Fifty Notable Books of 1948

Presented at the A.L.A. Midwinter Conference
by the Division of Public Libraries

Bradley, No Place to Hide
Camus, The Plague
Chase, The Proper Study of Mankind
Churchill, The Gathering Storm
Conant, Education in a Divided World
Crankshaw, Russia and the Russians
Eisenhower, Crusade in Europe
Evatt, The United Nations
Fairbank, The United States and China
Faulkner, Intruder in the Dust
Freeman, George Washington (Vols. 1-2)
Gandhi, Gandhi’s Autobiography
Gedion, Mechanization Takes Command
Greene, The Heart of the Matter
Hamilton, Witness to the Truth
Hull, The Memoirs of Cordell Hull
Joy and Arnold, The Africa of Albert Schweitzer
Kinsey and Others, Sexual Behavior in the Human Male
Krutch, Henry David Thoreau
La Guardia, The Making of an Insurgent
Laski, The American Democracy
Lecomte du Noüy, The Road to Reason
Lockridge, Raintree County
Lomax, Folk Song U.S.A.
McWilliams, A Mask for Privilege
Mailer, The Naked and the Dead
Malone, Jefferson and His Time (Vol. 1)
Mann, Dr. Faustus
Mearns, The Lincoln Papers
Merton, The Seven Storey Mountain
Paton, Cry, the Beloved Country
Plivier, Stalingrad
Russell, Human Knowledge
Sandburg, Remembrance Rock
Shaw, The Young Lions
Sherwood, Roosevelt and Hopkins
Sitwell, Laughter in the Next Room
Spiller and Others, Literary History of the United States
Stewart, Fire
Stillwell, The Stilwell Papers
Stimson, On Active Service in Peace and War
Taylor, The Taste of Angels
Toynbee, Civilization on Trial
Van Doren, The Great Rehearsal
Vogt, Road to Survival
Ward, The West at Bay
Wecter, The Age of the Great Depression, 1929-1941
Welles, We Need Not Fail
White, Man Called White
Wilder, The Ides of March

As a basis for the selection of the “Fifty Notable Books of 1948” list, over four hundred titles were suggested by staff committees of twenty-eight selected libraries, including the St. Louis Public Library, and a few individual book authorities. After careful study of the submitted titles, a committee of the St. Louis Public Library staff made a tentative selection of fifty notable books plus a list of thirty-one marginal titles which might be considered as possible substitutions. These two lists were sent to the original list of contributors. As a result of second scrutiny and criticisms, the local committee withdrew eight titles from the tentative list and added eight titles from the list of possible substitutions.

The final list is composed of American publications for adult readers published in the United States during 1948. Titles were chosen which the committee considered outstanding because of their usefulness, timeliness, or their contribution to permanent literature.

This year the list is released as the A.L.A. Division of Public Libraries list of “Fifty Notable Books of 1948.”

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