

Topic Page: [Theroux, Paul \(1941 - \)](#)

Definition: **Theroux** from *Collins English Dictionary*

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1 Paul (Edward). born 1941, US novelist and travel writer. His novels include *Picture Palace* (1978), *The Mosquito Coast* (1981), and *My Other Life* (1996); travel writings include *The Great Railway Bazaar* (1975)

Summary Article: **Theroux, Paul Edward**

From *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*

1941-

◆ US writer

Born in Medford, Massachusetts, he has led a footloose life that is reflected in his literary output. *Waldo* (1969), his first novel, was followed by fictions based on three years spent in Africa. He subsequently taught at Singapore University (1968-71), a sojourn that resulted in a collection of short stories, *Sinning with Annie* (1976), and a novel, *Saint Jack* (1973, filmed 1979). Other novels, for example *The Family Arsenal* (1976) and *The London Embassy* (1982), have been based in London where he lives part of the year. His novels are urbane and paradoxical, sometimes bleak and frequently funny. *Millroy the Magician* (1993) was a quantum step, concentrating themes and ideas that have surfaced throughout his career. His extended rail journeys are recounted in *The Great Railway Bazaar: By Train Through Asia* (1975) and *The Old Patagonian Express: By Train Through the Americas* (1979). Other works include the novels *Picture Palace* (1978, Whitbread Novel Award), *The Mosquito Coast* (1981, James Tait Black Memorial Prize, filmed 1987), *My Other Life* (1996), *Blinding Light* (2004) and *A Dead Hand* (2009), and the collection of travel writings *Fresh-Air Fiend* (2000).

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Chicago

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