Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr Isayevich (1918- )

-- Russian writer, noted for exploring issues of political ideology in the Soviet Union
-- Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn was born in Kislovodsk, Russia;
-- He was the son of a landowner and a teacher; was educated at the University of Rostov;
-- During the Great Patriotic War, Solzhenitsyn served in the Soviet Army (1941-1945);
-- He was sentenced to eight years in prison for anti-Stalinist remarks written to a friend;
-- Exiled to central Russia, he taught mathematics and wrote;
-- Solzhenitsyn's prison experiences were the background for his first novel
  *Odin den Ivana Denisovicha* (1962) translated as *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1963);
-- Two short stories appeared in book form as Dva rasskaza (*We Never Make Mistakes*, 1963) and Dlia pol'zy dela (*For the Good of the Cause*, 1964);
-- In 1969 Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Soviet Writers Union for denouncing official censorship that had suppressed some of his writings;
-- In 1970 he received the Nobel Prize in literature;
-- In February 1974 Solzhenitsyn was deported to West Germany (now part of the united Federal Republic of Germany) and deprived of his Soviet citizenship.
-- Subsequently he settled in the United States;
-- Three books, his massively documented exposure of the Soviet prison system, terrorism, and secret police, were first published in France in 1973:
  *Arkhipelag GULag, 1918-1956*, *Arkhipelag GULag 2*, and *Arkhipelag GULag 3*.
-- His other works include the novels *V kruge pervom* (*The First Circle*, 1968);
-- Solzhenitsyn's *The Red Wheel* series of novels is set in the years leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917. The series includes Avgust chetynradsatogo (*August 1914*, 1972) and Oktiabr' shestnadtsatogo (*October 1916*, 1999);
-- Soviet officials dropped charges against Solzhenitsyn in 1991, and he returned to live in Russia in May 1994.
-- Nevidimki (*Invisible Allies*), a tribute to those who helped him smuggle his writings out of the USSR, was published and translated in 1995.