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**THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO
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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 23

April, 1970

Number 8

New Titles for Children and Young People

Adler, Irving. Sets and Numbers for the Very Young; by Irving and Ruth Adler; illus. by Peggy Adler. Day, 1969. 47p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$3.96 net.

R
K-2 Big but crowded pages are filled with very simple, multiple examples—in words and drawings—to make clear to the very young child the cardinal and ordinal numbers (1 to 10) and the concept of sets, with counting introduced late in the text. With adult help, the child can learn to manipulate the objects used in the examples, such as toothpicks to be put down on lines, or pennies on circles.

Aiken, Joan. The Whispering Mountain; illus. by Frank Bozzo. Doubleday, 1969. 237p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$4.70 net.

R
5-9 Broad burlesque of fantasy-adventure might be cloying, but Joan Aiken has a deft touch of the ridiculous that lightens a book that isn't to be taken seriously for one moment. A small Welsh boy, motherless and with a missing father, stays with a dour grandfather who rejects and suspects him. Grandfather is custodian of a magical harp which is stolen by the hired scalawags of the rich, cruel Marquess of Malyn. There are also a pair of good gypsies, a foreign potentate, a race of men who live inside the mountain, and—too broad Scots to be true—His Royal Highness, Davis James Charles Edward George Henry Richard Tudor-Stuart, Prince of Wales. The dialects are hilarious, especially the fractured Welsh, and the plot outlandish.

Asch, Frank. Linda. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 41p. illus. \$3.95.

M
K-2 Linda wakes up. The same old crack is on the wall and the same old dirt outside the window, but the sun is shining. "Good morning mouse" and "good morning breakfast" and "good morning street," Linda is alive and bouncy and out to greet her world. The drawings have sly touches that compensate for their scribbled awkwardness. The setting is lower-class urban, with attendant litter and even a bum ("Good morning mister," Linda happily bawls at the flinching man) but a child's joy transcends the milieu.

Balderson, Margaret. When Jays Fly to Barbmo; illus. by Victor G. Ambrus. World, 1969. 239p. Trade ed. \$4.25; Library ed. \$3.97 net.

Ad
6-9 Ingeborg was almost grown before she found out that her mother had been a Lapp, and why her dour father never talked about the brief marriage. Living on a farm on a Norwegian island, desolate but beautiful,

the girl yearned for the nomadic Lapp life. The war (World War II) brought dreadful changes: her farm burnt down by the Germans, Ingeborg—whose relatives had died—joined her Lapp family but found that it was, after all, the island life she wanted. Although the war is a motivating factor for much of the action, the protagonist is not directly involved for most of the book. Slow-moving, the story has the bleak dignity of its surroundings, an economical structure, and good, albeit not deep, characterization.

Baron, Virginia Olsen, ed. Here I Am! An Anthology of Poems Written by Young People of Some of America's Minority Groups; illus. by Emily Arnold McCully. Dutton, 1969. 159p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.90 net.

R
3-6 From schools all over the United States, the author solicited children's poems and chose approximately one hundred twenty for inclusion in a volume that has some moments of lightness but chiefly comprises candid observations on awareness, isolation, prejudice, and justice—or, more often, injustice. There are some poems about nature, family life, or the city, but most of the selections are intensely personal and infinitely moving.

Bartos-Höppner, B. Hunters of Siberia; tr. by Anthea Bell. Walck, 1969. 242p. \$4.50.

R
7-10 Translated from the German, a novel set in the early part of the century that is both a plea for conservation of wild life and a remarkable picture of a way of life now ended. Ibrahim Karalkan is certainly the best hunter in the tiny village of Baltshara, but he is a Caucasian in exile, not one of the natives, and he is never quite accepted. When a government official comes from St. Petersburg with the power to regulate hunting, he chooses the reluctant Ibrahim as his guide. Slowly Ibrahim begins to see the senselessness of the depletion of species by wholesale shooting, to understand the benefits of a long-range conservation program for the very people who resist it. The obduracy and craftiness of the natives is rather harshly drawn, but the theme of the book is compelling, the hunting episodes are replete with danger and action, and the gradual development of the friendship between the two men who have, at the start, been enemies is wholly convincing.

Belpre, Pura. Santiago; illus. by Symeon Shimin. Warne, 1969. 31p. \$3.95.

Ad
3-4 Even Santiago's mother felt that he spent too much time thinking and talking about the pet hen he had left in Puerto Rico, Selina. And the boy Santiago most wanted to impress, Ernie, didn't even believe there was such a pet. When the class was going on a field trip one day, they saw a pet hen at a construction project and Santiago, seeing the interest of the others, begged the teacher to come to his home so that everybody could look through his stereoscope at a picture of Selina. He held his breath when Ernie looked—would he just scoff? But Ernie was impressed, Santiago mollified, and a beautiful friendship started. The story is not strong, but it is modest and realistic, and the illustrations are lovely, those of the two boys (Ernie is black) being especially sensitive in the capture of fleeting moods.

Benchley, Nathaniel. Sam the Minuteman; illus. by Arnold Lobel. Harper, 1969.

62p. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

R
2-4

Mother said, "Go back to bed." but Sam's father thought the boy might as well get his gun, too; Sam could fight right along with the Minutemen if the British soldiers really showed up as Paul Revere had said they would. Massed, the colonials were an easy target; they soon learned to snipe from behind a tree or fence. Worn out, Sam fell asleep that night worrying about a wounded friend and unaware that the war had started, but he had lost his fear and felt ready to fight again. The story has plenty of action and historical authenticity; it is written with the deceptive ease that marks the series. It is most effective in creating a realistic mood of sober apprehension and in maintaining the child's viewpoint and reaction.

Bentley, Phyllis. The Brontës and Their World. Viking, 1969. 144p. illus. \$6.95.

R
9-

Lavishly illustrated with pictures of the Brontës and their friends and with scenes typical of the times, a fascinating biography of the sisters who produced, out of a genteel and cloistered environment, the passionate creativity of their shared art. The author writes with verve and polish despite an occasional awkward phrase; the people are real, the discussion of the Brontës' work acute and perceptive. A chronology, notes on the pictures, and an index are appended.

Blume, Judy. The One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo; illus. by Lois Axeman. Reilly and Lee, 1969. 26p. \$3.95.

Ad
K-2

The traditional squeeze-play of the middle child is handled lightly but quite effectively here, as a small boy accomplishes something that neither his older brother nor his younger sister can. Freddy, a second-grader, felt that life was made up of hand-me-down clothes, a brother that was always ahead of him, and a small sister who not only was cute but couldn't even be retaliated against when she provoked trouble. He was delighted to accept the role of the Green Kangaroo in a play put on by the fifth and sixth grades. The story of his nervous flutters before the curtain goes up, his subsequent wallowing in the part (chiefly jumping) and the appreciation of his family is amusing; Freddy's own complacency at just being himself—an actor—makes him expansively tolerant about being the middle child. While the book treats the problem at a superficial level, it does treat a real problem in a believable way, and as a story it is satisfying.

Bonnell, Dorothy. Why Did You Go to College, Linda Warren? Messner, 1969. 190p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.34 net.

M
7-10

Everybody was proud of Linda, pretty and popular, who had been admitted to an exclusive eastern college; Mother gave her some pretty pink draperies for her room at school and reveled in the thought that Linda would be dating Ivy League men. But it didn't work out that way: Linda had trouble studying, she was confused by the political and intellectual intensity of the group of friends that moved around Bill, her boyfriend; she was even more confused by the fact that Bill's parents seemed to be activists and by the knowledge that Bill found her somehow lacking. It took all the first year for Linda to realize that she had never before in her life thought for herself, and she recognized the fact that, much as it would disappoint her mother, she didn't care for Ivy League men or prop-

er contacts. What Linda wanted was to learn for the joy of learning. This draws a very good picture of the sheltered suburbanite who is flung into the academic collage composed of demanding teachers, snobbish seniors, new levels of competition, student rebels, extracurricular activities, and dormitory life. Not a formula story, it gives a realistic if not comprehensive picture of a freshman year; its two weaknesses are a plethora of characters and their problems and a pedestrian writing style.

Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. A Book of Venus for You; illus. by Leonard Kessler. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 72p. \$4.50.

R
3-5 Simply enough written for the middle grades, but with a straightforward and dignified tone that makes the book useful for older children who have difficulty in reading. The format militates against this, unfortunately, since the large type and the illustrations make the book look more juvenile than it is. The text describes the theories that have been held about the planet in the past, and discusses not only what we know now (due chiefly to information sent by space probes) but how this knowledge was obtained from the information available. This is good scientific writing, clear and to the point, distinguishing between conjecture and fact, and not straying into irrelevancies.

Collins, Ruth Philpott. The Mystery of the Giant Giraffe; illus. by Charles Robinson. Walck, 1969. 143p. \$4.75.

NR
5-6 Sandy had come to the Sahara with his father to look for rock paintings, but found that the desert people were unfriendly and uncooperative, seeming to fear the valley that Dr. Cooper wanted to explore. Sandy, intrigued by the huge giraffe painted on a rock wall of the valley, and hot on the trail of a mysterious event, finds a huge cavern with rock paintings. He also finds evidence that a local child is really the daughter of some Americans; she had been in a plane crash and had been presumed dead for several years. There is a sentimental ending, with little Zora's mother appearing to claim her child. The setting has appeal, and there is miscellaneous information about desert peoples, but the plot is contrived and the writing style tedious.

Corbett, Scott. The Baseball Bargain; illus. by Wallace Tripp. Little, 1970. 140p. \$3.95.

R
4-6 Woody had never been able to play as much baseball as he wanted, so when he heard that Leo was organizing a team, he was willing to do anything to belong. But what Leo wanted him to do wasn't easy: to be on the team, Woody had to steal a mitt from Stoneham's sporting goods shop. He almost did it—and Mr. Stoneham knew it. So Woody struck his second bargain, terms dictated by Mr. Stoneham: if he could do three good deeds in one day, he could work in the store and earn a mitt. The ensuing olio of humorous events, baseball action, and the acquisition of insight makes a pleasant story, realistic and lightly written but with serious overtones.

Cretan, Gladys Yessayan. Lobo; illus. by Patricia Coombs. Lothrop, 1969. 29p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.36 net.

Ad
3-5 yrs A slight but amiable story of a very small black dog inappropriately named Lobo, whose noisy barking in unnecessary defense of his family leads to a scolding. Lobo hides, nursing his resentment, until he sees a

strange contraption that needs investigation. The object turns out to be a runaway baby carriage, and Lobo's intervention stops its flight. Lobo is acclaimed a hero and goes home in triumph. The plot is not unusual, but the style is (Lobo may mutter to himself but there is no human-dog conversation) and the ending is satisfying, both as a dog story and as a defense of smallness. The illustrations are softly executed, enlivened by humor.

Daniels, Guy, comp. The Falcon under the Hat; Russian Merry Tales and Fairy Tales; selected and tr. by Guy Daniels; illus. by Feodor Rojankovsky. Funk and Wagnalls, 1969. 111p. \$5.95.

R
3-6
Dramatic, often busy, illustrations have both the folk humor and the sentiment of the tales in an attractive collection. The themes are typical of the genre; the style is vigorous yet smooth, good for reading aloud or storytelling as well as for independent reading. An interesting foreword discusses some of the idiosyncrasies of Russian folk literature.

Domjan, Joseph. The Little Cock; retold by Jeanne B. Hardendorff. Lippincott, 1969. 30p. illus. \$4.95.

R
3-5
An old Hungarian folktale, good for storytelling (although it is not as flowing as the version in Seredy's The Good Master) and reading aloud as well as for independent reading, is illustrated with brilliant color woodcuts that alternate with black and white designs; the interpretation is not literal, although within the highly stylized convolutions of the pages are figures from the story. The little cock who tries to regain his rightful possession from the greedy Turkish Emperor, and is successful, may have particular meaning to children whose Hungarian forbears were for long decades under Turkish dominion, but the theme of the small, doughty fighter triumphant over an oppressor is universal.

Fischler, Stan. Stan Mikita; The Turbulent Career of a Hockey Superstar. Cowles, 1969. 213p. illus. \$3.95.

M
7-
A run-of-the-mill sports biography, with some good descriptions of action on the ice and with plenty of facts about Mikita (based on taped interviews) and on other players in the NHL; the author is a professional hockey writer. There are some minor discrepancies between the text here and that of Mikita's own book (reviewed below) but few of importance. The two weaknesses of the book are the digressions into material that is of peripheral interest and the ornate journalese that produces such statements as, "Stan Mikita's odyssey from the poverty and depression of postwar, Communist-controlled Czechoslovakia to stardom in professional hockey was etched on Ameliana's mind as she watched her son carve beautiful patterns on the surface of the ice." Some statistics, an index, and a glossary are appended, the latter omitting several common terms such as "icing" and types of penalty calls.

Galdone, Paul, ad. The Monkey and the Crocodile; A Jataka Tale from India; ad. and illus. by Paul Galdone. Seabury, 1969. 29p. \$4.50.

Ad
K-2
An oversize book in which the attractive but repetitive illustrations occupy most of the double page spreads. The story, adequately retold, is typical not only of the Jataka tales but of all folk literature about the clever animal who outwits a predator; here it is the crocodile who is

twice tricked by the clever monkey he wants to eat.

Gray, Nicholas Stuart. The Apple Stone; illus. by Charles Keeping. Meredith, 1969. 230p. \$4.95.

Ad
5-6

A fantasy set in England, first published there in 1965. "Use your brains," said the apple. "How can my power be used, good creatures, while I myself am imprisoned?" So the five children, who had just met the talking apple, very solemnly cut it in equal parts as directed and ate their pieces. The glowing golden ball in the center, they soon found, had the power to make inanimate objects animate. Thus begins a series of adventures when the stone brings to life a leopard (from a rug), a Crusader (from an effigy), a bird (from a hat ornament) et cetera. The writing style is good and the fantasy nicely meshed with the realism of the children's lives, but the story is so episodic that it loses impact with the succession of episodes, there being no strong plot development.

Gripari, Pierre. Tales of the Rue Broca; tr. by Doriane Grutman; illus. by Emily McCully. Bobbs-Merrill, 1969. 111p. \$4.95.

R
5-7

First published in France in 1967, a half-dozen tales prefaced by the author's explanation of their purported origin; in the Parisian neighborhood in which he lived he told so many stories to the local children that he used all his material, so M. Pierre called for collaboration on new stories. The tales have a fresh and fertile imaginative quality that is truly childlike, but they are mature in style and interpretation, the humorous quality somewhat reminiscent of Twain's in moments of acerbity. One story is about the little devil who, a great disappointment to his parents, wants to be good; another is concerned with the highly improbable origin of the first piggy bank; two are about inanimate objects that love in romantic style (a pair of shoes in one case, a potato and a guitar in the other). The weakest of the lot is a rather long-drawn fairy tale, and it has enough barbs and nonsense to be enjoyable; one of the best is the sad tale of an immortal hero who never received posterity's plaudits because nobody could bear to record his ridiculous name.

Hallard, Peter. Boy on a White Giraffe. Seabury Press, 1969. 128p. \$3.95.

Ad
4-6

An animal-and-adventure story set in East Africa. Martin, age twelve, is alone in camp with a sprained ankle while his parents are nearby making films. A sudden storm is followed by a flash fire, and Martin gets away on the back of a rare white baby giraffe that had been caught the day before. He encounters a lion, fights off a crocodile, is attacked by vultures, et cetera; it is due in part to the giraffe, which has become very quickly tamed, that Martin is saved. After his rescue, he prevails on the adults not to sell the giraffe to a zoo, and she is sent to a game reserve. The background is interesting, the style good; the book is, however, too solidly packed with one crisis after another to have real impact.

Hanff, Helene. Butch Elects a Mayor; illus. by Judith Gwyn Brown. Parents' Magazine, 1969. 40p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.47 net.

M
2-4

When his father announces that he is going to run for mayor, Butch enthusiastically offers to help; his father reminds him that every previous effort has been disastrous even though Butch's intentions were of the best. The pattern repeats: Butch is helping with a mailing, opens a win-

dow, all the mail blows away; Butch suggests a parade route and they run into another parade; the p.a. system isn't working at a meeting and Butch, trying to help, blows a fuse and leaves the auditorium in darkness, and so on. A reporter talks to Butch and prints a story about the boy's tale of woe, commending his spirit and his intent. Father wins the election, everyone saying it is because of Butch. The pattern of incidents is tedious, despite a slight humorous appeal, and the conclusion puts universal franchise on a superficial basis; the only value of the story is that Butch's parents do eventually recognize that their son was highly motivated—but it takes an outsider to effect this.

Hildick, E. W. Top Boy at Twisters Creek; illus. by Oscar Liebman. White, 1969. 151p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.76 net.

R
6-9 Mr. Hildick is one of the most dependable producers of humorous fiction for young people; here he focuses on a popularity contest (tied to grocery purchases) in a small academic community in Ohio. Andy, fourteen, is determined that the prize will be won by one of his gang, and he uses all the statistical lore absorbed from his father to manipulate the voters' support. The book is a deft jibe at the politics of college faculty as well as an amusing story about some lively boys; it occasionally inclines toward stereotype of adult semi-comic characters, and there is little expansion beyond the contest theme, but the yeasty writing compensates.

Hieatt, Constance, ad. The Knight of the Cart; illus. by John Gretzer. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 85p. \$3.95.

R
5-7 In a companion to Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and The Knight of the Lion, the author (a medieval scholar and university professor) confesses to adding her own interpretations to the versions of Chrétien de Troyes and Malory, thus giving a fresh and vivid cast to the familiar Arthurian legends. The king, already troubled by the disappearance of many good men of Camelot, is struck with dismay when a messenger comes to report that the queen and her ladies have been taken captive by the evil Sir Malagant and transported to the Land of Gorre. Sir Lancelot, hot in pursuit, submits to the indignity of riding in a cart (a disgrace usually meted out to criminals) to save his queen, an episode that is only the first of his adventures. The writing style is wonderfully fluent and appropriately romantic.

Holland, John, ed. The Way It Is. Harcourt, 1969. 87p. illus. \$3.25.

Ad
3-5 Like Vogel's The Other City (reviewed in the June, 1969 issue) this is a collection of photographs made possible by a grant from the Eastman Kodak Company; the material was gathered by a teacher in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, and the photographs and captions are the work of his pupils, Negro and Puerto Rican boys. Here, too, there are flat and obvious captions for some pictures with an occasional poignant remark; the pictures also vary, ranging from posed group shots to candid pictures. As a picture of slum life, this is sharp and revealing, not only in the total impression given by the photographs but in the bleak acceptance, in the text, of the way it is.

Jackson, Jacqueline. Spring Song; verses by Jacqueline Jackson; illus. by Barbara

Morrow. Kent State University Press, 1969. 25p. \$3.75.

Ad
K-2
Musical notation, with an alternate accompaniment, is included at the close of the book, and is repeated on the inside of the book jacket so that it can be used on a piano rack. The text consists of verses in which several exultant animals, and a boy and girl greet the spring. "'Caw, caw!' caws the crow/ 'Spring has come again I know/ For upon this balmy morn/ There's the farmer, planting corn!'" the song begins, and the last verses speak of the joys of marbles and kites (boy) and hopscotch and jump-rope rhymes (girl). Neither music nor lyrics is distinguished but the appeals of rhyme, rhythm, and the vernal season make the book useful.

Katz, Herbert. Museum Adventures; An Introduction to Discovery; by Herbert and Marjorie Katz; illus. by Peter Burchard. Coward-McCann, 1969. 253p. illus. \$6.95.

R
5-9
Profusely illustrated with photographs, an interesting book about museums in the United States, the material grouped by type of museum. Each section describes the founding of the museum, gives information about the special collections for which it is noted, includes facts about some of the exhibits, and gives background information about donors, locale, staff, or additional attractions such as shops or lectures. To acquaint the reader with less-familiar museums, some of the major museums are omitted, but most are listed in an appendix, divided by states and including addresses. Also appended is a list of major museums, divided as are those in the text (science, art, history, et cetera) which have not been described, and an index.

Lutzker, Edythe. Women Gain a Place in Medicine. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 160p. illus. \$5.95.

Ad
8-
Most of the books that treat historically of pioneer women in the field of medicine are biographies, single or collective. This, although it gives some background information about the barricades to a medical career for a woman in the United States and in the United Kingdom in the nineteenth century, is a detailed study of the vicissitudes and obstacles in the path of a group of five young women who worked together to gain entrance to the University of Edinburgh and then to achieve recognition. They were harassed by men students, discouraged by adverse publicity, and plagued by recalcitrant teachers; they fought in court and their friends fought for them in Parliament. The book will undoubtedly appeal to readers interested in medical history, but the dry style and slow pace may limit its appeal to the general reader.

Margolis, Richard J. Looking for a Place; illus. by Ilse Koehn. Lippincott, 1969. 71p. \$3.95.

Ad
6-9
A collection of poems that reflect the inner city patterns and the thoughts of its residents; the first two poems, "The Man Sees the Boy" and "The Boy Sees the Man" present the meeting of the ghetto child and the transient observer. This theme is carried out to some extent, the last poem, "Shade Power," speaking to the elimination of racial barriers. Some of the writing is very effective, some of the emotions expressed by ghetto residents poignant or pointed, but many of the poems have a disappointing jejune quality.

Mendoza, George. And I Must Hurry for the Sea Is Coming In . . .; photographs by DeWayne Dalrymple; design by Herb Lubalin. Prentice-Hall, 1969. 26p. \$3.95.

SpR
4-7 Full-color photographs show the sweet and serious face of a Negro boy, a boat sailing on a silver-sparkling sea, spray flashing. The poetic text speaks for the boy, beautifully: ". . . the sea is coming in/ though the wind and sea are set against me/ I will take my boat/ And I will go into the dawn wind . . ." On the last page we see the boy, his small toy sailboat being carefully guided through a puddle made by a hydrant. Evocative but static, the book may be limited in its appeal to the more sophisticated reader or the child who particularly enjoys poetry.

Merrill, Jean. The Black Sheep; illus. by Ronni Solbert. Pantheon Books, 1969. 74p. \$3.95.

R
4-6 An entertaining fable about our organized and conforming society, written with sharp wit. Into a rigidly-structured community of white sheep there is born a black lamb who grows up to be a pacific rebel. He will not wear a sweater, when the whole focus of the group is the perpetual knitting of sweaters, with accompanying rituals of shearing, carding, et cetera. The black sheep wears his own shaggy coat and is perfectly comfortable, and he wastes all his time growing gardens, enjoying the color and scent. In fact, being useless. As the society becomes increasingly compulsive, some of its members wonder about the black sheep, now a pariah; the story ends with a mass realization of the futility of the established pattern, and a new order based on the simple, gentle way of life of the black sheep. Sly but not acid, pointed but not minatory.

Mikita, Stan. I Play to Win. Morrow, 1969. 223p. illus. \$5.95.

R
7- When he was eight years old, a childless uncle and aunt adopted Stanislav Gvoth and gave him their name, Mikita; his parents had given up their child so that he might have a better chance in life than he could in Sokolce, Czechoslovakia in 1948. His experience as a D.P. has colored Stan Mikita's hockey career, as has his small stature; once cocky and belligerent, the now gentlemanly Black Hawk was in the past noted and disliked for his readiness to fight. He is candid about this, as he is about other aspects of his personality and his relationships with other players and coaches, and with the press. This is a direct and unassuming autobiography, occasionally repetitive but conversational in tone, informative, and giving a very vivid picture of Mikita's personality and his enjoyment of family life, and of his opinions of team-mates and opponents.

Oppenheim, Joanne. Have You Seen Roads? Scott, 1969. 35p. illus. \$3.95.

R
K-2 An oversize book, handsomely designed, with fine photographs that complement and illustrate the text. The writing is poetic and vivid, so that it is jarring to have a frequent iteration of "Have you seen roads?" All kinds of roads are included: busy city streets, dreaming country lanes, tortuous mountain roads, placid riverways, locks and bridges, sky lanes and the unmapped roads of space.

Papas, William. A Letter from India; written and illus. by William Papas.

Watts, 1969. 54p. \$7.95.

Ad
5-8 A description of the author's travel impressions, in the form of illustrated letters to a son, with one letter and some drawings by a daughter who was his companion. The writing is informal, occasionally flippant; the book lacks continuity but gives information in enthusiastic fashion. Some of the pictures (pen and ink, and watercolor) are poorly placed in relation to the text and some have little pertinence but they are charming—full of vitality, humor, and color.

Place, Marian (Templeton). Gold Down Under; The Story of the Australian Gold Rush. Crowell-Collier, 1969. 169p. \$4.50.

R
6-9 The Australian Gold Rush was started by a man who had, like many Australians, tried his luck in the gold fields of California; Edward Hargraves, remembering some rock formations like those of California, sailed home determined to become rich and important. Persistent in presenting his claims to Her Majesty's Government, Hargrave was finally successful . . . and that was a very small beginning, for there were rich deposits found by the gold-hungry prospectors. Although the writing is quite solid and serious, this is a dramatic book by the very nature of its material. Well-researched, the book includes accounts of the labor disputes, the anti-Chinese riots, the forays by outlaw bands, the importing of American stagecoaches, the effect on the Australian economy, but primarily of the wild surges of prospecting, the tedious labor of panning, the staking of claims and the occasional fabulous strike that encouraged others to go on digging and sifting. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Potter, Margaret. The Touch-and-Go Year. Meredith, 1969. 183p. \$4.50.

Ad
5-7 Three English children whose father has died go to stay for a year, while their mother is getting teacher training, with relatives in a small town. His younger sister and brother make friends easily and have no trouble with their work at school, but twelve-year-old Jonathan (the primary character) has no comfort until he is taken up by an adult member of the tennis club next door. He is a natural athlete, and Jonathan soon dreams of a professional career, his goal a possibility when the head of a school for boys with special talents gives him a scholarship. The writing style has an easy flow, and the characterization, good on the whole, includes only a few minor characters who are on the picturesque side. The weakness of the story is in the dependence on coincidence in plot, but it is otherwise down-to-earth, and the tennis theme is handled well.

Quigg, Jane. Ted and Bobby Look for Something Special; illus. by Ted Coconis. Funk and Wagnalls, 1969. 43p. \$3.50.

M
2-3 While Ted was in bed recovering from measles, his father had brought him a present; now father had the measles and Ted was looking for a just-right present. After several abortive tries (a kitten that was not for sale, a paperweight that was too expensive, a brand of honey that was out-of-stock) Ted brings his father a blue butterfly; father, delighted, mentions Frost's poem, "Blue-butterfly Day." The poem is appended. There is merit in the idea that a gift of beauty may be better than a material present, and the illustrations, drawn with soft precision, show an

interracial friendship, but the writing style is quite dull, the dialogue flat, and the story line very slow-moving.

Ruttan, Robert A. The Adventures of Oolakuk; woodcuts by Vivian Berger. Prentice-Hall, 1969. 96p. \$3.95.

R
4-6 A quiet story that describes the life of the Eskimo people living in the Big Hills Lake country of Canada, the woodcut illustrations (blue, black, and white) appropriately stark and simple. There is no story line, but the small events of the twelve-year-old Oolakuk's life have action, and the book gives a sympathetic and dignified picture of the freedom and independence of Eskimo life, and of the merging of the indigenous culture and the sophisticated alien ways.

Sachs, Marilyn. Peter and Veronica; illus. by Louis Glanzman. Doubleday, 1969. 174p. \$3.95.

R
4-7 A sequel to Veronica Ganz, in which Veronica, a perennial bully, met her match in the smallest boy in the class, Peter, who became her close friend. Here Peter and Veronica are beginning to be conscious of the fact that they are boy and girl, although they are still primarily just friends. Their relationship is tested and almost fails when Veronica fails to come to Peter's bar mitzvah—after Peter's long arguments with his mother, who can't see why a girl who isn't Jewish should be invited. Both the children are candid about it; their mothers are prejudiced. The problem and the dialogue concerning it are handled extremely well, as is the ensuing breach between the friends, a breach healed in a most natural way when Peter, who had been outraged by Veronica's absence on the great occasion, plans a small speech only to find that Veronica, far from feeling guilty, has seen that his battle was not really for her but for himself—and gets Peter to admit it.

Selz, Irma. The Curious Tourists. Grosset, 1969. 39p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

Ad
K-2 A small, isolated village on a French hilltop is discovered by tourists, and the consequent wave of prosperity revitalizes the almost-moribund economy. The villagers are able to buy all the things they had long wanted; some complained about the visitors, so loud and so demanding, but the old woodcarver settled the argument by reminding his friends that they could now have tourists (and prosperity) for a few months and peace and quiet for the rest of the year. The illustrations, cartoon-style, have vitality if not humor, and they provide some local color. The story is mildly amusing, slight in concept but adequately written; the milieu and concept are a bit sophisticated for the picture-book audience for whom the format is best suited.

Seymour, Brenda Meredith. First Counting; written and illus. by Brenda Meredith Seymour. Walck, 1969. 40p. \$1.95.

Ad
3-6
yrs A small book, the rhyming text simply descriptive and the illustrations slightly sugar-coated, alternately pretty pastels and black and white. The objects shown are clear save for a few pages (one of the "6 fat parcels all for me" is open and simply looks like a piece of paper) and are familiar. Not unusual, but not confusing—as some counting books are—and useful because the counting goes to twenty.

Simon, Charlie May (Hogue). Martin Buber - Wisdom in Our Time; The Story of an Outstanding Jewish Thinker and Humanist. Dutton, 1969. 191p. \$4.50.

R
8-12
A serious and lucid analysis of Buber's philosophy as well as a biography, this follows the noted Jewish philosopher and theologian through the years of the Nazi regime and the war, and into his later years in Israel. It touches lightly on his happy marriage to a woman who wholeheartedly adopted his faith, and on his visits to the United States, dwelling at more length on his writings and on the influence his work had on many prominent people of our time. The tone is reverent, the writing style capable. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Singer, Isaac Bashevis. A Day of Pleasure; Stories of a Boy Growing Up in Warsaw; with photographs by Roman Vishniac. Farrar, 1969. 227p. \$4.50.

R
6-
A delightful compilation of nineteen stories, some of which were previously published in an adult book, In My Father's Court. The photographs are of members of the Singer family or of Warsaw scenes of the period. The crowded and busy slum ghetto provides some unforgettable characters, including the author's father, a rabbi with a great reputation for wisdom, and his indomitable wife, whose common sense sometimes put her husband's didactic pronouncements to shame. The book not only conveys, with gusto and humor, the Jewish community but also depicts with infinite charm the author as a child: questioning, eager, sensitive, and thoughtful.

Snyder, Anne. 50,000 Names for Jeff; illus. by Leo Carty. Holt, 1969. 71p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

Ad
4-5
One morning way back Mama had said, "Jeff, your pa has picked up and gone; we'll have to make out by ourselves . . . you and me and Little Sister." Since then they have lived in an old converted house, and now Jeff knows that they have a chance to move into a new building that is going up. Opposition to the housing project halts the work, and Jeff tries, not very successfully, to get signatures to a petition; his luck changes when a reporter hears about it, finds Little Sister and another small child "working" on the building, and writes a story that brings in enough support to ensure victory. The writing style is adequate, the urban setting useful, and the purpose worthy, but the book is weakened by the contrived plot.

Spence, Eleanor. Jamberoo Road; illus. by Doreen Roberts. Roy, 1969. 162p. \$4.75.

R
6-9
A sequel to The Switherby Pilgrims, in which Miss Arabella Brathwaite shepherded ten orphans from England to a lonely farm in Australia. Here the children are older, the farm a bit more prosperous; some of the fledglings leave the nest. The book is chiefly about Cassie and Luke, who go to the prosperous Marlow homestead as governess and stable boy. Forthright and questioning, the tomboyish Cassie adjusts nicely to a more sedate life; Luke cannot accept order and authority and runs away with a released convict. He proves to be on the side of virtue, however, when he foils a kidnapping attempt by his companions. The book has a bit of everything: drama and love interest, excellent characterization, good plot, and an interesting setting; the style is firm and vigorous.

Surany, Anico. Etienne-Henri and Gri-Gri; illus. by Sylvie Selig. Holiday House, 1969. 31p. \$4.50.

Ad
K-2

A read-aloud story introduces some French words in the best way, making them comprehensible by the context and by the fact that they are preceded (but not immediately) by the English equivalent. Etienne-Henri and his cat, Gri-Gri, live on a canal boat; one day they have a small on-land chase that results in their being left behind. Friendly people help them catch up; despite a scolding, Etienne-Henri looks forward to the next foray. The catalog of encounters is a mildly tedious device, but it serves to introduce such characters as the delivery boy with his long loaves of bread, the postman on his bicycle, and the grapepickers in their cart. The French flavor is carried out in the illustrations in some details, but the style (grotesque figures, oversize cat) is stiff and stylized.

Susac, Andrew. Paracelsus; Monarch of Medicine. Doubleday, 1969. 192p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$4.70 net.

R
7-10

A good biography of the sixteenth-century Swiss physician Theophrastus von Hohenheim—who either invented or was dubbed "Paracelsus"—above the authority of Celsus. Here, as in many other details, Susac's version differs from that of Rosen's (Doctor Paracelsus, reviewed in the September, 1959 issue) which does not include von Hohenheim's study with Trithemius, stressed here as a turning point in his career. Although both books tend to aggrandize not the man, but his contribution to medical history, they are not written in adulatory tone; here the author makes the book especially interesting by using his subject's life-long battles against entrenched ignorance to give a vivid picture of the state of medicine and, to some extent, all learning, in Europe at that time. The fictionalization is skilled, the writing competent. The brief epilogue mentions Paracelsus as the model for the Faust legend. A relative index is appended.

Tate, Joan. Sam and Me. Coward-McCann, 1969. 94p. \$3.50.

R
8-10

Jo, alone with her baby in a rented room, looks back at her life and her marriage, reminiscing about her start as an orphan, the happy home she found, and her innocent—and ignorant—self as a young wife coping with adjustment to marriage. As she remembers, Jo intermittently comes back to the present, worrying about the baby—and very skilfully the author builds tension as the reader suspects the truth that is finally revealed: the baby has been kidnapped by Jo. She takes him to the police and is reunited with her husband. The kidnapping theme gives the book dramatic impact, but it is Jo's analysis of her role, and her realization that she has been docile, childlike, and sexually apathetic that is the crux of the story.

Titus, Eve. Anatole and the Thirty Thieves; illus. by Paul Galdone. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 32p. \$4.50.

R
K-2

By now Anatole has been firmly established as a mouse of distinction, and here he proves again that he is worthy of his reputation as a sleuth of uncanny shrewdness. While our hero is on vacation there is a massive robbery at the cheese factory where he works; by using deduction, induction, psychology and who-knows-what-mystic-acumen, Anatole finds the

location of the treasure (cheese) as well as the thieves. Great acclaim for the "mouse magnifique." The usual potpourri of blandness, nonsense, humor, and an ineffably Gallic atmosphere, all illustrated with enormous brio.

Uden, Grant, ad. Hero Tales from the Age of Chivalry; retold from the Froissart Chronicles; illus. by Doreen Roberts. World, 1969. 160p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.61 net.

R
6-8
Based on the Berners translation, distinctively illustrated in black and white, twelve tales by the great poet-historian of the fourteenth century. Grant Uden explains, in a useful prefatory note, that any interpolation of his own is based on knowledge that Froissart would have had. Historically interesting, romantic in approach, the stories of chivalrous men and brave women are limited in appeal only by a rather heavy style of writing; the material is dramatic enough to compensate for this. A minutely detailed record of the events of a tournament, notes on the stories, and an index are appended.

Vavra, Robert. Milane; The Story of a Hungarian Gypsy Boy; written and photographed by Robert Vavra. Harcourt, 1969. 46p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$4.17 net.

Ad
3-4
Milane is a Hungarian gypsy lad, highly photogenic; the oversize format and full-color photographs of the book feature innumerable pictures of him. The text describes some of the customs and problems of the gypsy, but diverges to the story of Milane's finding a bereft fawn in a march, taming it, and deciding it must be let go. The photographic quality is excellent, but the story does not, as the jacket claims, "illuminate life in a foreign country" and it splits rather sharply between being a description of a gypsy family and a boy-animal idyll. The text and pictures seem to have a certain amount of forced companionship: since there is one sequence in which Milane puts on his clothes, rushes for help, and suddenly is again naked it does seem possible that the story was contrived to fit (but not quite) the pictures.

Vipont, Elfrida. The Elephant and the Bad Baby; illus. by Raymond Briggs. Coward-McCann, 1970. 30p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$3.96 net.

R
4-7
yrs
When a book begins with the fact that once upon a time there was an elephant, one doesn't usually see a placid modern scene: factory buildings, carefully kept grounds, airplanes in the background. The meeting of the elephant and the Bad Baby (who doesn't do a thing from his perch on the elephant's back except agree that he would like whatever the elephant suggests) results in a series of petty thieveries, with a cumulating group of shopkeepers irately chasing the two. Eventually the Bad Baby is dethroned for not saying "Please," and everybody has supper with the Bad Baby's mother. The illustrations are charming, the prim details a foil for the vigor and humor of the trumpeting cavalcade.

Wahl, Jan. How the Children Stopped the Wars; illus. by Mitchell Miller. Farrar, 1969. 95p. \$3.75.

SpR
5-6
A fantasy with a serious message, the illustrations (soft, soft black and white) having the same combination of simple theme and intricate detail as does the story. His own father having long ago been taken as a

soldier, Uillame listens responsively to the queer stranger who sees a vision of death and destruction. If nobody else will try to stop the war, the boy decides, he must. "Fellow children!" he pleads, "Who misses and wants back a father, an uncle, a cousin, a brother?" So the children flock after him, and Uillame leads the way to the war. They have adventures on the way, some of them frightening (some of them a bit drawn-out) but they find their way to the battlefield. The men cannot fight with their children watching . . . and the wars end. A medieval mood, a modern message—or perhaps a message for all time.

Walker, Richard L. Ancient China and Its Influence in Modern Times. Watts, 1969. 86p. illus. \$2.95.

Ad
4-6

A book that has both strong and weak aspects but is limited in its usefulness more by the weakness of treatment than by omissions or errors. The period covered is from 2205 B.C. to 220 A.D. but the topical format gives the book historical fragmentation. Some of the topics covered are interesting, and there is a stress on artistic expressions of ancient dynasties, but the text is not balanced. The "influence in modern times" is merely a rather hasty survey of some of the characteristics of Chinese society that shaped or have been shaped by events. The tone is admiring, the writing style adequate, the illustrations attractive. A chronology (with some aspects of occidental civilization correlated) and an index are appended.

Wallace, Barbara. Claudia. Follett, 1969. 192p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.60 net.

R
5-6

Claudia is a late bloomer, her best friend a boy of eight, her interest in boys, clothes, and all things feminine nil. The behavior of the other sixth-grade girls infuriates Claudia and she retaliates by spoiling a party, knowing that she's only been asked because of parental pressure. She finds herself demoted to class creep, it proving later that the party-giver had accused Claudia of taking the teacher's missing watch. Even Claudia's mother is worried about her tomboy daughter . . . but the watch is found, and Claudia is also known to have tackled the class bully when he was thrashing a small boy; when Claudia becomes friendly with a girl, of all people, and when her mother learns that she has been helping a poor family by babysitting it becomes clear that Claudia is, after all, beginning to bloom. The style is light and often humorous, the pre-adolescent problems are handled with understanding, and the story has a nice balance.

Warner, Gertrude Chandler. Tree House Mystery; illus. by David Cunningham. Whitman, 1969. 127p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.21 net.

M
3-5

The Alden children are excited by the fact that people are moving into the long-vacant house next door, but find the two Beach children, Sammy and Jeffrey, curiously quiet and apathetic. When the Aldens suggest building a tree house the other two become more animated. They know that their father and his brother had long ago quarreled about a lost spyglass, and this turns up in a hole in the tree; it also reveals that the Beach house has a small, mysterious window, which proves to belong to a boarded-up room. The mysteries are tepid, if believable; the characterization is flat, the writing style pedestrian.

Werstein, Irving. Year of Turmoil: 1939. Messner, 1969. 176p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.64 net.

M
6-9
There is, of course, much of moment in 1939 that is of dramatic interest or cultural importance as well as the major, usually tragic, historical events. The record of that year is, however, made less impressive by the inclusion of minor matters to the detriment of coverage of major ones: three pages for the goldfish-swallowing craze, for example. There is fair coverage of martial events. The second weakness of the book is in floridity of the writing: "The plucky Finns stalled the mighty Soviet war machine. Observers likened it to a modern version of David and Goliath. In the end, Russia triumphed after a blood-soaked campaign that lasted three months." A list of books suggested for further reading and an index are appended.

Williams, Jay. Danny Dunn and the Smallifying Machine; by Jay Williams and Raymond Abrashkin; illus. by Paul Sagsoorian. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 139p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.42 net.

R
5-7
There's always a fascination in the concept of the miniature, and Danny Dunn fans should appreciate the placement of Danny and his friends in this situation via the latest invention of the durable Professor Bullfinch. The two themes (living creatures who change size and the jungle world of tall grass and stalking insects) are familiar, but the treatment is fresh and occasionally ingenious. Danny, Irene, and Joe are as indefatigably curious and courageous as ever, but the relentless pace is alleviated by the brisk dialogue, light humor, and generous portions of science (not always accurate; for example, the Professor corroborates Danny's comment that everything falls at the same rate of speed. No mention of the fact that this is true only in a vacuum.) in the science fiction.

Woodard, Carol. The Busy Family; illus. by June Goldsborough. Fortress Press, 1969. 26p. \$1.95.

M
2-4
yrs
An oversize book with illustrations that are mediocre in quality but are, because of the simplicity and style, useful for a group showing. The text goes through the day of a very small girl, Lori; Lori helps her mother do the dishes, plays with her brother when he comes home from school, has a story read by Daddy at bedtime, et cetera. The book will probably appeal because of the familiarity of most of the routines, but the flat writing style and sanctimonious air of total rapport will limit the appeal.

Young, Margaret B. Black American Leaders. Watts, 1969. 120p. illus. \$3.95.

Ad
5-9
A collective biography in which each of the subjects is accorded a page or two of description and a photograph. The material is grouped in four categories: leaders in civil rights, government, politics, and the international scene. Many of the subjects have been written about repeatedly, but this does serve as a quick (if not complete) survey of some leaders in public life. In several pages that conclude the section on black leaders in civil rights, the author discusses briefly the "angry young voices" of Malcolm X and others. A useful book despite the rather stiff writing and the occasional errors of syntax or grammar.

Reading for Parents

To order any of the items listed here, please write directly to the publisher of the item, not to the BULLETIN of the Center for Children's Books.

Allen, James. "The Right to Read; Target for the 1970's." PTA magazine, December, 1969.

Bowman, Barbara and Anker, Dorothy. "The Score on Early Reading." PTA magazine, November, 1969.

Caudill, Rebecca. "A Child and His Books." PTA magazine, February, 1970.

Child Study Association of America. Recommended Reading about Children and Family Life 1969. C.S.A. of A., 1969. 74p. \$1.95.

Egoff, Sheila; Stubbs, G. T.; and Ashley, L. F., editors. Only Connect; Readings on Children's Literature. Oxford University Press, 1969. 471p. \$7.50; paper, \$4.95.

Gross, Sarah Chokla. Planning A School Book Fair. Children's Book Council, 1969. 24p. paper. \$2. 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10010.

Horwich, Frances. "Fantasy and Reality; Children Need Both." PTA magazine, December, 1969.

Powell, Jean. "Why Book Reports?" Peabody Journal of Education, November, 1969.

Rome, Paula. "Toward a New Understanding of Youngsters with Reading Problems." Parents' magazine, November, 1969.

Ross, Richard. "Filling the Void: the Black in American Literature." English Journal, January, 1970.

Squires, Raymond. "Turning Out Non-Readers." PTA magazine, September, 1969.

Warshaw, Thayer. "Teaching the Bible As Literature." English Journal, April, 1969.

