



'This new series promises to be addictive ...'

Desmond Morris

Ants are legion: at present there are 11,006 species of ant known; they live everywhere in the world except the polar icecaps; and the combined weight of the ant population has been estimated to make up half the mass of all insects alive today. Ants have figured as fantasy miniature armies, as models of good behaviour, as infiltrating communists and as creatures on the borderline between the realms of the organic and the machine: in 1977 British Telecom hired ant experts to help solve problems with its massive information network. *Ant* considers the variety of responses that humans have expressed at different times and in different places to ants and their intricate, miniature societies, and elucidates the cultural reasons behind our varied reactions to these extraordinary insects.

Charlotte Sleight is Lecturer in the School of History at the
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