

A glowing tribute to
the brilliantly successful
"rescue" of one of the
most significant
documents in our history

Commodore MATTHEW C. Perry's

NARRATIVE OF THE EXPEDITION OF AN AMERICAN SQUADRON TO THE CHINA SEAS AND JAPAN

Edited and with an introduction by
SIDNEY WALLACH

Foreword by Rear Admiral John B.
Heffernan, USN

"It has been a long wait — nearly a hundred years — but at last we have the story of one of the most stirring events of the Pacific in such form that we can all read it. The adventure of Commodore Perry in opening Japan to the world is probably the most thrilling experience in the history of American relations with the Far East. It is amazing that for almost a century this story has been bottled up in three huge volumes published in 1856 by order of Congress — volumes so costly that no ordinary person and few libraries could own them.

"We owe a great debt to Sidney Wallach for his skillful condensation of this enormous work to a single handy volume: I have read every word of the original and it is all interesting, but Mr. Wallach in his abridgment has given the story a pace and excitement not found in the full work. At the same time, I can't see that any essential has been omitted. It's all there — but now it *moves*!

"The story has tremendous significance today. Mr. Wallach quotes Perry's prediction that the 'Saxon and the Cossack' would some day meet on the coasts of Asia. That has come true — but if it had not been for Perry's work in extending the influence of America to the far side of the Pacific, the meeting might now be taking place on the coast of America. Russia competed in the effort to open Japan, and it was her failure in this project that temporarily checked her ambitions in the Pacific and led to her relinquishment of Alaska and points south.

"But for Perry, it is possible that the shore of North America from Nome to Los Angeles would today be Russian."

—WILLARD PRICE,

author of *The Amazing Amazon*
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Illustrated with contemporary drawings

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made to come on earth, it cannot be made to come in our imagination, or in our discursive reasoning. We must get rid of our catalogue of likes and dislikes . . . of the fancies into which we retire." We can only arrive by a total acceptance, a conscious willing, moment by moment; only the *datum* of nature, gratefully received, can ensure for us the *dopum* of grace. (Could not Mr. Huxley say *given* and *gift*? It seems strange to find him *avoiding* Anglo-Saxon . . .)

Surely, then, the Ground "in Whom we live and move and have our being," the primordial Fact that must be approached through the facts, can only be reached through a total acceptance also of the *consequences* of the Fall. Of which the major are sex and death. Why does Mr. Huxley so insist on the squashed dog, the copulating ape, the profligate uncle dying in the W.C.? Is not Madame Guyon so much in love with her creator that she could see Him also in a gob of spittle, nearer the divine Ground than one besotted with, and revolted by, the processes of physical life? Not since Swift has anyone so resented the fact of bathrooms; not since Donne, our decomposition. I die daily, cried Paul, and so do we all. Could not Mr. Huxley, for just one book, cease to hate that fact, which, like all others, is (or can be) an approach to *The Fact*?

History Notes

LONDON FOWWOW: The circumstances which led to the British seizure of Nova Scotia and the abortive 1709-11 campaigns against Canada also dictated the visit in 1710 of four Iroquois sachems to London. Though the Indians paid the usual official visits to Queen Anne, Archbishop Tenison, and other home guard chiefs, their trip and its fruits were unimportant, historically speaking. But Augustan London loved a new thing and made much of the visitors. The sachems, optimistically called kings, were leading subjects of both polite and vulgar conversation. Beggars, boxers, puppet-masters, and the actors of both theatres quite voluntarily arranged command performances. Grub Street ground out its regular stint of ballads and pamphlets. And all of Anne's literary giants—Pope, Gay, Swift, Defoe, Addison, Steele—penned something on the interesting subject.

Professor Richmond P. Bond's luxurious book on the visit, "*Queen Anne's American Kings*" (Oxford University Press, \$5), and its transatlantic implications is comprehensive, erudite, and entertaining. He has trailed his Indians through two dozen libraries:

"The sport," he says, "lay in remarking what would lead where." Bag hunters who read the text and not the skilfully separated notes will hardly realize how much sport was involved.

So witty and excursive a book must involve questions. May not Defoe have been right to attribute the "Philanthropus" letter to Mr. Spectator? Was not Swift's claim to have planned a book on the Indians merely another of his notorious literary brags? Can it be London, of all cities, where the visitors' "manners" (meaning customs) incurred "no term of contempt"; and is there no evidence to the contrary? And more generally, does not Professor Bond's inclination for wit and point sometimes obstruct the truth; and is he not too ready to offer Anna Augusta's Londoners—not really a naive or ignorant crew—Olympian condescension and head-pattings?

—ROBERT PEARSALL.

PREDICTABILITY AND DISAGREEMENTS: Professor L. B. Namier, an English historian of the very top rank, sees the processes of history as non-cyclical and in a human sense irrational, but believes that human responses to the events forming history are both systematic and predictable. Thus even though history has no real rhythms or repetitions a combined knowledge of psychology and past transactions can produce useful bases for future actions.

This sensible view and its implications are lucidly expressed in the first two essays of the collection "*Avenues of History*" (Macmillan, \$3) and provide the theoretical sine qua non for a good many of the twenty-one that follow. Most of Professor Namier's essays began as casual reviews on subjects as disparate as the Elizabethan Parliament, World War II (the "Second German War," he prefers to call it—and suggests a likely Third), and the British General Election of 1950. Some, like "History," "Nationality and Liberty," and "1848," constitute genuine studies of basic problems; others range from a masterly disagreement with Toynbee to lightweight discourses on long dead and justly forgotten court ladies. Essays like those on Francis Joseph's antiseptic love affair and Lord Northcliffe's conquest of *The Times* are in the finest tradition of the leisurely review-article.

Unhappily, sometimes, as in "The Duchess of Devonshire" and "A German Diplomatist" (Kühlmann), he breaks a butterfly upon a wheel. His style at his usual best is polished and incisive; his good humor seldom deserts him except when the topic is modern Germany.

—R. P.

WAR

(Continued from page 35)

successful spying, and for catching spies do not seem all-embracing. Klaus Fuchs, for example, showed a frequently sloppy memory. David Greenglass revealed no flair for acting, no gift of tongues. Harry Gold was a sufferer from hypertension who walked in such constant apprehension that he seemed unable to key himself to really frightening situations. To deal with such party puppets and psychological freaks, schooling in totalitarian tactics and a knowledge of abnormal rather than practical psychology is necessary.

On the level of entertainment, "Spy-Catcher" deserves a high rating. Pinto provides some humor, quite a bit of colorful detail, and considerable suspense.

The Heroes' Way

THEY FOUGHT WITH WHAT THEY HAD. By Walter D. Edmonds. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 532 pp. \$5.

HISTORY OF MARINE CORPS AVIATION IN WORLD WAR II. By Robert Sherrod. Combat Forces Press. 496 pp. \$6.50.

By MARTIN BLUMENSON

WALTER D. Edmonds has recounted the story of the Army Air Force in the Philippines and later in Java during the early months of World War II, a time of military defeat but a period of heroic achievement. Although Mr. Edmonds is not directly motivated by a desire to criticize, his story leads to an indictment of our prewar policy which resulted in our having a military establishment unprepared for war. As a consequence, a group of courageous individuals fought with the little they had, extending into our times the tradition born in 1776.

This is a work of dedication, dedicated to the men who fought against the superior equipment and numbers of the enemy. As a memorial it is fitting that the names of all who figure in the annals should be carefully and lovingly described. Their deeds are written with a skill that makes them live again. That there are so many is a tribute to the nation.

Concentrating on his individual heroes has caused Mr. Edmonds to

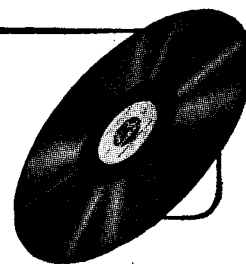
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