



I L L I N O I S

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

-

PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.

BULLETIN

of the Children's Book Center

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY · CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTER

Volume XI

January, 1958

Number 5

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

NR Adrian, Mary. The Uranium Mystery;
4-6 with illus. by Lloyd Coe. Hastings
House, 1956. 109p. \$2.50.

A mediocre mystery story involving stolen money and a gieger counter. David Price is left in charge of the Frontier Motel when his parents are called away for the night. During a storm someone breaks in and robs the safe of \$2,000 and takes the gieger counter which Mr. Price has been using to test rocks near the motel. David and his friends follow footsteps and lug the "counter" around until they solve the mystery. Written in a pedestrian style, the mystery is too anticipated, leaving no suspense or surprise for the reader. David knows all about uranium and radio-activity and impresses his friends and the adult guests at the motel. A precocious little boy and a very poor story.

SpC Alcott, Louisa May. Jo's Boys; illus. by
6-8 Grace Paull; intro. by May Lambert-
ton Becker. World, 1957. 342p. (A
Rainbow Classic) \$1.75.

New edition with quite unimaginative pictures that give little appeal to a story whose didactic

tone makes it less a book for modern children than a candidate for historical collections.

NR Anderson, Ethel Todd. High Apple on the
7-9 Tree. Funk & Wagnalls, 1957. 238 p.
\$2.95.

When Erin Morne was seriously injured in an automobile accident and had to be taken to near-by Pittsburg for therapy, the members of her Girl Scout Troop began campaigning for an indoor swimming pool that would make it possible for Erin's treatments to be continued at home. The adults of the town are severely criticized for their reluctance to take on such an expensive project and for insisting that other things such as new streets, better street lighting, more classrooms, a larger and better equipped hospital, etc. are of greater importance. The girls keep plugging, however, and eventually win their pool. There are two sub-plots, one involving a black panther that roams the countryside and the other involving the love life of one of the Girl Scouts. These are neatly tied up in the end, with the panther killed and the boy caught.

R Baker, Laura Nelson. The Friendly
All Beasts; adapted from an old English
Ages Christmas carol of the same title; il-
lus. by Nicolas Sidjakov. Parnassus,

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

Published monthly except August. Subscription rates: one year, \$2.50; two years, \$5.00; three years, \$7.50. Single copy, 50¢. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Press. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois.

Second-class mail privileges authorized at Chicago, Illinois.

1957. 25p. \$1.50.

Re-telling of a well-known Christmas carol, with the complete carol, words and music, included at the end. The story conveys the quiet wonder and reverence of Christmas Eve and the beauty of the text is further enhanced by the stylized but very pleasing illustrations.

M Beatty, Hetty Burlingame. Bucking
K-2 Horse. Houghton, 1957. 37p. \$2.75.
The Wild One was the hardest of all the colts to catch and the one colt who could not be ridden by any of the ranch hands. However, the rancher's young son, Danny, made friends with him and rode him with ease, to the chagrin of the cowboys and rodeo riders who had all been tossed. A rather stilted story with black and tan illustrations that are too static to give a real feeling for the strength and vigor of the actions being described.

R Beeler, Nelson Frederick and Branley,
6-9 Franklyn M. Experiments with a
Microscope; illus. by Anne Marie
Jauss. Crowell, 1957. 154p. \$2.75.

An interesting, informative discussion of the microscope, written especially for the reader who owns or can borrow one. Following an introductory section on the parts of a microscope and how the instrument works, the remainder of the book is primarily devoted to the kinds of materials that can be examined and how to prepare various kinds of mounts. The material begins with very simple mounts for the less expensive, less complicated instruments and develops to include directions for preparing and viewing oil emulsions and stained slides and to a discussion of photogramicography. An excellent volume for science collections or for the young microscopist's home collection.

M Bendick, Jeanne. What Could You See?
1-3 Adventures in Looking. Whittlesey
House, 1957. 32p. \$2.

A series of places or occupations that would seem exciting to children—a desert island, a forest, space, a weather station, prospector, farmer, hunter for a zoo, sea captain—are listed and the things that could be seen each place or in the course of each job described. At the end of each section the reader is told how he can see the same or similar objects within the limits of his own environment. The text might be used to stimulate a child's curiosity about and awareness of the world around him; the illustrations are of no value for identification of objects and not artistic enough to have appeal as decorations.

R Bettina. Pantaloni. Harper, 1957. 32p.

K-2 \$3.25.

Pantaloni is a small dog who got his name from the fact that he was given to Beppolino's father as part payment for a pair of pants. The story tells of the hilarious events of a day when Pantaloni disappears and, as he wanders along, becomes the subject of rumors that grow until he is being described as a marauding wolf who is terrifying the countryside. When Beppolino finds him, the "wolf" is sleeping in a small girl's doll carriage. An amusing story, beautifully illustrated in black-and-white and full-color pictures.

M Black, Irma (Simonton). Night Cat; pic-
K-1 tures by Paul Galdone. Holiday House,
1957. 31p. \$2.25.

The children think their cat, Mac, is lazy because he sleeps all day, but they do not know about his nocturnal activities, all of which are pictured here. A somewhat pedestrian text, and the illustrations are by no means Galdone's best work.

R Bothwell, Jean. Ring of Fate. Harcourt,
7-9 1957. 218p. \$3.

Azim Firoz Kahn was criticized by his family and friends alike for giving his granddaughter, Zeenat, too much freedom and too modern an education. He wanted her to be able to take over his lands and business holdings when he could no longer manage them, but even he felt that matters had gone too far when she defied him in regard to his marriage plans for her. All worked out well, however, when she fell in love with Hafiz Sayyid Uddin, grandson of an old friend of Azim's and the very man he had wanted her to marry. In spite of a straining of coincidence in the plot development this is a well-told story, with vividly realistic characterizations and an interesting picture of modern India.

Ad Brand, Oscar. Singing Holidays; The Cal-
4- endar in Folk Song; musical arrange-
ments by Douglas Townsend; illus. by
Roberta Moynihan. Knopf, 1957. 266p.
\$5.95.

A collection of ninety folk and composed songs appropriate for American holidays. Many of the songs are familiar ones, although they may be variations on the words and music known in different parts of the country. The songs and their arrangements are quite satisfactory for group or for family use. The accompanying text strains hard for humorous effects, perpetuates popular misconceptions and does little to help identify or explain the origins of the songs. The illustrations add little appeal to the book.

Ad Buehr, Walter. Harbors and Cargoes.
6-8 Putnam, 1955. 72p. \$2.50.

The story of the harbor: how it was developed

in early days, descriptions of conditions necessary for a good harbor and various types of harbors, how different types of craft move cargo from one harbor to another, the machinery and techniques used to stow cargo or lift it out of the hold, and the service ships which give help to harbor residents. The reader would need to know parts of a ship and understand their function before reading the book, but with such a background it is an adequate discussion for anyone interested in this topic.

Ad Carleton, Barbee Oliver. The Wonderful Cat of Cobbie Bean; illus. by Jacob Landau. Winston, 1957. 25p. \$2.

Amusing bit of fantasy set in Salem during the days of the witchcraft trials. Cobbie Bean had been given the gift of happiness at his birth, much to the distress of his uncles, Deacon Bean and Captain Bean, both of whom considered happiness a deadly sin. With the help of a witch-cat, Cobbie won wealth and fame, but used both to bring happiness to others. He was accused of witchcraft and was saved by the cat, who gave the last of its magic power to perform the act and thereafter was just an ordinary gray cat. The format suggests a picture book for young children, which is unfortunate since the style of writing and content are best suited to readers at the middle elementary level.

NR Case, Bernard. The Story of Houses. 4-7 Sterling, 1957. 48p. \$2.50.

Brief information about the different kinds of houses mankind has used throughout time and in all parts of the world. There are numerous over-simplifications and implied facts that are not wholly accurate: i.e., all Eskimos live in snow houses; houseboats are common to the United States only; covered wagons provided virtually non-stop travel across the plains. The whole tone of the book is directed less toward an understanding of how various types of building evolve because of their suitability to climate or a way of life than to an implication that all other people would envy the Americans their kinds of houses. The book is much less complete and less satisfactory a presentation than the Burns, A World Full of Homes (Whittlesey House, 1953).

R Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de. The Adventures of Don Quixote; tr. and abridged by Dominick Daly; illus. by Johannes Troyer. Macmillan, 1957. 256p. (Children's Classics) \$2.95.

An attractive edition of Don Quixote that has been abridged, but not re-written, for children. In his translation, Daly has retained the robust humor of the original, omitting some of the

earlier elements that are inappropriate for modern children who are unaccustomed to humor of this type in their reading. The illustrations are reminiscent of the famous engravings by Doré, although not of comparable quality.

Ad Chalmers, J. W. Red River Adventure; 7-9 The Story of the Selkirk Settlers; illus. by Lewis Parker. St. Martin's, 1957. 158p. (Great Stories of Canada) \$2.75.

An account of the struggle to establish a settlement in the Red River country of Canada in the early 1800's. The author attempts to be completely fair to both the settlers and the men of the North West Company who so bitterly and violently opposed them, although his sympathies are obviously with the colonists. The account brings the story up to modern times and the development of the small colony into the present city of Winnipeg. Interesting material presented in a rather stolid manner.

NR Cheney, Cora. Rumpus on Commodore Hill; illus. by Mary Stevens. Holt, 1957. 125p. \$2.25.

Slight mystery involving a Navy officer's family, recently transferred to a U. S. Naval Station from Japan. The mystery concerns a sum of money stolen from the Navy Exchange, and the children, naturally, solve it, to the enlightenment of the adults who are on the trail of the wrong man. Stilted, mediocre writing, forced attempts at humor, and stereotyped characters.

R Cleary, Beverly. Henry and the Paper Route; illus. by Louis Darling. Morrow, 1957. 192p. \$2.75.

Ten-year-old Henry Huggins, having decided to stop wasting his life on idle pastimes, settled on a paper route as a sensible and useful occupation. There were difficulties—not the least of them being that he was not eligible for a route until he was eleven and even then there was no assurance that a route would be available. Beezus's unpredictable little sister, Ramona, and four kittens that Henry bought at a rummage sale helped to further complicate matters, but Henry won through in the end. The story is told with the same humor and understanding of children that have made the other Henry Huggins stories favorites with many young readers.

NR Clement, Hal. The Ranger Boys in Space. 6-8 Page, 1956. 257p. \$2.75.

A dull attempt at science fiction, burdened with questionable science and an extremely slight plot. Dart and Bart Ranger, their friend Peter Ashburn, and a young spy, Tumble Tighe, are allowed to take part in the first space project. Their only qualification is that they are young

enough to adjust to the sensations of weightlessness in space. They show little evidence of common sense; they know almost nothing about mathematics, astronomy, or other useful sciences, even after a training period, and they are bored with the training itself because they cannot immediately blast off for the stars.

When Tumble becomes impatient and goes to the moon by himself, all four boys have ample opportunity to display their general ineptness. Unfortunately the writing closely matches that ineptness throughout.

R Clewes, Dorothy. The Runaway; illus. by Sofia Coward-McCann, 1957. 64p. \$2.50.

Penny did not want to leave her city home and move to a rural suburb, so when her mother told her to run away—meaning, go out and play—Penny took her literally and started back to the city. On her way she met the new milkman, the postman, eccentric Colonel Wm. Masters, and a young boy about her own age, all of whom were so friendly that she decided to postpone the running away for a while. An understanding picture of a child's reaction to a new situation.

Ad Clymer, Eleanor (Lowenton). Sociable Toby; pictures by Ingrid Fetz. Watts, 1956. 82p. \$2.50.

Toby, a black woolly dog, teaches Miss Emma that being "sociable" and "neighborly" is not so bad after all. Miss Emma brings Toby home to her old, respectable house from the pet store. Although she bought him for a watchdog, all Toby wants to do is play, and when his mistress proves to be unsociable, Toby escapes and makes friends with the neighbor children who live in the new housing development. He continues to escape and has to be brought home by the children who admire the interesting articles placed about Miss Emma's house but who are never encouraged to come farther than the front door. Then a big snow storm hits and the development project is without heat and lights. Miss Emma sprains her ankle and when she lets Toby out alone, he does a double rescue job. He finds someone to help Miss Emma and someone for Miss Emma to help. The story will have to be read to young children, but advanced third graders could handle the material adequately.

M Colby, Jean Poindexter. Jim, the Cat; 1-3 pictures by Marie C. Nichols. Little, 1957. 48p. \$2.50.

Jim was a scrawny, bedraggled kitten the day he appeared in the Holdens' garden. Lucy Holden, recovering from a long illness, immediately adopted him and insisted on his staying even though her father violently protested and even

threatened to shoot Jim. Mr. Holden's objections disappeared when Jim began to catch the rats that were annoying his thoroughbred puppies. A slight story, and Mr. Holden's reactions seem much more violent than the situations ever warrant.

M Doane, Pelagie. One Rainy Night. Oxford, K-1 1957. 32p. \$2.

Simple, rhymed story of a small girl's adventures one night when she climbs out the window in the rain and finds herself locked out. At first she is simply delighted with the rain, that follows a long dry spell, and before she can be really concerned about how she can get back in, her older sister and brother come after her. The story is told in rhymed text of a very uneven rhythm and much of its meaning would have to be explained to city children.

R Drury, Maxine Cole. George and the Long Rifle; decorations by Harve Stein. Longmans, 1957. 117p. \$2.50.

Twelve-year-old George Gray, the youngest of the seven Gray boys, feels inferior in the presence of his brothers because of his small size and his clumsiness. Only Silas, his oldest brother, tries to help him instead of always laughing at him. When Silas decides to leave the Connecticut farm and go to the newly opened territory of Ohio, George goes along, and at the new settlement learns for the first time that he is not naturally clumsy but has weak eyesight. An interesting picture of the period (1819) and of George's efforts to overcome his handicap.

SpC Dudley, Ruth Hubbell. My Hobby Is Collecting Sea Shells and Coral. Hart, 1955. 127p. \$2.95.

A highly technical book describing various genera and species within the four main groups of shells and sea animals: Mollusks, Echinoderms, Crustaceans, and Coelenterates. Each main group is carefully described and the distinguishing characteristics of the genus are given before the specific species are discussed. The book would be valuable to shell collectors, but is too confusing for wide general use. Pictures of the shells may be from one to five pages away from the description, and although the description is plain and distinct it is difficult to visualize the shells without a guiding diagram for an introduction. The latter chapters are excellent. They discuss: what tools are needed for shell hunting; how to plan trips for maximum efficiency; where to look for shells; how to clean and care for shells; how to buy and trade shells; how to start a shell club; and how to set up an aquarium and terrarium. Also included are lists of shell clubs, directories and journals, shell

dealers, major shell collections, valuable books on shells and a glossary of shell terms. The book is carefully indexed, both Latin and common names being listed. The book would be a useful handbook for anyone with a knowledge of shells and sea animals. It is not recommended for the beginner, since the material is more useful for cataloguing shells than it is for encouraging general interest in the hobby.

NR Emery, Anne. Married on Wednesday.
8-10 Macrae, 1957. 223p. \$2.75.

Kay Callender and Kenny Dixon meet at college where Kay is a freshman and Kenny a sophomore preparing for law school. They fall in love and, in spite of the disapproval of both sets of parents, marry. Kay's family are wealthy and want to do everything possible for the couple. Kenny's parents go to the opposite extreme and will not even help with Kenny's tuition unless he will promise to join his father's law firm, a promise that Kenny is unwilling to make. The struggles of the two as they try to live their own lives in the face of the over-protective attitude of the Callenders and the hostile attitude of the Dixons has some interesting aspects, although its effectiveness is seriously weakened by an over-simplification of the problems involved and occasional unclear reasoning. For example, Kenny's refusal to accept any help from his in-laws seems as unreasonable as their insistence on paying for everything; the attitude that real living comes only through suffering is arguable, and it apparently never occurs to the author or her characters that Kay and Kenny might have saved one hundred dollars each semester by simply giving up their sorority and fraternity memberships.

R Faulkner, Nancy. Sword of the Winds;
7-9 illus. by C. Walter Hodges. Double-
day, 1957. 213p. \$2.95.

Young Davey Nancarron, living in a village in Cornwall while his father was away at sea, dreamed of the day when someone would come who would be brave enough to find the place where King Arthur lay sleeping and to waken him in time to save England from the Spanish. That David himself might fulfill the ancient prophesy did not occur to him, but when the time came he it was who wielded Arthur's sword to rouse the storm that scattered the Spanish Armada. A well-told story of sixteenth century England.

NR Fitzgerald, Edward E. Champions in
Sport and Spirit; illus by De Wolfe
7-9 Hotchkiss. Farrar, 1956. 184p.
(Vision Books). \$1.95.

The story of Catholic athletes in the fields of

baseball, fighting, tennis, hockey, basketball and football. They are all pictured as extremely hard working, church-going folk who could not help but be great. The book could be used for a church library collection although the writing style is not overly inspired.

Ad Freeman, Don. Fly High, Fly Low.
K-1 Viking, 1957. 56p. \$3.

The story of a gray pigeon and a white dove who build a nest in the letter B of a large hotel sign. When the sign is taken down the birds are momentarily dismayed until they discover that it has been used as part of a new Bakery sign. The illustrations are almost breath-taking in their color and sweep as they give a bird's eye view of San Francisco. Unhappily the story plods along, bogged down by awkward writing that is in no way comparable to the superb quality of the pictures.

NR Furman, Abraham Louis, ed. Everygirls
7-9 Sports Stories. Lantern Press,
1956. 221p. \$2.50.

A collection of slight stories about boys and girls participating in various sports. Written in a pedestrian style with poor illustrations.

Ad Green, Roger Lancelyn, ed. The Book
1-9 of Nonsense; with four colour plates
by Charles Folkard and many con-
temporary illustrations in the text.
Dutton, 1956. 266p. (Children's Il-
lustrated Classics). \$3.25.

A collection of nonsense rhymes and verses by authors ranging from Lucilius to Shakespeare and Samuel Johnson, and of course including Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear. Some of the selections are quite delightful. The collection includes outlandish lyrics and letters from Wonderland by Carroll; nonsense songs and limericks by Lear, the English Struwwelpeter; nursery rhymes; strange songs and poems; adventures of Baron Munchausen and nonsense nuggets.

NR Greene, Carla. I Want To Be a Nurse;
1-2 illus. by Becky and Evans Krehbiel.
Childrens Press, 1957. 32p. \$2.

Jane and Jack are concerned over Jane's doll that is ill, so Jane consults Miss Baker, a nurse next door, about how to care for it. Miss Baker then explains the basic learnings involved in nurses' training. Simply written (upper first grade reading level), but uninspired text and mediocre illustrations.

SpC Grimm, Jakob Ludwig Karl. The Fisher-
4-6 man and His Wife; illus. by Made-
leine Gekiere. Pantheon, 1957.

32p. \$2.50.

A retelling of a familiar Grimm story of the fisherman and his greedy wife whose unreasonable demands take the two of them to the height of power and back to the pigsty in which they started. The illustrations are almost wholly adult in their conception, and make this more a volume for special art collections than for use with children. Line and color are skillfully used to trace the change in fortune of the couple and the growing irritation of the fish as the wife's demands become increasingly unreasonable. For young children much of the fantasy is lost by having the fish pictured as a flounder throughout, with no suggestion that he is really a prince in disguise.

R Guilfoile, Elizabeth. Nobody Listens to Andrew; illus. by Mary Stevens. Follett, 1957. 27p. (A Beginning-To-Read Book). 96¢

Andrew tries to tell each member of his family and a neighbor what he saw in his bed but each one is too busy to learn. Only when Andrew screams out that he saw a bear do they pay attention. Not great writing, but an amusing story that can be read independently at an upper first grade and beginning second grade reading level.

SpR Guillot, René. The Elephants of Sargabal; 6-8 tr. by Gwen Marsh; illus. by Felix Hoffmann. Criterion Books, 1957. 170p. \$3.25.

A semi-fanciful tale of India and of two orphan boys, one a dreamer and the other a practical leader, who combine their talents to save the life of the Princess Narayana when her enemies try to kill her. The story has a mystical, dream-like quality that will be appreciated by only a few readers, but for them it should have much the same appeal as Kipling's Kim or the stories of Mukerji.

M Heinlein, Robert Anson. Citizen of the Galaxy. Scribner, 1957. 302p. \$2.95.

Thorby, a waif and a slave with no known background, is bought by the beggar, Baslim the Cripple. He soon realizes that Baslim is no ordinary beggar but does not realize the full extent of his work until after Baslim has died and Thorby, following his instructions, is aboard the Freetrader ship, Sisu. From there he journeys to Earth where his real identity is disclosed and he learns that he is the long lost heir to a vast business enterprise. The new life brings added problems as he uncovers the work of unscrupulous men who have engaged the company in the slave trade. In many ways

this is one of Heinlein's least successful books. The conversations are stilted, the characters are fairly predictable types and the plot is developed at too head-long a pace, with too many extraneous elements introduced. All in all this seems more "Graustark" than Heinlein.

M Hogeboom, Amy. Audubon and His Sons; 7-9 illus. with prints by John James Audubon, John Woodhouse Audubon, and others; supplemented with drawings by Paul Galdone. Lothrop, 1956. 210p. \$3.

A rather prosy biography of John James Audubon, in which it is difficult to follow the passage of years since scarcely any dates are given. Failing as a business man because of his artistic urges, Audubon decided to make art his career and spent many years tramping the fields and woods of eastern America, gun and sketchbook in hand. Then he spent years in Europe before he was able to get his Birds of America published. During all this time his wife, Lucy, and his sons, John and Victor, were unfailingly enthusiastic and helpful. Audubon's life itself was a fascinating one and this book has apparently been taken largely from his own writings. Unfortunately much of the interest is lost through rather pedestrian writing and jerky narrative. Audubon emerges as a likable man and a true artist, but real insight into his character or times is lacking. This is not an outstanding biography and its greatest appeal will come through the examples of Audubon's work and the work of his son that are reproduced throughout. Rourke's Audubon (Harcourt, 1936) is still one of the best biographies of the man available for this age reader.

M Holt, Stephen. We Were There with the California Forty-Niners; historical consultant: Oscar Lewis; illus. by Raymond Lufkin. Grossett, 1956. 175p. \$1.95.

A fictionalized account of the California gold rush as seen through the eyes of Carlos and Carlotta Rivera, fourteen-year-old twins. Written in a pedestrian style, the book seeks to tell of the hardships and failures suffered by the gold-seekers. The heroes ultimately find a "strike" and have enough money to save their ranch by building irrigation ditches. Some of the illustrations are inconsistent with the text, showing three men when there were only two: Carlos and his partner, John Steyer. The book could be used for a picture of the gold rush, but will not appeal to general interest because of its pedestrian style and stilted conversations.

NR Jordan, Philip D. Fiddlefoot Jones of the North Woods; illus. by Hans Helweg. Vanguard, 1957. 209p. \$3.

A story quite obviously based on the author's own remembrance of tales told to him by a backwoodsman. Kit and Sandy Duncan go, with their father, to the north woods of Minnesota one fall to visit an old guide, known variously as Fiddlefoot or as Plum Nelly Jones. The boys are brought in merely as an excuse for Jones to tell a sequence of fairly typically north woods tall tales, and their presence is more of a hindrance than a help to the enjoyment of the tales. The boys are presumably in their early teens, but their actions and conversations are those of eight or nine year olds. Plum Nelly's stories probably had considerable humor and appeal when the author first heard them, in the woods over a camp fire, but they have lost much in the transition to print.

R Kannik, Preben. The Flag Book; illus. All in color by Wilhelm Petersen. Ages Barrows, 1957. 196p. \$3.50.

A useful reference work containing 860 illustrations, in color, of the present day flags used throughout the world, outstanding coats of arms, and some historical flags. A final section contains directions for the proper use and display of the flag on all occasions.

Ad Koningsberger, Hans. The Golden Keys; A Dutch Boy Sails for the Indies; illus. by John Gretzer. Rand McNally, 1956. 224p. \$2.75.

The fictionalized account of two voyages of exploration made by Dutch captains in the 16th and 17th centuries. Gerrit de Veer, a young boy, is the hero of the two voyages and because he was interested in navigation and map-making, he kept charts of his travels and undoubtedly added much to the information held by the cartographers of that time. One voyage, of which de Veer was actually a member, explored and named the Barents Sea. The other sailed around the world, making an important stop in the Indies. It is from de Veer's diary that the author draws much of his inspiration for the story of the first voyage. The second is a typical voyage around the world in the time of sailing ships, with the usual dangers arising from disease, capture by Spanish ships, and loss of ships in storms. Not an outstanding piece of writing, but the story could be used if early voyages were being studied or were of especial interest.

M Kramer, Caroline, ed. Read-Aloud Nursery Tales; illus. by Phoebe Erickson. Random House, 1957.

64p. \$1.

Eleven traditional nursery tales retold in acceptable, although by no means outstanding versions. The illustrations are of very average quality.

NR Kroll, Harry Harrison. My Heart's in the Hills. Westminster, 1956. 188p. \$2.75.

A second story of Barbara Estwicke (Summer Gold) and her girls' camp in the mountains of North Carolina. Most of the action this time takes place during the fall and winter. Barbara returns to college, but flunks out because she is devoting all her time and thought to enlarging her camp. In spite of all her noble statements the first year about wanting to make her camp available to girls of moderate income brackets, she now has decided to increase the price, on the theory that the higher the cost the better the "quality" of the girls she will get. Her romance with Bill McFee is brought in again, and after much indecision she agrees to marry him. There is also another conflict with the local banker—this time over the site of a new highway—and again Barbara wins. The story has all the weaknesses of the first book in the superficiality of characterizations, stilted, cliché-ridden dialog, strained attempts at humor and a condescending attitude toward the mountain people.

Ad Leaf, Munro. Three Promises to You. 6-8 Lippincott, 1957. 48p. \$2.

A simplified explanation of the three basic principles on which the U.N. is founded: 1) no war; 2) fair treatment for all human beings, and 3) better living for everybody by sharing what we know. In his usual cartoon drawings and brief text, the author deals with each principle in turn. Although the style and format suggest a book for very young children, the ideas dealt with are most easily handled at the upper elementary or junior high school level. The brevity and over-simplification of the material will necessitate further explanation by an adult for complete understanding.

NR Mary Julita, Sister. The Poor Little Rich Man; pictures by Sister M. Jo John Vianney. Bruce, 1956. 26p. (Christian Child's Stories). 50¢.

Fictionalized, excessively sentimental version of the life of St. Francis of Assisi. The writing is wholly lacking in literary quality and the illustrations are coy and without strength or beauty.

Ad Niehuis, Charles C. Trapping the Silver Beaver; illus. by Chris Kenyon.

Dodd, 1956. 208p. \$3.

The story of Webb Dodge, a boy of the Colorado River Slough who had learned no respect for the law from his poacher uncle, and of his struggle with himself to understand and accept the rules of conservation and legal trapping. Webb was paroled to the game ranger because he was too young to be tried for poaching as an adult, and he accepted the job of trapping beavers for the state conservation department. When he was approached by private trappers who wanted him to sell the pelts to them, Webb felt again the conflict within himself as his old habits of thinking struggled with the newly acquired ideas of what was right and wrong. He and his Labrador Retriever survived the ultimate conflict as he captured one of the contrabanders and saved some stolen beaver pelts, and Webb's reward was a chance to get the education he so greatly desired. In spite of its typed characterizations, this is an interesting story of what can be done to help a delinquent boy make an adequate adjustment to life as well as a vivid picture of wild life in the Slough.

Ad Skelton, Peter, ed. Animals All; fore-
7-12 word by "Elephant Bill." Day,
1956. 253p. \$3.75.

An extremely interesting collection of animal stories, many of them excerpts from longer works by well-known authors. In only one story is a person the main character; the others feature animals only: wolves, dogs, cats, elephants, falcons, squirrels. Each story is told with real understanding of animal life and a sense of adventure. Anyone at all interested in animals will greatly enjoy this collection.

NR Small, William. Mary Jane Ellen
K-2 McCling; design by Mary Gehr.
Whitman, 1956. 32p. \$2.

A poetic narrative about a little girl with a passion for collecting string. She might have had the biggest ball of string in the world if Bobby B. Brown had not become lost in the woods. Although the fathers of the town could not find Bobby, Mary Jane Ellen goes right to him, leaving a trail of string. Mary Jane returns home in triumph. It is suggested that if the reader has nothing to do, he might start collecting string too. The rhythm of the poem is very uneven and the author strains at times to make it rhyme. Several ideas expressed are unrealistic. The illustrations combine splashes of color which do little to add to the appeal of the book.

NR Stevenson, Augusta. The Telegraph

4-6 Boy; illus. by Harold Minton.
Broadman, 1956. 183p. \$1.50.

The childhood story of Edgar Young Mullins who grew up to be president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Edgar's early life was filled with hunting, working and studying. As a telegraph operator he achieved success and earned enough money to pay for his college and seminary training. The book is so poorly written, with stilted conversations, that although Edgar had some interesting experiences, the story will have little appeal to children.

Ad Thompson, Jean McKee, comp. Poems
K-3 to Grow On; designed and illus. by
Gobin Stair. Beacon Press, 1957.
112p. \$3.50.

An attractive anthology of verse for young children, chosen to heighten the child's awareness of the world around him. The selections are, for the most part, taken from the works of writers for children, although a few adult poems are included. The line drawings give added appeal to the volume. All but 59 of the 150 poems are indexed in Brewton. The format makes this a book to use with children rather than one for children to use alone.

R Verne, Jules, A Journey to the Center of
7-12 the Earth; newly tr. into English by
Willis T. Bradley. Wyn, 1956. 256p.
\$2.95.

A good translation of Jules Verne's classic. The story of the descent into the center of the earth by Uncle Otto, Axel, and their guide is as surprisingly constructed as it is fascinating. Jules Verne predicted various inventions in his other works, and presents a surprising theory of the earth's structure and a great knowledge of the geological nature of rocks in this novel. Anyone who enjoys science fiction will be delighted with this book and anyone familiar with Verne's other works will not be disappointed.

M Watson, Jane (Werner). Wonders of
K-1 Nature; pictures by Eloise Wilkin.
Simon and Schuster, 1957. 24p.
(A Little Golden Book). 25¢.

A simple introduction to some of the familiar aspects of nature presented through brief text and sentimental illustrations. Some of the phenomena will need more detailed and clearer explanations than those given here and some of the subjects introduced are too remote from the ordinary experiences of young children to have much meaning, but parts of the book might be used to give a child an awareness of the world around him.