



NOTABLE
BOOKS



1977



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.

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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.

Berlant, Anthony and Mary Hunt Kahlenberg. *Walk in Beauty: The Navajo and Their Blankets*. New York Graphic Society/Little. Dramatically illustrated history of the Navajo's spirit and culture as expressed in the colors and patterns of their weaving.

Berryman, John. *Henry's Fate & Other Poems, 1967–1972*. Farrar. A posthumous collection that includes forty-five previously unpublished *Dream Songs*—further evidence of the poet's stunning mastery.

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.

Brain, Robert. *Kolonialagent*. Harper. A novel as fin-de-siècle diary reveals the arrogance and righteousness of the colonials who "civilized" Africa.

Caputo, Philip. *A Rumor of War*. Holt. Caputo's transformation from an idealistic marine into an accused murderer of civilians during the no-win war in Vietnam.

Cooper, Patricia and Norma Bradley Buford. *The Quilters: Women and Domestic Art*. Doubleday. Photographs of the quilts, the women, and their land enhance moving interviews with southwestern folk artists.

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

Drew, Elizabeth. *American Journal: The Events of 1976*. Random. Behind the headlines and on the sidelines of the Carter-Ford presidential race with a cool, capable journalist.

Emerson, Gloria. *Winners and Losers: Battles, Retreats, Gains, Losses and Ruins from a Long War*. Random. Interviews reinforce a reporter's perception of the Vietnam War's destructive effects.

Espy, Willard R. *Oysterville: Roads to Grandpa's Village*. Potter. Outstanding book design enriches this affectionate family history of the author's hometown on the Washington coast.

French, Marilyn. *The Women's Room*. Summit Books. How marriage, American suburban style, turned the wives of the fifties into the women of the seventies. A novel.

Gardner, John. *The Life and Times of Chaucer*. Knopf. A lively reconstruction of the poet and his age.

Gavin, Thomas. *King-kill*. Random. A rich and raw re-creation of the nineteenth-century medicine show and the hunchbacked genius who nightly manipulated the "Celebrated Automated Chess Player." A novel.

Gibbons, Boyd. *Wye Island: Outsiders, Insiders and Resistance to Change*. Johns Hopkins Univ. Pr. Microcosmic view of the universal dilemma of the conflict between developers and traditional land owners.

Hanley, James. *A Dream Journey*. Horizon. The dedication and despair, silences and sufferings of an artist and his wife. A novel of human need and dependence.

Harris, Marvin. *Cannibals and Kings: The Origins of Cultures*. Random. From stone age to energy crisis—stimulating reconsideration of many common theories.

Hennig, Margaret and Anne Jardim. *The Managerial Woman*. Anchor. A well-documented study of women in the corporate structure.

Herr, Michael. *Dispatches*. Knopf. Catches and conveys the devastating differences of the Vietnam conflict.

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.

Leakey, Richard E. and Roger Lewin. *Origins*. Dutton. "What New Discoveries Reveal about the Emergence of Our Species and Its Possible Future."

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

McCullough, David. *The Path between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal, 1870-1914*. Simon & Schuster. The conquest of tropical disease and tons of earth told as urgent social history.

McPhee, John. *Coming into the Country*. Farrar. Alaska's natural grandeur and unusual people observed by a thoughtful, stylish journalist who makes us see, hear, and think.

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.

Morante, Elsa. *History: A Novel*. Knopf. A neo-realist portrayal of war-ravaged Rome and its effect on one small family.

Morrison, Toni. *Song of Solomon*. Knopf. The son of a prosperous black midwestern family solves some old mysteries concerning his origins in a journey through the South. A novel.

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.

Packard, Vance. *The People Shapers*. Little. An alarming portrayal of behavioral engineers and their aim for surer control of the human race.

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

Sagan, Carl. *The Dragons of Eden: Speculations on the Evolution of Human Intelligence*. Random. Freewheeling and fascinating theories.

Sampson, Anthony. *The Arms Bazaar: From Lebanon to Lockheed*. Viking. A critical assessment of international munitions peddlers.

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.

Scott, Paul. *Staying On*. Morrow. An elderly British couple vainly attempts to maintain the Empire's traditions in India in this ironic novel of quiet failure.

Selzer, Richard. *Mortal Lessons: Notes on the Art of Surgery*. Simon & Schuster. Essays in a baroque style elevate the body's parts and the surgeon's arts to poetic ritual.

Shreve, Susan Richards. *A Woman Like That*. Atheneum. The psychological effect of a family murder warps the emotional life of a young woman. A novel.

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.

Theroux, Paul. *The Consul's File*. Houghton. Twenty short stories closely connected by place, character, and theme reveal the clash of cultures in absurd, comic, and poignant scenes.

Vidal, Gore. *Matters of Fact and Fiction: Essays 1973-1976*. Random. Sparkling literary and political pieces laced with wit and venom.

White, E. B. *Essays of E. B. White*. Harper. Vintage collection of the warmth and wisdom of one of the most loved American writers.

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.

Wright, Richard. *American Hunger*. Harper. A segment of autobiography illuminating those formative years (1927-36) when the "black boy" reacted to Chicago and the Communist party.

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