

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)
Judith Wright, *Collected Poems, 1942–1985* (1994)
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)
Margaret Atwood, *Survival: A Thematic Guide to Canadian Literature* (1972)
John Livingston, *Rogue Primate: An Exploration of Human Domestication* (1994)

China and Taiwan

Compiled by Wei Qingqi & Lu Shuyuan
Nanjing Normal University, P.R. China
Suchow University, P.R. China

- Liu Kexiang, *Lü Niao de Yi Zhan* (1973; A post-house of migratory birds)
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, *Redio 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)
Bertolt Brecht, *Leben des Galilei* (1937–57; Eng. *Life of Galileo*, 1960)
Christa Wolf, *Störfall: Nachrichten eines Tages* (1987; Eng. *Accident: A Day's News*, 1989)
Frank Schätzing, *Der Schwarm* (2004; Eng. *The Swarm*, 2006)

India

Compiled by S. Murali
Pondicherry University, India

- Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, *Chemmeen* (1962)
O. V. Vijayan, *Khasakkinte Itihasam* (1969; Eng. *The Legends of Khasak*, 1994)
Ashokamitran, *Tannir* (1973; Eng. *Water*, 2001)
Perumal Murugan, *Koola Madari* (2000; Eng. *Seasons of the Palm*, 2004)
Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide* (2004)

Italy

Compiled by Serenella Iovino
Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy

- Andrea Zanzotto, *Dietro il paesaggio* (1951)
Italo Calvino, *Marcovaldo, ovvero, Le stagioni in città* (1963; Eng. *Marcovaldo, or, The Seasons in the City*, 1983)
Laura Conti, *Una lepre con la faccia da bambina* (1978; A hare with the face of a child)
Anna Maria Ortese, *Corpo Celeste* (1997)
Giorgio Bassani, *Italia da salvare: Scritti civili e battaglie ambientali* (2005)

Japan

Compiled by Ken-ichi Noda
Rikkyo University, Japan

- Ishimure Michiko, *Kugai Jodo: Waga Minamata Byo* (1972; Eng. *Paradise in the Sea of Sorrow: Our Minamata Disease*, 2003)
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)
Ishimure Michiko, *Tenku* (1997; Eng. *Lake of Heaven*, 2008)

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)
Hyonjong Chong, *Trees of the World* (1995)
Sungcho Choi, *Reservation for the Glowworm* (1995)
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)

Eduardo Galeano, *Las venas abiertas de América Latina* (1970; Eng. *Open Veins of Latin America*, 1973)

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)

Alvin Pang & Aaron Lee, eds., *No Other City: The Ethos Anthology of Urban Poetry* (2000)

Phui Nam Wong, *An Acre of Day's Glass: Collected Poems* (2006)

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)

Tess Onwueme, *What Mama Said* (2003)

Tanure Ojaide, *The Activist* (2006)

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)

J. M. Coetzee, *The Lives of Animals* (2001)

Zakes Mda, *The Whale Caller* (2005)

Nadine Gordimer, *Get a Life* (2006)

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), *Kaplumbağalar* (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)

Ted Hughes, *Collected Poems* (2003)