



Some Place In Time: Suggestions for Reading Historical Fiction

Compiled by Jan Resnick & Karen Klopfer (updated 1/13/03)

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 included 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 included few titles from our mystery, romance, and science fiction/fantasy lists.

Prehistoric Times, Ancient Civilizations, and The Americas Before 1600

Anthony, Piers. *Tatham Mound*.
Auel, Jean. *Clan of the Cave Bear and the rest of the Earth's Children series*.
Coldsmith, Don. *Tallgrass*.
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*.
Jennings, Gary. *Aztec; Aztec Autumn; Aztec Blood*.
Prentiss, Charlotte. *Children of the Ice; People of the Mesa; Children of the Sun; The Island Tribe; Ocean Tribe*.
Sarabande, William. *Beyond the Sea of Ice and The First Americans series*.
Shuler, Linda Lay. *She Who Remembers; Voice of the Eagle; Let the Drum Speak*.
Thomas, Elizabeth Marshall. *Animal Wife; Reindeer Moon*.
Wolf, Joan. *Daughter of the Red Deer; The Reindeer Hunters*.

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

Caldwell, Taylor. *Glory and Lightning*.
Davis, Lindsey. *Last Act in Palmyra*.
Drury, Allen. *A God against the Gods*.
Gann, Ernest. *The Antagonists*.
Gedge, Pauline. *Child of the Morning and the Hera series*.
George, Margaret. *The Memoirs of Cleopatra*.
Graves, Robert. *I, Claudius*.
Haasse, Hella s. *Threshold of Fire: A Novel of Fifth Century Rome*.
Jacq, Christian. *The Ramses series; volume one The Son of Light*.
Mailer, Norman. *Ancient Evenings*.
McCullough, Colleen. *The First Man in Rome and the Masters of Rome series*.
Pressfield, Steven. *Gates of Fire*.
Renault, Mary. *The King Must Die*.
Rofheart, Martha. *The Alexandrian*.
Smith, Wilbur. *River God; The Seventh Scroll; Warlock*.
Stone, Irving. *The Greek Treasure*.
Tarr, Judith. *Lord of the Two Lands; Throne of Isis; King and Goddess*.
Vidal, Gore. *Creation*.
Waltari, Mika. *The Egyptian; The Etruscan; The Roman*.

Biblical Times

Asch, Shalom. *Moses*.
Caldwell, Taylor. *Great Lion of God*.
Costain, Thomas. *The Silver Challis*.
Diamant, Anita. *The Red tent*.

Fast, Howard. *My Glorious Brothers*.
Hunt, Angela. *Dreamers*.
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*.
Wallace, Lewis. *Ben Hur*.
Wangerin, Walter, Jr. *The Book of God: The Bible as a Novel*.

Europe

400 a.d. through the Middle Ages

Baer, Ann. *Down the Common*.
Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *The Forest Home*.
Bradshaw, Gillian. *Island of Ghosts*.
Brooks, Geraldine. *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*.
Cornwell, Barnard. *The Winter King*.
Eco, Umberto. *The Name of The Rose*.
Follett, Ken. *The Pillars of the Earth*.
Gordon, Noah. *The Physician*.
Holland, Cecelia. *Two Ravens; Jerusalem; Great Maria*.
McCaffrey, Anne. *Black Horses for the King*.
Pargeter, Edith. *The Brothers of Gwynedd*.
Penman, Sharon Kay. *The Sunne In Splendour; Here Be Dragons; Falls the Shadow*.
Riley, Judith Merkle. *In Pursuit of the Green Lion*.
Rivele, Stephen J. *A Booke of Days*.
Seton, Anya. *Katherine*.
Smiley, Jane. *The Greenlanders*.
Stewart, Mary. *The Crystal Cave*.
Sutcliff Rosemary. *Sword at Sunset*.
Undset, Sigrid. *The Bridal Wreath*.
White, T.H. *The Once and Future King*.
Wolf, Joan. *The Road To Avalon*.

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

Cowell, Stephanie. *The Physician of London*.
Flanagan, Thomas. *The Year of the French*.
Koen, Karleen. *Through a Glass Darkly; Now Face to Face*.
Liss, David. *A Conspiracy of Paper*.
Moggach, Deborah. *Tulip Fever*.
O'Brian, Patrick. *Master and Commander; the first of the Aubrey/Maturin series of naval novels*.
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*.
Faber, Michel. *The Crimson Petal and the White*.
Fowles, John. *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.
Howatch, Susan. *The Wheel of Fortune*.
Pasternak, Boris. *Doctor Zhivago*.

20th Century

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*.
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*.
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*.
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*.
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*.
McCrumby, Sharyn. *Ballad of Frankie Silver*.
McMurty, Larry. *Dead Man's Walk; Lonesome Dove*.
Portis, Charles. *True Grit*.

Shaara, Jeff M. *Gone For Soldiers*.

20th Century

Doctorow, E.L. *Ragtime*.

Africa, Asia & Australia

Africa

Maalouf, Amin. *Leo Africanus*.

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*.

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*.

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

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*.

Golden, Arthur. *Memories of a Geisha*.

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

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