A Booklist of International Environmental Literature

Coordinated by Scott Slovic

I have given the compilers of the following lists an almost impossible task: to select no more than five important works of “environmental literature” from their home countries (or regions) around the world or from literary traditions in which they have particular expertise. The point here is not to produce exhaustive or definitive lists of “the best” works, but rather to give experts a chance to present some of their own favorites in the hope of inspiring readers to plunge into the wealth of additional works from these places and elsewhere in the world. Environmental literature is a vast and varied field, and it exists wherever human beings write (or speak) to each other about the physical places where we live, about the other species with whom we share this planet, and about the increasingly pressing questions of access to natural resources, mitigating toxic contamination, and how to control our species’ ecological footprint. In coordinating this list, I have tried to seek out scholars located in (or knowledgeable about) diverse regions of the world, but I realize many regions are not represented in this booklist. Each of these scholars responded within a few weeks’ time, so these are basically top-of-the-head lists, not products of lengthy consideration. The main criteria were that the works be from the past 250 years, that they display genuine “literary quality,” and that they have achieved popular appeal. Brief annotations for each title can be found in the online edition of WLT.

Argentina
Compiled by María Elena Aguirre
Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina

Domingo F. Sarmiento, Facundo (1845; Eng. Facundo: Civilization and Barbarism, 2003)
Eugenio Cambacérès, En la sangre (1887/1980; In the blood)
Horacio Quiroga, Cuentos escogidos (2008; Selected stories)
Ricardo Güiraldes, Don Segundo Sombra (1926/2004; Eng. Don Segundo Sombra, 1995)
Leopoldo Lugones, Selección Obertura (2007; Eng. Selected Writings, 2008)

Australia
Compiled by Ruth Blair
University of Queensland, Australia

Elyne Mitchell, Soil and Civilization (1946)
Alec H. Chisholm, ed., Land of Wonder (1964)
Eric Rolls, They All Ran Wild (1969)
Alexis Wright, Carpentaria (2006)
Canada
Compiled by Rebecca Raglon
University of British Columbia, Canada
Catharine Parr Traill, *The Backwoods of Canada* (1836)
Ernest Thompson Seton, *Wild Animals I Have Known* (1898)
Farley Mowat, *Never Cry Wolf* (1963)

China and Taiwan
Compiled by Wei Qingqi & Lu Shuyuan
Nanjing Normal University, P.R. China
Suchow University, P.R. China
Xu Gang, *Fa Mu Zhe, Xing Lai* (1997; Wake up, woodchoppers!)
Wei An, *Tai Yang Sheng Qi Yi Hou* (2000; After the sunrise)
Zhang Wei, *Ci Wei Ge* (2007; Song of the hedgehog)
Yu Jian, *Yu Jian de Shi* (2007; The poems of Yu Jian)

East Africa
Compiled by Timothy M. Arege
Catholic University of East Africa, Kenya
Euprase Kezilahabi, *Kichomi* (1974; Sharp pain)
Emmanuel Mbogo, *Bustani ya Edeni* (2002; Garden of Eden)
Kithaka wa Mberia, *Radio na Mwezi* (2005; Radio and moon)

Germany
Compiled by Axel Goodbody
University of Bath, United Kingdom
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, “Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh” (1780; ‘Over all hilltops / Is Still’)
Wilhelm Raabe, *Pfisters Mühle* (1884; Pfister’s mill)

India
Compiled by S. Murali
Pondicherry University, India
Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, *Chemmeen* (1962)

Italy
Compiled by Serenella Iovino
Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy
Andrea Zanzotto, *Dietro il paesaggio* (1951)
Laura Conti, *Una lepre con la faccia da bambina* (1978; A hare with the face of a child)
Anna Maria Ortese, *Corpo Celeste* (1997)

Japan
Compiled by Ken-ichi Noda
Rikkyo University, Japan
Fujiwara Shinya, *Tokyo Hyoryu* (1983; Drifting into Tokyo)
Yamao Sansei, *Shinrabansho no nakae* (2001; Into the secret world of nature: With an awareness of being a fragment of the great whole)
Kato Yukiko, *Ikebe no Sumika* (2003; Living by a pond)

Korea
Compiled by Won-Chung Kim
Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea
Se-hui Cho, *The Dwarf Launches a Small Ball* (1976)
Wonil Kim, “Meditation on a Snipe” (1979)
Chiha Kim, *Heart’s Agony* (1996)

Scott Slovic was the founding president of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) from 1992 to 1995, and since 1995 has served as editor of ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment. The author, editor, or co-editor of fifteen books, his most recent publication is *Going Away to Think: Engagement, Retreat, and Ecocritical Responsibility* (2008). Professor of Literature and Environment at the University of Nevada, Reno, he spends much of his time traveling physically and virtually around the world, supporting the development of ecocriticism and environmental literature.
Latin America
Compiled by Charles Bergman
Pacific Lutheran University, USA

Pablo Neruda, Veinte poemas de amor y una canción desesperada (1924; Eng. Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair, 1969)
José Eustasio Rivera, La vorágine (1924; Eng. The Vortex, 1935)
Jorge Carrera Andrade, Lección del Árbol, la Mujer, y el Pájaro (1948; selections in Century of the Death of the Rose, 2002)
Alejo Carpentier, Los pasos perdidos (1953; Eng. The Lost Steps, 1956)

Malaysia & Singapore
Compiled by Agnes Yeow
University of Malaya, Malaysia

Cecil Rajendra, Bones and Feathers (1978)
Shirley Geok-lin Lim, Monsoon History: Selected Poems (1994)
Haji Salleh Muhammad, Rowing Down Two Rivers (2000)

Nigeria
Compiled by William Slaymaker
Wayne State College (Kansas), USA

Wole Soyinka, Wole Soyinka: Collected Plays 1 & 2 (1973–74)
Niyi Osundare, The Eye of the Earth (1986)
Ken Saro-Wiwa, A Month and a Day: A Detention Diary (1995)

South Africa
Compiled by Julia Martin
University of the Western Cape, South Africa

The Bleek-Lloyd Collection of /Xam testimonies (1870–84)

Alan Paton, Cry, the Beloved Country (1948)
Sten Selander, Det levande landskapet i Sverige (1955; The living landscape in Sweden)
Harry Martinson, Naturessäer (2000; Essays on nature)
Kerstin Ekman, Herrarna i skogen (2007; Masters of the forest)
Isabella Lövin, Tyst hav (2007; Silent sea)

Sweden
Compiled by Håkan Sandgren
Kristianstad University College, Sweden

Carl Linnaeus, Iter Lapponicum (1732; Eng. A Tour in Lapland, 1971)
Sten Selander, Det levande landskapet i Sverige (1955; The living landscape in Sweden)
Harry Martinson, Naturessäer (2000; Essays on nature)
Kerstin Ekman, Herrarna i skogen (2007; Masters of the forest)
Isabella Lövin, Tyst hav (2007; Silent sea)

Turkey
Compiled by Serpil Oppermann & Ufuk Özdağ
Hacettepe University, Turkey

Cevat Şakir Kabaağaçlı (The Fisherman of Halicarnassus), Aganta Burina Burinata (1945; Haul out the bowlines)
Sait Faik Abasıyanık, Mahalle Kahvesi (1950; Provincial coffee house)
Fakir Baykurt (Village Novelist), Kaplumbağa (1966; The turtles)
Yaşar Kemal, Deniz Küstü (1978; Eng. The Sea-Crossed Fisherman, 1985)
Akın Tekin, Sahipsiz Gezegen (2000/2004; Ownerless planet)

United Kingdom
Compiled by Terry Gifford
University of Chichester, United Kingdom
University of Alicante, Spain

Gilbert White, The Natural History of Selborne (1789)
William Wordsworth, The Prelude (1850)
John Ruskin, The Storm-Cloud of the Nineteenth Century (1884)
James Lovelock, Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth (1979)