



Winter 2019 Newsletter
from
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Dear Readers,

Greeting to all and welcome to new subscribers!

Special thanks to PW Daily, Medievalists.net, Publishing . . . and Other Forms of Insanity, The Scotsman, Country Living, ABC Australia, BBC News, Smithsonian Daily, Atlas Obscura, Newser, Digital Spy, Stuffed You Missed in History Class, History Extra, The Independent, The National, The Sun, Motherboard, and the New York Public Library for items shared in this newsletter.

Since the last issue, I've read quite a few books. My personal favorite this month is Stuart Wood's latest Stone Barrington title, *A Delicate Touch*. I've been a fan since the first, but since this I read these for pleasure, I don't review them. Here I've included some titles that you may enjoy.

Work on *The Rebel and the Spy* has slowed. As I was working on chapter, I thought I might have made an error in the direction in which my male protagonist travels to the White House. In verifying this, I found a more egregious error that necessitated further research for a scene detailing events on the night the British invade the capital after the Battle of Bladensburg. I'm currently finishing up that research, and the good news is the extra research has provided me with intriguing possibilities of how I can rework the scene to make more historically accurate and more interesting.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. I wish you the happiest of New Years and have a Happy Valentine's Day.

Until next time, *Slainte!*
Cindy

Recent Book Reviews

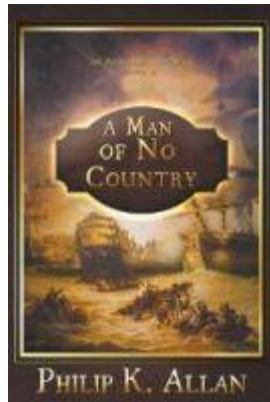
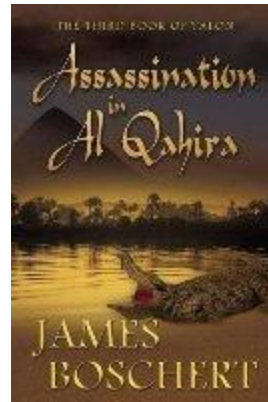
[Assassination in Al Qahira](#)

by James Boschert

Fate once again intervenes with Talon's plans to find his beloved Ravan. Shipwrecked in Eypgt, he and Max escape imprisonment and impending death, only to risk their lives to prevent a massacre. When

they are recognized as former prisoners, both are enslaved and separated. Talon is taken to Al Qahira where old enemies, intrigues, and treachery endanger the man whom he serves and his family. Using his skills as an assassin, Talon protects the children he has vowed to protect.

Time Period: Middle Ages
Genre: Historical Fiction



[A Man of No Country](#)

by Philip K. Allan

After Captain Alexander Clay and the Titans return to duty, they become the eyes and ears of the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean. What they discover hints that the French are preparing for a grand assault, but where and when are unknown. To complicate their lives there's a thief aboard their ship and a new man with secrets.

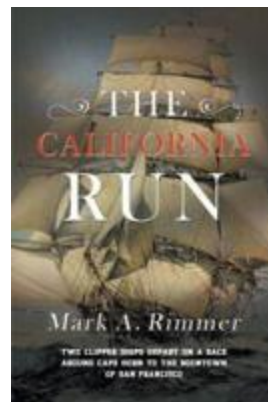
Time Period: 18th century
Genre: Historical Fiction

[The California Run](#)

by Mark A. Rimmer

A cad who gets the tables turned on him, a saboteur who likes the blade, a second mate uncertain whether he's up for the job, and a captain's niece with a penchant for navigation board a ship bound for the California Gold Rush. On the vessel's maiden voyage, on a ship where the lash and the belying pin rule, these men and women find themselves in a deadly race against another ship whose owner has no intention of coming in second.

Time Period: 19th century
Genre: Historical Fiction





[Fire Aloft](#)

by Rev Dicerto and Duncan Eagleson

Repeated attacks by aero-pirates require retribution. Captain Gallagher and his fellow buccaneers have a plan to deal with the Union forces, but he doesn't take into account the beautiful spy they send after him. Nor does he expect one of his own to declare war on him and his friends. And then the former Confederate from the war whom engaged to suppress the pirates one way or another.

Given a choice between a slow death at Andersonville or joining the Rebel air corps, Billy Leary opts to survive. It means never seeing his brother again, if he even survives the battle at Pine Mountain, and living under a false identity so as not to be judged a traitor. After the war ends, a chance encounter with a fiend alters his path in life and he once again finds himself working for the Union aboard an airship under the Confederate commander known as the Butcher of Pine Mountain.

Time Period: 19th century

Genre: Steampunk

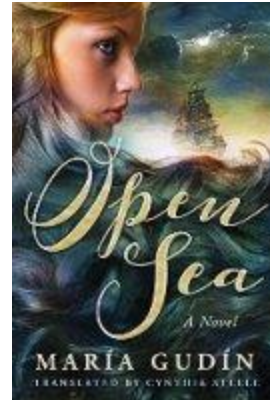
[Open Sea](#)

by María Gudín and translated by Cynthia Steele

When Len de Montemayor's mother dies in 1689, an aristocratic family rescues her. As she and their son, Piers, grow up, their friendship turns to love and they vow that their love will last forever. But with the outbreak of civil war, Piers joins the Royal Navy, leaving Len ashore. When he eventually returns, he finds his home a burned shell of its former glory, his family slaughters, and every trace of Len gone. Thinking that she also died in the fire, he escapes to a life of privateering on the same vast ocean that divided them.

Time Period: 17th century

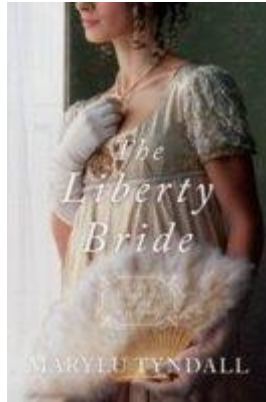
Genre: Historical Fiction



[The Liberty Bride](#)

by MaryLu Tyndall

Returning home to an unknown future, Emeline Barratt wonders whether God will ever stop punishing her for not being a proper young woman. That she would rather pursue her passion for painting becomes another strike against her when she is captured by the British Royal Navy and becomes a prisoner of war. The only way to save herself, her companions, and her country is to become a spy -- a terrifying task that she feels unsuited for. After many years as an officer in the Royal Navy, Owen Masters finally has a chance of



completing his undercover assignment and provide the Americans with valuable information that enable them to win the War of 1812. Until Emeline and the crew of her vessel become prisoners. Now, he must also protect them. A decidedly awkward task considering she claims loyalty to Britain, his sworn enemy.

Time Period: 19th century
Genre: Historical Romance

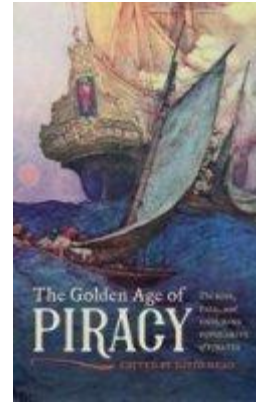
[The Golden Age of Piracy](#)

edited by David Head

Collection of essays dealing with maritime piracy in the Caribbean from the 1600s into the 1900s. These share the latest research, which is a melding of the old and the new. They fall under the general topics of Pirates and Empires, the Suppression of Pirates, Modeling Piracy, and Images of Pirates in Their Own Time and Beyond.

Time Period: 17th-20th centuries

Genre: History



Cindy's Musings

Have you seen Mary Queen of Scots? I have, but had mixed feelings about the film. One reason was that to some degree the Scots were portrayed in a somewhat stereotypical manner as compared to the portrayal of the English. Elizabeth's castle is refined and cultured, but the one standing in for Holyrood Palace is more reminiscent of a medieval fortress. Another problem for me was the intrusion of 21st-century sensibilities inserted into 16th-century history. You may or may not agree with Hollywood's version. If you'd like to share your thoughts, I'd love to hear them.

Here are some reviews and articles that have been published about the movie and about the real Mary, Queen of Scots that I thought you might enjoy.

[The True Story of Mary, Queen of Scots, and Elizabeth I](#)

In the film Saoirse Ronan and Margot Robbie go from allies to rivals, but in actuality, the queen's relationship was more complex.

[History Isn't Boring in Mary Queen of Scots](#)

4 takes on the film, as well as the official trailer

[The Crucial Bit of History that Mary Queen of Scots Leaves Out](#)

Two decades of history crammed into about two hours. What's missing?

(Spoilers included)

[The Trial of Mary Queen of Scots](#)

A compelling chapter in her life, rife with convoluted intrigue, which led to her execution

[Mary, Queen of Scots](#)

The real history behind the film

[Review of Mary Queen of Scots](#)

Paul Whittington's review in Ireland's Independent

[Mary Queen of Scots](#)

4 Scottish film locations, including the castle that stood in for Holyrood

[Recasting Historical Feud between Queens as Feminist Fable](#)

Luke Goodsell of ABC News Australia's take on Mary Queen of Scots

History, Historical Fiction, & Scottish Tidbits

[How Cromwell and Edward I Robbed Scotland of Centuries of Its History](#)

358 years ago a treasure trove of Scottish history disappeared forever under the cold waters of the North Sea.

[King of the Castle](#)

For £495k you can purchase a 600-year-old Scottish castle with banquet hall and loch views

[Cranachan](#)

Archaic Scottish breakfast now a popular dessert

[Queen, Priestess, General](#)

Legendary life of Fu Hao

[What Off-hand Weapon Would You Use with Your Sword?](#)

Quiz to see what sort of weapon you would wield while holding a one-handed sword in your dominant hand

[Just Entered the Public Domain](#)

How to download tens of thousands of books that became legal to download for free in 2019

[Being a Writer Is the Fastest Way to Starve](#)

New report on what authors really earn

[40 Books that Changed Librarians' Lives](#)

Marking the 20th anniversary of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone at the New York Public Library

[Last Battle Fought by Scotland's Clans](#)

Ancient feud fought on a Highland hillside over disputed land

["Incredibly rare" Find](#)

Evidence of early human activity in Western Isles prehistoric forest

[Smallpox Outbreak in New York](#)

How immigrant families were treated in 1901

[Garrannan Blackhouse Village](#)

Spend the night in formerly abandoned traditional Scottish village

[Boadicea and Her Daughters](#)

Statue of legendary Celtic warrior queen who fought Roman invaders stands in one of the cities she destroyed

[The Myth and Mystery of Scotland's Wild Haggis](#)

The source of Scotland's iconic dish

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