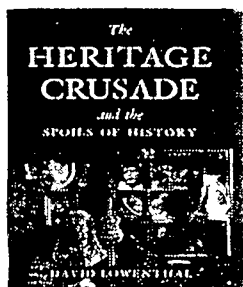
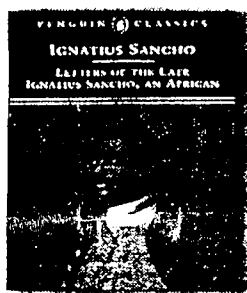


Non-fiction



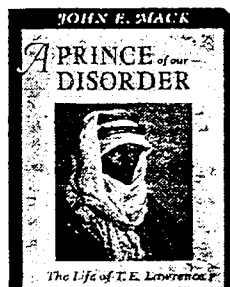
The Heritage Crusade and the Spoils of History, by David Lowenthal (Cambridge University Press, £12.95)

It is easy to dismiss all those heritage sites that seem to be just another litre of petrol away from the motorway exit. Lowenthal's response is subtler and more interesting. He doesn't expect the heritage industry to be faithful to the truth. By its very nature heritage "must depart from verifiable truth". He sees our heritage sites as a way for us to "learn to relish, rather than resent, our own interventions and even to tolerate those of others." But he finds much to bemoan before he reaches that optimistic conclusion.



Letters Of The Late Ignatius Sancho, An African, ed. Vincent Carretta (Penguin Classics, £7.99)

Ignatius Sancho was the first black Briton to be mentioned in the DNB, the only recorded black voter in England in the 18th century, a critic of the British in India and of African complicity in the slave trade and an 18th-century man of letters who wrote with one eye on posterity and the other on the conventions of epistolary style. He was a slave, a butler, an actor manqué and a grocer. He corresponded with Sterne, was a friend of Garrick and had his portrait painted by Gainsborough, and his letters provide an unusual insight, at once familiar and distanced, into late 18th-century life in Britain. A fascinating man.



A Prince of Our Disorder: The Life of T E Lawrence, by John E Mack (Harvard, £12.50)

A hugely admired, and Pulitzer prize-winning, biography which concentrates on the relationship between Lawrence's inner life and the actions and events which grew out of them. It is easy to warm to a biographer who, while drawing on his training as a psychiatrist, is never deceived into thinking that theory can "explain" his Lawrence. The more Mack discovered about the social contexts of Lawrence's actions and the demands on a public man, the more he understood Lawrence's psychology. The result is a resounding confirmation of this approach to his subject.



London, England: A Day-tripper's Travelogue From The Coolest City In The World, by Derek Hammond (Mainstream, £7.99)

Hammond scoffs at all those guides that promise to show you around the "real" London. "I don't want the real London. I want to go day-tripping in unreal London... I'll visit all the very *Londonest* scenes of the past, judging them against expectations boosted sky-high by classic cinema, childhood TV and too much swinging spy fiction. I'm going to wander around London doing my best to have a good time. And if it's rubbish, I'll lie". Most guides are just lists. This one is of a city lived in, loved and imagined. It may all be lost on foreigners.

Desmond Christy

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