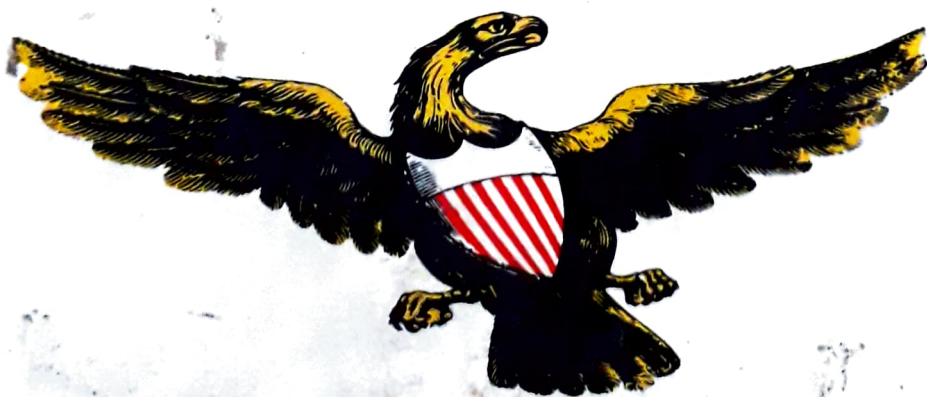


THE

CAMBRIDGE
HANDBOOK *of*
AMERICAN
LITERATURE

EDITED BY JACK SALZMAN



Preface

The Cambridge Handbook of American Literature was designed from the outset to be more compact than other such reference works. It is intended as much for individuals as for libraries; we hope that its concise form will make it widely accessible as well as affordable, and that it will be carried and consulted with frequency.

It is, above all, a handbook of American literature, and the reader will find little that is digressive, anecdotal, or peripheral to this. Entries are designed to be factual and informative, biographical and bibliographical. The length of an entry should not necessarily be taken as an index to its subject's importance in the literary canon. Our guiding concern has been to provide basic information, and it sometimes turns out that the plot of a major novel or the career of a major author can reasonably be outlined in a briefer compass than can that of a lesser work or figure. We have deliberately tried not to be judgmental; such critical comments as there are tend to reflect received historical attitudes rather than our own opinions. Of course, since we are not producing an encyclopedia, we have been obliged to make decisions about what to leave out, and these decisions inevitably involve the exercise of critical judgment. We hope, though, that most readers will agree that the 750 or so entries that follow represent a core list of those writers, works, and movements of which some knowledge is essential to all serious students of American literature.

That said, we appreciate that some readers may still be concerned at certain omissions. We know, too, that despite our efforts to double and triple check facts and dates, it is in the nature of such reference works that there may be some errors. Should that indeed prove the case, we invite readers to write to us at the Center for American Culture Studies at Columbia University, informing us of any mistakes or lacunae they have noticed. When a second edition of the *Handbook* appears we will have an opportunity to correct errors and address the question of omissions.

As the title page indicates, this volume is the work of the staff of Columbia University's Center for American Culture Studies. Numerous members of staff not listed on the title page have also helped in various ways, and their efforts are gratefully acknowledged: Linda Ainsworth, David Cantor, Mary Corcoran, John Davis, Jeanne Gottschalk, Eric Haralson, Kevin Keenan, Donna Kerfoot, John Kilduff, Bette Kirschstein, Francesca Kobylarz, Jeff Levin, Daniel Manheim, Timothy Lubin, Jonathan Margolies, Nathaniel Margolies, Jackie Peters, Mark Rothman, Ellen Salzman, Laurence Sopala, Nancy Stula, Gordon Tapper, Margaret Vandenburg, Karen Ward, Jay Williams, Richard Wollman, Emily Wright, and Steve Wurtzler. Particular thanks are due to Meryl Altman, who, as usual, provided us with exceptional help when we most needed it. Nat Austen, Mary Dearborn, George Economu, Paul Klempoppen, Randy Malamud, Tenney Nathanson, and Eric Sandeen helped with various entries. Andrew Brown of Cambridge University Press must be singled out for his efforts to make the book not only more accurate but more readable. For their support, kindness, and generosity of spirit, we offer our thanks to Quentin Anderson, Ann Douglas, Mary Dobbie, Lynn Hieatt, Carl Hovde, Karl Kroeber, and especially to Joseph Ridgely, who read the entire manuscript and saved us from many mistakes.

NOTE

Bold-face type is used through the *Handbook* to indicate a separate entry for the work or writer named.