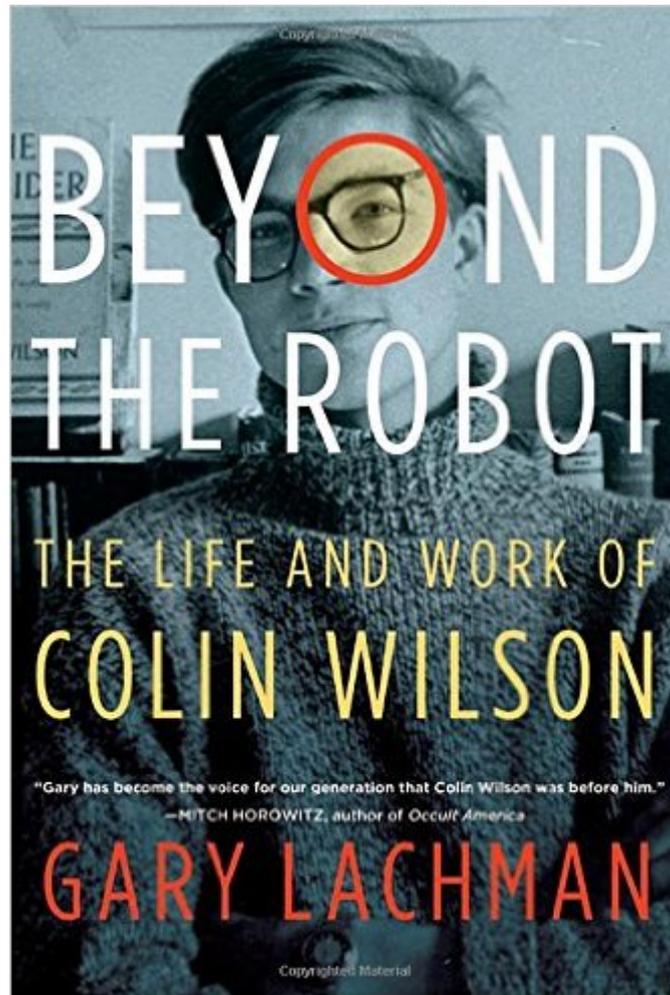


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Beyond The Robot: The Life And Work Of Colin Wilson



Synopsis

Historian Gary Lachman delivers a fascinating, rollicking biography of literary and cultural rebel Colin Wilson, one of the most adventurous, hopeful, and least understood intellectuals of the past century. You will embark on the intellectual ride of a lifetime in this rediscovery of the life and work of writer, rebel, and social experimenter Colin Wilson (1931-2013). Author of the classic *The Outsider*, Wilson, across his 118 books, purveyed a philosophy of mind power and human potential that made him one of the least understood and most important voices of the twentieth century. Wilson helped usher in the cultural revolution of the 1960s with his landmark work, *The Outsider*, published in 1956. *The Outsider* was an intelligent, meticulous, and unprecedented study of nonconformity in all facets of life. Wilson, finally, became a prolific and unparalleled historian of the occult, providing a generation of readers with a responsible and scholarly entry point to a world of mysteries. Now, acclaimed historian Gary Lachman, a friend of Wilson and a scholar of his work, provides an extraordinary and delightful biography that delves into the life, thought, and evolution of one of the greatest intellectual rebels and underrated visionaries of the twentieth century.

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Customer Reviews

In Gary Lachman's new biography *Beyond the Robot: The Life and Work of Colin Wilson* (2016), we are treated to a sort of bildungsroman – the story of an individual's spiritual and intellectual development – of the philosopher Colin Wilson. An English, Leicester-born and working-class – home grown existentialist, whose jolting rise to fame with his 1956 *The Outsider* suffered an unfortunate and undeserved backlash with his second book *Religion and the Rebel* (1957). For the

next 50 years, up until his death in 2013, Wilson produced a genre-spanning amount of work, but received the curious silence of the literary establishment. Nevertheless his vision has remained for many a respected, pivotal and increasingly relevant turning point in Western thought. Wilson's incredible contribution to philosophy was a part of a larger philosophical "new existentialism", which aimed to nothing less than to tackle the pessimistic biases in literature, philosophy, culture and science. Indeed in his most famous work, *The Outsider*, he dealt with the sudden sense of affirmation felt by the Romantics, indeed a somewhat a precarious sense of affirmation which often collapsed back a feeling of despondency or "life failure". Nevertheless Wilson felt these men were at the critical point of an evolutionary leap, and if one could just discipline oneself in such a way, these visions of affirmation could indeed be made permanent, and thus become more firmly rooted in the objectivity from which they blossomed.

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