

# MYTHMAKERS & LAWBREAKERS

anarchist writers on fiction

“People sometimes inquire what form of government is most suitable for an artist to live under. To this question there is only one answer. The form of government that is most suitable to the artist is no government at all.”

—Oscar Wilde

part fifteen  
*appendices:*  
**ANARCHIST FICTION WRITERS  
ALSO OF NOTE  
LISTS**

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edited by  
**Margaret Killjoy**

This zine is an excerpt from the book *Mythmakers & Lawbreakers*, published in 2009 by AK Press. The book consists of a series of interviews with various anarchist fiction writers, as well as extensive appendices with biographies and reading lists of anarchist writers. We are making the work available in zine format, in the spirit of creative commons, but are of course indebted to AK Press for publishing the book in the first place.

The rest of the book can be downloaded in zine form from us at [www.tangledwilderness.org](http://www.tangledwilderness.org) or bought from AK Press at [www.akpress.org](http://www.akpress.org)

*Mythmakers and Lawbreakers: Anarchist Writers on Fiction*  
Edited by Margaret Killjoy, 2009

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## Stories that Feature Anarchists as Villains:

- Isaac Babel: *Old Man Makhno* (1926?)  
John Blazewick: *In the Shadow of Chaos* (2005)  
A. Bertram Chandler: *The Anarch Lords* (1981)  
G. K. Chesterton: *The Man Who was Thursday* (1908)  
Joseph Conrad: *The Secret Agent* (1907), *An Anarchist* (1905), *Under Western Eyes* (1911)  
Fyodor Dostoevsky: *The Devils* (also translated as *The Possessed* or *Demons*) (1872)  
E. Douglas Fawcett: *Hartmann The Anarchist: or The Doom of the Great City* (1893)  
Anatole France: *Penguin Island* (1908) (Arguably sympathetic. Note that France did defend anarchist artist Aristide Delannoy when the latter was imprisoned for lampooning imperialists.)  
Kerry Greenwood: *Death at Victoria Dock* (2006)  
Henry James: *The Princess Casamassima* (1908)  
Laurie R. King: *Touchstone* (2007)  
Dean Koontz: *The Face* (2004)  
Andrew Kreisberg: *Helen Killer* #1-4 (2008) (In which Helen Keller is given the power to see so she can fight anarchists. In real history, Helen Keller was a committed socialist, not a patriot.)  
Dennis Lehane: *The Given Day* (2008)  
Larry Niven: *Cloak of Anarchy* (1972)  
Jana G. Oliver: *Virtual Evil* (2007), *Madman's Dance* (2008)  
Robin Paige: *Death in Hyde Park* (2005)  
Anne Perry: *The Whitechapel Conspiracy* (2001) and *Long Spoon Lane* (2005)  
Neil Palmer: *Vegan Reich* (1998)  
Helen & Olivia Rossetti as "Isabel Meredith": *A Girl Among the Anarchists* (1903)  
April Smith: *Judas Horse* (2008)  
Jo Soares: *Twelve Fingers: Biography of an Anarchist: A Novel* (2001)  
Robert Louis Stevenson & Fanny Van de Grift Stevenson: *The Dynamiter* (1885)  
Donald Thomas: *Sherlock Holmes and the King's Evil* (2009) [In which Holmes helps Churchill fight real-life anarchist Peter the Painter. Other Holmes stories that feature anarchist antagonists include "Danny Jones and the Great Detective" (1978) by an anonymous author, "Sherlock Holmes and the Boulevard Assassin" (1999) by John Hall, "The Case of the Disappearing Despatch Case" (1983) by Brian Ball, "The Adventure of the Bulgarian Diplomat" (1997) by Zakaria Erzinçlioglu, "The Affair of the Counterfeit Countess" (1998) by Craig Shaw Gardner, "The Pandora Plague" (1981) by Lee A. Matthias, and "The Diamond Jubilee" (year unknown) by Alan Downing.]  
Eleanor Updale: *Montmorency and the Assassins* (2005), *Montmorency's Revenge* (2006)  
H.G. Wells: *The Stolen Bacillus* (1893)  
Donald E. Westlake as Curt Clark: *Anarchaos* (1967)  
Carlos Ruiz Zafón: *The Shadow of the Wind* (2001)  
Émile Zola: *Germinal* (1885) (Note that Zola *did* defend anarchist poet Laurent Tailhade in court, defending the right to write articles declaring the need to kill the Czar.)

## appendix A: ANARCHIST FICTION WRITERS

*I've compiled short biographies of every anarchist fiction writer I could track down. To a great extent, these are authors who, in their own words, identified as anarchists. I've made a few exceptions for folks like Leo Tolstoy (who shied away from the word owing to its connotations of violence but embraced every core tenant of anarchism). Other authors I researched seemed likely to have been anarchists, but I couldn't find enough evidence to include them. I don't want to misrepresent anybody.*

*What this list is not is a value judgment. Just because an author doesn't identify with anarchism doesn't make her or his books any less valuable, just as knowing an author is an anarchist doesn't make her or his works any better or really even say whether or not she or he is a good person.*

*But what this list does reveal is that we're far from alone, us writers who dream of real freedom, of a stateless world. Since the beginning of anarchist thought, there have been storytellers in our midst. Some, like Déjacque, explored utopias. Others, like Mirbeau, wrote nightmares. We have in our midst some of the finest, most respected writers in history, and we have untold numbers of zinesters and fireside yarn-spinners. Pacifists and insurrectionists and everything in between. More than one has taken arms against fascists and secret police. Some publish with mainstream presses, others are fiercely DIY. Many have been exiled or imprisoned for their words alone, for treason or obscenity. There have been anarchist writers from so many different nations and races, and in our ranks are more than a few radical queers and feminists.*

*This list is the tip of the iceberg. It just represents what I've been able to dredge up personally. We've started a collaborative project to further this research, however, at [WWW.ANARCHISTFICTION.NET](http://WWW.ANARCHISTFICTION.NET)*

*I get pretty excited about all of this. But rather than present you with some kind of overview in the form of an essay, I'll just present you with bits about the individuals:*

**Edward Abbey** (1927–1989), the author of the controversial novel *The Monkey Wrench Gang* (which was considered too radical by the mainstream and too sexist by many anarchists), is also the “spiritual father” that inspired Earth First!. He was at least philosophically involved in anarchism in college, editing an anarchist paper and eventually writing his thesis on the topic “Anarchism and the Morality of Violence,” in which he declared that a peaceful anarchist society could not be created by the use of violence.

**Fabrizio De André** (1940–1999), a renowned Italian songwriter, poet, and anarchist, was known for his epic and political music. He translated the works of Leonard Cohen (among others) into Italian, and he wrote a novel, *Un destino ridicolo* (A Ridiculous Fate). He made the island of Sardinia his home, and was once kidnapped and ransomed by Sardinian rebels (terrorists/freedom-fighters, take your pick). After his father—a wealthy industrialist who had once been an anti-fascist partisan—paid his ransom, and the kidnappers were brought to trial, Fabrizio reportedly told the court that the rebels “They were the real prisoners, not I.” (Although he did not offer sympathy to the higher-ups in the rebel group, who were wealthy already.)

**Rafael Barrett** (1876–1910), a Spanish immigrant to Paraguay, was the sort of writer whose works were influential on other people who themselves became more influential. He wrote all types of things, including short stories, but his primary vessel was journalism. He wrote and published a lot, running an anarchist newspaper. One of his more famous pieces was *Lo que son los yerbales*, an account of the conditions on Yerba Mate farms. He was also an outspoken anarchist (very much the sort that preferred the pen to dynamite), and for this he earned contempt and was at one point exiled to Uruguay. In his essay *My Anarchism* (as translated by Paul Sharkey), he begins simply: “The etymology is good enough for me ‘Absence of government.’ The spirit of authority and the standing of the laws must be destroyed. That says it all.”

**Hakim Bey** (1945–) has written a lot of anarchist theory, most famously *TAZ: The Temporary Autonomous Zone* and he has also written a novel, *The Chronicles of Qamar: Crowstone*. This novel, which I could not track down a copy of, is said to be a story of man-boy love. Hakim Bey is infamous for reportedly encouraging pedophilia. [www.HERMETIC.COM/BEY](http://www.HERMETIC.COM/BEY)

**Jens Bjørneboe** (1920–1976), once called “the greatest failed novelist of the twentieth century,” was a Norwegian novelist, playwright, and anarcho-nihilist. Jens wrote honestly and angrily, a trait that found him convicted of obscenity and resulted in his novel *Without A Stitch* being banned in Norway for a time. Perhaps his strongest allegorical work is his last novel, *The Sharks*. He also wrote anarchist theory, expounding on the idea that anarchism was scientific (contrasting with the dogmatic Marxism) and existed in varying degrees. After a lifetime of controversy and alcohol, he took his own life.

**William Blake** (1757–1827), poet and author of “Illuminated Manuscripts” (photographic-novels), was an anarchist before the word was coined. He was also both a mystic and completely unrenowned in his time. He attacked organized religion fiercely, and published the heretical *The Marriage of Heaven & Hell*. One interesting quote from that book: “Prisons are built with stones of Law, Brothels with bricks of Religion.”

**Luther Blissett** (1994–) is a collective identity that was begun by Italian anarchists in 1994. The idea is that anyone may call themselves Luther Blissett (a name they took from a famous and still-living footballer). Luther Blissett has since done a large number of extravagant, anti-spectacle media stunts and has collectively written an international bestseller, *Q* (which, like the rest of their work, is freely downloadable). When contro-

Wallace Stegner: *Joe Hill* (1950) (about the IWW, considered slander by many)  
Paco Ignacio Taibo II: *Just Passing Through* (2000) (about Sebastian San Vicente, an anarchist labor organizer in Mexico in the 1920s)

Seth Tobocman: *War in the Neighborhood* (2000) (NYC squatters in the late 80s, early '90s)

Kent Winslow: *Dream World* (1990) (fictionalized autobiography)

## Stories that feature sympathetic anarchist characters:

Jake Arnott: *Johnny Come Home* (2006)

Don Bannister: *Hard Walls of Ego* (1987)

Barrington J. Bayley: *Annihilation Factor* (1972) (somewhere between sympathetic and slander)

Louky Bersianik: *The Euguelionne* (1976)

Luciano Bianciardi: *La vita agra* (It's a Hard Life) (1962)

Charles Bock: *Beautiful Children* (2008)

Ben Burgis: *Three Perspectives on the Role of Anarchists in the Zombie Apocalypse* (2008)

Melvin Burgess: *Junk* (1996) (released as *Smack* in the US)

Daniel A. Coleman: *The Anarchist: A Novel* (2001)

Rick Dakan: *Geek Mafia: Black Hat Blues* (2009)

Dennis Danvers: *The Watch: A Novel* (2002)

Cory Doctorow: *Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town* (2005)

E. L. Doctorow: *Ragtime* (1975)

Louise M. Gagneur: *The Nihilist Princess* (1881)

William Gibson & Bruce Sterling: *The Difference Engine* (1990)

M. John Harrison: *The Centauri Device* (1974)

Gwyneth Jones: *I Am an Anarchist* (2002)

Maurice Leblanc: 21 *Arsène Lupin* novels (1907-1939)

Léo Malet: *Fog on the Tolbiac Bridge* (1956)

Eduardo Mendoza: *The City of Marvels* (1986)

Pat Mills: 10 *Nemesis the Warlock* books (1980-1999) (Most of Pat Mills' comics feature class war and anti-authoritarianism)

Wu Ming: *54* (2002)

Henry de Montherlant: *Chaos & Night* (1963)

Grant Morrison: *The Invisibles* (1994-2000)

Walter Mosley: *Archibald Lawless, Anarchist at Large* (2005)

E. Nesbit: *The Prophet's Mantle* (1885)

John Dos Passos: *U.S.A. Trilogy* (1930-1936)

Fernando Pessoa: *The Anarchist Banker* (1922)

Emeric Pressburger: *Killing a Mouse on Sunday* (1961)

Thomas Pynchon: *Against the Day* (2006)

Mack Reynolds: *Commune 2000 A.D.* (1974)

Spain Rodriguez: *Trashman* comics (1968-1985)

John Sayles: *The Anarchists' Convention* (1979)

Robert Sheckley: *The Resurrection Machine* (1989), *Simul City* (1990)

Brian Francis Slattery: *Liberation: Being the Adventures of the Slick Six After the Collapse of the United States of America* (2008)

Colin Spencer: *Anarchists in Love* (1963)

Norman Spinrad: *Little Heroes* (1987), *Greenhouse Summer* (2000)

Bruce Sterling: *Bicycle Repairmen* (published in *A Good Old-Fashioned Future*, 1999)

Colm Tóibín: *The South* (1990)

T.H. White: *The Book of Merlyn* (written 1941, published 1977)

Richard Whiteing: *No. 5 John Street* (1899)

Lewis Grassic Gibbon: *Three Go Back* (1932)  
M. Gilliland: *The Free* (1990)  
Rex Gordon: *Utopia 239* (1955)  
Martin H. Greenberg & Mark Tier [editors]: *Freedom!* (an anthology, 2006)  
George Griffith: *The Angel of the Revolution: A Tale of the Coming Terror* (1894)  
Harry Harrison: *The Stainless Steel Rat Gets Drafted* (1987)  
James P. Hogan: *Voyage from Yesteryear* (1999)  
Cecelia Holland: *Floating Worlds* (1975)  
Captain Charles Johnson, probably actually Daniel Defoe: *A General History of the Pyrates* (1724) (Look for “Captain Mission”)  
Ursula K. Le Guin: *The Dispossessed* (1974)  
Saab Lofton: *A.D.* (1995)  
Ken MacLeod: *Fall Revolution* series (1995-1999)  
Ricardo Mella: *La nueva utopia* (somewhere between 1885-1889?)  
Pat Murphy: *The City, Not Long After* (1989)  
Alice Nunn: *Illicit Passage* (1993)  
Emile Pataud & Emile Pouget: *How We Shall Bring About the Revolution* (1909)  
Marge Piercy: *Woman on the Edge of Time* (1976)  
P.M.: *Bolo’Bolo* (1985)  
François Rabelais: *The Very Horrific Life of Great Gargantua, Father of Pantagruel* (1500s)  
Adam Roberts: *Salt* (2000), *Gradisil* (2006)  
John Scalzi (editor): *METAropolis* (2009)  
Norman Spinrad: *Child of Fortune* (1985)  
Kim Stanley Robinson: *Mars Trilogy* (1992-1996)  
Rudy Rucker: *Software* (1997)  
Joanna Russ: *The Female Man* (1975)  
Eric Frank Russell: *Late Night Final* (1948), *And Then There Were None* (1951), *The Great Explosion* (1962)  
Han Ryner: *Les pacifiques* (1914)  
José Saramago: *Seeing* (2004)  
Robert Sheckley: *Skulking Permit* (1954)  
Joan Slonczewski: *A Door into Ocean* (2000)  
Charles Stross: *Singularity Sky* (2003)  
Jonathan Swift: *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726)  
Andres Vaccari: *A Song for Sumerica* (unpublished)  
A. E. van Vogt: *null-A* series (1948-1985), *The Anarchistic Colossus* (1977)  
Elizabeth Waterhouse: *The Island of Anarchy: A Fragment of History in the 20th Century* (1887)  
H.G. Wells: *Men like Gods* (1923)  
Stanley G. Weinbaum: *Valley of Dreams* (1934)

### Stories that fictionalize anarchist history:

Horst Bienek: *Bakunin: An Invention* (1977) (about Bakunin)  
Alan Burns: *The Angry Brigade* (1973) (about Britain in the 1970s)  
Pino Cacucci: *Without A Glimmer of Remorse* (1994) (about the Bonnot gang)  
Douglas Day: *The Prison Notebooks of Ricardo Flores Magón* (1991) (about the Mexican Revolution)  
Martin Duberman: *Haymarket* (2005) (about the Haymarket Affair)  
Frank Harris: *The Bomb* (1908) (about the Haymarket Affair)  
Emanuel Litvinoff: *A Death out of Season* (1973) (about the Whitechapel siege of 1911)  
Pedro de Paz: *The Man Who Killed Durrutti* (2005) (about what the title suggests)  
Ramón J. Sender: *Seven Red Sundays* (1936) (about Madrid 1930s)  
Victor Serge: *Birth of Our Power* (1931) (about a CNT uprising in Barcelona)

versial anarchist Hakim Bey was set to visit Italy, Luther Blissett published a book as if it were written by Hakim Bey, which included, among other things, a speech by Josef Stalin. It met with critical success and quickly sold out. Only later was it revealed the book was a fake. WWW.LUTHERBLISSETT.NET

**Steve Booth**, former editor of the UK’s *Green Anarchist* magazine, wrote a novel entitled *City Death*.

**Jorge Luis Borges** (1899–1986) was one of the most famous Spanish-language authors in the world and was often a contender for the Nobel prize for literature, but never received it. Some speculate that this was because of his anarcho-pacifist views. An Argentinean and a world citizen, he is known primarily for his short stories, of which he wrote an innumerable quantity.

**Gabriel Boyer** (1976–) is a musician, a playwright, a singer, a publisher, a writer, an anarchist, and a wanderer. He and a friend run Mutable Sound, a book publisher and music label, which has released three of his books, including *A Survey of My Failures Thus Far*, a collection of seven books from schizophrenic detective novels to gaming manuals for the creation of the game. He wrote and directed an anarchist musical, *Free-Thinking as Commodity*, while living on an anarchist farm outside Eugene, and he traveled the country practicing bedroom theatre, performing plays in people’s bedrooms. WWW.MUTABLESOUND.COM

**Braindeadnation** are the creators of *The Chronicles of Zomaz: the Anarchist Wizard*, a web-narrative/comic of sorts that includes such memorable characters as Aaron the Vegan Shoplifting Monkey. Freely viewable online. DEEDAH.ORG/ZOMAZ

**Octavio Buenaventura** (1984–), born in Mexico but living in the Pacific Northwest, is the author of an anarchist novella, *Ever & Anon*. His other activities include fighting riot police in the streets and disseminating anarchist propaganda.

**Anthony Burgess** (1917–1993) is famous today as the author of *A Clockwork Orange*, but it was only one of his over 30 novels. He said that he deeply regretted how the film adaptation seemed to glorify sexual violence, and how easily people misread that book. He was also an anarchist: “I’ve never had any money, therefore I’ve no sympathy for capitalists ... I suppose I end up as an anarchist” (from *Anthony Burgess, a biography* by Roger Lewis, 2002). In his younger life, while serving in the British army, he was often in trouble for defying authority, including being arrested for insulting Spanish fascist Franco. In addition to being a novelist, he was an accomplished literary critic, linguist, composer.

**Pino Cacucci** (1955–) is an Italian anarchist translator and novelist. He’s written essays as well, at the very least for the *Red and Black*, an anarchist journal in Australia. That I’m aware of, only two of his novels are available in English: *Tina Modotti: A Life*, the biography of an Italian actress who becomes a revolutionary; and *Without a Glimmer of Remorse*, a historical novel about the legendary Bonnot Gang of illegalists, inventors of the get-away car.

**Chris Carlsson** (1957–), a San Francisco activist and anarchist, is probably best known for his non-fiction book *Nowtopia* and for being one of the founders of the bicycle protest movement Critical Mass. He was a founder and longtime editor of *Processed World*, a magazine for dissatisfied office workers that started in 1981. He’s also written a novel, *After the Deluge*, exploring an anarchist society in a post-collapse San Francisco. WWW.CHRISCARLSSON.COM

**The Catastraphone Orchestra** (2006–) might be one of the only bands of musicians that writes fiction together. A collection of chain-smokers, mad scientists, and drug-addled minds, they write in the long-antiquated “seasonal” style of fiction as well as penning manifestos and journalistic forays into the past.

**Carolyn Chute** (1947–) is a working-class anarchist author who writes primarily about life in rural Maine, where she lives. She’s the author of numerous novels, from 1985’s critically acclaimed *The Beans of Eypgt, Maine*, to 1999’s critically hated *Snow Man*—about a militiaman who kills a senator. She’s part of the Second Maine Militia, which is a left-libertarian militia group. There’s an interesting interview with her about her radical politics in Eberhardt Press’s *No Hope*.

**Carissa van den Berk Clark**, author of *Yours for the Revolution* and *May It Come Quickly Like a Shaft Sundering In the Dark*, is an anarchist and a social worker who came from the punk rock travel culture. Carissa wrote the ‘90s zine, *Screams From Inside*, which had both political essays and short stories.

**J.M. Coetzee** (1940–), winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, was born in South Africa but left in the ‘60s. Despite his PhD, he was denied permanent residency in the US owing to his involvement in anti-Vietnam war activism. He is an outspoken animal rights activist, and in his 2007 post-modern book of essays disguised as a novel (or is it a novel disguised as a book of essays?) *Diary of a Bad Year*, he described his politics as anarchist:

“If I were pressed to give my brand of political thought a label, I would call it pessimistic anarchistic quietism, or anarchist quietistic pessimism, or pessimistic quietist anarchism: anarchism because experience tells me that what is wrong with politics is power itself; quietism because I have my doubts about the will to set about changing the world, a will infected with the drive to power; and pessimism because I am skeptical that, in a fundamental way, things can be changed.”

In the same book, he decries democracy:

“[Democracy] does not allow for politics outside the democratic system. In this sense, democracy is totalitarian.”

**Alex Comfort** (1920–2000), the author of the best-selling *The Joy of Sex*, said that he would much rather be remembered for his anarchism, his pacifism, and his novels (which include *On This Side of Nothing*). He also wrote an essay, *The Novel and Our Time*, exploring the novel as an agent of liberation.

**Dennis Cooper** (1953–), a sex-and-violence gay fiction writer, stirs up scandal with his rather darkly gory novels (such as *Try*). He comes from the 1970s punk scene and he edited and ran a zine for years before working for *Spin*. In an interview with *3 A.M. Magazine* in 2001, he said, “I’m an anarchist, by philosophy. I believe everyone has everything they need within themselves to make the right decisions.” [www.DENNIS-COOPER.NET](http://www.DENNIS-COOPER.NET)

**CrimethInc.** (1995–) is an open group identity: anyone can compose a text or carry out an action and claim it for CrimethInc. In addition to organizing events, several CrimethInc. cells are known for producing books, magazines, records, and the like. Aside from allegedly non-fiction compositions such as *Days of War, Nights of Love*, the collective has published several works of fiction, including *The Secret World of Duvbo* and *The Secret World of Teri-*

## appendix C: LISTS

*For the past few years, I’ve been studying anarchist representation in fiction. These lists are compiled as part of that research. Note that I haven’t personally read even half the books on these lists, but I spent a good bit of time researching every one. I’m certain this list isn’t complete. These are just what I’ve found thus far.*

*I’ve found that books which represent anarchism have tended to fall into one of four categories. There are books, usually speculative fiction, which describe anarchist societies. Then there are those which contain sympathetic anarchist characters: these books can be all across the board from a sympathetic arsonist who mentions Bakunin to books with anarchist protagonists who avoid such simplifying stereotypes. Then there are historical fiction books that address important moments in our history. And finally, there is old anarchist-as-boogiemer, nihilist-with-bomb villain that’s so common in mainstream culture. But even among these books, there are doubtless many that anarchists would find useful, such as Zola’s *Germinal*. One sad thing I’ve noticed is there seems to be a resurgence of the anarchist-as-mindless-or-misguided saboteur stereotype in the past few years, one that I think can possibly be blamed on the recent resurgence of neo-Victorian fiction.*

### Stories that explore anarchist societies:

Poul Anderson: *The Last of the Deliverers* (1957)  
Anonymous, probably Hakim Bey: *Visit Port Watson!* (1985)  
C.R. Ashbee: *The Building of Thelema* (1910)  
Iain Banks: *The Culture* series (1987-2008)  
John Barnes: *The Man Who Pulled Down the Sky* (1987)  
John M. Batchelor: *A Strange People* (1888) (rumored)  
Charles Willing Beale: *The Ghost of Guir House* (1895)  
Walter Besant & James Rice: *The Monks of Thelema* (1880)  
Gene Brewer: *K-PAX* series (1995-2007)  
Dorothy Bryant: *The Kin of Ata Are Waiting for You* (1971)  
Anonymous aka Beatrice May Butt aka W. H. Alhusen: *The Laws of Leflo* (1911)  
Chris Carlsson: *After the Deluge* (2004)  
Steve Cullen: *The Last Capitalist: A Dream of a New Utopia* (2002)  
Samuel Delany: *Trouble on Triton* (1976)  
Joseph Déjacque: *L’Humanisphère, Utopie anarchique* (1858)  
L. Timmel Duchamp: Five books of the *Marq’ssan Cycle* (2005-2008)  
Jane Doe: *Anarchist Farm* (1996)  
Philip K. Dick: *The Last of the Masters* (1954)  
Greg Egan: *Distress* (1995)  
George Foy: *The Memory of Fire* (2000)  
Homer Eon Flint: *The Queen of Life* (1919) (the author is thought to have died while robbing a bank)  
Gabriel de Foigny: *A New Discovery of Terra Incognita Australis; or, The Southern World* (1676)  
Bert Garskof: *The Canbe Collective Builds a Be-Hive* (1977)

and Mary Wollstonecraft, a founder of modern feminism. She was an outspoken vegetarian and was often a fan of her father's philosophical work.

**Upton Sinclair** (1878–1968), a socialist journalist and novelist, is best known for his first success, *The Jungle*, but he also wrote a book, *Boston*, in which he declared the innocence of anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti. What's interesting to learn now is that, through his correspondence, it has come to light that Sinclair may have actually believed that one or the other of the two anarchists was guilty, but that he felt it important, for various reasons, to continue to declare their innocence.

**J.R.R. Tolkien** (1892–1973), author of *The Lord of the Rings* (which has been critiqued as a vindication of the British middle class by a range of radical authors from Michael Moorcock to China Miéville) wrote the following to his son in 1943 (from *The Letters of J. R. R. Tolkien*):

My political opinions lean more and more to Anarchy (philosophically understood, meaning abolition of control not whiskered men with bombs)—or to 'unconstitutional' Monarchy. I would arrest anybody who uses the word State (in any sense other than the inanimate realm of England and its inhabitants, a thing that has neither power, rights nor mind); and after a chance of recantation, execute them if they remain obstinate!... Government is an abstract noun meaning the art and process of governing and it should be an offence to write it with a capital G or so as to refer to people.... The most improper job of any man, even saints, is bossing other men. Not one in a million is fit for it, and least of all those who seek the opportunity.

**Jules Verne** (1828–1905) gave us the anti-hero Captain Nemo in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, but he also wrote *The Survivors of the Jonathon*, featuring a sympathetic anarchist protagonist. It is likely that Kaw-Djer, this anarchist, was based on Verne's real life anarchist friend Élisée Reclus. Verne clearly had sympathies towards anarchism, but he spent much of his life as an elected official and took nothing resembling radical action after passing out pamphlets as a young man in the 1848 French Revolution.

**Robert Anton Wilson** (1937–2007), best known as the co-author (along with Robert Shea) of the discordian anarchist-conspiracy-theorist *Illuminatus Trilogy*, was once an anarchist but, by the end of his life, was not (from an interview by Jeffrey Elliot):

My early work is politically anarchist fiction, in that I was an anarchist for a long period of time. I'm not an anarchist any longer, because I've concluded that anarchism is an impractical ideal. Nowadays, I regard myself as a libertarian. I suppose an anarchist would say, paraphrasing what Marx said about agnostics being "frightened atheists," that libertarians are simply frightened anarchists. Having just stated the case for the opposition, I will go along and agree with them: yes, I am frightened. I'm a libertarian because I don't trust the people as much as anarchists do. I want to see government limited as much as possible; I would like to see it reduced back to where it was in Jefferson's time, or even smaller. But I would not like to see it abolished. I think the average American, if left totally free, would act exactly like Idi Amin. I don't trust the people any more than I trust the government.

*jian*, as well as *Expect Resistance*, which mixes narrative and non-fiction throughout. [www.crimethinc.com](http://www.crimethinc.com) & [www.crimethinc.be](http://www.crimethinc.be)

**Steve Cullen** is the author of *The Last Capitalist: A Dream of a New Utopia* as well as a non-fiction book exploring the libertarian critique of education, both published by Freedom Press in the UK.

**Rick Dakan** is the author of the *Geek Mafia* series of books that follows a group of radical hacker con-artists as they trick right-wingers and corporations out of millions of dollars. [www.rickdakan.com](http://www.rickdakan.com)

**J. Daniels** released a parody of TinTin in the 1980s that featured TinTin as a radical anarchist unionist, entitled *The Adventures of TinTin: Breaking Free*. [TINTINREVOLUTION.FREE.FR](http://tintinrevolution.free.fr)

**Dennis Danvers** (1947–) is a professor and author who philosophically identifies with anarchism. Of particular note, he's written a strange novel *The Watch*, in which Peter Kropotkin comes back to life in 1999 as a young man in Richmond, Virginia, but his *The Fourth World* and his as-yet-unpublished young adult book *Cloverleaf* deal with anarchist themes and politics as well. [www.dennisdanvers.com](http://www.dennisdanvers.com)

**Voltairine DeCleyre** (1866–1912) was a poet and theorist who converted to anarchism in 1887 after the Haymarket trial shattered her faith in the American justice system. She was an early believer in "anarchism without adjectives," which meant that she didn't choose to identify specifically with communist, mutualist, or individualist anarchism. She fought voraciously for the rights of women. The most famous piece of her fiction is "The Chain Gang," a short story included in *The Gates of Freedom*.

**Joseph Déjacque** (1821–1864), born in France, was the author who coined the term "libertarian" to distinguish anarchists from liberals (in a letter to Proudhon, whom he criticized for opposing feminism). Among other things, he wrote the fictional utopia *L'Humanisphère: Utopie anarchique*, which includes in its introduction the lines: "This book is not written in ink, and its pages are not sheets of paper ... it is a projectile, that I throw thousands of onto the streets of the civilized." The utopia was first serialized in *Le Libéraire*, the US's first anarcho-communist journal. Joseph was exiled from Napoleon's France for publishing radical poetry, and retreated for a number of years to the US before returning to France and dying in Paris.

**Jim Dodge** (1945–) is a bioregionalist theorist, an anarchist, and a writer. His novels explore a sort of modern folklore, often including magic amidst otherwise realworld events. In his bioregionalist essay "Living by Life," he says that anarchy is an intrinsic value to bioregionalism, and says: "Anarchy doesn't mean out of control, it means out of their control."

**Kevin Doyle** (1961–), a member of Ireland's anarchist Worker Solidarity Movement, has been a writer of fiction and non-fiction for years. His stories have appeared in a number of magazines, his interview with Noam Chomsky has appeared in *Chomsky On Anarchism*, and he has an unpublished novel, *Step F*. He's been involved in a number of campaigns over the years from pro-choice battles to No Borders campaigns. When I told him about this book project, he had some interesting things to say:

I think fiction is very important in our lives and in how we understand the world we find ourselves in. I think it is important to encourage and promote

more writing from below. Some regard the writing process as “waffle” and a “waste of time”—maybe even “a diversion from the real struggle.” I wouldn’t agree at all. Writing from below is an essential part for me of creating an alternative culture and vital if we are to move anarchism into the broad center of world politics where it must be one day.

KFDOYLE.WORDPRESS.COM

**Kristyn Dunnion** (1969–), a vegan, queer anarchist from Canada, is the author of three novels for a wide age range of readers: *Missing Matthew*, *Mosh Pit*, and *Big Big Sky*. She’s also a performance artist under the name Miss Kitty Galore, plays bass for dyke metal band Heavy Filth, and has helped organize the Toronto Anarchist Bookfair. [www.kristyndunnion.com](http://www.kristyndunnion.com)

**Isabelle Eberhardt** (1877–1904), raised by a nihilist and anarchist, was a cross-dressing sufi and writer who traveled and wrote extensively throughout northern Africa before dying suddenly in a flash flood at the age of 27. She was accused of assisting indigenous resistance to French occupation, and generally had many strange adventures. She wrote short stories, journalism, and journal entries, most of which survive. Although she became more invested in sufism and Islam than in anarchism proper, I feel it is safe to consider her the anarchist she was raised to be.

**J. G. Eccarius** (1818–) is, according to his publishers, an anarchist vampire born in Germany and currently residing in Mexico and California who is a prolific writer of fiction. If his publishers, III Publishing, are to be believed, Eccarius was involved with both the First International and the IWW. His short stories have appeared in a number of magazines including *Fifth Estate*, and his novels include the curious *The Last Days of Jesus Christ the Vampire*.

**Mattias Elförp** (1978–) is a comic book author from Malmö, Sweden. A politically involved anarchist and cyberpunk, he is the author of the *Piracy is Liberation* books, which he describes as “Political theory, filtered through autobiography, masked as fiction in the form of cyberpunk postapocalypse.” Although most of his work is in English, he’s done recurring “Arg Kanin” (Angry Animals) short comics in Swedish that are printed in different publications and are used on political fliers. He recently did an exhibition “Violence,” on police brutality, that coincided with the European Social Forum being held in Malmö. [www.elfororp.com/freeinformation](http://www.elfororp.com/freeinformation)

**Max Ernst** (1891–1976) was an active participant in both Dada and Surrealism and was a visual artist who worked in collage, paintings, and sculpture. He was also one of the early creators of wordless novels, such as his *Une semaine de bonté* (A Week of Kindness), a collaged dark piece that follows a bird-man in a dark and surreal world. It wasn’t hard to discover he was politically radical (as most dadaists and surrealists were), but it was from *Conversing with Cage*, a collection of interviews with anarchist composer John Cage edited by Richard Kostelanetz that I discovered Ernst as an anarchist. In one interview, Cage is talking about his own anarchist influences and mentions, “I said something about anarchy to the widow of Max Ernst and she said that Max was an anarchist.”

**Félix Fénéon** (1861–1944) was an art and literary critic in turn-of-the-century Paris, the coiner of the term “neo-impressionism,” and openly identified as an anarchist. In 1894, he and 29 others were acquitted of conspiracy to bomb and assassinate political leaders. He wrote *Novels in Three Lines*, a piece that redefined the idea of story-telling. The book is formed from a series of newspaper headlines that he wrote in 1906 for a

in an unpublished introduction to Alexander Berkman’s *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist*, London espoused that anarchist methods were inferior to those he promoted.

**William Morris** (1834–1896) was the man who attempted to reconcile the anarchists and the Marxists in Britain’s Socialist League (he often sided with the anti-statists, although he never identified as more than a “semi-anarchist”). He failed at that task, but he did write the highly influential utopia *News From Nowhere* as well as develop the concept of fictional worlds to be utilized in fantasy fiction. Professionally, he designed wallpapers and typesets. A book-lover’s radical, to be sure.

**Nadar** (1820–1910) was a celebrity-hound socialite of France. He was famous then for his novels, and is famous now as a groundbreaking photographer: he took the first aerial photos, he took the first underground photos, he took the first photos by artificial light. He also took most of the pictures of Proudhon, Bakunin, and Kropotkin that we often see today. He corresponded with anarchist Élisée Reclus and he helped form a balloon battalion for the protection of the Paris Commune. It’s unconfirmed whether he identified as an anarchist himself.

**George Orwell** (1903–1950), British novelist and critic of totalitarianism, never considered himself an anarchist, although, particularly in his early adulthood, he was to be found in anarchist circles. He also fought in the Spanish Civil War, and claims that, had he been more informed, he would have fought in the anarchist army instead of the Marxist. From his *The Road to Wigan Pier*: “I worked out an anarchistic theory that all government is evil, that the punishment always does more harm than the crime and the people can be trusted to behave decently if you will only let them alone,” but also, “It is always necessary to protect peaceful people from violence. In any state of society where crime can be profitable you have got to have a harsh criminal law and administer it ruthlessly.”

**Victor Serge** (1890–1947) began his political life as an anarchist (as an individualist), working for anarchist papers and getting involved in the Bonnot Gang, but eventually joined the Bolsheviks during their revolution. As a redeeming factor, he held that, in the arts, freedom of expression should hold true (a minority opinion among state communists). He was quite critical of Stalin and was exiled. He wrote, among other things, a good number of novels, including the anti-Stalin book *The Case of Comrade Tulayev*, and *Birth of Our Power*, about the anarchists in Barcelona. Much of his writing was done while in jail or on the run, and many of his manuscripts were destroyed by Stalinist police.

**George Bernard Shaw** (1856–1950) is remembered for his plays but he also wrote at least four novels, including *An Unsocial Socialist*. He is known to have flirted with both anarchism and Marxism before moving on to the social-democratic Fabian Society, where he remained a contentious, libertarian sort. He included sympathetic anarchists in his plays and was published by anarchist papers. One quote of his in particular (from a 1933 speech in New York) stands out:

The ordinary man is an anarchist. He wants to do as he likes. He may want his neighbour to be governed, but he himself doesn’t want to be governed. He is mortally afraid of government officials and policemen.

**Mary Shelley** (1797–1851), the author of *Frankenstein* (and therefore a founder of science-fiction), was the daughter of William Godwin, a founder of modern anarchism,

an anarchist in his younger years (interested in both syndicalism and individualism) and a “philosophical anarchist” to a greater and lesser extent throughout the rest of his life.

**Alan Grant** (1949–), comic writer known for his *Batman* and *Judge Dredd* comics to the regular world and for the anarchist “super-villain” *Anarky* to us anarchists, was for time in the 1990s considering himself an anarchist. He has later gone on to embrace a “Neo-Tech” philosophy and no longer considers himself an anarchist, although he appears to remain sympathetic to anarchism and the early incarnations of *Anarky* are quite wonderful.

**Robert Heinlein** (1907–1988), considered by many anarchists to be hopelessly capitalistic and misogynistic, wrote a book *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* that is still popular among anarchists, featuring as it does a sympathetic “wise old man” character who presents the concept of the “rational anarchist” and makes several valid arguments for anarchism. Before he began to write fiction, and before he began to explore right-wing politics (he supported the Vietnam War, among other things), Heinlein also was heavily involved in leftist author Upton Sinclair’s bid for governor of California.

**Frank Herbert** (1920–1986) wrote the *Dune* novels, which are considered some of the finest speculative fiction ever written and are some of the first “ecological science fiction” books. Although he wasn’t known to identify specifically with anarchism (and seemed eschew nearly all labels and easily-identifiable ideologies), he was immensely and constantly critical of government. He lived on a sustainable land project, complete with passive solar systems and the like, and he developed the idea of technopeasantry, a precursor to post-civilized theory and the appropriate technology movements. My favorite quote by him is from *Chapterhouse: Dune*:

“Give me the judgment of balanced minds in preference to laws every time. Codes and manuals create patterned behavior. All patterned behavior tends to go unquestioned, gathering destructive momentum.”

Also, from *Children of Dune*:

“Governments, if they endure, always tend increasingly toward aristocratic forms. No government in history has been known to evade this pattern. And as the aristocracy develops, government tends more and more to act exclusively in the interests of the ruling class—whether that class be hereditary royalty, oligarchs of financial empires, or entrenched bureaucracy.”

**Aldous Huxley** (1894–1963), author of the famous dystopian *Brave New World* and the less-renown utopian *Island*, eventually found his beliefs shifting towards anarchism. To quote Brian Crabtree’s *The History of Anarchism*, “in the ‘Foreword’ of the 1946 edition [of *Brave New World*], he said that he believed that only through radical decentralization and a politics that was ‘Kropotkinesque and cooperative’ could the dangers of modern society be escaped.”

**Franz Kafka** (1883–1924), author of *The Trial*, is remembered by the word “Kafkaesque,” used to describe the convolutions of bureaucracy. What is less remembered is his near-silent participation in Czech anarchist meetings and occasional demonstrations for years, his extensive reading of and homages to anarchist theoreticians and writers, his involvement in the starting of an anarchist journal in Prague.

**Jack London** (1876–1916), famous for having written *The Call of the Wild*, was an active socialist and noted plagiarist. He was occasionally sympathetic to anarchists, although

paper, but taken together they paint a dark vignette of Parisian life.

**Lawrence Ferlinghetti** (1919–), the famous beat poet, has long identified as a philosophical anarchist and a pacifist—it was only two weeks after Nagasaki was bombed that he, as an American soldier, visited the ruins. In the ‘50s he started the City Lights bookstore and publishing company in San Francisco, where he published Ginsberg’s *Howl* and was therefore arrested and charged with obscenity. With the help of the ACLU, he won and set a legal landmark for other publishers of sex and drug literature. In addition to his poetry, he wrote two novels: *Her* (1960), a surreal and semi-autobiographical novel, and *Love in the Days of Rage* (1988), about a bourgeois anarchist caught up in the May ‘68 uprisings in Paris.

**Leslie Fish**, an accomplished folk singer and one of the creators of the “Filk” tradition (science-fiction/fantasy themed music), is also an author, anarchist, and Wobbly. She once wrote a guide to surviving the apocalypse in the form of an album, *Firestorm*, in which she relayed information about making antibiotics, gunpowder, and lenses. She also practices that renown form of plagiarism, fan-fiction, having fan-published a novel taking place in the Star Trek universe. She took part in writing a collaborative fantasy trilogy, *The Sword of Knowledge*, of which she authored the first book, *A Dirge for Sabis*.  
LESLIEFISH.COM

**Fly**, a comic author, has been squatting in New York City for over two decades. Her stories are beautifully honest and strange, fictionalizing elements of her life on the streets and in squats and traveling the world. Her work has been collected into the books *CHRON!C!RIOTS!PA!SM!* and *Total Disaster*, as well her serialized graphic novel *Dog Dayz*. Her comic “Zero Content” appeared in *Slug & Lettuce* for years, and she’s done the covers of countless books, zines, and records. FLYSPAGE.COM

**William Godwin** (1756–1836), considered by some “the first anarchist,” did indeed lay down an impressive amount of anti-state theory, in part in his remarkably titled *Enquiry concerning Political Justice, and its Influence on General Virtue and Happiness*. He also, however, wrote what is considered the first mystery novel: *Things as They Are or The Adventures of Caleb Williams*. He was married to Mary Wollstonecraft, one of the first feminists, and fathered Mary Shelley, one of the first science-fiction authors. He was libeled and persecuted heavily for his political beliefs and spent much of his life living as anonymously as possible.

**Paul Goodman** (1911–1972), was a lot of things to a lot of different people. To the psychotherapy world, he is known as one of the co-founders of Gestalt theory. To the literary world, he was a novelist. Perhaps his most famous novel is *The Empire City*, a story that follows a ‘50s rebel in New York City. But he’s also well known as the author of *Growing Up Absurd*, and his works were hugely influential on the ‘60s student radical movement, a movement he later criticized as sometimes both too dogmatic and too fickle.

**Jimmy T. Hand** (1984–) is an anarchist adventurer (to use his words) and writer. He’s written two autobiographical novellas, *In the Hall of the Mountain King* and *The Road to Either-Or*. He ran away from home, never finished high school, and never regretted either. He’s been a part of anti-globalization, anti-war, and anti-logging activism, and has a tendency to travel.

**M. John Harrison** (1945–), author of the anarchist *The Centauri Device* among many other novels, said the following in an interview with Andy Darlington (*S.F. Spectrum* No.8, 1985):

We must accept—given that [all viewpoints come down to subjectivity]—that we must operate personally. I mean, that’s why I’m still an anarchist. If all value-judgements are subjective which they are by definition, linguistically and in the real world, then any evaluation we make of the universe is personal. It therefore behooves us to act with dignity, and act personally. Not to club together in big groups and say “because we have agreed on this personal evaluation as universal, from now on it will *be* universal, and we will hit anybody who doesn’t agree with us!”

WWW.MJOHNHARRISON.COM

**Jaroslav Hašek** (1883–1923), a Czech whose satirical anti-war novel *The Good Soldier Švejk and His Fortunes in the World War* has been translated into more than 60 languages, was a notorious anarchist and political organizer in Prague. He spent a month in jail for assaulting an officer and he published an anarchist newspaper. In his later life, he shied away from his anarchist leanings and was a member of the Bolshevik Party. At one point, while employed by *The Animal Journal*, he was fired for writing about imaginary animals as though they were real.

**Derrick Jensen** (1960–) is a radical environmentalist and author and is considered one of the most influential anti-civilization thinkers. He is more famous for his non-fiction works such as *A Culture of Make-Believe* and *Endgame*, but he has also written a couple of novels, a graphic novel, and a book about teaching creative writing—a subject which he has taught in both prison and college. WWW.DERRICKJENSEN.ORG

**Ba Jin** (1904–2005) is considered one of the most important figures in Chinese literary history. He was introduced to anarchism at the age of 15 by Kropotkin’s writing and he translated many anarchist works into Chinese for publication by a Shanghai newspaper. He worked on behalf of the struggle to free Sacco & Vanzetti and corresponded with Vanzetti until the Bostonian was executed. His most famous novel, *Family*, is a work critiquing the Chinese feudal system and promotes the concept of youth in revolt. In the 1950s, perhaps due to fear of persecution, he disavowed the anarchism of his youth, and even went to far as to purge his own works of their anarchistic content. Regardless, he was branded as a counter-revolutionary by the Cultural Revolution and was prevented from writing for years. When the Cultural Revolution passed, he rose in party favor and found himself Chairperson of the Chinese Writer’s Association. In later writings, he alluded to possible resentment of his abandonment of anarchism.

**James Kelman** (1946–) is best known for his award-winning novel *How Late It Was, How Late It Was*, a stream-of-consciousness story about a shoplifter that the BBC refused to air readings of. His novels feature working class protagonists and he has written quite a bit about the nature of colonization. He spoke at the 2007 Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair and AK Press has published some of his work.

**Margaret Killjoy** (1982–) is the only one of these authors who got to write their own bio. Margaret performs as a songwriter and accordion player under the name Maggie Killjoy, founded *SteamPunk Magazine*, and has published fiction tales in *SteamPunk Magazine*, *Steampunk*, and a few directly in zine form. Margaret also edited a book of interviews with anarchist fiction writers, *Mythmakers & Lawbreakers*, which is available from AK Press. WWW.BIRDSBEFORETHESTORM.NET

**Sergei “Stepniak” Kravchinski** (1851–1895) was raised in Russia but left the Russian army to fight an insurgent war against the Turks in Bosnia. He then joined Errico Malat-

## appendix B: ALSO OF NOTE

*These are some of many authors who, while not anarchists themselves (or having been anarchists only for select periods of their lives), seem important enough to mention.*

**Hugo Ball** (1886–1927) was a founder of Dada, the anti-art movement. Inspired by Bakunin and anarchism in general, Dada was an attempt to destroy the contemporary art world. In Germany, at least, it was also an inherently political movement, opposed to militarism and the state in general. Hugo Ball is best known for his nonsensical poetry, but he also wrote the only Dada novel, *Tenderenda the Fantast*. After breaking with Dada, he became a sort of Catholic pacifist, and remained obsessed with anarchism for the rest of his life, although he was turned off enough by the militancy that he avoided labeling himself with the term. My favorite quote by him is from *Flight Out Of Time*:

The war is based on a crass error. Men have been mistaken for machines. Machines, not men, should be decimated. At some future date when only the machines march, things will be better. Then everyone will be right to rejoice when they all demolish each other.

**William S. Burroughs** (1917–1997), famous for *Naked Lunch* and other “cut-up” style books, wrote *Cities of the Red Night*, a remarkably homo-erotic book about the founding of left-libertarian societies modeled after the famed (and possibly fictional) pirate Captain Mission.

**Albert Camus** (1913–1960) never identified as an anarchist, but the anarchist movement could not have had a better friend in the author. He wrote for several anarchist newspapers regularly throughout his life, and he often used his fame and clout to get anarchist militants released. His non-fiction book *The Rebel* laid out exactly what was wrong with authoritarian socialism, and he was a staunch opponent of Stalinism.

**Joseph Conrad** (1857–1924) was born to Apollo Korzeniowski, a Polish political radical and playwright who had ties to Bakunin. After participating in a revolt against the Russians, his father was taken to a camp in Russia where he died. Joseph, however, went on to make gross misrepresentations of anarchists in his books, jumping on the “bearded men with bombs hellbent on destruction” bandwagon of that time, with the novel *The Secret Agent* and the story *An Anarchist*. Ironically, *The Secret Agent* is considered to have been an inspirational text for Ted Kaczynski (The “Unabomber”).

**Philip K. Dick** (1928–1982), American cult author, wrote one of his first novelettes explicitly on anarchism: *The Last of the Masters*. Although he did not side entirely with the anarchists, he stayed a proponent of governmental decentralization and was opposed to organized religion. His work is also immensely influential on anarcho-gnostics.

**James Joyce** (1882–1941) is the author of *A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* and perhaps the most famous Irish writer in history. It is contested that Joyce was actively

condemned in the early twentieth century for obscenity for re-printing the word “penis” from official USDA documents. She lived at least part of her life at “Home,” an anarchist community in Washington State.

**Oscar Wilde** (1854–1900) was an important writer and socialite in Victorian London. The extent of Oscar Wilde’s radicalism has, like so many famous people’s, been fairly well buried since his death. He promoted socialism only as a method that he felt would lead to individualism, and, after reading the works of Kropotkin, declared his anarchism: “I think I am rather more than a Socialist. I am something of an Anarchist, I believe, but, of course, the dynamite policy is very absurd indeed” (From an interview in *Theatre*, 1894). He also published work in the anarchist magazine *Liberty*. Another Wilde quote of note (from his *The Soul Of Man Under Socialism*):

People sometimes inquire what form of government is most suitable for an artist to live under. To this question there is only one answer. The form of government that is most suitable to the artist is no government at all.

esta in 1877 for the first act of “propaganda by the deed.” a small uprising in Benevento, Italy. Some 30 armed anarchists marched on two towns and liberated the peasantry by burning the tax records. They were treated as heroes by the peasants, and were of course quickly arrested. Then Stepniak moved back to Russia and assassinated the chief of the secret police in the streets with a dagger and escaped. He moved to England and became a prolific novelist and playwright under the name “S. Stepniak.” He was responsible, in a large part, for bringing the plight of the Russian peasantry under the Tzars to the attention of the English-speaking world. Indeed, he was the first Russian to write a novel in English. He was struck dead by a train while crossing the tracks one evening.

**Gabriel Kuhn** (1972–) is an Austrian-born anarchist writer currently living in Sweden. He spent ten years traveling five continents and was at one time a semi-professional soccer player (in fact, he’s written the *Anarchist Football Manual*, an introduction to the radical politics of soccer). He publishes a large number of zines and pamphlets through Alpine Anarchist Productions, including a bunch of short stories. He also works with *Brand*—a Swedish anarchist magazine that has been published continuously since 1898—as well as Unrast and PM Press.

WWW.ALPINEANARCHIST.ORG

**Gustav Landauer** (1870–1919) was a pacifist and an anarchist. His first book was a novel titled *Der todesprediger* (The Death Preacher). He spent his life in and out of jail for his politics, translated everything from Proudhon to Wilde, and explored the connections between mysticism and anarchism. He was stoned to death by the German army in 1919.

**Bernard Lazare** (1865–1903) was a Jewish French anarchist who was heavily influential in French Zionist circles but disagreed wholeheartedly about the creation of a Jewish state. He traveled the whole of Europe, concerning himself with the plight of the Jewish proletariat. He also wrote extensively, and although he is better known for his essays about anti-semitism, he also wrote *La Porte d’ivoire* and *Les Porteurs de torches*, which are considered fiction (and which I can’t find any English translation of, sadly!).

**Ursula K. Le Guin** (1929–) is perhaps the most renowned living anarchist fiction writer. She was a pioneer of feminist science fiction, and her fantasy series *Earthsea* is read by a wide range of people of all ages. She is a pacifist and an anarchist, and although she has shied away from direct political organizing, she has certainly never shied from protests or political grunt-work. She spent 40 years translating Lao Tzu’s *Tao Te Ching*, bringing out the radical thought in Taoist philosophy.

WWW.URSULAKLEGUIN.COM

**John Henry Mackay** (1864–1933) John Henry Mackay was an individualist anarchist, homosexual, and author who wrote in German and was published in many places including the journal *Liberty*. *The Swimmer* is sometimes considered his finest novel, although he also wrote a series of books promoting and defending pederasty.

**Riley MacLeod** (1982–) is the author of *Against!*, an anarcho-queer retelling of the life of the Buddha. He was the co-founder and artistic director of sTaGes: the New York City Transgender Theatre Festival, and has worked extensively in NYC queer theater. He holds a Master’s in Theology from Harvard Divinity School, as well as the dubious honor of being the school’s first anarcho-queer trans punk.

**Charles Malato** (1857–1938) was the grandson of a Count—one who was ruthless in putting down insurrection—but Charles’ father was a communitarian. Charles himself was often at odds with the law for his associations with anarchism and went into exile in

London for a period. As a writer, he was primarily a journalist, but he also wrote the novel *La grande grève* (The Great Strike) about a 1901 miner's strike in France. *The New York Times* from June 5, 1905, when describing his arrest for conspiracy, remarks upon the "elaborate perfection of his manners," and that his articles were "remarkable for their polished grace."

**Ethel Mannin** (1900–1984) was a particularly prolific author who did much to draw attention to women's issues and anarchism in Britain. She wrote popular books: this is to say she wrote books for the populace, rather than for the educated minority. Of particular note is her *Red Rose*, a novel based on the life of Emma Goldman.

**Dambudzo Marechera** (1952–1987) was one of the most celebrated post-colonial African writers. Born into poverty in Rhodesia (later to become Zimbabwe) as one of nine children, he excelled in school. In fact, he showed such promise that he was accepted to and expelled from both the University of Rhodesia and, later, Oxford. (The former, he was kicked out for protesting racism. Oxford? Oxford he apparently tried to set fire to.) After being expelled from Oxford, he lived in squats in London. His first book, *The House of Hunger*, made him famous, but his nationalist post-colonial African peers criticized it and him for adopting a modernist, stream-of-consciousness style—at the time, it was thought that social realism and accessibility were important in drawing attention to Africa's plight. His response to this criticism? "If you are a writer for a specific nation or a specific race, then fuck you" (Interview and Discussion with Dambudzo Marechera about *Black Sunlight*, Veit-Wild, *Dambudzo Marechera*, 121). His next novel, *Black Sunlight*, was explicitly anarchist and mocked the nationalist, Marxist assumptions of most African liberatory struggles. It was banned in Zimbabwe, where he eventually returned and spent the last few years of his life homeless before dying of AIDS.

**Frans Masereel** (1889–1972), a Flemish artist, a pacifist, an anarchist, and one of the most famous woodcut artists in history, consistently included his political values in his work. He pioneered the wordless novel, publishing such books as *Die Stadt* (The City), a 100-page story told only through pictures.

**Paul Mavrides** (1945–) is an underground comic book author and artist. He helped found *Anarchy Comics*, which ran for four issues between 1979 and 1987 and included comic-book renditions of anarchist history, theory, and fiction. He did illustration for the Union of Concerned Commies, a left-libertarian branch of the anti-nuke movement, including an iconic cop-car-on-fire shirt with the slogan "No Apologies." He was a founding member of The Church of SubGenius, and in the 1990s he fought the state of California when they tried to tax comic book writers as though they were commercial contractors instead of authors. It took years, but he won. In a 1997 interview with *artie.com*, he said, "If I have kept even one small child from growing up to become a Republican or Democrat my entire career will be justified. And, in the end—when all's said and done—isn't that what ART's all about?"

**Ricardo Mella** (1861–1925) was a Spanish anarchist, author of the anarchist novel *La nueva utopia* (The New Utopia). He published a number of political essays, and his theories were highly influential in the forming of the anarchist labor union the CNT. He also translated the works of Malatesta, Bakunin, and Kropotkin into Spanish.

**Cody Meyocks** (1989–) is an anarchist short story writer who works in a free-form style and self-publishes in print and online.

**Louise Michel** (1830–1905), the "Red Virgin of Montmartre," is one of the finest role models for any ethical school teacher, or really any radical at all. The daughter of a maid

and a seamstress, she was a prominent voice in the movement for solidarity between people who advocate different levels of tactics and different methods of organizing. She's also an excellent writer, and although she's more known for her non-fiction books, she's published two novels: *The Fifth Sacred Thing* and its prequel *Walking to Mercury*.

WWW.STARHAWK.ORG

**Leo Tolstoy** (1828–1910), the famous Russian author of *War and Peace*, is considered the founder of Christian Anarchism. He never identified with anarchism during his life, but only because he associated it with bomb-throwers. He said as much in his 1900 essay "On Anarchy:"

The Anarchists are right in everything; in the negation of the existing order, and in the assertion that, without Authority, there could not be worse violence than that of Authority under existing conditions. They are mistaken only in thinking that Anarchy can be instituted by a revolution. But it will be instituted only by there being more and more people who do not require the protection of governmental power.... There can be only one permanent revolution—a moral one: the regeneration of the inner man.

**B. Traven** (unknown, possibly 1882–1969) is a bit of a mystery. There lived for a period of time a renowned yet anonymous author in Mexico, who wrote under the name "B. Traven." His works were immensely popular throughout Europe, (and still are), while they went nearly unnoticed in the US, with the exception of *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, which was turned into a movie starring Humphrey Bogart. His books were firmly anti-capitalist and pro-anarchist, and the current leading theory as to his identity is that he was a German anarchist who went by the name of Red Marut. Marut published a German-language anarchist paper for several years, and joined in the ill-fated Bavarian Soviet in 1919 (which, based in Munich, fought against the Bolsheviks but was crushed eventually by the Germans). Traven's fiction first came to fame after his novel *The Ship of Death* was banned by Hitler.

**Adrián del Valle** (1872–1945) was an anarchist, journalist, and fiction writer who was greatly influential in Cuban anarchism. Born in Catalonia but moving to Havana in 1895 after time in NYC, Adrián wrote extensively for anarchist newspapers and had at least 15 fiction pieces published in Joan Montseny's *Novels de Libre* anarchist fiction journal. He was well received in both mainstream and radical literature worlds, and he also ran an anarchist health magazine *Pro-Vida*.

**Jules Vallès** (1832–1885) was a French journalist who ran a socialist/anarchist newspaper during the French commune (as well as fighting on the barricades, of course!) and escaped later repercussions by fleeing to England, where he wrote several semi-autobiographical novels while continuing his career as a radical journalist. Most famous and still-in-print (owing to its less-political nature) of these novels is *The Child*.

**Kurt Vonnegut** (1922–2007), famous satirist and author of *Slaughterhouse Five* among many other books, was an ardent pacifist, anarchist, and world citizen. In fact, he said as much in response to verbal attacks made against him in regards to a speech of his at the Library of Congress: "The beliefs I have to defend are so soft and complicated, actually, and, when vivisected, turn into bowls of undifferentiated mush. I am a pacifist, I am an anarchist, I am a planetary citizen, and so on" (Obituary from *GUARDIAN.CO.UK*). His final work was a book of political non-fiction, *A Man Without a Country*.

**Lois Waisbrooker** (1826–1909), an early anarcha-feminist, wrote numerous essays and novels (including *A Sex Revolution*), edited the anarchist newspaper *Lucifer*, and was

**Donald Room** (1928–) is the author and illustrator of the *Wildcat: Anarchist Cartoons* series, published by Freedom Press. Not to be mistaken for Wildcat, the DC Comics misogynist character. Also, not to be confused with the Wildcat detoured situationist comics (which are available online from the Bureau of Public Secrets).

**Hugh Ryan** (1978–) is a queer anarchist and writer. He writes essays and articles for magazines, websites, and literary journals, but he makes his living ghostwriting *The Hardy Boys*.

**Hans Ryner** (1861–1938) was an individualist pacifist anarchist, once heralded as “The Prince of Storytellers” by the readers of the radical press in France. But today his work (over 50 books of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry) is all but unavailable in English. His activism was primarily around finding recognition for conscientious objector status in wartime, but he also rose to the defense of Sacco and Vanzetti. One of his novels, *Les pacifiques*, seems particularly interesting to me, and I’d love to read it: it is the tale of an anti-civilization, pacifist anarchist utopia on Atlantis.

**Ilan Shalif** is an Israeli psychologist and libertarian communist, who has authored numerous essays and books on self-help, including methods with which to quit smoking. He’s active in Anarchists Against the Wall, a group of Israeli anarchists who use direct and symbolic action to challenge the apartheid wall between Israel and Palestine. He’s also written a novella-length anarchist utopia, *Glimpses into the Year 2100*, about anarchist kibbutzim. SHALIF.COM

**Robert Shea** (1933–1994), co-author (with Robert Anton Wilson) of *The Illuminatus! Trilogy*, was also a publisher of an anarchist zine: *No Governor: A journal of anarchistic ideas, Ideas for Individuals*. Much of his work has been posthumously entered into the Creative Commons to be downloaded for free.

**Lewis Shiner** (1950–) is an author who writes what he feels like writing, refusing to stay in a single genre. He did, however, find himself one of the originators of cyberpunk, with his book *Frontera*. He also novelized Bob Black’s famous essay “The Abolition of Work” into his book *Slam*. He founded the Fiction Liberation Front, through which he gives away nearly all of his work for free, and quite astoundingly, he has almost always refused to solve the major conflict in his books through violence. He’s a card-carrying member of the IWW as well. WWW.LEWISSHINER.COM

**Norman Spinrad** (1940–) is a science fiction writer and syndicalist who has been publishing novels since the mid ‘60s. His 1969 novel *Bug Jack Barron* (a pre-cyberpunk tale) was serialized in the magazine *New Worlds* (when Michael Moorcock was editor) and, as a result of its alleged profanity, the magazine was banned from some distributors and its funding was questioned in the House of Commons. In an interview with *Locus Magazine* in February, 1999, he said:

“All right, so I’m an anarchist—but I’m a syndicalist. You have to have organized anarchy, because otherwise it doesn’t work.... Providing hope is something science fiction should be doing. It sounds arrogant to say it, but if we don’t do it, who the hell will? One of the social functions of science fiction is to be visionary, and when science fiction isn’t being visionary, it hurts the culture’s visionary sense.”

OURWORLD.COM/USERVE.COM/HOMEPAGES/NORMANSPINRAD

**Starhawk** (1951–) is an activist involved in anti-war, anti-globalization, social justice, and environmentalist issues. She’s a pagan anarchist and ecofeminist, and is a promi-

and a young gentleman, Louise became a school teacher but was fired repeatedly for her refusal to support Bonaparte III. She joined the Paris Commune and treated the wounded, pondered political assassination, and reportedly led the charge of 200 armed women against thousands of soldiers (and the soldiers, the story goes, refused orders to fire upon the women and drank wine with them instead). For all of this she was banished to New Caledonia, where she refused special treatment as a woman, taught the Kanak indigenous children, and joined the Kanak’s uprising against their colonial rule. Then she returned to France and headed libertarian schools. The rest of her life was spent in and out of prison and traveling Europe in the promotion of anarchism. She also wrote a lot of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, very little of which I can find in English. Her novels include *Le claque-dents*, and the 953 page *La misère*.

**Henry Miller** (1891–1980) is famous for obscenity. That is, he’s famous for his books *The Tropic of Cancer* and *The Tropic of Capricorn*, which were banned from publication in the US for nearly 30 years. His books are strange, rambling, and sexual, and they did a lot to revolutionize literature. He was briefly involved in the Socialist Party, but was far more influenced by the surrealists. In an interview in Frank L. Kersnowski and Alice Hughes’ *Conversations with Henry Miller*, Henry says that an anarchist is “exactly what I am. Have been all my life. Without belonging, you know, without subscribing,” considering himself a “little a” anarchist. Near the end of his life, he said: “[I am] even more [of an anarchist], today, though I lead what you would call a respectable life. The other day, just reading about Prince Kropotkin, who was my great favorite ... of course, ‘anarchist,’ nobody here in America is an anarchist, you know. It’s a meaningless term here. They confuse it with ‘anarchy.’” [ibid.]

**Octave Mirbeau** (1848–1917) was a rather famous writer of the bizarre. In his younger life he was a patriot, but converted to anarchism in 1885. His novels included grotesque portraits of modern society, including *The Torture Garden*, a book of depravity that is dedicated “To the priests, the soldiers, the judges, to those people who educate, instruct and govern men, I dedicate these pages of Murder and Blood.” An early translation of his novel *The Diary of a Chambermaid* was refused publication in the US. His 1888 rant, *Voters Strike*, has the following wonderful quote: “Sheep run to the slaughterhouse, silent and hopeless, but at least sheep never vote for the butcher who kills them or the people who devour them. More beastly than any beast, more sheepish than any sheep, the voter names his own executioner and chooses his own devourer.” Octave was also an outspoken supporter of Félix Fénéon and his comrades when they were arrested for conspiracy.

**James Leslie Mitchell** (1901–1935), a Scottish author who attained a certain amount of fame by writing about Scotland in *A Scots Quair* under the nom de plume Lewis Grassie Gibbon, was also an anti-civilization anarchist communist. He wrote a number of anti-civilization fantasy books, most famous of which is *Three Go Back*. He died young of peritonitis.

**Federica Montseny** (1905–1994), daughter of anarchist writer Joan Montseny, first published fiction in her family’s periodicals at the age of 17. She continued to write, but during the revolutionary period of the Spanish Civil War she became Spain’s first female minister of health, where she legalized abortion. Both her position in the government and her position on abortion were quite divisive in the anarchist movement. When the war was lost to the fascists, she and her family fled to France, where she stayed. She wrote primarily non-political fiction books, although she continued to travel and promote anarchism.

**Joan Montseny, aka Federico Urales** (1864–1942), a Catalan anarchist and secular schoolteacher (secular schools being a rare and radical thing at the time), was first arrested while protesting the death of the Haymarket martyrs. He was later exiled for his radicalism to the UK, but he returned to Spain under the name Federico Urales. Thereupon he began to publish writing, including a great deal of fiction in the journals he and his wife ran, *La Novela Ideal* and *La Novela Libre*. He was at times both an individualist and trade unionist, and was involved in the founding of both the CNT and the FAI (anarcho-syndicalist trade unions). When Franco's fascists won the Spanish Civil War, Federico and his wife and daughter fled to France, where he died.

**Michael Moorcock** (1939–) is one of the most prolific authors around, with over 100 novels to his name. He's an anarchist by philosophy, and he explores the concept of the anti-hero in nearly all of his books. Many historical characters, including the Ukrainian anarchist Nestor Makhno, make regular appearances in his stories. Although not as well-known today, his cultural influence runs deep and his work has spawned a great deal of imitations. He was an important part of the New Wave of science fiction writers who, in the late 1960s, transformed the genre by saving it from its clichés. [www.MULTIVERSE.ORG](http://www.MULTIVERSE.ORG)

**Alan Moore** (1953–) is considered one of the most important writers in the field of comics, but he's also an anarchist and a practicing magician. Four of his books have been turned into major Hollywood movies (*V for Vendetta*, *Watchmen*, *From Hell*, and *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*), none with his permission.

**Jim Munroe** is a Canadian anarchist writer who works in many different mediums, from comics to novels to movies to videogames. He once, with a group of activist writers, wheat-pasted up one-page science fiction stories painting the horrors of gentrification in affected neighborhoods.

**P.M.** is the name that in the 1980s, an anonymous member of the Midnight Notes Collective wrote the book *Bolo'Bolo* under. It's considered one of the primary anarchist utopia novels. It discusses a decentralized, anti-authoritarian anarchist system. The same author has now released a second novel, *Akiba*.

**Eugene Nelson** (1929–1999), from Modesto, California, was a dedicated unionist farm worker, working with Cesar Chavez. Later in life, he joined the IWW. He also wrote a great deal, include the history of the Wobblies and several novels, including *Bracero* and *Fantasia of a Revolutionary*.

**Kenneth Patchen** (1911–1972), pre-cursor to the Beats and perhaps the first jazz poet, was part of "The San Francisco Anarchist Circle" in the 1940s along with a good deal of other poets. He wrote a tirade against WWII and the US involvement in it (not a popular position) disguised as the novel *The Journal Of Albion Moonlight* (1941). With this move he guaranteed himself artistic obscurity for the rest of his career.

**Antonio Penichet** (?–1964) was an important Cuban anarcho-syndicalist who spent his life as a typesetter, organizer, and writer. His fiction was suppressed by the government, and he was jailed at one point, possibly sentenced to death in 1919 (if he was, I'm not sure how he got out of that). At the end of his life, he was a historian and librarian.

**Fredy Perlman** (1934–1984) is best known as the author of the beautiful and strange *Against His-tory, Against Leviathan*, an early anarcho-primitivist text. But he was also the author (under the character names of Yarostan Vocheh and Sophie Nachalo) of *Letters of Insurgents*, a novel that takes the form of letters between two radicals many years

after the heyday. Fredy, born in the city of Brno (in what is now the Czech Republic), immigrated to the US, got a doctorate and got arrested for protesting. He went to Paris and participated in the May '68 uprising. He and his life-partner Lorraine Perlman started Black & Red Publications. He helped translate the Situationists into English, and he helped publish *Fifth Estate* magazine. The Audio Anarchy project ([WWW.AUDIOANARCHY.ORG](http://WWW.AUDIOANARCHY.ORG)) has a free audiobook of *Letters of Insurgents* available for download.

**Henry Poulaille** (1896–1980) was the son of an anarchist carpenter but was orphaned at 14. He grew up to become a publisher, editor, and novelist who fiercely advocated for proletarian literature. His novels were highly autobiographical fiction, and included his 1935 *Les damnés de la terre* (The Wretched of the Earth)—which is not to be confused with the significantly more famous *Les damnés de la terre* by Frantz Fanon that was published in 1961. Of course, the phrase is a reference to the first line of that famous leftist song "The Internationale," so this synchronicity is most likely a coincidence.

**John Cowper Powys** (1872–1963) wrote novels that are, by all accounts, long, winding, and complex. He corresponded with Emma Goldman for some time (their letters have now been published) and associated himself directly with anarchism, speaking with great hope and joy about the anarchists in the Spanish Civil War.

**Eduard Pons Prades** (1920–2007), historian and anti-fascist militant, was just 16 years old when he fought in the Spanish Civil War. He was wounded in the shelling of Barcelona, but went back to fighting once he recovered, in the Quinta del Biberón (the "Baby Bottle Brigade"). After Franco took Spain, he moved to France, where he helped the French Underground fight the Nazis. When Hitler was defeated, he went back to fighting Franco as a guerilla. Eventually, he settled a bit and became a historian and publisher. He wrote a novel as well, *La venganza* (The Vengeance).

**Graham Purchase** is the author of *My Journey With Aristotle to the Anarchist Utopia*, an intriguing novel that describes a bio-regionalist, green-syndicalist future. For better or worse, when I contacted III Publishing, his publisher, they told me he had left Australia and was living somewhere in India, without much communication to the outside world.

**Sir Herbert Read** (1893–1968) was an anarchist and a knight, which is pretty cool (or hypocritical, I suppose). Anyhow, he is best known for his poetry, but he wrote a novel as well, *The Green Child*, that explores totalitarianism in a fantastic setting. Here's a nice quote by him, from his *Poetry and Anarchism*:

In order to create it is necessary to destroy; and the agent of destruction in society is the poet. I believe that the poet is necessarily an anarchist, and that he must oppose all organized conceptions of the State, not only those which we inherit from the past, but equally those which are imposed on people in the name of the future.

**Gerry Reith** (1959–1984) was an incessant zinester, correspondent, and anarchist writer who lived the last six years of his short life in Wyoming. He wrote large quantities of anarchist short fiction, some collected into the book he assembled *Neutron Gun*. After the local authorities intercepted his mail and reported him to the FBI, he took his own life. [WWW.INSPIRACY.COM/MINITRUE](http://WWW.INSPIRACY.COM/MINITRUE)

**Cristy C. Road** (1982–) is best known as a punk-rock illustrator who draws people of all shapes, sizes, and genders. She's done a fair amount of work with Food Not Bombs and other anarchist organizations, and she's been running zines for years, focusing on queer woman of color issues, and on punk. Her first novel, *Bad Habits*, came out in 2008, and while illustrated, owes more to Kathy Acker-style illustrated books than comics. [WWW.CROADCORE.ORG](http://WWW.CROADCORE.ORG)