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**THE UNIVERSITY
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SCHOOL**

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 22

April, 1969

Number 8

New Titles for Children and Young People

Allan, Mabel Esther. Mystery in Manhattan; illus. by Margaret Wetherbee. Vanguard, 1968. 173p. \$3.95.

M
6-9
Gay Selby, walking in Central Park, was caught by the sound of two accents more British than her own; she had been living in New York for some time, and she learned that Cressida and Annabel Newton were new arrivals. She and Annabel became friends, and Gay found that the younger sister was worried about Cressida's boy friend. And with good reason. Cressida was kidnapped, and the other two girls began a hunt (with the help of Gay's boy friend) for four criminals who were jewel thieves. The plot leans heavily on coincidence and chance, the love interest seems superimposed, and the characterization is believable but shallow; the saving graces of the book are the author's relish for the city, as expressed through Gay's enthusiasm, and a practiced, easy style of writing.

Andersen, Hans Christian. The Little Match Girl; illus. by Blair Lent. Houghton, 1968. 43p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.23 net.

R
4-6
A new edition of the familiar and touching story of the lonely, shivering child who sees visions in the flames of the matches she cannot sell, and whose last vision is the loving grandmother who is dead and who comes to take the child. The illustrations are tremendously effective, the tiny figure lost and lorn against towering grey buildings and driving snow; even the glorious warmth and comfort of the hallucinations are pictured in muted tones.

Bentley, Linna. Plants That Eat Animals; illus. by Colin Threadgall. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 31p. \$3.50.

R
3-5
First published in England, a book on a specialized botanical area gives crisp, succinct treatment to an exotic subject. After a brief statement on the varieties of plant traps and on the baits they use, the author describes in detail the operation of individual plants, the large scale drawings showing clearly the trapping mechanism. The natural habitat of each example is given; a list of places in which carnivorous plants can be seen (in Australia, Britain, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United States) is appended.

Bond, Susan McDonald. Eric; The Tale of a Red-Tempered Viking; pictures by Sally Trinkle. Grove, 1968. 38p. \$3.95.

An oversize book that gives, in a fictionalized version, the story of

M
3-5 Eric the Red and his son, Leif the Lucky. The format is that of a picture book, but the subject and, to some extent, the treatment are for independent readers in the middle grades. The scrawly, lively illustrations have humor; they, too, are more likely to appeal to children older than the publisher's designated 4-to-8-year olds. A bad-tempered man, Eric is banished to Iceland, then goes to Greenland; Leif discovers Vinland. The light touch in the writing and the drama of historical events are balanced by the fictionalization, which is uneven in quality. There is no mention of the fact that the colony established by Eric disappeared.

Boorstin, Daniel J. The Landmark History of the American People; From Plymouth to Appomattox; illus. with prints and photographs. Random House, 1968. 185p. \$3.95.

R
5-9 The first volume of a two-part history, in an oversize book that is profusely illustrated, printed in double columns, and unorthodox in approach. It eschews the traditional cataloging of names and dates, but looks at the beginning and growth of this nation as a record of the settlers and their contributions, of the cultural patterns that were peculiarly American, and at the effects and counter-effects of diffusion of patterns, of natural resources, of geography, and of the human beings whose actions were instrumental in shaping our history. Like the Gerald Johnson trilogy (America Is Born, America Grows Up, America Moves Forward: Morrow) this gives the reader a sense of the times: it is not as vigorous in style, but is more comprehensive albeit uneven in treatment. An index is appended, as is a long bibliography which consists, unfortunately, only of the publisher's books.

Burrell, Roy E. C. The Early Days of Man; illus. by Tony Dyson and the author. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 169p. \$4.95.

M
7-10 An overview of prehistoric man and the first men of recorded times, most of the material based on archeological findings of the past century. The book is useful, written in a more casual manner than are the surveys published by Life Magazine (Early Man, by Howell) or American Heritage (The Search for Early Man, by John Pfeiffer and the editors of Horizon Magazine) and is neither as carefully written nor as well illustrated. The focus is on European man; Java man is not even listed in the index. The most useful aspect of the book is that it moves from prehistoric times into recorded history, giving a realistic picture of the widely differing rates of progress in different cultures. A one-page bibliography is included.

Butler, Suzanne. The Chalet at Saint-Marc; illus. by Kenneth Longtemps. Little, 1968. 114p. \$3.95.

Ad
5-7 The three Sayers children had invited a French schoolmate, Pierre, to vacation with them at the family's chalet; when they came from their school to nearby Geneva, the children found that the adults had been held up by a landslide, so they went on to Saint-Marc by themselves. Once there, they were cut off by an avalanche. This is the story of their handling of the emergency situation, their resourcefulness in coping with problems, and their courage in helping a neighbor in serious trouble. The story is competently written, the achievements of the four young people believable; the book is weakened by a slight contrivance of situa-

tion and by the fact that the villagers take such a secondary role: it is Pierre who realizes that the neighbor's daughter has appendicitis, and it is Hank who sets out on snowshoes to get help.

Catherall, Arthur. Camel Caravan; drawings by Joseph Papin. Seabury, 1968. 143p. \$3.95.

Ad 5-7 "Why do our father and our Uncle Abbah frown so?" eleven-year-old Fedada asked her brother Youba, as they prepared for a trek to Timbuktu with the salt caravan. Youba could tell her that the men were apprehensive about the stamina of the new-born camel that the children had quickly adopted as a pet. They had problems with the baby camel, but Youba and Fedada had a more serious problem when raiders swooped down on the caravan, leaving the two youngsters and one old man to cope with the dangers of the desert and the more dramatic plight of being held by the raiders who later found them. The setting is intriguing, the plot and characters believable (although the ending has a note of contrivance) and the book consistent and economically constructed; the story moves rather heavily, however, due to the deliberation of the writing style.

Chubb, Mary. An Alphabet of Ancient Egypt; illus. by Jill Wyatt. Watts, 1968. 64p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.21 net.

NR 3-5 The arrangement is alphabetical, but the alphabetizing is contrived in this book of random facts about ancient Egypt. An illustration faces each page of text, and there is some useful information in both; unfortunately the writing is often condescending or the captions to pictures coy, and the variable quality of the pertinence of the lead-words is exemplified by the end of the alphabet: Tutankhamen, ushabtis, vases, workmen, x-rays, yield (of the country) and Zoser.

Clewes, Dorothy. Adopted Daughter. Coward-McCann, 1968. 191p. \$4.50.

Ad 6-9 A junior novel, set in England, that explores an aspect of adoption not usually present in books for young people. Cathy knew that she was an adopted child, much younger than her brothers and sisters, but it wasn't until her mother's death that she began to wonder who her real parents had been. Her adolescent problems were aggravated by the discipline imposed by the older, married sister with whom she lived; Dale's strictures led Cathy to lie about a boy friend she had made. The reader knows, long before Cathy discovers it, that Dale is Cathy's mother and that Cathy had been adopted (when Dale had had an illegitimate child) by the dead woman who was actually Cathy's grandmother. Serious but not grim, the book is realistic in its approach both to the complications of familial relationships and to the problems of adolescence as well as to the crucial and major situation. The one weakness of the story is in the introduction of so many minor—albeit believable—characters and conflicts that the story seems crowded.

Coolidge, Olivia E. The Golden Days of Greece; illus. by Enrico Arno. T. Y. Crowell, 1968. 211p. \$3.95.

R 4-6 Written for a younger audience than most of the recent Coolidge books, this series of highlights or samples of Grecian history give as smooth a historical picture as does any chronological survey. The story of Schliemann's discovery is followed by a chapter in which the ideologies of

Greece and Asia are exemplified by the standards of Croesus and Cyrus; a description of the Olympic games, an account of a Spartan upbringing, chapters on Socrates and Plato, and a discussion of the great dramatists bring ancient Greece to life. The illustrations, which use black and white very effectively, are related to the text but are primarily decorative. A list of Greek words and proper names, divided by chapters, gives both pronunciation and identification; an index is appended.

De Jaeger, Charles. Paul Is a Maltese Boy. Hastings House, 1968. 48p. illus. \$3.33.

M
2-4 First published in England. Paul lives on the island of Gozo, near Malta, which he visits once during the course of the story, giving the author an opportunity to present a few facts about Malta. The photographs of Paul, his family, and his village, are pleasant but not often informative (chiefly interesting faces) and the text often seems adapted to the photographs. For example, Paul loses his dog. "Paul was worried and ran along the shore calling Toby. He met the goat-woman, but she hadn't seen the dog. Paul was so tired that he was glad to lie on the seawall, watching a fisherman mending his nets." Two pictures, almost full-page, show the goat-woman and the fisherman.

Eicke, Edna. What's Your Name? Windmill/ Harper, 1968. 40p. illus. \$7.95.

Ad
K-3 Approximately twenty New Yorker covers have been chosen by Edna Eicke as her favorites. "They are my happiest memories of times and places of my childhood," she notes. The paintings need no explanation, but the simple captions may make the meaning more quickly apparent. Some of the scenes are urban, but most of them show the wide, shaded streets of a small town. In "What's your name?" a small girl looks with unblinking interest at another small girl (equally rapt) who is just moving into the house next door; in a lovely sunset scene, children are separating after an afternoon of sledding. Sentiment without sentimentality and a scrupulous eye for vivid details add to the beauty of the pictures. Appealing to older children and certainly to adults, but in this format the book is probably going to be used primarily by younger children.

Elkin, Benjamin. Such Is the Way of the World; illus. by Yoko Mitsuhashi. Parents' Magazine, 1968. 36p. \$3.50.

Ad
K-2 A retelling of an Ethiopian folktale is illustrated with big, bold, colorful pictures that combine realism and stylized design. Desta, a small boy who is proudly guarding his father's cattle, loses his pet monkey when a dog suddenly barks; the dog's owner gives Desta a game board. The boy trips over a saddle and the board falls into a fire; the owner of the saddle gives Desta a pot. "Such is the way of the world," each man says, as the series of gifts and mishaps comes full circle and Desta retrieves his pet at last. The style of the telling is adequate, the pattern a familiar one in the genre.

Fader, Shirley Sloan. The Princess Who Grew Down; illus. by Leo Glueckselig. Lion, 1968. 45p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.21 net.

NR
3-5 Princess Susannah knew that she was supposed to be asleep by eleven, because at that hour the Evil Elf of Canyon Caves gained power; carelessly she stayed awake and thus shrank to a tiny creature while the Elf,

who had been waiting for hundreds of years for this chance, grew to full size. After several false starts, the Elf was tricked into staying up past eleven a.m. and lost his stature while the Princess regained hers. The idea of transferred roles in a struggle for ascendancy is not new in children's fantasy; the style is pedestrian, and the lesson about obedience not subtle; the illustrations have vivacity but are busy with detail and are not always consistent with the details of the story.

Fairman, Paul W. The Forgetful Robot. Holt, 1968. 163p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.45 net.

Ad
5-8 Barney is as close to an android as any robot in science fiction; a complex machine whose memory box has been damaged, Barney is programmed to respond to his owner's instructions—but he can't remember who his owner is. He is picked up by two youngsters who are planning, with their grandfather, an interplanetary Shakespearian tour, but are hijacked and taken to one of the forbidden cities of Old Mars, where Barney plays a major role in saving the Shadow People, rescuing his real owner, and outwitting the hijackers. The robot as author is quite convincing, since Barney is so close to human responses and feelings; the story has action and suspense, being weak only in the rather patterned plot: lost professor being kept prisoner, hoarded jewels, scientist gone power-mad, et cetera.

Fiedler, Jean. In Any Spring. McKay, 1969. 181p. \$3.95.

Ad
7-10 Laura, a college junior living at home, was not unhappy about her quiet relationship with Sam until she met and was smitten by Kabur, an exchange student from Delhi. He was betrothed, she knew, but that was a family arrangement; she yearned to have him declare his love and to say that he would stay in the United States because of her. Her parents understood that she might be hurt, but Laura—once she found that Kabur loved her—was determined to have her way. She was indeed hurt when Kabur, after a cable from his father, went back to India. The book ends on an optimistic note when Laura realizes that she has been enriched by the experience; happily, it deviates from formula: Laura does not fall into Sam's arms. The story also considers the plight of a couple from Haiti who encounter prejudice, a sub-plot that is capably handled but that seems too fully developed for a situation that is used primarily to substantiate Laura's and her parents' attitudes toward non-whites. The family relationships are explored with insight and honesty, and the writing style is competent; the book suffers slightly from overcrowding and a rather deliberate development of theme.

Flaherty, Robert. The Story of Comock the Eskimo; as told to Robert Flaherty; ed. and illus. by Edmund Carpenter. Simon and Schuster, 1968. 93p. illus. \$4.50.

Ad
5-8 The true story of ten isolated years on an island in the far north is told by Comock, who had left the mainland searching for a place where he could provide food for his family. On the way to the island, several members of the Eskimo party were lost and almost every bit of supplies and tools disappeared in the breaking ice. Ingenuity, skill, and courage enabled the family to live and prosper on the bleak island in Hudson Bay, even to build a boat that could bring them back to the mainland. The il-

illustrations are evocative but repetitive, and the text is in some places broken by several consecutive pages (in one case, six) that are either blank or covered sparsely with small, faraway figures of the Eskimos and their dogs. A section of notes on later events is appended.

Garnett, Eve. To Greenland's Icy Mountains; The Story of Hans Egede, Explorer, Coloniser, Missionary; illus. with photographs and with drawings by the author. Roy, 1969. 190p. \$5.50.

R
8- An interesting biography of the Norwegian missionary and explorer, based on an account by Bobé which is in turn based on Egede's books, diaries, and correspondence. Norway and Denmark were united in that part of the early eighteenth century in which Egede lived and in which, driven by his "Voice," he established a colony in the rigorous climate of the land where he hoped to convert the heathen and to discover traces of the lost settlement established in the tenth century by Erik the Red. The material is fascinating, the writing rather slow-paced; the reflection of Egede's own deliberate, often ornate, style is intentional but it contributes less to enjoyment than it does to verisimilitude.

Gemming, Elizabeth. Huckleberry Hill; Child Life in Old New England. T. Y. Crowell, 1968. 147p. illus. \$4.95.

Ad
6-9 A rambling text, full of information about the small details of life in nineteenth century New England, is profusely illustrated with reproductions of paintings and with photographs of contemporary objects. The material is seasonally divided, with (for example) the section on winter comprising facts about weather, travel, clothing, household chores, medical care, community activities, et cetera; occasionally an anecdote is included. The arrangement of topics seems random, but the index makes facts quite accessible. The style is direct and rather quiet, with a certain amount of repetitive information. A list of suggested readings precedes the index.

Grissom, Virgil. Gemini; A Personal Account of Man's Venture into Space. Macmillan, 1968. 212p. \$5.95.

R
7- Articulate and knowledgeable, Gus Grissom gives a detailed account of his participation in the manned space flight program; the book is informally written, and as pleasant to read as it is informative. Often humorous and always lucid, the author has both the advantage of immediate observation and the ability to take nothing for granted, so that there are no gaps in background information to baffle the layman. He discusses the three basic types of flights (long duration, development, and rendezvous-and-docking) in the Gemini program. A brief epilogue describes the author's death. A glossary of space terms and an index are appended; many photographs are included, and the endpapers provide a useful chart of facts about all Russian and American manned space flights through 1967.

Heaps, Willard A. Wandering Workers; The Story of American Migrant Farm Workers and Their Problems. Crown, 1968. 192p. \$4.95.

R
7- A piercing look at a grim picture. The author's extensive research is obvious in the carefully documented text, and the use of transcriptions of taped interviews with migrant workers gives the book an imme-

diacy that is tremendously effective. The spelling in these interviews (attempting to replicate dialect) is the only weak point of the book: "specials" is spelled "speshuls," and "auto," "otto." A clear picture of the variety of migrants and their patterns emerges; the chapters on legislation and inspection of housing and sanitary conditions, on health hazards and wages are as shocking as they are informative. A long list of suggested readings and an index are appended.

Hildick, E. W. Manhattan Is Missing; illus. by Jan Palmer. Doubleday, 1969. 239p. \$3.95.

R 5-7 "You'll be sure to look after Manhattan properly, won't you?" Oh yes, the Clarkes promised, they would look after the cat and take good care of the New York City apartment they were subleasing complete with a Siamese. When Manhattan disappeared and they received a ransom note, the Clarkes were really upset, and Peter enlisted the help of a new American friend to track down the culprit. The friend enlisted his friends, and the chase was on. The writing style is sprightly, the characters distinctive, and the dialogue has a low-keyed humor that is especially enjoyable in the amiable bickering of the family scenes.

Houston, James. Akavak; An Eskimo Journey; written and illus. by James Houston. Harcourt, 1968. 80p. \$3.25.

R 4-6 Stark and dramatic, Houston's black and white pictures reflect remarkably the elemental and violent quality of the setting, the frozen isolation of the Far North. Young Akavak sets out on a dangerous journey; alone with his grandfather, he crosses the treacherous high mountains that are on the way to his great-uncle's home, for grandfather has a great yearning to see one of his own generation before he dies. Their dogs, sled, and food lost, the old man and the boy seem destined for death; they are able to reach their goal because of the acumen of the old man and the determination of the young one, and the courage of both. The style has rugged simplicity and a cadence that are eminently suitable for the setting and theme.

Hyde, Margaret Oldroyd. Mind Drugs. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 150p. \$4.50.

R 7- Nine lengthy articles give a broad and comprehensive picture of the patterns of drug use and addiction, and discuss the motivation of users and the effects upon them. Four of the articles are written by the editor; the others are contributed by medical experts whose professional records are included in an appendix. The authors describe health hazards, and discuss the addictive properties of alcohol, heroin, LSD, methamphetamine, barbiturates, and marijuana, indicating that long-term research is needed to estimate properly the permanent effects of the latter. The tone is consistently objective, neither adjuring the reader nor indulging in man-to-man-let's-lick-this-thing-together heartiness. A glossary, reading list, and index are appended, as is a list of places to get help in New York City.

Janice. Little Bear Learns to Read the Cookbook; illus. by Mariana. Lothrop, 1969. 29p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.36 net.

Reminded by several friends that he has no particular talent, Little Bear is delighted when a baker gives him a cookbook. Now he can make

Ad the best chocolate cake in the world. That is, he could if he could read.
4-7 So Little Bear goes to school (instant ABC's) and learns to read and
yrs bakes a chocolate cake and flaunts his new ability to the very ones who
spurned him. The illustrations are on the cuddly side; the writing is direct and simple, lightly humorous, and just the right length and level of difficulty for the audience.

Knight, Damon, ed. Toward Infinity; 9 Science Fiction Tales. Simon and Schuster, 1968. 319p. \$4.95.

A splendid collection of stories, with not a mediocrity in the lot.
R Asimov, Bradbury, Campbell, McCormack, MacLean, Schmitz, Shiras,
6- Sturgeon, and van Vogt are the contributors to a book that has variety in
subject and style, with most of the stories in patterns familiar to science
fiction fans but chosen with a discriminating awareness of literary quality.

Knight, Mary. The Fox That Wanted Nine Golden Tails; illus. by Brigitte Bryan. Macmillan, 1969. 94p. \$3.95.

When he was a small cub, the fox had learned that he could earn
R three transformations if he could live without being chased by a dog.
3-4 After one hundred years, he could become a beautiful woman; after five
hundred years, a great wizard; after one thousand years, a fox with nine
tails of pure gold. With each change the foolish fox finds that he is no
better off, a familiar pattern in the fairy tale genre. The book is, however,
a fresh and imaginative treatment of this theme and is written with
wit and elegance, the Chinese setting effectively echoed in the illustrations.
An excellent choice for reading aloud to younger children.

Kosterina, Nina. The Diary of Nina Kosterina; tr. from the Russian with an introduction by Mirra Ginsburg. Crown, 1968. 192p. \$3.95.

Nina began her diary when she was fifteen, bubbling with vitality, intrigued by boys, diligent in her duty as a member of the Komsomol,
R fiercely devoted to her friends, rapturously impressed by books. The entries
7-12 record her growing maturity and her increasing involvement in political life.
When her father is exiled and she herself refused entrance at the school she'd
expected to attend, Nina is in bewildered despair. She finally gets her degree,
she falls in love . . . and then the raids begin. Her last entry is in November
of 1941; the book closes with an official letter to Nina's mother: killed in
action. The book gives a good picture of Moscow in the years before the war
and a vivid record of a young girl growing into womanhood.

Kyle, Elisabeth. Duet; The Story of Clara and Robert Schumann. Holt, 1968.
213p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$3.97 net.

When young Robert Schumann came as a pupil to her father's house,
R little Clara Wieck was a child prodigy already becoming known in Leipzig's
6-9 musical circles. Quiet and precocious, Clara recognized Robert's genius
and realized, when she became older, that she loved the young composer of
whom her father so disapproved. For four long years, the docile Clara
followed a concert career and lived without her beloved before she rebelled
and married him; in one of the most romantic marriages in the world of
the performing arts, they lived happily until Rob-

ert became insane. Well written, this is a tender story that never becomes saccharine in the telling; it has, in addition to the dramatic appeal of a thwarted love between two famous people, a special interest for music lovers and it gives a most interesting picture of paternal dominance in the early nineteenth century.

Lawrence, Jacob. Harriet and the Promised Land. Windmill/ Simon and Schuster, 1968. 30p. illus. \$5.95.

SpC
2-4 "Harriet, Harriet/ Born a slave/ Work for your master/ From your cradle/ To your grave," begins this ballad about the indomitable woman who refused to be a slave and who returned, again and again, to lead black people to the promised land of freedom. The writing is simple, rhythmic, and effective; the picture book format will probably not attract independent readers, but it makes possible the spacious framing of the illustrations. There will be disagreement about the paintings: Jacob Lawrence is one of the foremost Negro artists, and his dramatic, crowded, vigorous pictures (the colors unfortunately dulled) have faces that are distorted and sometimes grotesque. The book may perhaps be most appropriately placed in an art collection, and could there be useful for readers through junior high school.

L'Engle, Madeleine. Prelude. Vanguard, 1968. 189p. \$3.95.

Ad
7-10 Adapted for young people by the author from her novel Small Rain (Vanguard, 1945). Katherine, although she had been a child actress, hoped to become a concert pianist as her mother had been; her unconventional childhood had been punctuated by her mother's long illness (alcoholism and depression following an accident) and by the marriage of her father, a composer, to a family friend. Sent to a rigid boarding school, Katherine was a misfit who learned to accommodate herself to the lonely years of adolescence, and to the hope that some day the teacher whom she loved might see her as a woman instead of a child. The book gives a convincing picture of Katherine as a child and as an adolescent, but the story lacks cohesion, the pace varying in the segments of the plot development.

Leskov, Nikolai. The Wild Beast; tr. from the Russian by Guy Daniels; illus. by Harold Berson. Funk and Wagnalls, 1968. 46p. \$3.95.

Ad
6- A short novel, first published in Russia in 1883, set on a country estate before the abolition of serfdom. The observer (in retrospect) is a small child visiting his uncle, a rigid and cruel man who is moved for the first time in his life to compassion and understanding by the love of one of his servants for an animal, a tame bear. His new insight comes almost as an instant-conversion-to-magnanimity when a priest explains the meaning of a Christmas hymn. The writing is evocative, the translation smooth and the plot balanced in construction; the only really weak point of the story is the quick change from curmudgeon to philanthropist; the illustrations are deft but somewhat repetitive.

Lester, Julius. To Be a Slave; illus. by Tom Feelings. Dial, 1968. 160p. \$3.95.

R
6- Excerpts from original material (usually signed) are arranged chronologically in a moving and explicit documentary record that is given continuity by the author's comments and explanations that link the quoted

remarks. Much of the material was obtained from the Federal Writers' Project, stored at the Library of Congress; some of it is in the words and the language of the slaves, other segments had been edited for propaganda purposes by abolitionists. From capture to auction, from servitude to freedom, the black man speaks eloquently of his history and his bondage. Not better than the Meltzer compilations, but more immediate a picture of slavery. A bibliography is appended.

Lichello, Robert. Pioneer in Blood Plasma; Dr. Charles Richard Drew. Messner, 1968. 190p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.34 net.

Ad
6-9
There is no doubt that Charles Drew was a remarkable man, patient and courageous, diligent and dedicated in his profession. There is also no doubt that the eulogistic depiction of him in this biography is an unintended disservice, since the pervasive note of adulation may prevent readers from distinguishing between the laudatory and the factual. Dr. Drew was as distinguished a teacher as he was a research scientist, and his resignation as the director of the National Blood Bank Program (because of the fact that no Negro could contribute) was given with the quiet dignity that characterized his career. The fictionalization is florid, but the facts about a Negro medical pioneer are fascinating.

Lidstone, John. Building with Cardboard; photography by Roger Kerkham. Van Nostrand, 1968. 95p. \$4.95.

R
4-7
A particularly attractive and explicit how-to-make-it book, with lucid instructions and good, sharp photographs that illustrate some of the many things that can be made of an inexpensive material. All of the pictures show objects made by children, or in the making. The techniques of working in the medium are clearly explained, and the reader is encouraged to experiment.

McGraw, Eloise Jarvis. Greensleeves. Harcourt, 1968. 311p. \$4.75.

R
7-10
An intriguing variation on the theme of establishing one's own identity after growing up in reflected limelight. Shannon had lived in Europe with her famous parents, tried the last two years of high school with relatives in a small town in Oregon, and found no comfort. When a family friend asked her to help him by observing some beneficiaries in a contested will, Shannon posed as a waitress in a university community, taking a new name. Her hopeful swain called her "Greensleeves," and was a major factor in Shannon's reaching a degree of self-acceptance and self-confidence. The writing style is lively and natural, with particularly good dialogue; characterization and interaction between characters are rounded and consistent, and the plot is nicely balanced.

Massie, Diane Redfield. Dazzle. Parents' Magazine, 1969. 38p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.47 net.

Ad
K-2
Bright, humorous illustrations in clear pastel tones add to the appeal of a new version of the story of a peacock-proud creature brought to humility. Infatuated by the beauty of his spreading tail, Dazzle declares himself Lord of the Jungle. The other birds agree that this splendid creature is too handsome to work, and they bring gourmet foods for their sovereign, who fusses. Hearing of this rival, the lion appears and bites off Dazzle's tail; instant abdication occurs, and the ex-Lord of the

Jungle happily shares the humble menu of the day. The ending is anticlimactic, but the light, gay tone of the story is otherwise well-sustained.

Maugham, W. Somerset. Princess September; pictures by Jacqueline Ayer. Harcourt, 1968. 33p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.54 net.

Ad
3-5 Originally a part of the author's The Gentleman in the Parlour (Doubleday, 1930) this story in the fairy tale genre has a plot with traditional elements, effective illustrations with authentic Thai details, and a light style with humor reminiscent of Kipling's wry whimsy. The older Princesses of Siam had been embittered by having their names changed (Night and Day when there were only two; days of the week when there were seven), but Princess September (never traumatized thus, since she was the ninth and last daughter and had never had her name changed) grew up to be gentle and loving. The plot, which is not strong, has to do with a pet nightingale that the Princess almost loses, due to her sisters' machinations; she is saved by her own kind heart and grows up to become a queen, while the eight jealous sisters marry beneath them.

Mendoza, George. A Wart Snake in a Fig Tree; pictures by Etienne Delessert. Dial, 1968. 26p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.69 net.

Ad
5- A parody of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is illustrated with ornately ornamented illustrations, often grotesque and possibly less appropriate for the young than is the writing. The gruesome details will amuse some children and most adults; the large print is punctuated with small drawings, each page with text facing a full-page picture. A partial rundown: ". . . twelve days of raining, eleven lizards boiling, ten devils grinning, nine nightmares galloping . . ." indicates the macabre tenor of the humor that will appeal to the same audience that enjoys Charles Adams. The musical notation is included.

Papas, William. A Letter from Israel. Watts, 1968. 56p. illus. Trade ed. \$7.95; Library ed. \$5.30 net.

M
5-9 Like the Sasek books, this is a volume that has the deceptive look of a picture book and combines information about a city or country in a quasi-humorous text and bright, attractive illustrations. The pictures here are facile, colorful, occasionally cartoon-like; neither they nor the text serves as well as does a Sasek book for sight-seeing information; this does give background about some aspects of life in Israel but it has a note of condescension that is infrequent but jarring.

Pitrone, Jean Maddern. Trailblazer; Negro Nurse in the American Red Cross. Harcourt, 1969. 191p. \$4.25.

Ad
6-10 In the 1880's, a Southern woman did not marry a black man even if she was bearing his child, so Frances Elliott's mother lived in isolation until her death from tuberculosis. Her small daughter lived with a series of foster parents until a benefactor sent her away for an education. All her life, Frances was dedicated to her profession, her admittance to the Red Cross program as its first Negro nurse being only one of the trails she blazed in a long career of civic and medical affairs, primarily in the Detroit area; she collapsed at the age of sixty-nine while working as a hospital nursing supervisor. The subject is interest-

int and worthy, but the book's appeal is limited by an undistinguished writing style and an adulatory tone. A relative index is appended.

Pittenger, W. Norman. The Life of Jesus Christ. Watts, 1968. 115p. (Immortals of Philosophy and Religion) \$3.95.

Ad
8-12 This is not a biography but a treatise on the interpretation of the words and deeds of Jesus as they were recorded in the Gospels and as they have been analyzed by Biblical scholars. The purpose of the book, the author states, is an explanation of the importance of Jesus Christ in affecting world history, and he succeeds in his purpose with signal clarity and objectivity—save that one paragraph is unfortunately ambiguous: "The ordinary man and woman, in every part of the world where the name of Jesus has become familiar, may or may not 'believe in God' but if there is any God in whom he believes and whom he is prepared to worship, it is 'the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.'" A list of suggestions for further reading and an index are appended.

Raboff, Ernest. Marc Chagall; ed. by Bradley Smith. Doubleday, 1968. 26p. illus. (Art for Children) \$3.95.

M
4-6 One of a new series of books by an artist and art dealer about the work of artists of this century (Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso) all in the same format: a hand-lettered text with some of the lettering in color and with black and white drawings is faced by full page reproductions in full color. There is a very brief biography and a statement of the artist's credo; the book is principally concerned with interpreting and describing the reproductions. Minimally useful in art collections because of the dozen or so large pictures and the many small drawings in each volume, the book—and its companion volumes—is not well-written. The author is given to generalizations and conjectures, the writing has an occasional note of patronage, and the use of colored letters makes the book more difficult to read and detracts from the effectiveness of the reproduction on the facing page.

Ransome, Arthur, ad. The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship; A Russian Tale; retold by Arthur Ransome; pictures by Uri Shulevitz. Farrar, 1968. 45p. \$4.95.

R
K-3 A retelling from Old Peter's Russian Tales is brought to life again with vigorous and colorful illustrations that effectively picture the sweep of the countryside, the ornate splendor of the palace and—above all—the vitality and humor of the peasant. The story is deservedly familiar in several folk variants: a company of men, each with one magical power, succeed together in achieving an impossible task; here the Fool's companions enable him to outwit the crafty Csar and win the hand of the lovely Princess.

Rosenfeld, Semyon. The First Song; tr. and ed. by Miriam Morton. Doubleday, 1968. 253p. \$3.95.

R
8-10 Smoothly translated, this strong and effective Russian novel for young adults is based on the author's experiences in Odessa in the years before the 1905 Revolution. Kolya is thirteen when he meets a sailor whose accordion playing stirs in the boy a desire to become a musician. The family is very poor, and there is little chance that Kolya can become a

cellist, but that is his dream; he works at odd jobs, begs lessons, finally acquires an instrument. When he learns that the sailor who befriended him is in jail, the boy becomes inexorably drawn into the movement of protest and is himself jailed; escaping, he leaves for Yalta and a fresh start. Not a propaganda novel, this gives a vivid picture of the penury and oppression suffered by the lower classes; the characterization is good and Kolya's passionate determination to achieve his goal is completely convincing.

Ruckman, Ivy. Who Needs Rainbows? Messner, 1969. 192p. \$3.50.

NR
6-9 A formula novel for girls is given a contemporary look by the introduction of the issue of racial acceptance. Anne dislikes moving to a new town during her junior year in high school, and is sure she will hate Midville, Kansas. There is the usual triangular pattern of romance: big wheel turns out to be big heel, and the reliable boy she's spurned proves to be Anne's true love. There is the usual group of snobbish girls whose shallow qualities the heroine sees in time—here, she resigns from the club because they will not accept as a nominee a Negro girl who has just transferred to Midville. The message of brotherhood is the redeeming feature of the book but is introduced contrivedly and cannot compensate for the trite plot and the mediocre writing style.

Schären, Beatrix. Gigin and Till; tr. by Roseanna Hoover. Atheneum, 1969. 24p. illus. \$4.95.

M
4-6
yrs First published in Switzerland, a picture book with a rather aimless story and with ornate illustrations that show a good sense of design but are dark-hued and crowded. A small boy is being told a story by grandfather, who sees some of his friends and walks off (atypical grandfatherly behavior, surely) and ignores Gigin; none of the children passing by will play with him. That night Gigin's stuffed toy, Till, takes Gigin into dreamland where the boy has so much fun with his toys that he plays happily with them the next morning. A patchy plot, a dull story.

Shecter, Ben. Inspector Rose; story and pictures by Ben Shecter. Harper, 1969. 48p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

Ad
1-3 Variations on a theme, the circus background and obvious humor both appropriate for the audience. Answering the telephone in the office of her son (a detective) Rose Birnbaum decides that she may as well investigate the missing clown, since the circus owner called her "Inspector Rose" when she spoke. She manages to pry into everybody's business without doing any detecting, and she upsets several of the circus acts by her stupidity. Not unfunny, but occasionally contrived and repetitive in pattern; the setting and humor should appeal to beginning independent readers.

Steig, William. Sylvester and the Magic Pebble. Windmill/Simon and Schuster, 1969. 29p. illus. \$4.95.

R
K-2 An oversize book that affords the New Yorker cartoonist a splendid opportunity for illustrations that are both winsome and humorous, with a story that has the same qualities, plus an ingenuous, direct style of writing. Sylvester is a young donkey who finds a magic pebble; faced with a hungry lion, he desperately wishes he were a rock and the magic

works. His parents search the neighborhood, call out the dogs, and resign themselves to their loss. The autumn leaves fall on Sylvester, a wolf sits on him to howl at the snowy sky, and spring comes at last. Trying to cheer themselves, Sylvester's parents picnic on the rock, and they just happen to pick up a pebble, and Sylvester just happens to wish he were alive again . . . and the magic works again. Joyful reunion, satisfying conclusion.

Steiner, Charlotte. Tomboy's Doll; story and pictures by Charlotte Steiner. Lothrop, 1969. 26p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.36 net.

M
5-7
yrs
Marie Louise was such a tomboy that everybody called her Tommy. Hoping to see her daughter become more feminine in her behavior, Tommy's mother bought a doll; Tommy wasn't really interested, although she tried playing with the doll. Then, one day when she was lost, Tommy found the doll a comfort; that night she took her doll to bed for the first time. Although a simple and fairly pleasant (if patterned) story, there is an implication—despite the fact that the tomboy is treated sympathetically—that not playing with dolls is odd behavior.

Stolz, Mary Slattery. Say Something; pictures by Edward Frascino. Harper, 1968. 29p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27.

Ad
K-3
A small boy, at his easel, expresses his impressions of the world around him in imaginative and poetic phrases, the illustrations (supposedly the work of the boy painter?) attractive but not outstanding and not representative of children's painting. The patterned text suggests, "Say something about a tadpole . . . a mountain . . . the wind . . . a tree . . ." "A tree is an apartment house where the catbird and cardinal can live for a song." The writing is often evocative, but the literal translation into pictures seems a barrier to free interpretation of the poetry.

Udry, Janice May. What Mary Jo Wanted; pictures by Eleanor Mill. Whitman, 1968. 26p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$2.44 net.

Ad
K-2
What Mary Jo wanted, more than anything else in the world, was a dog of her own. She read dog books, drew pictures of dogs, and she promised to take full responsibility if only she could have a puppy. When she finally did get a dog (no explanation of why the two older children in the family aren't part-owners) Mary Jo discovered that puppies want a great deal of attention, and the story ends with Mary Jo sleeping in the kitchen to keep her pet from being lonely at night. The story line is not strong, but the theme has appeal, the writing style is adequate, and the illustrations show a very attractive middle-class Negro family.

Vaughn-Jackson, Genevieve. Carramore; written and illus. by Genevieve Vaughn-Jackson. Hastings House, 1968. 128p. \$3.84.

Ad
5-7
This story of the intrusion of the Irish Civil War of the 1920's on the peaceful life of a rural estate is tinged with a nostalgia that stems from the author's memories of her own childhood in Ireland. The eleven-year-old twins, Anne and John, are delighted when an older cousin arrives and they can show Hal the wonders of the shore and the manifold activities of the estate. The war comes closer and the book closes with the children leaving their beloved Carramore for a temporary refuge in London. Because of the rarity of books with a background of the Troubles, this has

a special appeal; it is rather heavy with local color and local characters, but is given impetus by the real danger and suspense of the situation.

Watson, Sally. Jade. Holt, 1968. 270p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$3.97 net.

R
6-9 In eighteenth-century Virginia, a girl like Jade was a misfit. A tom-boy and a rebel, she was sent away to Jamaica to stay with a stern uncle, but even his discipline didn't keep Jade in order; she became a pirate, reveling in the freedom and adventure of her new life. Add a love story to the romance of the high seas, and this is an adventure novel of great appeal. The heroine is invented, but many of the characters (including female pirates) are real, as are many of the flamboyant incidents that seem improbable.

Watts, Franklin. Let's Find Out about Easter; pictures by Marta Cone. Watts, 1969. 39p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

NR
K-2 Static illustrations in blue and green add little to a text on Easter for the very young; the pages that emphasize design are overly busy and those that show human beings have a pedestrian comic-strip quality. The book does give some basic facts about the meaning of Easter in the Christian religion and refers briefly to some Easter customs and their origins. Although it is for somewhat older children, Fisher's Easter (T. Y. Crowell, 1968) is simple enough, for the most part, to read aloud to the very young child and it is better-written and better-illustrated.

Weber, Lenora Mattingly. Come Back, Wherever You Are; A Beany Malone Story. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 240p. \$4.50.

Ad
6-9 As in all the Beany Malone stories, this is a smooth pastiche of family life and the problems of Beany's circle of friends and acquaintances. Here the crucial situation is that of a small, disturbed child whose mother, Beany's old friend, dies of leukemia. Beany's efforts to make little Jodey feel secure are partially successful, threatened by the ignorance of some of his family who feel that all the child needs is a good spanking. Although the story has a burden of subplots and minor characters, it is realistic, warm, and capably written.

Wildsmith, Brian. Brian Wildsmith's Fishes. Watts, 1968. 29p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$3.71 net.

SpC
3-5 Like several previous books by Wildsmith, this offers group names (a spread of sticklebacks, a battery of barracuda, or a hover of trout) and a series of stunning double-page spread illustrations. Despite the preface, which gives additional terms, the value of the book depends less on the small amount of information it gives than it does on the paintings. Well worth inclusion in a collection of art books, the pictures are a triumph of imaginative embroidery on natural beauty.

Wodehouse, P. G. Mike and Psmith. Meredith, 1969. 232p. \$4.95.

R
6- Even if they don't understand the details of two important cricket matches, boys can enjoy this very funny story. First published in 1909, it is a timeless bit of British public school humor graced by the languid nonsense that is Wodehouse's own. Mike and Psmith meet as newcomers to a small school, each having been ousted by his previous and more im-

pressive school. They refuse to play cricket until their talents are badly needed; both succumb, both having been on the first team. The plot, however, is of less importance than the series of in-and-out-of-trouble incidents that are spiced by Psmith's wildly improbable perorations.

Wyndham, Robert, comp. Chinese Mother Goose Rhymes; selected and ed. by Robert Wyndham; pictures by Ed Young. World, 1968. 42p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.86 net.

R
4-6
yrs
A most intriguing collection, the rhymes having both the universal attributes that appeal because of familiarity and the special charm of an unfamiliar variant in the genre. Some of the poems, riddles, and games have been translated for the book, and others have been selected from Pekinese Rhymes (Pei-T' and Press, 1896) or from Chinese Mother Goose Rhymes (Revell, 1900). The pages read vertically and are handsomely bordered with columns of Chinese letters; the illustrations are outstanding in the use of color and in design, beautifully adapting modern technique to traditional style.

Zindel, Paul. The Pigman. Harper, 1968. 182p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

R
7-9
John and Lorraine, high school sophomores, have two great bonds: they are both in conflict with their parents and they both have capricious and inventive minds. Out of this comes their friendship with an elderly man they call the Pigman (his name is Pignati and he collects china pigs) whom they met when pretending to be collecting for a charity. They are not criminal, but John and Lorraine have the pliant amorality of the young. Mr. Pignati comes home from the hospital to find a wild party going on; shocked by his young friends' behavior, the trusting and loving Pigman succumbs to a stroke. For John and Lorraine, "there was no one to blame anymore . . . And there was no place to hide . . . Our life would be what we made of it—nothing more, nothing less." Although the writing (by John and Lorraine, alternately) has the casual flavor of adolescence, the plot has an elemental quality. Sophisticated in treatment, the story is effective because of its candor, its humor, and its skilful construction.

Reading for Librarians

- American Library Association. Children's Services Division. Bibliographies; Materials and Resource Aids. 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, Illinois 60611. Single copy, \$1.50; ten or more, \$1.00 each.
- Arnez, Nancy. "Racial Understanding Through Literature." English Journal, February 1969.
- Barry, Florence. A Century of Children's Books. Methuen/ Singing Tree Press, 1968. 257p. \$8.50. 1249 Washington Blvd., Detroit, Michigan.
- Children's Book News. \$4.50, 6 issues per year. Children's Book Centre, Ltd., 140 Kensington Church St., London W 8, England.
- Doyle, Brian. The Who's Who of Children's Literature. Schocken, 1968. 380p. \$10.00.
- Haden, Harold. "Library Innovations." Instructor, November, 1968.
- Hürlimann, Bettina. Picture-Book World. World, 1969. 320p. \$8.95.
- _____. Three Centuries of Children's Books in Europe. Rev. ed. World, 1968. 297p. \$8.95.
- Kingman, Lee; Foster, Joanna; and Lontoft, Ruth, compilers. Illustrators of Children's Books: 1957-1966. Horn Book, 1968. 295p. \$20.00.
- Minnesota University. The Kerlan Collection. The 1969 brochure for a research collection of children's books. 16p. Available on request from the Librarian, Kerlan Collection, Walter Library, University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455.
- Odland, Norine. "Marguerite Henry: Mistress of Mole Meadows." Elementary English, January, 1968.
- Pellowski, Anne. The World of Children's Literature. Bowker, 1968. 538p. \$18.75.
- Shaw, John Mackay, ed. Childhood in Poetry. Gale Research Company, 1968. 5v. \$135.00. Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

