

Dictionary of Literary Biography

Volume 37:

American
Writers of the
Early Republic

Dictionary of Literary Biography • Volume Thirty-seven

American Writers of the Early Republic

Edited by
Emory Elliott
Princeton University

A Brucoli Clark Book
Gale Research Company • Book Tower • Detroit, Michigan 48226

Advisory Board for
DICTIONARY OF LITERARY BIOGRAPHY

Louis S. Auchincloss
John Baker
D. Philip Baker
A. Walton Litz, Jr.
Peter S. Prescott
Lola L. Szladits
William Targ

Matthew J. Bruccoli and Richard Layman, *Editorial Directors*
C. E. Frazer Clark, Jr., *Managing Editor*

Manufactured by Edwards Brothers, Inc.
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Printed in the United States of America

Copyright © 1985
GALE RESEARCH COMPANY

"A Crisis of Culture: The Changing Role of Religion in the New Republic" (pp. 309-314) reprinted from
Revolutionary Writers: Literature and Authority in the New Republic, 1725-1810 by Emory Elliott. Copyright © 1982
by Emory Elliott. Reprinted by permission of Oxford University Press, Inc.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

American writers of the early republic.

(Dictionary of literary biography; v. 37)

"A Bruccoli Clark book."

Includes index.

1. American literature—1783-1850—History and criticism. 2. American literature—1783-1850—Bio-bibliography. 3. Authors, American—1783-1850—Biography—Dictionaries. 4. American literature—19th century—History and criticism. 5. Authors, American—19th century—Biography—Dictionaries. I. Elliott, Emory, 1942- II. Series.

PS208.A44 1985 810'.9'002 84-25901
ISBN 0-8103-1715-X

Dictionary of Literary Biography

- 1: *The American Renaissance in New England*, edited by Joel Myerson (1978)
- 2: *American Novelists Since World War II*, edited by Jeffrey Helterman and Richard Layman (1978)
- 3: *Antebellum Writers in New York and the South*, edited by Joel Myerson (1979)
- 4: *American Writers in Paris, 1920-1939*, edited by Karen Lane Rood (1980)
- 5: *American Poets Since World War II*, 2 parts, edited by Donald J. Greiner (1980)
- 6: *American Novelists Since World War II*, Second Series, edited by James E. Kibler, Jr. (1980)
- 7: *Twentieth-Century American Dramatists*, 2 parts, edited by John MacNicholas (1981)
- 8: *Twentieth-Century American Science-Fiction Writers*, 2 parts, edited by David Cowart and Thomas L. Wymer (1981)
- 9: *American Novelists, 1910-1945*, 3 parts, edited by James J. Martine (1981)
- 10: *Modern British Dramatists, 1900-1945*, 2 parts, edited by Stanley Weintraub (1982)
- 11: *American Humorists, 1800-1950*, 2 parts, edited by Stanley Trachtenberg (1982)
- 12: *American Realists and Naturalists*, edited by Donald Pizer and Earl N. Harbert (1982)
- 13: *British Dramatists Since World War II*, 2 parts, edited by Stanley Weintraub (1982)
- 14: *British Novelists Since 1960*, 2 parts, edited by Jay L. Halio (1983)
- 15: *British Novelists, 1930-1959*, 2 parts, edited by Bernard Oldsey (1983)
- 16: *The Beats: Literary Bohemians in Postwar America*, 2 parts, edited by Ann Charters (1983)
- 17: *Twentieth-Century American Historians*, edited by Clyde N. Wilson (1983)
- 18: *Victorian Novelists After 1885*, edited by Ira B. Nadel and William E. Fredeman (1983)
- 19: *British Poets, 1880-1914*, edited by Donald E. Stanford (1983)
- 20: *British Poets, 1914-1945*, edited by Donald E. Stanford (1983)
- 21: *Victorian Novelists Before 1885*, edited by Ira B. Nadel and William E. Fredeman (1983)
- 22: *American Writers for Children, 1900-1960*, edited by John Cech (1983)
- 23: *American Newspaper Journalists, 1873-1900*, edited by Perry J. Ashley (1983)
- 24: *American Colonial Writers, 1606-1734*, edited by Emory Elliott (1984)
- 25: *American Newspaper Journalists, 1901-1925*, edited by Perry J. Ashley (1984)
- 26: *American Screenwriters*, edited by Robert E. Morsberger, Stephen O. Lesser, and Randall Clark (1984)
- 27: *Poets of Great Britain and Ireland, 1945-1960*, edited by Vincent B. Sherry, Jr. (1984)
- 28: *Twentieth-Century American-Jewish Fiction Writers*, edited by Daniel Walden (1984)
- 29: *American Newspaper Journalists, 1926-1950*, edited by Perry J. Ashley (1984)
- 30: *American Historians, 1607-1865*, edited by Clyde N. Wilson (1984)
- 31: *American Colonial Writers, 1735-1781*, edited by Emory Elliott (1984)
- 32: *Victorian Poets Before 1850*, edited by William E. Fredeman and Ira B. Nadel (1984)
- 33: *Afro-American Fiction Writers After 1955*, edited by Thadious M. Davis and Trudier Harris (1984)
- 34: *British Novelists, 1890-1929: Traditionalists*, edited by Thomas F. Staley (1985)
- 35: *Victorian Poets After 1850*, edited by William E. Fredeman and Ira B. Nadel (1985)
- 36: *British Novelists, 1890-1929: Modernists*, edited by Thomas F. Staley (1985)
- 37: *American Writers of the Early Republic*, edited by Emory Elliott (1985)

Documentary Series

- 1: *Sherwood Anderson, Willa Cather, John Dos Passos, Theodore Dreiser, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Sinclair Lewis*, edited by Margaret A. Van Antwerp (1982)
- 2: *James Gould Cozzens, James T. Farrell, William Faulkner, John O'Hara, John Steinbeck, Thomas Wolfe, Richard Wright*, edited by Margaret A. Van Antwerp (1982)
- 3: *Saul Bellow, Jack Kerouac, Norman Mailer, Vladimir Nabokov, John Updike, Kurt Vonnegut*, edited by Mary Bruccoli (1983)
- 4: *Tennessee Williams*, edited by Margaret A. Van Antwerp and Sally Johns (1984)

Yearbooks

- 1980, edited by Karen L. Rood, Jean W. Ross, and Richard Ziegfeld (1981)
- 1981, edited by Karen L. Rood, Jean W. Ross, and Richard Ziegfeld (1982)
- 1982, edited by Richard Ziegfeld; associate editors: Jean W. Ross and Lynne C. Zeigler (1983)
- 1983, edited by Mary Bruccoli and Jean W. Ross; associate editor: Richard Ziegfeld (1984)

*This volume is for a few of the scholars
who in recent years have
deepened our understanding and
appreciation of language and literature
in America in the early republic:*

*Bernard Bailyn
William L. Hedges
Lewis Leary
Terence Martin
Russel B. Nye
Lewis P. Simpson*

Plan of the Series

... *Almost the most prodigious asset of a country, and perhaps its most precious possession, is its native literary product—when that product is fine and noble and enduring.*

Mark Twain*

The advisory board, the editors, and the publisher of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* are joined in endorsing Mark Twain's declaration. The literature of a nation provides an inexhaustible resource of permanent worth. It is our expectation that this endeavor will make literature and its creators better understood and more accessible to students and the literate public, while satisfying the standards of teachers and scholars.

To meet these requirements, *literary biography* has been construed in terms of the author's achievement. The most important thing about a writer is his writing. Accordingly, the entries in *DLB* are career biographies, tracing the development of the author's canon and the evolution of his reputation.

The publication plan for *DLB* resulted from two years of preparation. The project was proposed to Brucoli Clark by Frederick G. Ruffner, president of the Gale Research Company, in November 1975. After specimen entries were prepared and typeset, an advisory board was formed to refine the entry format and develop the series rationale. In meetings held during 1976, the publisher, series editors, and advisory board approved the scheme for a comprehensive biographical dictionary of persons who contributed to North American literature. Editorial work on the first volume began in January 1977, and it was published in 1978.

In order to make *DLB* more than a reference tool and to compile volumes that individually have claim to status as literary history, it was decided to organize volumes by topic or period or genre. Each of these freestanding volumes provides a biographical-bibliographical guide and overview for a particular area of literature. We are convinced that this organization—as opposed to a single alphabet method—constitutes a valuable innovation in the presentation of reference material. The volume plan necessarily requires many decisions for the placement and treatment of authors who might

properly be included in two or three volumes. In some instances a major figure will be included in separate volumes, but with different entries emphasizing the aspect of his career appropriate to each volume. Ernest Hemingway, for example, is represented in *American Writers in Paris, 1920-1939* by an entry focusing on his expatriate apprenticeship; he is also in *American Novelists, 1910-1945* with an entry surveying his entire career. Each volume includes a cumulative index of subject authors. The final *DLB* volume will be a comprehensive index to the entire series.

With volume ten in 1982 it was decided to enlarge the scope of *DLB* beyond the literature of the United States. By the end of 1983 twelve volumes treating British literature had been published, and volumes for Commonwealth and Modern European literature were in progress. The series has been further augmented by the *DLB Yearbooks* (since 1981) which update published entries and add new entries to keep the *DLB* current with contemporary activity. There have also been occasional *DLB Documentary Series* volumes which provide biographical and critical background source materials for figures whose work is judged to have particular interest for students. One of these companion volumes is entirely devoted to Tennessee Williams.

The purpose of *DLB* is not only to provide reliable information in a convenient format but also to place the figures in the larger perspective of literary history and to offer appraisals of their accomplishments by qualified scholars.

We define literature as the *intellectual commerce of a nation*: not merely as belles lettres, but as that ample and complex process by which ideas are generated, shaped, and transmitted. *DLB* entries are not limited to "creative writers" but extend to other figures who in this time and in this way influenced the mind of a people. Thus the series encompasses historians, journalists, publishers, and screenwriters. By this means readers of *DLB* may be aided to perceive literature not as cult scripture in the keeping of cultural high priests, but as at the center of a nation's life.

DLB includes the major writers appropriate to each volume and those standing in the ranks immediately behind them. Scholarly and critical counsel has been sought in deciding which minor figures to include and how full their entries should be.

*From an unpublished section of Mark Twain's autobiography, copyright © by the Mark Twain Company.

Wherever possible, useful references will be made to figures who do not warrant separate entries.

Each *DLB* volume has a volume editor responsible for planning the volume, selecting the figures for inclusion, and assigning the entries. Volume editors are also responsible for preparing, where appropriate, appendices surveying the major periodicals and literary and intellectual movements for their volumes, as well as lists of further readings. Work on the series as a whole is coordinated at the Brucoli Clark editorial center in Columbia, South Carolina, where the editorial staff is responsible for the accuracy of the published volumes.

One feature that distinguishes *DLB* is the illustration policy—its concern with the iconography of literature. Just as an author is influenced by his surroundings, so is the reader's understanding of the author enhanced by a knowledge of his environment. Therefore *DLB* volumes include not only drawings, paintings, and photographs of authors, often depicting them at various stages in their careers, but also illustrations of their families and places where they lived. Title pages are regularly reproduced in facsimile along with dust jackets for modern authors. The dust jackets are a special fea-

ture of *DLB* because they often document better than anything else the way in which an author's work was launched in its own time. Specimens of the writers' manuscripts are included when feasible.

A supplement to *DLB*—tentatively titled *A Guide, Chronology, and Glossary for American Literature*—will outline the history of literature in North America and trace the influences that shaped it. This volume will provide a framework for the study of American literature by means of chronological tables, literary affiliation charts, glossarial entries, and concise surveys of the major movements. It has been planned to stand on its own as a vade mecum, providing a ready-reference guide to the study of American literature as well as a companion to the *DLB* volumes for American literature.

Samuel Johnson rightly decreed that "The chief glory of every people arises from its authors." The purpose of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* is to compile literary history in the surest way available to us—by accurate and comprehensive treatment of the lives and work of those who contributed to it.

The *DLB* Advisory Board

Foreword

The decades after the American Revolution have been much studied by historians, but only recently has this period begun to receive the attention that it deserves from literary scholars. Though earlier in this century the great literary historians Moses Coit Tyler and Vernon Louis Parrington each devoted a volume to the literature of the period, the writers of these times never really seem to have captured our imagination. Leon Howard's well-known essay "The Late Eighteenth Century: An Age of Contradictions" (1953) described both the complexity of this period and the problem it presents its critics, while his seminal book *The Connecticut Wits* (1943) identified a small group of writers as representative of the age. One unfortunate result of Howard's book, however, is that too often potential readers of the early-national literature have been convinced that witty poems such as Joel Barlow's *The Hasty-Pudding* (1796) or John Trumbull's *M'Fingal* (1776-1782) are characteristic of a body of work, neoclassical in nature, which many people think of as derivative, imitative, and not truly representative of American literature. While teachers of history have approached these decades as being the "critical period" of American history where the fundamental structures of politics and society took shape, teachers of literature have been inclined to touch briefly, if at all, on these years as they skip from Edward Taylor and Jonathan Edwards to Emerson and Hawthorne.

Fortunately, there have been in recent years a small number of scholar-critics who have questioned inherited assumptions and have participated in an exciting scholarly excavation which has revealed a rich and complex literary culture in the 1780s and 1790s. They have discovered a literary origin that was as crucial to the development of a distinctive American literature as the Bill of Rights and the Constitution were to the creation of our political system. To understand these writings and assess the achievement of the Republic's first men and women of letters, however, it is useful to separate the abundant and varied forms and texts into three categories. There are certainly many works that belong under more than one heading, such as Michel Guillaume Jean de Crèvecoeur's *Letters From an American Farmer* (1782) and William Bartram's *Travels* (1791), which qualify as imaginative narratives as well as works of historical and scientific

discourse, but for introductory purposes classification is useful.

The first of these categories includes the writings that have received the most scholarly attention: the political and philosophical essays and documents, such as Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* (1776), Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on Virginia* (1785), the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and *The Federalist Papers* of Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison, considered by many to be the finest writing of the period. Many students of the period who see the prose essay as its highest form of literary achievement celebrate the works of these writers and the political prose of men such as Philip Freneau and Joel Barlow as their best and most influential. In some ways the magnificence of these prose works has led to an undervaluing of other genres. The religious and oratorical writing of the decades and the studies of language by Noah Webster and Jedidiah Morse should also be included in this class of nonfiction prose. During the last twenty years, historians and literary scholars such as Bernard Bailyn, Edmund Morgan, Sacvan Bercovitch, and Gordon Wood have examined the verbal and ideological continuities that link the political writings of the Revolution and the early Republic to the pamphlets, sermon literature and religious tracts of the early and mid-eighteenth century. Attention to this literary foreground deepens our appreciation of the complex heritage of high and popular culture that gave the prose works of John Adams, Jefferson, and Paine their powerful appeal to a wide spectrum of readers.

Until very recently, the only rival to political discourse as the epitome of literary achievement in the critical decades was the poetry of those so-called Connecticut Wits and a handful of "pre-Romantic" poems by Philip Freneau, such as his well-known lyric "The Wild Honey Suckle." For the poets themselves the period after the Revolution was a time of both excitement and disappointment. In the *Rising Glory of America* poems (three of which are included in the appendix to this volume), these poets proclaimed the dawning of a new age in America, which would witness not only the glorious establishment of the most productive, successful political and economic system in the world, but would also create an environment in which the arts and letters would reach their highest form. In this spirit Joel

Barlow, Timothy Dwight, and others composed epic poems celebrating the founding of the new nation. By the mid-1790s, however, these writers had come to recognize that whatever benefits the new nation might bestow, increased support for the arts and letters was not to be one of them. A poem such as Barlow's bitter *Advice to a Raven in Russia* (written in 1812) stands in direct contrast to the hopefulness of his *The Prospect of Peace* (written and published in 1778) while the two poems together describe the arc of disillusionment that is also expressed in the oeuvre of Philip Freneau. As a result of this shift, the poetry and the imaginative prose essays of the period took on new dimensions of irony and ambiguity and acquired a questioning, somewhat bemused, comic tone—one that is recognizable in subsequent works of American literature.

Within the last decade, there has developed a new respect for the novels and other narrative forms of this age. While important studies of the works of Royall Tyler and William Dunlap have brought more attention to their plays, the major advances in criticism are occurring in the study of the early American novel. The reputations of Hugh Henry Brackenridge and especially Charles Brockden Brown have been furthered by numerous studies demonstrating the verbal, structural, and thematic complexities of their works and revealing them to be much more consciously artistic than earlier critics had assumed. As this effort to reassess the early novel has proceeded, the canon of American literature has expanded to include works and writers previously overlooked. Writers such as Susanna Rowson, Sarah Wentworth Morton, Hannah Webster Foster, and Olaudah Equiano are now being rediscovered, or sometimes read for the first time. As happened earlier when the critical per-

spective was broadened to admit the study of the sermon alongside the philosophical writings, now the slave narratives, Gothic novels, and sentimental romances of the period are being explicated with the same energy and attention once expended only on a few poems of Freneau and one or two of Brockden Brown's novels.

This lively reassessment of late-eighteenth century American literature has occurred only because we have had a few great teacher-scholars, such as Harry Hayden Clark, Leon Howard, Edwin Cady, James Woodress, Louis B. Wright, and others, who have inspired their students to dig more deeply and read more closely. Some of the scholars who have contributed to the revival of interest in early American literature are acknowledged on the dedication pages of this volume and the two *Dictionary of Literary Biography* volumes on colonial literature. By placing the name of a scholar at the head of one volume I do not mean to overlook an individual's contributions to the study of other periods as well. For example, Sacvan Bercovitch, Everett Emerson, and Kenneth Silverman have published major works on all areas of early American literature. Such people have kept the fires of American Revolutionary War literature burning even during long cold spells when it seemed that the shrinking space accorded it in anthologies and literary histories would at last extinguish the flames of America's early writers. It is certainly my hope that these three *DLB* volumes on colonial and early national writers will bring new attention and respect to our early literary heritage and encourage others to study it further.

—Emory Elliott

Acknowledgments

This book was produced by BC Research. Karen L. Rood, senior editor for the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* series, was the in-house editor.

Art supervisor is Claudia Ericson. Copyediting supervisor is Joycelyn R. Smith. Typesetting supervisor is Laura Ingram. The production staff includes Mary Betts, Rowena Betts, Kimberly Casey, Patricia Coate, Kathleen M. Flanagan, Joyce Fowler, Judith K. Ingle, Victoria Jakes, Vickie Lowers, Judith McCray, and Jane McPherson. Jean W. Ross is permissions editor. Joseph Caldwell, photography editor, did photographic copy work for the volume.

A project of this magnitude is necessarily the work of many hands, and for such a book to be also of consistent high quality requires the commitment of hearts and minds as well. Credit should go to the contributors who patiently and cheerfully endured too many impersonal form letters from me during our two years of work together. To each of you, a hearty thanks for your goodwill and fine work.

While we would not have this volume without the collective commitment of the contributors, the book certainly would never have seen print without the splendid individual performance of our editor at BC Research, Ms. Karen Rood. Ms. Rood's superb editing skills, her unwavering professionalism, and her genuine scholarly interest in the material were exemplary throughout; she is indeed a person of exceptional talents, and I have been most fortunate to be able to work with her.

Closer to home, I have been able again to count upon the assistance of the mainstay of the

Princeton American Studies Program, Mrs. Helen Wright. Aiding me as she has American studies faculty since 1946, Helen helped to organize the complicated assignments for this volume of the *DLB*, and she typed and helped to mail those form letters. During the copyediting stage I received considerable assistance from my research assistant, Ms. Susan Mizruchi, who proved to be a remarkably capable editor as well as the most promising scholar I already knew her to be. Also assisting with final details and in searching for materials for reproduction in the volume has been another graduate student in the Princeton English department, Ms. Elizabeth Dant.

The skillful aid of the reference staff at the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University was essential in providing illustrations for this book. Director Norman Fiering, bibliographer Everett Wilkie, and reference librarian Susan L. Newbury have earned my gratitude.

Valuable assistance was also given by the staff at the Thomas Cooper Library of the University of South Carolina: Lynn Barron, Daniel Boice, Sue Collins, Michael Freeman, Gary Geer, Alexander M. Gilchrist, David L. Haggard, Jens Holley, David Lincove, Marcia Martin, Roger Mortimer, Jean Rhyne, Karen Rissling, Paula Swope, and Ellen Tillett.

Finally, I acknowledge the contribution of those closest to me whose understanding and support are essential to the completion of any project I assume: my children, Scott, Mark, Matthew, Constance, and Laura, and as ever, my wife, Georgia.

Contents

Plan of the Series.....	ix	Mason Fitch Cogswell (1761-1830).....	98
Foreword.....	xi	<i>Carla Mulford</i>	
Acknowledgments.....	xiii	Tench Coxe (1755-1824).....	100
John Quincy Adams (1767-1848).....	3	<i>Hugh J. Dawson</i>	
<i>Thomas P. Slaughter</i>		Michel Guillaume Jean de Crèvecoeur (1735-1813).....	103
Richard Alsop (1761-1815).....	9	<i>John Harmon McElroy</i>	
<i>Carla Mulford</i>		John Davis (1774-1854).....	108
Fisher Ames (1758-1808).....	13	<i>Jayne K. Kribbs</i>	
<i>Thomas P. Slaughter</i>		Samuel Cole Davis (1764-1809).....	112
James Nelson Barker (1784-1858).....	15	<i>Steven E. Kagle</i>	
<i>David Robinson</i>		Joseph Dennie (1768-1812).....	114
Joel Barlow (1754-1812).....	18	<i>A. Wheeler Cafarelli</i>	
<i>Cecelia Tichi</i>		William Dunlap (1766-1839).....	117
William Bartram (1739-1823).....	31	<i>Claudia Johnson</i>	
<i>Ormond Seavey</i>		Timothy Dwight (1752-1817).....	127
Jeremy Belknap (1744-1798).....	38	<i>Vincent Freimarch</i>	
<i>Louis P. Masur</i>		Jonathan Edwards, Jr. (1745-1801).....	147
John Bernard (1756-1828).....	42	<i>Donald Weber</i>	
<i>Claudia Johnson</i>		William Emerson (1769-1811).....	149
John Durburrow Blair (1759-1823).....	44	<i>Wesley T. Mott</i>	
<i>Stephen J. Stedman</i>		Olaudah Equiano (Gustavus Vassa) (circa 1745-circa 1801).....	153
Hugh Henry Brackenridge (1748-1816).....	45	<i>Sondra O'Neale</i>	
<i>James Kelleher</i>		John Filson (circa 1753-1788).....	158
Thomas Branagan (1774-1843).....	60	<i>Alan Axelrod</i>	
<i>Michael P. Kramer</i>		Hannah Webster Foster (1758-1840).....	161
Charles Brockden Brown (1771-1810).....	69	<i>Cathy N. Davidson</i>	
<i>Bernard Rosenthal</i>		Philip Freneau (1752-1832).....	163
William Hill Brown (1765-1793).....	81	<i>Richard C. Vitzthum</i>	
<i>Robert D. Arner</i>		Francis Walker Gilmer (1790-1826).....	181
Joseph Stevens Buckminster (1784-1812).....	84	<i>Michael A. Lofaro</i>	
<i>Nancy Craig Simmons</i>		Alexander Hamilton (1755?-1804).....	184
John Daly Burk (circa 1772-1808).....	86	<i>Laura Henigman</i>	
<i>Frank Shuffelton</i>		Lemuel Hopkins (1750-1801).....	201
Mathew Carey (1760-1839).....	89	<i>Michael Robertson</i>	
<i>Alan Axelrod</i>		David Humphreys (1752-1818).....	203
John Carroll (1735-1815).....	96	<i>William K. Bottorff</i>	
<i>Thomas P. Slaughter</i>			

Joseph Brown Ladd (1764-1786)206 <i>Georgia Elliott</i>	Elihu Hubbard Smith (1771-1798).....265 <i>William K. Bottorff</i>
John Lathrop, Jr. (1772-1820)207 <i>John R. Holmes</i>	Samuel Stanhope Smith (1751-1819)268 <i>Stephen J. Stedman</i>
John Blair Linn (1777-1804)211 <i>Alan Axelrod</i>	Tabitha Gilman Tenney (1762-1837).....271 <i>Cathy N. Davidson</i>
Anne Home Livingston (1763-1841).....213 <i>Steven E. Kagle</i>	James Thacher (1754-1844)273 <i>Steven E. Kagle</i>
Samuel Low (1765-death date unknown)215 <i>Mark R. Patterson</i>	St. George Tucker (1752-1827).....275 <i>Homer D. Kemp</i>
James Madison (1751-1836)217 <i>Ormond Seavey</i>	Royall Tyler (1757-1826).....279 <i>James C. Gaston</i>
Samuel Eusebius McCorkle (1746-1811).....230 <i>M. Jimmie Killingsworth</i>	Noah Webster (1758-1843).....290 <i>Thomas B. Gustafson</i>
Jedidiah Morse (1761-1826)231 <i>Robert S. Levine</i>	Mason Locke Weems (1759-1825).....298 <i>Hugh J. Dawson</i>
Sarah Wentworth Morton (1759-1846).....237 <i>Amanda Porterfield</i>	William Wirt (1772-1834)303 <i>Alan Axelrod</i>
Judith Sargent Murray (1751-1820).....240 <i>James Lawton</i>	Appendix
Robert Treat Paine, Jr. (1773-1811)243 <i>Robert D. Arner</i>	A Crisis of Culture: The Changing Role of Religion in the New Republic309 <i>Emory Elliott</i>
Henry Pattillo (1726-1801)246 <i>Robert W. Hill</i>	The Rising Glory of America: Three Poems...315
John Howard Payne (1791-1852).....248 <i>Jewell B. Parham</i>	The Rising Glory of America317 <i>Hugh Henry Brackenridge and Philip Freneau</i>
Thomas Reese (1742-1796)252 <i>Tony Owens</i>	The Prospect of Peace323 <i>Joel Barlow</i>
George Richards (circa 1760-1814)254 <i>Lewis Leary</i>	America: or, A Poem on the Settlement of the British Colonies327 <i>Timothy Dwight</i>
Susanna Haswell Rowson (circa 1762-1824)256 <i>Jenny Franchot</i>	Supplementary Reading List331
Benjamin Rush (1746-1813)259 <i>Louis P. Masur</i>	Contributors.....341
	Cumulative Index345

Dictionary of Literary Biography • Volume Thirty-seven

American Writers of the Early Republic

Dictionary of Literary Biography

John Quincy Adams

(11 July 1767-23 February 1848)

Thomas P. Slaughter
Rutgers University

SELECTED BOOKS: *Observations on Paine's Rights of Man* [8 letters], as Publicola (Edinburgh: Printed & sold by J. Dickinson, 1792); enlarged as *An Answer to Paine's Rights of Man* [11 letters] (London: Printed for J. Stockdale, 1793);

An Oration, Pronounced July 4th, 1793, at the Request of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, in Commemoration of the Anniversary of American Independence (Boston: Printed by Benjamin Edes & Son, 1793);

An Address, to the Members of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, at their Annual Meeting, May 28, 1802 (Boston: Printed by Russell & Cutler, 1802);

An Oration, Delivered at Plymouth, December 22, 1802. At the Anniversary Commemoration of the First Landing of Our Ancestors, at That Place (Boston: Printed by Russell & Cutler, 1802);

Letters on Silesia, Written During a Tour Through that Country in the Years 1800, 1801 (London: J. Budd, 1804);

An Inaugural Oration, Delivered at the Author's Installation, as Boylston's Professor of Rhetorick and Oratory, at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. On Thursday, 12 June, 1806 (Boston: Printed at the Anthology Office by Monroe & Francis, 1806);

A Letter to the Hon. Harrison Gray Otis, A Member of the Senate of Massachusetts, on the Present State of Our National Affairs; With Remarks upon Mr. Pickering's Letter to the Governor of the Commonwealth (Boston: Published by Oliver & Munroe, 1808; London: Printed for J. Johnson, 1808);



John Quincy Adams, 1796; portrait by John Singleton Copley
(The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; bequest of Charles Francis Adams)

American Principles. A Review of Works of Fisher Ames . . . (Boston: Published by Everett & Munroe, 1809);

Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory, Delivered to the Classes of Senior and Junior Sophisters in Harvard Uni-

- versity, 2 volumes (Cambridge: Printed by Hilliard & Metcalf, 1810);
- Report of the Secretary of State, upon Weights and Measures . . .* (Washington, D.C.: Printed by Gales & Seaton, 1821);
- An Address Delivered at the Request of a Committee of the Citizens of Washington: On the Occasion of Reading the Declaration of Independence, on the Fourth of July, 1821* (Washington, D.C.: Printed by Davis & Force, 1821; Cambridge: Printed at the University Press by Hilliard & Metcalf and sold by Cummings & Hilliard, 1821);
- Answer to W. Sumner's Inquiry on the Importance of the Militia* (Boston, 1823);
- Letter of the Hon. John Quincy Adams, in Reply to a Letter of the Hon. Alexander Smyth, to His Constituents* (Washington, D.C., 1823); republished in *Letter of the Hon. John Quincy Adams, in Reply to a Letter of the Hon. Alexander Smyth, to His Constituents. Also the Speech of Mr. Adams on the Louisiana Treaty, Delivered in the Senate of the United States, Nov. 3, 1803. And a Letter from Mr. Jefferson to Mr. Dunbar Relative to the Cession of Louisiana* (Washington, D.C.: Printed by Gales & Seaton, 1828);
- Suggestions on Presidential Elections, with Particular Reference to a Letter by William C. Somerville, Esq.* (Boston: Cummings, Hilliard, 1825);
- Correspondence between John Quincy Adams, Esquire, President of the United States, and Several Citizens of Massachusetts Concerning the Charge of a Design to Dissolve the Union Alleged to Have Existed in That State* (Boston: Press of the Boston Daily Advertiser, 1829);
- An Oration Addressed to the Citizens of the Town of Quincy, on the Fourth of July, 1831, the Fifty-fifth Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America* (Boston: Richardson, Lord & Holbrook, 1831);
- An Eulogy: On the Life and Character of James Monroe, fifth President of the United States. Delivered at the Request of the Corporation of the City of Boston, on the 25th of August, 1831* (Boston: Printed by J. H. Eastburn, 1831);
- Dermot MacMorrogh, or The Conquest of Ireland; An Historical Tale of the Twelfth Century. In Four Cantos* (Boston: Carter, Hendee, 1832);
- Speech [suppressed by the previous question] of Mr. John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts, on the Removal of the Public Deposites, and Its Reasons* (Washington, D.C.: Printed by Gales & Seaton, 1834);
- Oration on the Life and Character of Gilbert Motier de Lafayette. Delivered at the Request of Both Houses of Congress of the United States, Before Them, in the House of Representatives at Washington, on the 31st of December, 1834* (Washington, D.C.: Printed by D. Green, 1835);
- Speech of the Hon. John Q. Adams, of Massachusetts, on His Resolution for the Appointment of a Select Committee to Inquire into the Causes of the Failure of the Fortification Bill at the Last Session of Congress. Delivered Jan. 22, 1836* (Washington, D.C.: Printed by Blair & Rives, 1836);
- Speech of John Quincy Adams, on the Joint Resolution for Distributing Rations to the Distressed Fugitives from Indian Hostilities, in the States of Alabama and Georgia. Delivered in the House of Representatives, Wednesday, May 25, 1836* (Washington, D.C.: National Intelligencer Office, 1836);
- An Eulogy on the Life and Character of James Madison, Fourth President of the United States, Delivered at the Request of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the City of Boston, September 27, 1836* (Boston: American Stationers' Company, 1836; Boston: J. H. Eastburn, city printer, 1836);
- Letters from John Adams to His Constituents of the Twelfth Congressional District in Massachusetts. To Which Is Added His Speech in Congress, Delivered February 9, 1837* (Boston: I. Knapp, 1837);
- An Oration Delivered before the Inhabitants of the Town of Newburyport, at Their Request, on the Sixty-First Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, July 4th, 1837* (Newburyport: Printed by Morss & Brewster, 1837);
- Speech of John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts, upon the Right of the People, Men and Women, to Petition; on the Freedom of Speech and of Debate in the House of Representatives of the United States; on the Resolutions of Seven State Legislatures, and the Petitions of More than One Hundred Thousand Petitioners, Relating to the Annexation of Texas to the Union . . .* (Washington, D.C.: Printed by Gales & Seaton, 1838);
- The Jubilee of the Constitution. A Discourse Delivered at the Request of the New York Historical Society, in the City of New York, on Tuesday, the 30th of April, 1839; Being the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Inauguration of George Washington as President of the United States, on Thursday, the 30th of April, 1789* (New York: S. Coleman, 1839);
- A Letter from Ex-President John Quincy Adams to James Henry Hackett, with Hackett's Reply* (London: Madeley, 1839); republished as *The Character of Hamlet, by Ex-President Adams and J. H. Hackett* (New York: J. Mowatt, 1844);
- A Discourse on Education, Delivered at Braintree, Thurs-*

- day, Oct. 24, 1839 (Boston: Printed by Perkins & Marvin, 1840);
- Argument of John Quincy Adams, Before the Supreme Court of the United States, Appellants, vs. Cinque, and Others, Africans, Captured in the Schooner Amistad, by Lieut. Gedney, Delivered on the 24th of February and 1st of March, 1841 . . .* (New York: S. W. Benedict, 1841);
- Speech of Mr. John Quincy Adams, on the Case of Alexander McLeod. Delivered in the House of Representatives, September 4, 1841* (Washington, D.C.: Printed by Gales & Seaton, 1841);
- The Wants of Man: A Poem* (Lowell, Mass.: Amos Upton, 1841);
- Mr. Adams' Speech, on War With Great Britain and Mexico: With the Speeches of Messrs. Wise and Ingersoll, to Which It Is in Reply* (Boston: Emancipator Office, 1841?);
- Address of John Quincy Adams, to his Constituents of the Twelfth Congressional District at Braintree, September 17th, 1842* (Boston: Printed by J. H. Eastburn, 1842);
- Address to the Norfolk County Temperance Society, 29 Sept., 1842* (Boston: K. & L. Gould, 1842);
- The Social Compact, Exemplified in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; With Remarks on the Theories of Divine Right of Hobbes and of Filmer, and the Counter Theories of Sidney, Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau, Concerning the Nature of Government: A Lecture, Delivered Before the Franklin Lyceum, at Providence, R.I., November 25, 1842* (Providence: Printed by Knowles & Vose, 1842);
- The New England Confederacy of MDCXLIII. A Discourse Delivered before the Massachusetts Historical Society, at Boston, on the 29th of May, 1843; in Celebration of the Second Centennial Anniversary of that Event* (Boston: Little & Brown, 1843);
- An Oration Delivered before the Cincinnati Astronomical Society, on the Occasion of Laying the Corner Stone of an Astronomical Observatory, on the 10th of November, 1843* (Cincinnati: Printed by Shepard, 1843);
- Liberty Incomplete . . . Letter from John Quincy Adams . . . Read on the Occasion of the Recent Celebration of West India Emancipation . . .* (Boston: J. W. Alden, 1843);
- Letters on the Masonic Institution* (Boston: Press of T. R. Marvin, 1847);
- Poems of Religion and Society* (New York: Published by William H. Graham, 1848);
- Memoirs of John Quincy Adams, comprising Portions of his Diary from 1795 to 1848*, 12 volumes, edited by Charles Francis Adams (Philadelphia: Lipincott, 1874-1877);
- Life in a New England Town: 1787, 1788. Diary of John Quincy Adams, While a Student in the Office of Theophilus Parsons at Newburyport*, edited by Charles Francis Adams (Boston: Little, Brown, 1903);
- Parties in the United States* (New York: Greenberg, 1941).
- Collections:** *Writings of John Quincy Adams*, 7 volumes, edited by Worthington Chauncey Ford (New York: Macmillan, 1913-1917);
- The Adams Papers*, 26 volumes to date (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1961-).
- OTHER:** *The Duplicate Letters, the Fisheries and the Mississippi, Documents Relating to Transactions at the Negotiation of Ghent*, compiled by Adams (Washington, D.C.: Printed by Davis & Force, 1822);
- Henry Adams, ed., *Documents Relating to New-England Federalism. 1800-1815*, includes material by John Quincy Adams (Boston: Little, Brown, 1855).

John Quincy Adams was a United States senator, secretary of state, president, and member of Congress. The eldest son of John and Abigail Smith Adams, he was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. In 1778 he accompanied his father to France, where he studied French and Latin at an academy in Passy, and attended the Latin School of Amsterdam. He matriculated at Leyden University in January 1781, but soon interrupted his studies to serve in Saint Petersburg as secretary to America's minister to Russia. Returning to the Hague in 1783, he resumed the study of classics before returning to the United States, where he entered Harvard as a junior. In 1787, Adams graduated from Harvard and began his legal apprenticeship in Newburyport. He was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1790.

In 1779 young Adams began a diary that he continued to keep throughout most of his life. *Memoirs of John Quincy Adams, comprising Portions of his Diary from 1795 to 1848* was published in twelve volumes from 1874 to 1877, and was followed in 1903 by *Life in a New England Town*, his diary for the years 1787-1788. Taken as a whole, the diary is an extraordinary record of places and events experienced during an exceptional life. Adams's first publication, an erudite reply to Paine's *Rights of Man* (1791), which first appeared in the *Columbian Centinel* for June-July 1791 and later as a pamphlet in