



# NOTABLE BOOKS

## 1975

*Compiled by the*  
NOTABLE BOOKS COUNCIL  
REFERENCE AND 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 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.)

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Barnet, Richard J., and Ronald E. Müller. *Global Reach: The Power of the Multinational Corporations*. Simon & Schuster. Illustrates the ways in which giant corporations affect both international politics and everyday lives.

Barreno, Maria Isabel, Maria Teresa Horta, and Maria Velho da Costa. *The Three Marias: New Portuguese Letters*. Doubleday. Passionately personal convictions orchestrated to reveal women reaching for all aspects of humanity.

Bellow, Saul. *Humboldt's Gift*. Viking. An exuberant picaresque novel detailing the influence of an erratic poet on the life of a middle-aged biographer questing after truth.

Berlin, Ira. *Slaves Without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South*. Pantheon. A wide-ranging study of the precarious world of the free black in the South.

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 P. *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.

Dawidowicz, Lucy S. *The War Against the Jews, 1933-1945*. Holt. Comprehensive, country-by-country examination of the Nazis' planned extermination of the Jews and of the response of the victims.

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 restlessness not in the "digs" of Africa but in the English Midlands of her birth.

Drew, Elizabeth. *Washington Journal: The Events of 1973-1974*. Random. Uniquely perceptive view of Watergate and what it was like to live in Washington during the crisis.

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.

Frassanito, William A. *Gettysburg: A Journey in Time*. Scribners. A haunting photographic recreation of the famous battleground—then and now.

Fuchs, Victor. *Who Shall Live? Health, Economics and Social Choice*. Basic Books. An important statement on how limited resources will affect our future choices.

Galbraith, John Kenneth. *Money: Whence It Came, Where It Went*. Houghton. An enjoyable history of banking that debunks the myths of finance.

Gardner, Howard. *The Shattered Mind: The Person After Brain Damage*. Knopf. Lucid description, with case studies, of what happens to the brain and the person before, during, and after a stroke.

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.

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

Handke, Peter. *A Sorrow Beyond Dreams: A Life Story*. Farrar. A son's tribute to an ordinary woman whose lifelong struggle against poverty and loneliness ended in madness and suicide.

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.

Hibbert, Christopher. *The House of Medici: Its Rise and Fall*. Morrow. A highly readable biography of the Florentine banking family and its impact on history.

Horgan, Paul. *Lamy of Santa Fe: His Life and Times*. Farrar. A leisurely, informative treatment of the remarkable and engaging first archbishop of Santa Fe.

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.

Kerr, Walter. *The Silent Clowns*. Knopf. Chaplin, Keaton, Langdon, Laurel and Hardy, Lloyd—their art and genius lovingly revealed in words and pictures by a penetrating critic.

Knightley, Phillip. *The First Casualty: From the Crimea to Vietnam: The War Correspondent as Hero, Propagandist, and Myth Maker*. Harcourt. In every war the first victim is truth.

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.

Matthiessen, Peter. *Far Tortuga*. Random. In rhythmic dialect the crew of a schooner plays out a universal drama.



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.

Nance, John. *The Gentle Tasaday: A Stone Age People in the Philippine Rain Forest*. Harcourt. An illuminating account of their introduction to a different culture.

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.

Pope Hennessy, James. *Robert Louis Stevenson*. Simon & Schuster. A vibrant account of the personal and literary life of a master storyteller.

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."

Rossner, Judith. *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*. Simon & Schuster. A young woman's frantic search for love without commitment ends in violent death. A novel.

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*.

Scully, Vincent. *Pueblo/Mountain, Village, Dance*. Viking. A handsomely produced synthesis of architecture and cultural anthropology outlined with a profound respect for American Indian tradition.

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.

Smith, W. Eugene, and Aileen M. Smith. *Minimata*. Holt. Chilling words and unforgettable photographs tell of a Japanese village's fight to protect its people from chemical pollution and the horrible disease produced by it.

Spender, Stephen, ed. *W. H. Auden: A Tribute*. Macmillan. Thirty-six memoirs in prose and poetry from an unofficial biography in which the personality of the poet and man is vividly revealed.

Theroux, Paul. *The Great Railway Bazaar: By Train Through Asia*. Houghton. More than a travel diary or geographic description—an exploding kaleidoscope of people and places.

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

Wain, John. *Samuel Johnson*. Viking. Fresh, wise, and witty life of the stupendous eighteenth-century intellectual.

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.

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