

# PAL: Perspectives in American Literature - A Research and Reference Guide - An Ongoing Project

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## Chapter 7: Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951)

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Source: [The Nobel Prize in Literature 1930](#)

Sinclair Lewis has the distinction of being the first American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature (1930) ". . . for his vigorous and graphic art of description and his ability to create, with wit and humour, new types of characters . . ." One of the muckrakers, Lewis's *Main Street* is a devastating indictment of American provincialism; in other works he satirizes businessmen (*Babbitt*), the medical profession (*Arrowsmith*), and evangelical religion (*Elmer Gantry*).

### Primary Works

*Our Mr. Wrenn, the romantic adventures of a gentle man*, 1914; *The Trail of the Hawk*, 1915; *The Job*, 1917; *The Innocents*, 1917; *Free air*, 1919; *Main Street*, 1920; *Babbitt*, 1922; *Arrowsmith*, 1925; *Mantrap*, 1926; *Elmer Gantry*, 1927; *The Man Who Knew Coolidge*, 1928; *Dodsworth, a novel*, 1929; *Ann Vickers*, 1933; *Work of art*, 1934; *It can't happen here, a novel*, 1935; *The prodigal parents, a novel*, 1938; *Bethel Merriday*, 1940; *Gideon Planish*, 1943; *Cass Timberlane, a novel of husbands and wives*, 1946; *Kingsblood Royal*, 1947; *The God-seeker, a novel*, 1949; *World so wide, a novel*, 1951.

*From Main Street to Stockholm; letters of Sinclair Lewis, 1919-1930*. Edited and with an introd. by Harrison Smith. NY: Harcourt, Brace 1952. PS3523.E94 Z53

*Storm in the West, by Sinclair Lewis and Dore Schary*. With an introd. by Dore Schary. Illus. by Sol Baer Fielding. NY: Stein and Day; distributed by Lippincott, Philadelphia 1963. PS3523.E94 S75

*Letters from Jack London: containing an unpublished correspondence between London and Sinclair Lewis*. edited by King Hendricks and Irving Shepard. London: MacGibbon & Kee, 1966. PS3523.O46 Z53

### Selected Bibliography 1980-Present

Bloom, Harold. ed. *Sinclair Lewis*. NY: Chelsea, 1987.

Bucco, Martin. *Critical essays on Sinclair Lewis*. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1986. PS3523 .E94 Z564

Connaughton, Michael. ed. *Sinclair Lewis at 100: Papers Presented at a Centennial Conference*. St. Cloud: St. Cloud State U, 1985.

Di Renzo, Anthony. ed. *If I Were Boss: The Early Business Stories of Sinclair Lewis*. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois UP, 1997.

Fleming, Robert E., and Esther Fleming. *Sinclair Lewis, a reference guide*. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1980. Z8504.38 .F56

Hutchisson, James M. *The Rise of Sinclair Lewis, 1920-1930*. University Park: Pennsylvania State UP, 1996. PS3523 .E94 Z58

Lingeman, Richard. *Sinclair Lewis: Rebel from Main Street*. St. Paul: Borealis, 2005.

## MLA Style Citation of this Web Page

Reuben, Paul P. "Chapter 7: Sinclair Lewis." *PAL: Perspectives in American Literature- A Research and Reference Guide*. URL: <http://www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/chap7/lewis.html> (provide page date or date of your login).

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