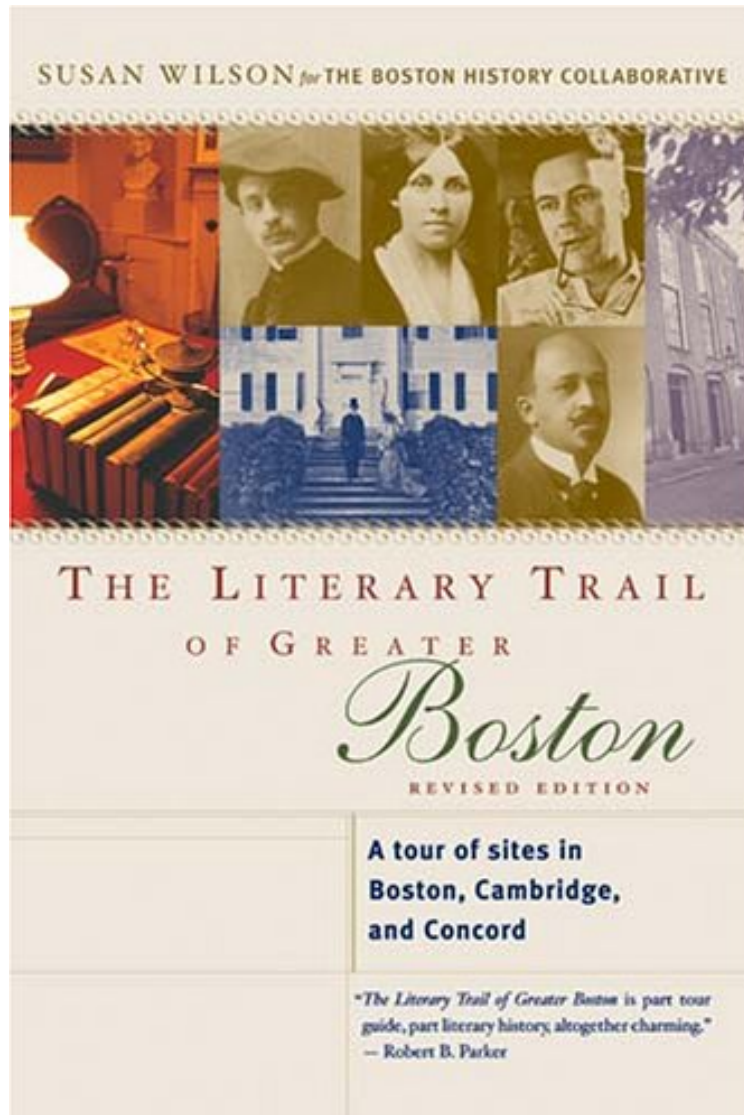


[Library ebook] The Literary Trail of Greater Boston: A Tour of Sites in Boston, Cambridge, and Concord, Revised Edition

The Literary Trail of Greater Boston: A Tour of Sites in Boston, Cambridge, and Concord, Revised Edition

Susan Wilson, Boston History Collaborative
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Published in association with the Boston History Collaborative, a guide to the great writers, where they worked, lived, and died.

From Kirkus sA sprightly and informative little guidebook, packed with tidbits about literary figures, publishers, bookstores, libraries, and other historic sites on the newly designated Literary Trail of Greater Boston. Working with the Boston History Collaborative, Cambridge author Wilson (Boston Sights and Insights, not reviewed) has compiled a chatty, easy-to-follow companion to the three-part Trail. Opening with the Parker House Hotel, site of Charles Dickens's first American reading of A Christmas Carol, Wilson guides the tour-taker through three centuries of Greater Boston's literary history, paying homage along the way to some unexpected figures e.g., Ben Franklin, Kahlil Gibran, and Vladimir Nabokov as well as the expected Alcott, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Emerson, Thoreau, and Whittier. Contemporary writers have contributed essays on their favorite authors Robert Pinsky writes about Elizabeth Bishop, Julia Child has a piece on Fannie Farmer and brief quotes have been inserted to illustrate various authors' styles. Besides three main tour segments in Boston, Cambridge, and Concord, there are "Off the Beaten Path" side trips to Beacon Hill and to cemeteries in the three cities where many of the famous literary figures are buried. Also included are tips on finding literary events at local bookstores, libraries, and museums, and information on contemporary local writers. Especially useful for the tour-goer is an appendix listing the addresses, phone numbers, web sites, and handicap accessibility of museums and other historic sites along the trail. All that a guidebook should be: compact, easy to use, informative, and entertaining. (5 maps, 80 bw illustrations, not seen)-- Copyright 2000 Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. "All that a guidebook should be: compact, easy to use, informative and entertaining." Kirkus s"Anyone who has even the slightest interest in American literary history is sure to be charmed by this attractive little book."The Chicago Tribune"This lively guidebook invites residents to take a fresh look at our area's literary heritage...A spirit of inclusiveness welcomes Malcolm X and Fannie Farmer alongside the Alcotts and the Jameses, while contributions by contemporary local writers like Gish Jen and David McCullough ensure that the circle remains unbroken."Boston Magazine"A sprightly and informative little guidebook, packed with tidbits about literary figures, publishers, bookstores, libraries, and other historic sites on the newly designated Literary Trail of Greater Boston. Working with the Boston History Collaborative, Cambridge author Wilson (Boston Sights and Insights, not reviewed) has compiled a chatty, easy to follow companion to the three-part Trail. 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Especially useful for the tour-goer is an appendix listing the addresses, phone numbers, web sites, and handicap accessibility of museums and other historic sites along the trail. All that a guidebook should be: compact, easy to use, informative, and entertaining." (March 1, 2000) Kirkus s with Pointers"Boston has long been a hub of intellectual activity in this country, beginning with Cotton Mather and Ben Franklin, continuing with Ralph Waldo Emerson and Nathaniel Hawthorne, and moving on into the 20th century with Robert Frost and John Updike, to name a few. Wilson (Boston Sites and Insights) includes virtually every literary personage ever connected with Boston and describes their homes, their gathering places, and the landscapes associated with them. She even attempts to re-create some of the atmosphere of the different intellectual circles. Also included are separate information boxes, such as "Off the Beaten Path," which have walking tours to areas adjacent to the main trail, and "Author/Author!," in which a contemporary Boston writer discusses the importance of another from the past. The impression one gets is that this is a celebration of the intellectual richness of Boston rather than a guidebook. In fact, it is often easy to forget where one is along the trail or that one is even on a trail. Walker succeeds in giving basic information about the intellectual climate of Boston but is less successful at providing an easy-to-use guide to the city. Recommended only for libraries with large collections related to Boston."-- Library Journal, March 15, 2000 Library Journal