

*Contemporary
Authors*

volume 151

Contemporary *Authors*[®]

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

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Editors

volume 151



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was named an
***“Outstanding
Reference Source”*** by
*the American Library
Association Reference
and Adult Services
Division after its 1962
inception.*
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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 approximately 100,000 writers in a wide range of media, including:

- Current writers of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama whose works have been issued by commercial publishers, 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, graphic novelists, 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

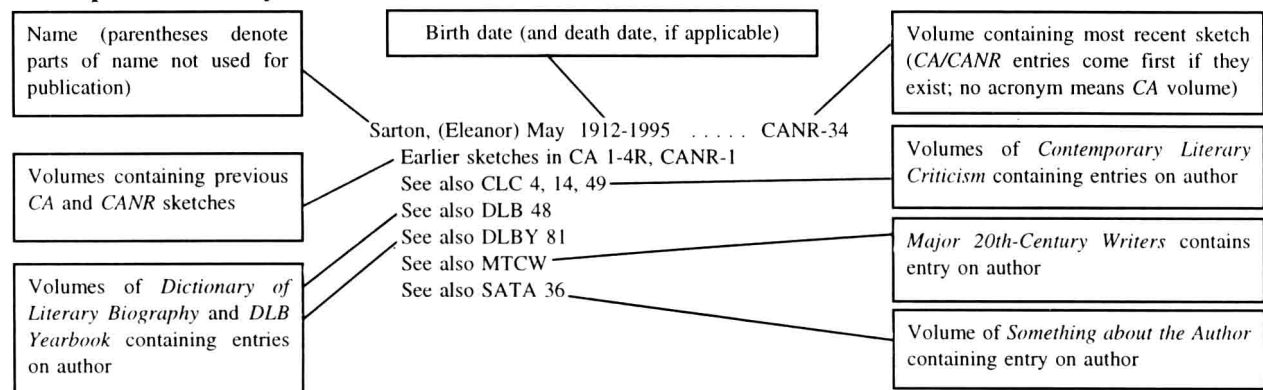
A CA listing entails no charge or obligation. Authors are included on the basis of the above criteria and their interest to CA users. Sources of potential listees include trade periodicals, publisher's catalogs, librarians, and other users.

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

The key to locating an author's most recent entry is the CA cumulative index, which is published separately and distributed with even-numbered original volumes and odd-numbered revision volumes. It provides access to *all* entries in CA and *Contemporary Authors New Revision Series* (CANR). 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*, *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*, *Dictionary of Literary Biography Documentary Series*, *Dictionary of Literary Biography Yearbook*, *DIScovering Authors*, *DIScovering Authors: British*, *DIScovering Authors: Canadian*, *DIScovering Authors: Modules* (including modules for Dramatists, Most-Studied Authors, Multicultural Authors, Novelists, Poets, and Popular/Genre Authors), *Drama Criticism*, *Hispanic Literature Criticism*, *Hispanic Writers*, *Junior DIScovering Authors*, *Major Authors and Illustrators for Children and Young Adults*, *Major 20th-Century Writers*, *Native North American Literature*, *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:



How Are Entries Compiled?

The editors make every effort to secure new information directly from the authors; listees' 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, including *National Union Catalog*, *LC MARC*, and *British National Bibliography*. Further details come from published interviews, feature stories, and book reviews, as well as information supplied by the authors' publishers and agents.

An asterisk () at the end of a sketch indicates that the 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* contain the following biographical and bibliographical information:

- **Entry heading:** the most complete form of author's name, plus any pseudonyms or name variations used for writing
- **Personal information:** author's date and place of birth, family data, ethnicity, educational background, political and religious affiliations, and hobbies and leisure interests
- **Addresses:** author's home, office, or agent's addresses, plus e-mail and fax numbers, as available
- **Career summary:** name of employer, position, and dates held for each career post; resume of other vocational achievements; military service
- **Membership information:** professional, civic, and other association memberships and any official posts held
- **Awards and honors:** military and civic citations, major prizes and nominations, fellowships, grants, and honorary degrees
- **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

Obituary Notices in *CA* provide date and place of birth as well as 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.

Available in Electronic Formats

CD-ROM. Full-text bio-bibliographic entries from the entire *CA* series, covering approximately 100,000 writers, are available on CD-ROM through lease and purchase plans. The disc combines entries from the *CA*, *CANR*, and *Contemporary Authors Permanent Series (CAP)* print series to provide the most recent author listing. It can be searched by name, title, subject/genre, nationality/ethnicity, personal data, and as well as advanced searching using boolean logic. The disc is updated every six months. For more information, call 1-800-877-GALE.

Online. The *Contemporary Authors* database is made available online to libraries and their patrons through online public access catalog (OPAC) vendors. Currently, *CA* is offered through Ameritech Library Services' Vista Online (formerly Dynix), and is expected to become available through CARL Systems and The Library Corporation. More OPAC vendor offerings will soon follow.

GaleNet. *CA* is available on a subscription basis through GaleNet, a new online information resource that features an easy-to-use end-user interface, the powerful search capabilities of the BRS/Search retrieval software, and ease of access through the World Wide Web. For more information, call 1-800-877-GALE.

Magnetic Tape. *CA* is available for licensing on magnetic tape in a fielded format. Either the complete database or a custom selection of entries may be ordered. The database is available for internal data processing and nonpublishing purposes only. For more information, call 1-800-877-GALE.

Suggestions Are Welcome

The editors welcome comments and suggestions from users on any aspects of the *CA* series. If readers would like to recommend authors for inclusion in future volumes of the series, they are cordially invited to write: The Editors, *Contemporary Authors*, 835 Penobscot Bldg., 645 Griswold St., Detroit, MI 48226-4094; call toll-free at 1-800-347-GALE; or fax at 1-313-961-6599.

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 “151,” the entire *CA* print series consists of only 130 physical volumes with the publication of *CA* Volume 151. 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 151 (51 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*-52 (52 books)

Cover: Blue and black with green bands.

Includes only sketches requiring significant 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 <i>CA Permanent Series</i> Volumes 1 and 2	CA Original Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 Volumes 5-6 through 41-44
CA Original Volumes 45-48 through 97-100 and 101 through 151	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> .
<i>CA New Revision Series</i> Volumes <i>CANR</i> -1 through <i>CANR</i> -52	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

Eric Alterman

Alterman is a respected liberal journalist. His first book, *Sound and Fury: The Washington Punditocracy and the Collapse of American Politics*, examines the effect that “celebrity” political commentators have on U.S. politics.

Louise Bennett

A legendary West Indian poet, writer, performer, and folklorist, Bennett has displayed skill with dialect verses, distinguishing her as both a noteworthy artist and as a champion of her rich culture.

Genrikh Borovik

Borovik is a Russian journalist who examines real-life espionage in his book *The Philby Files: The Secret Life of Master Spy Kim Philby*, which recounts the exploits of a British spy who sold secrets to the U.S.S.R.

Juan Bosch

Bosch is a prolific author of both fiction and nonfiction but is best known for his term as the president of the Dominican Republic. Among his translated works is *The Unfinished Experiment: Democracy in the Dominican Republic*.

Enrique Buenaventura

A dramatist with a strong political voice, Buenaventura seeks to restore political pride and independence to his native Columbia. His plays include the award-winning *Historia de una bala de plata* (“Tale of a Silver Bullet”).

Driss Chraïbi

Chraïbi is an esteemed Moroccan novelist noted for his skill in evoking various aspects of his native culture. These qualities are especially evident in his first novel, *The Simple Past*.

Sue Coe

A noted author and illustrator, Coe is the creator of a number of graphic works with overt political themes, including *X*, a collaboration with legendary underground artist Art Spiegelman, the author of *Maus*.

Antonio Damasio

Damasio is a neurosurgeon who turned his attention to writing with 1994’s *Descartes’s Error: Emotion, Reason, and the Human Brain*, which seeks to explain the physiological motivation for aberrant behavior, cognition, and perception.

Robert Desnos

French poet Desnos is credited as a pioneer of the surrealist movement that swept French literature and arts during the 1920s. Considered an expert at the technique of automatic writing, his poems are collected in *The Voice*.

Kaye Gibbons

Gibbons is a novelist whose chronicles of southern life have earned her a good deal of respect among critics and readers alike. Her novels include *A Virtuous Woman* and the award-winning *A Cure for Dreams*.

Tomson Highway

A Native American playwright, Highway is the recipient of numerous honors, including several Dora Mavor Moore Awards. He penned such esteemed works as *The Rez Sisters* and *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*.

Peter Hoeg

Hoeg’s 1993 novel, *Smilla’s Sense of Snow*, an unconventional thriller set in Denmark, was a runaway bestseller. The novel has been translated into seventeen different languages and has been adapted as a film by director Bille August.

Nick Hornby

A British author of both fiction and nonfiction, Hornby is the author of a series of books that, superficially, deal with football (soccer in America), but more succinctly deal with the quirks of human nature.

Birney Imes

Imes is a distinguished photojournalist whose chronicles of the rural American South have earned him considerable acclaim. His collections include *Juke Joint: Photographs* and the much-lauded *Whispering Pines*.

Amy Lowell

Lowell was a strong proponent of poetry, working tirelessly to promote the genre among American readers. She also wrote a bit of verse herself (650 poems), collecting the Pulitzer Prize in 1926 for her collection *What’s O’Clock*.

Dawn Steel

Steel is one of the most powerful women in Hollywood, having overseen such films as *Top Gun* and *The Untouchables*. She recounts her adventures in egocentric Hollywood in her book *They Can Kill You, But They Can’t Eat You*.

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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.

A

**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.*

AHARONI, Reuben 1943-

PERSONAL: Born November 26, 1943, in Tel-Aviv, Palestine (now Israel); son of Yaakov and Rachel (Vekser) Ben-Aharon; married Lea Karni (a teacher), 1965; children: Karnit, Nirit, Shunit. *Ethnicity:* "Jewish." *Education:* Tel-Aviv University, B.A., 1968, M.A., 1990, and doctoral study. *Religion:* Jewish. *Avocational interests:* Travel.

ADDRESSES: *Home*—22A Dov Gruner St., Tel-Aviv, Israel. *Office*—Eretz Israel Studies, Haifa University, Haifa, Israel.

CAREER: Ministry of Defense, Tel-Aviv, Israel, staff member, 1968-90; Institute for Israeli Arab Studies, Beit Berl, Israel, field research coordinator, 1992-94; Haifa University, Haifa, Israel, teaching fellow, 1993—. *Military service:* Israel Defense Forces, 1962-64.

MEMBER: Israeli Oriental Society.

WRITINGS:

(With Yitzhak Reiter) *The Political Life of Arabs in Israel*, Institute for Israeli Arab Studies (Beit Berl, Israel), 1992, 2nd edition, 1993.

Author of *Speaking Stones*, with S. Mishal, Hebrew edition, 1989, translation published by Syracuse University Press (Syracuse, NY).

WORK IN PROGRESS: Research on the Bedouin in Egypt in the nineteenth century and on Israeli-Arab leadership.

SIDELIGHTS: Reuben Aharoni told CA: "I was born in Israel in 1943, when it was called Palestine and was under British mandate. Since childhood I have been interested in Arab life and history. After participating as a soldier in the 1967 War, the Yom Kippur War in 1973, and the Lebanon War in 1983, I became convinced that peace is urgently needed, but that one should also understand the history of the Arabs in the Middle East and the Palestinian Arabs in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza. This has affected my study and writing. I have many contacts, on both a personal and a professional level, with Arabs in Israel, and I am now collaborating with an Arab scholar in research on Arab leadership in Israel."

* * *

AHEARN, (Edward) Allen 1937-

PERSONAL: Born May 29, 1937, in Washington, DC; son of Edward Michael and Esthere (Allen) Ahearn; married Patricia Webb (an antiquarian bookseller and writer), March 17, 1959; children: Elizabeth Ahearn Jones, Suzanne Ahearn Kalk, Edward Allen, Jr., Dyanne Ahearn Ryan. *Ethnicity:* "White." *Education:* University of Maryland at College Park, B.A., 1960; George Washington University, M.B.A., 1971. *Politics:* Democrat. *Religion:* Roman Catholic.

ADDRESSES: *Home*—14717 Janice Dr., Rockville, MD 20853. *Office*—Quill and Brush, P.O. Box 5365, Rockville, MD 20848; fax 301-871-5425. *E-mail*—qb@clark.net.

CAREER: U.S. Department of the Navy, Washington, DC, contracting officer, 1960-73; Office of the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Arlington, VA, advisor on major systems acquisitions, 1973-80; Quill and Brush (antiquarian book store), partner, 1976—; defense procurement consultant in Rockville, MD, 1980-84. Active in local Catholic Youth Organization and Boys' Club.

MEMBER: Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (member of board of governors), Bibliographical Society of America.

WRITINGS:

The Book of First Books, privately printed, 1975, 4th edition, 1986.

(With wife, Patricia Ahearn) *Book Collecting: A Comprehensive Guide*, Putnam (New York City), 1989, new edition, 1995.

(With Patricia Ahearn) *Collected Books: The Guide to Value*, Putnam, 1991, revised edition, in press.

Co-author of more than a hundred privately printed price guides to the works of individual authors.

SIDELIGHTS: Allen Ahearn told *CA*: "The books we compile are intended to attract interest in book collecting and to provide detailed guidance on identifying edition and ascertaining condition. They also include price ranges."

* * *

AHEARN, Patricia 1937-

PERSONAL: Born June 26, 1937, in Virginia Beach, VA; daughter of Guy, Jr. (an engineer) and Fideles (a homemaker; maiden name, McLaughlin) Webb; married Allen Ahearn (an antiquarian bookseller and writer), March 17, 1959; children: Elizabeth Ahearn Jones, Suzanne Ahearn Kalk, Edward Allen, Jr., Dyanne Ahearn Ryan. **Education:** Attended University of Maryland at College Park and Maryland School of Art and Design. **Politics:** Democrat. **Religion:** Roman Catholic. **Avocational interests:** "Enjoying our eleven grandchildren."

ADDRESSES: *Home*—14717 Janice Dr., Rockville, MD 20853. *Office*—Quill and Brush, P.O. Box 5365, Rockville, MD 20848; fax 301-871-5425. *E-mail*—qb@clark.net.

CAREER: Quill and Brush (antiquarian book store and art gallery), Bethesda, MD, partner, 1976-86; Quill and Brush (book store), Rockville, MD, partner, 1986—.

MEMBER: International League of Antiquarian Booksellers, Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (chairperson of Southeast chapter).

WRITINGS:

(With husband, Allen Ahearn) *Book Collecting: A Comprehensive Guide*, Putnam (New York City), 1989, new edition, 1995.

(With Allen Ahearn) *Collected Books: The Guide to Value*, Putnam, 1991, revised edition, in press.

Co-author of more than a hundred privately printed price guides to the works of individual authors.

SIDELIGHTS: Patricia Ahearn told *CA*: "Having been in the book business for more than thirty years, my husband and I have been asked many questions about collecting first editions. We write about collecting and how to identify and value the first editions of a particular author's books. Our goal is to make book collecting an enjoyable pursuit and to do our best to prevent the business from being taken over by the computer."

* * *

AKIBA SULLIVAN HARPER, Donna

See SULLIVAN HARPER, Donna Akiba

* * *

ALBERT, Marvin H(ubert) 1924-1996

(Mike Barone, Al Conroy, Albert Conroy, Ian MacAlister, Nick Quarry, Anthony Rome)

OBITUARY NOTICE—See index for *CA* sketch: Born in 1924, in Philadelphia, PA; died following a heart attack, March 24, 1996, in Menton, France. Author, screenwriter and editor. Marvin H. Albert was the author of more than 100 books written in several genres, including Westerns, mysteries, biographies, and novels. Many of his crime novels were published under various pseudonyms. During World War II, Albert served as a radio officer with the Merchant

Marine. He moved to New York in 1950 and found a job as a writer and editor, working on *Look* magazine. Albert's first major success was the western *The Law and Jake Wade* (1956). In 1965, he left for the west coast, settling in Hollywood, and began adapting his novels for film. He turned *Apache Rising* (1957) into *Duel at Diablo*, starring Sidney Poitier, and *Miami Mayhem* (1961) became *Tony Rome*, a vehicle for Frank Sinatra. In 1976 he won the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award for his novel, *The Gargoyle Conspiracy*. That same year Albert relocated to France, where he started a series of crime novels set in the country featuring a French-American detective. His most recent work was a mystery titled *Scarlet Women* (1996).

OBITUARIES AND OTHER SOURCES:

BOOKS

The Writers Directory: 1996-1998, St. James Press, 1995.

PERIODICALS

New York Times, March 31, 1996, p. 41.

* * *

ALLANBROOK, Douglas 1921-

PERSONAL: Born April 1, 1921, in Melrose, MA; son of Charles (a credit representative) and Grace (a homemaker) Allanbrook; married, wife's name Wye (a musicologist; married ended); married, wife's name Candida (a research librarian; marriage ended); children: Timothy, John. **Education:** Harvard University, B.A., 1948; attended Paris Conservatory, 1948-50, and Naples Conservatory, 1950-52. **Politics:** "Blackly middle."

ADDRESSES: Home—6 Revell St., Annapolis, MD 21401.

CAREER: Composer and harpsichordist. St. John's College, Annapolis, MD, teacher of Greek, French, philosophy, music, and mathematics. American Academy of Arts and Letters, director of Yaddo Awards. **Military service:** U.S. Army, 350th Infantry, 88th Division; served during World War II; became staff sergeant; received Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge.

MEMBER: American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers.

AWARDS, HONORS: Two Fulbright fellowships, 1948-52.

WRITINGS:

See Naples: A Memoir, Houghton (Boston, MA), 1995.

Composer of seven symphonies, two operas (*Ethan Frome* and *Nightmare Abbey*), four quartets, and numerous works for piano, harpsichord, brass ensemble, chamber groups, and choral groups, frequently published by Boosey & Hawkes (New York City). Contributor to *Great Ideas Today* and *St. John's Review*.

WORK IN PROGRESS: *A Man without Regrets* (tentative title), a novel.

SIDELIGHTS: Douglas Allanbrook told *CA*: "I went to Harvard, where I was a pupil of Walter Piston. I studied in both Paris and Cambridge with Nadia Boulanger, and in Naples with the harpsichordist Ruggero Gerlin. I lived abroad on fellowships from 1948 to 1952. I was a combat infantryman during World War II, fighting my way up the peninsula from just north of Naples to the Brenner Pass.

"My memoir *See Naples* was meant to exorcise the past. I am of a fair age and wanted to deal with past loves and with my early acquaintance with death during the war years. I wrote the book over a year or so on yellow sheets of paper, then transferred it to a computer upon the urging of my younger son. The novel I am writing now will be cast in the three countries I know best—the United States, France, and Italy—and will be about a father and his three sons—all bastards."

* * *

ALLEN, Richard (Hugh Sedley) 1903-1996

OBITUARY NOTICE—See index for *CA* sketch: Born February 3, 1903, in England; died January 16, 1996. Diplomat, educator, author. Allen devoted some thirty-five years to the British Diplomatic Service. He began his career as a junior assistant secretary with the Government of Palestine in Jerusalem in 1925. In

1927, he joined the British Diplomatic Service and for the next twenty-seven years, served posts in Tokyo, Prague, Berne, Santiago, Bogota, Warsaw, and Buenos Aires. After two years (1954 to 1956) as British Minister to Guatemala, he served as British ambassador to Burma until 1962. Upon retirement from the British Diplomatic Service, he lectured at universities in the United States, many along the Western Coast. These included University of Washington, Whitman College, Central Washington State College, and University of California, Los Angeles. He was named Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1960. His books include *The Task of Western Diplomacy in Southeast Asia, Malaysia—Prospect and Retrospect: The Impact and Aftermath of Colonial Rule, A Short Introduction to the History and Politics of Southeast Asia*, and *Imperialism and Nationalism in the Fertile Crescent: Sources and Prospects of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*.

OBITUARIES AND OTHER SOURCES:

BOOKS

Who's Who in America, St. Martin's Press, 1995.

PERIODICALS

Times (London), February 12, 1996, p. 19.

* * *

ALLSOBROOK, David Ian 1940-

PERSONAL: Born April 29, 1940, in Shotton, Wales; son of Jack (an engineer) and Betti (a dressmaker; maiden name, Jones) Allsobrook; married Marian Stephens (a teacher), August 7, 1965; children: Daniel, Gudrun. **Education:** Attended Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; Cambridge University, M.A., 1966; Leicester University, Ph.D., 1980. **Politics:** Labour Party. **Religion:** Church in Wales (Anglican). **Avocational interests:** Piano playing, singing, being a Church warden.

ADDRESSES: *Home*—2 Fford Cottages, St. George's-super-Ely, Cardiff, Wales. *Office*—University of Wales, Cardiff, Wales. *Agent*—c/o Southern Illinois University Press, Box 3697, Carbondale, IL 62901.

CAREER: High school teacher of history and music, 1963-70; Loughborough University, lecturer in education, 1970-72; Cardiff University, lecturer in history of education, 1972—.

MEMBER: History of Education Society, Guild for the Promotion of Welsh Music.

WRITINGS:

Schools for the Shires: The Reform of Middle-Class Education in Mid-Victorian England, Manchester University Press (Manchester, England), 1986.

Liszt: My Travelling Circus Life, Southern Illinois University Press (Carbondale, IL), 1991.

Music for Wales: Walford Davies and the National Council of Music, 1918-41, University of Wales Press (Cardiff), 1992.

SIDELIGHTS: David Ian Allsobrook is a scholar who specializes in the Victorian era in England. In his first book, 1986's *Schools for the Shires: The Reform of Middle-Class Education in Mid-Victorian England*, Allsobrook uncovered little-studied records of the Taunton Commission, which was charged with investigating England's schools for children of the middle class in 1864. The author is credited with enriching the understanding of the formative influences on the British public school system and on the rise of the middle class. In his 1991 volume, *Liszt: My Travelling Circus Life*, Allsobrook documents a little known period in the life of virtuoso pianist and composer, Franz Liszt, during which Liszt travelled through the English countryside with a troupe of musicians. The author's portrayal of the rigors of travelling and of the level of musical culture in Victorian England are considered important additions to the literature in this area.

In *Schools for the Shires*, Allsobrook provides a detailed account of the historical context, findings, and impact of the mid-nineteenth-century education reform movement in England. The author focuses on one of the royal education commissions charged with the responsibility of investigating England's secondary school system. The commission, known as the Schools Inquiry or Taunton Commission (named for the peer, Baron Taunton, who led the commission), examined the schools available to England's middle class to determine the ways in which they could be reformed. Though neither its report nor its recommendations was fully implemented, Allsobrook traces their impact to the formation of Britain's national schools in the early twentieth century. Critics noted

that one of Allsobrook's most important contributions to Victorian history is his discovery that the impetus for reform came from within the country's wealthy rural class, rather than, as historians had previously assumed, from within its burgeoning urban middle class.

Critical response to *Schools for the Shires* was generally positive. Allsobrook is considered to have made a significant contribution to the history of education and of the middle class in England's Victorian era. And, he does so, according to Ian Britain's assessment in *Victorian Studies*, in a way that "is certainly not devoid of liveliness, inspiration, and judicious historical and literary instincts." Britain notes, however, that what he characterizes as the "riches" of Allsobrook's narrative, including "fresh and revealing quotations from Victorian observers" and "arresting, even quite provocative, observations of its own," are at times obscured by the author's method, which, Britain contends, casts these gems as "more often incidental than integral" to his main themes. Although Deborah Gorham of the *American Historical Review* faulted what she perceived as Allsobrook's unconsidered acceptance of the exclusion of middle-class girls from Victorian educational facilities of all castes, ignoring what literature is available on the education of girls at the time, she concluded: "With the exception of that omission, however, this is a thoroughly researched, thoughtful book that makes an important contribution to the history of Victorian education."

In *Liszt: My Travelling Circus Life*, Allsobrook provides an account of the Hungarian composer's four tours of England during 1840 and 1841. Liszt is believed to have made these tours in an attempt to earn enough money to allow him to devote himself exclusively to composition. Critics noted Allsobrook's portrait of the difficulties of travelling and of the cultural level of the audiences of the English provinces in the 1840s. Allsobrook's sources, including the diaries of John Orlando Parry, a comedic singer and popular member of the musical troupe that travelled with Liszt, and Liszt's own correspondence, as well as contemporary reviews of individual performances, are well utilized, according to some reviewers. Parry's journals "provide an especially flavorful account of the tours," Charles Suttoni remarked in the *Music Library Association*. "Allsobrook makes excellent use of his sources, turning up some captivating details," averred Jonathan Keates in the *Times Literary Supplement*. Although others expressed displeasure with what *Choice* reviewer E. Gaub called

"a welter of digressions, speculations, and trivial details," many critics agreed with Suttoni, who declared: "Liszt's excursion into the British byways remains a most engaging episode, and Allsobrook's pleasantly handled retelling of it can be recommended."

Allsobrook told *CA*: "*Music for Wales: Walford Davies and the National Council of Music, 1918-41*, is an account of the work of Sir Walford Davies, Master of the King's Musick, in leading the activities of the Welsh National Council of Music, a body established by the University of Wales, and supported by munificent philanthropy in the inter-War years. Davies's aim was nothing less than to transform musical taste and accomplishment in the Principality of Wales; in particular, to encourage the development of music education in the schools and of instrumental skills in what was traditionally considered to be a 'singing' people."

BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES:

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Victorian Studies, winter, 1988, pp. 291-92.

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ALMOND, Brenda 1937- (Brenda Cohen)

PERSONAL: Born September 19, 1937, in Liverpool, England; daughter of Edward and Margaret (Potter) Almond; married Charles Desmond Cohen (separated); children: Anna, Louise Cohen Gazeley, Paula, Martin. **Education:** University of London, B.A. (with first class honors), 1959, M.Phil., 1976. **Politics:** "Classical liberalism, respecting moral foundations."