Robert Darnton, Harvard University

Robert Darnton was educated at Harvard and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes scholar. After working as a reporter for The New York Times, he became a junior fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard. He taught at Princeton from 1968 until 2007, when he became Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the University Library at Harvard.

Among his honors are a MacArthur Prize Fellowship, a National Book Critics Circle Award, and the National Humanities Medal conferred by President Obama in 2012. He has written and edited over 15 books, including The Business of Enlightenment: A Publishing History of the Encyclopédie (1979) and The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History (1984). His most recent book is Poetry and the Police: Communication Networks in Eighteenth-Century Paris (2010).