

# Paintings in Book Form

**TITIAN, PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS.**  
350 Reproductions. Vienna: Phaidon Press; New York: Oxford University Press. 1937. \$2.50.

**FIVE HUNDRED SELF PORTRAITS,**  
from Antiquity Times to the Present Day,  
in Painting, Drawing and Sculpture.  
Chosen, Edited and Introduced by Lud-  
wig Goldscheider. Translated by Bryam  
Shaw. The same. \$3.

Reviewed by FRANK JEWETT MATHER

**H**ERE is the completest compendium of Titian's works that has ever been offered to the student. The illustrations are clear rotogravures or line-cuts (for drawings and wood cuts), and there are seven fair color reproductions. Very useful are the many reproductions of significant details. There is a capital critical essay by way of introduction by Dr. Hans Tietze; the indexes and bibliographical notes are exemplary. Finally, the price is adjusted to the pocket-book of the scholar.

The criterion of attribution is puristic. Most of our American Titians are passed over, including all in Philadelphia. The Pitti Concert, traditionally ascribed to Giorgione, is given to Titian about 1515, though the fantastic hat and costume of the young singer is hardly to be reconciled with so late a date. None of the many attributions to Titian about or before 1505 are included, though for the sake of completeness it would have been desirable to reproduce the best of these disputed pictures, if with a warning signal. Similarly, the half dozen important pictures which may be either Titian's or Giorgione's might very usefully have been reproduced. Such omissions are due likely to the late date, "about 1488," which Dr. Tietze sets as Titian's birth year. Now, to treat this date as a fact, without comment, is simply very questionable scholarship. The late dating is merely a hypothesis, and based on insubstantial evidence. Any historical treatment of Titian's early career must accept the possibility that he told the truth about his own age when he set his birth year about 1477. If the early date be right, then many of the attributions which Dr. Tietze rejects must be at least very seriously considered.

It is a great convenience to have the wood cuts after Titian, and the drawings reproduced with the pictures. In his ascription of drawings Dr. Tietze is more generous than the late Baron Hadeln, we think rightly so. Certain engravings after lost pictures by Cort and others are omitted. They might well be included in a second edition.

This large album in post octavo should find a place on the shelves of every student of Titian, and it will be a delightful possession for any unstudious art lover.

The second of these volumes, a picture-book in largest octavo, is one that the student of the history of art will find most convenient for reference and pleasurable for more casual consultation. The spread is from the Egyptian tomb-decorator, Ni-

ank-Ptah, about 2650 B.C., to Chirico. Naturally, there are intervening gaps of centuries, or even of millennia. Self-portraits of artists are not abundant till after 1450.

Though necessarily incomplete, the selection omits few really important items. We regret seriously only the omission of that picture which shows the three brothers Le Nain in the studio of the youngest, Mathieu. An American student will probably find too many self portraits of German artists of no particular importance, but the book was made for a German public. Dürer and Rembrandt were assiduous in self-portraiture, and are represented at many ages. Here one would welcome the reproduction of that remarkable drawing which shows the widower, Rembrandt, feeding his infant son from a spoon. Except for the cosmopolitan, Whistler, America is unrepresented, though Copley, West, Stuart, Chase, Saint-Gaudens, and Sargent surely left self-portraits well worthy of inclusion.

The introductory essay is gracefully turned and well translated. The reproductions are mostly rotogravures of excellent clearness, and there are seven color plates.

Apart from the portrait interest of the book, it has the interest of showing the work of many minor artists in their rare moments of facing a thoroughly congenial subject, and consequently working *con amore*. It is a book that can unhesitatingly be recommended as an uncommon money's worth.

## Pekin to Memphis

**GREAT TRADE ROUTE.** By Ford Madox Ford. New York: Oxford University Press. 1937. \$3.

**F**ORD MADOX FORD in an earlier book has wished that Newton had been killed by his apple, and in "Great Trade Route" he runs a warp to the woof of that theme decrying progress that does not advance the basic happiness of man, and civilization that is mechanically a cheat, even that of it which lies along his great trade route from Pekin to Memphis, Tennessee. Following that route by real and imaginary vehicles he discusses here everything from The Arts (which he is unabashed to capitalize) to Brussels Sprouts which he detests, concluding passionately that man's salvation lies in his own garden and homely crafts. It is diverting reading, excellent writing for all its careful artlessness, and a sound body of ideals to live by.

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## The Sod-House Frontier: 1854-1890

By EVERETT DICK

"From first-hand sources," continues Mrs. Fisher, "letters, diaries, old newspapers, reminiscences, old documents — the author has put together a complete account of how the prairie farmers managed life: how the heroic women cooked, kept house, bore the babies and brought up their children; how the houses were built; what the Indians did and were. Everybody in the country, West and East, will wish to have this book." Illustrated. \$5.00

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—BOSTON HERALD

## The Press and World Affairs

By ROBERT W. DESMOND

"A splendid job of reporting," continues the Herald, "Mr. Desmond's book deals with the actual assembling of news and news gathering in New York, Washington, Geneva, London, Paris, Rome and Berlin. He is particularly enlightening when he deals with foreign correspondents and their methods of separating the wheat from the chaff." Illustrated. \$4.00

D. APPLETON-CENTURY COMPANY, 35 West 32nd Street, New York

# Socialism for a Democracy

*AMERICAN SOCIALISM, Its Aims and Practical Program. By Harry W. Laidler. New York: Harper & Bros. 1937. \$2.50.*

Reviewed by SIDNEY HOOK

**W**ERE a socialist government to be established in the United States overnight, the author of this book would become one of the most important figures in guiding the destinies of the country. For more than a score of years Harry Laidler, the Executive Director of the League for Industrial Democracy, has been taking hold of problems by their concrete ends; and by patient analysis and research worrying his way to tentative answers and solutions in the light of socialist ideals. The method and spirit of his inquiries have been scorned by professional revolutionists interested more in the conquest of power than in the uses to which that power is to be put. But as the recent bloody events in Russia have demonstrated, it is essential that socialists be more clearly aware of what they wish to substitute for capitalism if the consequences of their rule are not to lead to the betrayal of their ideals. It is easy to get drunk on revolutionary slogans unless fortified by knowledge and the skepticism of scientific method.

In his latest book, Dr. Laidler has written a readable and popular introduction for the plain man on the socialist program for America. Although theoretical questions are not altogether avoided, the high lights of ideology are ignored in order to bring concrete problems into the focus of common sense vision. Particular attention is given to the New Deal in order to distinguish it from genuine socialism. The cultural ramifications of class divisions and struggles are traced in art, education, health, politics, and recreation. A real storehouse of information is made available for those who cannot go digging in the primary sources. The writer's style lacks dash and color but this is partly compensated by the tone of gracious urbanity which pervades the book. The reader naturally tends to place his disagreements on the same reasoned level as the text. In social controversy these are the only kinds of disagreements

which can be fruitful. In places Dr. Laidler does himself an injustice by quoting too often from individuals whose opinions are no more authoritative than his own. This generates an impression of eclecticism which a straightforward development of arguments in terms of the author's own position would obviate. And personally I much prefer Dr. Laidler's original title "Socializing our Democracy" to the nationalistic overtones of "American Socialism."

One of the distinctive features of this book is the sharp line Dr. Laidler draws between socialism, both in its classical and contemporary form, and what passes for communism in Stalin's Russia. He castigates severely the regimentation of Russian art and culture, the brutal suppression of all dissident opinion, the replacement of worker's democracy by minority bureaucratic rule based on arbitrary decree, absolute economic power, and execution squads. And, indeed, never was it more necessary to draw thick lines of demarcation. For no large group of the American people, least of all American workers, can be won for socialism so long as they identify it in any way with the one-party totalitarian Russian dictatorship. It seems to me that in discussing the economic system of present-day Russia, Dr. Laidler leans too heavily on the

official paper programs rather than on the actual functioning of economic institutions. It is simply not the case that the Russian workers have had anything to do with formulating the basic direction of the Five Year Plans or deciding by a democratic consensus the fateful questions which underlay these formulations.

There is one serious omission in this book devoted to the aims and practical program of American socialism, viz., an extended discussion of the past, present, and future of the American Socialist Party. Ideas and ideals do not realize themselves. And to a large extent a movement takes its ultimate form and shape from the party which leads it. Not enough information about the Socialist Party is provided to gratify the curiosity even of those convinced by the arguments for socialism. Is the Socialist Party to remain faithful to the old socialist principle: "freedom in thought and unity in action"? Is it to maintain its independence or become a tail to a third progressive reform party? Is it to capitulate to the Communist Party demand that Socialist Party members who share some of the views of Trotsky, from whom by the way Dr. Laidler is not afraid to quote, be excluded? Is it to retain the orthodox Marxist theory or reevaluate it in the light of recent events? Is its organizational structure to be altered? These are some of the questions with which Dr. Laidler must some day deal in order to complete the argument of his lucid, persuasive book.

## The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
THE BODY THAT CAME BY POST George Worthing Yates (Morrow: \$2.)	Parcel of 17 yr. old bones sent to Spanish castle intensify worries of American expatriates but regenerate mysterious Hazlitt Woar.	Introducing current Spanish conflict as mystery story background—with stunning effect. Involved plot deftly unraveled by engaging detective.	Excellent
CASE WITHOUT A CORPSE Leo Bruce (Stokes: \$2.)	Man confesses murder, drinks poison: Who'd he kill? Sergeant Beef and Insp. Stute, "Yard" expert, go after answer hammer-and-tongs.	Frequently hilarious burlesque of famed Scotland Yard efficiency compared to rural rule-of-thumb methods. Good puzzle and tricky finish.	Extra Good
HAMLET, REVENGE! Michael Innes (Dodd, Mead: \$2.)	British statesman, bearing documents, slain at aristocratic private theatricals. Inspector Appleby and perspicacious young lady finally unravel triple mystery.	Possibly the most literary mystery ever dished up to thrill-loving public. Capitally worked out, beautifully written, and erudite no end.	For connoisseurs
SCARECROW A. E. Fielding (Kinsey: \$2.)	Over-trustful bachelor returns to England from Provence and is slain. Insp. Pointer goes to Mentone for final clutch.	Intricate plot well handled, although pace is slightly pedestrian. Colorful background and a passel of slippery customers.	Average
MURDER IN BLUE Clifford Witting (Scribners: \$2.)	British constable murdered in country lane; young bookseller helps Inspector Charlton find culprit.	Slow pace, weak motivation, excess love interest keep this one—otherwise passably written—off recommended list.	Inspid

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