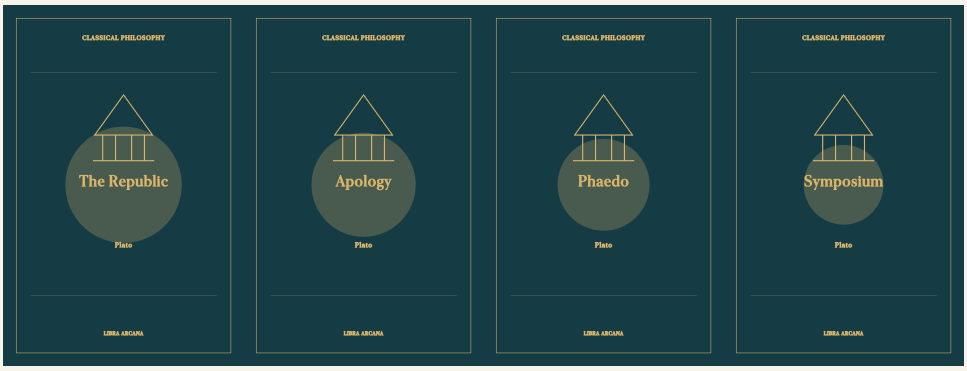
OPEN STACKS

Libra Arcana

A printable catalog of forty enduring texts

This catalog gathers 40 public-domain titles across eight traditions of philosophy, mythology, political thought, law, symbolism, rhetoric, and history. Each entry is available to read online through Libra Arcana.



CURATED SHELF

Classical Philosophy

5 selected titles



The Republic

Plato

Plato's dialogue on justice, civic order, education, and the responsibilities of power.

1900 | 516 pages



Apology

Plato

Socrates' defense before the Athenian court, centered on conscience, inquiry, and the examined life.

Undated | 16 pages



Phaedo

Plato

A dialogue on the final hours of Socrates and the philosophical questions of the soul, death, and reason.

Undated | 40 pages

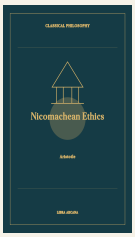


Symposium

Plato

A sequence of speeches on love, beauty, desire, and the pursuit of wisdom.

Undated | 30 pages



Nicomachean Ethics

Aristotle

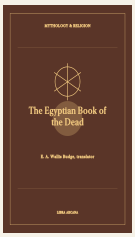
Aristotle's account of virtue, practical judgment, friendship, and the good life.

Undated | 117 pages

CURATED SHELF

Mythology & Religion

5 selected titles

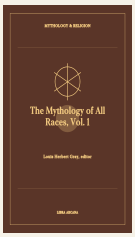


The Egyptian Book of the Dead

E. A. Wallis Budge, translator

A readable introduction to Egyptian funerary texts, their invocations, and the journey beyond death.

Undated | 53 pages



The Mythology of All Races, Vol. 1

Louis Herbert Gray, editor

A richly illustrated reference volume placing a major mythic tradition within a comparative world survey.

1916 | 620 pages



Myths and Legends of the Great Plains

Unknown

Traditional narratives from the Great Plains, preserved with their cultural and ceremonial contexts.

1913 | 266 pages

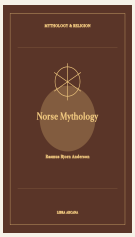


Myths and Legends of British North America

Katharine Berry Judson

A collected survey of Indigenous North American stories, heroes, origins, and sacred landscapes.

1917 | 272 pages



Norse Mythology

Rasmus Bjorn Anderson

An introduction to the gods, cosmology, and narrative world of the Norse tradition.

1884 | 488 pages

CURATED SHELF

Political Thought

5 selected titles



The Federalist

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay

Essays written to explain and defend the proposed United States Constitution and its system of government.

1901 | 536 pages

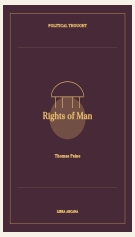


Common Sense

Thomas Paine

Paine's concise revolutionary argument for independence and representative government.

1920 | 100 pages

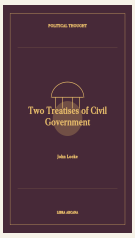


Rights of Man

Thomas Paine

Paine's defense of popular sovereignty, civil liberties, and accountable institutions.

1817 | 242 pages



Two Treatises of Civil Government

John Locke

Locke's foundational account of consent, property, natural rights, and the limits of political authority.

1689 | 429 pages



The Prince

Niccolo Machiavelli

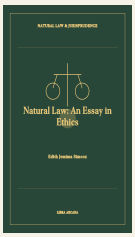
Machiavelli's compact study of leadership, political power, fortune, and statecraft.

1921 | 136 pages

CURATED SHELF

Natural Law & Jurisprudence

5 selected titles



Natural Law: An Essay in Ethics

Edith Jemima Simcox

Simcox's study of ethical obligation, moral judgment, and the relationship between law and human conduct.

1877 | 399 pages

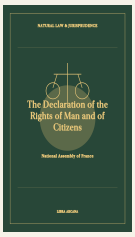


The Rights of War and Peace

Hugo Grotius

Grotius's landmark work on conflict, international law, obligation, and just conduct among states.

1738 | 860 pages



The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizens

National Assembly of France

A short primary text on liberty, equality before the law, and the civic basis of political authority.

1901 | 122 pages

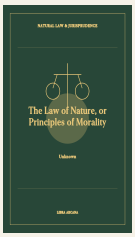


The Science of Rights

Johann Gottlieb Fichte

Fichte's systematic account of rights, obligation, property, and the legal conditions of freedom.

1889 | 534 pages



The Law of Nature, or Principles of Morality

Unknown

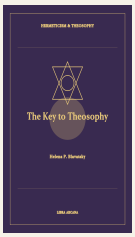
An early moral-philosophical treatment of natural law, duty, and social conduct.

1796 | 192 pages

CURATED SHELF

Hermeticism & Theosophy

5 selected titles

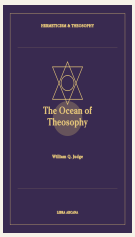


The Key to Theosophy

Helena P. Blavatsky

A question-and-answer introduction to the ethics, concepts, and vocabulary of the Theosophical tradition.

1905 | 284 pages



The Ocean of Theosophy

William Q. Judge

A concise exposition of karma, reincarnation, consciousness, and the Theosophical worldview.

1893 | 180 pages



The Ancient Wisdom

Annie Besant

An outline of Theosophical teachings on human development, cosmology, and spiritual discipline.

1918 | 356 pages

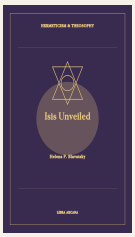


Thrice-Greatest Hermes

G. R. S. Mead

A study of Hermetic writings and their place in Hellenistic religion, philosophy, and gnosis.

1906 | 404 pages



Isis Unveiled

Helena P. Blavatsky

Blavatsky's wide-ranging work on occult philosophy, comparative religion, and esoteric traditions.

1877 | 692 pages

CURATED SHELF

Language & Symbolism

5 selected titles



The Vision of Symbols

Unknown

A historical investigation into symbolic language, images, and their interpretive power.

1886 | 24 pages



A Glossary of Important Symbols

Unknown

A reference guide to recurrent symbols across Hebrew, pagan, and Christian visual traditions.

1912 | 120 pages

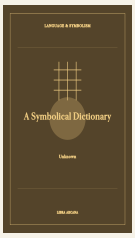


The Uses of Symbolism in Greek Art

Unknown

An art-historical study of symbolic meaning in Greek images and decorative forms.

1922 | 68 pages

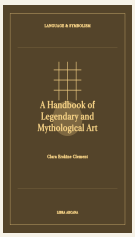


A Symbolical Dictionary

Unknown

A compact nineteenth-century dictionary of emblematic images, figures, and symbolic associations.

1842 | 252 pages



A Handbook of Legendary and Mythological Art

Clara Erskine Clement

A visual reference to myths, legends, and their treatment in art across cultures and eras.

1881 | 574 pages

CURATED SHELF

Rhetoric & Liberal Education

5 selected titles



The Seven Liberal Arts

Paul Abelson

A study of the medieval curriculum of grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy.

1906 | 176 pages

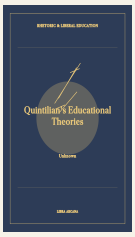


The Orator's Education, Vol. 1

Quintilian

The first volume of Quintilian's classic work on eloquence, ethical character, and education.

1920 | 570 pages



Quintilian's Educational Theories

Unknown

A focused study of Quintilian's account of teaching, moral formation, and rhetorical practice.

1901 | 78 pages



A Short History of Classical Scholarship

John Edwin Sandys

A survey of how Greek and Latin learning was studied, transmitted, and renewed across centuries.

1915 | 482 pages



The Worth of Ancient Literature to the Modern World

Unknown

An argument for the continuing value of classical literature in modern intellectual life.

1917 | 32 pages

CURATED SHELF

History & Civilization

5 selected titles

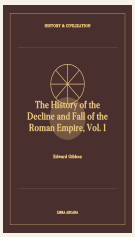


The History of Rome, Vol. 1

Titus Livius (Livy)

Livy's history of Rome from its legendary origins, shaped by civic memory and political example.

1823 | 528 pages



The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Vol. 1

Edward Gibbon

Gibbon's influential history of Rome's imperial transformation and decline.

1777 | 734 pages

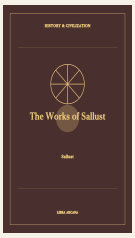


Plutarch's Lives, Vol. 1

Plutarch

Paired biographies of Greek and Roman figures, read for character, leadership, and historical example.

1906 | 458 pages



The Works of Sallust

Sallust

Roman histories and political writings on conspiracy, corruption, civic conflict, and republican decline.

Undated | 606 pages



History of Florence

Niccolo Machiavelli

Machiavelli's history of Florence, tracing faction, ambition, institutions, and civic change.

1901 | 466 pages