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*Bulletin*  
*of*  
*the*  
*Center*  
*for*  
*Children's*  
*Books*

*June 1962 • Vol. XV • No. 10*



## EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- 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.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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# Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

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Volume XV

June, 1962

Number 10

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

- R 7- American Heritage Magazine. Steamboats on the Mississippi; by the editors of American Heritage Magazine; narrative by Ralph K. Andrist; in consultation with C. Bradford Mitchell. American Heritage, 1962. 153p. illus. (American Heritage Junior Library Series). Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

There is little that has not already been said in the widespread recognition of, and appreciation of, this excellent series. Handsome, useful, and carefully edited, the books retain a remarkably high standard. This volume treats of a frequently romanticized subject most matter-of-factly; the organization and the writing style are good. The reproductions of prints and photographs of the period are interesting; this volume does not have a listing of pictorial sources with page references as the others do. A list of suggestions for further reading and an index are appended.

- Ad 4-6 Anckarsvärd, Karin. Bonifacius the Green; tr. by C. M. Anckarsvärd and K. H. Beales; illus. by Ingrid Rosell. Abelard-Schuman, 1962. 96p. \$2.50. First published in Sweden in 1952 under the title Bonifacius den Gröne, a fanciful story about an oversize lizard with a heart of gold. Bonifacius taught eight-year-old John Peter to swim and helped little Britta gain status by giving her clothes to replace the dowdy garments her guardian had furnished. One of the delightful characters in the story is Little Bonnie, the obstreperous and precocious son of Bonifacius; his parents are divided between embarrassment and pride in his imaginative and mischievous ploys. There are points in the story at which the fantasy seems a bit labored, but this is mitigated by the humor of incidents; the writing style has an easy lightness and a bland quality that make the extravagances of plot the more effective.

- Ad 1-2 Anderson, Clarence William. Lonesome Little Colt. Macmillan, 1961. 46p. illus. \$3.25.

A slight and rather sentimental story for beginning readers, with softly executed and realistic illustrations. All the ponies on the farm had their own colts and would have nothing to do with the lonesome little colt that had lost its mother. Two children saw that the colt was lonesome and played with him; then the children's father brought a pony who had lost her colt, so the colt had a foster mother. The story is weakened by a few phrases that impute to a colt emotions that are human; for example, "It made the colt very happy to know that his mother was always thinking of him."

- R 4-6 Artzybasheff, Boris. Seven Simeons; A Russian Tale; retold and illus. by Boris Artzybasheff. Viking, 1961. 28p. \$3.50.

First published in 1937 and now reissued from new plates, a retelling of a Russian folktale. The illustrations are intricate and delicate, with some pages having ornamental designs in the handsome, wide margins. The style of retelling is good, although the text seems a bit extended by dialogue.

M Bate, Norman. What a Wonderful Machine Is the Submarine. Scribner, 1961.  
3-4 28p. illus. \$2.75.

A book that is unfortunately confusing in the arrangement of material, making it difficult to read independently; if used as a read-aloud book for younger children, the text again seems confusing. Mr. Bates describes the voyage of an atomic submarine chiefly by having it observed by marine creatures: the sea gulls cry out in alarm when the machine disappears beneath the surface, and the ship's progress is watched by a whale, a porpoise, and a sea-turtle. Some of the text, in fact, describes the actions of these animals as they are pursued by a shark, and does not refer to the submarine at all. An additional distraction is the introduction of some historical material (in italics) about the development of submarines. Perhaps the chief weakness of the book is that it really gives very little information about atomic submarines—what it does give is a quite evocative sense of the life that is going on in the silent depths where the submarine is moving.

Ad Bendick, Jeanne. Lightning; written and illus. by Jeanne Bendick. Rand  
3-5 McNally, 1961. 61p. \$2.75.

Scientifically accurate and simply explained; the author tends, however, to digress somewhat while dealing with a subject that necessitates several ancillary explanations. For example, in discussing the fact that lightning happens so fast that we can't really see it, Mrs. Bendick must refer to the retention of retinal impressions—which she does in appropriately simple terms. The unnecessary digression is in the stories about lightning and especially in the opening of the text, which begins, "Are you afraid of lightning? Do you shake and shiver when the thunder claps over your head?"

Ad Benedict, Dorothy Potter. Fabulous; illus. by Joseph Papin. Pantheon Books,  
5-7 1961. 220p. \$3.

A sequel to Pagan the Black. Mistie Seaton's foal, Fabulous, is just what she hoped to have—a Pony of the Americas. Adopted by the Seatons, Mistie and her brother are fifteen and are boarding in town while they go to high school; on her visits home, Mistie trains Fabulous for a horse show, but shows his mother instead, because Fabulous has been mysteriously kicked and disabled. At the close of the book, Sunrise is going to have a foal by Pagan, who has gone off to the freedom of wild life. The book spans two years, but there is little description of school life, most of the story being concerned with happenings at the ranch. A good book for the lover of horse stories, but rather heavy on minute details of breeding and training for the general reader.

R Bleeker, Sonia. The Sioux Indians; Hunters and Warriors of the Plains; illus.  
4-6 by Kisa Sasaki. Morrow, 1962. 160p. \$2.75.

Another excellent volume in this author's series of books about Indian tribes. The writing is straightforward and the material well-organized, with good background information given in the first chapter. The description of aspects of the Sioux culture is balanced, but emphasizes the importance of the buffalo because of the tribe's dependence on the buffalo for food, clothing, and other uses. The author's attitude is sympathetic, although the writing is not dramatic; the last chapters of the book, are, however, poignant because of the events themselves: the Sioux, once proud and prosperous, now crowded into reservations, unhappy and defeated. The treatment of the Indians by the United States agencies is discussed candidly. The appended index stars entries to denote illustrations.

R Bonzon, Paul-Jacques. The Orphans of Simitra; tr. from the French by Thelma  
5-7 Niklaus; illus. by Simon Jeruchim. Criterion Books, 1962. \$3.50.

First published in France in 1955 under the title Les Orphelins de Simitra, the story of a brother and sister who lose their parents and an older brother when an earth-

quake destroys the small Grecian town in which they live. Sent to live with a Dutch family, the two dream of returning to Greece; Porphyras, who is thirteen, accepts the fact that he cannot return at once, but small Marina, desolate, disappears. Refusing to believe that she is dead, Porphyras hitch-hikes to the warmth of southern France, stopping to work for a period in Paris. Eventually Marina turns up in Norway, having temporarily lost her memory as the result of a blow on the head; the two are happily reunited. While the plot seems rather involved, the characters are quite believable and consistent; the opening chapters are particularly evocative in their background, and there are several very perceptively written passages. One of the finest of these occurs when Porphyras is accused bitterly by another orphaned Greek of being forgetful of the past, and he thinks of the fact that it is possible to laugh and yet to miss loved ones, that one must keep a zest for life.

R Bothwell, Jean. The First Book of Pakistan; illus. with photographs and maps. 5-7 Watts, 1962. 61p. \$1.95.

A crisp and straightforward survey of Pakistan, balanced in coverage but not intensive in examination of any aspect of Pakistan's history or present status. The photographic reproduction is excellent, but many of the photographs are poorly placed in relation to the text. A map and an index are included. The writing is more dignified here than in the Laschever book on Pakistan, also reviewed in this issue.

NR Bowen, Robert Sidney. Million-Dollar Rookie. Lothrop, 1961. 189p. \$3. 6-8

A formula baseball story, in which the son of a millionaire is taken on by a major league team—but under an assumed name. Teddy, who had been a college sports star, was so good that the other team members resented him, sneered at him, then ignored him. When Teddy's true identity was discovered, he was even more resented; then he was given one friendly gesture from a team-mate and went on to save the game, the day, the career, etc. Except for the details of games, the book has little to offer; the characters are as patterned as the plot.

M Brooks, Anita. The Picture Book of Fisheries. Day, 1961. 96p. illus. (Picture Aids to World Geography Series). Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.29 net.

One or two photographs on each page, accompanied by a brief amount of text—sometimes one line, at the most a fourth of the page space. The result is that the book reads like an encyclopedia volume, except that it is more repetitive. The photographs are good, although not all of them are informative; the writing is quite dull. The book will have some use as supplementary curricular material, but the dry quality, repetition, loose organization, and a certain amount of text that seems contrived just to fit a photograph are limiting factors. An index is appended.

R Burton, Virginia Lee. Life Story. Houghton, 1962. 70p. illus. Trade ed. \$5; 4-6 Library ed. \$4.23 net.

An unusual presentation of the evolution of the earth and the seasons of the year; facing each page of text is a striking illustration framed by a proscenium arch, complete with footlights, curtain, and placard announcing act and scene numbers. The prologue introduces the galaxy, the solar system, and rock formations; Acts I-IV the paleozoic, mesozoic, cenozoic, and recent eras; Act V, which seems a bit long, the seasons and the times of day. The text is both lucid and lyrical. The format is really too juvenile for the child who can read the book independently, yet the author has created a book that is excellent for reading aloud to younger children and one that they can profitably look at many times over. Because of the clarity of the text, the book will also be useful for older students.

R Carr, Luella Bender. A Way to California; illus. by Don Lambo. World, 1961.  
4-7 172p. \$2.95.

A good story for girls, set in Nebraska in the 1850's. Miranda Fleet had been left with her aunt and uncle until her father could send for her; watching the wagon trains go by, Miranda dreamed of making her own way to California. Twice she tried to stow away on a train and was caught, twice she had to come back to stern Aunt Liz and her whining little cousin Tessie. Miranda gained from experience, however; on the third attempt, helped by a letter and money from her father, she joined a wagon train and was at last California-bound. The details of the period and the prairie community are vivid and consistent; characterization is good, and the plot has suspense and pace.

M Chauncy, Nan. The Secret Friends; illus. by Brian Wildsmith. Watts, 1962.  
5-7 180p. \$2.95.

An unusual setting for a time-displacement fantasy. Lexie meets an aborigine from a secret community and the two become fast friends; later Lexie—after rescuing her brother from near-disaster at the site of the tribal camp—realizes that she has re-lived a relationship held by her aunt with a long-dead native playmate. The ending is anticlimactic and over-extended, but the portion of the book that describes the culture of the aborigines and the friendship of Lexie and Merinna is absorbing. The writing style is highly fragmented and rather difficult, in places, to follow. It is unfortunate that—for the greater part of the story—Lexie is only eight, since the difficulties of style and vocabulary demand older readers.

M Colby, Carroll Burleigh. Night People. Coward-McCann, 1961. 48p. illus.  
3-5 Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.52 net.

A book that may stimulate discussion, but has little usefulness otherwise; most of the page space is used for photographs. These are of good quality technically, but not all of them are informative. Four lines of text are accorded each topic; the arrangement of material seems random. The subjects of the book are the people who work at night: truck drivers, nurses, policemen, television crews, etc.

Ad Daveluy, Paule. Summer in Ville-Marie; tr. from the French by Monroe  
7-9 Stearns. Holt, 1962. 142p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.07 net.

A junior novel that won the 1960 award (as the best French children's book of the year) from the Canadian Library Association. Not a formula plot, but quite sentimental in writing style; interesting to see, in the setting, the differences as well as the similarities of American and French Canadian customs. Rosanne, sixteen, is spending the summer with her cousins; she falls in love with a young man who courts her, rejecting her cousin and best friend, Colette. Rosanne is miserable when she in turn is rejected for a new love; in a fairly patterned ending, Rosanne adjusts to her loss and, in the last two pages, she meets another young man, with whom "she was to spend her life . . . but that is another story."

R De Jong, Dola. The House on Charlton Street; illus. by Gilbert Riswold.  
4-7 Scribner, 1962. 157p. \$2.95.

A very good family story and a good middle-grades mystery story. Moving from their Greenwich village apartment to an old house, the five Bartletts are intrigued to learn of mysterious former owners. Bit by bit they piece together the clues and reach a solution and a treasure. The explanation of the treasure, and of the feud of the family to which it belonged, is just a bit pat, but not past the bounds of credibility. The mystery is, however, less exciting than the Bartlett family itself. Miss de Jong has created some very convincing and individual characters; familial relationships are warm and realistic, and the grandmother—especially in her somewhat caustic relations with her daughter, Mrs. Bartlett—is a delight. Somewhat reminis-

cent of the Melendy family, the Bartletts are urban, middle class, and moderately intellectual; Mother runs a weaving studio, Grandma teaches recorder in Boston, sixteen-year-old John is studying oboe at the New York School of Music and Art.

M Epstein, Samuel. The First Book of Washington, D.C.; The Nation's Capital; 4-6 by Sam and Beryl Epstein; illus. with photographs. Watts, 1961. 80p. \$1.95.

A book that gives a considerable amount of information about Washington but is so weakened by the rambling arrangement of the continuous text that its value is diminished. This is all the more regrettable because the authors have a pleasant, light style and they have included many odd and interesting bits of information. Photographs are clear, but not always well-placed; an index is appended.

M Ericsson, Mary Kentra. About Glasses for Gladys; illus. by Pauline Batchelder Adams. Melmont, 1962. 31p. \$2.50.

A book that describes the school screening test and the details of a subsequent eye examination by an optometrist. Useful information, and probably of interest to small readers who wear eyeglasses or who need them. However, the writing is dull; the school nurse and the doctor are the stereotyped kindly figures; and the ending of the book is very weak. When Gladys gets her glasses she can read a menu, wins at jump-rope, is complimented by her friends on the pretty pink glasses, does her homework in half the time and therefore has time to watch television, and doesn't have a headache as she so often had in the past. All this on the first day: it may be concluded that if her sight had been that impaired, it should have been checked sooner and not been picked up in a routine classroom examination.

M Fribourg, Marjorie G. Patrol Boy; illus. by Audrey Preissler. Luce, 1962. 3-5 96p. \$3.

Billy Browning joins the school safety patrol squad, and finds that the corner to which he has been assigned isn't as quiet and dull as he'd thought it would be. He gains confidence and judgment, and the next year he is elected captain of the patrol. The book has useful information and realistic episodes; it moves with little pace, however, and the episodic treatment with no story-line stresses the purposive quality of the book to the probable detriment of reader interest.

R Gidal, Sonia. My Village in Spain; by Sonia and Tim Gidal. Pantheon Books, 4-7 1962. 82p. illus. \$3.50.

An interesting addition to an excellent series; here Antonio Cantador describes his family, his village and some of its people, and—as in the other volumes in the series—through various conversational devices, some of the national history. Photographs are good; the text is focused on a trip to Cordoba to see a bullfight; this is Antonio's first bullfight, and he now understands why his father does not approve of them.

Ad Goudey, Alice E. Sunnyvale Fair; illus. by Paul Galdone. Scribner, 1962. 2-3 59p. \$2.95.

Mark was sure that his dog, Archie, would win a blue ribbon at the Fair—although he wasn't sure in which classification. Everybody in Sunnyvale was busy planning an exhibit: Miss Robins made jelly, Jane and June groomed their pony, Billy made a birdhouse. Some of them won blue ribbons, some did not; Mark's Archie didn't win a ribbon at the pet show, but he was awarded a medal by the Mayor some time later, because he bravely stopped the angry bull that had gotten loose and frightened people at the fair. A rather slight vehicle, extended by an inclusion of many characters, so that the story seems diffuse. There is little humor, and the several hints of a love story seem irrelevant for this level of reader. Although there is nothing objectionable at all in the story, it is blandly weak; the writing does not compare favor-

ably with the author's fine work in writing non-fiction informational books.

Ad Greene, Carla. What Do They Do? Policemen and Firemen; pictures by  
1-2 Leonard Kessler. Harper, 1962. 64p. (I Can Read Books). Trade ed.  
\$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

The first part of this book for beginning independent readers discusses policemen, the second part, firemen. The text describes the kinds of jobs these men do, and each of the sections closes with a reminder to the reader that these men are friends and will help you. There is little that is unusual in the information provided, but the book will be useful for additional material for beginning readers, especially to supplement classroom discussion on community life.

R Guillaume, Jeanette. Amat and the Water Buffalo; by Jeanette Guillaume and  
K-2 Mary Lee Bachmann; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Coward-McCann, 1962. 48p.  
Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.68 net.

A gentle and pleasant story about a small Indonesian boy who wanted—almost as much as he wanted to be big enough to go to school—to ride a water buffalo. His family didn't think he was big enough, but one day the farmer nearby let Amat ride his buffalo; when he told his parents that night, they decided that a boy that big was old enough to go to school. Amat's desire to be big, and the attitudes of his parents and brothers have the appeal of universality; additional values of the story are the warm relationships and the fact that the family depicted is middle-class. The latter fact is a refreshing change from the more usual presentation in fiction at this level of lower-economic Asian backgrounds.

NR Harmon, Harry. Picasso for Children. Bridgehead Books, 1962. 79p. illus.  
5-6 \$5.95.

The reproductions of Picasso's paintings (chiefly in black and white) are the only contribution of this book. The first half of the book gives the body of the text; the second half comprises reproductions, with comments by the author on the facing pages. The writing is very poor: fictionalized anecdotes about Picasso's first nine years are mingled in quite random fashion with philosophizing and with arbitrary remarks on theology, history, and the nature of artists and art. The book is neither good art appreciation, good biography, nor adequate in its style of writing.

Ad Hiser, Iona Seibert. From Scales to Fancy Feathers; illus. by Anne Marie  
6-9 Jauss. Rand McNally, 1962. 136p. \$3.50.

An informal and rather rambling book about birds, written with an affection that makes this a good introduction for the reader who is not a bird-watcher. For the reader who is already interested in birds, there are enough details gleaned from observation to make the book have some value. Not intended as an identification book, the text is devoted chiefly to those birds seen by the author in Arizona; the first chapters give some background of evolution, classification, and bird habits. The illustrations are chiefly in black and white, and are adequate for the most part, although there are a few drawings that are not consistent with the text: for example, the pyrrhuloxia is described as being "a lovely warm-gray color" with red on breast, tail, wings, and crest, but the illustration shows a pinkish bird. Appended are a list of bird sanctuaries, a list of books for additional reading, and an index that gives scientific names.

R Hofsinde, Robert. The Indian and the Buffalo; written and illus. by Robert  
4-7 Hofsinde. Morrow, 1961. 96p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.78 net.  
Another in this author's series of books about aspects of Indian culture (Indian Sign Language, Indian Beadwork, The Indian and His Horse, etc.). The writing is direct and simple, the illustrations are adequate for instructional purposes. There is no

index, but the organization of material obviates the need for one. Chapters deal with such topics as hunting methods, uses of buffalo as food or tools, uses as robes or rawhide, and an especially interesting comparison of buffalo dances in several different tribes.

R Hollander, John, ed. The Wind and the Rain; An Anthology of Poems for Young  
7- People; edited and with an introduction by John Hollander and Harold  
Bloom. Doubleday, 1961. 255p. \$3.50.

An anthology compiled by two professors of English, with poems from the fourteenth century through the nineteenth; there is some material from the twentieth century, but no contemporary poetry. The book is divided into five sections: one of poems about wind and rain, the other four about the seasons. Each section is subdivided into topics; some American poets are included, but the selections are chiefly from English poets. The poems have been chosen with discrimination, and the book should serve excellently as an introduction or should stand alone as a collection for the poetry lover. The introduction gives an excellent background, discussing the nature of poetry. An index of first lines and an author-title index are appended.

R Isenstein, Harald. Creative Claywork. Sterling, 1960. 96p. illus. \$2.95.  
7-

Translated from the Danish, and first published in 1955, a good book for the beginner in claywork. The material is well organized: basic information first, then special techniques, then—in order of increasing complexity—special problems. Illustrative drawings are adequate; photographs are excellent. The author writes in a simple and straightforward style; while his instructions on procedure are specific, he consistently encourages the reader to be imaginative.

R Johnson, Gerald White. The Presidency; illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher.  
5-8 Morrow, 1962. 128p. \$2.95.

Candid, informal, informative. The illustrations are effective, although they are almost too stark; the writing is lucid and lively. Mr. Johnson describes the tasks that the President now has, the changes in the presidential role and powers, and relationships between the presidency and other parts of the governmental and political structure. He discusses the men who have been considered strong presidents, an especially interesting section because the man is always seen against the events and needs of the period. A list of presidents and the years of their terms of office is appended, as is an extensive index.

Ad Jonas, Arthur. New Ways in Math; illus. by Alike. Prentice-Hall, 1962. 70p.  
4-7 \$2.95.

A good presentation of recent mathematical concepts, with illustrations that are both attractive and helpful. The author discusses briefly the older numerical systems, including the decimal system, then goes on to explain such concepts as the binary system, computer programming, probability, sets, etc. For the most part, the text is very clearly written; there is some imbalance of treatment and there are one or two very superficial forays into topics like geometry or famous mathematicians—only five men being described. The discussion of binary numbers is rather lengthy, the discussion of sets very brief and there is no explanation of the use of sets. A glossary and an index, neither of which is very extensive, are appended.

M Justus, May. Winds A'Blowing; illus. by Jean Tamburine. Abingdon, 1961.  
K-2 80p. \$2.50.

A collection of poems, many of which have been previously published. The metre and rhyme are good, but the material in many of the selections is hackneyed and the treatment is frequently coy. Some of the poems have humor, however, and there is

an occasional flash of fresh imagery.

R Kahn, Roger. Inside Big League Baseball. Macmillan, 1962. 98p. illus.  
7- Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.75 net.

A book that will enthrall the baseball fan: informal, informative, and written with style and humor. Mr. Kahn really does give an inside picture, replete with anecdotes, tips on fine points of the game, and some good descriptions of actual play. Some of the chapters of the book describe the training of a rookie, the travel patterns of a big-league team, the race for the pennant, the series, and spring training.

R Kumin, Maxine W. Mittens in May; illus. by Elliott Gilbert. Putnam, 1962.  
1-3 42p. (See and Read Storybooks). Trade ed. \$2; Library ed. \$2.19 net.  
For beginning independent readers, the story of a small boy who missed his absent father. Peter's father had sent some mittens from France, and it made Peter feel better when he wore them. His mother and his teacher were most understanding about it, so Peter still had mittens on in May—except for such activities as hand-washing or writing. The children teased him, but Peter was adamant—until he forgot the mittens while caring for a baby crow; he found it was a relief to use his fingers again for all tasks. The message of the story is not obtrusive, the development is realistic, and the experience of clinging to an object that gives solace is one with which most children can identify sympathetically.

Ad Kunhardt, Dorothy. Gas Station Gus; pictures by Janina Domanska. Harper, K-2  
1962. 64p. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

A read-aloud story that is a bit slow-moving, but has a gentle quality that is nicely suited to the character of Gus. Gus tries hard to make conversation with his customers, but they are all in a hurry and busy with their own concerns. Then a kindred soul comes along; Pete is just as eager to talk as Gus is, and when Pete goes off, Gus feels that it has been a pleasant day and that he is lucky to have the job he does. Good characterization, good values, quiet humor.

Ad Laschever, Barnett D. Getting To Know Pakistan; illus. by William de J.  
4-6 Rutherford. Coward-McCann, 1961. 64p. \$2.50.

A good introduction to Pakistan, weakened somewhat by the loose organization of the continuous text and by the informality of writing style that occasionally becomes folksy. Illustrations are pedestrian in technique, although many of the drawings are informative. Two maps are included, and an index is appended; several brief lists are given at the back of the book: phonetic pronunciation for some common phrases in Urdu and in Bengali, a list of important dates, and a table that gives the pronunciation for foreign words used in the text.

M Lasell, Fen. Michael Grows a Wish; written and illus. by Fen Lasell. Hough-  
2-4 ton, 1962. 67p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

A pleasant story with some good qualities and some weak aspects. Michael wishes, on his birthday, for something to come true by his next birthday; his father tells him that one can help to make a wish come true, so Michael sweeps out a box stall, builds a sawhorse, and waits. One night his father secretly brings in a pony; Michael learns to ride, and thinks his pony almost perfect—but not quite. On his next birthday, Michael's pony has a foal; his little sister, much impressed, starts work on her sawhorse. The writing has humor; the family relationships are good; the idea that one can work for a goal is excellent. One of the weaknesses of the story is in Michael's apparent acceptance of the fact that his sawhorse has turned into a pony during the night. Since this is not a fanciful tale, and since Michael is a farm boy of eight, such ignorance is not believable; although the text never gives his age, the first illustration shows eight candles, and Michael sets about jobs that a younger child could

hardly do. A second weakness is in the ending: the foal's arrival on the birthday seems contrived, and here again a boy on a farm would probably not have been unaware of the impending birth.

Ad Leach, Maria. Noodles, Nitwits, and Numskulls; drawings by Kurt Werth. 4-6 World, 1961. 96p. \$2.95.

A compilation of very brief stories, riddles, and jokes, all of these of the noodle-head variety. The humor becomes a bit dull with repetition, especially because most of the material is so very brief, the majority of the selections being a page or less long. The illustrations have a light humor, and the book is made attractive by good type size and plenty of space on the pages. Not the sort of book for continuous reading, but very useful as a source of material in this genre.

R Lexau, Joan. The Trouble with Terry; illus. by Irene Murray. Dial, 1962. 4-6 149p. \$2.95.

A trial to her widowed mother, Terry was a tomboy; she couldn't be as organized as her older brother, she couldn't get grades as good as Tommy's, she couldn't look neat. The author describes Terry's summer of change in a most realistic way: it is, for example, largely because the boys decide to exclude her that she turns to girls. Terry has a protective attitude, sympathetically presented, toward a small, motherless boy; the relationships within her own family are perceptively seen. Miss Lexau has a flair for writing natural dialogue and a gratifying restraint in plot development.

Ad MacAlvay, Nora (Tully). Cathie and the Paddy Boy; written and illus. by Nora 4-6 Tully MacAlvay. Viking, 1962. 192p. \$3.

A sequel to Cathie Stuart; set in Scotland in the 1880's, this is the story of Cathie's encounter with a stowaway Irish lad who has come over with some seasonal farm workers to find a missing grandfather. Orphaned Shamas wants to punish the grandfather who has never acknowledged him; it is satisfying (and predictable) that grandfather—it turns out—never knew of the existence of his only grandson. The ending is quite sentimental; the plot is, however, the least important part of the book; some of the characters are individual and vivid, and the rural Scottish background is delightful.

M McGrady, Mike. Crime Scientists. Lippincott, 1961. 149p. illus. \$3.25. 7-9

A description of some of the techniques used by modern criminologists, with each chapter discussing a case in which a particular technique has been used. Some of the topics are ballistics, toxicology, spectrographic analysis, blood typing, etc. The book has several weaknesses: the chief one is that the writing is florid, with one obtrusive device in which one man asks rather obvious questions, the answers to which give information. For example, "Now we're ready." "Ready for what?" "Ready for the tests. First let me check the scales on the hair." "The scales?" "Sure. The outside surface of a hair . . ." The chapter on history, "The Early Days" is placed seventh, between chapters giving specific cases; there is no index.

R Martin, Patricia Miles. Show and Tell; drawn by Tom Hamil. Putnam, 1962. K-2 48p. Trade ed. \$2; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

An entertaining book to read aloud, describing the classroom activity that almost all children will find familiar; some aspects of the story will probably amuse the reader even more than the audience. Jeffrey had never forgotten to bring something for the Monday "Show and Tell" session, but he'd run out of possessions. Because he was to bring a pet, his mother had to come along; when his dog chased a cat out the school window, Jeffrey had only one thing to show—his mother. Reporting to his

father that night, Jeffry laconically said that Mother had been the best exhibit in the class. The humor is light, the writing has pace and especially good dialogue.

NR Michels, Tilde. Sophie the Rag Picker; adapted from the German by Liselotte K-2 L. Schloss; illus. by Lilo Fromm. Obolensky, 1962. 22p. \$2.75.

First published in Germany in 1960. When the problem of junk removal grew with the town's growth, a garbage truck was hired and Sophie had no work. Given a lame duck, Sophie cared for it, hoping to fatten the bird for eating; however, she became so fond of the duck that she kept it for a pet. Then the duck laid an egg, and when she "saw how happy Sophie was, she laid more and more eggs." She laid so many that Sophie opened a store, and when people saw Sophie taking her duck for rides in a baby carriage, they said, "There goes Sophie the Egg Lady and her good duck Annie." A rather pointless story: the rag-picking is quickly dropped and has nothing to do with the duck-and-eggs plot. The writing is abrupt, the illustrations are rather sophisticated and busy. If the plot were fanciful, the obliging performance of the duck would be acceptable, but it is neither realistic nor humorous in context.

Ad Moore, Lamont. The First Book of Architecture. Watts, 1961. 82p. illus. 5-8 \$1.95.

A book about architecture in which the material is organized chiefly on the basis of function: architecture for worship, for living, for earning, etc. In each section the author chooses several famous examples to illustrate the differences in style and the suitability of style to purpose. The book begins with a description of the Taj Mahal; the last section discusses quite extensively the buildings grouped about St. Mark's Square. Incorporated in the text is some description of principles of architecture, and of trends, improvements, and details. The text is written with competence, but it does not always make details clear; terminology is not always explained. The approach is interesting, but the book does not give as much information as clearly as does Bergere's From Stones to Skyscrapers (Dodd, 1960), which also has an index, lacking here.

M Newton, Douglas, ed. Disaster, Disaster, Disaster; Catastrophes which 7-9 Changed Laws. Watts, 1961. 240p. \$2.95.

Nineteen accounts of tragic accidents in the United States (including the sinking of the Titanic), with the material having been taken from books, magazines, letters, and newspapers. Prefatory notes to each selection give some background, and each is followed by some editorial comment of corrective or legislative measures that ensued. The quality of writing is variable, some of the descriptions being straightforward reporting, others being lurid or hackneyed journalese.

Ad Olds, Elizabeth. Plop Plop Ploppie; story and pictures by Elizabeth Olds. K-2 Scribner, 1962. 29p. \$2.95.

Given a sea lion as a present, Tim—who had been with a circus—trained the pup, which he called Ploppie. Following some fish one day, Ploppie got too far from home and was lost; picked up by an aquarium crew, Ploppie performed for visitors. Tim read about her and claimed her, but in the summer they returned and together they entertained aquarium crowds. A slight but pleasant story; the illustrations are handsome in design and color, only the drawings of the human face and figure seeming rather awkward.

NR Peckinpah, Betty. Patrick Michael Kevin; illus. by Talivaldis Stubis. Lothrop, 4-6 1961. 27p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net. yrs.

A picture book for the very young that has neither the humor of exaggeration or the appeal of realism. The eight O'Brian sisters were proud of their baby brother; be-

cause of his curly hair, people thought he was a girl, so his sisters took him to the barbershop to get a haircut. It is unfortunate that the illustrations show the eight sisters as approximately all the same size. A slight and—despite the sisterly love demonstrated—pointless story.

M Penn, Ruth Bonn. Mommies Are for Loving; illus. by Ed Emberley. Putnam, 4-6 1962. 31p. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$1.86 net. yrs.

A read-aloud book that characterizes mommies, daddies, and children by the things they say and do. Not an unusual theme, not unusual treatment. There is some humor in the text, although it occasionally gets cute; there will be some appeal to small children who will appreciate the familiarity of some of the quoting, especially that of the adults. Since the first two parts end in ". . . best of all . . . Mommies are for loving." and ". . . most of all, Daddies are for loving!" it is rather weak to find, turning to the last page after the pattern has been repeated up to "Children are for growing up. Happiest.", the anticlimactic, "Mommies are for lots of things but best of all . . . Mommies are for loving."

R Peterson, Harold L. A History of Firearms; illus. by Daniel D. Feaser. 5- Scribner, 1961. 56p. \$3.50.

A useful book that traces the development of firearms from the early fourteenth century to the M-14 rifle adopted by the U. S. Army in 1957. The illustrations are profuse and are precisely drawn; they do, however, lack labelling of parts. Side headings set in a wide margin are used with a continuous text; an index is appended. The writing is matter-of-fact and rather heavy; the book closes with a page of advice on safety. While much of the same material is in Tunis' Weapons (World, 1954), which has a livelier style and some excellent labelled diagrams, this book is valuable for the concision of treatment and the very good index.

Ad Posin, Daniel Q. What Is a Star; pictures—Berthold Tiedemann. Benefic, 4-5 1961. 48p. Trade ed. \$1.80; Library ed. \$1.35 net.

Well-organized material, with most of the writing being quite lucid; the text has, however, a rather heavy saturation of astronomical terms and an occasional sentence that is unclear. For example, "As the stars are making most their energy by changing hydrogen to helium, energy is made in other ways, too." The author defines a star, then describes its composition, formation, and life. He discusses the different kinds of stars, gives a few facts about the study of stars, and describes constellations and galaxies very briefly. No index is included; the last page gives definitions for nine of the terms used within the book.

NR Probst, Pierre. Caroline at the Ranch; story and pictures by Pierre Probst; K-2 tr. by Beata Dabrowska. Golden Press, 1962. 28p. (Big Golden Books). Trade ed. \$1.99; Library ed. \$2.39 net.

An oversize read-aloud picture book, translated from the French. The illustrations are of comic-book calibre, and so is the text. Caroline and her friends, eight talking animals, arrive in the Wild West after days and nights of travelling; they go to Uncle Jim's ranch equipped with boots, hats, holsters, and guns. They learn to ride. Two of the friends disappear from a campfire songfest, turning up in an Indian village. Uncle Jim organizes a rodeo, a bull runs away, bull charges a desperado, dog (who had been riding bull) is declared a hero. Celebrative party includes gun practice and poker playing; Caroline and friends discover on departure that—for their share in capturing the desperado—they have been given a shiny blue convertible. And, lastly, the white kitten "was sadder than anyone else (at leaving). He had become good friends with the bull, who, he discovered, had only been teasing him." Illustration shows goodby kiss with bull weeping. France has sent us better things.

NR Pyne, Mable (Mandeville). The Hospital. Houghton, 1962. 48p. illus. Trade K-2 ed. \$2.25; Library ed. \$2.50 net.

Presented as "A happy informative introduction to a child's first experience in the hospital.", this small read-aloud book is not successful, although it does give information. The chief weakness in the text is that—for the small child—it gives too much information: nine drawings of nurses' caps worn in certain hospitals, for example. There is also a considerable amount of anatomical description given in a breezy style: "Inside your Outside skin - bones are growing/ blood is flowing/ water's gurgling/ stomach's grumbling/ heart is beating/ lungs are bellowing/ muscles pulling: in-out, in-out, up-down, open-close, boom-boom, boom-boom, rumble-rumble/ all day long and all night too while you are quietly sleeping." Such description is not good science writing, nor does it seem necessary in a book about a hospital.

Ad Randall, Ruth Elaine (Painter). I Varina; A Biography of the Girl Who Married Jefferson Davis and Became the First Lady of the South. Little, 1962. 243p. illus. \$3.75.

An interesting biography of Varina Davis that begins with her engagement to the man eighteen years her senior. The author gives some background about Varina's childhood, but concentrates on her married life; although there is a great deal of political background, the interest centers on Varina's role as a wife and mother. Good biographical material, although the writing is somewhat repetitive; the author has a tendency to use conjectural remarks: "The room which was probably the favorite . . .", "Varina must have exclaimed over the beauty of . . .", or "It seems likely, however, that they stopped off at the Natchez landing . . ." It is obtrusive, also, to find frequent comparisons between Varina Davis and Mary Lincoln. There is much material from the biographee's book, Jefferson Davis: A Memoir, and—perhaps because of this source—the latter part of the book, dealing with the years during and just after the war are most vivid and moving.

Ad Reck, Alma Kehoe. All Aboard for Tin Cup; illus. by Robert Frankenberg. 4-5 Scribner, 1962. 160p. \$2.95.

The story of a family that went from Indiana to settle in Colorado in the 1880's. Papa Gottlieb had bought a salted gold mine, so they were rather poor and had to live in a small cabin; eleven-year-old Annie made pies to sell to miners, Tag did the gardening, Papa got a job. The plot is realistic (the map the children find leads to a mine, all right, but the ore proves worthless) but slow of pace and sentimental in development (little golden-haired Tiny, who cannot walk, is given a burro by kindly, wealthy Mr. Atwood). Family relationships are warm, but there is just a bit of the goody-goody Little Peppers tone.

M Reynolds, Marjorie. The Cabin on Ghostly Pond; pictures by Lorence 5-7 Bjorklund. Harper, 1962. 216p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

Jo was twelve; he felt rejected by his divorced parents, and he went to visit his grandparents feeling bitter about his mother's second marriage. Gramp and Gran were loving and understanding; with a horse and dog of his own, Jo felt peaceful and content. He found in his grandfather's cabin a boy who had run away from a reform school; he brought Tony food and medicine and friendship. The writing style is good, and the book has some candid passages about relationships: Jo's indifferent father, Tony's protective feeling about his mother. The characters are colorful, but many of the adults are overdrawn: grandfather completely wise, the attendants from the reform school stupid or cruel. The story has suspense and good outdoor scenes, but there are several very weak aspects: a sub-plot about a ghost in the house seems extraneous; there is no resolution of Jo's family situation; and there is some inconsistency in the behavior of a grandmother who, knowing that Jo is helping a convicted

murderer (Tony) hide, is all sympathy and feels no obligation to protect her grandson or inform the authorities.

R Riedman, Sarah Regal. Water for People; illus. by Bunji Tagawa; rev. ed. 6-9 Abelard-Schuman, 1961. 156p. \$3.

A revised edition of the 1952 book that describes the part that water has played in the history of the world. Little of the text is different, the changes being chiefly in the nature of new material such as the construction of new dams or the planning of new projects that will draw on power sources of the world. Simple experiments or home demonstrations are given at the end of some of the chapters; the original illustrations are used but are differently placed; this edition uses smaller print; the index has been expanded.

R Rounds, Glen. Wild Orphan; written and illus. by Glen Rounds. Holiday 5-7 House, 1961. 65p. \$2.95.

Left orphaned when the other members of his family are caught in wired traps, a young beaver lives by himself; eventually the beaver goes over the dam to find a new home when he is aware that humans are walking over his burrow. The writing is quiet and understated, and there is little action; while the simplicity of the writing and the wonderfully convincing descriptions of the beaver and the wild life about him will interest nature lovers, the slow pace and the narrow scope of the book will put some limitations on the appeal to the general reader.

Ad Rowland, John. The Polio Man; The Story of Dr. Jonas Salk. Roy, 1961. 7-10 128p. (Living Biographies Series). \$3.25.

A biography that concentrates on Dr. Salk's work, with only a brief coverage of his childhood and an occasional reference to his personal life. The writing style is dry and quite pedestrian, with little conversation included; unfortunately, even the little conversation quoted is obtrusive because of its banality. Dr. Salk's personality is not vividly described, but he is consistently shown as a modest and intelligent man, persistent and dedicated in his work. It is in his work that the chief interest of the book lies, and here the author gives a detailed and medically competent report that is most valuable.

M Rudeen, Kenneth. Men at Speed; illus. with photographs. Holt, 1961. 137p. 9- \$3.75.

A book about automobile racing, with some chapters devoted to racing in a particular country and others about a particular race or driver. While there is information in the text, the shifting of focus makes a rather confusing presentation. The writing style is very florid: "Bugatti cars had a lovely, horseshoe-shaped radiator and lean, strong lines that had beauty as well as a suggestion of impatience to be off and rolling." or, "Fangio had tamed the toughest course and the best drivers in such a way that afterward no one would be able to write of high deeds on the Nurburgring without saluting the master from Argentina." An index is appended.

R Sasek, Miroslav. This Is San Francisco. Macmillan, 1962. 60p. illus. 3-6 Trade ed. \$3; Library ed. \$3.51 net.

An addition to the series of beautifully illustrated oversize books about the world's great cities. Mr. Sasek has included paintings of most of San Francisco's famous sights, but there are also a few illustrations that might be business or residential sections of any city. Like the other books in this series, the casual text, the format, and the humor in both text and delightful illustrations give the flavor and individual quality of the city rather than giving information of a guidebook variety.

Ad Scott, Sally. Sunny Jim the Uppity Kitten; pictures by Beth Krush. Harcourt,

2-3 1962. 47p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.67 net.

A rather slight story, written with light humor and a pleasantly restrained style. Sunny Jim is a kitten that tries to do all the things adult cats do: wash himself, get out at night, catch a mouse. He has some trouble, however, because he is too young to have the patience or the physical prowess he needs; after being frightened by a fox, Sunny Jim understands how to be perfectly still, and he catches his first mouse. An example of the humor: the kitten, watching a mousehole as he has seen his mother do, guards a hole under the barn that is really used by the dog, and "Once it was a pig! Sunny Jim was very surprised! But after he'd picked himself up and found that nobody was looking . . . He wasn't scared of any old pig!"

Ad Shortall, Leonard. John and His Thumbs; written and illus. by Leonard

1-2 Shortall. Morrow, 1961. 48p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.78 net.

With easy-to-read vocabulary, and in large, clear print. John kept being told he was all thumbs, and indeed he seemed to drop or spill things every time he tried to help. Then Grandfather gave him some tomato plants to grow, and John was very good at this; he was able to surprise his father by bringing in his crop just when father needed tomatoes for his grocery store. A slight story, but realistic; readers can sympathize with John's difficulty and feel satisfaction in his achievement.

R Stamm, Claus. Three Strong Women; A Tall Tale from Japan; illus. by

3-5 Kazue Mizumura. Viking, 1962. 47p. \$2.50.

An entertaining tall tale, delightfully retold and delightfully illustrated. Forever-Mountain, on his way to wrestle before the Emperor, teases a girl who turns out to be stronger than he is. Maru-me takes the young wrestler home, and for three months she, her mother, and her grandmother train him; at the end of that time he can pull a tree out of the ground almost as easily as grandmother. He goes to court, sweeps the field, and returns with all the prize money to marry Maru-me. The tongue-in-cheek humor is handled with restraint; the writing has a nice balance between descriptive detail and narrative that forwards the action.

R Stolz, Mary Slattery. Frédou; pictures by Tomi Ungerer. Harper, 1962.

3-5 119p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

Quite a book. Mrs. Stolz has again, as she did in Belling the Tiger, written a story that can be enjoyed by young readers for the plot, the characters, and the humor—and can be relished by older readers for the added subtleties in the writing. Frédéric is a Parisian cat who uses strategy to win his loved one, and who rids himself of a rival by contriving to have a lonely American child adopt him as a pet. The Parisian background is delicious; the pattern of the sulking child and his despairing parents is adroitly developed; the writing should stretch both the vocabulary and the imagination of the reader.

Ad Stuart, Jesse. Andy Finds a Way; illus. by Robert Henneberger. Whittlesey

4-6 House, 1961. 92p. \$2.25.

Andy lived on a lonely farm and had never had a pet or a playmate; he wanted very much to keep Soddy, the newest calf, but Soddy was to be sold for veal. Andy dug ginseng root, hoping that he could sell enough to keep the calf; he also let Soddy eat greens, although a calf that was to be butchered was not supposed to have any. When the day of sale came, Andy was happy that he had more than enough money, but repentant because he had not told his parents the truth. The writing has a pleasant warmth and simplicity, but is rather slow-moving; the ending is quite conventional.

Ad Suggs, Robert C. Lords of the Blue Pacific; drawings by Catherine Scholtz;

9- maps by Leonard Darwin. New York Graphic Society, 1962. 151p. \$3.95.

An archeologist discusses Polynesia in a book that is rather solid with detail; accu-

rate and up-to-date, the text seems a bit heavy for the general reader. Describing first the cultures of the Polynesian Islands at the time of their discovery, the author goes back to the migration from Southern Asia in approximately 2000 B.C.—with a small dig at other theories about the origin of the Polynesian peoples. Some of the more important islands are described in separate chapters: Tonga and Samoa, Hawaii, Easter Island, etc. The book has no table of contents and no index.

R Suggs, Robert C. Modern Discoveries in Archaeology; illus. by Leonard  
7- Everett Fisher. Crowell, 1962. 117p. \$2.95.

An excellent book on some of the recent archeological finds, with a good introduction, an index, and an unusually extensive divided bibliography. The first chapter describes the discovery of carbon-14 and its usefulness in dating material; the explanation of the formation of carbon-14 is remarkably lucid writing. The style is straightforward and smooth; one of the most valuable aspects of the text is in the indication of the reason each discovery is important.

M Taylor, Arthur S. Logging; The Story of an Industry; by Arthur S. Taylor,  
4-6 Jack Sutton and Bart Benedict; illus. by Barbara Briggs and Rick Hack-  
ney. Lane, 1962. 64p. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.95 net.

A continuous text divided into topics of from one to three pages in length; the text gives a good deal of information, but it is dull and quite pedestrian in style. One jarring note is the use of quotation marks around perfectly ordinary words such as ax, as though this were a technical or slang word. Another weakness in the writing is in the occasional conjectural approach, inappropriate in an informational book: if, the text states, a spaceman looked from his capsule, he would see a huge band of green—"a band that looked as though it had been painted there by one swish of a giant brush. He would probably think . . ." It is unfortunate that the style is poor, because the facts are accurate and the book has both scope (albeit at a superficial level) in coverage of the topic and a regional appeal because it is directed to children who live in the west. Not as well written as Buehr's Timber! (Morrow, 1960) or as comprehensive as Coomb's High Timber (World, 1960).

Ad Treece, Henry. The Golden One; illus. by William Stobbs. Criterion Books,  
8-12 1962. 191p. \$3.50.

The adventures of a brother and sister who lose their parents in the turbulent events of the struggle for power in thirteenth century Constantinople. Disguised, Constantine and Theodora have one narrow escape after another as they encounter the factions that are burning, looting, and murdering. Captured by Tartars, the two are taken to Jenghiz Kham himself and are adopted by the Khan. The complexity of the political situation and the rapid pace of incident upon violent incident are a bit overpowering. Colorful and dramatic as the story is, it lacks the strength and unity that made the Viking cycle (Viking's Dawn, The Road to Miklagard, and Viking's Sunset) so impressive.

Ad Weart, Edith Lucie. The Story of Your Brain and Nerves; illus. by Alan Tom-  
4-7 kins. Coward-McCann, 1961. 64p. Trade ed. \$3; Library ed. \$2.86 net.

A useful book, scientifically accurate but weakened by dull writing style and by the somewhat diffuse organization of material. The descriptions of both the morphology and physiology of the nervous system are clear; illustrations are adequate, although a few might be better placed or more clearly labelled. A glossary and an index are appended.

Ad Weiss, Harvey. My Closet Full of Hats; illus. by the author. Abelard-Schu-  
4-6 man, 1962. 38p. \$2.75.  
yrs.

A read-aloud picture book in which one idea is expanded perhaps too long; the illustrations and the text both have enough humor to make the venture fairly enjoyable. A boy describes his twenty-seven hats—miner's cap, tarboosh, beanie, opera hat, etc. Some of the writing is flat, but many of the explanations of uses are entertaining because the bland statement contrasts amusingly with the improbable headgear. At the close of the book, Mr. Weiss gives directions for making a paper hat that can be used as a base for variations.

M Whitehouse, Arch. Billy Mitchell; America's Eagle of Air Power. Putnam, 6-9 1962. 192p. (Lives To Remember). \$2.95.

A biography that concentrates on Mitchell's military career, devoting only one chapter to his life before his enlistment at the age of eighteen. The chief value of the book is less as a biography than it is as an account of the development of military aviation in the United States. The writing style is heavy and occasionally florid; it is weakened by loose statements: "Even though it had happened before the eyes of thousands of onlookers, few of them could believe it." or "Fortunately, his father and grandfather could provide valuable volumes by many authors, but had the family not been well off, young Mitchell would have soon discovered the shelves of the Milwaukee Free Public Library." A brief bibliography and an index are appended.

Ad Winer, Bart. Life in the Ancient World; illus. by Steele Savage. Random 7- House, 1961. 216p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.99 net.

A survey of seven ancient cultures from 5000 B.C. to the time of Christ's birth: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Palestine, Iran, Greece, Crete, and Rome. The text is prefaced by a double-page time chart that shows concurrent events; the illustrations—although rather pedestrian in technique—are profuse and are, for the most part, informative; an index is appended. The writing style is informal, the arrangement of material in each section seems random as well as topical; there is some variability in the extensiveness with which topics are covered (the explanation of hieroglyphics is not adequate and is no longer than the section on duck and hippo hunting). The author makes an occasional generalization: for example, "The never-changing quality of Egypt has made it the most conservative country in the world." A minor nuisance is the fact that there are places in the book where too many pages in sequence are not numbered: for example, there are no numbers between pages 40 and 52.

## *Reading for Teachers*

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