

80/3/2

Notable Books

1979

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 expansion of knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers. Criteria include wide general appeal and literary merit.

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Booklist.

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Adams, Alice. *Beautiful Girl*. Knopf. Gracefully written stories of lives revealed in acts of love, denial, and infidelity.

Blythe, Ronald. *The View in Winter: Reflections on Old Age*. Harcourt. A painful, eloquent look into the empty lives of the elderly residents of an English village as they remember the past and wait out their final days.

Conot, Robert. *A Streak of Luck*. Seaview. Engrossing biography of Thomas Alva Edison, the genius who helped fashion the modern age and who took advantage of every possibility to further his inventive designs.

Drucker, Peter F. *Adventures of a Bystander*. Harper. Beginning with his privileged Viennese childhood, the founder of modern management theory recalls a rich and varied life that has brought him in contact with some of the most creative figures of the twentieth century.

Edel, Leon. *Bloomsbury: A House of Lions*. Lippincott. Shapely, astute biographical essays on nine Bloomsbury figures who influenced the course of English and world art, literature, and politics.

Epstein, Helen. *Children of the Holocaust: Conversations with Sons and Daughters of Survivors*. Putnam. Painful efforts of children to understand how their parents survived Hitler's final solution.

Epstein, Leslie. *King of the Jews*. Coward. A comic, heroic depiction of the horror of life in a World War II Polish ghetto and of shrewd, theatrical Trumpleman, the fictional Jewish leader.

Ferlinghetti, Lawrence. *Landscapes of Living & Dying*. New Directions. These poems survey the sad rites and flashy absurdities of America with exuberant wit and issue a manifesto of oneness with nature.

Fraser, Antonia. *Royal Charles: Charles II and the Restoration*. Knopf. A vivid, sympathetic biography of a multifaceted monarch whose resilience and courage enabled him to survive one of the most turbulent periods of English and European history.

Haviaras, Stratis. *When the Tree Sings*. Simon and Schuster. A lyrical first novel about the survival of the human spirit in Greece during World War II.

Hendricks, Gordon. *The Life and Work of Winslow Homer*. Abrams. Splendid illustrations and design enhance this critical biography of an American artist who was acclaimed in his lifetime and has remained a popular favorite.

Hoagland, Edward. *African Calliope: A Journey to the Sudan*. Random. Hoagland proves the ideal guide to the exotic landscape and gallery of people that make up the largest of the African nations.

Hoffman, Alice. *The Drowning Season*. Dutton. A novel about two women named Esther—grandmother and granddaughter—who attempt to break away from the hatred and clannishness of their family and find peace.

Hoffman, Daniel. *Harvard Guide to Contemporary American Writing*. Harvard Univ. Pr. Incisive and approachable essays that both dispel confusion and generate curiosity about significant groups of writers.

Kendall, Elizabeth. *Where She Danced: American Dancing 1880-1930*. Knopf. This account of Ruth St. Denis's career and its roots in nineteenth-century feminism also focuses on other influential dancers and shows how modern American dance affected many facets of our culture.

Keneally, Thomas. *Passenger*. Harcourt. An unborn son narrates the odyssey of his indomitable mother in this fresh and exciting Australian novel.

Kunitz, Stanley. *The Poems of Stanley Kunitz: 1928-1978*. Atlantic/Little. Twenty provocative new poems and selections from the past fifty years by this most readable of major American poets.

Lasch, Christopher. *The Culture of Narcissism: American Life in an Age of Diminishing Expectations*. Norton. This devastating critique of American society uses narcissism as a metaphor for our culture, examining the erosion of personal fulfillment and the absence of a solution.

Le Roy Ladurie, Emanuel. *Carnival in Romans*. Braziller. Civil war, religious fanaticism, and revolutionary insurrection in sixteenth-century provincial France are made relevant for today.

Levine, Philip. *7 Years from Somewhere*. Atheneum. These poems celebrate lost souls beaten down by forces they cannot understand or control.

Lewis, Norman. *Naples '44*. Pantheon. A Goyaesque portrait of life in war-ravaged Naples as depicted by a British novelist and correspondent who was there.

Litwack, Leon F. *Been in the Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery*. Knopf. Although the Civil War was over, the letters, interviews, and diaries used as the basis for this book reveal that the former slaves' struggle for freedom had just begun.

Lorenz, Konrad. *The Year of the Greylag Goose*. Harcourt. A scientist's complete accord with the natural world is captured through the stunning interrelation of words and photographs to document Lorenz's research in animal behavior.

Lottman, Herbert R. *Albert Camus: A Biography*. Doubleday. Portrait of the French intellectual who has had continuing moral impact yet was estranged from his own time.

Mailer, Norman. *The Executioner's Song*. Little. From the life, crimes, imprisonment, and death of Gary Gilmore, Mailer has written an American tragedy that is also a reflection of the American West.

Malamud, Bernard. *Dubin's Lives*. Farrar. A resonant, seemingly spontaneous, mysterious novel about a biographer's breakdown and partial regeneration.

Morgan, Dan. *Merchants of Grain*. Viking. In this first global look at the shadowy grain trade, Morgan reveals the five giant companies and their profound effect on the politics of food.

Morowitz, Harold J. *The Wine of Life and Other Essays on Societies, Energy & Living Things*. St. Martin's. Literate, spritely, instructive essays in the biological sciences by a noted biochemist and humanist.

Morris, Edmund. *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*. Coward. A surprisingly fresh and intimate retelling of the courage, flair, determination, and sense of destiny that resulted in the making of a president.

Munro, Alice. *The Beggar Maid: Stories of Flo and Rose*. Knopf. Short, interconnected stories of an attractive girl growing up in the "poor part" of Toronto, and her stepmother who battles and manipulates but still fascinates her.

Oates, Joyce Carol. *Unholy Loves: A Novel*. Vanguard. A distinguished guest poet with declining creative powers becomes the focus of academic jealousies and intrigues.

O'Connor, Flannery. *The Habit of Being: Letters Edited and with an Introduction by Sally Fitzgerald*. Farrar. Warmth, sharp wit, and reflections on theological, moral, and artistic values distinguish the letters of this complex writer whose fiction was the deeply felt expression of her Catholicism.

Pearson, John. *The Sitwells: A Family's Biography*. Harcourt. A vivid biography of Edith, Osbert, and Sacheverell Sitwell, that trio of eccentrics and self-promoters who were at the center of twentieth-century English cultural life.

Pritchett, V. S. *The Myth Makers: Literary Essays*. Random. A master stylist reexamines the contributions to the art and magic of storytelling by great European and Latin American writers from Tolstoy to García Márquez.

Puig, Manuel. *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Knopf. In tracing the growth of love between two men in an Argentine prison cell, this novel of perfectly crafted dialogue explores the theme of dominance and submission that underlies political oppression.

Roth, Philip. *The Ghost Writer*. Farrar. A young writer's encounter with his expectations and creative fantasies while visiting his literary idol.

Ryan, Cornelius and Ryan, Kathryn Morgan. *A Private Battle*. Simon and Schuster. Compelling account of the historian's heroic struggle with cancer, prepared from hidden journals and tapes by his widow, who adds her own important insights.

Shawcross, William. *Sideshow: Kissinger, Nixon and the Destruction of Cambodia*. Simon and Schuster. A step-by-step narrative of Cambodia's experience with the United States and of Henry Kissinger's role within that drama.

Spencer, Scott. *Endless Love*. Knopf. A boy's obsessive love for a girl and her family and the tragic interaction of their lives until he learns to accept reality. A novel.

Steinfels, Peter. *The Neoconservatives: The Men Who Are Changing America's Politics*. Simon and Schuster. A sober analysis of a body of thought that increasingly influences public policymaking and may pose a threat to democratic values.

Stobaugh, Robert, and Yergin, Daniel, eds. *Energy Future: Report of the Energy Project at the Harvard Business School*. Random. A well-reasoned argument opting for conservation and solar technology as answers to America's growing energy crisis.

Tafel, Edgar. *Apprentice to Genius: Years with Frank Lloyd Wright*. McGraw-Hill. Photographs and drawings illuminate this recreation of Wright's methods, successes, and failures; written by an early disciple who remains devoted to Wright's work while recognizing his personal weaknesses and foibles.

Thomas, Gordon and Morgan-Witts, Max. *The Day the Bubble Burst: A Social History of the Wall Street Crash of 1929*. Doubleday. Focusing on the lives of varied participants, the authors recreate the frenzied race to Black Friday.

Updike, John. *The Coup*. Knopf. Narrated by the egomaniacal ruler of an imaginary African nation, this mordant, funny novel is, among other things, a satire of America's impact on other cultures.

Updike, John. *Problems and Other Stories*. Knopf. The disturbances and stress of contemporary society are brilliantly encapsulated in Updike's tragicomic observations of human lives and experiences.

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Jailbird*. Delacorte. Big business, Watergate, and other controversial phenomena are spoofed with sentimental pessimism. "And so on." A novel.

Walcott, Derek. *The Star-Apple Kingdom*. Farrar. These poems reveal a precise and inventive imagery used to explore the poet's Caribbean heritage.

Wolfe, Tom. *The Right Stuff*. Farrar. An intimate look at the first U.S. astronauts and other pioneers of the space age, and the mystique that bound them into a unique fraternity.

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