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

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New Titles for Children and Young People.


The story of the sole survivor (a horse) of Custer's last stand. The story is told in the first person and, in order to include all the events of the time, the horse is endowed with an understanding of all languages - animal and human - and a knowledge of the history of both the white men and the Indians. The style is sentimental and the dialog is stilted and wooden. Excellent illustrations that are far superior to the text. Not recommended.

Baity, Elizabeth (Chesley). Americans before Columbus; illus. by C. B. Falls and with 52 pages of photographs. Viking, 1951. 256 p. $4.00. Gr. 5-9.

The story of the Indians of North, Central, and South America from earliest times through the days of Columbus and the Spanish explorers. The author writes a readable style with a very obvious interest and enthusiasm for her subject and with a semi-fictionalized approach that will hold the interest of young readers without detracting from the book's value as factual information. The thirty-two pages of photographs that comprise the first section of the book and the excellent line drawings and maps by C. B. Falls that illustrate the text add further enjoyment to the book and enhance its value.


Just before the final and deciding game of the season Danny Shaw was approached by a member of a gambling syndicate who tried to bribe him to throw the game. He refused but was so upset the next day that he muffed an important play and lost the game. Convincing that no one would believe he had not thrown the game he ran away; first to Phoenix, Arizona where he worked in a war plant, and finally into the Marine Corps and to Korea where he met and saved the life of the one man who could prove his innocence. Boys who know anything about major league playing will not accept Danny's failure to realize he should report the attempted bribe at once and his running away without trying to clear himself. The solving of Danny's problem by sheer coincidence is not good plot construction and keeps the book from being acceptable. Not recommended.

Church, Richard. Five boys in a cave. Day, 1951. 180 p. $2.50. Gr. 7-9. (D22; D69; D19; D55).

An exceptionally well-written adventure story for boys. The story covers the events of one day when the boys explore a cave in their neighborhood. There is suspense and excitement in the dangers that they face - and overcome - and excellent character portrayal in the manner in which each boy reacts to the demands of courage, initiative, and leadership.

Collin, Hedvig. Nils, the Island boy; written and illus. by Hedvig Collin. Viking, 1951. 92 p. $2.00. Gr. 3-5. (D77; D62).

Nils is a small Danish boy whose chief pleasures are in his boat and his pony. When Nils is nine-years-old his family moves to America. Nils and his father come first and get things ready for Nils' mother and baby sister. A pleasant picture of modern Danish life and of a small boy's adjustment to a new way of life. The story ends with Nils' arrival in America.

Coolidge, Olivia E. Legends of the North; illus. by Edouard Sandot. Houghton, 1951. 260 p. $5.00. Gr. 4-6.

A retelling of some of the favorite Norse legends. The tone is very modern and at times almost borders on slang. These stories lack the dignity and the poetic qualities of the Colunr versions, but they have a vigor that will appeal to many modern readers.
More adventures of Jeff White in the Maine north woods. This time he decides to run a trap-line through remote section of the woods, becomes involved with a poacher, a murderer, and a body that mysteriously appears and disappears. Although somewhat better writing than the previous book (Jeff White, young woodman), this still has many of the weaknesses of the other title. The characters are all immaterial in both speech and action, humor is forced, and the plot is too dependent of coincidence. Not recommended.

Disney, Walt. Alice in Wonderland finds the garden of live flowers; told by Jane Werner; pictures by the Walt Disney Studio; adapted from the motion picture "Alice in Wonderland" by Campbell Grant. Simon and Schuster, 1951. 25 p. (A little golden book) $.25

One episode from the Disney picture. The story is pointless and disjointed, with neither a beginning nor an end. Illustrations have neither charm nor humor. Not recommended.

Disney, Walt. Grandpa Bunny; told by Jane Werner; illus. by the Walt Disney Studio; adapted by Dick Kelsey and Bill Justice from the motion picture "Funny little bunnies". Simon and Schuster, 1951. 25 p. (A little golden book) $.25

Grandpa Bunny finds work for all the rabbits by having them plant flowers, fall leaves, sunsets, etc. A completely pointless story garishly illustrated. Not recommended.

Evans, Eva Knox. People are important; illus. by Vana Earle. Capitoli, 1951. 86 p. $2.50 Gr. 5-5. (D59).

A simply written but vivid description of the ways in which the peoples of the world differ or resemble one another. The basic fact is stressed that each person is important to himself and that all people have the same primary needs, even though their ways of satisfying those needs, may differ. The style is humorous without being facetious and the points are well made.


New and revised edition of an anthology that has long been a standard work in poetry collections. Sixty-three new poems have been included, many of them modern works, and fifty-three from the earlier edition have been omitted. Poems are grouped by: Story poems, Outdoor poems, Poems of peace and war, and Songs of life. The index has been changed to a single alphabet arrangement by author, title, and first line. Title entries are by first word even when that word is an article, an arrangement that sometimes means the user must look in three places before he can be sure a poem is not included. Most of the new poems are available in other standard anthologies and few libraries will need both the new and the old editions.

Freehof, Lillian Simon. Candle light stories; eight little tales for Chanuko; drawings by Jane Bearman. Bloch, 1951. 85 p. $2.25

Eight stories for a parent to read aloud to young children during the celebration of Chanuko. These are a fairy tale style and only the first one deals with the history of Chanuko. Not enough about the meaning of Chanuko or the ways in which it is celebrated are given to make the book useful for general collections.

Godden, Rumer. The mousewife; with pictures by William Pène Du Bois. Viking, 1951. 46 p. $2.00 Gr. 5-7. (D52).

There is beauty and pathos in this story of the little mousewife who dreamed of a world larger than the house in which she lived and who got a fleeting glimpse of that world from the caged dove she befriended and finally managed to release. This retelling of a story first written by Dorothy Wordsworth has a subtlety and delicacy that will be enjoyed by a limited number of readers but is worth having for the few who will appreciate it. Excellent illustrations by William Pène Du Bois.


Slight story of Holland, Michigan and the tulip festival. Gerrit and Gerta enter a wooden shoe garden in the children's flower exhibit and win first prize. As a picture of the tulip festival this is satisfactory, although it does not tell why or how the festival started. As a story it is rather pointless since the reader never knows why people will not buy Uncle Klaus' wooden shoes nor whether the children's winning the prize helps as it is supposed to. Useful as beginning reading material but not outstanding.

Hatch, Richard Warren. The lobster books; The curious lobster and The curious lobster's island; illus. by Marion Freeman Wakeman. Houghton, 1951. 547 p. $5.00 Gr. 4-6.

Two books first published in 1957, 1959 now reprinted in one volume. Both titles have been o.p. for several years. The Curious Lobster is the oldest and the wisest lobster in his part of the ocean. His curiosity takes him on excursions up the river and even on to dry land where he meets Mr. Badger and Mr. Bear. The three set off for a summer of excitement and adventure both on the ocean and on land. This is well-written, amusingly absurd fantasy that is fun to read aloud or for the young reader to handle alone.

Hoffman, Eleanor. The tall stallion; illus. by Paul Brown. Dodd, 1950. 180 p. $2.50

At first the Barrie children were dismayed when they learned that the ranch where their father was foreman was to be sold to a man who planned to convert it from Hereford beef to Thoroughbred horses. When the first Thoroughbreds arrived, however, their loyalty was won over and they eventually were able to save the horses and the ranch. Conversations are stilted and unrealistic. The ranch owner's decision to sacrifice his horses in favor of the cattle is never adequately explained and seems inconsistent. Not recommended.

Kohan, Frances. Eagle in the valley; by Frances Kohan and Truda Weil; illus. by Katherine Evans. Children's pr., 1951. 160 p. $2.50 Gr. 5-5. (D62).

After the death of his father, Juan Cruz, a Mexican Indian boy, left his home on the island of Janitzio to live with his aunt and uncle in Mexico City where he would have an opportunity to attend school. Before entering school he traveled with his uncle, a guide, through Mexico from Janitzio to Vera Cruz. History, legends, and customs of Mexico are woven into the story as Juan and his uncle guide an American family through the country. A pleasant story and one that will be useful to give an understanding of modern Mexico.

More tales of Homer Price, his Uncle Ulysses, the sheriff, and Grampa Hercules. Although these stories do not quite come up to the original Homer Price stories they are delightfully funny and will be enjoyed by all McCloskey fans.

A beautiful piece of bookmaking that is unfortunately wasted on a story that is pure melodrama. Built around the experiences of a young girl who is in her first year in a New York dancing school, the book brings in many of the outstanding figures of modern dancing. The author fails to show the importance of music in a dancer's life and although the main character is something of a genius at choreography, there is no indication that she knows one note from another.


Another in the series of biographies of baseball players chosen as the "Most Valuable Player" of the year. A well-rounded picture of Rizuto from childhood to the present, with the emphasis on his career in baseball. Rizuto's complete baseball record given at end.

Watson, Sara Ruth. Famous engineers; by Sara Ruth and Emily Watson; illus. with photographs. Dodd, Mead, 1950. 152 p. $2.50 Gr. 7-9.

Brief accounts of some famous British and American engineers from Saeman to Lillian Gilbreath. Interesting material that should be useful for social studies classes.


Another in the series of biographies of baseball players chosen as the "Most Valuable Player" of the year. A well-rounded picture of Rizuto from childhood to the present, with the emphasis on his career in baseball. Rizuto's complete baseball record given at end.


Simple stories about Bugs Bunny and his friends interspersed with pencil games and puzzles. End papers have a treasure hunt and a fortune telling game. This is too much of a toy book for general library collections. Not recommended.


Major league baseball and the story of a young rookie who was a good clutch hitter but who demoralized the team by relaxing and refusing to play hard when the pressure was off. A trip back to the minors - as far back as Single A in fact - brings Mike to his senses and he finally wins his way back to the major leagues. Acceptable baseball.


Essentially a drawing book. Blanks are left in the illustrations and are to be filled in by the child, using the stencils at the end of the book. Too much of a toy book for libraries although it is suitable for home use.

Woody, Regina Llewellyn (Jones). Student dancer; illus. by Arline A. Thompson. Houghton, 1951. 276 p. $2.75

A beautiful piece of bookmaking that is unfortunately wasted on a story that is pure melodrama. Built around the experiences of a young girl who is in her first year in a New York dancing school, the book brings in many of the outstanding figures of modern dancing. The author fails to show the importance of music in a dancer's life and although the main character is something of a genius at choreography, there is no indication that she knows one note from another. The best parts of the book are the illustrations and the brief descriptions of some important modern dancers but these alone are not enough to justify purchase of the book. Not recommended.

Wyntree, Sonia. Libath and the clamp; story and illus. by Sonia Wyntree. Rockport pr., 1947. 18 p. $1.50
Trite story of a little girl who disobeys her mother by wandering down to the beach one day. There a talking baby clam shows Lisbeth where she has done wrong. The lesson is much too obvious to be effective and the coy tone of the book is annoying. The illustrations are poor sketches which present personified class with human eyes. Not recommended.


Detailed instructions for setting up and operating nodal railroad equipment. One chapter explains the electrical principles involved in operating the equipment. This is valuable not only to help the reader get the maximum pleasure and use from his lay-out but also to reduce the hazards involved in handling electricity. Diagrams explain the wiring of various signals, lights, etc. and the method of constructing scenery.

Ivey, Grace (Sydenstricker). *Let's read about China*; by Cornelia Spencer, pseud.; illus. by Richard Gringhuis. Fideler, 1948. 111 p. $2.95 Gr. 4-7. (DE2)

Both the text and the photographs of this book are excellent in presenting an overall picture of China's history and culture up to the time when the Communist forces took over. The author is well known for her books on the countries of the Far East. Useful as a supplementary text in social studies classes. Lacks map.


Full page pictures of boats and ships from sailing dinghys to ocean liners will make this a popular book for all sailing fans. There are sections on: boats and ships that made history; salty talk (an explanation of nautical terms, of the location and meaning of ships lights, and of directions at sea); small craft; odd craft; signals (whistle, bell, and flag); and light signals. Easy text that most third graders can handle alone and that is interesting enough for use with remedial readers.


Third title in the Golden Nature Guide series. Includes information on how to collect insects; classes of insects; colored illustrations; and maps showing distribution over the United States. Contains a good bibliography for students who are interested in further, more detailed reading. Excellent for nature study classes, hobby groups, and home libraries.

### 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.


- **Books and the teaching and learning of science**
  - Treats of textbooks, workbooks, and general library materials.

- **Books of the year for children, 1950**: selected by the Children's Book Committee of the Child Study Association of America. 132 East 74th Street, New York 21, N. Y. 25p
  - Annotated, graded list of the outstanding children's books of 1950.


- **Charles, Ramon L. Bibliography of guidance materials.** Guidance Service Bulletin Number XXXII, May 1950. Topeka, Kansas, State Board for Vocational Education. $1.00

- **Dixon, Dorothy Genevieve.** "Home and family life: a bibliography" *The Educational Leader* 14:86-95 March 1951.
  - Annotated list of high school materials.

- **Eho, I. V.** "Books for handicapped children" *English Journal* 40:277 My'51.
  - Books for the secondary grades.


- **Linderman, Mrs. Hazel and Clemens, Mrs. Alice** "Guiding children in library reading" *SDEA-Journal* 26:555 My'61.


- **Sward, Barbara and Harris, Dale B.** "The reading ease, human interest value, and thematic content of *St. Nicholas Magazine*: a study of children's literature." *Journal of Educational Psychology* 42:155-166 March 1951.


**Witty, Paul** "Improving the reading of gifted children and youth." *Virginia Journal of Education* 44:16-21; 32 April 1951.
CARNIVAL OF BOOKS - July and August 1951

July 7* MADELEINE, by Marguerite Vance
July 14 GRANDFATHER TALES, by Richard Chase
July 21 THE LOG TREE, by Katherine Milhous
July 28 AMOS FORTUNE, FREE MAN, by Elizabeth Yates
August 4 HANNAH MURRAY, by Marguerite Henry
August 11 KON-TIKI, by Thor Heyerdahl
August 18 TOPHILL RAID, by Helen Garret
August 25 RABBITS; FROGS AND TADPOES; HUMMING PIGEONS; and THE GREAT WHALES, by Herbert S. Zim

*These dates refer to the date of the broadcast in Chicago. The hour and date the show is re-broadcast in various cities differs greatly. Check with your local NBC outlet for the hour and date of the show in your vicinity.

1946 RE-EVALUATION (Books no longer in Center. * indicates titles that were accepted at time of publication)

Brooks, W. R. Freddy and the Pied Piper
Mother Goose. The Janet Deen Mother Goose
Mother Goose. The shoe Mother Goose
Mother Goose. My first Mother Goose
Mother Goose. Masha's stuffed Mother Goose
Mother Goose. Carolyn Wells edition of Mother Goose
Muller, C. G. Tigers of the sea
Nast, E. R. A farm story
Norton, G. K. Cappy can
Olds, H. D. Lark, radio singer
O'Malley, P. Winging her way
Orton, H. F. Mystery of the lost letter
Palmer, B. A. Little Feather goes hunting
Park, N. W. Mehitabel: girl pioneer
Patch, D. E. L. Tug's secret mission
Pease, H. The Jinx ship
Pease, J. V. D. It seems like magic
Perreaux, C. All the French fairy tales
Petter, H. M. The number book
Phelps, W. Antelope boy
Polowes, D. The adventures of Jimmy Martin, stowaway
Potter, B. The tale of Peter Rabbit (pictures by Dirk)
Quigg, J. Looking for Lucky
Radford, R. L. Secret of the bay
Reeck, A. K. The lost little boy
Reynolds, D. Gold in Mosquito creek
Rickard, J. A. The adventures of Prince Leandro
Ridgway, W. V. Find the toys
Riley, J. W. Joyful poems for children
Robbins, G. A. High tide at low tide
Robinson, G. Mother Penny
Robinson, T. P. Greylock and the robins
Rounds, G. Whitey and ingebob
Ruch, W. W. Wheat rancher
Ryan, B. H. Porpy
Saarinen, L. S. Who am I?
Salwen, J. Alphabet book
Sarg, T. Tony Sarg's savings book
Scott, A. U. S. The wily woodchucks
Self, M. C. Chitter chat stories
Selkirk, J. Green garnet mystery
Severn, Q. A cabin for Crusoe
Seymour, A. H. Galewood crossing
Seymour, F. W. S. Pocahontas: brave girl
Shoemaker, R. H. Famous American generals
Skolsky, S. C. The music box book
Smith, I. When Grandma was a little girl
Snow, J. The magical mimics of Us
Spyri, J. H. Heidi (adapted by Florence Hayes)
Stearns, S. Hear our prayer
Steiner, C. Wake up! wake up!
Steiner, C. Where are you going?
Stevenson, A. Clara Barton: girl nurse
Stevenson, A. Paul Revere, boy of old Boston
Strickland, H. H. Juggernaut of the Rangers
Story parade treasure book
Strong, C. S. Stranger at the inlet
Sutherland, L. The life of the queen bee
Sutton, W. The haunted apartment
Tashlin, F. The bear that wasn't
Taylor, E. Nibbles and me
Tazewell, C. The littlest angel