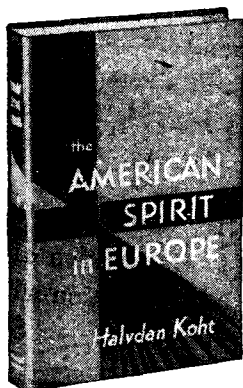


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either Spanish or Indian. Poverty is the rule, not the exception. Yet the Spaniard is almost invariably a land owner. However small his plot of ground, it is almost always called a *ranchito*. And however sparingly the house may be furnished (the younger generation tends to go in for Sears Roebuck suites), it is always spotlessly clean. The care of water which the Spaniard learned from the Indian is a rite and every land owner must take his turn on the irrigation ditches. The Spaniard watches the amount of snowfall on the distant twin Truchas peaks with an interest far more devout than does the skier, for there the story will be told whether the coming summer will bring with it drought.

So the life of the two Olympian ladies, struggling against odds to create a livable home in the valley, inevitably blends with the life of the neighbors. When the widower Maclovio's daughter Cristina married, it was Miss Marriott he asked to join him in giving the "bride" away. When Mrs. Romero cut her hand, it was to the writer and the artist she came for first aid. The Siamese cats furnished endless entertainment for the children of the valley.

With the skill and warmth of a brilliant novelist, Miss Marriott brings to intimate life an unknown part of the American world. One can well understand, after reading "The Valley Below," her uncanny genius as an ethnologist as revealed in "The Ten Grandmothers" and "Maria" (of whom there are some candid literary snapshots in the book). Despite her many gifts, her real forte may be the short story, if the painfully subtle short story which is the next to the last chapter in the book, "The Penitent One," is indicative of her power. Nothing has ever been written about the mysterious Penitentes which is so moving, so explanatory. A scholar who is both literary and humane, Miss

Marriott may well be destined to wear the mantle of the late Mary Austin.

The pen sketches by Miss Lefranc (Margaret Schoonover, the artist) are a fitting companion to Miss Marriott's literary charm.

Joseph A. Brandt, former president of the University of Oklahoma and of Henry Holt and Co., publishers, is author of "Toward the New Spain."

Regional Notes

GOLD RUSH: *The Journals, Drawings, and Other Papers of J. Goldsborough Bruff, 1849-1851, edited by Georgia Willis Read and Ruth Gaines. Columbia University Press. \$10.* Never in the history of the world has there been such an articulate body of pioneers as the argonauts of '49. They sang ho for California with an Ames shovel in one hand and a pen in the other. A. B. Hulbert's bibliography for six years of goldhunting contains nearly 400 titles of original narratives. It is remarkable how many of the best of them, like Sarah Royce's and Panoast's, have been published in our own time. And no purer gold ever came out of California quartz than this the most recent of all of them, the work of a middle-aged Government draughtsman who threw up a comfortable job and left wife and children to join a fortune-hunting company. The spring of 1849 found him packing freight and breaking mules at St. Joe on the Missouri frontier; after a world of adventure and hardship, late October saw his company safely over the Sierra Nevada and near the Sacramento, having covered 2,061 miles in 120 days. While bearing the brunt of labor and anxiety for the expedition, he had kept a minute journal and made a large number of graphic drawings.

No book better indicates the arduous difficulties and frequent dangers of the Forty-niners' march. It was not a lark; it was heat, cold, cholera, dysentery, hunger, scurvy, bad water, worry about Indians, panthers, forage, and accidents, quarrels, exhaustion, and homesickness. Bruff tells how companies which set out with fine animals, ample stores, and smiling faces turned into "scattered, broken, selfish stragglers, dusty in face and dress, and many of them thin with hunger as well as anxiety." He tells, too, of California gulches barren of gold, and prospectors committing suicide from disappointment. Into this finely printed, 800-page book the editors have brought the best



—From "Gold Rush."

narrative sections of Bruff's work as previously issued in two volumes (now out of print), with the best drawings, and they have given us their invaluable notes.

—ALLAN NEVINS.

MEN AND WOMEN OF CAROLINA: *Selected Addresses and Papers* by J. Rion McKissick, edited by Frank H. Wardlaw. University of South Carolina Press. \$3. This is a collection of the memorabilia of a college president who earned and held the respect of his students for the nine years (1935-44) during which he headed the University of South Carolina. In 1942 they gave him a bicycle. This very book is largely the product of student donations. Dr. McKissick graduated from the college he later headed and then studied law at Harvard. From 1905 to 1913 he was a newspaperman, chiefly on the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, along with Henry Sydnor Harrison and Douglas S. Freeman, and his reminiscences of this period are enjoyable. Then he resigned to take up the law, but instead returned to newspaper work in his home state. He became dean of the School of Journalism at USC and then president of the university. The present compilation is designed for those who during his incumbency felt the kindly impress of a winning personality along with the skill of a capable administrator.

—JOHN T. WINTERICH.

NORTHWEST BOOKS: *First Supplement. A Bibliography of Northwest Writing, 1942-1947.* University of Nebraska Press. \$4. This valuable bibliographical tool is a guide to recent books which have appeared in the Northwest region or are typical of the Northwest. Edited by Rufus A. Coleman, of Montana State University, it contains more than 1,000 reviews of over 600 books with biographical data on their authors. There is also a selected magazine bibliography. The present volume carries on a study made first in 1933 and repeated in 1942 under the sponsorship of the Inland Empire Council of Teachers of English.

HAWAIIAN LEGENDS IN ENGLISH: *An Annotated Bibliography*, by Amos P. Lieb. University of Hawaii Press. \$2. From one of the youngest of American university presses (it was established in September 1947) and the only one outside the continental United States comes this comprehensive bibliography of published translations and retellings of Hawaiian myths and legends in English. Dr. Lieb prefaces this valuable work with an historical and critical study of the more important translations.

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Big books? Yes. *FREEDOM'S FERMENT* by Alice Felt Tyler (\$6.50). "Big and well written . . . a grand book from first page to last."—*Stewart Holbrook*. *THE DOCTORS MAYO* by Helen Clapesattle (\$3.75). A bestseller by anybody's count (more than 100,000 copies sold) and one of the great American biographies.

Big little books?

SOCIAL FORCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA by Cora Du Bois (\$2.00). Of this book the *Christian Science Monitor* says, "This book is less than 100 pages long . . . the forces it confronts with so much vision will help to mold the next 100 years."

Experimental theater

PARABLES FOR THE THEATER by Bertolt Brecht (\$3.50). "One of the major dramatists of our time, his work deserves a wide audience."—*Theatre Arts*. *TOO MANY THUMBS* by Robert Hivnor (\$2.50). "A delightful fantasy built about a significant idea."—*Joseph Warren Beach*.

Literary criticism

FORMS OF MODERN FICTION, edited by William Van O'Connor (\$4.50), and *HOGARTH'S LITERARY RELATIONSHIPS* by Robert E. Moore (\$3.75).

Novels?

No new ones as yet but two reprints this spring—*THE ADVENTURES OF LINDAMIRA*, edited by Benjamin Boyce (\$3.00), a rare 18th-century romance, and *EARLY CANDLELIGHT* by Maud Hart Lovelace in a Minnesota Territorial Centennial Edition (\$2.75).

No mysteries?

On the contrary, "one of the neatest stories of detective work ever put on record," according to *Lewis Gannett*, is *THE MYSTERY OF "A PUBLIC MAN"* by Frank Maloy Anderson (\$3.75). "Read the book. You shouldn't miss it."—*J. G. Randall, Saturday Review of Literature*.

Travel and Adventure?

American "know-how" and its tribulations in a little known country are depicted with dry humor in *AN AMERICAN ENGINEER IN AFGHANISTAN* (\$5.00) Of *SOUTH AMERICA REDISCOVERED* by Tom B. Jones (\$4.00), *Ybarra* says in the *New York Times*: "A delightful picture of distant lands, painted at a time when they were largely unknown beyond their borders." *The London Times Literary Supplement* says of *LAND OF THE DACOTAHS* by Bruce Nelson (\$3.75): "Mr. Nelson's book should not be missed by any reader who enjoys a perfect combination of travel, adventure and history."

For the specialist

TRENDS IN STUDENT PERSONNEL WORK, edited by E. G. Williamson (\$5.00), *MAGNA CARTA, 1300-1629*, by Faith Thompson (\$6.50), and *JAPAN'S ECONOMY IN WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION* by Jerome B. Cohen (\$7.50). We have hundreds of other books for specialists by specialists from anthropology to zoology.

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