

The Hall Of Uselessness Collected Essays Simon Leys

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The Hall Of Uselessness Collected

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M. de Charlus during the war(Chap. 2)

The condition of St. Paul's Cathedral was central to concerns about the perception of London over the course of the nineteenth century. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren, it faced public criticism from ...

A Victorian Wrenaissance: Historical Narrative at St. Paul's Cathedral

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The Crying of Lot 49 Chapter 5

I also met a number of Tankov's supporters and collected information about his professional ... But at a certain moment I realized the uselessness of my efforts,...and the depravity of the State. And ...

The Man Who Struck the Judge with a Fly Swatter: Justice and Performance in Contemporary Kazakhstan

Sometimes I watch myself but I don't know who it is I'm looking at,' he tells his mother as they discuss his uselessness. Nitram does not fit in anywhere until he meets a reclusive heiress based ...

Disturbing film about Martin Bryant that caused widespread outrage before the plot was even revealed opens to rave reviews - this is why Australians should see it

failures and uselessness have damaged the life chances of our country's children and this government has failed young people, teachers and education staff.' Last week she took on Dominic Raab at ...

Emily Thornberry suggests Angela Rayner had been DRINKING when she made 'Tory scum' jib

Our post last week about new keypads coming to the Biketown fleet led to a discussion about the future of the orange bikes. Commenter John Liu sounded an alarm. He said this website and "other ...

Comment of the Week: E-assist boosterism will be Biketown's demise

you are presenting a paper on the uselessness of media and cultural studies." While this was his misreading of the title, I realized it sounded more provocative and perhaps more accurately suggested ...

Collects essays about such wide-ranging topics as the Cambodian genocide, Zhou Enlai, and Christopher Hitchens.

An award-winning biography of one of the greats. Simon Leys is the pen-name of Pierre Ryckmans, who was born in Belgium and settled in Australia in 1970. He taught Chinese literature at the Australian National University and was Professor of Chinese Studies at the University of Sydney from 1987 to 1993. He died in 2014. Writing in three languages – French, Chinese and English – he played an important political role in revealing the true nature of the Cultural Revolution. His writing on China and on varied literary and cultural topics appeared regularly in the New York Review of Books, Le Monde, Le Figaro Littéraire, Quadrant and the Monthly, and his books include The Hall of Uselessness, The Death of Napoleon, Other People's Thoughts and The Wreck of the Batavia & Prosper. In 1996 he delivered the ABC's Boyer Lectures. His many awards include the Prix Renaudot, the Prix Mondial Cino Del Duca, the Prix Guizot and the Christina Stead Prize for fiction. This substantial biography – recently published by Gallimard in France to wide acclaim and winning an award from the Académie Française – draws on

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extensive correspondence with Ryckmans, as well as his unpublished writings. It has been translated by an internationally renowned French translator Julie Rose (based in Sydney).

In this riveting account of the shipwreck of the Batavia, Leys travels to the site of the disaster and reveals the brutality and tragedy of the bloody island massacre which befell the ship's survivors.

"Most people are other people", Oscar Wilde remarked, "their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their life a mimicry, their passions a quotation . . ." Other People's Thoughts is a wonderfully entertaining collection of quotations. Simon Leys collects jokes and insights from great artists and thinkers, revealing a unique sensibility. Topics include adventure, youth, sex, time, toads, wine, epitaphs and friendship. A perfect gift book, it ranges across cultures and times to provoke and entertain.

These nineteen essays richly confirm Gore Vidal's reputation as "America's finest essayist" (The New Statesman), and are further evidence of the breadth and depth of his intelligence and wit. Included here are his highly praised essays on Theodore Roosevelt ("An American Sissy"), F. Scott Fitzgerald, Edmund Wilson ("This Critic and This Gin and These Shoes"), the need for a new constitutional convention—as well as his controversial study of relations between the homosexual and Jewish communities ("Pink Triangle and Yellow Star"). Vidal's other subjects range from Christopher Isherwood to L. Frank Baum ("The OZ B0oks"), from the question of "Who Makes the Movies?" to the misadventures—religious and financial—of Bert Lance.

The standard text on the identification of the northern hemisphere's gulls, this book covers the plumage variation through age and subspecies of all 80 species in the region. With exhaustive coverage, detailed maps, and superb plates and photos, this book remains the definitive work on these birds, which represent the trickiest of all ID challenges.

"Ladies and gentlemen, alas! The Emperor is dead." The news from St. Helena goes out across Europe, but in fact Napoleon has not died. By means of an ingenious escape, he has returned to the Continent, leaving an impersonator on St. Helena, and it is this double who has unexpectedly and very problematically passed away. Traveling incognito, the emperor experiences a series of bizarre adventures that bring him face-to-face with the myth of Napoleon as it is disconcertingly played out in

everyday life. After a visit to Waterloo and a near arrest at the French border, he eventually arrives in Paris, where he falls in with some veteran Bonapartists and visits an asylum where most of the inmates are laboring under the mistaken impression that they are he. Will Napoleon ever recapture his true identity? Who, in the end, is he, now that "the Emperor is dead"? Simon Leys's truculent, delightful fable poses these and other questions in a rare work of fiction that is continually surprising and effervescent"--

A great American writer's confrontation with a great European critic—a personal and intellectual awakening A hundred years ago, the Viennese satirist Karl Kraus was among the most penetrating and farsighted writers in Europe. In his self-published magazine, *Die Fackel*, Kraus brilliantly attacked the popular media's manipulation of reality, the dehumanizing machinery of technology and consumer capitalism, and the jingoistic rhetoric of a fading empire. But even though he had a fervent following, which included Franz Kafka and Walter Benjamin, he remained something of a lonely prophet, and few people today are familiar with his work. Luckily, Jonathan Franzen is one of them. In *The Kraus Project*, Franzen, whose "calm, passionate critical authority" has been praised in *The New York Times Book Review*, not only presents his definitive new translations of Kraus but annotates them spectacularly, with supplementary notes from the Kraus scholar Paul Reitter and the Austrian author Daniel Kehlmann. Kraus was a notoriously cantankerous and difficult writer, and in Franzen he has found his match: a novelist unafraid to voice unpopular opinions strongly, a critic capable of untangling Kraus's often dense arguments to reveal their relevance to contemporary America. While Kraus is lampooning the iconic German poet and essayist Heinrich Heine and celebrating his own literary hero, the Austrian playwright Johann Nestroy, Franzen is annotating Kraus the way Kraus annotated others, surveying today's cultural and technological landscape with fearsome clarity, and giving us a deeply personal recollection of his first year out of college, when he fell in love with Kraus's work. Painstakingly wrought, strikingly original in form, *The Kraus Project* is a feast of thought, passion, and literature.

"These firsthand accounts examine the subtle and not-so-subtle effects of the Japanese bombing and occupation of Shanghai and Hong Kong. Eileen Chang writes of friends, colleagues, and teachers turned soldiers or wartime volunteers, and her own experiences as a part-time nurse. Her nuanced depictions range from observations of how a woman's elegant dress affects morale to descriptions of hospital life."--BOOK JACKET.

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