

# Contents

GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
ABBREVIATIONS USED FOR PUBLISHING COMPANIES	7

## The Backgrounds of American Literature since 1890

I · GENERAL GUIDES	11
II · GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS	11
III · GENERAL HISTORIES	13
A · The Nineties	15
B · The Progressive Era	16
C · World War I	19
D · The Twenties	21
E · The Great Depression and the Thirties	22
F · The Forties: World War II and Its Aftermath	24
G · The Fifties and Sixties	25
IV · SPECIAL ASPECTS	28
A · Social and Economic History and Problems	28
1 · <i>General Social History and Discussion</i>	28
2 · <i>General Economic History and Problems</i>	30
3 · <i>General Political Problems</i>	31
4 · <i>Some Special Themes</i>	34
a · <i>Population Elements</i>	34
(1) <i>Immigration</i>	34
(2) <i>The Class Issue</i>	35
(3) <i>The Race Issue</i>	35
(4) <i>Toward an Open Society</i>	36
b · <i>Regionalism</i>	37
c · <i>Business and Industry</i>	39
d · <i>Labor</i>	40

# CONTENTS

B · The United States in International Affairs	41
C · Education in the United States	43
D · Science and Technology	46
E · General Intellectual History	48
1 · <i>Theories of Politics, History, and Political Trends</i>	49
2 · <i>Philosophy</i>	50
3 · <i>Religious History</i>	52
4 · <i>American Studies</i>	55
F · The Fine Arts	56
1 · <i>Architecture</i>	57
2 · <i>Sculpture</i>	58
3 · <i>Painting</i>	59
4 · <i>Music</i>	60
G · The Popular Arts	62
1 · <i>Photography and the Movies</i>	63
2 · <i>Radio, Television, Records</i>	65
3 · <i>Cartoons and Comic Strips</i>	66
 V · LITERARY HISTORY	 68
A · General Works	68
B · General Reference Works	70
1 · <i>Closed Bibliographies</i>	70
2 · <i>Open or Continuing Guides</i>	73
C · Literary Histories of Specialized Scope	76
D · Special Themes	77
E · The English Language in America	79
F · Fiction	81
1 · <i>The Novel</i>	81
a · <i>General Books</i>	81
b · <i>Special Topics</i>	82
2 · <i>The Short Story</i>	84
a · <i>Continuing Collections</i>	85
b · <i>General Books</i>	85
G · Poetry	86
H · Drama	89
I · General Prose and Criticism	91
J · Biography	94
K · Magazines	94
L · American Publishing	95
1 · <i>General Books</i>	95
2 · <i>Particular Publishers</i>	96

# CONTENTS

VI · CRITICAL LIST OF MAGAZINES	99
VII · CHIEF HISTORICAL EVENTS, 1890–1971	113

## Reading Lists of American Literature since 1890

I · AMERICAN LITERATURE, 1890–1919	135
A · The Genteel Tradition	135
1 · <i>The Genteel Tradition: "Culture"</i>	135
2 · <i>The Genteel Tradition: The Theory of the Arts</i>	137
B · Literature Written Within the Genteel Tradition	139
3 · <i>The Regional and the Local</i>	139
4 · <i>Historical Romance</i>	141
5 · <i>Travel</i>	143
6 · <i>The Literature of Entertainment</i>	145
7 · <i>The Literature of Childhood</i>	147
8 · <i>Humor</i>	148
9 · <i>The West</i>	149
C · Forces Hostile to the Genteel Tradition	151
10 · <i>The Fin de Siècle Spirit</i>	151
11 · <i>The American Interpretation of Evolution</i>	153
12 · <i>The Application of Evolutionary Theory</i>	155
13 · <i>The Forces of Realism:</i> <i>William Dean Howells</i>	158
14 · <i>The Forces of Realism:</i> <i>The Contemporaries of Howells</i>	159
15 · <i>The Forces of Naturalism: The Meliorists</i>	161
16 · <i>The Forces of Naturalism: The Determinists</i>	163
D · Movements of Reconstruction	164
17 · <i>New Viewpoints in Social Interpretation</i>	164
18 · <i>Social Reform: Program and Experience</i>	165
19 · <i>Novels of Social and Political Reform</i>	167
E · Conflicting Values	168
20 · <i>The Interpretation of Fiction</i>	168
21 · <i>Governing Philosophies</i>	170
F · New Directions	172
22 · <i>The Drama</i>	172
23 · <i>The Poetic Renaissance: Preliminary</i>	174
24 · <i>The Poetic Renaissance: Fulfillment</i>	176

# CONTENTS

II · AMERICAN LITERATURE, 1920-1972	17
G · World War I and Its Aftermath	17
25 · <i>The Impact of World War I</i>	17
26 · <i>The New Spirit and the War Novels</i>	179
27 · <i>The New Spirit in Fiction and Poetry</i>	181
28 · <i>The Fictional Attack on "Puritanism"</i>	184
29 · <i>The Revaluation of American Culture</i>	185
30 · <i>The Search for a Usable Past</i>	188
31 · <i>The New Method in the Historical Novel</i>	190
H · The Twenties	192
32 · <i>The Revival of the Exotic</i>	192
33 · <i>Drama in the Twenties and After</i>	194
34 · <i>Poetry in the Twenties and After</i>	196
I · The Thirties	198
35 · <i>The New Criticism</i>	198
36 · <i>The Proletarian Movement in the Thirties</i>	200
37 · <i>Neo-Naturalism in the Thirties and After</i>	202
J · World War II and After	204
38 · <i>Prelude to World War II</i>	204
39 · <i>The Literature of World War II</i>	206
40 · <i>The Cold War and the Political Problem</i>	208
41 · <i>The Cold War and the Moral Problem</i>	210
42 · <i>The Novel: Latest Phases</i>	211
43 · <i>Drama: Latest Phases</i>	214
44 · <i>Poetry: Latest Phases</i>	216
45 · <i>Criticism: Latest Phases</i>	220
III · SOME CONTINUING ELEMENTS	222
46 · <i>The Short Story in the Twentieth Century</i>	222
47 · <i>Conventional Fiction in the Twentieth Century</i>	225
48 · <i>The Twentieth-Century Regional Novel</i>	227
49 · <i>Autobiography in the Twentieth Century</i>	229
50 · <i>Biography in the Twentieth Century</i>	232
51 · <i>Humor and Satire in the Twentieth Century</i>	237
52 · <i>Fantasy, Murder, Science, Escape</i>	240
INDEX OF AUTHORS	245