



Some Place In Time: Suggestions for Reading Historical Fiction

Compiled by Jan Resnick & K. Klopfer (updated by J. Resnick & B.W.S. Johnson 6/6/07)

Historical fiction is a very broad category appealing to a wide range of readers. There are many definitions of what constitutes an historical novel. For the purposes of this list we have concentrated on novels that begin before the middle of the twentieth century. Place and time are very important in this genre and should help the reader imagine life in the novel's setting. Although historical novels use most genre formats, we have duplicated few titles from our mystery, romance, and science fiction/fantasy lists.

Prehistoric Times, Ancient Civilizations, and The Americas Before 1600

Anthony, Piers. *Tatham Mound (Americas)*.
Auel, Jean. *Clan of the Cave Bear and the rest of the Earth's Children series*.
Cockrell, Amanda. *The Horse Catchers Trilogy*.
Coldsmith, Don. *Tallgrass*.
Eickhoff, Randy Lee. *The Raid: A Dramatic Retelling of Ireland's Epic Tale; The Destruction of the Inn; The Sorrows*.
Gear, W, Michael and Kathleen O'Neal Gear. *People of the Wolf and the First North Americans series*.
Golding, William. *The Inheritors*.
Harrison, Sue. *Mother Earth, Father Sky; My Sister the Moon; Brother Wind; Song of the River*.
Harrod-Eagles, Cynthia. *The Moreland Dynasty Series*.
Jennings, Gary. *Aztec; Aztec Autumn; Aztec Blood, Aztec Rage (Americas)*.
Llywelyn, Morgan. *The Greener Shore: A Novel of the Druids of Hibernia; Grania: She-King of the Irish Seas*.
Maxwell, Robin. *The Wild Irish: A Novel of Elizabeth I and the Pirate O'Malley; To the Tower Born: A Novel of the Lost Princes*.
Osborne-McKnight, Juilene. *I am of Irelande: a Novel of Patrick and Osian*.
Prentiss, Charlotte. *Children of the Ice; People of the Mesa; Children of the Sun; The Island Tribe; Ocean Tribe*.

Rutherford, Edward. *Sarum: The Novel of England; Russka: The Novel of Russia.I*
Sarabande, William. *Beyond the Sea of Ice and The First Americans series*.
Scott, Manda. *Boudica series, warrior queen in Roman Britain*.
Shuler, Linda Lay. *She Who Remembers; Voice of the Eagle; Let the Drum Speak*.
Tarr, Judith. *Lady of Horses; White Mare's Daughter*.
Thomas, Elizabeth Marshall. *Animal Wife; Reindeer Moon*.
Wolf, Joan. *Daughter of the Red Deer; The Reindeer Hunters*.

The Ancient Worlds--- Egypt, Greece, and Rome

Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *The Firebrand (Greece)*.
Caldwell, Taylor. *Glory and Lightning*.
Davis, Lindsey. *Last Act in Palmyra*.
Doherty, Paul. *The Godless Man*.
Drury, Allen. *A God against the Gods*.
Durham, David Anthony. *Pride of Carthage*.
Fast, Howard. *Spartacus (Rome)*.
Ford, Michael Curtis. *Gods and Legions: A Novel of the Roman Empire*.
Franklin, Sarah B. *Daughter of Troy*.
Freedman, Nancy. *Sappho: the Tenth Muse (Greece)*.
Gann, Ernest. *The Antagonists*.
Gedge, Pauline. *Child of the Morning and the Hera series; Lady of the Reeds (Egypt)*.

George, Margaret. *The Memoirs of Cleopatra*.
 Golding, William. *The Double Tongue (Greece)*.
 Graves, Robert. *I, Claudius*.
 Haasse, Hella S. *Threshold of Fire: A Novel of Fifth Century Rome*.
 Harris, Robert. *Imperium (Rome); Pompeii*.
 Holt, Tom. *Goatsong; The Walled Orchard (Greece)*.
 Jacq, Christian. *The Ramses series; volume one The Son of Light*.
 Mailer, Norman. *Ancient Evenings*.
 Massie, Allan. *Caesar; Tiberius (Rome)*.
 McCollough, Colleen. *The First Man in Rome and the Masters of Rome series*.
 Pressfield, Steven. *Gates of Fire; The Virtues of War: a Novel of Alexander the Great*.
 Renault, Mary. *The King Must Die*.
 Rofheart, Martha. *The Alexandrian*.
 Scott, Manda. *Dreaming the Eagle*.
 Smith, Wilbur. *River God; The Seventh Scroll; Warlock (Egypt)*.
 Stone, Irving. *The Greek Treasure*.
 Tarr, Judith. *Lord of the Two Lands (Greece); Throne of Isis (Egypt); King and Goddess; Pillar of Fire*.
 Tarr, Judith & Harry Turtledove. *Household Gods (2nd Century Carnuntum)*.
 Vidal, Gore. *Creation*.
 Waltari, Mika. *The Egyptian; The Etruscan; The Roman*.
 Wolf, Christa. *Medea (Greece)*.
 Wolfe, Gene. *Soldier of the Mist (Greece)*.

Biblical Times

Arthur, Kay. *Israel, My Beloved*.
 Asch, Shalom. *Moses*.
 Ashcroft, Mary Ellen. *The Magdalene Gospel*.
 Caldwell, Taylor. *Great Lion of God*.
 Card, Orsen Scott. *Stone Tables (Moses)*.
 Chamberlin, Ann. *Tamar*.
 Coelho, Paulo. *The Fifth Mountain*.
 Costain, Thomas. *The Silver Chalice*.
 Danielson, Peter. *The Death of Kings*.
 Diamant, Anita. *The Red tent*.
 Douglas, Lloyd C. *The Robe.I*

Fast, Howard. *My Glorious Brothers*.
 Hunt, Angela Elwell. *Dreamers; Brothers; Journey (Series: Legacies of the Ancient River)*.
 Hurston, Zora Neale. *Moses: Man of the Mountain*.
 Kazantzakis, Nikos. *The Last Temptation of Christ*.
 Le Porrier, Herbert. *The Doctor from Cordova*.
 Michener, James A. *The Source*.
 Rosenberg, David. *The Lost Book of Paradise*.
 Shott, James R. *Series: People of the Promise*.
 Sienkiewicz, Henryk. *Quo Vadis?*
 Traylor, Ellen Gunderson. *Esther; Jerusalem: City of God; Melchizedek*.
 Wallace, Lewis. *Ben Hur*.
 Wangerin, Walter, Jr. *The Book of God: The Bible as a Novel*.

England & Europe

400 a.d. through the Middle Ages

Ackroyd, Peter. *The Clerkenwell Tales*.
 Baer, Ann. *Down the Common*.
 Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *The Forest Home; Lady of Avalon; The Mists of Avalon*.
 Bradshaw, Gillian. *Island of Ghosts*.
 Brooks, Geraldine. *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*.
 Chevalier, Tracy. *The Lady and the Unicorn*.
 Connell, Evan S. *Deus LoVult!: Chronicle of the Crusades*.
 Cornwell, Bernard. *The Archer's Tale; The Last Kingdom; Vagabond; The Winter King*.
 Cross, Donna Woolfolk. *Pope Joan*.
 Crow, Donna Fletcher. *Glastonbury (Britain)*.
 Dunant, Sarah. *The Birth of Venus*.
 Eco, Umberto. *The Name of The Rose*.
 Follett, Ken. *The Pillars of the Earth*.
 Gordon, Noah. *The Physician*.
 Gregory, Philippa. *The Other Boleyn Girl*.
 Holland, Cecelia. *Two Ravens; Jerusalem; Great Maria*.
 Lawhead, Steve. *Patrick: Son of Ireland*.
 Llywelyn, Morgan. *Druids; Finn MacCool*.
 McCaffrey, Anne. *Black Horses for the King (Britain)*.
 Moggach, Deborah. *Tulip Fever*.

Pargeter, Edith. *The Brothers of Gwynedd*.
 Paxson, Diana L. *Series: Wodan's Children*.
 Penman, Sharon Kay. *The Sunne In Splendour; Here Be Dragons; Falls the Shadow*.
 Riley, Judith Merkle. *In Pursuit of the Green Lion; A Vision of Light: A Margaret of Ashbury Novel*.
 Rivele, Stephen J. *A Booke of Days*.
 Rutherford, Edward. *London; Russka*.
 Seton, Anya. *Katherine*.
 Smiley, Jane. *The Greenlanders*.
 Stewart, Mary. *The Crystal Cave (Britain)*.
 Sutcliff Rosemary. *Sword at Sunset*.
 Undset, Sigrid. *The Bridal Wreath*.
 Vantrease, Brenda Rickman. *The Illuminator*.
 White, T.H. *The Once and Future King (Britain)*.
 Wolf, Joan. *The Road To Avalon (Britain)*.

The Renaissance

Dunnett, Dorothy. *Caprice and Rondo (Series: House of Niccolo); The Game of Kings (Series: Francis Crawford Lyman)*.
 George, Margaret. *The Autobiography of Henry VIII*.
 George, Sara. *The Journal of Mrs. Pepys: Portrait of a Marriage*.
 Haasse, Hella S. *Scarlet City*.
 Pears, Iain. *An Instance of the Fingerpost*.
 Riley, Judith Merkle. *The Serpent Garden*.
 Stone, Irving. *The Agony and the Ecstasy*.

17th & 18th Century

Brooks, Geraldine. *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*.
 Cowell, Stephanie. *The Physician of London*.
 Donoghue, Emma. *Slammerkin*.
 Flanagan, Thomas. *The Year of the French*.
 Harris, Joanne. *Holy Fools*.
 King, Ross. *Domino; Ex-Libris*.
 Koen, Karleen. *Through a Glass Darkly; Now Face to Face*.
 Liss, David. *A Conspiracy of Paper*.
 Moggach, Deborah. *Tulip Fever*.
 Orczy, Baroness Emmuska. *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.
 Riley, Judith Merkle. *The Oracle Glass*.
 Saramago, Jose. *Baltasar and Blimunda*.

19th Century & the Victorians

Barker, Pat. *Regeneration*.
 Cornwell, Bernard. *Series: Richard Sharpe, Sharpe's Rifles*.
 Delderfield, R.F. *God is an Englishman*.
 Eliot, George. *Middlemarch*.
 Faber, Michel. *The Crimson Petal and the White*.
 Fowles, John. *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.
 Holman, Sheri. *The Dress Lodger*.
 Howatch, Susan. *The Wheel of Fortune*.
 O'Brian, Patrick. *Master and Commander; the first of the Aubrey/Maturin series of naval novels*.
 Pasternak, Boris. *Doctor Zhivago*.
 Selinko, Annmarie. *Desiree*.

20th Century

Alexander, Robert. *The Kitchen Boy*.
 Boyden, Joseph. *Three Day Road*.
 Charlesworth, Monique. *The Children's War*.
 Harris, Robert. *Enigma (WWII)*.
 Kanon, Joseph. *The Prodigal Spy; Los Alamos; The Good German*.
 Llywelyn, Morgan. 1916.
 Piercy, Marge. *Gone to Soldiers*.
 Sasson, Jean P. *Ester's Child*.
 Uris, Leon. *Exodus; The Haj*.
 Wilder, Thornton. *The Cabala*.

The Americas

Colonial Period and the American Revolution

Barth, John. *The Sot-Weed Factor*.
 Bontemps, Arna. *Black Thunder*.
 Cornwell, Bernard. *Redcoat*.
 De Blasis, Celeste. *Wild Swan; Swan's Chance*.
 Edmonds, Walter D. *Drums along the Mohawk*.
 Fast, Howard. *April Morning; The Hessian*.
 Follett, Ken. *A Place Called Freedom*.
 Inglis, Fletcher. *Roanoke Hundred*.
 Martin, William. *Annapolis; Cape Cod*.
 Nelson, James L. *By Force of Arms (Revolution at Sea series); The Guardship (Brethren of the Coast series)*.
 Peck, Richard. *This Family of Women*.

Roberts, Kenneth. *Rabble In Arms*.
Seton, Anya. *The Winthrop Woman*.
Shaara, Jeff. *Rise to Rebellion; The Glorious Cause*.
Thom, James Alexander. *Follow the River*.
Vidal, Gore. *Burr*.

Early 19th Century

Alter, Judy. *Libbie*.
Brown, Wesley. *Darktown Strutters*.
Byrd, Max. *Jackson*.
Cary, Lorene. *The Price of a Child*.
Courlander, Harold. *The African*.
Fuller, Jamie. *The Diary of Emily Dickinson*.
Furgus, Jim. *One Thousand White Women: The Journals of Mary Dodd: A Novel*.
Garwood, Julie. *For the Roses*.
Hambly, Barbara. *A Free Man of Color; Fever Season*.
Monfredo, Miriam Grace. *Seneca Falls Inheritance; NorthStar Conspiracy; Blackwater Spirits; Through a Gold Eagle*.
Morris, Gilbert & Aaron McCarver. *Over the Misty Mountain; Beyond the Quiet Hills (Series: Spirit of Appalachia)*.
Smiley, Jane. *The All-True Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton*.
Zaroulis, N.L. *Call the Darkness Light*.

The Civil War

Bahr, Howard. *The Black Flower*.
Banks, Russell. *Cloudsplitter*.
Bass, Cynthia. *Sherman's March*.
Brady, Joan. *Theory of War*.
Brown, Dee Alexander. *Conspiracy of Knaves; The Way to Bright Star*.
Brown, Rita Mae. *High Hearts*.
Burke, James Lee. *White Doves at Morning*.
Cornwell, Bernard. *Series: The Starbuck Chronicles*.
Cotton, Ralph. W. *Powder River*.
Coyle, Harold. *Until the End*.
Cutler, Bruce. *The Massacre at Sand Creek*.
Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage*.
Dailey, Janet. *Legacies*.
Dann, Jack. *The Silent*.
Delman, David. *Ain't Goin' to Glory*.
Deja, Tom. *Play for a Kingdom*.
Foote, Shelby. *Shiloh*.

Frazier, Charles. *Cold Mountain*.
Gaffney, Virginia. *Series: Richmond Chronicles*.
Gordon, Noah. *Shaman*.
Haley, Alex. *Roots*.
Heath, Lorraine. *Always to Remember*.
Herschler, Mildred Barger. *The Walk into Morning*.
Higgins, Joanna. *A Soldier's Book*.
Jakes, John. *North and South*.
Judd, Cameron. *The Shadow Warriors*.
Kantor, MacKinlay. *Andersonville*.
Madden, David. *Sharpshooter*.
Mallon, Thomas. *Henry and Clara*.
McCaig, Donald. *Jacob's Ladder*.
McCarthy, Gary. *The Mustangers*.
McLellon, Waldron Murrill. *Leather and Soul*.
Meriwether, Louise. *Fragments of the Ark*.
Mitchell, Kirk. *Shadow on the Valley; Fredericksburg*.
Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone With The Wind*.
Morris, Gilbert. *Series: Appomattox Saga*.
Pesci, David. *Amistad*.
Quinn, Peter. *Banished Children of Eve*.
Shaara, Jeff M. *Gods and Generals*.
Shaara, Michael. *Killer Angels*.
Styron, William. *Confessions of Nat Turner*.
Warren, Robert Penn. *Wilderness*.

19th Century and Westward Expansion

Bakst, Harold. *Prairie Widow*.
Blake, James Carlos. *In the Rogue Blood*.
Bly, Stephen. *It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own; Series: Code of the West*.
Brewer, James. D. *No Bottom; No Virtue; No Remorse; No Escape*.
Clark, Walter. *The Ox-Bow Incident*.
Coldsmith, Don. *Raven Mocker, The Lost Band, The Elk-dog Heritage*.
Coombs, Harry. *Brules; The Scout*.
Cooper, J. California. *In Search of Satisfaction*.
De Hartog, Jan. *The Peculiar People*.
Doctorow, E.L. *The Waterworks*.
Glancy, Diane. *Pushing the Bear*.
Gonzalez, Jovita & Eve Raleigh. *Caballero*.
Guthrie, A.B., Jr. *The Big Sky*.
Hotchner, A.E. *Louisiana Purchase*.

L'Amour, Louis. *Jubal Sackett and the series The Sacketts*.

Levy, Joann. *Daughter of Joy*.

McCrum, Sharyn. *Ballad of Frankie Silver*.

McMurty, Larry. *Dead Man's Walk; Lonesome Dove*.

Naslund, Sena Jeter. *Ahab's Wife: Or The Star Gazer*.

Portis, Charles. *True Grit*.

Shaara, Jeff M. *Gone For Soldiers*.

Shreve, Anita. *The Weight of Water*.

Smith, Diane. *Pictures from an Expedition*.

Soos, Troy. *Island of Tears; The Gilded Cage*.

20th Century

Canfield, Dorothy. *The Deepening Stream*.

Dew, Robb Forman. *The Evidence Against Her; The Truth of the Matter*.

Doctorow, E.L. *Ragtime; Billy Bathgate*.

Mujica, Barbara Louise. *Frida*.

Otsuka, Julia. *When the Emperor was Divine (Japanese Internment)*.

Soos, Troy. Mickey Rawlings baseball mysteries beginning with *Murder at Fenway Park*.

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Urquhart, Jane. *The Stone Carvers*.

Africa, Asia & Australia

Africa

Brink, Andre Phillipus. *Cape of Storms; A Chain of Voices; An Instant in the Wind; On the Contrary*.

Maalouf, Amin. *Leo Africanus*.

Moore, Brian. *The Magician's Wife*.

Smith, Wilbur. *Birds of Prey; When the Lion Feeds; Monsoon*.

Australia/New Zealand

Campion, Jane. *The Piano*.

Fletcher, Aaron. *The Outback; Outback Legacy; Walk About*.

Long, William Stuart. *The Exiles (Series: The Australians)*.

Malouf, David. *The Conversations at Curlow Creek; Remembering Babylon; Fly Away Peter*.

McCullough, Colleen. *The Ladies of Missalonghi*.

Shaw, Patricia. *The Feather and the Stone*.

Tremain, Rose. *The Colour*.

China

Buck, Pearl. *Imperial Woman; Peony; The Good Earth*.

Clavell, James. *Tai-Pan*.

Cooney, Eleanor. *The Court of the Lion*.

Elegant, Robert S. *Mandarin*.

Harrison, Kathryn. *The Binding Chair or a Visit from the Foot Emancipation Society*.

Lord, Bette Bao. *Spring Moon; The Middle Heart*.

Min, Anchee. *Becoming Madame Mao; Empress Orchid*.

Wynd, Oswald. *The Ginger tree*.

India

Barrett, William E. *Lady of the Lotus*.

Delderfield, R.F. *God Is An Englishman*.

Scott, Paul. *The Raj Quartet*.

Sidhwa, Bapsi. *Cracking India*.

Stuart, V.A. *Massacre at Cawnpore*

Japan

Clavell, James. *Shogun; Gai-Jin*.

Dalby, Liza Crihfield. *The Tale of Murasaki*.

Golden, Arthur. *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

Holthe, Tess Uriza. *When the Elephants Dance*.

Parker, I.J. *Rashomon Gate*.

Robson, Lucia St. Clair. *Tokaido Road*.

Rowland, Laura Joh. *Sano Ichiro Series*.