

*Contemporary
Authors*

volume **140**

Contemporary

Authors®

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

DONNA OLENDORF

Editor

volume **140**



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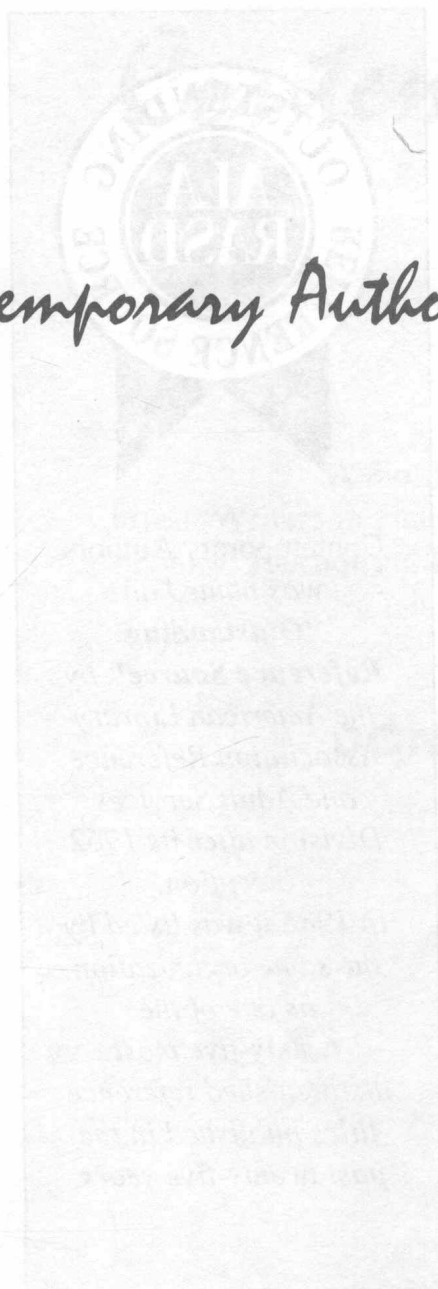
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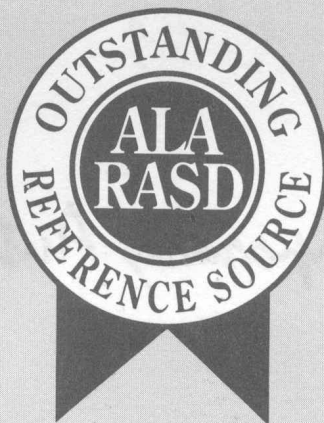


A Bibliographical Guide to
Fiction, General Nonfiction,
Drama, Motion Pictures,
and Other Fields

JONNA OLENDORF
Editor

volume 140

浙江
大学
图书馆
藏书



Contemporary Authors
was named an
**"Outstanding
Reference Source"** by
the American Library
Association Reference
and Adult Services
Division after its 1962
inception.

In 1985 it was listed by
the same organization
as one of the
twenty-five most
distinguished reference
titles published in the
past twenty-five years.



Preface

Contemporary Authors (CA) provides information on more than 96,000 writers in a wide range of media, including:

- Current writers of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama whose works have been issued by commercial, risk publishers, or university presses (authors whose books have been published only by known vanity or author-subsidized firms are ordinarily not included)
- Prominent print and broadcast journalists, editors, photojournalists, syndicated cartoonists, screenwriters, television scriptwriters, and other media people
- Authors who write in languages other than English, provided their works have been published in the United States or translated into English
- Literary greats of the early twentieth century whose works are popular in today's high school and college curriculums and continue to elicit critical attention

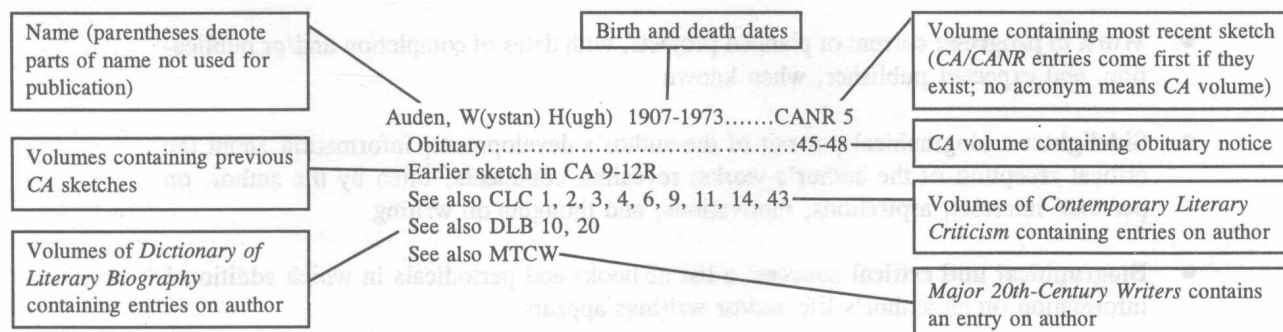
A *CA* listing entails no charge or obligation. Authors are included on the basis of the above criteria and their interest to *CA* users. Sources of potential listees include trade periodicals, publisher's catalogs, librarians, and other users.

How to Get the Most out of *CA*: Use the Index

The key to locating an author's entry is the *CA* cumulative index. It provides access to *all* entries in *CA* and *Contemporary Authors New Revision Series (CANR)*, which contains completely updated versions of only those *CA* sketches requiring significant change. The index is published separately and distributed with even-numbered *CA* volumes and odd-numbered *CANR* volumes. Always consult the latest index to find an author's most recent entry.

For the convenience of users, the *CA* cumulative index also includes references to all entries in these Gale literary series: *Authors and Artists for Young Adults*, *Authors in the News*, *Bestsellers*, *Black Literature Criticism*, *Black Writers*, *Children's Literature Review*, *Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism*, *Concise Dictionary of American Literary Biography*, *Concise Dictionary of British Literary Biography*, *Contemporary Authors Autobiography Series*, *Contemporary Authors Bibliographical Series*, *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, *Drama Criticism*, *Hispanic Writers*, *Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800*, *Major Authors and Illustrators for Children and Young Adults*, *Major 20th-Century Writers*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism*, *Poetry Criticism*, *Short Story Criticism*, *Something about the Author*, *Something about the Author Autobiography Series*, *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*, *World Literature Criticism*, and *Yesterday's Authors of Books for Children*.

A Sample Index Entry:



Note: Some index entries contain "Brief Entry" citations. These refer to a short *CA* entry (now discontinued) typically containing birth information, a prose summary that highlights an author's career and writings, and often a few sources where additional information may be found.

How Are Entries Compiled?

Authors' responses to our questionnaires and query letters provide most of the information featured in *CA*. For deceased writers, or those who fail to reply to requests for data, we consult other reliable biographical sources, such as those indexed in Gale's *Biography and Genealogy Master Index*, and bibliographical sources, such as *National Union Catalog*, LC MARC, and *British National Bibliography*. Further details come from published interviews, feature stories, and book reviews, and often the authors' publishers supply material.

An * at the end of a sketch 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.

What Kinds of Information Does an Entry Provide?

Sketches in *CA* provide in-depth information in a format designed for ease of use. A typical sketch contains the following:

- **Entry heading:** the most complete form of the author's name, plus any pseudonyms or name variations used for writing
- **Personal information:** author's date and place of birth, family data, educational background, political and religious affiliations, and hobbies and leisure interests
- **Addresses:** author's home, office, or agent's addresses as available
- **Career summary:** name of employer; position, and dates held for each career post; resume of other vocational achievements; military service
- **Awards and honors:** military and civic citations, major prizes and nominations, fellowships, grants, and honorary degrees
- **Membership information:** professional, civic, and other association memberships and any official posts held
- **Writings:** a comprehensive, chronological list of titles, publishers, dates of original publication and revised editions, and production information for plays, television scripts, and screenplays
- **Adaptations:** a list of films, plays, and other media which have been adapted from the author's work
- **Work in progress:** current or planned projects, with dates of completion and/or publication, and expected publisher, when known
- **Sidelights:** a biographical portrait of the author's development; information about the critical reception of the author's works; revealing comments, often by the author, on personal interests, aspirations, motivations, and thoughts on writing
- **Biographical and critical sources:** a list of books and periodicals in which additional information on an author's life and/or writings appears

Some sketches also feature in-depth interviews that provide exclusive, primary information on writers of special interest. Prepared specifically for *CA*, the never-before-published conversations give users the opportunity to learn authors' thoughts, in detail, about their craft.

Obituary Notices in *CA* provide date and place of birth and death information about authors whose full-length sketches appeared in the series before their deaths. These entries also summarize the authors' careers and writings and list other sources of biographical and death information.

Related Titles in the *CA* Series

Contemporary Authors Autobiography Series complements *CA* original and revised volumes with specially commissioned autobiographical essays by important current authors, illustrated with personal photographs they provide. Common topics 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.

Contemporary Authors Bibliographical Series surveys writings by and about important American authors since World War II. Each volume concentrates on a specific genre and features approximately ten writers; entries list works written by and about the author and contain a bibliographical essay discussing the merits and deficiencies of major critical and scholarly studies in detail.

Suggestions Are Welcome

The editors welcome comments and suggestions from users on any aspect of the *CA* series. If readers would like to recommend authors whose entries should appear in future volumes of the series, they are cordially invited to write: The Editors, *Contemporary Authors*, 835 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit, MI 48226-4094; call toll-free at 1-800-347-GALE; or fax to 1-313-961-6599.

If You Have:

CA Previous Volumes 1-45
through *CA* 44K and *CA* Permanent
Series volumes 1 and 2

CA Original Volumes 46-48 (to date)
49-50 and 101 through 140

CA New Revision Series Volumes
CA5R1 through CA5R40

You May Discard:

CA Original Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4
Volumes 5-6 through 20-24
Volumes 25-29 through 41-45

NOTE: 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 may be revised and included in the various volumes of the New Revision Series.

NOTE: The New Revision Series does not replace any single volume of *CA*. Instead, volumes of *CA5R* include entries from many previous *CA* series volumes. All New Revision Series volumes must be retained for full coverage.

CA Numbering System and Volume Update Chart

Occasionally questions arise about the *CA* numbering system and which volumes, if any, can be discarded. Despite numbers like "29-32R," "97-100" and "140," the entire *CA* series consists of only 104 physical volumes with the publication of *CA* Volume 140. The following charts note changes in the numbering system and cover design, and indicate which volumes are essential for the most complete, up-to-date coverage.

CA First Revision

- 1-4R through 41-44R (11 books)
Cover: Brown with black and gold trim.
There will be no further First Revision volumes because revised entries are now being handled exclusively through the more efficient *New Revision Series* mentioned below.

CA Original Volumes

- 45-48 through 97-100 (14 books)
Cover: Brown with black and gold trim.
- 101 through 140 (40 books)
Cover: Blue and black with orange bands.
The same as previous *CA* original volumes but with a new, simplified numbering system and new cover design.

CA Permanent Series

- CAP-1 and CAP-2 (2 books)
Cover: Brown with red and gold trim.
There will be no further *Permanent Series* volumes because revised entries are now being handled exclusively through the more efficient *New Revision Series* mentioned below.

CA New Revision Series

- CANR-1 through CANR-40 (40 books)
Cover: Blue and black with green bands.
Includes only sketches requiring extensive changes; sketches are taken from any previously published *CA*, *CAP*, or *CANR* volume.

If You Have:

You May Discard:

CA First Revision Volumes 1-4R through 41-44R and CA Permanent Series Volumes 1 and 2	CA Original Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 Volumes 5-6 through 23-24 Volumes 25-28 through 41-44
CA Original Volumes 45-48 through 97-100 and 101 through 140	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 may be revised and included in the various volumes of the <i>New Revision Series</i> .
CA New Revision Series Volumes CANR-1 through CANR-40	NONE: The <i>New Revision Series</i> does not replace any single volume of <i>CA</i> . Instead, volumes of <i>CANR</i> include entries from many previous <i>CA</i> series volumes. All <i>New Revision Series</i> volumes must be retained for full coverage.

A Sampling of Authors and Media People Featured in This Volume

Mitch Albom

Albom has won numerous awards for his insightful, often humorous sports and feature columns, many of which have been collected in *The Live Albom: The Best of Mitch Albom*, *Live Albom II*, and *Live Albom III: Gone to the Dogs*.

Dorothy E. Allison

Allison earned a 1992 National Book Award nomination for her first novel, *Bastard out of Carolina*, which depicts the life of a poor Southern girl and her family.

Frank Bidart

Noted for dramatic monologues narrated by troubled characters, Bidart has established a reputation for introspective poetry included in such volumes as *The Sacrifice* and *The Book of the Body*.

Michael Blake

Blake garnered top honors, including an Academy Award, for scripting the widely acclaimed 1990 film *Dances with Wolves*, based on his own novel of the same title.

Karel Capek

Capek, a prolific and well-respected Czech writer, penned such acclaimed works as *The War with the Newts*, a sci-fi novel, and *Hordubal*, *Meteor*, and *An Ordinary Life*, a trilogy that explores facets of reality and truth.

Jean-Claude Carriere

Carriere's collaborative screenwriting has produced exceptional films such as *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* and *The Return of Martin Guerre*. He earned an Academy Award for *The Tin Drum* in 1980.

Gretel Ehrlich

Ehrlich received critical recognition for *The Solace of Open Spaces*, a book of naturalistic essays that evoke the landscape of Wyoming. She returned to the West for the setting of her first novel, *Heart Mountain*.

Gary Geddes

A leading Canadian political poet, Geddes depicts injured figures and examines human relations throughout his works, which include the long poems *War and Other Measures* and *The Terracotta Army*.

Reidar Joensson

Swedish-born Joensson earned a Golden Globe Award and an Academy Award nomination for *Mitt liv som hund*, a

screenplay adaptation of his coming-of-age novel, known to English-speaking audiences as *My Life as a Dog*.

Terry McMillan

Author of the novels *Mama*, *Disappearing Acts*, and 1992's *Waiting to Exhale*, McMillan has reaped accolades from readers and critics alike for her portrayals of strong African American women.

Roger Morris

A nonfiction writer and former member of the National Security Council, Morris garnered a National Book Award Silver Medal for his 1990 biography *Richard Milhous Nixon: The Rise of an American Politician*.

Jeff Moss

Moss is the Emmy Award-winning original head writer for the children's television series *Sesame Street*. His witty, rhymed poems in *The Butterfly Jar* and *The Other Side of the Door* examine everyday life from a child's perspective.

Whitney Otto

Otto received widespread praise for her debut novel, *How to Make an American Quilt*, which focuses on the members of a sewing circle in California. The book achieved best-seller status after its 1991 release.

Camille Paglia

Paglia's unconventional brand of feminism, outlined in her 1990 work, *Sexual Personae*, spawned heated debate in both the media and academia. She later published a collection of lectures and essays titled *Sex, Art, and American Culture*.

Julia Phillips

The first female producer to receive an Academy Award for best picture, Phillips depicts her turbulent Hollywood career in her best-selling memoir *You'll Never Eat Lunch in This Town Again*.

Christopher Reid

One of the prominent figures in the innovative "Martian School" of English poetry, Reid has produced several acclaimed volumes of verse, including *Arcadia*, *Katerina Brac*, and *In the Echoey Tunnel*.

Jerry Seinfeld

Seinfeld is a stand-up comedian who is also the driving force behind the popular comedy series *Seinfeld*, acting as coproducer, cowriter, and star of the program.

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

As always, the most recent *Contemporary Authors* cumulative index continues to be the user's guide to the location of an individual author's listing.

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.

ABE, Kobo 1924-1993

OBITUARY NOTICE—See index for *CA* sketch: Born March 7, 1924, in Tokyo, Japan; died of heart failure, January 22, 1993, in Tokyo. Novelist and playwright. An immensely popular writer in his native country, Abe achieved worldwide recognition for surrealistic works that emphasized the loss of identity in modern society. As a child, Abe lived in Manchuria, China, where his father taught at a medical college. He returned to Japan in 1940 and studied medicine at the University of Tokyo. After graduating in 1948, he concentrated on writing and soon established his reputation by winning the Akutagawa Prize in 1951. Critics have often noted the influence of Western writers on Abe; he read the works of American Edgar Allan Poe and Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky in his youth, and Abe's work has been frequently compared to that of Czech writer Franz Kafka. One of Abe's best-known works, the 1962 novel *Suna no onna* (*The Woman in the Dunes*), presents an allegorical tale that explores the themes of identity and alienation, subjects which underlie many of the author's works. English translations of Abe's writing include the novels *The Face of Another*, *The Ruined Map*, and *Secret Rendezvous*, and the plays *Friends* and *The Man Who Turned into a Stick*.

OBITUARIES AND OTHER SOURCES:

BOOKS

Contemporary Literary Criticism, Volume 53, Gale, 1989.
Who's Who in the World, 11th edition, Marquis, 1991.

PERIODICALS

Chicago Tribune, January 24, 1993, section 2, p. 6.
Los Angeles Times, January 23, 1993, p. A22.
Times (London), January 25, 1993, p. 19.
Washington Post, January 23, 1993, p. C4.

ABRAMS, Elliott 1948-

PERSONAL: Born January 24, 1948, in New York, NY; son of Joseph (a lawyer) and Mildred (a teacher; maiden name, Kauder) Abrams; married Rachel Decter (a homemaker), March 9, 1980; children: Jacob, Sarah, Joseph. **Education:** Harvard University, A.B., 1969; London School of Economics and Political Science, M.Sc.Econ., 1970; Harvard University, J.D., 1973. **Politics:** Republican. **Religion:** Jewish.

ADDRESSES: *Home*—Washington, DC. *Office*—Hudson Institute, 1015 Eighteenth St. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

CAREER: United States Department of State, Washington, DC, assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, 1981, assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, 1981-85, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, 1981-89; Hudson Institute, Washington, senior fellow, 1990—; writer. Trustee of Caribbean/Latin American Action and Francisco Marroquin Foundation, 1989—. Member of Council on Foreign Relations, 1983—, and board of trustees of Center for Security Policy, 1989—.

AWARDS, HONORS: Distinguished Service Award, Secretary of State, 1988.

WRITINGS:

Undue Process: A Story of How Political Differences Are Turned into Crimes (memoir), Free Press, 1992.

Contributor to periodicals, including *Commentary* and *National Review*.

WORK IN PROGRESS: *Shield and Sword*, a book on post-Cold War U.S. foreign policy, publication expected in 1994.

SIDELIGHTS: Elliott Abrams served as U.S. assistant secretary of state during much of President Ronald Reagan's two terms in office. Abrams ran afoul of the U.S. judicial system after he was implicated in the Iran-Contra scandal. Special prosecutor Lawrence E. Walsh was appointed to conduct an investigation of the affair, in which various officials within the Reagan administration engineered weapons sales to Iran and then used the profits to fund Nicaraguan rebels. Abrams was called before Congress and during his testimony he deliberately withheld information about some government activities. In 1991 Abrams pleaded guilty to two counts of withholding information and received a sentence of two years probation (later reduced to one year) and one hundred hours of community service. "Abrams maintains that he was singled out, even scapegoated, for doing something that has been done in Washington since at least the time of President James K. Polk," wrote Joseph Finder in the *New York Times Book Review*. On Christmas Day, 1992, President George Bush officially pardoned Abrams.

In 1992 Abrams published *Undue Process: A Story of How Political Differences Are Turned into Crimes*, which he described to *CA* as "the story of my prosecution by Iran-Contra special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh." He added: "The book is a memoir of a political trial, and its purpose is to prevent a recurrence—to influence the 1993 Congressional reconsideration of the current law. It's a very personal account of how such a 'special' prosecution affects a man, a marriage, and a family, and as such the level of emotion, passion, pain, and humor is high." Finder assessed *Undue Process* similarly, writing in the *New York Times Book Review* that "Abrams's narrative of his misfortune is told in often febrile and melodramatic prose." The reviewer added, though, that "as a legal and political brief in [Abrams's] own defense, [*Undue Process*] is less heated and more persuasive." *Wall Street Journal* reviewer Theodore B. Olson proclaimed *Undue Process* a "Kafkaesque saga" and deemed it "the stuff of nightmares for anyone daring enough to consider an executive-branch position, especially if the opposition party controls Congress." Michael Ledeen affirmed in *American Spectator* that *Undue Process* "is a gripping account of what it is like to be in the jaws of the Special Prosecutor," and regarded the volume "a very important book, one that should be given to anyone thinking of a career in 'public service.'"

Abrams told *CA*: "I do not expect to write a book similar to *Undue Process*, and *Shield and Sword*, the foreign policy book I am working on now, manages to go 250 pages without using the word 'I.'"

BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES:

PERIODICALS

American Spectator, November, 1992, pp. 66-68.

Legal Times, January 4, 1993, p. 46.

National Review, November 30, 1992, p. 46.

New York Times Book Review, November 15, 1992, p. 7.

Wall Street Journal, November 13, 1992, p. A13.

Washingtonian, January, 1993, p. 37.

Washington Times, November 24, 1992, p. F4.

* * *

ABURDENE, Patricia 1947(?)

PERSONAL: Born c. 1947; married John Naisbitt (a lecturer and writer). **Education:** Received B.A. from Newton College of the Sacred Heart and M.A. from Catholic University of America.

ADDRESSES: *Home*—Telluride, CO, and Cambridge, MA. *Office*—Megatrends, Ltd., 1901 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Suite 500, Washington, DC. 20006.

CAREER: Lecturer and writer. Worked as a researcher and reporter for *Forbes*. Member of board of directors of Search for Common Ground and Telluride Institute.

AWARDS, HONORS: Medal of Italy from Senate of Italy, 1990. Has received several honorary doctorates.

WRITINGS:

WITH HUSBAND, JOHN NAISBITT

Reinventing the Corporation: Transforming Your Job and Your Company for the New Information Society, Warner Books, 1985.

Megatrends 2000: Ten New Directions for the 1990s, Morrow, 1990.

Megatrends for Women, Random House, 1992.

SIDELIGHTS: Patricia Aburdene earned recognition as a collaborator with her husband, John Naisbitt, on the popular prognostic volumes *Reinventing the Corporation: Transforming Your Job and Your Company for the New Information Society* and *Megatrends 2000: Ten New Directions for the 1990s*, both of which became best-sellers. In 1982 Naisbitt gained considerable attention as the author of *Megatrends*, in which he speculated on changes in American society and business. The American economy, Naisbitt predicted, would eventually shift in emphasis from heavy industry to information. He also anticipated major changes in the American work force, which he envisioned as becoming more creative and less hierarchical.

Aburdene and Naisbitt first teamed as cowriters on *Reinventing the Corporation*, which continues the speculative nature of Naisbitt's earlier *Megatrends*. In *Reinventing the Corporation* the authors foresee the development of a more collaborative management strategy in the American work force. In addition, they anticipate that businesses will be-

come involved in the education system by sponsoring specific schools and that corporate day-care facilities will become increasingly available. Such developments, Aburdene and Naisbitt contend, will enable America to remain competitive in the ever-evolving global market.

Although *Reinventing the Corporation* sold numerous copies, some critics complained that the authors merely recycled the obvious and were, furthermore, naive and simplistic. Naisbitt dismisses such appraisals as mere jealousy. "Here's how the mentality goes," he told *People*. "[The critic says to himself,] 'They have written a book that is greatly inferior to what I can do if I were going to do it . . . and they are making money!'"

After the considerable popular success of *Reinventing the Corporation*, Aburdene and Naisbitt produced *Megatrends 2000*, where they once again offer predictions on American business and social development. For the authors, the twenty-first century will be a time of unmatched opportunity for global economic practices and workplace equality. In addition, they foresee a revival of cultural concerns, with regional arts playing a more significant role in society. Even social programs will undergo drastic change, Aburdene and Naisbitt contend, with the privatization of welfare being one of many possible changes.

With *Megatrends 2000* Aburdene and Naisbitt again found both favor with book buyers and disfavor with critics, many of whom renewed allegations that the authors were simply reiterating news of rather obvious developments. But Aburdene and Naisbitt themselves appear undaunted by such criticism. "People are always saying 'I sort of knew that' about our books," Aburdene conceded to *People*. "We just make it clearer and, by doing so, we empower readers in their lives." And to the *Los Angeles Times* she said: "All we do is notice what is happening. It's the world around us we are reflecting in these trends."

Aburdene and Naisbitt, who consider themselves "social forecasters," have also met with great success on the lecture circuit and in their presentations to various businesses and groups. Bill Leigh, whose agency handles the couple's speaking engagements, considers their appearances unique successes. "I've never seen another program out there where this joint-play really works," Leigh told the *Los Angeles Times*. "It's very much their relationship—something they have evolved together."

BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES:

BOOKS

Bestsellers 90, Issue 3, Gale, 1990.

PERIODICALS

Atlantic Monthly, July, 1990, pp. 97-100.

Business Week, September 9, 1985, pp. 10-11; January 22, 1990, p. 14.

Los Angeles Times, January 17, 1990.

New Republic, April 28, 1986, pp. 30-32.

New York Times Book Review, October 20, 1985, p. 52; January 7, 1990, p. 20.

People, July 30, 1990, pp. 57-61.

Time, January 8, 1990, p. 72.

Washington Post Book World, October 20, 1985, p. 11.

* * *

ABURISH, Said K. 1935-

PERSONAL: Born May 1, 1935, in Jerusalem, Palestine (now Israel); son of Abu Said (a journalist) and Surrya (Shahine) Aburish; married Cathryn Louise Beck, 1982 (divorced, 1984); children: Charla Josephine. *Education:* University of Chicago, B.A., 1957. *Religion:* Quaker.

ADDRESSES: *Home*—23 Drayton Ct., Drayton Gardens, London, England. *Agent*—Vardy and Brunton, 325 Moore Park Rd., London, England.

CAREER: Writer. Worked in advertising and as a reporter for Radio Free Europe.

WRITINGS:

Payoff: Wheeling and Dealing in the Arab World, Deutsch, 1985.

Children of Bethany: The Story of a Palestinian Family, Tauris, 1988, Indiana University Press, 1989.

Bar al-San Jurj: wakr al jawasis fi Bayrut (title means "Day in the Life of St. George Hotel Bar"), Riad El Rayyes, 1989, published in the United States as *The St. George Hotel Bar*, Trafalgar Square, 1991.

One Day I Will Tell You, Prion, 1990.

Cry Palestine: Inside the West Bank, Bloomsbury, 1991.

Also contributed to periodicals, including *Independent*, *Washington Post*, and *Liberation*.

WORK IN PROGRESS: Writing *Memoirs of A Cultural Schizoid*; researching the Christians of the Holy Land.

SIDELIGHTS: In *Children of Bethany: The Story of a Palestinian Family*, author Said K. Aburish relates the true three-generation saga of the Aburish clan, beginning with and centering on the author's grandfather. Once a poor orphan, Khalil Aburish became an entrepreneur in the 1890s after discovering the alleged tomb of the biblical figure Lazarus on his property in Bethany, Palestine. He charged tourists to see the historic burial place and further supplemented his income by buying and selling plots of land to churches of religious denominations other than Muslim. Aburish's book then discusses the changing times

of Palestine and its people. He chronicles such events as World War I and the new British rule, the war between Arabs and Jews in 1948, and the country's divided land and eventual rule by Jordan. The author parallels these changes with those of his own family—the death of his grandfather, his father's flight for Beirut, and his divided family and westernized way of living. *New York Times Book Review* contributor Inea Bushnaq commented that "he probes into the past with clear-eyed thoroughness . . . Some of the truths he reveals make unhappy reading, but ultimately it is his book's brusque frankness that gives it value." She further stated that "*Children of Bethany* is a welcome and articulate addition to the documentation of the Palestinian experience since World War I."

Aburish told *CA*: "My books constitute footnotes to the history of the modern Middle East, essentially a revisionist history. My purpose is to correct certain impressions before it becomes too late."

BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES:

PERIODICALS

Globe and Mail (Toronto), May 5, 1990.

New York Times Book Review, February 11, 1990, p. 25.

Washington Post, January 8, 1990.

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ADAMS, Bronte (Jane) 1963-

PERSONAL: Born February 21, 1963, in Perth, Western Australia; daughter of Geoffrey Hugh Southey (in business) and Kathleen Marie (a nurse; maiden name, Brebner) Adams. **Education:** Attended University of Western Australia, 1984; Balliol College, Oxford, D.Phil., 1991. **Politics:** "Left of center."

ADDRESSES: *Home*—15/22 New Beach Rd., Darling Point, New South Wales 2027, Australia.

CAREER: Worked variously as a secretary and research officer, 1985-86; University of Western Australia, Perth, tutor/lecturer, 1986; Virago Press, London, England, reader, 1987-90; Oxford University, Oxford, England, tutor, 1989-91; McKinsey & Co., consultant, 1991—; writer.

MEMBER: International Federation of University Women, Amnesty International, Rhodes Scholars Against Apartheid, National Trust of Australia.

AWARDS, HONORS: First prize in school division, Young Writers' Competition, 1979; Rhodes Scholarship for Western Australia, 1986; grant from Rhodes Trustees, 1988; Audrey Jorss-Freida Freeman Fellowship, Australian Federation of University Women, 1989; grant from

Australian Federation of University Women, 1989, for *That Kind of Woman*.

WRITINGS:

(Editor with Trudi Tate) *That Kind of Woman: Stories from the Left Bank and Beyond*, Virago, 1991.

Brought to Book (mystery novel), Virago, 1992.

Author of afterword for *Wandering Girl*, by Glenys Ward, Virago, 1988. Coauthor and director of a play, adapted from the novel *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys, produced at Oxford University, 1989. Contributor to *The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Literature*, edited by Margaret Drabble for Oxford University Press.

SIDELIGHTS: Bronte Adams is the author of *Brought to Book*, a mystery about an editor who finds herself suspected in the slaying of her boss. Although the editor, Aphra Colqhoun, is fearful that her curious past may be exposed, she nonetheless perseveres to clear herself in the murder case. Teaming with a journalist, a lawyer, and two roommates, Colqhoun determines to discover the actual killer.

Adams told *CA*: "I'm interested in voice. How do we speak? How do we come to articulate ourselves? What means and motives of articulation are available to us, and how do they determine how we speak? These questions are central to feminism, and I think they are a lot more complex and double-edged than much popular commentary allows."

"Before writing *Brought to Book* I asked myself, 'Why do people commit murder—for love or money?' I wanted to incorporate both possibilities into the book, along with the development of a central character that isn't usually characteristic of crime fiction. I didn't want Aphra Colqhoun to be a professional detective, and I didn't want a 'feminized' version of the tough, hard-hitting, hard-drinking male detective. What appealed to me was someone more vulnerable, without a clear sense of mission, with a sense of self-doubt and self-irony that could at times verge on the debilitating. Crime would be something that happened to her, that she didn't seek out. Colqhoun resorts to a community of friends rather than male stereotypes of force and single-mindedness. Her complexity is not supposed to be the mushy center beneath the tough shell but the way she has to redefine herself and her relations with the world and its inhabitants."

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AGER, Derek Victor 1923-1993

OBITUARY NOTICE—See index for *CA* sketch: Born April 21, 1923, in Harrow, England; died February 8,

1993. Geologist, educator, and writer. Ager's books received acclaim for analyzing geological processes in an entertaining and readable manner, making the science more accessible to nonexperts. After serving with the Royal Tank Regiment in World War II, Ager studied geology at Chelsea College. His first teaching position was at London University's Imperial College of Science and Technology beginning in 1951. Ager then moved to the University College of Swansea in 1969, acting as professor and head of the geology department until his retirement in 1989. He was also a visiting professor at numerous universities around the world and served as editor-in-chief of *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*. Ager began his publishing career with *Introducing Geology* in 1961, and two years later he produced *Principles of Palaeoecology*, the first English textbook on the subject. In 1973 he published *The Nature of the Stratigraphical Record*, an influential text that the author cited as one of his proudest accomplishments, according to the obituary in the *London Times*. Shortly before his death, Ager wrote *The New Catastrophism*, a sequel to *The Nature of the Stratigraphical Record*, though he did not live to see the book in print.

OBITUARIES AND OTHER SOURCES:

BOOKS

The Writers Directory: 1992-1994, St. James Press, 1991.

PERIODICALS

Times (London), February 24, 1993, p. 19.

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AHMED, Leila 1940-

PERSONAL: Born May 29, 1940, in Cairo, Egypt; daughter of Abdel Aziz and Iqbal (Radi) Ahmed. **Education:** Cambridge University, B.A. (with honors), 1961, M.A., 1966, Ph.D., 1971. **Religion:** Muslim.

ADDRESSES: *Office*—208 Bartlett Hall, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Amherst, MA 01002.

CAREER: University of Massachusetts at Amherst, professor, 1980—.

WRITINGS:

E. W. Lare and British Ideas of the Middle East, Longman, 1978.

Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate, Yale University Press, 1992.

WORK IN PROGRESS: An autobiography.

ALALI, A. Odasuo 1957-

PERSONAL: Born November 17, 1957, in Port Harcourt, Nigeria; son of Andrew and Unice (Oleh) Alali. **Education:** Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University, B.A., 1980; Murray State University, M.A., 1981; Howard University, Ph.D., 1985. **Politics:** Independent. **Religion:** "Undeclared."

ADDRESSES: *Home*—Bakersfield, CA. *Office*—Department of English and Communication Studies, California State University, 9001 Stockdale Hwy., Bakersfield, CA 93311.

CAREER: Bowie State University, Bowie, MD, assistant professor of journalism, 1984-86; California State University, Bakersfield, associate professor of communications, 1986-87 and 1989—; California State University, Dominguez Hills, assistant professor of communications, 1987-89; California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, assistant professor of communications, 1988—. College Media Advisors, member of non-daily newspaper committee, 1987-88; Los Angeles Trade and Technical College, member of journalism advisory board, 1988.

MEMBER: American Heart Association (Kern County Chapter; member of board of communications).

AWARDS, HONORS: Named an outstanding young man of America in 1983; "An Enemy among Us" research scholarship, Center of Population Options, 1988.

WRITINGS:

(With Kenoye K. Eke) *Media Coverage of Terrorism: Methods of Diffusion*, Sage Publications, 1991.

Mass Media Sex and Adolescent Values: An Annotated Bibliography and Directory of Organizations, McFarland & Co., 1991.

Mass Media and Development in Nigeria: A Primer for Policymakers, Peter Lang, 1991.

Contributor to numerous newspapers and journals.

WORK IN PROGRESS: *Perspectives on HIV/AIDS in Public Schools*, for State University of New York Press; research on music videos and children and on the human immunodeficiency virus and children.

SIDELIGHTS: A. Odasuo Alali told *CA*: "Those of us who are members of the professorate are told to 'publish or perish.' It has always been the job of the senior faculty to condition the junior faculty to believing that teaching and research are inescapably compatible. They would often say that one can develop new teaching strategies if one is enmeshed in culture-dominated research. This was not new to me because my education at Howard University was designed to prepare me to contribute to my profession and society through research. In fact, because my

professors were active researchers, the Howard culture influenced my professional orientation. It was at Howard that I decided to be part of a research culture that will stimulate my intellect and help me contribute to debate in society. So when I hear some of my colleagues who have never published talk about 'publish or perish,' it bothers me because I see some hypocrisy in their mind-set. It is a sort of lip service.

"My first edited work, with Dr. Kenoye Eke, was *Media Coverage of Terrorism*. Dr. Eke has been a friend since childhood, and I am happy that we have been positive influences on each other. He is an essential part of my development. There is also a connection between my intellectual growth and the guidance of my undergraduate professor, James Powell, Jr., who persistently demanded that I be all I can be. Also, without the love and patience of my parents, Andrew and Unice, I would not have accomplished so much in such a short time.

"I began writing *Mass Media Sex and Adolescent Values* when I received the 'An Enemy among Us' research scholarship from the Center of Population Options in 1988. The book is designed to illuminate the dark alleys that people walk into when trying to understand complex phenomena such as the media. The positive reviews it has received are gratifying."

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ALBERT, Fred 1957-

PERSONAL: Born March 30, 1957, in Boston, MA; son of Leonard I. Albert (an electrical engineer and owner of a car rental franchise) and Corinne Geist (a secretary and partner in the car rental franchise; maiden name, Simkin). **Education:** Yale University, B.A., 1979. **Religion:** Jewish. **Avocational interests:** Photography, attending theater, art museums, and galleries.

ADDRESSES: *Home*—Seattle, WA. *Office*—*Pacific* magazine, *Seattle Times*, P.O. Box 70, Seattle, WA 98111; and *Pacific Northwest*, 701 Dexter Ave. N., Suite 101, Seattle, WA 98109.

CAREER: John Graham and Co., Seattle, WA, assistant in architectural design department, 1979-80; Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle, public relations director, 1981-83; *Herald*, Everett, WA, author of column "Design Notebook," 1981-85; *Seattle Times*, Seattle, writer for *Pacific*, 1985—. *Pacific Northwest*, contributing editor, 1990—. *Greater Seattle* (now *Seattle*), contributing editor, 1990—. Seattle Repertory Theatre, publications manager, 1983-90. Volunteer fundraiser for Northwest AIDS Foundation.

WRITINGS:

(With Linda Humphrey) *American Design: The Northwest*, Bantam, 1989.

Contributor to periodicals, including *Home* and *Decorating Remodeling*. Editor of *Prologue*, Seattle Repertory Theatre, 1983-90.

SIDELIGHTS: Fred Albert told *CA*: "I began writing about houses by chance although, unconsciously, I'd been preparing for the assignment my whole life. An enthusiastic journalist in high school, I filled my college years with courses in architecture, decorative arts, fine art, and design. After graduation, when a journalist friend suggested I approach her paper for a job, the editor surprised me by offering me a column on home design.

"Nowadays, I visit hundreds of houses each year. Time and again, the people I visit will say to me, 'You have the greatest job in the world!' I have to laugh at first. They are not thinking about the perpetual deadlines, the struggle to capture a home's unique appeal in a fresh, new way, week after week. They only see a guy who goes around and looks at beautiful houses all day long.

"When I think about what I do, however, I have to admit I *am* pretty lucky. That is not just because I get to peer into the closets and baths of the sort-of-rich-and-semi-famous, but because of the people I meet. They are fascinating individuals, from all walks of life, who share their experiences, knowledge, talents, and insights. In addition, someone pays me to listen to them. Now *that* is a great job!

"I want my articles to educate and inspire, to show readers things they may not have seen before, and give them ideas that they can apply to their own surroundings. While good design is paramount, character is nearly as important. The house should be so rich in atmosphere and originality that you feel transformed when you step inside. It doesn't matter whether the style is contemporary or traditional, the furnishings from Roche Bobois or the Salvation Army. If a house reflects the personality and vision of its creators, it will usually make a good story.

"I've been writing about houses since 1981. Naturally, a person can get jaded after a while. The look that made your toes tingle three years ago may barely register today. Every now and then, however, you walk through someone's door and feel the excitement surge through your body. More than anything else, you want to put that sensation into print. It's a pleasure you never outgrow."