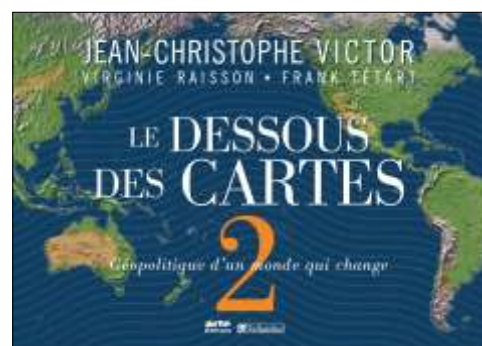
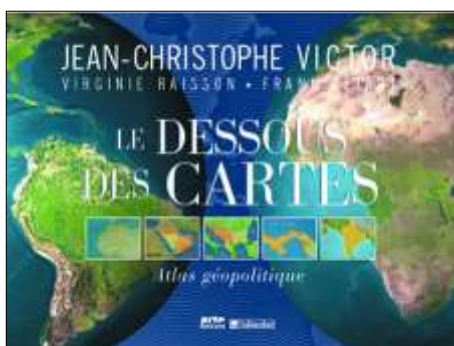
Beyond the Maps Atlas, 1 and 2 sold in **Korea, China (Mainland and Taiwan), Japan**

**F**or nearly twenty years Jean-Christophe Victor has been unravelling the issues of the day with the aid of beautifully designed maps on his programme *Le Dessous des Cartes*. It is one of the flagship programmes of the French channel ARTE channel with one million viewers a week. Following the success of the 2005 and 2007 atlases (which both sold more than 150,000 copies in France)

Here is a new edition with new maps, new political hot-spots, new writing and a new design.

This engaging and pertinent book is objective and visionary as it militates for the environment and human rights and it is required reading for all teachers and students alike. To better understand the changing world we live in, the world which we will inherit and what is at stake, read this book.

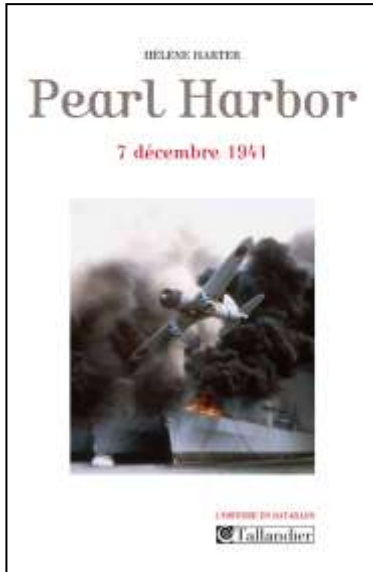
**Jean-Christophe Victor** is the Director of LEPAC (Laboratory for political studies and cartography). He teaches geopolitics in France and abroad. His programme *Le Dessous des Cartes* has been broadcast by ARTE since 1991.



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**Pearl Harbor**

**Hélène Harter**

198 pages  
September 2011

**B**etween 6.00 and 7.15 in the morning of December 7th 1941 the first wave of Japanese airplanes flew towards Pearl Harbour. Two soldiers noticed them at 7.00 but it wasn't until 7.58 that the first bombs started to fall prompting Rear Admiral Patrick Bellinger to scream into his microphone "*Air Raid Pearl Harbour. This is not a drill*".

By 9.45 the American base was destroyed and 2340 soldiers were dead.

Above all though, the raid prompted an about turn in American public opinion. The USA declared war on Emperor Hiro Hito's Japan which in turn resulted in war with Nazi Germany.

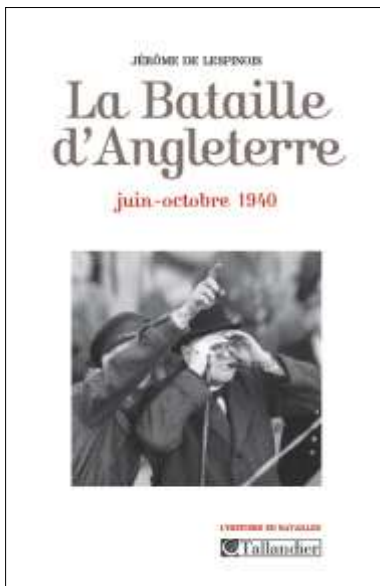
Harter reconstructs minute by minute the unfolding attack on Pearl Harbour which was the major turning point in the War in the Pacific.

**Hélène Harter** is Professor of contemporary American History at Rennes University, she specialises in the History of the USA. She is also the author of *L'Amérique en guerre: les villes pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale* and *La Civilisation américaine* (2006 with a preface by André Kaspi).

The logo for Tallandier, featuring a stylized '©' symbol followed by the word 'Tallandier' in a serif font, all enclosed in a rectangular border.

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## The Battle of Britain: June-October 1940

Jérôme de Lespinois

194 pages  
September 2011

**T**his book shows the confrontation of several hundred men - men often commanded by heroes of the Great War (1914-18). It is also the fascinating story of the first aerial war in history where the German objective was overall air superiority rather than immediate territorial gain.

July 1940: Nazi Germany, fresh from forcing the French into signing an armistice wanted to convince Britain to also sue for peace. Britain refused and the stage was set for the largest aerial battle of the Second World War which in turn decided the ultimate result of the conflict, the survival of Britain and the political destiny of Winston Churchill.

As events unfold; the Luftwaffe blitz of London, the dogfights and the planned invasion, Jérôme de Lespinois sheds light on the techniques and logistics of the battle, the political stakes, the role of Churchill, the tenacity of the RAF pilots, the self-sacrifice of the British people as well as the strategic and tactical errors of the German High command.

The Battle of Britain was a watershed moment- it resulted in the first defeat for Hitler, broke the myth of German invincibility and changed the course of the war. It was a triumph of will as a nation fought for its survival and a people its freedom. It was a moment in history when just a few weeks went a long way to deciding the future of the world.

Director of the seminary the War School **Jérôme de Lespinois** has written several books including *Politiques, défense, puissance: 30 ans d'opérations aériennes* (Winner of the Edmond Fréville Prize in 2011).

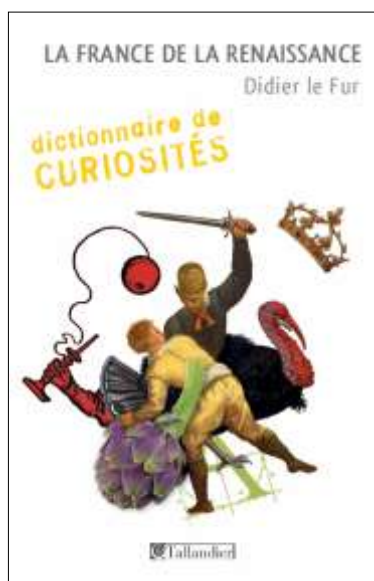


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## The 'Dictionary of Curiosities' series

**O**ur contemporaries' thirst for history is well known but many find weighty biographies a little daunting. The 'Dictionary of Curiosities' series is for them. The authors are all specialists in their respective periods (Didier Le Fur for the Renaissance, The Revolution: Antoine de Baecque – to come The Middle Ages: Dominique Barthelme and The Second Empire: Eric Anceau). Always subjective they write with seriousness, erudition and wit as they sketch their various portraits of history bringing their passion for past vividly to life. The Dictionary of Curiosities series has one aim – to cultivate the pleasure of the reader. They resolutely succeed!



### The Dictionary of Curiosities Renaissance France

Didier Le Fur

280 pages  
October 2011

**W**hen we say sixteenth century France we think of the Renaissance, Chambord castle, Leonardo de Vinci, Catherine de Medici, the wars of religion and the massacre of Saint-Bartholomew's Eve. But what do we know of the origin of strawberries or the zip so proudly sported by Francis 1st in so many portraits or of massacres of Vaudois cultists in the south of France. This book also sheds light on the life of Anne of Brittany, the clog wearing Queen who remained true to her origins and safeguarded Breton autonomy and culture. It also informs us on the origins of the cedilla, the various treatments for syphilis and why the cockerel, one of the more ridiculous birds, became the emblem of France.

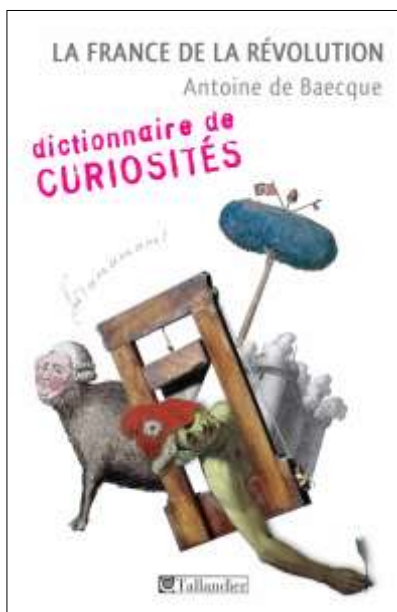
The painstakingly researched Dictionary of Curiosities is wide ranging, it provides answers to cultural, religious, political and historical questions. It fully does justice to the complexity and richness of this major period in French history. Didier Le Fur invites you to meander with him through history where he addresses both the major and minor events of the period but always preferring to take the less trodden path.

**Didier Le Fur**, who has a doctorate in history, is a renowned expert on Renaissance France. He has written extensively on the period. His remarkable biography of Henry II was published by Tallandier in 2009.



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## The French Revolution

Antoine de Baecque

272 pages  
October 2011

**M**istakenly we thought that the French Revolution had no more secrets to yield yet as Antoine de Baecque shows with brio in this Dictionary there are indeed a number of details and anecdotes that were until now little known.

Who knew for example that the emblematic Revolutionary song *Ça ira* (It'll be fine) was first sung by peasants armed with pickaxes and wheelbarrows as they prepared the Fête de la Fédération on the Champs de Mars in Paris? Who knew that one of the first revolutionary propositions was to legalise divorce? Who was Charles IX, a hero of the revolution or not? What was the *Chasse Patriotique à la grosse bête*? Did Robespierre really wear breeches of human flesh?

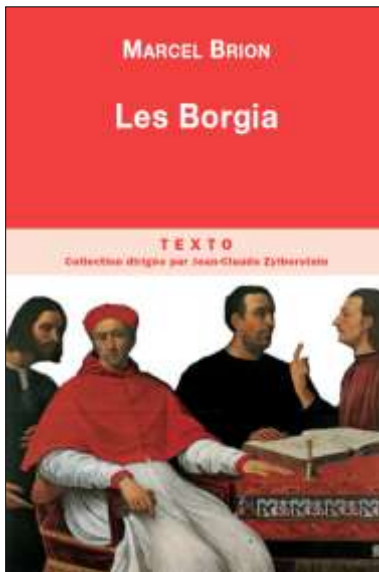
With this light hearted glance at history Antoine de Baecque reveals an unseen Revolution where stories great and small overlap.

**Antoine de Baecque** studied at the Ecole Normale superior de Saint Cloud and is a specialist in the cultural history of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The author of many books, he has taught at the University of Versailles and now works at Nanterre University.

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## The BORGHIAS

Marcel Brion

Texte  
336 pages  
August 2011

**F**ew places or times were as depraved as Italy at the end of the 15th century. The Vatican was weighed down by sexual license, nepotism, corruption and murder. The Borgias (Pope Alexander VI and his children Cesare and Lucrezia) were at the centre of it all and proved themselves to be the most violent in a violent age. They also used gossip and slander to sully their numerous political enemies.

For decades melodrama and history have combined to evoke images of incest, orgies, corruption, stabbings and poisoning whenever the Borgias are mentioned. The family though also possessed qualities; the political cunning of the high minded Alexander, the energy and courage of Cesare and the charm and refinement of Lucrezia.

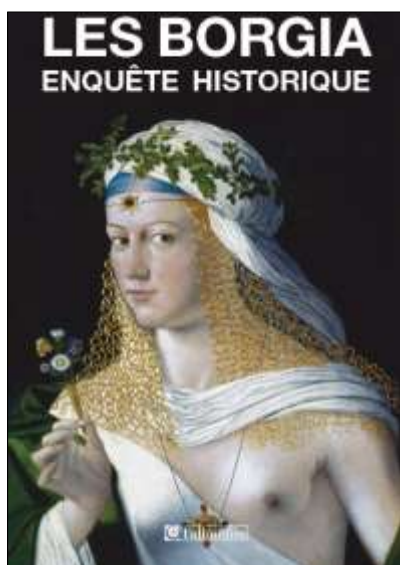
Marcel Brion is a renowned expert on Renaissance Italy. Here he tries to put the family in the context of their time; he refuses to judge them by the yardstick of 20th century morality and he argues that the Borgias do not deserve their reputation. Written in the tradition of Henri Troyat and Stefan Zweig this is a rare and pleasurable read.

**Marcel Brion** is a novelist, essayist, French art historian and a Member of the Académie Française. His books include *Michelangelo*, *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Machiavelli*. He has also written about the empire builders; *Tamerlan*, *Théodoric, roi des Ostrogoths*, *Charles le téméraire*.

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## The Borgias: A Historical Investigation

Guy Le Thiec

200 pages  
November 2011

**T**he Catalan Borgia family gave the world two popes and was dominant in Rome for two hundred years - the name, and in particular those of Alexander, Cesare and Lucrezia, has become synonymous with murder, incest and vice sharply juxtaposed against the beauty and richness of the Vatican.

Much, however, of what we think we know about the family comes from the testimony of their enemies and those hostile to the papacy itself.

Here Guy le Thiec attempts to put the record straight and distance themselves from fiction and the result is more than worthwhile.

Despite his short pontificate Alexander VI (1492-1503), born Rodrigo Borgia, was a great statesman of the Renaissance and patron of the arts. He understood that for the Borgia family to prosper he needed to build a sustainable state. It was a philosophy he would hand on to his son Cesare.

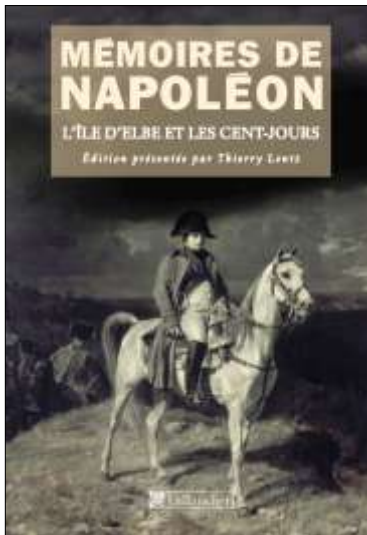
Through three angles, legend, family and politics, the authors construct the story from the family's origins in Spain, their rise to power in Rome before the inevitable decline and fall. It's a portrait of desire and power at the dawn of the modern age. The backdrop of Renaissance Rome where the clash of rival powers plays out is as stunning as the expertly told tale.

**Guy le Thiec** is a professor of modern history at the University of Aix en Provence. He is a former member of the Ecole Française in Rome and is an expert in the Italian and French Renaissance.

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## Napoleon's memoirs: Elba and the hundred days

Presented by Thierry Lentz

494 pages  
August 2011

**I**n his final years Napoleon dictated his memoirs. These texts shouldn't be confused with the memories of his companions in exile, the commercial success of which has sometimes overshadowed the Emperor's own record of his career. Conscious of his extraordinary life and destiny Napoleon was determined not to allow anyone else but himself recount his life. He fought this battle for posterity as he lived: with organisation, control and total dedication.

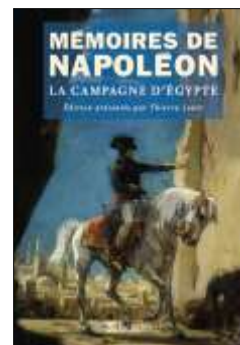
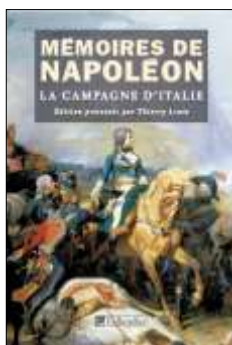
For more than five years Napoleon, the most important figure of his time, meticulously composed, re-read and corrected these memoirs in order to leave his record on the key moments in his life. They give us a unique access to the way he thinks and sees the world.

We are always ready to accept testimony from other witnesses and historians from the period and here at last we have Napoleon's opinions whether we agree with them or not. The Emperor gives his version of events while ensuring that the established facts and their chronology remain unaltered. After having being buried for more than a century, the most significant chapters are at last available to the general public again in a version established by the Emperor himself and annotated by one for France's foremost specialist of the Napoleonic period

This third volume closes the trilogy: from the treaty of Fontainebleau, his exile on Elba, the hundred days, his triumphant return to Paris, defeat at Waterloo in June 1815 to eventual exile on Saint Helena where he started writing.

(Volume 1 was dedicated to the first Italian campaign and volume 2 to the campaign in Egypt.

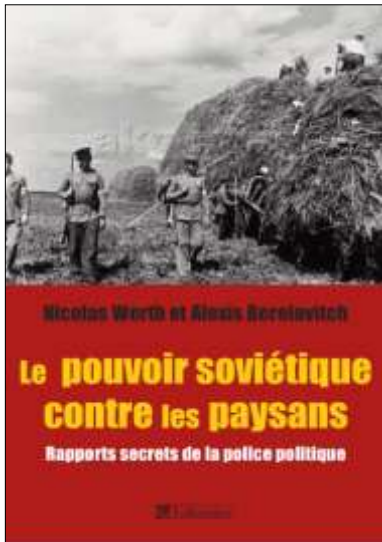
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## The State against the Peasantry: The political police and the Soviet countryside 1918-39

Nicolas Werth and Alexis Berelovitch

224 pages  
November 2011

**D**rawing on unseen archives from the political police renowned USSR specialist Nicolas Werth examines the extreme violence meted out on the peasantry from 1929 to 1934. Along with co-author Alexis Berelovitch he recounts the 1930s where deportations, forced exile to Siberia and eventual famine were all used in a period of dekulakisation.

Following the failure of the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1929 the Soviets launched much to the outrage of the so called 'rich' peasantry (the Kulaks) a programme of farm collectivisation, this led to the increased persecution of the Kulaks across the USSR.

By examining police files the authors show how the State and the GPU (the political police) implemented this criminal policy of mass arrests deportations and relocation of the peasantry in Siberia.

By 1932 1.3 million of the 1.8 million people deported had 'disappeared', how many had escaped, how many were dead? This trend would continue to 1934. The figure alone shows the enormous human cost of this war against the kulaks.

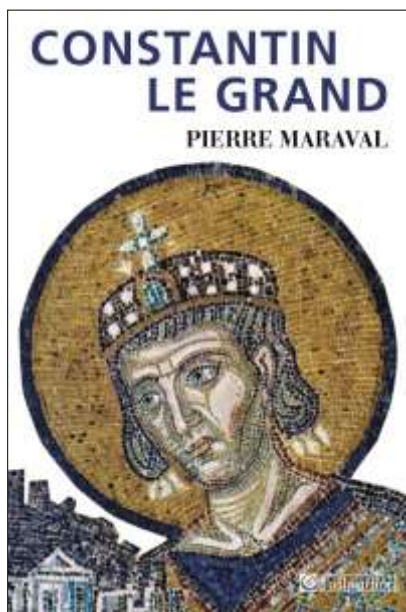
The authors also lay responsibility at the feet of the leaders for the famine which had 7 million victims. By sending all agricultural produce to the towns and cities while at the same time forbidding the peasants from moving to urban areas in search of food the Soviets were directly responsible for millions of deaths caused by starvation.

**Nicolas Werth** is a historian and expert on the USSR. He is a researcher at the National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS). His works include *L'Ivrogne et la marchande de fleurs* (The Drunk and the Flower Seller: Autopsy of a Mass Murderer 1937-38), Tallandier, 2009. He has also re-edited his father's work *Leningrad 1943* (Tallandier 2010) and *Scandale musical à Moscou* (Musical Scandal in Moscow 1948), Tallandier, 2009.



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## Constantine the Great

Pierre Maraval

400 pages  
September 2011

**T**he conversion of Constantine to Christianity was a decisive moment as much for the history of the Church and Byzantium as it was for the Roman Empire. His victory over Maxentius on October 23rd 312 at Milvian Bridge remains famous because of his pre-battle vision of a shining cross. The consequences of victory were immense - Christianity gained official status within the Empire and then in 352 Constantine called the first Ecumenical Council to combat the Arian heresy which had torn the Church apart.

Constantine reigned from 306-337 and after several wars established a hereditary monarchy. Ever the arch-politician he was also an avid builder and his city Constantinople would, for 11 centuries, be the political, cultural and artistic centre of the brilliant civilisation that was the Eastern Roman Empire. After having initiated numerous political, economic, fiscal, social and religious reforms, the Empire was pacified by the time of his death in 337.

This is the first French language biography of Constantine despite him being synonymous with the end of the persecution of Christians and the church's growing influence, as well as being the first Emperor to convert to Christianity.

**Pierre Maraval** is Emeritus Professor at the Sorbonne in Paris. He edited Eusebius of Caesarea's *Life of Constantine*. Other works include *L'Histoire secrète* (Belles Lettres) and *Histoires, guerres et Malheur du temps sous Justinien d'Agathis* (Procope).

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