

The Reader's Guide

Conducted by MAY LAMBERTON BECKER

Inquiries in regard to the selection of books and questions of like nature should be addressed to MRS. BECKER, c/o *The Saturday Review*

A. R. K., *West Hartford, Conn.*, says that in preparing for a study course on contemporary literature of Continental Europe her club has bought, on my recommendation, "Living Authors," lately published by the H. W. Wilson Company, and asks for help in selecting writers and their most important works. Not so long ago that its information is out of date, I made a list of this sort which was printed by the Indiana Library Association, and a copy will be sent, as it has been to this inquirer, to interested readers as long as the supply lasts. I am glad to strengthen even more my recommendation of "Living Authors"; I have been testing it over and again since first I spoke of it, and find it has precisely the sort of information for which clubs, newspaper offices, and inquiring families are in search, and its brief biographies with unusual portraits range the literature of the world to-day. Whatever other reference book you have, you can still use this.

BY this time the mystery of the "novel by an English author" is no more a mystery to the Montclair Public Library or to this department. *The Public Library of Toronto, Canada*; *Lucy E. Osborne, Williamstown, Mass.*; the *Bronxville Public Library, N. Y.*; *P. J. B.'s Bookshop, Centerville, Mass.*, and *Adams Bookstore, Fall River, Mass.*, told me by the first possible mail that it was "The Unearthly," by Robert Hichens, published by the Cosmopolitan Book Corporation in 1926; *A. C. D.* added that the "suburban town" was Canterbury; *M. J.*, that it ran in the *Ladies' Home Journal* in 1926; *E. M. H., Fultonville, N. Y.*, remembered the title as "The Unknown," by Hichens; *H. R. F., Baltimore, Md.*, could recall neither title nor author but told the plot straight through to show she remembered that. But on the other hand, not only *M. G. P. C., Pelham, N. Y.*, says it was written by Basil King and first appeared in "some woman's magazine here about five years ago," but *R. T. S., Toledo, Ohio*, says it is Basil King's "The Unearthly," which ran serially in the *Ladies' Home Journal* in 1926. By the time this gets into print there will be, at this rate, a stack of replies, will the senders please accept this acknowledgment in advance?

I like this sort of a call; most of these responses carried postscripts with messages of such kindness that I hasten to try it again; a correspondent asks the name of the novel by *H. G. Wells* in which a man riding along a country road falls off into the fourth dimension, and I have kept him waiting far too long because I don't remember it offhand and the prospect of reading through the entire output of post-war Wellsian fiction makes my stout spirit quail.

L. T., Philadelphia, Pa., asks for "rather a complete list of books on marionettes, from the simplest to the more elaborate, also including their history." The inquirer has *Edith Flack Ackley's* "Marionettes" (Stokes) and has found it a fine book for beginners.

"MARIONETTES," by E. F. Ackley, is indeed good, and one of the easiest; another for beginners, for even little children to use, is "Puppet Plays for Children," by Florence Everson (Beckley). *M. O. Walter's* "Puppet Plays for Home and School" (Dodd, Mead) is another for the use of young performers; it shows also how to build a theatre and arrange stories for performance. Catherine Reighard's "Plays for People and Puppets" (Dutton) gives excellent little plays—some of honored position in dramatic history—suited for production either by the children themselves or by puppets that they can make. "The Book of Marionette Plays" (Greenberg), by Tony Sarg and Anne Stoddard, has five plays, instructions for making the figures, and directions for manipulating them, and a section on Tony Sarg's Toy Theatre, with plays for it. "The Tony Sarg Marionette Book," by F. J. McIsaac (Huebsch), was one of the first of these puppet books to appear. The most comprehensive book for the general reader in America on the history of marionettes in America is *Madge Anderson's* "Heroes of the Puppet Stage" (Harcourt, Brace), which introduces our enthusiasts to the classics of Italy and England as well as giving them an inspiring run through puppet literature. An earlier history of marionettes is in *Helen H. Joseph's* "Book of Marion-

nettes" (Huebsch), which includes descriptions of stage and performers. If I were getting but one book, and wished as much detailed information as I could get for the use of a director of these and kindred entertainments, I would get "Marionettes, Masks and Shadows," by W. H. Mills and L. M. Dunn (Doubleday, Doran), a large book that gives its first part to puppets and their working, the second to the construction and use of masks and the use of music, pantomime, and dancing with masks, and the third to the making of shadow plays that use either cut-outs or the human figure. If I were going into all this in a serious way, as this inquirer seems to be, I could not stop short of the "Repertory of Marionette Plays," edited by Paul McPharlin (Viking); this has fourteen famous plays of undisputed merit and historic importance, such as "Doctor Faustus" and "The Death of Tintagiles," material on the history of the art, useful selective book-lists, and, as a special feature for the producer or devotee, a list of marionette play producers in England and in the United States. And if you think these books are all there will be this year, you're wrong.

M. L. B., Auburn, N. Y., asks for books on economic and social conditions in Austria since the war.

THERE is a quite little book, "Newest Europe," by Martin McLaughlin (Longmans, Green), that I have found helpful for a quick dip into present-day facts; it describes the political situation today of France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, the Balkans, Poland, and Central Europe briefly but so one gets an idea of the new alignments and exigencies. "A Wayfarer in Austria," by G. E. R. Gedy (Houghton Mifflin), is an admirable guide-book for reading or travel use; it takes one through the country nowadays, sensibly and sympathetically. Clara Laughlin's "So You're Going to Germany and Austria" (Houghton Mifflin) is on the familiar practical model of this series, of which it is the latest.

"The Collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire," by Edmund von Glaise-Horsteneau (Dutton), is I. F. D. Morrow's translation of the important work, "Die Katastrophe," the story of events leading up to the smash

of the empire in the World War, but dealing especially with 1916-1918. "The Collapse of Central Europe," by Karl Friedrich Nowak (Dutton), came out here in 1924; it has an introduction by Viscount Haldane. Oskar Jaszi's "Dissolution of the Habsburg Monarchy" (University of Chicago) is concerned with the break-up of what was ten distinct nationalities welded into one state, and in studying the causes and conditions throws light on the problems and limitations of a super-state. Leo Pasvolksky's "Economic Nationalism of the Danubian States" (Macmillan) is a thorough-going study of economic conditions in Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Rumania. Then there is the "Austrian Year Book," published by the Pressedienst, Vienna, and in case anyone should ask me for Austrian fiction, besides referring him to Arnold Zweig, Stefan Zweig, Felix Salten, Arthur Schnitzler, and others well represented in American translations, I would tell him of "Selected Austrian Short Stories" (Oxford University Press), which go from Grillparzer to Bahr.

H., Berkeley, Cal., asks if a list dealing with machines and machinery would make too great a demand on our patience or space.

NOT if, as I take for granted, this means books on the machine in industry, or what we call, in a curious spirit of defeatism, the "machine age." For we have had machines of one sort or another ever since we were men; the only distinctive feature of our present state is that we have now decided that the machines run us, and machines don't run us unless we let them. Having got this out of my system, I can proceed with a selection of ten books of varying types in which our time is considered in this aspect. If but one of the ten, let it be Stuart Chase's "Men and Machines" (Macmillan), because it presents both sides beautifully. "Toward Civilization" (Longmans, Green), a symposium edited by Charles A. Beard; Michael Pupin's "Romance of the Machine" (Scribner); "Our Changing Civilization," by J. H. Randall (Stokes); "Machine Made Man," by Silas Bent (Farrar & Rinehart); "Dance of the Machines," by Edward O'Brien (Macaulay); "My Philosophy of Industry," an interview with Henry Ford (Coward-McCann); "Moving Forward," by Henry Ford and Samuel Crowther (Doubleday, Doran). For the steps in the process, "History of Mechanical Inventions," by A. P. Usher (McGraw-Hill). For poems in the rhythms and spirit of the subject, "Machinery," by MacKnight Black (Liveright). Possibly by this time the reader may feel

that the eleventh book might well be something by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. I say this because some time since, an exhausted reader advised this department that one more book on the machine age and he would curl up and die.

ANOTHER bit of advice on old maps from the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Mich.:

Referring to the inquiry as to a collection of colored maps showing the early known world with monsters, etc., we have recently prepared a series of photostats of such maps for a few schools in this state. These have been made from the originals in this library. If there were any demand for this kind of material, it would be an easy matter to have them reproduced in considerable quantity by the offset process. I fear I cannot agree with you that in Fite and Freeman's "Book of Old Maps," the maps are "perfectly reproduced." We can do much better than that.

With this came a booklet, "The Whys and Wherefores of the William L. Clements Library," with photographs of three fine maps and several famous title-pages from books in this remarkable collection, also their pamphlet, "Bicentennial Notes on George Washington," issued by the Michigan Commission and containing interesting facsimiles of manuscripts. In connection with this impending celebration I have one thought to throw out in advance: if things go on as they seem headed to go, by the first of next June every schoolchild in this fair land will blanch at the name of George Washington. *L. W. M., Shreveport La.*, asks for my "list of best literature for children under adolescent age." I haven't made one; the nearest I ever came to it was when in the opening chapter of my "Adventures in Reading" (Stokes) I set down the names of the books I took for granted had been read by the age of sixteen. What the inquirer has in mind is evidently the list prepared by Anne Carroll Moore in the course of an admirable paper on children's reading included in "Children's Books in the United States," published by the American Library Association, Chicago, for thirty-five cents. This is a list of 150 American and fifty foreign books most gladly read by American children in our public libraries. *S. T. B., Balard Vale, Mass.*, tells the inquirer for the Morley playlet in which Shakespeare visits the theatre that "three or four years ago the S.R. published a Morley skit in which Shakespeare comes back to earth and buys himself a modern suit of clothes on Broadway. The dialogue is between Shakespeare and the salesman, one using words in their Elizabethan sense and the other in one."

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The New Books

Juvenile

(Continued from page 932)

PASTIMES AND SPORTS FOR BOYS.

By G. GIBBARD JACKSON. Illustrated by PETER T. JACKSON. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1931. \$2.

PASTIMES AND SPORTS FOR GIRLS.

By MABEL KITTY GIBBARD. Illustrated by PETER T. JACKSON. The same.

Following the two hobby books which were published last year, come "Pastimes and Sports for Boys" and "Pastimes and Sports for Girls," by the same authors. In these days of highly organized play, such books are heaven-sent to teachers, librarians, and parents. A point which the authors bear in mind, and a good one, is the fact that they remember at all times that many persons have small incomes for this type of pleasure. They suggest most economical ways and means to which any boy or girl may attain. The books deal with material for not only boys and girls but for their seniors.

"Pastimes and Sports for Boys" is an attractively bound volume with an engaging jacket which sets forth in thirty-seven chapters instruction in and information on a variety of subjects. The subjects, treated as they are, in a decidedly person-to-person manner include such things as model railways, radio, puppet shows, swimming, skating, boxing, exercises, airplanes, architecture, locomotives, and a great many more. Enough certainly to appeal to a whole schoolful of boys of widely divergent tastes. An easy style and abundant illustrative material quicken the interest of the book to a large extent.

"Pastimes and Sports for Girls" like its companion volume, has a similarly attractive make-up. It comprises forty-five chapters which are, too, interspersed abundantly with illustrations. The author being an accomplished exponent, if we may use the word, talks to her readers in a straightforward manner which cannot fail to be engrossing because of its simplicity. Her subjects number among them the conducting of clubs; the keeping of pets; games, indoor and out, such as ball, hare and hound, archery, shadow shows; the taking and printing of pictures; rug and basket making; papier mâché work; and recipes for sweets. Perhaps the most amazing chapter is the one devoted to "A New Use for Old Gramophone Records." It certainly should prove popular in these days of a radio-in-every-home, as the census probably had it!

Both authors have a pleasing method of presentation and knowledge of a wide and varied scope. Their love of nature, of animal life, and their human understanding make their books alive. Both these volumes, like their companion-predecessors, will be enjoyed by boys and girls alike for the most part. They are invaluable as reference, and would prove an asset to the home, as well as to the school library.

NANCY GOES CAMPING. By JEAN HENRY LARGE. Appleton. 1931. \$1.50.

About a Large Scout expedition in northern California, with a good deal of authentic detail and a pleasant time had by all. Another wholesome book of none too individual adventure, or what counted as adventure for the girls. Pleasantly instructive.

SQUEEZE PLAY. By RALPH HENRY BARBOUR. Appleton. 1931. \$2.

DANBY'S ERROR. By RALPH HENRY BARBOUR. Cosmopolitan. 1931. \$1.50.

The first of these volumes contains baseball and boys, the second football and more boys. But "Danby's Error" also contains a rather nice bit of humanity in the protection of the much tormented younger Cyril by the almost grown-up Hugh. Mr. Barbour writes so ably that it is a real shame that he insists upon forever skimming over the surface. There must be living waters beneath, granted a gathering together of boys!

THE MERRY BALLADS OF ROBIN HOOD. By LAURABELLE DIETRICK, assisted by JOSEPH FRANZ-WALSH. Macmillan. 1931. \$1.35.

An assistant professor of English at the University of Southern California has been assisted by a poet and scholar in selecting seventeen of the famous old ballads concerning Robin Hood and connecting them by brief prose in the style of the period to form a connected narrative concerning the famous outlaw. Satisfactory illustrations are furnished by Edna Reindel, and the whole story of Robin Hood is now made available to children as it was actually set forth by minstrels and set down in the ballad books of Percy, Ritson, and Evans.

Foreign

LE RETOUR À L'INNOCENCE. By RENÉ GOLDSTEIN. Paris: La Renaissance du Livre. 1931.

Il faut cultiver notre jardin and do it ourselves. If we don't, the serpent, alias tedium, will get us. That is as old as the race, but M. Goldstein has tricked out the demonstration with delightful fancy and humor. Weary of post-bellum debauch, an ex-soldier turns Don Quixote and leads four companions back to Eden. His faith keeps their courage alive, and they actually discover the Garden, unchanged since Adam's time, except that the forbidden tree and the tempter are missing. Before entering, the little company must discard, along with their garments, all hypocrisy. There results such unedifying mutual confession that they are ready to fly at each other's throats. But Eden brings oblivion, and idyllic happiness ensues—for a time. Then effortless bliss palls, and although warned by a nightmare of what awaits them, they return to our corrupt society. Candide could not remain in Eldorado, and Josiah Royce has told us why: "The best possible world for a moral agent is one that needs him to make it better."

Miscellaneous

SAIL HO! By GORDON GRANT. Farquhar Payson. 1931. \$5.

A beautiful publication, designed throughout by the well-known artist, Gordon Grant, even to the sail-cloth cover. The subtitle of the volume is "Wind Jammer Sketches Afloat and Aloft," and the book is dedicated to the unknown sailor. C. Fox Smith, a famous poet of the sea, writes the foreword. This is clipper-ship stuff of the old days, and from personal observation in the past, Gordon Grant depicts the life of such a ship with an unusually dexterous pencil and pithy commentary. All enamoured of the days of sail will certainly wish to possess this volume. It is the authentic thing.

"GIMME": A Complete Story of New York Graft. By EMANUEL H. LAVINE. Vanguard. 1931. \$2.50.

A detailed inside account of what is going on in grafting circles in New York today. The book is good journalism and as instructive as it is depressing.

SECRET TREASURE: Hidden Riches of the British Isles. By A. HYATT VERRILL. New York: Appleton. 1931. \$2.50.

Anecdotes drawn from fact of treasures found or supposed to exist in the British Isles, with interesting details as to the archaeological treasures discovered in the search for buried gold.

Philosophy

WORKS OF ARISTOTLE TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH. Edited by W. D. ROSS. Volume III. Oxford University Press. 1931. \$7.

The complete works of Aristotle in this Oxford edition, begun under a bequest from Jowett, are now available. Volume III contains *Meteorologica*, *De Mundo*, *De Anima*, *Parva Naturalia*, and *De Spiritu*.

THE MEANING OF PSYCHOANALYSIS. By MARTIN W. PECK, M.D. Knopf. 1931. \$2.50.

While it is no longer true that of the making of books on psychoanalysis there is no end—for the first wave of enlightenment has satisfied the demand—the making of serviceable books on this topic has not proceeded far; the propagandist spirit has too much dominated. Dr. Peck's book is in the serviceable class. It is quite definite in its plan and successful in execution. That plan includes an historical account of how Freudianism came to be, of how definitely it involves a type of psychology as well as a form of treatment. The clinical material is amplified and illustrated by typical cases. It is all contained in reasonable compass, is direct and well proportioned.

As to point of view, the out-and-out Freudian will regard it as moderate, the reserved Freudian critic as exceeding the warrant of the data on many a page; yet Dr. Peck aims at a tempered acceptance of the Freudian structure. For the lay reader whose primary purpose is to spend a brief session in the Freudian atmosphere, understand the origin of the system, and visit a clinic by way of the printed page, this is an available means to that end.

Poetry

COMPLETE WORKS OF FRANÇOIS VILLON. Covici-Friede. 1931. \$3.50.

This is the first trade edition of the complete translation from Villon of J. U. Nicolson. The poems are translated into a colloquial English freely representing the raciness of the original.

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Miscellany

THE Michigan Commission on the Washington Bicentennial has just issued No. 1 of "Bicentennial Notes on George Washington." It is a small, blue-paper covered pamphlet containing reproductions of two of Washington's letters, as well as other Washingtoniana, and notes by R. G. A., Rupert Hughes, and Allen French, on phases of Washington's career. It is a remarkably interesting little booklet, but we are a bit shocked at "Weems's" for "Weems's."

The Stephen Daye Press at Brattleboro, Vermont (Messrs. Crane and Orten), announce the immediate publication of the Green Mountain Series, edited by the Commission on Vermont Traditions and Ideals, headed by Professor Arthur Wallace Peach of Norwich University. There will be four volumes: "Vermonters, a Book of Biographies"; "Vermont Prose"; "Vermont Verse"; "Vermont Folk songs and Ballads." The volumes will retail at \$1.50 each. This publishing venture seems to me a very much worth while enterprise, especially as the books may be assumed to have somewhat more than ordinary typographic excellence. If more "presses" would devote their energies to such specialized publishing as this, and do the printing well, they would have much more *raison d'être*.

Lewis McKensie Turner, of the Salt House Press at Baltimore, is preparing to issue "Vox Populi," the "first aerial drama" of 150 pages in an edition of 250 copies. He has sent out a prospectus containing examples from the drama.

R.

A Meredith Catalogue

A Catalogue of the Altschul Collection of George Meredith in the Yale University Library. Privately printed. 1931.

IN another issue of this *Review* there has appeared a consideration of Mr. Altschul's collection of Meredith, recently presented to the Yale University Library, done by one not so intimately connected with the library as are the two conductors of this column. But good work knows no bounds of time or place, and I shall take the liberty of commenting on the printing of the volume here.

It is a tall octavo, printed on a soft, laid, deckle edge paper, which takes the type beautifully. The type is Oxford, an early nineteenth century face of much attractiveness, and of just enough archaic quality to lend itself exceptionally well to such a book. But it is withal a clear and readable letter. There is good contrast between the subject entries and the notes—a point often overlooked in bibliographical printing, and there is no elaboration of indentations—which ruins most bibliographies without aiding the reader.

There are two points in which the book could have been bettered: the running heads might advantageously have indicated the main subject divisions of the catalogue, and I am inclined to believe that deckle edges are always out of place in a book of reference. On the other hand, the type is small enough to admit of much matter on the page, a desideratum in bibliographies.

The binding is in marbled paper boards, with black cloth back with label.

The book has been printed by Mr. Updike at the Merrymount Press, and is a good example of his very efficient and common-sense printing.

R.

An American Engraver

SIDNEY LAWTON SMITH, Designer, Etcher, Engraver. With extracts from his Diary and a Check-list of his Bookplates. Boston: C. E. Goodspeed & Co. 1931. \$50.

SIDNEY LAWTON SMITH was born in Foxboro, Mass., in 1845, and died in 1929. A modest, shy artist, his work was known and cherished by the few who take note of really fine work in America, but his achievement was not exploited and the man

himself scarcely known. This monograph will serve as a permanent record of the man and his work.

Sidney Smith began his artistic career as a workman in Reuben Carpenter's engraving establishment in Boston at the age of eighteen. What he learned there in the way of sound craftsmanship must have been of inestimable value to him throughout his life: there is a sound workmanlike quality about his work which stamps him as a competent craftsman. If not a great artist (for that is genius and cannot be learned in any shop), he at least knew his trade—a trade dependent upon skill of hand and accuracy of intention. One can better appreciate such qualities today, because they are supposed to be outmoded and replaced by slovenly drawing and nasty mechanical reproductive processes. Yet in the welter of half-baked "illustration" and photographic copying, it must be remembered that engraving on metal or wood, and, secondarily, etching, are still superior to any quicker processes.

That Smith was not essentially a great draftsman may easily be ascribed to his time and his birthplace: New England has not been strong in that product, nor is a Quaker heritage likely to produce Holbeins or Dürers or Angelos. There is, however, in his work a simplicity and a charm, a trim sufficiency for the purpose which is a characteristic of New England that seems to me of the order of genius.

The well-known bookplate for Mr. Daniel B. Fearing is a case in point: the American Antiquarian Society plate is another. The practical utility of the bookplate, as well as the opportunity for saying what has to be said in succinct but decorative form, appealed to Sidney Smith. And these *ex libris* also challenged his imagination and his inventiveness. The intricate and endlessly varied borders, the multiplicity of *motifs*, and most of all the complete assurance with which they are carried out, attest the man's command of his subject and of his medium.

The present volume deals with his life in brief—an uneventful life, influenced by John LaFarge with whom he worked for a time, by a cheerful and self-reliant disposition, and by a constant love of nature—and primarily with his bookplate designs. Of the latter there are thirty-one plates reproduced, and a check-list of two hundred and thirty-one examples. There is a brief appreciation of Smith's work by Gardner Teall.

The volume on the physical side is one of the pleasantest examples of the work of the Merrymount Press which I have seen for some time. It is a small octavo of some hundred and forty pages, set in an authentic Scotch Roman type of small size, well leaded—an impeccable type face for such a book. The paper is an English handmade of delightful texture, thinness and color. A touch of decorative quality is lent by the use of Lutetia type for title-page, running heads, and chapter heads, and by a printed pattern paper on the cover.

The thirty-one plates "reproduced" are really printed from the original etched or engraved plates of the bookplates shown. Such a process is costly and almost luxurious—but gives an authenticity to the illustrations which would be unobtainable by any other method. Such a book, so illustrated, though it is modest enough in appearance, at once becomes a genuinely fine piece of book-making. It possesses those three desiderata (quite as important in printing as in the writing of English), clearness, force, and elegance. It is a fitting tribute to a good workman.

One hundred and fifty copies only have been printed, and as a check-list of Smith's work as well as an appreciation of probably the foremost American artist in his field during the last half century it is an invaluable addition to the artistic history of America.

California Again Dissents

MARK TWAIN records, in "Pudd'n-head Wilson's Diary," that it is well that men differ in their opinions, for it is