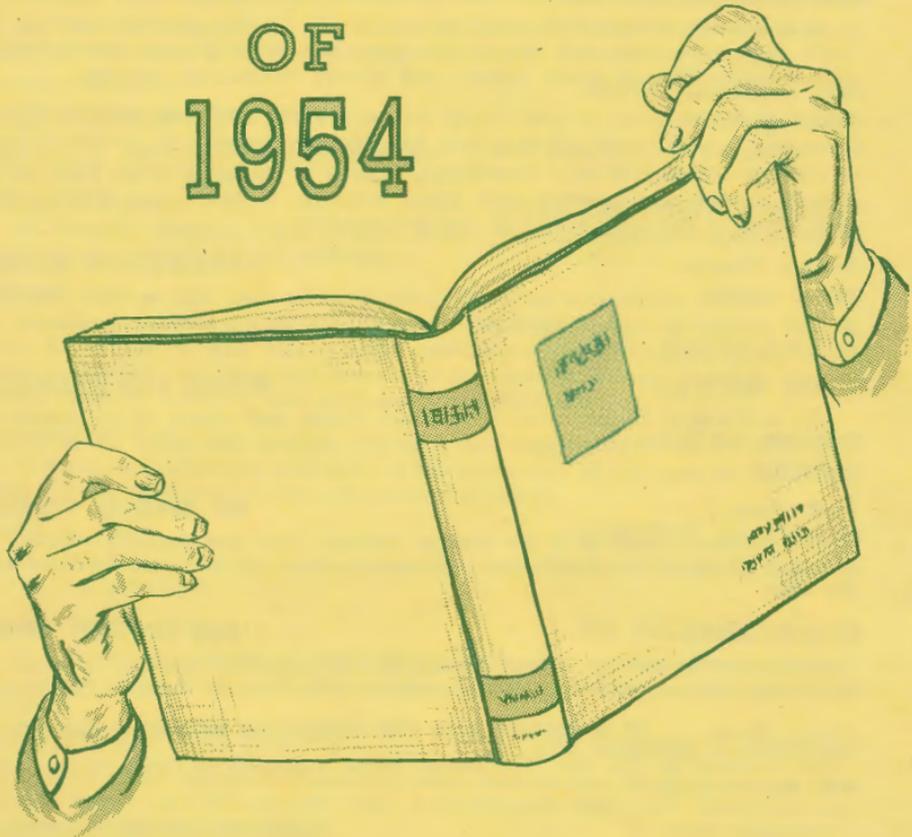


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NOTABLE BOOKS

OF
1954



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NOTABLE BOOKS OF 1954

Abrahams, Peter

TELL FREEDOM

The autobiography of a South African colored author. Written with moving sincerity, perspective, and poetic feeling.

Arnow, Harriette

THE DOLLMAKER

In this powerful novel, a simple Kentucky woman with a talent for carving, brings faith and courage as a shield of protection for her family in the tragic living conditions of war-time Detroit.

Barzun, Jacques M.

GOD'S COUNTRY AND MINE

A Frenchman writes of his adopted country. In his discussion of why this is God's country, he tells with humor and perception what is right and not right with American life. A frank, friendly and always challenging criticism.

Basso, Hamilton

VIEW FROM POMPEY'S HEAD

Pompey's Head is more than a tradition steeped Southern town. It is a way of life and thinking. A New York lawyer returns to this home of his youth on a difficult mission. He leaves it with added maturity. A deft, satiric novel of the complexities of character of a man and a community.

Bowles, Chester

AMBASSADOR'S REPORT

The author's experiences as Ambassador to India from 1951 to 1953. Notable for his discerning and sympathetic portrayal of India's complex problems. A statesmanlike book and highly readable.

Brooks, Van Wyck

SCENES AND PORTRAITS

An outstanding literary critic writes with charm and clarity of his childhood and youth. A rewarding insight into America's cultural and social life of a past generation.

Buck, Pearl

MY SEVERAL WORLDS

The personal record of a life divided between Asia and America provides a revealing study of the friendships and misunderstandings between the East and the West.

Carson, Gerald

OLD COUNTRY STORE

Americana of the first order. Sociological and historical research go hand in hand with folklore and humor in this chronicle of a uniquely American institution.

Catton, Bruce

U. S. GRANT AND THE AMERICAN MILITARY TRADITION

An authority on the Civil War period writes eloquently of Grant as man, soldier, and President.

Commager, Henry S.

FREEDOM, LOYALTY, DISSENT

Five essays providing vigorous arguments for freedom of thought and action in America today.

Coon, Carleton S.

STORY OF MAN

Story of man and his civilization from earliest times to the atomic age with a hopeful and stimulating look into the future.

Davis, Elmer

BUT WE WERE BORN FREE

With sanity and courage, these essays, by a distinguished radio commentator, analyze the dangers to our freedom inherent in the methods of some who claim to defend it. Written with righteous indignation and a sharp pen.

Dodson, Kenneth

AWAY ALL BOATS

An authoritative novelized history of amphibious warfare in the Pacific. Told superbly by one who knows his subject well.

Gheerbrant, Alain

JOURNEY TO THE FAR AMAZON

Exciting and well written account of the explorations of the upper reaches of the Orinoco and the northern territories of the Amazon by four young men.

Gouzenko, Igor

FALL OF A TITAN

A novel about the eternal struggle between man's potentialities for good and evil, placed with compelling plausibility in our time and in a country where terror and injustice are official. Told by one acquainted with the setting.

Hagedorn, Hermann

THE ROOSEVELT FAMILY OF SAGAMORE HILL

A family portrait with "T.R." the center of all activities—family and political. Great events mingled with a refreshing account of domestic felicity.

Harrer, Heinrich

SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET

An Austrian, interned in India during World War II, escapes and makes his way to Lhasa. He becomes a friend and mentor of the Dalai Lama. A discerning and colorful picture of the customs and peoples of a fascinating country.

Highet, Gilbert

MAN'S UNCONQUERABLE MIND

A classical scholar's essay in quiet praise of man's distinctive power and its application to the forces of darkness.

Horgan, Paul

GREAT RIVER

A gifted author of the South-West writes not only a history of the Rio Grande river but a saga of New Mexico and Texas from ancient to modern times. Poetic prose, combined with the creativeness of a fine novelist and the thorough research of an objective historian has produced a remarkable book.

Howells, William

BACK OF HISTORY

The exciting, admirably told story of the emergence of man and his institutions from earliest beginnings to the city-states of antiquity.

Hunt, Sir John

CONQUEST OF EVEREST

Thrilling account of the successful ascent of Mt. Everest told by the leader of the British expedition.

Krutch, Joseph W.

THE MEASURE OF MAN

A plea for the exercise of man's distinctive faculty—value-conscious thinking—in re-establishing freedom of choice, and in gaining salvation in a mechanistic world.

LaFarge, John

THE MANNER IS ORDINARY

A Jesuit priest, son of an American artist, recounts his life as a member of a famous family and his humane and warm-hearted work with interracial and underprivileged groups.

Lie, Trygve

IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE

The former Secretary-General of the United Nations writes a straight forward account of the questions which arose during his seven years in office. Based on official data and his own diaries. Gives recommendations for changes in policy to ensure peace.

Murchie, Guy

SONG OF THE SKY

Our world of air and sound and flight told in terms of man's progress in transportation and communication. It is science and history and adventure combined with poetic writing to make one of the most absorbing books of the year.

Robertson, Robert B.

OF WHALES AND MEN

Life on a modern whaling expedition provides fascinating reading. The author was the medical officer for the men in "one of the world's most unusual occupations."

St. John, Robert

THROUGH MALAN'S AFRICA

The dark corners of South Africa laid bare in the blazing light of truth by a reporter who seeks justice for the natives.

Smith, Lillian

THE JOURNEY

Author's spiritual journey into the past and the significance of what she learned described with feeling and insight. Sets the reader on a "journey" of his own.

Stegner, Wallace

BEYOND THE HUNDREDTH MERIDIAN

The extraordinary career of John Wesley Powell whose trail blazing in survey work and scientific studies made outstanding contributions to the opening of the West.

Thomas, Norman

THE TEST OF FREEDOM

Clear headed analysis of the inadequacies and dangers inherent in some of the methods presently employed against Communism. With constructive suggestions by a writer whose words always command respectful attention.

Ward, Barbara

FAITH AND FREEDOM

A history of civilization, and of the dangers which have stood in the way of progress, is brilliantly portrayed by an author with a message. Her theme is the importance of Faith and the Church in maintaining man's freedom of choice.

White, Elwyn B.

SECOND TREE FROM THE CORNER

A whimsical miscellany of essays and sketches by one of the outstanding humorists of our day.

Whitehead, Alfred N.

DIALOGUES

as recorded by Lucien Price

Records Whitehead, the conversationalist. Covers a wide range of subjects and ideas—some startling, some challenging, all alive—and in the best tradition of "good talk".

Woodham-Smith, Cecil

THE REASON WHY

A brilliant examination of the social and military system which provided the reason and the background for the famous "Charge of the Light Brigade".

Woolf, Virginia

A WRITER'S DIARY

Extracts from the diary kept by Virginia Woolf from 1918 to 1941 give valuable insight into the creative mind at work.

This annual compilation, first issued by the American Library Association in 1944, has been the responsibility of the ALA Public Libraries Division for the past eight years and is a venture in cooperative book selection. Immediately following appointment, the Notable Books committee goes into action: establishing criteria, reading and re-reading countless books, and preparing and voting on preliminary and supplementary lists in cooperation with 79 participating libraries in all parts of the country. The final deadline for this hard-pressed group is late December.

The Notable Books of 1954 were selected in terms of quality, authenticity, honesty of purpose, and potential contribution to the resources of the reader as a citizen and as an individual.