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# BULLETIN

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BULLETIN of the Children's Book Center. Published by the University of Chicago Library - Center for Children's Books. Mary K. Eakin, Librarian.

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### New Titles for Children and Young People

Allen, Merritt Parmelee. Make way for the brave; the Oregon quest; decorations by Kreigh Collins. Longmans, Green, 1950. 236p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9 (Pub. date, Aug.23)

A week after his parents' death Red Dakin found himself on foot in the wilderness with no weapons to defend himself and badly bruised by the beating which his cousin, who had also robbed him, gave him. From this inauspicious start he went on to make several treks over the Oregon Trail in the company of Nathaniel Wyeth and finally settled down in the Columbia River country. This is an exciting, well-told story of the early days of the settlement of the West. It is a good book for readers who have finished Guthrie's The big sky (see below) and want more of the same.

Bechdolt, John Ernest. Horse stories; illus. by Cornelius Dewitt. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 126p. (A golden story book) 25¢

A collection of mediocre stories whose only appeal is in their subject matter. Many of the stories are too slight to hold the interest of even the most avid of horse story fans. Poor illustrations.

Beck, Helen L. Going to camp; a guide to good camping; illus. by Max Barsis. Stephen Daye, 1950. 163p. \$1.95. Gr.5-7.

Even the child who is staying at home would enjoy reading this guide to camping. For the new camper it has much valuable information ranging from what to take to a glossary of camp terms. The seasoned camper should enjoy it for comparison with his own experiences. The style is light, but never coy or condescending. Humorous illustrations add to the appeal. Excellent for home, school, and public library collections.

Becker, Charlotte.

Three little Steps and the party.

Three little Steps and the spotted horse. Scribner, 1950. 31p. \$1.

Two more stories about the three little Steps, Jim, Ginger, and Johnny. In the first book they accidentally crash a party and find a new friend. In the second they go to a carnival and come out with a merry-go-round horse. The stories are too slight to stand many re-readings.

Binns, Archie. The radio imp; illus. by Raffaello Busoni. Winston, 1950. 216p. \$2. Gr.4-7 (D37; D104)

The same entertaining blend of fantasy and realism that made Dawson's Magic firecrackers (such a satisfying book is found in this story of a family living on New York's lower East Side. The trouble (if it could be called that) started when Jim Tompkins bought for his family a radio, made in Ireland, and inscribed on the front "The radio with a soul." The effect of the radio on the family is entertaining, exciting, and wholly satisfactory. Good family relations.

Blyton, Enid. The mystery of the secret room; the third adventure of the Five Find-outers and dog; illus. by J. Abbey. Parkwood Press, 1950. 151p. \$1.98.

Typical Blyton mystery with the children performing feats that would be impossible for many adults and each time outwitting the stupid village constable, Mr. Goon. Illustrations are extremely poor.

Cassals, Lys. My chick. My rabbit. 2v. Harper, 1950. \$1

Similar to My cat and My dog which were published last year, these two small books have a very brief story followed by a section of pages that, when riffled, show a rabbit sitting up and a chicken hatching out of an egg. Children will like the small size but they will need an adult to riffle the pages for them. Nicely illustrated, these will make acceptable gifts for home libraries.

Dale, Norman. Skeleton island; illus. by Ley Benyon. Macmillan, 1950. 184p. \$1.50.

A mystery story replete with smugglers, kidnapped children, caves with hidden passages and trap doors, and a secret weapon that is in danger of falling into the wrong hands. The story continues the adventures of three English schoolboys and the author follows the usual pattern of constantly referring back to earlier

books to explain some of the characters and conversations. Too much of the plot is dependent on coincidence. The dialog is unnatural and the characters lack realism.

Evernden, Margery. Knight of Florence; illus. by Raffaello Busoni. Random House, 1950. 134p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9 (D22;D72;D92)

A story of fourteenth century Florence, with its political intrigues and warring princes. Piero's father was a prior of Florence, but Piero's greatest ambition was to be a painter. How he won his ambition and at the same time proved his courage to his father makes an exciting story and gives at the same time a good feel for the period and its people.

Friskey, Margaret (Richards). The perky little engine; pictures by Becky. Childrens Press, 1950. 28p. \$2 (reinforced binding)

A personified engine that does not have sense enough to stay at home and do its proper job. Slight story that lacks the flavor of good fantasy.

Friskey, Margaret (Richards). Shoe for my pony; pictures by Jean Edgerton. Children's Press, 1950. 26p. \$2 (reinforced binding) K-Gr.2.

Pleasant little story of a small boy who takes his horse to the blacksmith to have it shod. The illustrations will probably have more appeal than the story which is very slight. Easy enough for beginning readers.

Guthrie, A. B. The big sky; illus. by Jacob Landau. Sloane, 1950. 340p. \$2.75. Gr.8-10.

In revising his adult novel for young people the author has deleted none of the beautiful descriptions that were the most pleasing part of the original work. He has eliminated some of the elements that might have been considered questionable fare for young people, but he still has enough action and suspense to hold the reader's interest. This story covers a slightly later period than Allen's Make way for the brave (see above) and will be equally valuable for library collections.

Hambleton, Jack. Young bush pilot; decorations by Thoreau MacDonald. Longmans, Green, 1949. 200p. \$3. Gr.7-9.

A story of fire fighting in the Canadian north woods. Bill Hanson is a young bush pilot on his first assignment when he becomes involved in the Chapleau fire. Although the writing is not outstanding the subject will have a strong appeal for many readers, especially those who have read the earlier story of Bill and his famous dog, Mickey.

Harris, Weila and Kilroy. Let's read about Canada; illus. by Richard Gringhuis. Fideler, 1949. 112p. \$2.50. Gr.4-7. (62)

An interesting and readable over-view of Canada: its history, geography, industries, etc. Excellent photographs supplemented with mediocre drawings in black and white. The lack of a map is a definite handicap, but the book does have value as supplementary reading in geography classes.

Hinkle, Thomas Clarke. Dapple Gray. Morrow, 1950. 132p. \$2.

A typical Hinkle horse story, with a superb wild horse, a marauding bear, and the normal contingent of cowboys. The writing is pedestrian and sentimental, characters are completely lifeless, and the only point in the book's favor is that it is a horse story.

Hoffmaster, Maud Miller. Nee-Na, the wild flower's good fairy; written and illus. by Maud Miller

Hoffmaster. William-Frederick, 1949. 38p. \$5. Unnatural natural history told in a condescending way that makes dull reading for children and adults alike. The information is inaccurate; illustrations are pretty, but unrealistic.

Hungerford, Edward Buell. Forbidden island; Robert Frankenberg drawings. Wilcox & Follett, 1950. 256p. \$2.50.

A disappointing book in view of the excellent stories that this author has produced in the past few years. The story itself is well-written, with a fast-paced plot and good characterizations of the Occidentals. The theme of the psychic bond between the twins is over-done and seriously weakens the plot. The comic opera treatment of the Japanese may have been characteristic of the period but it is not sufficiently restricted to that period and the result is unfortunate. The purpose and results of the Perry expedition are not made clear enough to meet the requirements for historical fiction and are too important to the story for the book to be considered anything but historical fiction. A book of this kind can undo much of the good that is done by a book such as Spencer's Understanding the Japanese (Aladdin, 1949) and for that reason has no place in a general library collection.

Lane, Carl D. Treasure cave; illus. by author. Little, Brown, 1950. 283p. \$2.75.

Combining straight factual information and a story is a difficult process and most writers would do well to stay with one or the other. This book is no exception. The factual information about sailing is good and would be useful were it not so completely lost in a highly improbable story of three boys, a Hollywood company, and a gang of crooks. The result is a confusing mixture that fails both as an adventure story and as sailing information. The title will be misleading for readers who will expect hidden treasure.

Lenn, Lottie H. Pope Pius XII, rock of peace; by Lottie H. Lenn and Mary A. Reardon; illus. by Mary A. Reardon. Dutton, 1950. 145p. \$2.50. Gr.8-10.

A timely biography of Eugenio Pacelli, Pope Pius XII, that will be useful for both Catholic and non-Catholic collections. The emphasis is as much on the organization of the Papal State and the Vatican as it is on the life of Pacelli. The style is disjointed, with some needless repetition, but this is not a serious enough fault to affect the book's usefulness.

Lindman, Maj Jan. Snowboot, son of Fire Eye; illus. by author. Whitman, 1950. 26p. \$1.50. Gr.2-4.

Snipp, Snapp, Snurr fans will probably welcome this latest addition to the Lindman shelf. The story is somewhat more difficult than the earlier books and is simply a horse story. Neither plot nor characters has anything new to offer. The simple style and subject appeal will make the book useful for remedial reading classes.

McMeekin, Isabel McLennan. A first book about babies all around the world; pictures by Marguerite Scott. Watts, 1950. 40p. \$1.50. All ages.

This latest addition to the "First book of ---" series presents several problems. The text is too difficult for beginning readers and has little to hold the interest of pre-school children. The illustrations are charming and the information could be quite useful to social studies classes that were studying ways of living around the world. For such use the teacher would have to present the book in a way that would overcome the stigma of a "baby" book. Parents might also find it useful in preparing children for a new baby. The book should be examined carefully before purchase for its use will be limited.

Manning-Sanders, Ruth. Swan of Denmark; the story of Hans Christian Andersen; with illus. by Astrid Walford. Medill McBride, 1950. 232p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

A biography of Hans Christian Andersen with a definite English accent. A readable book, although the reader has the feeling that all the characters came straight out of Andersen's own stories. Acceptable for large collections, but does not replace Burnett's Shoemaker's son (Random House, 1941).

Manso, Leo. The wild west. World, 1950. 28p. (A rainbow playbook) \$1.

A toy designed to be cut apart and set up to make four western scenes.

Mathews, Shirley. The cowboy book; pictures by Richard N. Osborne. Will Roberts, 1950. 19p. \$1.

Too much of a toy book for general library use. The illustrations are good and the information interesting. Type is rather small for the age reader who would be most interested in this format.

Means, Florence (Crannell). The silver fleece; a story of the Spanish in New Mexico; by Florence Crannell Means and Carl Means; illus. by Edwin L. Schmidt. Winston, 1950. 213p. \$2.50 (Land of the Free series) Gr.7-9.

Getting off to a slow start in the first chapter this story of the Spanish in New Mexico soon gathers enough momentum to carry it through to a sufficiently exciting ending to hold the interest of most readers. The story concerns the return of the Spanish to Santa Cruz after the Indian insurrection of 1681, and more specifically with the adventures of the Riveria family and their efforts to reclaim their hacienda and rebuild their flock of sheep.

Parker, Arthur Caswell. Red Streak of the Iroquois; illus. by I. Heibron. Children's Press, 1950. 191p. \$2.50, Gr.4-6. (D21;D59)

Not outstanding, but an acceptable story of the Iroquois Indians in the days when the seven tribes were just beginning to consider uniting into one strong kingdom. The mixture of English and Indian names becomes confusing at times but does not seriously interfere with the story. The simple style will make the story useful for remedial reading material.

Raddall, Thomas H. Son of the hawk; illus. by Stanley Turner. Winston, 1950. 247p. \$2.50. Gr.8-10 (D29)

The part Nova Scotia played in the American Revolution is seldom treated either in textbooks or historical fiction. This swashbuckling story of the lost "Cause" adds a colorful chapter to American history and gives readers a story of adventure that most of them will enjoy. Told in the first person the whole story of Nova Scotia's attempt to become the fourteenth colony is seen in the adventures of David Strang, the son of the Hawk.

Rojankovsky, Feodor, illus. The great big animal book. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 20p. \$1.50. K-Gr.2. (A big golden book)

An oversize (10½ x 13½) picture book showing familiar animals on the farm. The extremely large size of each animal is startling at first but the children who have examined the book have been delighted with it. A brief line of text explains each picture and is simple enough to be read by beginning readers.

Stuart, Jesse. He to the hunters. Whittlesey House, 1950. 265p. \$3. Gr.8-

Although written for adults, this is a story that should have great appeal for young readers from the eighth grade on up. Fourteen-year-old Didway Hargis ran away from his wealthy home to live with the Sparks family, Arn, Peg, and sixteen-year-old Sparky, in the Kentucky mountains. Did's adjustment to his new life and the struggle between the mountaineers and townspeople that results when his father attempts to make him return home and told with the author's usual vigor and sympathy. The reader gets a real feeling for the Kentucky hills and hill people.

Werner, Jane. Chatterly squirrel and other animal stories; illus. by J. P. Miller. Simon and Schuster, 1950. 125p. (A golden story book) 25¢

Very slight stories, some of them completely pointless, about various animals, wild and domestic. The stories have little in them to appeal to the age reader who could handle the text alone. Poor illustrations.

White, William R. Red Rock II of the K-9 Corps; a dog's tale by Brig. Gen. William R. White and Frank Cunningham. Olivier-Maney-Klein, 1950. 176p. \$2.50.

In order to give a clear picture of what happened and at the same time keep the illusion that the dog is telling the story, the author has had to attribute to Red Rock mental abilities that are beyond the power of any dog and in some instances would do credit to most men. The result is a story that fails to achieve reality and in spots borders on the ludicrous.

Whitney, Phyllis A. Linda's homecoming. McKay, 1950. 250p. \$2.50. Gr.8-10. (D1;D37;D123;D19)

When Linda Hollis' mother remarried, Linda was faced with the problem of adjusting to a new father, a new brother and sister, and a small town, after living her life in New York City, all within a short period of time. The problems were made more acute by the resentment she met with in her step-brother and sister. School activities, work in the stepfather's museum, two congenial young men, and understanding parents help all three of the children work out their problems. Characters and situations are well developed and solutions are plausible. This is a book that should be read just as a good story and for its help in adjusting to difficult situations.

Wiggins, Margaret J. Black Hills gold and other tell-able tales. Exposition Press, 1950. 80p. \$2.50.

An uneven collection of stories ranging from an account of how gold was discovered in the Black Hills to apocryphal Bible stories. The style is mediocre and there is very little originality in the subject matter.

Wilson, Hazel (Hutchins) Thad Owen; illus. by William Sharp. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1950. 191p. \$2.50. Gr.6-8. (D37;D12;D57).

That interesting and very likeable Owen family is

back in another story of the Owen boys. Thad is the main character this time and the story is primarily concerned with his growing pains. He gets into scrapes by acting and not thinking, and then has to work his way out slowly and painfully. These are very real characters, not too good and never wholly bad. Excellent for family relations and as a sympathetic treatment of a boy's growing up process.

Wirt, Mildred A. Pirate brig; illus. by Manning deV. Lee. Scribner, 1950. 194p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

A tale of Blackbeard and his excursions along the coast of the Carolinas as seen through the experiences of a young boy who was pressed into service as a cabin boy for the pirates. The dialog is unnatural and few of the characters are lifelike. However, the primary interest in the book will be as a pirate story and as such it is satisfactory, though by no means outstanding.

#### Instructional Materials. Supplementary Reading and Sources of Material

The materials listed here are not available from the Children's Book Center. Orders should be sent to the publishers of the individual items.

"Audio-visual aids for the English teacher." Book, film and radio guide, Dept. of Libraries, Visual Aids, and Radio, Board of Education, Newark, New Jersey. Vol. 3, No. 1, S'49.

Selected list of motion pictures, slides, filmstrips, and recordings.

Baker, Augusta. Books about Negro life for children. New York Public Library, 1949.

Beust, Nora E. "The elementary school library in today's educational scene." School Life 3:108-9 Ap'50.

Books to grow on: a planned library for boys and girls, compiled by Clara Ostrowsky. New York, Jefferson School of Social Science Library, April 1950. Rev. ed. 15¢ Graded, not annotated.

Committee on Intergroup Education. "You've got to be carefully taught" Elementary English 27:219-21; 225. Ap'50.  
Ways of overcoming prejudices.

Fisher, Helen H. "Family life in children's literature" Elementary School Journal 50:516-20. My'50.

Franc, Lillian. "Intergroup education through literature in the fourth grade." Elementary English 27:226-29; 239. Ap'50.

The high school librarians choose the best books of '49 for their readers. School Libraries Division; Dept. of Education, Baltimore, Md., in cooperation with Young People's Dept., Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Lots of things to make and do; books for hobby-riders; prepared by the Children's Books Committee of the Madison Public Schools, Madison, Wisconsin, 1950.  
Graded list.

Milne, A. A. Books for children; a reader's guide. Published for the National Book League by Cambridge University Press, 1948. \$1.75.  
Annotated, graded list.

Novotny, Lillian E. "Education and the mass media of communication: radio." Elementary English 27:240-46; 253. Ap'50.  
Excellent bibliography.

Readability: its application to the elementary school, by E. A. Betts. Philadelphia, Temple University, Div. of Res. & Pubns, 1949. 22p. 60¢  
Preprint from "Journal of educational research," F'49. Contains a survey of the literature in this area.

Schraegle, Adelaide. "Learning to meet differences in family and community patterns," Elementary English 27:212-218 Ap'50.

What is best in children's literature? Transcript-Study guide of a Queens College radio forum. Panel composed of Mrs. Nova Mestrick, Editor, The Macmillan Co.; Miss Mary Lewis, Dept. of English, Queens College; Mr. Munro Leaf, author; Mr. Konrad Gries, Chairman of Dept. of Classics, Queens College; and Mr. Herbert Schueler, Dir. of Radio Education, Queens College.