



John Steinbeck (1902-1968)

Steinbeck was in the course of his mixed career a common laborer, world traveler, novelist, short-story writer, essayist, and playwright. He produced 18 volumes of fiction, eight works of nonfiction, and three plays. Of Irish and German ancestry, he was born in Salinas Valley, California, an area that served as the setting for many of his best novels and one of his plays, *Of Mice and Men*.

Excerpt from Richard Astro in *American Novelists 1910-1945*:

“Throughout a career which spanned four decades, John Steinbeck was a novelist of people. His best books are about ordinary men and women, simple souls who do battle against dehumanizing social forces or who struggle against their own inhumane tendencies and attempt, sometimes successfully, sometimes not, to forge lives of meaning and worth. At the center of Steinbeck's thematic vision is a dialectic between contrasting ways of life: between innocence and experience, between primitivism and progress, and between self-interest and commitment to the human community. In much of his work, Steinbeck championed what in *The Grapes of Wrath* he called “man's proven capacity for greatness of heart and spirit.

WRITINGS BY THE AUTHOR:

Productions

Of Mice and Men
The Moon Is Down
Burning Bright

Selected Books

Cup of Gold
The Pastures of Heaven
To a God Unknown
Tortilla Flats In Dubious Battle
Of Mice and Men [novel]
Of Mice and Men: A Play in Three Acts
The Red Pony
The Long Valley
The Grapes of Wrath
The Forgotten Village
Sea of Cortez
The Moon Is Down [novel]
The Moon Is Down: Play in Two Parts

Bombs Away
Cannery Row
The Wayward Bus
The Pearl
A Russian Journal
Burning Bright: A Play in Story Form [novel]
Burning Bright: Play in Three Acts
East of Eden
Sweet Thursday
The Short Reign of Pippin IV
Once There Was A War
The Winter of Our Discontent
Travels With Charley
America and Americans
Journal of a Novel
The Acts of King Arthur and His Noble Knights

Screenplays

The Forgotten Village
The Pearl
The Red Pony
Viva Zapata!

Periodical Publications

"... the novel might benefit by the discipline, the terseness ...," *Stage*, 15 (January 1938): 50-51.

"Critics, Critics Burning Bright," *Saturday Review of Literature*, 33 (11 November 1950): 20-21.

Letters

Steinbeck: A Life in Letters, ed. Elaine Steinbeck and Robert Wallsten (New York: Viking, 1975).

FURTHER READINGS ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bibliography:

Tetsumaro Hayashi, *A New Steinbeck Bibliography (1929-1971)* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1973).

Biography:

Thomas Kiernan, *The Intricate Music: A Biography of John Steinbeck* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1979).

References:

Warren French, *John Steinbeck* (Boston: Twayne, 1975).

Howard Levant, *The Novels of John Steinbeck: A Critical Study* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1974), pp. 130-163.

Peter Lisca, *John Steinbeck: Nature and Myth* (New York: Crowell, 1978).

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