LIBRARY OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

NOTABLE BOOKS

OF

1956
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Anderson, Marian  
My Lord, What A Morning  
The famous contralto tells of her long struggle to become a concert singer. A genuine expression of a great artist and public figure. Viking

Bemis, Samuel F.  
John Quincy Adams and the Union  
A distinguished biography. Knopf

Bowers, Faubion  
Theatre in the East  
A lively but expert appraisal of the theatre and dance of the Orient. Nelson

Brooks, Van Wyck  
Helen Keller  
With rare grace and affection, an old friend of Helen Keller pays a poignant tribute to her remarkable spiritual courage. Dutton

Brown, John Mason  
Through These Men  
Tempered observations on contemporary politics and political personalities. Harper

Burns, James M.  
Roosevelt: The Lion and the Fox  
A lion in nobility and strength, a fox in methods — thus the author of this fine biography explains the complex character and career of FDR. Harcourt

Caton, Bruce  
This Hallowed Ground  
The Civil War from the Northern side. Superb writing, skillful choice of relevant details, and a wonderful narrative sweep. Doubleday

Ceram, C. W.  
The Secret of the Hittites  
Archaeology's exciting rediscovery of the powerful Hittite empire, lost to history for three thousand years. Knopf

Chafee, Zechariah  
The Blessings of Liberty  
A challenging and timely discussion of the meaning and development of traditional American freedoms. Lippincott

Churchill, Winston  
A History of the English-Speaking Peoples  
Vol. 1, The Birth of Britain; Vol. 2, The New World  
A memorable history, and an enduring record of our common race; illuminated by flashes of genius, character, and style. Dodd

Daiches, David  
Two Worlds  
The two wonderful worlds of the author's youth: his native Scotland and his Jewish heritage and culture. Hercourt

Donovan, Robert J.  
Eisenhower: The Inside Story  
A crisp and revealing examination of behind-the-scenes doings during the first three years of Eisenhower's presidency. Harper

Ervine, St. John  
Bernard Shaw  
Solid, spirited, and laced with wit. An impressive centennial biography by a friend of forty years. Morrow

Forester, Cecil S.  
The Age of Fighting Sail; The Story of the Naval War of 1812  
Masterly account of great sea fights by a first-rate story-teller turned historian. Doubleday

Gessell, Arnold L.  
Youth: The Years from Ten to Sixteen  
Recommendations covering the problems of youth at each stage of development. Harper

Hersey, John R.  
A Single Pebble  
Human strength and tragedy, revealed through a boatman's struggle in the terrifying gorges of the Yangtze. A short novel of classic simplicity and distinction. Knopf

Huddleston, Trevor  
Naught for Your Comfort  
An absorbing and disturbing book about the degrading effects of South Africa's rigid segregation policy, as observed by an Anglican monk and citizen. Doubleday

Hulme, Kathryn C.  
The Nun's Story  
The struggle of a soul caught in a spiritual crisis behind the walls of a cloister. A profound experience, written with delicacy and sincerity. Little

Kendall, Paul M.  
Richard The Third  
Sound scholarship and a distinguished style characterize this definitive biography of the enigmatic King Richard III. Norton

Kennedy, John F.  
Profiles In Courage  
A remarkable book about American statesmen who stood behind their principles even at the cost of their political lives. Harper

Kirby, Richard S.  
Engineering In History  
The story of the vital role of engineering in the developing story of Western civilization from its beginnings. McGraw

LaFarge, Oliver  
Behind the Mountains  
A New Mexican childhood gracefully recaptured. Houghton

Maughan, A. Margery  
Harry of Monmouth  
A New Mexican childhood gracefully recaptured. Houghton

Maurois, Andre  
Olympia; The Life of Victor Hugo  
Mastery biography of the romantic poet and novelist who dazzled the literary, political, and social circles of nineteenth-century France. Harper

Mead, Margaret  
New Lives for Old  
The Manus of New Guinea as a case study of a primitive society in transition and trial. Morrow

Millis, Walter  
Arms and Men  
American military history and its influence on American life and policies. Putnam

Mills, C. Wright  
The Power Elite  
A provocative analysis of the decision makers in American life. Oxford

Moore, Ruth E.  
The Earth We Live On  
The nature and origin of the earth, personalized by stories of the scholars and fieldmen who formulated the theories. Knopf

Moorehead, Alan  
Gallipoli  
One of the tragedies of history, the famous Dardanelles Campaign of World War I. Superbly recreates the scene, the atmosphere, and the drama. Harper

Moraes, Francis R.  
Jawaharlal Nehru  
A major study of the Prime Minister by one of India's leading journalists. Macmillan
Muir, Edwin
A warmly inspiring collection of beautiful poems.

One Foot in Eden
Grove

O'Connor, Edwin
A charming political rogue dominates this wise and witty novel of an Irish-American mayoralty campaign.

The Last Hurrah
Little

Olson, Sigurd F.
The land northwest of Lake Superior, one of the few remaining wilderness areas, pictured with simple beauty.

The Singing Wilderness
Knopf

O'Neill, Eugene
An autobiographical drama, a compassionate analysis of weaknesses and defenses in a tortured family.

Long Day's Journey Into Night
Knopf

Rossiter, Clinton L.
The American presidency has seldom been described with greater wit, enthusiasm, and insight.

The American Presidency
Harcourt

Rowan, Carl T.
Asia's many deep-seated problems seen through the eyes of an articulate member of one of America's minorities.

The Pitiful and the Proud
Random House

Russell, Bertrand
Late appraisals, seasoned and flavorful, of personalities of his time.

Portraits from Memory
Simon & Schuster

Selches, Gilbert
The far-reaching influence of TV, radio, and movies on our habits and attitudes.

The Public Arts
Simon & Schuster

Teale, Edwin Way
A tribute to the American autumn season written in beautiful prose by a fine naturalist.

Autumn Across America
Dodd

Tharp, Louise Hall
Julia Ward Howe, her sisters and her brother, pictured against a rich background of nineteenth-century Boston and New York.

Three Saints and a Sinner
Little

Toynbee, Arnold
A history of the world's religions and the relation of that history to the spiritual dilemma of our time.

An Historian's Approach To Religion
Oxford

Warren, Robert Penn
Honest picture of the general climate of opinion on segregation, as reported by a Southern Pulitzer-Prize novelist.

Segregation: The Inner Conflict in the South
Random House

This annual compilation is the responsibility of the Public Libraries Division of the American Library Association. The Notable Books Council (of the Division), composed of twelve members, cooperates with a number of participating libraries in the selection of the titles on the list.

Mr. Bernard Van Horne, Librarian, Library Association of Portland, Oregon, Chairman of the Council, says:

"The books were chosen from a long list of excellent examples of noteworthy publishing in the year 1956. The listed titles are particularly valuable for their contributions to understanding among individuals and groups, their originality or fine writing, but above all for their genuine interest and appeal for the general reader who seeks to broaden and deepen his understanding of himself, his world, and his society.

Thirty-five libraries participated in the project during 1956. Though the December titles available were considered, the effective work of the Notable Books Council should not be considered to extend beyond November 30, 1956. All December titles should be examined by the Council for possible inclusion on the list for 1957."