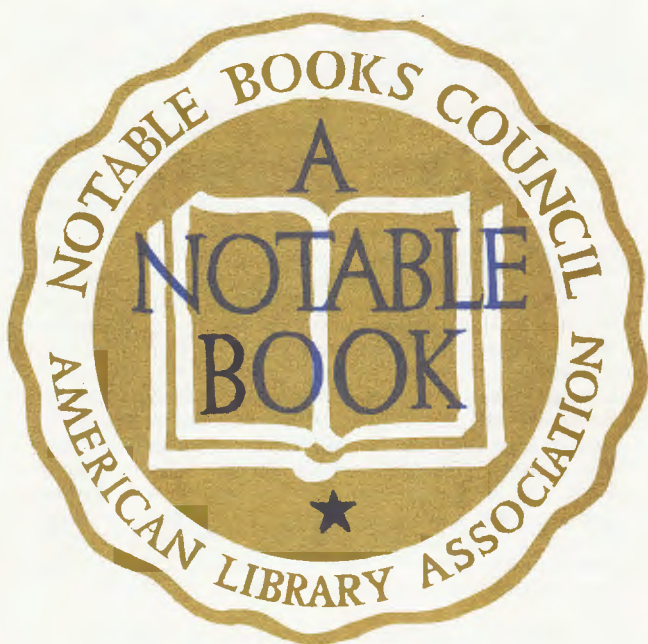


# NOTABLE BOOKS 1972



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 widening of man's 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 1972 included: Kate Kolish, University of Pittsburgh, Chairman; Donald R. Briggs, Memphis State University; Mrs. Anona Jenkins Falls, Carnegie Public Library (Clarksdale, MS); Mrs. Inalea Mullen, Tulsa City-County Library System (Tulsa, OK); John Herbst, Penn Valley Community College Library (Kansas City, MO); Clayton E. Kilpatrick, Anne Arundel County Library (Annapolis, MD); Robert Oram, University of Illinois Library (Urbana, IL); Mary E. Poole, Kendall College Library (Evanston, IL); Larry Earl Bone, Memphis Public Library; Paul Gratke, Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI); Katherine L. Magraw, Naval Training Support Command (Washington, D.C.); and Richard Tirota, The New York Public Library.

The following participating libraries served in an advisory capacity: Arlington County Libraries, Arlington, Virginia; Des Moines Public Library, Des Moines, IA; The Ferguson Library, Stamford, CT; Mesa Public Library, Los Alamos, NM; Point Park College, Pittsburgh, PA; Trenton Public Library, Trenton, NJ; Helen M. Plum Memorial Library, Lombard, IL; The Honnold Library, Claremont College, Claremont, CA; Denver Public Library, Denver, CO; Miami Public Library, Miami, FL; Montgomery County Public Library, Bethesda, MD; Oregon State University Library, Corvallis, OR; Alaska State Library, Juneau, AK; Dayton & Montgomery County Library, Dayton, OH; Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD; Framingham Public Library, Framingham Center, MA; Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, Indianapolis, IN; Menlo Park Public Library, Menlo Park, CA; Boston Public Library, Boston, MA; Fresno County Free Library, Fresno, CA; Knoxville-Knox County Public Library, Knoxville, TN; New Mexico State Library, Santa Fe, NM; and Vail Memorial Library, Lincoln University, Lincoln University, PA.

**August 1914** by Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Farrar. The opening days of World War I provide the setting for this epic novel on the breakdown of the old order in Russia.

**Bare Ruined Choirs: Doubt, Prophecy, and Radical Religion** by Garry Wills. Doubleday. Provocative, personal insights into the roots, confusion and strengths of contemporary American Catholicism.

**The Best and the Brightest** by David Halberstam. Random. A reassessment of the men who shaped the events leading to the involvement of the United States in Southeast Asia.

**Calcutta** by Geoffrey Moorhouse. Harcourt. Extremes of Indian life in the world's fourth largest city.

**Children of Crisis: Volume 2, Migrants, Sharecroppers, Mountaineers; Volume 3, The South Goes North** by Robert Coles. Atlantic-Little. A monumental study of the many voices of America's poor.

**The Children of Pride: A True Story of Georgia and the Civil War** edited by Robert Manson Myers. Yale Univ. Pr. Letters of a plantation family are creatively edited to provide a vivid picture of a time, a place, and a people.

**The Clocks of Columbus: The Literary Career of James Thurber** by Charles S. Holmes. Atheneum. The wild and wonderful world of the man with "a warm heart and an angry mind."

**Collected Poems: 1951-1971** by A. R. Ammons. Norton. Intensely personal poems by a meticulous craftsman.

**The Coming of Age** by Simone de Beauvoir. Putnam. An indictment of society's indifference toward the aged.

**The Confession of a Child of the Century by Samuel Heather; A Novel** by Thomas Rogers. Simon and Schuster. Rogers' anti-hero struggles with the generation gap, war, and defection in a funny novel about the 1950s.

**800,000,000: The Real China** by Ross Terrill. Atlantic-Little. An informed reporter's impressions and interviews provide insight into a reopening country.

**Eleanor: The Years Alone** by Joseph P. Lash. Norton. The emergence of an exceptional woman as a world citizen.

**Enemies, A Love Story** by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Farrar. Tragicomic novel about a man's entanglement with three wives.

**Fire in the Lake: The Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam** by Frances Fitzgerald. Atlantic-Little. A young correspondent's fresh explanation of war rising out of cultures in conflict.

**The German Lesson** by Siegfried Lenz. Hill and Wang. A novel of confrontation between the creative artist's need for freedom and Nazi Germany's insistence on blind obedience.

**The Great Bridge** by David McCullough. Simon and Schuster. The Brooklyn Bridge—an engineering feat which symbolized the aspirations of its age.

**Henry James, The Master: 1901-1916** by Leon Edel. Lippincott. Concludes the masterful study of James, the artist, and James, the man.

**The House of Life: Rachel Carson at Work** by Paul Brooks. Houghton. Achievements of a pioneer conservationist, illustrated with selections from her published and unpublished writings.

**In the Fullness of Time: The Memoirs of Paul H. Douglas.** Harcourt. The full life and times of the former senator whose career was devoted to public service.

**Inequality: A Reassessment of the Effect of Family and Schooling in America** by Christopher Jencks. Basic Books. Claims improved education brings frustration not success to America's poor.

**Jackson Pollock: Energy Made Visible** by B. H. Friedman. McGraw-Hill. Tragic life and wide-ranging influence of the foremost abstract expressionist.

**The Late Great Creature** by Brock Brower. Atheneum. The world of horror movies is the background for this hilarious but chilling novel.

**Licit and Illicit Drugs** by Edward M. Brecher and the editors of *Consumer Reports*. Little. The Consumers Union report on narcotics, stimulants, depressants, inhalants, hallucinogens, and marijuana—including caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol.

**The Megastates of America: People, Politics and Power in the Ten Great States** by Neal R. Peirce. Norton. The impact of the areas where more than half the population live.

**Memoirs, Volume 2: 1950-1963** by George F. Kennan. Atlantic-Little. The cold war period when Kennan's career shifted between scholar-historian and ambassador.

**The Mountain People** by Colin M. Turnbull. Simon and Schuster. Social disintegration of an African tribe, with appalling implications for modern civilization.

**My Land is Dying** by Harry M. Caudill. Dutton. A powerful condemnation of strip mining and its effects on people and their environment.

**Only One Earth: The Care and Maintenance of a Small Planet** by Barbara Ward and Rene Dubos. Norton. The social, economic, and political dimensions of the world ecology crisis.

**The Optimist's Daughter** by Eudora Welty. Random. A gentle novel that delves into the past to produce acceptance and understanding of the present.

**The Painter and the Photograph** by Van Deren Coke. Univ. of New Mexico Pr. An eye-opening demonstration of the reliance of many artists on the photograph as a source of inspiration.

**The Party's Over: The Failure of Politics in America** by David S. Broder. Harper. The political parties: what killed them as effective forces and how they can be reborn.

**Passions and Politics: A Biography of Versailles** by Joseph Barry. Doubleday. The royal palace serves as the framework for this study of pre-revolutionary France.

**Piaf: A Biography** by Simone Berteaut. Harper. The famous French singer's life frankly told by her half sister.

**Queen Victoria: From Her Birth to the Death of the Prince Consort** by Cecil Woodham-Smith. Knopf. New material illuminates the life of the girl and the young queen.

**The Restless Earth: A Report on the New Geology** by Nigel Calder. Viking. A revolutionary theory explaining earthquakes and volcanic activity, with vivid illustrations.

**Sadness** by Donald Barthelme. Farrar. Short stories examining life at middle age with great wit and tenderness.

**The Savage God: A Study of Suicide** by A. Alvarez. Random. A lucid interpretation of self-destruction, focusing on the creative personality.

**Seven Arrows** by Hyemeyohsts Storm. Harper. A Plains Indian evokes the spirit of his people in this beautifully illustrated work.

**Stay Hungry** by Charles Gaines. Doubleday. Strong fictional treatment of the exaggerated male ego.

**The Sunlight Dialogues** by John Gardner. Knopf. A novel that is a world-sized view of the complexities of small town American life.

**That Championship Season** by Jason Miller. Atheneum. An explosive reunion of four former teammates and their coach dramatizes American values and personal failures.

**The Unknown Orwell** by Peter Stansky and William Abrahams. Knopf. A study of the elusive Eric Blair who at age 30 transformed himself into George Orwell.

**Virginia Woolf: A Biography** by Quentin Bell. Harcourt. The forces that shaped a complex woman form the core of her nephew's incisive interpretation.

ISBN 0-8389-5412-X (1973)

Published by the  
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

(Available in quantity from ALA Order Department,  
50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, at the following  
rates: 50 copies, \$3; 100, \$5; 250, \$11; 500, \$20;  
1000, \$35; 2500, \$90; 5000, \$175.)