NOTABLE BOOKS

1975

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 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 1975 included: chair, Jerome K. Corrigan, Prince George's County Memorial Library (Oxon Hill, Md.); Kay Ann Cassell, Bethlehem Public Library (Delmar, N.Y.); Robert Cayton, Marietta College Library (Marietta, Ohio); Robert Donahugh, The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County (Youngstown, Ohio); Elizabeth Egan, Helen M. Plum Memorial Library (Lombard, Ill.); Lyn Hart, Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore, Md.); Jane K. Hirsch, Montgomery County Public Library (Rockville, Md.); Joan Hoagland, Cleveland Public Library (Cleveland, Ohio); Phyllis Levine, Santa Clara County Library (San Jose, Calif.); Inalea Mullen, Tulsa City-County Library (Tulsa, Okla.); Martha Reynolds, Frederick County Public Libraries (Frederick, Md.); Ross Stephen, William Rainey Harper College (Palatine, Ill.); Dorothy Snowden, consultant, The Booklist.

The following participating libraries served in an advisory capacity: Atlanta Public Library, Boston Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, Cleveland Public Library, The Ferguson Library (Stamford, Conn.), Fresno County Free Library, Knoxville-Knox County Public Library, The Libraries of Claremont Colleges, Miami Public Library, Oklahoma County Libraries, Oregon State University Library, Pennsylvania State Library, Seattle Public Library, Urbana Free Library, Vail Memorial Library (Lincoln Univ., Lincoln, Pa.).


Bickel, Alexander M. The Morality of Consent. Yale Univ. Pr. The late proponent of constitutional restraint argues that the test of a legal order is in its moral authority.

Brink, André. Looking on Darkness. Morrow. An African's intensely moving novel portraying one "coloured" man's unshakable will to be human in South Africa's racist society.

Brody, Alan. Coming To. Berkley/Putnam. A novel about contemporary marriage reveals the agony of two people who love each other but want to retain their own individuality.

Brownmiller, Susan. Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape. Simon & Schuster. A documentation of how rape has been used to keep women in a subordinate state, with a plea for the eradication of this exploitation.


Doctorow, E. L. Ragtime. Random. A stylish blend of fiction and reality in which Freud, Ford, and Emma Goldman improbably trip through the America of pre-World War I.

Drabble, Margaret. The Realms of Gold. Knopf. Ironic novel of an archaeologist who finds the cure for her restlessnes not in the "digs" of Africa but in the English Midlands of her birth.


Eiseley, Loren. All the Strange Hours: The Excavation of a Life. Scribners. Memories of an unhappy childhood, of a vagrant youth, of animals and men interpreted "to bespeak the autumn years."

Fleming, Thomas. 1776: Year of Illusions. Norton. A lively history which renders in human terms the people, the events, and the mistakes of the American Revolution.


Gill, Brendan. Here at the New Yorker. Random. A malicious sparkling account of this unique magazine spiced with anecdotes about its famous and not-so-famous staff.

Greer, Ben. Slammer. Atheneum. A powerful, shocking novel depicting the violence and tensions among men in a southern prison.

Grönoset, Dagfinn. Anna. Knopf. A Norwegian farm woman emerges from harsh and brutal surroundings in a triumph of survival and dignity.


Harington, Donald. The Architecture of the Arkansas Ozarks. Little. The bawdy, epic novel of a region, charting the cumulative effects dwellings and the land and the people have on each other.


James, D. Clayton. The Years of MacArthur: Vol. II, 1941-1945. Houghton. A well-rounded appraisal which acknowledges the general's military genius, but which also vividly depicts his character flaws.

Jones, James. WWII. Grosset. Contemporary drawings and paintings of World War II enhanced by a lusty text written from the combat soldier's point of view.


Lewis, R. W. B. Edith Wharton: A Biography. Harper. Absorbing delineation of the character and world of the socially prominent author, based on exclusive access to her manuscripts and papers.

Mee, Charles L., Jr. Meeting at Potsdam. M. Evans. A thought-provoking speculation on the personalities and motivations of the chief protagonists in the 1945 conference which set the Cold War in motion.


Nash, Ogden. I Wouldn’t Have Missed It: Selected Poems of Ogden Nash. Little. A meticulous selection by the poet’s daughters of the amazing verse of one of the wittiest commentators on the twentieth century.

Owens, Bill. Our Kind of People. Straight Arrow. A wry photographic look at Americans’ propensities to join, organize, and socialize in prescribed patterns.


Porter, Sylvia. Sylvia Porter’s Money Book. Doubleday. “How to earn it, spent it, save it, invest it, borrow it—and use it to better your life.”


Scott, Paul. A Division of the Spoils. Morrow. The last days of British rule in India are captured in the actions and interactions of the people involved. The final volume in Scott’s Raj Quartet.


Sewall, Richard B. The Life of Emily Dickinson. 2 vols. Farrar. The times, the people, the places, and the poetry are intricately examined in this readable, scholarly biography.

Sexton, Anne. The Awful Rowing Toward God. Houghton. A final, compelling cry from the heart by an intensely personal poet.

Smith, Page, and Charles Daniel. The Chicken Book. Little. Serious but highly entertaining history of mankind’s backyard friend, in fact and fiction, from ancient to present times.


Vonnegut, Mark. The Eden Express. Praeger. A young man’s account of his terrifying descent into madness and his subsequent recovery.


Woiwode, Larry. Beyond the Bedroom Wall: A Family Album. Farrar. A fine sense of place and character distinguishes this novel about four generations of a North Dakota family.