Artist and music producer Brian Eno wrote one of my very favorite books: *A Year with Swollen Appendices*, which takes the form of his personal diary of the year 1995 with essayistic chapters (the “swollen appendices”) on topics like “edge culture,” generative music, new ways of, pretension, CD-ROMs (a relevant topic back then), and payment structures for recording artists (a relevant topic again today). It also includes a fair bit of Eno’s correspondence with Stewart Brand, once editor of the *Whole Earth Catalog* and now president of the *Long Now Foundation*, “a counterpoint to today’s accelerating culture” meant to “help make long-term thinking more common” and “creatively foster responsibility in the framework of the next 10,000 years.”

It so happens that Eno now sits on the Long Now Foundation’s board and has had a hand in some of its projects. Naturally, he contributed suggested reading material to the
foundation's *Manual of Civilization*, a collection of books humanity could use to rebuild civilization, should it need rebuilding. Eno’s full list, which spans history, politics, philosophy, sociology, architecture, design, nature, and literature, runs as follows:

- *Seeing Like a State* by James C Scott
- *The Mind in the Cave: Consciousness and the Origins of Art* by David Lewis-Williams
- *Crowds and Power* by Elias Canetti
- *The Wheels of Commerce* by Fernand Braudel
- *Keeping Together in Time* by William McNeill
- *Dancing in the Streets* by Barbara Ehrenreich
- *Roll Jordan Roll* by Eugene Genovese
- *A Pattern Language* by Christopher Alexander et al
- *The Face of Battle* by John Keegan
- *A History of the World in 100 Objects* by Neil MacGregor
- *Contingency, Irony and Solidarity* by Richard Rorty
- *The Notebooks* by Leonardo da Vinci
- *The Confidence Trap* by David Runciman
- *The Discoverers* by Daniel Boorstein
- *Mother Nature: A History of Mothers, Infants, and Natural Selection* by Sarah Hrdy
- *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy
- *The Cambridge World History of Food (2-Volume Set)* by Kenneth F. Kiple & Kriemhild Coneè Ornelas
- *The Illustrated Flora of Britain and Northern Europe* by Marjorie Blamey & Christopher Grey Wilson
- *Printing and the Mind of Man* by John Carter & Percy Muir
- *Peter the Great: His Life and World* by Richard Massie

If you’d like to know more books that have shaped Eno’s thinking, do pick up a copy of *A Year with Swollen Appendices*. Like all the best diarists, Eno makes plenty of references to his day-to-day reading material, and at the very end — beyond the last swollen appendix — he includes a bibliography (below), on which you’ll find more from Christopher Alexander, a reappearance of Rorty’s *Contingency, Irony and Solidarity*, and even Steward Brand’s own *How Buildings Learn* (on a television version of which the two would collaborate). You can find other writers and thinkers’s contributions to the *Manual of Civilization* here.

- *Best Ideas: A Compendium of Social Innovation* edited by Nicholas Albery
- *A Foreshadowing of the 21st Century Art: The Color and Geometry of Very Early Turkish Carpets* by Christopher Alexander
- *Bridge Over the Drina* by Ivo Andric
- *Jihad vs. McWorld* by Benjamin Barber
- *The Artful Universe* by John Barrow
- *Brain of the Firm* by Stafford Beer
- *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berndt
- *The Creators* by Daniel Boorstin
- *Lay My Burden Down: A Folk History of Slavery* edited by B.A. Botkin
- *How Buildings Learn* by Stewart Brand
- *Civilization and Capitalism* by Fernand Braudel
- *The Transformation of War* by Martin van Creveld
- *The Transfiguration of the Commonplace* by Arthur Danto
- *River Out of Eden* by Richard Dawkins
- *Darwin’s Dangerous Idea* by Daniel Dennett
- *Defence Policy Making* edited by G.M. Dillon
- *Women En Large: Image of Fat Nudes* by Laurie Toby Edison and Debbie Notkin
- *Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks
- *Trust* by Francis Fukuyama
- *Edge City* by Joel Garreau
- *Ecce Homo* by George Grosz
- *Beyond Culture* by Edward T. Hall
- *Managing the Commons* by Garrett Hardin and John Baden
- *The Middle Ages* by Friedrich Herr
- *Going Bugs* by James Hillman
- *Culture of Complaint* by Robert Hughes
- *The Waning of the Middle Ages* by Johann Huizinga
- *The State We’re In* by Will Hutton
- *Out of Control: The Rise of Neo-Biological Civilization* by Kevin Kelly
- *Wild Blue Yonder* by Nick Krotz
- *Fetish Girls* by Eric Kroll
- *The Leopard* by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa
- *Artificial Life* by Steven Levy
- *Planetary Overload* by A.J. McMichael
- *Being Digital* by Nicholas Negroponte
- *Erotica Universalis* by Gilles Neret
- *Living Without a Goal* by Jay Ogilvy
- *Billy the Kid* by Michael Ondaatje
- *Evolution of Consciousness* by Robert E. Ornstein
- *Art and Pornography* and *Man’s Rage for Chaos* by Morse Peckham
- *Works and Texts* by Tom Phillips
- *The Language Instinct* by Stephen Pinker
- *In Search of a Better World* by Karl Popper
- *Prisoner’s Dilemma* by William Poundstone
- *Postcards* by Annie Proulx
- *Consequences of Pragmatism* and *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity* by Richard Rorty
- *The Moor’s Last Sigh* by Salman Rushdie
- *England’s Dreaming* by Jon Savage
- *Lords of the Rim* by Sterling Seagrave
- *Art and Physics* by Leonard Schlain
- *I am That: Conversations with Sri Nisaragadatta Maharaj*
- *Face of the Gods* and *Flash of the Spirit* by Robert Farris Thompson
- *Ocean of Sound* by David Toop
- *The Seven Cultures of Capitalism* by Charles Hampden Turner
- *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* by Rebecca West
- *Art and Anarchy* by Edgar Wind

Note: An earlier version of this post appeared on our site in 2015.

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Colin Marshall writes on cities, language, Asia, and men’s style. He’s at work on a book about Los Angeles, A Los Angeles Primer, and the video series The City in Cinema. Follow him on Twitter at @colinmarshall or on Facebook.