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**THE UNIVERSITY
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SCHOOL**

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED
WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

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

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 21

June, 1968

Number 10

New Titles for Children and Young People

Adoff, Arnold, ed. I Am the Darker Brother; An Anthology of Modern Poems by Negro Americans; drawings by Benny Andrews. Macmillan, 1968. 128p. \$4.95.

R
6- A most interesting anthology, with many contributions from such well-known poets as Brooks, Dunbar, Hayden, Hughes, and McKay, and a broad representation of selections from the work of some two dozen other modern authors. The format is dignified and spacious; appended are a list of notes, biographical sketches of contributors, and separate author and first line indexes.

Allan, Mabel Esther. A Summer at Sea; illus. by Geoffrey Whittam. Vanguard, 1967. 172p. \$3.95.

M
7-9 As do other books by this author, this offers a combination of romance, travel, and some personal problems; this is a slight variation from the pattern in that the protagonist is on tour, rather than residing in a foreign place. Gillian, who has had an unhappy love affair, takes a job on a small cruise liner sailing from England to Holland, Denmark, and Norway. She gets over her chagrin and finds a new love, copes with the ship's enfante terrible, makes friends. The rather patterned plot is alleviated by a competent writing style, with good but not deep characterization; a certain amount of travel information is incorporated, not always smoothly.

Allen, Agnes. The Story of the Book; with drawings by Agnes and Jack Allen. Roy, 1967. 230p. \$4.95.

Ad
7-10 A good history of books and printing, the chapter on book publication revised from an earlier edition. The volume's usefulness is limited somewhat by the fact that many references are solely to British developments; the chapter on "How We Got Our Libraries" is purely British, for example. Nevertheless, the detailed and competent treatment of the subject makes the book quite useful; it describes the progress of communication from prehistoric times, the evolution of recorded communication in various forms, the earliest tools and materials, the development of movable type and of increasingly efficient printing machines. It also discusses the forms of books, the emergence of children's books, book illustration, and the step-by-step procedures of publication. An index is appended.

Allen, Gertrude E. Everyday Trees. Houghton, 1968. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.07 net.

Ad
2-4 A book with precisely drawn pencil sketches of trees or tree parts; included are the apple, birch, fir, maple, oak, pine, and willow. The book does very well as an introduction to the study of trees, since it gives some pictures that facilitate identification, some facts about species, some general botanical information, and some comments on the uses made of trees by animals or people. The book's weakness is the occasional irrelevant aside: "If you want to have fun, take a maple key and break it in the middle. Open it up and press it on your nose or dangle it on your ear."

Almedingen, E. M. The Story of Gudrun; based on the third part of the Epic of Gudrun; illus. by Enrico Arno. Norton, 1967. 123p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.48 net.

R
7-10 Based on the third part of an anonymous German epic of the twelfth or thirteenth centuries, this is a romantic tale of stoicism and valor, good overcoming evil, and of the court intrigue of feudal life. Gudrun, a good and beautiful princess, is kidnapped just before her wedding day; kept in bondage and cruelly treated by the sadistic mother of the disappointed suitor who captured her, Gudrun remains steadfast and gentle. When Gudrun is restored to her lover and her throne, she wants peace, not revenge. The story is retold in a most fitting style, dignified yet graceful, with that larger-than-life portentousness that distinguishes the epic from folk literature.

Almedingen, E. M. Young Mark; The Story of a Venture; illus. by Victor G. Ambrus. Farrar, 1968. 178p. \$3.75.

R
7-10 Based on the notes of his journey from the Ukraine to St. Petersburg in the middle of the eighteenth century, this romantic story describes Mark Poltoratsky's bid for fame and freedom. The author, his great-great-grandchild, notes in her prefatory remarks that Mark achieved his goal and became famous indeed for his singing. His descriptions, however, were of the trip itself and the events at home that prompted it. The book is a reconstruction rather than a translation; the author's sparkling style enhances the sense of theatre that provided dramatic incidents. Explanatory notes and a glossary are appended.

Asimov, Isaac. The Egyptians. Houghton, 1967. 256p. illus. \$4.

R
7- A lively, intelligent, and eminently readable book that gives a detailed and comprehensive picture of Egyptian history from prehistoric times to today. As always, the author is as sensitive to the ancillary external affairs that affect people as he is to the small and fascinating intricacies of such indigenous events as a power struggle within the dynastic structure. The book gives a vivid picture of the Mediterranean world, including an analysis of religions and their influences on Egypt and on each other. Maps are included; a table of dates and an index are appended.

Bartlett, Susan. Books; illus. by Ellen Raskin. Holt, 1968. 42p. (A Book to Begin On) Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

R
2-4 A handsome example of the art of which it speaks, this is a well-written and distinctively illustrated book that introduces the young reader to the essentials of the history of the book. It discusses the early forms of recorded communication and the first materials, the development of printing with movable type, and the forms of the book, both those of the past and the familiar form we know today.

Bentinck, Henry. Anyone Can Understand the Atom. Roy, 1967. 134p. illus. \$4.50.

M
9-12 A book that gives some very useful information yet is severely handicapped by the format, the tone, and—for readers outside the United Kingdom—local references. As an example of the latter, the Albert Hall is used to illustrate size (the proton as a seed pearl, the whole atom as Albert Hall). The format is question-and-answer, and the questioning often has a coy tone. "This, the most modern wonder of the world, obsolete?" (Ans. "Yes. You yourself remarked . . .") The value of the book is that it gives, in addition to the standard information about atomic structure, fusion, and fission, a considerable amount of information about applications—and dangers—of atomic energy. The divided and graded bibliography consists, unfortunately, chiefly of British titles.

Bentley, Phyllis. Forgery! Doubleday, 1968. 188p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$4.25 net.

R
6-9 A story set in Yorkshire in 1769, its fourteen-year-old protagonist, Dick Wade, being the son of a cottage weaver. The local authorities are upset because somebody in the area has been clipping and forging coins. Dick finds that his friend Jamie has been using him, contemptuously, to learn what the law is planning. Jamie and his family are the forgers, and they are caught—but not until one innocent man has died. The details of period and locale are excellent, the speech flavored but not overburdened with the vernacular. Good characterization and plenty of action in a smoothly written adventure story.

Borack, Barbara. Gooney; pictures by Emily McCully. Harper, 1968. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

R
K-2 A kaleidoscope of dreams of glory, Walter Mitty style. Three children enjoy such daydreams as wanting to be a nurse whose patients all are grateful (girl) or wanting to be a dashing fireman (boy) or being a gooney who never goes to sleep (the littlest one, who has all along been making shy murmurs in the corners of the pages). The obstreperous illustrations add to the humor and charm of the perceptive text.

Bova, Benjamin. The Weathermakers. Holt, 1967. 250p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

R
7-10 A very good science fiction story, with a tight plot and good pace. Jerry Thornton and his friend Ted Marrett, a meteorologist, have been working on a method of drought alleviation based on Ted's long range forecasting. Ted's former boss, head of the Weather Bureau's Climatology Division, attempts to block and sabotage their work, using the machinery of government agencies to bring the matter into Congressional hearings. When the team stops a hurricane, the day is won; the

book closes with a brief epilogue in which the President announces the establishment of a United Nations Commission for Planetary Weather Control.

Brand, Christianna. Nurse Matilda Goes to Town; illus. by Edward Ardizzone. Dutton, 1968. 128p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.22 net.

Ad
3-5 Because of the episodic structure, this is a good book for installment reading to younger children, and both they and the middle grades independent reader will enjoy the broad humor. Nurse Matilda is again called, in this sequel to Nurse Matilda, to cope with the excessive misbehavior of the large brood of Brown children, who are visiting in London while their parents are away. Nurse Matilda's method is hoisting the children by their own petard; when they are rude to an amateur performer, for example, they find themselves (magically) requesting encore after encore after encore. Ardizzone, as always, is charming.

Brink, Carol (Ryrie). Winter Cottage; drawings by Fermin Rocker. MacMillan, 1968. 178p. \$4.50.

Ad
4-6 A story of the depression era, some of it previously published in magazines. The writing style is good, the plot is contrived although simply structured. Two motherless girls are enroute to Minneapolis with their father; the car breaks down and the Sparkes family takes refuge in a summer cottage. Minty, the older girl, daydreams about the owner's daughter; when this very girl appears as the disguised visitor who has come (with her father) to see who has been making free with their property, it seems a forced closing episode.

Carlson, Natalie (Savage). Ann Aurelia and Dorothy; pictures by Dale Payson. Harper, 1968. 130p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

R
3-5 Ann Aurelia's mother and stepfather didn't seem to want her, and her experience with foster parents had been dismal until she came to Mrs. Hicken. Good natured, sloppy, and affectionate, Mrs. Hicken was so like a real mother than when Ann Aurelia's mother came back (having separated from her second husband) it was hard to leave her foster home. This modest story line is sustained by a pleasant and realistic series of incidents in a developing friendship between "A. A." and her friend Dorothy, most of them with a school setting. The blend of home and school affairs, serious relationships not too deeply probed, and some light humor make an appealing book for girls in the middle grades.

Clapp, Patricia. Constance; A Story of Early Plymouth. Lothrop, 1968. 255p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.14 net.

R
7-10 Probably the best colonial story for girls since The Witch of Blackbird Pond, this journal of a young girl is based on the life of an ancestress of the author. Constance describes the grim first winter at Plymouth with its many deaths, the colonists' relations with the Indians, the struggles with the English backers of the colony, and her own family life. The story ends with her marriage in 1626. The characters come alive, the writing style is excellent, and the historical background is smoothly integrated.

Cleary, Beverly. Ramona the Pest; illus. by Louis Darling. Morrow, 1968. 192p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.56 net.

R
3-5 Ramona Quimby comes into her own. Beezus keeps telling her to stop acting like a pest, but Ramona is five now, and she is convinced that she is not a pest; she feels very mature, having entered kindergarten, and she immediately becomes enamoured of her teacher. Ramona's insistence on having just the right kind of boots, her matter-of-fact interest in how Mike Mulligan got to a bathroom, her determination to kiss one of the boys in her class, and her refusal to go back to kindergarten because Miss Binney didn't love her any more—all of these incidents or situations are completely believable and are told in a light, humorous, zesty style.

Cook, Joseph J. Better Surfing for Boys; by Joseph J. Cook and William J. Romeika. Dodd, 1967. 64p. illus. Trade ed. \$3; Library ed. \$2.79 net.

R
6-10 To learn any sport, one needs practice and—with few exceptions—guidance, and one can't depend on a book alone. As how-to-do-it sports books go, this is very good, however: the text is clearly written, proceeding from the simplest beginning to more complicated surfing; the authors consistently remind the reader of the safety factor; and the clear photographs reinforce the specific explanations of the text. A glossary of surfing terms is appended.

Coolidge, Olivia E. Marathon Looks on the Sea; pictures by Erwin Schachner. Houghton, 1967. 248p. \$3.50.

R
7-10 Legend and fact are smoothly and vividly interwoven in an excellent historical novel that culminates in a tense and vigorous account of the Battle of Marathon. Son of a Greek general, Metiochos became, as he grew to manhood, a favorite of the Persian king, Darius. When Persia and Athens met at Marathon, Metiochos was torn by his conflicting loyalties, feeling that he was not only deciding his own fate, but that he also might be a decisive factor in the outcome of the battle. The pictures of court intrigues and martial campaigns are brilliantly real.

Dayrell, Elphinstone. Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky; an African folktale; illus. by Blair Lent. Houghton, 1968. 26p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.07 net.

R
K-2 Originally told by Mr. Dayrell in Folk Stories from Southern Nigeria West Africa (Longmans, 1910), a story about the beginnings of time from the Efik-Ibibio peoples. Urged to visit the sun, who lived on earth and was his great friend, the water demurred, saying that his people would take up a lot of room. The hospitable sun insisted, and so the water came with all his people and in the sun's house the water rose. Thus were the sun and his wife, the moon, floated up to heaven. The beautifully detailed and stylized art work is based on African sources; the artist uses cool colors for the water, a pale blue-grey for the moon, and shades of gold and white for the sun.

Devlin, Wende. Aunt Agatha, There's a Lion Under the Couch! by Wende and Harry Devlin. Van Nostrand, 1968. 32p. illus. \$3.95.

NR
K-2

An oversize book about a small boy who tells his aunt, with whom he lives, that there is a lion under the couch. Placidly, Aunt Agatha accepts this imaginative invention. Matthew then reports finding the lion in his own room and Aunt Agatha—knowing the boy is timid—says gently that a smile will drive the lion away. So Andrew smiles. The lion smiles back. Eventually Matthew feeds the lion and bathes him; the next morning Aunt Agatha is terrified when Matthew appears embracing a large lion. Police and zoo keepers arrive; Matthew emerges a hero. Much like Guilfoile's Nobody Listens to Andrew (Follett, 1957) which handles the same idea (with a bear) but is kept within the bounds of credibility, since there is no traffic between Andrew and the animal he has insisted is there.

Ellentuck, Shan. A Sunflower as Big as the Sun. Doubleday, 1968. 46p. illus. \$3.95.

R
K-2

An engaging tall tale, constructed with simplicity, told with brisk humor, and illustrated with lively pictures that are reminiscent of the work of Margot Zemach. As his first gardening venture, old Uncle Vanya planted a sunflower seed about which he bragged; with each exaggeration the plant grew larger, until it blocked out the sun and the villagers came to beg Uncle Vanya to Do Something. Hesitantly, he spoke of his beloved plant as tiny . . . and the snow melted, the sun shone, the villagers celebrated their reprieve from what they were sure would have been the end of the world.

Freeman, Barbara C. A Book by Georgina; written and illus. by Barbara C. Freeman. Norton, 1968. 180p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.69 net.

M
5-6

Georgina and her older sister Emilia were orphaned, and when the latter became ill while visiting friends, Georgina found that she had a problem and an adventure. The problem: how to find a new place to live, having received a sudden eviction notice. The adventure: finding that the kind and affluent stranger she'd recently met was a member of the family in whose history Georgina had a consuming interest. The writing style is good, but the plot often turns on coincidence or contrivance: the kind stranger buys the historic homestead, having turned out to be a member of the aforesaid family; he rehabilitates an apartment for Georgina and Emily; ensconced in the basement they find the old woman who, it turns out, had years ago been a servant in the house.

Frierhood, Elisabeth Hamilton. Focus the Bright Land. Doubleday, 1967. 238p. \$3.95.

Ad
7-9

A story set in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois in 1881. Since all the men in her family were photographers, it was natural enough that Vicky became both fascinated by and proficient at the new skill. Indeed, Vicky thought it could be an art rather than a skill. Traveling (with her two brothers) as an itinerant summer photographer, she learned more and more about her profession, even convincing her brothers that she did impressive work. In addition to this major theme, there is some love interest, some humor, and some appeal in the period details. The writing style is competent, the story slowed by the rambling pace and the details of rather ordinary photographic incidents.

Gill, Joan. Hush Jon! illus. by Tracy Sugarman. Doubleday, 1968. 47p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$4.25 net.

Ad
2-4
A familiar situation is used as the vehicle for a slight but quite pleasant story, illustrated with pleasant pictures. Jon is bored, his friend having gone off on a visit and his mother being busy with a baby sister. He is mildly irritated by the amount of attention and special treatment Samantha gets, but he forgives all when his baby sister laughs at his antics. Save for the fact that this particular theme has not been combined with illustrations of a Negro family before, there is little that is new about the story, but it is a situation with which children can identify, and it is adequately told.

Grant, Madeleine Parker. Alice Hamilton; Pioneer Doctor in Industrial Medicine; illus. with photographs. Abelard-Schuman, 1967. 223p. \$4.75.

R
6-9
An interesting biography, its subject a pioneer in her special field and the first woman to be appointed to the faculty of Harvard Medical School. The Hamilton family believed in education for girls; Alice was a world authority by the turn of the century, her sister Edith one of the great figures of classical scholarship. Alice Hamilton's story is also interesting because of her long devotion to social justice. A dear friend of Jane Addams', she worked for world peace and worked for a retrial for Sacco and Vanzetti. The writing style is crisp and straightforward, the tone admiring but not adulatory. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Harris, Christie. Forbidden Frontier; drawings by E. Carey Kenney. Atheneum, 1968. 210p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.13 net.

R
6-9
A story set in British Columbia in 1962. Alison Stewart was proud of her father, an official of the Hudson's Bay Company—and just as proud of her mother's Haida heritage. She expected the white girl, Megan, who had just come to the frontier post, to sneer at her—and she met Megan with hostility. When both girls became involved in trying to help a common friend, they slowly became aware of the false basis of their prejudices. The story has a great deal of action, a vivid portrayal of the frontier atmosphere, and a lively sense of immediacy; its only weakness is a shifting of viewpoint.

Hess, Lilo. The Remarkable Chameleon; story and photographs by Lilo Hess. Scribner, 1968. 45p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.12 net.

R
3-6
Large, clear photographs show in fascinating detail the peculiarities of the chameleon: the small, ferocious face; the prehensile tail that is neatly curled when not in use; the scaly skin that is so sensitive to light; the amazing tongue that shoots out to catch insects. The book describes the cycle of mating and birth; a final section discusses the care and feeding of pet chameleons.

Hoffmann, Hilde, illus. The Green Grass Grows All Around; A Traditional Folk Song. Macmillan, 1968. 27p. \$3.95.

R
K-2
A traditional folk song that has its own cumulative appeal, which is enhanced by the illustrations. "In my back yard there is some ground" it begins, and the ground is a small, crowded plot in an urban develop-

ment. As the song progresses, the pages teem with action and humor: a small boy, constantly fending off a malignant cat, plants a tree; he splashes his friends with water from a hose (a ploy enjoyed by all) and soon the yard is filled with wildly romping children. Very silly, very gay.

Horizon Magazine. The Battle of Waterloo; by the editors of Horizon Magazine; narr. by J. Christopher Herold; in consultation with Gordon Wright. American Heritage, 1967. 153p. illus. (Horizon Caravel Books) Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.79 net.

R
7- An excellent account of one of the decisive battles of world history, beginning with a quick review of the background of events up to the time of Napoleon's return from exile. The descriptions of determined raising of troops, the marshalling of Wellington's and Blücher's forces, and the battle itself, shifting and complex, are vivid and vigorous. Beautifully illustrated, the book is both informative and useful. A list of suggestions for further reading and an index are appended.

Hunter, Mollie. A Pistol in Greenyards. Funk and Wagnalls, 1968. 191p. \$3.95.

R
6-9 A story of the Scottish Highlands in 1854 is told by fifteen-year-old Connal; writing his account on the ship that is sailing to America, Connal describes the brutal evictions of small farms and the resistance of the tenant-farmers. He himself is wanted by the authorities for his part in the resistance and as the ship is ready to sail he escapes capture for a last time. The story has pace, suspense, and danger to add spice to the historical interest.

Hutchins, Pat. Rosie's Walk. Macmillan, 1968. 27p. illus. \$3.95.

R
3-6 yrs. "Rosie the hen went for a walk across the yard, around the pond, over the haystack, past the mill, through the fence, under the beehives, and got back in time for dinner." That is the whole text of this very funny picture book, its big, bold, stylized illustrations just right for showing to a group of children so that they can enjoy the joke. The joke is that Rosie, with a high, waddling step and a blandly impervious air, does not notice the predatory fox who is trailing her and who suffers every possible disaster en route, from stepping on a rake to being pursued into the far distance by a swarm of bees.

Issler, Anne Roller. Young Red Flicker. McKay, 1968. 154p. \$3.75.

M
6-9 A contemporary story about an Indian youth in conflict about his two cultures. Red Flicker is on probation for a series of minor offenses, most of them due to the fact that his bitterness leads to a flaring temper. Having fought with another Indian who has been molesting his sister, Red Flicker is sent to an institution for rehabilitation. There is some interesting material about Indian tribes in the story, but it is laboriously incorporated; the writing style is awkward, and the social workers are cardboard figures.

Johnston, Johanna. A Special Bravery; illus. by Ann Grifalconi. Dodd, 1967. 94p. \$3.50.

Fifteen stories about significant figures in Negro history are, with a

Ad
3-5 few exceptions, chronologically arranged. The bold, vigorous illustrations in black and white are an attractive complement to the dignity of the page layout. The book's one liability is the sometimes stilted quality of the writing. "All the men agreed, and picked up sticks and stones. Then they began to march toward the soldiers. Crispus Attacks, tall and strong and dark, marched with them. 'Go away,' the men called to the soldiers. 'Go back to England where you belong.'"

Kassil, Lev. Brother of the Hero; tr. by Anne Terry White. Braziller, 1968. 118p. illus. \$3.95.

Ad
5-7 For a new boy in class—especially one living at the orphan home—Genadi Cheremish was very important. His brother was a famous flyer, a Hero of the Soviet Union. When the hero consented to run in the district election and came to visit a school hockey game, Genadi disappeared; in fact, he fell through the ice and was rescued by his "brother" . . . for it developed that Genadi had been lying—there was no relationship at all. The flyer very gently but firmly convinced Genadi that he would have to tell his classmates the truth. Hard though it was, Genadi did so and thereby earned the respect of the hero. The story line is rather weak, the writing style adequate; the flyer is a bit too jovial to be true, but the characterization of the children is well done.

Lawrence, James. Binky Brothers, Detectives; pictures by Leonard Kessler. Harper, 1968. 64p. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

Ad
2-3 When Pinky (Albert) and his younger brother Dinky (Norbert) decide to set up us a detective agency, all of the rules are made by Pinky. But when their first real mystery comes along, it is the older brother who gets taken in by somebody's joke and is stranded in a tree house. Can-nily, Dinky uses his advantage; unless he gets to play in the baseball game and share in the firm's projects, he won't bring a ladder. Although a bit contrived, a mildly amusing story for the beginning independent reader.

Leeds, Roslyn D. Introducing the Atom; illus. by John V. Morris. Harper, 1967. 143p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

Ad
8-12 A sternly business-like text that deals competently with atomic structure and the laws about the ways in which atoms behave. The author touches (sometimes very briefly) on myriad aspects of the topic: electricity and magnetism, fusion and fission, fundamental laws, compounds and bonds, accelerators and detectors, and recent discoveries. A series of short biographies precedes the bibliography and the index. Accurate though the material is, the book is weakened by the dry style and by an occasional irrelevant interpolation, such as the inclusion of a chart that matches seven metals and seven planets, based on the belief of medieval alchemists. A glossary of terms is included.

L'Engle, Madeleine. The Young Unicorns. Farrar, 1968. 245p. \$3.75.

Ad
7-10 A suspense story set in New York City, with some characters who have appeared in previous books by the author: the Austin family of Meet the Austins; Canon Tallis, of The Arm of the Starfish. The Austin family has taken under its wing a blind girl of twelve who is a gifted pi-

anist, Emily. Emily studies with the help of Dave, a seventeen-year-old who has left a tough gang, the Alphabats. They are now involved in the service of the Bishop, who appears to have gone mad and become evil. (Turns out to be a look-alike actor brother.) The Bishop is planning to use a Micro-Ray to control people's brains. Et cetera. The plot is complicated, although the author does maintain some suspense, and the story is cluttered with superfluous—and sometimes cardboard—characters.

Lindop, Edmund. The First Book of Elections; illus. by Gustave E. Nebel. Watts, 1968. 63p. \$2.65.

R
4-6 Well-organized, succinct, and quite comprehensive, this discussion of elections (at all levels of governmental structure) should be useful to older readers with reading problems as well as to the middle grades audience. The author describes the gradual extension of voting privileges in the United States, including recent legislation; he also describes voting requirements, the election procedures, national elections (from pre-campaign propaganda to the electoral college) and political parties.

Manley, Seon. My Heart's In the Heather. Funk and Wagnalls, 1968. 188p. \$3.95.

Ad
6-9 The author looks back on her childhood in a Scottish community in New York City. Seon and Gogo Lewis lived with their grandparents and were thoroughly steeped in Scottish lore by their "Papa," as they called grandfather. The book is a series of reminiscences and anecdotes only loosely connected, some a bit nostalgic, some amusing. The book's appeal is in looking backward and the style is competent although weakened by what seems a determined incorporation of all things and terms Scottish. For example, ". . . the Highland clubs where the piebrochs or bagpipes wailed at births and anniversaries. . . ."

Meshover, Leonard. The Guinea Pigs that Went to School; story by Leonard Meshover and Sally Feistel; photographs by Eve Hoffmann. Follett, 1968. 64p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.99 net.

R
K-2 A description of a first grade class project, with a lightly fictionalized framework and with large, clear photographs that have little of the contrived air that most such books do. A child brings her pet to school, and the teacher grasps the opportunity to teach the children; they get another guinea pig and learn about caring for the animals and later about gestation, the children taking turns measuring and weighing the expectant mother. The amount of information is not too burdensome for the young child, and the style of writing is simple and direct.

Mitchison, Naomi. Friends and Enemies; illus. by Caroline Sassoon. Day, 1968. 192p. \$3.95.

R
6-9 An African story. Petrus, when his older brother is arrested by the police for political reasons, is sent by his mother to stay with relatives in Bechuanaland. Life in the city in the Republic of South Africa had not prepared Petrus for the pleasures of being amongst his own people, free from white domination, any more than it had prepared him for the privations or pleasures of rural life. A quiet and intense story that gives a vivid picture of the emerging of a tribal culture with modern ideas.

Mitchison, Naomi. Ketse and the Chief; with illus. by Christine Bloomer. Nelson, 1967. 60p. Library ed. \$2.52 net.

Ad
3-5
Ketse was a small girl who lived in Bechuanaland; having heard of the ferocity of the tribe's Chief, she was afraid of him. Her father, who had been declared the loser in a judgment given by the previous Chief, was bitter—and, Ketse found, unjust. When she found and returned the Chief's wristwatch, she was given a new dress and taken in a car to the circus; thus she learned that her young Chief was a rather gentle man. The book gives a good picture of the merging of old and new patterns; it is simple and candid in approach, weak in its plot, and uneven in writing style: the beginning of the story seems written-down but the author's practised ease later is evident.

Myers, Bernice. Not This Bear! story and pictures by Bernice Myers. Four Winds, 1968. 43p. \$3.50.

R
4-7
yrs.
A nonsense story for the very young; the scrawly, gay drawings echo the bouncy gusto of the writing. Walking to his Aunt Gert's on a very cold day, Herman (huddled into a fur coat and hat) was hailed by a passing bear. "You must be my cousin Julius!" the bear said, and happily dragged Herman off behind him. Trying to prove he was a human, Herman did all kinds of tricks, but his adoptive family only applauded. Not until Herman rebelled against hibernation did his cousins admit that he was a boy, and they let him go. Walking to Aunt Gert's house, a black bear greeted Herman. "Cousin Bernard!" he chortled. Pure froth, pure fun.

Pearlman, Moshe. The Zealots of Masada; Story of a Dig. Scribner, 1967. 216p. illus. Trade ed. \$5.95; Library ed. \$5.09 net.

R
8-
A fascinating account of the explorations and discoveries at Masada, the huge natural rock fortress which was the site of a dig in 1963-1965, when thousands of volunteers assisted the professional staff. Herod's palaces had been built here, and here the Zealot band of Jews, a hundred years after Herod, chose mass suicide rather than submit to the Romans. The book has great historical interest, great archeological interest, and a provocative sense of the excitement and adventure shared by the people who found the ornate buildings, the precious scrolls, the marvelous details of intricate engineering projects. An index is appended.

Powers, David Guy. The First Book of How to Run a Meeting; illus. by Peter P. Plasencia. Watts, 1967. 62p. \$2.65.

R
5-9
Although there is a note of heartiness in the first chapter ("Enjoy club meetings and enjoy getting things done") the text is crisply informative and logical throughout the rest of the book. The author explains very clearly the role of the chairman in conducting a meeting, the form and purpose of bylaws and constitution, the agenda, and—in particular—the different kinds of motions and amendments, the correct forms of address, and all of the major procedures for nominating, voting, and reporting at a meeting. A glossary, an index, and a simplified chart of motions (debatable, amendable, priority, purpose, required vote, and type of motion) are appended. A book that may be found useful by older readers also.

Renick, Marion (Lewis). Ricky in the World of Sport; illus. by Nancy Grossman. Seabury, 1967. 124p. \$3.75.

M
4-5
Ricky and his friends were all interested in what happened in the sports arena in their neighborhood, and Ricky was thrilled when he was taken on there as an errand boy. Encouraged by a friendly newspaperman, Ricky tried several sports (He'd always been a dud) and discovered that he could run; he entered a children's race, and he won knowing that it was his own effort during the training period that made victory possible. For the sports-minded child this story will probably have some appeal; it is, however, slow of pace and with frequent contrivances in the plot. It should be of some use to those who are seeking material with an urban setting in which many of the youngsters are latch-key children.

Robinson, Joan G. Mary-Mary Stories; written and illus. by Joan G. Robinson. Coward-McCann, 1968. 96p. \$3.29.

R
2-4
First published in England, seven short stories about Mary, the youngest of five children and—in self-defense—so contrary that she is called Mary-Mary. The light, brisk style has humor and the plots of the several episodes are all believable. Mary-Mary emerges triumphant from each encounter—the only one who smiles at the photographer (after the older children have wailed that she would ruin the group picture making faces) and the proud donor of a surprise anniversary plant (having buried the money for the bulb that should have been in the pot) when her brothers and sisters all gave their mother perfectly ordinary flowers. A good book for reading aloud to younger children, as well as for girls who can read the book independently.

Rossomando, Frederic. Spending Money; by Frederic Rossomando, Florence Leventhal and Marilyn Szymaszek. Watts, 1967. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.65; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

M
2-4
A book that discusses the budget of a family of four, pointing out that regular allotments must be made for regular expenses, that some budget items have priority, and that budgets can have a limited flexibility. Also briefly discussed is the personal budget of one of the children, a boy who is saving money (earned by delivering groceries) for a camping trip. While the book advocates financial temperance and forethought, it seems both slight and not particularly appropriate for the younger child whose interest is more likely to be in his own allowance than in sizeable budgets.

Sachs, Marilyn. Veronica Ganz; illus. by Louis Glanzman. Doubleday, 1968. 156p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$4.25 net.

R
5-7
Veronica was thirteen and exceptionally tall for her age; used to being teased, she had always responded by bullying other children. How could a little shrimp who only came up to her shoulder bother her so much? But Peter did—until Veronica finally realized that he really admired her. Overwhelmed by the power of being a female, Veronica finally abandoned her former role and behaved like a girl. She didn't hit—she giggled. This breezy story is casually twined with another theme: Veronica and her younger sister adjust to the fact that their father (they live with mother and stepfather) is immersed in his own life, although he loves them. The people, the dialogue, and the relationships are real-

istic; the writing is lightly humorous, with only an occasional sequence that seems drawn-out.

Scarry, Richard. Richard Scarry's What Do People Do All Day? written and illus. by Richard Scarry. Random House, 1968. 95p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

NR
3-6
yrs. An oversize book, its pages filled with busy, busy detailed drawings and snatches of text sprinkled around. The format is suitable for the very young child, while the way the print is used (labels, captions, signs, and direct quotes: "Attendez, s'il vous plait." "Hey, Smokey! Why didn't you just OPEN the playroom door?") and the level of vocabulary are suitable for the somewhat older child. The cartoon-style figures are lively, and there are some humorous scenes, but the confusion is compounded by the fact that some of the stories are about an industry (coal mining) and some are about what one person does all day ("Mother's work is never done.").

Scott, Ann Herbert. Let's Catch a Monster; illus. by H. Tom Hall. Lothrop, 1967. 38p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.35 net.

M
K-3 A Hallowe'en story in which there is a balance of appeals and weaknesses. The setting is a housing project, and the protagonist, Martin, is the youngest child (an only boy) of six apparently fatherless Negro children. The family scenes are pleasantly affectionate, and the illustrations show attractive children, Negro and white, in amicable pursuit of the monster that Martin proposes to trap. The great weakness of the book is in the plot; Martin is quite young, but he is in school, and his diligent pursuit of an imagined monster is only slightly more credible than it is on the part of his sister, who is in third grade. The excitement of Hallowe'en doesn't prevent the tale from dragging a bit at the close, when three children pursue and trap a "monster" that turns out to be a cat.

Scott, John. China the Hungry Dragon. Parents' Magazine. 256p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$3.75 net.

R
7- Like Goldstein's The Rise of Red China (reviewed in the January, 1968 issue) this comprehensive book describes China's past as background to an extensive discussion of recent events and present problems. Mr. Scott describes in detail the economic, cultural, and political facets of the Communist regime, and discusses China's relationship with other countries. The writing is crisp and straightforward. Endpaper maps and some biographical notes are included; an index, a bibliography, and several pages of statistical information are appended.

Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). Questions and Answers about Ants; pictures by Arabelle Wheatley. Four Winds, 1967. 75p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.38 net.

R
2-4 In a simply written book illustrated with clear, precise drawings, the author gives—chiefly in a question and answer format—information on the ant's feeding habits, mating and stages of growth, the division of work within a colony, and the insect's morphology. She also discusses some of the facts and theories about behavior and gives instructions for setting up and caring for a captive ant colony. The writing is simple, the approach crisp and straightforward.

Taylor, Duncan Burnett. Fielding's England. Roy, 1967. 256p. illus. \$4.50.

R
8- A lively, entertaining, and informative book. The author disdains a conventional arrangement of material (there is one chapter about crime and punishment called "In trouble") but manages to incorporate into his text information about most aspects of life in the eighteenth century. There are periodic references to Fielding or to the fictional characters he created (what Fielding ate, what Tom Jones ate, etc.). Liberally illustrated and written with wit. An index is appended.

Thane, Adele. Plays from Famous Stories and Fairy Tales; royalty-free dramatizations of favorite children's stories. Plays, Inc., 1967. 463p. \$7.95.

Ad
4-6 Twenty-eight royalty-free, one act plays are included in this collection of adaptations from well-known tales—folktales, fairy tales, children's classics and old favorites. The dramatizations are simple, often compressing into a scene or two several incidents from a book; they are adequately written and some are moderately funny. Because of the appeal of the sources, a useful collection. Brief notes on costumes, props, lights, setting, et cetera, are appended.

Turkle, Brinton. The Fiddler of High Lonesome; written and illus. by Brinton Turkle. Viking, 1968. 42p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.37 net.

Ad
4-6 Delightfully illustrated with strong and humorous pictures, a tall tale about mountain folk. Old Man Fogle and his three tough and brawny sons weren't too eager to take in the puny lad who showed up one day and announced he was their kin, but they discovered that he was a rare fiddler. Then they discovered that his playing charmed the beasts of the forest into dancing; to the Fogles this was a rare chance to get some easy shots. Against killing, the little fiddler left forever, although now the mountain folk claim, when they hear sweet, wild sounds in the night, that it is the fiddler of High Lonesome, playin' for his critters. The story has a touching appeal, but the very dialect that gives it color is so heavily used as to be obtrusive.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. Timothy's Flower; illus. by Moneta Barnett. Random House, 1967. 44p. \$3.50.

Ad
K-2 A story set in an urban neighborhood and emphasizing, in its background, the diversity of racial and national origins that appear in so many picture books today. "Timothy's block had everything," the story begins. The candy store: Mrs. Olvera; the barber shop: Mr. Pepperoni; the laundry: Mr. Ling; and Mrs. Valdez, who was mean and who sat in her window "and yelled at the boys on the block." Timothy finds a flower in the park, takes it home and tries in vain to make it grow and flourish. Then Mrs. Valdez shares a window box with Timothy; their flowers flourish together. The plot is a bit thin, but it is told in simple, unpretentious style; the setting makes the book useful, and the illustrations are pleasant.

Westwood, Gwen. Narni of the Desert; illus. by Peter Warner. Rand McNally, 1968. 93p. \$3.50.

R
3-5 First published in England, a story of the Kalahari desert Bushmen, attractively illustrated in black and white. The large print and simplicity

of style make the quiet story encouraging fare for younger readers. Narni longs to be old enough to hunt with the men and the older boys, but his small efforts gain little. In the desert, animals are scarce when there are no rains; Narni finally has a part in a successful hunt, and his father promises that he may be hunter when the rains come—and that night, it rains.

Wiemer, Rudolf Otto. The Good Robber Willibald; drawings by Marie Marcks; tr. by Barbara Kowal Gollob. Atheneum, 1968. 65p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

R
3-4 Willibald is a character in Manni's picture book, and one night he steps out of the pages and goes off on a desperate errand. Seven times, he steals off to do evil; seven times he reports his adventures; each time Manni discerns that Willibald (very proud of his badness) has been very kind and obliging, although he won't admit it. The style is sophisticated enough for the independent reader, and the episodic structure and the humorous writing lend themselves to reading aloud for younger children as well.

Williams-Ellis, Amabel (Strachey), ed. Old World & New World Fairy Tales; illus. by William Stobbs. Warne, 1967. 359p. \$4.95.

Ad
4-6 First published in Great Britain in 1966, a companion volume to Round the World Fairy Tales. The almost-thirty tales are grouped by region and are identified only in an appendix (rather than below the title or in the table of contents) where sources are cited and notes included. The illustrations, chiefly in black and white, are effective; the stories are told with narrative flair and ease. The print is not easy to read, the notes being even harder to read because the print there is very small. Nevertheless, a useful source for storytelling or for reading aloud; asterisks are used to denote stories for younger children.

Wood, James Playsted. Spunkwater, Spunkwater! A Life of Mark Twain; illus. with photographs. Pantheon Books, 1968. 182p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.89 net.

R
6- Although there are several good biographies of Mark Twain, this has two excellent additional values: it is written in a vigorous and sophisticated style, and it gives—more than do the other biographies—a candid and perceptively analytical discussion of Mark Twain's volatile and ebullient personality. A list of important dates and a bibliography are appended.

Wrightson, Patricia. A Racecourse for Andy; illus. by Margaret Horder. Harcourt, 1968. 156p. \$3.50.

R
5-7 Once Andy had been like all the other boys, but now he was remote and detached, his mental processes too slow to keep up with the others. Convinced that an old tramp has sold him a racecourse for just a few dollars, Andy persists in acting the part of the owner. His friends try to reason with him and save him trouble, but Andy calmly goes his own way. The men working around the racecourse gently humor the retarded boy, and tactfully "buy" the property back. The compassion and understanding of the adults is heartwarming, but it is the protective allegiance of Andy's friends that is most impressive. The plot is unusual,

characterization good, and style of writing distinctive.

Young, Margaret B. The Picture Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.; illus. with photographs. Watts, 1968. 45p. \$2.65.

R
2-3 A very good selection of photographs accompanies a very simple but quite adequate outline of Martin Luther King's life, the book having been published before his assassination. The vocabulary is simple, the print large, and the writing style straightforward, so that the book is eminently suitable for slow older readers as well as for the intended primary audience.

Yurchenco, Henrietta, ed. A Fiesta of Folk Songs from Spain and Latin America; illus. by Jules Maidoff. Putnam, 1967. 88p. Library ed. \$3.29 net.

R
4-6 A big book of songs, the level of the descriptive text limiting use to the middle grades ("You can play these games, too . . .") although the book can be used by adults working with younger children. The book provides phonetic spelling as well as the English translation of the Spanish lyrics; the musical notation gives the melodic line and is coded for guitar chords. The songs are gay and simple, many of them singing games. A book that is entertaining as well as useful.

Zei, Alki. Wildcat Under Glass; tr. from the Greek by Edward Fenton. Holt, 1968. 177p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$3.97 net.

R
5-7 First published in Greece in 1963, a story of the struggle against dictatorship as seen through the eyes of a child. Melia, who tells the story, lives on an island and, with her older sister, is taught at home. Both girls adore their adult cousin, Niko, who invents marvelous stories about the stuffed wildcat that is a family possession; the animal is used as a symbol when Niko becomes involved in the struggle against the forces of the new regime. The book is particularly effective in showing the reactions of the very young and the very old to the abrasive imposition of a Fascist government. Although the story is set in the 1930's, its local atmosphere is more important than the period. Well written, deftly translated, and—despite the fact that the children in the story seem quite young, while the subtler concepts and theories are suitable for rather older children—an absorbing story.

Bibliographies

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

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