

level, that of tactics. Both lack of experience in major wars and the physically limited space available for peacetime maneuvers made the senior British officers' handling of larger formations, from divisions upward, clumsy and ill coordinated. Again, this was a problem at the operational level of war that would bedevil the British on the western front. Jones goes on to examine the reform of each of the three combat arms—infantry, artillery, and cavalry—in some detail. While, for the most part, he is favorably impressed, he does note difficulties too. The army was ambivalent about the role of the machine gun, not because it was technophobic, but partly because of financial strictures and partly because the cumbersome and bulky machine guns used in the fast-moving war on the veldt had not proved that useful. Similarly, the artillery was caught by the outbreak of war in 1914 halfway through an argument about the relative merits of direct and indirect fire. It had excellent equipment, but it was not yet sure how best to use that equipment in action.

Although this is a technical and, perhaps for many, rather dry subject, this book is very clearly written and would be accessible to an undergraduate. It does not, however, tell the whole story of the British army's preparation for war. While Jones notes carefully the impact of the Russo-Japanese War on British thinking, he does not examine other later developments that offered possible solutions to South African War tactical problems, for example, wireless communication, aerial reconnaissance, and motorized transport. These were important subjects for the British army in the early 1900s, and it would have been useful to have included them in this account. Nor does the author concern himself with the auxiliary arms, even though both the army's medical and veterinary services were essentially revolutionized subsequent to the South African War. This had profound, and positive, implications for overall British military efficiency, including the tactical performance of horse-mobile units, in World War I. Similarly, while Jones is, I think, correct to emphasize how many useful lessons were learned as a result of the 1899–1902 conflict, he is less forthcoming on what it did not prepare the army for: a prolonged war of positions. Those British soldiers in front-line trenches in France, Flanders, and Gallipoli, who, well into 1915, found themselves making hand grenades out of jam jars and gun cotton, might have had legitimate grounds for observing that combat on the veldt had its limitations as a school of modern warfare.

In some senses, therefore, this book is rather narrowly focused. Yet the author confidently achieves his own objectives in making the case for lessons learned and has written what is still quite rare: academically rigorous tactical history. His work is now on the must-read list for anyone with a serious interest in twentieth-century British military history, and this book is an excellent companion study to the works of leading tactical historians such as Antulio J. Echevarria II and Stephen Badsey. Indeed, as I read it, I came to think of it as a fine prequel to the late Paddy Griffith's seminal study *Battle Tactics of the Western Front: The British Army's Art of Attack, 1916–1918* (1994).

*Gervase Phillips*, Manchester Metropolitan University

JULIA LAITE. *Common Prostitutes and Ordinary Citizens: Commercial Sex in London, 1885–1960*. Genders and Sexualities in History series. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. Pp. 320. \$85.00 (cloth).  
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“Before 1980, the prostitute was ‘pornographic,’” states Timothy Guilfoyle in his review essay on the historiography of prostitution (“Prostitution in History,” *American Historical Review* [1999]: 117). The subject has now become academically respectable. Since the 1980s, there have been numerous studies of prostitution and prostitutes reflecting the changing landscape

of social and cultural history and the development of women's and gender history. Sexuality, particularly as associated with prostitution, morality, and health, became a subject of political campaigning, by women and men, and helped shape the individual's relationship to the state. In the 1980s and 1990s, much of the history of prostitution focused on the attempts made to control it, regulate it, protect public morality, and secure social order. These earlier works by Ida Blom, Mary Gibson, and Jill Harsin, and particularly that of Judith Walkowitz, also show women who worked as prostitutes to be dynamic figures who exerted some agency in their own lives. More recent studies of prostitution, such as those by Philip Howell, Philippa Levine, Luise White, Yvonne Svanstrom, Victoria Harris, Gail Hershatter, and myself, situate commercial sex within the contexts of social, political, religious, and economic developments. It is now recognized that sex, gender, class, and race shape and shaped commercial sex. The practices of prostitution, its relationship to power and authority, the politics of sexuality, the diversity of the experience of prostitutes, the ways in which venereal diseases have shaped public health policy, and the impact of international debates on issues such as trafficking and the rights of women and children, together with the impact of regulation on the colonies, suggest how these new histories of prostitution are reshaping our understanding of the impact of what is never simply an act of sexual commerce.

Julia Laite's study adds considerably to our understanding of prostitution in London between 1885 and 1960. She argues that prostitution was woven into the fabric of space, culture, and the economy of the city and that its geography was always more diverse than contemporaries or historians have admitted. This was a city that attracted all kinds of individuals, and prostitution was an enterprise not only hidden away in dark alleys but also rather part of the city's entertainment and leisure industry. Both world wars saw an influx of buyers into the city in the army of soldiers recreating or working there. Indeed, Laite shows that soldier clients played an important role in shaping attitudes toward commercial sex.

Laite provides insight into the everyday lives of women working as prostitutes. Courts sometimes refused to compel married men to support their children when a wife had deserted with the children and was earning her living on the street. Crusades to close down brothels merely drove the women to other parts of the city, making many homeless in the process. Violence was always on the edge of and sometimes central to this world. The murders of women in the Whitechapel area of the city were particularly brutal, but as Laite shows, these were not isolated incidents, with violent assaults and attempted and actual murders of prostitutes continuing throughout the period. Laite also provides a discussion of the clients of prostitutes, a particularly difficult subject to research. There was a range of ways in which society attempted to understand the clientele. While there was little research into the clients of prostitutes after the 1940s, one psychologist, T. C. N. Gibbens, investigating the phenomenon in the 1950s, surprisingly argued that the most compulsive clients of female prostitutes were "closet homosexuals" (47).

Anxieties about prostitution, its existence and prevalence, surfaced in waves. Brothels faced severe repression after the introduction of the Criminal Law Amendment Act (1885), when local authorities and religious groups and organizations sought to close brothels. But women soon found ways around the legislation, and a legal loophole allowed single women to occupy a flat and work out of it, and thus it could not be assumed that she managed a brothel. The changing architecture of the city, the building of multiple-dwelling mansion blocks, brought a new resource that women utilized to engage in prostitution. From the 1950s attitudes toward prostitution became more hardened, and Laite argues convincingly that the loss of empire; anxieties about gender, class, and race; the new welfare state; and colonial emigration within the context of celebratory civic events such as the coronation and the festival of Britain saw greater intolerance to prostitution. The media, itself evolving rapidly in this period, brought greater public attention to the subject. From 1959 legislation provided harsher penalties for soliciting, and greater control was exerted over commercial sex just at the time when, ironically, Britain was becoming more permissive.

This book is particularly strong on exploring the rise of commercial sex in the period and the ways in which it was shaped by legislation, which in turn was formed by social crusaders and local authorities. Women working as prostitutes became increasingly subjects of coordinated crime control, but the world of commercial sex was/is always able to reorganize itself around legislative limitations. Laite also shows how the women themselves negotiated their own lives and their work within processes of criminalization. This is a thorough and engaging history of its subject, offering historical insight into not only the issue of prostitution but also the powerful argument that until the public, legislators, policy makers, and academics accept historical insights into prostitution, how it was repressed, what it offered women who engaged in this world, and how it was shaped by policy and legislative initiatives, society as a whole will remain blind to the impact of law and policy, unable to see how real change can be effected in this social and commercial world.

*Maria Luddy*, University of Warwick

JAMES D. LOY AND KENT M. LOY. *Emma Darwin: A Victorian Life*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2010. Pp. 436. \$39.95 (cloth).

LILLIAN NAYDER. *The Other Dickens: A Life of Catherine Hogarth*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2011. Pp. 359. \$52.50 (cloth); \$24.95 (paper).  
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In *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, Gertrude Stein assumes the voice of her life's companion. "Before I decided to write this book my twenty-five years with Gertrude Stein," Toklas/Stein writes, "I had often said that I would write, The wives of geniuses I have sat with. I have sat with so many" (Vintage, 1960, 14). Had Alice been able to sit with Emma Darwin or Catherine Dickens, she would quickly have acquired a more vivid sense of each woman than belated biographers can muster, however dedicated they are to mulling over what evidence remains. She would have been able to tell if Emma Darwin's blunt outspoken voice was laced with humor and emotion, or whether Catherine Dickens ever uttered an unpredictable or original word. Deprived of such opportunities, biographers of the wives of geniuses are forced to adopt other strategies in their attempts to reanimate the stories of those whose claim on public memory depends on their roles as intimate domestic partners of famous men.

Born just seven years apart, Emma Darwin (1808–96) and Catherine Dickens (1815–79) shared some situations common to middle- and upper-class Victorian women. Both were married to men who worked compulsively, leaving their wives to run the household, entertain professional friends and colleagues, and raise children. Both women gave birth to ten children. Emma lost three of hers in infancy or childhood; Catherine lost one. For years each woman was constantly pregnant, with their enthusiasm noticeably waning after the births of the first four children. (Lillian Nayder actually provides a series of charts showing how many months and days of Catherine's married life were passed in pregnancy.) Both women came from large families in which this kind of heroic childbearing was considered perfectly normal, but the biographies underscore the physical and psychological tolls exacted by repeated labor and, especially, by the deaths of children.

Nonetheless, the differences between the subjects and the biographers' strategies loom large. The Loys, a husband and wife team who come to the Darwins from previous work in primate studies and evolution, offer a broad family chronicle of an exceptional branch of the English landed gentry, the closely intermarried Wedgwood-Darwin-Allen clan. Lillian Nayder,