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Mr. Dickens's last reading

this why even the best of Dickens's recent critics approach him in such a gingerly fashion, as if they feared to be held accountable for any slip of the pen concerning him?

In a certain sense, of course, they are right to take these precautions, to keep their distance from Dickens and display him as a specimen that has come under official notice. Mr. West's outburst in the *New Yorker* is evidence that there exists a profound hostility to Dickens that may break out anywhere without warning, though not, as one might think, in highbrow circles, where the charge "mere entertainer" might have some relevance, but in commercial journalism: Orville Prescott in the *New York Times* promptly echoed Mr. West's judgment, and *Time* magazine found a citation from Lenin to prove that Dickens was not "a social revolutionary." Like the mysterious utterances of Mr. F.'s aunt, this animus of Mr. West's spouts up from arcane caverns that perhaps underlie the whole of modern "humanistic" culture.

BOOK NOTES

THE RUSSIAN MENACE TO EUROPE, by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Edited by Paul W. Blackstock and Bert F. Hoselitz. *Free Press* (Glencoe, Ill.). \$3.75.

This interesting curiosity brings together the random writings of Marx and Engels, mostly the latter, on the foreign policy of Czarist Russia and the outlook for a Russian revolution.

A great deal of the material is

journalistic rehash of nineteenth-century diplomacy, but there is enough characteristic analysis to make the volume a welcome addition to the huge library of Marxism.

Both Marx and Engels abhorred Pan-Slavism, as revolutionists and as Germans; sometimes it is not clear which motivation was the stronger. In any case, their campaign against "Slavdom" has had the most ironic fate in present-day Russia. Since Stalin has identified himself with Czarist expansionism, these writings read like polemics from the grave against the Czar's successors. No wonder, then, that Stalin himself in 1934 refused to permit the republication of an essay on "The Foreign Policy of Russian Czarism" which Engels had written in 1890.

Since it was too late for him to suppress the author, he merely suppressed the essay.

SECTIONAL BIASES IN CONGRESS ON FOREIGN POLICY, by George L. Grassmuck. *Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science*, Series 68, No. 3. \$2.

The author has tackled an extremely significant problem and presents some significant findings. To establish the trends of Congressional voting on legislation dealing with foreign affairs, he has divided the country into seven basic sections, and has studied voting percentages in two periods, 1921-1932 (when the Republicans were in power), and 1933-1941 (when the Democrats held power). The problem posed was: What influence did sectionalism in Congress have on foreign-policy matters during these twenty years?

He found, for example, that the Northeast region was the most "internationalist" regardless of the party in power. He found the Great Plains (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas) the great "opposition" section, standing against foreign involvements even though their national party leaders might be in favor of them. "No other region registered deviations from the party means so consistently large." Great Plains legislators of both parties in both houses and in both periods opposed a big Army and a big Navy, foreign loans and aid, and repeal of neu-

trality restrictions. "Sectional deviations for Plains Congressmen of each party become larger whenever their party gains control of the government." Yet, while the opposition to participating in war and to building instruments of war was extreme, "the attitude on international organization was surprisingly near normal."

The South was most "party-minded," except on foreign loan and aid measures. Border State Congressmen generally voted according to the main party policy. The Lake States (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois) showed party regularity during the 1920's, but in the 1930's they showed a tendency to be more regional than national in sentiment. The Rocky Mountain states showed above-average party regularity in the 1920's and below-average in the 1930's. As for the Pacific Coast, its Representatives tended to vote with above-average party regularity, while its Senators were below-average voters on foreign-affairs legislation.

A book such as this, technically conceived and executed, and loaded with statistics, is not intended for the layman, but its findings are well worth recording for him.


THE YOUNG MADELEINE: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A YOUNG GIRL IN MONTMARTRE, by Mrs. Robert Henry. *E. P. Dutton and Co.* \$1.00.

The title of this book does it the disservice of suggesting that its content will be pleasant, picturesque, and slight—sidewalk cafés, quaint Montmartre painters in cloak and beret, scenes perhaps for plastic shower curtains in New York bathrooms to remind nostalgic bathers of the last time they saw Paris. *The Little Madeleine*, however, is not at all that kind of book; the Paris life it describes is the life of the poor; the quality it illustrates is courage. Contemporary French novelists have been little concerned with courage or have shown it as resulting from a dreary process of reasoned despair; but courage, the old-fashioned kind that faces the daily struggle with poverty and is never recognized or alluded to by those who possess it, is at the center of this extraordinarily moving document.




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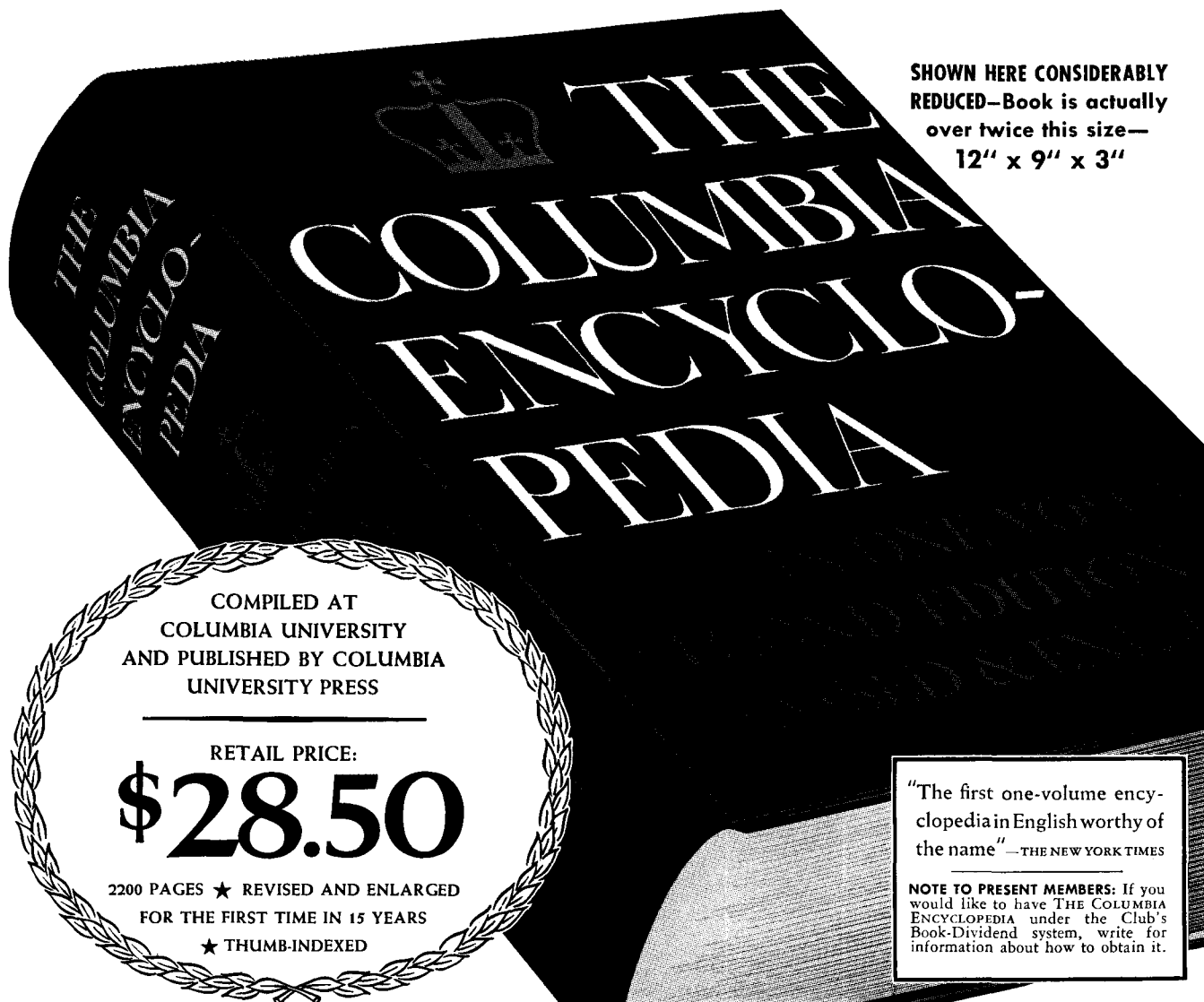


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