

Of Historical Importance:

1 Longfellow House—105 Brattle St.

The Longfellow House was not only home to famous 19th-century poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; it also served as General George Washington's base of operations during the siege of Boston. It has played host to such eminent literary figures as Charles Dickens and Nathaniel Hawthorne and accumulated a wide range of decorations, furniture, and books from Longfellow's travels.

2 William James House—95 Irving St.

Just down the road from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences sits psychologist and philosopher William James's former abode. He took the house in 1889, the same year he was appointed to an endowed chair and the year before he published his monumental work "Principles in Psychology" (although he had been working on it for 11 years prior to moving in). James owned the house until his death in 1910 and worked there on his posthumously published "Some Problems in Philosophy."

3 Charles River

Japanese author Haruki Murakami has spent some time in the Cambridge area—teaching at Tufts University, writing "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle," and running along the banks of the Charles. Running is an essential part of Murakami's life—a panacea to the toxic toll that writing takes on him. In his new memoir, "What I Talk About When I Talk About Running," he describes how the Charles, like all water, has a strange attraction to novelists, roller skaters, and Harvard girls with bouncy ponytails alike.

4 Harriet Jacobs House—17 Story St.

Harriet Jacobs published an autobiography of her experience in bondage, "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl," in 1861. To appeal to white women, "Incidents" focuses on the lengths Jacobs goes to spurn the sexual advances of her master and save her children. In 1870, Jacobs established a boardinghouse for Harvard students and faculty, which began at 10 Trowbridge St. before relocating to 127 Mt. Auburn St. Her boarders included not only Cornelia Willis, who bought Jacobs's freedom, but also Harvard Law

School dean and founder of the case method of teaching Christopher Langdell, class of 1850. Although Jacobs spent her last years in Washington, D.C., she is buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery.

5 Lamont Library

Kaavya Viswanathan '08 split her time freshman year between studying and writing her novel, "How Opal Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild, and Got a Life" in Lamont Library. She received a two-book deal from Little, Brown and Company, reportedly worth 500,000 dollars, for the story of Opal Mehta's desperate quest to get into Harvard. While Opal's prefrush hosts never take her to Lamont, perhaps she stole a glimpse of the undergraduate library from across the street while visiting Mr. Bartley's Burger Cottage and the Hong Kong. After the April 2006 release of "Opal," The Crimson reported that Viswanathan's writing bore striking similarities to several books, including Megan F. McCafferty's "Sloppy Firsts" and "Second Helpings," Meg Cabot's "The Princess Diaries," and Salman Rushdie's "Haroun and the Sea of Stories." "Opal" was pulled from bookstores, but it's still available on Harvard Library shelves—

just not at Lamont.

6 Woodberry Poetry Room—Lamont Third Floor (formerly in Widener)

It is often said that in such storied places of learning as Harvard, the voices of scholars, writers, and thinkers long past echo through the halls. But in a small golden-lit room tucked away on the third floor of Lamont Library, this is actually the reality. The Woodberry Poetry Room—a cozy alcove for word lovers, filled with books of poetry, and adorned by a bulletin board of student-submitted quotes—is most celebrated for its unique archive of spoken word poetry, playable on provided record players. Some of the room's most illustrious voices: T.S. Eliot, class of 1900 (whose 1931 first-ever-recorded reading inaugurated the collection), W.H. Auden, Robert Frost, and D.H. Lawrence. After serenading yourself, don't forget to sign the room's guestbook, joining visitors from across the nation—and Seamus Heaney, its first signee.

7 Grolier Poetry Book Shop

The Grolier Poetry Book Shop

houses over 15,000 volumes of poetry and has hosted such poetic luminaries as e.e. cummings, Marianne Moore, Conrad Aiken, T.S. Eliot, Robert Lowell, Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Mary Oliver, Donald Hall, Robert Creeley, Charles Olson, Seamus Heaney, Frank Bidart, Robert Pinsky, and David Ferry. The original owners, Adrian Gambet and Gordon Cairnie, started the shop in 1927; it was bought by poet and Wellesley College professor of philosophy Ifeanyi Menkiti in 2006. The shop has been an important force in the world of poetry since its inception, and Creeley once said of it: "Poetry is our final human language and resource. The Grolier Poetry Book Shop is where it still lives—still talks, still makes the only sense that ever matters."

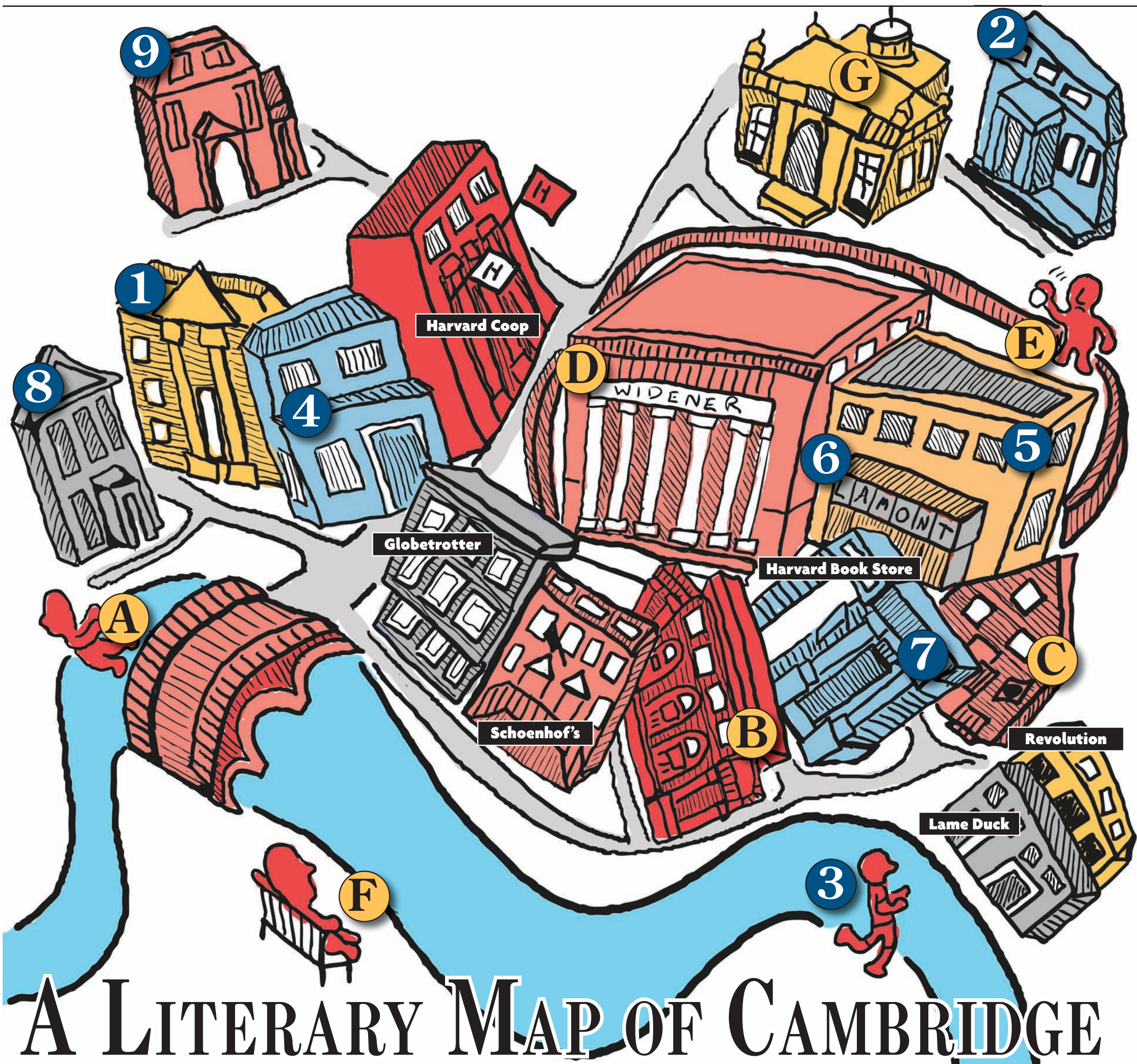
8 Vladimir Nabokov House—16 Chauncey St.

Russian-American novelist Vladimir Nabokov moved to the Continental Hotel Apartments on 16 Chauncey St. after the American publication of his famously controversial "Lolita." The novel, now heralded as one of the greatest in contemporary literature, drew criticism

for its portrayal of a middle-aged man's obsessive love affair with the sexually precocious 12-year-old "nymphet" Lolita, and was banned in both England and France soon after. Nabokov was no stranger to Cambridge, having lived in an apartment at 8 Craigie Circle for six years while a lecturer in Russian and Comparative Literature at Wellesley College and a lepidoptery curator at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard in the 1940s.

9 William Dean Howells House—37 Concord Ave.

Author and literary critic William Dean Howells lived with his family at this house, designed by his wife, from 1873 to 1878. Howells enjoyed the company of such guests as Mark Twain, Henry James, Henry David Thoreau, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in this Cambridge home. Known for his realist novels, including "A Modern Instance" and "The Rise of Silas Lapham," Howells strived to portray truth, accuracy, and an objective view of the world through his literature. He also wrote critical essays on Henrik Ibsen, Émile Zola, and other contemporary literary figures.



Of Fictional Importance:

A Larz Anderson Bridge:

Quentin Compson, William Faulkner's brooding and suicidal genius from "The Sound and the Fury," threw himself into the Charles River, and a plaque on the eastern railing of the Larz Anderson Bridge now commemorates the life and death of one of the author's most memorable characters. Stuck on a brick wall close to the Weld Boathouse, the plaque reads: "Quentin Compson. Drowned in the odour of honeysuckle. 1891-1910." The bridge is flanked on either side by twin dirt paths, hosting the wayward wanderers contemplating "I temporary" and listening to the bells.

B The Hasty Pudding—12 Holyoke St.

F. Scott Fitzgerald notoriously attended Princeton (see "This Side of Paradise"),

but the well-begotten yet misbehaved hero of his second novel, "The Beautiful and Damned," went to Harvard. Although he was at first "oblivious to the social system," in his four years here he eventually "became an exquisite dandy" and "found in senior year that he had acquired a position in his class. He learned that he was looked upon as a rather romantic figure, a scholar, a recluse, a tower of erudition." Membership in the Hasty Pudding Club soon followed this recognition, and some time later, years of dissipation and heartache.

C Café Pamplona

The oldest café in Harvard Square is the site of a romantic lunch in Jhumpa Lahiri's critically acclaimed novel "The Namesake." Tucked underground in a nook of the old Square, the café—complete with ochre walls and checkered floors—provides

a backdrop for the burgeoning romance between protagonist Gogol and his New York City girlfriend, Ruth. (The scene is sadly cut out of the less-acclaimed movie.) Pamplona's seclusion and air of European high culture draws the following of many aspiring writers, who feel obliged to mention the café in their memoirs.

D Widener Library

The most fastidious among the visitors to Harvard Square shouldn't miss the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the steps of Harvard's vaunted Widener Library. With three million volumes and 57 miles of shelves, Widener's imposing bulk composes the de facto nerve center for academia in the Western hemisphere and boasts among its collection one of the world's few remaining Gutenberg Bibles. One volume whose contents Harvard is

unlikely to advertise, however, is that of the infamous (and fictional) Necronomicon. An icon in numerous stories by fantasy-horror author H.P. Lovecraft, the contents of the Necronomicon remain a mystery to this day. Legend has it that it was originally penned in the sixth century BC by a half-mad worshipper of the demon god Cthulu on the Arabian Peninsula. Greek and Latin translations have changed hands secretly for centuries, and there's little doubt that—whether it contains spells to raise demons, reanimate the dead or open a gate to the underworld—the Necronomicon was not made for human eyes.

E Lamont Library

After a climactic fight with his Radcliffe girlfriend, Neil Klugman—the protagonist of Philip Roth's classic novella "Goodbye, Columbus"—walks

through the Yard and stops in front of Lamont. "Suddenly, I wanted to set down my suitcase and pick up a rock and heave it right through the glass," he says. Wisely, he chooses not to.

F Bench on the Charles

While the benches along the Charles may seem nondescript, they in fact possess mystical capabilities for transcending time and place, as evidenced in the Jorge Luis Borges short story "The Other." It is here that the narrator, as an elderly man, is able to meet himself as a young man in order to warn himself of future dangers. While most visitors to the benches along the Charles may not be able to summon younger versions of themselves, it's worth a visit to at least wonder what you might say, should the opportunity arise.

G Religious Symbolology Building—The Da Vinci Code

If Robert Langdon, professor of the faux subject "religious symbolology" and the protagonist of Dan Brown's bestseller "The Da Vinci Code," actually taught at Harvard, he'd doubtless do so in the fictional Religious Symbolology Building. Of course, the mild-mannered iconography expert would also likely face questions regarding his devotion to his teaching duties, given the time he spends abroad solving murders, uncovering secret societies, and exposing previously unspotted codes within well-known Renaissance paintings.

—Written by Wendy H. Chang, Patrick R. Chesnut, Mark J. Chiusano, Kerry A. Goodenow, Jillian J. Goodman, Rebecca J. Levitan, Ryan J. Meehan, Candace I. Munroe, Yair Rosenberg, and Meredith S. Steuer.