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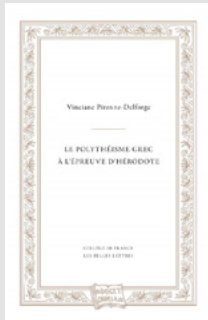
Les Belles Lettres



- › Greek Polytheism and Herodotus
- › Historical Atlas of the Ancient Middle East
- › Human Flight in the Middle Ages
- › Raiders of the Lost Memory
- › Smells
- › Sustainability
- › The Hungry Angel
- › The Syriac World

Les Belles Lettres

Humanities & Essays



VINCIANE PIRENNE-DELFORGE

*A study on plurality
in the Greek religion.
Taken from a course taught
by the author at the Collège
de France.*

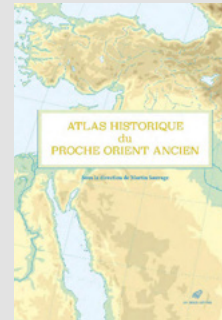
› **LE POLYTHÉISME GREC
À L'ÉPREUVE D'HÉRODOTE**

GREEK POLYTHEISM AND HERODOTUS

What is the relevance of the terms "religion" and "polytheism" when applied to ancient Greece? Should we refer to "Greek religion" in the singular or the plural? Do the gods dissolve within the plurality of the worships they are offered as to become unrecognizable? Can we speak of "belief" in this context? Were the variety of sacrificial ceremonies based on a shared background in all Greek communities? Taking Herodotus' Histories as a common, underlying theme, this book aims to make the fluid plurality of this complex system easier to understand.

9782251451459 | 2020 | 256 PAGES | 13,5 X 21 CM | 21.50 €

Humanities & Essays



MARTIN SAUVAGE (DIR.)

*This atlas offers
a comprehensive panorama
of the ancient Middle East,
from when the settlement
process began over 20,000
years ago until modern times.*

› **ATLAS HISTORIQUE DU PROCHE-ORIENT ANCIEN**

HISTORICAL ATLAS OF THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST

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Les Belles Lettres

Humanities & Essays



NICOLAS WEILL-PAROT

How was the possibility of human flight considered in the Middle Ages? How was this "inaccessible reality" envisioned?

› LE VOL DANS LES AIRS AU MOYEN ÂGE :
ESSAI HISTORIQUE SUR UNE UTOPIE
SCIENTIFIQUE

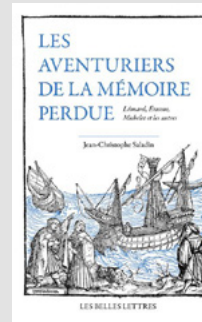
HUMAN FLIGHT IN THE MIDDLE AGES

HISTORICAL ESSAY
ON A SCIENTIFIC UTOPIA

The question of human flight was truly an intellectual challenge for medieval thought. Whether carried aloft by the natural strength of birds, by spirits (departed souls, angels, demons) or by human ingenuity, flight raised many complex questions. The aim of this original historical essay is to understand the way in which medieval scientists grasped the foundations, stakes, and even paradoxes of flight, or in a broader sense, of suspending a heavy object in an environment lighter than itself. We see scholastic science and its proponents coming up against a phenomenon that seems to defy the natural order.

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Humanities & Essays



JEAN-CHRISTOPHE SALADIN

The author narrates the adventures of these men and women of the Renaissance who drew upon the immense hidden riches of the past to build their future.

› LES AVENTURIERS DE LA MÉMOIRE PERDUE :
LÉONARD, ÉRASME, MICHELET ET LES AUTRES

RAIDERS OF THE LOST MEMORY

LEONARDO, ERASMUS,
MICHELET, AND THE OTHERS

Our adventurers are humanists. Their quest: to find a lost ancient culture. By restoring its memory, they founded — often at the risk of their very lives— a civilization based on free thought: our own. They engaged in all areas of social life, from painting to the rights of the colonised, including theatre, astronomy, and religion. We have much to learn from them, at a time when freedom of expression is once again being threatened.

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Humanities & Essays



ROBERT MUCHEMBLED

Robert Muchembled examines how the sense of smell in the West has changed, from the Renaissance to the beginning of the 19th century.

› LA CIVILISATION DES ODEURS :
XVI^E - DÉBUT XIX^E SIÈCLE

SMELLS

A CULTURAL HISTORY OF ODORS IN EARLY MODERN TIMES

Why is so little known about the sense of smell, this primordial sense that allows us to react to danger and identify the best sexual partner? The historian Robert Muchembled explores multiple sources to reveal the history of the powerful repression which, for half a millennium, has made us consider the sense of smell as the most despicable of the senses. From the miasmas that emanate from bodies to floral scents, Robert Muchembled invites his readers on an extraordinary journey into the civilization of olfactory etiquette.

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Humanities & Essays



PIERRE CAYE

Sustainable development inevitably requires a transformation of the productive system and a redefinition of the essential factors of production: capital, labor, and technology.

› DURER : ÉLÉMENTS POUR LA TRANSFORMATION
DU SYSTÈME PRODUCTIF

SUSTAINABILITY

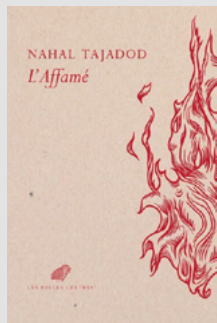
ELEMENTS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE PRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

For 50 years, ecology has been on the public policy agenda. What are the results? Are the best intentions good enough? For the first time since Marx, this book proposes a global approach to the productive system and describes the necessary tools for its transformation. For in order to build "sustainable development," people must be able to build sustainability through their very methods of production! In this way, capital becomes heritage, labor is devoted to maintenance, and technology serves as our protective envelope. The economy reaches its highest moral and political dimensions, far from the dominant ideologies of innovation, disruption, and creative destruction.

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Les Belles Lettres

Literature & Fiction



NAHAL TAJADOD

In the 13th century, as the Mongol invasion ravages Persia, the mystic Shams of Tabriz sets off in search of the man who would become both his master and disciple.

› L'AFFAMÉ : LES DITS DE SHAMS DE TABRIZ

THE HUNGRY ANGEL

THE SAYINGS OF SHAMS OF TABRIZ

After years of unsuccessful searching, Shams finds Mowlana, a man praised for his teachings and majesty, but a prisoner of his own fame. Shams will become his liberator. After their encounter and subsequent separation, Mowlana would go on to become one of the most fascinating poets of world literature, whom we know today as Rumi. In this striking and poetic book, author Nahal Tajadod uses Shams's own words — drawing from his Maqalat, a huge and somewhat chaotic collection of sayings — to offer unique and vivid insights into the life of a remarkable man.

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Humanities & Essays



FRANÇOISE BRIQUEL CHATONNET
MURIEL DEBIÉ

An unprecedented work with over 100 illustrations, 11 maps, and numerous excerpts from translated texts that reveal 2000 years of Syriac history and culture.

› LE MONDE SYRIAQUE : SUR LES ROUTES D'UN CHRISTIANISME IGNORÉ

THE SYRIAC WORLD

ON THE ROADS OF UNDISCOVERED CHRISTIANITY

Syriac, a form of Aramaic, was neither the language of a state nor of a particular people, but it underwent an exceptional development with Christianisation. It spread from the Mediterranean to East Asia, and even today, it is still the classical, literary, and religious language of several Eastern churches. From the very first centuries, in a symmetrical movement resembling the Greco-Latin Christian traditions that spread out towards the west, Syriac Christianity developed eastwards, as far as India and China. It was also the branch of Christianity that was in closest contact with Islam.

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