says collected in Uncommon Contexts are representative of this latter approach, which, as indicated by the nationality and institutional affiliations of all of the volume’s contributors, is principally—although not exclusively—British. There is nevertheless, as Ben Marsden points out in the introduction, a further subdivision in this historiist camp, between “historical studies of the rhetoric of science” and “literary-critical accounts of science in the work of well-known novelists . . . and poets” (p. 3). While previous edited volumes in this field have tended to privilege one or other of these perspectives, Uncommon Contexts is distinctive, according to Marsden, in bringing them together, with contributions from leading historians of science interspersed with those of literary critics. Ironically, it is often the historians of science who are more concerned with canonical novels, including Anne Secord on Elizabeth Gaskell’s Mary Barton and Crosbie Smith on Joseph Conrad’s Victorian geometry. The final section, “Science and Technology in Fiction,” features three essays that, ostensibly at least, are more traditional in considering the influence of science on literary fiction. Both Secord and Smith, however, relate the novels of Gaskell and Conrad to contexts, including class relations and trust, of direct significance to historians of science. Hazel Hutchison, in the volume’s final essay, shows the new metaphorical possibilities that modern communications technology presented to psychologically astute novelists like Henry James.

Taken as a whole, Uncommon Contexts is a methodologically innovative and hugely interesting contribution to the rich seam of historiist Literature and Science studies. With its roster of high-caliber contributors, it is also a valuable addition to Pickering & Chatto’s “Science and Culture in the Nineteenth Century” series.

GOWAN DAWSON

Ian Jared Miller. The Nature of the Beasts: Empire and Exhibition at the Tokyo Imperial Zoo. Foreword by Harriet Ritvo. xxv + 322 pp., illus., bibl., index. Berkeley/Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2013. $65 (cloth).

Over the last ten years, scholars have become interested in the role of animals and human–animal relations in Japanese history. While historians of Japanese science have paid due attention to the introduction of Western institutions such as the museum, the laboratory, and the university in the nineteenth century, the role of the zoological garden has been neglected. Ian Jared Miller focuses on Japan’s first modern zoo, the Ueno Park Imperial Zoological Garden in Tokyo. Miller provides a history of the establishment of the zoo. As he so clearly shows, the meaning of the zoo would change over time, with Japan’s defeat in World War II and the...
American-led Allied Occupation of Japan (1945–1952). In the introduction, Miller refers to what he calls “ecological modernity,” the industrial and imperial culture that helped to bring the manufactured ecology of the zoo into being and humans and animals into contact. He argues that, rather ironically, the zoo introduced “a break between humanity and animality that recast Japanese—together with Westerners—as the rational masters of a new natural history based on Linnean nomenclature and the tenets of evolutionary theory” (pp. 2–3). The state sought to alter how people saw the natural world and promoted the idea that it needed to be controlled for national development. By 1942, there were more than thirty zoos throughout the Japanese empire, and some fifteen million people in total visited them each year.

Chapter 1 provides some background on the establishment of the Ueno Zoo and its early years. Miller argues that the Ueno Zoo, which opened in 1882, served not only to separate people from animals physically but also to educate visitors, encouraging people to be curious and productive but at the same time docile (like the animals) and civilized (p. 29). He writes in Chapter 2 that by the end of the Meiji era in 1912 the confines of the zoo seemed to signal fast-industrializing Japan’s alienation from the natural world and the nation’s growing empire. The zoo’s war trophy exhibit housed animals that were captured during the Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895). This marked the beginning of an expansion of the area of the zoo, which doubled between 1897 and 1937, and the growth of a colonial network of zoos, museums, botanical gardens, and collectors that extended from Manchuria to Singapore, with Tokyo at its center.

In Chapter 3 Miller reminds us that Japan’s war effort involved the large-scale mobilization of animals and animal products that would help clothe and protect soldiers and provide support on the battlefield. The Ueno Zoo provided temporary respite from the war for the general public, but it, too, would not go untouched. There was some effort to identify animals from the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, and military animal maps were distributed to highlight the role of animals in the war effort.

The strongest part of the book can be found in Chapter 4, which recounts the slaughter of some of the zoo’s most famous animals in the summer of 1943. One-third of the zoo’s cages were emptied as a result. There were concerns about the continued availability of food to feed the animals and the fear that they might escape during bombings of Tokyo by the Allied Forces. The first animal to be killed was a Manchurian bear, and the account of its death makes for gruesome reading. In the aftermath of the killings at Ueno, zoos and circuses throughout the Japanese empire followed suit.

Chapter 5 begins with the gift from Walt Disney of a white-tailed fawn called “Bambi” in May 1951, toward the end of the Occupation. It marked the Americanization of postwar Japan. It also marked a shift to what Miller calls a “child-like innocence” (p. 168) that blamed the war on a small military clique who misled the Japanese people. The loss of empire meant that Japanese zoos turned to focusing on animal conservation instead of conquest. The Ueno Zoo was repopulated with animals not from the colonies but gifted from zoos in the United States, which sometimes received Japanese fauna in exchange. The image of Emperor Hirohito was also transformed: from a divine god and man of war to a biologist emperor who was a man of the people.

There is insightful analysis throughout this fascinating and well-written book. The Nature of the Beasts has been very carefully researched and will be of interest to scholars working not only in the history of science but also in Japanese history. It illuminates an infamous episode in Japan’s wartime history that, while known about in Japan, deserves greater attention from historians abroad.

MORRIS LOW

Katy Price. Loving Faster than Light: Romance and Readers in Einstein’s Universe. xi + 261 pp., illus., bibl., index. Chicago/London: University of Chicago Press, 2012. $45 (cloth).

Changing scientific conceptions of space and time at the turn of the new twentieth century have captivated later scholars nearly as much as they did the historical participants, resulting in a steady supply of illuminating studies. Works that explore responses outside of physics proper have figured significantly in this thematic cluster, from Stephen Kern’s pathbreaking The Culture of Time and Space, 1880–1918 (Harvard, 1983), to subsequent interpretive turns such as Alan Friedman and Carol Donley’s Einstein as Myth and Muse (Cambridge, 1985), Christopher Herbert’s Victorian Relativity: Radical Thought and Scientific Discovery (Chicago, 2001), Michael H. Whitworth’s Einstein’s Wake: Relativity, Metaphor, and Modernist Literature (Oxford, 2001), and the collection Einstein on the Beach: Der Physiker als Phänomen (Fischer