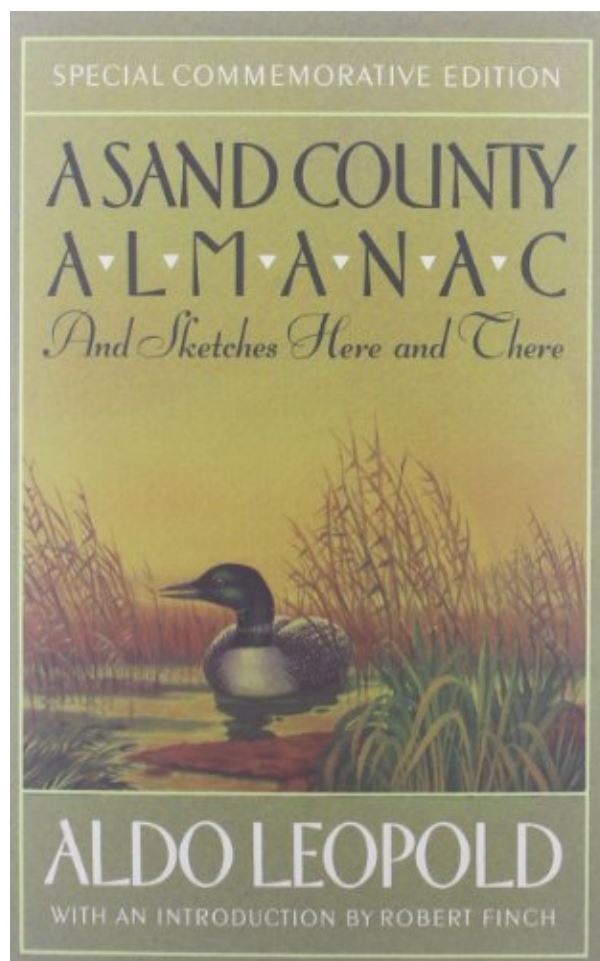


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SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

A SAND COUNTY
A·L·M·A·N·A·C
And Sketches Here and There



ALDO LEOPOLD

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY ROBERT FINCH

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The volume includes a section on the monthly changes of the Wisconsin countryside; another section that gathers together the informal pieces written by Leopold over a forty-year period as he traveled around the woodlands of Wisconsin, Iowa, Arizona, Sonora, Oregon, Manitoba, and elsewhere; and a final section in which Leopold addresses more formally the philosophical issues involved in wildlife conservation. As the forerunner of such important books as Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, Edward Abbey's *Desert Solitaire*, and Robert Finch's *The Primal Place*, this classic work remains as relevant today as it was forty years ago.

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- 228 pages

Amazon.com Review

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The Ballantine version is censored

By Alison Reiheld

I would give the actual ORIGINAL version of the text a 5 star rating, and indeed do so for the Oxford University Press edition. That version is slightly more expensive in Paperback, but has a better introduction and, more importantly, is actually printed as originally written by Leopold. The Ballantine version has been censored by the publisher to remove several sentences which either explicitly use the word "evolution" or which imply it.

Granted, these are only a few sentences out of the entire book. But it makes this work something other than the work which is seminal in the field of environmental philosophy and naturalism, and such censorship is intrinsically objectionable-note also that the publisher nowhere in this book tells you that such alterations have been made nor is this version described as an abridged or edited version. Further, this change makes this version unacceptable for use in teaching science courses where censorship because of ideology or market share is beyond the pale.

If you find any hint of evolution to be distracting (for one reason or another) from the fine naturalistic writing in which Leopold engages (evolution is not central to his argument or description), or are too cash-strapped to shell out an extra few bucks for the OUP edition or something at your local used book store or don't have the time to go to the library, by all means purchase this version. It is similar in most ways to Leopold's written work. But this is not to be mistaken for that work in its entirety.

75 of 78 people found the following review helpful.

An American Classic

By A Customer

This is a profoundly insightful and important book that ranks among the most significant American books of the Twentieth Century. It would be a mistake to describe this book as "nature writing" per se, or of that genre. It is a series of essays in wonderful prose in which nature, outdoor settings or situations provide the backdrop. But it is not written as a naturalist droning about the wonders of some aspect of nature. It is an inspired and deeply insightful description, by a man who clearly has a deep understanding of how nature works, about the ethical dimensions of our relationship with the land and our environment generally. Despite the simple elegance of the writing style, it can be seen (and I know from biographical information) the author draws from a vast experience and knowledge far outside the confines of the wildlife management, which was

his profession. The ideas expressed, and the many quotable passages are a treasure trove for anyone interested in broad ideas, not to mention readers whose professions involve recreation, wildlife, natural resources management, the environment, and the teaching of these disciplines as well as ethics, philosophy, and English literature. In sum, this is a must read for virtually anyone who wishes to be familiar with important American literature, as well as those with a particular interest in the environment, environmental ethics and philosophy.

71 of 76 people found the following review helpful.

Buy a different edition

By Leopold_Enthusiast

I recently had lunch with Stan Temple, a senior fellow at the Aldo Leopold foundation. He told me that this edition is not true to original text Leopold used. Apparently the type setter or copy editor was an ardent creationist and excised all references to evolution in this edition. It seemed hard to believe to me, but I confirmed it. For example, in "Marshland Elegy" Leopold writes,

"The other members of the fauna in which he originated are long since entombed within the hills. When we hear his call we hear no mere bird. We hear the trumpet in the orchestra of evolution. He is the symbol of our untamable past, of that incredible sweep of millennia which underlies and conditions the daily affairs of birds and men."

However in this edition, the sentence "We hear the trumpet in the orchestra of evolution" is absent.

Aldo Leopold is one of my personal heroes and Sand County Almanac is one of the finest pieces of environmental and philosophic writing. However, I'd suggest buying a different edition.

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