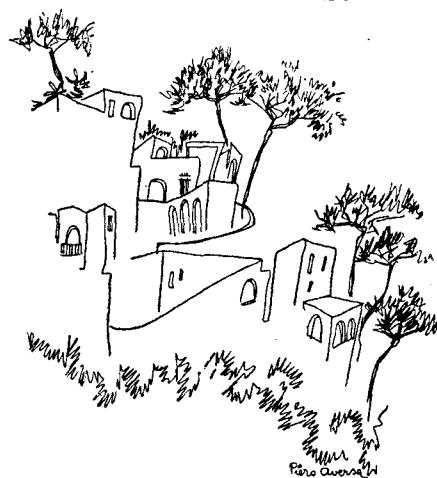


ing any of his constituents—number, 2,700. By noon he is working his way down the *scalinatella* to the beach. As for the artists, they are in their ateliers or in the spacious studios of the Positano Art Workshop, an American enterprise that is affiliated with a similar operation in Taxco, Mexico. The Workshop, which opened last year in a lovely, terrace-bound villa, gets students and artists lodging and meals in town, offers working space and instruction, wraps the whole kit up for \$55 a week.

When Positano is through working in the evening it meets with the playing guests under the grape canopy at the Buca, by the sea, where the band is fond of playing "Wilhelmina" from "Hans Christian Andersen," using a dubbed-in Italian lyric about Positano. The dress may vary from black blouse, black slacks, and clouds of Joy perfume to hand-made culottes delivered by the tailor that very afternoon. Two-dollar boatmen's shirts with blue stripes and a crew neck pass nicely too. A new vogue in hair-do's is starting—the single pig-tail.

The assemblage eats eggplant *alla parmigiana* and dances to "Wilhelmina" or rather "Positano," and those who are dauntless depart on a midnight safari along a precarious mountain path, then across the rocks and sand of Fornillo Beach, an enclave that can only otherwise be reached by boat. At the end is another grape-arbor called La Poupee, where a soft and dreamy danceband plays gently while blue-and-green lights flicker in the vines overhead. At two A.M. it all breaks up and those who are indecently young scamper back over the mountainside raising a sort of multilingual, international hell en route. Anyone over twenty-one who climbs back to the main road at that hour will come to understand why they knighted Sir Edmund Hillary. You don't have to be a Sherpa tribesman to get along in Positano, but if you're a goat and you can paint it helps.

—HORACE SUTTON.



NEW EDITIONS

The Classics for Everyman's Pocket

DAY by day, in every way—to borrow the formula of the once popular high priest of optimistic auto-suggestion—things are getting better and better for the reader who likes to buy good books for less than a dollar apiece. Costs have pushed the prices of Everyman and World's Classics and Modern Library volumes above the dollar mark, but worthwhile Mentor Books and Signet Books and Pocket Books abound in increasing numbers, the Penguin titles are now more than a thousand strong, the line of Anchor Books grows steadily in value and interest—and Alfred Knopf, through a subsidiary company, has just entered the soft-cover field with Vintage Books. These attractive volumes (their format and decorative covers bear a general resemblance to those of the Anchors) are reprints of books that have already made their mark under the Knopf name, and they are priced at ninety-five cents each.

The nine titles with which Knopf has chosen to launch his venture are: Tocqueville's "Democracy in America" (2 vols.); Eric Bentley's "In Search of Theatre"; "The American Political Tradition," by Richard Hofstadter; "The Art of Teaching," by Gilbert Highet; Alfred Einstein's "A Short History of Music"; E. M. Forster's "Howards End"; André Gide's "The Immoralist"; "The Stranger," by Albert Camus; and "Death in Venice and Seven Other Stories," by Thomas Mann.

Here are excellence and variety.

Tocqueville studied the facts of democracy, as they were to be found in the United States in the 1830's, in order that France might benefit by his findings; but when he sat down to write the second part of his work he wrote for posterity, and he raised questions regarding the potentialities and dangers of democracy that are with us still. The editor of this admirable edition, Phillips Bradley, does not exaggerate when he declares: "The second part ranks even among the greatest of social philosophies from Aristotle to Pareto; as a reasoned and objective appraisal of the democratic way of life it is unsurpassed." Eric Bentley is a critic who knows the theatre of many countries from both sides of the footlights. Whether he is exposing the failings of Eugene O'Neill, probing the myth of the Abbey

Theatre in order to get at the truth, saluting the criticism of Stark Young, telling us what should not be done to Shakespeare, making up an Ibsen balance sheet, rapping the pretensions of semi-intellectuals and Broadway liberals, examining Yeats's achievement as a dramatist, writing of Strindberg or Pirandello or Shaw, the French stage or the German stage or the Italian stage, he has something of his own to say, and he says it in a way that is worth hearing. One may disagree with him—I think, for example, that he is too generous to Pirandello's faults and too blind to Fry's virtues—but, even while one disagrees, one's respect for him is coupled with a fear that he may not be wrong.

RICHARD HOFSTADTER is another writer who knows his own mind and is not averse to heterodoxy. To read his challenging studies of great figures in American political life, from the Fathers to Franklin Roosevelt, is to be made to reexamine one's own beliefs in the light of his arguments. It is always a stimulating pleasure to encounter Gilbert Highet's mind, regardless of the subject with which it may be dealing, and I am sure that his Vintage Book tells teachers a great deal about the art of teaching; but as I read it I became increasingly aware that it has a great deal to tell learners about the art of learning. As for "A Short History of Music," I must let others bear witness to its excellence—I am not competent to judge it. "Howards End" is probably the novel that comes closest to being as good as Mr. Forster's most fervent admirers like to believe his novels are. "The Immoralist," now more than fifty years old, is one of the early documents in the long act of confession that obsessed Gide's mind and channeled his talents during most of his lifetime. "The Stranger," with which Camus began to win fame in 1942, has been hailed as a remarkable statement of the human predicament; but Camus so stacks his cards in this novel that I can find his dealing of them neither honest nor significant. The worth of the Mann collection is indicated when one says that it contains "Death in Venice," "Mario and the Magician," "Tonio Kröger," and five other stories.

—BEN RAY REDMOND.

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.

THE ACROBATS. By Mordecai Richler. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$3.50. Fun and passion, as they are turned on and off, by a bunch of internationals in Valencia during a festival week in 1951. A novel.

ADVENTURE IN FREEDOM. By Oscar Handlin. McGraw-Hill Book Co. \$3.75. A history of the Jews in America by the Harvard historian and author of "The Uprooted." Its publication is timed to jibe with the coming celebration of the three hundred years—the first twenty-five Jews came to this country in 1654—the Jewish people have spent in this country.

AGAMEMNON. By William Alfred. Alfred A. Knopf. \$3. A refashioning, in verse, of Aeschylus's great tragedy, which first appeared in *Botteghe Oscure* XI.

AMERICAN CAPTAIN. By Edison Marshall. Farrar, Straus & Young. \$3.95. Broad chests and robust bosoms set in the days of 1812, when the hero, a straight-thatch named Homer Whitman, was an American sailing captain mixed up with the rascals of the Barbary Coast, and with, as well, the gold of the pharaohs, vengeance, and a smoking pursuit to England.

AN ARTIST IN LOVE. By Philip Lindsay. Roy Publishers. \$3. A novel, based on the lives of Thomas Lawrence, the English painter, and his relationships, which were hot ones, with the Siddons girls—Sarah Siddons, the mother, and her daughters, Sally and Maria.

THE ANATOMY OF A CRIME. By Joseph F. Dinneen. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.95. Subtitled "A Startling Parallel to the Great \$2,500,000 Brink's Robbery," Mr. Dinneen's book tells of the life of one Tony Turchino, a hood who is befriended by a cop, and who the cop believes—although he will never be able to prove it—is behind a similar robbery of a Doane's Transfer truck, where, also, two-and-one-half million cabbage leaves are snatched.

THE BATTLE DONE. By S. Leonard Rubinstein. William Morrow & Co. \$3.50. Some serious words about a Jewish army sergeant stationed with a German prisoner-of-war unit in South Carolina during the last war. A first novel.

THE BENCHLEY ROUNDUP. Edited by Nathaniel Benchley. Harper & Bros. \$3.50. Manna directly from above, this is a collection of about ninety pieces written by one of the great masters of fun between the years 1915 and 1945. There is a foreword by a son, who, in his own right, is turning into a relishable humorist.

THE CLASSIC ANTHOLOGY DEFINED BY CONFUCIUS. Translated by Ezra Pound. Harvard University Press. \$5. A translation on a group of early Chinese odes and ballads that were first chosen from some three thousand of the same in the year 484 B.C. by Confucius.

DOWN WITH SKOOL! By Geoffrey Willans and Ronald Searle. Vanguard Press. \$2.50. More of Mr. Searle's jagged, frequently not-so-funny, drawings of life in the English school system. The text is by Geoffrey Willans, and the protagonist a boy named Nigel Moesworth, who is the hot thorn in the side of St. Custard's.

EASY PAYMENTS. By Roy Doyle. Hermitage House. \$3. A novel, done in drear and drab, about a beneficent young man who gets a job as a bill collector in a poor urban district at the same time worrying how he can escape his bill collectors.

EDEN TWO-WAY. By Chad Walsh. Harper & Bros. \$2.50. A collection of poems, many done in a near free-verse style, by Mr. Walsh, who knows a lot about the Bible and is a professor at Beloit College.

EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON. By Edwin S. Fussell. University of California Press. \$3.50. A critical biography of E. A. Robinson, whose collected poems are exhausting to carry from room to room on a hot day, and who was the last of our purely romantic poets.

EXPLAINING THE ATOM. By Selig Hecht. Viking Press. \$3.75. A new edition, revised by Dr. Eugene Rabinowitch, of a

highly popular guide on atoms and such first published in 1947.

THE FEMALE APPROACH. By Ronald Searle. Alfred A. Knopf. \$3.50. A collection of cartoons by Mr. Searle, English, whose nervous drawings deal with women, and especially with that awful country which he originated—St. Trinian's ghoul for girls.

THE GALLANT HEART. By Susanne McMasters with Albert Idell. Doubleday & Co. \$3. A story about a horse named Ben Lewis, who was the life and love of the McMasters family until his death in California, whence he had been shipped to play the part of another horse, Man O' War, in a movie.

THE GOOD TRAIL. By Bill Geagan. Coward-McCann. \$3.50. A kind of autobiography by an old Maine nature lover, about his life as a wind and tree watcher, and how he has made such an existence pay his way in this old urban kettle of ours.

HANG UP THE FIDDLE. By Frederic Babcock. Doubleday & Co. \$3.95. About a young Nebraska newspaperman and a decision he has to make anent a childhood friend who is an outlaw's son.

THE HEART IN EXILE. By Rodney Garland. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$3.50. A novel, based on the problems of homosexuality, told from the point of view of a psychiatrist, who is himself bisexual.

JOURNEY BY THE RIVER. By John Prescott. Random House. \$3. The "Canterbury Tales" done in wagon wheels and singing lead. The time is 1847, the assemblage a group of variously discomfited Easterners, and the destination the land of Oregon.

THE LONG SHIPS. By Frans G. Bengtsson. Translated by Michael Meyer. Alfred A. Knopf. \$4.50. A long novel about Orm, captured by the Vikings in the tenth century, and of his travels with them from Denmark to Spain to Africa to Ireland to England and back to Denmark.

LOVE AND MONEY. By Erskine Caldwell. Duell, Sloan & Pearce. \$3.50. A new novel by Mr. Caldwell, whose inkwell is bottomless, about a between-the-books author who gads all over the South in pursuit of a warmbody who takes his fancy in a Florida cocktail lounge.

MADELEINE YOUNG WIFE. By Mrs. Robert Henry. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$4. The third, and maybe final—at least until more years have a chance to pass—edition of Mrs. Henry's tale of herself. Here, the story covers the years 1937-1953 and tells of London during the Blitz, return to France and the building of her dream house, and the film career of her son, who was, you will remember, the tow-headed boy in "The Fallen Idol."

THE MAGIC MARGIN. By Martin Yessloff. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3. A novel, the author's third, about a family on Bleeker Street (careworn mom, sly dad, mixed-up son, lusty sister) and how they dream of better things and shinier shoes and how in the end the dream goes and the real face of life looks in the window, leans in over the sill of evening, pale, wan, and hungry.

THE MAN IN THE THICK LEAD SUIT. By Daniel Lang. Oxford University Press. \$3.50. A collection of reports, originally published in *The New Yorker*, about atom bomb explosions, atomic scientists, the places atom project workers live, as well as some words on uranium prospecting in Colorado, and on flying saucers.

THE MAN WHO LIVES IN PARADISE. By A. C. Gilbert with Marshall McClintock. Rinehart & Co. \$3.75. An autobiography by Mr. Gilbert, who is, in case you're too old to know, the man responsible for the Erector set, sleighful of educational toys, and the recently adopted American Flyer model railroad. Besides being an acute businessman, Mr. Gilbert is a sportsman, and developer of real estate in Connecticut.

MODERN GERMANY. Its History and Civilization. By Koppel S. Pinson. The Macmillan Co. \$10. A study of the antecedents

that have made present-day Germany what it is.

MY NAME IS TOM CONNALLY. By Senator Tom Connally, as told to Alfred Steinberg. Thomas Y. Crowell Co. \$5. The autobiography of one of the grand old whiteheads of the Senate, who was born in 1880 on a cotton farm in East Texas, became a lawyer, got into politics, and has now been a member of the upper house for thirty-six years.

THE OLD SCHOOL TIE. By Arthur Tuckerman. The Macmillan Co. \$3.50. A kind of autobiography which tells of the author's experiences as an American pupil in an English public school, a French school, and as a law student at Oxford. In between were trips with his father to Wiesbaden, Egypt, Switzerland. The time is before and during the First World War.

103 LYRICS OF COLE PORTER. Edited by Fred Lounsberry. Random House. \$3.50. A collection, with appreciative comments, of some of the best of the lyrics (there is no music) Mr. Porter has written since those over-the-rainbow days when he was the prince of Yale.

PARADISE TO LEeward. By Wesley A. Bush. D. Van Nostrand Co. \$7.50. An account, mostly for sailors and those with enough lettuce to make such a junket themselves, of a trip Mr. Bush recently made down the coasts of Baja California and western Mexico in a gaff ketch. Also along were his wife, son, and cocker spaniel. Many maps and drawings.

PEOPLE OF THE BLUE WATER. By Flora Gregg Iliff. Harper & Bros. \$4. Herein are the experiences of Mrs. Iliff as superintendent and teacher among the Indians of the Colorado River Canyon country.

SALAZAR IN PORTUGAL. By Christine Garnier. Farrar, Straus & Young. \$3. A close portrait, by a young French writer, of Salazar, the little-known Prime Minister and virtual dictator of Portugal.

SPEAK TO ME, BROTHER. By Anne Miller Downes. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$3.50. Some soft hearts and delicate flowers about the oldest daughter of a poor but cultured family, who, because of one thing and another, ends up raising her brothers and sisters as well as a wayward cousin.

THEY RAN FOR THEIR LIVES. By John Brick. Doubleday & Co. \$3.50. Three tales of escape, one of which takes place during the Civil War, and the other two during the Revolutionary War.

THOMAS HARDY. By Evelyn Hardy. St. Martin's Press. \$5. A critical biography of the Victorian novelist and poet.

TO NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM. By David Marcus. St. Martin's Press. \$3.50. How a young man, who is Jewish by race and religion but Irish by law, works his way to what seems right—settling in Palestine. The time is 1947.

TYRANNY ON TRIAL: The Evidence at Nuremberg. By Whitney R. Harris. Southern Methodist University Press. \$6. An examination of the whole Nazi creed and practice as it emerged from the testimony and evidence presented at the Nuremberg trials, during which the author was a member of the prosecuting staff.

THE WELL OF THE SILENT HARP. By James Barke. The Macmillan Co. \$3.75. The fifth and final volume of Mr. Barke's long fictional life of Robert Burns.

THE WICKED PAVILION. By Dawn Powell. Houghton Mifflin Co. \$3.50. A new novel by Miss Powell, who can write short stories as sharp as a baby's fingernails, about a bunch of fringe folk who frequent the Café Julien, a quiet restaurant just off Washington Square, N.Y.

A WOMAN IN THE POLAR NIGHT. By Christine Ritter. Translated by Jane Degras. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3. An account, done in a salubrious fashion, of the year or so Frau Ritter spent in Spitsbergen alone and with her husband, where she had plenty of time to watch the twenty-four day come in, as well as, in the spring, stupefied bears trying to wake up.

THE YEAR THE YANKEES LOST THE PENNANT. By Douglass Wallop. W. W. Norton & Co. \$2.95. A terrible fantasy, set in the year 1958, about a Washington real-estate man and lover of the Senators, who sells his soul to the devil so that his team may topple the Yankees.

—WHITNEY BALLIET.

