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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO GRADUATE LIBRARY 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 21

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December, 1967

Number 4

### New Titles for Children and Young People

Agree, Rose H., comp. How to Eat a Poem & Other Morsels; Food Poems for Children: illus. by Peggy Wilson. Pantheon Books, 1967. 87p. \$3.50.

A light-hearted accumulation of poems, most of them by contemporary authors; almost all the selections are humorous. Some of the con-3-5 tributors are Ciardi, Merriam, McGinley, McCord, Sendak, Farjeon, and Coatsworth; a few short rhymes from Mother Goose are tucked in here and there. Author and first line indexes are appended.

Aichinger, Helga. The Shepherd. T. Y. Crowell, 1967. 18p. illus. \$3.75.

- First published in Switzerland under the title Der Hirte, in 1966, this Ad version of a Christmas legend is illustrated with full-page, handsomely K-2 designed pictures with large, effective color masses. The writing is direct and simple, sometimes choppy: "The shepherd was poor and lonely. The only house on the mountain was his old hut. A narrow path led to it." Wakened by an angel, the old man followed the star leading to his sheep. When he came to the manger, the shepherd pitied the Child, and took off his coat to cover Him. The story ends a bit abruptly: "Then the Christ Child smiled at him, and the old shepherd knew that the Christ Child was not poor at all. 'Heaven and earth belong to you,' he said."
- Aliki. New Year's Day; written and illus. by Aliki. T. Y. Crowell, 1967. 34p. \$2.95.
- A book that is simply written and enhanced by lively, amusing illustrations of scenes of celebration, past and present. The text is slight, Ad 2 - 4not because of the author's treatment, but because there is really little to say about the holiday's origin; it is simply an occasion that marks a fresh start in time. Most of the book is devoted to differences in the ways the occasion was-and is-celebrated.
- Ambrus, Victor G. Brave Soldier Janosh. Harcourt, 1967. 23p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.54 net.

Even the small child who is not a keen student of Napoleonic history can get the point of this tall tale as Janosh, a traditional figure in Hun-R K-3 garian folk literature, boasts of his martial prowess. Singlehanded he defeated Napoleon and his men; magnanimously, he spared the great Napoleon's life. In fact, they became very good friends and, when Janosh visited Paris, the Emperor filled his pockets with gold. The style of the retelling is ingenuously simple and bland; the illustrations glow with color, humor, and vitality.

<u>American Heritage</u> Magazine. <u>Theodore Roosevelt</u>; The Strenuous Life; by the editors of <u>American Heritage</u>; narr. by John A. Garraty. American Heritage, 1967. 153p. illus. (American Heritage Junior Library Series) Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.79 net.

It would be hard to improve on Theodore Roosevelt as an intrinsically enjoyable subject for a biography, since he was a man so colorful, so ebullient, and so capable in many fields. A sportsman, a writer, a statesman, a soldier, a naval expert, a President whose lively family had perennial news interest, Theodore Roosevelt has never been exceeded as a man whose actions vigorously upheld his convictions. He knew, for example, that he could not win the 1912 election as a third-party candidate, but a principle was at stake and his campaigning was almost a crusade. An excellent biography, candid and comprehensive, with the profuse and varied illustrations that distinguish this series, a list of suggested readings, and an index.

Balet, Jan B. Joanjo; A Portuguese Tale; story and pictures by Jan Balet. Delacorte, 1967. 27p. \$4.50.

An oversize picture book with very handsome and colorful illustra-

- Ad tions, rich in detail but with broad areas that balance the pictures and K-2 keep them from being too busy and crowded. The story of Joanjo's acceptance of the status quo after dreams of glory is slight but satisfying. Joanjo is a small Portuguese boy who, tired of the smell and taste of the staple diet in a fishing village, dreams about better things and wakes to an appreciation of the independent life of a fisherman.
- Barlow, Genevieve. <u>Latin American Tales</u>; From the Pampas to the Pyramids of Mexico; illus. by William M. Hutchinson. Rand McNally, 1966. 144p. \$3.50.

A collection of tales from South and Central America; most of the stories are retold or adapted, while four were collected by the author and are printed in English for the first time. Some of the tales are preceded by explanatory material; a list of sources is included. The tales are as varied as are those of other folk collections: some legends about nature, some animal stories, some romantic tales about the curing of an ailing heir or the treasure that is taken away when a secret is revealed. Fairly typical for the genre (a variation of "Mister Frog's Dream," a Nicaraguan story, is familiar in Russian literature) the collection is useful as a storytelling source but is hampered for readers by the dry style of writing.

Beatty, Patricia. <u>The Queen's Own Grove</u>; illus. by Liz Dauber. Morrow, 1966. 221p. \$3.50.

Ad

5-7

An English family comes to a small California town in the 1880's; their story is told by Amelia, thirteen. The move has been made because of Mr. Bromfield-Brown's health, and none of the family is less pleased than his tyrannical mother-in-law. The children find compensations in outwitting the hostile Appelboom children next door, in plotting a reconciliation between Grandmother and a relative who had been snubbed, and in the fact that Papa is better—and the orange grove is going to flourish. In fact, they all learn to appreciate the friendliness of the small community that had seemed so hopelessly barbarian at first. There is, by the end of the story, a too-neat tying up of all small ends, but the plots and ploys are all convincing, the dialogue is natural and easy, and the details of locale and period are entertaining. Characterization is slight but adequate, with one or two of the adults (an old gentleman who is smitten with Grandmother; a Chinese servant) verging on stock figures.

- Bernard, Jacqueline. <u>Journey Toward Freedom</u>; The Story of Sojourner Truth; illus. with photographs and engravings. Norton, 1967. 265p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.36 net.
- An impressive biography of the indomitable and dedicated woman R whose courage in speaking out at religious and anti-slavery meetings all 10- through the northeast and middle west made her one of the most famous Negroes of her time. Born a slave at the end of the 18th century, Sojourner took her new name (she had been named Isabelle) as a sign of freedom, and went forth to preach. When the Civil War broke out, she helped soldiers; after the war, she worked for help for homeless and jobless freedmen; always, she pleaded and fought for equality and reform. During her long life, she knew and worked with most of the leaders of the anti-slavery movement, men and women of both races. The historical background is interesting, the subject fascinating; the book, smoothly written, has vitality and impressive evidence of thorough research. A selected bibliography of sources and an index are appended.
- Bingley, Barbara. <u>Vicky and the Monkey People</u>; illus. by Laszlo B. Acs. Abelard-Schuman, 1967. 192p. \$3.50.

A story set in India-where the author grew up-in 1815; interesting M as a period piece, the book's chief appeal is in the lively small heroine 5-6 and in her ardent affection for animals. The monkey colony goes on a rampage, and one monkey steals a British officer's baby; Vicky rescues the child. On another occasion she protects a bear that is being mistreated by its owner. The story is episodic, the writing style adequate, the characters more often than not stereotyped.

Blecher, Wilfried. Where Is Willie? McGraw-Hill, 1967. 27p. illus. \$4.50.

- An oversize picture book, first published in 1965 under the title <u>Wo</u> Ad <u>Ist Wendelin?</u>, that was given the German Youth Book Prize of 1966. K-2 The story is blithely manipulated to suit the illustrations; in fact, there is not really a story but a sort of expanded running caption. Willie, a small, intrepid figure dressed in red, moves through scenes of fantasy, dreams of imagined glory or desperate brinkmanship: he leads a parade, he turns into a lion to frighten a big, bad dog, he turns into a fly and is able to get into a house and eat, he finds himself in a tunnel full of bats. The illustrations are superb in design and use of color, imaginative, stylized, and touched with antic humor.
- Bonner, Louise. <u>What's My Name in Hawaii?</u> illus. by Ray Lanterman. Tuttle, 1967. 35p. **\$3.25**.

Toshio, having just come from Japan with his parents, could not speak

Ad or understand English when he joined a Hawaiian kindergarten class. He K-2 cried, he wouldn't play, he wouldn't talk—until the day another child cried and Toshio was so anxious to help her he forgot his own troubles. He even tried to talk to her, and once the ice was broken, he picked up English very quickly. When it was time for Toshio to be registered as an American citizen, he chose the name Kimo, the Hawaiian form of James, because his favorite story was about Kimo. The teacher explained the racial and national backgrounds that resulted in the interesting multiple names of children in the class. The story is realistic and the Hawaiian setting appealing, but the writing is rather laboriously purposive; the illustrations are pedestrian.

#### Bowers, Gwendolyn. At the Sign of the Globe. Walck, 1966. 186p. \$3.75.

Ad 6-9 Bound to his uncle as an apprentice tanner, fourteen-year-old Kit Martyn accepts an offer to learn the more refined trade of glovemaking in Stratford; when he finds that his new master is a petty criminal, Kit runs off to London. Having met some of the Shakespeare family in Stratford, the boy asks for work at the Globe; after a time, he realizes that he still wants to be a glovemaker, and he is helped to a new start when Shakespeare writes a letter to his father, master glovemaker of Stratford. The period details and the theatrical atmosphere are colorful, and the whole feeling of Elizabethan England is most convincingly evoked; the story line is a bit weak in being more than once dependent upon coincidence or mild contrivance.

Broun, Heywood. <u>A Shepherd</u>; pictures by Gilbert Riswold. Prentice-Hall, 1967. 29p. \$4.95.

First published in 1929, this story of the first Christmas is newly illustrated with quiet pictures against a parchment background—the gold of the shepherd's crook a rather obtrusive note. When the Angel of the Lord had gone, the shepherds went to Bethlehem—all save Amos. The others jeered, but Amos wanted to stay with the frightened sheep. When the men came back from Bethlehem, they found Amos, radiant, holding a newborn lamb, and saying that he had heard in his heart the whisper that was more to him than the loud clamor of the host of heaven. The piety and sentiment of the story will appeal to many readers despite the rather tenuous literary fulcrum of the lack of understanding between Amos and the other shepherds, none of whom share his feeling of responsibility.

Chalmers, Mary. <u>Be Good, Harry</u>; story and pictures by Mary Chalmers. Harper, 1967. 32p. Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

The appealing kitten of <u>Throw A Kiss</u>, <u>Harry</u> and <u>Take A Nap</u>, <u>Harry</u> R has a new experience. Mother is going to visit a sick friend, and Harry 3-6 is taken over to stay with Mrs. Brewster, an elderly cat. Fortified by a wagon full of toys, Harry sobs briefly and accepts the status quo; the status quo consists of being fed cookies, being cuddled and read to, and having Mrs. Brewster soothe her visitor with praise and appreciative laughter. Mother returns, Harry packs up his belongings, and they go back home. The illustrations have a gentle affection; the story and the pictures are beautifully matched in their understatement. Christie, Trevor L. Antiquities in Peril. Lippincott, 1967. 151p. illus. \$4.25.

Ad 7-9 Mr. Christie has chosen fourteen of the world's great art objects, monuments, and buildings that are threatened by the forces of nature or by the carelessness of man; each of these is discussed in a separate chapter, the whole being prefaced by a heavy indictment of the vandalism or the short-sightedness of mankind. In each chapter the author describes the treasure and the problems of neglect, erosion, or destruction and he discusses the measures that have been or are being taken to preserve this piece of man's cultural heritage. The fourteen are Westminster Abbey, Venice, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Mont-Saint-Michel, Lascaux, the Parthenon, Aphrodisias, the Holy Sepulchre, the Buddhas at Bamian, Mohenjo-Daro, Angkor, White Heron Castle, the Palace of Catherine the Great, and the United States Capitol. The material is interesting and informative, but the book is weakened somewhat by the writing style, which has the travelogue touch.

Christopher, John. The White Mountains. Macmillan, 1967. 184p. \$3.95.

A science fantasy based on the familiar theme of a world controlled by robots, a world in which the young protagonists find traces of our present culture; planned as a first story about the Tripods, the book is slightly weak in having an inconclusive ending, but the writing is imaginative enough to more than compensate for this. The plot develops with sustained pace, as three boys of the future world make their hazardous way to the White Mountains-Switzerland-wherein exists the only colony of men who are free of the dreaded Tripods, the machines that rule the world by emplanting steel controls on men's brains.

Cogniat, Raymond. Monet and his World. Viking, 1966. 143p. illus. \$6.95.

A biography that is intelligent and objective, making the subject come alive without undue fictionalization or adulation, and valuable for the de-9- tailed analysis of the emergence of Impressionism. Some of the many photographs (black and white) of Monet's paintings are unfortunately unclear; four full-color plates are included. The author gives ample attention to Monet's personal life, but is much more interested in his changing technique and his changing philosophies; he discusses the work of other artists and the interchange of artistic ideas and influences. A chronology, a list of notes on the paintings reproduced in the book, and an index are appended.

Cunningham, Julia. <u>Onion Journey</u>; illus. by Lydia Cooley. Pantheon Books, 1967. 36p. \$3.50.

SpR 3-5 This is a story of the Christmas of Gilly Ground (who in <u>Dorp Dead</u> was orphaned) in an earlier time when he was living with his grandmother. Christmas Eve seemed desolate with grandmother away. True, she had left a red onion with a note saying that it was her gift to Gilly, but it seemed an odd gift. Gilly made an onion sandwich and went into the woods; he rescued a small bird—then he fed his sandwich to a badger then he rescued a trapped hare; returning home, he made a table tree out of a branch and topped it with the onion. And then he sat and thought, thought of the layered mystery of the onion, of the life around him, of his grandmother's love; it seemed to him that she had left the onion as a message of love, and the onion seemed a star. The writing is gentle, evocative, and perceptive but the symbolism of the onion and the message will probably not reach all young readers.

- Daniels, Guy, ed. The Tsar's Riddles; or The Wise Little Girl; retold from the Russian by Guy Daniels: Paul Galdone drew the pictures. McGraw-Hill, 1967. 32p. \$3.75.
- A retelling of a Russian folk tale with engaging illustrations that reflect both the humor and the setting of the story. Baffled by a difficult R к-2 legal decision, the courts finally presented a knotty problem to the Tsar. To whom did the colt belong, the owner of the mare or the owner of the cart under which it was first found? Had the cart really had a colt? Understandably stumped by this, the Tsar set a series of riddles; neither man could solve them, but all the answers came easily to the sevenyear-old daughter of the mare's owner. And so the case was decided. The nonsensical nature of the basic problem is appealing, and the common sense of the child, faced with the necessity of outwitting the Tsar, should evoke gratification in young readers.
- Estes, Eleanor. The Lollipop Princess; a play for paper dolls in one act; written and illus. by Eleanor Estes. Harcourt, 1967. 28p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.64 net.

"This play," the prologue begins, "was written by Jane Moffat to entertain Rufus when he had scarlet fever. . . ." The play is performed R 4-5 outside a frosted window; the characters are paper dolls, as shown in the illustrations. (Eleanor Estes has captured the essence of this art form.) The play, originally intended as part of a Moffat book, has the true flavor of children's dialogue and a plot-line based on the most familiar of plots. A princess, ill with despair because she craves new lollipop flavors, is saved by a prince who restores her appetite and wins her hand after other suitors have failed. The author maintains a childlike air without ever being pointedly coy or childish.

Fatio, Louis. The Happy Lion's Vacation; illus. by Roger Duvoisin. McGraw-Hill, 1967. 32p. \$2.95.

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Another pleasant tallish tale about the Happy Lion, told in bland, direct style and illustrated with busy, lively drawings. Here the zoo-keep-K-2 er's son takes the Happy Lion along when starting out for a day at the seashore, and finds he has a problem. Nobody wants a lion as a traveler. With one thing and another, the Happy Lion is in and out of jail, a passenger on a runaway balloon flight, a refugee in an Eskimo community, and an honored guest on an ocean liner. This fanfaronade of nonsense has the same blithe appeal as other Happy Lion escapades.

Fenton, Edward. A Matter of Miracles. Holt, 1967. 239p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$3.97 net.

How things were to change, Gino didn't know, but in some way he had to help his family earn a living. His widowed mother had sunk into depression and hypochondria, his older sister had to run the impoverished household, and his small sister Santina, crippled and bedridden, had little joy in her life. The miracle happened when Gino visited a puppet show and his dog, excited, jumped up on the stage and barked furiously. Gino was mortified, but the puppeteers were delighted, since the audience

howled with glee. So Gino had his job, and the miracle was not just that he could help his family, but that he had found a new and wonderful world he loved. The Sicilian setting is colorful and the writing skilful, but the story line seems artificial and its development fragmented.

Fife, Dale. Walk a Narrow Bridge. Coward-McCann, 1966. 186p. \$3.95.

Lisala Vogel is sixteen, one of a large Alsatian-American family liv-Ad ing in Ohio earlier in the century; she loves her family and she enjoys 6-9 her life, but Lisala cannot accept her parents' prejudice against English and German neighbors. She doesn't want to marry Aloys just because her father feels she should stick to her own; she is in love with Tony. Tony is German, her parents tell her, and that means he isn't serious. Indeed, when Tony goes to college he seems to have forgotten Lisala; only after some time has passed does Lisala see that almost all second-generation Americans are subject to the pressures and prejudices of being a member of a minority group. Moderately well written, the book is rather weak in having a diffuse structure but is strong in characterization and in its picture of the pettiness of the entrenched mind.

Fox, Paula. <u>How Many Miles to Babylon?</u> illus. by Paul Giovanopoulos. White, 1967. 117p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.76 net.

James has been staving with three aunts since both of his parents SpR have gone; where his father went, nobody knows and where his mother 4-5 is, James doesn't want to believe. The hospital, say the aunts; but James daydreams about his mother being in Africa. Sent on a school errand, James runs off to a deserted house where he is found and menaced by a gang of boys who steal dogs: they take James to Coney Island and keep him prisoner; he finally escapes and gets home; when he does, there is his mother. The ending is inconclusively handled, the plot heavy, the characters not well differentiated; nevertheless, the book has several appealing aspects, the major one being the fine creation of mood and atmosphere. The illustrations show a sensitive, dreamy Negro child of ten; the story makes James a sympathetic character even before he performs his one act of courage, but few readers of ten will appreciate the subtleties of the writing.

Froman, Robert. <u>The Many Human Senses</u>; illus. by Feodor Rimsky. Little, 1966. 161p. \$4.50.

A most interesting book about sensory powers: how they function—or R malfunction—and how scientific research has exposed the range of individual differences in response (of kind or degree) to identical stimuli. Some of the text discusses the familiar mysteries of ESP and internal "clocks"; the final chapter describes man-made senses and sense extensions. The writing is crisp and straightforward, the illustrative diagrams clear and well-labeled. A divided bibliography and an index are appended.

Harrington, Lyn. The Luck of the La Verendryes. Nelson, 1967. 157p. \$3.95.

Not a full biography, but a smoothly fictionalized account of the explorations of the La Verendrye family across the Canadian wilderness
 7-10 in the early eighteenth century. Hoping to find the Western sea, misled by Indian maps, Pierre de la Verendrye struggled as an explorer and

trader, getting little help and less recognition from the French government. He suffered all the dangers of the wilderness, lost a son and a nephew, had repeatedly to cope with uncooperative or hostile Indians, and with starvation or illness. What the La Verendryes did accomplish was a useful mapping of territories, establishment of trading posts and canoe routes, discovery of new Indian tribes, and the rare record of peaceful and just dealings with Indians. The writing is a bit heavy, the incidents a bit repetitive, but the material is most dramatic and the historical details are interesting. A chronology and a glossary are appended.

Hawkinson, John. <u>Our Wonderful Wayside</u>. Whitman, 1966. 40p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.21 net.

It's a pity that this charmingly casual book looks like a book for quite R young children, since many of the projects it suggests—and much of the information it gives—should interest older children as well. Mr. Hawkinson describes in three sections (spring, summer, autumn) some of the beauties one can see on a country walk, the foods one can find—and how to identify them, store them, or prepare them—and the collections to be made, and some few crafts and games using objects picked up on the wayside. The small, bright patintings are both informative and attractive; the writing has an easy conversational flow.

Hunter, Mollie. <u>Thomas and the Warlock</u>; illus. by Joseph Cellini. Funk and Wagnalls, 1967. 128p. \$3.25.

A tale of witchcraft, a tall tale, and a very funny book. Deftly written, R this is the story of a good-hearted rascal. Thomas is a blacksmith in a 6-8 village in the Scottish Lowlands; his wife is a good woman and most unhappy about his poaching—but Janet is also a good cook, and she cannot resist the game he brings home. Thomas incurs the wrath of a warlock by poaching on his land, and the wicked wizard steals Janet, whereupon the dauntless smith organizes the very people who have tried to reform him (the minister, the sheriff, and the laird) and with their help not only rescues his wife, but drives all the witches out of the Lowlands.

Huntsberry, William Emery. <u>The Big Wheels</u>. Lothrop, 1967. 158p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.35 net.

If they planned it carefully enough, campaigned the right way, and exchanged favor for favor, they could be the big wheels of the senior class, six boys decided. One of the six tells the story, growing more uncomfortable as it progresses; Doc realizes that what had begun as just a small plan has grown into collusion, and he begins to suspect that some of his friends are not only calculating, but dishonest. Faced with his questions, the leaders admit they have rigged some of the elections and appointments; Doc and one other boy drop out of the gang, having learned that there is no such thing as partial involvement in deceit. The story is fast-paced, with good characterization and dialogue; its message is the more powerful because it emerges vividly out of Doc's own reactions and his disillusionment.

Jagendorf, Moritz Adolf. <u>The Ghost of Peg-Leg Peter</u>; And Other Stories of Old New York; with illus. by Lino S. Lipinsky and songs of old New York selected by June Lazare. Vanguard, 1966. 125p. \$3.50.

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A delightful addition to the author's collections of American folklore, these tales are invariably well told and varied in type-ranging from 5-7 ghost and hoax stories set in the earliest days of the city's history to tales about the first Macy's store or about Fiorello LaGuardia. One story, indeed, is about the Indians who lived in what is now Westchester. The style and humor are highly enjoyable either for silent reading or reading aloud: the book is a good source for storytelling, particularly because a section of notes is appended. The words and music for some songs about New York are included.

King, Clive. The Twenty-Two Letters; illus. by Richard Kennedy. Coward-McCann, 1967. 253p. \$3.95.

First published in England, a story about the adventures of the children of Resh, master-builder of Gebal in Phoenicia. Zayin, a soldier, vanishes on an expedition to the north; Nun, a sailor, visits Crete; Aleph, the youngest boy, is taken prisoner: Beth stays at home. The story moves back and forth, not smoothly, with the family reunited at the end of the book and the tenuous thread of plot about Aleph's and Beth's game (with letters) culminating in a suggestion of the establishment of the first alphabet. The book gives a considerable amount of information about the ancient world, but it is weakened by poor characterization, stiff dialogue, an awkwardness in moving from one setting to another, and a tendency to include as part of the story any known fact or artifact. For example, Nun witnesses a demonstration in Crete which, based on the famous dancers and the bull, is simply an extension of what is visible in the painting.

King, Mary Louise. A History of Western Architecture; illus. with photographs and diagrams. Walck, 1967. 224p. \$7.50.

A survey of western architectural history that is both useful and in-R teresting, explaining functional factors, social or artistic influences, and 7-12 the limitations (or advantages) of material, climate, or technical proficiency. The photographs and diagrams are good, although some of the diagrams lack, in their labeling, terms used in the text. The author focuses on the new developments of each architectural period or school, usually pointing out some modern building that incorporates features typical of, for example, Gothic or classical Greek style. The chapter on modern architecture is not extensive, but is adequate. An excellent index distinguishes between textual and illustrative entries; sources for illustrations are cited, and a glossary is included.

Kroeber, Theodora. A Green Christmas; illus. by John Larrecg. Parnassus. 1967. 31p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.63 net.

A Christmas story set in the past (turn of the century, to judge by the Ad costume) with illustrations that are notable for the outdoor scenes, al-K-2 though all of the pictures are attractive. The story is a pleasant one for the Santa Claus set. A small brother and sister, newly moved to California, are dismayed at seeing grass and flowers on Christmas Eve. How can Santa reach them? When they come downstairs in the morning, there is a note. Santa has been there; indeed, in the grass outside, they can see reindeer prints. So they add clover and snow lilies to their own Christmas menu. Over and over, the story ends, they sang this song, "O,

Green, Green, Christmas Day! New-Clover Christmas Day! Emerald Santa Claus Christmas! . . ." The quiet story will appeal to some children, but it is limited by the slight plot, especially for the child who does not believe in Santa Claus.

Lavine, Sigmund A. Handmade in America; The Heritage of Colonial Craftsmen; illus, with photographs, Dodd, 1966, 146p. \$4.50.

A book that gives a great deal of historical information and some esthetic guidance as well as giving a broad picture of colonial crafts. The many photographs of art objects are useful and attractive; an index and a selected, divided bibliography are appended. The chapters are on woodworkers, cabinetmakers, glassmakers, workers in precious metals, porcelain and pottery makers, pewterers, workers in base metals, and "patch, paste, and pen crafts."

L'Engle, Madeleine. The Journey with Jonah; with illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Farrar, 1967. 64p. \$3.75.

A one-act play that has been performed by young people; suggestions SpR for costumes and properties are appended. Jonah is the only human char-6-8 acter; the others are a dozen animals. Peevishly Jonah rails at the Lord for despatching him to Nineveh, when there is so much to be set right in his own village of Gath-hepher. He engages in some light dialogue with Goose, Owl, Jay and Catbird, goes down into the village and is reviled, and decides to leave. Thence to the ship, the storm, and the whale's belly. So Jonah comes to Nineveh, utters his prophecies, engages in another discussion with various creatures, and departs for home. The play's cast seems appropriate for a rather young audience (for example, three little rats named Huz, Buz, and Hazo) while some of the dialogue is quite sophisticated. Indeed, some of it is beautifully phrased, some delightfully witty. The discrepancy of levels suggests that the best use of the script would be, perhaps, to have the performance given by older children for younger ones. As a play to read, however, it seems not to be quite right for either group.

Lengyel, Emil. Mahatma Gandhi; The Great Soul. Watts, 1967. 216p. (Immortals of History Books) Trade ed. \$2.95: Library ed. \$2.21 net.

An adequately written biography of Gandhi, giving substantially the same information as is found in the several older biographies and in that Μ 7-9 by Zinkin, also reviewed in this issue. The Mahatma's career and his philsophies and policies are described quite fully, but his personality does not emerge as clearly as it does in Zinkin's book, partly because there is less exploration of Gandhi's familial relationships and partly because of the static writing. In several small instances, this biography differs both from Zinkin and from Gandhi's own autobiography; these are minor matters (Gandhi himself writes that his wedding was a triple affair: Lengyel, that the wedding was 'four in one'') but they detract from the book's worth. A chronology, a bibliography, and an index are appended.

Lexau, Joan M. Finders Keepers, Losers Weepers; drawings by Tomie de Paola. Lippincott, 1967. 28p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.11 net.

R The bland simplicity of this story for beginning independent readers 1-3 is echoed in the ingenuous illustrations, equally simple. Mama, unable to

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find her frying pan, asks Max if by any chance his little sister Amanda has it. Max, who has supposedly been taking care of Amanda, hastily retrieves her and finds that she has indeed taken the pan and has lost it. Rather, it has been taken by Helen Ellen, a small neighbor with an affinity for bargaining. Max arranges for Amanda to do some distractive crying, so that he can slip the pan back into Mama's kitchen; he delivers Helen Ellen's promised candy bar; he decides, faced with the alternatives of playing with Helen Ellen and becoming involved with Amanda and the frying pan, to leave the house. A quite engaging book.

MacPherson, Margaret L. <u>Ponies for Hire</u>; illus. by Robert Parker. Harcourt, 1967. 191p. \$3.50.

A smoothly-written story about the crofter's life today on the Isle of R Skye, with effective illustrations. Their dead father had not believed in 6-9 buying on credit, and there isn't enough money for a tractor, so the Macleods do their plowing laboriously. Anxious to help the family finances, Kirsty decides that she will set up a pony-renting service and—to her surprise—she gets help from the haughty city boy, Nick, who is a summer boarder. The problems of dealing with a variety of customers and of making business arrangements concern both youngsters; for Kirsty, there is the problem of getting along with sensitive and temperamental Nick; and for Nick, of getting over his fear of horses and his own feelings of inadequacy. The setting is interesting, the plot realistic, and the characterization perceptive.

May, Julian. <u>They Lived in the Ice Age</u>; illus. by Jean Zallinger. Holiday House, 1967. 37p. \$3.75.

A good introduction to the story of the Ice Age for the quite young reader; the print is clear, the text brief and simply written, and the illustrations both attractive and informative. The author describes the glacial coverage of the four Ice Ages, discusses the movements of men and animals across the land bridge that then existed, and explains some of the traces of glacial action and of life in the Ice Ages that can still be seen today.

Moore, Marian. <u>The United Kingdom</u>; A New Britain. Nelson, 1966. 224p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.31 net.

A lively report on changing aspects of life in Britain is preceded by some historical and geographical information, with a good deal more interspersed throughout the book. Much of the writing has a rambling, conversational quality, but the author's interpretations of the British scene are astute and moderate. She discusses governmental structure, education, sports, industry, communication, law, Mods and Rockers, agriculture, the welfare state, the Royal Family, and so on: a bit of everything. A list of sovereigns, another of important dates, a reading list, and an index are appended. The many photographs are of good quality.

Neumann, Rudolf. <u>The Bad Bear</u>; English text by Jack Prelutsky; pictures by Eva Johanna Rubin. Macmillan, 1967. 25p. \$3.95.

When first published in Germany in 1964, this was listed by the International Youth Library as one of the best books of the year. The illustrations are bold with color and busy with detail; the story is told in bouncy

rhyme. "The nastiest bear that ever was born" is introduced as a voracious creature who spoils picnics and menaces the population in his search for food and more food. When the bear and the court fiddler fall into the same pit, the bear learns to sing and dance; this is the turning point in his life, and he becomes so amiable that he is the children's playmate and is pardoned by the governor at a feast in the palace garden. The plot is a bit thin, but the notes of nonsense and exaggeration are appealing.

Nichols, Freda P. The Milldale Riot; illus. by Diz. Ginn, 1966. 154p. \$2.50.

Μ 6-9

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First published in England, a book about the industrial revolution, set in an English town in the 1840's. The Ardizzone illustrations echo the pathos and miserv pictured in the story. Harriet, an orphan, works in a coal mine and decides, in her despair, that she is going to Milldale to look for work in a "manufactory"; she is joined by small Nick, a pauper apprentice. In Milldale, Nick overhears an owner's plot to smash the rising union, and the workers are alerted; they strike for better working conditions, and the story ends on a note of hope. The writing is rather pedestrian and the plot too full of incident, the story is rather heavily laden with gloomy or melodramatic examples of the evils of the times, but the book does give a convincing picture of the plight of the laborer, and especially of the child laborer.

Nic Leodhas, Sorche. Claymore and Kilt; Tales of Scottish Kings and Castles; illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon. Holt, 1967. 157p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Librarv ed. \$3.45 net.

A collection of historical tales, some with folk tale overtones, from the time of King Fingal in 211 A.D. to the reign of James VI in the 17th R 7-9 century. Almost the first third of the book is given to a long preface that gives background information for each of the eleven tales. The writing style is heavier than that used by the author in her previous books, and these tales have only a hint of the humor that pervades the folk material. The historical details are interesting, and the dialogue has the true cadence of Scottish speech; the tales are varied, colorful, and dramatic.

O'Dell, Scott. The Black Pearl; illus. by Milton Johnson. Houghton, 1967. 140p. \$3.25.

It was legendary knowledge in Ramon's village that there was in the waters of Baja California a giant manta, the Manta Diablo, vicious and 7-12 intelligent, large as the largest ship in La Paz harbor. This was the creature that Ramon angered when he found a giant black pearl in the watery cave that was the Manta Diablo's lair; his other enemy was the Sevillano, best pearl diver in Ramon's father's crew. Ominously circling its prey, the Manta pursues Ramon's small boat and, in killing the Sevillano, also dies; Ramon gives the black pearl to the Madonna-of-the-Seas, a gift of love. The stark simplicity of the story and the deeper significance it holds in the triumph of good over evil add importance to the book, but even without that the book would be enjoyable as a rousing adventure tale with supernatural overtones and beautifully maintained tempo and suspense.

Peters, Roberta. A Debut at the Met; by Roberta Peters with Louis Biancolli. Meredith, 1967. 86p. \$3.50.

[64]

Almost inevitably an autobiographical work written "with" a joint au-Ad thor has a recurrent note of artificiality; here it appears in the way Miss 6-9 Peters refers to herself as a conversationalist: "Without a moment's hesitation I announced solemnly . . .," "Unperturbed, I said . . .," or "I thanked Mr. Herman demurely." Despite this minor flaw, the book has an inherent dramatic appeal and has avoided the pitfall of verbosity. When she was ten, little Roberta Peterman went along with a friend who took voice lessons; when she was thirteen she began seriously to study for a career in opera; when she was twenty, she appeared in public for the first time. Another singer had become ill, and Roberta Peters made her first public appearance onstage anywhere as Zerlina in a Metropolitan Opera House production. And there the book ends.

Place, Marian (Templeton). <u>American Cattle Trails East and West</u>; illus. by Gil Walker. Holt, 1967. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

Well-researched and smoothly written, a history of one aspect of pioneer America is enlivened by anecdotes and illustrated with bustling,
5-9 busy drawings. The arrangement is primarily regional, but—insofar as possible—also chronological, the text beginning with Coronado's long trek up from Mexico to what is now Texas and concluding with the coming of the railroads. In addition to historical interest, the story of American trailblazing is full of drama and color: the "fever war" caused by the mysterious death of only northern cattle; the troubles of Saunders, who was arrested by his own side during the Civil War; the dangers of the wild country itself. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Preston, Carol. <u>A Trilogy of Christmas Plays for Children</u>; music selected by John Langstaff; illus. with music, photographs, and diagrams. Harcourt, 1967. 135p. \$3.95.

The three plays, used for many years at a school of which Miss Preston was headmistress, are variations on the Nativity theme. One is contemporary (with Nativity scenes in a play-within-the-play) and one adapted from Medieval folk and miracle plays; the third is based on English miracle plays and old carols. The dialogue is flavored with appropriate idiom and vocabulary without being too quaint; indeed, the plays are in the best of taste. Sources are discussed and quite complete instructions given for staging, lighting, simple choreography, et cetera. An appendix gives information about sources for obtaining appropriate music.

Rinkoff, Barbara. <u>Elbert, the Mind Reader</u>; pictures by Paul Galdone. Lothrop, 1967. 112p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.13 net.

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4-6

Elbert had hoped that by the time he got to ninth grade he would have grown big enough to make the football team, but he was still too scrawny, although he could run and kick, and he knew all the rules and strategy. He was able to become team manager after reading the coach's mind, and he was able to read the coach's mind because the new filling in his tooth received thought waves. The first time he got into a game, Elbert made a touchdown and the conversion; in the process he lost his filling, but he decided that he would rather be a football player than a mind reader any day. The writing is light and humorous, the fanciful element handled well although it is used here and there in an incident that is hardly relevant. For example, the incident in which Elbert volunteers to read a grocer's mind while a telephone order is coming in: unfortunately, Elbert receives several messages at once and packs a huge and useless box of groceries.

Rounds, Glen. <u>The Snake Tree</u>; written and illus. by Glen Rounds. World, 1966. 95p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.41 net.

In a series of brief essays, the author describes some of the events R in the lives of the wild creatures who lived in and around an abandoned 5-7 farmhouse. The butcher bird, for example, hung snakes he had killed on the thorns of a honey locust; a possum visited nightly; a colony of wasps was established on an old window shutter. Always a delight to the nature lover, Mr. Round's descriptions of the small affairs of the animal world are in an easy, conversational style; he does not attribute human characteristics to animals but does express, with grace and affection, animal idiosyncrasies in human terms. "The mockingbird who owned the abandoned farmhouse and the overgrown dooryard had the air of an old settler—tolerant of neighbors who knew their place, but a terror to those who crossed him."

Schiller, Barbara, ad. <u>The White Rat's Tale</u>; illus. by Adrienne Adams. Holt, 1967. 26p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

A retelling of an old French folk tale, illustrated with charming pictures in delicate colors, graceful and subtly humorous in detail. A childless royal couple had a beloved pet, a white rat that could talk, sing, and dance; they asked the Fairy Queen to change their pet into a daughter and so she did. "A little too pink of eye, a bit too white of hair, said the courtiers behind their hands." When it was time for the princess to marry, she requested the most powerful husband in the whole world. Not the sun, which could be obscured by a cloud, or the wind that blew the cloud, or the mountain that stood firm against the wind. All these she spurned, choosing the rat that could slowly nibble away a mountain. So the Fairy Queen obligingly changed the princess into a white rat again, and the happy pair were wed. The writing is graceful, with an occasional trace of tongue-in-cheek.

Sendak, Maurice. <u>Higglety Pigglety Pop!</u> or There Must Be More to Life; story and pictures by Maurice Sendak. Harper, 1967. 69p. \$4.95.

R 3-5 "Once Jennie had everything . . . But Jennie didn't care. In the middle of the night she packed everything in a black leather bag with gold buckles and looked out of her favorite window for the last time." And so Jennie set off to find something else in life, whatever it was, that would make her happy; almost absent-mindedly, Jennie ate steadily as she acquired Experiece, eventually becoming leading lady in the World Mother Goose Theatre. Having found more than everything, Jennie wrote her former master "As you probably noticed, I went away forever." The story has elements of tenderness and humor; it also has those typically macabre Sendak touches that were enjoyed by readers of <u>Where the Wild Things</u> <u>Are</u>. For example, Jennie becomes, for a time, nurse to a fractious baby who is slated to be eaten by a ferocious lion; by saying the right words she saves the baby's life; later the baby appears, magically adult size, and selects Jennie as leading lady. The illustrations are beautiful, amusing, and distinctive; the story is freshly imaginative, subtly direct, wryly perceptive.

Singer, Isaac Bashevis. <u>The Fearsome Inn</u>; tr. by the author and Elizabeth Shub; illus. by Nonny Hogrogian. Scribner, 1967. 42p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.05 net.

The inn belonged to Doboshova, the witch whose first husband had R been a highwayman, whose second was half man, half devil: Lapitut. He 5-7 and Doboshova had cast a spell on the road so that it led nowhere, and thus there was no escape for the three captive maidens Leitze, Neitze, and Reitze. Then there came to the lonely spot three young men, one of whom was a clever cabala student who outwitted the evil magicians and banished them to "the Mountains of Darkness where there is neither day nor night and dusk is eternal." Promptly the six young people paired off and proceeded to become affluent, respected, and surrounded by children and grandchildren. The style of writing is distinctive, mingling the Polish-Jewish humor and gusto with the fairy tale genre most deftly. The illustrations have a graceful vitality and a restrained use of color nicely complemented by a boldness of design.

Solberg, S. E. The Land and People of Korea. Lippincott, 1966. 152p. illus. (Portraits of the Nations Series) Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$2.93 net.

A very good book for its coverage and the detailed and extensive historical section; unfortunately, the writing style is stolid and phraseology 7-10 tends to be trite. The author, who lived in Korea for some time and both studied and taught there, discusses at some length the involvement of the United States in the recent war. Other topics covered are Korean cultural life today, education, agriculture, urban and rural patterns of living, religions, and holidays. An index is appended.

Steffan, Jack. <u>The Long Fellow</u>; The Story of the Great Irish Patriot, Eamon de Valera. Macmillan, 1966. 197p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.94 net.

A biography that is of particular interest because of the detailed account it gives of the Irish struggle for independence, and of the roles of other leaders as well as of de Valera. The author is quite openly biased in favor of both her subject and his cause, so that de Valera's contribution to the campaign for freedom seems magnified in comparison to that of other Irish patriots and so that the English (with few exceptions) are depicted with little sympathy. Nevertheless, the book gives a good deal of information about a subject that has seldom been comprehensively treated in a book for young people; the writing style is adequate and the material inherently dramatic. A glossary, a selected bibliography, and an index are appended.

Vlahos, Olivia. <u>Human Beginnings</u>; illus. by Kyuzo Tsugami. Viking, 1966. 255p. Trade ed. \$5.95; Library ed. \$5.63 net.

Although this discussion of human evolution has an occasional note of R flippancy, the information it gives is both accurate and well-organized; 5-10 the easy colloquialism of the style may add to the appeal of the book for the reader not already familiar with the subject. The author describes man by shinnying, she says, backward down the family tree, regarding

him first as a primate, then a mammal, etc. She discusses theories and facts. differentiating between the two. The second half of the book covers the earliest social and cultural developments in man's history, from the first tools to the first cities. A list of suggestions for further reading. a list of sources for illustrations (very good ones) and an index are appended.

Warren, Mary Phraner. Walk In My Moccasins; illus. by Victor Mays. Westminster, 1966, 157p, \$3,50,

Although this story of an adopted family has moments of contrivance Ad and is written to convey a message, the message is so worthy and the 4-6 approach to the problems of prejudice so candid that the book has considerable merit. Melody is twelve, the oldest of a family of five Sioux Indians adopted by a childless white couple; although she reassures her little sister ("Our foster parents are white. And you know how nice they are.") Melody is really dubious about being accepted; her fears are aggravated by such neighborly comments as Mrs. Wilson's. "Why, I didn't know you were going to adopt . . . Well, how perfectly lovely !' . . . Her face flushed . . . 'Why, aren't you the good people !' she babbled. Heaven will reward you. What are they, anyway, Korean?' She said it just as though the two girls were part of the sidewalk." So Melody encounters prejudice, but not until she herself realizes that she has practiced another kind of prejudice does she understand that one does not criticize another person before "walking in his moccasins."

Williamson, Joanne S. To Dream Upon a Crown; illus. by Jacob Landau. Knopf, 1967. 187p. \$4.95.

A most interesting treatment of the conflict between York and Lancas-R ter, the conflict covered in Shakespeare's trilogy, The Life and Death of 7-Henry VI. Using only Shakespearian dialogue (with an occasional cut and an occasional definition of an obsolete word) the author ties together the events of the dramas, filling in the minor incidents and giving background information that makes more clear the complexities of the struggle for the crown. She explains in her preface that some of the Shakespearian history has been subject to poetic license (Richard III would have been three years old at the Battle of St. Albans) but that she is tampering as little as possible with the familiar dramatic version. Smoothly done, this competent history of the War of the Roses is both a help to understanding the plays and an exciting book to read. A chart of six generations of succession to Edward III is included.

Zinkin, Taya. The Story of Gandhi; illus. by Robert Hales. Criterion Books, 1966. 190p. \$3.50.

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A good biography of Gandhi written by a former Indian correspondent for the Manchester Guardian. The facts of Gandhi's career are those 7-10 found in other biographies: his early marriage, his study in England, his long years in South Africa, his return to India as a moving force in the independence movement, and the unique position the man achieved as a social reformer in the eyes of the world, perhaps for all time. The special value of this biography is the candor with which it describes Gandhi's personal life, especially his relationships with his wife and children. An index is appended.

- Adams, Adrienne, illus. Twelve Dancing Princesses. 4-6.
- Agree, Rose H., comp. How to Eat a Poem & Other Morsels. 3-5.
- Aldridge, Josephine Haskell. Fisherman's Luck. 2-4.
- Alexander, Lloyd. Castle of Llvr. 5-8.
- Taran Wanderer. 6-8.
- Aliki, ed. Three Gold Pieces, K-2.
- Almedingen, E. M. Katia. 6-9.
- Ambrus, Victor G. Brave Soldier Janosh. K-3.
- American Heritage Magazine. Theodore Roosevelt. 8-.
- Anderson, Lonzo. Zeb. 6-9.
- Ardizzone, Edward. Sarah and Simon and No Red Paint. K-3.
- Armer, Alberta. Troublemaker. 6-9.
- Arnold, Pauline. How We Named Our States. 5-9.
- Arora, Shirley Lease. Left-Handed Chank. 6-9.
- Asimov, Isaac. Roman Republic. 8-.
- , ed. Tomorrow's Children. 7-.
- Babbitt, Natalie. Dick Foote and the Shark. 4-6.
- Baker, Betty. Blood of the Brave. 7-10.
- Baker, Laura Nelson. O Children of the Wind and Pines. 4-6.
- Baker, Samm Sinclair. Indoor and Outdoor Growit Book. 5-9.
- Bartos-Höppner, B. Avalanche Dog. 6-10.
- Bawden, Nina. Witch's Daughter. 5-7.
- Beaty, Janice J. Seeker of Seaways. 7-.
- Belting, Natalia Maree. Stars are Silver Reindeer. 4-6.
- Bergere, Thea. Story of St. Peter's. 8-.
- Bernard, Jacqueline. Journey Toward Freedom. 10~.
- Bernheim, Marc. From Bush to City. 6-10.
- Bleeker, Sonia. Ashanti of Ghana. 5-7.
- Bonsall, Crosby Newell. Case of the Dumb Bells. 1-2.
- Book for Eleanor Farjeon. 4-7.
- Borack, Barbara. Grandpa. 3-7 vrs.
- Boston, Lucy Maria. Sea Egg. 4-6.
- Bradbury, Ray. S Is For Space. 6-.
- Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. North, South, East, and West. 1-3.
- Brinsmead, Hesba Fay. Season of the Briar. 8-11.
- Brooks, Polly Schoyer. World of Walls. 6-10.
- Broun, Heywood. Shepherd. 6-.
- Brown, Fern. When Grandpa Wore Knickers. 3-6.
- Brown, Myra (Berry). Sandy Signs His Name. 2-3.
- Buck, Pearl (Sydenstricker). Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. 4-6.
- Burchardt, Nellie. Reggie's No-Good Bird. 4-5.
- Burningham, John. John Burningham's ABC. 4-6 yrs.
- Cantwell, Mary. St. Patrick's Day. 3-5. Carlson, Natalie (Savage). Chalou. 4-6.
- . Sailor's Choice. 5-7.
- Carr, Albert Z. Matter of Life and Death. 9-.
- Carter, Samuel. Kingdom of the Tides. 8-.
- Caufield, Don. Incredible Detectives. 4-6.
- Chalmers, Mary. Be Good, Harry. 3-6 yrs.

- Child Study Association of America, comp. Round About the City. 2-4. Christopher, John. White Mountains. 6-9.
- Clarke, Clorinda. American Revolution 1775-83. 5-9.
- Cleary, Beverly. Mitch and Amy. 4-6.
- Cleaver, Vera. Ellen Grae. 4-6.
- Clymer, Eleanor (Lowenton). My Brother Stevie. 4-6.
- Coatsworth, Elizabeth Jane, Place, 4-6.
- Cogniat, Raymond. Monet and his World. 9-.
- Cole, William, comp. Oh, What Nonsense! 4-6.
- Colum, Padraic. Stone of Victory. 4-6.
- Comay, Joan. Ben-Gurion and the Birth of Israel. 6-.
- Cone, Molly. Purim. 2-4.
- Coolidge, Olivia E. Eugene O'Neill. 9-.
- \_. King of Men. 7-.
- . Women's Rights. 8-
- Cooney, Barbara. Christmas. 2-4.
- Cooper, Margaret. Great Bone Hunt. 4-6.
- Copeland, Paul W. Land and People of Libya. 7-10.
- Corcoran, Barbara. Sam. 6-9.
- Crews, Donald. We Read: A to Z. 5-7 yrs.
- Cunningham, Julia. Onion Journey. 3-5.
- . Viollet. 5-6.
- Daly, Maureen, ed. My Favorite Mystery Stories.
- Daniels, Guy, ed. Tsar's Riddles. K-2.
- Dareff, Hal. Story of Vietnam. 8-.
- Davis, Caroline. Roaring in the Glens. 6-9. Davis, Christopher. Sad Adam - Glad Adam.
- 4-6 yrs.
- Delear, Frank J. New World of Helicopters. 5-9.
- Denny, Norman. Bayeux Tapestry. 6-10.
- Dobrin, Arnold. Carmello's Cat. K-3.
- Domanska, Janina. Palmiero and the Ogre. K-2.
- Downer, Marion. Roofs Over America. 6-10.
- Du Bois, William Pène. Lazy Tommy Pumpkinhead. 2-4.
- Dugdale, Vera. Album of North American Animals. 6-8.
- Duggan, Alfred. Falcon and the Dove. 8-.
- Durham, Mae, ed. Tit for Tat and Other Latvian Folk Tales. 4-6.
- Durrell, Gerald. Two in the Bush. 7-.
- Edwards, Phil. You Should Have Been Here an Hour Ago. 9-.
- Erdoes, Richard. Picture History of Ancient Rome. 5-9.
- Erwin, Betty K. Summer Sleigh Ride. 5-7.
- Estes, Eleanor. Lollipop Princess. 4-5.
- Fall, Thomas. Dandy's Mountain. 5-7.
- Farjeon, Eleanor. Mr. Garden. 4-6.
- Fatio, Louise. Happy Lion's Vacation. K-2.
- Fisher, Aileen Lucia. My Mother and I. K-3. Fisher, Leonard Everett. Schoolmasters. 5-7.
- Fleischman, Sid. McBroom and the Big Wind.
- 4-6.
- Fox, Paula. How Many Miles to Babylon? 4-5.

. Likely Place. 4-6.

Freschet, Berniece. Kangaroo Red. 4-6. Friis-Baastad, Babbis. Don't Take Teddy. 5-8.

- Froman, Robert. The Many Human Senses. 7-. Fyson, J. G. Journey of the Eldest Son. 7-9.
- . Three Brothers of Ur. 7-9.
- Garfield, Leon. Devil-in-the-Fog. 7-10.
- Gault, William Campbell. Backfield Challenge. 7-10.
- Gidal, Sonia. My Village in Japan. 4-7.
- Glubok, Shirley. Art of Ancient Peru. 4-9. \_\_\_\_\_. Art of the Etruscans. 4-9.
- Golden Shore. 7-.
- Goldin, Augusta R. Bottom of the Sea. 3-5.
- Goldston, Robert C. Civil War in Spain. 8-. . Life and Death of Nazi Germany. 8-.
- . Russian Revolution. 8-.
- Goudey, Alice E. Red Legs. 2-4.
- Gregor, Arthur Stephen. Adventure of Man. 7-10. . How the World's First Cities Began. 4-7.
- Gregory, Horace. Silver Swan. 7-.
- Grey, Elizabeth. Winged Victory. 7-10.
- Grey, Vivian. Secret of the Mysterious Rays. 7-10.
- Griffen, Elizabeth. Dog's Book of Bugs. 2-4.
- Grimm, Jakob Ludwig Karl. Twelve Dancing Princesses. 4-6.
- Haas, Ben. Troubled Summer. 7-10.
- Hall, Elvajean. Hong Kong. 6-9.
- Hardendorff, Jeanne B., comp. Tricky Peik and Other Picture Tales. 4-6.
- Harrington, Lyn. Luck of the La Verendryes. 7-10.
- Harris, Christie. Confessions of a Toe-Hanger. 7-10.
- Harris, Janet. Long Freedom Road. 6-10.
- Haugaard, Erik Christian. Little Fishes. 7-.
- Haviland, Virginia. Favorite Fairy Tales Told in Sweden. 4-6.
- Hawkinson, John. Our Wonderful Wayside. 4-6.
- Haywood, Carolyn. Eddie the Dog Holder. 2-4. Heaps, Willard A. Riots, U.S.A., 1765-1965. 8-.
- Heck, Bessie Holland. Year at Boggy. 5-6.
- Henry, James P. Biomedical Aspects of Space Flight. 8-.
- Henry, Marguerite. Mustang, Wild Spirit of the West. 6-9.
- Hess, Lilo. Sea Horses. 3-6.
- Hightower, Florence C. Fayerweather Forecast. 5-8.
- Hill, Elizabeth Starr. Evan's Corner. K-2.
- Hinton, S. E. Outsiders. 9-.
- Hirsch, S. Carl. Printing from a Stone. 7-.
- Hitchcock, Patricia. King Who Rides a Tiger and Other Folk Tales from Nepal. 4-6.
- Hodges, Cyril Walter. Magna Carta. 5-9.
  - . Marsh King. 7-10.
  - Norman Conquest. 5-9.
- Hodges, Margaret. Hatching of Joshua Cobb. 4-6. Hoff, Syd. Irving and Me. 5-8.
- Hoffmann, Felix. Boy Went Out to Gather Pears. K-2.
- Holman, Felice. Witch on the Corner. 4-6.
- Holme, Bryan. Drawings to Live With. 5-10.

Horizon Magazine. Holy Land in the Time of Jesus. 7-. . Spanish Armada. 8-. Houston, James. Eagle Mask. 5-7. . White Archer. 5-7. Hunt, Irene. Up a Road Slowly. 6-9. Hunter, Mollie. Kelpie's Pearls. 5-8. \_. Spanish Letters. 7-10. . Thomas and the Warlock. 6-8.

- Huntsberry, William Emery, Big Wheels. 8-10.
- Iger, Martin. Building a Skyscraper. 4-6. Irwin, Keith Gordon. Romance of Physics. 7-.
- Jacker, Corinne. Window on the Unknown. 8-. Jagendorf, Moritz Adolf. Ghost of Peg-Leg Peter. 5-7.
- Jansson, Tove. Exploits of Moominpappa. 5-6.
- Jeffries, Roderic. Patrol Car. 6-9.
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- Johnston, Johanna. That's Right, Edie. K-2.
- Jones, Cordelia. Nobody's Garden. 5-7.
- Jordan, Hope Dahle. Haunted Summer. 7-10.
- Justus, May. New Home for Billy. 3-4.
- Kästner, Erich. Little Man. 5-6. Kaula, Edna Mason. Leaders of the New Africa. 7-.
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- L'Engle, Madeleine. Journey with Jonah. 6-8.
- Lent, Blair. John Tabor's Ride. K-3.
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- Levin, Jane Whitbread. Star of Danger. 7-10.
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- . Finders Keepers, Losers Weepers. 1-3. . Homework Caper. 1-2.
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- Lipkind, William. Nubber Bear. K-2.
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- Lyon, Elinor. Dream Hunters. 5-7.

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Marx, Robert F. Battle of Lepanto, 1571. 8-.

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- Mayne, William. Earthfasts. 6-9.
  - . Old Zion. 5-7.
  - . Pig in the Middle. 6-9.
- Means, Florence (Crannell). Us Maltbys. 6-9.
- Meilach, Dona Z. Creating with Plaster. 7-.
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Nathan, Dorothy. Shy One. 4-6.

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- Nic Leodhas, Sorche. Claymore and Kilt. 7-9.
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- Phipson, Joan. Birkin. 5-7.
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- Redford, Polly. Christmas Bower. 5-7.
- Richardson, Grace. Douglas. 7-.
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- Rinkoff, Barbara. Elbert, the Mind Reader. 4-6.
- Ripley, Elizabeth (Blake). Rodin. 6-9.
- Rocca, Guido. Gaetano the Pheasant. 4-5.
- Rockwell, Anne. Filippo's Dome. 6-9.
- Roland, Betty. Jamie's Summer Visitor. 4-5.
- Ross, Eulalie Steinmetz, ed. Blue Rose. 5-7.
- Roth, Arnold. Pick a Peck of Puzzles. 3-5.
- Rounds, Glen. Snake Tree. 5-7.
- Rugh, Belle Dorman. Lost Waters. 6-9.
- Sachs, Marilyn. Amy and Laura. 4-6.
- Sackett, Samuel J. Cowboys & the Songs they Sang. 5-.
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- Sammis, Edward R. Last Stand at Stalingrad. 7-10.
- Sanderlin, George. Across the Ocean Sea. 8-.
- Savage, Katharine. Story of World Religions. 8-.
- Schaff, Louise E. Skald of the Vikings. 6-8.
- Schiller, Barbara, ad. White Rat's Tale. 1-3.
- Schoen, Barbara. Place and a Time. 7-10.
- Schwartz, Alvin. City and Its People. 4-7.
- . What Do You Think? 9-12.
- Self, Margaret Cabell. Henrietta. K-3.
- Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). How Animals Tell Time. 5-9.
  - . Milkweed. 2-4.
  - . When an Animal Grows. 1-3.
- Sendak, Maurice. Higglety Pigglety Pop! 3-5.

Sharp, Margery. Miss Bianca in the Salt Mines. 6-.

- Sherburne, Zoa. Too Bad About the Haines Girl. 8-12.
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  - \_. Bridges. 7-10.
- . Gate of Worlds. 7-10.

Simon, Norma. Hanukkah. 2-4.

- . What Do I Say? 3-6 yrs.
- Simon, Tony. Heart Explorers. 6-9.
- Singer, Isaac Bashevis. Fearsome Inn. 5-7.
- . Zlateh the Goat. 5-7.
- Sleigh, Barbara. Jessamy. 4-6.
- Slobodkin, Louis. Read About the Policeman. 3-6.

[71]

Smith, Emma. Emily's Voyage. 3-5.

- Smith, Howard K. Washington, D. C. 7-.
- Snyder, Silpha Keatley. Egypt Game. 4-7.
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- Storey, Margaret. Pauline. 6-9.
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- Streatfeild, Noel. Magic Summer. 5-7.
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- Swarthout, Glendon. Whichaway. 6-9.
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- Titus, Eve. Anatole and the Piano. K-3.
- Tolstoy, Leo Nikolaevich. Russian Stories and Legends. 6-10.
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- Treece, Henry. Centurion. 6-10.
- Tresselt, Alvin R. World in the Candy Egg. 3-7 yrs.
- Tunis, Edwin, Shaw's Fortune, 4-7.
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- Turner, Philip. Colonel Sheperton's Clock. 6-9. . Grange at High Force. 6-9.
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- Veglahn, Nancy. Spider of Brooklyn Heights. 6-9.
- Verney, John. Ismo. 8-12.
- Viereck, Phillip, comp. New Land. 9-. Vipont, Elfrida. Ghosts' High Noon. 6-9.
- . Offcomers. 4-6.
- Vlahos, Olivia. Human Beginnings. 5-10.
- Vroman, Mary Elizabeth. Harlem Summer. 7-10.
- Waber, Bernard. Lyle and the Birthday Party. K-2.
- Walters, Marguerite. Small Pond. K-3.
- Weber, Lenora (Mattingly). I Met a Boy I Used to Know. 6-9.
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- Weisgard, Leonard. First Farmers. 5-8.
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- Werner, Vivian. Timmie in London. 3-5.
- Whitney, Phyllis Ayame. Secret of the Spotted Shell. 6-9.
- Wibberley, Leonard. Time of the Harvest. 7-10. Wier, Ester, Barrel, 5-7.
- Wildsmith, Brian. Brian Wildsmith's Birds. 4-6.
- Willard, Barbara. Charity at Home. 6-9.
- Williams, Frances Leigh. Ocean Pathfinder. 6-9. Williams, Ursula Moray. Moonball. 4-6.
- Williamson, Joanne S. To Dream Upon a Crown. 7-.
- Wilson, Amy V. Nurse in the Yukon. 6-10.
- Wilson, Mitchell. Seesaws to Cosmic Rays. 6-9.
- Wyler, Rose. Magic Secrets. 2-3.
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