

Talking Book Center News

News & Information from the
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Spring Cleaning

Help us keep talking books circulating! Take a few minutes to check over the books currently on loan to you. Returning books as you complete them helps to ensure that you will have a steady supply of books on hand.

Now that the winter months are over, perhaps you might like to try something new – if your reading interests have changed, let us know. We will be happy to suggest new books, authors, or subjects.

Have you ever read a book set in a well-known city, with places and landmarks you recognize? We wondered how many books in our collection have as their setting the city of Chicago. Here are just a few:

A mystery set in Chicago is **RC 49502 Pigeon Pie: A Jimmy Flannery Mystery** by Robert Campbell. Jimmy Flannery is perfectly happy as the Democratic leader for Chicago's twenty seventh ward. The mayor wants Flannery to run for his ward, the eleventh. Soon Flannery and his extremely diverse campaign staff find themselves in dangerous territory, including book banning and murder. Strong language.

In addition, we have other "Chicago" mysteries by such authors as Sara Paretsky (V.I. Warshawski novels); Barbara D'Amato (Cat Marsala mysteries); Ralph McInerney (Father Dowling mysteries) and Stuart Kaminsky (Abe Lieberman mysteries) to name a few. Other fiction titles include:

RC 52961, BR 13742 The Jungle by Upton Sinclair. Grim account of the deplorable conditions in the Chicago meatpacking industry around 1900, as seen through the eyes of Lithuanian immigrant Jurgis Rudkus. When first published, the novel aroused the indignation of the American public and forced government investigations that led to the passage of the pure food legislation. Some violence.

RC 51436 The Man with the Golden Arm by Nelson Algren. The Underworld of Chicago's West Side in the late 1940s is portrayed through Frankie Machine-a poker dealer with a "golden arm" and morphine-addicted hustler with a bad conscience. Some strong language.

RC 61313, BR 16302 The Razor's Edge by W. Somerset Maugham. Twenty-year-old WWI aviator Larry Darrell leaves Chicago and heads to Paris seeking truth and meaning. In Larry's prolonged absence, his fiancée, Isabel, marries wealthy broker Gray Maturin. Ruined by the Depression years later, Isabel and her family relocate to Paris, where she and Larry reassess life and love.

We also have the following non-fiction titles that highlight some memorable Chicago people and places:

RC 63180 Millennium Park: Creating a Chicago Landmark by Timothy J. Gilfoyle chronicles the design, funding, and construction of Chicago's Millennium Park, a twenty-four acre public space serving as park, performance venue, outdoor museum, and cultural center which opened in 2004. **RC 48451 A Wild Kind of Boldness: The Chicago History Reader** edited by Rosemary K. Adams contains thirty five articles from the Chicago Historical Society's magazine *Chicago History*, tracing key events from the city's past. **RC 37092 Chicago Jazz: A Cultural History, 1904-1930** by William Howland Kenney examines the interdependent relationship of music, where it was played, and the rise of economic opportunities created by industries such as recording companies and dance halls.

RC 50429 A Useful Woman: The Early Life of Jane Addams by Gioia Diliberto is a biography of the first thirty-nine years of the social reformer's life – from her birth in 1860 through the 1889 founding of Chicago's Hull House. **RC 50813 Where's Harry?: Steve Stone Remembers His Years with Harry Caray** by Steve Stone includes wacky anecdotes about the late legendary baseball broadcaster Harry Caray by his partner and fellow announcer of fifteen years. And **RC 54500 or BR 13903 Selected Poems** by Carl Sandburg includes representative poems selected from published collections of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Carl Sandburg (1878-1967). Contains most of the Chicago Poems published in 1916.

With the summer travel season coming soon, please ask us about other cities, states, and regions of the United States you may be including in your travel plans or which are of interest to you!

Let's Talk Books! Book discussion groups offer the opportunity to exchange thoughts and views about various aspects of the books read, such as theme, characters and message. If you belong to a book discussion group, contact the Talking Book Center and we will be happy to check on whether or not your selections are available on talking book or in braille.