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United States in the European war. Wayne S. Cole describes the aims, methods, and failures of the organization in "America First" (University of Wisconsin Press, \$3.50), a clear, detached presentation of a great debate on foreign policy that ended with Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Cole's study makes it plain that contemporary generalizations about America First were largely erroneous. Indeed, it is difficult to generalize at all. America First contained Roosevelt-haters and New Dealers, pacifists and militarists, but nearly all of them were loyal citizens convinced that the best interests of their country would be served by staying out of the war. The Committee, however, was never able to get debate focused on the narrow question of peace or war. Necessarily negative, the non-interventionists could only oppose the positive Administration policies—transfer of destroyers and B-17's to Britain, Lend-Lease, naval convoys, FDR's "shoot-on-sight" order, and repeal of the vital provisions of the Neutrality Act. Defeated on each issue, America First nevertheless retained great strength and, Mr. Cole maintains, "had fought the President very nearly to a standstill near the end of 1941 when the Japanese attack took the decision out of American hands."

The author examines the charges that the Committee was pro-Fascist, anti-British, anti-Semitic, and bitterly partisan. He finds that the national

executive committee, which included men as far apart in domestic policy as John T. Flynn and Chester Bowles, had a fairly clean slate, but the same cannot be said for many local leaders. Perhaps the main weakness of the book is that its treatment of local chapters is inadequate.

—J. MERTON ENGLAND.

**FABULOUS TEXANS:** "Neiman-Marcus, Texas" (Henry Holt, \$2.95), Frank X. Tolbert's tale of the doings of the Marci, the pluperfect merchants of Dallas, is too good to be true until you've seen Neiman's for yourself. Then you will marvel at his restraint. His book should be kept away from the owners of other apparel shops, or it will surely break most of them. Gaily Tolbert shows the way to build from a standing start a twenty-five-million-dollar-a-year business and achieve worldwide fame with the greatest of ease. All it takes is flawless taste, unerring foresight, faith in humanity, and a slight touch of genius. The merchants I know will privately admit to being equipped with precisely these faculties, minus, possibly, the trait of complete trustfulness, but just let them try merchandising the Neiman Marcus way, and you'll see. The drouth-stricken plains will be strewn with the bones of the entrepreneurs who starved to death trying to emulate Mr. Stanley, current chieftain of the tribe of the Marci.

Mr. Tolbert tells you of the Ferberesque customers whose carelessness with hard money begets the legend (or is it the fable?) of Texas open-handedness. You meet the recipients of the prized Neiman-Marcus Oscars, like Christian Dior and Jacques Fath, the sheiks of Araby, the cow country tycoons, the cafe society characters, and the shop girls and housewives, who comprise Nieman's list of 100,000 charge accounts.

In its pages you run across Texanic people like E. DeGolyer, Frank Dobie, and Bob Pool, movie stars who call from Biarritz for a bathing suit that would make Elsa Maxwell look like Marilyn Monroe, and doting mothers buying pastel diapers. Through it all mink ripples like a summer breeze ripples the surface of a Hollywood swimming pool, while the sacred fleece, Vicuna, alternates with priceless emeralds and little \$29.95 numbers from the Misses Shop.

Most of all, you'll meet Stanley Marcus, collector of modern and regional art, spare-time dilettante and dreamer, who can be so exasperatingly exacting that designers and dressmakers are called upon to perform miracles to merit his custom. With an eye for line and color, and a sensuous feel for fabrics, he unerr-



ingly provides the lions and lionesses of the world of art, literature, the theatre, of society, and of finance with just what they have been hoping for. This thousand who spend millions in turn influence the 99,000 to spend many more millions, and all is as happy as a marriage bell. I don't think Author Frank X. Tolbert, scion of pioneer Texans, was named for St. Francis Xavier. I believe he was named for Francis X. Bushman, whom he resembles. —WILLIAM KITTRELL.

**MALIGNED FOUNDING FATHER:** American historians have shown an astonishing ability to rescue secondary figures from oblivion, but occasionally they overlook a man of real significance. A case of undeserved neglect is righted in Kenneth R. Rossman's "Thomas Mifflin and the Politics of the American Revolution" (University of North Carolina Press, \$5). A Philadelphia merchant, Mifflin abandoned the countinghouse and Quaker pacifism to serve in the Continental Congress and then under Washington as the first quartermaster-general of the Revolutionary army. Blamed for the failure of supply during the Valley Forge winter and for conspiracy against Washington in the Conway Cabal, Mifflin here receives exoneration from both indictments. After retirement from the army in 1778 he held political office in Pennsylvania almost continuously until his death in 1800—in the legislature, as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and as president and three times governor of the state.

This is a political biography which makes its chief contributions in the chapters on Mifflin's Revolutionary service and his governorship in the 1790's. Mr. Rossman has slighted the story of Pennsylvania politics in the Eighties because he thinks it is not of general interest. A lack of private and personal letters prevented him from describing domestic scenes, like that portrayed in Copley's painting of Mifflin and his wife, and from assessing the opposition's charges of drunkenness and debauchery.

A critic wrote of Mifflin that "popularity and the bustle of public life were hobby-horses he could not dispense with." I wish that his biographer could have made a little clearer the reasons for the popularity that so often brought him the reward of public office.

—J. M. E.

## FRASER YOUNG'S LITERARY CRYPT NO. 538

*A cryptogram is writing in cipher. Every letter is part of a code that remains constant throughout the puzzle. Answer No. 538 will be found in the next issue.*

YE GODS (PUP-IDLE)

VSDHOS EUAPC, HUASZAHH

VDP TOCH RAYTIO ZDSGUP!

—IDASD L. RUTHUP.

*Answer to Literary Crypt No. 537*

When Greeks joined Greeks, then was a tug of war.—Nathaniel Lee.

# Just Published



**M**ANY of the books described below, which cannot be reviewed in this issue because of considerations of space, will be given more extended notice in forthcoming numbers.

**ADAM'S WAY.** By Lonnie Colman. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3. A new novel by the author of "Clara," concerning a lonely Southern aristocrat who pulls a Pygmalion by trying to educate a young Negro girl he brings into his house.

**THE ARAB WORLD.** By Nejla Izzeddin. Henry Regnery Co. \$6.50. A long look at the Arab world, by a native, which concerns itself equally with that country's past, present, and future.

**THE BEST HUMOR FROM PUNCH.** Edited by William Cole. World Publishing Co. \$3.50. The first collection of poetry and prose from *Punch* to be published in this country.

**THE BEST OF TWO WORLDS.** By Joseph Wood Krutch. William Sloane Assoc. \$3. A collection of easy-going pieces, somewhat akin to the author's "The Twelve Seasons" (1949), about his new-found life in the sun-soaked West, with special attention to its fauna and flora.

**BEYOND CRITICISM.** By Karl Shapiro. University of Nebraska Press. \$3. Three essays, originally presented as lectures at the University of Nebraska last spring, by the poet, critic, and editor of *Poetry* magazine, on the nature of poetry in the modern world.

**BUBU OF MONTPARNASSE.** By Charles-Louis Philippe. Translated by Laurence Vail. Roy Publishers. \$3. A love story set in the Paris underworld of prostitutes and pimps. The author, who died in 1909, was highly regarded by Gide and Eliot. This is the first English edition.

**CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH.** By Bradford Smith. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$5. A biography of the misty, stalwart English soldier of fortune who, among many other adventures, rummaged up and down the eastern coasts of America in the early 1600's, discovered the Isle of Shoals, and helped found Jamestown, near which he met a young Indian lass named Pocahontas.

**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE AMERICAN IDEA.** By Theodore Maynard. Appleton-Century-Crofts. \$3.50. A defense of the Catholic Church in America.

**THE CHILD'S WORLD.** By Phylliss Hostler. Roy Publishers. \$3. An examination, by an English educator and psychiatrist, of the child's place in the world of today.

**DRINKING IN COLLEGE.** By Robert Straus and D. Bacon Selden. Yale University Press. \$4. An analysis of the drinking habits of students in twenty-seven representative U. S. colleges, based on a two-year survey.

**EUROPEAN COMMUNISM.** By Franz Borkenau. Harper & Bros. \$6. A study of the rise and fulfillment of the Communist Party in Europe by an expert and former member of the German Communist Party.

**FIFTY ROADS TO TOWN.** By Earl Hamner, Jr. Random House. \$3.50. A fictional account of what happens to a Virginia town when a Christ-obsessed, Casanova-type itinerant preacher arrives to hold a week of revivalist meetings. A first novel.

**FIVE WINDOWS.** By D. E. Stevenson. Rinehart & Co. \$3. A gentling kind of novel about the growing up of a Scotch writer and his experiences in Edinburgh and London along the way.

**FORMOSA BEACHHEAD.** By Geraldine Fitch. Henry Regnery Co. \$3.50. A dis-

cussion of the present state of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist forces on Formosa.

**FRAULEIN BO-PEEPEN, And More Tales Mein Grossfader Told.** By Dave Morrah. Rinehart & Co. \$1.50. A collection of Mother Goose stories, legends, and fairy tales told in a kind of German-American dialect.

**FREEDOM'S FAITH.** By Clarence B. Randall. Little, Brown & Co. \$3. A personal testament on the present condition of the American business world—its politics, religion, and society, by the author of "Creed for Free Enterprise," who is also president of the Inland Steel Company, Inc.

**GOODBYE, SUMMER.** By Allis McKay. Macmillan Co. \$3.50. A sequel to the author's "They Came to a River" (1941), involving the further adventures and growing-up of a young man in the early days of the Columbia River Valley.

**HOW WE INVENTED THE AIRPLANE.** By Orville Wright. David McKay Co. Cloth-bound, \$1.75. Paperbound, \$1. An account, in Orville's own words, of how he and Wilbur invented the flying machine. Edited by Fred C. Kelly, it is taken from a deposition made by Wright in a lawsuit of 1920, the records of which were buried, unclassified, in the Library of Congress, until recently brought to light.

**IN SPITE OF . . . A Philosophy for Every Man.** By John Cowper Powys. Philosophical Library. \$5. The personal philosophy of one of the famous Powys brothers who is now over eighty and still running fast.

**INDIA ALLAN.** By Elizabeth Boatright Coker. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3.50. A novel about the American Civil War, involving, among other things, a spoiled daughter, a possessive father, laudanum, an embittered Negro slave, amnesia, and a murder.

**INTRUDER FROM THE SEA.** By Gordon McDonell. Little, Brown & Co. \$3. A mystery novel, involving an old sweetie, a fake brother, a spy, and a Russian submarine lurking in U.S. coastal waters.

**LET'S TALK SENSE ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS.** By Paul Woodring. McGraw-Hill Book Co. \$3.50. An energetic, free-swinging examination of every facet of the present American educational system, including discussions of our teachers, teachers' colleges, discipline, salaries, or lack thereof, and John Dewey.

**LOVE IS A BRIDGE.** By Charles Bracelen Flood. Houghton Mifflin Co. \$3.75. Six hundred pages of fiction, dealing with the marriages and divorces of a well-bred St. Mark's-Harvard-Europe American.

**MARCEL AND ELISE.** By Marcel Jouhandeau. Translated by Martin Turnell. Pantheon Books. \$3.50. M. Jouhandeau, who is a respected French writer and a self-termed "chroniquer," has written here an intimate account of his marriage to Elise, which runs from their marriage in 1929 to the present.

**MAUD MARTHA.** By Gwendolyn Brooks. Harper & Bros. \$2.50. Miss Brooks, who is a poet, here gives us a novel about a Negro girl raised in the slum section of a Midwestern city, her marriage to a man who likes the dicty glide, and her daughter, who can not understand why a department store Santa Claus will not smile at her.

**THE RAID.** By Laurence Greene. Henry Holt & Co. \$3. A chronicle of the town of Harper's Ferry from its founding in 1747 by a Tory architect, Robert Harper, through its days in the 1830's as a gateway to the West, to the bloody raid led by the fanatic John Brown.

**THE RELUCTANT HEALER.** By William J. Macmillan. Thomas Y. Crowell Co. \$3.

The autobiography of a man who has discovered, through long years of practice, that he has the gift of healing.

**A ROGUE WITH EASE.** By M. K. Argus. Harper & Bros. \$2.75. A novel about an ingratiating ex-Russian, who works his way from a job in a toothpick factory to "nobility" in one day, goes to Hollywood, and finally, through marriage and a nice handling of situations, ends up with security and a bankroll as thick as a mattress.

**ROUND RIVER: From the Journals of Aldo Leopold.** Oxford University Press. \$3. Selections from the diaries and essays, previously unpublished, of a well-known naturalist. Edited by his son and illustrated by Charles W. Schwartz.

**THE RULING FEW.** By Sir David Kelly. British Book Centre. \$4.50. The memoirs of one of Britain's ablest ambassadors and diplomats.

**SHAW'S CORNER.** By Stephen Winsten. Roy Publishers. \$4.50. This second volume of Shaviana by Mr. Winsten, who was Shaw's neighbor during the last ten years of his life, covers the period from 1945 to GBS's death in 1950.

**SHIM.** By Reuben Davis. Bobbs-Merrill Co. \$3. Shim Govan is a fourteen-year-old son of a Louisiana plantation owner; the time is the turn of the century; and the action involves Shim's reckless doings—a bear hunt, a tangle with an alligator; a wild up-country dance, and boating about the bayous under a spooky full moon.

**SOUTHERN RENASCENCE.** The Literature of the Modern South. Edited by Louis D. Rubin, Jr. and Robert D. Jacobs. John Hopkins Press. \$5. A collection of more than two dozen pieces of criticism on Southern writers, by such as Ray B. West, Jr., Vivienne Koch, and Robert Heilbroner about such as Thomas Wolfe, Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Stark Young, Robert Penn Warren, John Peale Bishop, Ellen Glasgow, etc.

**THE STANDARDS WE RAISE.** By Paul Mazur. Harper & Bros. \$2.50. An experienced businessman examines our standard of living, and discusses how it can be maintained, even in peacetime, through the proper means of distribution and mass consumption.

**STORM HAVEN.** By Frank G. Slaughter. Doubleday & Co. \$3.75. An historical soufflé, involving the Civil War, a murder, and some starchless bosoms.

**A SUNSET TOUCH.** By Howard Spring. Harper & Bros. \$3.50. Mr. Spring's latest novel concerns a middle-aged man who inherits his family's ancestral home in a small Cornish village, immediately buries himself in the past, meets two ladies—one good, one not—who, with their combined efforts, bring him back to a respectable present.

**TEEN-AGE GANGS.** By Dale Kramer and Madeline Kass. Henry Holt & Co. \$3. An account, taken from official files, of the gloomy society of teen-age urban children, their gangs, their life, their frequent disasters.

**THE WALSINGHAM WOMAN.** By Jan Westcott. Crown Publishers. \$3.50. Frances Walsingham was one of the few women who could get Elizabeth I to trotting her dander around. This, in fictional form, is her life story, which included three illustrious marriages—with Sir Philip Sydney, the Earl of Essex, and Richard de Burgh.

**THE WAY OF A SHIP.** By Alan Villiers. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$6.50. A big miscellany about the last days of the sailing ships, including an account of the *Cutty Sark*, the clipper ships, and the square-rigged barques, by an old hand at sea writing. Profusely illustrated with half-tones and line drawings. —W. B.