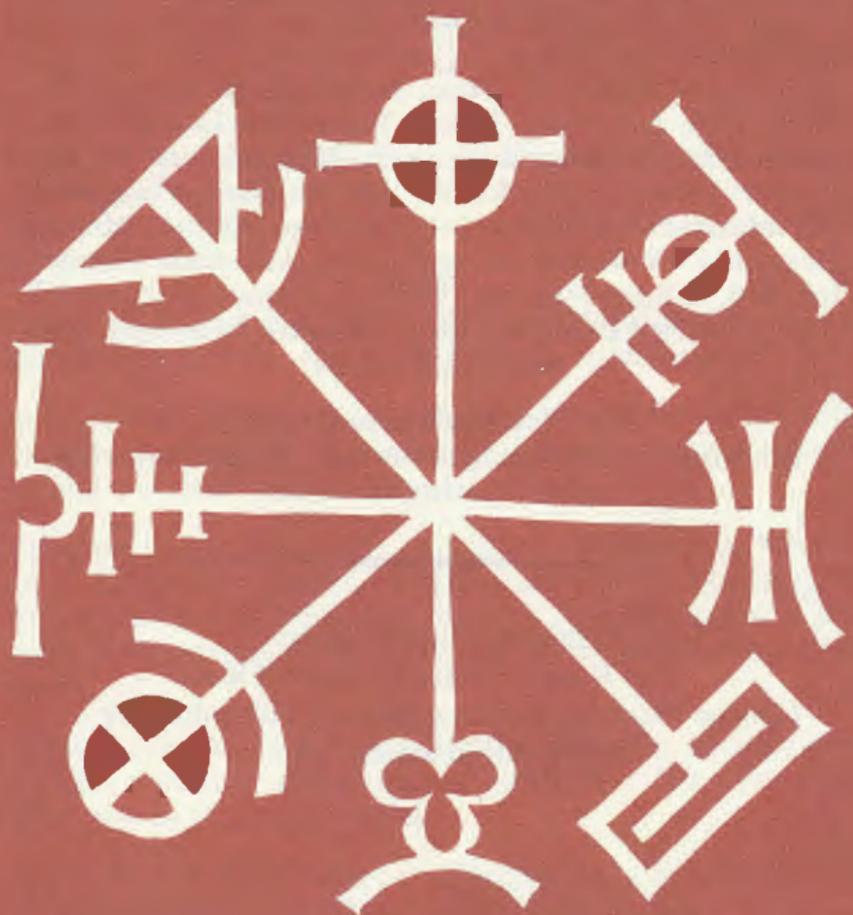


NOTABLE BOOKS 1976



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 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 1976 included: Jerome K. Corrigan, Prince George's County Memorial Library (Oxon Hill, Md.); Kay Ann Cassell, Bethlehem Public Library (Delmar, N.Y.); Robert Cayton, Marietta College Library (Marietta, Ohio); Robert Donahugh, The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County (Youngstown, Ohio); Elizabeth Egan, Helen M. Plum Memorial Library (Lombard, Ill.); Lyn Hart, 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 Libraries (Frederick, Md.); Ross Stephen, William Rainey Harper College Library (Palatine, Ill.); Dorothy Snowden, consultant, *Booklist*.

The Notable Books Council
gratefully acknowledges the help of the Council's
participating libraries.

Symbols adapted from
The Book of Signs by Rudolf Koch
(Dover Pictorial Archive Series) published by
Dover Publications, Inc.

Alther, Lisa. *Kinflicks: A Novel*. Knopf. Flashbacks reveal Ginny Babcock's sad, funny progress from cheerleader to lesbian to farmer to housewife.

Arlen, Michael J. *The View from Highway 1: Essays on Television*. Farrar. A thought-provoking study of the shortcomings of television programming and its impact.

Auden, W. H. *Collected Poems*. Ed. by Edward Mendelson. Random. Selected poems Auden himself wanted preserved.

Baskin, John. *New Burlington: The Life and Death of an American Village*. Norton. An elegiac encounter with the lives and memories of Ohio villagers whose rural past is doomed by the twentieth century.

Bass, Jack and Walter De Vries. *The Transformation of Southern Politics: Social Change and Political Consequence Since 1945*. Basic Books. From Bible Belt to Sun Belt: the evolution of rural oriented, one-party politics into a more flexible economy geared structure.

Bettelheim, Bruno. *The Uses of Enchantment: The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales*. Knopf. A Freudian defense of fairy tales as a means of universal communication.

Borgese, Elisabeth Mann. *The Drama of the Oceans*. Abrams. Beautifully illustrated study of nature's most majestic and mysterious realm, now on the brink of cataclysm.

Brown, Rosellen. *The Autobiography of My Mother*. Doubleday. A novel of a successful lawyer, her directionless sensual daughter, and the child who is the focus of their final struggle.

Bryan, C. D. B. *Friendly Fire*. Putnam. One family's persistent, painful search for the true circumstances of their son's death in Vietnam.

Caudill, Harry M. *The Watches of the Night*. Atlantic-Little. Thirteen years after *Night Comes to the Cumberland*s, Caudill returns to find that federal programs have turned the mountain people into welfare clients and failed to stop the destruction of the land.

Cornelisen, Ann. *Women of the Shadows*. Atlantic-Little. A graphic presentation of the harsh lives and the courage of five women in a poor Italian village.

Dangerfield, George. *The Damnable Question: A Study in Anglo-Irish Relations*. Atlantic-Little. A powerful book that brings together the tragic facts about Anglo-Irish relations between 1800 and the Easter Uprising.

Davies, Robertson. *World of Wonders*. Viking. A master illusionist recounts his rise to fame and in so doing gives the final answer to "who killed Boy Staunton?" The third novel in the illustrious trilogy that began with *The Fifth Business*.

Des Pres, Terrence. *The Survivor: The Anatomy of Life in the Death Camps*. Oxford Univ. Pr. A convincing argument, based upon personal accounts, that survival in concentration camps required strong feelings of community and responsibility.

Fallaci, Oriana. *Interview With History*. Liveright. Through 14 interviews a talented journalist reveals the strengths and weaknesses of the powerful.

Fincher, Jack. *Human Intelligence*. Putnam. Compendium of recent research, with special attention to the shortcomings of traditional measurement.

Fuentes, Carlos. *Terra Nostra*. Farrar. A fictional fusion of history and fantasy in graceful translation. This quixotic, erotic epic is as complex and breathtaking as the Spanish culture at its core.

García Márquez, Gabriel. *The Autumn of the Patriarch*. Harper. An extravagant account of the last days of a mythical dictator who ruled 200 years, sired 5,000 children, and died in squalor.

Gardner, John. *October Light*. Knopf. The fictional evocation of the value of endurance, dramatized through human conflicts on a Vermont farm and interlocked with excerpts from a melodramatic novel.

Glasser, Ronald J. *The Body Is the Hero*. Random. A readable explanation of the ways in which the body's defense mechanisms can organize either to protect or to work against our well-being.

Gramont, Sanche de. *The Strong Brown God: The Story of the Niger River*. Houghton. Cultures clash and blend along the River Niger in a vivid narrative of exploration, exploitation, and survival.

Green, Martin Burgess. *Children of the Sun: A Narrative of "Decadence" in England after 1918*. Basic Books. An examination of the generation which refused to follow its forebears' patterns of living and so created a brilliant new era in British life and art.

Guest, Judith. *Ordinary People*. Viking. The return of a young son from a mental hospital triggers reexamination and new awareness of family relationships. A first novel.

Gutman, Herbert G. *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925*. Pantheon. A landmark book that will bring about a reevaluation of the slave experience.

Haley, Alex. *Roots*. Doubleday. Epic story of Haley's heritage, traced back over seven generations to a small village in West Africa.

Hall, Edward T. *Beyond Culture*. Anchor/Doubleday. Demonstrates the dangers of applying one's own process of thought to civilizations with other customs and languages.

Harris, Richard. *Freedom Spent*. Little. Three case studies which show that even in America the legal and judicial systems will protect individual rights only if citizens remain determined and vigilant.

Howe, Irving. *World of Our Fathers*. Harcourt. A rich and varied evocation of Jewish immigrant experience at the turn of the century.

Jhabvala, Ruth Praver. *Heat and Dust*. Harper. The love affair of a contemporary Englishwoman in India echoes a romance which occurred a half century earlier. A novel.

Jury, Mark and Dan Jury. *Gramp*. Grossman/Viking. One family's decision to keep a dying grandfather at home results in this unflinchingly honest photographic essay.

Keegan, John. *The Face of Battle*. Viking. Three British victories, over a period of 500 years, are thoroughly examined in this original and brilliant work.

Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior: Memories of a Girlhood among Ghosts*. Knopf. A young American woman recounts memories and myths from her Chinese heritage in an effort to reconcile past and present cultures.

Kovic, Ron. *Born on the Fourth of July*. McGraw. An angry cry from the heart of a young man who went to Vietnam filled with youthful idealism and returned broken in body and spirit.

Lukas, J. Anthony. *Nightmare: The Underside of the Nixon Years*. Viking. Comprehensive, documented chronology of White House machinations from 1969 through 1974.

McNeill, William H. *Plagues and Peoples*. Anchor/Double-day. Stimulating theories based on the interaction between civilizations and disease organisms in world history.

Price, Richard. *Bloodbrothers*. Houghton. The summer of choice for an eighteen-year-old Italian-American is the focus of a vivid novel that embellishes the familiar family theme with dramatic intensity.

Rukeyser, Muriel. *The Gates: Poems*. McGraw-Hill. Select and varied poems, from political through sensual.

Sheehy, Gail. *Passages: Predictable Crises of Adult Life*. Dutton. Patterns of development common to many adults in our culture.

Smedley, Agnes. *Portraits of Chinese Women in Revolution*. Edited by Jan Mackinnon and Steve Mackinnon. Feminist Pr. Powerful descriptions of suffering and turmoil in the struggle for liberation. Written between 1928 and 1941.

Smith, Hedrick. *The Russians*. Quadrangle. Astute, eminently readable observations of Soviet lifestyles and attitudes in the early 1970s.

Spark, Muriel. *The Takeover*. Viking. The upper class gets its comeuppance in this sparkling, witty novel.

Toland, John. *Adolf Hitler*. Doubleday. Drawn from more than 250 interviews and available facts, including some previously unpublished. A basic work.

Trevor, William. *Angels at the Ritz and Other Stories*. Viking. Incidents and individuals spotlighted and explored with grace, accuracy, and humanity.

Tyler, Anne. *Searching for Caleb*. Knopf. A beautifully crafted novel in which Grandfather Peck and his grandson's wife break the traditions of four stultifying generations.

Updike, John. *Marry Me: A Romance*. Knopf. Four married suburbanites stumble into the pitfalls of conscience and inconvenience on the rocky roads of love.

Vidal, Gore. *1876: A Novel*. Random. Wickedly wise telescoping of the scandals and intrigues that marked America's presidential election in its centennial year.

Warner, William W. *Beautiful Swimmers: Watermen, Crabs and the Chesapeake Bay*. Atlantic-Little. A vivid and affectionately wrought description of the Chesapeake Bay area.

White, E. B. *Letters of E. B. White*. Collected and ed. by Dorothy Lobrano Guth. Harper. Clarity, candor, intelligence, and wit glow from the pages of what may prove to be White's autobiography.

Yates, Richard. *The Easter Parade: A Novel*. Delacorte/Lawrence. Tragic tale of two sisters who spend a lifetime seeking the love and security they were denied in childhood.

Yglesias, Helen. *Family Feeling*. Dial. A strong-willed woman struggles through the tangles of Jewish family relationships in a superbly written novel.



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