PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library
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.

*  *  *

BULLETIN of the Center for Children's Books. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago, Graduate Library School. Sara I. Fenwick, Acting Supervising Editor; Mrs. Zena Bailey, Editor.

Published monthly except August. Subscription rates: per year, $4.50; $3.00 per year each additional subscription to the same address. Single copy, 75¢. 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. All notices of change of address should provide both the old and the new address. Subscriptions will be entered to start with the first issue published after order is received.

Second-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

Cover drawing adapted with permission of the Grolier Society from an illustration by Erika Weihs.

Copyright 1964 by the University of Chicago
New Titles for Children and Young People

R  Aiken, Joan.  The Wolves of Willoughby Chase; illus. by Pat Marriott.  6-8  Doubleday, 1963.  168p.  $2.95.
A gravely delightful burlesque of the throbbing Victorian novel. Everything comes in double doses: two little heroines, two wicked witchlike women, two frail gentlewomen who come to see better health and happier days, two Good and Faithful servants. The writing style is appropriately florid, sentimental, and melodramatic; the characters are appropriately stereotyped. Sylvia comes to stay with little Bonnie while her parents go abroad so that mother may regain her health; a wicked governess takes over the house and fortune, relegates Bonnie and Sylvia to an orphanage, and periodically there is an assault by large packs of ferocious wolves. Needless to say, all ends happily with the assorted malevolent culprits getting their just desserts.

A version of the Johnny Appleseed story, simplified, but with enough aspects of both the real events and the tall-tale embroidery to give children an idea of the character. The illustrations are gay and attractive; the text is a bit fragmented in construction, since it does not provide any linkage between anecdotes.

A good biography of Jackson in its broad presentation of background events despite the writing style, which has a plodding quality and tendency to triteness of phrase. The text, printed in double columns, contains no dramatic interpretation and almost no fictionalization. Although the book does not give as vivid a portrait of Jackson as Eaton's biography (Andrew Jackson, Messner, 1949) it has more historical information and it has, as do all the books in this series, superb illustrations. A list of suggestions for further reading and an index are appended.

The title is based on a quotation from Woodrow Wilson; the book, a compilation of short analyses, essays, anecdotes, and profiles, explores innumerable facets of life in the United States in 1913. The topical treatment would limit the book to browsing use were not an excellent and extensive index appended. Mr. Angle concentrates on the national and international scenes, but he includes, also, lighter notes; he quotes the shocked commentary of the day on the subjects of the bunnyhug and the peekaboo
waist, describes the state of movies and baseball, and flavors political anecdotes with remarks from Mr. Dooley. An epilogue by Mr. Angle describing his home and his daily life in 1913 will be informative to younger readers and will probably evoke nostalgia in readers of the author's generation.


A paperback edition of the title first published in England in 1957; set in 1875, the book tells the story of an orphaned girl cast into a university community and becoming fascinated by a scholarly puzzle. Maria, having run away from boarding school, is set by her uncle (Warden of an Oxford college) to being tutored. Since her tutor is a mildly mad creature, and since her schoolmates are three lively and precocious boys, Maria has some unusual experiences as she pursues the identity of a figure in a seventeenth century portrait. Not easy to read, especially for American children, but rewarding for the sophisticated reader, a book in which the period details, the scholarly references, the humor, and the characterization form a rich and consistent whole.


A very good first science book, pleasantly illustrated, with a text that is factually explicit and has, at the same time, a flowing quality in the writing style. The author, a science teacher, begins with the slow erosion of bare rock at the top of a mountain; then the text moves down the mountainside in stages of progressively verdant terrain. Each new factor is explained: the action of water, the contributions of wind, insect burrowings, animal droppings, bacterial decay. At the close of the book, the text recapitulates the facts that have been established. Simple, lucid, and well-organized.


A small book illustrated by reproductions of beautiful Japanese prints; the printing of only two poems on each page gives the book a visual appeal that is both restful and appropriate to the economical verse-form. A brief and simple explanation of the structure of Haiku is appended.


A book that is useful because it covers such aspects of the Middle Ages as the peasant, the common man's life in towns, and the guilds: areas usually neglected in favor of knights and castles in books for the middle age group. The text is weakened by the fact that some of it is written as fiction, in one instance containing a story-within-a-story: that is, after several pages about knights, there is a story called "The Lady of the Castle" in the course of which father comes home from a Crusade and tells of his four years away in "Count Robert's Tale." - then back to the Lady, after which the text moves on to the Crusades. The coverage is superficial compared to that of Duggan's *Growing Up in Thirteenth Century England* (Pantheon, 1962), a book written for older readers, but one that is worth the effort for the middle grade reader interested in the subject.

NR Bolognese, Elaine. *The Sleepy Watchdog*; by Elaine and Don Bolognese. Lothrop, 1964. 30p. illus. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.84 net.

A read-aloud picture book about a watchdog that slept through the night no matter what his family did: they tried a jazz band, coffee in the dog's hamburgers, and family lullaby performances. Nothing worked until the little girl thought of buying a watchdog for the watchdog. A very slight nonsense story, the text being only one ex-
tended concept that has some humor (echoed in the illustrations) and has a rather flat solution ending the story.


For beginning independent readers, a brief story written with direct simplicity and illustrated with charming three-color drawings. The story contains some basic arithmetic, but it is unobtrusively introduced. Nicky goes off with five pennies to buy an animal, his mother having courteously requested that he not purchase anything as large as a giraffe. Nicky buys some cherries, some nails to build a house for his animal—when he gets it—and some scraps. No longer solvent, Nicky turns homeward; attracted by the scraps, a stray pup follows Nicky home and into the house. A satisfying boy-meets-dog conclusion.

M Budd, Lillian. The People on Long Ago Street; illus. by Marilyn Miller. Rand McNally, 1964. 48p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.08 net.

Not a story, but a description of some of the pastimes and pleasures of a Long Ago Street—an urban residential neighborhood early in the century. The descriptions of the organ grinder, the Hokey-Pokey Man, the old-fashioned fire engine, the ice man, the lamp-lighter, etcetera, are of mild interest. The text is however, merely a compilation of such traffic of the period, and it is not made clear that these delights may have occurred infrequently.


An absorbing story set in England in 1801, with colorful period detail, good characterization, and an evenly-sustained plot development. Margaret Pargeter, seventeen, is the daughter of a London bookseller; Margaret agrees with her father's unorthodox views on social reform but fears the consequences when Mr. Pargeter writes and prints an inflammatory book. He is brought to trial and jailed for six months; their home is burned by the very people Mr. Pargeter sought to help. The outcome is realistic, the author avoiding trite situations both in the main theme and in the love story. The dramatic episodes are handled with restraint; the social message is handled with a quiet sympathy that is devoid of sentimentality.

Ad Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane. Jock's Island; illus. by Lilian Obligado. Viking, 5-6 1963. 75p. Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.81 net.

The story of a dog who was left alone on an island (locale unidentified) after a volcanic eruption had caused all the humans to flee. Even the other dogs were dead, and Jock, who had belonged to a shepherd, tried to care for the animals on the island. A young man appeared one day; suspicious at first, Jock attached himself slowly to Lars. The man found a note indicating that the inhabitants of the island were going to return when all was safe; the work that Jock had done to protect the animals was not to be in vain. The writing is quiet and the story is slow paced; the device of having the young man talk to the dog (therefore explaining a great deal that would otherwise seem parenthetical) does not quite come off naturally, so that the story loses impact.

Ad Cooper, Lettice. Blackberry's Kitten; illus. by Mary Shillabeer. Vanguard, 3-4 1963. 94p. $3.

Since Mother said they couldn't keep even one of their cat Blackberry's progeny, Mark and Jane tried every way they could to find a good home for the last kitten. Meanwhile, the kitten kept getting over to the house next door and annoying their crochety old neighbor, Mrs. Heston. Mrs. Heston—just as the kitten was to be given away—finally admitted that she had succumbed to the kitten's charm; the children had gained an ally as well as found a home for the kitten. Good writing style and con-
vincing dialogue; the book is weakened by being too long for the storyline, which is a succession of similar incidents, and by a dénouement that seems flat because it has been quite obviously about to happen.

Ad Cretan, Gladys Yessayan. *A Gift from the Bride*; illus. by Rita Fava Fegiz. 2-4 Atlantic-Little, Brown, 1964. 60p. $2.95.

Set in a small Armenian village, the story of Mari, the small girl who wants to go to school although it is not customary for girls to do that. Mari, aware of the importance of custom and tradition, looks for a way to solve her problem and finds the answer with the help of her uncle's bride, a young woman who had actually gone away to college. The story line is not outstanding, but it is a perfectly adequate framework for the picture of the village: the social structure and the family relationships, the mores and the festivities are woven into the action; the illustrations give additional details of clothing, homes, and buildings. The writing style is a bit awkward.


The life cycle of a squirrel is described in a slightly fictionalized text written with simplicity. Although slow of pace, the book is excellent for the primary grades audience because of the direct approach, the inclusion of only a limited amount of detail, and the meticulously accurate illustrations. The author describes the nest in which two baby squirrels are born, the changes in the young animals in their first year, and their diet and behavior. An excellent book for a first course in natural science or for the child with an interest in nature study.


A read-aloud book, charmingly illustrated, designed to help a child learn to tell time. The simple text takes Jeanne-Marie through a normal day, with pictures of a clock-face showing the time frequently through the course of the day. It is unfortunate that the hands of the clock appear to be the same size, since this will hardly facilitate learning; the occasional use of a French word (midi, minuit) in place of the English equivalent serves no purpose, since for the child learning to tell time it will be necessary to learn that twelve o'clock can be noon or midnight.


A most handsome book, with photographs of varied and beautiful objects in a format of dignified simplicity. The text is clear and direct, referring to the illustrations briefly and extending to general remarks about the art form, tribal significance of the object or the form, or use of the object. Some of the objects d'art or artifacts pictured are items of clothing, pottery and carvings, drawings and paintings, weaving, sand pictures, and some stunning masks.

R Harris, Christie. *You Have To Draw the Line Somewhere*; drawings by Moira 7-10 Johnston. Atheneum, 1964. 249p. $3.95.

Written in the form of autobiographical reminiscence, a fictional career story based on fact; the author's daughter is a fashion artist, as is Linsey, the protagonist of the book. Superior by far to most career-and-love junior novels, the story gives a delightful picture of Linsey's unusual family and of her childhood as well as of the hazards and delights of art schools and the world of commercial art and fashion. The writing is easy and informal, humorous in the egg-and-I vein, and more realistic about preparation for a job and finding the right job than are many career stories.

R Haviland, Virginia. *Favorite Fairy Tales Told in Poland*; retold by Virginia


The dinosaur twins are so small that they divide their big name—Ornitholestes—the girl is Olestes; her brother, Ornith. The twins are separated one day and Olestes wanders about looking for her brother and being helped by Stegosaurus, who helps her hide from Tyrannosaurus. When Olestes does find Ornith, they play at sliding down the back of another dinosaur (Duckbill) into the water. A most unfortunate treatment of the subject-matter: not a story, since the bulk of the text is informational, and not a good informational book, since both text and illustrations may mislead the reader. The last page of text, for example, shows the two happy little dinosaurs dancing about together holding "hands," apparently.


Profusely illustrated by reproductions of paintings and drawings, by maps and diagrams, and by facsimilies of original documents, the story of Horatio Nelson provides one of the most colorful and dramatic volumes in the series. Mr. Warner has an easy and sophisticated writing style that sets off to best advantage the exceedingly romantic and adventurous truth. Nelson's love affair with Emma Hamilton is handled with restraint, the naval battle scenes are superbly described, and the broader pictures of the Napoleonic war and the role played by sailing ships are vividly drawn. A brief bibliography and an index are appended.


An excellent book—lucid, objective, analytical, and carefully organized. Mr. Johnson describes Marx and his writing, Lenin, the Russian Revolution, and the evolvement of Russian communism of the present day, with discussions of Trotsky, Stalin, and Khrushchev. Written in a quiet and simple style, the text is never written-down or dramatic. The book concludes with an assessment of the relations between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. and a consideration of the alternate possibilities of the future; the last pages give an intelligent and compelling statement of the role of the American citizen and the defense of liberty. An index is appended.


A picture book with illustrations of mediocre calibre. Sherbert was a cat who took cat naps and dreamed. He dreamed that he would build a mountain—not of buttons, cricket tails, eggs, bees, or ice cream, but of flowers. Sherbert's dream never materialized because "he was so tired from dreaming that he just took another cat nap." Very slight, and—lacking either action or humor—rather pointless.
R Life Magazine. The Mammals; by Richard Carrington and the editors of Life. 8- Time, 1963. 192p. illus. $3.95.
A text that is organized in a useful, albeit unusual, arrangement; rather than division by classification of species or by the hierarchy of evolutionary progress, the areas examined are functional. The author does not propose to be comprehensive, but to examine variations, differences, and similarities among types and species. Some of the functional areas discussed are locomotion, eating habits, migration and construction of homes, mating patterns, methods of attack and defense, and social behavior. Since the first two chapters describe mammalian variety and evolution, and since the index is good, the book should have some quick reference use as well as being good browsing material. Illustrations are profuse and informative; a substantial divided bibliography is included.

A lovely book. The illustrations are as delicately beautiful as they are meticulously accurate; the text is written in flowing, rhythmic style. Mr. Lubell does not attempt to be comprehensive in classifying or describing the plant kingdom; he discusses general characteristics of each group (algae, fungi, mosses, flowering plants, etc.), giving some examples. Without so stating formally, the text makes evident the profuse variety of the plant world and the innumerable ways, direct and indirect, in which plants are necessary to mankind; both text and illustrations give indications of ecological importance.

Biographies of sixteen composers who have made significant contributions to American music; since the subjects range from MacDowell to Foss, the selections seem more extensive chronologically and less extensive in coverage than the title may indicate. The biographies emphasize musical careers and compositions rather than personal life; Mr. Machlis describes selected writings rather than attempting to be comprehensive in listing each composer's work. The writing is smooth, informal, and authoritative; an excellent glossary of musical terms, a bibliography, and an index are appended.

Set in England in the fifteenth century, the story of young Adam Morden, whose father and brothers serve—as do most of the sailing men of their region—with Harry Paye, the Vice-Admiral of the Cinque Ports, the unscrupulous privateer "Arripay," as the French call him. Adam decides that, despite his mother's wishes, he will follow Paye rather than become a monk. He finds, after a trip to France, that he is sickened by the violence and thievery of the sea smuggler's life, and he chooses a life of peace. The period details are most convincing, both in conversation and in narration; the writing has color and pace, the characterization is adequate, the story-line strong.

Photographs of a lion cub are accompanied by a contrived read-aloud story. Clyde discovers he can roar, so he roars at several animals until one takes umbrage, after which the cub knows that there are times to roar and times not to roar. The photographs are repetitive; in one instance, a double-page spread is captioned "and pretty soon he stood up on his feet and ROARED." while the next double-page spread
says "And then he turned around and roared in the other direction." Unfortunately, rocks in the background indicate rather clearly that the first photograph has merely been reversed. Neither the text nor the pictures have the appeal of The Sleepy Little Lion.


A most felicitous combination, Mr. Reed and Mother Goose. The wood engravings in quiet colors, gently humorous, have an intrinsic charm that enhance the book visually; even more important is the fact that they are completely appropriate in artistic detail and in mood for the familiar rhymes. A delightful edition.


A long and minutely detailed dual biography that is as much a description of the evolution of Indian independence as it is a biography of the Nehrus; a full biography of the father and a partial one of the son, since the book concludes with the death of Motilal in 1931. The text includes many excerpts of correspondence between the Nehrus, and some material written by other Indian politicians and by British officials. The book has much material about Gandhi; it concludes with a long bibliography and an extensive index. Mildly adulatory, rather stiff and ornate in writing style, but wonderfully informative. The small print, the heavy style, and the intensively particularized examination of the subjects will limit the usefulness of the book to the serious rather than to the casual reader; for any reader, it is an excellent reference source.


An authoritative text by an entomologist, in a book the usefulness of which is lessened by the arrangement of the material. The insects described are treated in random listings within seasonal groups: those seen in early spring, in late spring, in summer, etcetera. General information about morphology and classification is given at the close of the book; some of the illustrations are in black and white, some in color; eight pages (not numbered) of color photographs are found into the text; an index is appended. Accurate though the information is, the arrangement of material indicates browsing rather than reference use.


Dreams of glory in captions that accompany a series of photographs. A small boy, tow-haired and freckle-faced, describes his plans for the day. Things nobody has ever done before—frequent pauses for enormous quantities of food—winning at tennis against five opponents at once—leading a parade of Marines and taking them all home for supper, etcetera, etcetera. There is a small amount of humor in the improbable situations, but the text is so over-extended and repetitive in design that the humor loses impact.


A book about art history in which the author proposes to relate art forms to the culture out of which they rise. The approach is interesting and valid, but the text is so weak in several ways as to rob the book of usefulness. The writing style is poor: "The sheer volume of the materials tends to rub the shine off," and the author fre-
quently uses generalizations or florid phrases. The illustrations (reproductions) are often poorly placed in relation to the text, and there are both geographical and historical gaps in the areas covered. The index is good evidence of this, one of the authors omitted being Hogarth, certainly an important artist in a consideration of art as a reflection of the contemporary matrix.

R Phipson, Joan. *The Family Conspiracy*; illus. by Margaret Horder. Harcourt, 5-6 1964. 224p. $3.50.

A warm and convincing family story that won the Book of the Year award in Australia in 1962. The large family of Barkers live on an isolated sheep station, where hard-working Mrs. Barker is told that she must have an operation; four of the six children decide that they must find ways to earn a hundred pounds. They all have their problems, but they reach their goal—in a satisfactory but unsentimental ending. The background is interesting, the children's accomplishments are realistic; the writing style is good and characterization excellent.

Ad Posell, Elsa Z. *American Composers*; illus. with photographs. Houghton, 1963. 6-9 183p. $3.25.

Very brief biographies of twenty-nine American composers are included in a book that has limited quick-reference use. The author points out in her preface that the selection of subjects has resulted in the omission of some important composers, a qualification not evident in the title. Each biography includes a large photograph, a useful feature in a book that is adequate in the amount of information given (little that would not be in an encyclopedia article) and weak in the writing style, which is often banal.


A read-aloud book in which the author writes fancifully of clouds and the imagined shapes one may see in them, with illustrations that do little to augment visually the concepts in the text. The writing is rambling and often cute; the book does not seem likely to stimulate a child's imaginative powers. "A plain, ordinary cloud of a kind that can be purchased at any cloud store. Clouds are made out of sky and water, sort of puffy, like milkweed puffs, bunny tails, and Santa Claus whiskers. A little girl, of a kind that cannot be purchased at any kind of store. Little girls are made of sugar and spice and pigtails and toenails and things like that. Eyelashes and eyes to look at clouds with."

Ad Preussler, Otfried. *The Wise Men of Schilda*; tr. from the German by Anthea 4-6 Bell; illus. by Fr. J. Tripp. Abelard-Schuman, 1963. 185p. $3.

Translated from the German, a nonsensical tall-tale written in episodic style. The town of Schilda is populated by fools who get into trouble with zest and solve their problems with self-congratulatory inanity. Warned that a cat will spell the downfall of Schilda, the wise men finally burn down the whole town to escape from the terrible creature. They have in the meantime built a townhall with no openings but one door, laboriously rolled logs up and down hills to punish them for having been so stupid as to not roll down by themselves, sowed a crop of salt, and strangled the town ox trying to hoist him up to a grazing ground. Light writing style, attractive illustrations; the humor seems occasionally contrived and the pattern of the episodes has enough repetition to make the story seem drawn-out.


A small book with rhyming text and agreeable illustrations. The only child of elderly parents, Jackie was only sixteen inches tall; a merry and helpful son, Jackie was
much loved. Therefore when he disappeared one day his doting parents feared the worst; he returned, however, triumphant. Trapped in a pillar box into which he had adventurously stepped, the brave Jackie had sung until the next arrival of the postman enabled him to climb out; his singing had brought coins of all kinds raining down into the "singing slot-machine," coins from citizens who calmly accepted the phenomenon. A story that is only mildly amusing as a Tom-Thumb variant, the modicum of humor resting on the bland acceptance of a singing mailbox.

R Riedman, Sarah Regal. **Clang! Clang! The Story of Trolleys;** illus. by Don 4-6 Lambo. Rand McNally, 1964. 112p. $3.50.

An unusual subject, an interesting book. Well-organized and competently written, the text describes the evolution of the complex systems serving metropolitan areas from the first privately-owned omnibus early in the nineteenth century. The details of improvements, of new inventions and of improvements and variations in operations, accessories, and services are given in informal style and are amply illustrated. The book closes with a rather nostalgic account of the outmoding of trolleys and of their relegation to the status of museum pieces. An index is appended.

R Ritchie, Barbara. **To Catch a Mongoose;** the French translation by Marie 4-6 Byrne; illus. by Earl Thollander. Parnassus, 1964. 61p. Trade ed. $3.75; Library ed. $3.63 net.

A book that repeats the highly successful format of *Ramon Makes a Trade:* the English text is printed on the top of each page, the French text (in another color) on the bottom. The grading here is for the English text; the French text may, of course, be used by a reader of any age who has reached some proficiency in the language. For the most part, the French text would probably be used by upper-grade elementary or high school students; the book may also be used by the French reader studying English. The illustrations are lovely and colorful scenes of Martinique and of the two children who catch a mongoose. Henri and Josephine catch a mongoose in order to sell it, but by the time they take Tu-tu to market they have become so fond of the animal that they cannot bear to part with him; they decide to keep their pet and to catch other mongooses to sell as pets.


Written by a former official of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, a book that gives many fascinating anecdotes about earthquakes in addition to a great deal of detailed information. The author discusses the causes and effects of earthquakes on land or at sea, describing many of the theories—valid or invalid—that have been held by scientists; he describes, also, the work of seismologists and the instruments they use. Although there are several instances of writing-down in the text ("There are still a few people here and there who think so [that the earth is flat], but they cannot explain why the edge has never been found, or ships don't fall off it! There are whole towns of such odd-thinking people.") it gives so much information with lively interest and professional competence that the book is really most useful. A glossary and an index are appended.

R Rogers, W. G. **A Picture Is a Picture; A Look at Modern Painting;** illus. with 8- reproductions of six paintings. Harcourt, 1964. 194p. $3.95.

An unusually explicit and informed analysis of the evolution of modern painting. From the impressionists, through the post-impressionists, to the many and diverse techniques and theories of contemporary painters, the text moves with logic, lucidity, and objectivity. In addition to being highly instructive, the book is written in smooth and lively style, so that the biographical sketches—although brief—are most evocative. A bibliography and an index are appended. An excellent book for the general reader, but
one that should be especially useful in an art collection.


A long and rambling autobiography by the daughter of Madame Pandit, most of the reminiscences being personal; as a member of a prominent political family, however, Mrs. Sahgal's personal reminiscences include many anecdotes involving her mother, her uncle (Nehru) and Indian affairs at both the national and international levels. The author, educated in the United States, recounts trips to Moscow, New York, London, and Stockholm; the book therefore has cosmopolitan color and interesting family anecdotes. The writing style is uneven, however, sometimes fragmented; the material is poorly organized.

Ad Seifert, Shirley. The Key to St. Louis. Lippincott, 1963. 128p. illus. (Keys 5-7 to the Cities Series.) Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.89 net.

A useful addition to the series, with good organization of material and an especially good first section of historical background. The book is weakened by the writing style; in many chapters there are pages that catalog facts with a high density of solid print, and in some passages, the reader is distracted by a flowery phrase or generality. The index is brief and inadequate, not listing Washington University, although it is mentioned several times in the text, for example.


First published in Germany in 1961 under the title Die Karawane der weissen Männer, a long and exciting account of a desert adventure. The book is based on a five-volume report by Heinrich Barth of an expedition made in 1850, when he and two other Europeans travelled across the Sahara Desert to map caravan routes and to establish diplomatic relations with tribal rulers. Characterization is excellent, the desert scene is marvelously vivid, and the descriptions of Tuareg attacks on the caravan, of inter-tribal intrigue, and of the first visit of a European to the closed city of Agadès are dramatic and convincing.


A fanciful story about an unattractive princess, a near-sighted knight, a folksy witch, and a dragon. Young Prince Todd would like to see his sister married off, and to encourage her only suitor, the Knight Before Glasses, Todd goes along to conquer the dragon. (Some day, the knight had been told, there would be an invention to help near-sighted people; he is therefore the Knight Before Glasses.) The dragon amiably agrees to pretend to be their captive, and the Knight's cause is further aided when an eclipse occurs, since he is used to being in the dark. The book has some inventive concepts and some ideas that have been used before in humorous fantasy; the writing style also is variable, with some delightfully humorous incidents and others that seem contrived.


Selections from the writings of some twenty authors; most of the excerpts are from writers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, one is from the writings of Marco Polo. Each selection is preceded by a paragraph of information about the author. The range of topics is wide; the styles of the authors vary from easy informality to turgid pontification. All of the selections are authoritative and informative; a bibliography—divided by authors—and an index are appended.
Early in the sixteenth century, Pizarro and Almagro made several expeditions from Panama to Peru, searching for the gold of which they had heard legends told. Pizarro's persistence and bravery were undeniable; his greed and rapacity in conquest were equally undeniable. Mr. Syme writes objectively and the historical material is treated with competent authority. The writing style is not as vivid as that of Duvoisin's *The Four Corners of the World* (Knopf, 1948) and the absence of a map is regrettable.

A read-aloud picture book about kindergarten; not outstanding, but adequately illustrated and simply written, this should satisfy the curiosity (or assuage the apprehension) of the pre-school child. Susy's mother sees that her small child is playing school with her pet animals, and that she feels lonely with the other children off at school each day. A visit is arranged, and Susy—shy at first—soon plunges happily into the activities of the classroom.

Pleasingly illustrated in soft colors, a first-person text that describes the life of Cambodian rice farmers. A small boy, in speaking of his own affairs, gives a picture of the community, of family life and of the social unit. The writing has a gentle simplicity and—at times—a lyric quality. "In May, near the end of the dry season, the snows melt in the high mountains of the north. Water fills the mountain streams which pour into the River Mekong, the mighty River Mekong."

First published in Sweden in 1957 under the title *Kattorna Fran Somarron*. About to leave the island that is the family's summer home, small Gretchen is miserable because she will have to leave her cat behind. She finds all the cats of the island having an indignation meeting because they are to be deserted by their summer people, and she suggests that they stow away on the mainland-bound boat. They do, and one by one, each cat finds a new owner. A slight plot is not made more substantial by the fanciful element; indeed, the story might possibly be more effective were it either realistic or completely fanciful. Since the cats could as well have been hidden by Gretchen on her own, and since the fanciful theme neither affects the story or is sustained throughout it, it could have been omitted.

An oversize book, profusely illustrated, in a series describing ancient civilizations. The illustrations give many interesting details of dress, furniture, architecture, etcetera; some of the figures, librarians may wish to know, are in the nude. The text is replete with facts that are both interesting and authoritative, but is weak in two ways. First, the author uses, as a framework that seems unnecessary, the visit of a boy from a farm to the city of Athens; on one page, for an example of the format, "Through an open doorway, Timotheus saw a potter's wheel turning," and on the facing page, a full column about Greek pottery. On the next page, two brief sentences in which Timotheus notes a man going to a physician; on the facing page, a full column of text about Greek medicine. The "story-line" adds little. Second, the text moves jarringly from past to present to past tense. Several appendixes are included: a list
of Greek Gods, a chronology of the fifth century, a list of famous fifth-century Athenians, a list of suggestions for further reading, and a partially annotated index.

R Zolotow, Charlotte (Shapiro). The Poodle Who Barked at the Wind; illus. 4-6 by Roger Duvoisin. Lothrop, 1964. 28p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library yrs. ed. $2.84 net.
A pleasantly illustrated picture book about a small black dog who barked at sounds—at doorbells, at the wind, at the garbage man. Mother and the children didn't mind, but Father, who was an author, found the barking a nuisance. One day when all the others were out and the lonely poodle didn't bark all day, Father found that he missed the sound that meant that the poodle was happy and was barking (she thought) to protect her family. Slight, gentle and touching; the writing style has a deceptive simplicity.
Reading for Teachers


Harris, Albert, ed. Readings on Reading Instruction. McKay, 1963. 466p. $3.95.

Instructor Magazine. November 1963; the annual issue devoted to books and libraries.


