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.

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 1977 included: Elizabeth Egan, Helen M. Plum Memorial Library (Lombard, Ill.); Kay Ann Cassell, Bethlehem Public Library (Delmar, N.Y.); Jerome K. Corrigan, Prince George's County Memorial Library (Oxon Hill, Md.); Robert Donahugh, the Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County (Youngstown, Ohio); Jeanne Gelinas, Hennepin County Library (Edina, Minn.); Lyn Hart, Peabody Library, Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore, Md.); Jane K. Hirsch, Montgomery County Public Library (Rockville, Md.); Joan Hoagland, Cleveland Public Library (Cleveland, Ohio); Martha Reynolds, Frederick County Public Library (Frederick, Md.); Ross Stephen, University of Wisconsin (Oshkosh, Wis.); Suzanne Sutton, Bloomfield Township Public Library (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.); Wendell Wray, University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, Penn.); Dorothy Snowden, consultant, Booklist.

The Notable Books Council gratefully acknowledges the help of the Council’s participating libraries.
Ashbery, John. *Houseboat Days*. Viking. A poet's dreamlike pursuit of time and memory—recording the haunting and hallucinatory shifts of thought from recognizable landscapes to regions both transparent and mysterious.

Baryshnikov, Mikhail with photographs by Martha Swope. *Baryshnikov at Work*. Knopf. A perceptive, technically brilliant dancer describes with candor the twenty-six roles he learned or re-created during his first three years in the West.

Bate, Walter Jackson. *Samuel Johnson*. Harcourt. Reveals the complexities of the eternally fascinating literary giant, perhaps even better than Boswell.


Bishop, Elizabeth. *Geography III*. Farrar. With the exactitude of a mapmaker, the poet uses an austere, meditative style to etch the rich landscape of her private world.


Djilas, Milovan. *Wartime*. Harcourt. The rise of Communism and partisan fighting in Yugoslavia during World War II, told by one of the major participants.


Joyes, Claire. *Monet at Giverny*. Two Continents. A warm and intelligent study of a painter whose genius at capturing the beauty of changing light transformed the world of art.

Lowell, Robert. Day by Day. Farrar. In this verse autobiography the poet's anguish and exhilaration illuminate his struggles with age and death.


Mitford, Jessica. A Fine Old Conflict. Knopf. A truly funny book about life with the Communist party by a former member who remains proud of the party's goals and influences.


Naipaul, V. S. India: A Wounded Civilization. Knopf. Exploratory surgery on the mind of India, revealing the intellectual malaise resulting from centuries of foreign domination and inertia.


Percy, Walker. Lancelot. Farrar. Surrealistic fiction that vividly depicts the decay of a southern aristocrat.


Savage, Thomas. I Heard My Sister Speak My Name. Little. Adopted Amy McKinney's decision to search out her true parents is the keystone of this timeless, beautifully written novel of clan traditions.


Taylor, Peter. In the Miro District and Other Stories. Knopf. A varied, graceful offering of short stories by one of the contemporary masters of the genre.


Winn, Marie. The Plug-in Drug. Grossman/Viking. Argues persuasively that young children exposed to excessive television watching become passive observers removed from genuine feeling.