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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO · GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

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 XVIII

October, 1964.

Number 2

New Titles for Children and Young People

Ad Baker, Margaret Joyce. Castaway Christmas; illus. by Richard Kennedy. 6-8 Farrar, 1964. 158p. \$2.95.

A good Christmas story about three English children who, for several days before Christmas, cope with an emergency situation. The three Ridley children find, in a flooded countryside, the house rented by their parents so that the family can be together for the holiday. The house, but no parents. Isolated, with little food on hand, and with the electricity gone, the youngsters have a real struggle to keep themselves well, dry, and cheerful. They rescue a family of three just before their parents show up, late on Christmas day. The plot is tight-knit, suspenseful, and restrained—save for the sentimentality that comes at the close: the young couple with an infant boy are rescued on Christmas eve, and in the barn a sheep that has been rescued gives birth to twin lambs, which the children give to the baby as their Christmas present. It's still a good story, however; the children are very perceptively drawn and they are distinct personalities; their resourcefulness is kept within the bounds of credibility, and their affection is—realistically—periodically impaired by resentments or other temporary hostilities. Dramatic setting, and a lively writing style.

R Beatty, Patricia. The Nickel-Plated Beauty; illus. by Liz Dauber. Morrow, 5-7 1964. 251p. \$3.25.

Set on the north Pacific coast in 1886, the story of a large family in which the oldest girl tells of the acquisition of a stove—the Nickel-Plated Beauty. Knowing that Mama is yearning for a new stove, the Kimball children decide that they are going to work secretly and pool their money as a Christmas surprise. The work begins in April, when the children contract with the storekeeper to save his one stove for them. The happy Christmas ending is predictable, but the humor that pervades the story saves the ending from an overdose of sentimentality. The first-person technique is used successfully; the details of locale and period are good; the sub-plot (a domineering tartar of an aunt wins back her henpecked husband when that mild man finally takes a stand) is just a bit on the quaint side.

M Berna, Paul. The Mystery of Saint-Salgue; tr. from the French by John Buchanan-Brown; illus. by Robert Broomfield. Pantheon Books, 1964. 151p. \$3.25.

A sequel to The Horse Without a Head; first published in France in 1962 under the title La Piste du Souvenir, the story does not have the flavorful background or the originality of plot that made the first book exciting. Here the youngsters, now older, are on vacation; Gaby is at the wheel of an old truck in which all ten children (and eleven dogs) are traveling. They meet a Canadian couple hunting for Saint-Salgue; they meet some rather stereotyped Sinister Criminal characters who endanger the lives of the children and the Canadians. Behind all this is a land-grab scheme; the

village of Saint-Salgue, flooded years before because of a hydroelectric project, is to be salvaged. The heavy cumulation of melodramatic incidents robs the story line of momentum; there is some suspense about the mystery.

SpR Boston, Lucy Maria. An Enemy at Green Knowe; drawings by Peter Boston.
4-6 Harcourt, 1964. 156p. \$3.25.

The fifth book about the enchanting and enchanted residence in the English countryside, and one of the most beautifully conceived of the Green Knowe books. Here Tolly and Ping, who live alone with one of the most appealing grandmothers of fiction, match with with a female practitioner of black magic. Suspenseful fantasy written in a highly distinctive style; since the author never writes down, the book has vocabulary and concepts for the more mature and perceptive reader; the unity of construction and the delights of style make the story a good choice for reading aloud.

R Brandon, William. The American Indian; ad. by Anne Terry White. Random
6-9 House, 1963. 200p. illus. Trade ed. \$5.95; Library ed. \$5.29 net.

A good adaptation and simplification of the original publication, comprehensive and illustrated with profusion and variety. The illustrations include several full-page photographs of Indians, some as well known as Geronimo; there are excellent maps interspersed throughout the text. The double column of print seem less of a drawback than such format usually is, because the print is of good size. The text includes chapters on Indian peoples of both American continents. An index is appended.

M Brown, Judith G. Max and the Truffle Pig; written and illus. by Judith G. Brown.
3-4 Abingdon, 1963. 48p. \$2.50.

A slight story, set in France, illustrated with drawings that are ornate and occasionally humorous. Max, a small kitchen apprentice, has been told to take the piglet Suzette truffle-hunting. Suzette is to be sold if she cannot find truffles; while Suzette is sniffing with no results, Max helps a series of people find things they have lost. His kindness is returned when his new friends help him and Suzette find truffles; the truffles are baked into a twenty-three-layer chocolate cake. The recipient of the cake, Countess Lily Augusta Marie, is so delighted that she comes out to the yard and shares a piece of cake with Suzette. Not highly original, and a bit on the saccharine side; there is some appeal in the round-robin of lost-and-found.

Ad Brown, Myra (Berry). Casey's Sore-Throat Day; pictures by Harriet Hurwitz.
3-5 Watts, 1964. 54p. \$2.95.
yrs.

An adequately-illustrated picture book about a small boy's day in bed. Not wanting food or play because his throat was so painful, Casey fell asleep; when he woke his mother sat with him. Feeling better in the evening, Casey had dinner on a tray, part of it being gifts from people in the supermarket where his mother had shopped while he napped. By night, Casey felt better; he even played with the present his father had brought. Although the book has, like other books by this author, an appropriately simple depiction of a familiar event, there is a digressive quality in the story that seems slightly awkward. For example, when Casey is napping and his mother tells the helper she is going to market, a double-page spread with four sketches (showing the hunt) states, "She had to come back to look for her car keys."

Ad Burack, Abraham Solomon, ed. A Treasury of Holiday Plays for Teen-Agers;
7-10 a collection of royalty-free, one-act plays. Plays, Inc., 1963. 448p. \$5.95.
Two dozen plays for young adolescents, a collection geared to the school year; the plays are related to such occasions as Book Week and graduation as well as to holidays, and there are no plays for any holiday dates between graduation and Columbus Day. The plays are of variable quality, some being quite good, other quite pedestrian,

and none being of very bad or of very good literary quality. All have good developmental or ethical concepts, some have humor; the weakest aspect of the material as a whole is that there is, in many of the plays, a coy or mawkish note.

M Burch, Robert. Skinny; illus. by Don Sibley. Viking, 1964. 126p. Trade ed. 5-6 \$3.; Library ed. \$3.04 net.

A story set in a small hotel in a southern town in the 1930's; the hotel owner, Miss Bessie, has taken in a boy of eleven as a temporary measure. Skinny likes the hotel and he likes Miss Bessie, but he spends most of his time with two Negro servants, Roman and Peachy. When one of the hotel guests woos Miss Bessie, Skinny hopes that he will be adopted when the two get married; the marriage doesn't come off, and Skinny—dreading the orphanage—goes along reluctantly when one of the orphanage staff comes for him. A letter at the close of the book indicates that Skinny remembers his old friends with affection but is enjoying his new home. Skinny is a good character, lively and believable, but most of the adults seem stereotyped; the cook, Peachy, is shrewd and loving but she does say, for example, "Child, why's you so worried . . . ?" The suitor, Daddy Rabbit, has overtones of Hollywood formula, as does a carnival fortune-teller. The fact that Daddy Rabbit and Miss Bessie do not wed and adopt Skinny is a nice deviation from happy-ending formula, but it is a small alleviation.

Ad Cavanna, Betty. Jenny Kimura. Morrow, 1964. 217p. \$3.25. 7-9

Sixteen-year-old Jenny Kimura Smith travels from Tokyo to Kansas City to meet her American grandmother; she finds in Mrs. Smith a bias that reflects the censorious attitude of her Japanese grandparents. Not until Jenny has been hurt by prejudice on the part of other people does Mrs. Smith begin to understand her own prejudice. Jenny goes to Cape Cod, meets several interesting males—including a lad of Japanese descent—and decides that it would be wonderful to come back to the United States for a college education. The theme is interesting, the developmental values are sound; the story is rather static, seeming a somewhat contrived vehicle for a message, however worthy a message and however perceptively detailed.

Ad Cavanna, Betty. Lo Chau of Hong Kong; photographs by George Russell Harrison. Watts, 1963. 76p. (Around the World Today Books). \$3.95.

Lo Chau is the oldest son of a junk-dwelling family of the harbor of Hong Kong; as the first born, the boy is sent, at some financial sacrifice, for a weekly lesson in English, since much of the business of Hong Kong is with English-speaking tourists. Indeed, it is Lo Chau's knowledge of English that enables him to return a lost wallet to the right hotel and leads to his employment as a bellboy—a job for which he is paid a salary that seems a small fortune. The story line is a bit weak, but it is credible; the amount of informational detail that emerges from the story is nicely gauged for the age of the intended audience. The photographs are of moderately good quality—a bit repetitive, but often interesting.

R Chaucer, Geoffrey. A Taste of Chaucer; selections from The Canterbury Tales; 7- chosen and ed. by Anne Malcolmson; illus. by Enrico Arno. Harcourt, 1964. 184p. \$3.75.

A careful and discriminating adaptation of—and introduction to—Chaucer for young people. Or for some not so young. Mrs. Malcolmson explains, in the preface, that the reader will not know Chaucer as a poet until he has read the original; she explains that she has selected excerpts and translated from the Middle English. In the body of the text, each section of the Tales begins with a few lines from the original, and throughout the book are brief explanatory paragraphs. The introduction to the book describes Geoffrey Chaucer and the period in which he lived; an extensive glossary is appended.

R Clewes, Dorothy. The Holiday; illus. by Sofia. Coward-McCann, 1964. 64p.
3-5 Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.52 net.

Another book from England about Penny, written in an easy, natural style; the characters are realistic and the story line is modest but with momentum. Penny and her friend Maxwell become unwitting stowaways when they are visiting Maxwell's grandfather, an official of the Customs Department; on board a channel steamer, the children find that the boat has left port. They have a small taste of travel in their brief visit to France. The story gives just enough information about boats, the customs office, and the French language to give verisimilitude without being obtrusive.

NR Clifford, Eth. The Witch that Wasn't; illus. by Jean Dorion Kauper. Seale,
K-2 1964. 32p. \$2.95.

Roly-Poly was plump and curly-haired, and the other little witches laughed at her; she didn't do well at school when the teacher asked the class to take turns being as frightening as possible. Then Roly-Poly had a wonderful idea; she changed the other witches to fairies, their cats into kittens, their broomsticks into wands. Then the others laughed as gently as did Roly-Poly, the witch that wasn't really a witch. A contrived and coy story, adequate in style but saccharine in tone, with quite unattractive illustrations.

R Cooke, David Coxe. How Books Are Made. Dodd, 1963. 63p. illus. Trade ed.
5-9 \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.69 net.

An informative and useful book, covering the same material as does Foster's Pages, Pictures, and Print (Harcourt, 1958); the division here is by topic rather than by chapter. The writing style is straightforward, a bit stolid; the photographic illustrations are, with few exceptions, most useful. The text covers methods of typesetting and of printing, illustration, editing and proofreading, the various processes of manufacture, the book jacket, and the packaging and distribution of the published book. An index is appended.

M Crary, Margaret. Pocketful of Raisins; decorations by Don Lambo. McKay,
7-9 1964. 156p. \$3.50.

A slight and patterned junior novel. Holly signs up for a hiking field trip because her boy friend is going. Careless in preparation, Holly makes mistakes and feels, resentfully, a greenhorn. She comes to appreciate nature, she gets tired of Curt and finds a more stable and attractive swain; her sense of values and her behavior as a member of the group improve. The writing style is adequate, but the formula plot and characters are rather sterile.

M Dilger, William C. Finding Out About Birds; illus. by the author. Home Library
6-9 Press, 1963. 64p. \$2.95.

A book that is written with authoritative detail by an ornithologist; unfortunately, the weaknesses of format, of writing style, and of organization make the book less useful and less interesting than it might be. The book is printed in double columns; it looks and reads like an encyclopedia entry. The illustrations are often poorly placed: page 45, for example, has drawings captioned "precocial young goose" and "altricial young parrot", terms that are defined three pages on. A reference to "advertising" in courtship (page 44) is related to a drawing that precedes it by six pages (page 38). The section on physiology and morphology is excellent; the topic of migration is skimmed over in one page. An eight-page insert of photographs in color is included; the relative index is good.

Ad Drury, Maxine Cole. Glory for Gil. McKay, 1964. 184p. \$3.75.
4-6

A good baseball story, weakened by a lack of emphasis; the story covers one season of

play for a Little League Team, and the central plot is about Gil, the pitcher, but the fact that there is some material about the home situation of every member of the team make the book diffuse. The baseball scenes are well-done, if repetitive; the characters are differentiated and variably drawn. Some of the boys are perceptively described, some are believable but flat, some few boys and adults seem stereotyped. Gil is pushed by his father and is a limelighter; his father calms down and Gil becomes more cooperative; as the season goes on, all the boys improve in one way or another and the team members become a team.

R Emberley, Barbara. Night's Nice; by Barbara and Ed Emberley. Doubleday, K-2 1963. 28p. illus. \$1.95.

A small book, a slight text—but simple and reassuring. The illustrations are excellent in use of color and in establishing mood. The text catalogs all the attractions of the night: the moon and the stars, the display of fireworks, the Hallowe'en fun, the city lights; it is enjoyed by all sorts of creatures for sleeping, and, the book concludes, ". . . hop into bed, Turn over twice And whisper this softly: Night's nice, night's nice, night's nice.", in smaller and smaller type.

Ad Evans, Katherine. The Mice that Ate Iron; a fable retold and illus. by Katherine 2-3 Evans. Whitman, 1963. 39p. \$2.25.

A nicely illustrated retelling of a fable originally from India, adapted to the Spanish folk style. Pablo, having left the anchor that was his sole possession with a friend, returns to his village to find—according to his friend—that the anchor was eaten by mice. Pablo borrows—and fails to return—his friend's burro; the friend goes to court, where the judge rules (hearing Pablo say that in a country where mice eat iron, burros are carried off by eagles) that Pablo's tricker deserved to be tricked. The writing is modestly pleasing, the message is crystal clear; it is regrettable that the story ends with flat abruptness, "And so the mayor decreed that Antonio should buy back the anchor and return it to Pablo. Pablo, for his part, was to return the burro to Antonio." End of story.

SpR Fall, Thomas. My Bird Is Romeo; illus. by Louise Gordon. Dial, 1964. 96p. 5-7 \$3.25.

An unusual story of a pre-adolescent girl. An only child, Emily is a dreamer, a bird-lover, an imaginative and introspective person. The young sparrow hawk, Romeo, is a dearly-loved pet and an increasing nuisance; since Emily loves all birds, she hates to admit that hawks must eat other birds. In the course of her problems with Romeo, Emily has conflict with her parents—and some of the time she is surprised by their understanding. The ending is fairly standard: the girl releases her pet for his own good; the book is, however, far from being a formula story. The characterization is compelling, the relationships between Emily and her parents are most percipient; in this tightly-written story there are no other characters, and none needed.

R Fatio, Louise. The Happy Lion and the Bear; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Whittle- K-2 sey House, 1964. 32p. \$2.95.

As always, the Happy Lion is delightful. Here the lion and his friends gossip about a new member of the community; they all hope the new bear will prove friendly, but when the Happy Lion goes to pay his first call, the bear growls ferociously. In self-defense, the lion roars; and so the two go on, exchanging hostilities each time they meet until their friend François needs their united help. So each learns that he has jumped to conclusions about the other. Told with charming simplicity, and as good an indictment of prejudice as can be found at the picture book level.

R Foltz, Mary Jane. Tuchin's Mayan Treasure; illus. by Mel Silverman. Morrow, 4-6 1963. 64p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.78 net.

Tuchin's mother kept an inn near Chichen Itza, and when a party of archeologists made the inn their headquarters, Tuchin was asked to serve as interpreter because he spoke both Spanish and Mayan. The boy was fascinated by the work being done to recover artifacts from a sacrificial well, but he was also worried about disturbing the old Mayan god who lived in the water. In a tightly-constructed and convincingly-detailed story, the author moves her protagonist in a logical way from dubiety and superstition to curiosity, and to a growing confidence in the scientists and, from that, to new courage. Tuchin's treasure is the gift of a university education, earned by his contribution to the work of the archeological team.

R Gans, Roma. The Wonder of Stones; illus. by Joan Berg. T. Y. Crowell, 1963.
1-2 39p. (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Books). Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed.
\$2.35 net.

A handsomely illustrated first book about rocks, simply written for the beginning independent reader. The author describes in elementary terms the three kinds of rocks, pointing out that there is great variety in stones everywhere and suggesting that the reader start a collection of stones. A good introductory science book.

Ad Gimpel, Herbert J. Navy Men and What They Do. Watts, 1963. 207p. illus.
7-10 \$3.95.

A survey of the different kinds of jobs and opportunities in the Navy, comprehensive in coverage although superficial in the descriptions of individual duties. In treating each duty, the author gives a general outline of the job and refers to a serviceman (or woman) or to an officer, usually quoting him briefly. A good introduction for the reader who is considering service in the Navy, but weakened by the fragmented and chatty writing style. The inclusion of identifying insignia contributes to the usefulness of the book; the glossary and the index are extensive.

Ad Goldstein, Rhoda. Tools of the Scientist; illus. by Lewis Zachs. Prentice-Hall,
4-6 1963. 72p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.84 net.

An adequately written book about many of the machines and instruments used today, chiefly by workers in the physical sciences. The information is not comprehensive, but it is accurate; the text gives a broad but superficial survey of scientific tools. Were the material better organized, it would be more useful; the chapter entitled "The doctor looks and listens" exemplifies the shortcomings of the book in that it lists some tools but not others (the electrocardiograph but not the sphygmomanometer), in that the microscope is not mentioned, although it is described elsewhere, and in that this section is based on the tools of a particular profession, whereas other chapters may be based on use—"Can machines think?" or "The secrets of the sea." An index is appended.

NR Hamberger, John. The Day the Sun Disappeared; text and pictures by John Ham-
K-2 berger. Norton, 1964. 34p. Trade ed. \$3.; Library ed. \$2.90 net.

A picture book with a very slight plot built around an eclipse of the sun, illustrated with rather repetitive and pedestrian drawings of forest animals. The animals worried when the sky darkened during the day; the night creatures came out, and all the animals were confused. The owl, who gave an equivocal answer, what was happening. When the sun shone again, all the day animals began to dance and sing merrily. The text gives a fairly simple, comprehensible explanation of an eclipse, but the fanciful context of the story lessens the value of the one informational page.

Ad Harley, Esther S. Books: From Papyrus to Paperback; by Esther S. Harley and
7- John Hampden. Roy, 1964. 91p. illus. \$3.95.

A good general picture of a broad field, in a fairly heavily written book that reviews the development of our own alphabet from earlier forms of writing, of books from

clay tablets to mass-market paperbacks, and of such relevant topics as book sales, modern techniques in book-making, and libraries. The latter part of the text makes just enough specific references to British publishers and British libraries to limit to considerable extent the usefulness of the book in this country. Illustrations are adequate, but the captions are not always lucid. A divided bibliography and an index are appended.

R Harnden, Ruth Peabody. The High Pasture; illus. by Vee Guthrie. Houghton, 5-7 1964. 192p. \$3.

A quiet book, but strong. Sent to stay with an aunt in Colorado because his mother was gravely ill, Tim learned to love the mountain country and to enjoy his new skills despite his apprehensions about his mother. His patience in winning, on the high pasture, a dog who had become half-wild, helped the boy face with courage the news of his mother's death. With a new maturity, Tim accepted the knowledge that his mother had known she was going to die and had sent him away because she so loved him. The story is tightly constructed and perceptively written; although it is quiet, it is far from dull. Characterization and dialogue are very good.

R Haviland, Virginia. Favorite Fairy Tales Told in Spain; retold by Virginia Haviland; illus. by Barbara Cooney. Little, 1963. 87p. \$2.95.

As in other volumes in the series, this collection of retellings is handsomely illustrated and is printed in large, clear type. The stories are told with a true feeling for the genre and a true feeling of the country of origin; the style is direct and vivacious. A good book for storytelling, for reading aloud, or for independent reading.

M Headstrom, Richard. Adventures with Insects; illus. by the author. Lippincott, 6-8 1963. 221p. \$4.25.

A book that is profusely and carefully illustrated and that gives a great many precise facts, but that is weak enough in several aspects to limit severely the usefulness of the text. The organization, with chapters based on similarity of behavior, function, habitat, or detail of structure, is interesting for the browsing reader, but not practical for the student—especially since the book has no index. Chapter titles are not always indicative of the nature of the contents; the style is a bit heavy, and a serious flaw is in the variation of difficulty; for example, on the first page are two sentences that seem to be addressed to readers at two levels, "Have you ever seen an egg that looks like a tiny flowerpot?" and "Should we go outdoors and poke about with a discerning eye, we would find eggs of all shapes and colors and some that are beautifully ornamented or exquisitely sculptured."

R Hoban, Russell C. Nothing to Do; pictures by Lillian Hoban. Harper, 1964. K-2 32p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

Small ones who enjoy this book, another delightful vignette of parents coping with the everyday problems of their beloved and exasperating young, will never know how much more enjoyment it provides for adults. The won't care, either. Walter's father (a possum, but that is incidental) finally—with weary patience—thinks of a way to keep his child busy. Walter—not very patient—follows his father's example and thinks of a way to keep his baby sister busy. Absolutely real, written with warmth, humor, and simplicity.

Ad Holm, Hannebo. A Husband for Hannah; tr. by Patricia Crampton. Abelard-6-9 Schuman, 1963. 160p. \$3.

First published in Norway under the title Hannemor Vil Ikke Gifte Seg. A good story for girls, with a nice balance of humor and romance. Appalled by the news that their older sister Hannah's first teaching job is to be at their own school, Paul and Espen Rimer organize their friends. Purpose: marrying off Hannah; who wants to be taught

school by his sister? One unsuitable candidate after another is thrust on Hannah, a reserved and rather old-fashioned girl. The boys don't prevent her from teaching school, but soon after school starts, Hannah finds the right man by herself. The story is well-written, the characterization is adequate, the plot becomes a bit elaborate: one adult after another is drawn into membership in the boys' secret society to marry Hannah off, and this adult participation in the matrimonial scheme gets beyond the bounds of credibility, and often beyond the bounds of good taste.

R Kent, Louise (Andrews). He Went With Hannibal; illus. by Witold T. Mars.
6-9 Houghton, 1964. 282p. \$3.50.

An excellent historically-based novel about a lad who, sent as a Spanish hostage, grew up in Hannibal's service. Young Brecon traveled with Hannibal in his campaign against Roman domination; a devoted friend, the older Brecon served as courier and intelligence agent for the hero of Carthage. The characterization is very good, the historical and fictional elements are woven together smoothly, and the fictional persons and incidents are all vivid and credible.

Ad Land, Barbara. The Quest of Johannes Kepler, Astronomer; illus. by Sam Wis-
7-10 nom. Doubleday, 1963. 128p. \$2.95.

An adequately written biography of Kepler, not well-organized but with no omissions or inaccuracies; the text has an occasional flash of humor that is most enjoyable—as in a serious discussion of the theory of regular solids, "Suddenly, in a flash of intuition that was entirely wrong, he saw a connection between the two." The illustrations are not as lucid, nor is the text as smoothly written as in Rosen's biography of Kepler (Little, Brown, 1962) but the book gives a good picture of Kepler's work and of his place in the history of astronomical theory. An index is appended.

R Lawrence, Mildred (Elwood). Drums in My Heart. Harcourt, 1964. 192p.
7-9 \$3.25.

A smoothly written first-person novel with good family relationships, some love interest, some mystery, and convincing background of a small family business in a small town. When Val's adored older sister breaks her engagement with the town's hero, Eliot, Val feels that she can never care again for Eliot's brother Rob. The fact that Rob and Val work in the town's drum factory makes confrontation inevitable, and the evolution of a mysterious saboteur impels Val and Rob to collaborate as detectives. A credible plot, good characterization and good ethical concepts, in a story with particularly natural—often humorous—dialogue.

M Lessin, Andrew. Here Is Your Hobby: Art. Putnam, 1963. 128p. illus. Trade
6-9 ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.86 net.

A book that gives some encouragement to the amateur or would-be amateur, but that does not serve either to instruct the beginner in a particular technique to an adequate extent nor to give the reader an idea of the variety of media for artistic expression. The text is not well-organized and is unbalanced in treatment. The author gives good advice on pencil drawing and on oil painting, but does not advise on watercolor, for example, nor is watercolor listed in the index. Neither are clay, crayon, pastel, or sculpture. Illustrations are in black and white. The glossary and the bibliography are useful; an index is appended, and the author gives five sources of books and art materials available by mail order.

R McNeer, May Yonge. The American Indian Story; with lithographs by Lynd
5-8 Ward. Ariel, 1963. 96p. \$4.25.

A companion volume to The Canadian Story and The Mexican Story; this volume, too, is illustrated with lithographs that are handsome, but are more decorative than informative. The material is anecdotal, with some factual, descriptive background and

with just enough dialogue to keep the text from being too solidly written. The book gives a good survey of Indian tribes, of variant customs and art-forms, and of the Indian's relations with the white man. The text closes with a brief discussion of the Indian in the United States today. An index is appended.

R Markun, Patricia Maloney. The First Book of Central America and Panama; 5-7 illus. with photographs. Watts, 1963. 90p. \$2.50

An excellent survey of the six Central American republics, well-organized and quite profusely illustrated, and written in a crisp, detailed, and straightforward style. The author gives good general background material (historical and geographical) before discussing each country separately. The text concludes with another broad view of the whole isthmus: the way people live today, the impact of the Inter-American Highway on Central America, the problems of the future. The book has a double-page map, unfortunately too tightly bound; the index is good.

NR Mauermann, Mary Anne. Spotlight Summer. Washburn, 1964. 154p. \$3.25. 7-9

A patterned junior novel. Lucy, seventeen, is intelligent but is not well-organized or dependable. She becomes costumer for a local theatre group because she finds the young director so attractive; in the course of her association with the group she acquires more mature attitudes toward assuming responsibility and evaluating her own role. Formula plot and shallow characterization; the background of little theatre is not explored in enough technical detail to give interest to the pedestrian story line.

R Maule, Tex. The Last Out. McKay, 1964. 209p. \$3.75. 6-9

A sequel to Beatty of the Yankees. A good novel about professional baseball; the use of fictional characters on a real team is quite skilful. In his third year as a shortstop, Jim struggles to hide the fact that he is still suffering after a knee operation. He is told, after a second operation, that he can no longer play ball. Jim goes home, studies law and passes the bar examination; his first client is the mother of a small Mexican boy who is baseball-mad. Through Juan, Jim becomes interested in coaching and he is happy for the first time. The baseball scenes are excellent, the writing style is good, the relationship between Jim and his Mexican friends is dignified and sympathetic. The story is a bit weak, not in overall story line, but at one or two minor turns of the plot; it is, for example, highly improbable that a small boy who lives in San Antonio and wants to play shortstop when he grows up would fail to recognize the face or the name of a big league player who had had a great amount of publicity.

Ad Meader, Stephen Warren. The Muddy Road to Glory; illus. by George Hughes. 6-9 Harcourt, 1963. 190p. \$3.50.

A Civil War story. Ben Everett had just turned sixteen when he joined a Maine regiment in 1863. A good—but not unusual—story, neither overly dramatic nor dull, written with good balance of dialogue and narration, and with good period details that unfortunately slow the pace of the book. Ben makes some friends, sees action, is taken prisoner at Chickahominy and imprisoned at Belle Isle, escapes, rejoins to fight again, and returns home at the end of the war.

Ad Milne, Lorus J. Because of a Tree; by Lorus J. Milne and Margery Milne; drawings by Kenneth Gosner. Atheneum, 1963. 152p. \$3.95.

A book in which the authors give, in writing about eight particular trees, a good picture of the balance of nature. In describing the apple tree, for example, the text points out the ways in which various birds, beasts, and insects use the tree for food or shelter, the ways in which human cultivation affects conservation, and the ways in which factors in the ecological situation interact. The illustrations are meticulously detailed in

black and white, the print is large, the information is accurate and interesting. The book is limited in usefulness because it is narrow in scope, covering neither the whole ecological picture nor giving comprehensive descriptions of each tree. Good, however, as an introduction or as browsing material; weakened, unfortunately, by a rather unscientific and faintly written-down-for-children note. For example, in the chapter on the apple tree, the authors go into some detail about a pair of bluebirds that have a nest in which five eggs hatch; the parents have been busily feeding their young, "And then, as if by magic, the apple tree one morning suddenly produces four or five new bluebirds." A list of suggestions for further reading is appended.

R Mowat, Farley. The Black Joke; illus. by Victor Mays. Atlantic-Little, Brown, 7-9 1963. 218p. \$3.75.

A good adventure story for boys, tightly constructed and briskly paced. Set on the coast of Newfoundland in the 1930's, this tale of ships and smugglers has three adolescent heroes whose feats are dashing but not incredible. Peter and Kye, cousins, ship with Peter's father on a voyage from which the depression-stricken family desperately needs the profit. Outwitted by the town's scheming merchant-smuggler, Barnes, the family loses its ship, Black Joke. Peter and Kye get revenge and vindication with the help of Pierre, a boy from the French-background colony of St. Miquelin. Characterization is not deep, but the characters are convincing and the background colorful; the writing style is just a bit ornate, but lively.

Ad Nash, Ogden. The Untold Adventures of Santa Claus; illus. by Walter Lorraine. K-3 Little, 1964. 47p. \$2.95.

Santa Claus in irreverent depth, as his adventures have been relayed by one of his workmen. Mr. Nash describes in bouncy verse how, for example, Santa Claus was involved in George Washington's crossing of the Delaware and his victory that Christmas. The verse is enjoyable, but the enjoyment of children may be limited by the level of latent content of some of the references.

Ad Newman, Robert. The Japanese; People of the Three Treasures; drawings by 7- Mamoru Funai. Atheneum, 1964. 187p. \$4.25.

A history of Japan that gives much of the legend and the folklore of the country in addition to factual material. The text is well-written and much of it gives unusual material (samurai armor, Japanese fencing) but the amount of detail seems burdensome for a juvenile audience. The history of modern Japan is covered in a single closing chapter with the 1946 constitution as the last factual reference. The index is good; the brief annotated bibliography seems gauged for the adult reader. The text also seems more appropriate for the adult reader or the young person with a special interest than it does for the general reader of teen-age.

NR Patchett, Mary Osborne Elwyn. Dangerous Assignment. Bobbs-Merrill, 1964. 7-9 181p. \$3.50.

Jeff, an agent of the British Secret Service, and Tex, his opposite number from the United States, go on a mission to the African state of Aljabri. Objects: the discovery of the country's source of wealth and the retrieval of the wife and child of the British Ambassador. The missions are accomplished. The characters are stereotyped, the plot is quite unbelievable, moving from one wildly improbable cliff-hanger situation to another. For example, Jeff and Tex are captured (after many a perilous ploy) as they run off with Lady Yateley and little Linda; as they are fighting for their lives against giant squids (while the cruel ruler watches, Roman arena style) and death seems nigh, they are saved by an erupting volcano.

R Piper, Roberta. Little Red; illus. by Joan Berg. Scribner, 1963. 156p. Trade 4-6 ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.12 net.

A very fine story for girls; although most of the incidents are built around a pony, Little Red, the story has broader interests than most horse stories. The family relationships (parents and grandfather) are excellent and the friendship values are sensitively and perceptively drawn. The writing has unity, realism, and an easy style. Nan Coburn gets a pony, learns to be both firm and gentle with him, and—alas—outgrows Little Red. Partly through the interest her friends have in the pony, Nan learns a few things about people and their motivations, too. A good book.

R Pundt, Helen Marie. Zenty. T. Y. Crowell, 1964. 239p. \$3.75.
7-10

A mature and perceptive junior novel, unusual in the several ways in which it diverges from pattern. Zenty is a girl whose allegiance is given to her long-absent father, an artist and a man of artistic integrity; Zenty's mother (a beautifully conceived character) is a garrulous and querulous woman who resents her child's intellectual and artistic interests. When Zenty finds that her painting is to be given first prize in a contest, she is torn; the money will enable her to study, but her probity demands that she withdraw from the contest, knowing her entry is completely imitative of her father's style. Her love story, too, is not in the junior-novel formula: she loves a young college instructor who seems fond of her, but does not declare himself. And—that's the way it ends. Zenty is probably going to get her education, but there is no magic all's-well ending. Good style, good characterization, and a consistent relationship between the characters and their behavior in reaction to their own motivations and to the behavior of others.

M Reeves, James. The Peddler's Dream and Other Plays. Dutton, 1963. 96p.
6-8 Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.86 net.

Three plays intended for the upper elementary grades: the title play, "Mulcaster Market", and "The Stolen Boy", the latter being the only play in which there is a juvenile character. The first play concerns a poor family, the father of which comes back from London with a long-lost grandfather and a clue to the lost family treasure. In the second play, three thieves are outwitted by a fourth; in the third play, a boy is stolen by a man who trains him to be a thief—ten years later the boy is caught robbing his own parents, and recognition is followed by repentance. The plays seem amiable but wispy, having neither suspense, message, humor, or dialogue of substance. They may prove useful for groups needing new material, but they are not comparable in literary quality to the author's stories for children.

M Serrailier, Ian. The Enchanted Island; Stories from Shakespeare; illus. by Peter Farmer. Walck, 1964. 201p. \$4.

Mr. Serrailier has used material from eleven Shakespeare plays—in some cases retelling the plot, in others, creating a story of some sub-plot. The prose is adequate, but the use of small print and the level of vocabulary difficulty demand readers old enough to enjoy the original version. Even if the young reader does not understand all of the allusive or obsolete language of Shakespeare, he can get as much of the plot from the original as he does here, and can enjoy the power and the poetry of Shakespeare's style.

Ad Shakespeare, William. Five Plays from Shakespeare; ed. by Katherine Miller; 6-9 musical arrangements by Norman Cazden; illus. by Lynd Ward. Houghton, 1964. 236p. \$6.

A handsome book handsomely illustrated, with explanatory prefaces and interpolated notes, production notes, a glossary of Elizabethan words, and musical scores. The five plays included are "The Tempest," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "The Comedy of Errors," "The Tragedy of Macbeth," and "The Tragedy of Julius Caesar." Intended for youthful production, the plays have been abbreviated by quite skilful cuts; there

are no changes or additions made, only deletions that cut each play down to a one-hour production. The interpolated notes in each play fill in, for the performers and production staff, the missing action or the motivations. Although young people can appreciate the originals as an audience, they are liable to be less taxed, in using this book, by lengthy memorization or by the complications of production problems. The prime use, therefore, is for production rather than for reading; for production purposes the volume is a bit unwieldy physically.

R Silverberg, Robert. Home of the Red Man; Indian North America before Columbus. New York Graphic Society, 1963. 252p. illus. \$3.95.

A good book about the Indians of North America; not new material, but well-organized, written in sprightly and competent style, and written with a nice balance between objectivity and sympathy. A closing chapter on the Indian in contemporary society is succinctly informative. The appended bibliography and index are excellent.

R Sommerfelt, Aimée. The White Bungalow; tr. by Evelyn Ramsden; illus. by Ulf 6-9 Aas. Criterion Books, 1964. 126p. \$3.

A sequel to The Road to Agra; Lalu, who had seen the medical wonders being performed at the white bungalow, wanted to become a doctor. Torn between his chance for higher education and his family responsibilities, Lalu unhappily accepted the fact that without him the family could not subsist. He gave his place in the school to Ram—his good friend and a fine student—and found, curiously, that he was content. The author's message: the need for trained young people exists at all levels in India. The story is kept within a narrow framework, so that the village life, the family structure, and the thirst for education are made real and immediate. Good characterization, and a completely convincing background.

M Spencer, Cornelia. How Art and Music Speak to Us. Day, 1963. 95p. illus. 7-9 \$3.50.

The author discusses the ways in which people have, through the ages, expressed in art and music the emotions for which words would not—or could not—suffice. The text discusses music first, then art; in each case, the material is treated topically: under "Early Music and Religion", for example, the first topics are "Wonder about gods and life after death was expressed in music" and "Many of the oldest songs and dances were really prayers." The author writes well, the book has some interesting concepts and some useful information, and the text may well stimulate some readers to better understanding, but the format is uncomfortably fragmented, reading on some pages almost like original notes. The author does not attempt to give a comprehensive history of art, but the fact that the book is not usable as art history or music history makes its purpose less decipherable.

Ad Sterling Publishing Company. Scotland in Pictures. Sterling, 1963. 64p. illus. 6-9 Trade ed. \$1.; Library ed. \$1.67 net.

A good introductory book although limited in usefulness by some weaknesses and by the absence of an index. The text is well-organized and the treatment is balanced, but the double columns of small print are a drawback; photographs are plentiful and most of them are useful, but some of the long captions (some of the pages have no text, only captioned pictures) contain irrelevancies. An interesting book through which to browse, adequate as an overview but not as useful as Buchanan's The Land and People of Scotland (Lippincott, 1959).

Reading for Parents

- American Library Association. Seven A.L.A. Criteria for Book Fairs. Single copies free; 20 copies, \$1; 100 copies, \$4.50; 500 copies, \$20; 1000 copies, \$37.50. Available from the Children's Services Division, A.L.A., 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago 11, Ill.
- Association for Childhood Education International. Guide to Children's Magazines, Newspapers and Reference Books. 8p. \$.10 each; 25 copies, \$2. Available from A.C.E.I., 3615 Wisconsin Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016.
- _____. Homework: The Home's Part, the School's Part. Membership Service Bulletin 9A. 40p. \$1. Order from address above.
- Booth, Wayne. "Censorship and the Values of Fiction." The English Journal, March 1964.
- Doman, Glenn. How to Teach Your Baby to Read. Random House, 1964. 166p. \$3.95.
- Durkin, Dolores. "Parents, Reading and the Schools." Education. March 1964.
- Indianapolis Public Library. Gift Books for Boys and Girls. 6p. Single copy free from the I.P.L., 40 E. St. Clair Street, Indianapolis 4, Indiana.
- Larrick, Nancy. A Parent's Guide to Children's Reading; Rev. Ed. Hardcover edition, \$3.98 from Doubleday; paperback edition, \$.50 from Pocket Books.
- Mergentime, Charlotte. You and Your Child's Reading: A Practical Guide for Parents. Harcourt, 1963. 212p. \$5.
- Minneapolis Public Library. Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered. Books about children for parents. Single copy free if a stamped and self-addressed envelope is sent. M.P.L., Public Relations Office, 300 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.
- _____. The Gifted Child. As above.
- Newark Public Library. How Do Your Children Grow? Single copies free, additional copies \$.10 each. N.P.L. Education Department, P.O.Box 630, Newark 1, N.J.
- Reid, Virginia. "Children's Literature—Old and New." Elementary English, May and October 1964 issues, \$.70 each. Available from the National Council of Teachers of English, 508 S. Sixth Street, Champaign, Illinois 61822.
- Witty, Paul. "A Summary of Yearly Studies of Televiewing 1949-1963." Elementary English, October 1963. Reprints of the article, single copies free, from Television Information Office, Dept. SLJ, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York 19, N.Y.

