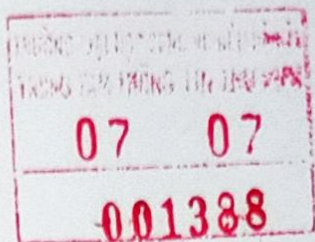


JULIANNE LUTZ NEWTON

ALDO  
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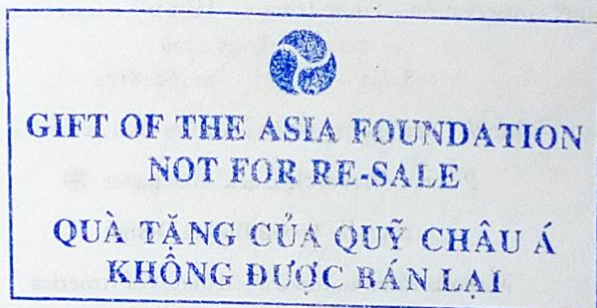
REDISCOVERING THE AUTHOR OF  
A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC



# ALDO LEOPOLD'S ODYSSEY



JULIANNE LUTZ NEWTON



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# Preface



I first heard of Aldo Leopold when I was a graduate student in wildlife ecology at the University of Illinois. One day, in the midst of a conversation about some research questions, a colleague at the Illinois Natural History Survey pulled from his shelf a copy of *A Sand County Almanac*, offering me my first discovery of its author. I read it and found the book interesting, but I did not at the time grasp Leopold's significance.

I continued with my education, doing fieldwork, collecting and analyzing data, attending classes in wildlife science, statistics, and as many 'ologies as I could fit in. I loved what I was learning, but I began to feel increasingly unsettled. Science could go far in helping people understand the world, but in its objectivity it could never go far enough in making the modern world a more pleasant and healthier place in which to live. For that, something else was needed. At this point I happened into a class on conservation literature, and it was here that I rediscovered Leopold. I learned about Leopold in the context of the history and philosophies of the conservation and environmental movements. And I began to see him not just as a careful observer of nature but as something more—as someone uniquely insightful and clear minded and as an artist with an unusual gift for lyrical prose. Here, too, like many others, I began to see in Leopold's work what might be needed, in addition to good science, to help promote the beauty of nature.

Leopold has become something of a household icon of the