ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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.

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New Titles for Children and Young People


An interesting book, but less unified than many in this series, and with the material so organized that browsing use is indicated. The text is divided by geographical area: the Atlantic coast, the Northwest, the desert, the prairie, etcetera. Within each section are descriptions of the terrain and of natural phenomena, of regional flora and fauna, and of some of the explorers and recorders of the region. An index and a list of suggestions for further reading are appended.


Written before the death of President Kennedy, a read-aloud book about a small boy's encounter with the members of the Kennedy family. Jonathan has been told he cannot take his puppy along, but smuggles the pup into the White House; the dog escapes and Jonathan goes off in protracted pursuit. He runs into Mrs. Kennedy, and on and on; Caroline and John pet the puppy, then Jonathan hops on a pony to follow the dog outdoors, then the President meets Jonathan and they talk. A most contrived and meandering tale.

Ad Bianki, Vitali. Galinka, the Wild Goose; tr. by S. K. Lederer; illus. by Barbara Domroe. Braziller, 1963. 64p. $2.95.

Translated from the Russian, the story of a barnacle goose that had been banded and released; Galinka flew off to find her mate and her way to the Great Sea Route. Although set in a fictionalized framework, there are few places in the book that deviate from realism. Handsomely illustrated, the text describes Galinka's encounters with friendly creatures and her repeated escapes from natural enemies; found by her mate after she had been wounded by a shot, the goose recovered to raise her own brood. The writing is sober, slow, and detailed; there is much information about many kinds of wild life—not uninteresting in itself, but detracting from the smoothness and unity of the story.


Like the author's many books about Indian tribes of North and South America, this book is informative, authoritative, solid and serious in style and objective in treatment. The first chapters give such historic information as is known about the Masai, and describes in a general way their cultural patterns. Although the succeeding chap-
ters are specifically entitled: "Growing Up," "Warriors," "Masai Beliefs," they all incorporate material on taboos, social customs, rites, etcetera. The final chapter discusses the contemporary scene and the role of the Masai people among other emergent African peoples. An index is appended.

R  Bluemle, Andrew. Automation; illus. with photographs and diagrams. World, 8- 1963. 142p. $3.95.
An unusually lucid text in a book that is nicely designed and illustrated. The author gives a résumé of the machines of the past that have incorporated principles used in constructing computers, and analyzes the functioning of computers. He describes the binary system, the digital computer, and the analog computer; and he discusses at length the challenges and problems of automation in industry and the effects on our society. The writing is serious, but not dry; although written as simply as is consistent with the complicated subject matter, the concepts inherent in the subject demand either some background or high interest on the part of the reader. A brief bibliography and a good index are appended.

7-9
Carey Douglas, a young nurse, goes to India for a three-year stay in a mission hospital, where she becomes involved in the conflict between the old India and the new. The background is excellent—vivid and authentic; the plot seems to have a patchwork quality, since the hospital and village developments have little to do with the superimposed love story between Carey and the man who sat next to her on the flight from New York. The fawn of the title is a small albino animal found by the son of the mission doctor, a pet regarded with superstitious fear by the villagers; Carey helps solve the problem of conflict of interests.

Peter, who is twelve, is spending two years with his grandparents in Arizona. He finds a baby road-runner and is determined to raise it; Runner becomes a lively and beloved pet, but is at times a nuisance. Eventually his pet goes off to the desert, Pete goes home to San Francisco, and the boy is resigned to the fact that one can't keep things unchanged. Not an unusual plot, but written about an unusual creature, and written quite well. Peter's grandparents and his relationship with them are perceptive and positive aspects of the book; Peter's obstinate and obsessive devotion to Runner seems unreal and exaggerated.

Ad  Buck, Pearl (Sydenstricker). Welcome Child; photographs by Alan D. Haas. K-2 Day, 1964. 96p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.64 net.
An oversize book of photographs of Kim, the Korean child adopted by an American family. The text, a certain amount of which seems of only ancillary interest and fashioned to fit the photographs, is simple and a bit dull. The book has a worthy purpose, but the purpose is just obtrusive enough to weaken the book. Since there is a long appendix addressed to adults, the book seems better suited to reading aloud to young children. There is less emphasis on Kim's origin than on her adjustment to school and a new home.

A book about those aspects of feudalism that may be related to knighthood directly or indirectly: castles, armor and battles, tournaments and weapons, and heraldry. All of the chapters are solid with information, but do not attempt to be comprehensive. The result is that the text reads heavily, but does not attempt to explain fully any one
topic; since there are many books (including some by Mr. Buehr) that treat extensively of all these aspects of feudalism or knighthood, this book is adequate as an overview or an introduction. A glossary and an index are appended.

Ad Butters, Dorothy Gilman. The Bells of Freedom; illus. by Carol Wilde. 5-7 Macrae, 1963. 190p. $3.25.

Set in Boston during the American Revolution, the story of a bound boy; British-born Jed is twelve, and his new master, Mr. Box, teaches Jed to read and trains him to run mysterious errands with money from the printing press. Jed becomes an adherent to the patriot cause; when his adventures are over, he parts company with Mr. Box, saddened by the knowledge that the master who had been so kind was a counterfeiter and turncoat. The book has good characterization and is well-written; not an unusual story of the Revolution, the book has the unusual asset of a character who is realistically, neither a scoundrel nor a hero.

NR Campbell, Hannah. Why Did They Name It...? Fleet, 1964. 207p. illus. 7-9 $4.50.

A potpourri of information about brand names that seems unauthoritative in the information given and is certainly random in selection and poorly written. Under such headings as Food and Transportation the author gives chatty background notes that read like advertising blurbs or house-organ puffs, the factual aspects of which seem unverified in the mass of irrelevant detail and errata of style and syntax—Sir Marcus Sandys, for example, is referred to as Sir Sandys.


One of a series of books about Tony; for the beginning independent reader, a recounting of an experience with some aspects of which he can identify. Tony doesn’t like his first day at school because he doesn’t learn to read and because a bigger boy takes away his toy. The next day he is staying away when he meets another boy; Jeff wants to go to school but is afraid. Together they go, have a fine day, unite against the bigger boy. They go every day, and soon Tony learns to read. While some of the children who can read the book independently may remember with sympathy their first day at school, the story is not wholly encouraging; it is superficial in treatment, with an abrupt ending. Illustrations are poor in quality, with a stylized cartoon-strip effect.

M Clifford, Eth. Your Face Is a Picture; by Eth and David Clifford. Seale, 1963. 4-6 63p. illus. Trade ed. $4.95; Library ed. $4.10 net.

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An oversize book of captioned photographs of children; the photographs either reflect a mood or emotion in close-up or they show a child in a moment or an activity that demonstrates a mood or emotion. The pictures are grouped; children smiling, children beaming, children laughing uproariously. The text is simple in vocabulary used, but often wispy or sentimental in the ideas presented: "What is a face? A face is sunshine. Is there a laugh tickling your insides? Did it start as a smile? A little smile that grew bigger and bigger? ... What is a face? A face is a teardrop. What happened today? Did someone you love go away? You look so sad. ... What is a face? A face says: I am having fun. ... Fun is anytime, anyplace." The pictures are of children of various races and colors, a minimal value of the book.

Ad Clymer, Eleanor (Lowenton). Harry, the Wild West Horse; drawings by 3-5 Leonard Shortall. Antheneum, 1963. 57p. $2.75.

A mild and quite pleasant story, a bit static and over-extended, but told with realism and simplicity. In the days just before automobiles, Harry was the horse on the Jack-
son's farm, and young Thomas Jackson liked to pretend he was riding Harry in the Wild West. As Mr. Jackson bought one mechanized vehicle after another, Harry was used less and less. One day Harry wandered off, Thomas followed and found that Harry was at a real Wild West Show; Mr. Jackson gave Thomas the power of decision about Harry's future, and Thomas decided that Harry ought to stay with the show rather than being put out to pasture. The writing style is excellent for the audience level, the story line is uncluttered, and the book is strengthened by good developmental values.

An unusually handsome book with distinctive wood-cut illustrations. The anthology comprises almost three hundred poems about animals, the poems grouped by species; author and title indexes are appended. The editor has chosen with discrimination from the poetry (chiefly British and American) of centuries; there is a good representation of contemporary poets.

For the beginning independent reader, a simply written book in which a small boy describes the planting and care of his garden. A friendly neighbor answers the child's questions about the animals and insects that come into his garden, and he enjoys the boy's satisfaction in the harvest. Static, but pleasant and informative.

An engaging read-aloud story about a small boy who went hunting for stand-in grandparents for a school celebration. Miki was coming dressed as a Japanese boy (which he was) to the children-from-other-lands party. In his ingenuous way, Miki talked to a few people who looked just right, and on the night of the school party, he was represented by five grandparents. Pleasantly illustrated, the story has good values, realistic treatment, and an excellent approach to child-adult relationships.

First published in Europe, an oversize read-aloud book about a clown and some circus animals who were tired of their roles. They refused to perform, ran off together to look for jobs in a small town. Only the giraffe and the pony found work, but when they had earned enough money for a circus tent and a trumpet, the friends started their own circus together; they were very good and most successful and very happy. A vague story that has no focus of plot, character, or locale; it lacks humor or any vitality of style. The illustrations are bold in use of color and look like stylized posters.

A picture book with a restrained format that is admirably suited to the quiet text and the illustrations: expressive etchings in pink, black and white. The text describes the ways in which a small girl imitates her mother, pointing out that there are some things the little girl cannot do but that there are also some things the child does that mother cannot do. The author makes it easy for the small child who copies adult behavior to feel encouragement both about her own role and about her future status.
An oversize book, handsome in format, that uses photographs of man-made objects to illustrate the appreciation of design down the centuries and throughout the world. The author, who in Discovering Design (Lothrop, 1947) analyzed elements of design in nature, here discusses design in various parts of the ancient world, in Europe and in colonial America, and in the world today. Her descriptive comments, simple and informative, relate to the photographs and to the period of culture of which they are examples. The text is not intended, clearly, to be comprehensive; it merely suggests some aspects of—for example—Oriental use of design. The photographs are of excellent quality (all black and white) and fascinating variety.

Another demurely told fanciful story about that amiable hippopotamus, Veronica. When her forest home was demolished, Veronica was in a zoo for a short time and didn't like it. She decided to try America; as pet of the machine crew, Veronica was around buildings in construction, and she discovered to her sorrow that city life was not for a hippopotamus. Her happiness was complete when her friend Joe took Veronica to his father's farm, where she could lead a life of peace and he could visit on his vacations. Not unusual in plot outline, but with nice details in exposition; text and illustrations have a light humor and a lively quality that is very pleasant.

R Eichner, James A. Law. Watts, 1963. 87p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. 7- $1.88 net.
An excellent introductory book, with well-organized material, simple explanations of theories, functions, and distinctions in law, and a good glossary. The author moves from the general to the particular, from the subject of the lawful society to statutory and case law, then to the various kinds of breaches of the law, then through all the mechanics of litigation. A clearly written book with little extraneous material, simply written but not written down. An index is appended.

First published in Sweden under the title Venn är Ulla?, the first-person recounting of a year of changes in the life of a girl of fifteen. Erika, living in Stockholm with her widowed mother and younger brother, is bitterly unhappy when her mother remarries: scornful about her stepfather, disliking the new town and the new school, and appalled when she finds that her mother is going to have a baby. Not unusual in pattern, the story is convincing as the reflection of adolescent thought and as a presentation of changing attitudes and shifting relationships: the feelings of Erika toward her younger brother are especially perceptively expressed. The writing style is stiff and quite slow.

Profusely illustrated with old prints and photographs, a book by the grandchild of President James A. Garfield. The author prefacces an account of the family's stay in the White House with some biographical material about her grandparents and their children. Of particular interest are the Garfield children's own writings about the assassination of their father. Well-written, and with the added appeals of a lively, attractive protagonist and of the intimate details from family reminiscences and family letters. An index is appended.

Ad Fisher, Aileen Lucia. Cricket in a Thicket; illus. by Feodor Rojankovsky.
A book of nature poems, delightfully illustrated, and divided into four areas: seasons, plants, insects, and animals. Rhyme and rhythm are good, and the writing is sprightly although some of the poems have a note of coyness. The poems communicate the author's feeling for the outdoors. Text and illustrations are unusually well-matched.

Ad Fleischman, Sid. By the Great Horn Spoon! illus. by Eric von Schmidt. 5-7 Atlantic-Little, Brown, 1963. 193p. $3.75.
A story of the California Gold Rush, episodic and picaresque, with a humorous exaggeration of seedy or swashbuckling characters that compensates for the somewhat extended treatment. Jack, age twelve, and the family butler—Mr. Praiseworthy—stow away on a sailing ship when they are robbed of passage money. First on shipboard and then in the mining fields, the unconquerable Praiseworthy is master of all situations. The two make a fortune with which they plan to save the family home and the fortunes of beautiful Aunt Arabella and Jack's orphaned sisters, but they lose the gold. Aunt Arabella appears in San Francisco; in a tongue-in-cheek romantic ending, the beautiful Arabella and the incomparable butler admit their long-undeclared affection.

7-9
A formula love-and-career story, with the heroine doing a marvelous job in her new role. Lisa goes to a French base to teach second grade, having (on her one night in Paris) run into a handsome stranger who becomes her boy friend. She is sent to Germany, where she has as much success as she did in France. While on a trip, Lisa and others are forced down in East Germany; as the only person who can speak German, Lisa appeals for help to a farmer: "Although he has never met Americans, he has great respect for our democratic government." The small amount of information about overseas teaching is quite overshadowed by the stereotyped characters, the pat solutions, the flowery conversation and the careless writing that permits the dashing aviator hero to look at Lisa with "twinkling blue eyes" on page 36 and to be Lisa's "tall, dark-eyed escort" on page 38.

An extremely well-written book on the human brain, authoritative, lucid, and comprehensive. The author describes the physiology and morphology of the nervous system in great detail; she discusses memory, association, thought, emotions, communication, computers, and the possible and probable changes in the human brain of the future. A mature book, written in a style that has dignity but is not dry or heavy. Appended are a list of suggestions for further reading, an extensive bibliography, and a lengthy relative index.

R Harris, Christie. Once upon a Totem; woodcuts by John Frazer Mills. 5-7 Atheneum, 1963. 148p. $3.50.
Five stories based on legends of the Indian tribes of the north Pacific coast, with appropriately primitive woodcut designs in black and white. The tales are dramatic, elaborate in structure and rich in cultural detail. The writing style is very good on the whole, although an occasional phrase or sentence is noticeably contemporary, not in vocabulary but in construction.

Ad Hays, Wilma Pitchford. The Scarlet Badge; illus. by Peter Burchard. Holt, 5-6 1963. 109p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.27 net.
A Revolutionary War story unusual in approach, since it explains with objectivity
the emotions and the loyalist allegiance of a Virginia family. Rob is left as the man of the family when his father goes to war, and he does his best to help run the family estate; he becomes involved in Loyalist activity to a slight and believable extent. The writing style is flat, but the book has good historical detail and a felicitously realistic ending: Rob's imprisoned father is denied judicial appeal, and the family prepares to go to England when their home is confiscated by the patriots. The story ends on a positive note when Rob decides that, as an American and a Virginian, he will come back when he is grown.


Liz has to leave agricultural college because of family finances; she takes a job at the estate next door and falls in love with its manager, Craig. There is recurrent friction between Craig and Liz' ne'er-do-well father; eventually father gives up and takes a factory job, and Liz decides that she and Craig must get an education before they marry and start their own farm. The details of farm life and animal care are authoritative, and the love story is not handled with sentimentality; the book is weak in writing style and in the oddly unbalanced treatment of relationships—Liz' mother is given little mention, and the relationship between the parents is superficially developed, for example.


Profusely and handsomely illustrated, an extensive and detailed account of the life of Joan of Arc. More highly fictionalized than are most of the books in this series, the writing is not melodramatic; indeed, the narrative and historical passages are rather sober, so that Joan's triumphs and her tragedy seems the more touching. A list of adult titles for further reading and an index are appended.


A small read-aloud book in which two pages are devoted to each month; on one page, an illustration and a four-line rhyme, on the following page an illustration and a box that gives the flower and the birthstone for that month. The illustrations, quite charming, appeared previously in a magazine. For the most part, the slight verses seem contrived to fit the illustrations; although some of them are adequate if unoriginal, some are limp: "From the meadow to the sea / It is hot as hot can be / Many folk and even goats / Dream of rides in Breezy boats."


An introduction to anthropology and human evolution that gives a great deal of information that is authoritatively written but not well presented. The text is arranged in quite brief topics within three sections: the origins of man, the races of man, and man's way of life. The treatment is too superficial for the importance and difficulty of the subject matter, so that the writing seems fact-crammed. The text is printed in double columns of fairly solid type, the columns being broken by illustrations not all of which are well-placed. An eight-page insert of colored photographs comprises subjects of seemingly random selection. An index is appended.


An oversize book that describes the scenic wonders, the flora and fauna, the accom-
modations, etc. of 27 National Parks and 22 National Monuments, giving—in most instances—some historical material about the discovery of the region or its geologic evolution. A brief preface on camping is augmented by suggestions within the text; suggestions are also given for sources for further information about each park. Colored illustrations are profuse and enticing; arrangement of the text is by large areas, with index and end-paper maps to implement the usefulness of the book. The writing is variable in quality, and the double-column text is a drawback, but these weaknesses are outweighed by the book's practical value.

A picture book about a conversation between a boy and a tiger; urged to run so that he might then be caught and eaten, the boy tells the tiger about his protracted skirmishes with Rhino. Tiger's comments are "That's good." or "That's bad." Finally the rhinoceros shows up and charges the tiger; the boy runs home. There is a small amount of humor in the concept and in the outwitting of beast by boy, but the story slows and drags. The illustrations are distracting and repetitive; neither the author nor the illustrator is at her best here.

Ad Life Magazine. Southeast Asia; by Stanley Karnow and the editors of Life. 8-16 Time, 1962. 160p. illus. $2.95.
A serious and rather heavy text that surveys the separated and diverse countries of southeast Asia: their past kingdoms, their colonial periods, their political and religious variations, their arts and their industries. Each of the chapters includes a text (printed in two columns) followed by a section of photographs. For example, a chapter on the Chinese in southeast Asia, "The Alien Sojourners," is followed by a section of five pages of captioned pictures, the captions giving a fair amount of information. The broken pattern of the text combined with the diffuse subject and often ponderous writing make a book less unified and effective than many in the series. Several fact-lists, a bibliography, and an index are appended; the endpapers provide political and relief maps.

R Lionni, Leo. Swimmy. Pantheon Books, 1963. 28p. illus. $3.50. 3-6 yrs.
An oversize read-aloud picture book about a small black fish in a school of small red fish; when all his companions were swallowed by a tuna, Swimmy was alone until he found a new group of fish and taught them a novel means of self-protection. A slight text serves as a vehicle for delicious marine illustrations; the pictures of ocean creatures are lovely in use of color and ingenious in technique and design.

A picture book with text and illustrations that are too sophisticated for the read-aloud audience for whom the book is intended. The rhyming text (occasionally faulty in rhyme or meter) tells of a dog who loved everybody; poor Duke's smile was misinterpreted by man and beast. He frightened them. One day he met another dog and she smiled at him ... and they lived happily ever after.

An oversize book that tells an exuberant tall tale well-immersed in brine and delightful to read aloud. The illustrations—like the story—get wilder and more colorful as the plot unfolds. Burt Dow, out in his leaky boat, catches a whale by the tail.
By mistake. He puts a band-aid on the tail, later finding that he has started a trend and has to use his whole box of band-aids on other whales. The high point of the book is in Burt Dow's ingenious method of escaping from the belly of the whale. Jonah's story pales by comparison.

Small Jonathan is almost as afraid of the baby sparrow as the sparrow is of him; he gets an adult friend, Betty, to help care for the baby bird he has found. The story tells of the care given the bird and of its growing independence; Betty and Jonathan finally drive out into the country to let the sparrow fly away. A simply told story, static but realistic and restrained. It has sustenance and unity; there is no sentimentality about the tiny creature and there is no obtrusive writing about care of pets.

M Manning, Jack. Young Spain; Children of Spain at Work and at Play; text and 4-6 photographs by Jack Manning. Dodd, 1963. 64p. Trade ed. $3.25; Library ed. $2.99 net.
A collection of photographs, each with a descriptive sentence or paragraph, is preceded by five pages of introductory material about Spain past and present: a preface so brief as to be of necessity superficial. Some of the photographs are informative about costumes, architecture, festivals, etcetera, but most of them serve little purpose. A child's face (charming, to be sure) is captioned: "A little girl pauses in her play for the cameraman"; a father and two children are shown: "In typical Spanish style, the Nistals sit down at a sidewalk cafe on the Diagonal, a main thoroughfare..."

R Marokvia, Mireille. A French School for Paul; with drawings by Artur 5-6 Marokvia. Lippincott, 1963. 47p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.34 net.
Bland in style, a story the improbabilities of which are enhanced by the mildness of the narration and by the attractive illustrations. Lonely and unhappy at his new boarding school, Paul finally finds a friend in another new, small boy. Kim is from the Orient (the text is never more specific) and as lonely as is Paul; they get into a small scrape and, feeling that they are being treated unfairly, run away to join a circus. Paul's friend Ann and his grandfather come to the rescue, they make peace with the director of the school, and the boys achieve one day of glory with the circus. The boarding school background is deftly handled, the story line is satisfying, and the characters, lightly sketched, are sympathetic.

A story for independent reading, pleasantly illustrated and suitable for reading aloud; the plot is not original but the light style and simple construction of plot are attractive. A small raccoon feels brave enough to go by himself to hunt crayfish in the stream; although other animals warn him, Little Raccoon is unprepared for the unpleasant Thing in the pool. He tries a stone, the Thing has a stone; he frowns, the Thing frowns. Mother advises smiling at the Thing. After the Thing smiles back, after the crayfish are caught and eaten, Mother tells Little Raccoon the truth.

A realistic read-aloud story about a boy of seven who is embarrassed because he can't swim and is therefore resistant to being taught. Both of the older cousins Jim was visiting tried to help, but Jim feared teasing. Playing by himself, he found he'd learned a few things, after all, and found that he could even swim a bit. When a baby cousin fell in the water, Jim took the lead in her rescue and was very proud. Simple and unified in outline, realistic in the slight amount of characterization that the story
has, but weakened by the ending, since it seems a bit contrived that no adult was alert enough to prevent a child of two falling from a dock.

Ad Paradis, Marjorie B. Jeanie; illus. by Alex Stein. Westminster, 1963. 159p. 5-6 $3.25.

Jeanie is small for twelve; an only child, she is quite happy at living alone with her widowed mother and is stunned when her mother announces an imminent second marriage. With a friend's help, Jeanie concocts a secret plan to run off to her grandmother's while the newlyweds are on their wedding trip. With clipped and dark-rinsed hair, dressed in boys' clothing, Jeanie gets to her grandmother's . . . but learns that she would not be the ministering angel she had thought, and decides not to reveal her identity. The book has a logical happy ending, and a sound psychological base to the plot, but it seems improbable that neither Jeanie's mother nor her grandmother would fail to recognize her, disguised or not.

Ad Parish, Peggy. Willy Is My Brother; drawings by Shirley Hughes. Scott, 1963. 4-6 46p. $3.50.

A candid approach to sibling relationships is made in a picture book with realistic illustrations. Willy's little sister describes their squabbles and their shared pleasures in a text that is without storyline but is convincing both in being childlike and in being psychologically sound. Willy defends the sister he has been calling a pest when his chum says the same thing; a few moments later he is himself dismissing his sister as a pest. When another little girl comes along to play, Willy's sister promptly assumes the dominant attitude.


First published in France in 1960, a book that uses original sources (letters and chronicles) to describe the two hundred years of the Crusades. The author uses italics for her own comments, which link the quoted material and supplement them admirably; the introduction is succinct and scholarly. The pages of solid small print are a visual handicap to enjoyment of the book, but the reader who is interested in so lengthy a text on the subject is not likely to be daunted. The quality of translation is unusually good; a list of sources and endpaper maps are provided, chronological tables are included, and the index is extensive.


Illustrated by delicate line drawings with pastel touches, a book with a foreword by Miss Moore that gives some information about Perrault's work, but that may be of less interest to children than to adults. The style of the retellings is good but perhaps a bit ornate; it is more difficult than the direct simplicity of the versions by Marcia Brown or Virginia Haviland. For example, the closing lines of "The Sleeping Beauty": ". . . Having come in haste - too overwhelmed to dismount - he commanded that not a soul proceed with the horrible pageant. The Ogress - the originator of it, filled in venting her wrath, threw herself headfirst into the brazier, where she was immediately a victim of the loathsome creatures she had put there herself. It was distressing to the King that his mother should suffer, but mercifully he was to find consolation in his wife and children, each so dear to him - at last with him and able to comfort him."

Ad Polland, Madeleine A. Flame over Tara; illus. by Omar Davis. Doubleday, 6-9 1964. 192p. $2.95.
The story of Irish conversion to Christianity in 432 A.D., when Patrick, Bishop of Rome, came to a pagan people. The conversion is woven through the story of Macha, a young girl who followed Patrick; her betrothed, Kiann, brought the Christian leader to the court at Tara, where the king and his people were won by Patrick's goodness and his shrewdness. The writing style is a bit heavy and slow, but the background is convincingly created; the author has, with no derogation to Patrick's integrity or his mission, maintained (through the words of the characters in the story) a common-sense approach to the reputedly miraculous. For example, when Macha reports that Patrick was able to calm fierce dogs in a miraculous way, her already-converted foster mother explains gently that he had arrived with a cargo of wolfhounds and was used to dogs—that this did not detract from Patrick's goodness, but was the sort of story the "wild and impressionable" were apt to build.

Ad Pothast-Gimberg, C. E. Corso the Donkey; tr. by Hilda von Stockum; illus. by Elly van Beek. Dutton, 1963. 124p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.86 net.

A book that was awarded a prize in Holland as the best children's book of 1959. Toni's uncle comes to Corsica to buy donkeys from her father; he takes the motherless little girl home for a visit, and Toni finds herself completely at ease with her mother's brother, but not at all comfortable with her Aunt Reenie. Toni realizes, finally, that Aunt Reenie does care for her, that she is simply not a demonstrative person. Corso is Toni's own donkey, and the maturity she acquires during her visit to Holland prompts Toni to give her beloved Corso to a blind child who has more need of the helpful animal than she herself. The writing style is adequate, the characterization and relationships are very good, but the story is weakened by an inconclusive ending.


A biography of Clyde Tombaugh, the astronomer whose persistence in carrying on the research of Percival Lowell led to the discovery of the planet Pluto. Highly fictionalized, the book gives little information that is not in Simon's The Search for Planet X (Basic Books, 1962) although some material is given in greater detail. The writing style is weak: often florid, frequently awkward. Since the Simon title has a glossary, bibliography, and index as well as a good number of diagrams, it is a much more useful book.


A book that should prove extremely useful for quick reference use, written with both scientific and literary competence. Lucid in explanation of the work of each Nobel winner, the writing is dignified but not abstruse. The text begins with some biographical material about Alfred Nobel and some background information about the Nobel Foundation and the way in which it operates. The section on each winner gives only a few paragraphs of biography, the emphasis being on the research and discovery of each scientist. The 1963 winners are included; a list of award winners is appended, as is an index.


A very good biography of Alexander, especially in the background provided; the author gives a wonderfully clear and succinct analysis of the complex history of Alexander's world. The writing style is solid, but not dull; the accounts of campaigns and battles are excellent. Occasionally the author makes a personal comment that is a
bit obtrusive, but the text is as well written, as comprehensive, and as authoritative as the Horizon Caravel biography of Alexander. The indexing is not adequate, however, in either arrangement of entries (there are 11 entries for Parmenio under "Military Commanders" but no separate listing) or inclusiveness (there is no listing for Alexander's wife Roxane, although she is mentioned in the text).

Ad Russell, Solveig Paulson. Wonderful Stuff; The Story of Clay; illus. by Cary. 3-5 Rand McNally, 1963. 64p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $3.08 net.
A useful book about the different kinds of clays, the ways in which clays have been used in the past and the many ways in which clay is used today. The illustrations are adequate; the relative index is excellent. Simply written and a bit dry, the continuous text—broken by topic headings—gives a considerable amount of information (made accessible by the index) in a rather crowded fashion.

Written by a Foreign Affairs Information Officer at the Department of State. Although hard to read because of smallish type in solid passages and because of rather heavy style, the book should be a most useful vocational guide. The first paragraphs are of minimal value, being statements on national attitude and statements about functions that are delineated in detail later in the book. The chapters on the history and development of the department give useful background, and the chapters on positions, categories, benefits, preparation, etcetera, are completely practical. List of examination centers, suggested readings, an index, and sample questions used in one class of examination are appended.

R Sawyer, Ruth. Daddles; The Story of a Plain Hound-dog; illus. by Robert 4-6 Frankenberg. Little, 1964. 100p. $3.50.
The author describes some of the experiences she and her brother had years ago, during several Maine summers, when they had—as third of an inseparable trio—a dog called Daddles. Incidents are woven about this beloved pet in a book that has no sentimentality but has a great deal of sentiment; as important as the anecdotes about Daddles are the evocation of summer, the family relationships, and the vivid details of outdoor scenes. Written with an easy style and a warm honesty that is most moving.

Serious in approach, authoritative and succinct, a most interesting book about the evidences found of the Paleo-Indians whose presence on the North American continent has been suspected only since 1926. In text and illustrations, the author shows with meticulous detail the variant fossils and artifacts that are clues to the earliest Americans.

R Seuss, Dr. Dr. Seuss's ABC. Random House, 1963. 63p. illus. (Beginner 4-6 Books.) $1.95.
Although intended for the pre-school child, this alphabet book will probably be read surreptitiously by aging Seuss devotees who are usually above such things as alphabet books. All of the zany creatures and the nonsense humor are used to good advantage in creating pages that encourage memorization; "BIG V - little v - Vera Violet Vinn is very . . . . . . very . . . . . . very awful on her violin." Nice nonsense.

A read-along fantasy that has some originality and humor, but that is laborious in structure; the ending of the story is especially weak. Living with Miss Nanny Anna-belle (for a reason that ought to be explained at the beginning of the book but appears late in the text), Emily is saddened by the knowledge that the old brownstone house is slated for demolition. She purchases supplies for witchcraft-practice; Emily gets results, but the magic never works as planned. The house is eventually saved, landing on top of a tall building after an explosion; there is no indication in the story that this is in any way related to Emily: the witchery theme is dropped and a deus ex machina takes over.

Ad Shemin, Margaretha. The Little Riders; illus. by Peter Spier. Coward-McCann, 1963. 60p. $3.

Left with her father’s parents in Holland, a young American girl lives through the German occupation period. Grandfather tended the mechanism of the town clock with its twelve martial, leaden figures; the little riders were demanded by the Germans, who were collecting lead for melting. Johanna, helping hide the riders, was discovered by the German officer quartered in her home; to her grateful surprise, Captain Braun kept her secret. When the war was over, they parted friends. The setting is authentic and colorful, the story has unity in construction and restraint in treatment; the writing style, however, has a static quality that vitiates the book.


A lively story about a group of children living in a rundown neighborhood in an English town. When Jenny moved into Cumberland Place with her father, she found that the landlord forbade pets; the children who lived in the other five houses helped Jenny hide the cat and her four kittens. Indeed, the five children found that caring for the cats, feeding them, hiding them, and earning money to feed them took up a great deal of time. Their secret was discovered and their peace disrupted by a visiting delinquent; solving the problem of Artie brought solutions to some of their other problems. The ending of the story gets rather melodramatic, but is believable; the writing style is good and the book is, for the most part, constructed with unity. The strongest aspect of the story is in the characters; each is unique and consistent, and the relationships among the children are perceptively pictured.


Not a comprehensive survey of the improvements in methods and equipment for marine salvage, but an overview of examples of salvage problems. From the unsuccessful attempt to raise the Mary Rose by cables in 1545 to the present use of television and radio in salvage operations, the book gives dramatic instances. It is weakened by some florid writing that seems a gilding of the lily: "... Shepherd ... climbed down inside one of the cofferdams to make an inspection ... And that was the moment, while he was inside her, helpless, that she chose to try to kill him."


The Mouse of Baker Street sleuths again. Like Basil of Baker Street, this delightful parody stands alone but has intimations of Watsonian imitation and Victoriana that will please the initiate. Persecuted by the brilliant Ratcliffe graduate, the renegade Professor Ratigan, Basil and his biographer go to Switzerland in search of the Lost Colony; they have been informed of the discovery of an Adorable Snowmouse. Every element of Conan Doyle is used, and a few new tongue-in-cheek twists are added; the appropriate and attractive illustrations add charm and humor to a story that is already replete with charm and humor.

Delightfully illustrated, a portion of the 1930 publication *Childhood, Boyhood and Youth* (published originally in Russia in 1852), a story in first person that is semi-autobiographical. Interesting as is the picture of life amongst the Russian elite of a century ago, it is in the descriptions of a child’s emotions that the book has most appeal. The description of Nikolenka’s instant capitulation to a twelve-year-old charmer at a Moscow party is embellished by period details, but the reactions of a smitten heart might be as well recorded at this week’s hop at the junior high school.


The indefatigable family of pigs has an underground adventure, in a sequel to other read-aloud tales of the Mellops’ ploys. Here father and sons gather equipment for a spelunking expedition and discover, while exploring, more than stalagmites and stalactites. Caught in a flood, their boat lost, the doughty three find a smugglers’ hoard of perfume; naturally, they outwit and capture the culprits. The tongue-in-cheek blandness of the writing has humorous appeal; the book has however, too many incidents and details and concepts for so brief a story for so young an audience. The fact that the story has some latent content that may require explanations of terms or of concepts is a deterrent to smooth exposition.


A dramatic account of the medical emergency in the isolated and desperate town that, in 1925, could not be reached by airplanes; with one doctor in Nome and no supply of serum with which to combat the epidemic, the situation was one of potential disaster. Mr. Ungermann writes in an easy and rather calm style that sets off the drama inherent in the true story. He describes the growing alarm in Nome, the preparations of the men who organized the relays of teams and the men and dogs who participated; he describes vividly the Alaskan winter and the survival techniques used by the drivers. A map is included and a relative index is appended.


Although a bit flowery in writing style, this collective biography describes most effectively and with lively detail the colorful lives of six great American actresses of the past. The material is dramatic enough to interest the general reader; for the theatre fan it will be sheer fascination. Drawings and photographs accompany the biographies of Charlotte Cushman, Mary Anderson, Ada Rehan, Minnie Maddern Fiske, Julia Marlowe and Maude Adams.


A sequel to several other science fiction stories about Chris Godfrey and his colleagues (*First on the Moon, Outpost on the Moon*). The book is weakened by shallow characterization and by too-frequent explanations of previous associations; the story has a modicum of pace and a good amount of suspense. Not unusual in plot, but good in details; there is good science behind the fiction.

M Weir, Rosemary. *The Smallest Dog on Earth*; illus. by Charles Pickard. 3-5 Abelard-Schuman, 1964. 128p. Trade ed. $2.75; Library ed. $2.73 net.
A young and conceited Chihuahua, Chiquita had had a spell put on her by an older
dog while she was still at the kennels. The tiny dog was destined to change owners
every six months until she saw a small man, an elephant, and a monkey at the same
time. After six adventures, Chiquita saw the trio at a circus; at that moment her
first and dearest owner, a little girl, ran to her across the ring. Episodic and often
sentimental, but written in an easy and pleasant style. The writing often has refer-
ences or quips that seem far too mature for the audience for a fanciful dog story;
for example, in pondering escape: 'I'll hide under a chair in the entrance hall and
wait until someone goes out, she decided. Then I'll go too. Hope they don't tread on
me, but if they do—well—you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs. She
thought for a moment and then added grandly: 'C'est la guerre!''

Ad Whittlesey, Susan. U.S. Peace Corps; The Challenge of Good Will. Coward-
McCann, 1963. 120p. illus. (Challenge Books.) $2.95.
A description of the work of the Peace Corps, with a first section that discusses
the founding of the organization and details its goals. Most of the text is written as
a random compilation of examples: brief descriptions of individual volunteers,
usually with an excerpt from a letter or a report, and a short comment on what that
individual has accomplished. The material is interesting and the book useful, but it
might be more useful were the material better organized, either by type of project
or by geographic area. Perhaps the most valuable part of the text is the last sec-
tion, which gives facts about sources of information, educational preparation, devel-
opment of skills, and student exchange opportunities. The index reflects to some ex-
tent the weakness of the text in not indicating, for example, medical or agricultural
projects.

Trade ed. $3; Library ed. $3.04 net.
A read-aloud picture book, attractively illustrated, lightly humorous and rather
slight in content. Two rabbits asked some of the circus animals if they would help
provide a performance for an all-rabbit audience. Rabbits served as acrobats,
clowns, and ring personnel; six volunteer rabbits were shot from a cannon, a grand
finale that frightened the audience into a hasty departure. The story ends a bit
abruptly: "When the chimpanzee saw that the seats and rings were empty, he turned
off the lights, and the big tent lay dark and quiet again."

Ad Wilson, Hazel (Hutchins). Last Queen of Hawaii: Liliuokalani; illus. by W. T.
A good biography in which Hawaiian history is nicely integrated into an account of
Liliuokalani's life that is rather heavily fictionalized. The writing style is simple,
occasionally sentimental; the author is sympathetic toward the royal family that
suffered much during the years of political turmoil, but—perhaps because of that
sympathy—there is a uniformity of treatment of the characters that robs them of in-
dividuality. The ending of the book, in which the author describes the declining years
of the dethroned queen and her acceptance of Hawaii's territorial status, seems out
of balance because it covers so much time with such brevity. A brief glossary and a
partial list of sources are appended.

M Woods, Betty. My Box and String; written and illus. by Betty Woods. Reilly
and Lee, 1963. 45p. $2.75.
For the beginning independent reader, a book with rhyming text and cartoon-style il-
lustrations. A child builds a toy out of string and a large carton; he will not permit
anyone to share his toy—not the dog who wants a doghouse, or the boy who wants to
bring his wagon in, or the cat who wants to use the box for her kittens. When a girl
points out that the real fun was in making the contraption, the child sees that this is true. He builds box-and-string homes for everybody with zeal. The story has a good moral presented in obtrusive fashion, over-extended, slight plot and movement, and a mildly stilted writing style. Adequate as material for reading practice, but not particularly suitable for reading aloud to the small child who might be most interested in the subject.

M. Worcester, Gurdon S. The Singing Flute; illus. by Irene Burns. Obolensky, 6-7 1963. 44p. $2.50.
A beautifully illustrated book that tells the story of a motherless child who brings about a reunion between her lonely father and his estranged—and equally lonely—brother. A granite quarrier in the Finnish colony on Cape Ann, Hilli's father Waino wanted her to have nothing to do with her Uncle Lauri; he thought Lauri a ne'er-do-well, but Hilli loved to listen to Lauri's flute. When Lauri's dog rescued Hilli from the quarry pool, the old trouble was forgotten. A static plot in a book written in a style with nuance and with a quality of mysticism that seems less appropriate for a young reader than for an adult. The story does have good evocation of the quiet beauty of the coastal woodlands, but it is too slow of pace and a bit precious.
Reading for Parents


Hill, Margaret. The Retarded Child Gets Ready for School. 28p. Single copies below 100 ordered, $.25 each, 100 or over, reduced rates. Order from Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 E. 38th St., New York 16, N.Y.


Mopps. A mail-order service for children's books. Catalog available from Mr. Mopps, 1417 Grove St., Berkeley, California.


Toledo Public Library. Family Life; a list of 76 books and 10 films. Single copies free on request from TPL, Public Relations Office, 325 Michigan Street, Toledo 24, Ohio.