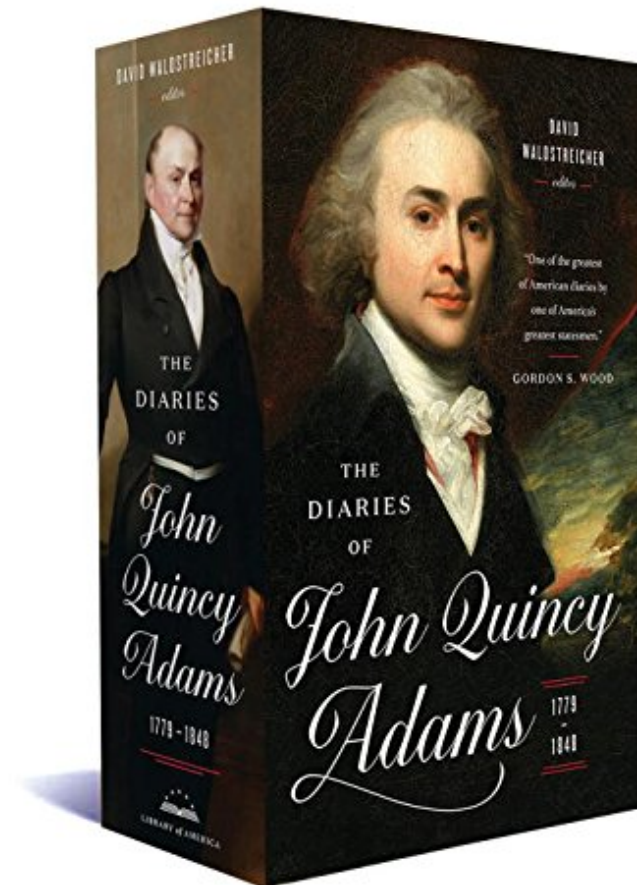


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## The Diaries of John Quincy Adams 1779-1848 (Library of America)

*John Quincy Adams*  
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**John Quincy Adams : The Diaries of John Quincy Adams 1779-1848 (Library of America)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Diaries of John Quincy Adams 1779-1848 (Library of America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A look at an era, as well as a Man. By Fritz In addition to the educational and fascinating references to the culture of his day and history of his age, Adams also offers the reader an unexpected glimpse of the man in private. A prime example, (not commented upon by the editor, who's notes and insights never fail to enlighten and inform on virtually every proper name and cultural reference), occurs in an entry of November of 1785 when the eighteen year old Adams, newly returned from Europe comments on a "degree of Melancholy" resulting not from his being confined to his house the previous few days but from an unknown "Cause", noting unhappily "When Reason is at variance with our heart, the mind cannot be in a pleasing state: I have therefore

more than once, been obliged to exert all my Resolution to keep myself free of a Passion which I could not indulge and which would have made me miserable had I not overcome it." He continues further, writing he once again is feeling "on trial", noting he has never been "in greater danger" while hoping all the while, he has the will to "repress my feelings." (one can little but surmise.) A book full of history and humanity, from one of the world's most accomplished diarists, presented with the insight and professionalism as one would expect from The Library of America. Kudos to editor, David Waldstreicher and the staff of these fine and revelatory volumes. 19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Stunning yet affordable set By Howard This new edition of selections from John Quincy Adams's lifelong diary is stunning! Beautifully put together, highly readable, and engaging, it's a great way to learn more about American history from someone who had a front row seat for the Revolutionary War and eventually served in the House of Representatives with a young Abraham Lincoln. Another reviewer criticized the incompleteness of this volume, but that's obvious -- the complete unabridged diary of JQA has never been published and would be prohibitively expensive and much less interesting than what David Waldstreicher has expertly put together. I highly recommend this high-quality, affordable set for anyone who wants to dive into the private thoughts of John Quincy Adams. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer It was great

For the 250th anniversary of John Quincy Adams's birth, a landmark new selected edition of an American masterpiece: the incomparable self-portrait of a man and his times from the Revolution to the coming of the Civil War. The diary of John Quincy Adams is one of the most extraordinary works in American literature. Begun in 1779 at the age of twelve and kept more or less faithfully until his death almost 70 years later, and totaling some fifteen thousand closely-written manuscript pages, it is both an unrivaled record of historical events and personalities from the nation's founding to the antebellum era and a masterpiece of American self-portraiture, tracing the spiritual, literary, and scientific interests of an exceptionally lively mind. Now, for the 250th anniversary of Adams's birth, Library of America and historian David Waldstreicher present a two-volume reader's edition of diary selections based for the first time on the original manuscripts, restoring personal and revealing passages suppressed in earlier editions. Volume I begins during the American Revolution, with Adams's first entry, as he prepares to embark on a perilous wartime voyage to Europe with his father, diplomat John Adams, and records his early impressions of Franklin and Jefferson and of Paris on the eve of revolution; it details his abbreviated but eventful years of study at Harvard and his emergence into the world of politics in his own right, as American minister to the Netherlands and to Prussia, and then as a U. S. senator from Massachusetts; and it reveals a young man at war with his passions, before finding love with the remarkable Louisa Catherine Johnson. In passages that form a kind of real-world War and Peace, the diary follows the young married couple to St. Petersburg, where as U.S. minister Adams is a witness to Napoleon's invasion of Russia. Its account of the negotiations at Ghent to end the War of 1812, where Adams leads the American delegation, is the perhaps the most detailed and dramatic picture of a diplomatic confrontation ever recorded. Volume 1 concludes with his elevation as Secretary of State under James Monroe, as he takes the fore in a fractious cabinet and emerges as the principal architect of what will become known as the Monroe Doctrine. Volume 2 opens with the political maneuverings within and outside Monroe's cabinet to become his successor, a process that culminates in Adams's election to the presidency by the House of Representatives after the deadlocked four-way contest of 1824. Even as Adams takes the oath of office, rivals Henry Clay, his Secretary of State, John C. Calhoun, his vice president, and an embittered Andrew Jackson, eye the election of 1828. The diary records in candid detail his frustration as his far-sighted agenda for national improvement founders on the rocks of internecine political factionalism, conflict that results in his becoming only the second president, with his father, to fail to secure reelection. After a short-lived retirement, Adams returns to public service as a Congressman from Massachusetts, and for the last seventeen years of his life he leads efforts to resist the extension of slavery and to end the notorious "gag rule" that stifles debate on the issue in Congress. In 1841 he further burnishes his reputation as a scourge of the Slave Power by successfully defending African mutineers of the slave ship *Amistad* before the Supreme Court. The diary achieves perhaps its greatest force in its prescient anticipation of the Civil War and Emancipation, an "object," as Adams described it during the Missouri Crisis, "vast in its compass, awful in its prospects, sublime and beautiful in its issue."

"JQA is a masterly diarist. . . [This] will be the standard readers edition of this masterpiece, which gives an account of both a fascinating life and a thrilling, disastrous period of American history." --Richard Brookhiser, *The Wall Street Journal* "The latest entry in the prestigious Library of America collection is a distinct treat, something long overdue for an attractive, accessible edition. . . . Readers don't encounter mere bare memos of events -- they're again and again immersed in well-drawn scenes and vivid personalities. Adams displays a dramatist's ear not only for dialogue but also for pacing. . . . It's an astonishing sustained performance. . . . Reading these entries for hours on end is spellbinding." --*The Christian Science Monitor* "One of the greatest of American diaries by one of America's greatest statesmen." --Gordon S. Wood, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* "There is no figure in American history like John Quincy Adams, a lawyer, scholar, poet, and statesman of boundless energy and vision. And in the annals of American history there is nothing comparable to his diaries, both as the lifetime record of a turbulent

era and its people, and as a revealing portrait of an extraordinary man and his famous family. Based upon the original manuscript volumes, and including scores of passages suppressed in earlier editions, this Library of America edition restores a national treasure in all its richness and surprising passion." --Edith B. Gelles, author of *Abigail John: Portrait of a Marriage*"The candid diary of John Quincy Adams records the day-to-day insights, hopes, passions, and frustrations of one of America's wisest and most courageous patriots. Spanning almost seventy years, it addresses issues as varied as foreign policy, civil liberties, gender equality, and government aid for science, but especially the scourge of slavery, which Adams foresaw would rend the Union he worked so hard to build up. The Library of America here makes available an unparalleled resource for the study of our nation's politics, history, and enduring values." --Daniel Walker Howe, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848*About the Author John Quincy Adams (1767 -1848) was one of the most experienced and well-traveled American statesmen of his era. Before becoming the sixth president of the United States in 1825, he had served as a diplomat in the Netherlands, Prussia, Russia, and England, and had led the American commission that negotiated the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812. After the last of his European posts he served as Secretary of State under James Monroe, and was the principal architect of the Monroe Doctrine. After his presidency, Adams was elected to represent southeastern Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving for the remainder of his life, until his fatal collapse at his Congressional desk. David Waldstreicher is Distinguished Professor of History at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, and the author of *Slavery's Constitution: From Revolution to Ratification* (2009); *Runaway America: Benjamin Franklin, Slavery and the American Revolution* (2004); and *In the Midst of Perpetual Fetes: The Making of American Nationalism, 1776-1820* (1997). As editor, his books include *A Companion to John Adams and John Quincy Adams* (2013).