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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# NOTABLE BOOKS

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LIBRARY

25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LIST



Prepared by  
Notable Books Council  
Adult Services Division  
American Library Association

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This list has been 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 man's knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers. Criteria include wide general appeal and literary merit. Council members are chosen for their broad experience in evaluating, critically, adult reading and for their service to adult readers. Participating libraries serve in an advisory role in the nominating and voting procedure.

Notable Books Council members were Ervin Eatenson, Dallas Public Library, Chairman; Raymond Agler, Boston Public Library; Walter Allen, University of Illinois, Urbana; Mrs. Orrilla T. Blackshear, Library Materials Consultant, Madison, Wis.; Murray Bob, Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System, Jamestown, N.Y.; John D. Christenson, Stamford's Public Library, Conn.; Jeanne Gelinis, Stamford's Public Library, Conn.; Charles Hewitt, Flint Public Library, Mich.; Ronald Kanen, Miami Public Library, Fla.; Mrs. June Moll, University of Texas, Austin; Frances Stalker, Indianapolis Public Library; David Turiel, New York Public Library. The participating libraries were Clarksdale Public Library, Miss.; Madison Public Library, Wis.; Mount San Antonio Junior College Library, Walnut, Calif.; Orlando Public Library, Fla.; Westport Public Library, Conn.; Cleveland Public Library, Ohio; Concord Public Library, N.H.; Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.; Michigan State Library, Lansing; Oakland Public Library, Calif.; Seattle Public Library, Wash.; Tucson Public Library, Ariz.; Evanston Public Library, Ill.; Free Library of Philadelphia, Pa.; Georgia State Department of Education, Atlanta; Tulsa City-County Library, Okla.; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Wichita Public Library, Kans.; Arlington County Libraries, Va.; Des Moines Public Library, Iowa; The Ferguson Library, Stamford, Conn.; Mesa Public Library, Los Alamos, N. Mex.; Point Park College, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Trenton Public Library, N.J.

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On the cover  
SONG OF THE VOWELS  
by Jacques Lipchitz  
Private Collection, New York;  
photo credit, Charles Uht

**Ada.** Vladimir Nabokov. McGraw-Hill.

A masterful fantasy of the 100 years of a family's existence by a student of the time.

**Akenfield: Portrait of an English Village.** Ronald Blythe. Pantheon. A small, contemporary community near London is presented with a realist's eye for social concern and a poet's eye for truth.

**American Odyssey: The Journey of Lewis and Clark.** Ingvard Eide. Rand-McNally. Creative photographic portrayal of the famous American exploration.

**The Birds.** Tarjei Vesaas. Morrow.

A powerful and eloquent novel of symbolism, mood, and compassion and a memorable portrait of a troubled mind.

**Black Rain.** Masuji Ibuse. Kodansha.

A subtly disturbing novel on the effects of atomic war as a way of life.

**Bruno's Dream.** Iris Murdoch. Viking.

A sophisticated philosophical novel whose unusual cast of characters is strikingly alive.

**The Children of the Dream.** Bruno Bettelheim. Macmillan. A careful account of communal rearing of children as it occurs in the kibbutz of Israel, with implications for the disadvantaged in all countries.

**The Complete Poems.** Randall Jarrell. Farrar.

Of this posthumous collection of the great American poet's work, Marianne Moore's comment prevails: "The magic never ends."

**Darwin and the Beagle.** Alan Moorehead. Harper. An excellently written story of Darwin's historic voyage which brings the man to life and emphasizes the fortuitous nature of his discoveries.

**Design with Nature.** Ian McHarg. Natural History Press. How man can build his environment so that he ultimately does not destroy it.

**The French Lieutenant's Woman.** John Fowles. Little. A successful blending of two worlds as the author writes in modern terminology of the Victorian era.

**Gandhi's Truth: On the Origins of Militant Non-violence.** Erik H. Erikson. Norton. A psychoanalytic biography of Gandhi. It is also a close examination of nonviolence and the weaknesses and strengths of Gandhi's approach.

**Hadrian VII.** Peter Luke. Knopf.

An imaginative and intriguing play which dramatizes vital contemporary religious issues with wit and clarity.

**The Kingdom and the Power.** Gay Talese. World (New American Library). The New York Times observed.

**Look Back with Love: A Recollection of the Blue Ridge.** Alberta Pierson Hannum. Vanguard. "A different look at the Appalachian people..." that "is a personal remembrance of a time that was, and perhaps will never be again"—authentic Americana.

**Love Poems.** Anne Sexton. Houghton.

An exquisite collection with a unique quality of unity and progression.

**Mary, Queen of Scots.** Antonia Fraser. Delacorte. A sympathetic and spirited biography.

**Minerals and Man.** Cornelius Hurlbut. Random. An absorbing account of minerals and their role in the modern world with stunning illustrations.

**The 900 Days: The Siege of Leningrad.** Harrison E. Salisbury. Harper. The dramatic horror story of the 3-year siege of Leningrad during World War II.

**Portnoy's Complaint.** Philip Roth. Random.

The most provocative novel of the year, beautifully written—touching, ribald, moving, and painfully humorous.

**Present at the Creation.** Dean Acheson. Norton. Memoirs of the former U.S. Secretary of State who helped forge the foreign policy that has guided this country for three decades.

**Prime Time: The Life of Edward R. Murrow.** Alexander Kendrick. Little. An informed analysis of organizational politics and power in the media and a significant contribution to our knowledge of contemporary American communications.

**Sal Si Puedes: Cesar Chavez and the New American Revolution.** Peter Matthiessen. Random. A forceful leader aids the plight of his people, the Mexican-American agricultural workers.

**Self Portrait, U.S.A.** David Douglas Duncan. Abrams. Mr. Duncan's camera preserves the tension, the excitement, and turmoil of the 1968 political convention.

**The Shepherd of the Ocean.** *J. H. Adamson and H. F. Folland.* Gambit. A stunning biographical treatment of the life and times of Sir Walter Raleigh.

**Slaughterhouse-Five or The Children's Crusade.** *Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.* Delacorte. An excursion in time and space becomes a brilliant condemnation of war told with pathos and humor.

**So Human an Animal.** *René Dubos.* Scribner. A scientist's concern for man as a human being despite the horrors which man, the technologist, has wrought.

**Streets for People: A Primer for Americans.** *Bernard Rudofsky.* Doubleday. A beautifully illustrated appreciation of the street as a factor in the quality of human life.

**Them.** *Joyce Carol Oates.* Vanguard. A powerful and realistic story of a brother and sister's struggle against a sordid inheritance of poverty and ignorance.

**Trafalgar: The Nelson Touch.** *David Howarth.* Atheneum. An immensely readable, imaginatively illustrated account of the Battle of Trafalgar and its dominant character, Nelson.

**The Unexpected Universe.** *Loren Eiseley.* Harcourt. Lyrical statement on the nature of life by the eminent naturalist.

**An Unfinished Woman.** *Lillian Hellman.* Little. A candid self-history of the gifted playwright who charges herself with wasted time. There is a special quality in this warm memoir of her famous contemporaries and the honest evaluation of her own mistakes.

**What I'm Going to Do, I Think.** *L. Woiwode.* Farrar. The problems of the young, the married, and the almost mature in a first novel of humor and imagination.

**The Whole World Is Watching.** *Mark Gerzon.* Viking. Rational reflections of a Harvard undergraduate on the generation gap.

**Winslow Homer Watercolors.** *Donelson F. Hoopes.* Watson-Guptill. A gallery of lyrical masterworks enhanced by lucid commentary.

**The Year of the Whale.** *Victor B. Scheffer.* Scribner. The life cycle of the sperm whale in fact and fiction with a plea for conservation and further study.

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