

*Contemporary
Authors*

volume 133

Contemporary Authors®

**A Bio-Bibliographical Guide to
Current Writers in Fiction, General Nonfiction,
Poetry, Journalism, Drama, Motion Pictures,
Television, and Other Fields**

SUSAN M. TROSKY
Editor

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Contemporary Authors®

Authors and Media People Featured in This Volume

Rick Atkinson (American journalist and writer)—Atkinson is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter whose first book, *The Long Gray Line: The American Journey of West Point's Class of 1966*, earned widespread praise. The book is a sweeping account of a generation of soldiers whose idealism was vanquished by the Vietnam War and its turbulent aftermath.

L. Frank Baum (American playwright, journalist, and author who died in 1919)—A prolific writer, Baum became best known for his first book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, which was adapted as a classic musical film in 1939 and which spawned a series of Oz stories and plays. Among his other books, many written under pseudonyms, is *Father Goose: His Book*.

Sven Birkerts (American literary critic)—Respected for his critical essays on American and foreign authors, Birkerts won a 1986 National Book Critics Circle Award for *An Artificial Wilderness: Essays on Twentieth-Century Literature*. He also wrote *The Electric Life*, a defense of poetry and reading in the mass media age. (Sketch contains interview.)

Bertolt Brecht (German playwright who died in 1956)—With innovative epic plays that abandoned traditional climactic structure for an episodic approach, Brecht attacked capitalism and espoused Marxism. His works, including *The Threepenny Opera*, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, *The Life of Galileo*, and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, have been hailed in the West as significant artistic achievements.

Stephen Coonts (American novelist)—Coonts, who was a U.S. Navy aviator in the Vietnam War, has written several best-selling thrillers featuring pilot Jake Grafton. The series began with *Flight of the Intruder*, adapted as a motion picture in 1991, and continues with the novels *Final Flight*, *The Minotaur*, and *Under Siege*. (Sketch contains interview.)

Jack Epps, Jr. (American screenwriter)—Epps has collaborated with Jim Cash on the scripts of popular films such as *Top Gun*, *The Secret of My Success*, and *Dick Tracy*, a movie adaptation based on the long-running comic strip of the same title.

John Feinstein (American journalist)—An award-winning sports writer, Feinstein gained national attention with his 1986 best-seller, *A Season on the Brink: A Year with Bob Knight and the Indiana Hoosiers*. He also wrote *A Season Inside: One Year in College Basketball* and *Forever's Team*.

Jack Finney (American writer)—Since his first book was published in 1954, Finney has produced novels ranging from mystery and suspense to science fiction. Among these works, many of which have been filmed, are *The Body Snatchers*, *Assault on a Queen*, *Good Neighbor Sam*, and *Time and Again*.

Percy Keese Fitzhugh (American children's writer who died in 1950)—Fitzhugh created Boy Scout heroes such as Pee-Wee Harris, Westy Martin, and Tom Slade—one of the most popular heroes in early twentieth-century children's fiction. His more than one hundred books include *Along the Mohawk Trail*, *Tom Slade in the Haunted Cavern*, and *The Story of Ethan Allen, the Green Mountain Boy*.

Anne Frank (German-born Jewish diarist who died in 1945)—Though she died at fifteen—a victim of the Holocaust of World War II—Frank became known worldwide for her eloquent, sensitive diary relating two years spent in hiding in Nazi-occupied Holland. The diary was first published in English as *Diary of a Young Girl* in 1952.

Sigmund Freud (Moravian-born psychologist and writer who died in 1939)—Freud's theories of sexuality and the subconscious mind shocked Victorian society when they were first introduced but have since permeated Western culture. His numerous well-known works, nearly all of which have been translated into English, include *The Interpretation of Dreams*, *A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis*, and *Civilization and Its Discontents*.

Bob Gale (American screenwriter)—Coauthor of the rollicking smash-hit fantasy film *Back to the Future*, Gale was sole author of its two humorous and spirited sequels. He had previously collaborated with his *Back to the Future* coauthor, Robert Zemeckis, on the screenplays for 1941, *I Wanna Hold Your Hand*, and *Used Cars*.

William Gibson (American-born science fiction novelist)—In the mid-1980s Gibson's first novel, *Neuromancer*, amazed the science fiction community and swept its major honors—the Hugo, Nebula, and Philip K. Dick awards. This book and its sequels, *Count Zero* and *Mona Lisa Overdrive*, depict a future world that is high-tech, streetwise, and often nightmarish.

Richard Holmes (British author)—Known for combining emotional insight and professional objectivity in his life stories of nineteenth-century authors, Holmes won the 1976 Somerset Maugham Award for *Shelley: The Pursuit* and the 1989 Whitbread Book of the Year award for *Coleridge: Early Visions*. (Sketch contains interview.)

Joseph Kingsbury-Smith (American journalist)—Kingsbury-Smith began his career as a reporter for wire services in the United States and abroad, winning one Pulitzer Prize, a George Polk Award, and three National Headliners Club awards. Since 1955 he has held various executive positions with the Hearst Corporation.

Bill Kurtis (American broadcast journalist)—Familiar to many as the former coanchor of the *CBS Morning News*, Kurtis has traveled the globe to report breaking news stories in countries such as El Salvador, Poland, Iran, and Vietnam. In 1983 he published *Bill Kurtis on Assignment*. (Sketch contains interview.)

Sinclair Lewis (American novelist who died in 1951)—Lewis, the first American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, was a polemical writer known for his satirical portrayals of American culture. In acclaimed works such as *Main Street*, *Babbitt*, *Arrowsmith*, and *Elmer Gantry*, he depicted American hypocrisy and the loss of freedom in conformist societies.

H. P. Lovecraft (American horror writer who died in 1937)—Remembered for his "weird tales" of supernatural horror, Lovecraft combined elaborate dreamlike imagery and original

mythology in his writings. Among his books, nearly all published after his death, are *Beyond the Wall of Sleep*, *The Dream Quest of Unknown Kadath*, and *The Case of Charles Dexter Ward*.

Rian Malan (South African journalist and writer)—Malan's first book, the best-seller *My Traitor's Heart: A South African Exile Returns to Face His Country, His Tribe, and His Conscience*, is a brutally honest expose of South Africa's cycle of racial violence. Noting that both blacks and whites take part, he denounces world opinion about the issue as simplistic and deluded.

William Marshall (Australian-born novelist)—With the publication of *Yellowthread Street* in 1975, Marshall launched a long-running series of wildly imaginative detective novels featuring Hong Kong police officer Harry Feiffer. Marshall has also inaugurated two new series with his novels *Manila Bay* and *The New York Detective*. (Sketch contains interview.)

Edgar Lee Masters (American writer who died in 1950)—The author of more than fifty books of poetry, drama, fiction, and biography, Masters made his most enduring mark on American literature with a single poetry volume, *Spoon River Anthology*. The work was both acclaimed and censured for its use of free verse and its blunt treatment of sex, hypocrisy, and moral decline.

A. A. Milne (British author who died in 1956)—Milne is internationally recognized for his classic, fanciful "Winnie-the-Pooh" stories and for his lighthearted children's verses collected in *When We Were Very Young* and *Now We Are Six*. An accomplished essayist, Milne was also well known for his many comical plays, including *Wurzel-Fummery* and *Mr. Pim Passes By*.

Yves Navarre (French novelist and playwright)—Navarre won France's Goncourt Prize for his novel *Le Jardin d'acclimatation*. Many of his works incorporate themes of homosexual relations and the spiritual powers of love and art. Among his translated writings are the novels *Cronus' Children*, *Sweet Tooth*, and *The Little Rogue in Our Flesh* and the play *Swimming Pools at War*.

Bette Pesetsky (American novelist and short story writer)—In Pesetsky's well-crafted, quirky fiction, ordinary people struggle to find happiness under trying circumstances. Praised by reviewers for its wit and clarity, Pesetsky's work includes the collection *Stories up to a Point* and the novels *Author from a Savage People* and *Digs*.

Detlev J. K. Peukert (German historian, educator, and author)—Peukert received critical acclaim for nonfiction works set in the Nazi political era, one of which was translated as *Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity, Opposition, and Racism in Everyday Life*.

Arnold Rampersad (West Indian-born author living in the United States)—Rampersad penned *The Life of Langston Hughes*, a highly regarded two-volume biography of America's leading black poet of the Harlem Renaissance. The first volume was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award, the second for a Pulitzer Prize. (Sketch contains interview.)

Edwin Arlington Robinson (American poet who died in 1935)—

During the 1920s Robinson's poems won three Pulitzer Prizes, including the first ever given for poetry. Among the poet's more than thirty volumes are *The Torrent and The Night Before*, *The Town down the River*, *Collected Poems*, *The Man Who Died Twice*, and the lauded best-seller *Tristram*.

Tom Schulman (screenwriter)—Schulman's film *Dead Poets Society* won a 1990 Academy Award for best original screenplay. Set in a stuffy boys' prep school of the 1950s, it celebrates an enthusiastic English teacher and the students influenced by his love for poetry and life. Schulman also wrote scripts for *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*, *Second Sight*, and *What about Bob?*

John Patrick Shanley (American playwright and screenwriter)—Winner of an Academy Award for his original 1987 screenplay, *Moonstruck*, Shanley writes about eccentric characters in emotionally charged, witty dramas for stage and screen, among them the films *The January Man* and *Joe versus the Volcano*.

Rosie Thomas (Welsh novelist)—Regarded as a first-rate storyteller, Thomas is the author of carefully structured fiction that features romance, winning characters, and meticulous detail. Her books include *Sunrise*, named Romantic Novel of the Year by the Romantic Novelists Association in 1985, *The White Dove*, and *Strangers*. (Sketch contains interview.)

Ben Travers (British playwright and author who died in 1980)—Travers is remembered as one of Britain's master farceurs. He enjoyed greatest prominence in the late 1920s and early 1930s with plays such as *A Cuckoo in the Nest*, *Rookery Nook*, *Plunder*, *Mischief*, and *A Night like This*. In 1975 he scored still another stage triumph with *The Bed before Yesterday*.

Alfred Uhry (American playwright)—Uhry's first drama, a quiet work about a cantankerous old woman and her black chauffeur titled *Driving Miss Daisy*, was an Off-Broadway hit that earned a Pulitzer Prize. Previously nominated for a Tony Award for the musical *The Robber Bridegroom*, Uhry won an Academy Award for his *Daisy* screenplay in 1990. (Sketch contains interview.)

Elio Vittorini (Italian author who died in 1966)—One of the most distinguished Italian writers of the mid-twentieth century, Vittorini surveyed the social conditions of his native land in several acclaimed novels, including those available in English as *The Twilight of the Elephant* and *Women of Messina*.

David Wingrove (British science fiction writer)—Wingrove, who shared the 1986 Hugo Award for nonfiction with Brian W. Aldiss for *Trillion Year Spree: The History of Science Fiction*, also edited *The Science Fiction Source Book*. In 1990 he launched an eight-volume science fiction series entitled "Chung Kuo" with the novel *The Middle Kingdom*.

John Woestendiek (American journalist)—Woestendiek's investigative series "Evidence of Innocence" prompted the release of an innocent man imprisoned for murder and earned the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reporter a 1987 Pulitzer Prize. (Sketch contains interview.)

Preface

The more than 800 entries in *Contemporary Authors (CA)*, Volume 133, bring to more than 98,000 the number of authors now represented in the *Contemporary Authors* series. *CA* includes writers in all genres—fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, etc.—whose books are issued by commercial, risk publishers or by university presses. Authors of books published only by known vanity or author-subsidized firms are ordinarily not included. Since native language and nationality have no bearing on inclusion in *CA*, authors who write in languages other than English are included if their works have been published in the United States or translated into English.

Although *CA* focuses primarily on authors of published books, the series also encompasses prominent persons in communications: newspaper and television reporters and correspondents, columnists, newspaper and magazine editors, photojournalists, syndicated cartoonists, screenwriters, television scriptwriters, and other media people.

Since the great poets, novelists, short story writers, and playwrights of the early twentieth century are popular writers for study in today's high school and college curriculums, and since their writings continue to be analyzed by literary critics, each volume of *CA* includes a limited number of entries on authors deceased before 1960. Providing commentary about writers' lives and literary achievements, these sketches, in addition, offer both a historical and contemporary review of the authors' critical reputations. The entries in this volume on such authors as L. Frank Baum, Bertolt Brecht, Percy Keese Fitzhugh, Anne Frank, Sigmund Freud, Sinclair Lewis, H. P. Lovecraft, Edgar Lee Masters, A. A. Milne, and Edwin Arlington Robinson reflect the variety of early twentieth-century authors to be featured in future *CA* volumes.

No charge or obligation is attached to a *CA* listing. Authors are included in the series solely on the basis of the above criteria and their interest to users.

Compilation Methods

The editors make every effort to secure information directly from the authors through questionnaires and personal correspondence. If writers of special interest to *CA* users are deceased or fail to reply to requests for information, material is gathered from other reliable sources. Biographical dictionaries are checked (a task made easier through the use of Gale's *Biography and Genealogy Master Index* and other volumes in the "Gale Biographical Index Series"), as are bibliographical sources such as *Cumulative Book Index* and *The National Union Catalog*. Published interviews, feature stories, and book reviews are examined, and often material is supplied by the authors' publishers. Sketches on living authors, whether prepared from questionnaires or through extensive research, are sent to the biographees for review prior to publication.

Format

CA is designed to present, clearly and concisely, biographical and bibliographical information in two kinds of listings: sketches and obituary notices. The series' easy-to-use format ensures that a reader needing specific information can quickly focus on the pertinent portion of an entry. Sketches, for instance, contain individual paragraphs with rubrics identifying addresses, memberships, and awards and honors. Furthermore, in sketch sections headed "Writings," the title of each book, play, and other published or unpublished work appears on a separate line, clearly distinguishing one title from another. This same convenient bibliographical presentation is featured in the "Biographical/Critical Sources" sections of sketches and in the "Obituaries and Other Sources" sections of obituary notices where individual book and periodical titles are also listed on separate lines. *CA* readers can therefore quickly scan these often-lengthy bibliographies to find the titles they need.

Informative Sidelights

Numerous *CA* sketches contain sidelights, which provide personal dimensions to the listings, supply information about the critical reception the authors' works have received, or both. Some authors presented in Volume 133 worked closely with *CA*'s editors to develop interesting, insightful sidelights. Novelist and short story writer Wayne Karlin, for instance, explains his primary literary objective: "to allow my reader a chance to live in the heads of characters with whom he might not normally identify, to let the reader internalize that character's life and dreams so that he can never be the same again."

CA's editors also compile sidelights when authors and media people of particular interest do not supply sidelights

material or when demand for information about the critical reception accorded their writings is especially high. Sidelights in Volume 133 for Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and nonfiction writer Rick Atkinson discuss his group biography, *The Long Gray Line: The American Journey of West Point's Class of 1966*. *CA* contributing editor Neil R. Schlager reports that reviewers praise "Atkinson's ability to portray the complexities and scope of these characters' lives" with "an intimacy and drama normally found in fiction," whereas the author's subjects applaud his "objectivity and accuracy." Also featured in this volume is fiction writer Bette Pesetsky, who, notes *CA* assistant editor Julia M. Rubiner, "has attracted widespread critical attention with her genuine but quirky characters and spare humorous prose" since the publication of her first book, *Stories up to a Point*.

We hope these sketches, as well as others with sidelights compiled by *CA*'s editors, provide informative and enjoyable reading.

Exclusive Interviews

CA provides exclusive, primary information on certain writers in the form of interviews. Prepared specifically for *CA*, the never-before-published conversations presented in the section of the sketch headed "*CA* Interview" give users the opportunity to learn the authors' thoughts, in depth, about their craft. Subjects chosen for interviews are, the editors feel, authors who hold special interest for *CA*'s readers.

Authors and journalists in this volume whose sketches include interviews are Sven Birkerts, Stephen Coonts, Richard Holmes, Bill Kurtis, William Marshall, Arnold Rampersad, Rosie Thomas, Alfred Uhry, and John Woestendiek.

Obituary Notices Make *CA* Timely and Comprehensive

To be as timely and comprehensive as possible, *CA* publishes obituary notices on deceased authors whose full-length sketches appeared in the series before their deaths. These notices provide date and place of birth and death, highlight the author's career and writings, and list other sources where additional biographical information and obituaries may be found. To distinguish them from full-length sketches, obituaries are identified with the heading "Obituary Notice."

Contemporary Authors New Revision Series

A major change in the preparation of *CA* revision volumes began with the first volume of *Contemporary Authors New Revision Series*. No longer are all of the sketches in a given *CA* volume updated and published together as a revision volume. Instead, entries from a number of volumes are assessed, and only those sketches requiring *significant change* are revised and published in a *New Revision Series* volume. This enables us to provide users with updated information about active writers on a more timely basis and avoids printing entries in which there has been little or no change. As always, the most recent *CA* cumulative index continues to be the user's guide to the location of an individual author's revised listing.

Contemporary Authors Autobiography Series

Designed to complement the information in *CA* original and revision volumes, the *Contemporary Authors Autobiography Series* provides autobiographical essays written by important current authors. Each volume contains from twenty to thirty specially commissioned autobiographies and is illustrated with numerous personal photographs supplied by the authors. Common topics of discussion for these authors include their motivations for writing, the people and experiences that shaped their careers, the rewards they derive from their work, and their impressions of the current literary scene.

Autobiographies included in the series can be located through both the *CA* cumulative index and the *Contemporary Authors Autobiography Series* cumulative index, which lists not only personal names but also titles of works, geographical names, subjects, and schools of writing.

Contemporary Authors Bibliographical Series

The *Contemporary Authors Bibliographical Series* is a comprehensive survey of writings by and about the most important authors since World War II in the United States and abroad. Each volume concentrates on a specific genre and nationality and features approximately ten major writers. Series entries, which complement the information in other *CA* volumes, consist of three parts: a primary bibliography that lists works written by the author, a secondary bibliography that lists works about the author, and a bibliographical essay that thoroughly analyzes the merits and deficiencies of major critical and scholarly works. These bibliographies can be located through both the *CA* cumulative index and the *Contemporary Authors Bibliographical Series* cumulative author index.

A cumulative critic index, citing critics discussed in the bibliographical essays, also appears in each *Bibliographical Series* volume.

CA Numbering System

Occasionally questions arise about the *CA* numbering system. Despite numbers like “97-100” and “133,” the entire series consists of only 109 physical volumes with the publication of Volume 133. The following information notes changes in the numbering system, as well as in cover design, to help users better understand the organization of the entire *CA* series.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| CA First Revisions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 1-4R through 41-44R (11 books)
<i>Cover:</i> Brown with black and gold trim.
There will be no further <i>First Revisions</i> because revised entries are now being handled exclusively through the more efficient <i>New Revision Series</i> mentioned below. |
| CA Original Volumes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 45-48 through 97-100 (14 books)
<i>Cover:</i> Brown with black and gold trim.● 101 through 133 (33 books)
<i>Cover:</i> Blue and black with orange bands.
The same as previous <i>CA</i> original volumes but with a simplified numbering system and updated cover design. |
| CA New Revision Series | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>CANR</i>-1 through <i>CANR</i>-33 (33 books)
<i>Cover:</i> Blue and black with green bands.
Includes only sketches requiring extensive change; sketches are taken from any previously published <i>CA</i> volume. |
| CA Permanent Series | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>CAP</i>-1 and <i>CAP</i>-2 (2 books)
<i>Cover:</i> Brown with red and gold trim.
There will be no further <i>Permanent Series</i> volumes because revised entries are now being handled exclusively through the more efficient <i>New Revision Series</i> mentioned above. |
| CA Autobiography Series | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>CAAS</i>-1 through <i>CAAS</i>-13 (13 books)
<i>Cover:</i> Blue and black with pink and purple bands.
Presents specially commissioned autobiographies by leading contemporary writers. |
| CA Bibliographical Series | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>CABS</i>-1 through <i>CABS</i>-3 (3 books)
<i>Cover:</i> Blue and black with blue bands.
Provides comprehensive bibliographical information on published works by and about major modern authors. |

Retaining CA Volumes

As new volumes in the series are published, users often ask which *CA* volumes, if any, can be discarded. The Volume Update Chart on page xiii is designed to assist users in keeping their collections as complete as possible. All volumes in the left column of the chart should be retained to have the most complete, up-to-date coverage; volumes in the right column can be discarded if the appropriate replacements are held.

Cumulative Index Should Always Be Consulted

The key to locating an individual author's listing is the *CA* cumulative index, which is published separately and distributed with even-numbered original volumes and odd-numbered revision volumes. Since the *CA* cumulative index provides access to *all* entries in the *CA* series, the latest cumulative index should always be consulted to find the specific volume containing a listee's original or most recently revised sketch.

For the convenience of users, the *CA* cumulative index also includes references to all entries in these related Gale literary titles: *Authors and Artists for Young Adults*, *Authors in the News*, *Bestsellers*, *Black Writers*, *Children's Literature Review*, *Concise Dictionary of American Literary Biography*, *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, *Hispanic Writers*, *Major Twentieth-Century Writers*, *Short Story Criticism*,

Something About the Author, Something About the Author Autobiography Series, Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism, and Yesterday's Authors of Books for Children.

Suggestions Are Welcome

The editors welcome comments and suggestions from users on any aspects of the *CA* series. If readers would like to suggest authors whose entries should appear in future volumes of the series, they are cordially invited to write: The Editors, *Contemporary Authors*, Gale Research Inc., 835 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit, MI 48226-4094; call toll-free at 1-800-347-GALE; or fax to 1-313-961-6815.

Volume Update Chart

IF YOU HAVE:	YOU MAY DISCARD:
1-4 First Revision (1967)	1 (1962) 2 (1963) 3 (1963) 4 (1963)
5-8 First Revision (1969)	5-6 (1963) 7-8 (1963)
Both 9-12 First Revision (1974) AND <i>Contemporary Authors Permanent Series</i> , Volume 1 (1975)	9-10 (1964) 11-12 (1965)
Both 13-16 First Revision (1975) AND <i>Contemporary Authors Permanent Series</i> , Volumes 1 and 2 (1975, 1978)	13-14 (1965) 15-16 (1966)
Both 17-20 First Revision (1976) AND <i>Contemporary Authors Permanent Series</i> , Volumes 1 and 2 (1975, 1978)	17-18 (1967) 19-20 (1968)
Both 21-24 First Revision (1977) AND <i>Contemporary Authors Permanent Series</i> , Volumes 1 and 2 (1975, 1978)	21-22 (1969) 23-24 (1970)
Both 25-28 First Revision (1977) AND <i>Contemporary Authors Permanent Series</i> , Volume 2 (1978)	25-28 (1971)
Both 29-32 First Revision (1978) AND <i>Contemporary Authors Permanent Series</i> , Volume 2 (1978)	29-32 (1972)
Both 33-36 First Revision (1978) AND <i>Contemporary Authors Permanent Series</i> , Volume 2 (1978)	33-36 (1973)
37-40 First Revision (1979)	37-40 (1973)
41-44 First Revision (1979)	41-44 (1974)
45-48 (1974) 49-52 (1975) 133 (1991)	NONE: These volumes will not be superseded by corresponding revised volumes. Individual entries from these and all other volumes appearing in the left column of this chart will be revised and included in the <i>New Revision Series</i> .
Volumes in the <i>Contemporary Authors New Revision Series</i>	NONE: The <i>New Revision Series</i> does not replace any single volume of <i>CA</i> . All volumes appearing in the left column of this chart must be retained to have information on all authors in the series.

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Indexing note: All entries are indexed in the *Contemporary Authors* cumulative index, which is published separately and distributed with even-numbered original volumes and odd-numbered revision volumes.

Contemporary Authors®

**Indicates that a listing has been compiled from secondary sources believed to be reliable but has not been personally verified for this edition by the author sketched.*

ABERNATHY, Ralph David 1926-1990

PERSONAL: Born March 11, 1926, in Linden, AL; died of cardiac arrest, April 17, 1990, in Atlanta, GA; buried in Lincoln Cemetery, Atlanta, GA; son of William L. (a farmer) and Louivery (Bell) Abernathy; married Juanita Odessa Jones (a civil rights activist and teacher), August 31, 1952; children: Juandalynn Ralpheda, Donzaleigh Avis, Ralph David III, Kwame Luthuli. **Education:** Alabama State College, B.S., 1950; Atlanta University, M.A., 1951.

CAREER: Ordained Baptist minister, 1948; First Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL, pastor, 1951-61; Montgomery Improvement Association, Montgomery, cofounder and organizer, 1955-57; Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Atlanta, GA, cofounder, 1957, principal organizer, 1957-61, vice president at large, 1961-68, president, 1968-77; West Hunter Street Baptist Church, Atlanta, pastor, 1961-90.

AWARDS, HONORS: Peace Medal from German Democratic Republic, 1971; honorary degrees from Allen University, Southampton College, Alabama State University, Morehouse College, and Kalamazoo College.

WRITINGS:

And the Walls Came Tumbling Down (autobiography), Harper, 1989.

SIDELIGHTS: A cofounder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Ralph David Abernathy was Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s closest collaborator in the epochal civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Abernathy wrote an insider's account of the movement and revealed embarrassing details about King's private life in his controversial 1989 autobiography, *And the Walls Came Tumbling Down*. Denounced by many other civil rights veterans for his indiscretion, the author was still eulogized as a great early leader of the movement when he died in early 1990. Abernathy "showed tremendous courage in standing up to the brutal system of segregation and racial degradation that had existed in the South," declared Georgia Congressman John Lewis, as quoted in the *Los Angeles Times*. "He was a fighter."

Born the grandson of a slave in rural Alabama, Abernathy grew up in a close-knit family that was comfortably well off by the standards of Southern blacks at the time. His father, a farmer, was well respected in the community, and Abernathy aspired to

similar status from his early youth, taking one of the few paths to leadership open to blacks in the pre-civil rights years: the ministry. Ordained a Baptist minister in 1948, he took degrees in mathematics and sociology and was named pastor of the well-known First Baptist Church in Montgomery at the age of twenty-five.

Abernathy soon struck up a friendship with another young Baptist preacher, Martin Luther King, Jr., whom he had earlier heard preaching in Atlanta. Having endured the Great Depression and fought in World War II, educated young blacks of Abernathy's and King's generation chafed under the South's rigid racial segregation that denied them a fair opportunity to share in the nation's postwar prosperity. This pent-up demand for equality and respect burst open one evening in December, 1955, when black seamstress Rosa Parks, tired from her day's work, refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery public bus to a white man, as local law required. Parks's arrest roused an outcry among Montgomery's black community and inspired Abernathy and King to organize the Montgomery Improvement Association to direct a public boycott of Montgomery buses. The peaceful boycott lasted for more than a year, culminating with a federal desegregation order and a stunning victory for the newborn civil rights movement.

Inspired by this success, Abernathy and King went on to found the SCLC with the audacious goal of ending segregation and winning full civil rights for blacks throughout the Southern states. Committed to the principles of nonviolence and multiracial cooperation, the SCLC led historic civil disobedience campaigns in Birmingham, Alabama, and other cities that received worldwide attention and helped secure passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act in the early 1960s. Abernathy and King worked as a close leadership team during this period, sharing the thrill of victory along with cramped jail cells and continual physical danger (Abernathy's home and church in Montgomery were both fire-bombed in 1957). Abernathy's autobiographical account of these years of intimate collaboration with King "is enlightening and helps us better understand what a remarkable man King was," observed *New York Times Book Review* critic Henry Hampton. "When Mr. Abernathy sticks to accounts of his own direct involvement, his storytelling is gripping, even moving." *Washington Post Book World* reviewer Juan Williams concurred: "It is this authoritative voice of the man who was indisputably like a brother to King that sets Ab-

ernathy's book apart and gives it a special place among civil rights histories."

When King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, Abernathy succeeded him as head of the SCLC. He continued and extended the organization's shift in direction from "civil rights in law" (now largely achieved) to "economic rights in life," a much more complicated problem to address. Under Abernathy's leadership, the SCLC called for full-employment policies, a national health insurance system, and high-quality education for all. The organization actively opposed the Vietnam War, supported labor-organizing drives, and led multiracial civil disobedience actions on behalf of the poor and unemployed. But the SCLC found its influence waning in the 1970s, the victim of changing social attitudes, a falling fund-raising base, and internal dissension, some of it directed at Abernathy's perceived lack of leadership. Abernathy resigned as SCLC president to run unsuccessfully for Congress in 1977 and then largely retired from public life, returning to the headlines when he supported the 1980 presidential bid of conservative Republican Ronald Reagan and when he discussed Martin Luther King's sexual relationships in *And the Walls Came Tumbling Down*.

Although allegations of King's infidelity were not new, Abernathy was the first close King associate to confirm them—specifically, that the civil rights leader had slept with two women and struck a jealous third the night before his assassination. Amid the public furor that erupted over this charge, a group of prominent civil rights leaders denounced Abernathy for besmirching King's name and two of the unnamed women in Abernathy's account publicly identified themselves and denied any sexual relationship with King. But the author stood by his account, insisting that he had betrayed no trust and simply wanted to portray his colleague truthfully as the fallible man he was instead of the icon he had become. "If I hadn't written about what I saw, they would have accused me of white-washing history," he declared, as quoted in *Maclean's*. "It's only two pages out of more than six hundred. The book is a tribute to my friend." Abernathy died of cardiac arrest just months after his book was published and is buried in Atlanta's Lincoln Cemetery beneath a tombstone that reads, "I tried."

BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES:

BOOKS

- Ebony*, January, 1970; December, 1982.
Essence, January, 1990.
Jet, October 30, 1989.
Los Angeles Times Book Review, November 12, 1989.
Maclean's, November 6, 1989.
New York Times Book Review, October 29, 1989.
New York Times Magazine, May 26, 1968.
People, October 30, 1989.
Time, May 31, 1968; October 23, 1989.
Tribune Books (Chicago), October 8, 1989.
Washington Post Book World, October 15, 1989.

OBITUARIES:

PERIODICALS

- Chicago Tribune*, April 18, 1990.
Los Angeles Times, April 18, 1990.
New York Times, April 18, 1990.*

—Sketch by Curtis Skinner

ABRAMOV, Fyodor Aleksandrovich 1920-1983

PERSONAL: Born February 29, 1920, in Verkola, near Arkhangelsk, Russia (now U.S.S.R.); died May 16, 1983, in Moscow, U.S.S.R. **Education:** Graduated from Leningrad University, 1948. **Politics:** Communist.

CAREER: Writer. Teacher of Russian literature at Leningrad State University in 1950s, became head of department.

MEMBER: Soviet Writers Union.

AWARDS, HONORS: Order of the Patriotic War; Soviet State Prize, 1975.

WRITINGS:

- M. A. Sholokhov* (seminars), [Leningrad], 1958, 2nd edition, enlarged, 1962.
Bratia i sestry (part 1 of the *Pryasliny* ["Pryaslins"] trilogy of novels; title means "Brothers and Sisters"), [U.S.S.R.], 1958.
Bezotsovhchina (title means "Fatherless"; includes novelettes and short stories), Sovetskii Pisatel, 1962.
Vokrug da okolo (title means "Round and About"), Posev, 1963, translation by George Reavey published as *The New Life: A Day on a Collective Farm*, Grove Press, 1963; translation by David Floyd published as *One Day in the "New Life,"* Praeger, 1963 (published in England as *The Dodgers*).
Dve zimy i tri leta (part 2 of the "Pryaslins" trilogy of novels), Sovetskii Pisatel, 1969, translation by Jacqueline Edwards and Mitchell Schneider published as *Two Winters and Three Summers*, introduction by Maurice Friedberg, Harcourt, 1984; translation by Doris C. Powers and D. B. Powers published as *Two Winters and Three Summers*, introduction by Carl Proffer and Ellendea Proffer, Ardis, 1984.
Puti-pereputia (part 3 of the "Pryaslins" trilogy of novels), [Moscow], 1973.
Dom (novel), Sovetskii Pisatel, 1980.
The Swans Flew By and Other Short Stories, Raduga (Moscow), 1986.
Pashni zhivaia i mertvaia: Ocherki, rasskazy, stikhi, Leiningradskoe otd-nie, 1987.
O khlebe nasuschnom i khlebe dukhovnom, Wolodaia gvardiia, 1988.

Short fiction published in numerous collections, including *Povesti i rasskazy*, 1963; *Sosnovye deti*, 1970; *Dereviannye koni*, 1972; *Posledniaia okhota*, 1973; and *Povesti*, 1983. Member of editorial board of *Neva* in early 1960s. Contributor to periodicals.

SIDELIGHTS: Fyodor Abramov was an acclaimed Soviet writer who enjoyed a substantial, but not entirely trouble-free, literary career. After he began teaching at Leningrad University in the 1950s, Abramov also began publishing criticism, including a harsh 1954 indictment of then-popular fiction sentimentalizing peasant life. In turn, he championed greater realism, claiming that only by providing unyielding depictions of Soviet life might his country's writers promote the socialist cause. Abramov's vehemently held position was not without its detractors, particularly within the country's powerful literary hierarchy, but he also drew many supporters, and by 1956 he found himself increasingly influential. He became chairman of the Soviet literature department at the university and joined the editorial board of the publication *Neva*.

Abramov published his first novel, *Bratia i sestry* ("Brothers and Sisters"), which is the first in a trilogy of works collectively known as *Pryasliny* ("The Pryaslins"). In this series Abramov, in conforming to his own standards for realistic fiction, provides

an unflinching depiction of life among Soviet peasants. But by adhering to his own, more rigorous, definition of reality, Abramov eventually ran afoul of Soviet cultural authorities. In 1963 he produced *Vokrug da okolo* ("Round and About"; published as *The New Life: A Day on a Collective Farm; One Day in the "New Life"*; and, in England, *The Dodgers*). In this fictional narrative Abramov exposed the inefficiency and inhumanity of state-managed farms. For his efforts, which proved offensive to the mainline Soviet taste, Abramov found himself ostracized from the literary community. As a result of this work, he was forced—along with several supporters—from the editorial board of *Neva*.

The perspective in the *New Life* novel is primarily that of the farm collective's chairman, Mysovsky, an ardent Communist whose enthusiasm is eventually undone by both the unreasonable demands of his superiors and the sometimes unfathomable stubbornness and laziness of the farmers. As a means of motivating the farmers, Mysovsky, while drunk, grants them triple the state limit for their harvest. The farmers consequently respond avidly, and the beleaguered Mysovsky is last depicted pondering the inevitable punishment that will be meted him for his unsanctioned action.

Upon publication in English translation the *New Life* novel was accorded significant acclaim. Merle Fainsod, writing in *New York Herald Tribune Books*, declared that the novel possessed "a basic honesty and integrity which can only command respect," while Harrison Salisbury, in his *Saturday Review* assessment, affirmed, "Not since . . . [Mikhail Sholokhov's] *And Quiet Flows the Don* has the sweat, the smell, the passion, and the flavor of Russian country scenes been so powerfully conveyed." Irving Howe, who contributed an appraisal in the *New York Times Book Review*, described the novel as "remarkably frank," and he contended that "the social implications of this book are explosive."

In the years immediately following the Soviet publication of the *New Life* novel, Abramov found himself a literary outcast. But, undaunted by his notoriety, he continued to characterize his work as orthodox socialism. Eventually he managed to convince the cultural authorities, and in 1968 he was allowed to publish another Pryaslins novel, *Dve zimy i tri leta* (translated as *Two Winters and Three Summers*). In this work Abramov once again presents a harsh indictment of collective farming as practiced in the Soviet Union. Unlike the earlier *New Life* novel, though, *Two Winters and Three Summers* presents a hero, Mikhail Pryaslin, who gains strength and conviction by managing a collective. As Richard Elman noted in the *New York Times Book Review*, "We watch his exposure to the bitter postwar world and his personal growth amid the venal and suffering life of the collective."

Two Winters and Three Summers, which appeared in two different English translations in 1984, was treated respectfully by reviewers. Tom J. Lewis, in his review for *World Literature Today*, disclosed some questionable aspects of Abramov's past: He was, according to Lewis, a murderous agent of the Soviet spy network SMERSH. "The fact that the author may be morally degenerate makes the act of reading [*Two Winters and Three Summers*] more complex, more intriguing, than otherwise would have been the case." Lewis concluded that with *Two Winters and Three Summers*, Abramov—despite his disturbing background—had produced "a good book," one "comparable perhaps to [American novelist Theodore] Dreiser's *American Tragedy*."

From the late 1960s until his death in 1983 Abramov enjoyed great prominence in the Soviet Union as a true champion of socialism.

BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES:

PERIODICALS

- Christian Century*, July 3, 1963.
Christian Science Monitor, October 10, 1984.
New Statesman, July 12, 1963.
New Yorker, August 6, 1984.
New York Herald Tribune Books, June 30, 1963.
New York Times Book Review, July 7, 1963; May 19, 1968; February 3, 1985.
Saturday Review, July 6, 1963.
Time, December 20, 1963.
Times Literary Supplement, July 12, 1963.
Virginia Quarterly Review, autumn, 1963; autumn, 1984.
World Literature Today, spring, 1985; autumn, 1986.

OBITUARIES:

PERIODICALS

- Chicago Tribune*, May 18, 1983.
New York Times, May 17, 1983.
Times (London), May 20, 1983.*

—Sketch by Les Stone

* * *

ABUBA, Ernest Hawkins 1947-

PERSONAL: Born August 25, 1947, in Honolulu, HI; son of Domingo Garcia (in U.S. Army) and Della Marie (a restaurant owner; maiden name, De France) Abuba; married Tisa Chang (a producer and director), January 25, 1976; children: Auric Kang (son). **Education:** Attended Southwestern College and Washington Theatre of Dramatic Arts, Washington, DC; studied ballet with Louise Brandwen at Actors Stage Studio.

ADDRESSES: Office—74A East Fourth St., New York, NY 10003.

CAREER: Professional actor, director, playwright, and screenwriter, 1969—. Screen credits include roles in *The Next Man*, *Sequoia*, and *The Last Embrace*; stage credits include roles in *The Legend of Wu Chang* and *Yellow Fever*; television roles include a florist in *Ryan's Hope* and Dr. Logan in *Search for Tomorrow*. Acting teacher, Basement Workshop, New York City, 1977-78. Member of board of directors, Pan Asian Repertory Theatre and H. T. Chen Dancers Company. **Military service:** U.S. Coast Guard, 1968-71, served as seaman and hospitalman.

MEMBER: American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, Screen Actors Guild, Actors Equity Association, Association of Canadian Television and Radio Artists.

AWARDS, HONORS: Focus Press Award for best actor, 1975, for *The Legend of Wu Chang*; fellow of Creative Artists Public Service Program, 1979; Obie Award for best actor, 1983, for *Yellow Fever*.

WRITINGS:

- The Dowager* (play), produced at La Mama Annex, 1978.
An American Story (play), produced in New York City, 1980.

Author of poetry volume *Hang-Up*, 1967; coauthor and director of films, including *Vegetable Soup II*, 1979, *Lilac Chen: Asian American Suffragette*, *Arthur A. Schomburg: Black Historian*, *The Asian American Railroad Strike*, *Osceola: American Indian Hero*, *The Iroquois Confederacy*, and *Mariana Bracetti: Puerto Rican*. Contributor to periodicals.*

ADAMS, Henry (Brooks) 1838-1918
(Tauraatua i Amo, Frances Compton Snow)

PERSONAL: Born February 16, 1838, in Boston, MA; died March 27, 1918, in Washington, DC; son of Charles Francis (a statesman and diplomat) and Abigail (Brooks) Adams; married Marian Hooper, June 29, 1872 (died December 6, 1885). *Education:* Harvard University, B.A., 1858; graduate study at University of Berlin.

ADDRESSES: Home—Washington, DC, and Paris, France.

CAREER: Served as private secretary to his father in Washington, DC, and London, England, 1861-68; free-lance journalist, 1868-70; Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, assistant professor of medieval history, 1870-77; traveler, historian, and writer, 1877-1918.

MEMBER: American Historical Association (president, beginning in 1894).

AWARDS, HONORS: Loubat Prize from Columbia University, 1894, for *History of the United States of America during the Administrations of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison*; Pulitzer Prize for autobiography, 1919, for *The Education of Henry Adams*.

WRITINGS:

(With Charles Francis Adams, Jr.) *Chapters of Erie, and Other Essays*, Osgood, 1871, reprinted, 1971.

The Life of Albert Gallatin, Lippincott, 1879, reprinted, Chelsea House, 1983 (also see below).

Democracy (novel; also see below), published anonymously, Holt, 1880, reprinted under actual name, New American Library, 1988.

John Randolph, Houghton, 1882, revised edition, 1883, reprinted, AMS Press, 1972 (also see below).

(Under pseudonym Frances Compton Snow) *Esther* (novel; also see below), Holt, 1884, reprinted under actual name, Scholars' Facsimiles and Reprints, 1976.

History of the United States of America during the First Administration of Thomas Jefferson, privately printed, 1884, revised edition published as Volumes 1-2 of *History of the United States of America during the Administrations of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison*, Scribners, 1889 (also see below).

History of the United States of America during the Second Administration of Thomas Jefferson, privately printed, 1885, revised edition published as Volumes 3-4 of *History of the United States of America during the Administrations of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison*, Scribners, 1890 (also see below).

History of the United States of America during the First Administration of James Madison, privately printed, 1888, revised edition published as Volumes 5-6 of *History of the United States of America during the Administrations of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison*, Scribners, 1890 (also see below).

History of the United States of America during the Administrations of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, nine volumes (also includes Volumes 7-9: *History of the United States of America during the Second Administration of James Madison*, 1891), Scribners, 1889-91, reprinted in two volumes, Library of America, 1986.

Historical Essays, Scribners, 1891.

Memoirs of Marau Taaroa, Last Queen of Tahiti, privately printed, 1893, revised edition published under pseudonym Tauraatua i Amo as *Memoirs of Arii Taimai e Marama of Eimeo Teriirere of Toorai Teriinui of Tahiti*, [Paris], 1901,

reprinted as *Tahiti*, edited and introduced by Robert E. Spiller, Scholars' Facsimiles and Reprints, 1947.

Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres, privately printed, 1904, revised edition, Houghton, 1913, new edition with an introduction by Ernest Samuels, New American Library, 1961 (also see below).

The Education of Henry Adams (autobiography; also see below), privately printed, 1907, Houghton, 1918, reprinted, Franklin Library, 1981.

A Letter to American Teachers of History, privately printed, 1910, reprinted, University Microfilms, 1969 (also see below).

The Life of George Cabot Lodge, Houghton, 1911, reprinted, Scholars' Facsimiles and Reprints, 1978 (also see below).

The Degradation of the Democratic Dogma (includes *A Letter to American Teachers of History*), Macmillan, 1919, reprinted, Harper, 1969.

The Great Secession Winter of 1860-1861, and Other Essays, edited and introduced by George Hochfield, Sagamore Press, 1958.

Contributor to periodicals, including *American Historical Review*, *Edinburgh Review*, and *Nation*.

EDITOR

(And contributor) *Essays in Anglo-Saxon Law*, Little, Brown, 1876.

(And author of preface) *Documents Relating to New-England Federalism, 1800-1815*, Little, Brown, 1877, reprinted, B. Franklin, 1969.

(And author of preface) *The Writings of Albert Gallatin*, three volumes, Lippincott, 1879.

Letters of John Hay and Extracts from Diary, three volumes, privately printed, 1908.

Editor of *North American Review*, 1870-77.

LETTERS

Letters to a Niece and Prayer to the Virgin of Chartres, edited by Mabel La Farge, Houghton, 1920, reprinted, Reprint Services, 1988.

A Cycle of Adams Letters, 1861-1865, two volumes, edited by Worthington C. Ford, Houghton, 1920.

Letters of Henry Adams (1858-1891), edited by Ford, Houghton, 1930.

Letters of Henry Adams (1892-1918), edited by Ford, Houghton, 1938.

Henry Adams and His Friends, edited by Harold Dean Cater, Houghton, 1947.

Selected Letters, edited and introduced by Newton Arvin, Farrar, Straus, 1951.

The Making of a History: Letters of Henry Adams to Henry Vignaud and Charles Scribner, 1879-1913, edited by C. Waller Barrett, [Boston], 1959.

Letters from Japan, edited and introduced by Donald Richie and Yoshimori Harashima, Kenkyusha, 1960.

The Letters of Henry Adams, 1858-1892, edited by J. C. Levenson and others, six volumes, Harvard University Press, 1982-88.

ABRIDGED EDITIONS

The War of 1812 (contains selections from *History of the United States of America during the Administrations of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison*), edited by H. A. DeWeerd, The Infantry, 1944.

The Formative Years: A History of the United States during the Administrations of Jefferson and Madison (contains selections from *History of the United States of America during the Administrations of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison*), edited and abridged by Herbert Agar, Houghton, 1947.

The United States in 1800 (contains first six chapters of Volume 1 of *History of the United States of America during the First Administration of Thomas Jefferson*), Great Seal Books, 1955.

The Education of Henry Adams, and Other Selected Writings (includes selections from *History of the United States of America during the Administrations of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison*, *The Life of George Cabot Lodge*, *The Life of Albert Gallatin*, *John Randolph*, and *Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres*), edited, abridged, and introduced by Edward N. Saveth, Washington Square Press, 1963.

History of the United States during the Administrations of Jefferson and Madison, abridged and introduced by George Dangerfield and Otey M. Scruggs, Prentice-Hall, 1963.

OMNIBUS EDITIONS

A Henry Adams Reader, edited and introduced by Elizabeth Stevenson, Doubleday, 1958.

Novels, Mont-Saint-Michel, The Education (contains *Democracy*, *Esther*, *Mont-Saint-Michel* and *Chartres*, and *The Education of Henry Adams*), edited by Ernest Samuels and Jayne N. Samuels, Library of America, 1983.

Sketches for the North American Review, edited by Edward Chalfant, Archon Books, 1986.

MEDIA ADAPTATIONS: Romulus Linney adapted *Democracy* and *Esther* into a play, which was published by Harcourt in 1973.

SIDELIGHTS: As the descendant of two U.S. presidents, Henry Adams grew up believing that someday he too would assume that office. As a child, in fact, he was startled when others expressed doubts about the matter. While Adams's initial expectations weren't realized—he eventually became not a president but a philosopher and historian—he still enjoyed a successful and influential career. His nine-volume *History of the United States during the Administrations of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison* is considered a classic text on the era, and his autobiography, *The Education of Henry Adams*, won a Pulitzer Prize. Despite his literary success, Adams viewed his achievements as unimpressive and saw himself as a failure, since in his opinion he had made far less impact on his society than his heritage might have predicted. Critics generally disregard Adams's self-assessment, however, and agree that he occupies a secure place in American literary history.

Adams was born in 1838 into one of the most illustrious of American families. His great-grandfather was John Adams, the second president of the United States; his grandfather was John Quincy Adams, the sixth president; and his father, Charles Francis Adams, was minister to Great Britain during Abraham Lincoln's administration. Although early in life Henry Adams thought that he too would become a public servant, he eventually decided on a literary career. After following family tradition by attending Harvard University and making a tour of Europe, he spent the 1860s working as private secretary for his father and as a free-lance journalist. In 1870 he became assistant professor of medieval history at Harvard, a post he held until 1877, when he decided to devote himself entirely to writing. Also in 1877 Adams and his wife Marian moved to Washington, D.C., where Adams would live for the rest of his life.

Adams's first serious efforts at history and biography appeared in the late 1870s and were marked by the author's bias and partisanship toward his subjects. *Documents Relating to New England Federalism, 1800-1815*, which Adams edited, appeared in 1877. "This volume," noted Earl N. Harbert in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, was "a spirited defense of . . . John Quincy Adams against the old attacks from Federalist party loyalists." Adams's next project was a biography of Albert Gallatin, who served as secretary of the treasury under Thomas Jefferson. Commissioned by Gallatin's heirs and published in 1879, *The Life of Albert Gallatin* "offers the portrait of Gallatin as an ideal statesman for his time," commented Harbert, "a man who might have been a worthy successor to Jefferson as president except for the uncontrollable historical accident of foreign birth." Adams viewed Gallatin sympathetically but nonetheless portrayed him as a failure—a statesman who wanted the nation to achieve its democratic ideals but who was stymied "by a country grown insensitive to talent and honesty," averred Michael O'Brien in *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. The theme of failure eventually became a dominant motif in Adams's writings.

Adams treated his next biographical subject far more harshly. Published in 1882, *John Randolph* is the story of the Virginia politician and advocate for states' rights who opposed Jefferson's efforts to build a strong federal government. O'Brien termed the book "a sharp witty condemnation . . . that compounded Randolph's self-confessed and self-promoted bizarreness with Adams's own lack of sympathy for the South." Critics have stated that this volume served Adams as a testing ground, a place where he could experiment with a negative, judgmental point of view. As Harbert wrote, "[Adams] drew upon new materials to fashion a savage critique in *John Randolph*, one that would later be incorporated in . . . *History of the United States*."

In addition to the two biographies, Adams also produced during the early 1880s his only novels, *Democracy* and *Esther*. The first focuses on politics, the second on religion. In both works the protagonist is a virtuous woman struggling to come to grips with the limitations and moral standards imposed by society; in both Adams modeled the heroine after his wife, Marian. In *Democracy* the character of Madeleine Lee travels to Washington, D.C., to learn about the workings of democracy in post-Civil War America. She finds a system compromised by unscrupulous politicians and diplomats. The widowed, attractive Lee is pursued by several suitors, but she refuses all offers for fear that her own moral code will be undermined if she weds a politician. Harbert noted that "Adams uses the male suitors to illustrate the dangers yet inherent in geographical sectionalism (so recently tested in the Civil War) and human imperfectability. All promises of a rosy, virtuous future—national and personal—demand a further test."

The plot of *Esther* is similar to that of *Democracy*, as a single, intelligent woman searches in vain for a religious philosophy that will give meaning to her life. Like Madeleine Lee, the character of Esther Dudley is wooed by men who offer appealing alternatives to her own lifestyle. Also like Lee, Dudley rejects the suitors—and the options they represent—as inadequate for her needs. O'Brien commented, "In both novels, ominously, the heroine is left unable to find a satisfactory love or a solution to the problem that increasingly fascinated Adams, the status of women in society." Harbert wrote that these novels reflect Adams's initial attempts to develop a "theory of feminine force," a theory that would see fruition in *Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres*.