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# Contemporary Authors<sup>®</sup>

A Bio-Bibliographical Guide to  
Current Writers in Fiction, General Nonfiction,  
Poetry, Journalism, Drama, Motion Pictures,  
Television, and Other Fields

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NEW REVISION SERIES  
volume **26**

**NICHOLAS, Herbert George 1911-**

**PERSONAL:** Born June 8, 1911, in Treharris, Wales; son of W. D. (a clergyman) Nicholas. **Education:** Attended Mill Hill School; attended Yale University, 1935-37; New College, Oxford, M.A., 1938.

**ADDRESSES:** *Home*—3 William Orchard Close, Old Headington, Oxford, England.

**CAREER:** Oxford University, Exeter College, Oxford, England, lecturer and fellow, 1938-51; Ministry of Information, American Division, and His Majesty's Embassy, Washington, D.C., civil servant, 1941-46; Oxford University, New College, fellow, 1951-78, reader in the comparative study of institutions, 1956-68, Rhodes Professor of American History and Institutions, 1968-78, emeritus, 1978—, honorary fellow, 1980—. Faculty fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford University, 1948-57. Visiting professor, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., 1960; Albert Shaw Lecturer in Diplomatic History, Johns Hopkins University, 1961; visiting fellow, Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton University, 1964; visiting faculty fellow, Institute of Politics, Harvard University, 1968.

**MEMBER:** British Association for American Studies (chairman, 1959-62), British Academy (fellow: vice-president, 1975-76), Athenaeum Club (London).

**AWARDS, HONORS:** D.C.L., University of Pittsburgh, 1968.

**WRITINGS:**

- The American Union*, Chatto & Windus, 1948.  
*The British General Election of 1950*, Macmillan, 1951, reprinted, Biblio Distribution Centre, 1968.  
 (Editor) *To the Hustings: Election Scenes from English Fiction*, Cassells, 1955.  
*The United Nations as a Political Institution*, Oxford University Press, 1959, 5th edition, 1975.  
*Britain and the U.S.A.*, Johns Hopkins Press, 1963.  
*The American Past and the American Present*, Clarendon Press, 1971.  
 (With William E. Leuchtenburg) "The New Deal" (phonotape), BFA Educational Media, 1974.  
*The United States and Britain*, University of Chicago Press, 1975.  
*The Nature of American Politics*, Oxford University Press, 1980, 2nd edition, 1986.  
 (Editor) Isaiah Berlin. *Washington Despatches, 1941-45: Weekly Political Reports from the British Embassy*, University of Chicago Press, 1981.

Also author of *Law and Government in the United States*, in Chinese, 1950. Editor of *De la Democratie en Amerique*, by Alexis de Tocqueville. Contributor to *Reporter*, *Yale Review*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Economist*, *Listener*, *Observer*, and other journals.

**SIDELIGHTS:** A period of study at Yale University as well as five years spent in Washington, D.C., in the British diplomatic service have given Herbert George Nicholas an insight into the American political system that is rare for a foreign observer. Nicholas brings to his work "a profound and sympathetic . . . understanding of what makes the United States tick," remarks a reviewer in *Economist*. In a *Times Literary Supplement* review of *The Nature of American Politics*, Max Beloff likens Nicholas's work to that of other foreign scholars such as Tocqueville, Bryce, and Brogan. Although some critics have remarked that the author's work occasionally overlooks details and fails to comment on certain issues, many

echo Beloff's assessment that "Mr. Nicholas has excellent and illuminating things to say" about American politics.

*The Nature of American Politics* has been translated into Spanish.

**AVOCATIONAL INTERESTS:** Gardening, listening to music.

**BIOGRAPHICAL CRITICAL SOURCES:****PERIODICALS**

*Economist*, December 13, 1975.

*New Republic*, July 19, 1982.

*New York Review of Books*, December 17, 1981.

*New York Times Book Review*, October 4, 1981.

*Times Literary Supplement*, February 29, 1980, April 30, 1982.

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**NICHOLSON, Shirley J. 1925-**

**PERSONAL:** Born January 8, 1925, in Little Rock, Ark.; daughter of Franc Irving (a salesman) and Shirley (Paris) Mullen; married William M. Nicholson (a psychologist), February 17, 1957; children: Carol, Patty. **Education:** University of California, Los Angeles, B.A., 1957; Newark State College, Teacher Certification, 1968; Montclair State College, Teacher Certification, 1977. **Religion:** Episcopalian.

**ADDRESSES:** *Office*—Theosophical Publishing House, 306 West Geneva Rd., Wheaton, Ill. 60187.

**CAREER:** Prospect Hill School, Newark, N.J., teacher of science, 1963-68; Newark Museum, Newark, giver of talks for children, 1968-74; Glen Ridge Schools, Glen Ridge, N.J., teacher of children with learning disabilities, 1974-78; Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton, Ill., senior editor in charge of Quest Books, 1981—.

**MEMBER:** Theosophical Society, New Jersey Association of Independent Schools, Phi Beta Kappa.

**WRITINGS:**

- Nature's Merry-Go-Round* (juvenile), Theosophical Publishing, 1969.  
*Ancient Wisdom: Modern Insight*, Theosophical Publishing, 1985.  
*Shamanism: An Expanded View of Reality*, Theosophical Publishing, 1987.

Contributor to *Main Currents in Modern Thought*.

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**NICOL, Abioseh**

See **NICOL, Davidson (Sylvester Hector Willoughby)**

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**NICOL, Davidson (Sylvester Hector Willoughby) 1924- (Abioseh Nicol)**

**PERSONAL:** Born September 14, 1924, in Freetown, Sierra Leone; married; children: three sons, two daughters. **Education:** Attended London University, 1943; Christ's College, Cambridge, B.A. (first class honors), 1946, M.D., 1958; also received M.A., Ph.D. **Religion:** Christian.

**ADDRESSES:** *Office*—World Federation of United Nations Associations, c/o Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10,

Switzerland. *Agent*—Phyllis Westberg, Harold Ober Associates, 40 East 49th St., New York, N.Y. 10017; and David Higham Associates Ltd., 5-8 Lower John St., Golden Square, London W1R 4HA, England.

**CAREER:** University of London, London Hospital Medical College, London, England, house physician and research assistant, 1950-52; The Medical School, Ibadan, Nigeria, university lecturer, 1952-54; Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, Beit Memorial Fellow, 1954, fellow and supervisor in natural sciences and medicine at Christ's College, 1957-59; Sierra Leone Government, senior pathologist, 1958-60; Fourah Bay College, Freetown, Sierra Leone, principal, 1960-67; University of Sierra Leone, Freetown, first vice-chancellor, 1966-68; ambassador from Sierra Leone to United Nations, 1968-71, member of Economic and Social Council, 1969-70, chairman of Committee of 24 (decolonization), 1970, Security Council, member 1970-71, president, 1970; high commissioner of the Republic of Sierra Leone to United Kingdom, and ambassador to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Finland, 1971-72; United Nations, New York, New York, under-secretary and executive director of United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), 1973-82; World Federation of United Nations Associations, Geneva, Switzerland, president, 1983—.

Member of West African Council for Medical Research, 1959-62; member of public service commission, Sierra Leone, 1960-68. Conference delegate to World Health Organization Assembly, 1960, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Higher Education Conference, 1963, and Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, 1965, 1969, and 1971. Chairman, United Nations Mission to Angola, 1976.

Member of executive council, Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth, 1960, 1966; member of commission for proposed University of Ghana, 1960; chairman, University of East Africa Visiting Committee, 1962; chairman, West African Exams Council, 1964-69. Visiting lecturer, University of Toronto, University of California—Berkeley, and Mayo Clinic, 1958. Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg memorial lecturer, University of Ghana, 1963; Danforth Fellowship lecturer in African affairs, Association of American Colleges, 1968-71. Visiting fellow, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, 1983; visiting scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center, 1983, and Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 1984. Member, governing body, Kumasi University, Ghana; member of board of trustees, African-American Institute and Fund for Peace. Chairman of Sierra Leone National Library Board, 1959-65. Former director, Central Bank of Sierra Leone, Consolidated African Selection Trust Ltd., and Davesme Corporation. Fellow, Christ's College, Cambridge, Royal College of Pathologists (London), West African College of Physicians, and West African College of Surgeons. Honorary consultant pathologist, Sierra Leone Government. Consultant to Ford Foundation.

**MEMBER:** Sierra Leone Red Cross Society (president, 1962-66), West Africa Science Association (president, 1964-66); Ghana Academy of Sciences (honorary member), United Oxford and Cambridge University, Royal Commonwealth Society, Senior Dinner (Freetown).

**AWARDS, HONORS:** Margaret Wrong Prize and Medal for Literature in Africa, 1951; Independence Medal, Government of Sierra Leone, 1961; D.Sc. from University of Newcastle on Tyne, and Kalamazoo College, both 1964, and Laurentian

(Ontario) College; named Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, 1964; LL.D., University of Leeds, 1968, Barat College, 1980, University of the West Indies, 1981, and Tuskegee College, 1981; D.Litt., Davis-Elkins College, 1971; Grand Commander of the Order of Rokel, Sierra Leone, 1974; Star of Africa, Liberia, 1974; honorary special fellow, UNITAR, 1983.

**WRITINGS:**

- Alienation: An Essay*, MacGibbon & Kee, 1960.  
 (Contributor) *An African Treasury*, Crown, 1960.  
 (Contributor) *An Anthology of Commonwealth Verse*, Blackie, 1963.  
 (Contributor) Langston Hughes, editor, *Poems from Black Africa*, Indiana University Press, 1963.  
*Africa: A Subjective View*, Longmans, Green, 1964.  
 (Contributor) *African Heritage*, Macmillan (London), 1964.  
 (Contributor) *A Book of African Verse*, Heinemann, 1964.  
 (Under pseudonym Abioseh Nicol) *The Truly Married Woman and Other Stories* (fiction), Oxford University Press, 1965.  
 (Under pseudonym Abioseh Nicol) *Two African Tales* (fiction), Cambridge University Press, 1965.  
 (Contributor) D. I. Nwoga, editor, *West African Verse*, Longmans, Green, 1967.  
 (Contributor) *African Writing Today*, Penguin, 1967.  
 (Contributor) *Commonwealth Poems of Today*, J. Murray, 1967.  
 (Contributor) *New Voices of the Commonwealth*, Evans Brothers, 1968.  
 (Editor and author of introduction) *Africanus Horton: The Dawn of Nationalism in Modern Africa*, Longmans, Green, 1969, published as *Black Nationalism in Africa, 1867*, Africana Publishing, 1969.  
*New and Modern Roles for the Empire and Commonwealth*, Cambridge University Press, 1976.  
 (Editor) *Regionalism and the New International Economic Order*, Pergamon, 1981.  
 (Editor) *Paths to Peace: The U.N. Security Council and Its Presidency*, Pergamon, 1981.  
 (Editor with Luis Echeverria) *Regionalism and the New International Economic Order*, Pergamon, 1981.  
 (Editor with Pamela D'Onofrio) *Scientific-Technological Change and the Role of Women in Development*, Westview, 1981.  
 (With Margaret Crole and Babatunde Adeniran) *The United Nations Security Council: Towards Greater Effectiveness*, UNITAR, 1982.  
 (Editor with Torill Stokland and Mallica Vajrathon) *Creative Women in Changing Societies: A Quest for Alternatives*, Transnational, 1982.

Also author of *The United Nations and Decision-Making: The Role of Women*, 1978, and *Nigeria and the Future of Africa*, 1980. Contributor to *Malnutrition in African Mothers and Children*, 1954, *The Mechanism of the Action of Insulin*, 1960, *The Structure of Human Insulin*, 1960, *Conditions of World Order*, and *The Task of Universities in a Changing World*. Contributor to *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1974, and *International Encyclopedia of Higher Education*, 1976. Contributor of articles, short stories, and verse to anthologies and periodicals, including *Encounter*, *Blackwood's Magazine*, the *London Times*, *Guardian*, and *Economist*.

**SIDELIGHTS:** Although most of his career has been spent in the fields of medicine and diplomatic service, Davidson Nicol, writing as Abioseh Nicol, is "in the very forefront of African short story writers," comments Adrian A. Roscoe in *Mother Is Gold: A Study in West African Literature*. While critical

attention to African literature has focused more on novels and novelists, Roscoe finds that "there is no novelist in Nigeria . . . whose creative flair and command of prose are superior to those of Abioseh Nicol." Roscoe also commends Nicol's consistency, observing that he is able to sustain quality writing in his stories where some novelists weaken after a strong beginning. Nicol's talent lies in his "taking a slice of real life and offering it to us in all its workaday detail, all its blending of the tragic and the absurd," says Roscoe. "The style that allows this effect must possess the translucence of crystal."

Nicol's fiction deals more with "workaday" African life, often setting Westernized middle-class characters against an African background. Seemingly in contrast to these everyday subjects is Nicol's poetry, which Martin Tucker in *Africa in Modern Literature* characterizes as dealing with "Africa as a symbolic entity related to a social cause." Nicol reconciles these apparent differences, writing that his fiction addresses social issues, not by using symbols but by presenting a different viewpoint. In a foreword to *Two African Tales*, the author writes that his stories of colonial Africa "owe something to European writers . . . who wrote about similar situations. However, being both black and African, I was then on the other side of the fence and perhaps saw things differently."

**MEDIA ADAPTATIONS:** Readings of Nicol's poetry have been broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corp. and the Voice of America.

**AVOCATIONAL INTERESTS:** Antiques, especially old maps and coins.

**BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES:**

**BOOKS**

Nicol, Abioseh. *Two African Tales*. Cambridge University Press, 1965.

Roscoe, Adrian A., *Mother Is Gold: A Study in West African Literature*. Cambridge University Press, 1971.

Tibble, Anne, *African-English Literature*. P. Owen, 1965.

Tucker, Martin, *Africa in Modern Literature*. Ungar, 1967. †

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**NIEVERGELT, Jurg 1938-**

**PERSONAL:** Born June 6, 1938, in Lucerne, Switzerland; son of Albert and Hedwig Nievergelt; married Teresa Quiambao (a librarian), February 14, 1965; children: Mark, Derek. **Education:** Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Diploma, 1962; University of Illinois, Ph.D., 1965.

**ADDRESSES:** Office—Department of Computer Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

**CAREER:** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, assistant professor, 1965-68, associate professor, 1968-72, professor of computer science and mathematics, 1972-77; Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland, professor, 1971-72, 1975-85; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, William Rand Kenan Professor of Computer Science and chairman of department, 1985—.

**MEMBER:** Association for Computing Machinery, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi.

**WRITINGS:**

(Editor with Don Secrest) *Conference on Emerging Concepts in Computer Graphics*. University of Illinois Press, 1967, published as *Emerging Concepts in Computer Graphics*, W. A. Benjamin, 1968.

(Editor with Michael Faiman) *Pertinent Concepts in Computer Graphics*. University of Illinois Press, 1969.

(With J. C. Farrar and E. M. Reingold) *Computer Approaches to Problems in Mathematics*. Prentice-Hall, 1974.

(With Reingold and N. Deo) *Combinational Algorithms: Theory and Practice*. Prentice-Hall, 1977.

(Editor) *Document Preparation Systems: A Collection of Survey Articles*. North-Holland Publishing, 1982.

(With Andrea Ventura) *Small Programs for Small Machines: Computers and Education*. Addison-Wesley, 1985.

(With others) *Interactive Computer Programs for Education: Philosophy, Techniques, and Examples*. Addison-Wesley, 1986.

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**NORMAN, Adrian R(oger) D(udley) 1938-**

**PERSONAL:** Born October 10, 1938, in Alverstoke, Hampshire, England; son of Edward Dudley (a captain in the Royal Navy) and Aileen L. (Piper) Norman; married Katherine Redwood, September 22, 1962; children: Roger H., Fiona M. **Education:** Clare College, Cambridge, B.A., 1962, M.A., 1966; Columbia University, M.B.A., 1967. **Politics:** Tory. **Religion:** Atheist.

**CAREER:** Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston, England, engineer officer, 1957-63; International Business Machines Ltd., London, England, systems engineer, 1964-69; L. Messel & Co. (stockbrokers), London, computer manager, 1969-71; consultant, Interbank Research Organisation, 1971-73; Arthur D. Little Ltd., London, management sciences consultant, beginning 1973.

**MEMBER:** British Institute of Management (associate member), British Computer Society (fellow), Beta Gamma Sigma.

**WRITINGS:**

(With James Martin) *The Computerized Society: An Appraisal of the Impact of Computers on Society over the Next Fifteen Years*. Prentice-Hall, 1970.

(Editor with Peter Hamilton) *Handbook of Security*. Kluwer-Harrap, 1975.

*Electronic Document Delivery: The Artemis Concept*. Knowledge Industry Publications, 1981.

*Electronic Document Delivery*. Knowledge Industry Publications, 1981.

*Computer Insecurity*. Chapman and Hall, 1983.

Co-author of British Broadcasting Corp. television program, "The Invasion of Privacy." †

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**NORTHCOTE, Peter**  
**See COTES, Peter**

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**NOVAK, William (Arnold) 1948-**

**PERSONAL:** Born August 1, 1948, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada; son of George (a stockbroker) and Esther (Brill) Novak;