



**One Hundred Years of Solitude
Bestsellers in the United States, 1900-1999**

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Abstract

We study the fiction publishing sector using the top ten annual best-sold novels in the United States during the whole 20th century. We show that there is inequality in genders (especially between 1950 and 1980), and large differences in age for first and last book by bestselling authors. We also report on the number of times each writer is listed among the top ten, and find that during the 20 last years of the century, it became much more difficult for new writers to enter the list. Though we cannot show that this is caused by the very important concentration of publishers, the two phenomena are obviously correlated. We discuss at some length the reasons for which female authors almost disappeared as bestsellers after 1950, and make an incursion into the quality of bestsellers, using as measure the number of authors who were also given important literary awards.

Keywords: superstar effect, winner-takes-all effect, bestseller books

JEL classification: D43, Z11

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Some months afterwards he received a letter from his bookseller, informing him that only seven copies had been sold, and concluding with a polite request for the balance. Scythrop did not despair. 'Seven copies,' he thought, 'have been sold. Seven is a mystical number, and the omen is good. Let me find the seven purchasers of my seven copies, and they shall be the seven golden candlesticks with which I will illuminate the world.'

Thomas Love Peacock (1785-1866).

1. Introduction

The paper describes and analyzes how fiction books, authors and publishers have filled the top-ten fiction bestseller *Publishers Weekly* lists during the 20th century.

If talent were randomly distributed through generations, one could assume that the development of new technologies, the faster diffusion of information and the larger share of literate people should lead to a more equal distribution of names in the top ten bestseller lists as more writers with new ideas and styles start their careers. However, if these same technologies were used by a non-competitive industry, it could lead to the formation of information cascades and the prevalence of the winner takes all (or superstar) phenomenon, and thus to a larger concentration of names in the top ten positions. This possibility is especially harmful since it is linked to mechanisms that preclude possibly gifted writers to become known by readers.

The winner-takes-all hypothesis indeed appears to apply to many markets that provide digital goods, such as apps (Zhong and Michahelles, 2013) and music (Ordanini and Nunes, 2016). Since 2003, the number of artists appearing at the top of the music charts has been decreasing. This phenomenon coincided with the launching of iTunes, the growing availability of legal online music providers (Amazon, Spotify, Pandora, etc.), and the increasing share of revenue coming from streaming services (Ordanini and Nunes, 2016). In the book industry, however, the increased concentration of authors on bestseller lists started in the 1980s, many years before the existence of a digital market for books. This is puzzling, in the same way as some other questions, in particular, the poor achievements of female writers as bestsellers between 1950 and 1980, and whether bestsellers are books of quality rewarded by literary prizes.

Sociologists have been very active in understanding the concept of bestseller and worked extensively on the book industry. See among others, Bourdieu (1996), Ekelund (2002), Ekelund and Börjesson (2002), Gardiner (2000), Heinich, (2011/12), Keuschnigg (2015), Long (2017), Lunden et al. (2002), Mann (1985), Owen (1997), Sapiro (2014), van Rees (1983), van Rees and Vermunt (1996) and Verboord (2011, 2012). We take an economic approach, and use simple statistical tools to display some significant facts and quantify them. Since the facts and possible consequences are interlaced, it would be very risky to use more sophisticated econometrics since one does not fully know what, in this case, is a cause and what is a consequence.¹ For instance, a change in the genre of literary works took place in the mid-1960s, that probably attracted a different group of readers. Roughly at the same time, the book industry started to concentrate, and the share of female authors dropped. Who can clearly decipher which event caused the other one? Therefore, we chose to illustrate these phenomena by correlations instead of looking for causality. We mainly study all 378 bestselling authors listed between 1900 and 1999, but also go into the details of novels when needed. The following issues are discussed: gender, age of authors, recurring authors and the number of times they were listed, the “quality” of bestselling authors as well as entry and exit probabilities. We also deal with three special and unexpected facts that seem to have happened during the 20th century: (i) the role and evolution of the number of female novelists over time, the tentative explanation of the observed drop in their number from 4 to 2 per year, especially during the 1960s and 1970s, and the simultaneous increase in their age of first appearance in the lists between 1960 and 1980, (ii) the growing difficulty for newcomers to access the list, especially after 1970, at the same time as the increasing concentration in the fiction publishing industry, and (iii) the apparent loss of literary quality (measured by the awards bestowed by three important literary prizes) during the end of the 20th century.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the database. Section 3 is devoted to listed novelists as well as to some of their achievements. In Section 4, we analyze the three unexpected facts alluded to earlier. Section 5 concludes.

¹ See however Sorensen (2007) on an issue we do not study here. Using 1,200 hardcover fiction titles released in 2001 and 2002 provided by Nielsen BookScan, he studies whether appearing on a bestseller list increases sales. Being on the list and selling more (or less) is obviously simultaneous, and must be studied using weekly data (instead of annual ones as we do) and more sophisticated econometrics. Sorensen shows that appearing on the list for the first time causes a small positive effect on sales.

2. Data

Though there exist many bestseller lists nowadays, the two best-known and oldest are *The New York Times* list, published every week, since October 1931, and the *Publishers Weekly (PW)* list, which started in 1895. We chose the *PW* list since it is the oldest and covers the whole 20th century. *PW* started to compute lists of bestsellers in 1895, long before *The New York Times* and *Nielsen BookScan*. Though *PW*'s results are published every week, we only use the annual aggregated list which shows how authors and publishers have filled the top-ten fiction bestsellers list during each year from 1900 to 1999. It would have been difficult, and probably less informative to look at weekly results, since these change 52 times per year obviously, and we would have ended with 5,200 lists and probably many more authors and books, which appear during one or a couple of weeks after publication, but hardly result in selling a large number of copies to make it to the yearly list. This also makes it possible to aggregate hardcovers and paperbacks that follow if a book is successful.

Our data rely on Michael Korda's (2001) *Making the List*, in which he briefly comments each decade. The volume collects all authors, titles and publishers that appeared in *Publishers Weekly* fiction bestseller lists between 1900 and 1999, though here and there we describe what happened after 2000. Korda displays ten fiction books between 1900 and 1979. After 1979, there are 15, but to remain consistent and work with the longest time period, we only included the first ten. To construct the most complete view of novelists who appear in a list between 1900 and 1999, we added their bestsellers preceding 1900 (14 titles), and extended the list beyond 1999 as long as those who were present before 1999 were still there, which makes for 58 additional titles recovered from the *PW* web pages.

This eventually leads us to a list of 1,073 bestsellers, of which 1,001 were listed between 1900 and 1999 (the additional book to the 10 times 100, is due to the year 1922, in which two books tied for the tenth place, making for 11 bestsellers instead of 10), and 72 appeared before 1900 or after 1999. The list includes 378 authors.

A couple of novels are coauthored. Each of these is of course counted only once and, to simplify, considered to be written by the first author.² Books that were written by a former bestselling author, and a second author, were attributed to the former author.³

² Thus, only one author is counted.

³ This happens in six cases: one book by Stephen King and Peter Straub in 2001, one by Fletcher Knebel and Charles Bailey in 1911, four by James Patterson and respective coauthors Peter DeJonge, Michael Ledwige and two with Maxine Paetro.

One book, *Naked Came the Stranger*, by a certain Penelope Ashe (a hoax written by a group of 24 journalists headed by Mike McGraddy) made it to the list in 1969. It appears in the database under the name of Penelope born in 1933 like Mike McGraddy. *Primary Colors* published by “Anonymous” in 1996 is a work by political columnist Joe Klein. Novelist Elizabeth von Arnim wrote under two pen names: Alice Cholmondeley in 1917 and “Elizabeth” for two other books in 1919 and 1923. We considered her as two separate writers. There are probably other such cases, but we did not make a deep investigation to find them, since, at the time, readers probably did not know either that the books had been written by the same author.

We collected the writers, titles and publishers of all 1,073 bestsellers, as well as the following characteristics for each of the 378 novelists who are alphabetically listed in Appendix:

- order number (alphabetical order of authors);
- last and first name of the writer;
- gender;
- date of birth;
- first year listed as bestselling writer;
- last year listed as bestselling writer;
- age at first time of appearance in the list;
- long-lasting bestselling or recurring authors;
- consecutive years in the list;
- number of times in the list;
- new-coming authors;
- bestsellers literary awards.

Among these characteristics, (i) last and first name of the writer, title of the book, publisher are based on Korda (2001) or the *PW* website for the years before 1900 and after 1999; (ii) gender and date of birth are retrieved from websites, in particular *Wikipedia*'s biographies of writers; Nobel Prize winners are available on the Nobel Prize website; Pulitzer and National Book awards winners are available on the Pulitzer and the National Book awards *Wikipedia* sites; (iii) and finally, first and last year as bestselling writer, age at first time of appearance, number of years between first and last appearance, consecutive years in the list, number of times in a list, and how newcomers fare, are computed from data available in (i) and (ii).

With some exceptions (Section 4.1), we do not discuss genre (historical fiction, war fiction, adventure, horror, mystery, suspense, science fiction, romance, etc.) of each book. We realize that genre is important, but difficult to retrieve, and many books are simply qualified as “general fiction,” without any further detail. Though we could have looked at the genre of each author instead, this would have been insufficient, since authors go from one genre to another over time.⁴ Long (2017), among others, deals with the relation between the genre of bestselling novels and the changing American Dream.

3. A statistical analysis

In this section, we illustrate and comment on some basic facts collected from the characteristics described above. Most tables (1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9) usually contain the following information: order number (alphabetical order), last name, first name, gender, date of birth, first year listed, last year listed, age at first time in the list, age at last time in the list, number of years between first and last time, maximal number of consecutive years, and number of times in the list. The column which contains the essential information is shaded. Tables 4, 5, 8 and 10 are specific on some topics. Figures 1, 2, 4 and 5 describe the evolution over time of a characteristic related to writers (for instance, gender) and include two types of information: large dots that represent the yearly means of the characteristic studied, and a dotted line which shows ten-year moving averages.

3.1 Women and men

Though censuses show that women outnumber men as writers (Verboord, 2012, p. 399), the average share of bestselling women over the period 1900-1999 is roughly equal to 35 percent (131 out of 378 authors). Figure 1 makes clear that the percentage of women appearing among the top ten was a little over 40 percent before World War II, with a peak of 70 percent in 1931, which includes Pearl Buck, Willa Cather, Bess Streeter Aldrich, Vicki Baum, Margaret Ayer Barnes, Fannie Hurst and Mazo de la Roche, who rub shoulders with Erich Maria Remarque, Warwick Deeping and John Galsworthy. The first man, Remarque is only number 6 in the list as the first five spots are occupied by women. Around 1940, the share of bestselling women started to

⁴ Cima (2017) analyzes the genre of books written by women and men separately and by decade from 1950 to 2010. See Rosie Cima (2017) Bias, she wrote. The gender balance of the *New York Times* best sellers list, *The Pudding*, <https://pudding.cool/2017/06/best-sellers/> (last consulted, May 5, 2018).

decrease, falling to a low 20 percent on average (10 percent in many cases, and zero in 1951), before coming back, but only rarely above 40 percent at the turn of the 1980s. A second peak year for women occurred in 2012—though the year is out of our time frame which stops in 1999—with eight books out of ten: four titles by E. L. James, the pseudonym taken by Erika Mitchell (*Fifty Shades of Gray*, *Fifty Shades Darker*, *Fifty Shades Freed*, *Fifty Shades Trilogy* in the first four positions, with over 14 millions books sold), followed by Gillian Flynn (*Gone Girl*), J.K. Rowling (*The Casual Vacancy*) in positions 5 and 6, Sylvia Day (*Bared to You*) and Nora Roberts (*The Last Boyfriend*) in positions 8 and 9. Overall, however, women writers failed to steadily reach their pre-World War II performance, since there was a new fall after the year 2000.⁵

As we shall also see later (Figure 2 and Section 4.1), this fall is correlated with an increase in age of women at their first entry into the list which suddenly jumped from 40 to 55, including many cases of over 60, especially after the early 1960s.

3.2 Age of entering and exiting the list

The average age of entry in the bestseller lists lies somewhere between 40 and 45, with an overall average of 44. Figure 2 shows that this is so for both genders until the early 1960s but for women, it increases very quickly and reaches age 55 in the late 1970s. Tables 1a and 1b give an overview of very young novelists (30 or younger) who accessed to the list for the first time and those who exited from the list at (sometimes) very old age.

The youngest ever was the French writer Françoise Sagan who made her entry at age 20 with her famous *Bonjour Tristesse*. Bertha Runkle (22), Sylvia Thomson (24), and Vina Delmar (25) follow her. Interestingly enough, all youngest writers are women, and in the whole list of youngsters, there are eight women and only six men, while over the 100 years, only 35 percent of authors are women. Two of the youngsters (Françoise Sagan and Louis Vance) appear twice in a row, with different titles, while all others were there only once and never again. Young age and duration do not seem to go together, at least in bestseller lists.

Among the elderly, we distinguish three types. First, those who appeared in the lists after the age of 80: Agatha Christie was listed for the first time in 1975 (and a second time in 1976), one year before dying in January 1976 at age 86. Second, J. R. R.

⁵ This calculation is of course based on the full number of ten bestsellers.

Tolkien and Harper Lee accessed to the list when they were no longer living. Tolkien died in 1973. His son, Christopher, edited *The Silmarillion*, written before the Second World War, but at the time, the story goes, the publisher rejected it without having read it fully. The book nevertheless topped the list in 1977. Harper Lee's second book *Go Set a Watchman* was published in 2015 and entered the list in 2016, the year in which she died; she was 90 years old, but the book had been written much earlier, even before her Pulitzer Prize winner *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which made it third to the list in 1961. Helen Santmyer was luckier, since she could celebrate her entry at age 89, before dying one year later. Finally, James Michener started quite young and ended quite old: He was 44 years old when he entered the list for the first time, and 85 for the last time. Sidney Sheldon was respectively 59 the first time and 80 the last one. They were both very prolific, with 15 and 11 bestsellers. The case of Dr. Seuss is also exceptional, since he was 80 years old and still living, when his book rhyming story *The Butter Battle Book* became a bestseller.⁶

3.3 Long-lasting bestselling writers

Table 2 shows the 23 authors who published their last bestseller at least 25 years after their first one. Harper Lee has two books, the first in 1961, the second 55 years later, in 2016 (but as already mentioned, the book was written much earlier); and so does Edward Streeter, the first time in 1918, and the second and last time in 1949. Michael Crichton wrote 11 books that are in the list, within 42 years; James Michener has 15 within 41 years. John Grisham and Stephen King made it much faster and appeared in the lists more frequently. With the exception of John Le Carré and Edward Streeter, all have their latest book after age 60.

3.4 Consecutive years in the list

Seventeen writers made it to the list during three consecutive years, three writers made it four times, and another nine made it more than four times. Among the superstars, we should list Danielle Steel (18 consecutive years), John Grisham (15), James Patterson (12) and Stephen King (9). It even happened that Danielle Steel and Stephen King produced several bestsellers during the same year!

⁶ This seems to be the only book for children that made it to the *Publishers Weekly* fiction list during the 20th century, though it may also be of interest to adults: Wikipedia's entry describes it as "a parable about arms races in general, mutually assured destruction and nuclear weapons in particular." This does not mean that books for children are never bestsellers. See for example Roback and Hochman Turvey (2001) who list of over 500 children bestsellers, some of which sold more than 10 million copies.

3.5 Top bestselling writers

One hundred and eighty (almost one half) out of the 378 novelists are listed only once, and 73 are listed twice. These numbers are almost twice as large for men than for women, as can be checked in Figure 3. Once they reach the list, the probability for men to achieve more than one or two appearances ($0.34 = 85/247$) is a little smaller than for women ($0.38 = 50/131$). This slightly compensates women for showing up less often than men.

Table 3 lists the 33 writers who showed up at least eight times. They make for 395 books or bestseller slots (not necessarily different titles, since some are bestsellers during two, and even three years) out of a total of some 1,000 bestseller slots.⁷ Thus, 33 writers (nine percent of the total of 378) occupy almost 40 percent of the slots during a little more than 100 years. However, there is a sharp contrast between the periods 1960-1979 during which the top ten authors occupy 29 percent and the period 1980-1999 during which the top ten occupy 55 percent.

Only seven among the 33 novelists appearing at least eight times and listed in Table 3, are women. Novels written by these women reach the list 89 times (of which 32 by the sole Danielle Steel) out of the total 395 bestsellers slots (that is, $89/395 = 23$ percent). The asymmetry between men and women is therefore larger among frequently appearing authors than in the whole 1900-1999 distribution of authors and books, where women represent 35 percent of the total. Highly best sold women are thus less successful than highly best sold men.

Stephen King (with 36 slots of horror, supernatural fiction, suspense, science fiction and fantasy novels) is first, followed by Danielle Steel and John Grisham (32 slots each, the first with romance novels, the second with thrillers). This is a long way from James Patterson (18 slots of thrillers, non-fiction and romance), James Michener (15 slots, fictional family sagas, incorporating solid history), Tom Clancy (14 slots, espionage and military science stories), Lloyd Douglas (13 slots, moral, didactic and distinctly religious book).⁸ Times and tastes change. They started with morale and religion (Lloyd Douglas, born in 1877), crossed horror and thrillers with Stephen

⁷ Recall that this number is larger than the 1,001 slots between 1900 and 1999, since we started earlier than 1900 and stopped later than 1999, to get the whole lists of books written by authors who appeared between 1900 and 1999. Though some authors may keep going after 2015. For children's books, see Diane Roback and Debbie Hochman Turvey (2001), All-time bestselling children's books, *Publishers Weekly*, December 17. <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-industry-news/article/28595-all-time-bestselling-children-s-books.html> (last consulted May 13, 2018).

⁸ The short descriptions of the type of literature are taken from *Wikipedia*'s biographies.

King and John Grisham, and are getting, after 1999, to erotic romance, with E. L. James' series of *Fifty Shades...*

3.6 How do newcomers fare?

Figure 4 illustrates the distribution of the current average number of times each author comes back to the list in every year (light dots) and ten-year moving averages. The “annual mean current number of times” is computed as follows. In each year, ten authors appear in the list. For each year and each author, we compute the number of times she or he has been on the list before.⁹ In 1986 for example, Stephen King is in for the ninth time, John Le Carré (eighth time), Robert Ludlum (seventh time), Danielle Steel (fifth time), James Clavell and Judith Krantz (fourth time), Jackie Collins and Louis L'Amour (third time), Tom Clancy and Pat Conroy (first time). The total is thus $9 + 8 + 7 + 5 + 2 \times 4 + 2 \times 3 + 2 \times 1 = 45$; this number is then divided by ten, since there are ten novelists in the list, so that the current average number of times is 4.5. If they all were newcomers, this number would be equal to 1. The general formula is:

$$m_t = \frac{1}{10} \sum_{i=1}^{10} n_{it},$$

where n_{it} is the number of times author i showed up on the list before and including year t , and m_t stands for the current average number of times in year t .

Both the light yearly dots and the ten-year moving average curve show that until 1980, the average author appears roughly three times. This number is the same for women and men. After 1980 the number starts increasing for both genders, but women end up in year 2000 with an average number of 13, while men reach only 7.5. This changes again after 2000: it drops to five for women in 2010, while it keeps increasing for men. The authors who provoked these movements after 1980 are: Tom Clancy (from 1986 to 2011), Patricia Cornwell (1996-2010), Michael Crichton (1969-2011), John Grisham (1991-2016), Stephen King (1979-2014), Robert Ludlum (1973-1993), James Michener (1951-1992), Sidney Sheldon (1976-1997), and Danielle Steel (1983-2000). It is again remarkable that this enumeration counts seven men, but only two women (Cornwell and Steel), who, given that the number of female authors declined between 2000 and 2010 (see Figure 1) were able to raise considerably the m_t for women.

⁹ Newcomers are thus novelists who had *never* been among the bestsellers.

Obviously, this movement resulted in a sharp reduction of the number of new entrants in the list after 1980 as shown in Table 4. The number of new entrants dropped from four between 1900 and 1970 to 2.9 between 1980 and 1990, 2.1 during the next ten years and 0.7 afterwards.

3.7 How do authors move position in the bestseller's list?

We now analyze the probabilities that an author who was in a certain position (1 to 10) on the top list in year $t-1$ will be in another position or exiting the list in year t , that is the year after entering. We construct two Markov transition tables containing ten rows and eleven columns. The first ten represent positions 1 to 10; the eleventh column captures exits from the list. Row 1, for instance, gives the probabilities that an author who was in position 1 in $t-1$ will stay in position 1 (column 1), or in any other position (columns 2 to 10), or exit (column 11). Line 2 does the same for authors who were in position 2 in year $t-1$, and so forth. Since there are only 10 books and slots per year, we thought that yearly results would be very erratic, and chose to add the yearly transitions to obtain two sub-periods since there is a significant change that has taken place in the late 1970s. The aggregate results for the two periods (1900-1979 and 1980-1999) appear in Tables 5a and 5b respectively. Each term a_{ij} in both tables is obtained as the sum $\sum_{t=1}^{t=T} a_{ij,t}$ over individual annual changes a_{ij} between slots ($T = 1979$ in Table 5a and 1999 in Table 5b): If an author moves from slot 2 in year $t-1$ to slot 3 in year t , $a_{23,t} = 1$, while all other $a_{2j,t}$ for $j \neq 3$ will be equal to 0. They are then divided to recover percentages, so that the numbers in each line sum to 1. The transitions that we consider here are from one year to the next, which means that authors who entered in year $t-1$ and took a break of one or several years before reappearing are considered to have exited in year t .¹⁰ Several results deserve attention:

(a) The average exit rates in the last column of both tables represent also average entry rates for newcomers in the next year. Table 5a shows that exit and therefore also new entry rates are much larger during the period 1900-1979 (78 percent) than during the more recent period 1980-2000 shown in Table 5b where they go down to 53 percent.

(b) As both tables show, the probabilities of exit are larger for authors who occupied the last slots. For example, in Table 5b (1980-2000), the average rate is 37 percent for slots 1 to 3 and 72 percent for slots 8 to 10. The reason for this increase is that the odds of staying is much larger for authors who were among the very first bestsellers.

¹⁰ This can of course be obviated by aggregating years, but we did not pursue this issue.

The difference is smaller in Table 5a (1900-1979), where exit rates across slots are more equal, but also much larger than during the last years of the century. The last rows (say 7 to 10) also contain many 0 in the 5 first columns, indicating that it is hard to get from slots 7 to 10 to the very first slots.

(c) The probability for a bestselling author to stay among the first 5 slots has dramatically increased between the two sub-periods. It was equal to some 22 percent between 1900 and 1979, and jumps to 60 percent after 1979 (first five elements in line 1 of both tables).

All this is fully consistent with what we singled out previously with respect to the staying power of a small number of novelists during the last years of the 20th century.

3.8 Can bestselling authors also be Nobel Prize winners?

Fourteen American writers received the Nobel Prize. They are shown in Table 6. Seven received the Nobel Prize either (i) before their first bestseller: William Faulkner and Toni Morrison, or (ii) between their first and last bestseller: Pearl Buck, Ernest Hemingway and Sinclair Lewis, or (iii) after their last bestseller: Saul Bellow and John Steinbeck. The other seven Nobel laureates never made it to be bestsellers: Joseph Brodsky, Bob Dylan, Thomas Eliot, Czeslaw Milosz, Eugene O'Neill, Isaac Bashevis Singer and Derek Walcott since, with the exception of Singer, they were mainly poets or playwrights.¹¹

Several winners were very successful popular writers: Sinclair Lewis became a bestseller 11 times, John Steinbeck, 8 times, Hemingway, 5 times, Pearl Buck, 4 times and Saul Bellow, 3 times. With the exception of Bellow and Steinbeck who got the Prize *after* their last bestselling book, the three others made it roughly in the middle of their career. It is therefore not easy to decide whether being a bestselling author helped becoming a Nobel laureate or the other way around.

In Section 4.3 we use Nobel Prizes, as well as Pulitzer and National Book awards to define quality and check how quality evolved over time.

¹¹ Eliot was born in the United States, but moved to Great Britain at age 25, and eventually became British subject. Brodsky was born in Russia, Milosz in Poland. They both moved to the U.S. and became U.S. citizens before receiving the Prize.

4. Three Questions: Female Authors, Long Lasting Authors and Quality of Bestselling Authors

In this section, we tackle three essential questions. The first deals with the observation that the number of female authors sharply declined to less than three and sometimes to one author or even zero per year in the list between the early 1960 and the 1980s, and that, during roughly the same period, the mean age of those who made it to the list for the first time increased considerably. We have no fully convincing explanation for why this happened. Our best guess is that it may be due to a shift in genres of literature, which was beneficial to male writers. The second question concerns the fact that in the late 1980s, the same female and male writers appeared much more frequently in bestseller lists than before. This is indeed correlated (and may be caused, but we have no proof for this) with the concentration in the US publishing industry. The third question deals with the quality of bestsellers and its evolution over time. We interpret or assimilate the choices made by the Nobel, Pulitzer and the National Book committees to “literary quality,” and find that the number of awarded recipients among bestsellers declined over time.

4.1 What happened to bestselling women between 1950 and 1980?

In their 2002 paper on the analysis of publishing careers, Ekelund and Bøjesson (2002, p. 362) point out that “the distribution of gender is markedly different in 1955, compared to the situation fifteen years earlier: There are fewer women, who commit their debut later and have shorter careers than did their 1940 counterparts.” This was already true in 1955, but became much worse after 1955.

Figure 5a clearly shows that during the period starting in 1940 and ending in 1980, the share of women decreased from a little more than 4 writers per year to 2, with a slow recovery in the 1980s. Interestingly enough their age of first appearance as bestsellers which was stable at 40, started to increase in the early 1960s, peaked at 55, and decreased again in the early 1980s. This increase in age is thus correlated with the decrease in the number of women. Table 7 lists female writers who entered for the first time in the list between 1961 and 1990. Their number is equal to 33, that is roughly one new arrival only per year. With a few exceptions (Françoise Sagan in 1955, Grace Metalious in 1956, Gwen Davis in 1969 and Jackie Collins in 1983), the age at first entry is often over 50. Figure 5b turns to male writers and shows that, of course, their share increased during the same period, but their average age of first entry remained relatively stable.

Table 8 details the list of female authors between 1950 and 1980, the period during which the largest increase of age combined with the lowest share of female writers took place. In the 1950s, the number of female writers was equal to four or five in five years: 1952, 1953, 1956, 1957 and 1958, and their average age was quite low (late 40s and sometimes much younger). Later on, and with the exception of 1969, their number falls to three in eight cases, two in six cases, one in four cases and zero in 1951, leading to an average of 2.1 women per year. Given these small numbers, it is sufficient to have one entrant who is older than, say 60, to push the average age up. This happens in almost each of the 21 years that follow. In addition to this, Agatha Christie appears in 1975 and 1976, at ages 85 and 86 (she died in January 1976), and Anais Nin in 1977, with her celebrated and posthumous erotic book, *Delta of Venus: Erotica*, that she wrote in 1940. Finally, the age at which other female writers who entered in the lists is very often over 50, with the exception of Mary Stewart (48), Jacqueline Susann (48 when she got in the list for the first time in 1966, but over 50 afterward), Penelope Ashe¹² to whom we artificially attributed the age of 36 (the age of the hidden male journalist who wrote the book), Gwen Davis (30), Judith Rossner (40), Erica Jong (35), and Colleen McCulloch (40). The only two writers with some staying power are Taylor Caldwell (5 times during the 1960-1980 period), Mary Stewart (5 times) and Jacqueline Stewart (4 times). Finally, Daphne du Maurier was ending her brilliant career with her ninth and tenth appearances in the list in 1963 and 1969, at age 62. This explains why women writers in the list “look older”, but not the fact that their presence declined to an average of 2.1 out of ten after 1960, to which we turn now.

Prolific men occupy 124 slots in the lists, which means they fill over 12 years of bestseller slots out of 30, while women occupy a meagre 33 slots during the thirty years under review. This is documented in Table 9, which lists all authors who were active between 1950 and 1980, and appeared at least four times as bestsellers during their whole lifetime. Eight female writers are present, and end their career between 1958 and 1979. Judith Krantz arrived in 1978 and “survived” until 1988 as bestselling author, and only Daphne Du Maurier, Taylor Caldwell and Mary Stuart were really successful, with eight, seven and six bestselling books between 1950 and 1980. The number of male authors who satisfy the same condition (at least four bestsellers during their life) is four times larger. Some are quite old (James Michener, Leon Uris or Sidney Sheldon, for example) but will nevertheless produce bestsellers after 1980, while some are at the beginning of their career, will go for very long after 1980 and

¹² Given that at the time the book came out, readers could not guess that Penelope was a man, here she is considered as a woman.

introduce the new genres alluded to above: John Le Carré, Stephen King, Ken Follett, Michael Crichton, and Frederick Forsyth.

Since both genders are equal in terms of population, and if talent is distributed in the same way in both genders, the difference in the number of successful books written by women and men should only depend on the publishing industry and their gatekeepers, critics, as well as to the populations of readers and their habits. It is also possible that the Great Depression, World War II and the Cold War that followed generated an unexpected change in tastes and that say, war and spy books were more in demand than romance *à la* Mazo de la Roche. Such novels are typically written by men and much less so by women.

Biases in the publishing industry

The publishing process starts with gatekeepers of both genders who review and recommend books written by both genders and gatekeepers may have their biases. Unfortunately, very little of this process is public. At the other end of the publishing business, one finds gendered book critics who probably also have their biases. And indeed, there are strong biases as suggested by VIDA, an American organization for women in literature. Their so-called *2010 count* shows that “leading literary magazines focus their review coverage on books written by men, and commission more men than women to write about them.” At the *New York Times Book Review*, for example, 60 percent of reviewers are men, and 65 percent of the books reviewed are written by men.¹³ Though this may generate gender imbalances very close to the 40 percent of women and 60 percent of men in bestseller lists, it may not matter too much, since readers seem to “draw on reputation of content, imitation among peers, and, to a lesser extent, evaluation by professional critics (Keuschnigg, 2015, p. 31).” But if this gender disparity also holds for gatekeepers, it may of course influence the choice of books to be published, and easily generate the 60-40 imbalance between male and female published authors. It nevertheless hardly explains why the share of women writers dropped to 20 percent between the 1960s and the 1980s. A male reaction to the second wave of feminism that started in the early 1960s could perhaps be an additional explanation.

¹³ Benedicte Page, Research shows male writers still dominate bookworld, *The Guardian*, February 4, 2011. The paper also shows that the bias noted for the *New York Times* is much smaller than for many other literary magazines.

Writers' and readers' behavior

As far as the readers' behavior is concerned, what counts is the share of female and male writers and readers, as well as how many books they read and, possibly, the level of education, though this should be reflected in reading habits. The statistical indicators that we found show that the number of bestselling women should *not* have decreased:

(a) Women outnumber men as writers (Verboord, 2012, p. 399).

(b) In 1982, 63 percent of women and 49 percent of men were readers which leads to a gap of 14 percent; the two numbers dropped to 55 and 37 percent and a widening gap of 18 percent (National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), 2004, 2009, 2015).

(c) Women (men) read essentially books written by women (men). The book review website *Goodreads* describes a couple of results of a survey of reading habits among 40,000 active readers (50 percent of women, and 50 percent of men).¹⁴ The important result is that among the 50 books published in 2014 that were most read by women (men), 90 percent are written by women (men). The survey also finds that women read as many books as men, though they read two times as many books (published in 2014) as men, but the survey is concerned with "active" readers, while the NEA data discussed in (b) above, cover all readers.¹⁵

Of course, these numbers are related to different years, and have diverse origins. However, if we make the rather bold assumption that they did not change too much over time and are consistent with each other, all arguments go in the same direction: there are more women than men who write and who read, women read more books, and mainly read books by women. All other things being equal, the first order effect of each argument should have a positive effect on women's reading and writing and push women writers to reach bestseller lists.

¹⁴ *Goodreads* (2014), Sex and Reading: A Look at Who's Reading Whom. Retrieved from www.goodreads.com/blog/show/475-sex-and-reading-a-look-at-who-s-reading-whom (last consulted, September 19, 2018).

¹⁵ See also Alison Flood, Readers prefer authors of their own sex, survey finds, *The Guardian*, 25 November 2014 and Mann (1985, p. 96)

The after WW II unexpected change of genre

Yucesoy et al. (2018, pp. 3-4) suggest that in 2015 one third of bestsellers are devoted to general or literary fiction (the focus is on themes and characters, and books are discussed and reviewed by literary critics), while two thirds consist of genre (the focus is on a plot; such books include suspense, thrillers, mystery, detective, romance, action adventure, horror, occult, psychology, religion, and westerns).

While our data do not enclose genre, we looked into this issue as it might explain the small number of women in bestseller lists during the period 1950-1980. Indeed, it may be that the genre of books people wanted to read changed after the Great Depression, WW II and the Cold War, and that women writers did or could not integrate this new situation fast enough. These three very violent events could have introduced more detective and mystery, war, spy and politics, science fiction and horror literature.¹⁶ In addition, the introduction of the natural sciences such as biology and physics among others, dealt with in popular journals have naturally led other writers to specialize in science fiction or fantasy. The change may also be the result of the concentration of firms in the publishing industry, which led to promote genres that would generate audiovisual revenues, given that publishing companies became more and more part of large multimedia groups (CBS, Bertelsman, News Corp, or Lagardère).

Here are some of the authors who became bestsellers between 1950 and 1980: Peter Benchley (2 times), Michael Crichton (2), Ian Fleming (2), Ken Follett (1), Frederic Forsyth (6), Stephen King (2), John Le Carré (6), and Robert Ludlum (4). Since 1964, this group of eight authors occupied roughly two slots per year. Though detective and mystery literature is quite common among female writers (Agatha Christie, Patricia Highsmith, Dorothy Sayers and the many hundreds listed in Wikipedia's entry¹⁷), war literature¹⁸ and spy literature (124 authors of which only six are female¹⁹) is monopolized by men. Six women have been named Grand Master by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America since 1984, but only 10 to 15 percent of

¹⁶ See the figures in Cima (2017).

¹⁷ List of female detective/mystery writers.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_female_detective/mystery_writers (last consulted September 20, 2018).

¹⁸ Audrey Golden (2016), Women writing war literature. <https://blog.bookstellyouwhy.com/women-writing-war-literature> (last consulted September 21, 2018).

¹⁹ Emily Burack (2018), Why don't female spies grow up? Women in contemporary spy literature. <https://themillions.com/2018/06/why-dont-female-spies-grow-up-women-in-contemporary-spy-literature.html> (last consulted September 21, 2018).

writers were female in 1948; their number has grown 36 percent in 1999.²⁰ Eight-three percent of horror books are written by men.²¹

4.2 Why did some authors appear more frequently in the lists after 1980?

Korda's (2001, p. 166-167) remarks concerned with the early eighties start as follows:

“The big news in the 1980s wasn't the books. It was the book business. On the publishing side, a series of mergers and acquisitions began the process that would eventually reduce the number of major book publishers to six big groups... and a long list of hitherto famous publishing houses either vanished, or were swallowed up to become 'imprints' of a larger entity, among them Scribner, Macmillan, Atheneum, Morrow, Putnam, Harper and Row, and Little, Brown... On the bookselling side, the independent stores declined in number to the point where [some of] the surviving ones... were treated as national treasures... one consequence would be that the sales of top bestselling writers—particularly fiction writers like Tom Clancy, Mary Higgins Clark, Patricia Cornwall, etc.—escalated into the seven figures.”

“At this point it makes sense to consider another phenomenon. As publishers and authors learned that bringing out a book a year by a successful novelist was one of the secrets to higher sales—among other things the publicity for the new book would coincide with the publicity for the mass-market edition of last year's bestseller, thus giving the publisher a double bang for the buck—the number of open 'slots' on the bestseller list correspondingly decreased.”

Greco (1995, p. 229) adds impressive numbers to Korda's intuition: 573 mergers and acquisitions were reported between 1960 and 1989. This number almost trebled to approximately 1,700 between 1990 and 2012 (Greco et al., 2014, p. 98). According to the website Statista (2017), the eight largest firms account for 48 percent of the market, and the 50 largest ones reach 78.3 percent.

Did these mergers and acquisitions have an adverse impact on the level of competition, and if so, how? Economic theory would obviously give a positive

²⁰ Women in speculative fiction. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_speculative_fiction (last consulted September 21, 2018).

²¹ Women in speculative fiction. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_speculative_fiction (last consulted September 21, 2018).

answer to this general question, but there are other reasons that add weight to the argument: Too little or too much concentration results in lessened variety, which also allows to concentrate publicity on a smaller number of writers. A nice example, which is close to the variety concept in the book industry is given by Alexander (1997) who produced some empirical work on the music recording industry, where variety is relatively easy to compute. Alexander shows that maximum variety is achieved at a middle number of firms' concentration ratio, in his case, a four-firm concentration ratio of approximately 50 percent. However, this industry is and always used to be much more concentrated than the book industry, which is not yet at this level of concentration since the number of establishments is still quite large: 2,300 in 1989 according to Greco (1995, p. 230).²²

4.3 Bestsellers and “literary quality?”

Though this is far from being perfect, we make the assumption that three awards, Nobel, Pulitzer and National Book Award, can be taken as signals of “literary quality,” and focus on its possible decline over time. But “what is quality after all,” as bestselling (five million copies at least) author Robert Pirsig (1974), writes in his philosophical novel *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, after having been rejected by over 120 publishers before getting finally accepted by William Morrow and Company.²³

Note that Verboord (2012) also used awards and bestsellers his perspective is different. He aimed at analyzing gender inequality in the highbrow-popular culture divide. He measured highbrow culture by awards and popular culture by bestsellers and shows that the inequality phenomenon is “larger in fields or genres where more status is at stake for individual agents, as this causes an influx of men who then edge women out of the field” (Verboord, 2012, p. 395).

The Nobel Prize rewards authors from all countries and was bestowed 97 times between 1901 (the first year) and 1999. As can be checked from Table 10, columns (2) and (3), it is often handed out to one writer, with some exception during World War II where rewards were suspended, and sometimes to two authors.²⁴ In contrast to the Pulitzer and National Book Awards, it does not reward a specific book, but

²² But 3,570 establishments according to *Book Publishers* (2004), as the results of the 2002 U.S. Census, p. 1.

²³ William Morrow is a good example of the concentration move in the publishing industry. Founded in 1926 by William Morrow, it was acquired in 1967 by Scott Foresman, sold to Hearst Corporation in 1981 and finally to News Corporation in 1999. Today, it is an imprint of HarperCollins.

²⁴ See notes (a) to (k) in Table 10.

celebrates the whole career of a writer. The year in which it is given is, therefore, more or less random. Fourteen American writers (of which some held two nationalities) were distinguished, but only seven appeared also in bestseller lists (column (3)). The others were playwrights or poets, and obviously had little chance to become bestsellers. For more details, see also Section 3.8.

The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (previously called the Pulitzer Prize for the Novel) was created in 1917, and started to distribute prizes in 1918, 17 years later than the Nobel Prize. It distinguishes in principle only American authors and distributes one prize per year for a novel that was published the year before. However, in some cases, its Board decided not to attribute it, though judges had made recommendations.²⁵ Seventy-three writers were rewarded once or sometimes twice (William Faulkner, in 1955 and 1963, after he had died). Thirty-nine were bestsellers. Sinclair Lewis declined the Prize, but is nevertheless considered as winner here. No award was given in 9 years, and 34 authors won the prize but do not appear as bestsellers. Table 10, columns (4)-(5) show the distribution by ten-year periods (with the exception of 1918-1919, the two first years after the prize was created). It is interesting to note that during the first 52 years, 33 bestselling authors (0.6 per year on average) got the prize, while only 13 non-bestselling authors (0.25 per year) were awarded during the same period. These numbers dramatically changed in the early 1970s: Only six bestselling authors were awarded, while 21 non-bestselling authors (including Kennedy Toole for his *Confederacy of Dunces* in 1981, though he had died in 1969) got the prize. Thus, top bestsellers and Pulitzers were associated until 1970, and dissociated after 1970.

National Book Awards for fiction can be found in columns (6)-(7) of Table 10. Though the society was established in 1936 by the American Booksellers Association, it started distributing awards in 1950 only, and therefore covers only half of the period 1900-1999 on which we concentrate. Awards are presented to American authors only, as long as they are published in the United States “roughly during the award year.”²⁶ Again, out of a total of 57 awarded books, only 16 were bestsellers, while six were bestowed to writers who were winners more than once. Faulkner got the prize twice in 1951 and 1955; Bellow three times, in 1954, 1965 and 1971; Malamud twice in 1959 and 1967; Updike, twice in 1964 and 1982 and Roth, twice, in 1960 and 1995. This “reduces” to ten the number of different bestselling authors. The reduced numbers are given between brackets in column (7) of Table 10. This makes for 41, or 47 if one

²⁵ See note (*) in Table 10.

²⁶ See Wikipedia’s entry https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Book_Award, last consulted on May 15, 2018.

only takes into account the reduced numbers. Seventy to eighty percent of awards thus went to authors who were not bestsellers.

If one assumes that getting one (or several) such prizes is a sign of the “literary quality” of a book, or of its author, then one should conclude that quality decreased during the 30 last years of the 20th century. Indeed, if we look at Nobel Prizes, the three last were given to John Steinbeck (born in 1902, prize in 1962), Saul Bellow (born in 1915, prize in 1976) and Toni Morrison (born in 1931, prize in 1993) for their life achievement. Turning to the Pulitzer, one can observe a very serious decline of awarded authors. Among the 27 who won it during the last 30 years, only six were also bestsellers: Bellow, Morrison, Roth (twice) and Updike (twice). No real newcomer! Finally, the National Book Award went to 57 authors, but only to 16 bestselling authors from which six were bestsellers during the last 30 years.

These findings are consistent with those of Verboord (2011) who shows that the high-culture logic has been eroding in the late 20th century (not only in the U.S., but also in France and Germany, though to a lesser degree), and “best seller lists are increasingly populated by authors who are produced in a system where the market logic prevails (Verboord, 2011, p. 308).”

5. Conclusions

Our analysis of a century of bestsellers delivers three outcomes. First, women nearly disappeared from the lists between 1950 and 1980. The change in dominant genres, the increasing concentration in the publishing industry, as well as some anti-feminist ideology sparked among men by the new feminist movement in the early 1960s, may turn out to be three reasons. After the Second World War, war stories and books about spies, as well as science fiction, came into vogue, and male authors dominate those genres. Secondly, the quality of bestsellers measured by prestigious awards (the Nobel Prize, the Pulitzer Prize, and the National Book Award) has decreased in the past 30 years. Finally, the concentration of authors on bestseller lists increased in the last two decades of the 20th century. Indeed, the probability of an author’s appearance in two consecutive top-ten lists increased dramatically before and after 1980. See Tables 5a and 5b. Since this phenomenon is most probably not caused by an increase of literary quality, it is market forces that must be at play. While it is not possible to infer causality, the analysis shows that the higher concentration of authors on bestseller lists coincides with a frenzy of mergers and acquisitions in the book-publishing industry in the 1980s.

To conclude, we discuss two complementary explanations that we believe are worthy of future research: social influencers and publication speed. Salganik et al. (2006) set up an experiment to study how social influence, including common knowledge of rankings, affects success. Social influence was measured by the amount of information participants had on others' preferences. Participants acted as consumers in an artificial market for music and were divided into three groups. Group 1 had no information about the preferences of others. Group 2 had information about the number of previous downloads, with the songs presented in a rectangular grid and the positions of the songs randomly assigned among participants. Finally, Group 3 had the same information as Group 2, but the songs were presented in descending order of popularity (as is the case in the ranking presentations of bestseller lists published in the *New York Times* and *Publishers Weekly*). The experiment demonstrated that the strength of social influence is positively correlated with success inequalities. The ranking presentation (Group 3) produced the highest level of success inequalities, while it was lowest in Group 1 which had no information. Most probably, similar results would be obtained with an artificial market for books. Hence, the larger appearance of the same names on bestseller lists during the past 20 years may possibly be a real-world application of what is described in the study by Salganik et al. (2006) though, in the bestsellers' real world, success inequalities changed over time not over artificial groups like in the musical example. It is likely that the strength of social influence and media evolved throughout the 20th century. Media became much more powerful during the last years of the 20th century than they were in the early 1900.

Contracts between authors and publishers may have changed with the increased concentration in the book-publishing industry in the 1980s. With fewer competitors, publishers gain negotiating power and may have pressed successful authors to produce at a faster rate. This would lead the industry to need less publicity than promoting new authors every year. Consumers would have fewer opportunities to discover new talents, causing larger success inequalities (i.e., consuming more books by the same author), but publishers would be happy: Sorensen (2007) shows that appearing on a list for the first time "may dramatically increase the popularity of future books by the same author," adding that this is what fosters "the desperate schemes occasionally employed by authors to secure a position on the list (Sorensen (2007, p. 737)." Finally, if one assumes that less time between subsequent books could have a negative impact on their quality, explains the drop in literary quality (less awards) during the last decades of the century.

The fall in printing and publishing costs has led to an extraordinary increase in the number of published books, including self-published ones, that can be distributed digitally through Amazon, for example. Therefore, it seems that niches of demand are now better covered than ever, and could be an example of the Long Tail Economy (Anderson, 2006).

However, the list of bestsellers is still dominated by old names such as John Grisham, James Patterson, Danielle Steel or Stephen King and illustrates the winner-takes-all paradigm. Hence, our conclusions cannot be very optimistic since the combination of long tail and winner-takes-all economics seems to dominate. Indeed, publishers are now part of large multimedia transnational groups and multi-sided platforms are more common. This implies that the trend in the concentration of authors observed during the last years of the 20th century will be difficult to reverse.

The effect of portfolio decisions of these publishers on the promotion of books and authors could have led and still leads to a reduction in the number of books and authors promoted to become bestsellers. Once an author is listed, the promotional efforts of her or his company will send the author back to the top ten as quickly as possible. Therefore, our findings are consistent with an increase in concentration of the publishing sector.

Our analysis is focused on the US market. It is, however, worth noting that English has become the *lingua franca* in the world's book market, even if some of the most important publishing firms are, or were, not born in English. The reason for which French and German publishers were interested in buying American and British publishers can be understood by the large expected network effects that the English popular culture had all over the world. The French group Hachette became a US publisher and had "167 books on the *New York Times* bestseller list, 34 of which reached #1".²⁷ This would not have happened if Hachette had persisted to be a French publisher. Who can guess whether Jules Verne who, at the time, was published in France and in French by Hachette, could have been on many bestseller lists, had they existed at the time?

²⁷ See Hachette's Book Group webpage at <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/about/> (last consulted on August 1, 2018).

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Figure 1. Annual Shares of Female Authors as Bestsellers and Ten-year Moving Averages

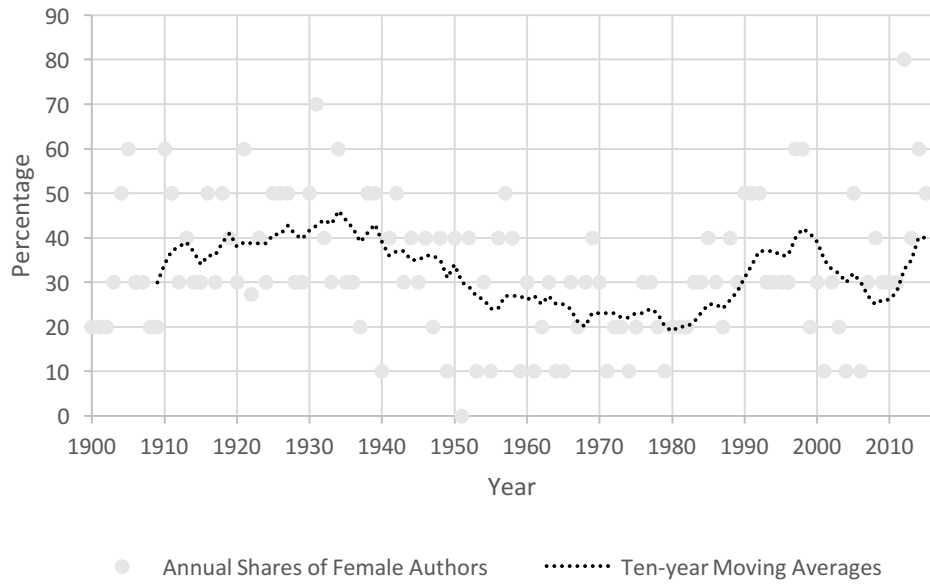


Figure 2. Average Age of First Appearance as Bestsellers per Year and Ten-year Moving Averages (All, Women and Men)

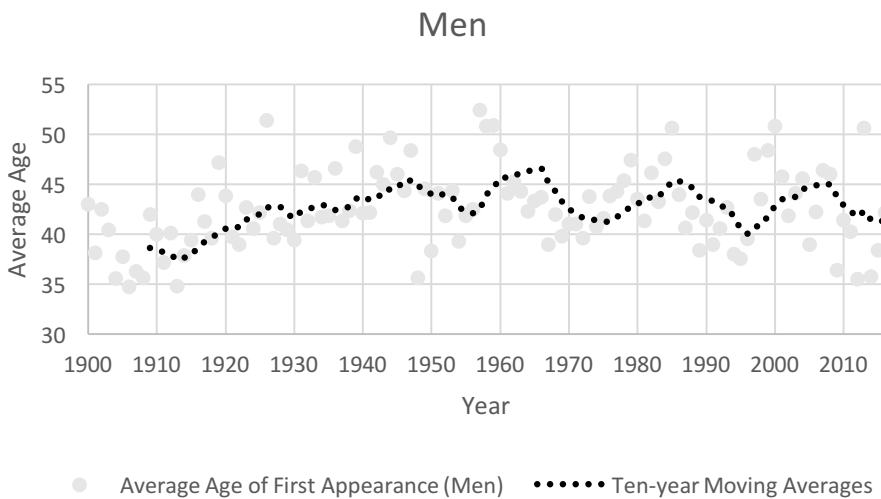
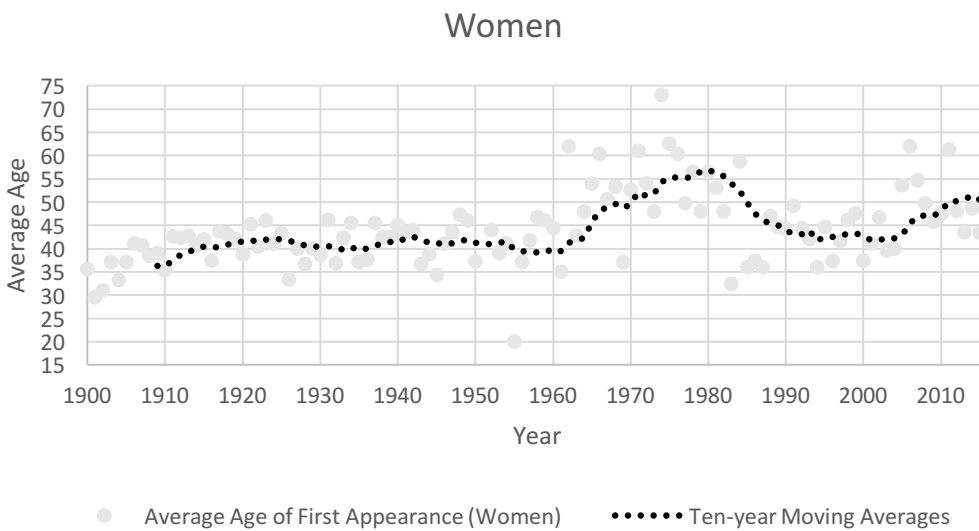
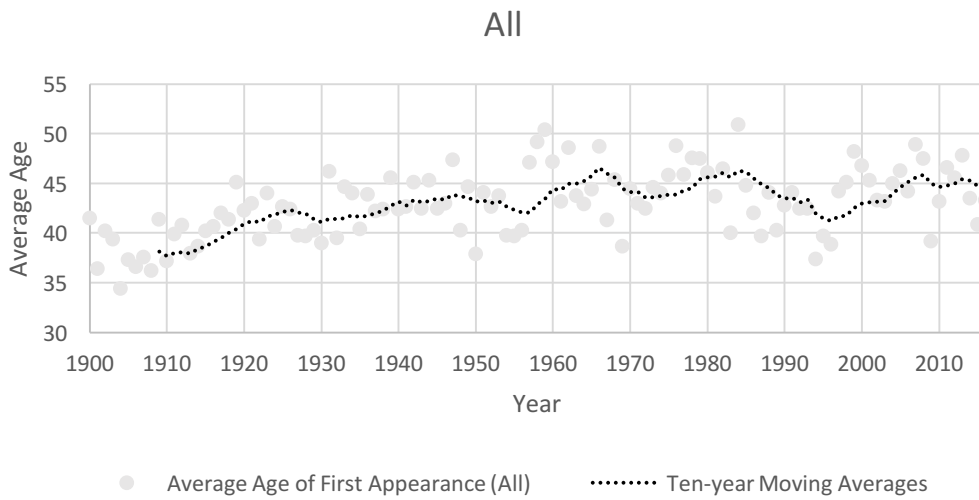


Figure 3. Distribution of Number of Appearances of Authors
(All, Women and Men)

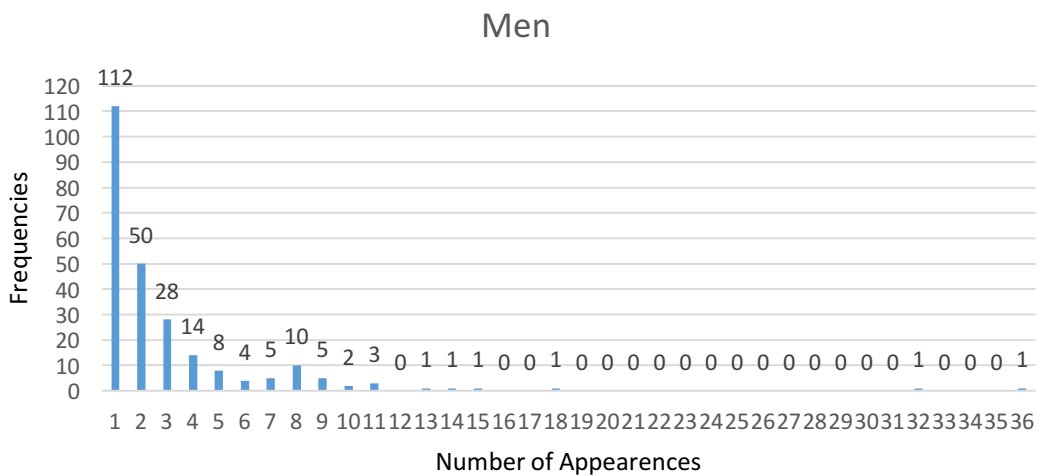
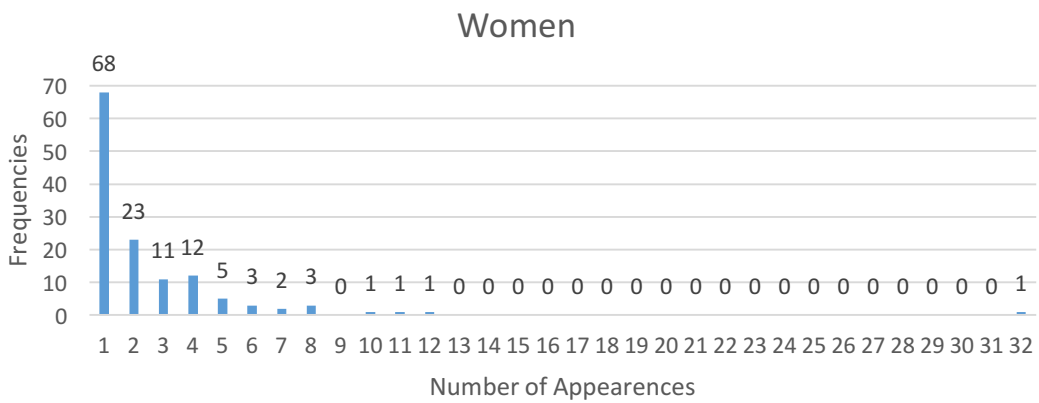
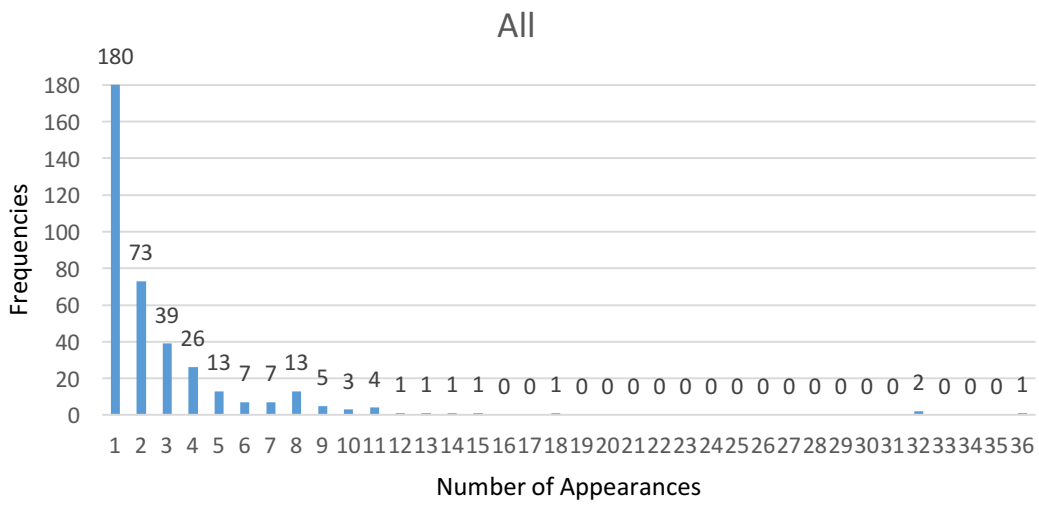
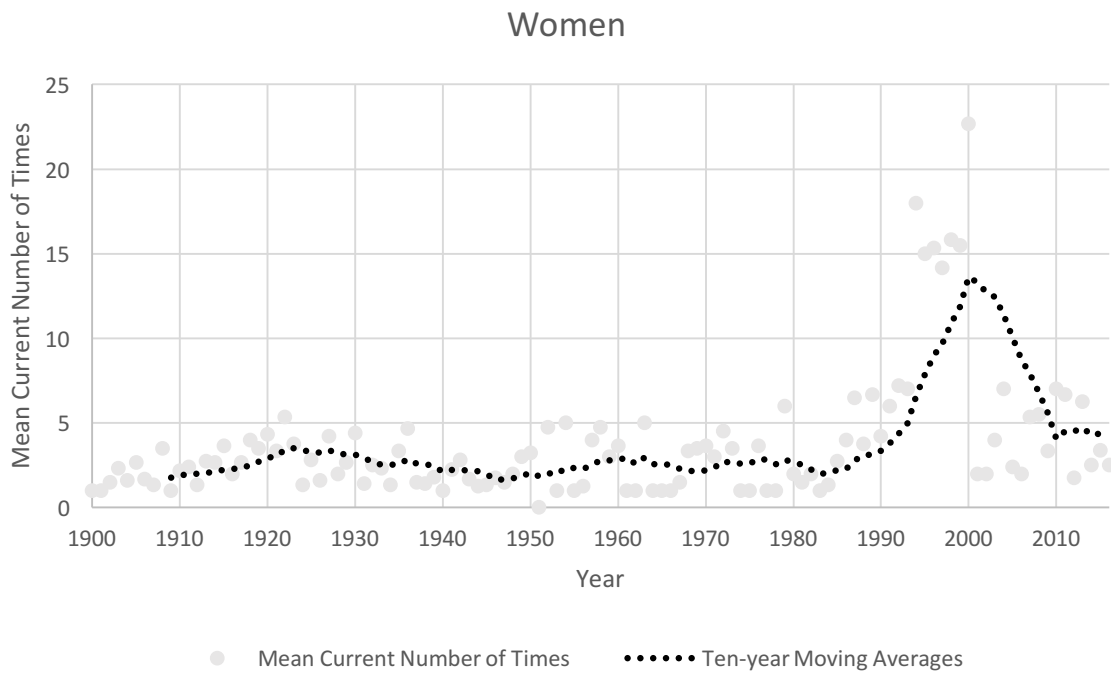
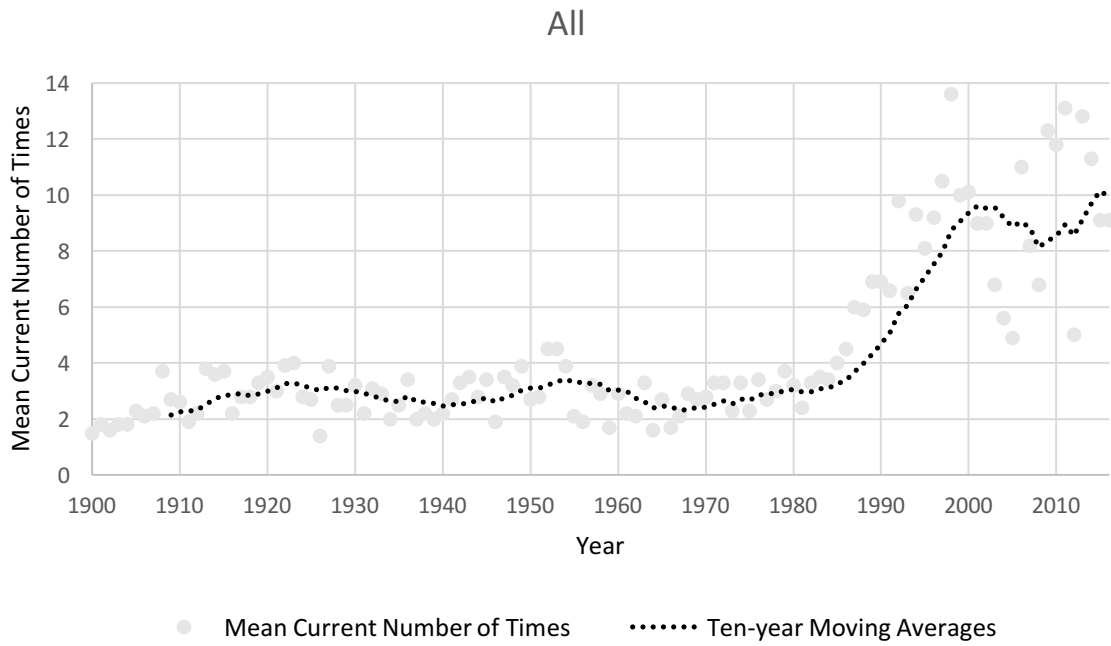
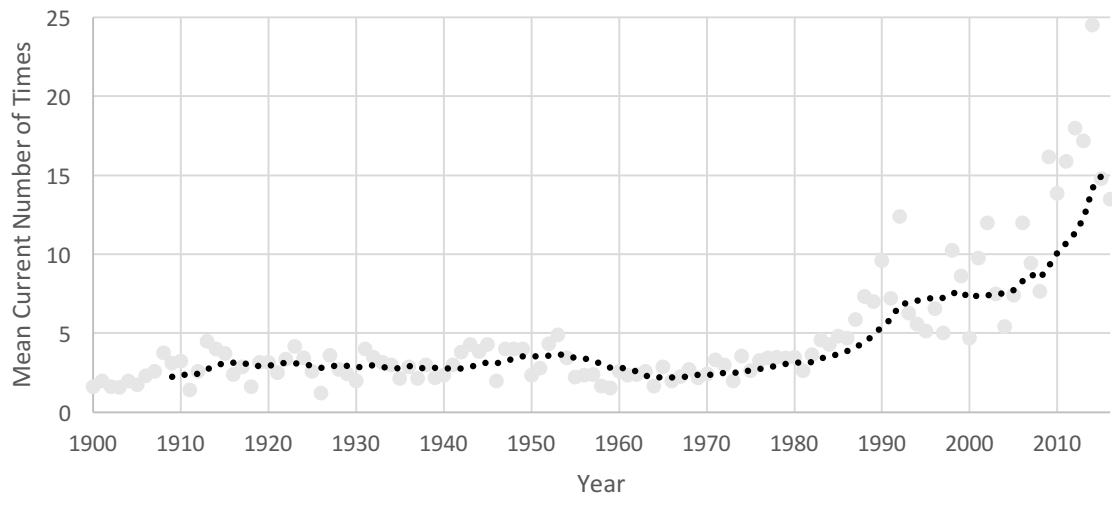


Figure 4. Mean Current Number of Times in the Lists of Bestsellers and Ten-year Moving Averages (All, Women and Men)



Men



● Mean Current Number of Times ●●●●● Ten-year Moving Averages

Figure 5a. Shares of Female Authors and Their Age at First Appearance as Bestsellers

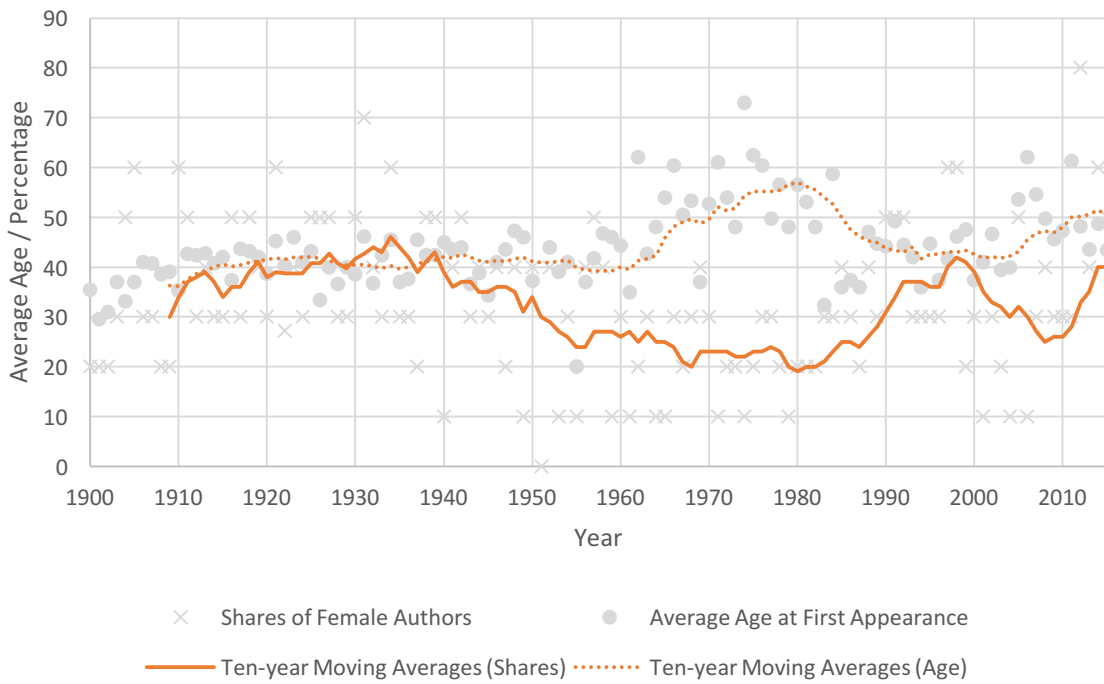


Figure 5b. Shares of Male Authors and their Age at First Appearance as Bestsellers

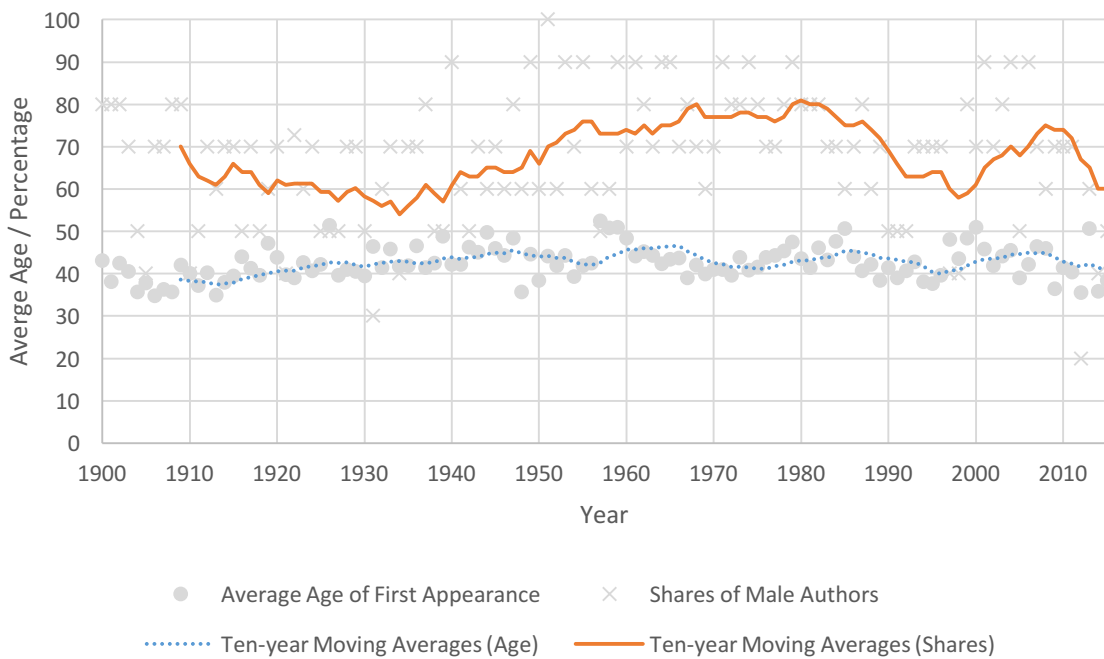


Table 1a. Age of Entering the List of the Youngest

No.	Last name	First name	Gender	Born in	First year listed	Last year listed	Age first time listed	Age last time listed	Years between first and last	Consecutive years in list	Number of times in list
283	sagan	françoise	F	1935	1955	1956	20	21	1	2	2
279	runkle	bertha	F	1879	1901	1901	22	22	0	1	1
326	thompson	sylvia	F	1902	1926	1926	24	24	0	1	1
79	delmar	vina	F	1903	1928	1928	25	25	0	1	1
207	mailer	norman	M	1923	1948	1948	25	25	0	1	1
369	winsor	kathleen	F	1919	1944	1950	25	31	6	2	3
55	collins	jackie	F	1957	1983	1990	26	33	7	2	4
64	crichton	michael	M	1942	1969	2011	27	69	42	3	11
317	streeter	edward	M	1891	1918	1949	27	58	31	1	2
37	brush	katherine	F	1902	1930	1930	28	28	0	1	1
50	churchill	winston	M	1871	1899	1915	28	44	16	3	10
301	sinclair	upton	M	1878	1906	1906	28	28	0	1	1
341	vance	louis j	M	1879	1907	1908	28	29	1	2	2
22	beach	rex	M	1877	1906	1912	29	35	6	2	4
43	carroll	gladys hasty	F	1904	1933	1933	29	29	0	1	1
109	follett	ken	M	1949	1978	1991	29	42	13	1	5
173	kennedy	margaret	F	1896	1925	1925	29	29	0	1	1
223	meyer	nicholas	M	1945	1974	1974	29	29	0	1	1
327	thurston	katherine cecil	F	1875	1904	1910	29	35	6	2	4
336	uris	leon	M	1924	1953	1988	29	64	35	1	8
7	arlen	michael	M	1895	1925	1925	30	30	0	1	1
68	dalrymple	leona	F	1884	1914	1914	30	30	0	1	1
116	freeman	h w	M	1899	1929	1929	30	30	0	1	1
141	hersey	john	M	1914	1944	1950	30	36	6	1	2
165	johnston	mary	F	1870	1900	1911	30	41	11	1	5
166	jones	james	M	1921	1951	1953	30	32	2	1	2
205	macgrath	harold	M	1871	1901	1909	30	38	8	3	4
220	mckenna	stephen	M	1888	1918	1918	30	30	0	1	1
377	yerby	frank	M	1916	1946	1954	30	38	8	7	8

Table 1b. Age of Exiting the List of the Oldest

No.	Last name	First name	Gender	Born in	First year listed	Last year listed	Age first time listed	Age last time listed	Years between first and last	Consecutive years in list	Number of times in list
294	seuss	dr	M	1904	1984	1984	80	80	0	1	1
296	sheldon	sidney	M	1917	1976	1997	59	80	21	3	11
225	michener	james a	M	1907	1951	1992	44	85	41	2	15
328	tolkien	j r r	M	1892	1977	1977	85	85	0	1	1
49	christie	agatha	F	1890	1975	1976	85	86	1	2	2
287	santmyer	helen hooven	F	1895	1984	1984	89	89	0	1	1
191	lee	harper	F	1926	1961	2016	35	90	55	3	5

Notes: Agatha Christie died in January 1976. The books by Harper Lee and J.R.R. Tolkien were published after their death.

Table 2. Number of Years Between First and Last Book in the List

No.	Last name	First name	Gender	Born in	First year listed	Last year listed	Age first time listed	Age last time listed	Years between first and last	Consecutive years in list	Number of times in list
51	clancy	tom	M	1947	1986	2011	39	64	25	4	14
133	grisham	john	M	1955	1991	2016	36	61	25	15	32
189	le carre	john	M	1931	1964	1989	33	58	25	2	9
39	burnett	frances hodgson	F	1849	1896	1922	47	73	26	2	6
41	caldwell	taylor	F	1900	1946	1972	46	72	26	2	8
46	chase	mary ellen	F	1887	1934	1960	47	73	26	2	4
195	lewis	sinclair	M	1885	1921	1947	36	62	26	3	11
267	rinehart	mary roberts	F	1876	1909	1936	33	60	27	3	12
374	wouk	herman	M	1915	1951	1978	36	63	27	2	8
295	shaw	irwin	M	1914	1948	1977	34	63	29	1	4
140	hemingway	ernest	M	1899	1940	1970	41	71	30	2	5
316	stone	irving	M	1903	1945	1975	42	72	30	2	7
322	tarkington	booth	M	1869	1902	1932	33	63	30	3	9
89	du maurier	daphne	F	1907	1938	1969	31	62	31	2	10
123	glasgow	ellen	F	1873	1904	1935	31	62	31	1	5
317	streete	edward	M	1891	1918	1949	27	58	31	1	2
105	ferber	edna	F	1885	1924	1958	39	73	34	1	7
178	king	stephen	M	1947	1979	2014	32	67	35	9	36
336	uris	leon	M	1924	1953	1988	29	64	35	1	8
363	wilder	thornton	M	1897	1928	1967	31	70	39	1	4
225	michener	james a	M	1907	1951	1992	44	85	41	2	15
64	crichton	michael	M	1942	1969	2011	27	69	42	3	11
191	lee	harper	F	1926	1961	2016	35	90	55	3	5

Table 3. Top Bestselling Authors

No.	Last name	First name	Gender	Born in	First year listed	Last year listed	Age first time listed	Age last time listed	Years between first and last	Consecutive years in list	Number of times in list
35	bromfield	louis	M	1896	1927	1943	31	47	16	2	8
41	caldwell	taylor	F	1900	1946	1972	46	72	26	2	8
61	costain	thomas b	M	1885	1945	1957	60	72	12	3	8
66	cronin	a j	M	1896	1932	1953	36	57	21	2	8
76	deeping	warwick	M	1877	1926	1932	49	55	6	7	8
163	jenkins + lahay	jerry b + tim	M	1926	1999	2004	73	78	5	6	8
175	keyes	frances parkinson	F	1900	1946	1958	46	58	12	3	8
218	mccutcheon	george barr	M	1866	1901	1914	35	48	13	6	8
256	porter	gene stratton	F	1863	1911	1925	48	62	14	3	8
314	steinbeck	john	M	1902	1937	1961	35	59	24	2	8
336	uris	leon	M	1924	1953	1988	29	64	35	1	8
374	wouk	herman	M	1915	1951	1978	36	63	27	2	8
377	yerby	frank	M	1916	1946	1954	30	38	8	7	8
132	grey	zane	M	1872	1915	1924	43	52	9	8	9
189	le carre	john	M	1931	1964	1989	33	58	25	2	9
271	robbins	harold	M	1916	1961	1981	45	65	20	2	9
322	tarkington	booth	M	1869	1902	1932	33	63	30	3	9
376	wright	harold bell	M	1872	1911	1923	39	51	12	2	9
50	churchill	winston	M	1871	1899	1915	28	44	16	3	10
89	du maurier	daphne	F	1907	1938	1969	31	62	31	2	10
204	ludlum	robert	M	1927	1973	1993	46	66	20	3	10
60	cornwell	patricia	F	1956	1996	2010	40	54	14	3	11
64	crichton	michael	M	1942	1969	2011	27	69	42	3	11
195	lewis	sinclair	M	1885	1921	1947	36	62	26	3	11
296	sheldon	sidney	M	1917	1976	1997	59	80	21	3	11
267	rinehart	mary roberts	F	1876	1909	1936	33	60	27	3	12
86	douglas	lloyd c	M	1877	1932	1953	55	76	21	4	13
51	clancy	tom	M	1947	1986	2011	39	64	25	4	14
225	michener	james a	M	1907	1951	1992	44	85	41	2	15
248	patterson	james	M	1947	1997	2011	50	64	14	12	18
133	grisham	john	M	1955	1991	2016	36	61	25	15	32
312	steel	danielle	F	1947	1983	2000	36	53	17	18	32
178	king	stephen	M	1947	1979	2014	32	67	35	9	36

Table 4. Newcomers

Decade	No. of newcomers
1910-1919	3.1
1920-1929	4.0
1930-1939	4.7
1940-1949	3.7
1950-1959	3.8
1960-1969	4.7
1970-1979	3.6
1980-1989	2.9
1990-1999	2.1
2000-2010	0.7

Table 5a. Markov Transition Probabilities 1900-1980

To	To slot 1	To slot 2	To slot 3	To slot 4	To slot 5	To slot 6	To slot 7	To slot 8	To slot 9	To slot 10	Exits
From											
From slot 1	0.0625	0.0500	0.0750	0.0250	0.0125	0.0250	0.0250	0.0125	0.0375	0.0375	0.6375
From slot 2	0.0000	0.0244	0.0122	0.0366	0.0244	0.0122	0.0244	0.0000	0.0122	0.0000	0.8415
From slot 3	0.0122	0.0610	0.0244	0.0488	0.0122	0.0732	0.0122	0.0488	0.0122	0.0000	0.6951
From slot 4	0.0494	0.0000	0.0617	0.0247	0.0741	0.0370	0.0247	0.0370	0.0000	0.0247	0.6667
From slot 5	0.0250	0.0125	0.0125	0.0000	0.0125	0.0375	0.0250	0.0250	0.0375	0.0250	0.7875
From slot 6	0.0000	0.0375	0.0250	0.0250	0.0250	0.0125	0.0125	0.0125	0.0250	0.0125	0.8125
From slot 7	0.0380	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0380	0.0633	0.0000	0.0127	0.0127	0.0253	0.8101
From slot 8	0.0256	0.0256	0.0000	0.0000	0.0128	0.0385	0.0128	0.0128	0.0128	0.0128	0.8462
From slot 9	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0127	0.0127	0.0380	0.0380	0.0253	0.0127	0.8608
From slot 10	0.0000	0.0250	0.0000	0.0250	0.0250	0.0500	0.0250	0.0125	0.0000	0.0125	0.8250

Table 5b. Markov Transition Probabilities 1980-2000

To	To slot 1	To slot 2	To slot 3	To slot 4	To slot 5	To slot 6	To slot 7	To slot 8	To slot 9	To slot 10	Exits
From											
From slot 1	0.3200	0.0800	0.1200	0.0400	0.0400	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0400	0.0000	0.3600
From slot 2	0.1538	0.1154	0.1154	0.0385	0.0000	0.0769	0.0385	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.4615
From slot 3	0.1111	0.0370	0.0741	0.1481	0.1111	0.0741	0.1111	0.0370	0.0000	0.0000	0.2963
From slot 4	0.0000	0.0769	0.0385	0.0769	0.1154	0.0385	0.0385	0.0000	0.0385	0.0385	0.5385
From slot 5	0.0800	0.0000	0.1200	0.0800	0.1200	0.0400	0.0400	0.0000	0.0400	0.0000	0.4800
From slot 6	0.0385	0.0385	0.0000	0.0385	0.0385	0.0385	0.0000	0.1923	0.0769	0.0385	0.5000
From slot 7	0.0000	0.0833	0.1667	0.0000	0.0417	0.0833	0.0833	0.0417	0.0000	0.0000	0.5000
From slot 8	0.0000	0.0000	0.0385	0.0385	0.0769	0.0769	0.0385	0.0385	0.0385	0.0385	0.6154
From slot 9	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0400	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.1200	0.8400
From slot 10	0.0000	0.0435	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0870	0.0000	0.0870	0.0435	0.0435	0.6957

Table 6. Are Nobel Prizes bestsellers? (alphabetical order)

No.	Last name	First name	Gender	Born in	First year listed	Last year listed	Age first time listed	Age last time listed	Years between first and last	Nobel prize in	Number of times in list
24	bellow	saul	M	1915	1964	1975	49	60	11	1976	3
	brodsky	joseph	M	1940	-	-	-	-	-	1987	-
38	buck	pearl s	F	1892	1931	1942	39	50	11	1938	4
	dylan	bob	M	1941	-	-	-	-	-	2016	-
	eliot	thomas s.	M	1888	-	-	-	-	-	1948	-
103	faulkner	william	M	1897	1962	1962	65	65	0	1949	1
140	hemingway	ernest	M	1899	1940	1970	41	71	30	1954	5
195	lewis	sinclair	M	1885	1921	1947	36	62	26	1930	11
	milosz	czeslaw	M	1911	-	-	-	-	-	1980	-
233	morrison	toni	F	1931	1998	1998	67	67	0	1993	1
	o'neill	eugene	M	1888	-	-	-	-	-	1936	-
	singer	isaac b.	M	1902	-	-	-	-	-	1978	-
314	steinbeck	john	M	1902	1937	1961	35	59	24	1962	8
	walcott	derek	M	1930	-	-	-	-	-	1992	-

Table 7. The Decline of Female Writers and their Age at First Entry to the List

No	Last name	First name	Born in	First year listed	Last year listed	Age first time listed	Age last time listed	Years between first and last	Consec. years in list	No. of times in list
34	bristow	gwen	1903	1950	1950	47	47	0	1	1
292	selinko	annemarie	1914	1953	1953	39	39	0	1	1
283	sagan	françoise	1935	1955	1956	20	21	1	2	2
73	de beauvoir	simone	1908	1956	1956	48	48	0	1	1
222	metalious	grace	1924	1956	1957	32	33	1	2	2
323	thompson	kay	1908	1956	1958	48	50	2	3	3
260	rand	ayn	1905	1957	1957	52	52	0	1	1
293	seton	anya	1904	1958	1958	54	54	0	1	1
191	lee	harper	1926	1961	2016	35	90	55	3	5
197	lindbergh	anne morrow	1906	1962	1962	56	56	0	1	1
255	porter	katherine anne	1894	1962	1962	68	68	0	1	1
216	mccarthy	mary	1912	1963	1963	51	51	0	1	1
315	stewart	mary	1916	1964	1979	48	63	15	1	6
169	kaufman	bel	1911	1965	1965	54	54	0	1	1
320	susann	jacqueline	1918	1966	1976	48	58	10	1	4
206	macinnes	helen	1905	1966	1971	61	66	5	1	3
311	st johns	adela rogers	1894	1966	1966	72	72	0	1	1
213	marshall	catherine	1914	1967	1968	53	54	1	2	2
71	davis	gwen	1936	1969	1969	33	33	0	1	1
9	ashe	penelope	1933	1969	1969	36	36	0	1	1
150	holt	victoria	1906	1970	1970	64	64	0	1	1
149	holmes	marjorie	1910	1972	1972	62	62	0	1	1
63	craven	margeret	1901	1974	1974	73	73	0	1	1
276	rossner	judith	1935	1975	1975	40	40	0	1	1
49	christie	agatha	1890	1975	1976	85	86	1	2	2
167	jong	erica	1942	1977	1977	35	35	0	1	1
217	mccullogh	colleen	1937	1977	1981	40	44	4	1	2
236	nin	anais	1903	1977	1977	74	74	0	1	1
182	krantz	judith	1928	1978	1988	50	60	10	1	5
252	plain	belva	1915	1978	1980	63	65	2	1	2
115	freeman	cynthia	1915	1981	1981	66	66	0	1	1
12	ael	jean m	1936	1982	2002	46	66	20	1	4
55	collins	jackie	1957	1983	1990	26	33	7	2	4
343	vinge	joan d	1948	1983	1983	35	35	0	1	1
312	steel	danielle	1947	1983	2000	36	53	17	18	32
269	rivers	joan	1933	1984	1984	51	51	0	1	1
287	santmyer	helen hooven	1895	1984	1984	89	89	0	1	1
266	rice	anne	1941	1988	1993	47	52	5	2	4
30	bradford	barbara taylor	1933	1988	1991	55	58	3	1	2
52	clark	mary higgins	1927	1989	1998	62	71	9	2	6
251	pilcher	rosamunde	1924	1990	1990	66	66	0	1	1

Table 8. Number of Female Writers and Their Age (chronological order)

Year	Last name	First name	Born in	Age	Title of book	No. of times in list	Average age	Year	Last name	First name	Born in	Age	Title of book	No. of times in list	Average age	
1950	keyes	frances p.	1900	50	joy street	8		1965	kaufman	bel	1911	54	up to down staircase	1	54	
1950	winsor	kathleen	1919	50	star money	3		1966	macinnes	helen	1905	61	the double image	3		
1950	du maurier	daphne	1907	43	the parasites	10		1966	st johns	adela r.	1894	72	tell no man	1		
1950	bristow	gwen	1903	47	jubilee trail	1	47.5	1966	susann	jacqueline	1918	48	the valley of dolls	4	60.3	
1951	no woman								1967	marshall	catherine	1914	53	christy	2	
1952	keyes	frances p.	1900	52	steamboat gothic	8		1967	stewart	mary	1916	51	the gabriel hounds	6	52	
1952	du maurier	daphne	1907	45	my cousin rachel	10		1968	caldwell	taylor	1900	68	testimony of two men	8		
1952	turnbull	agnes sligh	1888	64	the gown of the glory	2		1968	macinnes	helen	1905	63	the salzburg connection	3		
1952	ferber	edna	1885	67	giant	7	40.2	1968	marshall	catherine	1914	54	christy	2	61.6	
1953	selinko	annemarie	1914	39	désirée	1	39	1969	ashe	penelope	1933	36	naked came the stranger	1		
1954	keyes	frances p.	1900	54	the royal box	8		1969	davis	gwen	1939	30	the pretenders	1		
1954	caldwell	taylor	1900	54	never victorious	8		1969	du maurier	daphne	1907	62	the house on the strand	10		
1954	du maurier	daphne	1907	47	mary anne	10	51.6	1969	susann	jacqueline	1918	51	the love machine	4	44.7	
1955	sagan	françoise	1935	20	bonjour tristesse	2	20	1970	caldwell	taylor	1900	70	great lion of god	8		
1956	metalious	grace	1924	32	peyton place	2		1970	holt	victoria	1906	64	the secret woman	1		
1956	thompson	kay	1908	48	eloise	3		1970	stewart	mary	1916	54	the crystal cave	6	62.6	
1956	de beauvoir	simone	1908	48	the mandarins	1		1971	macinnes	helen	1905	66	message from malaga	3	66	
1956	sagan	françoise	1935	21	a certain smile	2	37.2	1972	caldwell	taylor	1900	72	captains and the kings	8		
1957	du maurier	daphne	1907	50	the scapegoat	10		1972	holmes	marjorie	1910	62	two from galilee	1	67	
1957	thompson	kay	1908	49	eloise in paris	3		1973	stewart	mary	1916	57	the hollow hills	6		
1957	metalious	grace	1924	33	peyton place	2		1973	susann	jacqueline	1918	55	once is not enough	4	56	
1957	keyes	frances p.	1900	57	blue camellia	8		1974	craven	margeret	1901	73	i heard the owl call my name	1	73	
1957	rand	ayn	1905	52	atlas shrugged	1	48.2	1975	christie	agatha	1890	85	curtain	2		
1958	keyes	frances p.	1900	58	victorine	8		1975	rossner	judith	1935	40	looking for mister goodbar	1	62.5	
1958	seton	anya	1904	54	the winthrop woman	1		1976	christie	agatha	1890	86	sleeping murder	2		
1958	ferber	edna	1885	73	ice palace	7		1976	stewart	mary	1916	60	touch not the cat	6		
1958	thompson	kay	1908	50	eloise at christmastime	3	58.8	1976	susann	jacqueline	1918	58	dolores	4	68	
1959	caldwell	taylor	1900	59	dear and glorious physician	8	59	1977	christie	agatha	1890	86	sleeping murder	2		
1960	caldwell	taylor	1900	60	the listener	8		1976	stewart	mary	1916	60	touch not the cat	6		
1960	chase	mary ellen	1887	73	the lovely ambition	4		1976	susann	jacqueline	1918	58	dolores	4	68	
1960	davenport	marcia	1903	57	the constant image	3	63	1977	jong	erica	1942	35	how to save your own life	1		
1961	no woman								1977	mccullogh	colleen	1937	40	the thorn birds	2	
1962	lindbergh	anne m.	1906	56	dearly beloved	1		1977	nin	anais	1903	74	delta of venus: erotica	1	49.6	
1962	porter	katherine anne	1894	68	ship of fools	1	62	1978	krantz	judith	1928	50	scruples	5		
1963	caldwell	taylor	1900	63	grandmother and the priests	8		1978	plain	belva	1915	63	evergreen	2	56.5	
1963	du maurier	daphne	1907	56	the glass-blowers	10		1979	stewart	mary	1916	63	the last enchantment	6	63	
1963	mccarthy	mary	1912	51	the group	1	56.7	1980	krantz	judith	1928	52	princess daisy	5		
1964	stewart	mary	1916	48	this rough magic	6	48	1980	plain	belva	1915	65	random winds	2	58.5	

Table 9. Writers and Number of Times in the List, 1950-1980

No.	Last name	First name	Born in	First year listed	Last year listed	Age first time listed	Age last time listed	No. of times in list	
								Whole life	1950-1980
Women									
46	chase	mary ellen	1887	1934	1960	47	73	4	1
105	ferber	edna	1885	1924	1958	39	73	7	2
182	krantz	judith	1928	1978	1988	50	60	5	2
320	susann	jacqueline	1918	1966	1976	48	58	4	3
175	keyes	frances p.	1900	1946	1958	46	58	8	4
315	stewart	mary	1916	1964	1979	48	63	6	6
41	caldwell	taylor	1900	1946	1972	46	72	8	7
89	du maurier	daphne	1907	1938	1969	31	62	10	8
Men									
146	hilton	james	1900	1934	1953	34	53	7	1
1	asch	sholem	1880	1939	1951	59	71	6	1
212	marquand	john p	1893	1939	1951	46	58	6	1
66	cronin	a j	1896	1932	1953	36	57	8	1
86	douglas	lloyd c	1877	1932	1953	55	76	13	1
272	roberts	kenneth	1885	1937	1956	52	71	6	1
178	king	stephen	1947	1979	2014	32	67	36	2
109	follett	ken	1949	1978	1991	29	42	5	2
65	crichton	michael	1942	1969	2011	27	69	11	2
140	hemingway	ernest	1899	1940	1970	41	71	5	2
314	steinbeck	john	1902	1937	1961	35	59	8	3
296	sheldon	sidney	1917	1976	1997	59	80	11	3
349	waltari	mika	1908	1949	1954	41	46	4	3
377	yerby	frank	1916	1946	1954	30	38	8	3
204	ludlum	robert	1927	1973	1993	46	66	10	4
13	bach	richard	1936	1972	1988	36	52	5	4
358	west	morris	1916	1961	1968	45	52	4	4
342	vidal	gore	1925	1968	1984	43	59	4	4
54	clavell	james	1924	1966	1986	42	62	4	4
61	costain	thomas b	1885	1945	1957	60	72	8	4
88	drury	allen	1918	1959	1968	41	50	5	5
135	hailey	arthur	1920	1965	1979	45	59	5	5
241	o'hara	john	1905	1949	1963	44	58	6	6
316	stone	irving	1903	1945	1975	42	72	7	6
189	le carre	john	1931	1964	1989	33	58	9	6
111	forsyth	frederick	1938	1971	1984	33	46	7	6
346	wallace	irving	1916	1960	1974	44	58	7	7
336	uris	leon	1924	1953	1988	29	64	8	7
374	wouk	herman	1915	1951	1978	36	63	8	8
225	michener	james a	1907	1951	1992	44	85	15	9
271	robbins	harold	1916	1961	1981	45	65	9	9

Table 10. Mesuring the Quality of Bestsellers

Period (1)	Nobel Awards		Pulitzer Awards		National Book Awards	
	Total (2)	To bestseller (3)	Total (*) (4)	To bestseller (5)	Total (**) (6)	To bestseller (7)
1901-1909	10 (a)	0	0	0	0	0
1910-1919	9 (b)	0	0	0	0	0
1918-1919	0	0	2	2	0	0
1920-1929	10	0	9	8	0	0
1930-1939	10	2 (f)	10	6	0	0
1940-1949	6 (c)	1 (g)	8	6	0	0
1950-1959	10	1 (h)	8	4	10	6 (5)
1960-1969	11 (d)	1 (i)	9	7	10	4 (2)
1970-1979	11 (e)	1 (j)	7	1	13	1 (0)
1980-1989	10	0	10	3	14	4 (3)
1990-1999	10	1 (k)	10	2	10	1 (0)
Total	97	7	73	39	57	16 (10)

Notes

(a) 2 awards in 1904; (b) No award in 1914, 1918, 2 in 1917; (c) No awards in 1940-1943; (d) 2 awards in 1966;

(e) 2 awards in 1974; (f) Sinclair Lewis, Pearl Buck; (g) William Faulkner; (h) Ernest Hemingway; (i) John Steinbeck; (j) Saul Bellow; (k) Toni Morrison

(*) Pulitzer awards started only in 1918; One award is bestowed per year, with exceptions during the following periods: 1920-29, 1940-49, 1950-59, 1960-69, and 1970-79. See paper.

(**) National Book awards started only in 1950; One award is bestowed per year, with exceptions during the following periods: 1970-79, 1980-89.

Appendix: List of Authors and their Main Characteristics

No.	Last name	First name	Gender	Born in	First year listed	Last year listed	Age first time listed	Age last time listed	Years between first and last	Consecutive years in list	Number of times in list
1	abbott	eleanor	F	1872	1910	1911	38	39	1	2	2
2	adams	richard	M	1920	1974	1974	54	54	0	1	1
3	aldrich	bess streeter	F	1881	1931	1933	50	52	2	1	2
4	allen	hervey	M	1889	1933	1943	44	54	10	2	4
5	allen	james lane	M	1849	1897	1903	48	54	6	1	3
6	anonymous	(joe klein)	M	1946	1996	1996	50	50	0	1	1
7	arlen	michael	M	1895	1925	1925	30	30	0	1	1
8	asch	sholem	M	1880	1939	1951	59	71	12	2	6
9	ashe	penelope	F	1933	1969	1969	36	36	0	1	1
10	atherton	gertrude	F	1857	1921	1923	64	66	2	1	2
11	auchincloss	louis	M	1917	1964	1966	47	49	2	1	2
12	auel	jean m	F	1936	1982	2002	46	66	20	1	4
13	bach	richard	M	1936	1972	1988	36	52	16	2	5
14	bacheller	irving	M	1859	1900	1920	41	61	20	2	5
15	bachman	richard	M	1947	1996	1996	49	49	0	1	1
16	bailey	temple	F	1885	1919	1926	34	41	7	1	3
17	barclay	florence	F	1862	1910	1911	48	49	1	2	2
18	barnes	margaret ayer	F	1886	1930	1934	44	48	4	2	3
19	barrington	e	F	1862	1925	1925	63	63	0	1	1
20	basso	hamilton	M	1904	1954	1954	50	50	0	1	1
21	baum	vicki	F	1888	1931	1931	43	43	0	1	1
22	beach	rex	M	1877	1906	1912	29	35	6	2	4
23	bellamann	henry	M	1882	1942	1942	60	60	0	1	1
24	bellow	saul	M	1915	1964	1975	49	60	11	2	3
25	benchley	peter	M	1940	1974	1976	34	36	2	1	2
26	bentley	phylis	F	1894	1932	1932	38	38	0	1	1
27	binchy	maeve	F	1940	1999	1999	59	59	0	1	1
28	blatty	william p.	M	1928	1971	1971	43	43	0	1	1
29	bottome	phylis	F	1884	1934	1938	50	54	4	1	2
30	bradford	barbara taylor	F	1933	1988	1991	55	58	3	1	2
31	breslin	jimmy	M	1930	1970	1970	40	40	0	1	1
32	briffault	robert	M	1876	1935	1935	59	59	0	1	1
33	brinkley	william	M	1917	1956	1956	39	39	0	1	1
34	bristow	gwen	F	1903	1950	1950	47	47	0	1	1
35	bromfield	louis	M	1896	1927	1943	31	47	16	2	8
36	brooks	terry	M	1944	1999	1999	55	55	0	1	1
37	brush	katherine	F	1902	1930	1930	28	28	0	1	1
38	buck	pearl s	F	1892	1931	1942	39	50	11	2	4
39	burnett	frances hodgson	F	1849	1896	1922	47	73	26	2	6
40	caine	hall	M	1853	1895	1913	42	60	18	1	3
41	caldwell	taylor	F	1900	1946	1972	46	72	26	2	8
42	canfield	dorothy	F	1879	1921	1921	42	42	0	1	1
43	carroll	gladys hasty	F	1904	1933	1933	29	29	0	1	1
44	cather	willa	F	1874	1931	1931	57	57	0	1	1
45	chambers	robert w	M	1865	1906	1919	41	54	13	2	4
46	chase	mary ellen	F	1887	1934	1960	47	73	26	2	4
47	cholmondeley	alice	F	1866	1917	1917	51	51	0	1	1
48	cholmondeley	mary	F	1859	1900	1900	41	41	0	1	1
49	christie	agatha	F	1890	1975	1976	85	86	1	2	2
50	churchill	winston	M	1871	1899	1915	28	44	16	3	10
51	clancy	tom	M	1947	1986	2011	39	64	25	4	14
52	clark	mary higgins	F	1927	1989	1998	62	71	9	2	6
53	clarke	arthur c	M	1917	1982	1982	65	65	0	1	1
54	clavell	james	M	1924	1966	1986	42	62	20	1	4
55	collins	jackie	F	1957	1983	1990	26	33	7	2	4
56	collins + lapierre	larry + dominique	M	1929	1980	1980	51	51	0	1	1
57	connor	ralph	M	1861	1907	1919	46	58	12	2	3
58	conrad	joseph	M	1857	1919	1919	62	62	0	1	1

No.	Last name	First name	Gender	Born in	First year listed	Last year listed	Age first time listed	Age last time listed	Years between first and last	Consecutive years in list	Number of times in list
59	conroy	pat	M	1945	1986	1986	41	41	0	1	1
60	cornwell	patricia	F	1956	1996	2010	40	54	14	3	11
61	costain	thomas b	M	1885	1945	1957	60	72	12	3	8
62	cozzens	james gould	M	1903	1957	1957	54	54	0	1	1
63	craven	margeret	F	1901	1974	1974	73	73	0	1	1
64	crichton	michael	M	1942	1969	2011	27	69	42	3	11
65	crichton	robert	M	1925	1966	1966	41	41	0	1	1
66	cronin	a j	M	1896	1932	1953	36	57	21	2	8
67	curwood	james oliver	M	1878	1920	1924	42	46	4	2	3
68	dalrymple	leona	F	1884	1914	1914	30	30	0	1	1
69	davenport	marcia	F	1903	1943	1960	40	57	17	1	3
70	daviess	maria thompson	F	1872	1912	1912	40	40	0	1	1
71	davis	gwen	F	1936	1969	1969	33	33	0	1	1
72	dawson	coningsby	M	1883	1921	1924	38	41	3	1	2
73	de beauvoir	simone	F	1908	1956	1956	48	48	0	1	1
74	de borchgrave + moss	arnaud + robert	M	1926	1980	1980	54	54	0	1	1
75	de la roche	mazo	F	1879	1927	1933	48	54	6	2	4
76	deeping	warwick	M	1877	1926	1932	49	55	6	7	8
77	deland	margaret	F	1857	1906	1911	49	54	5	1	2
78	dell	ethel m	F	1881	1916	1920	35	39	4	3	4
79	delmar	vina	F	1903	1928	1928	25	25	0	1	1
80	dennis	patrick	M	1921	1955	1958	34	37	3	2	3
81	di lampedusa	giuseppe	M	1896	1960	1960	64	64	0	1	1
82	dinesen	isak	F	1885	1934	1934	49	49	0	1	1
83	dixon jr	thomas	M	1864	1903	1905	39	41	2	1	2
84	doctorow	edgar laurence	M	1931	1975	1975	44	44	0	1	1
85	donaldson	stephen r	M	1947	1983	1983	36	36	0	1	1
86	douglas	lloyd c	M	1877	1932	1953	55	76	21	4	13
87	doyle	a. conan	M	1859	1902	1902	43	43	0	1	1
88	drury	allen	M	1918	1959	1968	41	50	9	2	5
89	du maurier	daphne	F	1907	1938	1969	31	62	31	2	10
90	eco	umberto	M	1932	1983	1983	51	51	0	1	1
91	edmonds	walter d	M	1903	1936	1937	33	34	1	2	2
92	elizabeth	-	F	1866	1919	1923	53	57	4	1	2
93	ellis	j breckenridge	M	1870	1912	1912	42	42	0	1	1
94	erdman	paul e	M	1932	1973	1973	41	41	0	1	1
95	erskine	john	M	1879	1926	1926	47	47	0	1	1
96	ertz	susan	F	1894	1926	1929	32	35	3	1	2
97	esquivel	laura	F	1950	1993	1993	43	43	0	1	1
98	evans	nicholas	M	1950	1995	1995	45	45	0	1	1
99	evans	richard paul	M	1950	1995	1995	45	45	0	1	1
100	fallada	hans	M	1893	1933	1933	40	40	0	1	1
101	farnol	jeffrey	M	1878	1911	1917	33	39	6	1	3
102	fast	howard	M	1914	1978	1979	64	65	1	2	2
103	faulkner	william	M	1897	1962	1962	65	65	0	1	1
104	federova	nina	F	1895	1940	1940	45	45	0	1	1
105	ferber	edna	F	1885	1924	1958	39	73	34	1	7
106	field	rachel	F	1894	1935	1942	41	48	7	2	4
107	fisher	dorothy canfield	F	1879	1924	1924	45	45	0	1	1
108	fleming	ian	M	1908	1964	1965	56	57	1	2	2
109	follett	ken	M	1949	1978	1991	29	42	13	1	5
110	ford	paul leicester	M	1865	1897	1900	32	35	3	2	3
111	forsyth	frederick	M	1938	1971	1984	33	46	13	4	7
112	fowles	john	M	1926	1970	1977	44	51	7	1	2
113	fox jr	john	M	1862	1903	1913	41	51	10	2	5
114	frazier	charles	M	1950	1997	1997	47	47	0	1	1
115	freeman	cynthia	F	1915	1981	1981	66	66	0	1	1
116	freeman	h w	M	1899	1929	1929	30	30	0	1	1
117	gallico	paul	M	1897	1959	1959	62	62	0	1	1
118	galsworthy	john	M	1867	1926	1933	59	66	7	1	4

No.	Last name	First name	Gender	Born in	First year listed	Last year listed	Age first time listed	Age last time listed	Years between first and last	Consecutive years in list	Number of times in list
119	gann	ernest k	M	1910	1953	1953	43	43	0	1	1
120	garner	james finn	M	1960	1994	1995	34	35	1	2	2
121	gibbs	hamilton	M	1870	1925	1930	55	60	5	1	2
122	gibbs	philip	M	1877	1924	1924	47	47	0	1	1
123	glasgow	ellen	F	1873	1904	1935	31	62	31	1	5
124	glyn	elinor	F	1864	1901	1901	37	37	0	1	1
125	godden	rummer	M	1907	1963	1963	56	56	0	1	1
126	golding	louis	M	1895	1932	1932	37	37	0	1	1
127	goss	charles frederic	M	1852	1900	1900	48	48	0	1	1
128	goudge	elizabeth	F	1900	1944	1948	44	48	4	1	2
129	graham	gweythaly	F	1913	1945	1945	32	32	0	1	1
130	grant	robert	M	1852	1900	1900	48	48	0	1	1
131	greene	graham	M	1904	1970	1973	66	69	3	1	2
132	grey	zane	M	1872	1915	1924	43	52	9	8	9
133	grisham	john	M	1955	1991	2016	36	61	25	15	32
134	hackett	general sir john	M	1910	1979	1979	69	69	0	1	1
135	hailey	arthur	M	1920	1965	1979	45	59	14	1	5
136	harland	henry	M	1861	1904	1904	43	43	0	1	1
137	harris	thomas	M	1940	1999	2006	59	66	7	1	2
138	harrison	henry sydnor	M	1880	1911	1915	31	35	4	1	3
139	heller	joseph	M	1923	1974	1974	51	51	0	1	1
140	hemingway	ernest	M	1899	1940	1970	41	71	30	2	5
141	hersey	john	M	1914	1944	1950	30	36	6	1	2
142	hewlett	maurice	M	1861	1901	1901	40	40	0	1	1
143	heyward	dubose	M	1885	1929	1929	44	44	0	1	1
144	hichens	robert	M	1864	1905	1917	41	53	12	1	2
145	higgins	jack	M	1929	1975	1976	46	47	1	2	2
146	hilton	james	M	1900	1934	1953	34	53	19	2	7
147	hobart	alice tisdale	F	1882	1934	1934	52	52	0	1	1
148	hobson	laura z	F	1900	1947	1947	47	47	0	1	1
149	holmes	marjorie	F	1910	1972	1972	62	62	0	1	1
150	holt	victoria	F	1906	1970	1970	64	64	0	1	1
151	hough	emerson	M	1857	1902	1909	45	52	7	1	2
152	hull	edith m	F	1880	1921	1922	41	42	1	2	2
153	hurst	fannie	F	1889	1931	1931	42	42	0	1	1
154	hutchinson	a s m	M	1880	1922	1925	42	45	3	2	4
155	huxley	aldous	M	1894	1936	1936	42	42	0	1	1
156	hyman	mac	M	1923	1954	1955	31	32	1	2	2
157	hZmon	louis	M	1880	1922	1922	42	42	0	1	1
158	ibanez	v. blasco	M	1867	1919	1919	52	52	0	1	1
159	irving	john	M	1942	1981	1981	39	39	0	1	1
160	jakes	john	M	1932	1982	1989	50	57	7	1	4
161	janney	russell	M	1884	1946	1947	62	63	1	2	2
162	jenkins	dan	M	1929	1972	1972	43	43	0	1	1
163	jenkins + lahaye	jerry b + tim	M	1926	1999	2004	73	78	5	6	8
164	johnson	owen	M	1878	1914	1914	36	36	0	1	1
165	johnston	mary	F	1870	1900	1911	30	41	11	1	5
166	jones	james	M	1921	1951	1953	30	32	2	1	2
167	jong	erica	F	1942	1977	1977	35	35	0	1	1
168	kantor	mackinlay	M	1904	1955	1956	51	52	1	2	2
169	kaufman	bel	F	1911	1965	1965	54	54	0	1	1
170	kazan	elia	M	1909	1967	1967	58	58	0	1	1
171	keable	robert	M	1887	1922	1922	35	35	0	1	1
172	keillor	garrison	M	1942	1985	1987	43	45	2	1	2
173	kennedy	margaret	F	1896	1925	1925	29	29	0	1	1
174	kester	vaughan	M	1869	1911	1912	42	43	1	2	2
175	keyes	frances parkinson	F	1900	1946	1958	46	58	12	3	8
176	kim	richard e	M	1932	1964	1964	32	32	0	1	1
177	king	basil	M	1859	1909	1912	50	53	3	2	3
178	king	stephen	M	1947	1979	2014	32	67	35	9	36

No.	Last name	First name	Gender	Born in	First year listed	Last year listed	Age first time listed	Age last time listed	Years between first and last	Consecutive years in list	Number of times in list
179	knebel	fletcher	M	1911	1962	1968	51	57	6	1	3
180	knight	eric	M	1897	1941	1941	44	44	0	1	1
181	kotzwinkle	william	M	1938	1982	1982	44	44	0	1	1
182	krantz	judith	F	1928	1978	1988	50	60	10	1	5
183	krey	laura	F	1890	1938	1938	48	48	0	1	1
184	kyne	peter b	M	1880	1920	1920	40	40	0	1	1
185	l'amour	louis	M	1908	1983	1986	75	78	3	2	3
186	lane	elinor macartney	F	1864	1909	1909	45	45	0	1	1
187	langley	adria locke	F	1899	1945	1945	46	46	0	1	1
188	laurence	d h	M	1885	1959	1959	74	74	0	1	1
189	le carre	john	M	1931	1964	1989	33	58	25	2	9
190	burdick	eugene l	M	1918	1959	1962	41	44	3	1	2
191	lee	harper	F	1926	1961	2016	35	90	55	3	5
192	lenard (translator)	alexander	M	1910	1961	1961	51	51	0	1	1
193	levin	ira	M	1929	1967	1967	38	38	0	1	1
194	levin	meyer	M	1905	1957	1957	52	52	0	1	1
195	lewis	sinclair	M	1885	1921	1947	36	62	26	3	11
196	lincoln	joseph c	M	1870	1920	1920	50	50	0	1	1
197	lindbergh	anne morrow	F	1906	1962	1962	56	56	0	1	1
198	little	frances	F	1863	1907	1907	44	44	0	1	1
199	llewellyn	richard	M	1906	1940	1940	34	34	0	1	1
200	locke	william j	M	1863	1909	1917	46	54	8	2	5
201	lockridge jr	ross	M	1914	1948	1948	34	34	0	1	1
202	loos	anita	F	1888	1926	1926	38	38	0	1	1
203	lorimer	george horace	M	1869	1903	1903	34	34	0	1	1
204	ludlum	robert	M	1927	1973	1993	46	66	20	3	10
205	macgrath	harold	M	1871	1901	1909	30	38	8	3	4
206	macinnes	helen	F	1905	1966	1971	61	66	5	1	3
207	mailer	norman	M	1923	1948	1948	25	25	0	1	1
208	major	charles	M	1856	1899	1902	43	46	3	2	3
209	malamud	bernard	M	1914	1966	1966	52	52	0	1	1
210	malet	lucas	M	1852	1902	1902	50	50	0	1	1
211	marks	percy	M	1891	1924	1924	33	33	0	1	1
212	marquand	john p	M	1893	1939	1951	46	58	12	1	6
213	marshall	catherine	F	1914	1967	1968	53	54	1	2	2
214	maughan	somerset	M	1874	1937	1944	63	70	7	1	2
215	maxwell	w.b.	M	1866	1914	1914	48	48	0	1	1
216	mccarthy	mary	F	1912	1963	1963	51	51	0	1	1
217	mccullogh	colleen	F	1937	1977	1981	40	44	4	1	2
218	mccutcheon	george barr	M	1866	1901	1914	35	48	13	6	8
219	mckenna	richard	M	1913	1963	1963	50	50	0	1	1
220	mckenna	stephen	M	1888	1918	1918	30	30	0	1	1
221	mcmillan	terry	F	1951	1992	2001	41	50	9	1	2
222	metalious	grace	F	1924	1956	1957	32	33	1	2	2
223	meyer	nicholas	M	1945	1974	1974	29	29	0	1	1
224	michelson	miriam	F	1870	1904	1904	34	34	0	1	1
225	michener	james a	M	1907	1951	1992	44	85	41	2	15
226	miller	caroline	F	1903	1934	1934	31	31	0	1	1
227	miller	henry	M	1891	1961	1961	70	70	0	1	1
228	mittell	margaret	F	1900	1936	1937	36	37	1	2	2
229	monsarrat	nicholas	M	1910	1951	1956	41	46	5	1	2
230	moore	robin	M	1925	1965	1965	40	40	0	1	1
231	morgan	charles	M	1894	1932	1936	38	42	4	1	2
232	morley	christopher	M	1890	1939	1940	49	50	1	2	2
233	morrison	toni	F	1931	1998	1998	67	67	0	1	1
234	nabokov	vladimir	M	1899	1958	1959	59	60	1	2	2
235	nicholson	meredith	M	1866	1906	1912	40	46	6	2	3
236	nin	anais	F	1903	1977	1977	74	74	0	1	1
237	nordhoff + hall	charles + james n	M	1887	1936	1936	49	49	0	1	1
238	norris	frank	M	1870	1903	1903	33	33	0	1	1

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239	norris	kathleen	F	1880	1916	1920	36	40	4	1	2
240	o'connor	edwin	M	1918	1956	1966	38	48	10	1	3
241	o'hara	john	M	1905	1949	1963	44	58	14	1	6
242	oppenheim	e phillips	M	1866	1918	1920	52	54	2	1	2
243	page	elizabeth	F	1889	1939	1939	50	50	0	1	1
244	page	thomas nelson	M	1853	1899	1903	46	50	4	1	2
245	parker	gilbert	M	1862	1896	1913	34	51	17	2	7
246	parrish	anne	F	1888	1925	1928	37	40	3	2	3
247	pasternak	boris	M	1890	1958	1959	68	69	1	2	2
248	patterson	james	M	1947	1997	2011	50	64	14	12	18
249	peterkin	julia	F	1880	1929	1929	49	49	0	1	1
250	pickett	elizabeth	F	1896	1942	1942	46	46	0	1	1
251	pilcher	rosamunde	F	1924	1990	1990	66	66	0	1	1
252	plain	belva	F	1915	1978	1980	63	65	2	1	2
253	poole	ernest	M	1880	1915	1917	35	37	2	1	2
254	porter	eleanor h	F	1868	1913	1920	45	52	7	6	7
255	porter	katherine anne	F	1894	1962	1962	68	68	0	1	1
256	porter I	gene stratton	F	1863	1911	1925	48	62	14	3	8
257	potok	chaim	M	1929	1967	1972	38	43	5	1	3
258	priestley	j b	M	1894	1930	1930	36	36	0	1	1
259	puzo	mario	M	1920	1969	1984	49	64	15	1	3
260	rand	ayn	F	1905	1957	1957	52	52	0	1	1
261	rawlings	marjorie kinnan	F	1896	1938	1939	42	43	1	2	2
262	rechy	john	M	1931	1963	1963	32	32	0	1	1
263	redfield	james	M	1950	1994	1996	44	46	2	3	3
264	remarque	erich maria	M	1898	1929	1946	31	48	17	1	3
265	rice	alice hegan	F	1870	1902	1905	32	35	3	2	4
266	rice	anne	F	1941	1988	1993	47	52	5	2	4
267	rinehart	mary roberts	F	1876	1909	1936	33	60	27	3	12
268	ripley	alexandra	F	1934	1991	1991	57	57	0	1	1
269	rivers	joan	F	1933	1984	1984	51	51	0	1	1
270	rives	hallie erminie	F	1876	1907	1913	31	37	6	1	3
271	robbins	harold	M	1916	1961	1981	45	65	20	2	9
272	roberts	kenneth	M	1885	1937	1956	52	71	19	2	6
273	robinson	henry morton	M	1898	1950	1951	52	53	1	2	2
274	rolvaag	ole	M	1876	1929	1929	53	53	0	1	1
275	rorick	isabel scott	F	1900	1941	1941	41	41	0	1	1
276	rossner	judith	F	1935	1975	1975	40	40	0	1	1
277	roth	philip	M	1933	1969	1969	36	36	0	1	1
278	ruark	robert	M	1915	1955	1959	40	44	4	1	2
279	runkle	bertha	F	1879	1901	1901	22	22	0	1	1
280	rushdie	salman	M	1947	1989	1989	42	42	0	1	1
281	sabatini	rafael	M	1875	1923	1925	48	50	2	3	3
282	sagan	carl	M	1934	1985	1985	51	51	0	1	1
283	sagan	françoise	F	1935	1955	1956	20	21	1	2	2
284	salinger	j d	M	1919	1961	1963	42	44	2	3	3
285	sanders	lawrence	M	1920	1981	1981	61	61	0	1	1
286	santayana	george	M	1863	1936	1936	73	73	0	1	1
287	santmyer	helen hooven	F	1895	1984	1984	89	89	0	1	1
288	saroyan	william	M	1908	1943	1943	35	35	0	1	1
289	schulberg	budd	M	1914	1950	1950	36	36	0	1	1
290	sedgwick	anne douglas	F	1873	1912	1929	39	56	17	2	5
291	segal	erich	M	1937	1970	1977	33	40	7	1	2
292	selinko	annemarie	F	1914	1953	1953	39	39	0	1	1
293	seton	anya	F	1904	1958	1958	54	54	0	1	1
294	seuss	dr	M	1904	1984	1984	80	80	0	1	1
295	shaw	irwin	M	1914	1948	1977	34	63	29	1	4
296	sheldon	sidney	M	1917	1976	1997	59	80	21	3	11
297	shellabarger	samuel	M	1888	1945	1953	57	65	8	1	3
298	shulman	max	M	1919	1957	1957	38	38	0	1	1

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299	shute	nevil	M	1899	1957	1960	58	61	3	1	2
300	sinclair	may	F	1863	1918	1918	55	55	0	1	1
301	sinclair	upton	M	1878	1906	1906	28	28	0	1	1
302	smith	betty	F	1904	1943	1948	39	44	5	2	3
303	smith	f hopkinson	M	1838	1898	1915	60	77	17	2	4
304	smith	lillian	F	1897	1944	1944	47	47	0	1	1
305	smith	martin cruz	M	1942	1981	1981	39	39	0	1	1
306	solzhenitsyn	alexander	M	1918	1972	1972	54	54	0	1	1
307	southern + hoffenberg	terry + mason	M	1924	1964	1964	40	40	0	1	1
308	spearman	frank h	M	1859	1916	1916	57	57	0	1	1
309	spellman	cardinal	M	1889	1951	1951	62	62	0	1	1
310	spring	howard	M	1889	1938	1952	49	63	14	1	2
311	st johns	adela rogers	F	1894	1966	1966	72	72	0	1	1
312	steel	danielle	F	1947	1983	2000	36	53	17	18	32
313	steen	marguerite	F	1894	1941	1942	47	48	1	2	2
314	steinbeck	john	M	1902	1937	1961	35	59	24	2	8
315	stewart	mary	F	1916	1964	1979	48	63	15	1	6
316	stone	irving	M	1903	1945	1975	42	72	30	2	7
317	streeter	edward	M	1891	1918	1949	27	58	31	1	2
318	struther	jan	M	1901	1940	1940	39	39	0	1	1
319	styron	william	M	1925	1967	1979	42	54	12	1	2
320	susann	jacqueline	F	1918	1966	1976	48	58	10	1	4
321	sutton (aka slavitt)	henry (aka david)	M	1935	1967	1967	32	32	0	1	1
322	tarkington	booth	M	1869	1902	1932	33	63	30	3	9
323	thompson	kay	F	1908	1956	1958	48	50	2	3	3
324	thompson	maurice	M	1844	1900	1901	56	57	1	2	2
325	thompson	morton	M	1908	1954	1955	46	47	1	2	2
326	thompson	sylvia	F	1902	1926	1926	24	24	0	1	1
327	thurston	katherine cecil	F	1875	1904	1910	29	35	6	2	4
328	tolkien	j r r	M	1892	1977	1977	85	85	0	1	1
329	train	arthur	M	1875	1923	1923	48	48	0	1	1
330	traver	robert	M	1903	1958	1958	55	55	0	1	1
331	tryon	thomas	M	1926	1971	1971	45	45	0	1	1
332	turnbull	agnes sligh	F	1888	1948	1952	60	64	4	1	2
333	turov	scott	M	1949	1987	1993	38	44	6	1	3
334	ullman	james ramsey	M	1907	1945	1945	38	38	0	1	1
335	updike	john	M	1932	1968	1971	36	39	3	1	2
336	uris	leon	M	1924	1953	1988	29	64	35	1	8
337	van dine	s s	M	1888	1928	1929	40	41	1	2	2
338	van dyke	henry	M	1852	1902	1902	50	50	0	1	1
339	van wyck mason	francis	M	1901	1940	1949	39	48	9	1	2
340	vance	ethel	F	1891	1939	1939	48	48	0	1	1
341	vance	louis j	M	1879	1907	1908	28	29	1	2	2
342	vidal	gore	M	1925	1968	1984	43	59	16	1	4
343	vinge	joan d	F	1948	1983	1983	35	35	0	1	1
344	vonnegut jr	kurt	M	1922	1973	1979	51	57	6	1	3
345	wakeman	frederic	M	1909	1946	1946	37	37	0	1	1
346	wallace	irving	M	1916	1960	1974	44	58	14	1	7
347	waller	robert james	M	1939	1993	1994	54	55	1	2	3
348	walpole	hugh	M	1884	1928	1930	44	46	2	1	2
349	waltari	mika	M	1908	1949	1954	41	46	5	3	4
350	wambaugh	joseph	M	1937	1975	1981	38	44	6	1	2
351	ward	mary jane	F	1905	1946	1946	41	41	0	1	1
352	ward	mrs humphry	F	1851	1898	1905	47	54	7	1	3
353	webster	henry kitchell	M	1875	1916	1916	41	41	0	1	1
354	webster	jean	F	1876	1916	1916	40	40	0	1	1
355	weidman	jerome	M	1913	1958	1958	45	45	0	1	1
356	wells	h g	M	1866	1916	1917	50	51	1	2	2
357	werfel	franz	M	1890	1935	1943	45	53	8	2	3
358	west	morris	M	1916	1961	1968	45	52	7	1	4

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359	west	rebecca	F	1892	1936	1936	44	44	0	1	1
360	wharton	edith	F	1862	1905	1927	43	65	22	2	4
361	white	stewart edward	M	1873	1904	1904	31	31	0	1	1
362	wiggin	kate douglas	F	1856	1898	1905	42	49	7	2	3
363	wilder	thornton	M	1897	1928	1967	31	70	39	1	4
364	wilkins	vaughan	M	1890	1937	1937	47	47	0	1	1
365	williams	ben ames	M	1889	1944	1953	55	64	9	1	3
366	williams	kit	M	1946	1981	1981	35	35	0	1	1
367	williamson	c n + a m	M	1869	1905	1910	36	41	5	1	2
368	wilson	sloan	M	1920	1955	1955	35	35	0	1	1
369	winsor	kathleen	F	1919	1944	1950	25	31	6	2	3
370	wister	owen	M	1860	1902	1906	42	46	4	2	3
371	wolfe	thomas	M	1900	1935	1935	35	35	0	1	1
372	wolfe	tom	M	1931	1998	1998	67	67	0	1	1
373	woolf	virginia	F	1882	1937	1937	55	55	0	1	1
374	wouk	herman	M	1915	1951	1978	36	63	27	2	8
375	wren	p c	M	1875	1926	1926	51	51	0	1	2
376	wright	harold bell	M	1872	1911	1923	39	51	12	2	9
377	yerby	frank	M	1916	1946	1954	30	38	8	7	8
378	young	stark	M	1881	1934	1934	53	53	0	1	1