

Book review

went into the exquisite chapel at Vence, just outside Nice, which he flooded with blue and yellow light.

The relationship of Henri Matisse and Lydia Delectorskaya was hugely productive but exclusive, especially of the Matisse family, who never came to terms with her position. When he died, the day after making his last portrait of her, she left immediately, leaving the funeral arrangements to them.

Although this part of her life was over, she lived as long again, dying aged 88 in Paris in 1998. By then she had donated the paintings Matisse had given her to the Hermitage in St Petersburg and published two authoritative books on Matisse's most productive years.

Spurling describes this summer's exhibition at the Musée Matisse in Nice, 'Lydia Delectorskaya was the beautiful, blue-eyed blonde from Siberia who became Matisse's model, muse and studio manager in the last two decades of his life, and the show includes all the works he gave her, which she in turn presented to her Russian homeland. A scintillating homage to an extraordinary woman.'²

Graham Watt

Exhibition

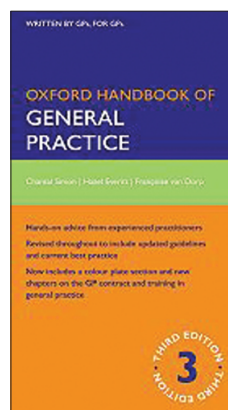
Lydia Delectorskaya, Matisse's muse and model. Musée Matisse, Nice. 18th June – 27th September 2010. See www.musee-matisse-nice.org/ (details of the exhibition are on the French language site only).

REFERENCES

1. Spurling H. *Matisse the Master: a life of Henri Matisse, Volume Two: 1909–1954*. London: Penguin Books, 2005.
2. Cripps C. Cultural Life: Hilary Spurling, writer. *The Independent* 2010, 14 May: <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/features/cultural-life-hilary-spurling-writer-1972553.html> (accessed 13 Jul 2010).

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OXFORD HANDBOOK OF GENERAL PRACTICE: THIRD EDITION
CHANTAL SIMON,
HAZEL EVERITT, AND
FRANCOISE VAN DORP
 2010, Oxford University Press, PB,
 1200 pages, £32.95, 9780199236107



In this digital age is the traditional reference book a thing of the past? Or can it still be useful in modern day general practice?

The new edition of the *Oxford Handbook of General Practice* is a champion in the battle between hardback and hard drive.

Its compact size makes it the perfect companion not only for the surgery but also for house calls. The logical lay out and referencing makes it as fast (if not at IT meltdown times, faster) than online resources.

It provides an up-to-date and comprehensive guide to current day general practice. New sections include requirements for foundation level doctors and details of the nMRCGP. There is also a new 'Healthy Living' chapter which provides useful advice on tackling such hot topics as obesity, drug and alcohol abuse.

Many conditions that affect all age groups may differ for children or the elderly. A superb new feature is the highlight system for these instances. A box with a symbol for the elderly or children draws the reader's attention to relevant differences for the extremes of

age. This avoids having to look up different chapters and saves time. Care of the Elderly and Child Health chapters are not compromised however, remaining as extensive as in prior additions.

The symptoms and signs chapter has been removed. This is replaced with a short segment at the start of each chapter which details symptoms and signs relevant to each system. This affords a more streamlined layout.

Finally, this edition retains its tendency to be funny, wise, and have encouraging quotations dotted throughout its pages.

As a comfort blanket for the less experienced it remains unrivalled, but truly, it is a must-have book for all.

Faye McCleery

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