

SAUL BELLOW
Biographical Paper
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Saul Bellow was born in Lachine, Quebec, a town near Montreal, in 1915. He was the son of Russian emigres and grew up in a strict Jewish household. At age 9, his family moved to Chicago. Saul was a good student, and he became fluent in English, French, Yiddish and Hebrew.

In 1935 he enrolled in the University of Chicago but eventually transferred to Northwestern. He graduated from NW in 1937 with a B.S. degree.

Saul's mother wanted her son to become a rabbi but he was not interested. She died when Saul was 15, and Bellow decided he was more interested in writing.

During WWII Bellow served in the Marines. During his military service, he wrote his first book, "Dangling Man" in 1944 about a man's experiences in WWII. His 2nd novel, written in 1947, was called "The Victim" and was about anti-Semitism.

In 1953 Bellow wrote "The Adventures of Augie March," a semiautobiographical novel and was awarded the National Book Award. Other novels included "Herzog" (1964) and "Henderson the Rain King" (1959).

In 1962 Saul Bellow became a professor at the Univ. of Chicago where he worked for 30 years. He continued to write books such as "Mr. Sammler's Planet" (1970) and "Humboldt's Gift" (1975) as well as plays and stories. He won the Pulitzer Prize for Humboldt's Gift and won the Nat'l Book Award 3 times. In 1976 he wrote a non-fiction book, "To Jerusalem and Back" about his few months in Israel in 1975.

Bellow had 4 children by 5 wives. He died in 2005 in Brookline, MA.