

## The Reader's Guide

Conducted by MAY LAMBERTON BECKER

Inquiries in regard to the choice of books should be addressed to Mrs. BECKER, c/o *The Saturday Review*. As for reasons of space ninety percent of the inquiries received cannot be answered in print, a stamped and addressed envelope should be enclosed for reply.

**L.** M., Mexico City, Mex., asks for books on mechanics and technique of magazine publishing, editorial work, and editing for magazines. The letter specified a fairly long list of points on which enlightenment was desired in matters of technique, and they were all attended to by Greer's "Advertising and Its Mechanical Production," a large and truly valuable work published by Crowell. This book is of course meant specially for the practical advertising man, but what it has to say about processes and methods, whether of lay-out or typographical details, or Ben Day, or offset, or any of the matters about which printers and publishers concern themselves, is likely to be a lifesaver to a beginner. "Journalistic Vocations," by C. E. Rogers (Appleton), tells what sort of work is expected of every sort of brain-worker connected with a newspaper or magazine, or employed in sidelines such as publicity. I turned first, of course, to the duties of a literary editor and found them faithfully enumerated; then I looked for those of the associate editor and found that they were to do what the literary editor is supposed to do, so I knew the author had the right professional slant. This is a book for anyone looking to see where he can get a foothold in the profession. "Magazine Article Writing," by Brennecke and Clark (Macmillan), and "Writing for Profit," by Donald Wilhelm (McGraw-Hill), are practical manuals for writers; the latter covers more ground, the former goes more into details; another good book is "Chats on Feature Writing," by H. F. Harrington (Harper). "Problems of Newspaper Publishing," by Buford Brown (Harper), is especially for weekly and daily newspapers outside large cities; it deals with financing, promotion, circulation, and other business problems, and includes enough law to keep an editor on

the safe side of trouble such as libel suits. On the historical side two books are especially interesting; F. A. Mumby's "Publishing and Bookselling" (Bowker), a huge history from earliest times to modern English firms and houses, and Frank Presbrey's "History and Development of Advertising" (Doubleday, Doran).

**P.** J. M., Notre Dame, Indiana, asks if there has appeared any book in English about German or French Catholic literature, or articles in magazines about this subject. The Catholic Book Club, to which I applied for information, says that there is not much literature on this subject. In Katharine Bregy's "Poets and Pilgrims" there is one essay, and George Shuster has had three essays on that subject in the *Bookman* during the last year. There is also information to be found in articles which have appeared in various issues of the *Commonweal*, the *Catholic World*, and the two foreign publications, *Studies* and the *Month*. In the first issues of *America* there were articles on French Catholic literature.

**C.** A., Knoxville, Tenn., asks if there is a dictionary and grammar, or combination of the two, to help in the reading of Latin, both classical and medieval. "I am familiar with the modern romance languages, particularly Spanish and French and have studied Latin four years in high school." Anne S. Pratt of the Yale University Library, to which I referred this call, suggests that the reader secure some such book as Edwin Post's "Latin at Sight" (Ginn) which has footnotes with explanations, and after reading this read the "Loeb Classics" which have the English opposite the Latin, making a very interesting way to read Latin. There is no combined dictionary and grammar: the standard

works are the Latin grammars of Bennett, Allen and Greenough, and Gildersleeve; "Harper's Dictionary" edited by Lewis and Short, and Lewis's "Elementary Latin Dictionary." It may be possible to approach the subject by using Collar and Daniell's "First Year Latin" and after a brief survey of this proceed to the classical authors in Loeb. A very elementary book for reading Latin would be H. C. Nutting's "Ad Alpes," a tale of Roman life (Scott Foresman), which has vocabulary and footnotes; it is juvenile but makes an easy approach to more difficult Latin.

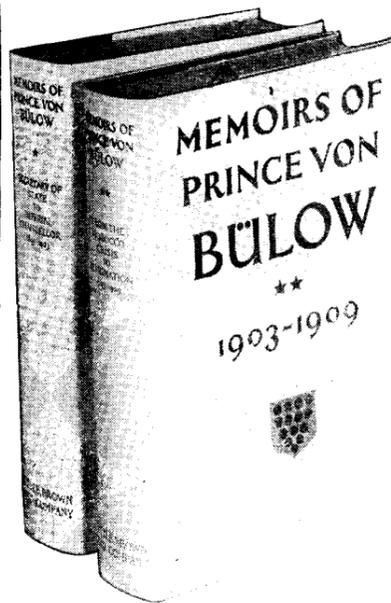
Selections in books for the study of medieval Latin would be more interesting, as such books are more from the point of view of the advanced student. The following books are considered interesting: "An Anthology of Medieval Latin," by Stephen Gaselee (Macmillan, London, 1925); this has no vocabulary and neither has Karl P. Harrington's "Medieval Latin" (Allyn and Bacon); C. S. Beeson's "Primer of Medieval Latin" (Scott Foresman) has a vocabulary.

Add to the list of American novel-poems the new one by Eda Lou Walton, recently published by Brewer & Warren, "Jane Matthew." A California correspondent tells me to include in the list of books to be used in a study course in the English essay one I had suggested in earlier lists but overlooked this time: "Century Readings in the English Essay," by Louis Wann (Century), which has an introductory essay on "The Development of the Essay in English."

**H.** L. H., Indianapolis, Ind., is looking for a lost book about crafts in the Southern Appalachians, recently published, whose title and author are not known to him. This is clearly "Mountain Hometown," by Frances Louisa Goodrich (Yale University Press), who brought about a revival of mountain handicraft in North Carolina and wrote a book about it that has been enthusiastically brought to my attention by several readers in cities far apart. M. D. L., Yonkers, N. Y., tells H. T. who wanted to know about the Youth Movement in Germany, to consult a series of six articles by Ruth

Siegel appearing within the month in the *New York Evening Post*. D. R., *New York*, wishes to find a book listed somewhere between January 1930 and last May, in which words grouped by subject (about 20,000 altogether) showed the Greek roots for each word. I have no record of this, but a persistent conviction that I have seen such a work; I hope someone can identify it. It has long been a pastime of Greek professors—who nowadays have time on their hands—to prove by some such means what would happen to the arts and sciences if Greek roots were suddenly routed out.

**E.** E. L., Cleveland, O., an expert, puts the finishing touch to the Dalmatian list. Here, she says, are the really classic books, beginning with T. G. Jackson's "Dalmatia, the Quarnero and Istra" (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1887, 3 vols.) The writer was a distinguished architect and the architectural interest is first in his books, but they are thoroughly pleasing merely as travel. The best single book on Dalmatia is F. Hamilton Jackson's "The Shores of the Adriatic: the Austrian side; the Kustenlande, Istria, and Dalmatia" (Dutton, 1908) which has many illustrations. The best guidebooks are Luigi Villari's "Ragusa," and the "Handbook of Dalmatia" of Hartleben, published in Vienna and Leipzig, with Maude M. Holbach's "Dalmatia" (Lane, London, 1910), accurate and thoroughly pleasing, more popular and less full than the "classics" listed above. Then there is Lester G. Hornby's "Balkan Sketches" (Little, Brown), sketches and descriptions by an artist, more than half of the book devoted to Dalmatia, the rest to Bosnia, especially Sarajevo, where travellers are almost sure to go if they once get to Dubrovnik. *Jugoslavija*, the monthly publication of the Yugoslav Tourist Society "Putnik" (The Pilgrim), is published in Split, Yugoslavia. This journal has a wealth of beautiful illustrations in every number, designed most successfully to enlist the interest of tourists. Each number has a descriptive article in English, several in German, and occasional ones in other languages, and the advertisements form a guide in themselves.



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## In the Air

THE MODEL AIRCRAFT BUILDER. By CHELSEA FRASER. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell. 1931. \$2.50.

THE PRIZE WINNERS' BOOK OF MODEL AIRPLANES. Edited by CARL H. CLAUDY. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co. 1931. \$3.

BERNT BALCHEN: VIKING OF THE AIR. By JOHN LAWRENCE. New York: Brewer, Warren & Putnam. 1931. \$1.75.

BURNING UP THE SKY. By BOB BUCK. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1931. \$1.75.

ADVENTURES OF THE BOY GLIDERS. By EUSTACE L. ADAMS. The same.

STRAIGHT SHOOTING. By THOMAS BURTIS. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co. 1931. \$2.

Reviewed by BARRETT STUDLEY, U. S. N.

**M**R. FRASER'S book is intended for the young person who likes to build models out of the odds and ends of boards and boxes and scraps out in the garage. The author tells you just how to build a mechanical training plane with a stick and controls like the real thing. Or, if you are more ambitious, he gives you the plans of an electrical training plane, in which a tiny plane perched above your cockpit moves in response to the controls just the way your plane would. Then there are scale models in wood of famous planes, and simple models with rubber band motors that will fly. A book for the boy with tools.

"The Prize Winner's Book of Airplanes," gives the descriptions, dimensions, and structural details of more than forty model airplanes which have flown successfully in various contests. It includes diagrams and all directions necessary to construct them. A book for the boy who wants distance and duration from models built to exact specifications.

"Bernt Balchen, Viking of the Air" is the life story of the tough-bodied, clear-headed young Norwegian who flew to fame with Byrd. As a boy, he dug holes in the snow and slept in them to harden himself. In skiing, skating, boxing, hunting, he showed the vigor that later took him flying all over the world. Working on taxicab motors, he learned mechanics. A fortunate appointment made him a Lieutenant in the Naval Air Service, where he won a reputation as a pilot who could take a plane anywhere one could fly. Amundsen, looking for men as a base crew for the Norge in Spitzbergen, chose him to go. And there he met Byrd, who took him to America, across the Atlantic by air, and then to the South Pole. A stirring story of a modern Viking.

"Burning Up the Sky," by Bob Buck is the personal story of the seventeen-year-old boy pilot who, in 1930, captured the junior altitude and transcontinental records. At thirteen he started building models, and then turned to gliders. On his sixteenth birthday he commenced flight instruction. Six weeks later he soloed, and a month later took a private pilot's license. Another two months and he climbed to 15,000 feet for a junior altitude record. Finally, six months after soloing, he started from his home in New Jersey for Los Angeles. With bad weather and engine trouble, it took ten days to cross the continent. But coming back he made a junior transcontinental record of 23 hours flying time. Later he flew to Havana and back, was received by the President, and became the first president of the Sky Scouts of America. He has written his own story here in a direct, modest way which makes good reading.

"The Adventures of the Boy Gliders," by Eustace L. Adams, is a story of two boys and a sailplane. Sixteen year old Toby Trainor can plough through an opposing football team. But when Bob Whittier, thirteen, lets Toby fly his homemade glider, Toby lands in a tree in a mess of wood and fabrics. To make up for it, Toby buys a two place sailplane, and Bob teaches him to fly it. Phil Vance, son of a wealthy banker who holds a mortgage on the factory of Bob's father, likewise buys a glider and hires a professional pilot to teach him to fly. They enter the National Glider Contest, competing against pilots



CONDUCTED by KATHERINE ULRICH

from the whole country. Finally Toby and Bob have beaten everybody except Phil Vance. Caught in a thunderstorm, they are both carried up to a high altitude. Phil tries to ram them. But they evade him and go on to break three records and win prizes that pay off the mortgage. Exciting reading for boys of ten to fourteen.

"Straight Shooting," by Thomas Burtis, is an account of the adventures of a film flier. Dan Sloan, the son of a famous director, has played with his job as a cameraman until Weatherby, director of the super-feature, "Wings of the Eagle," hauls him over the coals as a loafer and a conceited pup, then gives him one more chance as his assistant. His mettle up, Dan buckles down to work. There is much intrigue and underhand work by a rival company. Weatherby is hurt in an airplane accident and Dan takes charge. Plots, parachute jumps, hair-raising stunts, crashes, follow in exciting succession. But with the help of the Border Patrol, Dan completes the big picture. Some wild and improbable flying, but a good book for a youngster who likes a fast-moving story.

## High Adventure

JAVA HO! By JOHAN WIGMORE FABRICIUS. Illustrated by the Author. New York: Coward-McCann. 1931. \$2.50.

Reviewed by STANLEY W. WALKER

**R**ECENTLY there has been a revival of that ancient quarrel as to whether children's reading should be supervised by adults, or whether the youngsters should be allowed to select their own reading.

"Java Ho!" is one book that will perhaps satisfy both factions. For it is a lively adventure yarn told in a way that will please educators and parents. And there is more action in it than in a dozen ordinary juveniles; and that should please the younger critics.

If there are any parents left who still read aloud to their children, they will have a grand time with this book. And they will no doubt learn a few things themselves about the fauna and flora as well as the geography of the eastern tropics. And at the same time the young folk will enjoy the story element, and sending daddy to the encyclopedia now and then.

The publisher's jacket blurb states that "Java Ho!" is based on the log book of a Dutch skipper, Willem Ysbrantszoon Bontekoe, who sailed to the East Indies in 1618. And there is in this book an economy of words and between-the-lines painting of pictures that is reminiscent of Hakluyt. It would seem, possibly, that too much material is

offered here, and that there is not enough sharpening up of high spots; also that there is little or no indication of the many dull, monotonous days that occur at sea.

On the whole, the book is an excellent tale of four adventurous boys. Seen through their eyes, a sea voyage includes

no work, only frolic and adventure. The Captain was kind and just, and "the sailors smoked, laughed, and spat magnificently."

The first half of the story concerns the life of the boys on board ship, where they are thoroughly introduced to sea life, including such humorous incidents as the search for "the spot where you don't get seasick"; and culminating in the burning of the ship, and taking to the open boats.

In the latter half of the story the boys see life on the beach, and have surprising adventures with monkeys, tigers and natives. The glimpses of tropic scenes and of native customs in this part of the book are especially good. For the author is a native of the Dutch East Indies.

## Out West

WISH IN THE DARK. By LENORA W. WEBER. Illustrated by F. STROTHMAN. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1931. \$2.

ALDER GULCH GOLD. By JAMES WIL-LARD SCHULTZ. Illustrated by ALBIN HENNING. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1931. \$1.50.

Reviewed by EDWIN L. SABIN

**H**ERE are two Western books for youth. The New West forms the background of "Wish in the Dark"; the Old West, that of "Alder Gulch Gold." The story first named will appeal to girls; the other story is all for boys.

As with Mrs. Weber's preceding books, "Wish in the Dark" revolves around ranch life in Colorado. With its cast of striking characters bent upon making good or destined to be made good, and its element of mystery, it is again a tale capitably told. Hope Delaney may be called the leading lady. In a rickety car Hope and the twelve-year-old twins, Becky and Baird, come from Iowa to Colorado, consigned, as orphans, to their Aunt Sarah who is assumed to be living in the town of Trail's End. They bring all their worldly possessions, chiefly Compromise the cat, their father's surgical case (for Hope, who had thought to be a doctor), Becky's waffle iron, and boy Baird's big harp. Their dramatic arrival in Trail's End, their rapidly growing list of new acquaintances, with lively ensuing adventures, brim a story that can be recommended to any family endowed with the spirit of the 'teens.

"Alder Gulch Gold" by Mr. Schultz of course does not lack Indians, albeit the theme is the gold diggin' of Alder Gulch, in that Montana of 1863 which then was Idaho Territory. Henry Wilson, aged eighteen, tells the tale, beginning with his trip by steamboat up the Yellowstone River to Fort Benton. At the fort he and his uncle throw in with Beaver Bill, trapper and trader, who had been teaching Henry the sign language on the way up. The three outfit from the Blackfoot camp of Chief Big Lake, Beaver Bill's friend; and here Henry is adopted as brother by Big Lake's son, Eagle Carrier. To have the Blackfeet's favor was a stroke of fortune. In Alder Gulch the Wilson party are plagued by gold-cache thieves, they are present at the conflicts between the Vigilantes and the Plummer gang of desperadoes, they are glad to see Eagle Carrier again; and in the closing clean-up Henry reflects that this mixture of the good and the bad, in those wild days, was "part of the making of a nation." As always, Mr. Schultz gives his readers an honest story of straight narration, drawn from the life and lore that he has known.

A selection of the letters by Maria Edgeworth, whose stories were avidly read by a generation of children, is about to appear. They are being edited by Miss F. V. Barry, and are said to be of great interest. Miss Edgeworth was a letter-writer of much power and vivacity.

## A Tuskegee "Varmint"

ZEKE. By MARY WHITE OVINGTON. Illustrated by NATHALIE H. DAVIS. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. 1931. \$2.

Reviewed by WILLIAM H. SCOVILLE  
The Hampton Institute

**Z**EKE was the youngest of a family of five colored children way down in Callis County, Alabama, in the "Black Belt."

His father, a drunkard, and his mother, an invalid—both died before he was in his 'teens. But his older brother and sister, Scip and Teora, carried on and with the aid of the farm demonstration agent made their old farm the pride of the community.

Zeke, quiet, shy, the student of the family, became the head of the country school and at Scip's special wish was sent to the great industrial school, "Tolliver Institute."

His two other brothers had gone to the city—

Dey's runnin' elevators now in Mon'-gomey. I ain't hankerin' to see Zeke goin' up an' down all day in a box. Doctors an' lawyers and preachers dey can get mighty po' cause folks cant pay de bills. Den dat kind drops inter elevators. If Zeke got a good trade, he safe. Tolliver Institute dat's de best school. There he can learn how to raise poultry.

So Zeke went to Tolliver and after his first term worked half the time at his poultry project and the other half at his books—a good training for any boy black or white.

At first, led astray by the glamor of older, wilder boys, he seriously broke the rules and escaped dismissal only because of his extreme youth. But finally his absorption in his chickens and interest in baseball saved him from further temptation, while his devotion to the Major's daughter, "the kind of girl that walks straight ahead," and his admiration for his roommate, Natu, a native from Nigeria, Africa, who danced so superbly, an older boy of real character, helped to keep him straight.

His reading with dramatic fervor early in the year had given him the nickname "Preacher," but later his skill as pitcher won him his classmates' admiration. And the final baseball game between the Seniors and his class, the Freshmen, which he won by cool work when the regular pitcher had weakened, is quite the climax of the book.

He has learned to "mix." His chicken project has been a success. He has earned a place on the baseball team and in his class. The homely virtues, honesty, steadiness, punctuality, conscientiousness, all tell in the long run, and the year has been a success—the shy country boy has made good.

"No Man's Land," the name of the girls' side of the grounds, is a delicious and characteristic touch of Negro humor and is only one proof of the author's intimate knowledge of Negro school life and character.

It is a good story that could be told of many a colored boy who has found himself in the great Negro industrial schools of the South.

Lawrenceville has been a famous boys' school for years, scholastically. But Owen Johnson with his "Varmint" and other tales of Lawrenceville boys put it on the map with an entirely different though probably an equally valuable reputation—the glory of boyhood adventure, sport, and athletic attainment.

And so Mary White Ovington has brought to Tuskegee, thinly disguised as "Tolliver," additional fame. Known for years as the great Negro School founded by Booker Taliaferro Washington and renowned as an exponent of industrial training, Tuskegee will now have a niche in the Hall of Fame of boyhood fiction through "Zeke." The establishing of this kind of school tradition with its emphasis on honor and loyalty comes with the mature years of an institution and is an interesting development in the life of the school and the race.