

## FOLKTALES AND LEGENDS

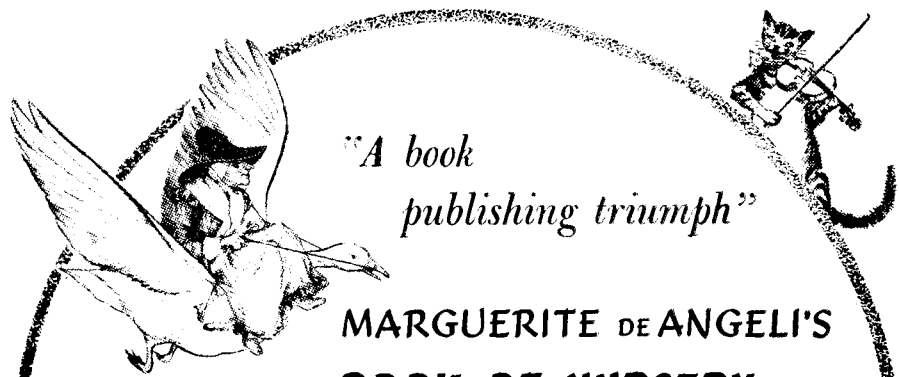
**ANANSI THE SPIDER MAN:** Jamaican Folk Tales. Told by Philip M. Sherlock. Illustrated by Marcia Brown. Crowell. \$2.50. These tales of Anansi the spider man and the other animals he lives among, pitting his guile against their strength, may be African in origin but in their present form are altogether rooted in Jamaica. Generations of storytelling have shaped them after the pattern of Jamaican village life and have worn them smooth, so that every detail of incident and character is just right and in the right place.

Philip Sherlock first heard these tales as a child in Jamaica. He tells them himself with great skill and charm. Still the book is a remarkable achievement. If they had been set down in the Jamaican dialect with the pronunciation spelling usual in dialectical renderings the book would have been of interest mainly to students of folklore. Mr. Sherlock has done an amazingly deft piece of writing. Retaining suggestions of Jamaican dialect solely in the rhythm and phrasing, he has given us the stories in a strong simple prose delightful to read and perfectly adapted for the American storyteller.

The line drawings are wholly worthy of the text. Marcia Brown has reached a new high level in her work as an illustrator. The profound understanding of the tales her drawings show is matched by their simplicity, elegance, and imaginative verve. Miss Brown and Mr. Sherlock deserve our thanks and congratulations for a difficult achievement and a distinguished book. —M. C.

**ONCE THE MULLAH:** Persian Folk Tales. Retold by Alice Geer Kelsey. Illustrated by Kurt Werth. Longmans, Green. \$2.50. Mullah Nasr-ed-Din is the Persian double of Turkey's Nasr-ed-Din Hodja. Mrs. Kelsey collected the Turkish tales and called her book "Once the Hodja." As soon as children were introduced to Hodja they accepted him for his great humor and wit. In this companion collection of

**MARCIA BROWN** a native of Rochester, New York, has taught English and drama and like many another children's author, has been a storyteller for New York Public Library children's programs. An illustrator as well as a writer, she is particularly interested in puppetry, which she has taught at the College of the West Indies in Jamaica. She is noted for the beauty and craftsmanship of her hand-made puppets.



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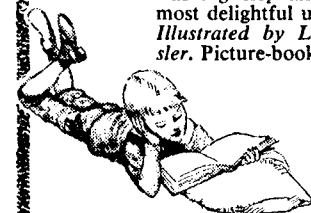
By MARY GIBBONS. Illustrated in color by Evaline Ness. A frolicsome, irrepressible lamb prances through an encounter with a hungry red fox. Picture-book age. \$2

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By ETHEL and LEONARD KESSLER. Sailing boats... washing elephants—all the most delightful uses of water. Illustrated by Leonard Kessler. Picture-book age. \$1.50

### MISS PATTIE

By ROBERT BRIGHT. Jacket and 3-color illustrations by the author. A delightful fantasy about a most remarkable cat. Picture-book age. \$2



## FOR OLDER READERS

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### FREEDOM TRAIN:

The Story of Harriet Tubman

By DOROTHY STERLING. Illustrated by Ernest Crichlow. The dramatic biography of the slave who fought her people's battle for freedom. High School age. \$2.50

### ROWENA THE SAILOR

By RUTH LANGLAND HOLBERG. Illustrated by Grace Paull. Rowena Carey, beloved ten-year-old, hurtles through a merry sailing story. Ages 7-11. \$2.75



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short Persian tales young readers will recognize the same sly wit and good-humored nonsense. Mullah is a kindly old fellow who loves to play practical jokes, who is always getting into difficulties, but who gets out without losing all his dignity. Story-tellers will welcome these tales just as they did the Hodja stories. Kurt Werth has caught the spirit of mischief and contagious laughter in his black-and-white drawings. —A. B.

**WITH A WIG, WITH A WAG, AND OTHER AMERICAN FOLK TALES.** By Jean Cothran. Illustrated by Clifford N. Geary. David McKay. \$2.50. This is a collection of variants of well-known folktales as they are told in several parts of the United States. American now, they have come in with the cultures of our ancestors. They have been retold in simple language from the *Journal of American Folklore*, *Memoirs of the American Folklore Society*, *California Folklore Quarterly*, and other collections of folk literature. Clifford Geary's black-and-white drawings have the humor and rugged quality of a folktale.

—A. B.

**THE ADVENTURES OF RAMA.** By Joseph Gaer. Illustrated by Randy Monk. Little, Brown. \$3. The Hindu epic the Ramayana is one of the great world epics. In its original it is a tremendous narrative poem, telling the adventures of Prince Rama, his wife, and his half-brother during their fourteen years' exile from Rama's kingdom. It is characterized by the color, mystery, strange rituals and beliefs, and mysticism of the East.

Using the Valmiki version, Joseph Gaer has made an excellent retelling. Simpler than "Rama, the Hero of India," an earlier retelling by Mukerji, still it retains the spirit and flavor of

the original. The beauty of the descriptive passages, the vivid accounts of battles and combats, the nobility of characters are particularly notable characteristics of the writing. The introduction gives an appreciative account of the Ramayana. The index identifies names of persons and places. The black-and-white illustrations present the figures of the story in dance postures in accordance with the festival dances of India which interpret the story to the people. Altogether this book offers to older children an admirable introduction to a story of great love, nobility, and heroism.

—E. N.

## THE WORLD OF NATURE

**SNOW.** By Thelma Harrington Bell. Drawings by Corydon Bell. Viking. \$2.50. A book as pretty as the snow it describes. This is no fanciful tale, but a presentation of facts which explain such points as why some snow is fluffy, some damp, why all flakes are not alike and what kinds of flakes there are, how snow is helpful and how it is dangerous, what a snow cover tells us, and finally the life history of a snowflake from the time it is formed until it falls on the earth. While all those who enjoy snow will find much of interest here, it will be of particular interest to the nine- to thirteen-age group.

The drawings by Corydon Bell, the husband of the author, make this a beautiful book.

—N. J. D.

**HURRY, SKURRY, & FLURRY.** By Mary and Conrad Buff. Viking. \$2.75. A worthy successor to "Dash and Dart," this is a poetic presentation of the four seasons in the forest, beginning with spring. Depicted against this background is the life of the three squirrels Hurry, Skurry, and Flurry. Mother Squirrel teaches her children how to care for themselves and how to learn to live with their forest neighbors. Disaster strikes in the spring when a hawk swoops down and carries off Flurry. By fall Hurry has found a mate in Silver and by winter the two have established their nest and are waiting "for spring to come, for life to start once more." Simple rhythmical text, beautiful sepia drawings, and a sturdy binding combine to make this a distinguished nature-picture book which should appeal to five- to ten-year-olds.

—E. A. G.

**THE FAMILY BOOK OF DOGS.** By Marguerite Leslie. Drawings by Lumen Martin Winter. Coward - McCann. \$3.50. This book, as the title implies, is an album of dogs—of popular and rare varieties. Sixty dogs are described individually, each according

**JOSEPH GAER** has devoted his talents chiefly to bringing religious knowledge to the young. He has written on "How the Great Religions Started," on the lore of the Old and New Testaments, and on "Young Heroes of the Living Religions." He was born in Bessarabia, attended the University of Minnesota and the University of Southern California, and now lives in California, where he devotes his time to writing and lecturing.

to his own degree of importance as a useful friend to man.

The physical appearance, personal habits, and useful qualities of each dog are given in readable, specific, and sympathetic style. The information is apparently authoritative. No references to source materials are given, but leading dog authorities have checked both drawings and text for accuracy.

The pen-and-ink drawings by the noted muralist Lumen Martin Winter offer a real contribution in dramatic action to the text.

The alphabetical arrangement of the breeds of dogs makes the book a ready reference tool. It will afford interesting reading on a beloved subject for children in the upper elementary grades, for those of the teenage group, and for their parents.

—L. W. R.

**BUFO, THE STORY OF A TOAD.** By Robert M. McClung. Morrow. \$2. Robert McClung's books are always a welcome addition to any library shelf. The text and illustrations are simple and bold, and the scientific information is accurate.

"Bufo, the Story of a Toad" further confirms the opinion that all of Mr. McClung's books are consistently good. The information is given in story form without any sugar-coating, writing down, or sentimentality. It is direct and clear—clear enough to be understood by the child of five or six, to be read with understanding by the seven- to nine-year-olds—yet meaty enough to inform and entertain an older child.

The excellent illustrations fit in so smoothly with the text as to seem a running part of it.

—M. M.

**BUBO, THE GREAT HORNED OWL.** By John L. George and Jean George. Illustrated by Jean George. Dutton. \$3. John and Jean George, authors of "Vulpes, the Red Fox," "Vision, the Mink," and "Masked Prowler," have with their usual understanding and keen observation recorded here the life of two horned owls and their repeated attempts to raise their fledglings. Though the owls have the primary interest of authors and readers,



—By Jean George, for "Bubo."