

Notable books

The Notable Books Council of the Reference and User Services Association (a division of the American Library Association) selected these titles for their significant contribution to the expansion of knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to readers. Visit their site for a complete listing.

Fiction ~ Non-fiction ~ Poetry

Fiction

2005

- **The Lemon Table** Julian Barnes
- **The Half Brother** Lars Saabye Christensen
- **Birds without wings** Louis de Bernières
- **I Sailed with Magellan** Stuart Dybek
- **The Swallows of Kabul** Yasmina Khadra
- **The Madonna of Excelsior** Zakes Mda
- **Cloud Atlas** David Mitchell
- **Runaway** Alice Munro
- **Popular Music from Vittula** Mikael Niemi
- **The Plot Against America** Philip Roth
- **Old School** Tobias Wolff

2004

- **Brick Lane** Monica Ali
- **The Inquisitor's Manual** Antonio Lobo Antunes
- **Any Human heart** William Boyd
- **Alva and Irva: The Twins who saved a city** Edward Carey
- **Brownsville: Stories** Oscar Casares
- **Curious incident of the dog in the night-time** Mark Haddon
- **The Kite runner** Khaled Hosseini
- **The Known world** Edward P. Jones
- **The Fortress of Solitude** Jonathan Lethem

- **Love** Toni Morrison
- **Star of the sea** Joseph O'Connor
- **Drinking coffee elsewhere** Z Z Packer
- **The Cave** Jose Saramago

2003

- **The Book of illusions** Paul Auster
- **Carmelo** Sandra Cisneros
- **The Shell collector** Anthony Doerr
- **Miniatures** Norah Labiner
- **Lovely green eyes** Arnost Lustig
- **Atonement** Ian McEwan
- **That they may face the rising sun** John McGahern (published in the U.S. as **By the lake**)
- **In Revere, in those days** Roland Merullo
- **Family matters** Rohinton Mistry
- **Rouse Up, O Young Men of the New Age!** Kenzaburo Oe
- **The Russian Debutante's handbook** Gary Shteyngart
- **God's fool** Mark Slouka

2002

- **True history of the Kelly Gang** Peter Carey
- **Among the missing** Dan Chaon
- **Samuel Johnson is indignant: stories** Lydia Davis
- **Erasure: a novel** Percival Everett
- **The Corrections** Jonathan Franzen
- **The Pickup** Nadine Gordimer
- **Island: the complete stories** Alistair MacLeod
- **Bucking the tiger** Bruce Olds
- **Austerlitz** W G Sebald
- **The Death of Vishnu** Manil Suri
- **Crooked river burning** Mark Winegardner

2001

- **The Blind Assassin** Margaret Atwood
- **Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay** Michael Chabon
- **Disgrace** J M Coetzee
- **Being Dead** Jim Crace
- **Last Samurai** Helen DeWitt
- **Delinquent Virgin** Laura Kalpakian
- **Truth and Bright Water** Thomas King
- **English Passengers** Matthew Kneale
- **Living to Tell** Antonya Nelson
- **Anil's Ghost** Michael Ondaatje
- **Scar Vegas** Tom Paine
- **White Teeth** Zadie Smith
- **The Quick and the Dead** Joy Williams

2000

- **Master Georgie** Beryl Bainbridge
- **The Hours** Michael Cunningham
- **The Country life** Rachel Cusk
- **A Star called Henry** Roddy Doyle
- **House of sand and fog** Andre Dubus
- **For the relief of unbearable urges** Nathan Englander
- **Waiting** Ha Jin
- **The Colony of unrequited dreams** Wayne Johnston
- **A Dangerous friend** Ward Just
- **A Gesture life** Chang-rae Lee
- **Motherless Brooklyn** Jonathan Letham
- **Henry of Atlantic City** Frederick Reuss

1999

- **Triage** Scott Anderson
- **Flanders** Patricia Anthony
- **The Voyage of the Narwhal** Andrea Barrett
- **Collection fictions** Jorge Luis Borges
- **The Coast of good intentions** Michael Byers
- **The Farming of bones** Edwidge Danticat
- **About a boy** Nick Hornby
- **Charming Billy** Alice McDermott
- **Birds of America** Lorrie Moore
- **I married a communist** Philip Roth
- **Beach boy** Ardashir Vakil

1998

- **Yo!** Julia Alvarez
- **Alias Grace** Margaret Atwood
- **The Jade peony** Wayson Choy
- **Reading in the dark** Seamus Deane
- **Cold Mountain** Charles Frazier
- **Aguero sisters** Cristina Garcia
- **The Wind-up bird chronicle** Haruki Murakami
- **The Wishbones** Tom Perrotta
- **News of the Spirit** Lee Smith
- **The Far Euphrates** Aryeh Lev Stollman
- **Blu's hanging** Lois-Ann Yamanaka

1997

- **Behind the Scenes at the Museum** Kate Atkinson
- **Ship Fever: Stories** Andrea Barrett
- **Drown** Junot Diaz
- **The Woman Who Walked into Doors** Roddy Doyle
- **Middle Son** Deborah Iida
- **A Fine Balance** Rohinton Mistry

- **Asking for Love and Other Stories** Roxana Robinson
- **Funny Boy** Shyam Selvadurai
- **Last Orders** Graham Swift
- **After Rain** William Trevor
- **The Night in Question: stories** Tobias Wolff

1996

- **The First Man** Albert Camus
- **The Point: stories** Charles D'Ambrosio
- **The Paperboy** Pete Dexter
- **The Unconsoled** Kazuo Ishiguro
- **Native Speaker** Chang-Rae Lee
- **All the Days and Nights** William Maxwell
- **Snow Angels** Stewart O'Nan
- **The Body Is Water** Julie Schumacher
- **Eveless Eden** Marianne Wiggins

1995

- **In the Time of the Butterflies** Julia Alvarez
- **The Birthday Boys** Beryl Bainbridge
- **Souls Raised from the Dead** Doris Betts
- **The End of Vandalism** Tom Drury
- **Scar Tissue** Michael Ignatieff
- **Ancestral Truths** Sara Maitland
- **Open Secrets** Alice Munro
- **The Bird Artist** Howard Norman
- **In the Lake of the Woods** Tim O'Brien
- **The Collected Stories** Grace Paley
- **The Grass Dancer** Susan Power
- **The Cage** Audrey Schulman

1994

- **In Troubled Waters** Beverly Coyle
- **The Virgin Suicides** Jeffrey Eugenides
- **A Lesson Before Dying** Ernest Gaines
- **The Pugilist at Rest** Thom Jones
- **Judge on Trial** Ivan Klima
- **Here's Your Hat, What's Your Hurry?** Elizabeth McCracken
- **Remembering Babylon** David Malouf
- **Wolf Whistle** Lewis Nordan
- **The Shipping News** E Annie Proulx
- **Nobody's Fool** Richard Russo
- **Montana, 1948** Larry Watson

1993

- **Leviathan** Paul Auster
 - **Before and After** Rosellen Brown
 - **A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain** Robert Olen Butler
 - **The Brothers K** David James Duncan
 - **Turtle Moon** Alice Hoffman
 - **Let the Dead Bury Their Dead and Other Stories** Randall Kenan
 - **All the Pretty Horses** Cormac McCarthy
 - **Billie Dyer and Other Stories** William Maxwell
 - **Small Spaces Between Emergencies** Alison Moore
 - **Jazz** Toni Morrison
 - **Bailey's Cafe** Gloria Naylor
 - **The English Patient** Michael Ondaatje
 - **A Thousand Acres** Jane Smiley
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Non-fiction

2005

- **Alexander Hamilton** Ron Chernow
- **One with Nineveh: Politics, Consumption, and the Human Future** Paul R. and Anne E. Ehrlich
- **Washington's Crossing** David Hackett Fischer
- **Pandora's Baby: How the First Test Tube Babies Sparked the Reproductive Revolution** Robin Marantz Henig,
- **Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib** Seymour M. Hersh
- **1968: The Year That Rocked the World** Mark Kurlansky
- **Outwitting History: How One Man Rescued a Million Books and Saved a Civilization** Aaron Lansky
- **Civil Wars: A Battle for Gay Marriage** David Moats
- **The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorists Attacks upon the United States** National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States
- **Sea of Glory: America's Voyage of Discovery: The U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842** Nathaniel Philbrick
- **The Ticket Out: Darryl Strawberry and the Boys of Crenshaw** Michael Sokolove
- **One Man's Castle: Clarence Darrow in Defense of the American Dream** Phyllis Vine

2004

- **Wrapped in rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston** Valerie Boyd
- **Naked in the Promised Land: A Memoir** Lillian Faderman
- **Beyond the River: The Untold story of the heroes of the Underground Railroad** Ann Hagedorn
- **Flat Broke with children: Women in the age of welfare reform** Sharon Hays
- **Mountains beyond mountains: The Quest of Dr Paul Farmer, a man who would cure the world** Tracy Kidder
- **Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling** Ross King
- **Under the banner of heaven: A Story of violent faith** Jon Krakauer

- **Random family: Love, drugs and coming of age in the Bronx** Adrian Nicole LeBlanc
- **Food Inc: Mendel to Monsanto - The Promises and perils of the biotech harvest** Peter Pringle
- **Monster of God: The Man-eating predator in the jungles of history and the mind** David Quammen
- **Krushshev: The Man and his era** William Taubman
- **Triangle: The Fire that changed America** David Von Drehle

2003

- **The Complete Works of Isaac Babel** Isaac Babel
- **Selected essays** John Berger
- **Blood Diamonds: tracing the deadly path of the world's most precious stones** Greg Campbell
- **Master of the Senate: The years of Lyndon Johnson vol. 3** Robert Caro
- **Complications: A Surgeon's notes on an imperfect science** Atul Gawande
- **Can't be satisfied: the life and times of Muddy Waters** Robert Gordon
- **Theodore Rex** Edmund Morris
- **Wilful murder: the sinking of the Lusitania** Diana Preston
- **Jesse James: Last rebel of the Civil War** T. J. Stiles
- **The Future of the past** Alexander Stille
- **The Future of life** Edward O. Wilson

2002

- **American Chica: Two worlds, one childhood** Marie Arana
- **Aztec treasure house: New and selected essays** Evan Connell
- **An Unexpected light: Travels in Afghanistan** Jason Elliot
- **War in a time of peace: Bush, Clinton and the generals** David Halberstam
- **Going up the river: Travels in a prison nation** Joseph T. Hallinan
- **River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze** Peter Hessler
- **Seabiscuit: an American legend** Laura Hillenbrand
- **The Breast cancer wars: Hope, fear & the pursuit of a cure in twentieth-century America** Barron H Lerner
- **Crossing over: A Mexican family on the Migrant Trail** Ruben Martinez
- **John Adams** David McCullough
- **Fast food nation: The Dark side of the All-American meal** Eric Schlosser
- **Grant** Jean Edward Smith
- **The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression** Andrew Solomon

2001

- **From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life, 1500 to the Present** Jacques Barzun
- **A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius** Dave Eggers
- **Barrow's Boys** Fergus Fleming
- **Collaborator: The Trial and Execution of Robert Brasillach** Alice Yaeger Kaplan
- **Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters** Matt Ridley
- **Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran** Elaine Sciolino
- **Bruce Chatwin** Nicholas Shakespeare
- **In Siberia** Colin Thubron

2000

- **Show Me a Hero: A Tale of Murder, Suicide, Race and Redemption** Lisa Belkin
- **Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War** Mark Bowden
- **Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II** John Dower
- **The Elegant Universe: Superstrings, Hidden Dimensions, and the Quest for the Ultimate Theory** Brian Greene
- **How to Read a Poem and Fall in Love with Poetry** Edward Hirsch
- **I Will Bear Witness: A Diary of the Nazi Years, 1933–1941** Victor Klemperer
- **Journey beyond Selene: Remarkable Expeditions Past Our Moon and to the Ends of the Solar System** Jeffrey Kluger
- **The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession** Susan Orlean
- **Passage to Juneau: A Sea and Its Meanings** Jonathan Raban
- **King of the World: Muhammad Ali and the Rise of an American Hero** David Remnick
- **A Clearing in the Distance: Frederick Law Olmsted and America in the Nineteenth Century** Witold Rybczynski
- **Vera (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov)** Stacy Schiff

1999

- **The Life of Thomas More** Peter Ackroyd
- **Lindbergh** A. Scott Berg
- **Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years, 1963-65** Taylor Branch
- **Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller** Ron Chernow
- **The Road to Ubar: Finding the Atlantis of the Sands** Nicholas Clapp
- **Articles of Faith: A Frontline History of the Abortion Wars** Cynthia Gorney
- **King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa** Adam Hochschild
- **Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea** Gary Kinder
- **A Beautiful Mind** Sylvia Nasar
- **A Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League** Ron Suskind

1998

- **T. Rex and the Crater of Doom** Walter Alvarez
- **All Over But the Shoutin'** Rick Bragg
- **Blood Rites: Origins & History of the Passions of War** Barbara Ehrenreich
- **A People's Tragedy: A History of the Russian Revolution** Orlando Figes
- **Next of Kin: What Chimpanzees Have Taught Me About Who We Are** Roger Fouts with Stephen Tukul Mills
- **Ornament and Silence: Essays on Women's Lives** Kennedy Fraser
- **The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea** Sebastian Junger
- **Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster** Jon Krakauer
- **American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence** Pauline Maier
- **Bad Land: An American Romance** Jonathan Raban
- **Utopia Parkway: The Life and Work of Joseph Cornell** Deborah Solomon
- **The River at the Center of the World: A Journey Up the Yangtze and Back in Chinese Time** Simon Winchester

Poetry

2005

- **The Collected Poetry of Nikki Giovanni, 1968-1998** Nikki Giovanni
- **Delights and Shadows** Ted Kooser

2004

- **Alabanza: New and Selected poems, 1982 - 2002** Martin Espada

2003

- **Poems Seven: New and complete poetry** Alan Dugan
- **The Painted bed** Donald Hall
- **Bellocq's Ophelia** Natasha Trethewey

2002

- **Sailing alone around the room** Billy Collins
- **What the ice gets: Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition 1914-1916** Melinda Mueller

2001

- **Beowulf: A New Translation** Seamus Heaney
- **Collected Poems of Stanley Kunitz** Stanley Kunitz
- **Learning Human: Selected Poems** Les Murray

2000

- **Opened Ground: Selected Poems 1966–1996** Seamus Heaney
- **Diasporadic** Patty Seyburn

1999

- **Sweet Machine** Mark Doty
- **Without** Donald Hall
- **Tales from Ovid** Ted Hughes
- **After All: Last Poems** William Matthews

1998

- **Primate Behavior** Sarah Lindsay
- **What Are Big Girls Made Of?** Marge Piercy
- **The Bounty** Derek Walcott