

no means becomes a spokesman for functional writing. On the contrary, Mr. Coleman regards Proust as an esthetic craftsman, but one with positive religious attitudes.

As a responsible critic Mr. Coleman intends to demonstrate that in the organic nature of Proust's novels moral position is thoroughly congruous with technique. As would be expected, he points to the Judaeo-Christian strains in Proust's background. But, more importantly, he considers Proust's concern with homosexuality and his employment of major symbols. Of the former, according to Mr. Coleman, who finds Christian elements predominant, the novelist places with great understanding a weight of renunciation, expiation, and the like on his characters. Considered symbolically Proust's use of trees and spires in triads becomes representative of the Holy Trinity and Calvary. Recurrent allusions to a "little phrase" in a sonata by Vinteuil appears emblematic of a commentary on varying states of the soul.

For all of Mr. Coleman's admirable intention, however, his proof is not equal to his thesis. We agree that Proust was ingeniously preoccupied with a search for lost time; but that his rationale was exclusively moral awaits further proof.

—EDWARD A. BLOOM.

ITALIAN ROMANTIC: Outside of Italy Alessandro Manzoni (1785-1873) has long been noted for his much-translated novel "I Promessi Sposi." The work has given him stature as the leader of Italian Romanticism and as the model for contemporary Italian novelists. In Italy, however, Manzoni is also gratefully acknowledged as a champion of his country's struggle

for unification in the nineteenth century, as an inspirational liberal Catholic, and as a linguist. These latter qualities are now given interesting extension by Archibald Colquhoun, most recent translator of the novel. "Manzoni and His Times" (Dutton, \$5) is the first biography in English of a figure who has already come to be regarded more as myth than man.

Mr. Colquhoun has drawn aside the veil for English-speaking readers to reveal the retiring man as a descendant of an intellectual squire-archy. He has shown him in the relationships which shaped his thinking and moral attitudes. Among them were the French and Italian Revolutions, the domination of a devoted, strong-willed mother, and the love of a Calvinist wife converted to Jansenism. A citizen of Milan and Paris, Manzoni came under the fortunate influence of Claude Fauriel, the French Idéologues, and many others. Early a rationalist and skeptic, Manzoni returned to the Church. For the remainder of his long life he was rigidly pious but he never cast aside his rational instincts. Coupled with this flexibility was his political liberalism, which made him the enemy of repressive authority and the friend of the underprivileged.

With the publication of his sole novel in his forty-second year Manzoni terminated his creative period. But his bibliography includes political and religious poetry, plays, essays on Catholicism, on the reformation of the Italian language, and on the abandonment of the unities. For his ardent though theoretical support of nationalism against the Austrian occupation he was rewarded by Cavour with a seat in the Senate of United Italy.

—E. A. B.

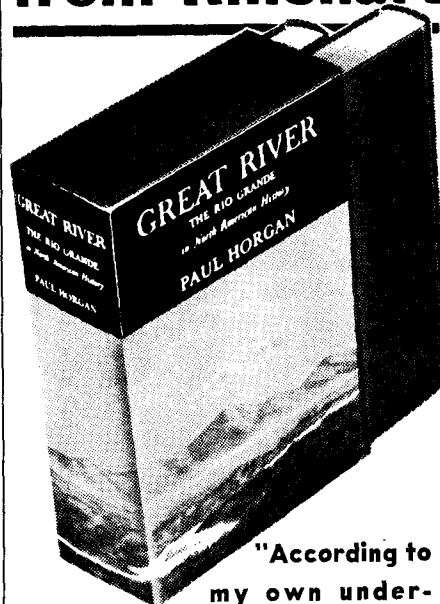
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The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fact and Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, and Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
THE WOMAN ON THE ROOF <i>Helen Nielson</i> (Ives Washburn: \$2.50)	Birthday cake essential artifact in solving LA double gal-slaughter; cops are good.	High good humor, adroit characterization set this among year's top titles.	Plenty of bounce here
DON'T HANG ME TOO HIGH <i>J. B. O'Sullivan</i> (Mill-Morrow: \$2.75)	Idle rich give Pvt. Eye Steve Silk unmerry run-around as bigwig eats lead.	Tycoon's unpleasant offspring fail to add to charm of turgid yarn.	Bumpy
THE GHOSTLY TRIO <i>Nancy Woolcott Smith</i> (Coward-McCann: \$2.50)	Three nice Maryland brats explore deserted house. with remarkable results.	No bloodshed, no cops. but a charming little thriller for kids, grown-ups.	Delightful

—SERGEANT CUFF.

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Just Published

MANY of the books described below, which cannot be reviewed in this issue because of limitations of space, will be given more extended treatment in forthcoming numbers.

ALONE TO EVEREST. By Earl Denman. Coward-McCann. \$3.75. The author's story of a preparatory trip to the Belgian Congo in 1946, where he climbed around in the Virunga Mountains before attempting, the following year, to scale Mt. Everest with just two other men, one of whom was Tenzing. They got up to 23,000 feet.

AMERICAN FARM LIFE. By Lowry Nelson. Harvard University Press. \$3.75. A study of life on the American farm at present, and of the forces that have shaped that life into what it is today.

THE ART OF MAKING SENSE: A Guide to Logical Thinking. By Lionel Ruby. J.B. Lippincott Co. \$3.75. Another attempt to get man, a notorious pudding head, on the track toward sane thinking.

ASPECTS OF CHINESE PAINTING. By Alan Priest. The Macmillan Co. \$7.50. A study of Chinese painting—the Sung landscapes, social scenes, single scrolls, like the *Tribute Horse*—by the curator of Far Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum.

THE BAFUT BEAGLES. By Gerald M. Durrell. Viking Press. \$3.75. The author of "The Overloaded Ark" here tells of his adventures in Western Africa, where he stayed with the Fon of Bafut, who loves a hair or two, and whose men are mighty hunters.

THE BANE OF DRUG ADDICTION. By Orin R. Yost. The Macmillan Co. \$3.50. A summary directed at doctors and welfare workers of the present beliefs of what causes drug addiction, its treatments, varieties of drugs, etc.

BEYOND ADVENTURE. By Roy Chapman Andrews. Little, Brown & Co. \$3.75. Two parts biography, one-part autobiography. Mr. Andrews's book tells (1) the story of Peary and the North Pole, (2) how Carl Akeley killed a leopard with his bare hands and later made taxidermy an art, and (3) gives a resume of his own career as a museum man and finder of dinosaur eggs.

BLOW THE WIND SOUTHERLY. By D.E. Stevenson. Rinehart & Co. \$3. A quiet English novel, of the sort that goes well with a softening fire and a warming drink, about the headmistress of an English girls' school and the various difficulties that she must face in the course of her job.

COWBOYS AND KINGS: Three Great Letters by Theodore Roosevelt. Edited by Elting Morison. Harvard University Press. \$2.75. A collection of three long letters T.R. wrote to (1) John Hay, in 1903, about a trip he made through the West while President, (2) to Sir George Otto Trevelyan, about a journey from Khartoum to Berlin, in 1911, and (3) to David Gray, later in the same year, about a month in England where he attended King Edward's funeral.

THE CROSS AND THE SWORD. By Manuel de Jesus Galvan. Translated by Robert Graves. Indiana University Press. \$3.75. Fiction, historical, dealing with the Caribbeian in the days before and after Columbus began arriving.

DANGEROUS RIVER. By R.M. Patterson. William Morrow & Co. \$5. An account of a journey the author took through the North West territories of Canada in search of adventure and gold. He found the first.

DOGS AND PEOPLE. By George and Helen Papashvily. J.B. Lippincott Co. \$3.95. A paean for the dog, which relates his history, relationships with man, and his part in folklore, legend, fiction, and history.

FICTION GOES TO COURT. Edited by Albert P. Blaustein. Henry Holt & Co. \$4. A collection of stories having to do with courts and lawyers that has been chosen by such wigs as John W. Davis, Richard M. Nixon, Adlai Stevenson, the late Fred M. Vinson, Roscoe Pound, Eric Johnston, Estes Kefauver, etc., who have selected works by Milne, Faulkner, A. P. Herbert, Irwin Shaw, Marc Connelly, Cornelia Otis Skinner, etc.

GHOST ON HORSEBACK: The Incredible Ataturk. By Ray Brock. Little, Brown & Co. \$4.75. A fictionalized biography—surely one of the quiggiest literary forms ever devised—of Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, who ruled from 1923, when he was first elected president, until 1938, and who, among other things, abolished the veil and the fez, beat the British at Gallipoli, repelled the Greeks, and instituted family names in Turkey.

THE GOLDEN WILDCAT. By Margaret Widdemer. Doubleday & Co. \$3.95. The golden wildcat here is one Mary Johnson, a daughter of Sir William Johnson, who spends her time leathering it up and down the frontier during the French and Indian War.

ICE FLOES AND FLAMING WATER. By Peter Freuchen. Julian Messner. \$3.95. An account, by the explorer, of the rescue of five whaling men in 1911 from Saunders Island, a popular resort area north of Greenland.

JOHNNY APPELSEED: Man and Myth. By Robert Price. Indiana University Press. \$5. A biography of the legendary soul known as Johnny Appleseed, who went blueing it across the Alleghany plateau in the early eighteen hundreds planting orchards and filling the sky with apples. He was not really a legend, of course, but was a man named John Chapman who came from Massachusetts and became, in effect, our first conservationist.

JONATHAN BLAIR: Bounty Lands Lawyer. By William Donohue Ellis. World Publishing Co. \$4.95. A historical novel having a great deal to do with money as it was in this country in 1820, and with the attitudes toward it of one Jonathan Blair, a hairbrush-backed lawyer from the frontier town of Mesopotamia, Ohio, who went to battle with Gideon Schaact, head of the U.S. Bank.

LETTER TO A STRANGER. By Elswyth Thane. Little, Brown & Co. \$3.50. A novel about a widow, who is also a novelist, and the pickles she gets herself into when she tries to help out a young lady who has been an admiring correspondent.

THE LIGHT OF THE DISTANT SKIES. By James Thomas Flexner. Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$10. A study of American painters and their works—West, Peale, Copley, Trumbull, Allston, Vanderlyn, Morse, and Stuart are included—which covers the years from 1760 to 1835.

THE MOZART HANDBOOK. Edited by Louis Biancolli. World Publishing Co. \$7.50. A Mozart feast, this includes biographical writings by contemporaries, critiques by many hands of the operas, symphonies, chamber music, piano and violin music, the Koechel Catalogue, a classified list of works, a chronology, and a bibliography.

O'HIGGINS AND DON BERNARDO. By Edna Deu Pree Nelson. E.P. Dutton & Co. \$4.50. A biography of Ambrosio O'Higgins and his son Bernardo, who, in the early nineteenth century ruled Chile and Peru successively until the son's power was finally broken by intrigue and the coming of Bolivar and San Martin.

PROFILE OF AMERICA. Edited by Emily Davie. Thomas Y. Crowell Co. \$8.50. A huge American roast, that tries, through selections that range from Marbury vs. Madison to Wilson's fourteen points to Lindbergh, to show just what it is that ticks in the American heart, that makes this land roomy enough for both mink farms and poor houses.

THE STORY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. By Dumas Malone. Oxford University Press. \$10. A concise history of the Declaration—the events leading up to it, the actual writing, brief biographies of its signers as well as creators—that is profusely illustrated with reproductions and photographs.

THIRTY YEARS: Collected Short Works. By John P. Marquand. Little, Brown & Co. \$5. One of those grab bags that are handed to an author when he reaches a certain age and prominence, this is a bringing together of many of the short pieces—fiction and fact—Marquand has published in the past thirty years between novels. —WHITNEY BALLIETT.