PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

R  Recommended
M  Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.
NR  Not recommended.
Ad  For collections that need additional material on the subject.
SpC  Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
SpR  A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

New Titles for Children and Young People

R  Albee, George Sumner. Three Young Kings; pictures by Ezra Jack Keats. Watts, 1956. 49p. $2.75.
In Cardenas, Cuba, it had been the custom each year for the three oldest boys in the Escuela Piaz to play the role of the three kings in the January 6 celebration of Three Kings Day, and to deliver presents around town. One year one of the boys was ill and his younger brother took his place. The little boy thought it wrong that presents were delivered to wealthy children only, so he persuaded the other two boys to give the presents to the poor children of the town. There was considerable protest the next day, but Father Miguel, head of the boys' school, defended the action as being in keeping with the spirit of the day. Both the story and the illustrations make a pleasing addition to collections of Christmas materials.

Rickert O'Shay, an orphan, enlisted in the Union Army partly because he thought there was glamour and excitement to be found there and partly to get away from the virtual slavery he faced on the Potts farm where he lived. He quickly learned that war has no glamor, but he accepted the lesson and settled into his role of messenger for Sheridan. Through his friendship with the mysterious Ocean Pond, hosteler to Sheridan, Rick was able to follow the events of the war much more fully than he might otherwise have done. As Rick takes part in the Battle of the Wilderness, the destruction of the Shenandoah Valley, and the final campaign that led to the surrender of Lee, the reader is given a forceful picture of this aspect of the Civil War. The book will be of more interest and value for its descriptions of the campaigns than for the characterizations, which tend to be typed and without reality.

Tug and Lug, twin pack rats living in New Mexico, are taken to a nearby country school each night by their mother in order to give them an education in exploration. Their adventures are too long-drawn out and are never very funny. The excessive personification keeps the book from being adequate as nature study material, and the style is too forced for it to be acceptable fantasy.

A brief story of the career of Elizabeth Cochran, pioneer newspaper reporter known as "Nellie Bly." The book emphasizes Miss Cochran's determination to report the conditions of the poor and indigent in society. The author comments that "Nellie" is usually remembered only for her stunt of traveling around the world rather than for her greater public contributions as a reporter. The characterizations are disappointingly shallow. However, the book will serve as an adequate summary of the main events in the life of the subject.


A story that attempts to combine a mystery with considerable fictionalized information about lumbering. Scotty Elwood, whose father owns the lumber camp at Terry Forks, spends a part of the summer at the camp visiting Max Jason, son of the camp foreman. The two boys learn a great deal about lumbering, help to fight a fire at the camp, and uncover the activity of a gang of tree pirates who are doing illegal cutting on government property. The plot is contrived and has little originality, and the book is not wholly satisfactory either as a piece of fiction or an informational book.


Joe, a small boy, longs for a friend to run and play with him, but none of the animals on the farm will do so. One day several of the animals come to him with a tale of a scary thing hiding in the thicket in the meadow. Joe goes to investigate and finds it is nothing more frightening than a new-born calf. In a few days the calf is strong enough to run and play with him, and both are happy. There is a slight amount of suspense to give the book appeal. The illustrations, in heavy black and white, are too awkward to add much enjoyment to the story. Written at a beginning third grade reading level.


For the mechanically-minded young person with a passion for ships, this book will be the answer to all his questions regarding the technical aspects of a modern ocean-going vessel. The first two parts describe all instruments on the bridge and all engine room equipment, explaining in great detail and often in technical terms not defined. Some readers may need to consult encyclopedias for less technical explanations of certain items. Parts three, four and five deal with deck equipment, air and temperature control and elaborate safety measures. Photographs and drawings illustrate the text, and included is an excellent two-page drawing of a ship, showing location of all mechanical equipment.


Jan Norton's family, which consisted of her mother and two aunts, could give her only one year of college, but she set forth determined to make it a profitable year. She enrolled in a dramatics class where she met and fell in love with the assistant director; Anthony Blake, and where she also decided on her future career - giving readings to women's clubs and doing story-telling for children. An exceedingly light, superficial story, with no depth to the characterizations and occasional inconsistencies in the plot development.


A story of modern India and of the friendly rivalry between four boys living in the village of Nanda and a band of monkeys for the use of a near-by banyan tree. Their teasing of each other frequently led to mischief that brought the wrath of the villagers down on them, but when a real emergency arose it was the boys and the monkeys together who found a solution. An amusing story that gives a sympathetically realistic picture of village life in India and of the changes that are taking place there.

Although this is a sequel to *The Thirteenth Stone*, it stands alone as a complete story and does not require knowledge of the earlier book for enjoyment and understanding. The story begins when Jivan comes to live with his grandfather, the Prime Minister of Jaipur. The time is the period immediately preceding the independence of India, and one of the problems Jivan's grandfather faces is that of persuading the other rajahs to unite with India rather than trying to set up separate small kingdoms. There is also the problem of the disappearance of Dhuleep, Jivan's cousin. In the search for Dhuleep, Jivan not only helps to find his cousin, but also uncovers a plot to ruin the plan for a united India. An absorbing adventure story set against an interesting background.

**NR Brownin, Frances Williams.** *Big Bridge to Brooklyn; The Roebling Story*; illus. by Lili Réthi. Aladdin, 1956. 192p. (American Heritage Series) $1.75.

Fictionalized account of the building of the Brooklyn Bridge. The action is seen through the eyes of young Peter Schmidt who watches the construction from the very beginning and even works for a time on the bridge before it is completed. Considerable space is given to Peter's romance, which may appeal to girls, but will detract from the book's appeal for boys of the age for whom the book is intended. The style is quite pedestrian.


An absorbing account of the history of man's efforts to understand the role of food in the growth and welfare of the human body. From the superstitions of primitive man to the most recent of scientific findings, the picture is developed piece by piece much as a gigantic jigsaw puzzle might be put together. A final chapter relates what has been said before to the nutritional problems of teen-agers, with suggestions for ways of assuring a properly balanced diet.


Beginning with New Year's Day, the author ranges progressively throughout the usual American holidays of the year, giving a brief background of the origins of each, and ending with Christmas. Although Easter and Christmas are discussed in the main body of the book, unfortunately the Roman Catholic Holydays of Obligation and the Jewish religious holidays are dealt with in separate sections at the end of the book. There is an index at the end and three other recommended books for reading on the subject of holidays are listed. Illustrations are in black and grey, with red.

**M Caffrey, Nancy.** *Hanover's Wishing Star*; 4-6 illus. with photographs. Dutton, 1956. 125p. $2.75.

True story of twelve-year-old Karen Ann McGuire whose bid on one of the horses sold at the same time Nashua was auctioned, resulted in her being given a horse by officials of the Hanover Bank that had handled the original auction. The writing is without distinction and the appeal of the book will lie in the fact that it is a true story and in the accompanying photographs. There are minor discrepancies between the text and the picture captions.

**R Cameron, Eleanor.** *Stowaway to the Mush-room Planet*; illus. by Robert Henneberger. Little, 1956. 226p. $2.75.

In this sequel to *Wonderful Flight to the Mush-room Planet*, David and Chuck once again build a space ship and take off for Basidium. This time they have help from Theo Bass, Tyco's cousin, and their parents are in on the planning. The stowaway is Horatio Peabody, a would-be astronomer who sees in Basidium a means of achieving personal fame. Like the first book this is science fantasy rather than science fiction. It has many of the elements of appeal of the first story, although the ending seems quite flat and contrived.

**NR Carpenter, Bruce.** *The Last Waltz*. 7-9 Lothrop, 1956. 185p. $3.
After graduation from high school, Mary Luther was undecided about a career until a former teacher offered her a job as housekeeper. The teacher and her mother operated a high-class boarding house in Flatbush, and Mary's job was one of supervision and planning rather than doing the actual work. At the boarding house she met two young men, Ralph Brewster, scion of a Boston Back Bay family, and Jim Baldwin, a plain young man from Iowa. Mary fell in love with Ralph but a visit to his Boston home convinced her that she could never fit into the pattern of his life, so she returned to Flatbush and Jim. The period, 1908, is not fully enough developed to give the book importance as a piece of period fiction, and the typed characters and situations, with their lack of depth or reality keep the book from being satisfactory as a love story.

Instructions for making simple puppets and marionettes from materials that are usually to be found around the house — paper bags, prunes and raisins, peanuts, dowel rods, etc. There are also directions for making stages, scenery and stage property, and some suggestions of how well-known folk and fairy tales can be used for puppet shows. Much of the information is useful; its presentation leaves much to be desired. There are insufficient page references throughout; instances of poor grammar are frequent; and there is a coy use of headings, such as "What to Find" instead of the more familiar "Table of Contents." The paper is of poor quality.

In her Introduction, Miss Chute presents Shakespeare, "remarkable storyteller," England's greatest poet and master of stagecraft, against the background of the period in which he lived and wrote, and she urges that Shakespeare be read, not merely with reverence but also with understanding and enjoyment. To give young people a first introduction to the plays, and to lay a foundation for this enjoyment, Miss Chute has retold the stories of the plays; all those included in the First Folio. She identifies the theme and the mood and tells the story with wit and interprets it with appreciation. Adults as well as young people will enjoy reading the book and will find the author's interpretations interesting and helpful.

R Cook, Bernadine. The Curious Little Kitten; pictures by Remy Charlip.

Scott, 1956. 46p. $2.25.
A turtle lives in a pond next to a garden where a kitten lives. One day the two meet, and the curious little kitten tries to discover what this strange animal can be. At first the kitten frightens the turtle into hiding in its shell, but then the turtle emerges and starts purposefully toward the kitten, who is between it and the pond. The kitten backs away from the turtle until it falls into the water. Thereafter it leaves the turtle strictly alone. An amusing picture book, with lively black and white drawings, and a text that upper second grade readers could handle alone.

A story of Hawaii in the days before the coming of the white man. Keola lives with his grandfather in one of the mountain forests. One day he sees the chief's men who have come to select a tree for a new canoe. Thereafter Keola follows the progress of the canoe as the tree is chopped down, the log is lowered down the mountain, the canoe is shaped, and is finally launched, with appropriate ritual. The book, published in Hawaii, has such poor quality paper, print, binding and illustrations that it will not be satisfactory for general library use. However, the story is pleasing and some libraries may want the book as an example of the kind of stories for children that is being produced in Hawaii.

M Davis, Marilyn (Kornreich) and Broido, Arnold. Music Dictionary; illus. by Winifred Greene. Doubleday, 1956. 83p. $3.50.
This volume, to a degree, answers a need for a dictionary of musical terms on a child's level. The format, with its clever illustrations, is generally quite attractive, although the illustrations so crowd some pages that it becomes difficult to use the text, and in some instances the illustrations have appeal for children younger than those who would normally be consulting the text. The text shows a tendency toward incomplete definitions. There is frequent use of outmoded terminology and of terminology outside the experience of a child not studying music intensively.

A vividly realistic story of China during the early days of the Japanese invasion. Tien Pao, a small Chinese boy, and his family fled inland on a sampan when the Japanese attacked their coastal village, but Tien Pao was separated
from his parents during a storm and swept back down the river on the sampan. The story tells of the adventures of the boy as he made his way back up the river, through the enemy lines, helping a wounded American airman on the way, and of how he was finally reunited with his family through the help of the airman. Once again the author has shown his ability to paint starkly realistic word pictures that give the reader the full impact of the terror, pain, hunger, and finally the joy that Tien Pao knew during his search for his family.


In this sequel to Curious Calamity in Ward 8, Wendy Brent, the nurse who solved the first mystery, is now herself a patient as a result of a fall on a mountain trail. Although confined to her bed, she nevertheless manages to play a major part in solving the mysterious disappearance of a small boy from the children's ward. Her fiancé, Inspector Robert Sedgwick, of the police force, is, of course, on hand and is of some slight help to Wendy in solving the case mostly because he is mobile and she is not. The hospital routine is accurate enough, but the mystery and its solution are highly improbable, the characters are mere types, and hospital life in general is made to seem much more tensely exciting and glamorous than is actually the case.


An engaging family story set in the cranberry bog country of New Jersey. Ten-year-old Joey (Joanna) and her twin brothers, Donny and Mac, loved their Holly River home, but their peace of mind was threatened by their grandmother who insisted this was no place to rear children and that the family should all move back to Philadelphia. When the children were not worrying about their grandmother, they were busy making new friends and searching for the remains of a pirate's house that was supposed to have stood on their land at one time. In the end both sides won. The children's father accepted a teaching job in Philadelphia that would leave his summers free for the family to return to Holly River, and the children found the site of the pirate's house. The story has suspense, action, and a warmth of characterizations to give it wide appeal.


Written from the shop point of view, this manual on plastics emphasizes economy of materials, proper use and care of machinery and hand tools, and the safety of the operator. It anticipates errors that might occur in the cutting, polishing, molding, turning and decorating of plastics as the result of their special properties. Half of the book is devoted to suggested projects, with lists of materials and tools needed, and procedures. Well illustrated with photographs and diagrams.


Further events in the life of Jane Ellison. The story takes Jane through the first half of her sixteenth year, a period when she finds herself at odds with her family—and especially with her younger sister Judy—with her friends and even with herself. Before the year is out she has come to a better understanding of herself and is once again a happy, well-adjusted person. The author shows an understanding of a sixteen-year-old's problems and there are some good elements to the way in which Jane's family and friends help her with her problems. There is no great depth to the characterizations or the problems but the book is acceptable as a light love story.


In a tensely dramatic style that avoids all sensationalism while doing full justice to the suspense and excitement of the events, the authors tell of the planning, execution and disastrous ending of the famous Andrews' Raid. The characters, both the Yankees and the Confederates, come vividly to life, and the reader is made to sympathize with both as he sees the courage that prompted Andrews to attempt the raid, and the loyalty that kept Fuller on Andrews' trail against seemingly insurmountable odds. This is a book to be read both as an exciting adventure story and as an historically accurate account of one of the more colorful events of the Civil War.


In trying to earn enough money to pay for his first year at Cornell, Findlay Wheat becomes involved in an attempt to capture some thieves who have stolen a valuable shipment of antibiotics and are thought to be hiding out on the island of Kauai. At the same time his uncle is attempting to swindle a wealthy newcomer to the island by planting an old Japanese sword in a cave and then "discovering" it, in the hope that it will be taken for the legendary iron sword with which the islanders are supposed to have
greeted Captain Cook. Findlay manages to thwart both the thieves and his uncle, and earns a reward large enough to assure him a college education. The story, told in the first person, is set against an interesting background, but the characters are too one-dimensional and the plot too dependent on fortuitous circumstances to have reality.


Linda Ann Rogers lived on Blue Heron Key, Florida where her parents operated a tourist resort during the winter months. Linda Ann's one great interest in life was birds, and especially the pelicans that lived on a nearby island. The story tells how she saved a baby pelican after a hurricane and made a pet of it. Linda's experiences in caring for Prill are interesting, but the story is weakened by an unnecessary coyness throughout, e.g., the author consistently refers to Linda as the pelican's "mother," and by Linda's exaggerated, and under the circumstances unrealistic, fear of alligators.

M Frost, Frances Mary. Fireworks for 5-7 Whittlesey House, 1956. 176p. $2.75.

Another story of the Clark family and their pony, Windy Foot. This time Toby is in the throes of jealousy over the selection of Pietro Di Marco to represent George Washington in the Fourth of July parade. Toby's father threatens to keep him out of the parade unless he proves his own citizenship by coming to an acceptance of Pietro's right to the role. The conversion comes about but it is no more believable than the original jealousy. The tone of the story is frequently didactic, and the story is further marred by instances of careless writing.

R Gidal, Sonia and Tim. My Village in 3-6 India. Pantheon Books, 1956. 78p. $3.50.

Well illustrated presentation of modern village life in India. The text is narrated by a young Indian boy who talks about his family, their work and the festivities which they celebrate. The superb black and white photographs can be used in school units on village life, costume and dress, work methods, and Indian celebrations at all elementary grade levels. Fifth and sixth graders will find the information interesting as presented in the text. At the lower grades the text would need to be read aloud, but there is much that younger children could get simply from examining the pictures. The book is not indexed. However, topics treated in the book are easily identified through the captions of the accompanying pictures. The endpapers contain a village map and a map of India. A glossary of terms is also included.

NR Good, Loren D. Panchito; illus. by 4-6 Nicolas. Coward-McCann, 1956. 160p. $2.75.

Panchito, a pompous, egotistical Mexican parrot, tires of his golden perch in the city and escapes to return to the rancho. There he had assisted in holding farm animals in line and life seemed more purposeful. On the journey back he plays the hero in numerous situations. He rescues a vaquero from an enraged bull, exposes some infamous bandits, saves a whole village from poisoning, turns back a runaway boy intent on dynamiting his school, and restores a demented man to mental health. The story begins promisingly with humor, color, action and some credibility, but soon lapses into straining for cleverness. Except for his egotism and “dogoodism” Panchito receives most inconsistent characterization. Meager entertainment.


Brief text written to fit a series of quite good color photographs of farm animals. Each animal in turn asks the next one where Farmboy Bill is. He is at school, as he explains to them when he returns in the afternoon. Highly contrived.

R Green, Ivah E. A Home for Woody. 4-6 Abelard-Schuman, 1956. 95p. $2.50.

An interestingly written, straightforward account of the life cycle of a wood duck, explaining in detail its nesting habits, food preferences, care of young, and migration. There is throughout a plea for conservation measures to help protect these birds. At the end is a thirteen page section giving directions for the building, placing and
care of various types of houses preferred by wood ducks. The text is supplemented with excellent photographs. The style of this book is more difficult than that of the author's Woody, a Little Wood Duck, and the content is aimed at an older reader. A fine addition to nature study and conservation collections for home or library use.

R Green, Ivah E. and Bromwell, Alice. Woody, the Little Wood Duck; illus. by George F. Mason. Abelard-Schuman, 1955. 64p. $2.25.

A rather delightfully humorous, informative story based on incidents from the early life of a wood duck that lived in the family of one of the authors. As told here, Grandma and Grandpa adopt the tiny orphan in late August and care for him until he is able to fend for himself. Meanwhile, he lives a very happy life, sleeping in the warm basement, bathing in a wash basin, untangling shoelaces, tormenting dogs, and performing generally for the delight of the neighborhood children. In the spring, after Woody has learned to fly and Grandpa has prepared the children, the game warden bands the young bird and the children all join him in the station wagon when he makes the trip to the lake to release their pet. Excellent black and white illustrations. Good for readers at the third grade level.


Robert and Debby Brown make an overnight train trip with their mother from their home in Los Angeles to Gallup, New Mexico. The story is quite obviously contrived to fit a series of equally obviously posed photographs. The only value of the book would be for use with units studying transportation.


A rather distinguished collection of well-known short stories, poems, chapters from books, myths and legends, and stories from the Bible. There are, however, several glaring weaknesses. For example, with two exceptions, the reader is given no indication from where the piece was taken except in the acknowledgements; in the few cases where the author herself has re-written fairy tales or other pieces, the prose is good but not the most distinguished available; and the format in many cases precludes its being read by the ages intended. Illustrations are small line drawings.


Following the same pattern of her other drawing books, the author presents information about nine planes, ranging from the DC-7 to the very recent and still experimental Pogo. For each plane there is a full page text description, a full page photograph, and step-by-step instructions for drawing the plane. The subject appeal and fairly easy style will give the book value as remedial reading material as well as interest for general library use.


Becky Wheeler is the only girl her age living at Folly Cove on Cape Ann, and she longs for a best friend. To her delight three Irish families move to the Cove, and there is one girl just Becky's age. At first Nancy O'Connell does not seem to be the ideal "best friend" for she is quiet and shy whereas Becky is boisterous and always into mischief. However, the two prove to have a good influence on each other, and it is a proud day in Becky's life when Nancy is chosen to represent Freedom in the parade celebrating the Centennial of the Declaration of Independence. As in Tam Morgan, the author has created characters who are real, likable people and has set them against a period background that makes both the characters and their times come to life.


A poorly written biography of Abner Doubleday, "father" of baseball, that is a better picture of
the development of organized baseball than a biography, and not very good as either. Although the facts of his life are all included, Doubleday never emerges as a real person. As a history of baseball the account suffers from the digressions about the Civil War and other non-baseball events in Doubleday's life. The dull, stilted style of writing adds nothing to the appeal of the book.


A fictionalized account of the days when the Mediterranean was controlled by the Barbary pirates. Sixteen-year-old Jim Murdock had grown up on the Ohio frontier, but he came from a seafaring family and as soon as possible left home to accept a commission as midshipman on the new ship Liberty, which had been assigned to carry tribute to the pirates. The story of Jim's experiences makes moderately good reading, although it is pretty much contrived to give a picture of the life of a midshipman at this time. The story is wholly fictionalized and is not nearly so exciting as the real events of the period.


Five-year-old Penelope was generally good but had a bad habit of leaving her belongings strewn around the floor. One day she saw a pink hat in a store and wanted it very badly. She saved her pennies and bought the hat, but the first day she had it she left it on the floor and her pet rabbits ate it. Her next purchase was a parasol but having learned her lesson, she kept it safely hanging on the door. The pictures have more distinction than the slight text, and they are not outstanding.


A different type of nature book in the form of a calendar which chronicles the various stages of wild flora and fauna for each month of the year. The author explains that she has used New York City latitude for timing, and since comprehensive coverage for the United States is not possible in such a book, species of the Far West and Far South have been excluded. The material will be excellent for use in homes or in nature-study classes in schools of the Mid-West or the East. Names of species are in italics and a good index is included at the end, based on the italicized words. Starred items in the index indicate those plants and flowers which are not to be picked. Illustrations are frequent and excellent, done in shades of gray and light green.


With modern technique characterized by Oriental economy of brush strokes, the artist has done a charming series of pictures to delight the entire family. She states in her introduction, "Out of my head these beasts do come, I see them... in some of the fairy tale, some of the true..." White ink on brown or black paper relieve brown or black ink on white paper. The text, which could well have been omitted, consists of rhymed couplets located on the pages where it will best balance the beasts. The text is a strained attempt at humor that detracts from rather than adding to the appeal of the pictures. Art classes will find the book useful for stimulating the imagination.


A mother and her small son hurry off to the supermarket for groceries to fill their nearly empty refrigerator. The small cowboy rides in the food basket and "Mother puts cold packages up against my feet." A confusing, rather pointless pre-school picture book which could easily suggest an unpleasant table game with its final verse, "So crunch, crunch—
I think I'll have my lunch,
Crunch, crunch."

SpC King, Marian. Portrait of Jesus; Paintings and Engravings from The National Gallery of Art; with Bible Selections and Descriptive Text. Lippincott, 1958. 63p. $2.75.

Twenty-nine paintings, all of them related to events in the life of Jesus, and all of them to be found in the National Gallery of Art, are reproduced, together with passages from the Bible (King James version) and descriptive text. The text identifies the artist as to period and nationality and tells something of his other works. It does little by way of critical comment, and does not relate the artists or the paintings to other artists of the same period or other paintings on the same subject. The book would be useful for religious education classes or for collections on the history of art.

Beginning with the unsuccessful attempt in 1953 to find the treasure ship *Florencia* that was supposedly sunk in Tobermory Bay, Scotland, at the time of the defeat of the Spanish Armada, the author goes back in time and tells a story of what might have happened to the *Florencia*. She has used, as main characters, four boys—two of them Spanish boys who sailed on the *Florencia* and two of them Scots boys living at Tobermory Bay. The writing is disjointed and none of the characters seem fully developed.


Like the author's *King Solomon's Mines* this is a story of Palestine in the days of Solomon. This time the main character is Dan, son of a sheep owner. Dan's life had been quite eventful until the day when he rescued the colt Bala after its mother had been killed, and determined to keep it for his own. The only way this could be accomplished was by joining the men who handled the king's horses, and Dan's travels with these men took him over much of Palestine and as far away as Egypt. A swift-paced, well-told piece of period fiction that brings the people and events of the day vividly to life.


Good illustrations and format combined with verse of poor literary quality and bad psychological approach tell of the rewards or woes of being good or bad, as the case may be.


A fictionalized biography of Elijah, taking him from early childhood through his death. There is nothing especially noteworthy about the style, and the book lacks the vividness of characterizations of Bothwell's *Flame in the Sky* (Vanguard, 1954), also a fictionalized biography of Elijah. As is customery in this series, no sources are given, and there is no indication of where known facts end and fictionalized elements begin.

SpC Levy, Mervyn. *Painting with Sunshine; An Introduction to Oils for Young People*; with a foreword by John Newsom; and 32 plates including 2 in colour. Roy, 1955. 95p. $2.50.

A readable, almost chatty discussion of simple materials, techniques, and suitable subjects for use in oil painting. The author succeeds admirably in giving the beginner the kinds of information he needs, without stultifying his creativity. The illustrations, mainly in black and white, are paintings by children, and many of them have considerable charm. In spite of the small print and rather crowded pages, there is much valuable help here for the beginner who is interested in painting with oils. The British terminology may prove a handicap at times.


Johnny's school is sponsoring a toy show to which each pupil is to bring his favorite toy and for which there will be prize ribbons. After twenty-one pages of picturing Johnny's too many toys and his indecision over what to enter, the text indicates he has had a very special idea which he will reveal to none of his friends. When the pupils finally troop down to view the show and to discover who have won prize ribbons, there they see Johnny's father sitting on a table and wearing a ribbon which says "Special, Special Prize." A rather coy, undemocratic theme. Intended for reading aloud.


Lynn Ahearn and Jeff Conshay, both members of wealthy suburbanite families, met at a dance and a week later were in love and engaged to be married. Both Lynn and Jeff reflected the quite snobbish attitudes of their parents and friends and had no real understanding of anyone who did not live as they did. When disaster came to the two families, through the illness of Lynn's father and a serious fire in a new factory owned by Jeff's father, the two were forced to make adjustments in their way of living and in their social attitudes. The adjustments were painful, but the two worked their way through to a satisfactory solution. As in her earlier books, the author has presented real problems and realistic solutions. As before, her characters are one-dimensional and there is little attempt to get beneath the surface of either the problems or the characters. However, the book does have more substance than has the average junior novel, and will be enjoyed by young girls wanting a love story.


In the preface to this collection of plays for the elementary school age, the author states that the plays were "... written with a view to supplementing classroom instruction..." in various areas (e.g., Colonial Life). The plays are humorous and well-paced for young thespians, while being palatably purposive. There are frequent
footnotes with bibliographic information on appropriate songs (usually from standard music texts) to be used in the plays, and at the end of the book there are production notes for each play. Unfortunately, some of the jingles in these plays are not up to the author's usual literary standard, and all the plays are too purposive to be wholly satisfactory for drama or literature classes.


Beginning with a fairly lengthy, but quite superficial, account of the life of Pierre Radisson, the history of the Hudson's Bay Company is traced through Radisson's work in its behalf, through the years of conflict with the Northwest Fur Company, and up to modern times. Considerable attention is given to the history of Canada as a whole, even to events that had no direct bearing on the Hudson's Bay Company. The result is an over-view of Canadian history, but little real detail about the Hudson's Bay Company.


A slight, but rather pleasing story of a farmer who owns a cat and three kittens. Each day after his noon meal, the farmer likes to take a nap on the front porch, but his favorite chair is always filled with cats. He tries a variety of means of keeping them out of the chair and when none is successful, ends by sleeping in the chair with the cats in his lap. Cat fanciers will especially enjoy the illustrations. The story is written at a third grade reading level, but could be read aloud to younger children.


A series of circus pictures, with each page folded so that only a portion of the picture is seen. The accompanying verse asks a question that is answered by unfolding the page. The paper binding and almost toy nature of the book make it better suited to home than to library use.


The adventures of twelve-year-old twins, Connie and Reg Donovan, on their family's sheep ranch and in the Australian bush country. There are some interesting aspects to the descriptions of life in this area. However, the effectiveness of this information is lost in the melodramatic account of a cross-country chase that Reg and his Uncle Ben make to capture a man who has stolen a map showing a deposit of rare metals. There is also a side plot in which Connie helps to prove that her dog has been wrongly accused of killing sheep. Patchell's Ajax (Bobbs-Merrill, 1954) gives a more realistic picture of this same country.


A purposive book designed to acquaint the young child with the variety of services available on the main street of a small town. During one day's shopping two children visit the barber shop, shoe store, shoe repair shop, five and ten cent store, drug store, hardware store, pet shop, gift shop, and bakery. That night the entire family eats dinner in the local restaurant. There is no story appeal and interest in the book is further weakened by the exceedingly unattractive illustrations.


Two men, Homer Tompkins and Perry Solloway, began clearing adjacent fields one day. At first they were suspicious of each other and used the rocks on their land to build a wall between their two fields. Homer planted corn and Perry planted cherry trees, and each one thought the other very foolish in his choice. However, after a summer of working side by side, they became friends and decided that they had both made wise choices; that there must always be crops for quick harvesting and crops for future harvesting. The moral is not belabored and young children will find the story mildly pleasing, although the more knowledgable ones may well question the outdated methods used by the men in preparing their fields and planting their crops.


An adventure story set in the jungles of Brazil. Twenty-eight-year-old Pete Warner, a scientist, is about to embark on a journey to find Indian herb medicines when he is approached by eighteen-year-old Bud Chandler who wants help in locating an ancient Incan treasure city that his uncle had discovered several years before. Even before the two get started, attempts are made to rob them of the treasure map, and they are harrassed all along the way. After a long and hazardous trip they find the treasure city, but Bud is more interested in the diamonds to be found in the nearby river. During the trip, the two men who had attempted to rob Bud and Pete lose their lives,
one through a cave-in and the other at the hands of some Brazilian Indians Pete had be-friended. The story, told in the first person by Pete, has some elements of appeal as an adventure story, but is by no means Sperry's best writing. The style is rambling and the plot is frequently halted for the author to discourse on the flora and fauna of Brazil. There is much forecasting, of the "little did I guess" and "had I but known" variety, and the action borders on the melodramatic in the deaths of the two villains.


When sixteen-year-old Mike Forrester joined his father in Bermuda, where Mr. Forrester was doing marine life research work, the boy's pleasure in his summer vacation was tempered by two serious problems. He had failed American History in school, and was supposed to make up the work during the summer, and he was concerned over the threatened split between his parents. Mrs. Forrester, completely dominated by her mother, refused to join him in his field work and insisted that the family should settle down in her home town even though it offered no opportunity for Mr. Forrester to earn a living in his chosen field of work. During the summer, Mike learned how to work under water and help his father collect marine specimens; he solved both his school and family problems, and he took part in an exciting search for lost treasure. As an adventure story the book will have an appeal, although there is not much originality to either the plot or the characterizations, and the book lacks the maturity of style and content that were found in the author's first book, The Red Car.

NR Trease, Geoffrey. The Young Traveler in Greece; illus. with photographs and map; sketches by Donald Lambo. Dutton, 1956. 192p. $3.50.

A semi-fictionalized travel book in which the author has tried, unsuccessfully, to combine a story and a wealth of information about Greece. The results are unsatisfactory on both counts. The story is too slight to have much appeal, and the information is not detailed enough or well-organized enough to give the book reference value.

Ad Tudor, Tasha. 1 Is One. Oxford, 1956. 3-5 yrs 44p. $2.75.

A first counting book that begins with "1 is one duckling swimming in a dish" and continues through "20 is twenty geese flying through the dawn." Some of the pictures are quite pleasing, although all tend toward the sentimental. The book is more useful as a picture book of familiar objects than as a counting book, since extraneous objects are often introduced in a way that becomes confusing, and as the numbers become larger the objects become smaller and more difficult to distinguish.

NR Turngren, Annette. Mystery Walks the Campus. Funk & Wagnalls, 1956. 201p. $2.75.

A contrived mystery, set on a small college campus and involving a lost heiress, a wealthy recluse who pretends to be the gardener on her own estate, and an arsonist who is trying to get the old lady's money, which really belongs to the lost girl. Wendy Deland and her brother, Ira, become involved in the mystery when Ira is approached in a Chicago railroad station by a young girl who gives him her overnight bag and parakeet and disappears. They know she is supposed to be on her way to Endicott College, so they begin searching for her there. Eventually she is found and the mystery of her inheritance solved, but not before she and Wendy are almost killed in a lab explosion set off by the man who is trying to prevent the girl from claiming her rightful inheritance. A confusing plot, with many elements left unresolved at the end.


A well written, well balanced biography of Franklin, with most of the episodes coming directly from his autobiography but retold with fictionalized conversation. He is portrayed as a normal boy with good and with mischievous impulses. The author shows successfully how events of his youth and interaction of members of his family shaped the man with a strong sense of personal independence, but with an ingrained feeling for democracy and a keen sense of civic responsibility—not to mention his astounding intellectual curiosity.


In brief text and excellent drawings, the author takes the reader on a tour of a large art museum, showing the many kinds of exhibits that are to be found there, from armor and sculpture to paintings. The illustrations are representations of the kinds of things to be found in a museum rather than actual reproductions of works of art. The book should serve a useful purpose in cities where children have access to a museum to pre-
pare them for the things they may expect to see there.

An excellent introduction to sculpture for young artists. The author has taken a variety of materials—pipe cleaners, plasticene, clay, papier mâché, plaster, and wood—and shown some of the possibilities in the use of each. Although he gives step-by-step instructions for using each material to make a specific form, he constantly urges the reader not to adhere slavishly to the instructions but to use his own imagination, and to try other forms in addition to the one suggested here. The illustrations are examples from the works of sculptors of all periods, nationalities and schools of art, and add greatly to the appeal and value of the book. At the end are sections of reference books and information about the illustrations.

NR White, Constance M. Dancer’s Daughter. 6-8 Dodd, 1956. 216p. $2.75.
Another story of Tregarth Abbey, the English boarding school that specializes in ballet training. This time the action centers around Cherry Deane, daughter of a famous ballerina, who suffers from an inferiority complex and longs to dance but thinks she will never be competent. As in the earlier book, a mystery is dragged in that has no bearing whatever on the main plot of the story. Cherry, of course, proves her ability at the last minute.

A not entirely successful attempt at fantasy that employs many of the elements to be found in the works of Nesbit, C. S. Lewis, and other masters of the genre. Ricky and Joanna, visiting their Aunt Cordelia and Uncle Hubert in upper New York State, go through a magic window and find themselves in the Land That Never Was, where their adventures follow the pattern of the daydreams they have had in the real world. In typical fantasy pattern, they do battle with the forces of evil, win, and return safely to the real world. In spite of the quite predictable pattern of the story, there are elements here to appeal to the reader who has reached the modern fantasy stage of reading interests.

The Redpath family moved to Ohio in 1764 and settled on the Indians’ side of the Proclamation Line, even though they knew they had no right to be there. In a long, rambling fashion, with frequent flashbacks, the author tells of their trip to Ohio and of a year that Sally Redpath spent as a captive of an Indian tribe. The story is too slowly paced to have much appeal either as an adventure story or as period fiction.

Ad Woolsey, Janette and Sechrist, Elizabeth 2-5 Hough. It’s Time To Give a Play; illus. by Guy Fry. Macrae, 1955. 207p. $3.50.
Non-royalty plays for elementary school groups, with simple staging, scenery and costuming. Included are special sections which include plays for handicapped children, four sketches of famous Americans, three plays about community services (fire, police, postal) and four plays which are intended to promote understanding of the customs of other countries. The plays are of uneven quality, varying from well-written, informative, purposeful and entertaining material to plays with trivial subjects and with conversation consisting of trite expressions and childish bickerings.

An excellent introduction to the use of oil paints for the beginner. The author gives complete information about the selection and use of materials, but encourages the user to exercise his own individuality in the actual composition of pictures and choice of colors. It is made quite clear that this is a book for the amateur, and that the serious student of painting needs other kinds of help and training. Art classes and hobby collections will find this a useful and worth while addition.

R Zion, Eugene. Harry, the Dirty Dog; pictures by Margaret Bloy Graham. Harper, 1956. 28p. $2.75.
Harry is a small white dog with black spots who does not like to be bathed. One day he hides his bath brush in the back yard and sets forth to have fun. After a day spent playing around coal chutes, near road mending machines and similarly dirty spots, he returns home, completely black. His owners refuse to recognize him until he digs up his bath brush, jumps in the tub, and persuades them to bathe him. There is humor in both the text and illustrations to make a book for sharing with young children.

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