

Wellman, Manly Wade ^[1]

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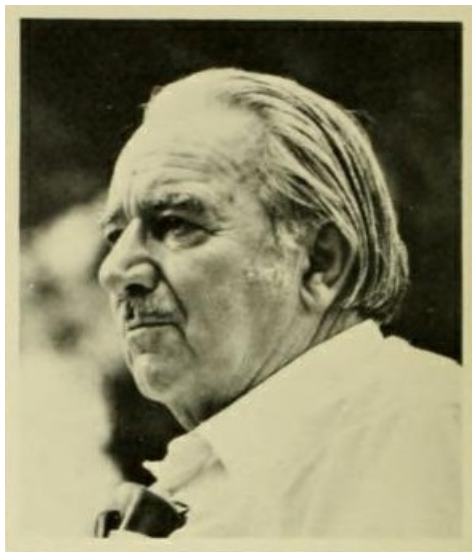


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Wellman, Manly Wade

by William S. Powell, 1996

21 May 1903–5 Apr. 1986



North Carolina Awards committee. 1978.
"North Carolina Awards."

^[2]Manly Wade Wellman, writer, was born in Angola, West Africa, the son of Frederick Creighton, a medical officer, and Lydia Jeanette Isely Wellman. In 1926 he was graduated from Wichita Municipal University in Kansas (now [Wichita State University](#) ^[3]) and in 1927 received a bachelor of laws degree from [Columbia University](#) ^[4]. From 1927 to 1934 he was a reporter for the *Wichita Beacon* and *Eagle* before embarking on a successful, lifelong career as a free-lance writer. In 1947 he moved to Pinebluff, N.C., but soon settled in Chapel Hill to take advantage of the resources of [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[5] library.

Wellman wrote both fiction and nonfiction for periodicals of many types including mystery, sports, juvenile, scholarly, and general popular magazines. His numerous books were also varied: biography, history (particularly Civil War and local history), [folklore](#) ^[6], murder, science fiction, travel, and animals, among others. In 1955 he was the recipient of the [Edgar Allan Poe Award](#) ^[7] for nonfiction by the Mystery Writers of America, and in 1978 he was given the [North Carolina Award](#) ^[8] for literature.

He taught classes in creative writing in the Evening College of [The University of North Carolina](#) ^[5] and was widely appreciated for the aid he extended to would-be writers. He read and commented on their efforts and patiently guided many of them to fruitful careers.

In 1930 he married Frances Obrist, and they had a son, Wade. Wellman was a Democrat, an Episcopalian, and an active member of folklore and historical organizations.

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Image credit:

North Carolina Awards Committee. 1978. "North Carolina Awards." <https://archive.org/details/northcarolinaawa1978nort> [2]

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[Powell, William S.](#) [12]

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[Chapel Hill](#) [14]

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