



## **Invisible Giants: Fifty Americans Who Shaped the Nation but Missed the History Books**

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History records the accomplishments of individuals. For successive generations of Americans, iconic figures such as Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Thomas Edison, and Emily Dickinson have been household names and role models, inspiring us all by the lessons their lives teach us. But some great Americans, just as worthy, never attain this recognition. Because history is as fallible as the people who record it, many of those who shaped the nation and its future have receded from public memory. In celebration of these lives-and to demonstrate the lasting power history's giants have over their successors-Oxford University Press recently asked fifty accomplished personalities from a diverse range of industries and interests to each select a person from the 24-volume *American National Biography* that they felt deserved more attention. The biographies of these forgotten figures appear alongside the often-personal comments of their selectors in *Invisible Giants*, a varied and lively collection of portraits celebrating history's forgotten and fading heroes.

In *Invisible Giants* we discover the man who inspired Sherwin Nuland to become a doctor, the writer Jacques Barzun considers America's first cultural critic, and the woman who taught Tina Brown to bare her teeth. We learn of the poetry recited to Henry Louis Gates, Jr., as a boy, the magazine Helen Gurley Brown required every one of her editors to subscribe to, and the book Andy Rooney deems "better than the Bible and easier to understand." Whether encountering these figures for the first time or uncovering surprising details in the lives you thought you knew, today's public thinkers guide us on a journey into the deep folds of our rich biographical tapestry.

Edited by Mark Carnes and published with the American Council of Learned Societies, *Invisible Giants* introduces one of the nation's most treasured resources--*The American National Biography*--to a broad audience by presenting the architects of our country's past through the eyes of the architects of its future.

*Invisible Giants* includes: James Agee (Sven Birkets)

Jessie Daniel Ames (Alan Brinkley)

Rodger Nash Baldwin (Richard Avedon)

Béla Bartók (John Simon)

Sterling Brown (Sharon Olds)

John Jay Chapman (Jacques Barzun)

John England (Andrew Greeley)

Oliver Evans (Harold Evans)

Dorothy Fields (David Lehman)

Charles Grandison Finney (Edmund Morgan)

Arthur Goldberg (Alan Dershowitz)

Adolphus Washington Greely (Simon Winchester)

Charles Tomlinson Griffes (Wayne Koestenbaum)

William Halsted (Sherwin Nuland)

Fannie Lou Hamer (Gloria Steinem)

Handsome Lake (Wilma Mankiller)

Herman Haupt (James McPherson)

DuBois Heyward (Stephen Sondheim)

Henry Hornbostel (Michael Graves)

James Gibbons Huneker (Gary Giddins)

Libbie Henrietta Hyman (Steven Jay Gould)

Christopher Isherwood (Armistead Maupin)

Walter Lippmann (Andy Rooney)  
Melvin Beaunorus Tolson (Rita Dove)  
Bronislava Nijinska (Joan Acocella)  
Albert Jay Nock (William F. Buckley, Jr.)  
Fairfield Porter (Hilton Kramer)  
Dawn Powell (Fran Lebowitz)  
Bayard Rustin (Evan Wolfson)  
Sequoyah (William Least Heat-Moon)  
James McCune Smith (Henry Louis Gates, Jr.)  
Joseph Smith (Harold Bloom)  
Ida B. Wells-Barnett (Tina Brown)  
Dewitt Wallace (Helen Gurley Brown)

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