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## Bulletin

of the

Center for Children's Books

July-August 1965 Vol. XVIII - No. 11

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

## EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

## R Recommended

Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.

M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.

NR Not recommended
SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.

SpR, A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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## Bulletin

# of the Center for Children's Books 

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO - GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

## New Titles for Children and Young People

R Alexander, Lloyd. The Book of Three. Holt, 1964. 217p. Trade ed. \$3.75;
6-8 Library ed. $\$ 3.45$ net.
A long, complicated, imaginative, and very funny adventure tale set in an imaginary kingdom; nicely conceived and written in the genre of the folk legend, this is the story of a young Welsh hero. Taran is an Assistant-Keeper of a porcine oracle; he goes forth with Gwydion, a great warrior, to best the evil Horned King. He acquires as companions a beautiful young princess, a boastful minstrel, a toadying Creature, and one of the Little People from the world below ground. The writing is sophisticated and the body of lore and legend is complicated, but the originality of the idea and the humor of the dialogue should more than balance these mild drawbacks in appealing to readers.

Ad Allan, Mabel Esther. Mystery on the Fourteenth Floor; illus. by Shirley Hughes. 7-9 Criterion Books, 1965. 186p. \$3.50.
Fiona, eighteen, sails from England to New York; nervous about living with the father she hasn't seen for some years, she is shattered when he doesn't meet her at the pier. He is not in his apartment, and none of his acquaintances know where he is. Fiona makes a few friends and begins to feel more at ease although she is very worried about her father. She becomes more and more convinced the two men on the floor above are criminals and that they are responsible for her father's absence; she finds that the men are indeed spies and that she is in danger. Father's absence is, however, only a coincidence, since he turns up in a hospital as an accident victim. Although the plot has heavy elements of coincidence and of contrivance, the writing style is good and the reaction of a young English girl to New York is mildly interesting.

R Andersen, Hans Christian. The Nightingale; tr. by Eva Le Gallienne; designed 4-6 and illus. by Nancy Ekholm Burkert. Harper, 1965. 33p. Trade ed. $\$ 3.95$; Library ed. $\$ 3.99$ net.
A very attractive edition of an old favorite; oversize pages have large print and are embellished by marginal decorations. The double-page spreads in full color are exquisite in themselves and exquisitely suited to the Chinese fairy tale. The translation by Miss Le Gallienne differs little from older versions; some of the words or phrases are varied, but the style and the prose flow are substantially in accord with versions in standard collections.

R Belting, Natalia Maree. Calendar Moon; illus. by Bernarda Bryson. Holt, 1964. 5-8 $\quad 58$ p. Trade ed. $\$ 3.50$; Library ed. $\$ 3.27$ net.
A distinctive book, strikingly illustrated, in which the text comprises folk lore and myth from widely varied peoples. The selections move through the calendar year, from the January "moon-when-man-answers-a-summons" of the Baronga of Southeast

Africa to the December "moon-of-Yul" legend of the Lapps. The lyric style is delightful and appropriate; the book is a good choice for reading aloud to younger children.

M Blish, James. Mission to the Heart Stars. Putnam, 1965. 158p. \$3.75. 8-12
A sequel to The Star Dwellers, in which Space Cadet Jack Loftus successfully contacted other life-forms in the interplanetary future. Now Jack and his friends go on another mission; this time they are attempting to convince the Heart Stars, rulers of a space federation, that the probationary period of Earth be shortened. They find odd cultures at their assorted stops, and are almost captured by the hostile Hegemony of Malis, only to be rescued at the crucial moment by one of their old friends, an Angel-Angels being balls of self-contained electromagnetic fields of great age and infinite intelligence. The scientific aspect of this science fiction novel is interesting, but the plot seems attenuated and the writing style often plods, especially when long, scientific explanations are introduced as conversation.

R Bonsall, Crosby Newell. The Case of the Cat's Meow. Harper, 1965. 64p. 2-3 illus. (I Can Read Books). Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. $\$ 2.19$ net. An engaging humorous story for the beginning reader, attractively illustrated and suitable for reading aloud to younger children. A very small boy insists to three slightly older boys that his cat Mildred is precious and that somebody will want to steal her. They jeer at Snitch but join in the hunt when Mildred mysteriously disappears; they share the wealth (kittens) when Mildred is found. The illustrations show boys of assorted sizes, shapes, and colors; the dialogue is really childlike, and Snitch's devotion to his perfectly ordinary cat is captivating.

Ad Brenner, Barbara. Beef Stew; illus. by John E. Johnson. Knopf, 1965. 28p. 2-3 \$3.25.
Nicky asks his mother if he may bring somebody home for dinner; he knows they'll be having beef stew. His best friend has to go to the dentist; another friend doesn't like beef stew. The school librarian regretfully says she has to make dinner for her husband, etcetera; then the postman gives Nicky a card, Nicky runs to the station to meet the sender, and he has a guest for the beef stew dinner-his grandmother. The illustrations are very attractive indeed, the story is pleasantly realistic if uneventful, and the book should be useful as supplementary material for a curricular unit on community life.

R Chase, Alice Elizabeth. Famous Artists of the Past; with 177 reproductions, 6-10 including 44 in full color. Platt and Munk, 1964. 120p. \$5.95.
A very good sampling of the works of some two dozen great artists; of 177 reproductions, 44 are in full color of excellent quality. The page or two of text for each artist discusses a bit about the man himself, something about his distinctive qualities as an artist, and some analysis, for most pictures, of the selections in the book. The arrangement is random, neither alphabetical nor chronological; however, the alphabetical index compensates for this and gives, in listing the works reproduced in the book, starred citations of reproductions in full color. The arbitrariness of inclusion and the random arrangement preclude reference use, but the very casualness has an appeal in a volume used as an introduction to art appreciation.

Ad Clarke, Joan. The Happy Planet; illus. by Antony Maitland. Lothrop, 1965. 5-7. 254 p. $\$ 3.50$.
A good science fiction story written with simplicity of style and conception, and with very little in the text that is not fairly realistic. A crew from another, highly regimented solar system comes back to the old mother-planet Earth to see if it is again
safe to live on. They expect no humans but are convinced that, should there be any surviving after centuries, they will be savages. Only the two children from the spaceship are prepared to make friends with the Earth people, and they do. Although the story-line is concerned with the reactions of the two groups and with the decision of some of the crew members to stay forever on the Happy Planet, the impact of the book is in its message of brotherhood and kindness. The one element of fantasy lies in the introduction of a third group of people, the telepathic and cruel Dreadfooters; they serve as a fulcrum for plot development, but they detract from the consistency of concept in an unusually good science fiction story for the upper elementary reader.

R Clarke, Tom E. The Big Road. Lothrop, 1965. 252p. \$3.50.
7-10
A good junior novel about the depression era, based on the author's experience as an adolescent hobo. Vic Martin, seventeen, steals away from farm life and the stepfather with whom he is in conflict; he is turned down by the U. S. Navy and the C.C.C. and takes to the road. Most of Vic's adventures are as a vagrant, although he works for a time as a hired man; he finally tires of hobo life and decides to go home, newly aware of his own role in precipitating and perpetuating the hostile relationship for which he had theretofore blamed his stepfather. The book is quite realistic, with no extraneous characters or sub-plots; it has the stark quality of Lynd Ward's illustrations of the same era.

R Cole, William, ed. Beastly Boys and Ghastly Girls; poems collected by William 5-7 Cole; drawings by Tomi Ungerer. World, 1964. 116p. \$3.75.
A delightful anthology of humorous poetry, with Ungerer illustrations that are absolutely right for the varied nonsense poems about the extensive and unmitigated misbehavior of the young. Exaggerated, gay, and diverse, the poems and limericks should give joy to independent readers and to younger children to whom they are read aloud.

Ad Colum, Padraic, ed. Roofs of Gold; Poems to Read Aloud. Macmillan, 1964. 6-10 $\quad 176 \mathrm{p}$. Trade ed. $\$ 3.95$; Library ed. $\$ 3.94$ net.
An anthology that contains very few unusual selections; the poems are chiefly such old favorites as "Kubla Khan," "Lochinvar," "The Rainbow," "Rose Aylmer," "Annabel Lee" and "The Tiger." A few newer poets are represented-including Mr. Colum. Arrangement is fairly random; notes on fourteen poems are appended, as are an author-index and an index of first lines.

R Diggins, Julia E. String, Straightedge, and Shadow; The Story of Geometry; 6-9 illus. by Corydon Bell. Viking, 1965. 160p. $\$ 5$.
A book that describes the beginnings of the science of geometry, with emphasis on the work of the early geometers, particularly of Thales and Pythagoras. Some of the illustrations are informative, some nerely decorative. The geometric principles and problems are presented as though their discoverers were explaining them-a technique that is interesting but that seems weakened by the rather heavily fictionalized framework. The geometric developments are lucidly and painstakingly explained. For example, the Pythagorean theorem: "Perhaps the session began with an announcement: 'I have found at last the solution to a problem that has long been puzzling us.' A hush of awe fell on the gathering as 'Himself'-in white robe and gold sandals, his head crowned with a golden wreath-took pointer and string and straightedge, and began to lecture." A brief list of suggestions for further reading and an index are appended.

R Dillon, Eflis. A Family of Foxes; illus. by Vic Donahue. Funk and Wagnalls,

5-7 1965. 117p. \$2.95.
Set on the Irish island of Inishownan, this is the story of four boys and their careful guarding of silver foxes rescued from the sea. The animals had been shipped to the zoo at Dublin, and the boys reported their find, but by the time the foxes were picked up, the boys had had a long, hard job hiding them and feeding them. It was necessary to hide the beasts because the island population hated and hunted the local red foxes. The plot is perfectly adequate, but it is overshadowed by the background: the people, their customs, and their speech are real, colorful, and quite delightful. The author has a special talent for creating mood and revealing character by using the lilt and rhythm of Irish speech without resorting to obscure idiom or to dialect.

R Fall, Thomas. Wild Boy; illus. by Henry C. Pitz. Dial, 1965. 105p. \$3. 5-7
For many years men, Indian and white, had tried to catch the giant wild stallion, Diablo Blanco. When both his father and his grandfather had been killed in such attempts, Roberto determined that he would catch the horse; knowing he would have to be wily and skilled, Roberto entered a Comanche training camp. Later, alone and patient, he trapped and tamed Diablo Blanco; when he brought the stallion in to an Army garrison and offered him for sale, Roberto realized that he could not bear to see the proud animal tamed, so he rode off alone to the mountains. Stark and dramatic, but believable; the sequences at the Comanche camp are vivid, and Roberto's emotional conflicts about the struggle between white men and Indians are portrayed with sensitivity.

Ad Fife, Dale. Who's in Charge of Lincoln? illus. by Paul Galdone. Coward-3-5 McCann, 1965. 61p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. $\$ 2.86$ net.
All plans had been made for Lincoln and his sisters when Mother was to go to the hospital, but the baby came early and the woman who was to stay with Lincoln had an accident. His sisters were away and Lincoln, a third-grader, was alone. When a thief dumped a bag of money in Lincoln's hands, the boy went off to Washington to try to find his oldest sister; he saw the White House, and he tossed the bag of loot at the foot of the Lincoln statue-so that it would be recovered. And he went home, but nobody believed his story. The background is good: a middle-class Negro family in an urban setting, with good family relationships; the writing style is easy, the plot far-fetched. If the book had enough humor to be tongue-in-cheek or if it had a more believable story-line it would be strengthened.

Ad Fisher, Aileen Lucia. Arbor Day; illus. by Nonny Hogrogian. T. Y. Crowell, 2-4 1965. 34p. \$2.95.
One of a series of books about national or religious holidays (Phelan's Mother's Day is also reviewed in this issue), this title has a rather slight text. The first part of the book describes the destructive carelessness of the early settlers and the erosive forces of nature; the second part discusses the work of Sterling Morton in Nebraska and the adoption of Arbor Day by other states, the holiday now being nationally observed. There is so small an amount of material available on Arbor Day that the book will be useful, but the end of the text gives very little information-possibly because the observance is simply the formal planting of trees. The writing style is rather choppy.

R Forman, James. Ring the Judas Bell. Farrar, 1965. 218p. \$3.25.
8 -
A story of Greece just after the time of the Nazi occupation, when the Andarte were kidnapping children from the villages. Nicholos and his sister Angela are taken; Angela is the older, a forceful and dominant person who plans their escape. The gentler Nicholos tells other children, so Angela becomes a leader hampered by dependents.

The group becomes separated, Nicholos reaching the village with some of the children; when their father goes off to hunt for Angela, Nicholos stays behind to ring the chapel bell that is the voice (and to Nicholos the symbol) of their village. A dramatic and sophisticated story; honest, grim, moving. The background is vivid, the people are impressively distinctive, and the ideas expressed-both by the characters and by the author-are often provocative and occasionally profound.

R Forsee, Aylesa. Pablo Casals; Cellist for Freedom. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 7-10 229p. illus. \$4.50.
A good book about the man who became, in his long lifetime, almost as famous for his idealistic and political consistency as for the quality of his musicianship. The biography is detailed, serious, and admiring; much of the text, although related to Casals, is interesting general information about the world of music or about the Spanis political scene. A section of photographs is bound into the book; a reading list and an index are appended.

R Freeman, S. H. Basic Baseball Strategy; illus. with diagrams by Leonard 5-9 Kessler. Doubleday, 1965. 104p. \$2.95.
Intended for young baseball players, this is a book so packed with useful information lucidly given that it can be read profitably by older players, by amateur coaches, and by fans of all ages. No talking down, no fooling around, just facts about offensive and defensive play, and about preparation and drills. There are, for example, chapters on the squeeze play, on the hit and run, on the steal; Mr. Freeman tells you when to do what, and why . . . and when not to. And why. The illustrative diagrams are helpful, although a few seem to have symbols or figures that are not necessary for clarity.

M Georgiou, Constantine. Whitey and Whiskers and Food; illus. by Taylor
3-5 Oughton. Harvey House, 1964. 45p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. $\$ 2.62$ net.
A fictionalized account of a fourth-grade classroom experiment in nutrition. The class uses laboratory mice in a controlled program of varied diets, and the children discover how a balanced diet of the proper food can affect weight, health, appearance, and even behavior. Useful for the information about experimental method and about diet, but quite poorly written, being stilted and repetitive; the dialogue sounds contrived and facile.

Ad Gidal, Sonia. My Village in France; by Sonia and Tim Gidal. Pantheon Books, 5-8 1965. 79p. illus. \$3.50.
As in previous books in this series, the text is in first person; Denis is an adolescent, youngest child of six in a farm family living in a small village near Avignon.
As in previous books, a trip (to Avignon) affords an opportunity to give some historical background to the text; for the most part, Denis describes his village, some of the problems in modern farm life, family life, local foods and games, sports, etcetera. The book seems less effective than preceding books, perhaps because the protagonist is not really a child and therefore there are fewer activities reported that are at the young reader's level, and perhaps because there is more of the repetition-by-translation than there usually is in the conversation written by the Gidals.

NR Goulden, Shirley. The Royal Book of Ballet; illus. by Maraja. Follett, 1965. 6-7 75p. \$4.95.
An oversize book, profusely illustrated with romantic paintings in subdued colors. The text gives the stories of six ballets: Swan Lake, Giselle, Coppelia, Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker, and Petrushka. There is some usefulness in having the plots of ballets that are in the repertoires of all companies, but the material is available else-
where, and it is not well done here. The writing is florid, giving the ballet plot (but no choreography) with more embellishment than is needed to understand the action, embellishment that might be of value were the writing style not awkward and ornate. "Courtiers and peasants alike joined in the merry dancing, for the prince was not proud and chose his friends from all stations in life." . . . "The others went off into the bushes in search of game, but Siegfried, feeling strangely sad and remote, preferred to stay by the lake looking over the water, which was calm and undisturbed as his own life had been until then."

M Grumbacher Library. The Art of Oil Painting; Still Lifes/Flowers/Land7 - scapes/ Waterfronts/Portraits. Golden Press, 1965. 47p. \$2.98. An oversize book in which four artists show, in step-by-step technique, how to paint different kinds of pictures in oil: still life, landscape, portrait, etcetera. The artists give instruction on technical details, the book serving as a guide for the beginner rather than as a comprehensive text. The first few pages give good basic information on materials, terminology, and mixing of color. The fact that the text and some of the photographs of materials remind the reader (rather frequently) that M. Grumbacher, Inc. makes paints does not enhance the book.

Ad Hayes, William D. Johnny and the Tool Chest; pictures by Paul Frame. Atheneum, 1964. 93p. \$3.25.
4-5
The tool chest, well-filled, was a hardware store sale item for which Johnny yearned; his father said he would pay half if Johnny could garner the other half. How to do it? Johnny decided to win first prize in the Pioneer Day contest. His ambitious exhibit didn't win the prize, but it won him an opportunity to earn money elsewhere and it taught him something about cooperative behavior. A pleasantly written story, realistic and believable, but not unusual in pattern and with little variation in pace.

R Hoag, Edwin. American Houses; Colonial, Classic, and Contemporary. Lippin-7-10 cott, 1964. 151p. illus. \$4.95.
Very, very good. This is a handsome book, handsomely illustrated, comprehensive and competent; it is written in a straightforward style that is informal without being either jocose or patronizing. The author relates developments always to influences of heritage, of materials and climate, of function, or of period-fashion. The text provides a considerable amount of historic background to the story of houses in America; the book should be of some use to younger readers as a limited reference source, particularly for the illustrations. A bibliography and an index are appended.

R Hodges, Cyril Walter. The Namesake; written and illus. by C. Walter Hodges. 7-9 Coward-McCann, 1964. 269p. \$3.95.
An old man looks back over his life, and tells his story; as a crippled orphan fleeing from the Danes, Alfred the One-Legged had been told in a vision to bring a gift to his namesake. His namesake is King Alfred, and his story is the story of Alfred's struggles against the Danish invaders. The historical background is good, the period is convincingly created; the book is slowed a little by intricacies of style.

R Hoffman, Edwin D. Pathways to Freedom; Nine Dramatic Episodes in the Evo-8- lution of the American Democratic Tradition. Houghton, 1964. 224p. illus. \$3.75.
A most interesting compilation of material, well-written and well-researched; the writing style is straightforward and the material itself dramatic. The author has chosen nine episodes in the history of this country, each episode illustrating some facet of the democratic tradition, the Zenger trial illustrating the principles of free speech and a free press being the most familiar. The illustrations (photographs or reproductions of old prints) are not uninteresting, but many are poorly placed; some
are not in the section to which they pertain. Several pages of notes on sources are appended.

R Hylander, Clarence John. Fishes and their Ways; illus. with photographs and 7- drawings. Macmillan, 1964. 240p. \$4.95.
A very good book for biologist or fisherman, combining in a lucidly written and wellorganized text a great deal of general information about fishes and a guide to fresh and salt water species. The first part of the book discusses structure, habitat, food cycle, protective devices, breeding habits, etcetera; the second (and longer) part describes families and varieties of fishes, giving distinguishing details. The illustrations, in black and white, are adequately captioned and drawn with precision; the few photographs that are included are more entertaining than informative. The index is not inter-alphabetized, but gives page references for species alphabetized under divisions by class and family; the alphabetizing is by common name, and the scientific name follows.

Ad Johnson, Crockett. Castles in the Sand; illus. by Betty Fraser. Holt, 1965. K-2 41p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. $\$ 3.27$ net.
A fanciful read-aloud story about children's imaginative play, with illustrations that are, on most pages, distractingly page-filling. Two children, playing on the shore, find that they need only spell a word in the sand and their wish materializes. They evoke a king and then a kingdom; having magically produced for him the towns and castles he desires, the children try to follow to his kingdom, but the tide comes in and the kingdom disappears-only the king's seashell is left. The children agree that it is more fun to be in a story than to read a story. The concept is appealing and is nicely handled, the book being weakened by a static quality of style, a quality which in the author's other books is a good foil for the nonsense humor that is lacking here.

## Spc Joslin, Sesyle. La Petite Famille; illus. by John Alcorn. Harcourt, 1964. 36p.

K-3 Trade ed. $\$ 3.25$; Library ed. $\$ 3.39$ net.
A highly diverting picture book meant to be used as a read-aloud introduction to French for the young child; the reader-aloud must, therefore, have a modicum of proficiency. The book is divided into several brief sections, each with a cumulative text and a humorous surprise ending. The little family of the title, for example, is introduced: a little house, then a room, then father in the room, then in turn are mother, baby, and crocodile. "Adieu, petite famille!" Vocabulary lists for each of the four sections are appended. Somewhat limited in use, but engagingly illustrated, certainly entertaining, and moderately instructive; although the book may indeed be used for reading aloud, it is possibly more useful for independent readers beginning their study of French, and therefore most useful in a foreign language collection.

R Keats, Ezra Jack. John Henry; An American Legend; story and pictures by
K-3 Jack Keats. Pantheon Books, 1965. 28p. $\$ 3.50$.
A retelling in simplified style of the John Henry legend; the prose is adequate, the
illustrations are superb. The pages are bold and vibrant, all of the paintings being
double-spread; the use of color here is even more impressive than it was in the
author-illustrator's previous books. Because of color and layout, the book lends it-
self particularly well to being used with a group of children.
Ad Koch, Dorothy Clarke. Up the Big Mountain; pictures by Lucy and John Hawk-1-2 inson. Holiday House, 1964. 30p. \$3.25.
A nature book for beginning independent readers. A small girl describes a family hike up a mountainside; she and her brother climb ahead, their parents follow. The children enjoy flowers and animal life, eat blueberries, and run under a waterfall. They shelter under a ledge when there is a brief shower, and are enchanted by the
view from the top of the mountain. The illustrations are bright and attractive, and the text does convey a sense of enjoyment of natural wonders, but the book is weakened by the stilted writing style. For example, "Joe and I climb up, up, up with our tall walking sticks. Our feet go up and down. We bend and stretch our legs. Oh what a big mountain to climb!"

R Latham, Jean Lee. Retreat to Glory; The Story of Sam Houston. Harper, 1965. 7-10 274p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. $\$ 3.79$ net.
An unusually vivid biography, in which the subject is approached with objectivity rather than with adulation, with the result that the candid portrayal of Houston seems that of a real and fallible person. And all the more a real hero. The emphasis is on Houston's military and political involvement in Texas as it changed from Mexican Texas to an independent republic to a state of the Union. Famed for his physical courage, Houston is even more impressive for his moral courage and integrity, espedically when-knowing that he would be deposed from the position of Governor-he refused to sign an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy. And there the book ends, with Houston's wife saying that never had she been as proud as at that moment.

> M Lawrence, J. D. Barnaby's Bells; illus. by Michael Lowenbein. Macmillan, 6-8 $\quad 1965.186 \mathrm{p}$. Trade ed. $\$ 3.50$; Library ed. $\$ 3.84$ net.
> When there is vandalism in a small town, an outsider may well be blamed; Felix was an adopted child. . Mexican? Puerto Rican? Anyway, both "different" and a newcomer. His buddy, Cliff, was convinced that Felix had no part in stealing a collection of valuable handbells, but he needed proof. In helping to find the real culprit, Cliff not only cleared Felix, but with Felix he found a long-lost treasure; Felix donated part of his money for town use. The book has some good relationships and ethical values, but the writing style is florid and the plot is intricate and not believable.

M Leaf, Munro. Being an American Can Be Fun. Lippincott, 1964. 55p. illus. 3-5 Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. $\$ 2.93$ net.
Mr. Leaf discusses the advantages of being an American, first giving some background about the establishment of the new democratic nation, then describing the practical benefits of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in the United States. The writing and the illustrations have a jocund familiarity, but the style and format seem juvenile for the child interested in the advantages of freedom to travel, choice of career, homes equipped with labor-saving gadgets, and varied diet.

Ad Lerner, Sharon. I Found a Leaf; written and illus. by Sharon Lerner. Lerner, 2-4 1964. 36p. \$2.75.
A book that pictures the leaves of about a dozen trees; the text describes the leaves and gives additional facts about each tree. The illustrations, which are very attractive rubbings, are useful for identifying specimens. However, the book has several weaknesses: the choice of trees seems random, and the title gives no clue to the fact that the text is concerned with tree-leaves only. There are no pictures of other parts of the trees, although bark and seeds are occasionally described in the text. The book may, however, be effective to some extent in making the child conscious of differences in leaf-detail and perhaps in interesting him further in nature study.

R Lerner, Sharon. The Self-Portrait in Art; designed by Robert Clark Nelson. 5-9 Lerner, 1965. 63p. \$3.79.
Some thirty black-and-white reproductions of self-portraits are included, each faced by a page of text; the subjects are chronologically arranged from Ghiberti to Chagall. An interesting collection of good pictures is presented, the text (some of which is printed in red) giving some biographical information, some facts about the particular picture, and some background information about the artist's technique and his place
in the history of art. The writing is fairly crisp and factual, although there is here and there a phrase that seems condescending.

R Lewis, Richard W., ed. The Moment of Wonder; A Collection of Chinese and 6- Japanese Poetry; illus. with paintings by Chinese and Japanese masters. Dial, 1964. 138p. $\$ 3.95$.
An anthology of Chinese and Japanese poetry in a most handsome volume, profusely illustrated with reproductions of paintings in black and white. The editorial preface discusses the succinctness and the imagery of Oriental poetry, especially in the enjoyment of natural beauty, and explains the haiku form, of which there are many examples. The material is divided into four areas: The family of nature, Landscapes of the sky and earth, The passage of seasons, and The ages of man. An author index is appended.

R Life Magazine. The Body; by Alan E. Nourse and the editors of Life. Time, 8- 1964. 190p. illus. \$3.95.
Magnificently illustrated with photographs and diagrams, many in full color, a comprehensive and competently written book on the structure and function of the human body. Eight sections of text, each followed by a picture essay, give some background in the history of medicine and on differences in individuals, and describe the systems of the body: circulatory, nervous, skeletal, etcetera. Only in one instance does the picture essay seem non-sequential; the last section of text discusses glandular secretions while the picture-essay illustrates education for a medical career. Seriously written, but not dry; a bibliography and an extensive relative index are appended.

Ad Lord, Beman. Mystery Guest at Left End; pictures by Arnold Spilka. Walck, 3-5 1964. 63p. \$2.95.
A light-hearted football story in which the mystery guest is a girl. Si discovers that the new girl next door is as good a pass receiver as she coolly claims to be; Faith and Si make a deal. In return for playing as "George," disguised by uniform and helmet, Faith gets a free sundae a day. She helps win two games, and goes back (no tomboy, Faith) with relief to being feminine. Not a completely convincing plot, but the cheerful style and natural dialogue make the story more than palatable. The black-and-white illustrations are lively and attractive.

M McNeill, Janet. The Giant's Birthday; pictures by Walter Erhard. Walck, K-2 1965. 53p. \$3.75.
A nicely illustrated picture book in which the giant lives in a castle but, as is clear from the text and from illustrations, the time is now. Although conscious of the giant's presence all the year around, the villagers acknowledged it only once a year: on the giant's birthday, they came to pay their respects and they brought gifts. The giant was fussy about getting gifts, so all the other villagers were aghast when they saw that the young schoolmaster carried no parcel. However, the gift of the schoolmaster delighted the giant because it was so very, very small: a snow-storm paperweight. The modern setting (delivery of gifts by vans and trucks, for example) doesn't seem to suit the fanciful element; the writing style is adequate, but the plot seems contrived and the denouement anticlimactic.

Ad Macpherson, Elizabeth. The Wonderful Whistle; illus. by Susan Perl. Putnam, K-2 1965. 47p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. $\$ 2.86$ net.
A picture-book tall tale, in which much of the acidity of the humor will be missed by the read-aloud audience; but they can enjoy the exaggeration, and they will surely enjoy the illustrations. Ricky was an infant prodigy who whistled instead of blowing bubbles; by kindergarten age, Ricky could whistle symphonic scores. In two parts. When the leader of the world's biggest orchestra pleaded and wept, Rickey's mother agreed
to let her wunderkind become a soloist. Pampered, protected, and idolized, Ricky stunned the concert world; then he lost a tooth and went back to real life. The author pokes fun at musicians and concert audiences, but the barb is softened by nonsense treatment.

Ad Mannix, Daniel. The Outcasts; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Dutton, 1965. 93p. 4-6 Trade ed. $\$ 3.25$; Library ed. $\$ 3.22$ net.
Dana was glad to be moving away from the city neighborhood that had deteriorated, especially glad because he was teased about his name, teased about being so small for eleven, and quite friendless. He was timid in the country at first, but soon acquired a new interest: taming a skunk. Dana became devoted to his new pet and delighted when Meph and Mrs. Meph produced a litter of baby skunks. Because he had gained confidence, Dana was able to make some new friends when the much-dreaded opening of school loomed; his skunks even helped Dana best the local bully. The denouement seems contrived, but the book is otherwise realistic and smoothly written. The material about the skunks is extensive, a bit repetitive but authoritative and interesting.

R Marks, Mickey Klar. Painting Free: Lines, Colors, and Shapes; paintings by 6- Edith Alberts; photographs by David Rosenfeld. Dial, 1965. 68p. \$3.95. A good book for the beginner interested in trying abstract painting. The step-bystep instructions are quite clear, both in text and in illustration; advice on equipment is sensible. Six examples are given, with illustrations in black-and-white; at the end of the book the six finished pictures are shown in full color. While the book does not pretend to give a great deal of information about painting techniques, it may easily encourage the neophyte to continue and to experiment. The writing style is crisp and straightforward; a brief glossary of terms is appended.

R Meltzer, Milton. A Light in the Dark; The Life of Samuel Gridley Howe. T. Y. 7-10 Crowell, 1964. 227p. \$3.50.
An excellent biography, candid in tone, written in a style that is informal yet dignified, and particularly lively because Samuel Howe was involved in so many great causes, controversial issues, and new programs. After six years devoted to Greek independence, the young Dr. Howe became the first director of the Perkins Institution of the Blind; he was involved in campaigns for prison reform, educational progress, better provision for the retarded, and help to fugitive slaves. A divided bibliography and an index are appended.

R Meltzer, Milton. Tongue of Flame; The Life of Lydia Maria Child. T. Y. Crow-7-10 ell, 1965. 204p. \$3.95.
An excellent biography, written in a mature style with an attitude that is more admiring than adulatory. A pioneer in the fight against slavery, Maria Child met with censure as a woman and with rejection as a writer who had been tremendously popular. A prolific author, Mrs. Child founded the first children's magazine in this country, ran a newspaper, wrote a syndicated column, and wrote books and articles on an amazing variety of subjects; she wrote for fifty years in the middle of the turbulent nineteenth century. Well-researched, well-organized, and only lightly fictionalized. A list of source materials, a list of Mrs. Child's works, and an index are appended.

Ad Miles, Miska. Mississippi Possum; illus. by John Schoenherr. Little, 1965.
2-4 41p. \$3.
Very attractively illustrated, the story of a possum that became tame when the river's flooding forced him into contact with people. The two Jackson children had seen the little possum before, and found him again in the tent for flood refugees; after the flood was over, people went back to their homes and the possum went back to his-
but he occasionally visited Rose Mary Jackson. The story is slight: a brief and quiet vignette, the illustrations showing the Jacksons as a young Negro family. The story moves back and forth from the animal's activities to those of the children, the turning point of the relationship being not quite convincing: the possum is afraid of Mr. Jackson, and 'he knew he had to climb high to be safe. He ran up Rose Mary's arm, and she didn't move. He sat on her shoulder." There seems to be no reason why the animal shouldn't have feared one human being as much as another.

M Miller, Helen Louise. Modern Plays for Special Days; a collection of royalty-6-9 free, one-act holiday plays for teen-agers. Plays, Inc., 1965. 352p. \$5.95. Sixteen one-act plays with holiday settings, arranged in sequence through the academic year from Hallowe'en to graduation. Each play is followed by a page of production notes, many of which are less than complete: "Lighting: Just before the end of the play, there is a complete blackout." or, "Setting: A comfortably furnished living room." The plays are, like those in other collections by the author, useful material for group production despite the fact that they are of routine quality and fairly patterned plots.

SpC Mother Goose. Mother Goose in French; tr. by Hugh Latham; pictures by Bar-5-6 bara Cooney. T. Y. Crowell, 1964. 39p. Trade ed. $\$ 3.75$; Library ed. $\$ 3.60$ net.
A splendid job of translation in which Mr. Latham has preserved the rhythm of familiar Mother Goose verses without sacrificing idiomatic French. However, the French seems not simple enough for the read-aloud audience, since the sentences are not short and there are many polysyllabic words. The level of difficulty makes the book more suitable for the child who is studying French; here the familiarity is an aid to comprehension, yet the subject and format may discourage the child old enough to be sufficiently proficient in a foreign language. Although the rhymes are enjoyable when read aloud the book probably is best placed in a foreign language collection. The illustrations are enchanting.

R Munzer, Martha E. Planning Our Town; illus. with photographs. Knopf, 1964. 7-10 172p. $\$ 3.95$.
A good introduction to the problems that must be taken into consideration when planning for a town, city, or region. In addition to some general discussion of city and regional planning and a chapter on urban renewal, the text considers in separate chapters such problems as water supply, transportation, land use, and control of air pollution. Not a comprehensive book, but perfectly adequate for the young reader; written in an informal, occasionally rambling style with good photographic illustration. A list of institutions that offer degrees in planning professions is appended, as are a reading list (divided by topics) and an index.

M Ness, Evaline. Pavo and the Princess; written and illus. by Evaline Ness. K-2 Scribner, 1964. 29p. Trade ed. $\$ 3.25$; Library ed. $\$ 3.12$ net. A slight read-aloud story, illustrated with stylized pictures in bright pastel colors. Pavo is a white peacock that has been given by the king to his little daughter. An unhappy child, Princess Phoebe is unpopular, beautiful, and unable to cry. She so mistreats Pavo that he flies away; increasingly unhappy, the Princess cries at last. She cries and cries and cries and regrets her past behavior; Pavo returns and they live happily ever after. The story line is patterned and weak, the writing style adequate, the illustrations attractive.

M O'Brien, Esse Forrester. Dolphins-Sea People. Naylor, 1965. 88p. illus. 6-9 \$3.95.
Illustrated with photographs, a book that gives many facts about dolphins but is
poorly organized. The author describes dolphin anatomy, habits, intelligence, and playfulness; she includes legends and anecdotes about individual dolphins, and describes dolphins used in scientific experiments and in training for the entertainment of spectators. The writing style is occasionally florid; the book is weaker both in style and in organization of material than is Chapin's The Remarkable Dolphin (Scott, 1962). A bibliography and an index are appended.

M Offit, Sidney. Topsy Turvy. St. Martin's, 1965. 169p. \$3.50. 5-7
A fanciful story about a land where the roles of adults and children are reversed, told in a breezy and sophisticated style. The book has humor, it has a message of some substance, and it has a tongue-in-cheek satirical appeal-but it seems at times contrived and it seems drawn out. Jeff and his sister Ellen suddenly find that they are in the land of Topsy Turvy, where Brainchild Plotkind rules, where the archenemies of society are the teenagers, and where "adults should be seen and not heard." Ellen almost succumbs to the system, but Jeff-the voice of sanity-clings to the standards he has learned. He wants a balanced diet, he is not ashamed to admit he is sleepy, and he even wants adult supervision. Jeff and Ellen leave Topsy Turvy after a military debacle dethrones Brainchild Plotkind, and the adults are reinstated as fully-empowered parents.

M Olson, Gene. Three Men on Third. Westminster, 1965. 174p. \$3.50. 6-9
A baseball story written in a lightly humorous style, with a slight story line, good baseball scenes, and adequate dialogue; the book is weakened by stereotyped characters like the bullying ex-coach and the honest, Mr. Peepers-type, new coach . . . some of the patterned treatment being reflected in names. The old coach is Gunther Kragg, the new coach (forced to coach in order to get a job as a teacher) is Joseph Albert Cornsweet; the principal of the high school is almost ludicrous. One of the members of the high school team takes Cornsweet under his wing; Dick does the actual coaching, and they let the other boys think that orders are coming from Cornsweet. Villain Kragg tries to take over when he comes back from another job, but virtue triumphs although the team loses its crucial game.

Ad Phelan, Mary Kay. Mother's Day; illus. by Aliki. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 34p. 2-4 \$2.95.
An attractively illustrated book that describes the origin of the celebration of Mother's Day in this country and gives some details about observances in this country and in others. The first part of the rather brief text gives some background about ways that mothers were formally honored in the past. The book will probably be useful for the information it gives, although the writing is static; some of the illustrations have amusing details.

R Picard, Barbara Leonie. The Faun and the Woodcutter's Daughter; illus. by 5-7 Charles Stewart. Criterion Books, 1964. 255p. \$3.50.
A collection of fourteen original fairy tales; as in the companion volume, The Lady of the Linden Tree (reviewed in the September 1962 issue), the book has tales that are typical of the genre: the simpleton who proves to be clever, the loving slave who is chosen as wife, the young man who dares to love a princess. The writing has the grave simplicity of the best fairy-tale style, with romance in the situation but not in flowery language. A good storytelling source, a lovely book to read aloud.

M Purdy, Susan. My Little Cabbage; Mon Petit Chou. Lippincott, 1965. 37p. K-2 illus. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. $\$ 2.67$ net.
A book about some of the idiomatic phrases of endearment in several languages,
illustrated with drawings that are awkward in proportion but that have a lively quality. The pattern: "I live in France-I am called Annique, but that is not all . . . My mother calls me 'Mon petit chou' (phonetic spelling and translation), My papa calls me 'Mon petit lapin' . . ." and so on. This is followed by a double-page spread in which the child exclaims, "But this is the real me!" Some of the alphabets are not our own, making the phonetic presentation less useful; the book seems merely a slightly amusing oddity of limited use and interest.

R Quigley, Martin. Today's Game. Viking, 1965. 176p. \$3.95.
8-
Written by the public relations consultant for the St. Louis Cardinals, a novel about major league baseball that clarifies the problems of a manager's domestic and professional life. Barney Mann, manager of the Blue Jays, has traded his old friend, Jerry, a veteran Hall of Fame pitcher, for a young Negro outfielder, Wellingtonand Wellington is in a slump. For the first time Jerry is pitching against his old team, and this single game is described in detail; the weaknesses of the opponents are brutally exploited, all effort and all strategy being directed toward the winning of the day's game. The characters and background are authentic and the novel takes an unsentimental look at the jealousies and realities of the dugout and the clubroom. Well written, with especially good dialogue, the story is really good baseball, giving a behind-the-scene picture of each move and counter-move of a game with the same color and detail and maintenance of pace that distinguished A Day in the Bleachers.

Ad Reeves, James. Three Tall Tales; chosen from traditional sources by James 3-5 Reeves; illus. by Edward Ardizzone. Abelard-Schuman, 1964. 40p. \$2.95. Three traditional English stories retold; the first is a brief cumulative story, the second is nonsense humor, the third is fanciful but not particularly funny. The Ardizzone illustrations are charming; the stories fall a little flat, since they are retold in a colorless and abrupt style.

R Ripley, Elizabeth (Blake). Gainsborough; A Biography. Lippincott, 1964. 69p. 7-10 illus. \$3.50.
Another good biography in the author's series of books about great artists. The reproductions of Gainsborough's paintings are chronologically arranged; each full-page picture in black and white is faced by a page of text that gives some anecdotal background for the picture. Somehow Mrs. Ripley avoids any sense of fragmented writing, perhaps because she writes with restraint, and somehow she makes the artist's personality emerge clearly. A bibliography and an index are appended.

R Russell, Solveig Paulson. Lines and Shapes; A First Look at Geometry; illus. 3-5 by Arnold Spilka. Walck, 1965. 31p. \$2.75.
A good introduction to geometric concepts, with a text that is simple and lucid and has clear illustrations; occasionally an idea seems inadequately expanded, occasionally a description in the text lacks illustration, but these omissions are not frequent and should not cause confusion. The author describes the basic geometric figures, plane and solid, using correct terminology with no complications and with no writing down; the text deals briefly with angles, and suggests even more briefly the practical applications of geometric knowledge.

M Sharp, Margery. Lost at the Fair; illus. by Rosalind Fry. Little, 1965. 60p. 1-2 \$2.95.
A boy goes to the fair with his smaller sister in tow; he describes the sights of the fair, he loses his sister and finds her in the tent of the wizard of whom they are both frightened. That night the boy gets praise and cake from Mother, because he looked after his sister and the dog. There is some interest in the gay background, but the
busy illustrations lessen this appeal; the writing style in this easy-to-read book is dull and stilted: "Let's ask the Fat Lady. Maybe she saw Sue. She was a kind Fat Lady, a very kind Fat Lady. She was very sad to hear I had lost my sister Sue."

M Smith, Fredrika Shumway. The Sound of Axes; illus. by Albert Orbaan. Rand 6-8 McNally, 1965. 223p. \$3.95.
A story of the beginnings of the lumber industry in Wisconsin in the $1830^{\circ} \mathrm{s}$. Newlyorphaned Dave Harper goes out to join the family of his father's best friend; he quickly accepts the Dawson family as his own. The book has no real story line but is a series of episodes about the men who work for Dawson (patterned characters, patterned incidents). The historical background is excellent: detailed, authoritative, and colorful. The writing style is weak: often florid and Victorian, often sagging into lengthy informational passages presented as conversation.

R Stratton, Madeline Robinson. Negroes Who Helped Build America. Ginn, 1965. 7-10 166p. illus. \$3.50.
Primarily a collection of fourteen biographies, but expanded in interest because of the material that prefaces some of the sections. For example, the only biography of an artist is that of Marian Anderson, but her story is preceded by a general discussion of Negro artists. The photographic illustrations are good; the drawings are unattractive and are not particularly informative. The book should be most useful since the material is interesting and since the writing style, despite being dry, is straightforward enough to make the text appropriate for slow older readers or useful as a limited reference source for younger readers. The fourteen subjects are Abbott, Anderson, Bethune, Bunche, Davis, Douglass, Drew, DuBois, Julian, King, Robinson, Washington, Williams, and Woodson. There is no index; a bibliography is appended.

R Suggs, Robert C. The Archaeology of San Francisco; illus. by Leonard Everett 7-10 Fisher. T. Y. Crowell, 1965. 141p. \$3.50.
One of a series of books in which the archeology of a region is related to a city. A detailed and authoritative examination of the prehistoric Indian cultures of the San Francisco area and of the archeological research that provided information about those cultures. The author describes the Paleo-Indian and the Early, Middle, and Late Horizon periods, smoothly integrating information about methodology and cultures; some of the chapters begin with imaginary fictionalized episodes, adequately written but adding little to the book. The text ends with the arrival of the Spanish colonists and the assimilation or extermination of tribes. A brief glossary, an extensive bibliography of source materials, and an index are appended.

Ad Wise, William. The Spy and General Washington; illus. by Peter Burchard. 5-6 Dutton, 1965. 87p. Trade ed. $\$ 3.25$; Library ed. $\$ 3.22$ net.
A story based on historical fact. John Honeyman was a patriot of middle age who volunteered to serve as a spy; since his political sympathies were known, Honeyman moved to a new location to establish a cover. Functioning as a double agent, Honeyman was instrumental in effecting the surprise attack at Trenton. Since his neighbors knew only that the man had declared for the Tories, they were hostile after the war; only when they heard Washington thank Honeyman for his service did they appreciate the truth. Adequately illustrated and written in a modest style that sustains the story line but is weak in being, here and there, abrupt in transition. For example, the emphasis shifts quickly when Mary Honeyman says "'The fire's out, John. It's time we went up to bed.' Honeyman nodded. He had never really doubted Mary. She was Irish, too, and her hatred of the English was as strong as his. She would be firm and resolute, no matter what might happen to them in the months ahead. Two days later, Honeyman received a message summoning him back to headquarters."

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