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# BULLETIN

OF THE

## CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

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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.

The book evaluations appearing in this Bulletin are made with the advice and assistance of members of the faculty of the Graduate Library School, the Department of Education, and the University Laboratory School.

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### New Titles for Children and Young People.

Appel, David. Comanche; illus. by James Daugherty. World, 1951. 224 p. \$2.50

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. with drawings and maps 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 in a readable style with a very obvious interest and enthusiasm for her subject and with a semi-fictionized 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.

Bowen, Robert Sidney. Hot Corner. Lothrop, 1951 187 p. \$2.00

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. Convinced 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 problems by sheer coincidence is not good plot construction and keeps the book from being acceptable. Not recommended.

Child, Malcolm, ed. How to play big league baseball; complete playing instructions for every position by Harry Brecheen and others; photographs by the editor; line drawings by Marilyn Fisher. Harcourt, 1951. 182 p. \$2.50 Gr. 6-8.

Eight famous players give instructions on how to play each of the nine baseball positions. There is also a section on how to hit and advice from a major league manager. Well-written and interesting material that will be enjoyed by all baseball fans whether they aspire to become big league players or not. Each chapter is illustrated with photographs of the player who supplied the information for that particular section.

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. (D37; 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 Sandoz. Houghton, 1951. 260 p. \$3.00 Gr. 4-8.

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 Colma versions, but they have a vigor that will appeal to many modern readers.

Metz, Lew. Jeff White: young trapper. Little, 1951. 191 p. illus. \$2.50

More adventures of Jeff White in the Maine north woods. This time he decides to run a trap-line through a 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 woodsman), this still has many of the weaknesses of the other title. The characters are all immature 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 paint flowers, fall leaves, sunsets, etc. A completely pointless story garishly illustrated. Not recommended.

Evans, Eva Knox. People are important; illus. by Vana Earle. Capitol, 1951. 86 p. \$2.50 Gr. 3-5. (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.

Fish, Helen Dean, comp. The boy's book of verse. Rev. ed. Lippincott, 1951. 276 p. \$2.75 Gr. 7-9. (D5).

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. 83 p. \$2.25

Eight stories for a parent to read aloud to young children during the celebration of Chanuko. These are of 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.

Gringhuis, Dirk. Tulip time; story and pictures by Dirk Gringhuis. Whitman, 1951. 32 p. \$1.50 Gr. 2-4.

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. \$3.00 Gr. 4-6.

Two books first published in 1937, 1939 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. 3-5. (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.

McCloskey, Robert. Centerburg tales. Viking, 1951. 191 p. illus. \$2.50 Gr. 5-7.

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.

Herrick, James Kirk. Brian; pictures by the author. Rockport pr., 1948. 63 p. \$2.50

Brian is a happy dog -- so states the first sentence of this story. Then the author gives the reader the life history of Brian to show why he is happy. The bases of happiness as presented here are publicity and fame; an assumption which is questionable. Objectionable traits of jealousy and envy are treated with approval. Coy tone and stilted writing. Not recommended.

Miloché, Hilda. The little golden paper dolls; by Hilda Miloché and Wilma Kane. Simon and Schuster, 1951. 28 p. illus. (A little golden book) \$.25

Essentially a toy book. The little text there is has no point or appeal.

Montgomery, Rutherford George. The mystery of Crystal Canyon; illus. by Taylor Oughton. Winston, 1951. 216 p. \$2.50

A mediocre mystery involving a missing squatter, his dog, and a band of wild horses. Matt Milner, the squatter, is threatened by Tex, hot-headed ranch foreman of the Lazy Y Ranch and immediately after disappears. In the ensuing search, Kenny and Pat, son and daughter of the ranch owner, make friends with Matt's dog, shoot a wolf who has been killing cattle, capture a band of wild horses, and eventually discover what happened to Matt. The characters are not well-drawn and only Shag, the dog, seems real. Incidents are used to build suspense that actually have no bearing on the plot and are never fully explained. Not recommended.

Randall, K. C. Wild hunter; illus. by Manning DeV. Lee. Watts, 1951. 236 p. \$2.50 Gr. 6-8.

There is nothing new in plot or characters in this story of a boy's love for a dog that saves the dog's life after she has been mishandled and made gunshy. The action takes place at a Michigan hunting club. Bob Armitage, whose father works for the club, gets a job with Al Doane, head trainer for the club. The dog is Princess, a fine gun dog who is made gunshy when she is shot by a wealthy sportsman. Bob's faith in the dog and his patience in working with her saves her life and helps overcome her gunshyness. The quality of writing is better than is usually found in dog stories and Bob, the boy, is an appealing character.

Stern, William. Bill Stern's favorite football stories. Doubleday, 1950. 209 p. (Young moderns series) \$1.00

More anecdotes about famous football heroes. The book has the same weaknesses as the Famous baseball stories, i.e. it is a hodge-podge of information with no index or table of contents. Some of the characterizations of the Indian players are objectionable. Not recommended.

Tompkins, Stuart R. Let's read about Alaska; illus. by Richard Gringhuis. Fideler, 1949. 112 p. \$2.95 Gr. 4-7. (D62).

Alaska is presented through numerous photographs and clear, precise text. The photographs are so excellent that the drawn illustrations seem useless. The small map presented shows Alaska's geographic position in relation to the United States and the Far East but gives no details of the peninsula itself. Useful as a supplementary text in social studies classes.

Triable, Joseph. Phil Rizzuto; a biography of the Scooter. Barnes, 1951. 184 p. (Most valuable player series) \$2.50 Gr. 7-9.

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

Warner Bros, Cartoons, Inc. Bugs Bunny's book; stories told by Annie North Bedford; pictures adapted by Jack Bradbury and Campbell Grant. Simon and Schuster, 1951. 56 p. (A big golden book) \$1.50

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.

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 Smeaton to Lillian Gilbreath. Interesting material that should be useful for social studies classes.

Wayne, Richard. Clutch hitter. Macrae, 1951. 201 p. \$2.50 Gr. 8-10.

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.

Werner, Jane. Albert's zoo; a stencil book; pictures by Richard Scarry. Simon and Schuster, 1951. 26 p. (A little golden book) \$.25

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 K. Thomson. 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. Lisbeth and the clam; 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 clams with human eyes. Not recommended.

Jates, Raymond Francis. The boys' book of model railroading; illus. with drawings by the author and photographs. Harper, 1951. 172 p. \$2.50 Gr. 7-9.

Detailed instructions for setting up and operating model 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.

Jaukey, Grace (Sydenstricker). Let's read about China; by Cornelia Spencer, pseud.; illus. by Richard Gringhuis. Fidler, 1948. 111 p. \$2.95 Gr. 4-7. (D62).

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.

Zaffo, George J., illus. The big book of real boats and ships; text by Benjamin Brewster. Grosset, 1951. 24p. \$1. Gr. 3-5.

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.

Zim, Herbert Spencer. Insects; a guide to familiar American insects; by Herbert S. Zim and Clarence Cottam; illus. by James Gordon Irving. Simon and Schuster, 1951. 157 p. (A golden nature guide) \$1.00 Gr. 6-9.

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.

All Americans; a book list for friendly children. St. Paul Schools, Elementary Grades, 1950-1951. Free on request from the Library of Jewish Information, The American Jewish Committee, 386 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y. Annotated, graded list - primary through upper grades.

"Books and the teaching and learning of science" The Science Teacher March 1951.

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. 25¢

Annotated, graded list of the outstanding children's books of 1950.

Butterworth, Robert F. and Thompson, George G. "Factors related to age-grade trends and sex differences in children's preferences for comic books." Journal of Genetic Psychology 78:71-96. Mr'51.

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.

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

Kambly, Paul E. "The elementary school science library for 1949-1950." School Science and Mathematics 51:396-99 My'51.

Linderman, Mrs. Hazel and Clemens, Mrs. Alice "Guiding children in library reading" SDEA-Journal 26:353 My'51.

McClurg's graded list of books for elementary schools, compiled by Adah F. Whitcomb. 1951. Free on request from A. C. McClurg & Co., 333 East Ontario Street, Chicago 11, Illinois. Annotated.

Reading list on children of various backgrounds for five to six year olds. 1950. Free from the Library of Jewish Information, The American Jewish Committee, 386 Fourth Ave., New York, N.Y. (Mimeographed) Annotated.

Russell, David H. and Merrill, Anne F. "Children's librarians rate the difficulty of well-known juvenile books" Elementary English 28:263-68 My'51.

Shatter, Aubrey "A survey of student reading" English Journal 40:271-75 My'51.

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 42:153-165 March 1951.

A temporary guide for the instructional materials program. Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Olympia, Washington, 1950. Apply.

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\* MARIE ANTOINETTE, by Marguerite Vance  
July 14 GRANDFATHER TALES, by Richard Chase  
July 21 THE EGG TREE, by Katherine Milhous  
July 28 AMOS FORTUNE, FREE MAN, by Elizabeth Yates  
August 4 BORN TO TROT, by Marguerite Henry  
August 11 KON-TIKI, by Thor Heyerdahl  
August 18 TOPHILL ROAD, by Helen Garrett  
August 25 RABBITS; FROGS AND TOADS; HOMING 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  
\*Pashko, S. Black Sheep Patrol  
Patch, D. E. L. Tug's secret mission  
Pease, H. The Jinx ship  
Pease, J. V. D. It seems like magic  
Perrault, C. All the French fairy tales  
Petter, H. M. The number book  
Phelps, M. Antelope boy  
Polowe, 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  
Reck, A. K. The lost little boy

Reynolds, D. Gold in Mosquito creek  
Rickard, J. A. The adventures of Prince Leandro  
Ridgway, M. V. Find the toys  
\*Riley, J. W. Joyful poems for children  
\*Robbins, G. A. High take at low tide  
\*Robinson, G. Mother Penny  
\*Robinson, T. P. Greylock and the robins  
Rounds, G. Whitey and Winglebob  
\*Ruch, W. M. 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, D. 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 Oz  
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, M. The haunted apartment  
Tashlin, F. The bear that wasn't  
\*Taylor, E. Nibbles and me  
Tazewell, C. The littlest angel

Miss Vet Nooy  
HM M 11  
Faculty Exchange