

Joseph Pulitzer and The Pulitzer Prizes

In the latter years of the 19th century, Joseph Pulitzer stood out as the very embodiment of American journalism. Hungarian-born, an intense indomitable figure, Pulitzer was the most skillful of newspaper publishers, a passionate crusader against dishonest government, a fierce, hawk-like competitor who did not shrink from sensationalism in circulation struggles, and a visionary who richly endowed his profession. His innovative *New York World* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reshaped newspaper journalism. Pulitzer was the first to call for the training of journalists at the university level in a school of journalism. And certainly, the lasting influence of the Pulitzer Prizes on journalism, literature, music, and drama is to be attributed to his visionary acumen. In writing his 1904 will, which made provision for the establishment of the Pulitzer Prizes as an incentive to excellence, Pulitzer specified solely four awards in journalism, four in letters and drama, one for education, and four traveling scholarships. In letters, prizes were to go to an American novel, an original American play performed in New York, a book on the history of the United States, an American biography, and a history of public service by the press. But, sensitive to the dynamic progression of his society Pulitzer made provision for broad changes in the system of awards. He established an overseer advisory board and willed it "power in its discretion to suspend or to change any subject or subjects, substituting, however, others in their places, if in the judgment of the board such suspension, changes, or substitutions shall be conducive to the public good or rendered advisable by public necessities, or by reason of change of time." He also empowered the board to withhold any award where entries fell below its standards of excellence. The assignment of power to the board was such that it could also overrule the recommendations for awards made by the juries subsequently set up in each of the categories. Since the inception of the prizes in 1917, the board, later renamed the Pulitzer Prize Board, has increased the number of awards to 21 and introduced poetry, music, and photography as subjects, while adhering to the spirit of the founder's will and its intent.

by Seymour Topping

former Administrator of The Pulitzer Prizes

Non-Fiction

- 1962 **The Making of the President 1960**
by Theodore H. White
- 1963 **The Guns of August** *by Barbara W. Tuchman*
- 1964 **Anti-Intellectualism in American Life**
by Richard Hofstadter
- 1965 **O Strange New World** *by Howard Mumford Jones*
- 1966 **Wandering Through Winter** *by Edwin Way Teale*
- 1967 **The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture** *by David Brion Davis*
- 1968 **Rousseau and Revolution, the Tenth and Concluding Volume of the Story of Civilization** *by Will and Ariel Durant*
- 1969 **The Armies of the Night** *by Norman Mailer*
- 1969 **So Human An Animal** *by Rene Jules Dubos*
- 1970 **Gandhi's Truth** *by Erik H. Erikson*
- 1971 **The Rising Sun** *by John Toland*
- 1972 **Stilwell and the American Experience in China, 1911-1945** *by Barbara W. Tuchman*
- 1973 **Fire in the Lake: The Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam**
by Frances Fitzgerald
- 1973 **Children of Crisis** *by Robert Coles*
- 1974 **The Denial of Death** *by Ernest Becker*
- 1975 **Pilgrim at Tinker Creek** *by Annie Dillard*
- 1976 **Why Survive? Being Old in America**
by Robert N. Butler
- 1977 **Beautiful Swimmers** *by William W. Warner*

- 1978 **The Dragons of Eden** *by Carl Sagan*
- 1979 **On Human Nature** *by Edward O. Wilson*
- 1980 **Godel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid** *by Douglas R. Hofstadter*
- 1981 **Fin-De Siecle Vienna: Politics and Culture** *by Carl E. Schorske*
- 1982 **The Soul of a New Machine** *by Tracy Kidder*
- 1983 **Is There No Place on Earth for Me?**
by Susan Sheehan
- 1984 **The Social Transformation of American Medicine** *by Paul Starr*
- 1985 **The Good War: An Oral History of World War Two** *by Studs Terkel*
- 1986 **Move Your Shadow: South Africa, Black and White** *by Joseph Lelyveld*
- 1986 **Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families**
by J. Anthony Lukas
- 1987 **Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land** *by David K. Shipler*
- 1988 **The Making of the Atomic Bomb**
by Richard Rhodes
- 1989 **A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam** *by Neil Sheehan*
- 1990 **And Their Children After Them** *by Dale Maharidge and Michael Williamson*
- 1991 **The Ants** *by Bert Holldobler and Edward O. Wilson*
- 1992 **The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power** *by Daniel Yergin*
- 1993 **Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America** *by Garry Wills*

- 1994 **Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire** by *David Remnick*
- 1995 **The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time** by *Jonathan Weiner*
- 1996 **The Haunted Land: Facing Europe's Ghosts After Communism** by *Tina Rosenberg*
- 1997 **Ashes to Ashes: America's Hundred Year Cigarette War, the Public Health, and the Unabashed Triumph of Philip Morris** by *Richard Kluger*
- 1998 **Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies** by *Jared Diamond*
- 1999 **Annals of the Former World** by *John McPhee*
- 2000 **Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II** by *John W. Dower*
- 2001 **Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan** by *Herbert P. Bix*
- 2002 **Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama, the Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Movement** by *Diane McWhorter*
- 2003 **"A Problem From Hell:" America and the Age of Genocide** by *Samantha Power*
- 2004 **Gulag: A History** by *Anne Applebaum*
- 2005 **Ghost Wars** by *Steve Coll*
- 2006 **Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya** by *Caroline Elkins*
- 2007 **The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11** by *Lawrence Wright*
- 2008 **The Years of Extermination: Nazi Germany and the Jews, 1939-1945** by *Saul Friedlander*
- 2009 **Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of black Americans from the Civil War to World War II** by *Douglas A. Blackmon*

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SAT 12 P.M. - 5 P.M.

SUN 1 P.M. - 5 P.M.

Summer Schedule (June, July, August & September)

SAT 10 A.M.-3 P.M.

SUN CLOSED



Pulitzer Prize (Non-Fiction)



*John Singer Sargent's portrait
of Joseph Pulitzer.*