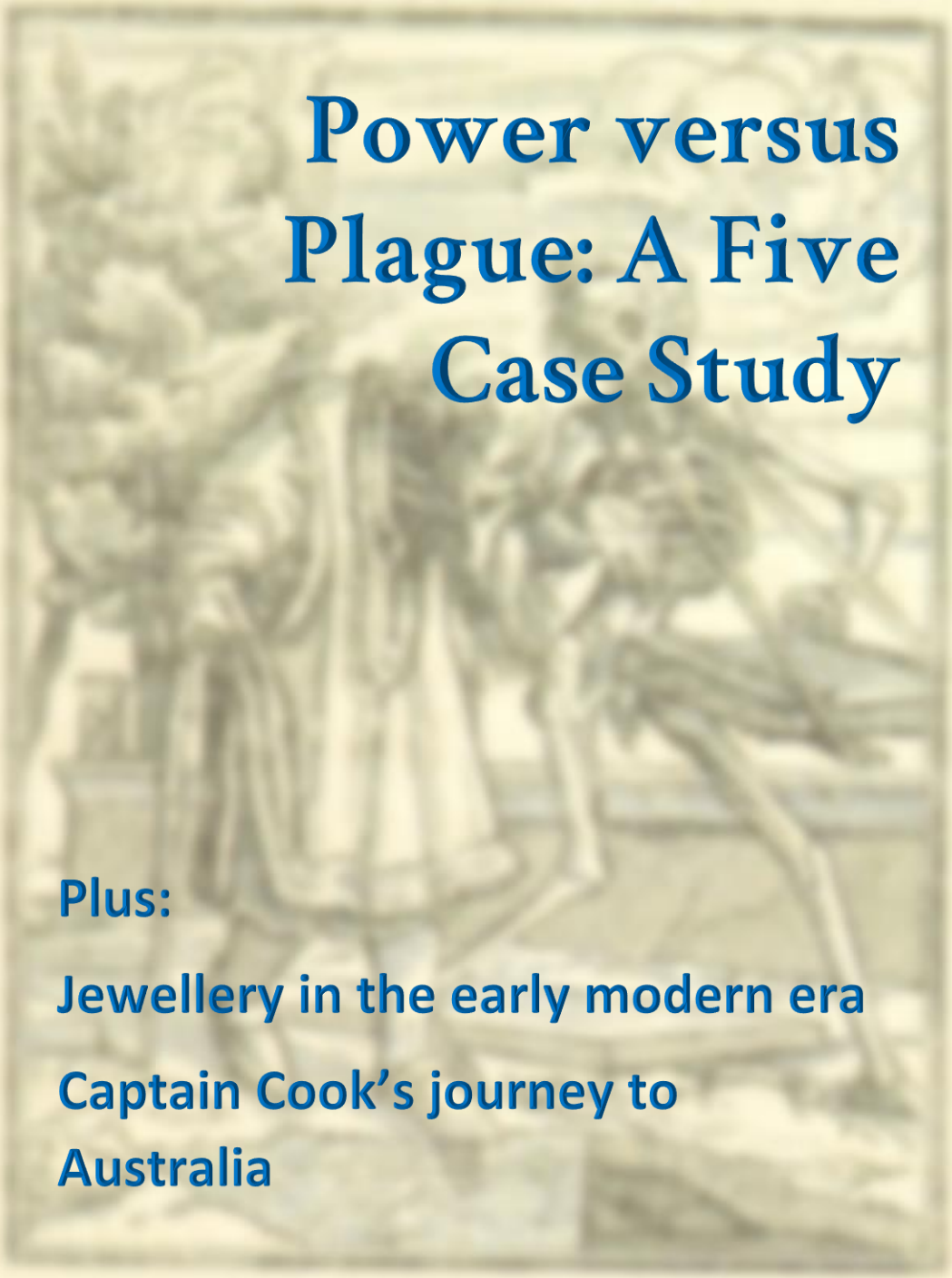
The Historical Times

ISSUE 5 THE NCH HISTORY SOCIETY'S TERMLY MAGAZINE TRINITY 2020



Power versus Plague: A Five Case Study

Plus:

Jewellery in the early modern era

Captain Cook's journey to Australia

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Welcome to The Historical Times

A note from the editor:

Hey folks, hoping you and all of your loved ones are well and safe. It's a turbulent time, and keeping ourselves busy indoors has been and continues to be key to getting through it. The Historical Times strives to provide stimulating articles, and a few fun extras to help along the way! We're always grateful for contributions, so a big thank you to everyone who's written for us.

Sadly, we've had to postpone our Trinity Term Greenwich Tour, but as soon as we're all back in London we'll be looking forward to rescheduling. But for now, as a substitute please enjoy some sunny summer photos of the historic site:

Top: Old Royal Naval College Greenwich, by Ray Manila, Flickr
Bottom Left: A view of Greenwich Palace, by Jocelyn Erskine-Kellie, Flickr
Bottom Right: Greenwich Park, by Alan Stanton, Flickr

Wishisng you all the best,
Lucy

Upcoming Anniversaries:

- 8 May: 75th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe) during the Second World War
- 11 May: 200th anniversary of the launch of Charles Darwin's ship HMS *Beagle*
- 12 May: 200th anniversary of the birth of nurse Florence Nightingale
- 31 May: 45th anniversary of the founding of the European Space Agency
- 9 June: 150th anniversary of the death of author Charles Dickens
- 22 June: 30th anniversary of the dismantling of Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin
- 6 August: 75 years since the dropping of the first Atomic Bomb
- 15 August: 75th anniversary of VJ Day when Japan announced its unconditional surrender, ending the Second World War in the Pacific

Power versus Plague: A five case study

By Lucy Page

With most outbreaks of disease throughout history, especially those that escalate into epidemics or pandemics, comes a disturbance in the balance of power. Often, the most prevalent inequalities in the populations are also exposed. Although there are any number of outbreaks that would serve for such a discussion, here will be discussed five cases: the Justinian epidemic beginning in 542 CE, the sixteenth century American plague, the 1770-72 Russian plague, the 1665-66 Great Plague of London, and the 1793 Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic. These five cases illustrate how plague can expose the shortcomings of leadership, the consequences of inaction, and inequalities in the impact felt by different ethnic groups.

Contemporary portrait mosaic of Emperor Justinian I in, the Basilica of San Vitale, Ravenna, courtesy of Wikipedia

A suffering economy

Event: The Justinian Plague, 542 CE – approx. 750 CE

What happened: The Byzantine Empire, many of its lands recently re-conquered by its Emperor Justinian, was at a peak in its power. Then in Egypt, a plague took its first hold on the empire. It went on to spread across Byzantine territories and became a full-scale epidemic. The Emperor himself became sick, although he eventually recovered. But he went on to rule an empire strained by the halt in trade and other activities vital to keeping its economy running. One of the great powers of the time now faced the consequences of its unpreparedness: it has been argued that the plague was one of the main factors in the decline of the Byzantine Empire.

Analysis: The parallels to the spread of Coronavirus are evident. It has been estimated by *The Economist* that the halt in commerce 'will probably cause the most brutal recession in living memory'. Whilst the exact long-term consequences remain to be seen, it's clear that they will be significant to the future of the global economy, just as plague was 1500 years ago.

Escaping plague restrictions

Event: The Great Plague of London, 1665-66

What happened: This was the last mass outbreak of bubonic plague in England. Those who could afford to – such as Charles II and his court, and most professionals like doctors and lawyers – left London, leaving poorer residents with a lack of central authority and reduced medical help. Approximately fifteen per cent of London's population died from the plague, the worst case in the country since the 1348 Black Death. Scotland banned travel to and from the English border, and numerous people, directly and indirectly affected by the lack of trade and restrictions on contact, lost their jobs with little or no compensation. Some short-term plague prevention methods were introduced, such as the abolition of open sewers and the widening of streets and pavements. But in the long-term, despite the risk of plague re-emerging, the government lost interest in public health measures against disease. Probably around 100,000 people had died, almost a quarter of the city's population, but the economic effect on the city had not been disastrous. After the turmoil of the civil war and being just before the Great Fire of London, the plague was only one of a series of disasters for the government to deal with, perhaps explaining its apparent lack of impact compared to other outbreaks of plague.

A 17th century plague doctor, courtesy of Wikipedia

Event: The Russian Plague, 1770-72

What happened: This was an outbreak of bubonic plague spread by the ongoing Russo-Turk wars. Plague checkpoint systems that had been successful in peacetime Russia fell apart in the midst of the war. During the plague, warnings about minimising the lives lost through reducing contact and contamination were limited, and for the most part ignored. However, there was some effort to make

people stay indoors. For example, those who disobeyed quarantine rules were made to care for the sick in hospitals. But other attempts to discourage gatherings proved less successful: Moscow's Archbishop Ambrosius was murdered after trying to convince people to not to worship together at the Icon of the Virgin Mary.

Analysis: Institutional breakdown and governments' unpreparedness are recurring elements of plague outbreaks. The Great Plague of London highlighted how easy it was for most Londoners with some form of influence to escape the city, and leave behind those socially and economically bound to the capital. Measures were only taken to resolve the problem for all Londoners when those in power felt it was safe to return.

The Russian plague did eventually result in a study to determine the causes behind the spread of disease. But the unreadiness of those in power and the refusal of groups to listen to advice only increased the death toll.

Similarly, prior to the current crisis, an unpublished 2016 report on a UK government pandemic drill is said to have laid out the strain a pandemic would put on the NHS, such as the limited numbers of intensive care beds and equipment. However, its recommendations were never implemented. It's yet to be seen what measures will be introduced to contain any future outbreak.

Ethnicity in outbreaks

Event: The Sixteenth Century American Plague

What happened: When Europeans sailed to discover the New World, they brought with them a variety of diseases, including smallpox. Europeans with immune systems already developed to tackle the diseases transferred the infection to groups with no previous exposure to it. Many tribes such as the Aztecs suffered enormous loss of life. As a result, it was much easier for European invaders to conquer their lands. This was, of course, not planned, but it certainly assisted the European colonialists in asserting their authority.

Event: The Philadelphia yellow fever, 1793

What happened: The disease, borne by mosquitoes, spread across the then US capital of Philadelphia. Officials claimed that black slaves had a 'natural immunity' to the disease, leading to a perverse outcome. It was the abolitionists who began to advocate for the recruitment of escaped and freed black slaves in the north as nurses to the sick, exposing them to the disease. It's ironic that the abolitionists, supposedly advocating for the better treatment of African Americans, became the group most ready to put them at risk.

Analysis: And today, ethnicity can be a factor. According to *The Guardian*, due to higher levels of unemployment, greater chances of living in overcrowded housing, and making up a larger proportion of NHS key workers, amongst other factors, ethnic minorities are still at a disproportionate risk, at least in western society.

The historical perspective

The political, social, and economic problems of past epidemics and pandemics still provide us with the familiar challenge of overcoming institutional inequalities. According to *Times Higher Education*, Germany has made its academic historians, philosophers, and theologians a major part of making the decisions on when to ease lockdown measures, and the results that can be expected. It will be interesting to see if other countries react similarly and get the historical perspective on power versus the plague.

Quotes Quiz: Can you name 'em?

Can you name the people behind all five of these historical quotes?

Answers on page 8

(1) '*We spend a great deal of time studying history, which, let's face it, is mostly the history of stupidity*'

(2) '*History is a relentless master. It has not present, only the past rushing into the future. To try to hold fast is to be swept aside*'

(3) '*History will be kind to me for I intend to write it*'

(4) '*History is a set of lies agreed upon*'

(5) '*People are trapped in history, and history is trapped in them*'

Cook and Austrailia: 250 years since first landfall

By Sam Doering

On 29 April, 1770, Lieutenant James Cook in his ship Endeavour, became the first European to sight the eastern coast of Australia. The historic significance of this moment cannot be understated.

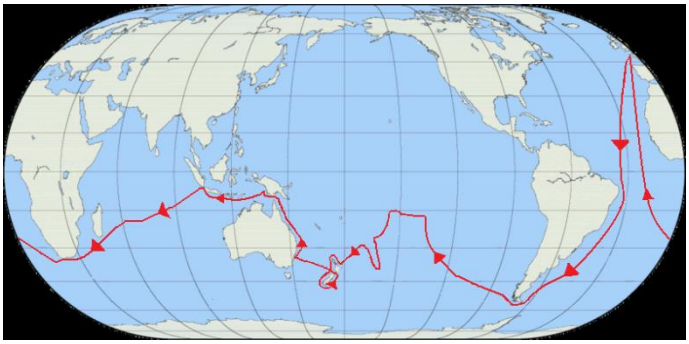
By the 18th century, the world was shrinking; the New World was flourishing, trade with the Far East was increasing and empire was expanding as wars raged. It was also an age of energetic curiosity to push the boundaries of human knowledge and make new discoveries.

Above: James Cook, by John Weber. Oil on canvas. National Portrait Gallery [NPG 26]

James Cook, a Yorkshire-born man from Whitby personifies this age of enlightenment. He served during the Seven Years War, during which he charted the tempestuous St. Lawrence River. In the growing thirst for knowledge and precision, he became the first to meticulously measure the rocky coast of Newfoundland. In May 1768, he was commissioned by the Admiralty to command a voyage to the Pacific with the purpose of making scientific observations. It would be his first great, global voyage.

The official task of the Endeavour was to sail for King George's Island (present day Tahiti in French Polynesia) to make scientific observations of the Transit of Venus. The timing was crucial; if Endeavour missed the transit, it would be another century before Venus crossed the Sun once again. Charles Green, the chief astronomer aboard, would oversee the observations.

Endeavour departed Plymouth on 26 August 1768 with ninety-four souls aboard and enough provisions for eighteen months. Madeira was the first port of call before Rio de Janeiro where the crew replenished supplies under the watchful gaze of suspicious Spanish authorities. From Rio, Endeavour navigated the treacherous archipelago of Tierra del Fuego near Cape Horn. After battling waves that could have submerged the ship, the weather improved and Cook entered the expansive Pacific Ocean bound for King George's Island.



Above: Endeavour's Voyage 1768-71. Courtesy of Wikepedia

Cook and his crew arrived in Tahiti on 10 April, nearly two months ahead of the transit. This time was spent becoming familiar with the Tahitians and establishing a secure location to construct an observatory and make accurate recordings.

Once Venus had been observed on 3 June, Endeavour departed King George's Island to chart nearby islands and archipelagos before turning south to follow a set of special instructions which ordered Cook to find the elusive southern continent: terra australis incognita.

Enlightenment thinkers had puzzled over the existence of a southern continent for decades. One man, Alexander Dalrymple, a Scottish geographer associated with the East India Company, was convinced it lay between New Zealand and Chile. He believed upwards of fifty million inhabitants must live on this elusive, isolated continent.

Of course, there was vague knowledge of a large southern continent. European traders journeying to Batavia (present-day Jakarta) took the trade winds along the 'Roaring Forties' almost to Western Australia and sailed directly north from there, often bumping into the coast or outlying islands along the way. Abel Tasman had set foot on the shores of Tasmania in 1640 and the Englishman William Dampier landed in Western Australia in 1688 and 1699. Indonesian sailors regularly journeyed to northern Australia to harvest sea cucumbers as a valuable aphrodisiac. There is even evidence to suggest Chinese explorers chartered much of the Australian coastline centuries before any Europeans. Yet any charts that did contain a scrap of coastline were sketchy, and the continent remained unclaimed.

More than three months after leaving Tahiti, Cook reached the coastline of New Zealand, becoming the first European to do so since Tasman in 1642. He spent six months charting the coastline, but concluded that it was not the elusive southern continent.

Endeavour leaving Whitby Harbour in 1768, shortly before being refitted to travel around the world. By Thomas Luny, oil on canvas. National Library of Australia [NLA 134301494]

In March 1770, Cook sailed westward to continue his search, and on 19 April, the east coast of Australia was sighted at Tolywiarar - now known as Point Hicks - in south-eastern Victoria. Ten days later, on 29 April 1770, Cook set foot on land at Botany Bay, immediately south of present-day Sydney.

The significance of Cook's landing at Botany Bay on 29 April 1770 cannot be understated. He was the first European to ever make landfall on the eastern coast of Australia. He was also the first to make contact with the Gweagal tribe of Botany Bay.

Cook's interaction with the Gweagal people represented a moment of connection between two peoples who had never before made contact in human history: Aboriginal Australians and Europeans. For more than 50,000 years, most Aboriginal

Australians had lived in complete isolation. This first interaction was not exactly peaceful: although attempts were made to exchange gifts, three musket shots were fired to ward off the natives, but nobody was killed.

Cook continued up the coast, diligently charting the coastline and avoiding hidden coral reefs. However, Endeavour almost foundered in June 1770 after hitting a reef. Between forty and fifty tons of goods were thrown overboard to float her free before she was beached at Wabalumbaal, later named Endeavour River. After repairs were made, the journey continued to Cape York, Torres Straight and Indonesia before the final journey home.

On 12 July 1771, nearly three years after departing Plymouth, Endeavour returned. She had made contact with previously untouched civilisations. She had created a legacy of discovery, both geographically and scientifically, but also in the botanical field: around 30,000 plant specimens, representing 3,600 species, were collected.

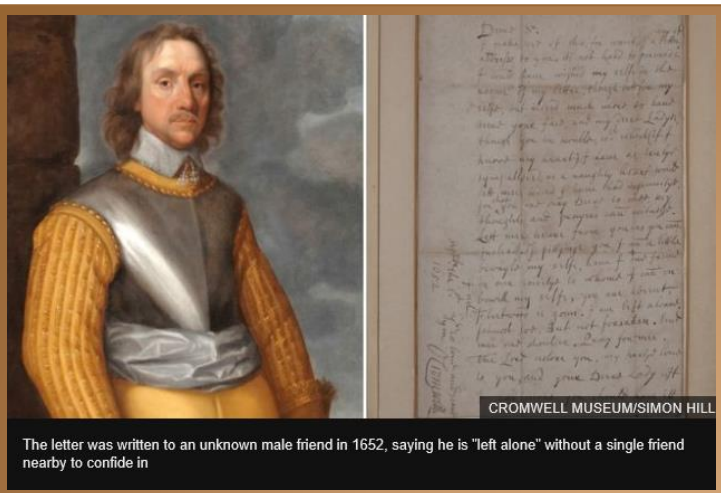
Landing of Captain Cook at Botany Bay, 1770, by E. Phillips Fox, oil on canvas. National Gallery of Victoria [119-2]

The importance of Endeavour's journey cannot be ignored, nor can her complex legacy. For some the ship stands as a symbol of scientific observation and geographical discovery, while for others it represents the beginning of a prolonged era of destruction and dispossession.

For many Australians, Cook's landing is considered the beginning of modern Australian history. But for many, it is also considered the end of a long history of uninterrupted occupation of land. It was Cook's charts and observations which guided the journey of the First Fleet in 1788 and allowed for the establishment of the first colony at Port Jackson.

On the Sestercentennial of Cook's landing, it is important to ponder the significance of such voyage, and of the complex legacy which continues to ripple forth to the present day.

Picture of the term



Courtesy of the BBC: Oliver Cromwell and the letter

Last term, we discussed the vandalism of historical landmarks, with particular regard to the 'free Hong Kong' message spray painted on Copenhagen's little mermaid statue. Here are a couple of the responses we got:

"Landmarks represent part of history, but history is fluid, and sometimes we need to choose when to replace the old with new history."

- Anonymous

"Temporararily vandalising something is a great way to make protest ... paint on a statue is nothing"

- Anonymous

Recently, a letter written by Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England between 1643-51, has been uncovered, detailing a snippet of the depression he was known to experience.

Mental illness throughout history has perhaps not been as popular a subject as it could be, in part thanks to Victorian ideals warping the characterisations of individuals from the past and their pyscologies. But now, at a time where mental illness is dicussed much more openly, it seems to be a good time to rediscover the big names of the past in their full nature.

What are your thoughts? Email the History Society at *historysoc@nchsu.org*, and your response could make it into the next edition of the HT!

Pearls, gemstones and jewellery in the early modern era

By Kaja Wathne

The early modern period saw an increase of precious stones used in jewellery. This increase can be explained by the fact that the raw materials used to make jewels, poured into Europe along trade routes from the New World, the East, and Africa. As there was a certain consciousness around nature being uncontrollable, the ability of artists to create jewellery out of gemstones and minerals found in nature, and therefore have a certain control over the uncontrollable, fascinated the early modern imagination. During the early modern period stones and minerals were worn as pendants and jewels, or ground and dissolved into liquid for people to consume. The gems were usually said to have had received their powers from planets and stars, or from God as creator of all natural things. The belief that precious stones have magic properties originated in Ancient Egyptian, Arab and Greek traditions, where it was a part of the wider worship of nature and natural creatures.

There are several texts within the lapidary literary genre (a genre which includes texts covering stones and mineralogy) which outlines the properties of many different minerals and gemstones.

The first known lapidary from 315 BC called *Peri Liton* ('Of Stones') is said to have been written by Theophrastus (ca 372-287 BC) who was a pupil of Aristotle, and was very influential for later works within the genre. In *Peri Liton* the stones are divided into maculine and feminine categories, which generated a theory about the ability for the stones to reproduce. One of the most important sources covering mineralogy is found within the text *Historia Naturalis* ('Natural History') written by the Roman author known as Pliny the Elder (23-79 AD) which was written between 77 and 79 AD. It was one of the first classical European

Above: First vernacular Italian edition of Pliny's Natural History from 1476, illuminated for the Strozzi family of Venice

texts to be printed, and it was translated into English in 1601 as *The History of the World* by Philemon Holland. *Natural History* covers many areas of human knowledge, such as astronomy, geography, natural medicine, where the final book is dedicated to precious stones.

People in early modern Europe believed that jewels had certain healing and medical properties, some were used as a form of medication for specific ailments, and pulverised diamonds were at times used as a form of poison. This connection between magic and stones also reflects the prevalent belief in astrology, as it was believed that the stars influenced men and their lives, and also anything present on earth, including stones. Because of the beliefs that gemstones had specific properties, they were often gifted and were considered to be a significant gift from a groom to his bride. Francis Bacon described pearls and emeralds as having the potential to be incorporated into a potent elixir used to prolong life, when they are:

'Taken in loose powder, or dissolved in the sharp juyce of *green Lemons*, or in spiced comfits, and drinkes.'

The pearl, said to be the favourite jewel of Queen Elizabeth I, has a particularly interesting history. The risks associated with pearl fishing increased the value of the pearls, and later pearls became more symbolically important as it began to be associated with the Virgin Mary. Early modern Christians seem to have believed in the power of jewels and precious stones, as their properties were at times outlined in texts by bishops and clergymen. Pliny the Elder claimed that the shells that produced the pearls were female, and that the pearls were a product of a sexualized encounter deep beneath the waves:

'When stimulated by the season of procreation, they open up, as it were, and are impregnated with dew, so the story goes. [...] Then these pregnant shells give birth, and their offspring are pearls of a quality corresponding to the quality of the dew they have received.'

For some time, it was believed that the oysters created pearls as a result of being 'impregnated with heavenly dew'. This was later compared to the story of Virgin Mary becoming pregnant with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. The pearl was often connected with the virtues of chastity and purity, and was therefore often associated with Queen Elizabeth I, the Virgin Queen.

Above: Jacobo Zucchi, Treasurers of the Sea, or Allegory of the Discovery of America 1549-1590. Borghese Gallery and Museum in Rome

Pearls also became a symbol for exploration by sea and the New World. Pearls represented all that could be gained and lost through maritime exploration. It also poses a dual image of danger and nurture, the pearl emerges from the ocean, which sustains life while also being threatening and destructive.

Sir Walter Ralegh, one of the major English explorers of the New World, is in a 1588 portrait wearing clothing embellished with pearls, something which may symbolize his loyalty to the Queen and exploration of the New World. He is also seen wearing an earring with two baroque pearls. Even though some men could be seen wearing earrings in this period they were not universally admired and some believed they could suggest waywardness. This criticism of wearing earrings can be seen in Philip Stubbes' *Anatomie of Abuses* from 1583 where he attacked:

Left: Sir Walter Ralegh (1588), National Portrait Gallery
Right: Nicholas Hillard, Queen Elizabeth I (The Phoenix Portrait) (1575). National Portrait Gallery

'Dissolut minions [...] not ashamed to make holes in their ears whereat they hang ringes and other jewels of gold and precious stones.'

The choice of wearing pearls is something Pliny the Elder mentions in his chapter on pearls, where he argues that the practice is unnatural:

'As if it were not enough for the produce of the seas to be stuffed down our throats [...] it is also worn on the hands, in the ears, on the head and all over the body by men and women alike! [...] What has the sea to do with clothing, the water and waves to do with wool? [...] The sea receives us in a proper way only when we are without clothes.'

Pearls can therefore be more than a statement of chastity or imperial power, it can also be a statement of dominance over nature and the sea. This might all suggest that Queen Elizabeth I might not only have had the pearl as her symbol because of her chastity, but also because of her desire for imperial power and dominance.

By understanding early modern beliefs in gemstones and their powers it can change and add meaning to the presence of these jewels in paintings. Being aware of the fact that there was a strong belief in gemstones having holistic powers, where it was believed that they were able to heal or function as a form of protection, can help uncover why individuals might be wearing certain gemstones and how they served as statements. By recognising that pearls became an important commodity arising from the expanding English empire it can help us understand why explorers and rulers, such as Ralegh and Queen Elizabeth I, were often portrayed wearing them, as the pearls became the ultimate symbol of conquering and control.

Further reading

Auble, C. (2011), *The Cultural Significance of Precious Stones in Early Modern England*

Greenblatt, S. J. (1973), *Sir Walter Ralegh: The Renaissance Man and His Roles*

Macmillan, D. (2019), 'The Power behind the Pearl' https://open.conted.ox.ac.uk/resources/documents/power-behind-pearl-dana-macmillan

Sessina, S. (2014), *Gems in Renaissance Material Culture*

Wardropper, I. (2000), 'Art and Nature: Jewelry in the Renaissance', *Art Institute of Chicago Museum Studies*

Warsh, M. A. (2018), *American Baroque: Pearls and the Nature of Empire 1492-1700*

Quotes Quiz Answers:

(1) **Stephen Hawking:** an English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author
(2) **John F. Kennedy:** an American politician who served as the 35th president of the United States
(3) **Winston Churchill:** a British politician, army officer, and writer. He was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955
(4) **Napolean Bonaparte:** a French statesman and military leader who rose to prominence during the French Revolution. He was Emperor of the French as Napoleon I from 1804 until 1814 and again briefly in 1815
(5) **James Baldwin:** an American novelist, playwright, essayist, poet, and activist

Recommended Documentaries

Considering the current situation we're stuck in with the pandemic, the HT realises that recommending the usual events and talks won't be particularly helpful. Instead, we've rounded up a few documentaries to take a look at.

They Shall Not Grow Old
'Using state-of-the-art technology and materials from the BBC and Imperial War Museum, filmmaker Peter Jackson allows the story of World War I to be told by the men who were there'

Civilisations
'This expanded reboot of Kenneth Clark's 1969 docuseries does not disappoint. Each intriguing episode will expand your mind through exploring the art of cultures around the globe throughout the history of mankind'

Last Days in Vietnam
'Documentary account of the final weeks, days and hours of the Vietnam War – and the American forces' chaotic evacuation of the country at its conclusion'

I Am Not Your Negro
'In 1979, James Baldwin wrote a letter to his literary agent describing his next project, "Remember This House." The book was to be a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and assassinations of three of his close friends: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. At the time of Baldwin's death in 1987, he left behind only 30 completed pages of this manuscript. Filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished'

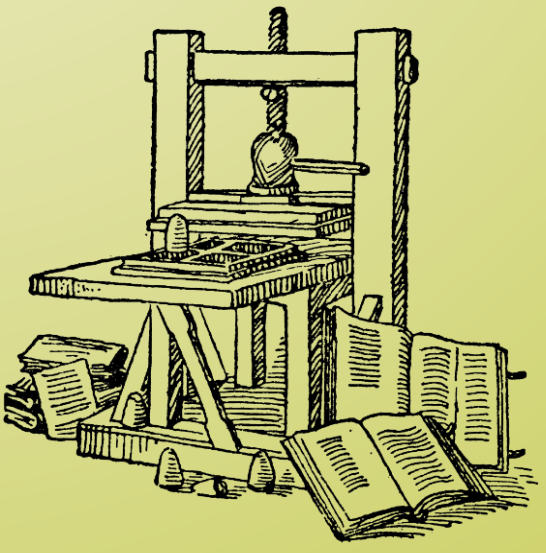
13th
'Named after the 13th Amendment, which freed slaved and prohibited slavery, the film takes a critical look at how slavery has been perpetuated in America long after this amendment went into place'

England's Reformation: Three Books that Changed a Nation
'Janina Ramirez tells the story of three books that defined this radical religious revolution in England. Tyndale's New Testament, Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer and Foxe's Book of Martyrs are no longer commonly recognised titles, yet for nearly four hundred years these works formed the backbone of British life.'

How to Survive a Plague
'Journalist David France tells the story of what happened when AIDS first spread across the United States, using footage from early news conferences and protests — many of which he covered as a reporter in New York'

Railways: The Making of a Nation
'Liz McIvor explores how Britain's expanding rail network was the spark to a social revolution, starting in the 1800s and continuing through to modern times'

Mission Control: The Unsung Heroes of Apollo
'Transport yourself back to the space race by watching *Mission Control*. The documentary explores the dangerous Apollo space missions, which resulted in the tragic Apollo 1 fire and the extraordinary moon landing. Featuring testimonies from Apollo astronauts and contemporary NASA flight directors, the documentary provides a deep understanding of one of the largest accomplishments in American history'



Recommended Reads

A Journal of the Plague Year
Daniel Defoe
'In 1665 the plague swept through London, claiming over 97,000 lives. Daniel Defoe was just five at the time of the plague, but he later called on his own memories, as well as his writing experience, to create this vivid chronicle of the epidemic and its victims'

The Beauty and the Terror: An Alternative History of the Italian Reniassance
Catherine Fletcher
'The Italian Renaissance shaped western culture – but it was far stranger and darker than many of us realise … In *The Beauty and the Terror*, Catherine Fletcher provides an enrapturing narrative history that brings all of this and more into view'

The Mirror and the Light
Hillary Mantel
'The final installment in her trilogy charting the rise and fall of Thomas Cromwell, the powerful minister in the court of King Henry VIII'

The Art of Resistance: My Four Years in the French Underground
Justus Rosenberg
'99-year-old literature professor Justus Rosenberg escaped the Holocaust and spent four daring years in the French Underground during World War II. Now he finally writes his own unforgettable epic'

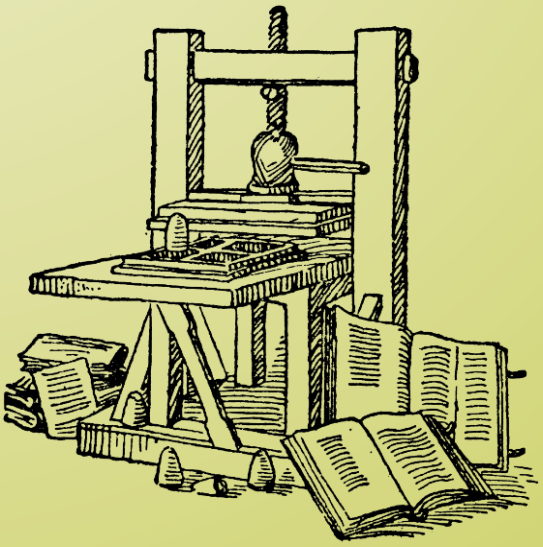
Difficult Women: A History of Feminism in 11 Fights
Helen Lewis
'Well-behaved women don't make history: difficult women do. Feminism's success is down to complicated, contradictory, imperfect women, who fought each other as well as fighting for equal rights'

Maoism: A Global History
Julia Lovell
'In this new history, Julia Lovell re-evaluates Maoism as both a Chinese and an international force, linking its evolution in China with its global legacy. It is a story that takes us from the tea plantations of north India to the sierras of the Andes, from Paris's fifth arrondissement to the fields of Tanzania, from the rice paddies of Cambodia to the terraces of Brixton'

Dead Famous: An Unexpected History of Celebrity from Bronze Age to Silver Screen
Greg Jenner
'Greg Jenner assembles a vibrant cast of over 125 actors, singers, dancers, sportspeople, freaks, demigods, ruffians, and more, in search of celebrity's historical roots. He reveals why celebrity burst into life in the early eighteenth century, how it differs to ancient ideas of fame, the techniques through which it was acquired, how it was maintained, the effect it had on public' tastes, and the psychological burden stardom could place on those in the glaring limelight'

A World Beneath the Sands: Adventurers and Archaeologists in the Golden Age of Egyptology
Toby Wilkinson
'The acclaimed Egyptologist Toby Wilkinson tells the riveting stories of the men and women whose obsession with Egypt's ancient civilisation drove them to uncover its secrets' (Coming October 2020)

The Great Imperial Hangover: How Empires Have Shaped the World
Samir Puri
'For the first time in millennia we live without formal empires. But that doesn't mean we don't feel their presence rumbling through history. *The Great Imperial Hangover* examines how the world's imperial legacies are still shaping the thorniest issues we face today' (Coming July 2020)



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We're always looking for new content, so if you have the urge to write about your favourite historical individual, event, or phenomenon, don't hesistate to submit a piece for our magazine.

Catch you in the next edition!

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