

**NOTABLE
BOOKS**

1991

**AMERICAN
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION**



This list has been compiled for use by the general reader and by librarians who work with adults. The titles have been selected by the Notable Books Council, ALA Reference and Adult Services Division, for their significant contribution to the expansion of knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers. Titles were selected from books published from November 1989 through October 1990 that demonstrate wide general appeal and literary merit.

FICTION

- Bell, Christine. **The Pérez Family**. Norton. A witty, almost surreal, portrait of Cuban exiles in Miami.
- Boyle, T. Coraghessan. **East Is East**. Viking. A Japanese seaman jumps ship off the Georgia coast in this tragicomic novel of cultural dislocation.
- Byatt, A.S. **Possession: A Romance**. Random. Two contemporary scholars discover evidence of a clandestine affair between major Victorian poets and unravel a mystery that alters all previous interpretations of their writings.
- Coetzee, J.M. **Age of Iron**. Random. A haunting lament by a white South African woman, forced at the end of her life to feel the full rage and horror of apartheid.

Hoffman, Alice. **Seventh Heaven.** Putnam. A 1950s suburban neighborhood is transformed with the arrival of a divorced mother in this deft blend of magical realism and subtle character portrayal.

Kingsolver, Barbara. **Animal Dreams.** HarperCollins. The multiethnic background of the Southwest provides the setting for a young woman's struggle to understand and accept herself and her family.

Lively, Penelope. **Passing On.** Grove Weidenfeld. After years of repression by a domineering mother, an unmarried English woman and her bachelor brother try independence.

Mahfouz, Naguib. **Palace Walk.** Doubleday. The richly detailed account of daily life in a traditional Muslim family only dimly aware of the outside world in British-occupied Cairo in 1917.

Miller, Sue. **Family Pictures.** HarperCollins. A perceptive portrayal of the impact of an autistic child on a particular family, revealing universal truths about complex human relationships.

Munro, Alice. **Friend of My Youth.** Knopf. Flawless stories that juxtapose the intricacies of personal relationships and the curious circumstances of ordinary lives against bleak landscapes.

O'Brien, Tim. **The Things They Carried.** Houghton. Stories, like a series of battle flares, link the psychological and physical burdens Americans carried in Vietnam to the emotional baggage they brought home.

Popham, Melinda Worth. **Skywater.** Graywolf. This first novel about a coyote's quest for water and peace evokes the beauty and spirituality of the endangered Sonoran desert.

Smith, Lee. **Me and My Baby View the Eclipse.** Putnam. Intimate stories of the New South embody the determined resolve of women, young and old, to survive.

Stegner, Wallace. **Collected Stories of Wallace Stegner.** Random. Six decades of superb stories by one of America's most distinguished writers.

Tilghman, Christopher. **In a Father's Place.** Farrar. Seven seamless stories, diverse in voice and setting, form a remarkable first collection.

POETRY

Wright, James. **Above the River: The Complete Poems.** Farrar. A legacy of lyrical American language and imagery celebrates life with youthful humor, mature elegiac meditations and evocative prose poems.

NONFICTION

Ackerman, Diane. **The Natural History of the Senses.** Random. An award-winning poet skillfully combines science, literature, history and cultural commentary in a sensuous celebration of our ability to smell, taste, hear, touch and see.

Bishop, Jerry E. and Michael Waldholz. **Genome: The Story of the Most Astonishing Scientific Adventure of Our Time the Attempt to Map All the Genes in the Human Body.** Simon & Schuster. An engaging account of genetic research and the ethical dilemmas it poses.

Chestnut, J. L. and Julia Cass. **Black in Selma: The Uncommon Life of J. L. Chestnut, Jr.** Farrar. The first black attorney in the historic southern city is candid about the shortcomings of his segregated community and disarmingly humble about his own achievements.

Freedman, Samuel G. **Small Victories: The Real World of a Teacher, Her Students & Their High School.** HarperCollins. A detailed portrait of Jessica Siegel, a dedicated teacher at Seward Park High School in Manhattan, who really makes a difference in the lives of her students.

Goodall, Jane. **Through a Window: My Thirty Years with the Chimpanzees of Gombe.** Houghton. Continues the engrossing and intimate behavioral account of the principal residents of the Tanzanian Reserve by their compassionate protector, historian and friend.

Lord, Bette Bao. **Legacies: A Chinese Mosaic.** Knopf. Narratives of the Chinese experience of the last half century up to Tiananmen Square reported by a woman who returned to her native land as the wife of the U.S. ambassador.

Malan, Rian. **My Traitor's Heart: A South African Exile Returns to Face His Country, His Tribe, and His Conscience.** Atlantic Monthly Press; dist. by Little, Brown. A journalist, whose Boer ancestors were founders of apartheid, expresses hope for eventual racial reconciliation.

Szarkowski, John. **Photography Until Now.** Museum of Modern Art; dist. by Little, Brown/Bulfinch Press. This history of the pioneers and processes in the development of photography questions the nature of art: how we see, document, and imagine.

Wills, Gary. **Under God: Religion and American Politics.** Simon & Schuster. Exploring the depth and variety of religious beliefs among Americans, Wills shows how this crucial element is largely overlooked by political analysts in the media.

Notable Books 1991

Item no. A135

100 pamphlets, \$24

Also available as camera-ready sheets, \$10 per set.

ALA Graphics
American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
1-800-545-2433, press 8

Many of the books on this list are available in braille, talking books or large type. Consult your Regional Library for the Blind.

Cover photograph by Jean-Louis Henri Le Secq;
from the book *Photography Until Now* by John Szarkowski,
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