ARTHUR GUITERMAN
The porcupine, whom one
must handle gloved, /
May be respected, but
is never loved.

PHILIP GUEDALLA
I had always assumed that
cliché was a suburb of
Paris, until I discovered it
to be a street in Oxford.

QUEEN ELIZABETH
I will make you shorter by the head.

Ballast is an acronym for Books Art Language Logic Ambiguity Science and Teaching, as well as a distant allusion to Blast, the short-lived publication founded during World War I by Wyndham Lewis, the Vorticist artist and writer. Ballast is mainly a pastiche of astonishing passages from books, magazines, diaries and other writings. Put differently, it is a journal devoted to wit, the contents of which are intended to be insightful, amusing or thought provoking.

The purposes of Ballast are educational, apolitical and noncommercial. It does not carry advertisements, nor is it supposed to be purchased or sold. It is published approximately every three months, beginning in the fall (more or less) and ending in the summer.

To subscribe to Ballast or to order a gift subscription, simply send in a mailing address and five first class U.S. postage stamps for each single issue desired. In other words, to receive Ballast for one year (four issues), we ask that each reader contribute a total of twenty genuine unused postage stamps. Do not send postage meter slips, nor do we accept orders by phone or e-mail. When subscribing, self-adhesive stamps are preferred. Short of that, send good-looking, antique or unusual stamps. In general we do not accept requests from outside the U.S.

Dinner at the [Stephen] Spenders’ with Graham Greene, who is so much taller than I.S. [Igor Stravinsky] that a distant onlooker, not already aware of the diminutive height of the one, might take the other to be a former basketball center.

ROBERT CRAFT
DONALD SUTHERLAND

Frank Lloyd Wright designed the house I was living in. From what I understood, he was having an affair with the wife of the man he was designing the house for. That man was very tall. So Wright, short and vain, designed the house in such a way that a tall person couldn't live in it without severe cranial damage. I hit my head all the time.

"Some people say that we are just making little Frank Lloyd Wrights at Taliesin West," Wright said with scorn [at a luncheon in New York in 1953]. "But just remember this, young man," he continued, "there are no little Frank Lloyd Wrights."

SIDNEY LUMET

I could have been tall but I turned it down.

WOODY ALLEN

I failed to make the chess team because of my height.

ALLAN SHIELDS

OXYMORON: Stupid ox.
GERARD DE NERVAL
[when asked why he walked a lobster on a leash, instead of a dog] I have a liking for lobsters: they are peaceful and solemn, they know the secrets of the sea, they do not bark, and they do not eat into the essential privacy of one's soul the way dogs do. And Goethe had an aversion to dogs, and he was not mad.

GEORGE ORWELL
(Animal Farm)
All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.

ALLAN SHIELDS
ANTONYM: Dvorak's first name, originally.

The reader of this book may already know the popular philosophical story that usually takes Oxford as its locale. In it four dons, each representing a different academic discipline and therefore a different viewpoint, are flapping along the High when their path is crossed by a small but conspicuous group of prostitutes. The quickest don mutters, "A jam of tarts." The second, obviously a fellow in music, ripostes, "No, a flourish of strumpets." From the third, apparently an expert on nineteenth-century English literature, "Not at all...an essay of Trollope's." The fourth offers, "An anthology of pros." (I have heard versions that included "a pride of loins," "a peal of Jezebels," "a smelting of ores," and even "a troop of horse," but this begins to flag a dead one.)

JAMES LIPTON
FRANK CRAFT
Large N.Z. [New Zealand] lady to I.S. [Igor Stravinsky]: "Frankly, Mr. Stravinsky, I like Firebird best of all your works." I.S.: "And what a charming hat you have."

FRANK CAPRA
I made mistakes in drama. I thought drama was when actors cried. But drama is when the audience cries.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED Barbara Maria Stafford, Visual Analogy: Consciousness as the Art of Connecting (Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1999). ISBN 0-262-19421-X. There is no mention in this book of Friedrich Froebel, the founder of kindergarten, who might have (or should have) been mentioned because the book's subject—visual analogy, or, as Stafford defines it, the perception of similarity-in-difference—is the subject of the second educational toy (or "gift," as Froebelians call it) that Froebel presented to children. It consisted of three simple shapes: A sphere, cube and cylinder. The sphere represented unity, the cube diversity, and the cylinder (which is spherical from one angle, square from another) was a synthesis of the two, a reconciliation of opposites. That simple toy, as Norman Brosterman said in Inventing Kindergarten, was "the dialectic incarnate—Hegel for tots," for it taught children about analogical seeing, about similarity-in-difference, and, as Froebel himself put it, that "all consequences lie dormant in their antecedents." This new book by the author of Good Looking, Artful Science and Body Criticism (she teaches art history at the University of Chicago) is a densely written but richly illustrated plea for the restoration of analogy (the perception of someone or something as like what it is not) in art and nonart visual forms, but also in everything else that we do. As a culture, we withstand the damaging daily effects of "an explosion of discontinuous happenings," writes Stafford, brought on in part by the emphasis on "personal statements, irreducibly distinctive subjects, and contradictory opinions." At the beginning of the new millennium, the "diversification of diversity" (David Hollinger) and the postmodern assault on analogical reasoning have left us "incapable of speaking across differences."

ROBERT KAUFMAN
The secret of all comedy writing is—write Jewish and cast Gentile.
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED Richard West Sellars, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History* (New Haven CT: Yale University Press, 1997). ISBN 0-300-06931-6. The daily press and television reports regularly alert us to intractable and highly contentious issues about the parks: Control burns; Yosemite automobile traffic control; shooting bison, elk, and grizzlies in Yellowstone; park entrance fees; management of concessionaires; re-introduction of wolves in Yellowstone and elsewhere; shooting wolves in Alaska; organization of park managerial staff; relationships between the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service; congressional budget support for the parks. The list seems never to shrink. Richard Sellars' tenure of more than twenty years as a National Park Service historian has prepared him in a singular fashion to research and write this major work detailing the evolution of the NPS policies and practices.

Throughout the relatively brief history of the National Park Service (since 1916), ecological science has been given short shrift in favor of a fictional, ever-expanding tourism. Parks have, from their start, been made into "pleasuring grounds" for tourists out to enjoy the expansive scenery. Park management has, from the start, treated the parks as an infinitely renewable resource there to be mined. The people parks were, in a pejorative word now, developed. They were also over-developed. From the start, too, the railroad companies, automobile clubs and associations, concessionaires, and the other, attendant commercial interests have lobbied constantly at the elbow of the NPS directors, guiding their policies always in the direction of progressive increases in tourist visitation. Their success is everywhere evident in Richard Sellars' candid, masterfully researched history. The Service's symbiotic argument ran roughly as follows: To persuade Congress to legislate for the parks' development, tourism must be increased, the park visitation rate must be increased; to attract more citizens, their visits must be enhanced by ready travel access (transportation by rail and roads) and by acceptable accommodations; by developing the parks, tourism will increase, and Congress, in turn, will then support the parks—by popular demand—so that the parks can be further developed, etc. Since 1916, this policy has succeeded. This development-driven policy of money-making and budget-busting planning continues at the core of park policy.

It is fair to say that this policy of encouraging tourism, begging the U.S. population to visit parks and monuments, come one, come all (to be able to argue for money from Congress—and to make profits for railroads, concessionaires, etc.) has been so wildly successful that it is, in some parks, a presently imminent threat to their survival. As early as 1919, Yosemite was described as over-crowded.

Sellars' main thrust, only inchoate in a brief notice, is that a policy of objective, scientific, independent survey of national resources alone will ensure the preservation of those resources. Indeed, since the book's publication, a major new national resources survey has been published: Michael J. Mac, Project Director, *Status and Trends of the Nation's Biological Resources*. 2 Vols. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, 1998. (See also *Preview of Status and Trends of the Nation's Biological Resources*, 1998.)—AS
Peace on earth are cows in the pasture, their bells and their breath, their eyes miniaturizing trees and sky; the rhythm of their heavy heads nodding to crop the grass or swinging back to rid soft flanks of flies and leaving festoons of silver saliva.


In Egypt I met a young man who hoped he’d kill an elephant, kill a giraffe...horrible! I remember [Thomas] Hardy telling me that when he was shown a lot of stuffed heads he said, “There’s one missing.” “Which?” “That of the killer.”


When we were casting The First Gentleman, a young actress was mentioned as a possibility for the Princess Charlotte. Her husband was having a big success in New York and a nice time with another woman. I said, “I think so-and-so will be delighted to go to New York because her husband has a hit there.” Tony [theatre director Tyrone Guthrie] replied, “She’ll be delighted to go to New York because her husband has a Miss there.”

E. E. CUMMINGS
a pretty girl
who naked is /
is worth a
million statues

JOHN GREY
And what’s a
butterfly? At
best,
He’s but a
caterpillar,
drest.

RECOMMENDED David A. Hanks,
The Decorative Designs of Frank Lloyd Wright
ISBN 0-486-40730-6. This is not a new
study, but simply the republication of a
book that first appeared in 1979. Originally
produced to accompany an exhibition or­
ganized by the Renwick Gallery, it was then
an invaluable, trailblazing work. Even today,
as explained in a new preface, it is still "the
only full survey of Wright’s decorative
arts." This aspect of Wright is important
because he was never merely an architect.
In each of his buildings, his goal was always
to create what his European contempo­
raries called a gesamtkunstwerk (a total
work of art), in which, as he explained,
"everything has a related articulation in
relation to the whole and all belongs
together." He was, as Vincent Scully states
in the book’s foreword, "like a painter—
touching every square inch of his building,
inside and out," including those lowlier
parts that are called the "decorative arts,"
such as furniture, rugs, curtains, tableware,
appliances, window glass, lighting fixtures,
and so on. It is those things that this book
discusses and shows.

He [Bret Harte] had good taste in clothes. With all
his conspicuousness there was never anything really
loud nor offensive about them. They always had a
single smart little accent, effectively located, and
that accent would have distinguished Harte from
any other of the ultrafashionables. Oftest it was
his necktie. Always it was of a single color, and
intense. Most frequently, perhaps, it was crimson—
a flash of flame under his chin; or it was indigo blue
and as hot and vivid as if one of those splendid and
luminous Brazilian butterflies had lighted there.

SAMUEL LANGHORNE CLEMENS The Autobiography
of Mark Twain. Charles Neider, ed. (New York: Harper
and Brothers, 1959), p. 125.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED Wendy Beckett, Sister
ISBN 0-7894-4603-0. In so many ways (size, color, texture and detail),
even the finest reproduction in a book is a crude and inadequate
way to relate to a work of art. It would be far better to travel to
the museum that owns the object, to witness the true and original
thing. But few people are willing or financially able to do that, and,
even when they do visit a museum, they are likely to spend only
seconds looking at any single work. The resolution of projected
digital images is usually dreadful, so whatever else the limitations of
printed reproductions, they may still be the best, most accessible
way to look at works of art at length. Arranged not by time period
but alphabetically by artist, the 1000 color plates in this lavish yet
very affordable book represent the paintings (and only the paint­
ings) of more than 500 Western artists, from the Middle Ages to
the present day. This is primarily an inexhaustible picture book, a
vast storehouse of beautifully reproduced works. The selection is
conservative, exactly what one might expect from a nun with a dis­
tracting overbite, so most of the works are old standbys, but
mixed in are some charming surprises as well, such as Jan Van
Kessel’s America (1661), Jean-Etienne Liotard’s Self-Portrait with
Beard (1749), and David Hockney’s portrait of Divine (1979), the
transvestite star of the film Pink Flamingoes.

Despite the differences and the enmities between
the two enterprises, art and philosophy both resem­
ble and involve each other. The artist when he ceas­
es to be merely a gifted and trifling craftsman turns
out to be, in his very choice of themes, in his selec­
tion of materials, in his total and residual effect, a
commentator on life and existence; in his immedi­
ate and imaginative way he is a philosopher. The
philosopher, constructing through the apparatus of
definition and demonstration or of discovery and
synthesis, a complete vision of life and existence, is
making a canvas of the whole of experience, com­
posing an intellectual symphony, and fabricating a
poem, however much his language be prose.
"Philosophy," Socrates is made to say by Plato, "is a
finer kind of music," and like serious music, howev­
er unmoved the mind that went to its making, it is
moving.

IRWIN EDMAN Arts and the Man (New York: W.W.
Norton, 1949), pp. 112-113—AS
One [of his students] was T.S. Eliot... He was extraordinarily silent, and only once made a remark which struck me. I was praising Heraclitus, and he observed: "Yes, he always reminds me of Villon." I thought this remark so good that I always wished he would make another.

BERTRAND RUSSELL quoted in Wayne C. Booth, The Vocation of a Teacher.
He [the theatre director Tyrone Guthrie] was first of all a musician. He regarded a play as a musical score: its changes of pace, its modifications, its climaxes, crescendos were treated very much as a piece of music. He was keenly aware of rhythms—the overall rhythm of a scene rather than the clear carving of syllables. So there were often passages where he didn't care if the audience heard exactly what was said. He aimed for a general impression; the clarity of dialogue was comparatively unimportant. "It's a dreary passage. Get on with it. Race it through." So there'd be a great impression of brouhaha, confusion, noise, embattled opinion, out of which one vital line would emerge—bang!—like that, and hit you a wallop. He'd throw away twenty lines in order to achieve one which would slam you in the face.


It pleased me beyond measure when Yale made me a Master of Arts, because I didn't know anything about art; I had another convulsion of pleasure when Yale made me a Doctor of Literature, because I was not competent to doctor anybody's literature but my own, and couldn't even keep my own in a healthy condition without my wife's help. I rejoiced again when Missouri University made me a Doctor of Laws, because it was all clear profit, I not knowing anything about laws except how to evade them and not get caught.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED Katharine Tait, Carn Voel: My Mother's House (UK: Patten Press, Old Post Office, Newmill, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 8XN, 1998). ISBN 1-872-22928-X. The author, who is Bertrand and Dora Russell's daughter, has produced a charming chapbook about her parent's home in Cornwall, which they called Carn Voel. The book is also about her parents and about her, with an emphasis on her mother, who was a remarkably capable activist-writer, a feminist before there were feminists. This is the second work by Tait (the first was My Father Bertrand Russell), who still lives at Carn Voel after a long career raising five gifted children scattered throughout the world.

The history of the home is told through delightfully vivid and telling accounts of beach picnics, the visits of dignitaries (such as Ludwig Wittgenstein, whom Katharine failed to actually see because she was sick in bed), and the footwear and socks of Rabindranath Tagore, the Indian author and guru, whose legs were seen from the floor level of a child unaware of greatness. Throughout the book, it is Dora Russell who emerges as the strong character.

Katharine went about the world with her famous father in her youth, studying at UCLA, with graduate work at Radcliffe and Harvard. Her own autobiography is told, so far, as an intimate, brilliant observer of her family's careers. One can hope she will share more of her insights in a future volume.—AS

RUDOLF ARNHEIM (Parables of Sun Light)
A fellow tenant of ours used to boast that she had the largest apartment in the building and that it had two balconies. Since she was herself an ample figure, I used to call her, among friends, the lady with the two balconies.

April 23. [The novelist Vladimir]. Nabokov takes the S[travinsky]s and me to see Mary McCarthy in a debate at the New School for Social Research, where I used to attend Bertrand Russell's lectures on Plato, Leibniz, J.S. Mill, and D.H. Lawrence. (Russell pretended that Frieda L. really wrote the books.) Mary is quite contrary, but I am distracted by memories of Russell, always late, dropping his coat on the floor by the rostrum, and beginning to talk before reaching it. Afterward, choosing from the raised hands, he would say either nothing at all or "Very silly question."


ALLAN SHIELDS
REDUNDANCE: To dance again.
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED James Elkins, *The Domain of Images* (Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 1999). ISBN 0-8014-3559-5. For whatever reason, some of the most daring, experimental writing in the field of art history is now coming out of Chicago. Barbara Maria Stafford (who teaches at the University of Chicago) is one of the chief innovators, as is the author of this book, who teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Purely in terms of output, Elkins is phenomenal. In the past five years, he has published eight important books (all of which, without exception, are worth looking into): *The Poetics of Perspective* (1995); *The Object Stares Back: On the Nature of Seeing* (1996); *On Pictures and the Words That Fail Them* (1998); *On Beautiful, Dry and Distant Texts: Art History as Writing* (1998); *What Painting Is: How to Think About Oil Painting, Using the Language of Alchemy* (1998); *Why Are Our Pictures Puzzles? On the Modern Origins of Pictorial Complexity* (1999); *Pictures of the Body: Pain and Metamorphosis* (1999), and this title, which is the latest. How is this even possible? The answer in part is that all of his books, while each is unique, are more or less about the same range of issues: They are all about "art history on the edge," about aspects of art and design that defy categorization and that easily fall through the cracks in doctoral research programs. Like Gyorgy Kepes (*The New Landscape in Science and Art*) and E.H. Gombrich (*Art and Illusion*), whom Elkins must surely be influenced by, he almost always argues (by example, if not by the actual words that he writes) that art historians should look beyond their traditional subject areas and focus as much on the images in science, technology, commerce, medicine, music and archaeology.

BERTRAND RUSSELL
(Autobiography) I have never but once succeeded in making [G.E. Moore] tell a lie... "Moore," I said, "do you always speak the truth?" "No," he replied. I believe this to be the only lie he had ever told.

QUENTIN CRISP
Vice is its own reward.
It seems a pity that the world should throw away so many good things merely because they are unwholesome. I doubt if God has given us any refreshment which, taken in moderation, is unwholesome, except microbes. Yet there are people who strictly deprive themselves of each and every eatable, drinkable and smokable which has in any way acquired a shady reputation. They pay this price for health. And health is all they get for it. How strange it is! It is like paying out your whole fortune for a cow that has gone dry.

SAMUEL LANGHORNE CLEMENS
The Autobiography of Mark Twain.

Powers of Ten Interactive. Mac/Windows CD-ROM. ISBN 1-559-81629-5. Available at <www.eamesoffice.com>. This remarkably rich presentation is based on Powers of Ten, the classic short film about scale and magnitude that was made in the late 1960s by the American designers, Charles and Ray Eames. This CD-ROM was produced by their grandson, Eames Demitrios, who has also organized exhibitions and reissued a suite of their numerous films. It uses thousands of still images and videos to provide a thrilling hands-on trek through space and time, from the farthest edge of the universe to the tiniest parts of an atom.

Gothic Cathedrals of Europe. Mac/Windows CD-ROM (1999). Available from Films for the Humanities and Sciences at 800-257-5126 or <www.films.com>. Allusions to Gothic cathedrals abound in the Brooklyn Bridge, the skyscraper, Arts and Crafts furniture, and the house that stands firm in the background of Grant Wood's American Gothic. This interactive guided tour uses 2000 still images and 10 minutes of video to provide a detailed introduction to the social and structural history of 35 European Gothic cathedrals.

Hieronymus Bosch. VHS color video (1993). 30 minutes. Available from Films for the Humanities and Sciences at 800-257-5126 or <www.films.com>. At the end of this interesting video on the paintings at the Prado in Madrid of the Dutch artist Hieronymus Bosch (c.1450-1516), what remains is the troublesome question about whether he was a surrealist (as some have claimed) or simply an imaginative realist. Was he self-medicating his own torment by externalizing an obsession with sin and depravity? Or was he mentally sound but extraordinarily gifted, and merely attempting to spread the beliefs of an era in which, even more than today, people were driven by religious delusions? By far the most memorable, riveting part is a slow and extended discussion about the strangest and most famous of his paintings, The Garden of Earthly Delights.
All subscriptions to *Ballast* (including gift subscriptions) must be mailed to the following address:

**Ballast Quarterly Review**  
Attn: Subscription Cad  
2022 X Avenue  
Dysart, Iowa 52224-9767

*Ballast* is published in a limited edition and back issues are not generally available. However, any issue may be xeroxed to provide copies to others, but the copies must never be altered or sold. Rarely do we use unsolicited submissions, but readers are always encouraged to send offbeat material, verbal or visual, of the sort that the journal might publish. Original material must be explicitly labeled as such. Material that is not original must clearly make note of its author and source. All submissions are unpaid, and unsolicited material will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope.

*Ballast* does not have a budget as such. For nearly 15 years, it has operated at a loss. Such losses are currently offset by contributions from enlightened subscribers and generous deductions from the paycheck of the Subscription Cad. If anyone is foolishly philanthropic (foolish because such gifts are surely not tax deductible), we will sometimes accept a check.

*Ballast* has a collaborative affiliation with *Leonardo: Journal of the International Society of Arts, Sciences, and Technology* (MIT Press). As a result, some of the book reviews in *Ballast* are reprinted either on the Leonardo web site at [http://mitpress.mit.edu/e-journals/leonardo/home.html](http://mitpress.mit.edu/e-journals/leonardo/home.html) or in the printed magazine.

A major contributor to this issue has been **Allan Shields** of Clovis, California [as indicated by the initials AS at the end of each credited entry]. The illustrations on pages 3, 7, 10, and 11 are classroom exercises by graphic design students at the University of Northern Iowa. The cover is a chalk talk drawing by **Harlan Tarbell** (1924).

**MARK SUMMERS**  
[an invented joke] The Italian painter Amedeo Modigliani goes into a bar, and the bartender says, “Hey, why the long face?”

---

Once he visited a school in Stockholm, and was taken in to a geography lesson. He went up to the map on the wall, pointed to Italy, and said: “This is London.”

**GRETA SERGEANT**  