

go john clellon holmes

Go John Clellon Holmes: Exploring the Life and Legacy of a Beat Generation Pioneer

go john clellon holmes isn't just a phrase—it's an invitation to dive into the world of one of the most influential figures of the Beat Generation. John Clellon Holmes was a writer, poet, and cultural chronicler whose work captured the restless spirit of post-war America. If you've ever been curious about the origins of Beat literature or wanted to understand the roots of countercultural movements in the mid-20th century, Holmes is a name you'll want to know. Let's explore who he was, what he wrote, and why his contributions still matter today.

The Early Life of John Clellon Holmes

Before becoming a defining voice of the Beat Generation, John Clellon Holmes was an ordinary young man from the Midwest. Born in 1926 in Detroit, Michigan, Holmes grew up in a time marked by the Great Depression and World War II. This backdrop influenced his worldview, shaping his later works with a sense of searching and rebellion.

After serving in the military during World War II, Holmes attended the University of Michigan, where he began writing seriously. His early experiences in college and the post-war era exposed him to a generation of young people eager to break free from traditional societal constraints. This period was crucial for Holmes as he started to develop the themes that would later define his literary career.

Who Was John Clellon Holmes in the Beat Generation?

The Beat Generation was a literary movement that emerged in the late 1940s and early 1950s, characterized by its rejection of conventional values, exploration of spirituality, and a raw, unfiltered style of writing. Holmes is often credited as one of the first to document this emerging subculture, providing an insider's perspective on its key figures and ideas.

Holmes as a Chronicler of the Beats

John Clellon Holmes is best known for his novel **Go** (1952), which is considered one of the first fictional accounts of the Beat lifestyle. Unlike other Beat writers who focused heavily on poetry or experimental prose, Holmes approached the movement with a more conventional narrative style, making **Go** accessible to a wider audience. The book was inspired by real-life events and people, including his friendships with

Jack Kerouac, Neal Cassady, and Allen Ginsberg.

Go stands out because it captures the energy, restlessness, and existential searching that defined the Beat ethos. Holmes' portrayal of characters wandering through New York City, grappling with identity and purpose, provides a vivid snapshot of post-war youth culture. His work helped set the stage for the explosion of Beat literature that followed.

Relationship with Other Beat Writers

Holmes was not just an observer but also a participant in the Beat scene. His friendships with Kerouac and others were complex and influential. In fact, Kerouac's iconic novel **On the Road** was partly inspired by the same circle of friends Holmes wrote about in **Go**. While Holmes embraced certain Beat ideals, he maintained a more measured tone in his writing, often reflecting on the movement's contradictions and challenges.

This unique position allowed Holmes to provide a balanced view: he celebrated the creativity and freedom of the Beats while acknowledging the personal struggles and societal pushback they faced. His writings remain a valuable resource for anyone interested in understanding the origins and dynamics of this cultural phenomenon.

The Literary Style and Themes of John Clellon Holmes

Holmes' work is marked by a blend of realism and lyrical introspection. His prose often captures the tension between the desire for freedom and the need for stability, a theme resonating deeply with the post-war generation.

Key Themes in Holmes' Writing

- **Search for Identity:** Holmes' characters are frequently on quests for meaning in a world that feels fragmented and confusing.
- **Urban Experience:** Much of his narrative is set against the backdrop of bustling cities like New York, which symbolize both opportunity and alienation.
- **Friendship and Community:** Despite themes of isolation, Holmes explores the bonds that tie people together in times of uncertainty.

- **Rebellion Against Conformity:** His work embodies the spirit of questioning societal norms and pushing boundaries.

His style is straightforward but evocative, avoiding the sometimes difficult experimentalism of his contemporaries, which makes his writing approachable for readers new to Beat literature.

John Clellon Holmes' Influence on American Literature and Culture

Though not as widely celebrated as Kerouac or Ginsberg, Holmes played a crucial role in bringing Beat ideas into mainstream awareness. His novel **Go** was one of the first to expose general readers to the Beat lifestyle, paving the way for the later success of other Beat writers.

Bridging the Gap

Holmes' writing serves as a bridge between traditional literary forms and the new, more spontaneous and raw aesthetic of the Beats. This bridging helped legitimize the movement in the eyes of critics and publishers, opening doors for greater acceptance.

Beyond the Beats

Later in his career, Holmes continued to write essays, poetry, and criticism, contributing to the broader American literary landscape. His reflections on the cultural shifts of the 1950s and 60s remain insightful for those studying American history and literature.

Exploring **Go** by John Clellon Holmes

For anyone interested in the Beat Generation, reading **Go** is essential. The novel captures the restless energy of the time and provides a narrative that both entertains and informs.

Why **Go** Still Matters

- **Authentic Portrayal:** As one of the earliest Beat novels, *Go* offers an unfiltered look at the Beat lifestyle, including its joys and pitfalls.
- **Character-Driven Storytelling:** The book's focus on character development helps readers connect emotionally with the struggles and aspirations of its protagonists.
- **Cultural Snapshot:** *Go* acts as a time capsule, reflecting the social and cultural tensions of post-war America.

If you're looking to understand how the Beat Generation influenced modern literature and culture, starting with *Go* offers a clear and compelling introduction.

Tips for Readers New to John Clellon Holmes and Beat Literature

If you're new to Holmes or the Beats, here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Start with *Go*:** It's accessible and provides context for the broader Beat movement.
- **Explore Related Authors:** Reading Kerouac, Ginsberg, and Cassady can deepen your understanding of the characters and themes Holmes depicts.
- **Consider the Historical Context:** Post-World War II America was a time of great change; understanding this era enriches the reading experience.
- **Look for Themes of Rebellion and Search:** These are central to Beat literature and help frame the narrative.

John Clellon Holmes' Legacy Today

Decades after his prime, John Clellon Holmes remains a significant figure for those studying mid-century American literature and culture. His insights into the Beat Generation continue to be referenced in academic circles and popular culture alike. Modern readers and writers find inspiration in Holmes' honest exploration of identity, freedom, and the human condition.

In a world still grappling with issues of conformity and self-expression, Holmes' work offers timeless reflections. Whether through his pioneering novel *Go* or his broader literary contributions, John Clellon Holmes invites us all to ask: what does it mean to truly live and create outside the lines set by society? This

question keeps his work relevant and compelling, encouraging new generations to explore the spirit of the Beats and beyond.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is John Clellon Holmes?

John Clellon Holmes was an American writer and poet, best known for his association with the Beat Generation and for his novel 'Go'. He is often credited with coining the term 'Beat Generation.'

What is the novel 'Go' by John Clellon Holmes about?

The novel 'Go' is a semi-autobiographical work that explores the lives and experiences of the early Beat Generation writers in New York City during the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Why is John Clellon Holmes important to Beat literature?

John Clellon Holmes is important to Beat literature because he documented and portrayed the Beat lifestyle and philosophy in his writings, providing one of the first fictional accounts of the Beat Generation's culture.

When was 'Go' by John Clellon Holmes published?

'Go' was published in 1952 and is considered one of the earliest Beat novels.

How did John Clellon Holmes contribute to the term 'Beat Generation'?

John Clellon Holmes helped popularize the term 'Beat Generation' through his essay 'This Is the Beat Generation' published in The New York Times Magazine in 1952.

What themes are explored in John Clellon Holmes' 'Go'?

The novel explores themes such as rebellion against societal norms, the search for meaning, friendship, jazz culture, and the struggles with identity and conformity.

Is 'Go' by John Clellon Holmes based on real people?

Yes, 'Go' is a roman à clef, meaning it is a fictionalized account of real people and events, with characters inspired by Holmes' friends like Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady.

Where can I find 'Go' by John Clellon Holmes?

'Go' is available in many bookstores, libraries, and online platforms such as Amazon, Google Books, and other digital libraries.

Additional Resources

Go John Clellon Holmes: An Analytical Review of a Beat Generation Icon

go john clellon holmes stands as a pivotal phrase in the landscape of American literature, particularly within the context of the Beat Generation. John Clellon Holmes, often regarded as the “quiet chronicler” of the Beat movement, occupies a unique position among his contemporaries such as Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and William S. Burroughs. This article delves into Holmes’s contributions, examining his literary output, thematic preoccupations, and the enduring significance of his work in both historical and cultural terms.

Understanding John Clellon Holmes and the Beat Generation

John Clellon Holmes was an American novelist and poet, whose work largely reflects the ethos and aesthetic of the Beat Generation — a literary movement that emerged in the post-World War II era, known for its rejection of conventional values, exploration of spirituality, and candid portrayal of life’s margins. Holmes’s writing, including his most famous novel “Go,” is credited with offering one of the earliest fictionalized accounts of the Beat lifestyle, serving as a bridge between the underground subculture and mainstream literary audiences.

The phrase “go john clellon holmes” frequently surfaces in literary discussions and searches related to the Beat Generation, underscoring Holmes’s lasting presence in American literary studies. His novel “Go” (published in 1952) is often cited as the first Beat novel, preceding Kerouac’s “On the Road,” and providing a semi-autobiographical glimpse into the lives of a group of young writers and artists navigating the cultural upheavals of mid-20th-century America.

The Novel “Go” and Its Literary Significance

“Go” is a seminal work that offers an intimate portrayal of the Beat ethos: a restless pursuit of meaning, rebellion against societal norms, and a deep engagement with jazz, drugs, and existential inquiry. The novel’s protagonist, Paul Hobbes, serves as Holmes’s literary alter ego, reflecting the author’s own experiences and observations within the Beat circle.

Unlike the spontaneous prose style famously employed by Kerouac, Holmes’s narrative approach in “Go” is

more structured and measured, which has led critics to characterize it as a more accessible entry point into Beat literature. The novel captures the tension between conformity and freedom, the allure of urban nightlife, and the complex interpersonal dynamics of a generation seeking authenticity in a rapidly changing world.

Holmes's Role as a Beat Chronicler and Cultural Mediator

One of the distinctive features of John Clellon Holmes's contribution lies in his dual role as both participant and observer. While many Beat writers embraced a radical countercultural stance, Holmes maintained a somewhat more moderate perspective, often reflecting on the movement's excesses and contradictions with a level of critical distance.

This balancing act is evident in Holmes's essays and journalism, where he sought to contextualize the Beat phenomenon for a broader audience. His 1958 essay "This Is the Beat Generation," published in *The New York Times Magazine*, is widely credited with popularizing the term "Beat Generation" and introducing its key themes to mainstream readers. This essay not only solidified Holmes's position as a spokesperson for the Beats but also helped codify the movement's identity in the public consciousness.

Comparisons with Contemporaries

Analyzing Holmes's work alongside his more renowned peers reveals both shared concerns and divergent stylistic choices. Jack Kerouac's "On the Road" epitomizes a spontaneous, stream-of-consciousness narrative celebrating freedom and movement. In contrast, Holmes's "Go" offers a more grounded and psychologically nuanced exploration of similar themes.

Allen Ginsberg's poetry, marked by its raw emotional intensity and political engagement, contrasts with Holmes's comparatively restrained poetic voice. Meanwhile, William S. Burroughs's experimental and often abrasive prose pushes the boundaries of narrative form, whereas Holmes remains within traditional novelistic frameworks.

These differences highlight Holmes's unique contribution: a literate, reflective chronicling of Beat culture that complements the more radical and avant-garde expressions found elsewhere in the movement.

Key Themes in John Clellon Holmes's Work

Several recurring themes permeate Holmes's writing, offering insight into both his personal worldview and the broader Beat sensibility:

- **Alienation and Search for Identity:** Holmes's characters frequently grapple with feelings of displacement and the quest for self-understanding amid societal pressures.
- **Urban Experience:** The cityscape, especially New York, serves as both a backdrop and a catalyst for existential exploration.
- **Jazz and Popular Culture:** Jazz music, a symbol of spontaneity and improvisation, features prominently, reflecting the Beats' admiration for its creative freedom.
- **Drug Use and Spiritual Quest:** Substance use is depicted as both a means of escape and an attempt to transcend ordinary consciousness.

These themes resonate throughout Holmes's fiction and non-fiction, providing a comprehensive portrait of the tensions and aspirations of his generation.

The Impact of "Go" on American Literature

"Go" holds a significant place in the canon of American literature, not only as an early Beat novel but also as a work that influenced subsequent writers and cultural movements. Its honest and nuanced portrayal of youth disillusionment helped pave the way for the countercultural revolutions of the 1960s.

Moreover, the novel's engagement with issues such as conformity, existential angst, and the role of art in society continues to resonate with contemporary readers. Holmes's approach, which blends personal narrative with social commentary, has been acknowledged as a precursor to later autobiographical and confessional literary styles.

Legacy and Contemporary Relevance

Over the decades, "go john clellon holmes" remains a phrase linked to literary scholarship, Beat studies, and cultural retrospectives. Holmes's work is taught in universities as part of American literature curricula, and his insights into the Beat Generation provide valuable context for understanding mid-20th-century cultural transformations.

In the digital age, renewed interest in the Beats and their influence on music, art, and literature has brought Holmes back into focus. His balanced perspective offers a critical lens through which to assess the romanticization of the Beats, highlighting both their contributions and limitations.

Furthermore, Holmes's exploration of themes such as alienation, identity, and the search for meaning

continues to find echoes in modern narratives addressing similar concerns in an increasingly complex world.

John Clellon Holmes's role as both a participant in and chronicler of the Beat Generation ensures that his name remains integral to discussions about this influential literary movement. His novel "Go" stands as a testament to a transformative period in American culture, capturing the restless spirit of youth and the complexities of artistic expression. Through his reflective and measured voice, Holmes offers a distinctive window into the Beat experience—one that continues to inform and inspire readers and scholars alike.

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go john clellon holmes: *Go* John Clellon Holmes, 2015-10-20 Before the world knew Kerouac, Ginsberg, and Cassady, this brilliant and important novel chronicled the author's early years among the Beats (Los Angeles Free Press). Published five years before *On the Road*, this candid and perceptive roman à clef chronicles the adventures of Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and Neal Cassady before they became literary icons. In dive bars and all-night diners, cabs racing across Manhattan and squalid apartments sticky with tea smoke, these would-be artists pursue the ecstatic experiences that shape their work and satisfy their restless desire to live beyond the limits of convention. At the heart of *Go* is Paul Hobbes, the alter ego of John Clellon Holmes. An aspiring novelist who shares the same creative interests as his friends, Paul frequently participates in their reckless, self-indulgent behavior. Yet his innate solemnness makes him an outsider, as does his commitment to his marriage. As Paul seeks to strike the right balance between experimentation and orthodoxy, freedom and obligation, he casts a discerning eye on his peers. The result is a thrilling and indispensable portrait of the Beat movement before it took America by storm.

go john clellon holmes: *"This is the Beat Generation"* John Clellon Holmes, 2010

go john clellon holmes: *Encyclopedia of Beat Literature* Kurt Hemmer, 2010-05-12 Discusses the literary works and great authors of the Beat Generation.

go john clellon holmes: *The Philosophy of the Beats* Sharin N. Elkholy, 2012-01-01 The phrase beat generation -- introduced by Jack Kerouac in 1948 -- characterized the underground, nonconformist youths who gathered in New York City at that time. Together, these writers, artists, and activists created an inimitably American cultural phenomenon that would have a global influence. In their constant search for meaning, the Beats struggled with anxiety, alienation, and their role as the pioneers of the cultural revolution of the 1960s. *The Philosophy of the Beats* explores the enduring literary, cultural, and philosophical contributions of the Beats in a variety of contexts. Editor Sharin N. Elkholy has gathered leading scholars in Beat studies and philosophy to analyze the cultural, literary, and biographical aspects of the movement, including the drug experience in the works of Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, feminism and the Beat heroine in Diane Di Prima's writings, Gary Snyder's environmental ethics, and the issue of self in Bob Kaufman's poetry.

The Philosophy of the Beats provides a thorough and compelling analysis of the philosophical underpinnings that defined the beat generation and their unique place in modern American culture.

go john clellon holmes: One and Only Gerald Nicosia, 2013-04-05 Beloved by both Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady, Lu Anne Henderson has never told her story. Lu Anne was a beautiful 15-year-old girl in Denver in 1945 when she met Neal, a fast-talking hurricane of male sexuality. The two married, and soon they were hanging out with a group of young would-be writers, including Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg. But Neal and Jack initially didn't like each other. Lu Anne ended up loving them both, and she taught them how to love each other — giving Kerouac material for one of the seminal novels of the 20th century, *On the Road*. *One and Only* traces the immense struggles of Lu Anne's life, from the split-up of her family during the Great Depression to the ravages of abusive men and a late-life heroin addiction. It shows how her life intertwined with Jack's and Neal's to the very end.

go john clellon holmes: **Get Home Free** John Clellon Holmes, 2015-10-20 The chief chronicler of the Beat Generation portrays the hangover that followed the giddy early days of the movement in this poignant follow-up to *Go*. Dan Verger and May Delano share a loft in New York City, but the passion that brought them together has turned brittle and sour, much like the boozy parties and late-night discussions that so thrilled them a few years ago. The brightest lights of their circle have moved on—visionary poet David Stofsky to a job in advertising, novelist Gene Pasternak to Mexico—and Dan and May eventually decide to do the same, abandoning each other to return to their respective hometowns. On the Connecticut seashore, Dan contemplates the trip to Europe that he has always promised himself, but finds his dissipated habits hard to break. Killing time with Old Man Molineaux, the charismatic town drunk, Dan recognizes what his life might look like in 30 years. Meanwhile, May returns to Louisiana and is surprised to discover Paul Hobbes, a New York friend, playing piano in a bar on the African American side of town. At a wild, drug-fueled party in a dilapidated antebellum mansion, May comes face-to-face with the complicated racial dynamics of the Beat movement. Artful and authentic, melancholy yet tender, *Get Home Free* pays tribute to a generation that, in daring to break with the patterns of the past, profoundly influenced the future of American culture.

go john clellon holmes: Scandalous Fictions Jago Morrison, Susan Watkins, 2006-10-31 This study re-examines the twentieth-century novel as a form shaped by its problematic, often scandalous relation to the public sphere. Discussing ten texts against the challenges of their milieus, it considers twentieth-century fiction as a tradition of transgression, perennially caught between license and licentiousness, erudition and sedition.

go john clellon holmes: *Aquarius Revisited* Peter O. Whitmer, Bruce VanWyngarden, 2007 A failed West Point cadet would coin the phrase turn on, tune in, and drop out. A confused seventeen-year-old from Newark planned to be an attorney but instead let loose with a poem called *Howl*. An Olympic-caliber wrestler authored *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and spent the next twenty-eight years leading a band of merry pranksters on a cross-country, electric Kool-Aid odyssey... These were a few of the men whose radical ideas were forged in the black-and-white '50s. Before the 1960s turned into a frenzy of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll, before Kent State, before a battered America fled from Vietnam, a seismic Technicolor shift was underway—led by a group of visionaries who collaborated, competed, went to jail, and fought against an Establishment that fought back just as furiously. From the last days of the Beat Generation to the strange history of LSD in America, from the music of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones to the fantastic, teeming celebration at Woodstock, from the civil right movement to the anti-war protests brewing at college campuses across the country, this phenomenal book will let those who were there rediscover the magic and those who weren't discover why the '60s was the decade to beat all others.... Book jacket.

go john clellon holmes: **Historical Dictionary of the Beat Movement** Paul Varner, 2012-06-21 The Beat Movement was one of the most radical and innovative literary and arts movements of the 20th century, and the history of the Beat Movement is still being written in the early years of the 21st century. Unlike other kinds of literary and artistic movements, the Beat

Movement is self-perpetuating. After the 1950s generation, headlined by Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and William S. Burroughs, a new generation arose in the 1960s led by writers such as Diane Wakoski, Anne Waldman, and poets from the East Side Scene. In the 1970s and 1980s writers from the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church and contributors to *World* magazine continued the movement. The 1980s and 1990s Language Movement saw itself as an outgrowth and progression of previous Beat aesthetics. Today poets and writers in San Francisco still gather at City Lights Bookstore and in Boulder at the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics and continue the movement. It is now a postmodern movement and probably would be unrecognizable to the earliest Beats. It may even be in the process of finally shedding the name Beat. But the Movement continues. The *Historical Dictionary of the Beat Movement* covers the movement's history through a chronology, an introductory essay, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 700 cross-referenced entries on significant people, themes, critical issues, and the most significant novels, poems, and volumes of poetry and prose that have formed the Beat canon. This book is an excellent access point for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about the Beat Movement.

go john clellon holmes: The Beat Generation and the Popular Novel in the United States, 1945-1970 Thomas Newhouse, 2000-06-30 The Beat Generation that emerged after World War II and reached its zenith in the 1960s represented an era of new perspectives. The questioning, anti-establishment view of the world prevalent among the various members of the Beat Movement found its voice in both novels and poetry. The novels especially, or what might be called underground narratives, were a driving force within the literary, social and cultural revolution that characterized the Beats. This study of the American novel during that era presents the forerunners of the literary tradition of the Beats and examines the major genres of the Beat novel: the juvenile delinquent novel, the self-discovering novel of individuality, the gay novel, the drug novel, the new journalism, and novels taking on topics of defiance and submission. From novels that have found a mainstream acceptance, like *The Blackboard Jungle*, *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, and *On the Road*, to lesser-known works like *Go, Young Adam*, and *Flee the Angry Strangers*, numerous representative works are examined in depth. Also included is a chronology of underground narratives, showing the development of these novels from their early twentieth century antecedents to current works.

go john clellon holmes: The Daybreak Boys Gregory Stephenson, 2009-06-25 In these critical essays Gregory Stephenson takes the reader on a journey through the literature of the Beat Generation: a journey encompassing that common ethos of Beat literature—the passage from darkness to light, from fragmented being toward wholeness, from Beat to Beatific. He travels through Jack Kerouac's *Duluoz Legend*, following Kerouac's quests for identity, community, and spiritual knowledge. He examines Allen Ginsberg's use of transcendence in "Howl," discovers the Gnostic vision in William S. Burroughs's fiction, and studies the mythic, visionary power of Lawrence Ferlinghetti's poetry. Stephenson also provides detailed examinations of the writing of lesser-known Beat authors: John Clellon Holmes, Gregory Corso, Richard Fariña, and Michael McClure. He explores the myth and the mystery of the literary legend of Neal Cassady. The book concludes with a look at the common traits of the Beat writers—their use of primitivism, shamanism, myth and magic, spontaneity, and improvisation, all of which led them to a new idiom of consciousness and to the expansion of the parameters of American literature.

go john clellon holmes: The New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English Tom Dalzell, Terry Victor, 2015-06-26 Booklist Top of the List Reference Source The heir and successor to Eric Partridge's brilliant magnum opus, *The Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, this two-volume *New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* is the definitive record of post WWII slang. Containing over 60,000 entries, this new edition of the authoritative work on slang details the slang and unconventional English of the English-speaking world since 1945, and through the first decade of the new millennium, with the same thorough, intense, and lively scholarship that characterized Partridge's own work. Unique,

exciting and, at times, hilariously shocking, key features include: unprecedented coverage of World English, with equal prominence given to American and British English slang, and entries included from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, South Africa, Ireland, and the Caribbean emphasis on post-World War II slang and unconventional English published sources given for each entry, often including an early or significant example of the term's use in print. hundreds of thousands of citations from popular literature, newspapers, magazines, movies, and songs illustrating usage of the headwords dating information for each headword in the tradition of Partridge, commentary on the term's origins and meaning New to this edition: A new preface noting slang trends of the last five years Over 1,000 new entries from the US, UK and Australia New terms from the language of social networking Many entries now revised to include new dating, new citations from written sources and new glosses The New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English is a spectacular resource infused with humour and learning – it's rude, it's delightful, and it's a prize for anyone with a love of language.

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go john clellon holmes: Anxious Men Baldwin Clive Baldwin, 2020-03-02 Explores representations of men and masculinity in American fiction published after the Second World War Offers readings of a wide selection of postwar American novels from 1945 to the mid-1950s, including canonical works, from the unique perspective of their representation of male identity Provides rich comparative insights through analysis of fiction by writers of diverse race, class and sexuality Demonstrates how gender theory generates insights into the constitution of American masculinity in fiction Focusing on a complex and contentious period that was formative in shaping American society and culture in the twentieth century, this book sheds new light on the ways in which fiction engaged with contemporary notions of masculinity. It draws on gender theory and analysis of writers from diverse backgrounds of race, class and sexuality to provide rich comparative insights into the constitution of American masculinity in fiction. The extensive range of novels considered includes fresh analyses of key authors such as James Baldwin, Truman Capote, Patricia Highsmith, Jack Kerouac, Norman Mailer, Ann Petry, J. D. Salinger and Gore Vidal.

go john clellon holmes: Beatniks Alan Bisbort, 2009-11-25 This is a revealing look at the events and personalities that defined the Beat Generation, drawing on over three decades of research. Beatniks: A Guide to an American Subculture gets readers past the caricature of the beatnik as a goateed, beret-wearing, bongo-playing poseur, drawing on extensive research to show just how profound an impact the beats had on American culture, politics, and literature. Beatniks conveys the complexity, influences, events, and places that shaped the Beat Generation from the late 1940s to the cusp of the 1960s. The book also features a series of essays on specific aspects of the subculture, as well as interviews with Beat Generation luminaries like Allen Ginsberg, Ann Charters,

Roy Harper and Michael McClure. Throughout, readers will meet an extraordinary gallery of people both famous—Jack Kerouac, William Burroughs, Neal Cassady—and lesser known but no less fascinating, including Kenneth Patchen, Lord Buckley, Mort Sahl, Jack Micheline, Lew Welch, Joan Vollmer Adams, and Lenore Kandel. Also included is a detailed glossary with the origins and meanings of the beat lingo.

go john clellon holmes: [The Beat Generation FAQ](#) Rich Weidman, 2015-09-01 The Beat Generation FAQ is an informative and entertaining look at the enigmatic authors and cutting-edge works that shaped this fascinating cultural and literary movement. Disillusioned with the repression and conformity encompassing post-World War II life in the United States, the Beat writers sought creative alternatives to the mind-numbing banality of modern culture. Beat Generation writers were no strangers to controversy: Both Allen Ginsberg's prophetic, William Blakean-style poem "Howl" (1956) and William S. Burroughs' groundbreaking novel *Naked Lunch* (1959) led to obscenity trials, while Jack Kerouac's highly influential novel *On the Road* (1957) was blamed by the establishment for corrupting the nation's youth and continues to this day to serve as a beacon of hipster culture and the bohemian lifestyle. The Beat writers shared a vision for a new type of literature, one that escaped the boundaries of academia and employed an organic use of language, inspired by the spontaneity and improvisational nature of jazz music and abstract expressionism (Kerouac coined this writing style "spontaneous prose"). In search of deeper meaning, Beat Generation writers experimented not only with language but also with spirituality, art, drugs, sexuality, and unconventional lifestyles. Although the movement as a whole flamed out quickly in the early 1960s, replaced by the onset of the hippie counterculture, the Beats made an indelible mark on the nation's consciousness and left a long-lasting influence on its art and culture. This book details the movement – its works, creative forces, and its legacy.

go john clellon holmes: Beat Generation in New York Bill Morgan, 1997-11 This is the ultimate guide to Jack Kerouac's New York, packed with photos from the '50s and '60s, and filled with information and anecdotes about the people and places that made history.

go john clellon holmes: Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, 2010-07-08 The first collection of letters between the two leading figures of the Beat movement Writers and cultural icons Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg are the most celebrated names of the Beat Generation, linked together not only by their shared artistic sensibility but also by a deep and abiding friendship, one that colored their lives and greatly influenced their writing. Editors Bill Morgan and David Stanford shed new light on this intimate and influential friendship in this fascinating exchange of letters between Kerouac and Ginsberg, two thirds of which have never been published before. Commencing in 1944 while Ginsberg was a student at Columbia University and continuing until shortly before Kerouac's death in 1969, the two hundred letters included in this book provide astonishing insight into their lives and their writing. While not always in agreement, Ginsberg and Kerouac inspired each other spiritually and creatively, and their letters became a vital workshop for their art. Vivid, engaging, and enthralling, Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg: The Letters provides an unparalleled portrait of the two men who led the cultural and artistic movement that defined their generation.

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