Question: what 3 things would you recommend as summer reading for students starting a history degree in September?

The most popular (BY FAR – most other items mentioned just once, unless ***starred)

***Carlo Ginzburg; The Cheese and the Worms (English trans. 1980) £20; The Night Battles (1966) £20


The historian’s craft

***Marc Bloch, The Historian’s Craft (Englishtrans.1953) £10

Carolyn Steedman, Dust (2001) £10

G.R. Elton, The Practice of History (1969) £4 used

GW Bernard, Studying at University (2003) £18


***John Arnold, History: A very short introduction (2000) £6

Peter Claus and John Marriot, History: An introduction to theory, method and practice (2nd ed. 2017) £24

Keith Jenkins, Re-Thinking History (3rd ed. 2003) £10

*R.J. Evans, In defence of history (New ed. 2001) £10


Virginia Woolf, A Room of One’s Own (1929) £3

Ann Curthoys and Ann McGrath, How to Write History that People Want to Read (2011) £15

*Anthony Grafton, The Footnote (1999) £19

Deborah E. Lipstadt, History on Trial (2006) £9

John Arnold, What is medieval history? (2007) £16

Marcus Bull, Thinking Medieval (2005) £22

*E.H. Carr, What is history? (1961) [controversial choice – some explicitly said NOT this]

Keith Jenkins, On ’What is History?’ From Carr and Elton to Rorty and White (1995) £24

Ludmilla Jordanova, History in Practice (2nd ed. 2006) £18


Books, essay collections, essays
Merry Wiesner-Hanks, *Early Modern Europe 1450-1789* (2nd ed. 2013) £25

W.G. Hoskins, *The Making of the English Landscape* (1955) £10


David Kynaston, *Austerity Britain: Tales of a New Jerusalem, Books 1-3*, £13-20


Jacob Burckhardt, *The Civilisation of the Renaissance in Italy* (1860) £8


Chinua Achebe, ‘An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*’ – essay freely available online

Binyavanga Wainaina, ‘How to write about Africa’ – essay freely available online

C.V. Wedgewood, *A King Condemned: The Trial and Execution of Charles I* (2011) £10

Ngugi wa Thiong’o, *Decolonising the mind: the Politics of Language in African Literature* (2011) £15


Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class 1780-1850* (2nd ed. 2002) £28


John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* (1919) £7


List suggested by #twitterstorians, collated by Laura Sangha


Herbert Butterfield, *The Whig Interpretation of History* (New ed. 1965) £11


Eric Hobsbawm, *Age of Revolution; Age of Capital; Age of Empire*


**Fiction/poetry**

Connie Willis, *Doomsday Book; To Say Nothing of the Dog; Blackout/All Clear*

Rumi, *Selected Poems*

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Hilary Mantel, *Wolf Hall; A Place of Greater Safety*

Graham Swift, *Waterland*

Hella Haasse, *In a Dark Wood Wandering*

Umberto Eco, *In the Name of the Rose*

Graham Greene, *The Quiet American*

Giuseppe Tomasi Di Lampedusas, *The Leopard*

George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier*

Laurence Sterne, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*

Mikhail Bulgakov, *The Master and Margarita*

**AHA presidential addresses:**


See also those by Carl Becker, Lynn Hunt

**Perhaps not as freely available**

Eileen Power, *Medieval People*

Howard Zinn, *A Popular History of the US*

Lizabeth Cohen, *Encountering Mass Culture at the Grassroots; Embellishing a Life of Labor*

Raymond Williams, *Culture and Society* (1971) Used copies from 1p


Elaine Pagels, *Adam, Eve & Serpent* (1988) used copies from 30p
List suggested by #twitterstorians, collated by Laura Sangha

Simon Gunn and Lucy Faire (eds), *Research Methods for History* (2011) used from £17
Geoffrey Parker, *The Dutch Revolt* (New ed. 1990) Used from £14
Eric Hobsbawm, *Interesting Times* (2005) [memoir] Used copies available c. £15

**Bits and bobs**

A newspaper, cover to cover and regularly

Historians’ obituaries

The Bible

The Communist Manifesto

Podcasts: In Our Time; History Extra

#twitterstorians

Blogs (especially the many-headed monster, obvs)

Primary sources: modernised edition of Gawain, or a translation of a chronicle by someone like Matthew Paris or Froissart. Ballads. Woodcuts.