

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. THE TRANSCENDENTALISTS

- ✓ indicates recommended
- indicates it's available and currently in print

EMERSON

- Octavius Brooks Frothingham. *Transcendentalism in New England*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1876. Without peer, a first-hand account that is at once philosophical, biographical, and historical, with all the color of a sympathetic eyewitness. Sadly, out of print; but copies can still be found through used booksellers — particularly of 1950s paperback editions.
- Joel Myerson. *Transcendentalism: A Reader*. London: Oxford University Press, 2000. These 725 pages are a bargain in paperback — a fabulous collection. The transcendentalist movement is generally recognized to be the first major watershed in American literary and intellectual history with forays into: religion and religious reform, philosophy, literature, ecology, and spirituality. This new collection draws together the essential writings of the Transcendentalist group during its most active period, 1836-1844. It includes the major publications of “the Dial”, the writings on democratic and social reform, the early poetry, nature writings, and several of Emerson's major essays — as well as Thoreau, Orestes Brownson, Margaret Fuller, and Bronson Alcott among others.
- Lawrence Buell. *The American Transcendentalists: Essential Writings*. New York: Modern Library, 2006. The latest of the Transcendentalist anthologies. Buell, like Myerson, is a fine Emerson scholar. I particularly like this collection, which includes items you seldom find. **Recommended for course.**
- Perry Miller. *The Transcendentalists*. (Anthology) Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1950. Includes short bios and sample writings of all the principal Transcendentalists.
- Barbara L. Packer. *The Transcendentalists*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2007. A fairly new entry, this is one of the most incisive and comprehensive. Her capacious knowledge enables her to draw revelatory connections between players and events.
- Albert J. Von Frank. *The Trials of Anthony Burns: Freedom and Slavery in Emerson's Boston*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998. Emerson's thought as central to the religious revolution that ended slavery — ideas that reached all the way to Abraham Lincoln. The pivotal role of Theodore Parker, the clear articulation of Transcendentalism's view of freedom by Thoreau, and the many others, clergy and lay.
- Sterling F. Delano. *Brook Farm: The Dark Side of Utopia*. Cambridge MA & London: Belknap Press, Harvard University Press, 2004.
- Robert D. Richardson Jr. *Emerson: the mind on fire*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1995. \$35 hardbound; \$15-22 paperbound. Absolutely the best.
- Lawrence Buell. *Emerson*. A brilliant critical study of his thought in a biographical context by a Harvard professor active in the Emerson Society. 2003.
- Carlos Baker. *Emerson Among the Eccentrics*. Viking; 640 pages. *The Economist* says: When Carlos Baker died in 1987, he had completed all but the finishing touches on what will be considered his masterpiece. An esteemed literary critic and mentor to several generations of younger scholars, Carlos Baker had a lifelong interest in Emerson, but also in Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Amos Bronson Alcott, and Margaret Fuller, all of whom made Concord a mecca for American intellectuals . . . Lucky for us that in his last years Carlos Baker poured his resources, wisdom, and affections into this remarkable book.
- Richard G. Geldard. *God in Concord: Ralph Waldo Emerson's Awakening to the Infinite*. Burdett, N.Y.: Larson Publications, 1999. Drawing particularly from Emerson's private journals, the author opens the heights and depths of the mind of America's great Seer. Deeply insightful and deeply inspiring.
- Maurice York and Rick Spaulding. *Ralph Waldo Emerson: The Infinitude of the Private Man*. Chicago: Wrightwood Press, 2008. Yet another Emerson bio, offering a surprisingly fresh approach and, for this reader, yet more surprise.
- Neal Dolan. *Emerson's Liberalism*. Madison & London: University of Wisconsin Press, 2009. I've spoken of the revolutionary impulse driving his thought. This is a brilliant study of his liberalism and hopeful vision of future possibility. Dolan shows Emerson rejecting old answers, including many aspects of Christian doctrine.
- Len Gougeon. *Virtue's Hero: Emerson, Antislavery, and Reform*. University of Georgia Press, 2010. One of my favorite Emerson scholars draws on a huge array of primary documents to show Emerson immersing himself in antislavery and reform.
- John T. Lysaker and William Rossi, editors. *Emerson & Thoreau: Figures of Friendship*. Letters and journals showing how their friendships took root and bolstered their political, social, and ethical projects, even in contexts of differences, tragedy, and loss.

WORKS OF EMERSON

✓✓ Ralph Waldo Emerson. *Essays & Lectures*. Library of America Edition; edited by Joel Porte. Literary Classics of the United States, Inc., 1983.

✓✓ Ralph Waldo Emerson. *The Selected Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson*. New York: The Modern Library, 1992. Edited by Brooks Atkinson. Includes some items, particularly on abolitionism, not commonly found. 842 pp; \$20' now in paper for about \$12.

○ *Emerson in His Journals*. Selected and edited by Joel Porte. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap/Harvard University Press, 1987.

✓✓ *Emerson's Antislavery Writings*. Len Gougeon and Joel Myerson, ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995. And you get a 45-page historical backgrounder by the editors. The writings themselves are of great importance, yet seldom appear in collections of his works.

✓ Ralph Waldo Emerson. *Natural History of the Intellect*. Reconstructed and edited by Maurice York & Rick Spaulding. Chicago: Wrightwood Press, 2008. This is as close as we're going to get to Emerson's last lecture series, and it's important because these lectures were a synthesis of Emerson's life work that he'd intended for decades to produce. Finally, in the waning days of his ability to do it, Harvard invited him (after shunning him ever since the 1838 "Divinity School Address") to offer a course. His first attempt in 1870 didn't go as he'd hoped, so he tried again in 1871. Had he been younger, he would have turned the lectures into a magnus opus of a book, but he couldn't. Instead, what remained were his lecture notes, held in Harvard's library, long defying the attempts of scholars to decipher. It took York and Spaulding to do it, the fruit of seven years' work. These 17 lectures don't soar like the "Divinity School Address" or "The Over-Soul" or "Self-Reliance," but they're still brilliant and nicely summarize his thought.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER EDITIONS OF EMERSON'S WORKS.

CHANNING

Jack Mendelsohn. *Channing: The Reluctant Radical*. Boston: Unitarian Universalist Association, 1971.

WORKS OF CHANNING

○ *William Ellery Channing: Selected Writings*. Ed. David Robinson. New York: Paulist Press American Spirituality Series, 1985.

○ *The Works of William E. Channing*. Boston: American Unitarian Association, 1898.

PARKER

✓✓ Dean Grodzins. *American Heretic: Theodore Parker and Transcendentalism*. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 2002. This is a spectacular work of

scholarship by a young professor at the UUA's Meadville/Lombard Theological School. This first of two volumes gets Parker into 1846; the remaining 14 years of his life await Volume II.

○ Henry Steele Commager. *Theodore Parker: Yankee Crusader*. Boston: Unitarian Universalist Association, 1982 (first published 1936 by Little Brown).

○ John Weiss. *The Life and Correspondence of Theodore Parker, Minister of the Twenty-Eighth Congregational Society, Boston*. New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1864. In two volumes. Reprinted by Bergman Publishers, New York, 1969. This is the work that persuaded many skeptical Unitarians of the greatness of the previously-despised Parker — four years too late for Parker to benefit from in his lifetime.

WORKS OF PARKER

○ *Theodore Parker: An Anthology*. Edited, with Introduction and Notes, by Henry Steele Commager. Boston: Beacon Press, 1960.

THOREAU

○ David M. Robinson. *Natural Life: Thoreau's Worldly Transcendentalism*. Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 2004.

○ Robert D. Richardson. *Henry Thoreau: A Life of the Mind*. University of California Press, 1988.

WORKS OF THOREAU
are readily available everywhere.

FULLER

○ Paula Blanchard. *Margaret Fuller: From Transcendentalism to Revolution*. Reading, Mass. and New York: Addison-Wesley, 1987.

WORKS OF FULLER

○ *The Portable Margaret Fuller*. Ed. Mark Kelley. New York: Penguin, 1994.

BRONSON ALCOTT AND LOUISA MAY

✓✓ John Matteson. *Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2007. A wonderful telling of an astonishing story. A bit too much psychological, but engaging and informative.

WORKS OF ALCOTT

✓✓ *Conversations with Children on the Gospels*. Published as *How Like an Angel Came Down* by Lindisfarne Press, 1991. Ed. Alice O. Howell, who provides some biography, with foreword by Stephen Mitchell. Available from Anthroposophic Press, Hudson, NY (518/851-2054).

MISCELLANEOUS

○ *Three Prophets of Religious Liberalism: Channing, Emerson, Parker*. Boston: Unitarian Universalist Association, 1961.

A sermon by each, and an introduction.

THE PEABODY SISTERS

Megan Marshall. *The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

- ✓ Elizabeth Palmer Peabody was an intimate of Channing and Emerson, and brought the kindergarten to America.
- Sophia and Mary were significant players, too, and their stories tell the story of the times.

2. EVOLUTIONARY/INTEGRAL SPIRITUALITY

✓ *EnlightenNext* (previously *What Is Enlightenment?*). Quarterly journal. Published by EnlightenNext, Lenox, Mass. Available in some bookstores (like Trident on Newbury St.).
○ www.wie.org gives you access to some features and lets you subscribe online.

✓ andrewcohen.org The website that connects you to all aspects of EnlightenNext's thought and work. A very rich site I rely on.
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✓ Michael Wombacher. *11 Days at the Edge: One Man's Spiritual Journey into Evolutionary Enlightenment*. Findhorn, Forres, Scotland, 2008: Findhorn Press. More than anything else listed here, this one describes the interior experience of evolutionary enlightenment in the context of a retreat led by Andrew Cohen.
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✓ Ken Wilber. *The Integral Vision*. Boston & London: Shambhala, 2007. Extremely accessible, visually very cool, and cheap. **Recommended for course.**
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Ken Wilber. *Integral Spirituality: A Startling New Role for Religion in the Modern and Postmodern World*. Boston & London: Integral Books, 2006. For those who want a lot more, but it's more work.

(Ken Wilber has published a multitude of books, but this one sets his thought in the form of a novel, making it very understandable — even if it isn't much of a novel! — *Boomeritis*. Boston: Shambhala, 2002.)

✓ Ken Wilber. *The Integral Vision*. Boston & London: Shambhala, 2007. A short, visially-interestingly graphic presentation of Wilber's ideas.
○

Steve McIntosh. *Integral Consciousness and the Future of Evolution*. St. Paul: Paragon House, 2007.

SCIENCE, CONSCIOUSNESS, AND SPIRIT

✓ Amit Goswami. *The Self-Aware Universe. How Consciousness Creates the Material World*. New York: Jeremy Tarcher/Penguin, 1993, 1995. The Hindu physicist relates quantum mechanics and the “perennial wisdom.” What does Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, or the principle of Nonlocality, or wave-particle duality, have to do with Being Itself?

✓ Amit Goswami. *The Visionary Window: A Quantum Physicist's Guide to Enlightenment*. Wheaton, IL: Quest Books, 2000.
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UPCOMING AN IMPORTANT

Andrew Cohen. *Evolutionary Enlightenment*. Expected during 2011.

Carter Phipps. *Evolutionaries*. Harper & Row, 2011. The Executive Editor of *EnlightenNext* magazine explores the development of an evolutionary spiritual vision through the work of many — the Transcendentalists, of course; and Henri Bergson, Jean Gebser, Sri Aurobindo, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, and many more.

And, of course, might I mention this one:

F. Jay Deacon. *Magnificent Journey: Religion as Lock on the Past or Engine of Evolution*. Groundwave Publishing, 2011, one hopes.