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**BULLETIN
OF THE
CENTER FOR
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS**

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. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago, Graduate Library School. Sara I. Fenwick, Acting Supervising Editor; Mrs. Zena Bailey Sutherland, Editor.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 19

April, 1966

Number 8

New Titles for Children and Young People

Armstrong, Richard. The Big Sea. McKay, 1965. 154p. \$3.50.

R
7-10
Published in England in 1964, a fast-paced and exciting adventure story that has been constructed with unusual economy of characters and setting. The author writes with the empathy of long experience about a young seaman who finds himself alone on a damaged ship in a heavy sea. Jonty is thought already missing when his shipmates abandon the S.S. Kariba; he knows that rescue attempts will be made, but he must fight fear and solitude until help comes.

Arsenyev, Vladimir. With Dersu the Hunter; Adventures in the Taiga; ad. by Anne Terry White. Braziller, 1965. 212p. illus. \$3.50.

Ad
7-10
An adaptation of the writings of a Russian geologist and explorer about his adventures in Siberia early in this century. Dersu, his guide and companion, was a good and simple man, a wise and experienced woodsman, and a man with natural dignity and courage. Arsenyev describes in detail the many adventures and dangers encountered on three separate expeditions; save for the awkward effect of Dersu's rustic speech ("If rain soon, then him sit still . . .") the writing style is solid and straightforward, all of the drama being in the events and all of the color in the setting: the boundless and untracked forest, the phenomena of weather, and the abundant observations on the people and the animals of the Taiga.

Barnwell, Robinson. Head Into the Wind; decorations by Avery Johnson. McKay, 1965. 246p. \$4.50.

Ad
6-9
A story set on a North Carolina farm during the depression. Toby is thirteen, an only child who misses poignantly the father who died six months earlier. The resentment that Toby feels at the fact that his mother has a suitor (a family friend, a widower, and a good man) is the main theme of the book, a problem that is solved by the gentle intervention of Toby's paternal aunt. The minor themes are those of any adolescent: a crush on a pretty teacher, a best friend moving away, a need to show mother that he is no longer a little boy, and a first girl. Not unusual in a story-line, but with adequate characterization, convincing background and period details, and very good familial relationships. The writing style is adequate; there is one incident in which, unfortunately, a Negro character speaks in a dialect used by no others: "Aunt Dice looked up. She rolled her round eyes. 'Lord Help us, Mr. Ransom.' she cried. 'Dat must be de grand-daddy ob' em all.'"

Beatty, John. The Royal Dirk; by John and Patricia Beatty. Morrow, 1966. 256p. \$3.50.

Ad
7-10 A lively story about a young Scots boy who helped Prince Charles escape to France, and whose implication in the escape led to a series of adventures. For young Alan, the dirk given him by his Prince was a talisman; taken by the English, rescued from their jail by a highwayman, and later stranded in London, the boy was at last given safe-conduct to Scotland by the kindly Prince of Wales. The picaresque plot is quite patterned and the characterization is slight, but the writing style is good, the historical background interesting, and the picture of eighteenth-century London colorful. The author has appended some unusually interesting and informative notes.

Brodtkorb, Reidar. Flying Free. Rand McNally, 1965. 141p. illus. \$2.95.

R
7- Since there was a reward offered for dead eagles, Mr. Brodtkorb's projects met with little sympathy; to an already difficult task was added, therefore, a lack of cooperation. Some of the adventures were dangerous, some unsuccessful; with the help of his wife and small daughter, however, the author saved many beautiful birds, some of which became family pets. The photographs are impressive, and the dramatic material is written in an ingenuous and modest tone.

Buehr, Walter. Cloth; From Fiber to Fabric; written and illus. by Walter Buehr. Morrow, 1965. 95p. Trade ed. \$3; Library ed. \$2.90 net.

M
5-7 A fairly useful but quite dull book, inadequately illustrated. The author traces the history of cloth-making from primitive times through recorded history to the manufacture of cloth in the modern mills of today. The chapters are oriented toward processes, although there are separate chapters on wool and on cotton. Not comprehensive, since—for example—neither silk nor man-made fabrics are discussed; they are not even listed in the one-page index. Although somewhat more difficult, Clothes and Cloth by Arnold and White (Holiday, 1961) is so much more comprehensive, informative, and entertaining that it might well attract the younger audience for whom Cloth is intended.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. Lincoln's Birthday; illus. by Ernest Crichlow. T. Y. Crowell, 1966. 34p. \$2.95.

R
3-4 A very simply written biography, and a good addition to the series. Simply written, but not written down; static but not dull; and, although the short sentences become obtrusive, the writing isn't too choppy. The material is just right in coverage and amount of detail for the quite young reader; the tone is objective. The illustrations are not informative, but they are quite handsome; the balance of text and illustration results in an unusually attractive format.

Campbell, Ann Raymond. Let's Find Out About Color; pictures by the author. Watts, 1966. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$1.88 net.

An introduction to the topic of color that seems unnecessarily complicated by associations and concepts: red is "hot," blue "cold"; "When

NR you dig a hole in the earth, it is brown." "Chocolate is brown. Your
K-2 shoes may be brown." The colors on the page are not as clear as they
are in Duvoisin's The House of Four Seasons (Lothrop, 1956) in which
the mixtures that produce secondary colors are much more clearly
shown.

Carpenter, Allan. Florida; From its Glorious Past to the Present; illus. by
Phil Austin. Children's Press, 1965. 95p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library
ed. \$2.63 net.

M One of a series of books about states in the "Enchantment of Amer-
4-6 ica" series; some of the illustrations really supplement the text, while
others are decorative. The text is continuous, broken by topic headings;
the writing style is mediocre, the tone that of a chamber of commerce
brochure. Nevertheless, the book provides some information beneath the
sugar-coating; some quick-reference lists and an index are appended,
but no map is included. Some of the other states now represented in the
series are California, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Nevada, New
Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and Wisconsin.

Carroll, Ruth (Robinson). Danny and the Poi Pup; by Ruth and Latrobe Carroll.
Walck, 1965. 48p. \$3.75.

M A story set in Hawaii in 1820, illustrated with softly colored pic-
3-4 tures. Danny is the small son of a Boston missionary; he keeps eating
the poi meant for a puppy because he knows the puppy is being fattened
for cooking. The King's son is being taught the alphabet by Danny (fa-
ther is too busy preaching and mother is too busy sewing enormous
dresses for the several very large women in the royal family) but he
teaches Danny many new skills as well. At a great feast, the King is so
pleased that his son has learned the English alphabet that he gives Dan-
ny the puppy and declares that henceforth it will be tabu to eat dogs.
Some of the book is charming: the scenes of the small blond boy and the
dark, tall, handsome prince are as pleasantly depicted in illustration as
they are in text. The book has an occasional, infrequent note that grates
a bit, however, as in the description of the very large Hawaiian women,
and in the attitude expressed by Danny's mother when she asks, "Now
you don't want them to go back to worshipping their scary old idols, do
you, dear?"

Cénac, Claude. Four Paws into Adventure; tr. by Sarah Chokla Gross; illus.
by Brinton Turkle. Watts, 1965. 159p. \$3.50.

Ad First published in France in 1961, winner of the annual Prix Fanta-
5-6 sia, the story of a dog's adventures—told by the dog. Diogenes, whose
owner is a Paris hobo, runs away when his master is hospitalized. The
dog is picked up by a good-natured truckdriver and taken home to the
truckdriver's children; Diogenes becomes a beloved pet, acquires a
staunch canine buddy, and enjoys life in a temperate climate. His joy is
complete when his former owner turns up and everybody becomes
friends with everybody. The writing style is lively; a trace of senti-
mentality is balanced by occasional barbed remarks on the foibles of
humans. The conversations among animals are unashamedly at the hu-
man level; one dog says to another, for example, "For goodness' sake,
your're making a disgusting racket. Stop for a minute. You know per-

fectly well that nothing but shoemaker's pitch will get out those stickers. What you're doing won't do a bit of good."

Chapin, Henry. Tigertail; The Game Chicken; with illus. by David Stone Martin. Scott, 1965. 70p. \$3.

M
5-6 A story about a gamecock that was blown by a hurricane to the edge of the Everglades, where Joe and his parents lived; Joe decided to make a pet of the chicken. Tigertail was willing enough to be fed, but had no intention of becoming tame—in fact, he was noisy and unfriendly—but he was also beautiful and often entertaining. When the family moved to New York, Joe took Tigertail to a Seminole camp, where a young Indian girl who loved animals took the chicken, promising to let Joe have him when the family returned to Florida. The illustrations are amusing and quite attractive, but are distractingly page-filling; the story is weak, the background fascinating, and the writing style adequate.

Colette. The Boy and the Magic; (*L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*) tr. by Christopher Fry; illus. by Gerard Hoffnung. Putnam, 1965. 31p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.29 net.

NR
K-2 First published in 1964, an oversize picture book, the text based on the libretto of Ravel's L'Enfant et les Sortilèges. A small boy who is lazy, selfish, and habitually cruel releases a magic spell when he treats a grandfather clock roughly. All the inanimate objects around him come to life and dance about and threaten him; the boy flees to the garden, where all the plants and animals he has mistreated in the past are a reproach to him. He makes one kind gesture to a squirrel, and all is forgiven; the spell is over, and the boy is carried home to his mother by the now-friendly animals. Without choreography or music, a slight plot although a worthy idea; the writing style is either stilted or is stiffly translated; the illustrations are full-page, full-color, and busy—but with fanciful and humorous detail.

Davidson, Basil. A Guide to African History; rev. and ed. by Haskel Frankel; illus. by Robin Jacques. Doubleday, 1965. 118p. \$2.95.

Ad
6-9 A revision of the 1963 title published in England. The material is fascinating, the information is useful; it is a pity that the style of the revision is so static and that there seems to be so marked a discrepancy between the interest-level of the subject and the laborious device of parenthetical pronunciation and definition. Especially is this true because the appended guide to pronunciation duplicates the device in the text. Mr. Davidson takes pains to show, convincingly, that much of African history and progress was at a much higher level than has been generally supposed; he shows clearly the complicated pattern of intercontinental and intracontinental cultural diffusion. The book gives excellent material for a better understanding of the problems of today. An index is appended.

Downey, Glanville, ed. Stories from Herodotus; A Panorama of Events and peoples of the Ancient World; selected and tr. by Glanville Downey; illus. by Enrico Arno. Dutton, 1965. 158p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.91 net.

R
6-10 A well-written adaptation of some of the writings of Herodotus, very attractively illustrated with small black and white drawings and with maps. The introduction by Mr. Downey, a classicist who selected, translated, and adapted the material, is very good and encourages the reader to move on to the original. The title is misleading, since it does not make clear that the book covers only the stories of the wars between the Greeks and the Persians.

Fisher, Laura H. You Were Princess Last Time; illus. by Nancy Grossman. Holt, 1965. 158p. \$3.

NR
4-5 Susie, nine years old and a tomboy, is teased and taunted by her older sisters; a quarrel results in one chopped-off braid, and Susie has to have her hair cut very, very short. She is then teased and taunted by her classmates; from then on the tomboy's one desire is to have long hair and never, never to be called a boy. An elderly neighbor helps Susie improve her behavior; he also puts in a kind word to her mother; Susie at last gets the role of princess on her birthday. There is little to the story basically save for the growth and development of hair; the family relationships seem unrealistically caustic, even that between Susie and her mother. An elderly aunt is just plain rude.

Fleischman, Sid. McBroom Tells the Truth; illus. by Kurt Werth. Norton, 1966. 48p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.03 net.

R
3-6 A romping and delightful tall tale, written in a blandly ingenuous style, and illustrated with lively and humorous drawings. McBroom, a farmer, describes his marvelous farm: the rich soil produced four crops a day; the eleven McBroom children had to stand weed-guard; the just-planted beans grew so fast the vines caught at McBroom's ankles. The story ends, "That's the entire truth of the matter. Anything else you hear about McBroom's wonderful one-acre farm is an outright fib." Entertaining to read aloud, a tale that should be enjoyed by young listeners and by readers from middle-grades through middle-age.

Goldwater, Daniel. Bridges and How They are Built; illus. by Harvey Weiss. Scott, 1965. 72p. \$3.

R
5-9 A very lucid book on building bridges, written by an engineer and teacher. The text discusses the purposes of the different kinds of bridges and of their component parts, giving very clear illustrations (in the form of home demonstrations) of the different kinds of forces that must be resisted by choosing the right material, the right shape, the right support for the shape, et cetera. Written in simple and straightforward style, a useful and an interesting book.

Grigson, Geoffrey. Shapes and Stories; A Book about Pictures; by Geoffrey and Jane Grigson. Vanguard, 1965. 68p. illus. \$5.95.

SpC
5-9 First published in England in 1964. An oversize book with many reproductions of paintings, sketches, woodcuts, tapestry details, et cetera; some are in black and white, some in full color. Several are inconveniently placed in relation to the textual reference. The Grigsons have an interesting approach: a rambling, informal, informative and often critical discussion of the details or of the background of the artist and of his conception of the work. In some cases, the shapes, colors, symbols,

artistic conventions, or details of technique are discussed; elsewhere, there may be only a long description of the story portrayed in the work of art. Useful in art collections, but limited by the random arrangement, disparate treatment, and the fact that—rather than an alphabetical index—the text is preceded by a list of artists' names in the order in which they appear in the book and it is followed by a list of titles in the order in which they appear in the book.

Halacy, D. S. The Robots are Here! Norton, 1965. 120p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.48 net.

M
6-9 A book about the machines that have become increasingly complicated, increasingly competent, and increasingly useful to man. Mr. Halacy gives some history of automats and supplies innumerable examples of robot machinery in industry and research today; he discusses at length the reaction—past and present—of men whose jobs are threatened by the efficiency of robots. The material on construction and function is slight, the emphasis being on performance and capability. Adequate as an introduction, but fairly superficial; the photographs add little to the text, and the few diagrams are not clear. The writing style is lightly tinged with journalese. An index is appended.

Harris, Christie. West with the White Chiefs; woodcuts by Walter Ferro. Atheneum, 1965. 214p. \$3.95.

R
6-10 An exciting historical adventure story about a small party that crossed the Rockies in 1863, based on the journal written by two Englishmen who were Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society. The expedition included the wife and son of an Assiniboine Indian guide, the events being seen chiefly from the viewpoint of young Louis Battenote. There is some comic relief in the character of a pedantic and querulous Irish schoolmaster who foisted himself upon the group, but the great appeal of the book is in the high adventure of the journey: the privations, the danger, the courage, and the loyalty of the small band of Indians and white men who became friends. The writing style is straightforward, heightening the drama of events; characterization and dialogue are excellent.

Hatcher, Charles. What Shape is It? drawings by Gareth Adamson. Duell, 1966. 32p. \$2.95.

Hatcher, Charles. What Size is It? drawings by Gareth Adamson. Duell, 1966. 32p. \$2.95

M
4-6 First published in England in 1963, two books that introduce the subjects of measurement and shape. The pages are, unfortunately, cluttered with diagrams, photographs, and cartoon-style drawings; the text appears primarily in two-column format, but is occasionally centered or set off to one side. Or, in one instance, printed upside down because it gives the answers to some questions. In each book, there are answers at the back of the book to some questions asked about puzzles or home demonstrations. The tone is a mingling of jocularly and enthusiasm for a fascinating subject; and the books, although smacking of the comic-book format, actually give a considerable amount of introductory information rather clearly.

Haugaard, Erik Christian. A Slave's Tale; illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon. Houghton, 1965. 217p. \$3.

R
6-9 A sequel to Hakon of Rogen's Saga (reviewed in the May, 1963 issue) in which Hakon told the story of his winning back of his inheritance. Here the story is told by Helga, the small slave girl to whom Hakon seems a beloved brother. Although there are other threads of plot, the story line basically concerns the voyage to Frankland. Helga, by now fifteen, is a stowaway; her description of the voyage and the longship, and her tale of Frankish treachery are exciting, convincing, and—above all—so beautifully appropriate in writing style that the book has the sweep and cadence of a Norse epic.

Hine, Al, ed. This Land is Mine; An Anthology of American Verse; illus. by Leonard Vosburgh. Lippincott, 1965. 244p. \$4.95.

Ad
6- An anthology arranged in large chronological segments, with editorial notes to give background or to fill in historical gaps. The selections are varied in quality and in kind, the editor having cheerfully stated his awareness of the fact that some of the early rhyming is mawkish; some, of course, is standard and excellent writing, some of the material is borderline poetry, but thorough Americana. An index of first lines and an author index are appended; there is no alphabetical listing of titles.

Hoban, Russell C. Goodnight; pictures by Lillian Hoban. Norton, 1966. 21p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.88 net.

NR
K-2 A small girl lies in bed and muses first on all the frightening things she can muster—obviously enjoying the process of scaring herself. The cat is really a witch, the chair in the corner is a monster, et cetera. Then she turns to fantasy, then to the comforting reality of the cat being just a cozy, fat cat. Very slight indeed, hampered by the restrictions of rhyming, and too fragmented in structure to have the appeal of most of the Hoban books; this has neither the humor nor the appeal of an everyday situation handled with simplicity and perception.

Ives, Burl. Albad the Oaf; pictures by E. Harper Johnson. Abelard-Schuman, 1965. 38p. \$2.95.

NR
3-5 A slim plot, the attractive illustrations showing the one adult character as Burl Ives, called here Mr. Carnation. Mr. Carnation, owner of a flower shop, needs a delivery boy. The four children to whom he tells this have their own problem: they cannot play near the river because they are afraid of Albad, a bad-tempered older boy. One of the children sees Albad crying; he tells her he hates his fishing, hates the smell of fish, and that he is an oaf. And that his real name is Albert. Mary gets him a job with Mr. Carnation; Albert is happy, Mr. Carnation is happy, and the children are happy.

Jennings, Gary. Black Magic, White Magic; illus. by Barbara Begg. Dial, 1965. 163p. \$3.75.

R
7- Not a book about the performing of sleight-of-hand, but a sophisticated and delightful history of magic in man's life. Mr. Jennings begins with primitive man and his propitiation of the unknown, discussing the roles of priests and magicians, magic in religions, symbols and super-

stitutions, magicians and alchemists, ghosts and little people, fakirs and witches, and some of the customs and phrases of our own time that were originally based on magic. The writing style is smooth, pleasantly meandering from one topic to another and incorporating facts and anecdotes. A selected bibliography and an index are appended.

Jones, Weyman. The Talking Leaf; illus. by Harper Johnson. Dial, 1965. 95p. \$3.25.

R
5-7 An impressive book about a young Cherokee, Atsee, who is so impressed by the Talking Leaf (a sheet of paper with writing on it) of the white man that he seeks out Sequoyah that he may learn how to write the language of his own people. Atsee and his father, a great hunter, have lived in the old ways of the tribe; after his father is gone the young Atsee has sought manhood through the rigorous and lonely life prescribed by tradition. A beautifully sustained story, handsomely illustrated in black and white; the picture given of the Cherokee Indian is colorful in detail, dignified in tone, and sympathetic—almost empathetic—in mood.

Keith, Harold. Komantcia. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 299p. \$3.95.

Ad
8- Based on the true story of Pedro Espinosa, a novel about a young Spaniard who is taken captive by the Comanches in 1865. The original Pedro returned to his own people after marrying an Indian woman and raising a family; here young Pedro Pavon slowly adjusts to the Comanche culture, first tolerating it—then embracing it. The book closes with Pedro's union with Willow Girl, with whom he is deeply in love; a projected sequel will follow the pattern of the return of Pedro Espinosa. The atmosphere is made vivid with innumerable well-researched details of Comanche life, although this meticulous care is precisely what slows the story. A thesis of the book seems to be that even a gentle, well-educated, high-born and devout person can become so inured to cruelty that he may become actively savage.

La Fontaine, Jean de. The Rich Man and the Shoe-Maker; illus. by Brian Wildsmith. Watts, 1966. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$2.96 net.

R
K-2 A simple and straightforward version of the story about the poor and merry shoemaker who found, when he was given a bag of gold, that material possessions were not always worth the responsibility they entailed. The style of the retelling is adequate. The illustrations are utterly lovely, the colors superbly printed (in Austria); the pages are vividly effective.

Lifton, Betty Jean. The Rice-Cake Rabbit; illus. by Eiichi Mitsui. Norton, 1966. 60p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.78 net.

M
K-3 An explanation of the Japanese folk legend of the rabbit who makes rice-cakes in the moon: a picture book with black and white illustrations that have a great deal of movement and vitality. Hundreds of years ago the rabbit Shiro wanted to be a samurai; jeered at by people, Shiro went to King Sojobo, a giant who was half-bird, half-man. The giant agreed to teach the rabbit to fight if he could have Shiro's wonderful rice-cakes the rest of his life. Shiro's fencing won the contest, but when his samurai disguise was discovered, he was banished to the moon. The story seems over-extended and slow, lacking the compensatory humor of the author's previous books.

Line, David. Soldier and Me. Harper, 1965. 181p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

R
6-9 A particularly good mystery story, set in England and told by fourteen-year-old Woolcott in an easy style and with a plot both suspenseful and believable. Soldier is Woolcott's name for Szolda, a Hungarian boy who is convinced that he has overheard a murder being plotted. In Hungarian. Woolcott—at first incredulous—takes Soldier's word for it, and the two boys go sleuthing with dire results. Save that there seem a few words quite unnecessarily changed to American terminology, the story is wonderfully well written and constructed.

Ludovici, L. J. Origins of Language; illus. by Raymonde Ludovici. Putnam, 1965. 160p. (Science Survey Books) \$3.29.

R
8-12 A serious and quite detailed introduction to the origins and development of language, with a considerable amount of information about the pioneers and prophets in the field of language studies. The author discusses origins, divergences, theories of change and diffusion, alphabets and picture writing; this is the more familiar material of the book. The less familiar portion of the text becomes fairly technical about phonetic, structural, and metamorphic aspects of language—spoken and written. Not as lively or informal as Laird's The Tree of Language (World, 1957) but rewarding in its own authoritative way. There is no table of contents; a glossary, a bibliography, and an index are appended.

McCrea, James. The Magic Tree; by James and Ruth McCrea. Atheneum, 1965. 27p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.07 net.

M
K-2 A read-aloud story about a small, dour princess; the illustrations are not unattractive, but are often busy with detail. The text, written rather simply, is weakened by a stilted quality; the story line is a variation on a patterned theme: the little princess who is cross—or sad—and is helped by another child (usually of lower status) to have a better sense of values. Here the scowling princess thinks there must be something magic about the sole fruit on a tree belonging to the gardener's boy. The boy has been humming, so the princess assumes the fruit will make her happy. She is upset, the boy is called in, the boy explains, the princess thinks carefully, and the princess then becomes a happy flower grower.

Meeks, Esther K. Mammals; illus. by Kyuzo Tsugami. Follett, 1965. 32p. Trade ed. \$1; Library ed. \$1.83 net.

M
2-4 A beginning science book that is written in a very simple, almost abrupt style; the material is accurate and is not too extensive for the age of the intended reader but it is not well-organized and seems often—in both text and illustration—to give examples at random. Illustrations are also adequate; a list of the more difficult words in the text is appended, and the book closes with a section entitled, "Things to do in school or at home."

Meynier, Yvonne. The School with a Difference; tr. from the French by Patricia Crampton. Abelard-Schuman, 1965. 159p. \$3.

First published in France in 1964 under the title Un Lycée Pas Comme Les Autres, a story (in the form of correspondence) that won

Ad 6-10 the Grand Prix de la Literature pour les Jeunes. Occasionally there are letters from a baby sister or father, but the major part of the story is told in letters between a mother and her two daughters who are away at boarding school. A school with a difference, indeed: a school in occupied France during World War II; the girls are scattered over a small village, their classrooms in stores, garages, anywhere there is a bit of space. In the letters is the whole story of the courage, the stamina, and the loyalty of people who lived as best they could. The letters also give a touching picture of family love. A moving and dramatic book, weakened by the fragmentation of the format and—somewhat—by the fact that there are allusions in the letters to background about the war that may not be understood by the reader.

Morey, Walt. Gentle Ben; illus. by John Schoenherr. Dutton, 1965. 191p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.91 net.

R 6-9 A most moving and convincing story about a lonely boy's love for his unusual pet, an Alaskan brown bear. Ben was indeed gentle and trustworthy, young Mark Andersen knew; his parents, at first fearful, also learned that the huge animal was docile and affectionate. Mark had to give his pet up on receipt of an official order, however, after the animal had been goaded and teased into retaliation by a gang of men who had been drinking. The huge bear was taken to an island; Mark's family found him when they came there to live and tend a salmon-trap. The background details of life in Alaska, of the fishing industry, and the outdoors are vivid; plot and characterization are excellent, and the writing style is good.

Mother Goose. Brian Wildsmith's Mother Goose; A collection of Nursery Rhymes. Watts, 1964. 80p. illus. \$4.95.

R 4-6 yrs. First published in England in 1964, an edition of the familiar rhymes that is bountifully and beautifully illustrated in vibrant color. The pictures have—in many cases—humor as well. On some pages a brief rhyme is illustrated in an almost-full-page painting; on other pages several rhymes are included. An index of first lines is appended.

Murphy, Robert William. The Golden Eagle; illus. by John Schoenherr. Dutton, 1965. 157p. \$3.95.

R 7-10 An interesting book for the general reader, and a compelling book for the nature lover. The author writes with appreciation and authority not only about the eagle, but about all of the flora and fauna of Colorado, the mountains, the sudden storms and seasonal grandeurs. The story of Kira, a female golden eagle, is fictionalized, but not unduly so; if Mr. Murphy has used imagination in describing Kira's flights and swoops and uses of currents and columns of air, he has made a bird's flight a comprehensible and complicated thing of beauty.

Myrus, Donald. A Man's Work; illus. by William Steinel. Macmillan, 1965. 40p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.96 net.

NR 4-6 The author recalls some of his encounters with men whose jobs are difficult and often dangerous, jobs done only by men. He reminisces about the driver of a truckload of explosives, about accompanying his father, who was a milkman, and about going down into a coalmine. There

is a brief discussion of work on a tugboat; other kinds of men's work are cited on the last pages. Rambling, occasionally written carelessly ("They don't dress to look good, but to work good.") but with a few pages that capture mood.

Nielsen, Virginia. Keoni, My Brother. McKay, 1965. 182p. \$3.95.

Ad
7-10
Keoni is the charming irresponsible night club folk singer about whom serious brother Ernest worries; Ernest is a high school teacher who is very conscious of the importance of Hawaiian education. He loves his brother but finds him a disruptive influence; all the family are proud of Ernest, but they feel more of a bond with Keoni, whose music keeps alive the old Hawaiian heritage. Keoni gets into trouble, then is drowned; Ernest is made aware of the fact that both of them make a contribution to society when a student tells him that he had love for Keoni, but for the teacher a profound respect. The author has four themes: family loyalty, cultural conflict, personal integrity, and Hawaiian racial harmony—all worthy and well-handled. There are simply too many themes, characters, and sub-plots (such as a shy student who has his first crush) for the book to be good. It is adequate, with some good school scenes and some Hawaiian lore and history.

Ormsby, Virginia H. What's Wrong with Julio? illus. by the author. Lippincott, 1965. 24p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.93 net.

Ad
K-2
A quite pleasant story, and a good vehicle for some mild and unobtrusive Spanish lessons; the story is weakened, however, by one unconvincing aspect. Julio is one of five Spanish-speaking children in a classroom; the other four respond enthusiastically to the teacher's suggestion that they can teach some Spanish as they learn English but Julio will not talk and does not learn. Not until the class gives a performance for parents is it discovered that Julio's parents live elsewhere. The class collects money so that Julio may telephone his mother and father—after which, all goes smoothly. There seems no reason for the teacher not to have known and helped earlier; there seems no reason for the four children who could speak to him not to have done so before. Nevertheless, the author's sympathetic attitude gives the whole project a cheerful and a naturally friendly air.

Pei, Mario. Our National Heritage. Houghton, 1965. 183p. illus. (North Star Books) Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.20 net.

M
6-9
A book that describes the contributions made by the peoples of many backgrounds to the culture, the customs, and the language used in the United States. As a distinguished philologist, the author gives in an authoritative fashion a long catalogue of words, foods, holiday observances, famous names (names of well-known people of the group being discussed, whether they have been born citizens of the United States or not) and, in each case, a smattering of information about the history of emigration and settling of the group. American Indians, Jews, Negroes, immigrants from the far east, and immigrants of the major European countries are discussed in separate chapters. The index is adequate but not extensive; photographs add little. The weakness of the book is in the style of writing, the text reading like a chamber of commerce brochure with a kind word for each and all. "Colonial empires come and go,

as recent history has shown us, but the contribution of blood and labor remains, as a permanent, indestructible monument to the hardihood, intelligence, and initiative of a race." A second weakness, less frequent, is the occasional inclusion of words that either are not really a part of our language (Gum, a government department store in Russia) or that seem to have been placed poorly, such as "Carioca, samba, conga come to us by way of Brazil.", a statement not in the chapter on Espanoles and Hispanos, but in the chapter on the American Negro, pointing out that some African words have come by way of Brazil.

Pliss, Louise. The Strange Journey of Kippy Brooks; illus. by Frank Aloise. Reilly and Lee, 1965. 121p. \$2.95.

M
4-5 Kippy is a small daydreamer who can't find a social niche in his small town neighborhood; lonely, he wanders down to the railroad yards and investigates a baggage car. Shut inside, he is carried off to Chicago, where he wanders about. He has several adventures, but he never gets around to Traveler's Aid or to a policeman; he runs into some adults, but gets no help from them until some sailors proffer help. In fact, they then have to fish him out of Lake Michigan, Kippy having fallen in while trying to clean his hands. His parents fly to Chicago to take him home, and he finds that he has gained stature in the eyes of the peer group. The writing style is good, but the story line is weakened by being over-extended; the rather callous attitude of many of the people whose paths cross Kippy's seems overdrawn, and the fact that Kippy cannot or does not get help seems not quite believable.

Ray, Ophelia. Daughter of the Tejas. New York Graphic Society, 1965. 120p. \$2.95.

Ad
6-9 Tiwana's grandfather is chief of the tribe; it is beneath his dignity to rescue a woman, although that woman is his daughter, who has been captured by the Apaches. Tiwana, however, wants desperately to have her mother back although she knows that a girl of twelve should not have such an attachment. Tiwana is sent to mission school, and shortly after she returns is captured by an Apache. She finds her mother and they escape, the escape engineered by a French trader and a cousin of Tiwana's. The cultural details are very smoothly incorporated into the story; the plot is convincing and the story is economically constructed; the writing style is quite sedate and slow.

Riverain, Jean. Trains of the World; ad. from the French text by Alan A. Jackson; illus. by A. Brenet et al. Follett, 1965. 63p. \$4.95.

Ad
6-9 An oversize book, translated and adapted from the original Trains d'aujourd'hui, published in France in 1963; not comparable in scope or thoroughness to Carlisle's Wonder Book of Trains (Winston, 1957) but with considerable information and a few distinct advantages. The illustrations are in color, an advantage in identification; and the carefully labelled diagrams are useful. A double-page spread gives "Signals of British Railways" and "Some Signals of U.S. Railroads"; a page of facts and figures precedes the index. The text is printed in two columns on most pages; the pages are often cluttered; some of the illustrations are decorative rather than informative. Arrangement of material seems random, with topic headings used that are not always indicative of the

contents. "Art and the Railway" cites two paintings, neither of which appear to have any connection with the illustrations on that page. The text is adequate in style; the format is weak.

Rogers, W. G. What's Up in Architecture; A Look at Modern Building; illus. with photographs. Harcourt, 1965. 192p. \$3.95.

R
7- A lively and informative book, written in an informal style, occasionally rambling or repetitive, but with a conversational ease and with authoritative familiarity. Mr. Rogers discusses the trends, the styles, the great leaders, some of the great buildings or bridges, public reaction, materials and concepts, and city planning. Separate chapters are devoted to Richardson, Sullivan, Wright, Le Corbusier, and Mies van der Rohe. Two sections of photographs are bound into the text; the lack of photographs to illustrate or clarify textual description is unfortunate. A long divided bibliography and an index are appended, the latter not complete: for example, there is no listing for St. Louis although there are several pages cited for the Wainwright Building . . . the Transportation Building is identified as being in Chicago, the Robie House and The Rookery are not.

Roland, Betty. The Forbidden Bridge; illus. by Geraldine Spence. McGraw-Hill, 1965. 76p. Trade ed. \$2.25; Library ed. \$2.46 net.

M
4-5 First published in England in 1961, a story about a boy of seven in Australia. Jamie's widowed mother has come to live with relatives in the country; Jamie has nobody his own age with whom to play, and he is lonely. Across a railway bridge lives a large and boisterous family, but Jamie has been forbidden to make the dangerous crossing. Tempted by a party, he goes nevertheless; after he has been rescued from danger, Jamie realizes that his cousin and uncle really do care about him, and that this is his own family to which he truly belongs. The setting is fairly interesting, and the writing style is adequate; the plot is weak and inconclusive, and the writing is too mature for the reader young enough to be interested in a protagonist of seven.

Russell, Franklin. Hawk in the Sky; illus. by Fredric Sweney. Holt, 1965. 61p. Trade ed. \$3; Library ed. \$2.96 net.

Ad
5-6 The story of the life-cycle of a red-tailed hawk, written in a realistic but slow-moving narrative style. The author, a naturalist, describes the strongest of three nestlings as "the Hunter"; the Hunter is fiercely aggressive, restless, wily, and strong. The lonely bird joins the thousands in migrant flight; upon his return he mates and a new set of nestlings faces a predatory world. The book is authoritative, the writing being slowed by descriptive material such as the detailed account of a storm during the southward migration or of a fight with a bald eagle.

Saunders, F. Wenderoth. Building Brooklyn Bridge; illus. by the author. Little, 1965. 64p. \$3.95.

R
3-6 A very good description of the planning and building of the great suspension bridge, straightforward in style and adequately illustrated. The technical details are explained simply and clearly; the danger and drama of real events makes the story exciting; and, unobtrusively, the author makes it clear that the importance of the achievement must be

seen in relation to the need, the risk, the materials and knowledge available at the time, and the confidence and experience of the builders.

Savoldi, Gloria Root. Mystery of the Old Dutch Chest; illus. by Theresa Brudi. Criterion Books, 1965. 147p. \$3.50.

M
6-9 Vicki goes with her Amish friend Hannah to an auction where she hopes to buy gifts for her father and her step-mother; for Clara, her step-mother, she finds an old chest. Vicki becomes increasingly suspicious when she is pressed by an antique dealer to sell him the chest for what seems to Vicki a great deal of money. Just after Vicki has found that there are bundles of money concealed in the chest, she is trapped by the criminals, counterfeiters who hold a small Amish boy when Vicki and her brother get away. The children are saved by Clara (whose courage makes Vicki appreciate her step-mother for the first time) and by the Amish people, who surround the men until the police arrive. The story has suspense, but the plot is labored and characterization is minimal; the Amish people as a group are very interesting, although the material about them is rather deliberately introduced into the story.

Schackburg, Richard. Yankee Doodle; woodcuts by Ed Emberley. Prentice-Hall, 1965. 27p. \$3.75.

R
3-6 A very handsome book, the illustrations nicely adapted to the broad pages. Using only the primary colors with black and white, the artist has made illustrations that are vivid, amusing, and very attractive. The text consists of the verses of the song, printed in a running line at the foot of each page; notes on the origin of the lyrics, and of some of the words used, preface the text; the music is appended.

Shapp, Martha. Let's Find Out About the Moon; by Martha and Charles Shapp; pictures by Yukio Tashiro. Watts, 1965. 55p. \$2.50.

M
2-4 This is an adequate introductory book on the subject of the moon, inadequately illustrated; at least, the mediocre illustrations need labels or captions to be clear. The authors discuss the future trips to the moon that will be made by man, noting the dangers and the problems; they describe the problems of exploration on the moon. There is some information given about the moon's place in the solar system, although there is no discussion of theories of origin. The text is continuous, with no table of contents or index; the writing style is stilted. For the primary-grades independent reader or used as a read-aloud book, this is less lucid than the Branley books: The Moon Seems to Change (T. Y. Crowell, 1960) and What the Moon is Like (T. Y. Crowell, 1963.)

Shaw, Denis. The Pakistani Twins; illus. by Geraldine Spence. Dufour, 1965. 156p. \$3.50.

NR
5-6 First published in England in 1960, a book that is more plot-oriented than are many in the series of Twins books. Rahim and Shaheen are devoted to Yussuf, the seventeen-year-old goatherd from a neighboring village; Yussuf's people, the twins know, are not popular in their own village, but they cannot find the reason. When their own buffalo is stolen, Yussuf is suspected; the thief turns out to be the son of the man who has most heatedly and convincingly inveighed against Yussuf as coming from

people known to be thieves. The real culprit later appears as a changed man, the army having changed him very rapidly. "Gone was the slouching, shambling figure they had known, gone were the shifty eyes in the unhealthy, podgy face. They saw an upright, handsome fellow with an open friendly smile and eyes that looked frank and unafraid. The amount of information about Pakistan is minimal and is laboriously incorporated as classroom dialogue. Illustrations are attractive; the print is very small.

Smaridge, Norah. Peter's Tent; illus. by Brinton Turkle. Viking, 1965. 22p. \$2.50.

Ad
3-6
yrs. A brief story, pleasantly illustrated, about friendship values. Peter, disgruntled by the behavior of his friends, makes a tent out of bed-clothes hung over a clothesline. Object: privacy. One by one, three friends are permitted to enter the hallowed retreat. Result: collapse of tent. The idea that it is better to be friendly and befriended than alone is quite successfully conveyed, although the treatment is rather slight.

Steele, William Owen. Trail Through Danger; illus. by Charles Beck. Harcourt, 1965. 184p. \$3.25.

R
5-7 A vividly written story of the wilderness; the eleven-year-old protagonist, Lafe, is hired out to the leader of a hunting party. Lafe is tormented by the rumor that his father (trader at a frontier post) has deserted to the Indians; Tully, the bully of the party, has heard the rumor and won't let Lafe forget it. Hurt by a wild storm, stripped of their goods by ambushing Cherokees, the hunters go home. Lafe, whose courage and ingenuity have been tested several times, has gained some confidence and some perspective; he finally realizes that gossip is less important than self-respect. The writing style is excellent, the details of period, of background, and of conversation impeccably convincing; the plot, tight-knit, never loses momentum.

Sullivan, Navin. Animal Timekeepers; illus. by Haris Petie. Prentice-Hall, 1966. 64p. \$3.50.

M
4-6 An adequate text is weakened by inadequate illustrations and diagrams. The material is capably organized; a first section describes the various influences on behavior patterns: the day-night rhythm, the seasonal changes, and the patterns of tides. Separate chapters then present—rather superficially—such questions as the location of "inner clocks" in animal bodies, migration, and pacesetters and controls. Recurring throughout the text are brief references to scientific experimentation on the phenomena being discussed. The illustrations are often poorly placed and are occasionally more confusing (partly through lack of captions or labels) than they are clarifying. An index is appended.

Wildsmith, Brian. Brian Wildsmith's 1,2,3's. Watts, 1965. 28p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$3.71 net.

M
5-7
yrs. Absolutely smashing illustrations, but not a good counting book. Mr. Wildsmith's preface begins, "We always begin with 1, ONE. In this book, 1 is a pretty circle. It could be a box, or a three-cornered figure, or even a triangle. But it must always be only 1." This does not seem quite to clarify the pages that follow; each digit is shown boldly on a spacious page, and facing each digit is a page of delicious color:

two circles, or three boxes, or five triangles each in a kaleidoscope of hues. After the tenth set, there are four pages in which the text asks, "How many—?" with an arrow pointing to a geometric figure. Again, not clear; does it mean three-cornered figures? or "even a triangle?" or does it mean a green triangle?

Wiley, James, ed. Beasts, Brains, and Behavior; Exploring the "I.Q." of animals plus related Projects. Four Winds, 1965. 128p. illus. \$2.50.

Ad
6-9 A text that consists of adaptations of articles published in 1963 by Scholastic Magazines, Incorporated. The articles range over a quite wide field of biological observation and experimentation: hibernation, migration, echo navigation, camouflage, animal intelligence, et cetera. Interesting material, and adequately described; most of the subjects can, however, be found as well and fully covered in other and more up-to-date texts. There is, at the end of most chapters, directions for a project for the reader. Appended are an index and a list of suggested readings, none of which is more recent than 1963.

Wojciechowska, Maia. A Kingdom in a Horse. Harper, 1965. 143p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

M
6-9 David had always dreamed of the day when he and his father would work together as rodeo clowns, and he felt bitter and betrayed when his father decided to quit and to take David east. With no mother, little schooling, new surroundings, and only feelings of resentment toward his father, the boy was miserable but could not break his own pattern. This happened only when he cared enough about something else, and what David cared about was a horse. Gypsy belonged to elderly Mrs. Tierney, but she was David's love; the mare was also Mrs. Tierney's love and she was the bond that drew father, son, and elderly widow together. This is a book with some good characterization and some very good writing. Much of the story, however, is devoted to minute details of the acquisition and care of the horse and the training of Mrs. Tierney; yearning to have a horse of her own, yet frightened, Mrs. Tierney has almost a lover's devotion to Gypsy and a lover's apprehension about making mistakes. Fine for readers who love horses, but sentimental and a little heavy for others. Much of the plot about David is dependent on the fact that his father has incurred resentment; it is not until the end of the story that his father gives the boy a real explanation, although this would seem a natural thing to have done at the time of the decision to move.

Woods, Betty. A Wall Around My Yard; written and illus. by Betty Woods. Reilly and Lee, 1965. 46p. \$2.95.

M
K-2 A book with cartoon-style illustrations, rhyming text, and a message. A small girl, swinging high near her garden wall, is told by a small boy on the other side of the wall that she had best beware; he might throw things. Timorous, she swings only when the boy is not in sight; one day, her mother backs their car immovably into the wall. The boy's mother gives aid and comfort and, via boy-messenger, the eggs that had been on the grocery list. The two children play, discovering that they can be friends. The story is slow-moving, the turning point seeming contrived and the moral rather obtrusively evident.

Reading for Librarians

- Carrier, Esther Jane. Fiction in Public Libraries, 1876-1900. Scarecrow, 1965. 458p. \$10. Includes a discussion of fiction for children.
- Coplan, Kate and Castagna, Edwin, editors. The Library Reaches Out; reports on library service and community relations by some leading American librarians. Oceana, 1965. 403p. \$9.50.
- Currie, Dorothy H. How to Organize a Children's Library. Oceana, 1965. 184p. \$5.
- Davis, Bruce, ed. Book Review Index. Gale Research Company, 1965. \$24. Subscription basis. A reference guide to current reviews of adult and juvenile books in periodicals and newspapers. Cumulated quarterly; covers over 200 periodicals.
- Gaver, Mary, ed. The Elementary School Library Collection. The Brodart Foundation, 1965. 848p. \$20.
- Haviland, Virginia. Ruth Sawyer. Walck, 1965. 78p. \$2.75.
- _____. "Serving Those Who Serve Children; a National Reference Library of Children's Books." The Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress. October, 1965. Single issue, \$1.00; Subscription, \$2.50 per year. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, G.P.O. Washington, D.C. 20402.
- Huck, Charlotte. "Literature's Role in Language Development." Childhood Education. November, 1965.
- McLellan, Jack. "New Roles for School Libraries." Elementary Education. October, 1965.
- Metzner, Seymour. "Literary Voyages in American History." Elementary School Journal. February, 1966.
- New York City Board of Education. Division of Curriculum Development. Improving the Professional Library in the School. 1965. 10p. \$.25. pamphlet. Order from 110 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201.
- Painter, Helen. "Elizabeth Yates: Artist with Words." Elementary English. October, 1965.
- Publishers' Weekly. Clement Hurd: Children's Book Illustrator as Artist and Exhibitor." Publishers' Weekly. February 7, 1966.

