

# Longman Dictionary of 20th Century Biography

*Consultant editor*  
Asa Briggs

*Editors*  
Alan Isaacs  
Elizabeth Martin

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## Foreword

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'No great man lives in-vain', wrote Thomas Carlyle. 'The history of the world is but the biography of great men.' 'History', he wrote elsewhere, 'is the essence of innumerable biographies.' Carlyle's American contemporary Ralph Waldo Emerson went further. For him there was 'properly no history, only biography'.

In the late twentieth century, there are few people, including historians, who would assent to these confident nineteenth-century assertions. The history of the world seems to cover much else. A currently more acceptable, if equally debatable, assertion would be that all history is social history.

At the same time, there are tendencies in the twentieth century to underplay the role of individual personality in history, to concentrate on collecting statistics, and to search for and, if possible, to identify what have recently been called 'megatrends'. Many writers, including biographers, have also challenged the view that any men – or women – can be 'great'. Schools of literary critics have demanded 'the total absence of biographical consideration'.

Biography is not dead, however, and biographies sell in large numbers. So long as there is curiosity about human beings, including those who made – or appeared to be making – decisions, biography will remain alive even when there are attempts to suppress it.

The new *Longman Dictionary of 20th Century Biography* is a work not of investigation or of interpretation but of reference, and, as such, it is conceived on new lines. It includes biographies of individuals from different countries and cultures who have contributed to thought as well as to action. It breaks, therefore, with traditions of 'national biography' and it covers very varied aspects of human achievement. As communication and information have spread and as the world has shrunk, the scenario has changed. There is a need, therefore, for a new reference system. It must be reliable, however, and this is the main criterion of all the entries in this *Dictionary*, each of which is written in plain, unpretentious prose.

Of course, since the number of entries has to be restricted and the choices are many, the task of selection carries with it an inevitable element of interpretation. Names are bound to be missing for which there can be – and will be – extremely strong claims. There are always people who never figured in *Who's Whos* who figure in historical biographies and there are many people in *Who's Whos* who disappear from history altogether. The people who are included in this *Dictionary*, however, are people about whom it is useful at this point late in the twentieth century to be able to have easily accessible biographical information.

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How many of them will figure in twenty-first century dictionaries of biography is a different question. Time changes estimates of people as well as events. It will be interesting too, to see how many of the people who are still children in the late stages of this century will figure prominently there. The youngest figures in this *Dictionary* have already accomplished enough to merit assessment.

The biographical information in this *Dictionary* – about, for example, national backgrounds, education and sex as well as age – itself lends to further compartmentalization. That will only be one element, however, in the future writing of twentieth-century history. The range of personal qualities displayed (or sometimes hidden) by the characters in this *Dictionary* is as wide as it was in any previous period of history, and historians will have to consider their impact. They will have to consider also the relations, where they existed, between the different people described in these pages, including thinkers and 'men of action', for thought and action cannot be compartmentalised and biographies do not run in parallel. They intersect.

Asa Briggs  
Worcester College, Oxford, May 1985

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## Preface

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The object of this biographical dictionary is to provide, in a compact and readable form, a brief outline of the lives of the twentieth-century men and women from all parts of the world who have had an impact, either directly or indirectly, on the lives of the rest of us.

In selecting the 1700 or so subjects of this dictionary we started from the premise that we would exclude any one who died before the turn of the century or who had not been active for at least part of their life in this century. We were anxious to include those who have made their mark in the fields of sport and popular entertainment, as well as the world's great thinkers, creators, and men and women of action. Sex, colour, creed, or language, were, of course, not in any way criteria for or against entry. In practice, the task of selection became a three-tier operation. At the top of the cake the entrants virtually selected themselves: Chaplin, Churchill, Einstein, Hitler, Picasso, Rachmaninov, and Shaw tower to such heights in achievement or notoriety that their inclusion requires no feat of judgment. Others, a middle tier, are obligatory entrants because of the offices they hold: the Queen, the Pope, the president of the USA. However, the subjects forming the third and largest tier had to be selected individually from the ranks of the famous and infamous. At this level, each field of human endeavour had to be investigated to make the selection. In practice this cannot be done impartially because all of us are to some extent ignorant and prejudiced. The editors can only claim to have been aware of these frailties and to have done their best in spite of them.

In the entries themselves, we have attempted to provide a sketch of the family background and education of the subject, followed by a description of the events that have brought them to fame or infamy, and a summary of their achievements or misdemeanours. Private lives are mentioned if they are relevant, but gossip has been excluded.

If a name is set in small capitals in an entry, it means that the person referred to has an entry in the dictionary. The titles of works of non-English-speaking writers are given in their original language with the date of publication; if an English translation has been published, the title and date of publication of the translated version are also given. Occasionally a translation of a foreign title is provided (in inverted commas) even if the work has not been published in translation.

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## A

**Aalto, (Hugo) Alvar (Henrik)**  
(1898-1976)

*Finnish architect and designer, whose early neoclassical style changed in the late 1920s to the international modern, in such buildings as the Viipuri library and the MIT hall of residence.*

Born in Kuortane, Aalto studied at the Helsinki Technical University and in 1938 went to the USA, where he taught at MIT and the Cambridge College of Architecture in Massachusetts. After World War II he returned to Finland and carried on an international practice.

His typically Scandinavian buildings include the Viipuri library (1927-35), the Paimio convalescent home (1929-33), the town hall at Saynatsalo (1951), and the Finlandia Concert Hall in Helsinki (1971), his last building. Outside Scandinavia his important buildings include the MIT hall of residence (1947) and the Maison Carré near Paris (1956-58), which he finished with his own bentwood furniture, which he had first designed in 1932.

**Abbas, Ferhat** (1899- )

*Algerian nationalist leader who became an active member of the National Liberation Front (FLN), although he sought to achieve Algerian independence by parliamentary means.*

Born in Taher, the son of a Muslim civil servant, Abbas attended French schools in Philippeville and Constantine before studying at the University of Algiers. He briefly served in the French army before working as a chemist in Sétif. Abbas first became actively involved in politics in 1938, when he helped to organize the Union Populaire Algérienne (Algerian People's Union), an organization advocating equal rights for the Algerians and French under French colonial rule together with the maintenance of the Algerian language and culture. In 1943 he published the 'Manifesto of the Algerian People', calling for an autonomous Algerian state; in the following year he founded the Amis du Manifeste et de la Liberté (Friends of the Manifesto and Liberty) and in 1946 established and led the Union Démocratique du Manifeste Algérien (Democratic Union of the Algerian Manifesto). For the next nine years he attempted to cooperate with the French in setting up an Algerian state, being elected to both the French constituent assembly and the Algerian assembly. In 1956, despairing of any progress, he joined the Front de Libération Nationale (FLN) in the hope of securing Algerian independence by revolution. He was elected president of the provi-

sional government of the Algerian republic (based in Tunisia) in 1958, and in 1962, when Algeria finally gained independence after a bitter struggle with France, he became president of the constituent assembly. He was expelled from the FLN in 1963 for opposing its proposed constitution, drawn up without the participation of the constituent assembly, and was held in detention by the newly elected president, BEN BELLA.

Abbas has written several books, including *Le Jeune Algérien* (1931), *La Nuit coloniale* (1963), and *Autopsie d'une guerre* (1980).

**Abdul Rahman, Tunku** (1903- )

*First prime minister of Malaya (1957-63) and of Malaysia (1963-70). A skilled negotiator, he was one of the architects of modern Malaysia.*

Born in Alor Star, the son of a former sultan of Kedah, Abdul Rahman was educated at schools in Malaya and Thailand before attending Cambridge University, where he graduated in 1925. He studied law at the Inner Temple in London but failed the bar exams. On his return to Malaya in 1931 he became a district officer in the civil service. After World War II he returned to London and qualified as a barrister (1949).

Abdul Rahman began his political career in 1945, when he was one of the founders of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO); in 1951 he was elected president of the organization. In this role he formed a coalition with the Malayan-Chinese Association (1952) and the Malayan Indian Congress (1955), which became the Alliance Party. As leader of the Alliance Party he was involved in negotiations for the independence of Malaya (1957) and became the first Malayan prime minister. In order to resist the claims of SUKARNO of Indonesia, Abdul Rahman also founded the Association of Southeast Asia (1961), which later became the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In 1963 he played a major role in the creation of the federation of Malaysia (comprising Malaya, Singapore, North Borneo, and Sarawak), becoming its prime minister with a resounding victory at the polls. Despite Singapore's withdrawal from the federation in 1965 and domestic agitation over his policy concerning the Indian and Chinese minorities, he remained in power until 1971, when he retired.

Abdul Rahman is also a writer of some note and has had several of his works published. They include the play *Mahsuri* (1941; filmed 1958), and *Looking Back* (1977), an autobiography and history of Malaysia.

**Abercrombie, Sir (Leslie) Patrick**

(1879-1957).

*British town planner and architect, who is known for*



his postwar *The Greater London Plan*. He was knighted in 1945.

Born in Ashton-upon-Mersey, he was educated at Liverpool University, where he became professor of civic design (1915-35). He then moved to University College, London, where he was professor of town planning from 1935 to 1946. He won the 1913 competition for replanning Dublin and wrote the standard prewar textbook *Town and Country Planning* (1933). His first London plan, *The County of London Plan* (with J. H. Forshaw; 1943), was extended in 1944, with the help of a team of specialists, to *The Greater London Plan*, which was influential in planning the transport, population distribution, industry, green belt, and other amenities of Greater London. He prepared plans for other UK towns and regions including Edinburgh, Plymouth, Hull, Bath, Bristol, Sheffield, Bournemouth, and the West Midlands.

### Achebe, Chinua (1930- )

Nigerian novelist and poet of Ibo descent.

Born in Ogidi, in eastern Nigeria, the son of a mission teacher, Achebe was educated at the University College of Ibadan. In 1954 he joined the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation and in 1961 became director of external broadcasting. During this period he wrote the four novels that won him international acclaim: *Things Fall Apart* (1958), *No Longer at Ease* (1960), *Arrow of God* (1964), and *A Man of the People* (1966). All four focus on the moral and practical dilemmas of Africans caught up in the disorientating clash between western values and traditional lifestyles, and have been translated into many languages. Leaving broadcasting, Achebe taught at the University of Nigeria at Nsukka (1967-72), and followed this by a spell in the USA before returning to Nsukka as professor of English. He published a book of poems, *Beware Soul Brother*, in 1972 and won the Commonwealth Poetry Prize the same year. He has also published short stories on traditional African themes. In 1979 he was awarded the Order of the Federal Republic.

### Acheson, Dean Gooderham (1893-1971)

US lawyer and statesman who became secretary of state (1949-53) under President Harry S. TRUMAN.

Acheson was born into a wealthy patrician family in Middletown, Connecticut, and studied at Yale and at Harvard law school. After a spell with the US navy during World War I, he was selected from his class of law graduates to serve as assistant to Louis Brandeis (1856-1941), judge of the Supreme Court. He entered politics in 1933, as undersecretary of the Treasury in

ROOSEVELT's administration, and in 1941 became an assistant secretary in the State Department. In 1945, the year in which Truman became president of the USA, he rose to the office of under-secretary of state.

In 1947 Acheson played an important role in the development of the Truman Doctrine, which pledged support to Greece and Turkey, and of the MARSHALL Plan, which offered economic aid to war-devastated Europe - two moves that marked a significant turning point in US foreign policy. During his first year as secretary of state to President Truman, Acheson was instrumental in the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In his dealings with the Far East, however, he met with mounting resistance from Republican members of Congress, and his staunch defence of the State Department against MCCARTHY's accusations of espionage and subversion led to widespread denunciation. The situation was exacerbated by the apparent exclusion of Korea from US protection in Asia and the subsequent outbreak of the Korean War. A resolution was passed in December 1950 calling for Acheson's resignation; with President Truman's support he remained in office but found himself obliged to make concessions to Congress in order to gain support for his foreign policies.

Shortly after the election of President EISENHOWER in 1952, Acheson left the State Department and returned to his law practice. He retained his interest in foreign affairs, however, and served as adviser to subsequent Democratic presidents, notably John F. KENNEDY. In 1969 he published a book of memoirs of his years with the State Department, *Present at the Creation*, which won the 1970 Pulitzer Prize in history.

### Adamov, Arthur (1908-70)

Russian-born French dramatist, one of the most prominent exponents of the Theatre of the Absurd.

Adamov was born into a wealthy Armenian family in Kislovodsk; at the age of four he moved with his family to Germany. Having completed his education in Paris, he settled there in 1924 and became involved with surrealist groups, editing their journal *Discontinuité* and writing poetry. In 1938 he had a nervous breakdown; the neuroses that had plagued him since childhood and that were to form the bizarre inspiration for many of his plays are revealed in his confessional work *L'Aveu* (1946).

Adamov began writing for the theatre in 1947. He sought to express the loneliness and helplessness of man and the futility of any quest for the meaning of life. In *La Parodie*, first performed in the early 1950s, the central characters bombard each other with questions about time against the background of a clock with no

hands. *L'Invasion* (1950), *La grande et la petite manoeuvre* (1950), *Tous contre tous* (1953), and *Le Professeur Taranne* (1953) depict in nightmarish images the cruelty of social conventions and pressures and were influenced by Antonin ARTAUD's Theatre of Cruelty.

In the mid-1950s Adamov turned to a more political style of drama, beginning with his best-known play, *Le Ping-Pong* (1955). The central image of the play, a pinball machine in an amusement arcade, is a symbol of the capitalist system to which men willingly submit in an endless futile game of chance. After *Paslo Paoli* (1957) Adamov's plays became increasingly radical: *Le Printemps 71* (1961), about the Paris Commune, *La Politique des rêves* (1963), and *Off Limits* (1969) are laced with Marxist propaganda. Adamov committed suicide in 1970.

#### Adams, Ansel Easton (1902-84)

US photographer, noted for memorable images of his native landscape and his valuable contributions to the development of photographic techniques.

The son of a San Francisco businessman, Adams developed an abiding love of the natural world as a result of trips to the Sierra Nevada and the Yosemite National Park. He began taking photographs at the age of fourteen and joined the Sierra Club, an organization devoted to conservation and education. Adams's first ambition was to be a concert pianist but in 1927 he published his first portfolio of photographs, *Parmelian Prints of the High Sierras*. In 1930 he met the photographer Paul Strand (1890-1976) and was struck by the sharpness and detail of Strand's work, which contrasted with the soft-focus impressionistic style then fashionable. In 1932 Adams and several fellow photographers, including Edward Weston (1866-1958), formed an informal group known as 'f. 64'. Their work was characterized by the use of large-format cameras and small apertures to produce sharp images with maximum depth of field. In the 1930s, Adams began teaching photographic techniques: the plates in his book *Making A Photograph* (1935) exemplify his superb technical skill. The celebrated photographer Alfred STEIGLITZ arranged Adams's first one-man show in New York in 1936. Adams was instrumental in establishing a department of photography at New York's Museum of Modern Art in 1940, and in 1946 he founded one of the first academic photography departments - at the California School of Fine Arts.

In 1937, Adams moved his home to the Yosemite Valley, to the landscape that is the subject of much of his work. His images testify to his passion for conserving the wilderness and many of his collections have been published by the Sierra Club, including *This is the American*

*Earth* (1960), with text by Nancy Newhall. Although working mainly in the American West, Adams also photographed in Alaska and Hawaii and took still lifes, architectural studies, and portraits.

#### Adams, Richard George (1920- )

British novelist.

Adams was educated at Bradfield College, Berkshire, and Worcester College, Oxford, from which he graduated with a degree in modern history. Towards the end of a career in the civil service (1948-74) Adams wrote *Watership Down* (1972), which won him the Carnegie Medal and became an international best-seller; it was filmed in 1978. Ostensibly a children's book about a rabbit colony, *Watership Down* contains epic and narrative elements that appeal also to an adult readership. It was followed by *Shantih* (1974) and *The Plague Dogs* (1977; filmed 1982), the latter a disturbing indictment of the use of animals in research laboratories. His other books include the novels *The Girl in a Swing* (1980) and *Mais* (1984) and a collection of short stories, *The Iron Wolf* (1980).

#### Adenauer, Konrad (1876-1967)

German statesman and first chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany (1949-63).

Born in Cologne, the son of a clerk, Adenauer was educated at Freiburg, Munich, and Bonn universities, before practising law in Cologne. Entering municipal politics in 1906, he was elected deputy mayor of Cologne in 1909 and lord mayor in 1917, the same year in which he became a Centre Party member of the Provincial Diet and Prussian State Council (of which he was chairman from 1920 to 1933). In 1933 he was dismissed from all these offices by GOERING because of his opposition to the Nazi regime, for which he was twice imprisoned (in 1934 and 1944).

In 1945, under Allied occupation, Adenauer was reinstated as lord mayor of Cologne. Co-founding the Christian Democratic Union the same year, he became chairman in 1946 and was elected as the first chancellor of the Federal Republic in 1949, being re-elected in 1953, 1957, and 1961. He retired in 1963 at the age of eighty-seven.

Known affectionately as 'der Alte' ('the Old Fellow') by the German public, Adenauer gained respect and popularity as a result of the political and economic transformation West Germany achieved under his leadership following World War II. He was an advocate of strengthening political and economic ties within the western bloc through NATO and the Common Market, but was criticized for his restraint during the

construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961. He was made an honorary fellow of the Weizman Institute of Science, Israel, in 1966 and granted the freedom of the cities of Bonn and Cologne on his seventy-fifth birthday.

### Adler, Alfred (1870-1937)

*Austrian; psychiatrist who founded a school of thought based on the psychology of the individual and introduced the concept of the inferiority feeling (later called inferiority complex).*

Adler qualified in medicine from the University of Vienna Medical School in 1895 and practised ophthalmology before taking up psychiatry. Initially he was a prominent member of FREUD's circle of psychoanalysts, but differences in their ideas became evident early in the association. In 1907 Adler first put forward the idea that people attempt to compensate psychologically for physical disabilities and the feelings of inferiority that they produce; an inability to compensate adequately causes neurosis and mental illness. He disagreed with Freud that mental illness was caused by sexual conflicts in infancy and confined the role of sexuality to a small part in the greater striving to overcome feelings of inferiority.

By 1911, his break with Freud was complete and he and his followers formed their own school to develop the ideas of individual psychology, maintaining that an individual's main motive is to seek perfection in order to achieve superiority and overcome feelings of inadequacy. Adler's methods of psychotherapy were supportive and aimed to encourage good human relationships and greater social interest, thus helping patients who were emotionally disabled by their inferiority feelings to become mature and socially useful. In 1921 Adler founded the first child guidance clinic in Vienna and went on to establish many more.

### Adler, Larry (Lawrence Adler; 1914- )

*US harmonica player.*

Born in Baltimore, Adler won a talent competition at the age of thirteen by playing a Beethoven minuet on what had hitherto been regarded as a musical toy. He thereafter elevated the instrument to concert-hall status by means of his astonishing virtuosity and musicality. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, MALCOLM ARNOLD, DAVID MILHAUD, and PAUL HINEMITH have all written works for him and his reputation is worldwide. Adler himself has also written film scores, including *Germany* (1954), for which he played in the sound track.

With other show-business personalities, he was blacklisted by the American entertainment industry after 1949 for his alleged left-wing sym-

pathies. Since then he has lived for many years in England, where he has created a second career for himself as a journalist and writer.

### Adorno, Theodor Wiesengrund

(Theodor Wiesengrund; 1903-69)

*German philosopher and sociologist, a leading member of the Frankfurt school.*

Born in Frankfurt, the son of a Jewish wine merchant, he took his mother's maiden name, Adorno, during World War I. He was educated at the University of Frankfurt and went on to study musical composition in Vienna under ALBAN BERG before returning to Frankfurt to teach. Banned from teaching by the Nazis in 1933, Adorno spent three unhappy years in Oxford before moving in 1938 to the USA. He first worked in New York but in 1941, with his Frankfurt colleagues HORKHEIMER and MARCUSE, moved to California. Although Adorno produced much of his best work during his stay in the USA, he was keen to return to Europe, and when the University of Frankfurt announced plans to reopen the Institute for Social Research in 1949 Adorno willingly agreed to serve with HORKHEIMER as its joint director.

With HORKHEIMER he had earlier written *Die Dialektik der Aufklärung* (1947; translated as *Dialectic of the Enlightenment*, 1972), in which they argued that the rationalism of the Enlightenment had led not only to the domination of nature but also of man. The crucial weapon of this enslavement had been the concept of reason itself. There thus seemed to Adorno to be an inevitable oppression in any form of philosophical theorizing. Marxism could not be exempted from this general complaint, nor could science. The only remedy, Adorno proposed in his *Negative Dialektik* (1966; translated as *Negative Dialectics*, 1972), was the systematic and conscious rejection of all theories. Adorno's views were seized upon and adopted by the student revolutionaries of the 1960s.

Adorno also wrote extensively on problems of aesthetics and music.

### Adrian, Edgar Douglas, 1st Baron

(1889-1977)

*British neurophysiologist, whose work on the electrical properties of the nervous system earned him the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1932. He received the OM in 1942 and the title Baron Adrian of Cambridge in 1955.*

Born in London, Adrian graduated in medicine from Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1915. After serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps during World War I, he returned to Cambridge University, becoming professor of physiology (1937), master of Trinity College (1951-65),

and ultimately chancellor of the University (1968-75). His early research centred on measuring and recording the electrical impulses in the nervous system. Using very fine electrodes and amplification equipment, he managed to record impulses from single nerve fibres and showed how the frequency of electrical discharges was the basic method of signalling in both sensory and motor nerve cells. In 1934 Adrian turned his attention to the electrical activity of the brain, recording and analysing the various wave patterns and contributing greatly to the newly founded technique of electroencephalography.

Adrian was president of the Royal Society (1950-55). His books include *The Basis of Sensation* (1927), *The Mechanism of Nervous Action* (1932), and *The Physical Background of Perception* (1947).

### **Aga Khan III** (Sultan Sir Mohammed Shah; 1877-1957)

*Imam (leader) of the Nizari branch of the Ismaili sect from 1885, who was a prominent leader of the Muslim communities in India.*

Of Persian descent, he was born in Karachi (then in India) and was educated in three traditions - the Islamic, oriental, and western. In 1906 the Aga Khan led a Muslim deputation to the British Viceroy of India, Lord Minto (1845-1914), a meeting that influenced the provision in the subsequent Morley-Minto reforms (1909) for separate Muslim electorates in India. The Aga Khan was then president of the All-India Muslim League for the first three years of its existence (1906-09). Always committed to friendship with Britain (he became a member of the Privy Council in 1934), in World War I he urged his followers to give their support to the Allies. He later played an important part in the Round Table conferences (1930-32) on the future Indian constitution. He also represented India at the World Disarmament Conference at Geneva (1932) and at the League of Nations (1932-37), becoming president of the League in 1937. During World War II, owing mainly to ill-health, he withdrew from politics. He was a breeder of thoroughbred horses, and his stables produced five Derby winners. He was married four times.

### **Aiken, Howard Hathaway** (1900-73) *US mathematician and pioneer of the modern computer.*

Born in Hoboken, New Jersey, Aiken was educated at the universities of Harvard, Wisconsin, and Chicago. After some time in industry with the Madison Gas and Engineering Company and with Westinghouse, Aiken returned in 1939 to

Harvard, where he became professor of applied mathematics and, from 1946 until his retirement in 1961, director of the computation laboratory. In the late 1930s Aiken worked on the design of a fully automatic computer. It was a mechanical device depending for its operation on the use of punched cards. Completed in 1944, with the help of IBM, and known as the ASCC (Automatic Sequence Controlled Calculator), or the Harvard Mark I, it was the world's first automatic digital computer. Its lifespan was extremely short, however. As a mechanical device with moving parts it was too much a machine of the past, despite its speed and power. In the following year, Aiken's ASCC was made obsolete with the appearance of ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator), the world's first electronic computer.

### **Alain-Fournier** (Henri-Alban Fournier; 1886-1914)

*French novelist.*

Born in the rural village of La Chapelle-d'Angillon, Cher, where his father was a schoolteacher, Alain-Fournier was educated at the local school and subsequently in Paris. After his military service (1907-09) he became a journalist, writing literary columns. He was killed in action in 1914, at the first Battle of the Marne.

Alain-Fournier completed just one novel in his short lifetime: *Le Grand Meaulnes* (1913; translated as *The Lost Domain*, 1959). Based in part on the author's own experience, it centres on the young hero's search for a beautiful girl he met by chance at a party in a dilapidated country house. The pervading atmosphere is one of nostalgia, powerfully evoked in Alain-Fournier's prose, as Meaulnes yearns for his lost world of enchantment. The setting of the novel, the familiar countryside of Alain-Fournier's childhood, is also realistically and vividly depicted.

At his untimely death in 1914 Alain-Fournier left manuscripts of poetry and short stories, collected in *Miracles* (1924); a second unfinished novel, *Colombe Blanchet*; and letters to his close friend and future brother-in-law, published posthumously as *Correspondance avec Jacques Rivière* (1948).

### **Albee, Edward Franklin** (1928- )

*US dramatist whose success in the commercial theatre in the 1960s was followed by more experimental less accessible, works.*

Albee was born in Washington, DC, and educated at Columbia University. His first play, *The Zoo Story*, was staged in Berlin in 1959 with Samuel BECKETT's *Krapp's Last Tape*, an association that led Albee to be mistakenly classed as a

## Albers, Joseph

Theatre of the Absurd writer. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1962; filmed 1966), probably his most popular play, clarified the playwright's position as social critic, whose main concern was to emphasize the importance of human relationships in the face of destructive materialism. Subsequent plays, such as *Tiny Alice* (1965) and *A Delicate Balance* (1966), demonstrated his increasing preoccupation with abstract issues and are generally considered less successful. He has also dramatized works of fiction, including Carson McCullers's *Ballad of the Sad Café* (1963) and Giles Cooper's *Everything in the Garden* (1968). The obscurity of *Box*, *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse Tung* (both 1968), and *Seascape* (1975) reflect the playwright's view of life in which reality has lost all meaning. Despite various criticisms, however, and the inaccessibility of his later highly experimental work, Albee's mastery of language and dramatic technique has never been disputed; he is regarded as a major dramatist in the US theatre.

## Albers, Joseph (1888–1976)

German-born US painter, designer, and influential teacher of art.

Before 1920 Albers divided his time between teaching and art studies. He then entered the newly created Bauhaus school, which aimed at the union of all the arts with modern architecture and with industry. When Albers began to teach there three years later, it had become the most important school of design in Germany. At the Bauhaus, Albers rejected the emotional self-expression and representational style of his early work in favour of constructivist art built up by intellectual calculation and the use of simple geometric forms. The glass pictures and windows that he created represented careful investigation into the relationships of line, colour, and shape. He also designed utility objects and furniture, including the first laminated chair for mass production.

When the Nazis closed the Bauhaus in 1933, Albers moved to the USA, where he spread Bauhaus ideas through his teaching at Black Mountain College. From 1950 to 1958 he was chairman of the department of architecture and design at Yale University. Here he began the long series of paintings and lithographs for which he is best known: *Homage to the Square*. Of all geometric forms Albers preferred the square for its non-natural man-made quality. The works in this series consist of superimposed squares of colour and reflect his preoccupation with the interaction of colours. This work and his creation of visual ambiguities and illusions by the juxtaposition of colours anticipated op art.

## Alberti, Rafael (1902– )

Spanish poet.

Born near Cádiz into a formerly well-to-do family, Alberti was educated at a local Jesuit college. His position as a charity student left a bitterness that may have contributed to his later allegiance to Marxism. Although his first interest was painting, in 1923 he started writing verse and his first volume, *Marinero en tierra* (1925), was awarded the National Prize for Literature in 1924 while it was still in manuscript. This was followed by two other volumes (*La amante*, 1926; *Cal y canto*, 1927), written in traditional Spanish forms of ballad, tercet, etc. In these early books the subject is mainly the idyllic world of his youth; the memory and recovery of an ideal unspoiled world was indeed to remain the dominant theme of much of his more mature work, even in its more political and committed phase. His fifth volume, usually considered his greatest, was *Sobre los ángeles* (1929; translated as *Concerning the Angels*, 1967). The result of an intense personal crisis that affected him both emotionally and physically, the book breaks with the traditional forms of his previous poems and uses a longer flexible line in a frequently surrealistic rendering of the 'angels' (representing internal states, such as jealousy).

In 1931 Alberti became involved in anti-monarchical activities and two years later proclaimed his commitment to revolution and the Communist Party; his subsequent work in the 1930s (for example *Consignas*, 1933) reflects his political engagement. His plays written at this time, such as *Fernán Galán* (1931), were less successful than his poetry. With the overthrow of the Republic in 1937 he went into exile, living mainly in Argentina (until 1963) and then in Rome, returning to Spain in 1977. He campaigned for a seat in the Cortes – reading his poetry rather than making political speeches – and was elected as Communist representative for Cádiz. After a few months, however, he resigned to devote himself entirely to his work. During his long exile Alberti confirmed his position as Spain's most important politically committed poet and produced a substantial body of work that gradually won international recognition. He was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize in 1967. Among his many volumes are *Retornos de lo vivo lejano* (1952), the autobiographical *La arboleda perdida* (2 vols, 1959; translated as *The Lost Grove*, 1978), poems on painting entitled *A la pintura* (illustrated edition, 1968), and *Alberti al cual* (1978), poems written and recited during his political campaign. *Selected Poems* (1966) was edited and translated by Ben Bellitt.

### Alcock, Sir John William (1892–1919)

British aviator who, in 1919 with Arthur Brown (1886–1948), achieved the first nonstop transatlantic flight. Both men received knighthoods in recognition of their success.

Alcock was born in Manchester, the son of a horse dealer, and worked at the Empress motor works in Manchester as an apprentice before going to Brooklands airfield as an aircraft mechanic. He received his aviator's licence in November 1912 and worked for the Sunbeam company as a test pilot until the outbreak of World War I. He served as an instructor in the Royal Naval Air Service before flying on bombing raids in the eastern Mediterranean. In September 1917 he was forced to ditch in the sea while heading for a raid on Constantinople (now Istanbul) and Alcock and his crew were captured and imprisoned for the duration of the war. He left the RAF in March 1919, having been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry. The prize of £10,000 offered by the *Daily Mail* before the war for the first nonstop transatlantic flight still stood. Vickers provided Alcock with a modified twin-engined Vimy biplane for his attempt. With Arthur Brown, a fellow aviator who acted as navigator on the flight, he took off from Newfoundland at 1.58 pm local time (4.13 pm GMT) on 14 June 1919. They encountered bad weather conditions, lost radio contact, and, abandoning their original intention of flying to London, landed in a bog at Clifden, Galway, at 8.25 am GMT after a flight lasting 16 hrs 28 mins. Their success was recognized throughout the world as heralding the era of long-distance air travel. But Alcock was not to see it. On 18 December 1919, in spite of bad weather, he set out from Brooklands to deliver a Vickers Viking amphibious plane to Paris. He crash-landed near Rouen and was fatally injured.

### Aldington, Richard (Edward Godfree Aldington; 1892–1962)

British writer, the author or editor of over two hundred books in different genres.

Forced to leave University College, London, for financial reasons, Aldington determined upon a literary career. He quickly established his reputation as a poet, becoming a prominent figure in the literary life of London. Through Ezra Pound he met the US poet Hilda Doolittle (H.D.; 1886–1961), whom he married in 1913. These three originated the imagist movement in poetry, favouring new rhythms, common speech, clear imagery, and freedom of choice of subject-matter; Aldington's first collection, *Images 1910–1915*, was published in 1915.

Aldington suffered the effects of gas and shell shock in World War I. After the war, now separated from H.D., he lived for some time in a cottage lent to him by D. H. LAWRENCE. Nonetheless he continued active as poet, critic, and translator, and became assistant editor of T. S. ELIOT's journal *The Criterion* in 1921.

Increasingly alienated from English life, Aldington went abroad in 1928 and never again lived for long in his native country. His powerful anti-war novel, *Death of a Hero* (1929), was an international best-seller, being particularly acclaimed in the USSR. It was followed by *The Colonel's Daughter* (1931), which satirized English village life, and *All Men are Enemies* (1933).

Between 1935 and 1947 Aldington lived mainly in the USA. Besides doing the writer's obligatory stint in Hollywood (1942–46), he published his autobiography (*Life for Life's Sake*, 1941), a well-received biography of Wellington, and numerous editions and anthologies. In 1947 he returned permanently to France. His most notable – and often violently controversial – books in his last years were biographies of D. H. Lawrence (1950), Norman Douglas (1954), T. E. LAWRENCE (1955), and Frédéric Mistral (1956).

### Aleksandrov, Pavel Sergeevich (1896–1982)

Russian mathematician, who was a leading member of the Moscow school of topology.

Born in Bodorodsk, Aleksandrov graduated from Moscow University in 1917. He joined the faculty in 1921 and in 1929 was appointed to the chair of mathematics. He planned, in collaboration with the Swiss mathematician H. Hopf, to produce a definitive multi-volume topological treatise. Only the first volume, *Topologie I* (1935), was published. It was nonetheless extremely influential and did much to encourage the development of the Moscow school of topology. Aleksandrov's own work, initially in set-theoretic topology, later moved into the field of algebraic topology.

### Alexander, Samuel (1859–1938)

Australian-born British philosopher, best known for his *Space, Time and Deity* (1920).

The son of a saddler, Alexander was educated in Melbourne and, after his arrival in Britain in 1877, at Balliol College, Oxford. In 1882 he was appointed fellow of Lincoln College and thereby became the first professing Jew to hold a fellowship of any Oxford or Cambridge college. In 1893 Alexander accepted the chair of philosophy at Owens College (later to become Manchester University), where he remained until his retirement in 1924.

As a metaphysician in the grand manner, Alexander published a full account of his system in the two large volumes of his *Space, Time and Duty*. His aim, he declared, was to describe and identify 'in concrete experience... the ultimates which science has left over'. He objected to a relational view of space and time, arguing that the terms of any relation must themselves be spatio-temporal. Instead, he attempted to clarify his strange claim that things are themselves a specification of space-time. Within this framework Alexander adopted a realist theory of knowledge while accepting God as an ideal rather than an actual being. Although much admired in his day, Alexander's work is now little read.

### Alexander of Tunis, Harold Rupert Leofric George, 1st Earl (1891-1969)

*British general and one of the leading military figures of World War II, who commanded Allied forces in the North Africa campaign and the invasion of Italy. He was created a viscount in 1946, an earl in 1952, and awarded the OM in 1959.*

The third son of the Earl of Caledon, Alexander attended the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and in 1911 was commissioned in the Irish Guards. He was twice wounded while leading his battalion in France during World War I and ended the war as a brigadier-general. Between the wars he served in eastern Europe, Turkey, and India and in 1937 became the youngest general in the British army.

At the outbreak of World War II, Alexander commanded the 1st Division on the western front and fought a rearguard action at Dunkirk to enable the evacuation of the British expeditionary force. After home defence duties in command of the 1st Corps, he was posted to Burma in February 1942, where he managed to extricate British troops northwards from Rangoon into Assam in the face of superior Japanese ground and air forces. The following August, CHURCHILL appointed Alexander commander in chief in the Middle East, replacing Sir Claude Auchinleck (1884-1981). Alexander's army commander was General Bernard MONTGOMERY, who soon achieved the first significant victories against Erwin ROMMEL's Afrika Korps. Following the Anglo-US invasion of Algeria in November 1942, Alexander was made deputy to EISENHOWER in coordinating the entire North African campaign, which culminated in the Battle of Tunis on 13 May 1943 and the capitulation of the Axis forces.

Just two months later, US and British forces invaded Sicily. Alexander's objectives were now to knock Italy out of the war and to engage the maximum number of German divisions on the

Italian front while preparations for the D-Day landings went ahead. With the surrender of Italy on 3 September 1943, Allied forces invaded the Italian mainland. In October, Alexander was appointed supreme Allied commander on the Mediterranean front. In spite of difficult terrain and a series of strong German defensive positions, Alexander's forces slowly drove the enemy northwards, capturing Rome on 4 June 1944; to mark this, Alexander was promoted to field-marshal. By the end of April 1945, all Italy had been liberated.

After the war, Alexander served as governor-general of Canada (1946-52) and then spent an unhappy period as Churchill's defence minister. He resigned in 1954.

### Alexandra (1872-1918)

*Consort of NICHOLAS II, the last tsar of Russia. Her influence played a fatal part in the overthrow of the Russian monarchy.*

Alexandra, a grand-daughter of the British Queen Victoria, was the daughter of Louis XIV, Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt in Germany. Her marriage to Nicholas was arranged in 1894. Her dominance over her husband made her intensely disliked at court, and she became almost fanatically involved in the Orthodox religion. After her son was found to be a victim of haemophilia, she turned for help to a 'holy man', Grigori Yefimovich RASPUTIN. His influence on her and, after the tsar's departure for the Russian front in World War I, on the government was notoriously corrupt and Alexandra was, erroneously, believed to be a German agent. Nicholas returned too late to salvage the situation and, after the October Revolution in 1917, the royal family was arrested and shot at Ekaterinburg (now Sverdlovsk).

### Ali, Muhammad (Cassius Marcellus Clay; 1942- )

*US boxer and world heavyweight champion (1964-67; 1974-78; 1978-79). He is generally accepted as the finest heavyweight boxer of all time.*

Shortly after winning an Olympic gold medal in the light-heavyweight class at Rome in 1960, Ali turned professional. He won his first professional fight in his home town of Louisville, Kentucky, and of his next seventeen victories all but three were gained on a knock-out. In a famous nontitle fight at Wembley England, he was knocked down by Henry Cooper but still won in the fifth round.

He won the world heavyweight title in 1964 by beating Sonny Liston and successfully defended it until 1967, when he had his licence to box withdrawn because he refused, as his pledge to the Black Muslim faith, to serve in the US

armed forces. This kept him out of boxing for more than three years. He suffered his first defeat in 1971, to Joe FRAZIER on points, but in 1974 regained the world title by knocking out George Foreman. In 1978, after losing the title to Leon Spinks, he became the only boxer to become world champion three times when he defeated Spinks in a return match later that year.

Ali announced his retirement in 1981 after two unsuccessful bids for a fourth world title, against Larry Holmes and Trevor Berbick. He was always a colourful and controversial character in and out of the ring. His habit of nominating the round in which he intended to beat his opponent added to the appeal of this innate showman.

**Allen, Woody** (Ailen Stewart Konigsberg; 1935- )

US actor, director and writer, who has created the image of the respected and neurotic might in a sophisticated world, a portrayal much enhanced by the explanation of his own unimpressive physical stature.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Allen dropped out of college at eighteen and set himself up as a gag writer and comedy writer, contributing to magazines and television shows. He switched to being a stand-up comic in the early 1960s and, after a period performing his own material in nightclubs, *What's New Pussycat?* (1965) gave him his break into films, as screenwriter and actor. This was followed by *Casino Royale* (1967). His two Broadway hits, *Don't Drink the Water* and *Play It Again Sam*, were made into films (1969 and 1972 respectively), the latter being particularly memorable for the portrayal of the classic screen hero Humphrey BOGART, humorously contrasted with the unimposing self-deprecating anti-hero played by Allen. *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex But Were Afraid to Ask* (1972) followed.

Diane Keaton (1946- ), who played opposite him in *Play It Again Sam*, starred in several of his other films, including *Sleeper* (1973), *Love and Death* (1975), and the Oscar-winning *Annie Hall* (1977), for which he received an award as director and co-screenwriter. His first break from comedy came with *Interiors* (1978), for which he was nominated for an Academy Award as best director. More recent films include *Zelig* (1983) and *Broadway Danny Rose* (1984).

**Allenby, Edmund Henry Hynman, 1st Viscount** (1861-1936)

British general who led the Allied expeditionary force that overwhelmed Turkish and German forces in

Palestine during the closing stages of World War I. He received a knighthood in 1915 and was created Viscount Allenby of Megiddo in 1919.

Allenby attended the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and in 1882 was commissioned into the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons. He served in Bechuanaland (1884-85), Zululand (1888), and the Boer War, and at the outbreak of World War I in 1914 was commander of a cavalry division sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. He commanded the Cavalry Corps and headed the 5th Corps at the Battle of Ypres (May 1915). In October 1915 he was appointed commander of the 3rd Army, positioned north of the River Somme.

Nicknamed 'the Bull' because of his short temper and intransigent nature, Allenby failed to consolidate advances made during the first assault at the Battle of Arras in 1917, enabling a German counter-attack and eventual stalemate, which cost 160 000 Allied and German casualties. In April 1917, Allenby replaced General Dobell in Egypt and quickly reorganized British forces and command structure. On 31 October, Allenby's forces captured Beersheba and drove a wedge through the Turkish lines. The Turks retreated into Palestine, pursued by Allenby, who captured Jerusalem on 9 December. Elements of his army were withdrawn to Europe and he spent the spring and summer of 1918 training raw replacements. On 19 September, using cavalry and RAF air cover, Allenby's forces attacked, breaching the enemy lines at Megiddo. 80 000 enemy troops were killed or captured and Turkey duly surrendered. Thus ended one of the last great cavalry-led campaigns in military history.

Allenby was promoted to field-marshal in 1919 and appointed special high commissioner for Egypt, a very difficult job in the circumstances. He retired in 1925.

**Allende (Gossens), Salvador** (1908-73)

President of Chile (1970-73). The first Marxist to be elected to power, he was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize in 1972.

Born in Valparaiso, the son of a lawyer, Allende graduated in medicine from the University of Chile in 1932. As a student he was politically active and was jailed for his participation in the takeover of Santiago University during the uprising against the Ibañez regime. In 1933 he co-founded the Chilean Socialist Party, and for the next four years he worked as a coroner's assistant.

Allende was elected to the chamber of deputies in 1937. He served as minister of health (1939-42) in the liberal leftist coalition govern-



ment of Cerda and in 1945 was elected to the senate. He first ran for the presidency in 1952 but it was not until 1970 (his fourth attempt) that he was successful. Once in power he immediately began to introduce socialist measures, including the nationalization of several industries, the redistribution of land, and the opening of diplomatic relations with communist countries. He was soon faced with a severe economic crisis exacerbated by industrial unrest and the withdrawal of foreign investment. In 1973 he was overthrown and killed in a military coup led by General Pinochet (1915- ).

### Amin Dada, Idi (1925- )

Ugandan president and chief of the armed forces (1971-79), who became a brutal dictator until he fled his country after defeat by the Tanzanian army. He was chairman of the Organization of African Unity (1975-76).

Born in the West Nile province, the son of a Muslim-Kakwa family, Amin was educated at the local primary school and joined the army in 1946, serving in the King's African Rifles during the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya. He was heavyweight boxing champion of Uganda from 1951 to 1969. He rose through the ranks to become a major-general and was appointed commander of the armed forces in 1968. In 1970, he was put in charge of the General Service Unit (a security force) by President OBOTE. Rallying a majority of the army in 1971, he took over the Ugandan government in a coup, while Obote was at a conference of the Commonwealth heads of state. Amin declared himself president for life in 1976, instigating a reign of terror in which many of Obote's supporters were murdered, the Asian minority was expelled, and the electorate were wooed by mocking the former colonial powers. However, Amin was overthrown in 1979 during a Tanzanian invasion, provoked by an unsuccessful Ugandan attack, that enabled Obote to return to power in 1980. Fleeing Uganda, Amin was resident in Libya in 1979 and has lived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, since 1980.

### Amis, Kingsley (1922- )

British novelist and poet.

Born in London and educated at the City of London School and St John's College, Oxford, Amis combined his writing with a career as university teacher of English, first at Swansea (1949-61), then at Cambridge (1961-63), and later in the USA. His first novel, *Lucky Jim* (1954), was a high-spirited satire on academic and middle-class aspirations in provincial Britain, and was an immediate success. Through this and subsequent novels, such as *That Uncertain Feeling*

(1955), *Take a Girl Like You* (1960), and *One Fat Englishman* (1963), Amis became associated with the so-called Angry Young Men who satirized the manners and morals of Britain in the 1950s and early 1960s. Later novels show a more sombre tendency in Amis's fiction, exemplified in *Ending Up* (1974), *Jake's Thing* (1978), and *Stanley and the Women* (1984). He has also published or edited works on science fiction and edited the *New Oxford Book of Light Verse* (1978), besides publishing his own poems. He was married to the novelist Elizabeth Jane Howard (1923- ) and his son Martin Amis (1949- ) is also a novelist.

### Amundsen, Roald (1872-1928)

Norwegian explorer who, in 1911, led the first expedition to reach the South Pole. On a previous Arctic expedition he had located the site of the magnetic north pole and was the first to navigate the Northwest Passage.

Amundsen's ambition was to be an explorer. He gave up his studies at medical school and, after military service and work on merchant ships, was accepted in 1897 as first mate on the *Belgica* as part of the Belgian Antarctic Expedition. In 1900 Amundsen purchased the 47-ton sloop *Gjoa*, and in June 1903 set sail for the Northwest Passage. His expedition reached the magnetic north pole by sledge over the ice but it was not until August 1905 that the *Gjoa* broke through the ice to reach the Beaufort Sea and the Pacific.

In 1909 Amundsen was preparing an expedition to the North Pole when news broke that Robert Peary (1856-1920) had already reached it. Amundsen nevertheless set sail on 7 June 1910 in his ship *Fram*, but turned southwards to Antarctica. The expedition landed at the Bay of Whales on 3 January 1911 in the Antarctic summer. After establishing forward supply bases, Amundsen and four companions set out for the Pole on 20 October 1911 with four sledges and fifty-two dogs. They reached the area on 14 December and two days later established the exact position of the South Pole. They had beaten Robert F. SCOTT and his team who were heading for the same objective. Leaving the Norwegian flag and a note for Scott, Amundsen's group returned safely to base. Amundsen received many awards and honours for his achievement, including the gold medal of the National Geographical Society. He wrote a book describing his exploit, *The South Pole* (1913).

During World War I Amundsen built up a successful shipping business and in 1925 was able to finance an attempt to fly over the North Pole. He was forced down but, the following May, succeeded in the airship *Norge* piloted by the Italian, Umberto Nobile. In 1928, Amundsen