

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF
AMERICAN LITERATURE
美国文学百科全书 (修订版)

VOLUME III
INTO THE MODERN
1896–1945



Revised and Augmented by

George Parker Anderson

Judith S. Baughman

Matthew J. Brucoli

from the first edition prepared by

Carl Rollyson

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION



This four-volume *Encyclopedia of American Literature* is a thorough revision of the three-volume work published by Facts On File in 2002. It adds more than one thousand entries, some four hundred thousand words, and a new volume to the original work. Some one million books have been published in the United States since the first edition of *EAL* appeared; among them are many that require recognition in the encyclopedia, both as primary and secondary resources, some by writers who had not yet published five years ago.

The revised and updated work differs from its predecessor in these respects: 1) entries have been added to reflect the emergence of significant authors, current scholarship, and student interest; 2) bibliographies have been reworked and updated to include newly published primary and secondary works; 3) the scope has been expanded from 2001 to 2007; 4) chronologies, which provide the social, political, and literary context for the encyclopedia, have been substantially expanded; 5) study guides have been added for most frequently

studied authors and literary topics to aid students in organizing their approach to literary appreciation; 6) illustrations have been added to mark and elucidate entries and major figures; 7) epigraphs, taken from writers' works or interviews, have been added to entries on significant figures; and 8) corrections have been made, as necessary.

A circumstance too often ignored by compilers of literary reference works is the ever-changing landscape of the literary world. The usefulness of a reference book is, in large part, determined by the currency of its information. With this augmented, revised, and corrected edition, the editors of *Encyclopedia of American Literature* undertake to accomplish what all who prepare reference works should aspire to: currency, accuracy, relevance, and maximum utility. It is a work in progress.

Matthew J. Bruccoli
Richard Layman
Editorial Directors

INTRODUCTION



The half-century from 1895 to 1945 remains the richest period of American literature: from late realism and naturalism to so-called modernism. Identifications of literary schools or movements are usually labels of convenience; but literary history is a chronicle of genius, which is always singular. The names of the writers are more meaningful than brand names. These are some of the major figures who wrote during this half-century: Stephen Crane, Frank Norris, and Theodore Dreiser; Sinclair Lewis, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, John Dos Passos, and Thomas Wolfe; Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler; John Steinbeck, James Gould Cozzens, and John O'Hara; Edward Arlington Robinson, Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, Ezra Pound, and T. S. Eliot; Eugene O'Neill and Clifford Odets; Lorenz Hart and Ira Gershwin.

The designations of literary renaissances are based on geographical accidents and imply writer connections that may not have existed. The best writers of the Chicago Renaissance left. The Southern Renaissance claimed the writers of at least eight states, most of whom did not know each other. The Harlem Renaissance was a birth rather than a rebirth. African American writers before World War II were impeded by what amounted to Jim Crow publishing; Harlem provided publishing opportunities and literary connections. Arna Bontemps, Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Claude McKay, Wallace Thurman, and Jean Toomer were key figures in the integration of American literature.

Writers can be grouped according to technique, material, and themes. The Naturalists deterministically regarded their characters as victims of environment and heredity; they utilized aspects of American life, sexual behavior, and speech

that had been banned from respectable literature. The first generation of major American Naturalists was depleted by the early deaths of Stephen Crane (1871–1900) and Frank Norris (1870–1902). Theodore Dreiser (1871–1945) lasted. He published *Sister Carrie* in 1900 and *An American Tragedy* in 1925—the year of *Arrowsmith*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Manhattan Transfer*, and *In Our Time*.

The second-generation Naturalists were associated with the proletarian writers of the Depression Thirties—so designated because they wrote about class struggle, social protest, and economic issues in fiction and in drama. The proles overlapped with the hard-boiled writers who wrote about crime and criminals—but not always in detective stories. The “hard-boiled” appellation was based on the violent action, tough authorial tone, and vernacular speech in these novels. It has been asserted that the hard-boiled style is the characteristic voice of American fiction. The major figures in the field were Dashiell Hammett (who published his first novel, *Red Harvest*, in 1929) and Raymond Chandler (who published his first novel, *The Big Sleep*, in 1939). The “hard-boiled” designation has been sloppily applied so that it has lost its original meaning and is now promiscuously applied to any realistic work of fiction with brutality and slang.

After the introduction of movie talkies in 1927, the screenplay became a literary genre as many important writers went to Hollywood for the money—especially during the Depression. It has been remarked that Faulkner spent as much time in Hollywood as in Yoknapatawpha County during the Thirties and Forties.

During the early decades of the twentieth century American literature became increasingly American as it included

non-WASP writers—especially Jews and Blacks—who introduced new material and characters to American literature. In particular, they opened serious American literature to the American language: the vocabularies and speech rhythms. Dreiser was the first major American Catholic author; O'Neill was the first major Irish-Catholic American author, followed by Fitzgerald. The Jewish fiction writers of the Thirties included Daniel Fuchs, Michael Gold, Irwin Shaw, Henry Roth, Jerome Weidman, and Nathanael West. The Jewish dramatists included S. N. Behrman, George S. Kaufman, Moss Hart, Lillian Hellman, Clifford Odets, and Elmer Rice. Yet, apart from the great song lyricists, there were no major Jewish poets during these decades. This volume of *Encyclopedia of American Literature* treats the lyricists of the Twenties and Thirties as poets who wrote when verbal wit was appreciated by a cross-section of Americans.

The post-World War I expatriate movement was a significant feature of this literary era. During the Twenties there was a reverse migration of American writers to Europe—mainly to Paris. The desire to escape puritanism and prohibition was a factor; but the main attraction was the innovative activity in literature, music, and art in France. The presence of established figures (Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, and James Joyce) in Paris attracted ambitious younger writers (Ernest Hemingway, Archibald MacLeish, E. E. Cummings, Hart Crane, Djuna Barnes, and Kay Boyle—as well as many frauds and fakers). Expatriatism in France, as well as England and Italy, exposed American writers to literary movements that they brought back to America.

Paris was the incubator for literary modernism: a much-abused term, which became a loose synonym for “modern” or even “contemporary.” Thus, Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and Faulkner have been conveniently grouped as modernists, although only Faulkner qualifies. Modernism properly applied identifies writing that is experimental or innovative: highly symbolic with new or unconventional treatment of point of view, narrative, and time. The modernists—especially the poets—who were guilty of experimentation for the sake of experimentation spawned the literary criticism industry because their work required a lot of explication. The result was to isolate civilian readers from the reputation-makers and professional explainers who were on academic payrolls and writing for each other.

A literary work doesn't exist until it is published. The Twenties spawned publishing houses founded and directed by bright, energetic young men. (Publishing was a male preserve until after World War II.) These new firms included Random House (1925), Simon & Schuster (1924), Viking Press (1925), Vanguard Press (1926). Three publishing houses that had literary impact were launched earlier: Alfred A. Knopf (1915), Boni & Liveright (1917), and Harcourt, Brace (1919). What became the “paperback revolution” was initiated in America by Pocket Books in 1939.

These 25¢ books were available in venues where books had not been previously sold, and they changed the book-buying and book-reading habits of Americans. Pocket Books was emulated by Avon (1941), Popular Library (1942), Dell (1943), and Bantam (1945).

Writers flourished during the Twenties partly because there were many places where they could publish their short work. The “little magazines” welcomed young talent but paid little or nothing; the mass-circulation magazines paid very well for professional quality work. Fitzgerald, Faulkner, Cozzens, Lardner, and Wolfe sold stories to *The Saturday Evening Post*.

The Twenties was the last decade of popular American literary humor. Ring Lardner, Robert Benchley, Donald Ogden Stewart, James Thurber, and Dorothy Parker as well as a herd of newspaper columnists flourished. The laughter diminished during the Depression, and humor writing ceased to be regarded as a serious occupation for authors.

New literary and critical journals included *The Smart Set* (1914–1923) and *The American Mercury* (1924–1980) edited by H. L. Mencken and George Jean Nathan. *The New Yorker* (1925) under the editorship of Harold Ross developed a stable of short-story writers who wrote what became identified as “the *New Yorker* story.” John O'Hara and Irwin Shaw were regarded as *New Yorker* writers. *The Saturday Review of Literature* (1924–1942) influenced general readers through the Thirties and into the Forties. Two neo-Marxian opinion journals, *The New Masses* (1926–1948) and *The Partisan Review* (1934–2003), exercised critical clout in the leftist intellectual establishment. *Story* (1931–1953) had an impressive record of introducing promising writers who lived up to their promise. *Esquire* (1933) was a serious literary venue throughout the Thirties, with Hemingway as its star contributor.

Less respectable fiction magazines known as the pulps provided writers with publication experience for a penny or two per word. The best-regarded and most successful pulps were in the mystery-detective (*Black Mask* and *Dime Detective*), and sci-fi-fantasy (*Amazing Stories*, *Weird Tales*, *Astounding Stories*) genres. Among the literary figures who served apprenticeships in the pulps were Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler.

Creative-writing programs were not respectable at colleges and universities before World War II. Before that, newspapers were the incubators for literary talent, where American writers served their reportorial apprenticeships before television eroded the capacity or desire of readers to read.

The study and teaching of classic American literature at colleges and universities became academically respectable in the late Twenties: The quarterly scholarly journal *American Literature* was founded in 1929 by Professor Jay B. Hubbell of Duke University. But study of contemporary American authors was discouraged. Graduate students who wanted to work on twentieth-century American authors

were warned that they would be unemployable as teachers. The academic acceptance of contemporary literature commenced after World War II through the proliferation of literary theory, as the study of literature became the criticism of criticism. The *-isms* multiplied along with the *News*; it is well to be suspicious of literary movements that employ the words *New* or

Post. Concomitant with the literary-criticism epidemic were the classroom neglect of literary history and the cancellation of unfashionable survey courses. This *Encyclopedia of American Literature* provides connections.

M. J. B.

EDITORIAL PLAN



Because literary careers do not fall neatly into chronological divisions, choices have been made about the placement of authors in volumes. When, for example, a writer might be placed in volume III or volume IV, the decision has been based on the publication of the author's first important or successful book or play. Tennessee Williams (1911–1983) is in volume III because *The Glass Menagerie* was produced in 1944, Arthur Miller (1915–2005) is in volume IV because *Death of a Salesman* was produced in 1949.

Small caps indicate cross-referenced entries *within this volume*; a comprehensive list of entries for all four volumes of the encyclopedia is provided at the end of each volume. Thus, in volume III the name Tennessee WILLIAMS appears

in small caps when it is first mentioned in an entry, but Arthur Miller is presented in regular type. In “List of Entries” at the end of each volume, Miller is listed with a roman numeral IV beside his name, indicating his placement in the fourth volume.

An entry on a major figure is followed by a bibliography listing the author's principal books and a Study Guide, which advises students and autodidacts how to research the author. In expanding and revising this volume, the editors solicited new or rewritten entries from scholars, whose work is credited with a byline. Entries without bylines were revised from the earlier edition or were written by the editors.

CHRONOLOGY

1896–1945

1896

The College of New Jersey is renamed Princeton University.
 Richard F. Outcault's comic strip "The Yellow Kid" appears in the *New York World*.
 The first public motion picture is shown in New York City.
 John Dos Passos (1896–1970), novelist.
 F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896–1940), writer.
 John Kendrick Bangs, *A Houseboat on the Styx*.
 Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain), *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc* and *Tom Sawyer, Detective, and Other Tales*.
 Emily Dickinson, *Poems, Third Series*.
 Harold Frederic, *The Damnation of Theron Ware*.
 Sarah Orne Jewett, *The Country of the Pointed Firs*.
 Edwin Arlington Robinson, *The Torrent and the Night Before*.
 George Santayana, *The Sense of Beauty*.
 Charles M. Sheldon, *In His Steps*.

1897

The administration of President William McKinley (1897–1901) begins.
 The Library of Congress building is completed.
 Paul Dresser composes and Theodore Dreiser writes the lyrics for "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away."
 John Philip Sousa composes "The Stars and Stripes Forever."
 Frederic Remington, *Drawings*.
 The magazine *Survey Graphic* begins publication.
 William Faulkner (1897–1962), novelist.
 Richard Harding Davis, *Soldiers of Fortune*.
 Henry James, *The Spoils of Poynton* and *What Maisie Knew*.
 William James, *The Will to Believe and Other Essays*.
 Edwin Arlington Robinson, *The Children of the Night*.
 S. Weir Mitchell, *Hugh Wynne, Free Quaker*.

1898

The Spanish-American War occurs.

The National Basketball League is founded.

A Trip to Coontown by Bob Cole and Billy Johnson premieres in New York City; it is the first musical written, performed, and produced by African Americans.
 Stephen Crane, *The Open Boat and Other Tales of Adventure*.
 Paul Laurence Dunbar, *Folks from Dixie*.
 Finley Peter Dunne, *Mr. Dooley in Peace and War*.
 Henry James, *The Two Magics: The Turn of the Screw, Covering End*.

1899

Joe E. Howard (music and lyrics) and Ida Emerson (music) write "Hello, Ma Baby."
 Chauncey Olcott writes the lyrics and music for "My Wild Irish Rose."
 Winslow Homer paints *The Gulf Stream* and *After the Hurricane*.
 William Gillette stars in *Sherlock Holmes* at the Garrick Theatre in New York City.
 Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961), writer.

Everybody's Magazine, edited by John O'Hara Cosgrave, is founded.

George Ade, *Fables in Slang*.

Charles Waddell Chesnutt, *The Conjure Woman* and *The Wife of His Youth and Other Stories of the Color Line*.

Stephen Crane, *The Monster and Other Stories* and *War is Kind*.

John Dewey, *School and Society*.

Paul Leicester Ford, *Janice Meredith*.

Elbert Hubbard, "A Message to Garcia."

Edwin Markham, *The Man with the Hoe and Other Poems*.

Frank Norris, *McTeague*.

Booth Tarkington, *The Gentleman from Indiana*.

Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*.

1900

The US Census reports a population of 75,994,575 people.

Buffalo Bill Cody's *Wild West Show* performs in New York City.

Florodora, a popular stage musical, debuts in New York.

The Smart Set: A Magazine of Cleverness is founded by William D'Alton Mann; H. L. Mencken and George Jean Nathan serve as co-editors from 1914 to 1923.

Albert Pinkham Ryder paints *Toilers of the Sea*.

L. Frank Baum, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

Stephen Crane, *Whilomville Stories*.

Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie*.

Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins, *Contending Forces: A Romance Illustrative of Negro Life North and South*.

Jack London, *The Son of the Wolf*.

Theodore Roosevelt, *The Strenuous Life*.

Josiah Royce, *The World and the Individual* (1900–1901).

Booth Tarkington, *Monsieur Beaucaire*.

Maurice Thompson, *Alice of Old Vincennes*.

1901

The administration of President Theodore Roosevelt (1901–1909) begins.

Steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie gives more than \$2 million to the New York public library system.

Sigmund Lubin produces the movies *Couche Dance on the Midway* and *Wedding Procession in Cairo*.

Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines, a play by Clyde Fitch, opens on Broadway.

William Vaughn Moody, *Poems*.

John Muir, *Our National Parks*.

Frank Norris, *The Octopus*.

Alice Caldwell Hegan Rice, *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*.

Jacob Riis, *The Making of an American*.

Booker T. Washington, *Up From Slavery*.

1902

Comin' Through the Rye, a bronze sculpture, is completed by Frederic Remington.

In Dahomey, a musical written and performed by African Americans, opens on Broadway.

The Carnegie Institute is established to sponsor research in the humanities and sciences.

The *South Atlantic Quarterly* begins publication.

Paul Laurence Dunbar, *The Sport of the Gods*.

Henry James, *The Wings of the Dove*.

William James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*.

Helen Keller, *The Story of My Life*.

George Barr McCutcheon, *Brewster's Millions*.

Jacob Riis, *The Battle with the Slum*.

Owen Wister, *The Virginian*.

1903

The United States acquires the rights to build the Panama Canal.

Edwin S. Porter's one-reel movie *The Great Train Robbery* opens in theaters.

The musical version of *The Wizard of Oz* opens.

James Gould Cozzens (1903–1978), novelist.

W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*.

Paul Laurence Dunbar, *In Old Plantation Days*.

Henry James, *The Ambassadors*.

Jack London, *The Call of the Wild* and *People of the Abyss*.

Frank Norris, *The Pit*.

Jacob Riis, *Children of the Tenements*.

1904

The American Academy of Arts and Letters is founded.

George M. Cohan writes the music and lyrics for "Give My Regards to Broadway."

Henry Adams, *Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres*.

Ellen Glasgow, *The Deliverance*.

Joel Chandler Harris, *The Tar Baby*.

William Dean Howells, *The Son of Royal Langbrith*.

Henry James, *The Golden Bowl*.

Jack London, *The Sea-Wolf*.

William Sydney Porter (O. Henry), *Cabbages and Kings*.

Lincoln Steffens, *The Shame of the Cities*.

Ida M. Tarbell, *The History of the Standard Oil Company*.

1905

The first nickelodeon opens in Pittsburgh.

The *Chicago Defender*, the first black newspaper in the nation, is founded.

Variety, a show-business weekly, begins publication.

John O'Hara (1905–1970), writer.

Charles Waddell Chesnutt, *The Colonel's Dream*.

Thomas Dixon, *The Clansman*.

George Santayana, *The Life of Reason; Or, The Phases of Human Progress* (1905–1906).

Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth*.

1906

The Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act are passed.

The Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States is renamed the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

George M. Cohan writes the music and lyrics for “I’m a Yankee Doodle Dandy” and “You’re a Grand Old Flag.”

Rex Beach, *The Spoilers*.

Ambrose Bierce, *The Cynic's Word Book* (enlarged as *The Devil's Dictionary* in 1911).

Joel Chandler Harris, *Uncle Remus and Brer Rabbit*.

Jack London, *White Fang*.

William Vaughn Moody, *The Great Divide*.

William Sydney Porter (O. Henry), *The Four Million*.

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*.

Owen Wister, *Lady Baltimore*.

1907

The *Ziegfeld Follies*, a musical revue produced by Florenz Ziegfeld, opens in New York City.

Frank Lloyd Wright finishes building the Robey House in Chicago; with a broad low roof, it is a classic example of a prairie house.

Henry Brooks Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams*.

Charles Alexander Eastman, *Old Indian Days*.

Elinor Glyn, *Three Weeks*.

William James, *Pragmatism*.

William Sydney Porter (O. Henry), *The Trimmed Lamp*.

William Graham Sumner, *Folkways*.

1908

D. W. Griffith directs his first one-reel movie, *The Adventures of Dolly*.

Israel Zangwill's play *The Melting Pot* and George M. Cohan's musical *The American Idea* both open in New York.

Jack Johnson becomes the first black man to win the heavyweight boxing championship of the world.

The Eight, a group of prominent artists, exhibit their work in New York City.

Nora Bayes writes the music and Jack Norworth writes the lyrics for “Shine On, Harvest Moon.”

Zane Grey, *The Last of the Plainsmen*.

Jack London, *The Iron Heel*.

H. L. Mencken, *The Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche*.

Ezra Pound, *A Lume Spento*.

Mary Roberts Rinehart, *The Circular Staircase*.

Josiah Royce, *Philosophy of Loyalty*.

1909

The administration of President William H. Taft (1909–1913) begins.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded.

Gertie the Dinosaur is the first animated movie in the United States.

Clyde Fitch's stage production *The City* is banned in Boston but not New York; it has the controversial line “You’re a goddamn liar.”

The first American transcontinental automobile race is held.

Gus Edwards writes the music and Edward Madden writes

the lyrics for “By the Light of the Silvery Moon.”

Wallace Saunders composes the ballad “Casey Jones.”

Van Wyck Brooks, *The Wine of the Puritans*.

Herbert D. Croly, *The Promise of American Life*.

Jack London, *Martin Eden*.

William Vaughn Moody, *The Faith Healer*.

Ezra Pound, *Personae*.

Gertrude Stein, *Three Lives*.

William A. White, *A Certain Rich Man*.

1910

The US Census reports a population of 91,972,266 people.

Frederick Shepherd Converse's *The Pipe of Desire* debuts at the Metropolitan Opera; it is the first time an opera by an American composer opens there.

Victor Herbert writes the music and Rida Johnson Young writes the lyrics for “Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life.”

Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull-House*.

Jack London, *Burning Daylight*.

Clarence Mulford, *Hopalong Cassidy*.

Edwin Arlington Robinson, *The Town Down the River*.

1911

Irving Berlin composes “Alexander's Ragtime Band.”

The Association of American Painters and Sculptors is established.

The first Indianapolis 500 automobile race is held; the winner, Ray Harroun, has an average speed of nearly 75 mph.

The Masses, later *New Masses*, begins publication.

Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*.

Theodore Dreiser, *Jennie Gerhardt*.

Kathleen Norris, *Mother*.

David Graham Phillips, *The Conflict*.
 Edith Wharton, *Ethan Frome*.
 Harold Bell Wright, *The Winning of Barbara Worth*.

1912

Mack Sennett directs the first Keystone Comedy movies, the split-reel *Cohen Collects a Debt* and *The Water Nymph*.
 Ernest R. Ball writes the music and Chauncey Olcott and George Graff Jr. write the lyrics for "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling."
Poetry: A Magazine of Verse is founded.
 Mary Austin, *A Woman of Genius*.
 Willa Cather, *Alexander's Bridge*.
 Theodore Dreiser, *The Financier*.
 Zane Grey, *Riders of the Purple Sage*.
 James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*.
 Jack London, *Smoke Bellew*.
 Amy Lowell, *A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass*.
 Ezra Pound, *Ripostes*.

1913

The administration of President Woodrow Wilson (1913–1921) begins.
 The Woolworth Building is built in New York City; the tallest building in the world, it is 792 feet in height.
 In New York City, the International Exhibition of Modern Art or the Armory Show opens with hundreds of avant-garde paintings and sculptures.
 Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!*
 Robert Frost, *A Boy's Will*.
 Ellen Glasgow, *Virginia*.
 Vachel Lindsay, *General William Booth Enters into Heaven and Other Poems*.

Jack London, *The Valley of the Moon*.
 Eleanor H. Porter, *Pollyanna*.

1914

World War I begins.
 The Panama Canal opens.
 The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) is founded.
Watch Your Step, Irving Berlin's first musical, opens.
 The magazines *Little Review* and *New Republic* begin publication.
 Edgar Rice Burroughs, *Tarzan of the Apes*.
 Theodore Dreiser, *The Titan*.
 Robert Frost, *North of Boston*.
 Vachel Lindsay, *The Congo and Other Poems*.
 Booth Tarkington, *Penrod*.

1915

A German U-boat torpedoes the British ocean liner *Lusitania* off the coast of Ireland, killing some 1,200 passengers, on May 7.
 The United States protests, and Germany temporarily halts unrestricted submarine warfare.
 D. W. Griffith directs *The Birth of a Nation*.
 Fred Fisher composes and Howard Johnson writes the words for "There's a Broken Heart for Every Light on Broadway."
 Saul Bellow (1915–2005), novelist.
 The Provincetown Players, a theatrical company, is founded; among its early members is the dramatist Eugene O'Neill.
 Alfred A. Knopf establishes a publishing house.
 Van Wyck Brooks, *America's Coming-of-Age*.
 Willa Cather, *The Song of the Lark*.
 Theodore Dreiser, *The "Genius"*.
 Edgar Lee Masters, *Spoon River Anthology*.
 John G. Neihardt, *The Song of Hugh Glass*.

Ernest Poole, *The Harbor*.
 Ezra Pound, *Cathay*.

1916

A US military expedition is sent into Mexico to stop the depredations of the bandit leader Pancho Villa.
 The Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) is established.
 Charlie Chaplin directs and stars in *The Vagabond*.
 D. W. Griffith's *Intolerance* opens in movie theaters.
Seven Arts begins publication.
Theatre Arts Magazine is founded.
 The Provincetown Players stage *Bound East for Cardiff*, the first production of a Eugene O'Neill play, at the Wharf Theater in Provincetown, Massachusetts.
 Walker Percy (1916–1990), novelist.
 Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain), *The Mysterious Stranger*.
 John Dewey, *Democracy and Education*.
 Robert Frost, *Mountain Interval*.
 Ring Lardner, *You Know Me Al*.
 Ezra Pound, *Lustra*.
 Edwin Arlington Robinson, *The Man Against the Sky*.
 Carl Sandburg, *Chicago Poems*.

1917

The United States enters World War I (1914–1918) after the Germans resume unrestricted submarine warfare, and the British government intercepts the Zimmermann Telegram.
 The first Pulitzer Prizes, which acknowledge achievements in American journalism, letters, and music, are awarded.
 Gwendolyn Brooks (1917–2000), poet and educator.
 Robert Lowell (1917–1977), poet.
 Carson McCullers (1917–1967), novelist.
 T. S. Eliot, *Prufrock and Other Observations*.

Hamlin Garland, *A Son of the Middle Border*.
 Joseph Hergesheimer, *The Three Black Pennys*.
 H. L. Mencken, *A Book of Prefaces*.
 David Graham Phillips, *Susan Lenox: Her Fall and Rise*.
 Edwin Arlington Robinson, *Merlin*.
 Upton Sinclair, *King Coal*.
 Sara Teasdale, *Love Songs*.

1918

World War I ends.
 The Eighteenth Amendment prohibits the manufacture, sale, and transport of alcoholic beverages in the United States.
 Eddie Green writes the music and lyrics for "A Good Man Is Hard to Find."
 The theater group known as the Carolina Playmakers is founded at the University of North Carolina.
 The Theatre Guild is founded in New York City.
 Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*.
 Theodore Dreiser, *Free and Other Stories*.
 H. L. Mencken, *In Defense of Women*.
 Eugene O'Neill, *The Moon of the Caribbees*.
 Carl Sandburg, *Cornhuskers*.
 Booth Tarkington, *The Magnificent Ambersons*.
 Thorstein Veblen, *The Higher Learning in America*.

1919

The Nineteenth Amendment grants women the right to vote in the United States.
 Woodrow Wilson proposes the Fourteen Points, his vision of a liberal peace settlement, at the Versailles Peace Conference. His plan causes much debate.
 The Communist Party of America is founded.

Maid of Harlem, a hit musical with an all-black cast, plays at the Lincoln Theater in New York.
 Babe Ruth of the Boston Red Sox has twenty-nine home runs in a single season, setting a new major-league baseball record.
 George Gershwin writes the music and Irving Caesar writes the lyrics for "Swanee."
 Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*.
 James Branch Cabell, *Beyond Life and Jurgen*.
 Joseph Hergesheimer, *Linda Condon*.
 H. L. Mencken, *The American Language and Prejudices, First Series*.
 John Crowe Ransom, *Poems About God*.
 John Reed, *Ten Days That Shook the World*.
 Louis Untermeyer, *Modern American Poetry; An Introduction*.

1920

The Senate votes against the United States joining the League of Nations.
 The US Census reports a population of 105,710,620 people.
 Babe Ruth is traded to the New York Yankees; by the end of the season he sets a new record with fifty-four home runs.
 Eight Chicago White Sox players are indicted on charges of having taken bribes to throw the 1919 World Series.
 Harry Von Tilzer and Bill Munro write the music and Andrew B. Sterling and Ted Lewis write the words for "When My Baby Smiles at Me."
 H. L. Mencken and George Jean Nathan launch the pulp magazine *Black Mask*, which they soon sell; among its later contributors are Dashiell

Hammett and Raymond Chandler.
 Sherwood Anderson, *Poor White*.
 T. S. Eliot, *Poems*.
 F. Scott Fitzgerald, *This Side of Paradise* and *Flappers and Philosophers*.
 Zona Gale, *Miss Lulu Bett*.
 Sinclair Lewis, *Main Street*.
 Edna St. Vincent Millay, *A Few Figs from Thistles*.
 Eugene O'Neill, *Beyond the Horizon* and *The Emperor Jones*.
 Ezra Pound, *Hugh Selwyn Mauberley*.
 Edwin Arlington Robinson, *Lancelot*.
 Carl Sandburg, *Smoke and Steel*.
 Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*.

1921

The administration of President Warren G. Harding (1921–1923) begins.
 On July 14 Italian immigrants Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are convicted of murdering a paymaster and a guard during a robbery the previous year. Many people feel that the jury had been prejudiced by the defendants' anarchist beliefs.
 Richard Wilbur (1921–), poet.
 Sherwood Anderson, *The Triumph of the Egg*.
 John Dos Passos, *Three Soldiers*.
 Eugene O'Neill, *Anna Christie*.
 Booth Tarkington, *Alice Adams*.
 Elinor Wylie, *Nets to Catch the Wind*.

1922

The US Senate begins to investigate the lease of the Teapot Dome oil fields in Wyoming and other federal oil reserves to private oil companies. The Teapot Dome Scandal leads to the resignation of Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall the next year.

Anne Nichols' comedy *Abie's Irish Rose* opens and sets a Broadway record of 2,327 performances.
Kurt Vonnegut Jr. (1922–2007), novelist.
The Fugitive, a poetry magazine, begins publication.
Reader's Digest is founded.
E. E. Cummings, *The Enormous Room*.
T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*.
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Beautiful and Damned* and *Tales of the Jazz Age*.
Sinclair Lewis, *Babbitt*.
Eugene O'Neill, *The Hairy Ape*.

1923

Warren G. Harding dies, and the administration of President Calvin Coolidge (1923–1929) begins.
Billy Jones composes “Yes, We Have No Bananas.”
Time magazine begins publication.
Norman Mailer (1923–), novelist and journalist.
Gertrude Atherton, *Black Oxen*.
Willa Cather, *A Lost Lady*.
Robert Frost, *New Hampshire*.
Ernest Hemingway, *Three Stories & Ten Poems*.
Edna St. Vincent Millay, *The Ballad of the Harp-Weaver*.
Elmer Rice, *The Adding Machine*.
Wallace Stevens, *Harmonium*.

1924

James Baldwin (1924–1987), writer.
Truman Capote (1924–1984), writer.
Eugene O'Neill's controversial play about miscegenation *All God's Chillun Got Wings* opens.
Richard L. Simon and M. Lincoln Schuster establish the publishing house Simon & Schuster.
The American Mercury first appears; it is published by Alfred A. Knopf and partly owned by co-editors H. L. Mencken and George Jean Nathan.
Maxwell Anderson and Laurence Stallings, *What Price Glory*.

Sherwood Anderson, *A Story Teller's Story*.
Louis Bromfield, *The Green Bay Tree*.
Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain), *Autobiography*.
James Gould Cozzens, *Confusion*.
Ernest Hemingway, *in our time*.
Sidney Howard, *They Knew What They Wanted*.
Robinson Jeffers, *Tamar*.
Ring Lardner, *How to Write Short Stories*.
Herman Melville, *Billy Budd, Foretopman*.
Edith Wharton, *Old New York*.

1925

The Scopes “Monkey” Trial, in which Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan debate the theory of evolution, occurs in Dayton, Tennessee.
Charlie Chaplin's *The Gold Rush* plays in movie theaters.
Larry Hart's and Richard Rodgers' musical *Garrick Gaieties* opens and features the song “Manhattan.”
The New Yorker magazine is founded.
The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation is established.
William Styron (1925–2006), novelist.
Gore Vidal (1925–), novelist, playwright, and essayist.
Sherwood Anderson, *Dark Laughter*.
Van Wyck Brooks, *The Pilgrimage of Henry James*.
Willa Cather, *The Professor's House*.
John Dos Passos, *Manhattan Transfer*.
Theodore Dreiser, *An American Tragedy*.
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*.
Ellen Glasgow, *Barren Ground*.
Ernest Hemingway, *In Our Time*.
Robinson Jeffers, *Roan Stallion, Tamar and Other Poems*.
Sinclair Lewis, *Arrowsmith*.
Anita Loos, “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes”: *The Illuminating Diary of a Professional Lady*.

John G. Neihardt, *The Song of the Indian Wars*.
Ezra Pound, *A Draft of XVI Cantos*.

1926

The first Technicolor movie, *The Black Pirate*, premieres.
Ray Henderson composes and Mort Dixon writes the words for “Bye Bye Blackbird.”
Ray Henderson writes the music and Buddy G. DeSylva and Lew Brown write the lyrics for “The Birth of the Blues.”
Gene Tunney defeats Jack Dempsey for the heavyweight boxing championship.
The Book-of-the-Month Club is founded.
Allen Ginsberg (1926–1997), poet.
Thomas Beer, *The Mauve Decade*.
Theodore Dreiser, *Moods: Cadenced and Declaimed*.
William Faulkner, *Soldiers' Pay*.
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *All the Sad Young Men*.
Paul Green, *In Abraham's Bosom*.
Ernest Hemingway, *The Torrents of Spring* and *The Sun Also Rises*.
Sidney Howard, *The Silver Cord*.
Langston Hughes, *The Weary Blues*.
Eugene O'Neill, *The Great God Brown*.
Elizabeth Madox Roberts, *The Time of Man*.
Carl Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln, The Prairie Years*.
T. S. Stribling, *Teetallow*.
Carl Van Vechten, *Nigger Heaven*.

1927

Charles Lindbergh flies nonstop from New York to Paris in the *Spirit of St. Louis*. The 3,600-mile trip takes him more than thirty-three hours to complete.
Anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti are executed for murder.
Bennett Cerf and Donald Klopfer name their publishing firm Random House.