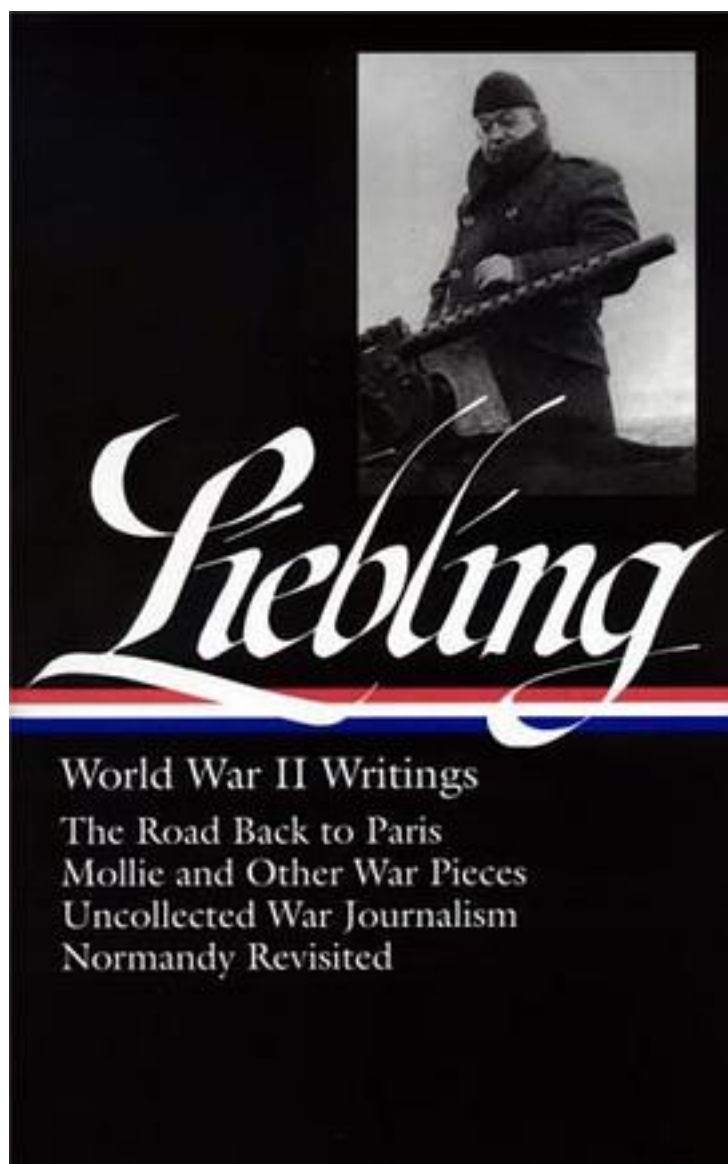


A.J. Liebling



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For the first time in one volume, Pete Hamill presents five great books that demonstrate A. J. Liebling's extraordinary vitality, humor, and versatility as a writer. Named the best sports book of all time by Sports Illustrated in 2002, *The Sweet Science* (1956) is a lively and idiosyncratic portrait of boxing in the early 1950s, when Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, and Floyd Patterson ruled the ring. A classic of political reporting, *The Earl of Louisiana* (1961) is a vivid account of Governor Earl Long's bid for reelection after his release from a mental asylum in 1959. *The Jollity Building* (1962) collects hilarious true-life stories of Manhattan night-club promoters, cigar store owners, and scheming "Telephone Booth Indians," as well as a portrait of "The Honest Rainmaker," the racing columnist and confidence man extraordinaire, Colonel John R. Stingo. *Between Meals: An Appetite for Paris* (1962) is a richly evocative memoir of Liebling's introduction to Paris and its food and wine as a student in the late 1920s. *The Press* (1964) brings together the best of Liebling's influential and insightful "Wayward Press" pieces, in which he established himself as the first great media critic. Together with a 2008 companion Library of America volume, *World War II Writings*, this is the essential Liebling.

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