



—The Travel Assn.

... in the country Dickensian inns.

Trip or Substitute

SO YOU'RE GOING TO ENGLAND.
By Clara Laughlin. New York:
Houghton Mifflin Co. 1948. 640 pp.
\$5.

By QUENTIN REYNOLDS

THE publishing firm of Houghton Mifflin has just made a tremendous wager that there will be no war. The wager was not made with one of those reliable Jersey City houses which handle the cases of those who like to bet that one horse can run faster than another, nor was it made in the more subtle form of insurance with Lloyd's of London. Houghton Mifflin with calm confidence made its wager by publishing a 640-page travel book called "So You're Going to England." This is a revised edition of the original book written by Clara Laughlin many years ago. The author died six years ago and the task of revision fell into the capable hands of her long-time associate, Mildred Britten Austin.

Travel books are traditionally bought by people who are contemplating travel. If war comes, the only ones who will be free to travel will be young men in brown uniforms who will have no time to inspect the beauty of England so ecstatically described by Clara Laughlin. But Houghton Mifflin, in publishing this postwar edition of "So You're Going to England," has unmistakably shown its confidence in peace.

Such confidence deserves to be rewarded and such a book deserves to be bought. The book is filled with in-

formation, charm, anecdotes, and interest. Clara Laughlin takes England up carefully by the back of its neck and lays it gently in your lap. She considers every large city, every medium-sized city, and every hamlet that might have a story to tell. Her chapter on Liverpool is truly extraordinary. My visits to Liverpool were confined to the war years, and with the exception of Birmingham (or possibly Slough) it seemed to be the dullest, most drab city in England. I realize now that the fault was mine—not Liverpool's. Clara Laughlin reveals Liverpool as an exciting metropolis which has a lot more to recommend it than the modern cocktail lounge in the Adelphi Hotel. She took the trouble to make friends with the city, and when you finish reading about Liverpool you wish you had.

A reviewer is supposed to approach his task (so I've heard) with objectivity and detachment. The chapters on London completely routed both of these critical requisites. Her stories of London to one who loves the city are only wonderful. The late Clara Laughlin, for instance, knows Fleet Street and the Strand better than any of us who lived and worked in that section of the city. She makes leisurely digressions to tell us the history of landmarks like the Cheshire Cheese, Temple Bar, and the Savoy Hotel. She brings to life Kings and Cardinals, saints and sinners who once walked, rode, or prowled the Strand in the days when it was just a footpath on the banks of the Thames.

"If we treat ghosts pleasantly, they're really very kind," she says. This is not a book to be read only by those contemplating a trip to England. It could well be read as a substitute for a trip to England. I defy anyone who is susceptible to the charm of interesting places to find a dull page in it. Four dollars? That makes it the greatest buy since Manhattan went for \$24 plus beads.

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For ETO Vet & Bro.

YOUR HOLIDAY IN BRITAIN. By
Gordon Cooper. New York: A. A.
Wyn. 1948. 194 pp. \$3.50.

ALL THE BEST IN ENGLAND. By
Sydney Clark. New York: Dodd,
Mead & Co. 1948. 340 pp. \$3.50.

Reviewed by PAMELA KELLINO

IN THE years that followed World War I the tourist traffic of Western Europe thrived on the patronage of Americans.

"American sightseer" came to denote a new comedy type in England,

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1948

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easily recognizable on account of his brassy accent, his horn-rimmed glasses, and his straw hat. The same earmarks made him the victim of the French hotelier's gracious rapacity. In Germany the innocent, good-natured chap exploited the favorable money exchange with an extravagance so gross that he indoctrinated

a generation of young Germans with a limitless contempt for American kultur.

The modern equivalent of this type is not likely to do much traveling in a Europe shattered by World War II. But there is evidence that Britain's invitation will not go unanswered. "Your Holiday in Britain" might

The Travel Log

ENGLAND

The Saturday Review's Guide to 16 mm.
Sound Films for the Fireside Traveler

Part I: London

*Available without charge **Available for purchase or rental
***Available for school, church, and club groups only

Title	Details	Description
BIG CITY** (Prewar London)	Black and white. Fourteen minutes. Sound. Films from Britain Series; BIS	London's workers crowd the trams and undergrounds to get to their jobs and leisure-time activities. Scenes of the city's complex transportation system.
HEIR TO THE THRONE**	Black and white. Eleven minutes. Sound. British Movietone News, C.O.I.; BIS	Highlights in the life of Princess Elizabeth: the Jubilee, the Coronation, review of the Grenadier Guards. Daily life at Windsor Castle.
HISTORIC ST. PAUL'S**	Black and white. Fourteen minutes. Sound. British Consul; BIS	The story of one of England's great cathedrals—rebuilt after the Great Fire of London, and now the shrine of such heroes as Nelson and Wellington.
LONDON CAN TAKE IT** (Wartime London)	Black and white. Ten minutes. Sound. Crown Film Unit; BIS	An eye-witness account of the first shock of the Battle of Britain and the way life resumes the next morning. Commentary by Quentin Reynolds. Often referred to as the first great film of World War II.
LONDON, CITY OF TRADITION*** (Prewar London)	Black and white. Ten minutes. Sound. MGM; FitzPatrick Traveltalk Series	Views of such traditional symbols as: Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, and House of Parliament. Historical characters and events are identified with these landmarks.
NIGHT MAIL**	Black and white. Twenty-five minutes. Sound. G.P.O. Film Unit; BIS	One of the classic documentaries. Produced by Grierson, Cavalcanti, and Basil Wright. Narration written in blank verse and delivered by the poet W. H. Auden.
PROUD CITY** (Postwar London)	Black and white. Twenty-six minutes. Sound. Greenpark Productions, Film Producers Guild; BIS	After the damage wrought by the blitz, study and investigation produced plans for rebuilding the huge, straggling metropolis which will prevent haphazard regrowth.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY**	Black and white. Fourteen minutes. Sound. Inspiration Pictures; BIS	Here Parliament once met; here for centuries the sovereigns have been crowned and here illustrious Englishmen are buried. Gothic architecture at its best.
WORDS FOR BATTLE** (Wartime London)	Black and white. Eight minutes. Sound. Crown Film Unit; BIS	Laurence Olivier delivers selections from the most famous passages of English literature which have been chosen to crystallize the beliefs for which Britain fought the war.

For further information about the purchase or rental of these and other films, please write to Film Department, The Saturday Review of Literature, 25 West 45 Street, New York 18, N. Y.

Some 16 mm. sound films are available without cost; rentals made through your local educational film library seldom exceed one dollar per reel.

All films are shipped express collect and returned express prepaid.

The Saturday Review