(http://www.litlovers.com/)

Lit

ONLINE DISCUSSION COMMUNITY

Tinkers (Harding) - Discussion Questions

Discussion Questions

Use our LitLovers Book Club Resources; they can help with discussions for any book:

- How to Discuss a Book (helpful discussion tips)
- Generic Discussion Questions—Fiction and Nonfiction
- Read-Think-Talk (a guided reading chart)

Also consider these LitLovers talking points to help get a discussion started for *Tinkers*:

1. Start with the book's title: what is the thematic significance of "tinkers" (plural, not singular) to the story? Who are the tinkers...and what does it mean to be a tinker, literally...and figuratively, within this story?

2. Consider, too, the evocative book cover with its vast white snowscape and the single figure in the distance. How might the image be related, symbolically, to the story? What connection is explored between wilderness and humanity, life and dying?

3. At the beginning, as George lies dying, the ceiling collapses on top of him. Think about the irony: in most deathbed scenes, souls float upward to heaven; in this one, heaven comes crashing down. Did it actually happen...or is it an hallucination? And why does the story begin as it does?

4. How would you describe Howard—a man who makes his living selling tangible goods but who stops, literally, to smell the flowers? What about his disappearance? Was Howard right to simply disappear when threatened with hospitalization? Was his wife justified in wanting him institutionalized?

5. Talk about the way in which the author writes about Howard's epilepsy, how seizures offer Howard a visionary sense of reality, of the world. Do Harding's descriptions of the seizures seem plausible...overly artistic...? Why, as an author, might Harding have given his character this disorder?

6. Howard is the link between two generations of men in this novel. Talk about those three men—especially Howard's relationship with his father...and with his son George? What impact did Howard's father's dementia have on him...and what impact did his own epilepsy have on George?

7. This book is concerned with the joining of matter (people and things) with the transcendent—unknowable space and time. Talk about George's love of time-pieces—ticking clocks with their gears and tumblers—and Howard's love of his tin pots, wrought iron, nails, and nylon stockings. What do these dual fascinations suggest about the ability, or desire, of humans to control time and space? Can time be tamed?

8. Discuss the book's structure, the ways the points of view, time frame, and even tenses change. Did you find the various ways of telling—through journals, manuals, diaries, meditations—difficult to follow? Does the book, to you, lack unity or seem disjointed? Why might Harding have chosen this unusual narrative structure?

9. What role do Native Americans play in this story? Why do we catch glimpses of them—chasing salmon beneath boats, as "silhouettes traced by the sun," repairing birch bark—only to see them vanish quietly back into the forest? What is their connection to the novel's themes?

10. Paul Harding says he is a transcendentalist (see "About the Author," above). What is a transcendentalist (think Ralph Waldo Emerson or Henry David Thoreau) and how are those beliefs and philosophy expressed within this novel? In what way is this book a transcendentalist work, perhaps akin to Thoreau's *Walden*? (You might want to do a little research.)

11. Ultimately, what does this book have to say about the passage from life to death, about how the past shapes the present, and about our dreams? Can you put into words some of the life issues Paul Harding explores in this work?

12. Talk about the books publishing history. According to the *New York Times* (4/18/10), the book was rejected over and over again by major publishing houses. Harding says all the rejection letters suggested that "Nobody wants to read a slow, contemplative, meditative, quiet book." "It was, 'Where are the car chases?'" Of course...now Harding is vindicated: the book has won critical acclaim, including the 2010 Pulitzer. What do you feel about the remark that *Tinkers* is too slow paced and contemplative? Did you feel that way reading it? Do you think it will appeal to a wider audience—or to only serious readers? If you were an editor, would you have taken a chance on this book...or passed it over?

(Questions by LitLovers. Please feel free to use them, online or off, with attribution. Thanks.)

top of page (summary)

FOO THIS

<< Prev - Next

Site by BOOM (http://www.boomsuper.com) (http://www.boomsuper.com

LitLovers © 201

(http://www.litlovers.com/)

Lit

A WEB-BASED ONLINE COMMUNITY

Tinkers (Harding) - Author Bio

Author Bio

- Birth—1967
- Raised—Wenham, Massachusetts, USA
- Education—B.A., University of Massachusetts; M.F.A., Iowa Writers' Workshop
- Awards—Pulitizer Prize
- Currently—lives in Georgetown, Massachuesetts

Paul Harding is an American musician and author, best known for his debut novel *Tinkers* (2009) which won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Harding was drummer for the band Cold Water Flat from approximately the founding in 1990 to 1997. He received his B.A. in English from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and an M.F.A from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He has taught writing at both Harvard University and the University of Iowa.

Harding grew up on the north shore of Boston in the town of Wenham, Massachusetts. As a youth he spent a lot of time "knocking about in the woods" which he attributes to his love of nature. His grandfather fixed clocks and he apprenticed under him, an experience that found its way into his novel *Tinkers*. After graduating from UMass, he spent time touring with his band Cold Water Flat in the US and Europe.

He had always been a heavy reader and while in the middle of reading Carlos Fuentes' *Terra Nostra* he remembered putting it down and thinking "this is what I want to do." In that book Harding saw the entire world, all of history. When he next had time off from touring with the band he signed up for a summer writing class at Skidmore College in New York. By pure chance his teacher was Marilynne Robinson (*Gilead*, *Housekeeping*) and through her he learned about the Iowa Writers' Workshop writing program and applied and was accepted.

There he studied with Barry Unsworth, Elizabeth McCracken and later Marilynne Robinson. At some point he realized some of the people he admired most were "profoundly religious" and so he spent years reading theology, and was "deeply" influenced by Karl Barth and John Calvin. He considers himself a "self-taught modern New England transcendentalist".

Musically, he admires jazz drummers and considers Coltrane's drummer, Elvin Jones, the greatest.

Harding lives near Boston with his wife and two sons. (*From Wikipedia*.)

<< Prev - Next >>

(http://www.litlovers.com/)

LitLovers
A WELL-READ ONLINE COMMUNITY

Tinkers (Harding)

Tinkers

Paul Harding, 2009
Bellevue Literary Press
192 pp.
ISBN-13: 9781934137123

Summary

Pulitizer Prize, 2010

An old man lies dying. As time collapses into memory, he travels deep into his past where he is reunited with his father and relives the wonder and pain of his impoverished New England youth. At once heartbreaking and life affirming, *Tinkers* is an elegiac meditation on love, loss, and the fierce beauty of nature. (*From the publisher.*)

Prev - Next >>

expressing sorrow or lamentation

Site by BOOM (http://www.boomsuper.com) (http://www.boomsuper.com
LitLovers © 201

(http://www.litlovers.com/)

Lit

A WELL-READ ONLINE COMMUNITY

Tinkers (Harding) - Book Reviews

Summary | Author bio | Book Reviews | Discussion Questions | Full Version | Print

Book Reviews

Harding's interest is in the universalities: nature and time and the murky character of memory.... The small, important recollections are rendered with an exactitude that is poetic.... Harding's prose is lyrical and specific...*Tinkers* is a poignant exploration of where we may journey when the clock has barely a tick or two left and we really can't go anywhere at all.

Boston Globe

This compact, adamantine debut dips in and out of the consciousness of a New England patriarch named George Washington Crosby as he lies dying on a hospital bed in his living room, "right where they put the dining room table, fitted with its two extra leaves for holiday dinners." In Harding's skillful evocation, Crosby's life, seen from its final moments, becomes a mosaic of memories, "howing him a different self every time he tried to make an assessment."

The New Yorker

Harding's outstanding debut unfurls the history and final thoughts of a dying grandfather surrounded by his family in his New England home. George Washington Crosby repairs clocks for a living and on his deathbed revisits his turbulent childhood as the oldest son of an epileptic smalltime traveling salesman. The descriptions of the father's epilepsy and the "cold halo of chemical electricity that encircled him immediately before he was struck by a full seizure" are stunning, and the household's sadness permeates the narrative as George returns to more melancholy scenes. The real star is Harding's language, which dazzles whether he's describing the workings of clocks, sensory images of nature, the many engaging side characters who populate the book, or even a short passage on how to build a bird nest. This is an especially gorgeous example of novelistic craftsmanship.

Publishers Weekly

Writing with breathtaking lyricism and tenderness, Harding has created a rare and beautiful novel of spiritual inheritance and acute psychological and metaphysical suspense. —*Donna Seaman*

Booklist

George Washington Crosby has eight days to live. After this first line, the life of George and of his father, Howard, who left when George was 12, is explored through the metaphor of George's hobby of repairing clocks. Howard was a peddler, traveling with a cart and mule through eastern Maine around the turn of the century. This isolated profession allowed him to keep his affliction, epilepsy, successfully hidden

from most everyone until, finally, his wife decides he has to be institutionalized for the safety of her children. It is to avoid this that Howard disappears. George, as he lays dying, considers his life and family coming in and out of reality and history. Harding, an MFA from Iowa Writer's Workshop, creates a beautifully written study of father-son relationships and the nature of time. This short work is a solid addition for larger literary collections. Recommended.

Josh Cohen - Library Journal

<< Prev - Next >>

Site by **BOOM** (http://www.boomsuper.com) (http://www.boomsuper.com

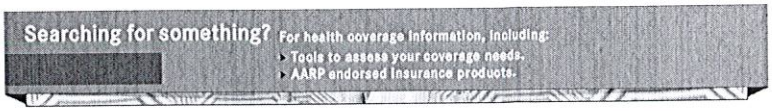
LitLovers © 201

transcendentalism

Related Searches
The history of trans...
American transcenden...
Anti transcendentali...
Transcendentalists
Transcendental
Transcendentalism be...
Transcendentalism so...
Transcendentalism qu...

Nearby Words
transcendental-...
transcendental-...
transcendentali...
transcendentali...
transcendentali...
transcendentali...
transcendentali...

');



ADVERTISE HERE

transcendentalism

Use Transcendentalism in a sentence

Ads
Brain Training Games
www.lumosity.com
Improve memory with scientifically designed brain exercises.

Bible Dictionary
www.DailyBibleGuide.com
Search Verses, Daily Bible Quotes, & More with the Free Bible Toolbar

tran·scen·den·tal·ism [tran-sen-**den**-tl-iz-*uh* m, -*suh* n-]
Show IPA

noun

1. transcendental character, thought, or language.
2. Also called **transcendental philosophy.** any philosophy based upon the doctrine that the principles of reality are to be discovered by the study of the processes of thought, or a philosophy emphasizing the intuitive and spiritual above the empirical: in the U.S., associated with Emerson.

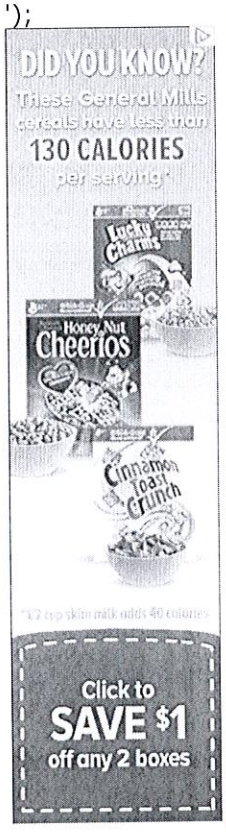
Origin:
1795–1805; < German *Transcendentalismus*. See transcendental, -ism

Related forms
tran·scen·den·tal·ist, ***noun, adjective***

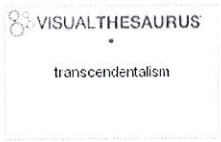
Dictionary.com Unabridged
Based on the Random House Dictionary. © Random House, Inc. 2013.

Cite This Source | Link To transcendentalism

');



NEW Related Words for : **transcendentalism**
transcendental philosophy
View more related words »



Explore the Visual Thesaurus »

World English Dictionary *Collins*
transcendentalism (ˌtrænsɛnˈdɛntəˌlɪzəm)

— n
1.a.any system of philosophy, esp that of Kant, holding that the key to knowledge of the nature of reality lies in the critical examination of the processes of reason on which depends the nature of experience
b.any system of philosophy, esp that of Emerson, that emphasizes intuition as a means to knowledge or the importance of the search for the divine

FAVORITES RECENT search dictionary

Example sentences

The work is a fine blend of formalism, hedonism and **transcendentalism**.

Reviews the purposes of adult education and the history of **transcendentalism**.

Theologians and philosophers have almost always focused on **transcendentalism** as the means to validate ethics.

');

Master in Library Science
Online Master of Library Science. USC Ranked #23 "Best Universities"
Learn More »

All Library Staff
Test drive the OCLC Library Spotlight program & help get libraries noticed.
Learn More »

Ads by LinkedIn

Want ad-free? Click here!

Related Words

nature MORE

Matching Quote

"The poor and the low have their way of expressing the last facts of philosophy as well as you. "Blessed be nothing," and "The worse things are, the better they are," are proverbs which express the ***transcendentalism*** *of common life."*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

MORE

2.vague philosophical speculation
3.the state of being transcendental
4.something, such as thought or language, that is transcendental

transcen'dentalist

— n , — adj

Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 10th Edition
2009 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009
Cite This Source

Relevant Questions

What Is Transcendentalis...
What Is Transcendental M...
What Does Transcendental...
What Is Anti Transcenden...

Transcendentalism is always a great word to know 00:10
So is **gobo**. Does it mean:

- **a children's mummer's parade, as on the Fourth of July, with prizes for the best costumes.**
- **a screen or mat covered with a dark material for shielding a camera lens from excess light or glare.**

LEARN MORE UNUSUAL WORDS WITH WORD DYNAMO...

Cultural Dictionary *American Heritage*

transcendentalism definition

A movement in nineteenth-century American literature and thought. It called on people to view the * objects in the world as small versions of the whole universe and to trust their individual intuitions. The two most noted American transcendentalists were Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

The American Heritage® New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, Third Edition
Copyright © 2005 by Houghton Mifflin Company.
Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.
Cite This Source

* like, perhaps, clocks ?

');

FAVORITES RECENT search dictionary

Transcendentalism

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Transcendentalism was a philosophical movement that was developed in the 1830s and 1840s in the Eastern region of the United States as a protest to the general state of culture and society, and in particular, the state of intellectualism at Harvard University and the doctrine of the Unitarian church taught at Harvard Divinity School. Among the transcendentalists' core beliefs was the inherent goodness of both people and nature. Transcendentalists believed that society and its institutions—particularly organized religion and political parties—ultimately corrupted the purity of the individual. They had faith that people are at their best when truly "self-reliant" and independent. It is only from such real individuals that true community could be formed.

The major figures in the movement were Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Margaret Fuller and Amos Bronson Alcott. Other prominent transcendentalists included Louisa May Alcott, Charles Timothy Brooks, Orestes Brownson, William Ellery Channing, William Henry Channing, James Freeman Clarke, Christopher Pearse Cranch, Walt Whitman, John Sullivan Dwight, Convers Francis, William Henry Furness, Frederic Henry Hedge, Sylvester Judd, Theodore Parker, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, George Ripley, Thomas Treadwell Stone, Emily Dickinson, and Jones Very.[1]

Contents

History

The publication of Ralph Waldo Emerson's 1836 essay *Nature* is usually considered the watershed moment at which transcendentalism became a major cultural movement. Emerson wrote in his speech "The American Scholar": "We will walk on our own feet; we will work with our own hands; Divine Soul which also inspires all men." Emerson closed the essay by calling for a revolution in human consciousness to emerge from the brand new idealist philosophy:

> So shall we come to look at the world with new eyes. It shall answer the endless inquiry of the intellect, — What is truth? and of the affections, — What is good? by yielding itself passive to the educated Will. ...Build, therefore, your own world. As fast as you conform your life to the pure idea in your mind, that will unfold its great proportions. A correspondent revolution in things will attend the influx of the spirit.

In the same year, transcendentalism became a coherent movement with the founding of the Transcendental Club in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on September 8, 1836, by prominent New England intellectuals including George Putnam (1807–78; the Unitarian minister in Roxbury),[2] Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Frederick Henry Hedge, all of them from the same native town. [*citation needed*] From 1840, the group published frequently in their journal *The Dial*, along with other venues. Early in the movement's history, the term "Transcendentalists" was used as a pejorative term by critics, who were suggesting their position was beyond sanity and reason.[3] The transcendentalists varied in their interpretations of the practical aims of will. Some among the group linked it with utopian social change; Brownson connected it with early socialism, while others considered it an exclusively individualist and idealist project. Emerson believed the latter. In his 1842 lecture "The Transcendentalist", Emerson suggested that the goal of a purely transcendental outlook on life was impossible to attain in practice:

> You will see by this sketch that there is no such thing as a transcendental *party*; that there is no pure transcendentalist; that we know of no one but prophets and heralds of such a philosophy; that all who by strong bias of nature have leaned to the spiritual side in doctrine, have stopped short of their goal. We have had many harbingers and forerunners; but of a purely spiritual life, history has afforded no example. I mean, we have yet no man who has leaned entirely on his character, and eaten angels' food; who, trusting to his sentiments, found life made of miracles; who, working for universal aims, found himself fed, he knew not how; clothed, sheltered, and weaponed, he knew not how, and yet it was done by his own hands. ...Shall we say, then, that transcendentalism is the Saturnalia or excess of Faith; the presentiment of a faith proper to man in his integrity, excessive only when his imperfect obedience hinders the satisfaction of his wish.

By the late 1840s, Emerson believed the movement was dying out, and even more so after the death of Margaret Fuller in 1850. "All that can be said", Emerson wrote, "is, that she represents an interesting hour and group in American cultivation".[4] There was, however, a second wave of transcendentalists, including Moncure Conway, Octavius Brooks Frothingham, Samuel Longfellow and Franklin Benjamin Sanborn.[5] Notably, the transgression of the spirit, most often evoked by the poet's prosaic voice, is said to endow in the reader a sense of purposefulness. This is the underlying theme in the majority of transcendentalist essays and papers—all of which are centered on subjects which assert a love for individual expression. [6]

Origins

Transcendentalism was in many aspects the first notable American intellectual movement. It certainly was the first to inspire succeeding generations of American intellectuals, as well as a number of literary monuments.[7] Rooted in the transcendental philosophy of Immanuel Kant (and of

German Idealism more generally), it developed as a reaction against 18th Century rationalism, John Locke's philosophy of Sensualism, and the predestinationism of New England Calvinism. It is fundamentally a variety of diverse sources such as: Vedic thought, various religions, and German idealism.[8]

The transcendentalists desired to ground their religion and philosophy in transcendental principles: principles not based on, or falsifiable by, physical experience, but deriving from the inner spiritual or mental essence of the human. Immanuel Kant had called "all knowledge transcendental which is concerned not with objects but with our mode of knowing objects."[9] The transcendentalists were largely unacquainted with German philosophy in the original, and relied primarily on the writings of Thomas Carlyle, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Victor Cousin, Germaine de Staël, and other English and French commentators for their knowledge of it. In contrast, they were intimately familiar with the English Romantics, and the transcendental movement may be partially described as a slightly later American outgrowth of Romanticism. Another major influence was the mystical spiritualism of Emanuel Swedenborg.

Thoreau in *Walden* spoke of the Transcendentalists' debt to Vedic thought directly.

> In the morning I bathe my intellect in the stupendous and cosmogonal philosophy of the Bhagavat Geeta, since whose composition years of the gods have elapsed, and in comparison with which our modern world and its literature seem puny and trivial; and I doubt if that philosophy is not to be referred to a previous state of existence, so remote is its sublimity from our conceptions. I lay down the book and go to my well for water, and lo! there I meet the servant of the Brahmin, priest of Brahma, and Vishnu and Indra, who still sits in his temple on the Ganges reading the Vedas, or dwells at the root of a tree with his crust and water-jug. I meet his servant come to draw water for his master, and our buckets as it were grate together in the same well. The pure Walden water is mingled with the sacred water of the Ganges.[10]

Criticisms

Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote a novel, *The Blithedale Romance* (1852), satirizing the movement, and based it on his experiences at Brook Farm, a short-lived utopian community founded on transcendental principles.[11] Edgar Allan Poe wrote a story, "Never Bet the Devil Your Head", in which he embedded elements of deep dislike for transcendentalism, calling its followers "Frogpondians" after the pond on Boston Common.[12] The narrator ridiculed their writings by calling them "metaphor-run" lapsing into "mysticism for mysticism's sake".[13] and called it a "disease." The story specifically mentions the movement and its flagship journal *The Dial*, though Poe denied that he had any specific targets.[14]

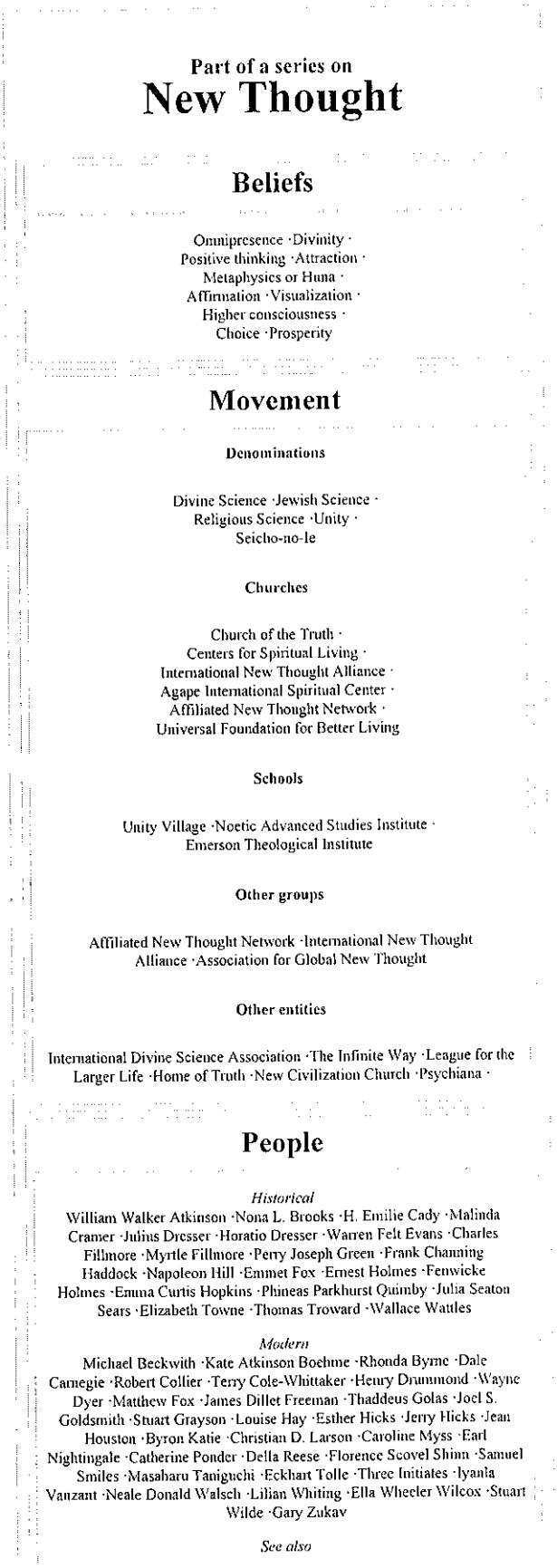
In Poe's essay "The Philosophy of Composition" he offers criticism denouncing "the excess of the suggested meaning... which turns into prose (and that of the very flattest kind) the so-called poetry of the so-called transcendentalists."[15]

Influence on other movements

Further information: History of New Thought

Transcendentalists were strong believers in the power of the individual and divine messages. Their beliefs are closely linked with those of the Romantics.

The movement directly influenced the growing movement of "Mental Sciences" of the mid-19th century, which would later become known as the New Thought movement. New Thought considers Emerson its intellectual father.[16] Emma Curtis Hopkins "the teacher of teachers", Ernest Holmes, founder of Religious Science, the Fillmores, founders of Unity, and Malinda Cramer and Nona L. Brooks, the founders of Divine Science, were all greatly influenced by Transcendentalism.[17]



Other meanings

Transcendental idealism

The term "transcendentalism" sometimes serves as shorthand for transcendental idealism, which is the philosophy of Immanuel Kant and later Kantian and German Idealist philosophers.

Transcendental theology

Further information: Transcendence (religion)

Another alternative meaning for "transcendentalism" is the classical philosophy that God transcends the manifest world. As John Scotus Erigena put it to Frankish king Charles the Bald in the year 840 AD, "We know not what God is. God himself doesn't know what He is because He is not anything. Literally God is not, because He transcends being.".

See also

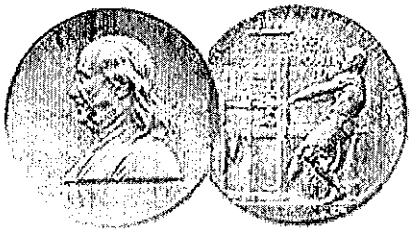
- Counterculture of the 1960s
- Dark romanticism

Pulitzer Prize

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from Pulitzer prize)

The **Pulitzer Prize** pron.: /ˈpʊlɪtsər/[1] is a U.S. award for achievements in newspaper and online journalism, literature, and musical composition. It was established in 1917 by provisions in the will of American (Hungarian-born) publisher Joseph Pulitzer, and is administered by Columbia University in New York City.[2] Prizes are awarded yearly in twenty-one categories. In twenty of these, each winner receives a certificate and a US$10,000 cash award.[3] The winner in the public service category of the journalism competition is awarded a gold medal.[4][3]

Pulitzer Prize



Awarded for	Excellence in newspaper journalism, literary achievements, and musical composition
Country	United States
Presented by	Columbia University
First awarded	1917
Official website	www.pulitzer.org (http://www.pulitzer.org/)

Contents

Entry and prize consideration

The Pulitzer Prize does not automatically consider all applicable works in the media, but only those that have specifically entered.[5] (There is a $50 entry fee, paid for each desired entry category.) Entries must fit in at least one of the specific prize categories, and cannot simply gain entrance for being literary or musical.[5] Works can also only be entered in a maximum of two categories, regardless of their properties.

Each year, 103 judges are selected to serve on 20 separate juries for the 21 award categories (one jury for both photography awards). Most juries consist of five members, except for those for public service, investigative reporting, beat reporting, feature writing and commentary categories, which have seven members.[6] For each award category, a jury makes three nominations. The board selects the winner by majority vote from the nominations, or—75% majority vote—bypasses the nominations and selects a different entry. The board can also vote to issue no award. The board is not paid for its work. The jurors in letters, music, and drama get a $2000 honorarium for the year, and each chair gets $2500.[6]

The difference between entrants and nominated finalists

Anyone whose work has been submitted is called an *entrant*. The jury selects a small group of *nominated finalists* and announces them, together with the winner for each category. However, some journalists who were only submitted, but not nominated as finalists, still claim to be Pulitzer nominees in promotional material.

For example, msnbc.com's Bill Dedman pointed out in 2012 that financial journalist Betty Liu was described as "Pulitzer Prize-Nominated" in her Bloomberg Television advertising and the jacket of her book, while *National Review* writer Jonah Goldberg made similar claims of "Pulitzer nomination" to promote his books. Dedman wrote, "To call that submission a Pulitzer 'nomination' is like saying that Adam Sandler is an Oscar nominee if Columbia Pictures enters *That's My Boy* in the Academy Awards. Many readers realize that the Oscars don't work that way—the studios don't pick the nominees. It's just a way of slipping 'Academy Awards' into a bio. The Pulitzers also don't work that way, but fewer people know that."[7]

History

Newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer gave money in his will to Columbia University to launch a journalism school and establish the Prize. It allocated $250,000 to the prize and scholarships.[8] He specified "four awards in journalism, four in letters and drama, one in education, and four traveling scholarships."[6] After his death, the first Pulitzer Prizes were awarded June 4, 1917; they are now announced each April. The *Chicago Tribune* under the control of Colonel McCormick felt that the Pulitzer Prize was nothing more than a bribe and refused to acknowledge or accept the legitimacy of the Pulitzer Prize to any *Chicago Tribune* journalist during his tenure up until 1961.[*citation needed*]

Recipients

See also: Category:Pulitzer Prize winners

Individuals

Recipients of multiple Pulitzer Prizes include:

- Four awards:
  - Robert Frost
  - Carol Guzy (for photography)
  - Eugene O'Neill (two of the awards were in a four-year period)
  - Robert E. Sherwood (three for Drama and once for Biography)
- Three awards:
  - Edward Albee
  - Thomas Friedman for International Reporting and Commentary
  - Archibald MacLeish
  - Edwin Arlington Robinson
  - Carl Sandburg (once for Biography and twice for Poetry)
  - Robert Penn Warren (once for Fiction and twice for Poetry)
  - Thornton Wilder (once in the Novel category and twice in Drama)
  - Edmund Duffy for Editorial Cartooning
  - Rollin Kirby for Editorial Cartooning
  - Jeff MacNelly for Editorial Cartooning
  - Herblock for Editorial Cartooning
- Two awards:
  - Craig F. Walker for photography (two in a three-year period)
  - Samuel Barber for music composition
  - Walter Jackson Bate for Biography
  - Robert Caro for Biography
  - Elliott Carter for music composition
  - David Herbert Donald for Biography
  - Horst Faas for Photography
  - William Faulkner for Fiction
  - Jon Franklin for Feature Writing and Explanatory Reporting
  - Douglas Southall Freeman for Biography
  - Burton J. Hendrick for Biography
  - Marquis James for Biography
  - Colin Sinclair for Biography
  - Margaret Leech for History
  - David Levering Lewis for Biography
  - Robert Lowell for Poetry
  - Paul Szep for Editorial Cartooning
  - Mike Luckovich for Editorial Cartooning

- David McCullough
- Norman Mailer for Fiction and Non-Fiction
- Bill Mauldin for Editorial Cartooning
- Gian Carlo Menotti for music composition
- Gene Miller for Investigative Reporting
- Samuel Eliot Morison for Biography
- Allan Nevins for Biography
- Anthony Shadid for his coverage of the Iraq War
- Booth Tarkington for Novel (twice in a four-year period)
- Barbara W. Tuchman for General Non-Fiction
- John Updike
- Gene Weingarten for Feature Writing (twice (2008 and 2010) in a three-year period)
- August Wilson for Drama
- E. O. Wilson for General Non-fiction
- David Horsey for Editorial Cartooning
- Michael Ramirez for Editorial Cartooning
- Nelson Harding for Editorial Cartooning
- Daniel R. Fitzpatrick for Editorial Cartooning
- Steve Breen for Editorial Cartooning
- Walt Handelsman for Editorial Cartooning
- Tennessee Williams for Drama

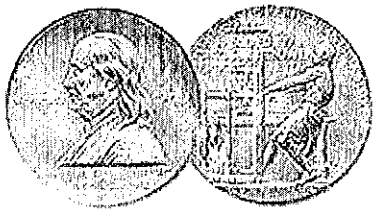
Newspapers

The prize for Public Service is awarded to newspapers. Awards for journalism categories such as General News Reporting may be awarded to individuals or newspapers or newspaper staffs. *[citation needed]*

Categories

Awards are made in categories relating to newspaper journalism, arts, and letters and fiction. Only published reports and photographs by United States-based newspapers or daily news organizations are eligible for the journalism prize. Beginning in 2007, "An assortment of online elements will be permitted in all journalism categories except for the competition's two photography categories, which will continue to restrict entries to still images."[9] In December 2008 it was

The **Pulitzer Prizes**



Joseph Pulitzer • **Pulitzers by year**
Pulitzer winners

Journalism:

- Public Service
- Breaking News Reporting
- Investigative Reporting

announced that for the first time content published in online-only news sources would be considered.[10]

The current Pulitzer Prize category definitions in the 2008 competition, in the order they are awarded, are:

- Public Service – for a distinguished example of meritorious public service by a newspaper or news site through the use of its journalistic resources which, as well as reporting, may include editorials, cartoons, photographs, graphics, videos, databases, multimedia or interactive presentations or other visual material, presented in print or online or both. Often thought of as the grand prize, and mentioned first in listings of the journalism prizes, the Public Service award is given to the newspaper, not to individuals, though individuals are often mentioned for their contributions. Alone among the Pulitzer Prizes, it is awarded in the form of the Joseph Pulitzer Gold Medal.
- Breaking News Reporting – for a distinguished example of local reporting of breaking news.
- Investigative Reporting – for a distinguished example of investigative reporting by an individual or team, presented as a single newspaper article or series.
- Explanatory Reporting – for a distinguished example of explanatory newspaper reporting that illuminates a significant and complex subject, demonstrating mastery of the subject, lucid writing, and clear presentation.
- Local Reporting – for a distinguished example of local newspaper reporting that illuminates significant issues or concerns.[9]
- National Reporting – for a distinguished example of newspaper reporting on national affairs.
- International Reporting – for a distinguished example of newspaper reporting on international affairs, including United Nations correspondence.
- Feature Writing – for a distinguished example of newspaper feature writing giving prime consideration to high literary quality and originality.
- Commentary – for distinguished commentary.
- Criticism – for distinguished criticism.

- Explanatory Reporting
- Local Reporting
- National Reporting
- International Reporting
- Feature Writing
- Commentary
- Criticism
- Editorial Writing
- Editorial Cartooning
- Photography (1942–1967)
- Spot News Photography (1968–1999)
- Breaking News Photography (2000–present)
- Feature Photography (1968–present)

Letters and drama:

- Biography or Autobiography
- Fiction
- Drama
- History
- Poetry
- General Non-Fiction

Other prizes:

- Music
- Special Citations and Awards

- Editorial Writing – for distinguished editorial writing, the test of excellence being clarity of style, moral purpose, sound reasoning, and power to influence public opinion in what the writer perceives to be the right direction.
- Editorial Cartooning – for a distinguished cartoon or portfolio of cartoons published during the year, characterized by originality, editorial effectiveness, quality of drawing, and pictorial effect.
- Breaking News Photography, previously called Spot News Photography – for a distinguished example of breaking news photography in black and white or color, which may consist of a photograph or photographs, a sequence, or an album.
- Feature Photography – for a distinguished example of feature photography in black and white or color, which may consist of a photograph or photographs, a sequence, or an album.

There are six categories in letters and drama:

- Fiction – for distinguished fiction by an American author, preferably dealing with American life.
- Drama – for a distinguished play by an American playwright, preferably original in its source and dealing with American life.
- History – for a distinguished book on the history of the United States.
- Biography or Autobiography – for a distinguished biography or autobiography by an American author.
- Poetry – for a distinguished volume of original verse by an American poet.
- General Non-Fiction – for a distinguished book of non-fiction by an American author that is not eligible for consideration in any other category.

There is one prize given for music:

- Pulitzer Prize for Music – for a distinguished musical contribution by an American that had its first performance or recording in the United States during the year.

There have also been a number of Special Citations and Awards.

In addition to the prizes, Pulitzer travelling fellowships are awarded to four outstanding students of the Graduate School of Journalism as selected by the faculty.

Changes to categories

Over the years, awards have been discontinued either because the field of the award has been expanded to encompass other areas, the award been renamed because the common terminology changed, or the award has become obsolete, such as the prizes for telegraphic reporting, which was based on the old technology of the telegram.

An example of a writing field that has been expanded was the former Pulitzer Prize for the Novel (awarded 1918-1947), which has been changed to the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, which also includes short stories, novellas, novelettes, and fictional poetry, as well as novels.

Year	Awards added	Awards removed
1917	Biography or Autobiography History Editorial Writing Reporting	
1918	Novel Drama Public Service	
1922	Poetry Editorial Cartooning	
1929	Correspondence	
1942	Photography Telegraphic Reporting—National Telegraphic Reporting—International	
1943	Music	
1948	Fiction Local reporting National Reporting International Reporting	Correspondence Novel Reporting Telegraphic Reporting—National Telegraphic Reporting—International
1953	Local Reporting, Edition Time Local Reporting, No Edition Time	Local reporting
1962	General Non-Fiction	
1964	Local General or Spot News Reporting Local Investigative Specialized Reporting	Local Reporting, Edition Time Local Reporting, No Edition Time
1968	Feature Photography Spot News Photography	Photography
1970	Commentary Criticism	
1979	Feature Writing	
1985	General News Reporting Investigative Reporting Specialized Reporting Explanatory Journalism	Local General or Spot News Reporting Local Investigative Specialized Reporting
1991	Spot News Reporting Beat Reporting	General News Reporting Specialized Reporting
1998	Breaking News Reporting Explanatory Reporting	Spot News Reporting Explanatory Journalism

2000	Breaking News Photography	Spot News Photography
2007	Local reporting	Beat Reporting

Board

The 20-member board consists mostly of major newspaper editors and executives, along with six academics including the president of Columbia University and the dean and administrator of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. The administrator and the dean cannot vote. The board elects its own members for a three-year term (excluding the dean and the administrator). Members of the board and the juries are selected with close attention "given to professional excellence and affiliation, as well as diversity in terms of gender, ethnic background, geographical distribution and size of newspaper." Each year, the chair rotates to the most senior member.[12] The board makes all prize decisions.[6]

The 2011–2012 board members were:[13]

- Danielle Allen, UPS Foundation Professor, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ
- Jim Amoss, Editor, *The Times-Picayune*, New Orleans, LA (Co-chair)
- Randell Beck, President and Publisher, Argus Leader Media, Sioux Falls, SD
- Robert Blau, Managing Editor for projects and investigations, Bloomberg News, New York, NY
- Lee Bollinger, President, Columbia University, New York, NY
- Kathleen Carroll, Executive Editor and Senior Vice President, Associated Press (Co-chair)
- Joyce Dehli, Vice President for News, Lee Enterprises
- Junot Díaz, Author and Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Thomas Friedman, Columnist, *The New York Times*, New York, NY
- Paul Gigot, Editorial Page Editor, *The Wall Street Journal*, New York, NY
- Sig Gissler, Administrator, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, New York, NY
- Steven Hahn, Roy F. and Jeanette P. Nichols Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- Nicholas Lemann, Dean, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, New York, NY
- Ann Marie Lipinski, Curator, Nieman Foundation for Journalism, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (Co-chair)
- Gregory Moore, Editor, *The Denver Post*, Denver, CO
- Eugene Robinson, Columnist and Associate Editor, *The Washington Post*
- Margaret Sullivan, Editor, *The Buffalo News*, Buffalo, NY
- Paul Tash, Chairman and CEO, *Tampa Bay Times*, St. Petersburg, FL
- Jim VandeHei, Executive Editor and Co-founder, *Politico*

- Keven Ann Willey, Vice President/Editorial Page Editor, *The Dallas Morning News*

Controversies

- Calls for revocation of journalist Walter Duranty's 1932 Pulitzer Prize
- Call for revocation of journalist William L. Laurence's 1946 Pulitzer Prize
- 1962 Biography Prize: *Citizen Hearst: A Biography of William Randolph Hearst* by W. A. Swanberg was recommended by the Prize board but overturned by the trustees of Columbia University because its subject, Hearst, was not an "eminent example of the biographer's art as specified in the prize definition".[14]
- 1974 Fiction Prize: *Gravity's Rainbow* by Thomas Pynchon was recommended by the three-member fiction panel but the eleven other members of the Prize board overturned that decision and no award was given.[15]
- Forfeiture of Janet Cooke's 1981 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing for fabricating the story.

Criticism and studies

Some critics of the Pulitzer Prize have accused the organization of favoring those who support liberal causes or oppose conservative causes. Syndicated columnist L. Brent Bozell said that the Pulitzer Prize has a "liberal legacy", particularly in its prize for commentary.[16] He pointed to a 31-year period in which only five conservatives won prizes for commentary. The claim is also supported by a statement from the 2010 Pulitzer Prize winner for commentary, Kathleen Parker: "It's only because I'm a conservative basher that I'm now recognized."[17]

A 2012 academic study by journalism professor Yong Volz and Chinese University journalism professor Francis Lee found "that only 27% of Pulitzer winners since 1991 were females, while newsrooms are about 33% female."[18][19] The study concluded that the majority of female "winners enjoyed access to greater resources than the average male winner," resources including such things as attendance at Ivy League schools, metropolitan upbringing, employment with an elite publication such as the *New York Times*.[20]

See also

- List of Pulitzer Prizes awarded to The New York Times
- National Magazine Awards

References

1. ^ According to the administrators of the Pulitzer Prize, the correct pronunciation of the name should sound like the verb *pull,* as in "Pull it, sir".[1] (http://www.pulitzer.org/faq#q27) The