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UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
CENTER FOR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS  
Alice R. Brooks, Librarian  
Service Bulletin  
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Vol. I

No. 7

New Books for Children

Blough, Glenn O. Bene, the Riverburg mayor; illus. by John F. De Cuir. Holt, c1948.  
74 p. \$2.25 Gr. 5-7 U- Community life (Unit)

The town council takes upon itself the difficult task of telling the mayor he is inefficient and ignorant, Not until he tries to serve in other capacities throughout the town does he see the error of his ways, study and read up on his job, and enlist the cooperation of his citizens. The style is humorously slapdash - the tempest in the teapot, a little drawn out - but there are some good ideas for civic competence.

Colver, Alice Ross. Joan, free lance writer. Messner, c1948. 181 p. \$2.50 shs  
Another career story following the traditional pattern. Joan, although she has ample educational background, seems to know little of the creative writing fields, markets, etc. If only success didn't have to come so quickly and patly in these books! Juvenile writing is regarded as a stepping stone to "grown up" writing, which can "rile."

Conger, Marion. Rosie the rhine; pictures by Kurt Wiese. Abingdon-Cokesbury, c1948.  
26 p. \$1.00 K-Gr. 2

Rosie, who takes a day off from the zoo to buy a new hat, a sailboat, and to attend a birthday party, will have a loyal host of admirers. But on the other hand there will be many who will find her silly rather than hilarious. It just depends (and you won't be alone whichever) on the way you feel. The Center's staff feels that this is modern whimsy of a high order, and we have read many noble attempts at this kind of thing that fail. From the time the policeman scratched his head and said "I did see a rhinoceros. Didn't ask her name though," we settled down to enjoy ourselves.

Credle, Ellis. My pet Beepels; photographs by Charles Townsend. Oxford, c1948.  
62 p. \$2.00 Gr. 3-5

A story of modern Mexico and a small boy's love for his pet turkey. As in The Flop-Eared Hound and Johnny and His Mule the illustrations are photographs. They successfully catch the spirit of the story and give authentic pictures of Mexico of today.

Dean, Graham M. Dusty of the Double Seven; illus. by John Mariani. Viking, c1948.  
189 p. \$2.00 Gr. 6-9

Dusty, a young ex-marine, helps expose dishonest cattlemen who poach on the Double Seven Ranch. Exciting, not too melodramatic for its type, and with a real feeling for the West and for horses. Modern ranching, with no undue feats by any individual. Characterization is very average, but the story outranks many westerns.

Donabey, Mary Dickerson. The castle of Grumpy Grouch; illus. by Pelagie Doane.  
Random, c1948. 162 p. \$2.00 Gr. 3-5

This story of a generation ago tells of a princess who lost her temper and then found she wanted it back again. To retrieve it, she made a long and difficult journey to the Castle of Grumpy Grouch. Although some of the situations are forced and the style slightly patronizing, the plot is well-sustained and the presentation childlike. The ending seems contrived and below the rest of the book in imaginative conception. Despite its age the book received honorable mention for the Spring Book Festival.

Freedman, Julian. Teaching piano to your child; illus. in color by Andre Dugo.  
Lothrop, c1948. 48 p. \$2.00 For adults to use with pre-school & lower primary.

Musically sound, and interesting to any child who has not outgrown the age of having a Daddy finger, Mother finger, Uncle finger, Sister finger, and Baby finger. Color is used very skillfully. Good job of visual instruction for a first approach to piano. Author has used this technique with great success. Other teachers need to try it out.

Gannett, Ruth Stiles. My father's dragon; illus. by Ruth Chrisman Gannett.  
Random, c1948. 87 p. \$2.00 Gr. 3-5

An utterly fantastic and ridiculous tale, but as effective as any of the "noodles" on which it is patterned. Elmer goes on a mission of rescue to the South Sea islands. Through chewing gum, toothpaste, lollipops and his own ingenuity he effects his mission and rescues an overworked dragon. Some criticisms by readers were of the crankish mother, the French leave from home of Elmer and the techniques of having all these adventures happen to "my father" instead of to "me." Personally, this seems like perfect child psychology; i.e., it removes the story in time and scene from the child's immediate present and then gives free rein to his aggressions and rebellion against an overdose of adult authority with a burst of Baron Munchausen nonsense.

Glick, Carl. Mickey wins his feathers; from a story told by Captain Ansel O'Banion, who knew Mickey in the Philippines; illus. by Bill Crawford. Whittlesey house, c1948. 63 p. \$2.00 Gr. 5-7

Sequel to "Mickey the Horse that Volunteered." Mickey and his admiring master, Sgt. Farrow, in cowboy disguise, are sent into Crow Indian country to investigate an Indian uprising, and Mickey has the opportunity to perform some real heroic deeds. Boys, especially, will enjoy the broad humor. Exterior format has a picture book appearance but the cartoon-like quality of the illustrations will appeal.

Grider, Dorothy. My first picture dictionary. Wilcox & Follett, c1948. 30 p.  
60¢ K- Gr. 2

Pictures of familiar persons, animals, plants and objects of the child's world are related to their word symbols in simple manuscript print. Alphabetical arrangement will help the child become aware of similarity of beginning sounds and letters. Unfortunately, certain words of similar outline of the word but of different sound, such as bath and ball may confuse the child when separated from the pictures. Also there is too much mixing of different sounds for the same initial letter; e.g., eat, cent, chair, for the beginning phases of learning. Primary use will be as a picture book with some value for reading readiness.

Harris, Leila & Harris, Kilroy. Lost hole of Bingoola; a story of the Australian Bush. McKay, c1942. 207 p. \$2.00 jhs (reprint)

A story of conflicting loyalties toward his own native bushmen and the white man on the part of a young adolescent native boy. The plot is interesting, the style is good, the data accurate, the picture of the Outback country unusual. There is occasionally some moralizing, and for some reason even in Australia the ranch cook has to be Chinese. However, despite the many good points of the book the authors fail to convey entirely the true feeling of the Bushmen. It is as though they understand them, but as outsiders.

Hartman, Gertrude. Builders of the old world; by Gertrude Hartman and Lucy S. Saunders; ill. by Marjorie Quennell. Brown, c1946. 468 p. \$3.00 Gr. 5-7

A reprint of a textbook published by D.C. Heath in 1946. The wider margins and better paper make this a much more attractive volume and acceptable in a general library collection. Periods covered by these two competent writers are from days before history through discovery of America. The illustrations by Quennell and the maps by B. Magnuson Derwinski are many and excellent. Allan Nevins writes the introduction. Good but very short reading lists.

Heaton, Hugh. The story of Madam Hen and little Horace; illus. by H.E.M. Scollen. Oxford, c1948. 34 p. \$1.00 3-5 yrs.

Madam Hen gratifies her maternal instinct by hatching a duck's egg. Horace isn't quite like other children and despite their mutual affection they become estranged because of his devotion to swimming. Later his heroism in the water brings understanding. Told in verse reminiscent of "Johnny Crow's Garden" and illustrated by sketchy but humorous pictures. Verse doesn't always "flow", so parents had better practice it a little in preparation for many readings aloud.

Johnson, Margaret Sweet. Gay, a Shetland sheepdog; written and illus. by Margaret S. Johnson. Morrow, c1948. 96 p. \$2.00 Gr. 5-7 (vocabulary) Gr. 3-5 (interest)

The author knows animals well and both her material and her pictures promise a good story to dog-lovers. Unfortunately her style of writing lacks zest and the result is rather a colorless story. The vocabulary is too difficult for a younger or poorer reader and yet the subject matter suits Grades 3-5.

Karsavina, Jean. Tree by the waters. International, c1948. 189 p. \$2.25 shs

Story "with a purpose" -- to show the development of a labor union in a small New England factory town, told from the point of view of young people -- and labor. Friendships and romances between families of managers and workers are broken, and convictions of class consciousness are intensified as conflict develops. It is unfortunate that this almost unique presentation for young people is so guilty of stereotypes and forced situations that it follows an over simplified pattern. The romance is of the Temple Bailey calibre. Reader pre-disposition will loom large in the reading of this book. Those who sympathize with labor might like it. Others will be plain "irked." We need more material on this theme for young adults; but is it possible to have it done by a good writer who understands and can present both sides fairly? (Read by 5 people of varying viewpoints).

Kunhardt, Dorothy Meserve. Tiny animal stories; twelve story books by Dorothy Kunhardt; 200 color pictures by Garth Williams. Simon & Schuster, c1948. 12 v. illus. 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"x2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" (Tiny golden library). \$1.00 4-6 yrs.

Following in the train of the "giants", "biggs," and "littles" come the "Tiny Golden Books." Nothing is left now but the "normal golden books." The first of this series is a set of twelve miniature books each containing a story of a different animal by the author of "Junket is Nice." The stories (approximately 300 words) follow a pattern in which there is usually the baby, the mother, and the father. Father talks a lot but usually shuns strenuous work. Very simple humor that a small child could catch. Due to the novelty size and format (the books are packaged in a little house) they are for home use (rather than for library purchase). Children will be intrigued by them. The most obvious use is as a bedside library for the very young. The frequent bedtime request of "Tell me a story" can be satisfied in half a minute. However, it would be too bad not to give the bedtime story hour a richer variety.

McCormick, Wilfred. The three-two pitch; a Bronc Burnett story. Putnam, c1948. 186 p. \$2.00 Jhs

Building a high school baseball team is the theme of this story and particularly Bronc's efforts to find himself on the team. The picture of coaching is good and the emphasis is placed on team work rather than the stellar role of any one player. Characters are well-portrayed. Book read and commended by boy in Reading Clinic, who had never read a book for pleasure before but who now "wants another."

McPhee, Colin. A club of small men; a story of Bali. Day, c1948. 61 p. \$2.00 Gr. 3-

A charming true story of some Balinese boys who formed an "orchestra" of native instruments, and eventually played at the Raja's wedding. Fine photography but type seems to have a "pushed-together" appearance. It will be useful in music but the style is more difficult than it appears at first. The Balinese obtrudes some.

Mitchell, Lucy (Sprague) A year on the farm; illus. by Richard Floethe. Simon and Schuster, c1947. 41 p. 25¢ (Little golden book) K- Gr. 2

Another Bank Street School tested book to be used in a beginning farm unit. The very brief text and colorful pictures highlight farm activities for the four seasons.

Morgan, Alfred Powell. The boy electrician; illus. with new drawings by the author. Rev. ed. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, c1948. 407 p. \$3.00

Morgan, Alfred Powell. Boys' book of science and construction; illus. and working drawings by the author. Rev. ed. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, c1948. 465 p. \$3.00

"Science marches on" and so even children's books must be revised. The two Morgan titles, noted as out-of-print in the 1946 Children's Catalog reappeared early in 1948.

"Boys' Book of Science..." has new material added chiefly in Chapters 2, 3, 6, (Chemistry, Mechanics, Heat) and 8. Chapter 10 is all new. It is a good, simple presentation which librarians may buy; or they may supplement the earlier edition with similar treatments elsewhere. However, even the younger readers are taught to consider dates when dealing with science and they may prefer 1948 data. The same is true of The Boy Electrician. New material is particularly in the chapters on radio.

Norling, Josephine (Stearns) Pogo's farm adventure, a story of soil; by Jo and Ernest Norling. Holt, c1948. 47 p. \$1.50 Gr. 3-5

Pogo and John continue their "learning by participation" education. These are books with a purpose and so lack real dramatic appeal but there is a goodly amount of fun intermingled with the informational text and pictures. Good material on soil erosion and its control. Also a good suggestion for making a model farm as a class project.

Osswald, Edith. Come play house; illus. by Eloise Wilkin. Simon and Schuster, c1948. 40 p. 25¢ (A little golden book) 3-5 yrs.

Simple, brief stories in verse and accompanying pictures represent small children engaging in the activities that comprise the adult world for them: calling, cooking, ironing, mowing the lawn, etc. Little children will enjoy studying the pictures and hearing the verses because they will understand them and will be stimulated to express themselves in similar fashion.

Palmer, Robin. The Barkingtons; pictures by Flavis Gæg. Harper, c1948. 112 p. \$2.00 Gr. 3-7

The Barkingtons are just the kind of family to which most children would like to belong -- large, happy-go-lucky, with something doing every minute. Most of their adventures are funny -- and usually manage to end satisfactorily. A nice "read-aloud" book for family enjoyment.

Ransome, Arthur. Great Northern? Macmillan, c1947. 350 p. \$3.00 Gr. 7-8

The Callums, Walkers, and Blacketts -- and Uncle Jim -- are back. This time Dick is the one who leads the way to adventure when he discovers two Great Northern Divers nesting on an island of the Outer Hebrides where they have not been known to nest before. Ransome fans will welcome this new book -- and it may also serve to introduce these three families to readers who have not known them before.

Rendina, Laura Cooper. Roommates; illus. by Ruth King. Little, Brown, c1948. 214 p. \$2.50 j & shs

It has been a long time since anyone has produced a good boarding school story. This one, in addition to filling a gap, has all the elements that girls like in such a story. There is the contrast between the two roommates and introverts will be especially appreciative of Rachelle's problems. The love element will be satisfactory to adolescents, although it lacks reality for adults. Likewise the relations between Debbie and the English teacher are a bit too informal to suit adult standards but will please young people.

Robertson, Keith. Ticktock and Jim; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Winston, c1948. 240 p. \$2.00 Gr. 5-7

Ticktock is a mustang with a super-intelligence. From the very beginning, when Jim acquires him from an itinerant horse trader, he brings excitement, some unhappiness, and innumerable happy times. The almost uncanny ability of the horse and the unnatural reactions of Jim's sister, Jane, weaken the story, but not enough to keep it from being recommended.

Ross Margaret Isabel. Green treasure; ill. by Anne Merriman Peck. Harper, 1948. 173 p. \$2.50 j & shs

The antics of José, his monkey, get 15-year-old Burr a job as mess boy on a plant exploration expedition to the Dutch East Indies. Inspired by Fairchild's "World is my garden," Burr wants to become a plant explorer and develop new tropical fruits in this country. He and José in one adventure after another are alternately in and out of favor with the botanists. After many wild experiences, including a typhoon, a shipwreck, and a jungle trip into Sumatra, Burr finds himself in a position to pursue his future career.

Although high in adventure quality, there are many values in this book. Development of resourcefulness and perseverance in Burr, faithfulness to his ideal, the botanical information and, human relationships make this rather an unusual book with many uses.

Salten, Felix. Jibby the cat; ill. by Fritz Kredel. Messner, 1948. 177 p.  
\$2.50 10 yrs.

Like "Bambi" this is an ageless book and it is fortunate to have the Salten reputation to keep it from being limited to the age for which we usually designate cat stories. The heroine, from the day she shares the fate of so many farm kittens of being cast into the river, leads a fascinating life, half wild and half domestic. Like most cats also, she preserves a sphinx-like dignity; only in her relations with the other animals of the woods, the fields and the home, and through the kindly schoolmaster's interpretation of her, are her inner feelings and "philosophy" revealed. Once again Salten builds his story on the theme of love and good vs thoughtlessness and cruelty. There is much that children will miss in the book for all ages but they will be fascinated by the thread of action and will surely sense the beauty and human kindness that permeate the book. Some of the incidents seem puzzling or too vividly cruel even to an adult, and we regret the way the boy, Peter, fades out of the story; but the over-all impression will be fine and deep.

Shane, Ruth. The new baby; by Ruth and Harold Shane; illus. by Eloise Wilkin.

Simon and Schuster, c1948. 39 p. 25¢ (A little golden book) 3-5 yrs.

The title of this book explains its purpose and the "plot" promises to be quite suggestive to both parents and children in meeting the situation of adjusting to a new baby. The illustrations are puzzling. The artist has made an extremely attractive family group -- mother, father, and Mike; she has imbued the babies with all of the appeal that they should have. But when she portrays any character outside the family even including Aunt Pat (who is, after all, mother's sister), she makes them dreadful harpy-like creatures with pipe-stem, bowlegs. It leads one to wonder whether there is a psychological purpose for this and we are serious in the query.

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Experiment in Applied Economics. Better food, clothing, and housing through education; materials to help improve living; from the Universities of Florida, Kentucky, and Vermont. Apply for list of publications with prices. Order as follows:

Booklets on food: Bureau of School Service, University of Kentucky. Lexington, Kentucky.

Booklets on Housing: Project in applied economics, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Booklets on clothing: School of education, University of Vermont. Burlington, Vermont.

The Sloan Foundation teaching materials are examples of a new and very significant concept regarding instructional resources. Unlike previous textbook and workbook materials which have been designed for general use throughout the nation, the Sloan Foundation booklets are best adapted to use in a particular locality. Within the locality to which they are adapted, they succeed in relating education to certain real problems of everyday living and of pupil concern. The materials themselves should not be transplanted bodily to other dissimilar localities, but the concepts which motivated their preparation deserve widespread application.

Dean H. Cooper, Department of Education, Univ. of Chicago

These materials graded and carefully worked out, are simply and attractively presented. One way that they could be improved would be to have each accompanied by a list of good enrichment material. Each booklet tends to be very self-sufficient and narrowly centered -- sort of a recipe for a specific thing. True, food, home, and clothing are the necessities of life and one could argue that certain luxuries such as books, recordings, films, etc. are lacking in the particular areas to which this material is directed. But life does need enrichment and here is an opportunity to suggest some that the teachers might secure from regional, state or university libraries or materials centers. The few dry textbooks cited are only a small part of what might have been included.

Stapp, Arthur D. Mountain tamer. Morrow, c1948. 220 p. \$2.50 j & shs V- Fear, Overcoming

Mountain climbing and overcoming the fear of high places are the themes of this book. It seems to be psychologically sound and any reader who has felt the unconquerable terror when looking down upon vast expanses of "nothingness" will relive it in Bob's struggle. To read the book will not dispel fear but it will be suggestive of what tactics to use in combatting the various fears that can assail any individual. The scene is laid in the mountains of the Pacific northwest and the main characters are high school boys.

#### SOURCES OF MATERIAL

Arbuthnot, May Hill and others. Children's books too good to miss. Press of Western Reserve Univ., 1948. 75¢

Six children's librarians and children's literature specialists have tried to select the timeless books that children should meet in the growing up process. Their choices of 138 titles are attractively listed by age levels in a little booklet, each title with a very discerning annotation. Miss Arbuthnot's introduction on what makes a fine book is worth perusing. This project is a difficult one and it will be interesting to compare the selection with lists resulting from similar projects. The fact that the collaborators appreciate both the library and education point of view strengthens the list. The Worcester Public Library Children's Department has also issued a similar list called "Too good to miss" that should prove interesting. The Center has not yet received it.

Cahoon, G. P. Selected references for high school physics. School science and math. 48:350-54. May 1948.

Includes not only a list of books based on a broad concept of Physics but also criteria of selection.

Outstanding Educational Books of 1947; 50 titles compiled by the Education Department of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, are listed in the May, 1948, N.E.A. Journal.

Bullock, L.G. United Nations map of the world. Frederick Warne & Co., 79 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y., 1948. \$1.50. (all ages)

Here is a map that all libraries will want to order and have ready for fall display when school starts. In beautiful colors it presents the highlights in history for each country on a 28" by 38" map. Around the edges are the seals for each country with many interesting and illuminating quotations from historical masterpieces tastefully interspersed. We strongly recommend that the map be processed so that it will weather a long display period.

Some interesting maps and charts were listed in the May, 1948 issue of The Social Studies:

Historical Chart of Mankind. C.S. Hammond & Co., 88 Lexington Avenue, New York 16, N.Y.

Makers of the U.S.A. (peoples from different countries)

Uprooted peoples of the U.S.A. (Movement of people during the war years)

Americans of Negro lineage (outstanding Negroes and their fields)

Picture map of the U.S.A.

For above charts write to the Friendship Press, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

AVAILABLE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MATERIALS CENTER: (Please send postage)

Reading material to accompany Geographic Films.

Integrating instructional material of a graphic nature with materials in print is important. Here is a short, suggested list of titles to accompany a group of films that were shown recently on campus to geography teachers.

Publishers' series useful in geography.

Bibliography of sources of Remedial Reading Material.

Libraries, books and reading in films.

#### SUMMER WORKSHOPS

N.Y. State College for Teachers, Albany, Department of Librarianship Workshop, July 19 to 30th, sponsored by school library supervisors of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. Margaret Scoggin, Librarian of Nathan Straus Branch, N.Y.P.L. instructor and leader. Consultants, Rheta Clark, Sarah Allen Beard, Ruth Evans Babcock and Anna Clark Kennedy. 2 sem. hrs. of college credit. \$14 for N.Y. state residents, \$20 for those outside of state.

University of Wisconsin Library School is planning an Institute on Library Service to Schools, July 15-17. Particular attention will be paid to materials. Among the speakers are Dora V. Smith, U. of Minn., and Kenneth J. Rehage, U. of Chicago. Secure program from Miss Wilma Bennett, Library School, University of Wisconsin.