

# World Historical Fiction Booklist

Updated: by Kiku Kimura and Holly Whistler 8/09

The following is a selection of both classic and new adult fiction titles set in various historical time periods and different countries or regions of the world.

## World Historical Fiction



[Place hold](#)

### Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague

By Geraldine Brooks

Call #: F Brooks

When in the 1600s plague infects an isolated English village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition.



[Place hold](#)

### Girl With a Pearl Earring

By Tracy Chevalier

Call #: F Chevalier

The story of 16-year-old Griet, whose life is transformed by her encounter with the painter, Vermeer, as she herself is immortalized on canvas.



[Place hold](#)

### Shogun

By James Clavell

Call #: F Clavell

A bold English adventurer, an invincible Japanese warlord, and a beautiful woman are brought together in this saga of feudal Japan and a struggle for power.



[Place hold](#)

### The Last Kingdom

By Bernard Cornwell

Call #: F Cornwell

When, in the middle years of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, fierce Danes stormed British soil, hungry for conquest, kingdoms toppled until only one remained, altering the fate of all England.



[Place hold](#)

### Sharpe's Trafalgar: Richard Sharpe and the Battle of Trafalgar, October 21, 1805

By Bernard Cornwell

Call #: F Cornwell

This novel in the *Richard Sharpe* series tells the story of a young private in His Majesty's Service during the Napoleonic Wars.



**Place hold**

## **Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress**

By Sijie Dai

**Call #: F Dai**

The story of two city boys exiled to a remote mountain village for re-education during China's Cultural Revolution. There they discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation.



**Place hold**

## **The Red Tent**

By Anita Diamant

**Call #: F Diamant**

In the Bible, Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, is only briefly mentioned. Through her voice, Diamant imagines the traditions and turmoil of ancient womanhood—the world of the red tent.



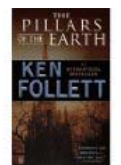
**Place hold**

## **The Birth of Venus**

By Sarah Dunant

**Call #: F Dunant**

When, during the Italian Renaissance in Florence, her father hires a painter to decorate their chapel, Alessandra Cecchi becomes intoxicated with the young man, but her parents have her married to a wealthy older man.



**Place hold**

## **The Pillars of the Earth**

By Ken Follett

**Call #: F Follett**

Set against the sprawling medieval canvas of 12<sup>th</sup> century England, this epic masterpiece of ambition, anarchy, and absolute power juxtaposes the building of a magnificent church with the violence of that of period.



**Place hold**

## **Outlander**

By Diana Gabaldon

**Call #: F Gabaldon**

Thrown back in time more than two hundred years to Scotland in 1743, Claire Randall finds herself in a world torn apart by violence and revolution, and begins to fall in love with James Fraser, a young soldier.



**Place hold**

## **Memoirs of a Geisha**

By Arthur Golden

**Call #: F Golden**

A fisherman's daughter in 1930s Japan rises to become a famous geisha. Sold, after her training, to the highest bidder, she is finally reunited with the only man she ever loved.



**Place hold**

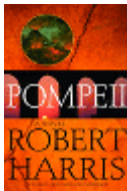
## **The Other Boleyn Girl**

By Philippa Gregory

**Call #: F Gregory**

Two daughters of a ruthless and ambitious English family, Mary and Anne Boleyn, are sent to the court of Henry VIII to win the attentions and hand of the King.





**Place hold**

## **Pompeii**

By Robert Harris

**Call #: F Harris**

Roman engineer Marius Primus must find out why the Aqua Augusta, the aqueduct that brings water to Naples, has quit delivering water and discovers an impending disaster of devastating proportions at Mt. Vesuvius.



**Place hold**

## **The Sun Also Rises**

By Ernest Hemingway

**Call #: F Hemingway**

Capturing the angst of the post-World War I generation, known as the Lost Generation, this poignant novel tells the story of a group of expatriate Americans and English on Paris's Left Bank, during the 1920s.



**Place hold**

## **Blood and Ice**

By Robert Masello

**Call #: F Masello**

From the battlefields of the Crimean War to the depths of present-day Antarctica, this gripping saga is at once an edge-of-the-seat vampire thriller and sweeping love story that spans the centuries.



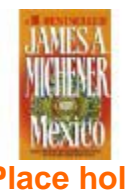
**Place hold**

## **The Piano Tuner**

By Daniel Mason

**Call #: F Mason**

In 1886 a piano tuner, Edgar Drake, receives a commission from the British War Office to travel to the remote jungles of northeast Burma and repair a rare piano belonging to an army surgeon.



**Place hold**

## **Mexico**

By James Michener

**Call #: F Michener**

The story of an American journalist who travels to Mexico to report on the upcoming duel between two great matadors, but who is ultimately swept up in the dramatic story of his Mexican ancestors.



**Place hold**

## **Abundance: A Novel of Marie Antoinette**

By Sara Jeter Naslund

**Call #: F Naslund**

A fictional story of the young French queen, Marie Antoinette, who was executed in the French Revolution.



**Place hold**

## **Master and Commander**

By Patrick O'Brian

**Call #: F O'Brian**

The beginning novel in a sweeping series about life aboard a British man-of-war ship during the Napoleonic wars, and the friendship between Captain Jack Aubrey and the ship's doctor and naturalist, Stephen Maturin.





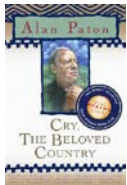
**Place hold**

## **The English Patient**

By Michael Ondaatje

**Call #: F Ondaatje**

This Booker Prize-winning novel traces the intersection at an Italian villa at the end of World War II of four people damaged by the war: Hana, a nurse; the maimed thief, Caravaggio; the sapper, Kip; and the English patient.



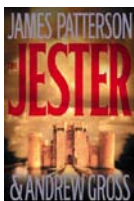
**Place hold**

## **Cry, The Beloved Country**

By Alan Paton

**Call #: F Paton**

Set against the backdrop of a land torn apart by racial inequality and injustice, this moving story of Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom is a famous and important novel about South African history.



**Place hold**

## **The Jester**

By James Patterson

**Call #: F Patterson**

This page-turning thriller is a breathtakingly romantic adventure set in the Middle Ages.



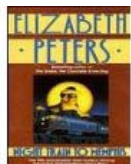
**Place hold**

## **The Whitechapel Conspiracy**

By Anne Perry

**Call #: Mystery Area F Perry**

In 1892, while the grisly murders of Whitechapel prostitutes by Jack the Ripper remain a mystery, Inspector Thomas Pitt is transferred to Whitechapel where he must investigate alleged anarchist plots.



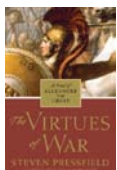
**Place hold**

## **Night Train to Memphis**

By Elizabeth Peters

**Call #: Mystery Area F Peters**

Dr. Vicky Bliss, who works for the National Museum in Munich, joins a luxurious Nile cruise in order to help forestall an alleged plot to rob the Cairo Museum.



**Place hold**

## **The Virtues of War: A Novel of Alexander the Great**

By Steven Pressfield

**Call #: F Pressfield**

By turns heroic and calculating, compassionate and merciless, Alexander the Great recounts the blood, the terror, and the tactics of his greatest battlefield victories.



**Place hold**

## **Shadow and Light**

By Jonathan Rabb

**Call #: Mystery Area F Rabb**

When an executive at the Ufa film studios is found dead, Nikolai Hoffner, chief inspector in the Kriminalpolizei, investigates and is pulled into the world of Hitler's Brownshirts.





**Place hold**

## **Roma: The Novel of Ancient Rome**

By Steven Saylor

**Call #: F Saylor**

An account of the tragedy of the hero Coriolanus, the capture of Rome by the Gauls, the bitter political struggles of the patricians and plebians, and the ultimate demise of the republic with the assassination of Julius Caesar.



**Place hold**

## **Snow Flower and the Secret Fan**

By Lisa See

**Call #: F See**

In 19<sup>th</sup> century China, two young women exchange messages written on a fan and share a lifetime friendship, until a misunderstanding tears them apart.



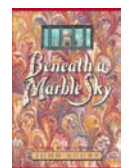
**Place hold**

## **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**

By Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

**Call #: F Shaffer**

As England emerges from World War II, journalist Juliet Ashton takes up a correspondence with the members of the Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a book club started by the residents of the Nazi-occupied island of Guernsey.



**Place hold**

## **Beneath a Marble Sky: A Novel of the Taj Mahal**

By John Shors

**Call #: F Shors**

From self-imposed exile, Jahanara, the eldest daughter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century emperor who built the Taj Mahal, recounts the events that took place during the construction of the famous monument to his love.



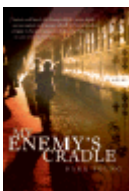
**Place hold**

## **Luncheon of the Boating Party**

By Susan Vreeland

**Call #: F Vreeland**

While painting his famous "Luncheon of the boating party," the French Impressionist painter Renoir, is drawn into lives of its subjects as they enjoy an outing in Paris during the late 1800s.



**Place hold**

## **My Enemy's Cradle**

By Sara Young

**Call #: F Young**

Mining a lost piece of history, Sara Young takes us into the lives of women living in occupied Holland during the holocaust and into the Lebensborn, a Nazi maternity home for women bearing German children.