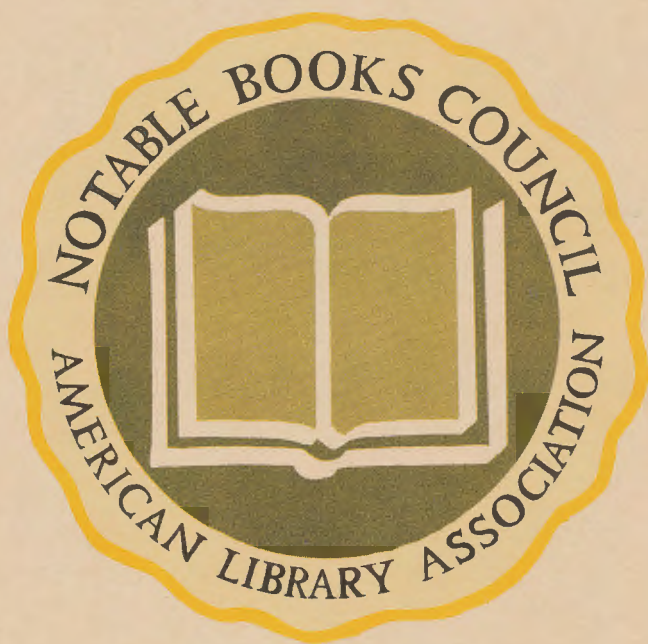


NOTABLE BOOKS 1974



Compiled by the
Notable Books Council
Reference and Adult Services Division
American Library Association

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 experience in the critical evaluation of adult books and in service to adult readers. The Notable Books Council of 1974 included: Richard Tirotta, the New York Public Library (New York, N.Y.), chairman; Robert Cayton, Dawes Memorial Library, Marietta College (Marietta, Ohio); Jerome Corrigan, Prince George's County Memorial Library (Oxon Hill, Md.); Robert Donahugh, Youngstown Public Library (Youngstown, Ohio); Jane Hirsch, Montgomery County Public Library (Rockville, Md.); Phyllis Levine, Santa Clara County Library (San Jose, Calif.); Katherine Magraw, Naval Training Support Command (Pensacola, Fla.); Inalea Mullen, Tulsa City-County Library (Tulsa, Okla.); Martha Reynolds, Frederick County Public Libraries (Frederick, Md.); Ross Stephen, William Rainey Harper College (Palatine, Ill.); Helen Vaeth, Milwaukee Public Library (Milwaukee, Wis.); and Dorothy Snowden, consultant, *The Booklist*.

The following participating libraries served in an advisory capacity: Alaska State Library, Juneau; Boston Public Library, Boston, Mass.; Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Dayton and Montgomery County Library, Dayton, Ohio; Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.; Framingham Public Library, Framingham Center, Mass.; Fresno County Free Library, Fresno, Calif.; Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, Indianapolis, Ind.; Knoxville-Knox County Public Library, Knoxville, Tenn.; Menlo Park Public Library, Menlo Park, Calif.; Miami Public Library, Miami, Fla.; Oklahoma County Libraries, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Oregon State University Library, Corvallis, Ore.; Seattle Public Library, Seattle, Wash.; and Vail Memorial Library, Lincoln University, Pa.

Fiction

The Case Worker by *George Konrád*. Harcourt. A social worker in Budapest tells how the unbearable and shocking lives of his clients affect his own life.

Dog Soldiers by *Robert Stone*. Houghton. The moral decay resulting from United States involvement in Vietnam is the theme of this novel whose action follows the route of a heroin shipment.

Invisible Cities by *Italo Calvino*. Harcourt. Fantasy and philosophy merge in a prophetic work about an empire whose cities grow from heroic dreams to gargantuan nightmares.

The Memory of Old Jack by *Wendell Berry*. Harcourt. The testament of a simple man whose love of the land nourishes and sustains him for ninety-two years.

The Odd Woman by *Gail Godwin*. Knopf. A "liberated" woman breaks away from the love of a perfectionist grandmother, a domineering lover, and a demanding friend to find freedom alone.

Something Happened by *Joseph Heller*. Knopf. The cruelty and ineffectiveness of modern personal and business relationships are mercilessly exposed in a novel of humor and despair.

Watership Down by *Richard Adams*. Macmillan. Bravery, treachery, tradition, and vivid personalities enliven this tale of a group of rabbits escaping from danger.

Nonfiction

Aldous Huxley: A Biography by *Sybil Bedford*. Knopf/Harper. The English novelist and intimate friend of the Huxley family brilliantly brings alive the life and times of a "wholly civilized man."

All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw by *Theodore Rosengarten*. Knopf. A remarkable oral history of a black sharecropper whose spirit remained unbroken through a long and difficult life.

All the President's Men by *Carl Bernstein* and *Bob Woodward*. Simon and Schuster. Two young *Washington Post* reporters' suspenseful account of their investigation of the Watergate scandal.

The Ascent of Man by *Jacob Bronowski*. Little. A stunningly illustrated study of man's biological uniqueness, his mysterious origins, and his imaginative steps toward understanding what he is.

Behold Man: A Photographic Journey of Discovery Inside the Body by *Lennart Nilsson*. Little. Human physiology enhanced with extraordinary photographs which show minute portions of the body magnified up to 20,000 times.

Between Me and Life: A Biography of Romaine Brooks by *Meryle Secrest*. Doubleday. The triumphant story of an American woman who overcame a dark, Victorian childhood and the social restrictions of her time to become an artist of distinction.

The European Discovery of America: The Southern Voyages, A.D. 1492-1616 by *Samuel Eliot Morison*. Oxford Univ. Pr. This sweeping narrative recaptures in sparkling prose the adventures of Columbus, Magellan, Drake, and other explorers of their time.

Executive Privilege: A Constitutional Myth by *Raoul Berger*. Harvard Univ. Pr. The existence of executive privilege as invoked by U.S. presidents is strongly denied in this perceptive and thoroughly researched analysis.

The Fearful Void by *Geoffrey Moorhouse*. Lippincott. A journey through the desert reveals as much of the writer's inner landscape as it does of the Sahara.

The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher by *Lewis Thomas*. Viking. Humanistic essays that speculate on the implications of modern microbiology.

Muscle and Blood by *Rachel Scott*. Dutton. A devastating documentary of the hidden horror of industrial slaughter in America caused by new technologies extracting dollars at the expense of the worker.

Noise in the Trees: Poems and a Memoir by *William Heyen*. Vanguard. Lyrics in precise language and a memoir in crisp prose by a young, original talent who has a deep reverence for the natural world.

The Ordeal of Thomas Hutchinson by *Bernard Bailyn*. Harvard Univ. Pr. A sympathetic picture of the much villified loyalist governor of Massachusetts at the time of the American Revolution.

Paine by *David Freeman Hawke*. Harper. Candid, knowledgeable biography of the incredibly diverse, brilliant propagandist and revolutionary idealist.

The Palace Guard by *Dan Rather* and *Gary Paul Gates*. Harper. Two television newsmen study Nixon's White House staff from early dedication, through growth of power, to Watergate.

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by *Annie Dillard*. Harper's Magazine Pr. Sensitive journal of a year's observations of the beauty and violence of nature.

Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S Truman by *Merle Miller*. Berkley/Putnam. Conversations with HST that expertly recreate his impudent, refreshing personality and character.

The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York by *Robert A. Caro*. Knopf. A strong indictment of the nonelected official who controlled New York's public works for almost forty years.

Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made by *Eugene D. Genovese*. Pantheon. Penetrating re-assessment of the paternalistic culture in the antebellum South.

Sir Walter Raleigh by *Robert Lacey*. Atheneum. An authentic Elizabethan—poet, adventurer, failed politician—is portrayed in this smoothly paced biography.

Whistler: A Biography by *Stanley Weintraub*. Weybright and Talley. A revealing portrait of an outrageous Victorian whose contributions to art were ironically overshadowed by his contentious character.

Working: People Talk about What They Do All Day and How They Feel about What They Do by *Studs Terkel*. Pantheon. Alive with humor and honesty, these interviews reveal much of the psychology behind the American work ethic.

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry into Values by *Robert M. Pirsig*. Morrow. The twilight world of mental illness is explored in this real life odyssey of the author and his son.

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