

The Christmas Roundup

To expedite Christmas choices, here are some sixty of 1941's most important titles. *The Saturday Review* has already reviewed some of them in previous issues. Others appear here for the first time. All are distinguished. The table upon this page contains suggestions for six books, not heretofore reviewed in these pages. These six, plus "George Washington's World," by Genevieve Foster, and "The Shoemaker's Son," by Constance Buel Burnett (both reviewed in *SRL*, Nov. 8), are among 1941's most significant children's book titles.

U. S. A.: "Leif the Lucky" the D'Aulaires' latest; "Indian Captive" Lois Lenski's thrilling story of Mary Jamison; Walter D. Edmonds's "The Matchlock Gun," for younger readers; Mabel Pyne's "Little Geography of the U. S. A.," companion to "Little History. . ."; E. R. Gaggin's "Down Ryton Water," a beautiful Pilgrim story; "I Discover Columbus," by Robert Lawson; Howard Fast's biography, "Haym Solomon," worth its weight in gold as an antidote to racial intolerance; two biographies about "Clara Barton," one by Mildred Pace (younger readers), the other by Jeanette Nolan (teen age); "Poor Richard" (Franklin), by James Daugherty; "Dana of the Sun," by Alfred H. Fenton; Laura Benét's "Young Edgar Allan Poe"; "Brave Ships of England and America," by Joseph Leeming; Jeanette Eaton's "Narcissa Whitman: Pioneer of Oregon"; "Alexander Hamilton," by Johan Smertenko; "George Washington's World," by Genevieve Foster, most outstanding non-fiction book of 1941.

SOUTH AMERICA: "The Story of the Other America," by Richard C. Gill and Helen Hoke, "Wings around South America," by Alice Dalgliesh, "He Wouldn't Be King" (Bolivar), by Nina Brown Baker, Isabel de Palencia's story of Spain, "Juan: Son of the Fisherman."

BIOGRAPHIES: "The Shoemaker's Son" (Hans Christian Andersen), by Constance Buel Burnett, best book on Anderson ever; John Erskine's "Song without Words" (Mendelssohn); Madeline Goss's "Unfinished Symphony" (Schubert).

NOVELS; OLDER YOUNG PEOPLE: "Vanished Island," by Cornelia Meigs; "Lake of Gold," John Buchan's last; "The Saturdays," by Elizabeth Enright; Stephen W. Meader's "Blueberry Mountain"; "The Big Six," by Arthur Ransome; "Mystery at Penmarth," by Ruth Manning-Sanders, Junior Literary Guild choice; "Left

Till Called For," by Mary Treadgold, contemporary Channel Islands local post invasion; Howard Pease's "Black Tanker"; "World Series" John R. Tunis.

YOUNGER READERS (pictures galore): "Calico, the Wonder Horse," by Virginia Lee Burton, competition for the comics; "The Moffats," by Eleanor Estes; "Pegeen," by Hilda van Stockum, new O'Sullivan story; Frances Clarke Sayers's "Tag-Along Tooloo"; "Simpson and Sampson," by Munro Leaf—Robt. Lawson; "Nothing At All," by Wanda Gag; "True Monkey Stories," by Frances M. Fox; "Dexter," by Stanley H. Silverman; "Make Way for Ducklings," by Robert McCloskey; "Smoozie," a real Alaskan fawn, by Alma Savage; "The Flying Locomotive," by William Pène du Bois; "Loopy," by Hardie Gramatky; "Adolphus the Adopted Dolphin," with a story in verse by William Rose Benét and illustrations by Marjorie Flack; "Mr. Pink and the House on the Roof," by Edith Heal; Hortense Flexner's "Chipper"; "Find the Animals," by Dorothy King; and "Fuzzy Kitten," by Helen Hoke, 1941's trick-book competitor of 1940's "Pat the Bunny."

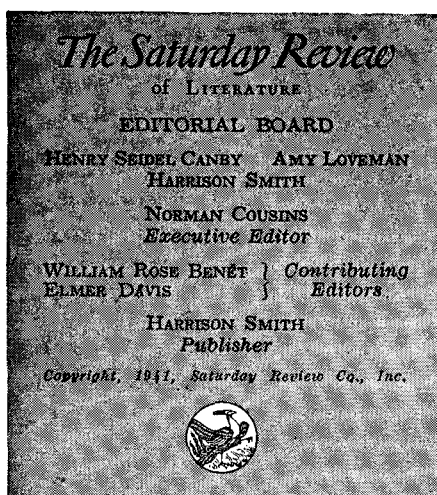
BOOKS ABOUT THINGS: "Spice-Ho!" by Agnes Danforth Hewes; "Spin, Weave and Wear," by Phyllis Ann Carter; "Let's Make Something," by Harry Zarchy; "How Things Work" (science), by Creighton Peet.

CLASSICS: OLD FAVORITES (mostly published in standard editions): Scribner Illustrated Classics; Rhead's Illustrated Juveniles; Beacon Hill Bookshelf; Children's Classic Series; Windemere Series; McKay Illustrated Classics; Mead Schaeffer Classics; Garden City Children's Books; Washington Square Classics; Winston's Children's Bookshelf; Felix Salten's "Bambi," Pamela L. Travers's "Mary Poppins," Joel Chandler Harris's "Brer Rabbit," Anna Sewell's "Black Beauty," in new dresses; Munro Leaf's manner, grammar, safety books in one big "Fun Book"; Thomas P. Robinson's "Plays—Shakespeare," first three volumes, perfect for amateurs; William Lyon Phelps's "Children's Anthology"; Phyllis R. Fenner's "There Was a Horse"; Ruth Smith's "Tree of Life" (anthology of mankind's religious literature) Esther Shephard's "Paul Bunyan," all desirable additions to the reading aloud shelf; Louise Raymond's "Oldest Story in the World"; James Daugherty's "In the Beginning," vital versions of Genesis. Put *The Horn Book* magazine, the definitive guide to children's books, on your list, too.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS: Dickens's "Christmas Carol"; Kate Douglas Wiggin's "The Birds' Christmas Carol"; Ruth Sawyer's "The Long Christmas," a perfect gift consisting of thirteen Christmas tales with decorations by Valenti Angelo, and Emilie F. Johnson's "A Little Book of Prayers," a necessity for every Christmas stocking. —LEO LERMAN.

SIX SPECIAL BOOKS

Title and Author	Age and Sex	About This Book	Our Opinion
WALT WHITMAN: BUILDER FOR AMERICA <i>Babette Deutsch</i> (Messner: \$2.50)	12-16 Both	Brilliant, persuasive biography of the great American poet by a poet. Winner of the \$2,000 Julia Ellsworth Ford Foundation award. Adults and young people will find it fascinating.	A classic
HERE WE ARE <i>Ernestine Taggard</i> (editor) (McBride: \$2.50)	12-16 Both	Twenty excellent stories culled from <i>Scholastic</i> , <i>The American High School Weekly</i> by its literary editor. Tales by Jesse Stuart, Dorothy Parker, Sinclair Lewis, Steinbeck, Saroyan, Lardner, and others. Good publishing idea.	A necessity
PETER CHURCHMOUSE <i>Margot Austin</i> (Dutton: \$1.)	3-6 Both	All about Peter, a churchmouse with hymn-book-eating propensities, and his friend, Gabriel, an eclectic kitten. Hilarious illustrations.	Should be perennial favorite
AN AMERICAN A B C <i>Maud and Miska Petersham</i> (Macmillan: \$2.)	6-10 Both	Two favorite authors present our national heritage in a new type alphabet book. Twenty-six vigorous stories and full-page illustrations.	Will be read to by all ages
LITTLE TOWN ON THE PRAIRIE <i>Laura Ingalls Wilder</i> (Harpers: \$2.)	9-12 Both	The most recent and the very best of the well-loved "Laura and Mary" books. This series is fresh literature, exciting story, and authentic Americana.	Every child should own one
LOST WORLDS: ADVENTURES IN ARCHAEOLOGY <i>Anne Terry White</i> (Random House: \$2.50)	12-16 Both	Archaeologists and their thrilling work on four continents. Lost civilizations made real by an author who writes poetically, expertly, and with authenticity. A lasting book.	Better than a thriller



WANDERING AMONG THE CHRISTMAS BOOKS

Oh, the Roman was a rogue,
He erat was, you bettum;
He ran his automobilus
And smoked his cigaretum.
He wore a diamond studibus
And elegant cravatium,
A maxima cum laude shirt,
And such a stylish hattum.

WHICH "Lay of Ancient Rome" may have no apparent bearing on editorial or other choices but nevertheless has its connection, for it is a jeu d'esprit tossed off in sportive mood by T. Y. Ybarra, whose "Young Man of Caracas" (Washburn: \$3.00) is just the sort of book to give for Christmas. Here is a lively chronicle in which a man of two worlds, the Brahmin one of Boston and the Spanish one of Venezuela, demonstrates what a vivid personality the blending of the strains of New England and Latin America can produce. For the reader who wants a more broadly swung study of South America, Mr. Ybarra's book could well be supplemented by John Gunther's "Inside Latin America" (Harpers: \$3.50), and Hubert Herring's "Good Neighbors" (Yale University Press: \$3.00). For the man or woman interested in international affairs in general there's a group of interesting works—Edgar Snow's "The Battle of Asia" (Random House: \$3.75), which sets the background of events which are so close to precipitation; Virginia Thompson's "Thailand: the New Siam" (Macmillan: \$5.00), a country little known but looming large in the complex of Oriental strategy; Douglas Miller's "You Can't Do Business with Hitler" (Little, Brown: \$1.50); William Henry Chamberlin's "The World's Iron Age" (Macmillan: \$3.00), and the volumes on Europe at war such as William Shirer's "Berlin Diary" (Knopf: \$3.00), Virginia Cowles's "Looking for Trouble" (Harpers: \$3.50), Leland Stowe's "No Other Road to Freedom" (Knopf: \$3.00), and Allan Nevins's

"This Is England Today" (Scribners: \$1.25). Mr. Nevins, to be sure, is a professor, not a correspondent, but for the nonce he became one.

But man can't live by bread alone and even your most serious-minded reader must relax at times. There's a grand collection of anthologies from which to choose for him—"Short Stories from the New Yorker" (Simon & Schuster: \$3.00), "101 Years' Entertainment" (Little, Brown: \$3.00), in which Ellery Queen (that duplicate person neither part of which bears the name under which the composite writes) has brought together the great long "short" detective stories from 1841 to the present; "Information, Please!" (Random House: \$2.00), edited by Dan Golenpaul; Mr. Fadiman's reflection of his literary pursuits in his "Reading I've Liked" (Simon & Schuster: \$3.00); "A Subtreasury of American Humor" (Coward-McCann: \$3.00), edited by E. B. and Katharine S. White, who are responsible for so much that has made the *New Yorker* distinguished, and "The 1942 *New Yorker* Album" (Random: \$2.50), treasure trove from the magazine. Then there's Richard Aldington's "The Viking Book of Poetry of the English Speaking World" (Viking: \$3.50), and "The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations" (Oxford University Press: \$5.00).

And that brings us down to poetry and belles lettres and a trio of the outstanding books for those who are especially interested in those fields. Van Wyck Brooks, in "The Opinions of Oliver Allston" (Dutton: \$3.00), hides behind the mask of a fictitious character, but there is no mistaking back of that personality the fine critical and reflective mind and the mellow judgment of Mr. Brooks himself pronouncing upon literature and life. Our own office associate, William Rose Benét (and aren't we proud of him?) has produced a major work of poetry in "The Dust Which Is God" (Dodd, Mead: \$3.50), an autobiographical novel in verse which for richness of thought and mastery of its medium

challenges any work of recent years. Mr. Benét himself has been enthusiastic in praise of the third book of our trio, Mark Van Doren's long narrative poem, "The Mayfield Deer" (Holt: \$2.50).

Looking for fiction? Try "The Timeless Land" (Macmillan: \$2.75), by Eleanor Dark, a story of Australia's beginnings; Ellen Glasgow's "In This Our Life" (Harcourt, Brace: \$2.50), another of its author's subtle and understanding portrayals of the rift between generations; George R. Stewart's "Storm" (Random House: \$2.50), that rare thing, something fresh and original in fiction; Roger Martin du Gard's impressive "Summer 1914" (Viking: \$3.50), a powerful and moving book on the First World War and the period immediately preceding its outbreak; and, by way of complete and absurd contrast, Sally Benson's gay "Junior Miss" (Random: \$2.00). F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Last Tycoon" (Scribners: \$2.75), shows that the untimely death of that author bereft America of a writer who in it was reaching his true stature. Carl Carmer's "The Genesee Fever" (Farrar & Rinehart: \$2.50), and Louis Bromfield's "Wild Is the River" (Harper's: \$2.00), an historical melodrama written with all Mr. Bromfield's usual skill, will interest a variety of readers.

If you're looking for really interesting history for anyone don't forget Margaret Leech's "Reveille in Washington" (Harpers: \$3.75), a fascinating study of the Civil War period, or Kenneth Umbreit's "Founding Fathers" (Harpers: \$3.50), or Carl Van Doren's "The Secret History of the American Revolution" (Viking: \$3.75), or George Dangerfield's "Victoria's Heir" (Harcourt, Brace: \$3.00).

And finally, and as a fillip to all sorts of tastes, there's "A Treasury of Gilbert and Sullivan" (Simon & Schuster: \$5.00), "The Record Book" (Smith & Durrell: \$1.00), by David Hall, and an unusual travel book, Rebecca West's "Black Lamb and Grey Falcon" (Viking: \$7.50).

Derelict

By Jeremy Ingalls

THE rocks crouch in the seaweed on the tide
Like women kneeling, moaning ancient prayers.
The wind-belched clouds in looming funnels ride.
Oblique in mist the down-shot sun-stream glares
On ruddled pools welled up through broken waters.
Prayers rise up, cry mercy. Here impend
The sky, the sun, the wind. The weathered world
Yaws in the universe. Here salvage send
Out of the bitter, red, and rubble-swirled
Storm of these broken years, out of these waters.