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PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign Library
Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.

MARCH 1966
VOLUME 19
NUMBER 7

THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO
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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.

Published monthly except August. Subscription rates: per year, \$4.50; \$3.00 per year each additional subscription to the same address. Single copy, 75¢. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Press. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637. All notices of change of address should provide *both* the old and the new address. Subscriptions will be entered to start with the first issue published after order is received.

Second-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 19

March, 1966

Number 7

New Titles for Children and Young People

Alan, Sandy. The Plaid Peacock; illus. by Kelly Oechsli. Pantheon Books, 1965. 40p. \$3.95.

R
K-2 A delightful and different read-aloud story with gay and amusing illustrations. This fanciful tale (no pun) is set in India during the reign of Queen Victoria, who has absolutely nothing to do with the story. A Scottish regiment carefully marches around a brooding peahen; the other hens and cocks have been warning her that she should not make a nest in the middle of a field. Alas, one of her chicks grows a plaid tail. Teased and ashamed of being different, the plaid peacock finally finds approval at the regimental camp. Not only is his tail plaid, it is a faithful replica of the regimental plaid. The facts that the peacock saves the regiment by warning them of a fire and that he later wins the approval of his own flock are incidental. The plot is adequate; the idea is appealingly daft.

Allen, Gertrude E. Everyday Wildflowers. Houghton, 1965. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

Ad
3-4 A good introduction to botany or to nature study in a simply written read-aloud book that describes seven common wildflowers: violet, skunk cabbage, Queen Anne's lace, milkweed, water lily, blue flag, and Indian pipe. The illustrations are softly executed in black and white with very good detail and with adequate captioning. Several pages of text are devoted to each flower, with descriptions of the blossom, of the insect-attracting devices, of habitat and of reproductive processes. The text is weakened slightly by a note of anthropomorphism and by an occasional coy remark, such as, "Perhaps it (The Indian pipe) hangs its head because it is a thief."

Asimov, Isaac. The Greeks; A Great Adventure. Houghton, 1965. 326p. illus. \$4.

R
7- A long, detailed, and lively history of ancient Greece from the first infiltration by southward-wandering tribes in 2000 B.C. through the centuries of warfare, the Golden Age, the decline of power, and—with the fall of Constantinople—the end of Greek influence. The last pages of the book bring the history of Greece up to date succinctly and competently. Despite the distracting use of parenthetical guides to pronunciation, the informally written text is enjoyable because of the conversational quality of the writing. The material is well-organized, divided into topics within chapters. A table of dates and an index, both lengthy, are appended.

Bell, Gina. Who Wants Willy Wells? illus. by Jean Tamburine. Abingdon, 1965. 41p. \$2.

Ad
K-2 A read-aloud story of sibling dethronement. Adequately illustrated, simply written, and rather slow in pace, the book deviates from the usual pattern by having Willy comparatively indifferent to his baby brother at first, feeling the pangs of jealousy only when the baby's personality begins to make an impact. Since this reaction is typical of one pattern of dethronement, it is both realistic and nicely handled—save for the fact that Willy's parents (especially his mother) seem quite noticeably unobservant of (or, perhaps, insensitive to) Willy's mounting feelings of rejection.

Beresford, Elisabeth. The Magic World; pictures by Janina Domanska. Bobbs-Merrill, 1965. 153p. \$3.50.

Ad
5-6 A fantasy, set in England. Joe lives in Brighton with a housekeeper, his father being in the British Army and his mother dead; one day he sees an odd, battered dog being teased and he brings the animal home. Not only is the animal a griffin, but it talks. Joe and his new friend Grace have a series of adventures while they help the griffin hunt treasure and they try, at the same time, to hide the magic beast's identity. Some of the episodes are contrived in construction, but the style is light and the writing has a good deal of humor to compensate for the weakness of the plot; there is little attempt to characterize more than superficially, but the characters are palatable and the griffin has a considerable amount of acid personality.

Bishop, Curtis Kent. Little League Stepson. Lippincott, 1965. 154p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.39 net.

Ad
5-6 Robin Scott loves playing baseball, but is hampered by an injured leg and by a lack of confidence; when his widowed mother marries a manager of a Little League team, Robin has a mixed reaction. He is grateful for the coaching that Chase, his stepfather, gives, but he doesn't want to be given a place on the team just because he is Chase's stepson. By the time Robin makes the team, he has begun to feel affection for Chase; by the time the season ends, Robin has complete confidence in Chase as a manager and completely accepts him as a parent. The relationships are convincingly drawn, the baseball scenes are well done; the writing style is adequate, and the plot patterned, with a final sequence that is quite hackneyed: Chase's team, which has never before won the championship, wins, and an excited Robin calls his stepfather Dad for the first time.

Brooks, Walter Rollin. Jimmy Takes Vanishing Lessons; illus. by Don Bolognese. Knopf, 1965. 26p. \$2.95.

M
4-5 First published in a magazine in 1950, a story that has some humorous touches but seems basically only an extension of one gag: ghosts can be frightened by people. The driver of the school bus tells Jimmy, "Folks that go in there after dark, well, they don't usually come out again." (Fire that driver!) The house of which he speaks stands vacant because it is supposed to be haunted; if the owner, Jimmy's aunt, could rent it—Jimmy could have some decent clothes. Jimmy goes to the house, frightens the ghost, and is given vanishing lessons in exchange for keeping quiet about the embarrassing fact that the ghost is timid. Eventually the ghost moves, the house is rented, finances are in better shape, and the ghost becomes a friend of the family after being a Christmas guest and weeping with joy at receiving a pair of warm slippers.

Buck, Pearl (Sydenstricker). The Big Fight; illus. by Mamoru Funai. Day, 1965.

47p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.86 net.

Ad
4-6 A small book in which the author tells a story based on an incident she witnessed. Although the father of Ranjit called his circus "The Amar Singh World Circus" it was a poor affair; indeed, Ranjit knew that his special pet, the tiger Raj, was too tame even to be interesting. When Amar Singh had a chance to use the tiger and a tired old leopard in an American film and thereby earn a great deal of money, he faced a problem. The Americans wanted to film a fight, but the two docile animals wouldn't fight. Finally, Ranjit tricked them into a brief fight over a piece of meat, after which—to the amusement of the Americans—the leopard was frightened off by the small deer that was supposed to have been the quarry. An unusual plot and setting; a well-written story, weakened somewhat by an anticlimactic ending.

Burleson, Elizabeth. A Man of the Family. Follett, 1965. 189p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed, \$3.15 net.

Ad
6-9 A first-person story, set on a Texas ranch at the turn of the century. Speck is thirteen; the baby of the family, protected because he has been sickly, the boy yearns to prove himself a man. Speck takes on new responsibilities when one of his older brothers is critically injured; he amuses and impresses his father by a prank that shows determination and imagination, and he succeeds in one task in which his father has failed. Speck's final action to convince his father that he is truly mature is his announcement that he does, after all, want to move into town for a year and go to school, a discipline he had been desperately resisting. A good story of ranch life, with excellent familial relationships and with a realistically slow development in an adolescent: there are times when Speck behaves irresponsibly and times when he acts like a child. The writing style is weakened by a self-conscious use of idiom and dialect and by the use of phrases that seem too elaborate for a boy of thirteen.

Burnett, Constance (Buel). Happily Ever After; A Portrait of Frances Hodgson Burnett. Vanguard, 1965. 160p. \$3.50.

R
7-10 An unusually good biography, written by the subject's daughter-in-law and based on books by the biographee and by her son. The material is fascinating in the way it depicts the author-publisher relationship a century ago; the writing style is smooth, the balance between personal and profession facets is good, and—above all—the tone of the writing is warm and perceptive without a trace of adulation. Since most young readers will be familiar only with Mrs. Burnett's books for children, they may well be particularly interested in the fact that she began early, wrote prolifically and with diversity, and wrote books and plays that were received, almost invariably, with acclaim.

Caballero, Ann. Stranger in the House. Coward-McCann, 1965. 189p. \$3.50.

NR
7-9 Marcia and Katie, classmates at the San Francisco Art Institute, go for a weekend visit to the summer home of the Tremaines, who are friends of Katie's parents. Another visitor, the beautiful Valerie, is threatened by a man in the woods at night; he is after a valuable ring and Valerie, who has told nobody she was coming, begins to wonder if her brother (supposedly dead) is alive after all and is also hunting for the ring. Marcia, with an acumen equalled only by her courage, braves danger by going into the woods at night to rig a trap for the criminal and catches him. The book has a few

references to painting, but is otherwise a run-of-the-mill mystery story with an elaborated and not convincing plot; some of the characters verge on stock figures, and the writing style is hackneyed.

Charnock, Joan. The Russian Twins; illus. by Elisabeth Grant. Dufour, 1965. 156p. \$3.50.

Ad 4-7 First published in England in 1963, a book that gives a good picture of family life in Russia today, of urban and rural patterns, and of cultural and political influences on children. Sergey and Tania live in Moscow and make a long stay on a collective farm when their mother is hospitalized. An interesting aspect of the book is the candor with which the author discusses the conflict between grandmother's ideas about the church and the attitude of the younger adults; the treatment is quite objective. Although the writing is labored, the book should be useful because there is so little material available about the USSR that has a contemporary setting.

Clark, Jim. Jim Clark at the Wheel; The World Motor Racing Champion's Own Story. Coward-McCann, 1965. 210p. illus. \$4.50.

M 6-9 A book that may be useful to the motor racing enthusiast but that will probably not attract any other audience. The emphasis is, of course, on technical details of individual events; the text consists chiefly of such technical and detailed descriptions. The writing style is self-conscious and banal, with an occasional obtrusive error of grammar or syntax. "After weighing up this, Bruce concluded that . . ." or, ". . . my eye caught this big plume of smoke and it immediately sprung into my mind that . . ." Many pages of records and of race analyses are appended.

Colwell, Eileen, comp. A Second Storyteller's Choice; a selection of stories with notes on how to tell them; with drawings by Prudence Seward. Walck, 1965. 160p. \$4.50.

R 4-7 A companion volume to A Storyteller's Choice, the excellent anthology published in 1964; this second book is intended for a somewhat younger audience and the material is from more traditional sources. Although designed as a sourcebook for storytelling (the length of time it takes to tell each story, with suggestions for audience and for technique are included) the book is very good for independent reading or for reading aloud.

De Regniers, Beatrice Schenk. How Joe the Bear and Sam the Mouse Got Together; illus. by Brinton Turkle. Parents' Magazine, 1965. 40p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.03 net.

M K-2 A picture book with gay illustrations and a very lightweight text; the situation has the appeal of incongruity and is handled with humor, but the story line is slight. The writing has a repeated pattern as the two dapper friends converse. "Do you like to play ball?" "Yes, I love to play ball." "Then we can play ball together!" "I like to play football." "I like to play baseball." "Then we cannot play ball together." "Boo hoo!" "Boo hoo!" Eventually the bear and the mouse find one thing in common, and they plan to meet every day at three o'clock and eat all flavors of ice cream.

Emery, Anne. A Spy in Old West Point; illus. by Lorence Bjorklund. Rand McNally, 1965. 191p. \$3.95.

A Revolutionary War story, historically based, about Major André. The

R
6-9 Major stops at the home of George Fraser, gunsmith and Patriot, and his charm wins the family, especially fourteen-year-old Jock. Long after that, Jock is with a band of men who stop an officer who gives the name of John Anderson; Jock recognizes him as Major André. Having picked up an in-criminating paper, Jock must choose between a large sum of money offered by André and the knowledge that he can help the Patriot cause by turning the man in. Then Jock discovers that Benedict Arnold is a traitor; the family attends the hanging of André, and Jock Fraser finds himself confused by the thought that he has more respect for the British spy than for the American traitor. The historical background is very convincingly woven into the fictional framework; the story has pace and drama; the message that men and events cannot be judged as flatly good or bad gives the book additional depth.

Erwin, Betty K. Aggie, Maggie, and Tish; illus. by Paul E. Kennedy. Little, 1965. 154p. \$3.75.

Ad
4-6 A fanciful story in which three elderly sisters perform magical deeds, often therapeutic, in which one or more of the four Eliot children is involved. The story is episodic, although through the book is a thin connecting thread: there is something mysterious that Tish has lost, has hunted for years the world over, and has refused to describe to Maggie and Aggie. The book closes with the discovery of the lost pins; they are magic pins that enable children to dream dreams and hear stories, as the four children have discovered. The fantasy in each adventure is handled well; the family scenes are good; the one aspect of the story that seems tedious is dialogue between the elderly sisters, often protracted and occasionally petulant.

Folsom, Franklin. The Soviet Union; A View from Within. Nelson, 1965. 224p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.11 net.

R
7- An informative and useful book, informally written and quite profusely illustrated; the writing style is not as smooth as are the styles of Salisbury and of Habberton, whose books on Russia are also reviewed in this issue. The fact that the text is sprinkled with anecdotes and personal comments on scenes, however, gives this book an appeal for the younger or the more reluctant reader. Mr. Folsom focuses on Russia today, although a modicum of historical material is included; most of the chapters have a geographical focus: the chapter on Moscow, for example, including descriptions of the city, of work patterns, of transportation, and containing some discussion of recreation and of shopping. A list of important dates, a good reading list, and an index are appended.

Forest, Antonia. The Thursday Kidnapping. Coward-McCann, 1965. 218p. \$3.95.

R
6-9 First published in England in 1963, a highly perceptive story about an unhappy and pre-delinquent adolescent girl whose "kidnapping" of a baby starts a chain reaction of minor disasters. The baby has been left alone briefly, and Kathy, a pathological liar, is trapped by her own lies and sent off by an adult to go home with the baby she has just claimed is her brother. The family of children from whom the baby has been taken are distraught; they finally trap Kathy, and they begin dimly to realize, when they see the hostile relationship between Kathy and her mother, some of the reason for the girl's neurotic behavior. The characterization and dialogue are remarkably vivid, the plot is realistic, and the story is written with pace and unity.

Friis, Babbis. Kristy's Courage; tr. from the Norwegian by Lise Sømme McKinnon; illus. by Charles Geer. Harcourt, 1965. 159p. \$2.95.

R
4-6

First published in Norway in 1963 under the title Kjersti, the story of a small girl who is hurt in the face and the mouth in an accident and who has to adjust painfully to her new appearance. Kristy's stay in the hospital does not prepare her at all for the curiosity and the cruelty she encounters at school. Her face is scarred and her speech impeded. Having heard that there was to be another operation in the future, Kristy makes her way to the hospital, a remembered haven of acceptance, and announces herself ready for surgery. Her parents only then realize how disturbed the child has been by the teasing at school and they take action to solve the problem. The ending is satisfying because it is kept within the bounds of credibility; indeed, the story—although not exceptional in writing style—is impressive because it combines a sensitive understanding of children and a realistic approach to the actions and reactions of the children in the story: of Kristy, of her friends, and of her tormentors.

Gilbert, Miriam. Shy Girl; The Story of Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the World; illus. by Herbert McClure. Doubleday, 1965. 144p. \$2.95.

M
6-9

A biography of Eleanor Roosevelt that begins with the child of seven, and concludes with her marriage to Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1905. The book gives a convincing picture of an intelligent and insecure girl, and the author makes quite clear the factors that contributed to Eleanor's shyness: her height, her lack of good looks in a family of beauties, an absent and alcoholic father, the deaths of her mother, father, and one of her two brothers. There is considerable emphasis on the help given the shy girl by Theodore Roosevelt and by Miss Souvestre, headmistress of an English school for girls, Allenswood. The fact that a gawky, lonely girl grew to be a great woman gives any book about Eleanor Roosevelt some appeal; there is interest, also, in the social and political prominence of the Roosevelt clan. The book is weakened by an inordinate amount of fictionalization and by a mediocre writing style.

Glubok, Shirley, ed. The Fall of the Aztecs; Illustrations by the Conquered; Text by the Conquerors; illus. selected and ad. by Leslie Tillett; designed by Leslie Tillett. St. Martin's, 1965. 114p. \$4.95.

Ad
8-

A profusely illustrated book, the text adapted from the 1956 translation by Maudslay of the autobiographical record of Bernal Diaz. Diaz came to the New World when he was twenty-two, joined the Cortes expedition, and stayed in Guatemala—writing his memoirs when he was a very old man indeed. The drawings—adaptations of Indian pictographs—are interesting in their fidelity of detail but many of them seem repetitive. The writing is quite heavy and plodding, limiting to some degree the appeals of dramatic events and historical authenticity.

Habberton, William. Russia; The Story of a Nation. Houghton, 1965. 282p. illus. \$3.50.

R
8-

A long and quite detailed history of Russia, written in a rather dry and ponderous style. Objective and authoritative, the book gives more background than does Folsom's The Soviet Union (see review above) and gives more detail, especially about early history, than does Salisbury's Russia (also reviewed in this issue). Since—of the four books on Russia reviewed in this issue—the book has, more than do the others, some use as a quick historical

reference source, it is unfortunate that the index is in very small print. A brief selected list of readings is appended.

Harris, Audrey. Why Did He Die? illus. by Susan Salladé Dalke. Lerner, 1965. 29p. \$2.75.

M
K-2 A read-aloud book with adequate illustrations and with a rhyming text; in a fictional framework, the author presents a young mother who is explaining death to a small, questioning boy. She explains that all things must die, that death is usually due to old age; she says that one can remember all the lovely things about those who have departed. The explanation is fairly simple, hampered by the restrictions of the verse-form, and occasionally—again, perhaps due to the imposition of the form—including comments that may be confusing. "The heart is like this motor, If it stops, then it is dead. Old, old people must someday die. New little babies are born instead."

Hill, Marjorie Yourd. The Secret of Avalon. McGraw-Hill, 1965. 185p. \$3.75.

NR
7-9 A story set in ancient Britain. Young Alan finds that he cannot join the young men of the tribe who are to be accorded adult status, because he is a foundling. He is shown the brooch and blanket found with him, the brooch being instrumental, later, in establishing his true and high-born identity. In between, many adventures. Including the rescue of a princess, Dorigen, a series of encounters with a small band of Israelites led by Joseph of Arimathea, a feud with a false Druid, etcetera. The dialogue is sprinkled with phrases that sound incongruously modern; the interest gained by any accurate historical details is vitiated by the incorporation of conjectural aspects.

Howard, Harriet Shriver. If You had a Pony; photographs by Susan Rosenthal. Harper, 1965. 39p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

R
4-6 An excellent introduction for the new or would-be young owner (or rider) on pony care. The writing is simple and direct; the coverage is good without being too detailed or repetitive. The photographs seem to have been taken to illustrate the text rather than (as often happens in books illustrated with photographs of children) the text being adapted to pictures on hand. Some of the text discusses mounting, riding, and dismounting, but the major part of the book is devoted to descriptions of the care and training of ponies.

Johnson, Eleanor Noyes. Armitage Hall. Macmillan, 1965. 135p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.24 net.

M
6-9 Judy Clearmont, daughter of a Navy family, has been on the move all her life and has, therefore, looked with unusually high expectation at the prospect of spending her sixteenth and seventeenth years at the boarding school where her mother and grandmother had been pupils. Judy here describes the first year at Armitage. She quickly makes friends, finds a beau, has a roommate about whom she gets an erroneous first impression, has a conflict with one teacher about whom she has an erroneous impression, learns to ride, wins the award for the junior who has shown the most improvement, and is elected captain of one of the school's two teams. The story is quite faithfully boarding-school-formula, saved from mediocrity by an occasional light note or a sensible handling of a minor problem.

Johnson, Eric W. Love and Sex in Plain Language; illus. by Edward C. Smith. Lipincott, 1965. 68p. \$2.95.

R
7-12 And plain language it is. Not blunt, not coy, not evasive, not fulsome. Mr. Johnson, a junior high school teacher and administrator, presents his facts simply and his opinions candidly, giving sensible advice on social, psychological, and emotional aspects of sex roles, sex relations, and family relationships. The major part of the text is devoted to information: facts about the human male and the human female, about growth and puberty, about menstruation, intercourse, homosexuals, masturbation, gestation and birth, etcetera. The illustrations are fairly adequate, although many do not supplement the text at all. An index is appended.

Kohn, Bernice. Echoes; illus. by Albert Pucci. Coward-McCann, 1965. 42p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.86 net.

M
4-6 A book that gives an introduction simply and accurately but quite superficially. Only a few of the illustrations supplement the text; many of them may prove confusing because of the latent content, or because of the fact that details are not in scale. The closing sentences strike a note that seems, if not coy, at least out of place in a science book: "Echoes are as old as the first sound on earth, but they were not always put to work for man in science. Who knows what new uses may be found for sonar in the future? It will be interesting to see—and LISTEN!"

Krüss, James. Eagle and Dove; tr. from the German by Edelgard von Heydekamp Brühl; drawings by Pat Kent. Atheneum, 1965. 69p. \$3.50.

R
4-6 First published in Germany in 1963, a compilation of folk-like tales about people and animals, set in a framework of a storytelling marathon. The storyteller is a dove, trapped by an eagle but using time surreptitiously to free herself as she narrates. The dialogue between the birds is amusing; the tales themselves are varied. The writing has style, originality, humor, and an occasional subtle poke at human frailty.

Kuskin, Karla. Sand and Snow. Harper, 1965. 29p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

R
K-2 A small and quite charming book of verses about the varied joys of summer and sand as compared to the varied delights of winter and snow. The verses more or less alternate, first showing Annabelle, the sand-lover, then showing Joe, the snow-buff. At the close, briefly, the two friends play together on a snowy day at the beach. The verse forms are varied, the imagery is gay if not highly imaginative, and the format and illustrations are nicely fitted to the light, bright, simplicity of the writing.

Lawrence, John. Russia. Roy, 1965. 88p. illus. \$3.95.

M
8- A history of Russia, illustrated chiefly by reproductions of old paintings and prints and by several useful maps. The text is divided into four broad historical periods: The Age of Kiev, The Age of Muscovy, The Age of St. Petersburg, and The Soviet Period. The last is quite brief and almost entirely political, with little about other aspects of Russian life or Soviet foreign relations. The writing is variable in quality, some of the text being smooth, some parts being rather choppy: "The Bolsheviks had now been joined by Trotsky who stood high above all the other revolutionaries excepting only Lenin. A little man with a beard, Trotsky had boundless courage and energy. Lenin had more solid brain power but there was a fire in Trotsky's thought." A quite brief list of dates, a bibliography compiled by someone other than the author, and a relative index in very small print are appended.

Lee, Tina. Things to Do; pictures by Manning Lee. Doubleday, 1965. 61p. \$2.95.

M 4-6 A book of instructions for making toys, favors, and novelties out of left-over or inexpensive materials. The instructions are not always clear; occasionally the illustrations are confusing, as in a series of diagrams that show how to make paper flowers: the duplication of digits makes it difficult to follow instructions. The table of contents groups the objects (doll clothes, party hats, paper things to make) and an index is appended.

Life Magazine. The Land and Wildlife of North America; by Peter Farb and the editors of Life. Time, 1964. 200p. illus. \$3.95.

R 8- A very good book on the natural phenomena, the wild life, the flora, and some of the very early history of man on this continent. The material is arranged by large areas (the Great Eastern Forests, The Southern Lowlands) with alternate sections of text and pictures. Some of the pictorial material, good in itself, seems to be placed in random fashion. A double-page spread, "Wind, Weather, and Biomes," for example, precedes some beautiful colored photographs of wildflowers and follows "The Great Eastern Forests." The one reference in the text to biomes is almost a hundred pages away. The closing pages discuss conservation and the national parks. A list of the parks, an excellent map, a divided bibliography, and an extensive index are appended.

Lindgren, Astrid (Ericsson), ad. The Tomten and the Fox; from a poem by Karl-Erik Forsslund; illus. by Harald Wiberg. Coward-McCann, 1966. 30p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.29 net.

R K-2 Adapted from a poem by Forsslund and originally published in Sweden, a picture book that is set at Christmastime, although it is not a Christmas story. The text is slight, but it is gently appealing: a hungry fox quietly prowls about a farmhouse; his intended prey is protected by the resident Tomten. The old Tomten, a Little Person in Swedish folk lore, gives the fox his own dish of porridge to sate the fox and save the hens. The illustrations are quite lovely: soft in technique, subdued in color and mood, perfectly catching the feeling of the hushed and blue-white quiet of the countryside on a snowy night.

Livingston, Myra Cohn. The Moon and a Star and Other Poems; illus. by Judith Shahn. Harcourt, 1965. 48p. \$2.50.

Ad K-2 A small book of poems, most of them brief, some of them humorous; for the most part, the poems are on topics that have the appeal of familiar phenomena, attitudes, or activities. None of the selections seem highly imaginative, none seem hackneyed. The illustrations are not attractive except as they are used in page lay-out: small black and white drawings that have the stiffness of Lenski people and have particularly poor animal figures.

McGovern, Ann. Runaway Slave; The Story of Harriet Tubman; pictures by R. M. Powers. Four Winds, 1965. 62p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.97 net.

Ad 3-4 A biography of Harriet Tubman, adequate in coverage and adequately illustrated; the writing style is often stilted or abrupt. The material is so inherently dramatic that it is appealing despite the weakness in style, however. The book does give a simplified but quite vivid picture of the Underground Railroad and of some typical disguises used by Harriet Tubman in her role as a conductor.

Marino, Dorothy (Bronson). Buzzy Bear's Busy Day. Watts, 1965. 31p. illus. Trade ed, \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.21 net.

Ad
4-6
yrs. Buzzy Bear starts the day with a pattern familiar to the read-aloud audience. Nothing to do; suggestion from mother; again, nothing to do; again, a suggestion from mother. Finally the small bear becomes intrigued by imaginative play and—once he is alert—finds almost everything serves his purpose. A blanket airing on the line becomes a tent; a pile of leaves becomes the home of a pretend gopher. When called to lunch, Buzzy Bear announces that he must hurry because this is his busy day. Brief and simple, not highly original but quite pleasant, the story and the illustrations do not have the charm of Hoban's Nothing To Do (Harper, 1964) but they are quite adequate.

Maxey, Dale. Fidgit. Dodd, 1965. 28p. illus. \$3.25.

M
3-5
yrs. An oversize book about a small imaginary animal, quite attractive. Fidgit is a fuzzy brown creature with large ears that look like diaphanous wings and with a long, curled tail like the mainspring of a watch. Always helpful to the animals at the zoo, Fidgit feels unappreciated; one day he is sent spinning down from a giraffe's nose (her kiss having wet his earwings) and finds that all of the animals fuss over him and bring him flowers, so he knows that he is loved. The illustrations are attractive: bold, colorful, humorous, and on a scale that makes the book a good choice for reading to a group. The story is slight in conception and weak in the ending, and the writing style is pedestrian.

Murray, Gladys Hall. Mystery of the Talking Totem Pole. Dodd, 1965. 208p. \$3.50.

M
6-9 Sue Williams, thirteen, spends a summer with her great-aunt Abigail, who lives in an old house in Sitka, Alaska. Sue can't understand why Aunt Abigail's helper, Anya Petrovsky (of Russian and Tlingit Indian descent) is so hostile; her younger sister, Katerina, becomes a friend. The two young girls try to earn money to help Anya get to college; Sue tries panning for gold, she is frightened by the talking totem pole, and she is baffled by the mysterious figure that appears to be dancing in the dark on a roof. (Anya, practicing traditional dances.) Sue is partially responsible for enabling Anya to go to college, the mystery of the totem is that someone has rigged a microphone, and Sue happily plans to return the following summer. There is a certain amount of local history and a good attitude about ethnic origins, but the plot, the characterization, and the writing style are all quite mediocre.

Parker, Richard. Private Beach; illus. by Victor Ambrus. Duell, 1965. 184p. \$3.50.

R
5-7 An English family story. The five Langham children live in a house on the shore and are used to the modest pleasures that derive from having their own small stretch of beach. When the town council plans a project that will end these delightful riparian rights, the Langham family is very much upset. Their beach is spared, but not through any prodigious planned effort of the children; in playing about, they gradually unearth some sort of structure that proves to be the remains of a Jutish ship. There are several subplots, nicely woven together; characterization is excellent. It is, however, in the family relationships, and in the lively and natural dialogue that the book's distinction lies.

Peet, William Bartlett. Kermit the Hermit. Houghton, 1965. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.07 net.

Ad
K-2 A fanciful read-aloud picture book with rhyming text and with bright, lively illustrations; both the writing and the pictures are lightly humorous. The plot is a bit over-extended and the ending seems rather weak, but the nonsensical story has appeal. A dour and selfish crab, Kermit collected everything and anything; caught by a dog one day, Kermit was saved by a kind boy just as he was about to be buried. With dedicated gratitude, Kermit tried to help the boy by helping him catch a big fish; the crab was pulled close to a sunken treasure chest, and every day for three months he got out two gold coins. Eventually he solved his delivery problem by having a pelican fly him over to the boy's chimney. The family never knew where their fortune came from, simply accepting the fact that gold coins were being siphoned down their chimney.

Price, Christine. The Valiant Chattee-Maker; A Folktale of India; retold by Christine Price. Warne, 1965. 43p. \$2.95.

R
4-6 An adaptation of a humorous folk tale from India, based on the version in Frere's collection, Old Deccan Days. A lowly potter beats a tiger one stormy night, since he cannot see and thinks the tiger is his lost donkey. The tiger is terrified. This, he conjectures, must be the "Perpetual Dripping" that someone said was more terrible than an elephant. One thing leads relentlessly to another, and the humble and timid chattee-maker finally finds himself wealthy, undeservedly famed for his bravery, and happily turning back to a life of dull simplicity. The illustrations are attractive; the writing style, so appropriate for the genre, is nicely established with the opening words, "Long and long ago, in a terrible storm of thunder, wind and rain, a mighty Tiger took shelter in a village."

Salisbury, Harrison E. Russia. Macmillan, 1965. 138p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.96 net.

R
7- A lively and informative book, written by the Moscow correspondent for the New York Times. The writing is carefully objective, polished but not too formal; the material is well-organized and the treatment balanced. After a brief physical description, the author gives a concise and perspicacious report on Russian history: the influences, the leaders, the impositions of climate and topography, the relationships with other countries and other religions. The discussion of the 1917 Revolution and of recent Soviet history is particularly good; in the closing pages the author describes the many facets of Soviet life today with that vivid clarity that comes only from real familiarity. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Saxon, Gladys (Relyea). Paul Revere; illus. by Jo Kotula. Follett, 1965. 31p. (Beginning-to-Read Books) Trade ed. \$1; Library ed. \$1.20 net.

M
3-4 A simplified biography of Revere, giving accurate and adequate coverage but written in a stiff and often jerky style. The illustrations provide some informative details, but they are of pedestrian calibre. The book describes Revere's work as a silversmith and his participation in events before and during the Revolutionary War.

Scarry, Richard. Richard Scarry's Busy, Busy World; written and illus. by Richard Scarry. Golden Press, 1965. 92p. (Giant Golden Books) Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.99 net.

NR
K-2 An oversize book with pages distractingly filled with bits of text amid the drawings. The book contains thirty-odd brief tales, all with animals as

characters, each tale set in a different country. "Happy Lappy from Finland," "Glip and Glop, the Greek Painters," or "South American Carnival." Some of the illustrative details are quite amusing, but the pages are certainly busy, busy. There are some funny lines in the text, but the over-all effect is that of a comic-book anthology.

Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). Animals as Parents; illus. by John Kaufmann. Morrow, 1965. 96p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.88 net.

R
5-8 A good science book. Mrs. Selsam writes in a straightforward style, moving easily from one topic to the next; the material is well-organized and nicely illustrated; most important, there are repeated references to scientific principles. Without punching it, the author stresses the values of observation, correlation, corroboration, and objectivity. After a general section on animal parents, chapters on birds, on mammals other than primates, and on primates follow. A list of suggestions for further reading and an index are appended.

Shepard, Ernest Howard. Ben and Brock; written and illus. by Ernest Shepard. Doubleday, 1966. 89p. \$2.95.

M
4-5 Ben, ten, meets the badger who has been digging up the bulbs in Ben's garden. Mr. Brock, the badger, is injured in the course of the encounter; Ben helps him home and meets Mrs. Brock. Mr. Brock shows Ben around the Ancestral Caves, which he can no longer afford to keep up, and he muses on past familial glories. Ben is caught by crab-shaped men who are smugglers, and is rescued when the criminals are frightened off by an explosion, etcetera. With the town policeman keeping an eye on them, the Brocks move into their new home, in which an old chest is found to be full of treasure. The illustrations are charming, the plot is contrived, the writing style is adequate; the inclusion of two human characters adds nothing to the story.

Smith, Eunice Young. To Each a Season. Bobbs-Merrill, 1965. 278p. \$3.95.

NR
7-9 Set in 1923, the story of a sixteen-year-old girl who is sent to boarding school so that she will concentrate on her studies instead of on her many boy friends. Although she is not a Roman Catholic, Heather has no problems at St. Ann's; indeed, she accepts all aspects of life there with no sign to the reader that she is having any new experiences. She gets a crush on a beautiful nun; she feuds with her room-mate and helps her best friend conduct a sub rosa correspondence with her secret husband; she writes poetry under the alias of "Villon." The writing is often flowery, the construction weak and rambling; the episodic plot is patterned. Save for a few remarks here and there about bobbed hair or a title that was current, there is little evidence that the story is set in 1923.

Smith, Pauline C. Hold Yourself Dear. Messner, 1965. 190p. \$2.95.

Ad
7-9 Merle, when her family moves in her senior year of high school, encounters a new set of peer group mores, and she is shaken. She had always been a good student, but the popular crowd at school has no use for grinds, so Merle questions her own standards; she questions her pleasant relationship with quiet John Wright. Gradually her sense of values makes Merle see that she must hold herself dear; having seen the disastrous outcome of another girl's affair, she writes a prize-winning essay on what a teenager needs to hold herself dear: "a sense of importance and identity, the desire for love; restlessness to be tempered by patience; directed ambition. . . ."

The plot is not unusual, the writing style fairly fulsome; the story has some excellent values realistically evinced in the behavior and relationships of the characters, especially in Merle's relationships with a teacher and with her own family.

Stevenson, William. The Bushbabies; illus. by Victor Ambrus. Houghton, 1965. 278p. \$3.50.

R
6-9 A most unusual story, both in the setting and in the beautifully built-up relationship between two people disparate in age, sex, race, and station. Jackie is thirteen; when her family is about to leave forever the Africa she loves, the girl slips back to shore to dispose of her pet tarsier, or bushbaby. The ship sails. Jackie finds Tembo, the elderly African who had been her father's friend and helper, and the two set out to return the bushbaby to a place where he can survive alone. When Jackie overhears gossip about the fact that a white child has been kidnapped, she knows that she and Tembo are in danger, and they flee. The story moves from one dangerous episode to another as the two make their way across wild country; really, too many incidents in too long a tale—save for the fact that the writing is so vivid, the atmosphere so colorful, and—above all—the relationship between Jackie and Tembo is love in its purest sense. They, too, are bushbabies: innocent, courageous, and kind, each is a beloved burden to the other.

Stilwell, Hart. Looking at Man's Past; illus. by Joe Nerlinger. Steck, 1965. 48p. \$2.

Ad
4-6 A book that serves as an adequate introduction to social and to physical anthropology; although loosely organized and fairly superficial in coverage compared to such a book as Edell's The Story of People (Little, 1953) this should be useful for the middle grades or for slow older readers. The salient facts are covered, and the author's discussions of the concept of race, the diffusions of physical characteristics, and the adaptations to environment are quite good. The writing style is not smooth, but it is simple and straightforward; illustrations are pedestrian but adequate.

Stinetorf, Louise (Allender). A Charm for Paco's Mother; illus. by Joseph Escourido. Day, 1965. 127p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.86 net.

Ad
4-6 Paco is an only child whose widowed mother has become blind; an American tourist tells the small Mexican boy that an operation might help his mother. Paco assumes that an "operation" is a kind of charm. He sets off to pray at an old stone cross, a site that is visited by many on Christmas Eve because they know their prayers will be granted. In a series of episodes, Paco is delayed because he cannot resist helping people; he does not reach the stone cross in time. When he gets home, however, he finds that his prayers have been answered; the American woman (a doctor) has operated successfully on his mother and she will soon be able to see. Paco's mother explains that no charm in the world is as strong as kind words and charitable deeds. The Mexican characters are convincing and charming; the ethical concepts are utterly meritorious, and the writing style is adequate. The plot seems a bit labored and slow-moving.

Styles, Showell. The Ladder of Snow. Vanguard, 1965. 189p. \$3.

Ad
6-9 Simon Hughes and his sister Mag are anxious to try climbing one special mountain while they are in Switzerland visiting Aunt Flora, but they have been forbidden. They disobediently make one attempt and are foiled

by the weather; Mag manages to convince Aunt Flora that another try should be made with two guides, the reason being that one guide is the father of a girl loved by the other, younger guide and there has been a long-standing feud that Mag hopes will be ended by proximity. The descriptions of the mountains are good, the climbing scenes are wonderfully vivid and painlessly informative, and the characterization is adequate. The plot is intermittently contrived: Aunt Flora, whom the children have never seen before, just happens to walk in when Mag and Simon are being told by their parents that a trip to Switzerland is off. She promptly announces that she is going to be in Switzerland and invites the two for a visit.

Tsarelka, Lisa. Stay Away from My Lawnmower; illus. by Wallace Tripp. Houghton, 1965. 117p. \$3.

NR
5-6 An extravagant tall-tale about a fifth-grade boy who is an indefatigable inventor, an incurable day-dreamer, and a cartoon-strip character. Name: Thomas Tobias Terrence Theodore Terwillger, called Fathead. (Parents: Peabody and Prunella) Fathead invents things that seem marvelous, sell amazingly, win fame and wealth, and turn out to be disastrously troublesome. For example, the Motor Booster that first established Fathead as the young genius of the nation disrupts world communications and traffic. After several disasters, Fathead traps some criminals; this time his role of hero endures. This is the type of episodic nonsense-humor that can be delicious if it is written with a light hand; unfortunately, the writing here is unusually heavy-handed and self-conscious—the names being an example. Fathead's teacher is Miss Flutterbutt. The characters are flat, the dialogue unconvincing.

Vevers, Gwynn. Animals of the Arctic; illus. by Maurice Wilson. McGraw-Hill, 1965. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.96 net.

M
4-6 First published in England in 1964, a book with approximately half the page space devoted to illustrations that are not of exceptional calibre, but are realistic in portrayal. The text is divided into brief topics, and is written by the curator of the aquarium at the Zoological Society of London. The writing is crisp and the descriptions brief; the usefulness of the book is limited by the textual brevity, the lack of an index, and the random arrangement. There are, for example, topics headed "Hares and Foxes" and "Musk Oxen"; eight topics later there is a description entitled "Musk oxen and Arctic foxes in Summer."

Viereck, Phillip. The Summer I Was Lost; illus. by Ellen Viereck. Day, 1965. 158p. \$3.75.

R
6-9 An unusually good first-person story with a convincing setting, unified construction, and with polished consistency in style. Paul, poorly coordinated and suffering from astigmatism, has never been good at athletics and therefore, when he goes to a summer camp, is dubious about enjoying it. When he gets lost on a hike, Paul finds that his own survival is far less dependent on brawn than it is on resourcefulness, persistence, good judgment, and an application of skills learned while camping or fishing with his father. The story has excellent pace, suspense, and a realistic and satisfying ending.

Vinson, Kathryn. Run with the Ring. Harcourt, 1965. 255p. \$3.75.

Mark Mansfield, while running in a track meet, is blinded; he reacts with

Ad 7-9 bitter despair, refusing at first to have visitors or to learn new skills. His interest is finally re-established in ham radio, and this leads to a desire to study. Mark goes to a school for the blind and learns to adapt both physically and emotionally to his handicap. The details of Mark's training are fairly interesting, but the boarding-school-personalities-and-factions descriptions are quite patterned; the writing style is often ponderous. "He felt like kicking himself. In fact, it gave him considerable satisfaction to discover that this feat could be accomplished by applying the toe of his right foot with vigor to the calf of his left leg. While he was meting out this form of self-chastisement. . . ."

Waber, Bernard. Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile. Houghton, 1965. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.07 net.

R K-2 Another read-aloud story about the gregarious crocodile who first appeared as a resident of The House on East 88th Street. The more amiably Lyle grins at her, the more frightened a neighbor's cat becomes; the irate owner has Lyle put in the zoo. He is rescued by Mr. Valenti, a former theatrical colleague, and they plan to tour Australia; while taking a last sentimental look at the house on 88th Street, Lyle sees smoke. After he has rescued the cat and its owner, Lyle is looked upon with total favor and is able to come back home, a happy crocodile. The illustrations are cartoon-like, lively, and colorful; the story is not unusual except in the basic situation, but the situation is nicely exploited with a bland daffiness.

Walker, Barbara K. Just Say Hic! A Turkish Silly Tale; ad. from a Turkish folk tale tr. by Mrs. Neriman Hızir; illus. by Don Bolognese. Follett, 1965. 32p. \$2.95.

R K-3 Colorfully illustrated, an adaptation of an amusing folk tale. Hasan, a servant boy, was sent by his master for a pennyworth of salt, for which the village word was "hic." Repeating it to himself, Hasan was overheard; since in most parts of Turkey the word for "nothing" is "hic," the fisherman who heard Hasan was irate. He told the boy what he ought to say; in the next situation that was the wrong thing, and again he was told the right thing to say . . . and so on. After several episodes, Hasan was told to say nothing. So he said "Hic" and remembered the salt. The writing style is good, and the basic situation has the nonsense appeal of any tale of the noodlehead variety, but the handling of episodes seems a little extended.

Ward, Lynd Kendall. Nic of the Woods. Houghton, 1965. 95p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.40 net.

Ad 3-5 The story of a boy and a dog is set in the Canadian woods, with illustrative details showing that the period is early in the century. Nic is a black cocker spaniel who is taken along to the woods; young David has trouble teaching his dog how to behave in the wilds. When the family goes off on a trip, Nic (left behind) runs off and is lost; David and his father, when they come back, hunt in vain. Just as the family are preparing to leave the cabin, Nic returns, having learned indeed how to get along in the woods. Beautifully illustrated, and in handsome format, the story is realistic, slow-moving, a little weak in ending, and written with a quiet simplicity.

Ware, Leon. The Mystery of 22 East. Westminster, 1965. 181p. \$3.50.

NR 7-9 Tom Cameron, traveling to England by ship, finds a package of microfilm hidden in a fixture in his cabin. His room is searched; he moves the

package. A change of course, necessitated by the fact that the ship has picked up survivors of a burned freighter, is alarming news to the criminals. With the help of an FBI agent, the two men are picked up with the film in their possession, a microfilm of secret documents in a London ministry file. The writing style is adequate, with natural-sounding dialogue; the characterization is quite superficial. The plot is both patterned and padded, with incidents and characters that seem extraneous and that slow the pace and feeling of suspense so important in a mystery story.

Watson, Nancy Dingman. Katie's Chickens; illus. by Aldren A. Watson. Knopf, 1965. 31p. \$3.25.

Ad
K-2
A picture book with a simple text and with illustrations in pink, green, black and white—just a bit tiresome. The story gives a fictional setting to an introductory science text, quite pleasant but slow-moving. Katie's pet hen does not leave her nest for twenty-one days; then seven chicks are hatched. There are, on five of the pages (not a sequence of five pages) pictures showing embryonic progress within the egg; since there are no captions, no references in the text to these drawings, and no explanation of the fact that they are out of scale, they seem more likely to be confusing than clarifying.

Weil, Lisl. Happy Birthday in Barcelona. Houghton, 1965. 48p. illus. \$3.25.

M
K-2
A read-aloud book with lively, scrawly illustrations that have interesting details, and with a rather labored nonsense-humor text. Small Carlito, who works at a pastry shop, delivers an enormous birthday cake to Gigi, adored pet (parrot) of La Marquesa Oliva Estrada Carmen Dolores Elvira, etcetera, de los Estebon. Carlito trips and squashes the cake, and in all the ensuing commotion Gigi flies out the window. La Marquesa and Carlito give chase. An identical parrot joins Gigi. Eventually Carlito catches both parrots in the cape of Fearless Fernandez. Even the bull laughs at Fernandez fighting the parrots. They all go to an amusement park, and later La Marquesa opens her villa to entertain children as vacation guests. The story affords opportunity for many scenes of Barcelona, but it seems thinly stretched.

Wilder, Alec. Lullabies and Night Songs; music by Alec Wilder; pictures by Maurice Sendak; ed. by William Engvick. Harper, 1965. 78p. Trade ed. \$6.95; Library ed. \$5.79 net.

R
all
ages
An oversize book brimming with luscious Sendak illustrations in soft full color. Many of the songs are familiar; in some of them Mr. Wilder has made new arrangements; in a few he has deviated from the familiar melodic line. The choice of songs is very good, the arrangements are simple, the lyrics smooth; the illustrations are delectable.

Wilson, Barbara Ker. In the Shadow of Vesuvius. World, 1965. 191p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.61 net.

R
7-10
The story of a Roman household of the first century, the members of which go to their summer home at Pompeii and are caught—all but two slaves—by the inundation of lava from the erupting volcano. Although the main plot follows the two child slaves from the time of their purchase to their later years when they are free and married, this is but one of several threads of action very smoothly woven together. The picture of a wealthy Roman household is varied and vivid; the characters are alive, the city seems real.

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