

That Third Term

ROOSEVELT—AND THEN? By Stanley High. New York: Harper & Bros. 1937. \$3.

REVIEWED BY DUNCAN AIKMAN

THESE are fourteen sleek prognoses on the outlook for the Roosevelt politics and policies, most of which have appeared in national magazines.

Mr. Roosevelt will probably stand ready to make "the great sacrifice" in 1940, Mr. High intimates, should urgency demand it. He may disband his present Corcoran-Cohen team of intimate advisers on policy, should their personal publicity or their bad breaks with policies as political issues make it advisable, but the system of potent unofficial counsellors will be retained. Mr. Roosevelt isn't likely to shoot for a dictatorship, but he will continue to administer public affairs and partisan strategy more or less autocratically, because he knows what is best for society and is no democrat at heart.

There is a "Second New Deal" in the making in Washington which differs from the 1933-37 "First New Deal" mainly in that it plans a permanent managed economy for the nation rather than a set of emergency measures. Furthermore, Mr. Roosevelt's second administration will stake its all on putting the "Second New Deal" into operation. For that purpose he will maintain his alliance, in comfort or otherwise, with the John L. Lewis unions, keep subsidies flowing out to the distressed farmers, and maintain—

through a federal anti-lynching act if necessary—the Democratic Party's new role as the Negro's best friend. For that purpose, if there is no other way to do business, the conservative Democrats will be purged from the party, or Mr. Roosevelt will set up a new party under Farmer-Labor and big and small "p" progressive auspices.

Not even Mr. Farley's presidential aspirations, which Mr. High seemed to take quite seriously before the New York mayoralty elections, will be allowed to interfere with it. For that matter, neither will those of Senator La Follette or of Governors Earle or Murphy, which Mr. High manifestly takes less seriously.

Occasionally, Mr. High disapproves of the outlook. "A government which convinces a considerable number of its citizens of the availability of blank checks," he warns, "is likely to find itself without checks, or, if it should attempt to stop payment, with a political upheaval on its hands. . . . The future of a great many reforms has been entrusted, almost entirely, to those who benefit by the reforms."

Whether for or against, however, Mr. High writes with a consistent buttery persuasiveness. Occasionally he flecks the butter with a lively, if not too profound, thumbnail portrait of a Washington personage. He writes, too—as the publishers blurb the matter—as a "one time presidential insider."

All in all, it is about the nicest way that could be imagined of putting together the deductions which could be made by any first class editorial writer in Great Falls, Montana.

A Thoreau Omnibus

THE WORKS OF THOREAU. Selected and Edited by Henry S. Canby. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1937. \$5.

Reviewed by MARK VAN DOREN

MR. CANBY'S very welcome omnibus contains the whole of "Walden," most of "A Week on the Concord and the Merrimack Rivers," a third of "The Maine Woods," a third of "Cape Cod," five "Nature Essays," four social or political essays, eleven poems in addition to those which are scattered through Thoreau's published prose, and nearly a hundred pages of the famous but still little-read "Journal." So copious a selection, and one so carefully made, should do much to convince a public already devoted to "Walden" that its author is worth knowing for other reasons, even if not for better ones, than his masterpiece. Thoreau never did anything better than "Walden," but he wrote a tremendous lot in his forty-four years, and the entire body of what he wrote deserves any serious reader's attention; particularly since it is that body of work which seems to have interested Thoreau. He considered himself not so much a writer of books—compositions with beginnings and endings, and with titles—as simply a writer. His writing was in a peculiar sense his life. He gave up everything else for it; he put everything he had into it; he almost married it. And he would hardly have agreed with the judgment that either "Walden" or any other volume confines his essence; not even, perhaps, Mr. Canby's volume; not even, I suspect, the edition of his works which fills twenty volumes and supplies a printed text of all the "Journal."

Here and there Mr. Canby speaks of the books Thoreau would have completed had he lived. They are interesting to speculate about, but it is not certain that they would have been completed. High as Thoreau's opinion of writing was, and unmatched as his skill was in the matter of getting his best thoughts directly and perfectly down on paper, he often despaired, as the "Journal" attests, of getting everything down. His demands upon the art were ideal, and took the form of requiring it always to render the present intellectual moment in its fulness. There were no "subjects" for Thoreau, there was only existence; there was, perhaps, only his own existence. And no fence of words, no matter how long or how barbed, could ever quite keep existence safely inside it. There was always more to say; as soon as one found out how to say *this*, there was *that*, and so on without end. Thoreau, in other words, would have kept on writing, and what he wrote might not have been books, since books have ends. Mr. Canby recognizes this when he speaks of Thoreau's writings as a whole which was never realized. It is proper then to praise Mr. Canby's selection as the best abridgment of Thoreau's works which we are ever likely to have.

Mark Van Doren is the author of "Henry David Thoreau—A Critical Study."

The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
THIEVES' PICNIC Leslie Charteris (Crime Club: \$2.)	Simon Charteris horns into nest of gem thieves, rescues beauty from their clutches and sails away with all the loot.	As outrageous, incredible, and exciting as other "Saint" exploits, with thieves falling out all over Canary Islands.	Giddy
DEATH OVER HOLLYWOOD Charles Saxby and Louis Molnar (Dutton: \$2.)	Two killings in movie-land—one on "lot," one off—solved, helter-skelter, by several bumptious individuals.	H'wood atmosphere, laid on with trowel, rule-of-thumb sleuthing, <i>soupeon</i> sex, and considerable action.	Less than colossal
THE MAN WITH THE TATTOOED FACE Miles Burton (Crime Club: \$2.)	Mysterious rural Lotherio slain. Insp. Arnold, at dead end, calls in Desmond Merriam, who spots discrepancy and nails killer.	Bucolic English atmosphere and lively character drawing excel sleuthing—which clicks a bit too smoothly for complete probability.	Average
THE RETURN OF BLUE MASK Anthony Morton (Lippincott: \$2.)	John Mannering, "the Baron," runs rings around cops, fights epic battles, grabs precious jewels, etc., etc., etc.	Debonair thievery is all right in its place, perhaps, but there's too much of it getting between bookcovers.	Tosh
HOMICIDE Leslie T. White (Harcourt, Brace: \$2.) (Non-fiction)	Murders of light lady and her maid investigated against odds by plain unvarnished city detective Muttersbach.	Official documents, q. & a. testimony and all, a trifle deadening, but procedure is interesting and verisimilar.	Fair
THE MASTER SPY Arthur Gask (Macaulay: \$2.)	Herr Mitter gets hands on secret formula for "invisible airplane" but secret agent Larose recaptures it.	Routine yarn of espionage in England with murder, plotting, torture, love, and other atrocities.	Ordinary

Satisfactory Answers to the Gift Book Question

Europa In Limbo

by ROBERT BRIFFAULT

"This sequel to 'Europa' outshines its forerunner. His novels deserve to stand with those of Gorki, Jules Romains, and Sholem Asch."

—Chicago Daily News. \$2.75

Brynhild:

or The Show of Things

by H. G. WELLS

"Mr. Wells never wrote more delightfully" says *The Chicago Tribune* in this "story of a clever man's disintegration and an honest woman's fulfillment." —*Time Magazine*. Second Printing. \$2.50

The Garden of Adonis

by CAROLINE GORDON

author of
"None Shall Look Back"

The South of today and the struggle of the old aristocracy to keep its head up portrayed in a novel of brilliance and power. \$2.50

Cathedral Close

by SUSAN GOODYEAR

"For all the quietness and beauty of its setting it has excitement and genuine suspense, and includes a very charming love-story." —*The New York Sun*. Third Printing. \$2.50

For Younger Readers

The Story of Jesus

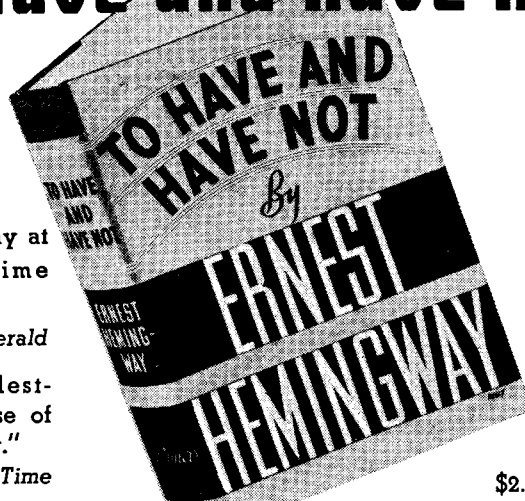
by Walter Russell Bowie



A continuous life done with vigor and appeal and fully illustrated by Robert Lawson. \$2.00

at all bookstores

To Have and Have Not



"Hemingway at his old time best."

—Boston Herald

"The hardest-hitting prose of the century."

—Time

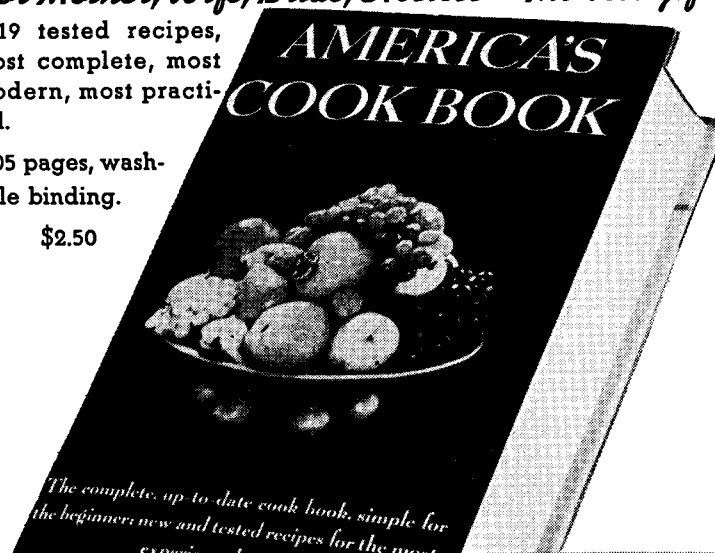
\$2.50

For Mother, Wife, Bride, Hostess—The best gift

3419 tested recipes, most complete, most modern, most practical.

1005 pages, washable binding.

\$2.50



AMERICA'S COOK BOOK

Compiled by the New York Herald Tribune Home Institute

"A rip-snorting tale."

—Baltimore Sun

"No let-up until the whirlwind finish."

—N. Y. Sun

\$2.75



a novel written and illustrated by
JOHN W. THOMASON, Jr.

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS • NEW YORK

The Saga of American Society

by DIXON WECTER

"An amazing, rich, and juicy chronicle, starred with pungent anecdote and enriched by sardonic comment. Social history... from a special and very illuminating point of view." —*The Atlantic Monthly*. With 136 illustrations. Second Printing. \$4.00

Ralston's Ring

California Plunders the Comstock Lode

by GEORGE D. LYMAN

author of "The Saga of the Comstock Lode"
"He is the one man to write this account of a fascinating and fabulous era. It is a great story and a grand book." —*The Boston Transcript*. 23 illustrations. \$3.50

East Goes West

The Making of an Oriental Yankee

by YOUNGHILL KANG

"There is the stuff of three novels, literally, in this truly fascinating book... vivid and entertaining from start to finish." —*The New York Times*. \$2.75

I Knew Hitler

The Story of a Nazi Who Escaped the Blood Purge

by KURT G.W. LUDECKE
"At once a breathless story of adventure and a political document of prime importance. His pages move from climax to climax with the sweep of fiction." —*N. Y. Herald Tribune*. Illustrated. \$3.75

For Younger Readers

Mick and Mac

by PAUL BROWN

The amusing antics of a Scotty and an Irish wolf-hound delightfully told in text and pictures. \$2.00



at all bookstores

The New Books

Archeology

EARLY MAN. Edited by George Grant MacCurdy. Lippincott. 1937. \$5.

The one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia was celebrated by an international symposium on early man. The papers presented there form the text of this important volume. The result is a series of authoritative, first-rate, and up-to-the-minute contributions on the question of early man in all parts of the world.

The papers are frankly technical, with no attempt at popularity. The book is one which will appeal primarily to scientists and to laymen who have a genuine interest in the subject and are accustomed to reading straight scientific material. They will find the latest and most dependable information on subjects of such vital importance as Folsom Man and Sinanthropos. It would be pointless to attempt to review or discuss the individual papers here. Choosing at random, such names as Sir Arthur Keith, Dr. H. J. Spinden, Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., and Dr. William K. Gregory insure the high quality of the contributions. "Early Man" will undoubtedly be received as a necessity for the library of students of the subject.

O. La F.

Art

BOTTICELLI. By Lionello Venturi. Oxford University Press. 1937. \$3.

This is an album *in folio* substantially bound in gray buckram with one-hundred-and-one photogravure plates of which thirteen are in color. There are many details of good scale, so that for the student of modest means this book is a tolerable substitute for the classic and costly work of Yashiro. Lionello Venturi contributes an introductory essay of a distinguished and interpretative sort. Some fifty pictures are well reproduced, with abundant details—that is about a third of Botticelli's entire work as listed by Berenson. But since his list includes studio pieces, very little of real importance is omitted. To art reference libraries this book is especially recommended as an excellent aid to study and an extraordinary money's worth.

F. J. W.

Belles Lettres

BOSWELL AND THE GIRL FROM BOTANY BAY. By Frederick A. Pottle. Viking. 1937. Edition limited to 500 copies. \$7.50.

A letter of James Boswell's, dated 1794, mentioning various disbursements including a "gratuity to Mary Broad," started Mr. Pottle on the adventure in literary detecting which makes up this essay. He has traced the connection between Boswell and Mary Broad; and he tells her the story of the girl who was transported to Australia for robbery, married another convict named William Bryant, escaped with him and seven others in an open

boat, and sailed from Botany Bay 3,000 miles to Timor—the island on which Captain Bligh and his loyal "men against the sea" had landed two years previously. Mary Broad was brought back to England and booked with other survivors of the escape at Newgate Prison. Boswell moved to their defense in 1792, exerted himself for Mary's release, helped to find work for her, and paid her an annual "gratuity." The story, as Mr. Pottle tells it, is good enough to have been included in "Woollcott's Second Reader." It appears here in a de luxe format, with a preface, copious notes, MS reproductions, and a map.

G. S.

Biography

SORROW BUILT A BRIDGE: A Daughter of Hawthorne. By Katherine Burton. Longmans, Green. 1937. \$2.50.

Midway in her life, Rose Hawthorne Lathrop changed worlds. As the daughter of Nathaniel Hawthorne and as the wife of George Lathrop she had whirled busily in the luminous social and literary atmosphere of Concord, Rome, Boston, and New York. In 1893 this world fell to pieces with the failure of her marriage. Instead of trying to reorder its parts, she created a tiny new world of her own amid destitute victims of incurable cancer in New York. The bridge between was sorrow; the hand that guided her across was the Catholic Church. She never turned back. The new world grew apace, and Rose Hawthorne finally became Mother Alphonsa, director of an efficient organization that ministered to thousands of sufferers. Old associations were overlaid with present duties. When she was asked to write something for the centennial celebration of her father's birth, her brief, belated response recalled Hawthorne chiefly as the first awakener of her humanitarian sympathies.

Rose Hawthorne's two worlds were so wholly and strangely disparate that they inevitably recall Hawthorne's own speculative tales. In "Sorrow Built a Bridge" Katherine Burton wisely foregoes philosophy and fantasy in favor of a plain tale. The first hundred and fifty pages might well have been condensed into one long chapter; they deal mostly with familiar matter that mates poorly with the second part of the book, which is largely the history of an institution. Mrs. Burton's biography is valuable less as a character study or a literary source book than as an absorbing record of devotion to a charity which had been incredibly neglected before Rose Hawthorne began her second world.

A. C.

NAPOLÉON AND HIS SON. By Pierre Nezelof. Liveright. 1937. \$3.

The pathetic story of Napoleon's son has been told many times. Countless poets, dramatists, and novelists have found it congenial material for every variety of literary presentation. Historians have covered all its ramifications in book after book; dreamers have filled volumes

with wistful might-have-beens, if only the phthisic eaglet had survived into a forceful maturity. Libraries are crammed with interpretations and reinterpretations of this sad young man whose destiny was to be born King of Rome, too late to provide for his father the symbol of dynasty that might have saved his empire, and to live out his brief life as an underling in the Austrian court, a pawn in the hands of the crafty Metternich. And now M. Nezelof tells the story over again in a long book that brings us nothing new except a vast deal of highly imaginative, not very bright conversation: what Marie Louise said to her music-master and her maids, what her son confided to the Archduchess Sophie and his tutors. It would have taken an army of dictaphones to record all the talk in the Tuileries and the Hofburg that is here reproduced, but the labor would have been useless anyway since M. Nezelof can invent it without any show of weariness. It's the real thing too, just as dull as so much conversation must actually have been. Biography, even fictionized biography, must be something more than a flow of tiresome dialogue, but there is little else to be discovered here.

C. D. A.

Fiction

SUN ACROSS THE SKY. By Eleanor Dark. Macmillan. 1937. \$2.50.

The action of this novel takes place on a single hot summer day, a day on which Sir Frederick Gormley awoke feeling far from well, a day on which Oliver Denning, an eager, explosive young doctor, had a long list of patients to see, a day on which a man was mauled by a shark, another man fell ill, Lois Marshall painted a picture, and Oliver's wife Helen, a very beautiful woman who could hardly bear to touch life even with the tips of her fingers, gave a bridge party. As important as the action of this story is the setting, an Australian seaside town. Once the town had been a microscopic fishing village hidden in a gully, but Sir Frederick had changed all that and now it was a thriving resort renamed Thalassa (though Sir Frederick very likely knew no Greek). Sir Frederick controlled it all except for a picturesque, disreputable strip of land where the fishermen lived, and the novel ends when, with repellent ruthlessness, he has arranged to own that, too.

There is a good deal of violence in this book, violence alternating with pauses which, though they occasionally slow down the movement of the story, do not stop it but serve rather to heighten the action when it comes. Partly because of this alternation of quiet with violence, partly because of the atmosphere (superbly done) of the sea shore, the glare of sun on sand, partly because of the nature of the characters themselves, the novel seems a vivid pattern in black and white. It is hard to say in how far the very skillful presentation of a beach under a hot sun is responsible for the effectiveness of plot and characters alike. Without that contrast of light and shade the book might easily have been less plausible.

Not that the novel seems artful. In less
(Continued on page 54)