

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| GENERAL INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| ABBREVIATIONS USED FOR PUBLISHING FIRMS | 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 | 18 |
| D · The Twenties | 19 |
| E · The Great Depression and the Thirties | 20 |
| F · The Forties: World War II and Its Aftermath | 22 |
| G · The Fifties | 23 |
| IV · SPECIAL ASPECTS | 24 |
| A · Social and Economic History and Problems | 24 |
| 1 · <i>General Social History and Discussion</i> | 24 |
| 2 · <i>General Economic History and Problems</i> | 26 |
| 3 · <i>General Political Problems</i> | 27 |
| 4 · <i>Some Special Themes</i> | 30 |
| a · <i>Population Elements</i> | 30 |
| b · <i>Regionalism</i> | 32 |
| c · <i>Business and Industry</i> | 34 |
| d · <i>Labor</i> | 35 |

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|--------|
| B · The United States in International Affairs | 36 |
| C · Education in the United States | 39 |
| D · Science and Technology | 41 |
| E · General Intellectual History | 44 |
| 1 · <i>Theories of Politics, History,</i> <i>and Political Trends</i> | 45 |
| 2 · <i>Philosophy</i> | 46 |
| 3 · <i>Religious History</i> | 48 |
| F · The Fine Arts | 51 |
| 1 · <i>Architecture</i> | 52 |
| 2 · <i>Sculpture</i> | 54 |
| 3 · <i>Painting</i> | 54 |
| 4 · <i>Music</i> | 55 |
| 5 · <i>The Modern Spirit</i> <i>(Exclusive of Literary Criticism)</i> | 56 |
| G · The Popular Arts | 58 |
| 1 · <i>Photography and the Movies</i> | 59 |
| 2 · <i>Radio, Television, Records</i> | 60 |
| 3 · <i>Cartoons and Comic Strips</i> | 61 |
| V · LITERARY HISTORY | 63 |
| A · General Works | 63 |
| B · General Reference Works | 64 |
| 1 · <i>"Closed" Bibliographies</i> | 64 |
| 2 · <i>"Open" or Continuing Guides</i> | 66 |
| C · Literary Histories of Specialized Scope | 68 |
| D · Special Themes | 70 |
| E · The English Language in America | 71 |
| F · Fiction | 72 |
| 1 · <i>The Novel</i> | 72 |
| a · <i>General Books</i> | 72 |
| b · <i>Special Topics</i> | 73 |

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| 2 · <i>The Short Story</i> | 76 |
| a · <i>"Continuing" Collections</i> | 76 |
| b · <i>General Books</i> | 76 |
| G · <i>Poetry</i> | 77 |
| H · <i>The Drama</i> | 79 |
| I · <i>General Prose and Criticism</i> | 81 |
| J · <i>Biography</i> | 83 |
| K · <i>The Magazines</i> | 84 |
| L · <i>American Publishing</i> | 85 |
| 1 · <i>General Books</i> | 85 |
| 2 · <i>Particular Publishers</i> | 86 |
| VI · CRITICAL LIST OF MAGAZINES | 89 |
| VII · CHIEF HISTORICAL EVENTS, 1890-1963 | 101 |

Reading Lists of American Literature Since 1890

| | |
|--|-----|
| I · AMERICAN LITERATURE, 1890-1919 | 121 |
| A · <i>The Genteel Tradition</i> | 121 |
| 1 · <i>The Genteel Tradition: "Culture"</i> | 121 |
| 2 · <i>The Genteel Tradition: The Theory of the Arts</i> | 123 |
| B · <i>Literature Written Within the Genteel Tradition</i> | 125 |
| 3 · <i>The Regional and the Local</i> | 125 |
| 4 · <i>Historical Romance</i> | 127 |
| 5 · <i>Travel</i> | 129 |
| 6 · <i>The Literature of Entertainment</i> | 131 |
| 7 · <i>The Literature of Childhood</i> | 133 |
| 8 · <i>Humor</i> | 134 |
| 9 · <i>The West</i> | 135 |

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| C · Forces Hostile to the Genteel Tradition | 137 |
| 10 · <i>The Fin de Siècle Spirit</i> | 137 |
| 11 · <i>The American Interpretation of Evolution</i> | 139 |
| 12 · <i>The Application of Evolutionary Theory</i> | 141 |
| 13 · <i>The Forces of Realism:</i> <i>William Dean Howells</i> | 144 |
| 14 · <i>The Forces of Realism:</i> <i>The Contemporaries of Howells</i> | 145 |
| 15 · <i>The Forces of Naturalism: The Meliorists</i> | 147 |
| 16 · <i>The Forces of Naturalism: The Determinists</i> | 149 |
| D · Movements of Reconstruction | 150 |
| 17 · <i>New Viewpoints in Social Interpretation</i> | 150 |
| 18 · <i>Social Reform: Program and Experience</i> | 151 |
| 19 · <i>Novels of Social and Political Reform</i> | 153 |
| E · Conflicting Values | 154 |
| 20 · <i>The Interpretation of Fiction</i> | 154 |
| 21 · <i>Governing Philosophies</i> | 156 |
| F · New Directions | 158 |
| 22 · <i>The Drama</i> | 158 |
| 23 · <i>The Poetic Renaissance: Preliminary</i> | 160 |
| 24 · <i>The Poetic Renaissance: Fulfillment</i> | 162 |
| II · AMERICAN LITERATURE, 1920-1963 | 163 |
| G · World War I and Its Aftermath | 163 |
| 25 · <i>The Impact of World War I</i> | 163 |
| 26 · <i>The New Spirit and the War Novels</i> | 165 |
| 27 · <i>The New Spirit in Fiction and Poetry</i> | 168 |
| 28 · <i>The Fictional Attack on "Puritanism"</i> | 170 |
| 29 · <i>The Revaluation of American Culture</i> | 171 |
| 30 · <i>The Search for a Usable Past</i> | 174 |
| 31 · <i>The New Method in the Historical Novel</i> | 176 |

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| H · The Twenties | 178 |
| 32 · <i>The Revival of the Exotic</i> | 178 |
| 33 · <i>Drama in the Twenties and After</i> | 180 |
| 34 · <i>Poetry in the Twenties and After</i> | 183 |
| I · The Thirties | 185 |
| 35 · <i>The New Criticism</i> | 185 |
| 36 · <i>The Proletarian Movement</i> | 187 |
| 37 · <i>Neo-Naturalism in the Thirties and After</i> | 189 |
| J · World War II and After | 191 |
| 38 · <i>Prelude to World War II</i> | 191 |
| 39 · <i>The Literature of World War II</i> | 193 |
| 40 · <i>The Cold War and the Political Problem</i> | 195 |
| 41 · <i>The Cold War and the Moral Problem</i> | 197 |
| 42 · <i>The Novel in the Period of the Cold War</i> | 198 |
| 43 · <i>Criticism: Latest Phase</i> | 200 |
| 44 · <i>Poetry: Latest Phases</i> | 202 |
| III · SOME CONTINUING ELEMENTS | 205 |
| 45 · <i>The Short Story in the Twentieth Century</i> | 205 |
| 46 · <i>Conventional Fiction in the Twentieth Century</i> | 207 |
| 47 · <i>The Twentieth-Century Regional Novel</i> | 209 |
| 48 · <i>Autobiography in the Twentieth Century</i> | 211 |
| 49 · <i>Biography in the Twentieth Century</i> | 214 |
| 50 · <i>Humor in the Twentieth Century</i> | 218 |
| 51 · <i>Fantasy, Murder, Science, Escape</i> | 221 |
| INDEX OF AUTHORS | 225 |