MELVILLE
His World and Work
ANDREW DELBANCO

"It would be hard to imagine a more inviting overview of Melville for our time."
—The Washington Post Book World
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Melville-Andrew Delbanco 2013-02-20 If Dickens was nineteenth-century London personified, Herman Melville was the quintessential American. With a historian’s perspective and a critic’s insight, award-winning author Andrew Delbanco marvelously demonstrates that Melville was very much a man of his era and that he recorded — in his books, letters, and marginalia; and in conversations with friends like Nathaniel Hawthorne and with his literary cronies in Manhattan — an incomparable chapter of American history. From the bawdy storytelling of Typee to the spiritual preoccupations building up to and beyond Moby Dick, Delbanco brilliantly illuminates Melville’s life and work, and his crucial role as a man of American letters.

Melville-Andrew Delbanco 2006 Herman Melville was born into a family that in the fledgling republic had lost money and status. This work traces Melville’s growth from the bawdy storytelling of Typee through the spiritual preoccupations building up to Moby-Dick, and the profound disillusionment of later works. It uncovers autobiographical traces throughout Melville’s writing.

Complete Shorter Fiction-Herman Melville 1997 Gathers all of Melville's short stories and novellas, including "Billy Budd, Sailor," "Bartleby, the Scrivener," and "Benito Cereno"

Melville Biography-Hershel Parker 2012 Melville Biography: An Inside Narrative is Hershel Parker’s history of the writing of Melville biographies, enriched by his intimate working relationships with great Melvilleans, dead and living. The first part is a mesmerizing autobiographical account of what went into creating his award-winning two-volume life of Herman Melville. Next, Parker traces six decades the persistent war New Critics have waged against biographical scholarship on Melville. American literary critics, he finds, impose New Critical theories of organic unity on Melville’s disrupted career even while truncating his body of work and minimizing his aesthetic
interests. Parker celebrates the "divine amateurs" who use new technology to discover dazzling Melville stories and also lauds the writers of literature blogs as potential redeemers of academic and mainstream media reviewing. In the third part, Parker invites readers into his biographical workshop and challenges them with ambitious research assignments. Throughout this bold book, Parker seeks to reinvigorate the all-but-lost art of scholarly literary criticism and biography.

Great Short Works of Herman Melville-Herman Melville 2009-03-17
Billy Budd, Sailor and Bartleby, the Scrivener are two of the most revered shorter works of fiction in history. Here, they are collected along with 19 other stories in a beautifully redesigned collection that represents the best short work of an American master. As Warner Berthoff writes in his introduction to this volume, "It is hard to think of a major novelist or storyteller who is not also a first-rate entertainer . . . a master, according to choice, of high comedy, of one or another robust species of expressive humour, or of some special variety of the preposterous, the grotesque, the absurd. And Melville, certainly, is no exception. A kind of vigorous supervisory humour is his natural idiom as a writer, and one particular attraction of his shorter work is the fresh further display it offers of this prime element in his literary character."

Melville in Love-Michael Shelden 2016-06-07
A new account of Herman Melville and the writing of Moby-Dick, written by a Pulitzer Prize finalist in Biography and based on fresh archival research, which reveals that the anarchic spirit animating Melville’s canonical work was inspired by his great love affair with a shockingly unconventional married woman. Herman Melville’s epic novel, Moby-Dick, was a spectacular failure when it was published in 1851, effectively ending its author’s rise to literary fame. Because he was neglected by academics for so long, and because he made little effort to preserve his legacy, we know very little about Melville, and even less about what he called his “wicked book.” Scholars still puzzle over what drove Melville to invent Captain Ahab’s mad pursuit of the great white whale. In Melville in Love Pulitzer Prize-finalist Michael Shelden sheds light on this literary mystery to tell a story of Melville’s passionate, obsessive, and clandestine affair with a married woman named Sarah Morewood, whose libertine impulses encouraged and sustained Melville’s own. In his research, Shelden discovered unexplored documents suggesting that, in their shared resistance to the “iron rule” of social conformity, Sarah and Melville had forged an illicit and enduring romantic and intellectual bond. Emboldened by the thrill of courting Sarah in secret, the pleasure of falling in love, and the excitement of spending time with literary luminaries—like Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes and Nathaniel Hawthorne—Melville found the courage to take the leap from light works of adventure to the hugely brilliant, utterly subversive Moby-Dick. Filled with the rich detail and immense drama of Melville’s secret life, Melville in Love tells the gripping story of how one of our greatest novelists found his muse.

Melville-Laurie Robertson-Lorant 1998
Drawing on more than five hundred newly discovered letters, this book immerses the reader in the often turbulent world of Herman Melville, from his childhood to his seafaring days, to his often frustrating career as a writer. With energetic prose and an unerrring eye for psychological nuance, Laurie Robertson-Lorant explores the forces that shaped the man: the women and children in his life, his enigmatic relationship with Nathaniel Hawthorne, the psychosexual tensions that informed his art, his struggles against debt, his disappointment about failing to win a popular audience for his more serious work, and the alcoholism and violence that plagued his family. Melville is an account of one of America’s preeminent literary geniuses.

The Piazza Tales-Herman Melville 2021-01-12
The Piazza Tales (1856) is a collection of short stories by American writer Herman Melville. Before publication, five of its six stories appeared in Putnam’s Monthly during a period of productivity with which Melville sought to achieve popular success as a writer of literary fiction. After the failure of his novels Moby-Dick (1851) and Pierre: or, The Ambiguities (1852), Melville struggled to find a publisher who would accept his work, and contemporary reviews of The Piazza Tales were negative to lukewarm at best. When Melville’s work was reappraised in the 1920s, scholars recognized these stories as not only well-composed, but keenly focused on the dominant ethical and sociopolitical issues of their day. In “The Piazza,” a man buys an old farmhouse with a view on the nearby mountains. Despite his fortune, he spends his days
longing for more, wishing his home had its own piazza so he could share the beauty of the surrounding landscape with guests. "Bartleby, the Scrivener" is a story set at an anonymous law office on Wall Street where a mysterious clerk suddenly refuses to do his work. Amused at first, the lawyer who narrates the story is eventually overcome with frustration and struggles to rid himself of the intractable Bartleby. In "Benito Cereno," a merchant ship captain sailing around the coast of Chile chances on a slave ship in distress. Hoping to assist its captain and crew, he boards their ship, unwittingly stumbling on a dangerous and volatile situation. The Piazza Tales is a collection of some of American literary icon Herman Melville's most celebrated stories. With a beautifully designed cover and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of Herman Melville’s The Piazza Tales is a classic of American literature reimagined for modern readers.

Melville’s Anatomies-Samuel Otter 1999-03-05 In fascinating new contextual readings of four of Herman Melville’s novels—Typee, White-Jacket, Moby-Dick, and Pierre—Samuel Otter delves into Melville’s exorbitant prose to show how he anatomizes ideology, making it palpable and strange. Otter portrays Melville as deeply concerned with issues of race, the body, gender, sentiment, and national identity. He articulates a range of contemporary texts (narratives of travelers, seamen, and slaves; racial and aesthetic treatises; fiction; poetry; and essays) in order to flesh out Melville’s discursive world. Otter presents Melville’s works as “inside narratives” offering material analyses of consciousness. Chapters center on the tattooed faces in Typee, the flogged bodies in White-Jacket, the scrutinized heads in Moby-Dick, and the desiring eyes and eloquent, constricted hearts of Pierre. Otter shows how Melville’s books tell of the epic quest to know the secrets of the human body. Rather than dismiss contemporary beliefs about race, self, and nation, Melville inhabits them, acknowledging their appeal and examining their sway. Meticulously researched and brilliantly argued, this groundbreaking study links Melville’s words to his world and presses the relations between discourse and ideology. It will deeply influence all future studies of Melville and his work.

Israel Potter-Herman Melville 1925 Based on the life of an actual soldier who claimed to have fought at Bunker Hill, Israel Potter is unique among Herman Melville’s books: It is a novel in the guise of a biography. In telling the story of Israel Potter's fall from Revolutionary War hero to peddler on the streets of London, Melville alternated between invented scenes and historical episodes, granting cameos to such famous men of the era as Benjamin Franklin (Potter may have been his secret courier) and John Paul Jones, and providing a portrait of the American Revolution as the rollicking adventure and violent series of events that it really was.

The Sign of the Cannibal-Geoffrey Sanborn 1998 By exploring cannibalism in the work of Herman Melville, Sanborn argues that Melville produced a postcolonial perspective even as nations were building colonial empires.

Mariners, Renegades, and Castaways-Cyril Lionel Robert James 2001 Available in its complete form for the first time since its original publication.
**The Empire of Necessity**-Greg Grandin 2014-01-14 Documents an extraordinary early nineteenth-century event that inspired Herman Melville's "Benito Cereno," tracing the cultural, economic, and religious clash that occurred aboard a distressed Spanish ship of West African pirates.

**Frederick Douglass and Herman Melville**-Robert S. Levine 2012-09-01 Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) and Herman Melville (1819-1891) addressed in their writings a range of issues that continue to resonate in American culture: the reach and limits of democracy; the nature of freedom; the roles of race, gender, and sexuality; and the place of the United States in the world. Yet they are rarely discussed together, perhaps because of their differences in race and social position. Douglass escaped from slavery and tied his well-received nonfiction writing to political activism, becoming a figure of international prominence. Melville was the grandson of Revolutionary War heroes and addressed urgent issues through fiction and poetry, laboring in increasing obscurity. In eighteen original essays, the contributors to this collection explore the convergences and divergences of these two extraordinary literary lives. Developing new perspectives on literature, biography, race, gender, and politics, this volume ultimately raises questions that help rewrite the color line in nineteenth-century studies. Contributors: Elizabeth Barnes, College of William and Mary Hester Blum, The Pennsylvania State University Russ Castronovo, University of Wisconsin-Madison John Ernest, West Virginia University William Gleason, Princeton University Gregory Jay, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Carolyn L. Karcher, Washington, D.C. Rodrigo Lazo, University of California, Irvine Maurice S. Lee, Boston University Robert S. Levine, University of Maryland, College Park Steven Mailloux, University of California, Irvine Dana D. Nelson, Vanderbilt University Samuel Otter, University of California, Berkeley John Stauffer, Harvard University Sterling Stuckey, University of California, Riverside Eric J. Sundquist, University of California, Los Angeles Elisa Tamarkin, University of California, Irvine Susan M. Ryan, University of Louisville David Van Leer, University of California, Davis Maurice Wallace, Duke University Robert K. Wallace, Northern Kentucky University Kenneth W. Warren, University of Chicago

**The Civil War World of Herman Melville**-Stanton Garner 1993 A portrait of Melville during the Civil War era examines his attitudes about the war and his writings during and about the period

**SUBVERSIVE GENEALOGY**-Michael Paul Rogin 2013-08-28 In this major reconsideration of Herman Melville’s life and work, Michael Paul Rogin shows that Melville’s novels are connected both to the important issues of his time and to the exploits of his patrician and politically prominent family—which, three generations after its Revolutionary War heroes, produced an alcoholic, a bankrupt, and a suicide. Rogin argues that a history of Melville’s fiction, and of the society represented in it, is also a history of the writer’s family. He describes how that family first engaged Melville in and then isolated him from American political and social life. Melville’s brother and father-in-law are shown to link Moby-Dick to the crisis over expansion and slavery. White-Jacket and Billy Budd, which concern shipboard conflicts between masters and seamen, are related to an execution at sea in which Melville’s cousin played a decisive part. The figure of Melville’s father haunts The Confidence Man, whose subject is the triumph of the marketplace and the absence of authority. A provocative study of one of our supreme literary artists.

**Call Me Ishmael**-Charles Olson 2018-12-05 First published in 1947, this acknowledged classic of American literary criticism explores the influences—especially Shakespearean ones—on Melville’s writing of Moby-Dick. One of the first Melvilleans to advance what has since become known as the “theory of the two Moby-Dicks,” Olson argues that there were two versions of Moby-Dick, and that Melville’s reading King Lear for the first time in between the first and second versions of the book had a profound impact on his conception of the saga: “the first book did not contain Ahab,” writes Olson, and “it may not, except incidentally, have contained Moby-Dick.” If literary critics and reviewers at the time responded with varying degrees of skepticism to the “theory of the two Moby-Dicks,” it was the experimental style and organization of the book that generated the most controversy. Passionate in his poetry, Olson was no less passionate in his reading of Melville. Impatient with what he regarded as traditional forms of
literary criticism, Olson engaged his own creativity to write a book as robust, original, and compelling as Melville’s masterpiece. “Not only important, but apocalyptic.”—New York Herald Tribune “One of the most stimulating essays ever written on Moby-Dick, and for that matter on any piece of literature, and the forces behind it.”—San Francisco Chronicle “Olson has been a tireless student of Melville and every Melville lover owes him a debt for his Scotland Yard pertinacity in getting on the trail of Melville’s dispersed library.”—Lewis Mumford, New York Times “Records, often brilliantly, one way of taking the most extraordinary of American books.”—W. E. Bezanson, New England Quarterly “The most important contribution to Melville criticism since Raymond Weaver’s pioneering contribution in 1921.”—George Mayberry, New Republic

Herman Melville's Moby-Dick-Michael J. Davey 2013-11-19 No book is more central to the study of nineteenth-century American literature than Herman Melville's Moby-Dick; or The Whale. First published in 1851, it still speaks powerfully to readers today. Combining reprinted documents with clear introductions for student readers, this volume examines the contexts of and critical responses to Melville's work. It draws together: *an introduction to the contexts in which Melville was writing and relevant contextual documents, including letters *chronology of key facts and dates *critical history and extracts from early reviews and modern criticism *fully annotated key passages from the novel *a list of biblical allusions *an annotated guide to further reading. Extensive cross-references link contextual information, critical materials and passages from the novel providing a wide-ranging view of the work and ensuring a successful and enjoyable encounter with the world of Moby-Dick.

Melville: A Novel-Jean Giono 2017-09-12 Originally published to promote his French translation of Moby-Dick, Jean Giono’s Melville: A Novel is an astonishing literary compound of fiction, biography, personal essay, and criticism. In the fall of 1849, Herman Melville traveled to London to deliver his novel White-Jacket to his publisher. On his return to America, Melville would write Moby-Dick. Melville: A Novel imagines what happened in between: the adventurous writer fleeing London for the country, wrestling with an angel, falling in love with an Irish nationalist, and, finally, meeting the angel’s challenge—to express man’s fate by writing the novel that would become his masterpiece. Eighty years after it appeared in English, Moby-Dick was translated into French for the first time by the Provençal novelist Jean Giono and his friend Lucien Jacques. The publisher persuaded Giono to write a preface, granting him unusual latitude. The result was this literary essay, Melville: A Novel—part biography, part philosophical rumination, part romance, part unfettered fantasy. Paul Eprile’s expressive translation of this intimate homage brings the exchange full circle. Paul Eprile was a co-winner of the French-American Foundation's 2018 Translation Prize for his translation of Melville.

Mardi : and a Voyage Thither-Herman Melville 1855

The Strange Schemes of Randolph Mason-Melville Davisson Post 1896

Benito Cereno-Herman Melville 2015-08-02 Melville's 188 novella 'Benito Cereno' follows a sea captain, Amasa Delano, and his crew on the Bachelor's Delight as it is approached by another, rather battered-looking ship, the San Dominick. Upon boarding the San Dominick, Delano is immediately greeted by white sailors and black slaves begging for supplies. An inquisitive Delano ponders the mysterious social atmosphere aboard the badly bruised ship and notes the figurehead which is mostly concealed by a tarpaulin revealing only the inscription "Follow your leader."

Relinquish-Noelle Adams 2017-05-10 She was supposed to be taking a break from work to rethink her future. She wasn't supposed to be falling in love with her boss. He was supposed to be resting at a beachside retreat and unwinding from a few very stressful years. He wasn't supposed to be wanting her in ways that had nothing to do with the job. Betsy has worked with John Davenport for four years, and she's always been an efficient, practical member of his crisis response team. He might be brilliant, attractive, and good-hearted, but he's also driven, rather grumpy, and emotionally unavailable. Plus, he's never looked at her with any interest
other than a friend and co-worker. No one has ever really been interested in her. She's never been the kind of woman that men fall for. No matter how much she loves her job with an international relief organization, she knows she can't do it forever. But as soon as she begins thinking toward a different future, John starts to respond to her in a completely new way. Maybe it's just a temporary feeling, prompted by some much needed downtime. Or maybe they've had more in their hearts than they've ever admitted. Relinquish is the first book in the Balm in Gilead series, a spin-off from the Willow Park series about couples who fall in love in a physical and spiritual rest center on the North Carolina coast called Balm in Gilead.

**Un Lun Dun**-China Miéville 2007-02-13 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “Endlessly inventive . . . [a] hybrid of Alice in Wonderland, The Wizard of Oz, and The Phantom Tollbooth.”—Salon What is Un Lun Dun? It is London through the looking glass, an urban Wonderland of strange delights where all the lost and broken things of London end up . . . and some of its lost and broken people, too—including Brokkenbroll, boss of the broken umbrellas; Obaday Fing, a tailor whose head is an enormous pin-cushion, and an empty milk carton called Curdle. Un Lun Dun is a place where words are alive, a jungle lurks behind the door of an ordinary house, carnivorous giraffes stalk the streets, and a dark cloud dreams of burning the world. It is a city awaiting its hero, whose coming was prophesied long ago, set down for all time in the pages of a talking book. When twelve-year-old Zanna and her friend Deeba find a secret entrance leading out of London and into this strange city, it seems that the ancient prophecy is coming true at last. But then things begin to go shockingly wrong. BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from China Mieville's Embassytown. Praise for Un Lun Dun

**Moby-Dick**-Herman Melville 2021-02-09 Moby-Dick; Or, "The Whale" is a novel written by American writer Herman Melville in 1851. This book is a narrative of sailor Ishmael's persistent pursuit of the captain of the whaling ship Pequod, Ahab, in order to avenge Moby Dick, the white sperm whale on its last voyage Bend the knee on Ahab's leg. Moby-Dick was a contribution to American Renaissance literature, but his mixed comments were a commercial failure, and it was out of print when the author died in 1891. Its reputation as a "great American novel" was established. Only in the 20th century after the 100th anniversary of the birth of its author. William Faulkner said he wanted to write this book himself, while DH Lawrence called it "one of the strangest and most wonderful books in the world" and "The Greatest Ocean Book".

**Herman Melville**-Elizabeth Hardwick 2000 The life story of the author of Moby-Dick furnishes an analysis of all of Melville's writings and depicts his days as a whaleship deckhand and his bitterness over the public's failure to embrace his master work, Moby-Dick. 25,000 first printing.

**The Divine Magnet**-Herman Melville 2016-03-15 If you don't know Melville's letters to Hawthorne, you don't know Melville. These letters are full of passion, humor, doubt, and spiritual yearning, and offer an intimate view of Melville's personality. Lyrical and effusive, they are literary works in themselves. This correspondence has been out of print for decades, and even when it was in print it appeared in scholarly volumes of Melville's complete correspondence, aimed at the academy. The Divine Magnet will provide the general literary public as well as the college classroom with a reliable and beautifully produced volume of Melville's letters to Hawthorne, along with supplemental material, highlighting the relationship between

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these luminaries of American letters.

**Inscrutable Malice** - Jonathan A. Cook 2012-12-15

**The Sweet Taste of the Bilge** - M. T. Harber 2011-03-01 This amusing tale is the perfect summer read. If you are a parrot head, like warm weather, or have a calendar with a tropical scene, then this book is for you. George Forder loved his job and the comfort of his home. He had been a company man for many years until the fateful day he was "let go." In desperation to find work, he seeks out a former employer who sets him on a quest which will change his life forever.

**Guardian** - Suzanne DiTommaso 2015-09-23 In the aftermath of WW II, a ten year old Italian boy, wearing his dead father's suit, leaves his ruined village and sets out on his own to find his mother in America. In the hard years that follow, he is haunted by the belief that he traveled half-way across the world alone and uncared for. Sixty years later he discovers a life-changing truth. He was never alone. Experience the inspiring true story of one man's struggle to make a life for himself and his family, to grasp the American dream...and create a legacy.

**The Solitude Myth** - Bill Lloyd 2014-11-26 All truth is subjective or so David believes as he sets out to change his life. A New Yorker in his early thirties, he moves to Paris to work for an international aid agency. He's happy and he's in love, but then his carefully scripted story goes awry. After experiencing memory lapses he is advised by a doctor to seek rest in a small town in the south of France. As he strives to regain his memories he must confront a world full of contradictions and illusions. The Solitude Myth has been described as: "cerebral and elegant..." "an insight into existential mysteries..."

**Rise from the Mud... Breathe** - Phillip O'Donnell 2016-12-18 Rise from the Mud...Breathe depicts a young man's journey to discover why he feels his existence is dimensionally displaced and why he feels he is out of his true cognitive realm as though he were stripped of capacity and thrown into a lesser form in an evolutionary point preceding his own. Something is missing in him and the world around him, but what, he cannot fathom, save for the amorphous infinity before his mind's eye, the infinite expressions of beauty beyond and beneath the physical world surrounding him. Like an after image, he sees a civilizational structure overlaying the one before him. With two homeless men who share his feeling of disconnect, he explores this apparition of thought through a dialectical groping into which none of them can comprehend. Amazingly to him, he finds these two men share much of his unease and provide him with new insights into and visions of this optimal world design, but most importantly, these men show him how to have faith in himself amidst the ambiguity. The first man begins his journey in a McDonald's through a telling of his story, and the next takes him on the streets for four days and four nights to show him how he lives.

**Herman Melville** - Newton Arvin 1950

**Melville Biography** - Hershel Parker 2012 Melville Biography: An Inside Narrative is Hershel Parker's history of the writing of Melville biographies, enriched by his intimate working relationships with great Melvilleans, dead and living. The first part is a mesmerizing autobiographical account of what went into creating his award-winning two-volume life of Herman Melville. Next, Parker traces six decades the persistent war New Critics have waged against biographical scholarship on Melville. American literary critics, he finds, impose New Critical theories of organic unity on Melville's disrupted career even while truncating his body of work and minimizing his aesthetic interests. Parker celebrates the "divine amateurs" who use new technology to discover dazzling Melville stories and also lauds the writers of literature blogs as potential redeemers of academic and mainstream media reviewing. In the third part, Parker invites readers into his biographical workshop and challenges them with ambitious research assignments. Throughout this bold book, Parker seeks to reinvigorate the all-but-lost art of scholarly literary criticism and biography.
3 Books To Know Travel Literature-Nellie Bly 2020-05-02 Welcome to the3 Books To Know series, our idea is to help readers learn about fascinating topics through three essential and relevant books. These carefully selected works can be fiction, non-fiction, historical documents or even biographies. We will always select for you three great works to instigate your mind, this time the topic is: Travel Literature.

- Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad - Typee, by Herman Melville - Around the World in Seventy-Two Days Nellie Bly

Heart of Darkness (1899) is a novella by Polish-British novelist Joseph Conrad about a narrated voyage up the Congo River into the Congo Free State in the so-called Heart of Africa. Charles Marlow, the narrator, tells his story to friends aboard a boat anchored on the River Thames. This setting provides the frame for Marlow's story of his obsession with the ivory trader Kurtz, which enables Conrad to create a parallel between what Conrad calls "the greatest town on earth", London, and Africa as places of darkness. Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life is the first book by American writer Herman Melville, published first in London, then New York, in 1846. Considered a classic in travel and adventure literature, the narrative is partly based on the author's actual experiences on the island Nuku Hiva in the South Pacific Marquesas Islands in 1842, liberally supplemented with imaginative reconstruction and adaptation of material from other books. The title is from the province Tai Pi Vai. Typee was Melville's most popular work during his lifetime; it made him notorious as the "man who lived among the cannibals". Around the World in Seventy-Two Days is an 1890 book by journalist Elizabeth Jane Cochrane, writing under her pseudonym, Nellie Bly. The chronicle details her 72-day trip around the world, which was inspired by the book, Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne. She carried out the journey for Joseph Pulitzer's tabloid newspaper, the New York World. This is one of many books in the series 3 Books To Know. If you liked this book, look for the other titles in the series, we are sure you will like some of the topics.

Rain Taxi Review of Books- 2004

American college, and why liberal education still matters As the commercialization of American higher education accelerates, more and more students are coming to college with the narrow aim of obtaining a preprofessional credential. The traditional four-year college experience—an exploratory time for students to discover their passions and test ideas and values with the help of teachers and peers—is in danger of becoming a thing of the past. In College, prominent cultural critic Andrew Delbanco offers a trenchant defense of such an education, and warns that it is becoming a privilege reserved for the relatively rich. In describing what a true college education should be, he demonstrates why making it available to as many young people as possible remains central to America's democratic promise. In a brisk and vivid historical narrative, Delbanco explains how the idea of college arose in the colonial period from the Puritan idea of the gathered church, how it struggled to survive in the nineteenth century in the shadow of the new research universities, and how, in the twentieth century, it slowly opened its doors to women, minorities, and students from low-income families. He describes the unique strengths of America's colleges in our era of globalization and, while recognizing the growing centrality of science, technology, and vocational subjects in the curriculum, he mounts a vigorous defense of a broadly humanistic education for all. Acknowledging the serious financial, intellectual, and ethical challenges that all colleges face today, Delbanco considers what is at stake in the urgent effort to protect these venerable institutions for future generations. In a new afterword, Delbanco responds to recent developments—both ominous and promising—in the changing landscape of higher education.

The Melville-Hawthorne Connection-Erik Hage 2013-11-05 This book offers the first in-depth examination of the friendship between the authors. Hawthorne's influence upon Moby-Dick is weighed, as is the probability of Melville's influence upon Hawthorne. This was a friendship whose true basis—beyond an almost instantaneous mutual affinity and admiration for each other—was intellectual ideas and literary pursuits, and the conversations between the two hewed mostly to philosophical and spiritual rumination as well as to those matters that concern writers most: craft and publishing.