

The Film Forum

WINGS OVER THE WORLD

The Saturday Review's Weekly Guide
to Selected 16mm. Sound Films.

EDITOR'S NOTE: With summer on the way, many people are looking to air travel as a means of saving precious days on a trip to Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific. The three films reviewed this week present three areas of the world with all the Kodachrome splendors which their enthusiastic sponsor can lavish on them.

HIGHWAY TO HAWAII

Produced by Cate and McGlone for United Airlines. Available from United Airlines, Inc., 80 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y. In color. (27 mins.)

The color in this film is magnificent—some of the best that has been seen in a commercial film. The fruit and the flowers of the Hawaiian Islands, the welcoming crowds of girls, the semi-tropical scenery, appear in a gorgeous resplendence which would warm the cockles of a Hollywood producer's heart.

But when all this has been spelled out, little remains in the film to command any praise. The first five minutes drag by with a wearisome enumeration of the marvels of flight (surely fairly familiar by now), the supreme virtues of United Airlines, the mechanical miracle of the DC-6, and a mouth-watering description of the meals which are served aloft. This is the technique of the radio commercial, excused only because, when the eye is blind, the ear must be cajoled into attention. But the camera has an eye; it is, in fact, an eye in itself. If, as an audience, we are convinced by what we see, what need to lay it on so thickly in the sound track with every copywriter's cliché in the book? But if what we see with our own eyes doesn't convince us, no honeyed narrator is going to do the trick.

So, switching off the sound of "Highway to Hawaii," and guided by our own good sense and some attractive maps, we may visit Waikiki Beach, go surf-riding out amongst the big waves, make the ninety-mile circuit of Oahu, and tour the less well-known islands, Kauai and Maui. Along the way we shall have visited the pineapple and sugar-cane plantations, watched a spectacular volcanic eruption, seen the giant fern forest, and come away with a sense of the rich backgrounds of native Hawaiian life. But, please, no sound track!

WINGS TO IRELAND

Produced by Hartley Productions, New York, for Pan-American World Airways. Available from Association Films, 35 W. 45th St., New York 19, N. Y. In color. (30 mins.)

Among travelogues that astonish the eye with their brilliance of color,

this simple, unpretentious film comes as a very pleasant relief. Even the bold palette of Kodachrome is subdued by the soft greens of Irish grassland, and the purple of the moors and hills.

But what chiefly distinguishes this film (and seemingly others by the same producers) is the apt use of natural sound and speech recorded on location. Padraic Colum's name on the credit titles is an assurance of authenticity; and if the educated tongue of some of the would-be country characters marks them as pure Abbey Theatre, others are genuine enough. The result is a convincing feeling that the audience has been carried to the spot and planted down in Ireland.

Accompanying a visiting couple and their young son, we tour Western Ireland, watch the home industries and the local thatchers at work, listen to a woman singing her child to sleep with a Gaelic lullaby, and take a trip on the Lakes of Killarney. Cork and the Blarney Stone, the Rock of Cashel and the abbey which sheltered St. Patrick in 450 A.D., the plains of Tipperary, and, finally, Dublin's streets are all part of the tour, which includes a delightfully photographed fox-hunting episode.

The commentary, both in voice and wording, is refreshingly free from plugs, and an audience is likely to be grateful to the sponsor for its rare and welcome restraint. The film—especially after Hawaii—leaves the impression that the sun doesn't shine very often in Ireland, but that the country is soft and beautiful in all weathers, and the people open-hearted and hospitable to strangers.

WINGS TO CUBA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Produced by Hartley Productions, New York, for Pan-American World Airways. Available from Association Films, 35 W. 45th St., New York 19, N. Y. In color. (29 mins.)

This companion film to "Wings to Ireland" is brighter and louder and generally less successful. The traveler this time is a glamour girl, but the continuity is supplied by a rather unpleasant little animated figure representing the airline which pops up at unexpected moments and exclaims with dubious rhyme and logic, "It's quicker by Clipper." Even the Calypso singers are roped in to chant the virtues of PAA.

However, the rich musical traditions of Latin America furnish some attractive, locally-recorded singing and dancing, and the camera transports us all the way from the Virgin Islands at one end of the Caribbean to Cuba at the other.

—RAYMOND SPOTTISWOODE.

New 1949 edition!

- Over 1,000 markets for manuscript sales
- 69 chapters of instruction

Widely used as the standard reference book for writers. The new edition contains 69 chapters by famous authors and editors giving practical instruction in the writing of fiction, non-fiction, plays, verse, radio-dramas, juveniles, etc. The market lists have been carefully checked for accuracy. This book tells *what to write about, how to write it, and where to sell it.*

THE WRITER'S HANDBOOK

Edited by A. S. BURACK

At your bookstore, or direct postpaid from
THE WRITER, Inc., 8 Arlington St., Boston 16, Mass.

A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES:

YOKOHAMA, CALIFORNIA

By TOSHIO MORI

Introduction by WILLIAM SAROYAN

"... Mori sees in this little life of practical failure and pathetic hope the same effect toward self-respect and dignity that lies behind all men's attempts to make something of their lives." —Joseph Henry Jackson, San Francisco Chronicle

"After so many slick imitations of slick writing, this fresh voice rings like a bird song in the night." —Lewis Cannett, New York Herald Tribune

\$3.00 at your bookstore or from

CAXTON PRINTERS, LTD.
Caldwell Idaho

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Conference for Young Writers

July 3-10, 1949

WRITERS' CONFERENCE

July 10-16, 1949

Staff

Andrew Lytle
Stephen Spender Glenway Wescott
Arch Oboler Karl Shapiro
Karl Detzer Harry Shaw
Jeannette Covert Nolan

Fifteen full-payment scholarships plus tuition scholarships available. Write for folder to

RALPH L. COLLINS, Director
Indiana University Writers' Conference
Bloomington, Indiana

BOOK MSS. WANTED

BOOKS and PAMPHLETS
COMPLETE PRODUCTION SERVICE
at low cost

For our free booklet and estimate
Write to Dept. B.

BOOKMAN ASSOCIATES
42 BROADWAY NEW YORK 4, N. Y.

RECORDS! RECORDS!

We have just brought out complete record catalogue of a nationally known firm.

SHOSTAKOVICH—PROKOFIEFF
MISKOVSKY—TCHAIKOWSKY

All U.S.S.R. original label records—Singly or in albums—Wholesale or retail—At manufacturer's price.—Supply limited—Order now.

STANLEY RECORD SHOP

586 7th Avenue, N.Y.C. WI 7-9686

For information about the purchase or rental of any films, please write to Film Department, The Saturday Review, 25 West 45th St., New York 19, N. Y.

The New Recordings

COMPOSITION, PERFORMER, ALBUM NUMBER, NUMBER OF RECORDS	ENGINEERING	PERFORMANCE
	Recording Technique, Surface	AND CONTENT

COLLECTION FROM MERCURY—DOMESTIC RECORDINGS

BEETHOVEN: AN DIE FERNE GELIEBTE, Op. 98. Wm. Horne, ten. Franz Rupp, pf. Mercury DM 8 (2 10")	The single-mike technique, here in a studio I'd call too live; piano excellent, voice a bit hollow sounding.	This cycle of six continuous songs done with sincerity, a certain tonal monotony on Horne's part. Closer mike might help with such personal music.
MOZART: DIVERTIMENTO IN D. K. 251. Dumbarton Oaks Chamber Players, A. Schneider, Mitchell Miller, et al. Mercury DM 4 (3)	Same technique, different results. Excellent liveliness. Extremely sharp "edge" to violins. Nice rendering of varied instrumental color.	Minor but delightful Mozart, casual—entertainment type; appropriate small group (4 strings, 2 horns, oboe) sounds big and full in these acoustics.
DE FALLA: HARPSICHORD CONCERTO (1923-26). Ralph Kirkpatrick; A. Schneider, M. Miller, S. Baron, H. Freeman, B. Greenhouse. Mercury DM 5 (2)	This one has relatively dry acoustics (suits music). Wide range, beautiful balance. Again, fine rendering of diff. instrumental colors. Some tendency to blast.	A strange, tortured piece, dissonant, halting, seemingly ugly on purpose. Powerful, obviously sincere, but it seems to me to drag unmercifully. Better try for yourself, though.

THE ITALIAN TOUCH

HAYDN: THE SEASONS. Eiar Orch., Chorus; Gabr. Gatti, Francesco Albanese; cond. Vittorio Gui. Cetra-Soria 111 (10) (some cuts made)	Not a bad job. Highs weak, but enough for color, diction. Balance, solos, orch., chorus, are excellent. Acoustics natural, slightly deadish. Inside grooves get pretty bad, some sides.	Far from crackerjack performance of this great oratorio, but adequate to get much of music over. Chorus sings mashed-potato style, but feelingly. Solos, fair to excellent. Highly Italianate!
VIVALDI - MOLINARI: THE FOUR SEASONS. Orch. Ac. di S. Cecilia, Molinari. Cetra-Soria 107 (6) Comparison: SAME—ORIG. SCORING. Conc. Hall Soc. String Orch. (SRL Dec. 4).	More effective recording than Cetra's "The Seasons"—but easier to record. Lovely acoustics, good perspective betw. solos, orch. Concert Hall version suffers from too much vl. solo; it's closer, a bit harsh in quality.	Molinari's simple arr. for large string orch. is relatively tasteful; no fussy distractions, keeps solo-tutti relations. Played here most musically, if with some exaggerated tempi. C. H. version, technically more correct, is no more musical than this.
MONTEVERDI: TIRSI E CLORI; IL RITORNO D'ULISSE. Max Meili, Elsa Scherz-Meister, ens. of voices, old instrs., Wenzinger. CONCERT HALL C2 (3 pl.) Subscription only	Sharp, clear, close recording, marred by tendency to blast in high-level parts (copied at too high a level?) much of music is relatively boisterous, this close!	A most desirable Monteverdi addition; music linking madrigal and later instrumental and opera styles. Some good singing, glimpses assorted lutes, recorders, harpsichord, viols, etc.
SCARLATTI - TOMMASINI: THE GOOD HUMoured LADIES. London Symph., Sargent. Decca frrr EDA 92 (2)	Music not well matched to the acoustics—the distant, reverberant quality here is not good to Scarlatti.	Nice playing of ballet music derived from group of Scarlatti harpsichord sonatas. Suffers from acoustics here; it needs a dry, brilliant closeness.

MUSIC OF THE 18th CENTURY. Royal Philharmonic, Beecham. RCA Victor DM 1264 (4)	An enjoyable collection of little-known music in familiar styles, impeccably played. Mozart Symph. #27 is a most desirable item, played in excellent chamber style. Paisiello overture, cross between Mozart and Rossini, is surprisingly interesting (except bombastic ending). More Handel-Beecham in "Amaryllis" ballet excerpt. Mehul overture, "Les Deux Aveugles," is Beethoven-Weber in style, with touches of Mozart's "Jupiter." Very good recording, acoustics, surface.	
--	--	--

CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS are accepted for things wanted or unwanted; personal services; literary or publishing offers, unclassified elsewhere; miscellaneous items appealing to a special intelligent clientele; jobs wanted; houses or camps for rent; tutoring; traveling companions; ideas for sale; communications of a decorous nature, opinions (limited to 50 lines). All advertisements must be consonant with the character of the Saturday Review. Ads of a personal nature are limited to an exchange of correspondence. Rate, 25¢ per word; 12-word minimum. Count 2 extra words for Box and Number. Rates for several insertions—52 times 17¢ a word; 26 times 19¢ a word; 13 times 22¢ a word; 6 times 24¢ a word. Full payment must be received fifteen days before publication. We forward all mail received in answer to box numbers and submit postage bills periodically. Mail to be called for at this office will be held 30 days only. Address: Personals Department, The Saturday Review, 25 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

BOOKPLATES

FREE CATALOGUE. Several hundred beautiful designs, address "BOOKPLATES," Yellow Springs, Ohio.

FRENCH BOOKS

THE FRENCH BOOK SHOP, 556 Madison Avenue, New York's only French bookshop where French books ONLY are sold exclusively. Mail order catalogues 30¢. Books Bought.

WE PAY CASH for French books, complete libraries and smaller groups. Correspondence invited. FRENCH BOOK SHOP, 83 Washington St., Boston, Mass.

LIBRAIRIE LIPTON. The French Book Shop, 791 Lexington Avenue, N.Y.C. 21. Formerly 4 Place de l'Odeon, Paris. Dealer in French books exclusively; all subjects bought and sold.

NEW FRENCH FICTION—Mme. Emile Hugli brings you plot, atmosphere, charm of latest French literature in series of "Causeries" in English or French; also available clubs, lecture tours, radio. Critics say: "Insight and discrimination." . . . "A joyful experience." Mme. Emile Hugli, 601 W. 110 St., apt. 11-J, N.Y.C. 25.

RECORD MART

SPECIALIZED SERVICE CATERING to collectors of vocal records. Cutouts available. State "wants." RECORD COLLECTOR'S SERVICE, 502 East 88 St., N.Y.C. 28. Regent 7-7611.

VICTORIA: Motets (Courand ensemble) Discophiles Français album, \$10. ELAINE MUSIC SHOP, 9 East 44 St., N.Y.C. 17. CATALOGUE, Imported, Domestic Recordings. 10¢ prepaid.

RARE DISCS. Lists. E. Hirschmann, 100 Duncan Ave., Jersey Cit, N. J.

COLLECTOR'S ITEMS—CLASSICAL AND POPULAR. Oldest Record Shop in N.Y.C. Send us your "Want List." Marconi Bros., Inc., 864 Lexington Ave., N.Y.C. at 65 St. Regent 4-2020.

ALL AVAILABLE ALBUMS at 20% DISCOUNT. Classical and popular. Order three or more and we pay postage. SPIERMAN'S RECORDS, 712 Broadway, N.Y.C.

LANGUAGES

LEARN ALL LANGUAGES ON RECORDS. All makes—sold, bought, rented. Free details. ALIN, 475 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C. Murray Hill 3-1093.

FRENCH conversation, diction, grammar. Expert training by Parisienne (Sorbonne University) N.Y.C. Regent 7-4606.

ITALIAN—Native professoress, rapid progress, reasonable. Plaza 3-2450, apt. 70. Call evenings.

LEARN ITALIAN OR FRENCH! Languages pleasantly, easily, expertly taught by Italian lady. Also English lessons for French and Italians. Call TEmpleton 8-8255.

PARIS BOUND? Get ready to speak French in 12 lessons. Also Brushup. Parisienne, VAnDerbilt 6-2550.

BACK NUMBERS

BACK NUMBER MAGAZINE SPECIALISTS. Established 1889. ABRAHAM'S MAGAZINE SERVICE, 56 East 13 St., N.Y.C.

BACK NUMBER MAGAZINES—over a million in stock. Large supply of Geographics. Prices quoted immediately. Orders filled in 48 hours. "BACK NUMBER" WILKINS, Box 247, Dept. PR, Danvers, Mass.

WRITERS' CONFERENCES

WRITER'S CONFERENCE, Chicago July 11-17. Workshops under noted leaders, daily Distinguished Guests, Teas and Programs in Studebaker Theatre, visiting writers, publishers, editors. Several thousand dollars prize awards for short stories, articles, poetry, novel outlines, plays, junior fiction. \$500 for best 500 words on "THE BOOK I SHOULD LIKE TO WRITE." Send for rules of entry. MIDWESTERN WRITER'S CONFERENCE, Suite 540E, 410 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago 5.

WRITERS' CONFERENCE. University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, July 25-August 12, 1949. Write for information.

(Continued on page 65)

The Saturday Review