

BIKE TOURS OF CAMBRIDGE 2009

Sponsored by Cambridge Bicycle Committee
RIDE INFO: www.cambridgebikes.org



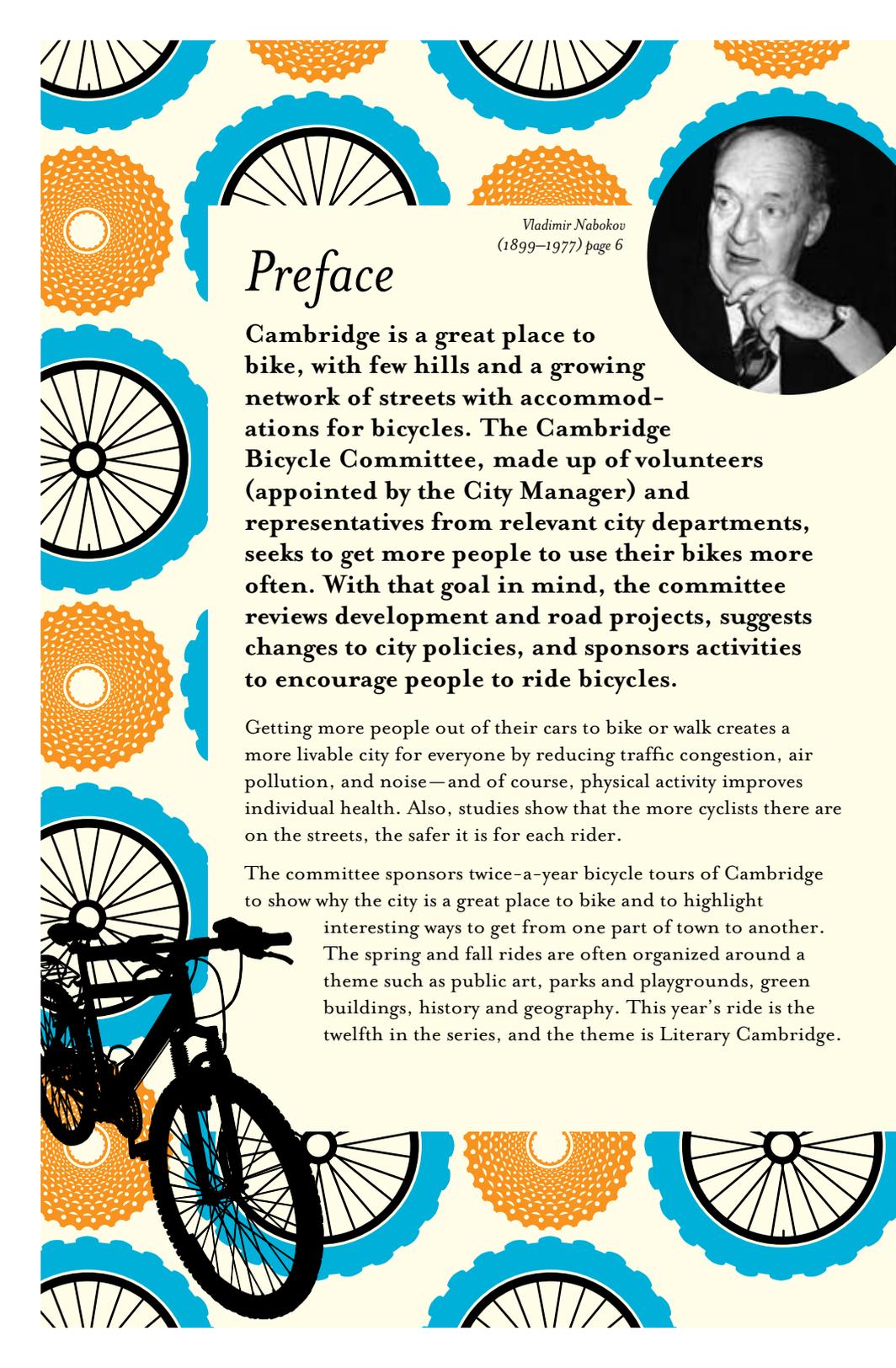
Literary
CAMBRIDGE
by
BIKE



Saturday,
MAY 16
2009

A Cambridge GoGreen Month event





Vladimir Nabokov
(1899–1977) page 6



Preface

Cambridge is a great place to bike, with few hills and a growing network of streets with accommodations for bicycles. The Cambridge Bicycle Committee, made up of volunteers (appointed by the City Manager) and representatives from relevant city departments, seeks to get more people to use their bikes more often. With that goal in mind, the committee reviews development and road projects, suggests changes to city policies, and sponsors activities to encourage people to ride bicycles.

Getting more people out of their cars to bike or walk creates a more livable city for everyone by reducing traffic congestion, air pollution, and noise—and of course, physical activity improves individual health. Also, studies show that the more cyclists there are on the streets, the safer it is for each rider.

The committee sponsors twice-a-year bicycle tours of Cambridge to show why the city is a great place to bike and to highlight interesting ways to get from one part of town to another. The spring and fall rides are often organized around a theme such as public art, parks and playgrounds, green buildings, history and geography. This year's ride is the twelfth in the series, and the theme is Literary Cambridge.





Introduction

If Boston was once viewed as the “Athens of America,” then Cambridge and Harvard were the Acropolis and Parthenon. A long list of poets, novelists, and non-fiction writers lived in, wrote in, or wrote about our fair city—Anne Bradstreet, Margret and H.A. Rey, W.E.B. DuBois, Vladimir Nabokov, T.S. Eliot, and Robert Frost, to name a few. And Cambridge figures in the story line of dozens of books (and the films based on them), from *The Sound and the Fury* to *Love Story*.

The following mentions only a small number of the many literary figures associated with Cambridge. Also, only residences of writers no longer living in Cambridge (or no longer living at all!) are documented, but the tradition continues:

Cambridge is currently home to two former U.S. poet laureates and many contemporary writers.



Thomas Wentworth Higginson
(1823–1911) page 6

BOOKS & CAMBRIDGE

It all started in 1640 with the publication of the first book in British North America: the *Bay Psalm Book* was printed by ✱ **Stephen Day**, who lived in Harvard Square. Thirty ministers including John Eliot and Richard Mather had been commissioned to translate the *Psalms* from the Hebrew. The psalter, without music, was printed in Cambridge on a press that became the property of Harvard. Although 1,700 copies were printed, only 11 survive; two are in the Boston Public Library.

In 1663, ✱ **John Eliot** of Roxbury published the *Algonquin Bible*. It was the first Bible printed in Cambridge and was produced at the shop once owned by Day. Eliot translated both the Old and New Testaments into Algonquin to help his work in evangelizing the Massachusetts tribe.

✱ **Anne Bradstreet** (1612–1672) The first American poet lived for a time at 1384 Massachusetts Avenue (near today’s Out of Town News) where she wrote the poems collected in *Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America* (1650). She was the subject of poet John Berryman’s first book in 1956, *Homage to Mistress Bradstreet*, which garnered much attention and acclaim.



Stop I

✱ **William James** (1842–1910) The philosopher of pragmatism and pioneering psychologist wrote *Varieties of Religious Experience*. In 1889 he built a house at 95 Irving Street. He said when he was at home he was “in Elysium.”

Down the street is 104 Irving, the family home of ✱ **e.e. cummings** (1894–1962), the experimental poet and non-lecturer. His only novel, *The Enormous Room*, drew on his experiences in the Great War. The house is said to have had the first telephone in Cambridge.

✱ **Julia Child** (1912–2004) The author of the two-volume *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* and star of “The French Chef” lived across the street at 103 Irving. Her kitchen is now in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. She shopped at Savenor’s Market on Kirkland Street.

On the way to the next stop, we ride by 119 Oxford Street, where, in *Love Story* by ✱ **Erich Segal**, Jenny and Oliver live after they marry and before they move to New York.



Stop II

✱ **Pauline Hopkins** (1856–1930) An African-American novelist, she published four novels set in slavery and post-Civil War times. She was also the editor of *Colored American* and *New Era* magazines, both published in Boston. Hopkins lived at 53 Clifton Street from 1896 but in 1914 moved to Jay Street in Cambridgeport, where she died in 1930.

On the way to the next stop, we pass by the corner of Fayerweather and Reservoir streets, location of the former home of Massachusetts Governor ✱ **William Weld** (in office 1991–1997), who has since published several novels.

Pauline Hopkins
(1856–1930)

e.e. cummings
(1894–1962)



Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw in scene from Love Story (1970)

William Weld, Massachusetts Governor, 1991–1997





Map Key

CitySmart Start of ride to official start

— Dana Park to CRLS (1.2 miles)

Start at CRLS/Library

I Stop I * e.e. cummings corner

II Stop II * Pauline Hopkins house

III Stop III * Elmwood

IV Stop IV * Longfellow House

V Stop V * Harvard University at the Broadway underpass

End at Riverside Press Park

Return to CRLS 1.16 miles

1. William James, 95 Irving St.
2. e.e. cummings, 104 Irving St.
3. Julia Child, 103 Irving St.
4. Love Story House, 119 Oxford St.
5. Pauline Hopkins, 53 Clifton St.
6. William Weld, 28 Fayerweather St.
7. May Sarton, 5 Channing Place
8. James Russell Lowell, 33 Elmwood Ave
9. Bartlett House, 165 Brattle St.
10. Robert Frost, 29 Brewster

Literary CAMBRIDGE by BIKE



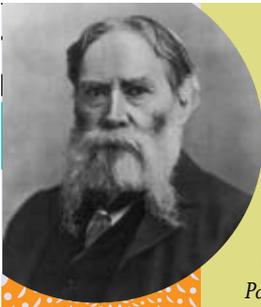
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- 11. Vladimir Nabokov, 9 Maynard Place
- 12. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, 29 Buckingham
- 13. William Dean Howells, 37 Concord Ave
- 14. Vladimir Nabokov, 8 Craigie Circle, Suite 35
- 15. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 105 Brattle St.
- 16. Archibald MacLeish, 4 Willard St.
- 17. T.S. Elliot, 16 Ash St.
- 18. Margaret and H.A. Rey, 14 Hillard St.
- 19. Vladimir Nabokov, 16 Chauncy St.
- 20. James Family, 20 Quincy St.

- 21. Grolier Poetry Book Shop, 6 Plympton St
- 22. Harvard Lampoon, 44 Bow St.
- 23. W.E.B. DuBois, 20 Flagg St
- 24. Riverside Press
- 25. Richard Henry Dana, Jr, 257 Green St.
- 26. Margeret Fuller, 71 Cherry St.

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James Russell Lowell
(1819–1891)

Stop III

✱ **James Russell Lowell** (1819–1891) The first editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*, he wrote satirical works such as *The Biglow Papers*, which featured American dialects. He lived at Elmwood, now the home of the president of Harvard. He succeeded his friend Henry Wadsworth Longfellow at a post at Harvard.

As the route enters Old Cambridge, we pass by the homes of many literary notables on the way to the next stop.

✱ **John Bartlett** (1820–1905) A man with a prodigious memory, Bartlett worked at and then owned the University Bookstore in Harvard Square. His reputation for remembering everything he had read caused people to say, “Ask John Bartlett.” His first edition of *Familiar Quotations* was printed in 1855. He lived at 165 Brattle Street.

✱ **Robert Frost** (1874–1963) The renowned poet bought the house at 29 Brewster Street when he was the Ralph Waldo Emerson Fellow in Poetry at Harvard and where he lived for the last two decades of his life, though spending winters in Florida and summers at Breadloaf. He recited “The Gift Outright” at John F. Kennedy’s inauguration in 1961. His epitaph is “He had a lover’s quarrel with the world.”

✱ **Thomas Wentworth Higginson** (1823–1911). An abolitionist, Civil War soldier, and proponent of equality for women, he moved to 29 Buckingham Street in 1878. He is best known today as the longtime friend from afar and editor of Emily Dickinson. He called her poetry “remarkable though odd.”

✱ **William Dean Howells** (1837–1920) While editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*, he lived at 37 Concord Avenue. He moved to Boston and then to New York, one of many signals that the literary scene was moving away from Boston and Cambridge. His best-known work, *The Rise of Silas Lapham*, is a realistic look at the fortunes of a self-made man.

✱ **Vladimir Nabokov** (1899–1977) The writer and entomologist lived at a number of Cambridge addresses, including 8 Craigie Circle, Suite 35; 9 Maynard Place (at the house of writer May Sarton); 35 Brewster Street; the Ambassador Hotel, 1737 Cambridge Street, Suite 617; the Continental Hotel Apartments, 16 Chauncy Street, #10. While in Cambridge from 1942 to 1948, Nabokov was a researcher at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard and a teacher at Wellesley.

He wrote *Lolita* while on summer butterfly-collecting trips in the West.

✿ **May Sarton** (1912–1995)

Although she traveled extensively, she kept her family

home at 5 Channing Place until 1958. Her novels, poetry, and memoirs earned her belated recognition, and she is now viewed as an important twentieth-century writer.

Stop IV

✿ **Henry Wadsworth**

Longfellow (1807–1882) His house at 105 Brattle Street was a wedding gift from his father-in-law and is now a National Historic Site. He wrote the epic poems *The Song of Hiawatha* and *Paul Revere's Ride*. *The Village Blacksmith* takes place at 42 Brattle, now the home of the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, where there really was "a spreading chestnut tree." He was the first American translator of Dante's *Divina Commedia*.

The route continues through more of Old Cambridge and passes by the following sites:

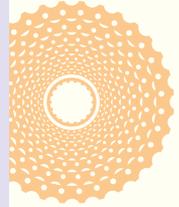
✿ **Archibald MacLeish**

(1892–1982) After a career in government including a stint as Librarian of Congress, MacLeish moved to Cambridge and bought the house at 4 Willard Street. A modernist poet "A poem should not mean/ But be" he is also the author of the play *JB*, based on the Book of Job. He was the Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Poetry at Harvard for 14 years.

✿ **T.S. Eliot** (1888–1965)

Eliot lived at 14 Ash Street when he was a graduate student in philosophy, concentrating on Indian thinkers and learning Sanskrit. Eliot, perhaps the most important 20th-century poet, was an undergraduate at Harvard from 1906–1910 and lived at 14 Ash Street in 1913 and 1914 while a graduate student in philosophy, concentrating on Indian thinkers and learning Sanskrit.

After growing up in Germany, marrying in Brazil, and moving to Paris, ✿ **H.A.** (1898–1977) and **Margret Rey** (1906–1996) fled the Nazis and moved to Brazil and then New York before buying the house at 14 Hilliard Street in 1963. They brought their famous monkey, Curious George, with them. Curious George and the Man with the Yellow Hat appear in the original seven books written and illustrated by the Reys.



Top: Robert Frost
(1874–1963)

Bottom: Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow (1807–1882)



Richard Henry Dana, Jr.
(1815–1882)



Stop V

Memorial Hall

was completed in 1878 as a monument to the 136 Harvard associates who died serving in the Civil War on the Union side. The venue for the Poet's Theatre of the 1950's, it houses Sanders Theater, the scene of grand musical performances (the acoustics are superb) and since 1971, "The Christmas Revels."

The last leg of the route takes us through more of the Harvard environs.

As we go down Quincy Street, we can catch a glimpse of the **Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library**. It was donated by the bereaved mother of the young Widener, who died in the sinking of the Titanic. In 1912, only five years after his graduation. It is the largest university library in the world.

The Faculty Club at 20 Quincy Street is the site of the family home (from 1865) of **William James**, the philosopher, **Henry James**, the novelist, and **Alice James** (1848–1892), their reclusive sister. She kept a diary of her outwardly uneventful life.

✱ Richard Henry Dana, Jr. (1815–1882)

He wrote *Two Years Before the Mast* about his voyage along the coast of California in 1834–35 after he dropped out of Harvard because of poor health. The family home was at 16 Quincy Street.

The W.E.B. DuBois Institute at 12 Quincy Street in the Barker Center is named after the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The author of *Souls of Black Folk*, **W.E.B. DuBois** (1868–1963) lived at 20 Flagg Street in Riverside while a student, not being welcome in the Harvard dormitories because of his race.

Directly across the street, you can see the **Houghton Library**, which houses the rare book collections of the university.

Grolier Poetry Book Shop, 6 Plympton Street, has been an important gathering place for poets and readers of poetry since 1927.

The Harvard Lampoon, housed at 44 Bow Street, is the oldest continuously published humor magazine in the world.

Top: W.E.B. DuBois
(1868–1963)

Bottom: Henry James
(1843–1916)

Conclusion

✿ Riverside Press Park

Henry Houghton moved a small printing firm to the former Cambridge almshouse on the banks of the Charles in 1852 and named it the Riverside Press. In 1872, George Mifflin became a partner; in 1880, the publishing house Ticknor and Fields merged with the Riverside Press and the firm was renamed Houghton, Mifflin, and Company. The Riverside Press prospered as a subsidiary of Houghton, Mifflin until 1966, and was closed in 1971. Despite efforts to preserve the buildings, all were demolished in 1973. After many years of effort by the city and the Riverside neighborhood, the park was dedicated in 1981.

Appendix

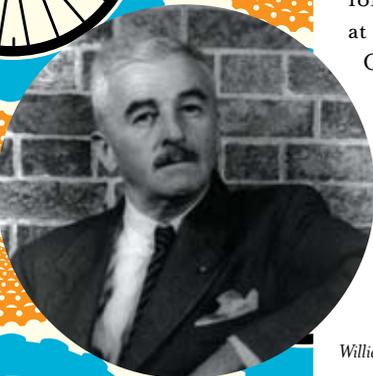
Other locations that didn't fit onto the route include:

Quentin Compson in ✿ **William Faulkner's** *The Sound and the Fury*. After a day of introspective wandering through Cambridge and environs, the Harvard freshman escapes his memories by jumping off the Anderson Memorial Bridge (aka Larz Anderson Bridge) on June 2, 1910. A small plaque can be found on the bridge with the inscription "Quentin Compson. Drowned in the odour of honeysuckle. 1891–1910."

✿ **Margaret Fuller** (1810–1850) A critic and women's rights activist, she was the first editor of *The Dial*, the Transcendentalist journal. While she was the editor, she lived at 42 Brattle, now the home of the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. Her house at 71 Cherry Street in East Cambridge is the 11th oldest settlement house in the country.

✿ **Washington Allston** (1779–1843) Better known as a painter, Allston also wrote Romantic poetry. His studio was in Central Square.

William Faulkner (1897–1962)



Acknowledgments

Thanks to city staff, members of the Cambridge Bike Committee, and others for their work in making this ride possible. In particular, thanks to Sara Kenney and Trudi Harkins for assistance with this text and the "Reading List" of literary works with Cambridge settings on the ride Web site; Sgt. Kathy Murphy and the Cambridge Police Bike Patrol officers; Jenni Alden, Steve Miller, Tom Meek, and Gerry Swislow, who planned the ride and prepared this brochure, and the other members of the Cambridge Bike Committee who helped run the ride. Thanks to Ethan Gilsdorf, Peter Payack, and Tim Sawyer for their contributions at the stops. Thanks to Livable Streets (www.livablestreets.info) for their support. Thanks to Broadway Bicycle School for the ride mechanic.

We also thank Whole Foods Market for their generous support.



Whole Foods Market is committed to supporting surrounding communities and preserving the environment every way possible. We advocate sustainable agriculture and proudly promote products from our local growers and producers. In addition, we offer incentives to employees for taking alternate means of transportation to work—i.e. riding a bicycle, walking, or public transportation in a national competition called the "Green Trek Challenge"—working together to put Earth first!

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