News Release: American Library Association

From: Peggy Barber, Director
Public Information Office

For immediate release

"The Notable Books List of 1978 is a clear indication that quality adult book publishing continues to flourish in the United States," commented Larry Earl Bone, President of Reference and Adult Services Division (RASD) of the American Library Association. The list was released Tuesday, January 9, at the ALA Midwinter Meeting, held January 7 - 12 in Washington, D.C.

"In the field of fiction, everyone was wildly enthusiastic about John Irving's World According to Garp and equally enthusiastic about Barbara Tuchman's A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century," said Bob Silver, the 1979 Notable Books Chairperson.

Compiled for use by the general reader and by librarians who work with adult readers, the titles were selected for their significant contribution to the widening of knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers. Criteria includes wide general appeal and literary merit.

"The inclusion of the lives and reminiscences of such people as Kazin and Perkins, make for an especially compelling year," added RASD President Bone, Mercy College, Westchester County, New York.

On behalf of the Notable Books Council, 1978 Council Chairperson Joan Hoagland, "gratefully acknowledges the help of the Council's participating libraries."

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Council members are chosen for their experience in the critical evaluation of adult books and in service to adult readers. The Notable Books Council of 1978 included: Kay Ann Cassell, Bethlehem Public Library (Delmar, New York); Elizabeth Egan (Lombard, Illinois); Jeanne Gelinas, Hennepin County Library (Edina, Minnesota); Douglas Hindmarsh, Utah State Library Commission (Salt Lake City, Utah); Joan Hoagland, Cleveland Public Library (Cleveland, Ohio); Jean Jacocks, Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore, Maryland); Mark Leggett, Knoxville-Knox County Public Library (Knoxville, Tennessee); Patricia Norris, Wilmette Public Library District (Wilmette, Illinois); Jane Selvar, White Plains Public Library (White Plains, New York); Bob Silver, Cuyahoga County Public Library (Cleveland, Ohio); Suzanne Sutton, Bloomfield Public Library (Bloomfield Hills, Michigan); Wendall Wray, University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania); John Brosnahan, consultant, BOOKLIST.
Notable Books of 1978

Chen Jo-hsi. The Execution of Mayor Yin and Other Stories from the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Indiana University Press.
Erickson, Carolly. Bloody Mary. Doubleday.
Fairlie, Henry. The Parties: Republicans and Democrats in This Century. St. Martin's.

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Notable Books of 1978

Johnson, Diane. _Lying Low_. Knopf.

Jones, James. _Whistle_. Delacorte.


Ladurie, Emmanuel Le Roy. _Montaillou, the Promised Land of Error_. Braziller.

Madden, David. _The Suicide's Wife_. Bobbs-Merrill.


Matthiessen, Peter. _The Snow Leopard_. Viking.

Meyer, Susan E. _America's Great Illustrators_. Abrams.

Murdoch, Iris. _The Sea, the Sea_. Viking.


Sarton, May. _A Reckoning_. Norton.


Shaw, Irwin. _Short Stories: Five Decades_. Delacorte.

Silberman, Charles E. _Criminal Violence, Criminal Justice_. Random.

Sontag, Susan. _Illness as Metaphor_. Farrar.


Tuchman, Barbara W. _A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century_. Knopf.


White, Theodore H. _In Search of History: A Personal Expedition_. Harper.
Wilhelm, Kate. *Somerset Dreams and Other Fictions*. Harper.


Wills, Gary. *Inventing America; Jefferson's Declaration of Independence*. Doubleday.