

# What SRL Reviewers Are Giving for Christmas:

ROSEMARY BENET	The American Past (Roger Butterfield)	Back Home (Bill Mauldin)	The Semi-Attached Couple (Emily Eden)	Bible Stories in Wood- cut—Helen Slocum Estabrook & Susan Nichols Pulsifer	Fireside Book of Ballads (M. Boni)
WILLIAM ROSE BENET	Song of Robin Hood (Edited by Anne Malcolmsen; Illus- trated by Virginia Lee Burton)	The Island: A Cavalcade of England (Francis Brett Young)	Untriangulated Stars (Letters of Edwin Arlington Robinson to Harry de Forest Smith, 1890-1905)	Collected Poems (Alfred Noyes)	The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments (King James Version)
JOHN MASON BROWN	The American Past (Roger Butterfield)	Postscript to Yesterday (Lloyd Morris)	Back Home (Bill Mauldin)	Tales of the South Pacific (James E. Michener)	The Last of the Provincials (Maxwell Geismar)
ASHER BRYNES	Dahl's Brave New World (Francis W. Dahl)	The Story of Ameri- can Railroads (Stewart H. Holbrook)	The Wonderful Ad- ventures of Nils (Selma Lagerlof)	Sailing to Win (Robert N. Bavie, Jr.)	The Gay Genius (Lin Yutang)
STRUTHERS BURT	Across the Wide Missouri (Bernard DeVoto)	The Sealed Verdict (Lionel Shapiro)	Toward What Bright Land (Walter Gilkysen)	The Meaning of Treason (Rebecca West)	The American Past (Roger Butterfield)
BENNETT CERF	Inside U.S.A. (John Gunther)	The American Past (Roger Butter- field)	Postscript to Yesterday (Lloyd Morris)	The Fireside Book of Folk Songs (Edited by Margaret Bradford Boni)	Addams and Evil (Charles Addams)
NANCY G. CHAIKIN	The Sherwood Anderson Reader (Edited by Paul Rosenfeld)	F.D.R.: His Per- sonal Letters (Edited by Elliott Roosevelt)	The American Songbag (Carl Sandburg)	The Thurber Carnival (James Thurber)	The James Family (F. O. Matthiessen)
RICHARD A. CORDELL	The Proper Bostonians (Cleveland Amory)	The Great Gatsby (F. Scott Fitz- gerald)	Amiable Autocrat (Eleanor M. Tilton)	Human Destiny (Lecomte du Nouy)	Back Home (Bill Mauldin)
IRWIN EDMAN	One Fine Day (Molly Panter- Downes)	Great Morning (Sir Osbert Sitwell)	Postscript to Yesterday (Lloyd Morris)	The Prime Minister (Anthony Trollope)	Journals of Andre Gide (Edited by Justin O'Brien)
ARTHUR C. FIELDS	The Last Days of Hitler (H. R. Trevor- Roper)	Knock on Any Door (Willard Motley)	A Study of History (Arnold J. Toynbee)	Yank: The GI Story of the War	The James Family (F. O. Matthiessen)
LOUIS FISCHER	Speaking Frankly (James F. Byrnes)	Gentleman's Agreement (Laura Z. Hobson)	I Want to be Like Stalin (George S. Counts)	Peace or Anarchy (Cord Meyer, Jr.)	Richer by Asia (Edmond Taylor)
MAXWELL GEISMAR	Leonardo da Vinci (Sigmund Freud Edited by A. A. Brill)	The Times of Mel- ville and Whitman (Van Wyck Brooks)	Journals of Andre Gide (Edited by Justin O'Brien)	Europe Without Baedeker (Edmund Wilson)	Basic Judaism (Milton Steinberg)
SARA HENDERSON HAY	The Stairway of Surprise (William Rose Benet)	Appreciation: Painting, Poetry & Prose (Leo Stein)	Studies in Murder (Edmond Pearson)	The Swiss Family Robinson (J. R. Wyss)	Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House (Eric Hodgins)
GORDDEN LINK	A Study of History (Arnold J. Toyn- bee)	The James Family (F. O. Matthiessen)	The Times of Mel- ville and Whitman (Van Wyck Brooks)	When the Mountain Fell (C.-F. Ramuz)	The Indefinite River (Preston Schoyer)
WILLIAM S. LYNCH	The American Past (Roger Butter- field)	The Harder They Fall (Budd Schulberg)	The Living Novel (V. S. Pritchett)	The Middle of the Journey (Lionel Trilling)	Lord Weary's Castle (Robert Lowell)
RICHARD McLAUGHLIN	The Innocent Eye (Herbert Read)	Martin Chuzzlewit (Charles Dickens, Illustrated by Mary Petty)	The Reprieve (Jean-Paul Sartre)	Tortilla Flat (John Steinbeck, Illustrated by Peggy Worthington)	Postscript to Yesterday (Lloyd Morris)
RICHARD L. NEUBERGER	The Journals of Francis Parkman (Edited by Mason Wade)	The Big Sky (A. B. Guthrie, Jr.)	The Great Forest (Richard G. Lillard)	Inside U.S.A. (John Gunther)	Wildwood Wisdom (Ellsworth Jaeger)
ROBERT PICK	Under the Volcano (Malcolm Lowry)	The Heretics (Humphrey Slater)	Albert Schweitzer (George Seaver)	Christ Stopped at Eboli (Carlo Levi)	Another Day, Another Dollar (John T. Winterich)
BEN RAY REDMAN	Peter Abelard (Helen Waddell)	Middlemarch (George Eliot)	The Great Elector (Ferdinand Schevill)	Rimbaud (Enid Starkie)	The Pleasures of Peacock (Thomas Love Peacock)
ARTHUR SCHLESINGER, Jr.	Across the Wide Missouri (Bernard DeVoto)	The Last Days of Hitler (H. R. Trevor-Roper)	The Middle of the Journey (Lionel Trilling)	The New Yorker Book of War Pieces	Speaking Frankly (James F. Byrnes)
PAMELA TAYLOR	Postscript to Yesterday (Lloyd Morris)	Mrs. Egg and Other Americans (Edited by Wil- son Follett)	Great Morning (Sir Osbert Sitwell)	The James Family (F. O. Matthiessen)	Addams and Evil (Charles Addams)
STANLEY VESTAL	Death on Horse- back (Paul I. Wellman)	Western Words (Ramon F. Adams)	Frederic Remington, Artist of the Old West (Harold McCracken)	Picture Maker of the Old West (Clarence S. Jackson)	Across the Wide Missouri (Bernard DeVoto)
DIXON WECTER	American Memoir (Henry S. Canby)	Across the Wide Missouri (Bernard DeVoto)	Ordeal of the Union (Allan Nevins)	Notebooks of Henry James (Edited by Matthies- sen and Murdock)	The Rime of the Ancient Mariner (Illustrated by Alexander Calder; Essay by Robert Penn Warren)
JOHN T. WINTERICH	The American Im- agination at Work (Ben C. Clough)	I Remember Dis- tinctly (Frederick Lewis Allen and Agnes Rogers)	F.D.R.: His Personal Letters (Edited by Elliott Roosevelt)	Command Decision (William Wister Haines)	The Chequer Board (Neville Shute)
JOHN WOODBURN	Let Us Now Praise Famous Men (James Agee)	The Countryman's Companion (Edited by David B. Greenberg)	Black Metropolis (Drake and Cayton)	Under the Volcano (Malcolm Lowry)	Mr. Weston's Good Wine (T. F. Powys)

# John G. Winant: Casualty of the Peace

## "None More Genuinely American"

BY HERBERT PELL

IN JANUARY 1941, during one of democracy's darkest hours, President Roosevelt asked his old friend John Gilbert Winant, Director of the International Labor Office, to visit him at the White House so that Winant might tell him what he had seen of the German march through Western Europe and the situation then prevailing in Great Britain. Some days later Mr. Winant learned from the newspapers that the President had appointed him Ambassador to Great Britain.

In "Letter from Grosvenor Square,"\* written shortly before his tragic death, Mr. Winant gives an account of his work at the Court of St. James from his arrival in February 1941 to the Japanese and German declarations of war on the United States the following December. He wrote it, Mr. Winant explains, because of "the growing disillusionment of today; which not only dims and obscures the present, but is trying to cloud the past."

His book is an important one because it helps illuminate eleven months crucial in the history of Western civilization, eleven months about which most Americans still know pitifully little. "You could not live in London in those early years and not realize how narrow was the margin of survival . . ." Mr. Winant writes. "Four specific moments in 1940 and 1941 are fixed in my mind . . . the Battle of Britain, Lend-Lease, the German attack on Russia, and Pearl Harbor."

Upon his arrival in London, Mr. Winant immediately became both a symbol and a tireless worker in behalf of Anglo-American cooperation in the war against Germany. Frankly and with winning simplicity, he tells how he directed the inauguration of Lend-Lease operations and consummated the exchange of over-age destroyers for bases. He tells something about reverse Lend-Lease—for example, how the British furnished us with scientific information that contributed to the development of the atomic bomb. He pictures England during the Battle of Britain, when there was a possibility that the island might be invaded at any moment. He describes the everyday life of the average Englishman, the sacrifices he made and the spirit with which he made them.

Particularly fine are Mr. Winant's portraits of the British leaders. Winston Churchill he calls "an old-fashioned eighteenth-century Whig"—a description that will strike anyone familiar with English history as most apt. Mr. Winant admired tremendously the common sense the British Prime Minister showed during the complicated negotiations involved in setting up Lend-Lease. It is characteristic of the close cooperation existing between the two men that they were together at Chequers, the Prime Minister's estate, during the first

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\*LETTER FROM GROSVENOR SQUARE. By John Gilbert Winant. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1947. 279 pp. \$3.

## "The Essence of Gandhism"

BY LOUIS FISCHER

WHEN you were with John G. Winant you felt you were in the presence of greatness. He was deep and simple. He went out to people without words. He could not express his warmth; it just shone out of his face. He had a big, handsome body and a beautiful head. There was an inner beauty in him. He reminded one of Abraham Lincoln. He often reminded me of Jawaharlal Nehru. Past fifty, he seemed very young, shy, eager, groping, yet wise. During the war, a member of the British government said to me in London, "Ambassador Winant looks naïve. But put a proposition to him and he sees through it and you in a minute and a half."

Aristocrat and Republican from New Hampshire, he was closest to the British working people. Intimate collaborator of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, he enjoyed the company of Fabian Laborites. When Churchill walked among blitzed English folk he delighted and excited them. When Winant went to them they silently loved him. And he loved humanity; not in a general way; he loved humanity individually.

"When all this is over," he said during the war, "I want to go home. I miss America."

"What do you miss in America?" I asked.

"I miss my neighbors," he replied.

Winant hated pomp and circumstance. Once he moved from the White House, where he was staying as President Roosevelt's guest, to a second-class hotel in Washington. A friend asked him why he had moved. "Oh," he said, "I didn't know what to do with my laundry. Here I just make a bundle and give it to the chambermaid."

Winant said he liked to get into new work and meet new people. He liked idealists, especially religious idealists. Next to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, whom he adored, he was the most Gandhian figure in American official life. He was fair, honest, loyal to principle, and devoted to those who needed help. He was generous about others

but merciless in judging his own inadequacies. Our world tortured him.

Who can say why a man of his gigantic moral stature would kill himself with a revolver shot? He was tired. He was ill. He may have had troubles that no outsider can divine. Somebody has said he was a casualty of the Second World War. I cannot help thinking he was more a casualty of the peace we have failed to make.

Just fourteen days before Winant committed suicide he addressed the *Herald Tribune* forum in New York. It turns out to have been a kind of valedictory. It shows what bothered him. "And I'd like to put a question to you," he said with moving simplicity. "Are you doing as much today for peace as you did for this country and civilization in the days of war? I'm not."

Winant was a veteran of the First World War. At the forum he said:

I have often thought that if after the last war two thousand of us out



Winant: "Are you doing as much today for peace as you did during the war? I'm not."