WORKSHOPS FOR WRITERS

SR's ANNUAL PREVIEW OF SUMMER CONFERENCES

-University of Oklahoma Public Relations Burea.

By GORHAM MUNSON, author of "The Writer's Workshop Companion" and other texts on writing, has attended about thirty writers' conferences in one capacity or another: as publisher's scout, visiting lecturer, staff member, or director. He is currently director of the New York City Writers Conference at Wagner College, Staten Island.

ATTENDANCE at writers' conferences last year was the highest ever. Expectations are that 1957 attendance will go even higher. The boom in educational attendance, including schools of adult education, is evidently sweeping writers' conferences along with it. As the directory appended to this article shows, the writers' conference "circuit" is considerably more extensive this year.

The rise of this "circuit" was noticed during the winter by the distinguished literary historian Van Wyck Brooks. In a widely read essay on the avant-garde, Mr. Brooks put into circulation a strange, even preposterous, misconception of the writers' conference. This misconception may possibly prove bothersome to the promoters of this specialized form of adult education. That is why, I think, Frances Grinstead, director of the University of Kansas Writers' Conference, feels it necessary to say: "We do not adhere to any avant-garde school of literature; neither do we make concessions to any unduly popular approach." And Brewster Ghise-lin, director of the Writers' Conference of the University of Utah, writes: "Without being highbrow or arty, we try to maintain standards of excellence appropriate for a university, and I think we have succeeded in doing this."

What Mr. Brooks charged—and it was a most surprising charge—was

that the summer writers' conferences were largely in the hands of a literary avant-garde. There is a chain of critical reviews and summer writers' conferences, he alleged, that "affords a life-line for the sensitive young, a sort of national 'hook-up' that brings them into relation with a powerful circle . . . One might call it a secret society in which these lonely souls hold hands, as it were, from coast to coast, feeling that they are members of a true élite who are both 'of one's time' and 'in the know.' In their petite chapelle, surrounded by their palisade, they can write 'pure' poetry, criticism, fiction, ignoring the world in which they live and which no longer menaces them because they are insiders now in a larger world.'

Sheer fantasy this, but it gives a good pretext for retelling the history of the writers' conference and for describing its working. So far from being the ivory towers Mr. Brooks imagines them to be, writers' conferences have had rather to struggle against the commercial spirit. The temptation to lower professional standards and become a sort of writing-school racket has always been present. Isolated and insulated and cut off from the main intellectual body-so Mr. Brooks characterizes the avant-garde, and with it the "avantgarde machinery" of magazines and summer conferences. But the story of the writers' conferences will show that they have not been isolated and insulated phenomena.

HAT story begins in the winter of 1925-1926, and the first I heard of it was on a visit to Robert Frost at Amherst. He was being consulted, the poet said, about a new kind of peripatetic literary academy to be started by Middlebury College at Bread Loaf, Vt., and I gathered that the informality of the plan appealed to him. The first director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference was Vermont-born John Farrar, but from the first session in August of 1926 Frost was a great, though sometimes dissident, influence upon the undertaking. In Paul Dwight Moody, the president of Middlebury College, the Bread Loaf Conference had a benign and understanding godfather—which it needed, for campus mores and literary mores in those days were quite far apart.

What was the idea that took on shape and life at Bread Loaf in the summers of 1926, 1927, and 1928, by which time it had become stable? It has been well stated by John Ciardi. the fourth and present director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. "All of us at Bread Loaf," he said last year, "are proudly aware that we are the parent writers' conference, that Bread Loaf originated the idea of a writers' conference and established the general principles that all other conferences have more or less followed. The Bread Loaf idea is basically a simple one: to bring together the best available staff of writers and editors and to work it mercilessly for two intensive weeks of daily and evening lectures, work shops, manuscript reading, and private conferences with contributors."

Mr. Ciardi went further. "There exists today a body of critical principle and of teaching method specifically Bread Loafian in origin whose influence can be traced through practically every college and review medium in the United States." This is too great a claim, but the Bread Loaf idea did find a great many ideacarriers who came down from the mountain near Middlebury and went across the continent and started or helped to start other Bread Loafs until there was indeed a chain of them--not a chain in the hands of Mr. Brooks's mythical avant-garde but in

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the hands of writer-teachers, men and women who could both write and teach.

The first Bread Loaf idea-carrier was Edward Davison, poet and conductor in the 'Twenties of the "Wit's Weekly," a department in The Saturday Review of Literature that ought to be revived. An observant visitor to Bread Loaf, Davison carried the vision to the University of Colorado, which in 1930 started The Writers' Conference in the Rocky Mountains. Davison subsequently became director of this conference and secured for its staff men of letters and poets like Sherwood Anderson, Ford Madox Ford, Carl Sandburg, Carl Van Doren, Thomas Wolfe, and Robert Penn Warren.

The next conference was, I believe, at Olivet College, Mich., and I do not remember that a Bread Loafian had anything to do with its inception. It was the first conference at which Allen Tate taught; since then Mr. Tate has been on the staffs of several writers' conferences.

In 1938 the University of New Hampshire started its writers' conference. On its staff in the early years were Margaret Widdemer, Herschel Brickell, and William E. Harris, all carriers of the Bread Loaf idea.

In 1940 Indiana University launched its conference, and from then on there has been a proliferation. I have traveled over most of the circuit, and at each conference it was almost a certainty that I would meet either a former member of the Bread Loaf staff--like Robert Hillyer at Indiana-or former conferees at Bread Loaf who were now sampling another conference.

Fellowships at writers' conferences will be more numerous in 1957 than ever before although there has been a slow growth in their number. Just as industry has been making grants to private colleges for fellowships and scholarships, the publishing industry has been seeing opportunities for the encouragement of writers in the conferences. Holt, Houghton Mifflin, and Norton have donated fellowships at Bread Loaf. Now comes that fastgrowing book club for children between the ages of seven and thirteen, the Weekly Reader Children's Book Club, with an offer to donate lectureships in juvenile writing, fellowships, and prizes. Four conferences were approached and three accepted. Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and the New York City Writers Conference at Staten Island (Wagner College) will use grants in all three categories: lectureship, fellowship, and prizes for juvenile writing. Indiana University Writers' Conference will establish a fellowship in juvenile writing and awards donated by the Weekly Reader Children's Book Club, but its lectureship in juvenile writing was prearranged. All lecturers, fellows, and winners of grants-in-aid or prizes will be selected by the conferences concerned, and the conferences will also establish specific qualifications for the fellowships and awards. "The Weekly Reader Children's Book Club grants to writers' conferences," said C. W. Pettegrew, director of the club, "have been established to encourage greater scope and quality in juvenile literature. Any immediate results from this program will benefit young readers. authors of juveniles, and trade publishers-which is as it should be.'

THE Bread Loaf type of conference may be called for convenience the fortnight conference, although sometimes the "fortnight" is as short as five days, and other times it is three weeks long. An extreme variant of the Bread Loaf idea is the weekend writers' conference. Again this is a convenient label, for the "weekend" may be only one day or it may extend to four days. But the weekend conference departs so far from the original model that it has seemed best to divide our directory of conferences into two categories: the one- to three-week conferences and the one- to four-day conferences.

The father of the weekend (one-tofour-day) conference is The Short Course in Professional Writing put on each summer since 1938 at the University of Oklahoma, and a brief for the short conference was duly entered by the director of the Oklahoma conference, W. S. Campbell, in The Saturday Review conference preview of 1954. Part of that brief was the strong economic argument that "a short program permits a small fee, and that allows talented but impecunious students and beginners to attend. On a modest budget the short session enables us to get good speakers without raising the fee."

Certain trends may be noted in the weekend conferences. They tend to occur in the spring rather than in the



at the University of Colo-Students rado's Writers' Conference get tips from Non-Fiction Leader Hal Borland,

summer. They tend to drop manuscript reading and individual conferences from the program. Their sponsorship is often unacademic. Prize contests are featured. Social activities are prominent.

There are nearly fifty conferences of both kinds listed in our directory this year. Perhaps there should be more, and failure to answer requests for information was simply an oversight. Drop-outs from the circuit that are to be regretted are Clark University of Worcester, Mass., and Windham College at Putney, Vt.

Newest states to have writers' conferences are Mississippi (University of Mississippi) and New Jersey (Fairleigh Dickinson). Twenty-seven states and Canada now have writers' conferences.

Innovations: Wagner College's NYC Writers Conference at Staten Island will have three: an evening conference program expressly devised for New York writers who cannot attend daytime meetings; a playwriting workshop integrated with an off-Broadway theatre group; and a readability and communications workshop dealing with the formulas for readability.

Wagner Incidentally, College's claim that it sponsors the only fortnight writers' conference of the Bread Loaf type in New York City comes to an end. Wagner has talked of a literary revival in the borough once frequented by Thoreau, George William Curtis, and Edwin Markham. Now comes New York University invoking the shades of Greenwich Village-Edgar Allan Poe, Mark Twain, and Eugene O'Neill-and announcing the Washington Square Writers' Conference for late July and early August. This conference will be no dilution of the Bread Loaf idea but the real thing in full strength.

Another new conference that looks to be strong is the Antioch College Writers' Conference, which Dr. James McConkey, who formerly headed the conference at Morehead State College, is now organizing.

If I may fall into the optimistic language of the promoter but mean it because the round-up of reports from conference directors on my desk is convincing, "all signs point to 1957 being the banner year in the history of writers' conferences."

ONE- TO THREE-WEEK CONFERENCES

ONE- TO THREE-WEEK CONFERENCES SOUTHWEST WRITERS' WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE, under auspices of Arizona State College, will meet June 24-July 5 on the campus of Arizona State College, Flagstaff, Ariz. Established 1951. Directors: Weldon F. and Phyllis W. Heald, writers and teachers from Tucson. Staff to be announced. Informal talks by Southwestern writers, editors, and teachers. Conferences on individual problems. On last two days of con-ference annual All-Indian Pow-Wow and Ro-deo takes place at Flagstaff. Tuition: \$15. Two semester hours credit obtainable. Room and board: \$30 per person for two weeks, \$38 for single room and board. For bulletin, write Reg-istrar, Arizona State College, Flagstaff, Ariz.

PACIFIC COAST WRITERS' CONFERENCE, under auspices of Los Angeles State College, will meet on the State College campus June 24-July 12. Founded 1953. Director: Wirt Williams. Staff: novelists Ray Bradbury, Rachel Maddux, Elizabeth Linington, Garet Rogers, Frederick Shroyer; screen and TV writers James W. Poe and Mort Thaw; juvenile specialist Louise Scott; agents Ben Benjamin and Harry Lewis; columnists Robert Campbell and Robert R. Kirsch; film executive Finlay McDiarmuid; others to be announced. Tuittion: \$34, includes criticism of 10,000 words. Last year's attendance: fifty. Address inquiries to Wirt Williams, Director, Pacific Coast Writers' Conference, Los Angeles State College, Los Angeles 32, Calif.

32, Calif. LAURENTIAN WRITERS' CONFERENCE, a writers' house party for women students, will be held at the director's private country estate at Lake Manitou South, Province Quebec, Can., about sixty miles north of Montreal. The dates are Aug. 4-11. Founded 1953. This conference does not offer capsule courses in writing but aims to be a meeting of writers for discussion and exchange of views. Director E. Louise Cushing, author of six novels and former officer of the Canadian Authors' Association. Staff: Mildred Hobs, Dorothy Danforth, Gladys Taylor, Eileen Goodman. Enrollment limited to twelve. All applications must be accompanied by manuscripts or samples of published writing. Tour to Mont Tremblant and shopping tour to Ste-Agathe included in the all-inclusive fee, \$75 per person. For brochure, write E. Louise Cushing, 820 Buchanan St., St. Laurent, Montreal 9, P. Quebec, Can.; after May 15, Fermanagh Lodge, Lake Manitou South, P. Quebec, Canada.

THE WRITERS' CONFERENCE IN THE ROCKY MOUN-TAINS, under the auspices of the University of Colorado, meets at Boulder. Colo., July 22-Aug. 9 inclusive. Founded 1930. Director: Don Saunders. Staff: Warren Beck, short story; Rolfe Humphries, poetry; William E. Barrett, novel; Virginia Sorensen, juvenile fiction; Bud Kay, TV drama; Richard Wormser, nonfiction. Also a workshop on writing-marketing problems. Enrollment limited to 100. Capacity attendance last year. Ordinarily twenty-five to thirty states are represented in the enrollment. Tuition: minimum, \$60; maximum, \$98. Reading fees: \$5 to \$17.50. Room and board (in conference residence hall): \$97 per



person double; \$127 single. For bulletin, address Don Saunders, Writers' Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.

versity of Colorado, Boulder, Colo. SUTTELD WRITER-READER CONFERENCE, known last year as New England Writers' Conference, will be held July 28-Aug. 3 on the campus of Suffield Academy at Suffield, Conn., midway between Hartford and Springfield. There is a sponsoring committee of ten New England college professors. Director: Paul Sanderson. Staff: Louis Untermeyer, Padraic Colum, George Abbe, Shirley Barker, Walker Gibson, Odell Shepard, Agnes Sligh Trumbull, James T. Farrell, others to be announced. Morning program will include writer-reader workshops (discussion, demonstration, creative experiment): informal lectures in the evening. Fee: \$85, all-inclusive of tuition, room, and board. For brochure, write Paul Sanderson, Director, Suffield Writer-Reader Conference, Suffield Academy, Suffield, Conn.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY WRITERS' CONFERENCE, under auspices of Indiana University, will hold its 1957 session on the campus of Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., July 8-13. Founded 1940. Director: Robert W. Mitchner. Staff: Jessamyn West, faction; Don Congdon, faction; Henry La Cossit, nonfaction; Walker Gibson, poetry; Michelle Cousin. TV writing; Jean Poindexter Colby, juvenile writing. Other speakers to be announced. Receptions and open houses; spontaneous late-evening sessions. Ten tuition scholarships available through a grant from the Indiana University Foundation. Also a fellowship in juvenile writing and cash awards for juvenile writing donated by the Weekly Reader Children's Book Club. Fees: \$15 for the first workshop, \$12.50 for the second. Auditors accepted at half rates for such workshops as are not filled. Each workshop limited to twenty-five. Last year's enrollment: seventy-two. For brochure, write Robert Mitchner, Director, Indiana University Writers' Conference, Bloomington, Ind.

MOREHEAD WRITERS' WORKSHOF, under auspices of Morehead State College, will meet at Morehead, Ky., July 22-Aug. 2. Founded 1952. Director: Albert Stewart. Staff: James Still, poetry and fiction; Hollis Summers, poetry, fiction, and criticism; Wilma Dykeman, nonfiction; Joe Creason, newspaper writing; others to be announced. Mornings given over to individual conferences, afternoons to group discussions, evenings to lectures. The first week centers on poetry and fiction, the second week on fiction and nonfiction. This conference is located in the Cumberland National Forest. Two semester hours of credit are given. Fees: \$10 per week for tuition; \$2.50 per week for double room shared with another: \$10-12 per week for board. Address inquiries to Albert Stewart, Director, Morehead Writers' Workshop, Box 356, Morehead State College, Morehead, Ky.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY WRITERS' CONFER-ENCE will be held July 22-27 at Missoula, Mont. Founded 1949. Director: H. V. Larom. Staff: A. B. Guthrie, Jr., novel; Robert O. Bowen, short story; Earle Birney, poetry; Eugene Burdick, nonfiction. Specialist in juvenile writing to be announced. Tuition: \$25-includes the reading of one manuscript and the conference dinner. Last year's enrollment: around fifty. For complete details, brochure, write H. V. Larom, Director, Montana State University Writers' Conference, Missoula, Mont.

MADELINE ISLAND ARTS CENTER WRITERS' WORK-SHOP, under the auspices of the University of Minnesota Extension Division, will hold two two-week sessions at the Old Mission Inn, Madeline Island, LaPointe, Wis. The dates are July 21-Aug. 3 and Aug. 4-17. Established 1956. Courses in fiction and nonfiction. Director: Mitchell V. Charnley. Staff to be announced. Enrollees may register either with or without university credit. Address inquiries to Mitchell V. Charnley, School of Journalism, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14, Minn.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE WRITERS' CON-FERENCE, under auspices of University of New Hampshire, will meet Aug. 12-23 at Durham, N. H. Founded 1938. Director: Carroll S. Towle. Staff: Charles Angoff, Shirley Barker, Ella Shannon Bowles, Margaret Coit, Edmund Cortez, Loyd Haberly, Curits Thomas, Loring Williams, Elizabeth Yates, Frederick C. Packard, Sid Dimond, Marjorie and Lorus Milne, Nora Unwin, A. S. Burack, others to be announced. Scholarships available. Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine prize contest. Durham Chapbook for selected poems. Tuition fees: conributors, entire conference, \$58; contributors, one week, \$36; auditors, entire conference, \$50; auditors, one week, \$28. Room and board for entire session may be obtained at a special rate (\$40 last year). For brochure, write Carroll S. Towle. Chairman. University of New Hampshire Writers' Conference, Durham, N. H.

FATRLEIGH DICKINSON WRITERS' WORKSHOP, under auspices of Fairleigh Dickinson University, will hold its first session on the Teaneck, N.J., campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University, July 7-20. Director: J. Stephen Bloore. Staff: Loyd Haberly, Charles Angoff, Margaret Coit, Curtis Thomas, Edith Heal, others to be announced. Staff will be drawn from practising writers on the faculty of the university and from among well-known writers and editors in northern New Jersey. Workshops in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry will be supplemented by lectures, editorial conferences, and manuscript criticism. Three points of college credit can be earned by those meeting stipulated requirements, but work for credit is optional. Modern dormitory and dining-hall facilities. Pleasantly suburban setting. Tuition: **\$60**. Room and board: **\$90**. Address inquiries to J. Stephen Bloore, Director, Writers' Workshop, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, N.J.

Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, N. J. CHAUTAUQUA WRITERS' WORKSHOP, under auspices of Chautauqua Institution, N. Y., founded 1947, will hold its eleventh annual threeweek session, July 1-19, at Chautauqua, N. Y. Courses are designed to assist the publishing writer as well as the beginner. Syracuse University through its Chautauqua Center grants graduate and undergraduate credit to those who qualify. Director: Robert Francis. Codirector: Margaret Widdemer. Secretary: Rebecca Richmond. Staff: Walter S. Spearman, nonfiction; Marjorie B. Paradis, juveniles; John Mahoney, radio and TV. Mr. Francis will instruct in poetry, Miss Widdemer in fiction. Following the regular three-week workshop, Mr. Francis will direct a supplementary one-week poetry discussion group. He will also give three lectures on "The Year in Poetry, July '56 to July '57" as a special feature of the Chautauqua program. Workshop Juncheons and teas. Exhibition of published work. Evening Chautauqua Symphony Concerts under the direction of Walter Hendl and a series of operas and plays are available to workshop students, as well as lakeside tecreations. Tuition: for participating noncredit members, \$25 for each full-length course, manuscript conference included; \$60 for the three courses combined. Proportionate

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fees for the shorter courses. Lower fees for auditors. Fees for credit students in line with those of other Syracuse University credit courses. Last year's registration, full and parttime, exceeded eighty. Address inquiries to Ruth Skinner, Registrar, Chautauqua Summer Schools, Chautauqua, N. Y.

Schools, Chautauqua, N. Y. Schools, Chautauqua, N. Y. Schools, Chautauqua, N. Y. Schools, Conference, School of Journalism of Syracuse University, will hold its second annual session Aug. 12-23, on the campus of Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y. Founded 1956. Director: Wesley C. Clark, dean of the School of Journalism. Staff: Don Tracy, novelist and short story writer; Roland E. Wolseley, professor of journalism, article writer, and author. Reception, teas, exhibits. Private conferences with instructors. Either but not both courses offered at the conference may be taken for university credit. Open to noncredit students at reduced fee. Rates: \$28 per credit hour for undergraduates; \$30 for graduates. Attendance last year: thirty to thirty-five. Address inquiries to Dean Wesley C. Clark, School of Journalism, Syracuse University, Syracuse 10, N. Y.

cuse University, Syracuse 10, N. Y. WRITERS' CONFERENCE AT THE SUMMER SESSION OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, a special service to students registered in the summer session, runs from July 22-Aug. 8. Established 1951. Director: William A. Owens, associate professor of English. Guest speakers: William Carlos Williams, Russell Lynes, Annie Laurie Williams. Ben Park, Robert Breen, Johnny Mercer, Harold Arlen, Simon Michael Bessie, Philip Wittenberg, J. Bradley Cummings, George W. Gray, Ned Rochon, Shirley Fisher, Adrian A. Paradis, Mrs. Ellen Van Dusen, Daniel M. Burnham. The following teachers of writing will participate: Martha Foley, Caroline Gordon, William A. Owens, Dorothy McCleary, Ernest Brennecke, Vernon Loggins, Léonie Adams, Robert S. Greene. Meetre. All conference meetings open without fee to students registered in the summer session; not open to unregistered persons. Address inquiries to Director of the Summer Session, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y.

N. Y. NEW YORK CITY WRITERS CONFERENCE AT STATEN ISLAND, under auspices of Wagner College, will hold its second annual session July 16-25 on the Grymes Hill campus of Wagner College, Staten Island, N. Y. Director: Gorham Munson. Workshop leaders: Charles Angoff, nonfiction; Hallie Southgate Burnett, short fiction; Waldo Frank, novel; Muriel Fuller, juvenile writing; H. R. Hays, radio, TV, stage, and movie writing; Dr. George R. Klare, readability and communication; Stanley Kunitz, poetry. Evening lecturers: Marianne Moore, Virgil Markham, Whit Burnett, Harrison Smith. Coffee table discussions, individual manuscript conferences. Poetry Society of America Day, July 20. Corn Cob Theatre, July 25. Stanley Award for Playwriting, Weekly Reader Children's Book Club Fellowship and Prizes, Scholarship in Journalism. Within the framework of the full-time conference there is a complete parttime conference known as the Evening Writers Conference, which is especially planned for writers with jobs in Manhattan; can be attended with a minimum time away from the office. Last year's registration: ninety-two, full- and part-time, from fourteen states. Inclusive fee for entire program, board and room: \$100. Tuition alone: \$45. Tuition for



Evening Writers Conference: \$30. For brochure, write Ethel Lambert, Secretary, NYC Writers' Conference, Wagner College, Staten Island I, N. Y.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SUMMER WRITING CON-FERENCE, under auspices of Washington Square College, New York University, offers two workshop courses and a series of Wednesday Noon Conferences, June 17-26, at the Washington Square Center of New York University, New York City. The courses are "A Study of Modern Poetry," Oscar Williams, and "The Writing of Fiction" Leonard Bishop. The following will address the Wednesday Noon Conferences: Nannine Joseph, Robert Henderson, Virginia Voss, Kenneth Burke, John Budlong, William Carlos Williams. Fee for single six-point workshop course, \$158. Address inquiries to Dean of Admissions, Washington Square College, New York University, New York 3, N. Y. [In view of the starting of a summer conference conforming more to the norm by New York University (see next notice), this notice of the six-week courses will be dropped from the directory after this year.]

WASHINGTON SQUARE WRITERS' CONFERENCE, un-der the auspices of the Department of English, and the Washington Square Writing Center, Division of General Education. New York University, will hold its first session July 29-Aug. 10, at the Washington Square College of New York University, New York City. There will be six lectures in each of six fields of professional writing, editorial conferences with students who submit MSs. in advance, and informal talks by well-known writers, editors, and authorities. Director: Warren Bower. Staff: Ralph Bates, novel; Charles Angoff, short story; Louise Bogan, poetry; Edward H. Schmidt, magazine article and nonfiction book; Lee Wyndham, juvenile writing; Mi-chelle Cousin, TV script-writing. Lecturers:



Charles Ferguson, John English, Margaret Matignoni, Philip Wittenberg, Helen Hoke Watts, John Hall Wheelock, Phyllis McGinley, Ross Donaldson, Wilbur Stark, Margaret Cous-ins, Betty Finnin; and a special series of talks on the American theatre today. Fees; \$75 covers registration for all lectures and the privilege of submitting one complete man-uscript; an additional fee of \$10 will be charged for the reading of manuscript; an additional fee of \$10 included in the basic fee. For brochure write Dean Warren Bower, Division of General Education, New York Uni-versity, Washington Square, New York 3, N. Y.

Division of General Education, New York 3, N. Y.
versity, Washington Square, New York 3, N. Y.
HUCKLEBERRY MOUNTAIN WORKSHOP CAMP, INC.,
a nonprofit institution for the arts, will run
its writers' conference in four sessions this
year, starting June 14 and closing August
31. Besides the Workshop Camp, there are
the Huckleberry Mountain Artists Colony
and the Huckleberry Mountain Community.
The story of this enterprise in the arts has
been told in one of the Guidepost series put
out by Norman Vincent Peale. Established in
1939. Director: Evelyn Haynes. Staff: Hubert
Hayes, creative writing, and Roy Flynn, public
relations, for the June 14-30 session; Ruth
McCoy Harris, creative writing, Helen Diehl
Olds, juveniles, Chester Smith, photo-journalism, Phelps Olds, public relations, for the
Jure 30-July 20 session; Louis DeJean, creative writing, Isa Grenelle, poetry, Helen
Diehl Olds, juveniles, Chester Smith, photojournalism, for the July 20-Aug. 10 session;
Harold Ehrensberger, creative writing, and norm: \$35 per
week and up. Several work and contest
scholarships available; also the DePriest
Scholarship Loan Fund makes loans from \$10
to \$00. Brochure on request to Huckleberry
Mountain Workshop Camp, Inc., Hendersonville, N.C.

ville, N.C. ANTIOCH WRITERS' CONFERENCE, under the aus-pices of Antioch College, will hold its first session, Agg. 19-30, on the campus of Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. Each of the two weeks will be a separate session, though students may register for both sessions if they wish. First week will center on prose, mostly fiction; second week will include prose and poetry. Director: James McConkey, assistant professor of English at Cornell University. Staff: Hollis Summers, Nolan Miller, Peter Taylor, Randall Jarrell, Granville Hicks. Un-tion through scholarships of several young and talented writers as staff assistants, and problem discussions in which student writ-ers will meet with staff members to discuss specific problems faced in current writing. Members of the conference avelte addi-tioch Area Theatre. Enrollment limited to fifty each week. Fees: \$50 per week. Room: \$13 per person in double room; \$16 per per-son, single room. Address inquiries to Di-rector, Antioch Writers' ConFerence, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

OHIO VALLEY WRITERS' CONFERENCE, under aus-pices of Marietta College, will hold its third conference from Aug. 25-31 on the campus of Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio. Director: Anne Chamberlain. Staff: Richard Sullivan, Josephine Phillips, Dud Chamberlain, James Maxwell, others to be announced. Guest lec-turers: Granville Hicks and Herman Ziegner.

Morning classes in short story, article, poetry, juvenile writing, and the novel. Afternoon seminars. Evening lectures. Individual man-uscript criticism. Full recreation program including a sall on the Ohio River. Last year's attendance: 110. Fees: \$75 all-Inclusive (tui-tion, room, and board) less \$5 for registra-tion before Aug. 1; for commuters the fee is \$40 less \$3 for early registration. For folder, write Dan McGrew, Ohio Valley Writ-ers' Conference, Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio. Ohio.

THE WRITERS' CONFERENCE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, under auspices of the university, will meet in the new student union building on the university campus, Salt Lake City, Utah, June 17-28. Founded 1947. Director: Brewster Ghiselin. Staff: W. S. Merwin, poetry; Andrew Lytle, short story; Virginia Sorensen, novel. Plenic June 23 at mountain ranch. Last year's attendance: sixty-two. Three new scholarships for full tuition this year plus several old scholarships. Tuition: \$25 for one week; \$35 for entire session. Manuscript criticism fees: from \$5 to \$15. For bulletin, write Brewster Ghiselin, Director of Writers' Conference, University of Utah, Salt Lake City 1, Utah.

Ginseni, Diffector of Writers Conference, University of Utah, Salt Lake City 1, Utah. BREAD LOAF WRITERS' CONFERENCE, under aus-pices of Middlebury College, will meet at Bread Loaf, Vt., Aug. 14-28. Founded 1926. Director: John Ciardi. Asst. Director: Paul Cubeta. Staff: Kay Boyle, A. B. Guthrie, Jr., William Raney, William Sloane, Mildred Walker, Léonie Adams, Eunice Blake. Special lecturers: Robert Frost, Lincoln Barnett, Catherine Drinker Bowen, David McCord, Winfred van Atta, Richard Wilbur. Last year's enrollment: 156 (highest in the conference's thirty-one years). Facilities expanded this year to accommodate 175. Five fellowship given by Henry Holt & Co., the Bernard DeVoto Fel-lowship given by Houghton Mifflin, the Funk & Wagnalis Fellowship in Prose, the Fletcher Pratt Memorial Fellowship given by W. W. Norton & Co., Curtis Brown, Ltd., and friends of Fletcher Pratt, and the Weekly Reader Children's Book Club Fellowship in Juvenile Literature. Candidates must be nominated by editors, publishers, literary agents, or well-known writers. Inclusive fees (tuition, room, and board): contributors start at \$170; audi-tors start at \$145. Brochure available soon. Address inquiries to Bread Loaf Writers' Con-ference, Middlebury College, Middlebury 6, Vt.

CHRISTIAN WRITERS' AND EDITORS' CONFERENCE, under the joint auspices of the National Coun-cll of the Churches of Christ in America (Division of Christian Education) and the Board of Education and Publication of the American Baptist Convention, will meet at Green Lake, Wis., July 27-Aug. 3. Founded 1948. Director: Benjamin P. Browne. Staff: Catherine Marshall, Elizabeth Yates, Anna Perrott Rose Wright, George F. Hall, Robert A. Johnston, Clarence W. Hall, James M. Flanagan, Paul Meacham. Virgil E. Foster, Kenneth L. Wilson, Peter Gordon White, Wil-liam S. Mittelstadt, Roland E. Wolseley, R. Dean Goodwin, Dorothy C. Wilson, Ethelyn M. Parkinson, Lottie M. Franklin, Ward S. Miller, Lawrence E. Nelson. Workshops in fiction, article writing, curriculum, church publicity, missionary writing, photography, poetry, drama; also a book writing seminar and a creative writing teachers' seminar. The Christian Writers' and Editors' Conference is followed by the Extension School of Christian Writing, Aug. 3-17. Academic credit for work done at the Extension School will be given by the University of Redlands, Calif. Fees: \$10 for registration for week of July 23-Aug. 3, if registration is made before May 1; \$15 after May 1. Second and third weeks, \$8 each. Accommodations vary from \$6 double and \$550 with three to four in a room to four in a room. Address inquiries to Helen K. Wal-lace, Registrar. Christian Writers' and Editors' Conference, 1703 Chestnut Street, Philadel-phia 3, Pa. ONE-TO FOUR-DAY CONFERENCES

ONE-TO FOUR-DAY CONFERENCES

ONE-TO FOUR-DAY CONFERENCES ARKANSAS WRITERS' CONFERENCE, operated by the Arkansas Writers' Conference, Inc., under the sponsorship of the Arkansas Pioneer Branch of National League of American Pen Women, August Engel, Lily Peter, Mrs. J. F. Weinman, and Clara B. Kennan, will meet June 1-3 at Hardison Hall on Petit Jean Mountain, Petit Jean State Park, Marrilton. Ark. Founded 1945. Director: Anna Nash Yar-borough. Staff to be announced. Lectures on poetry, short story, feature writing, and juve-nile writing. Prize contests in nine categories. Registration fee for full participation: \$5: for partial participation: \$1 per day. Address in-quiries to Arkansas Writers Conference. Inc., 510 East St., Benton, Ark.

OZARK WRITER-ARTISTS Pow-wow will meet at Inspiration Point, six miles west of Eureka Springs, Ark., May 24-26. Director of writers' group: Cora Pinkley-Call. Staff to be an-nounced. Subjects: confessions, juvenile

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writing, novel and short story, regional writing, science fiction. Four states (Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas) represented in the program. Registration fee: \$1. Last year's attendance: about 100. Address inquiries to Cora Pinkley-Call, Eureka Springs, Ark.

CALIFORNIA WRITERS' CONFERENCE, sponsored last year by the California Writers' Club in cooperation with the Oakland Chamber of Commerce and the Oakland Tribune. No in-formation received on 1957 conference. Address inquiries to California Writers' Con-ference, c/o Oakland Chamber of Commerce, 1320 Webster St., Oakland 12, Calif.

CHICAGO WHITERS' CONFERENCE WILL meet at the Hotel Congress, Chicago, Ill., Apr. 25-27, Founded 1955. Director: Irv. Leiberman. Staff and speakers: Dorothy F. Arbuckle, Richard Dunlop, Eugenia Price, Adele M. Ries, Rosa-mond duJardin, William F. McDermott, Lach-lan MacDonald, Annette Victorin, Florence Marvyne Bauer, T. Otto Nall, Gail Brook Burket, Lillian Budd, Betty J. Russell, Dr. Clyde S. Kilby, Francis G. Edwards, George Fox, Janice M. Gosnell, Adelaide Gerstley. Subjects: faction, nonfaction, poetry, juvenile writing, TV. Expected enrollment: 150. Fees: \$15 for Apr. 25, \$10 for Apr. 26, \$10 for Apr. 27; \$3-5 for contest entry. Address inquiries to Irv. Leiberman, 565 Hipp Annex, Cleveland 15, O. 15, 0

DRURY COLLECE WRITERS' CONFERENCE, sponsored by the Drury College Adult Education Pro-gram in cooperation with the Department of English, meets Apr. 12-13 at Drury College, Springfield, Mo. General chairman: Adelaide H. Jones. Staff: Edwin C. Peterson of the University of Pittsburgh, Shirley Fisher of McIntosh & Otis (literary agents), Townsend Godsey, Albert Roland of *Household*, Dan Saults, Frances Woolery, Cena C. Draper, Argye Briggs, Margaret Lucas, William Mor-rison. William R. Draper. Prose Awards for Ozark writing. Fees: \$3 for entire conference; \$2 for one day; professional criticism service, \$7. Address inquiries to Adelaide H. Jones, General Chairman, Writers' Conference, Drury College, Springfield 2, Mo.

STATE OF MAINE WRITERS' CONFERENCE, SPON-sored by the Ocean Park Assembly, will meet August 21-23 at Ocean Park. Founded 1941. Chairman: Dan Kelly. Advisory Chairman: Adelbert M. Jakeman. Vice-Chairman: Louise Darcy. Staff: Harold W. Gleason, Sheldon Christian, William E. Harris, Elva Harris, Louise Darcy, Doris Ricker Marston, Loring Williams, and others. Guest speaker: A. S. Burack, Workshops in fiction, nonfiction, ar-ticles, radio-TV, poetry, juveniles. Poetry tournament. Prize contests. Bookfair. Memorial tribute to Longfellow. Registration fee: \$1.50 per day. For accommodations, write Ocean Park Hotel. Ocean Park, Me. Last year's at-tendance: 100. Address inquiries to Dan Kelly, 37 Stone St., Augusta, Me.

MCKENDREE COLLEGE WRITERS' CONFERENCE, called Colloquium last year, meets on Apr. 13 on the campus of McKendree College, Lebanon, III. Director: Mildred Silver. Leader: Georgia C. Nicholas, of Nicholas Literary Agency. Fee: §1. Personal interviews and criticism by Miss Nicholas by appointment, special fees. One-act play by Lea Abernathy which won first prize at 1955 McKendree Conference will be presented. Last year's attendance: 102. Ad-dress inquirles to: Mildred Silver, Director, Writers' Conference, McKendree College, Lebanon, III. MCKENDREE COLLEGE WRITERS' CONFERENCE, called

DETROIT WRITERS' CONFERENCE will meet at the Crowley-Milner Department Store, Detroit, Mich., Aug. 22-24. Director: Irv. Leiberman. Speakers: TV script buyers, magazine editors, professional writers, teachers. Expected en-rollment: 100. Address inquiries to Irv. Leiber-man, 565 Hipp Annex, Cleveland 15, O.

Main, 500 Mipp Mintex, Crevenia Io, O. Michigan, Warrens' CONFERENCE, under auspices of English Department of the University of Michigan, will meet May 23-24 at the Univer-sity of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. Founded 1953. Director: Robert F. Haugh, assoc. pro-fessor of English. Staff: Malcolm Cowley, others to be announced. Workshops in fiction, nonfiction, marketing. Fees: \$5 for reading short works, \$10 for reading novels. Attend-ance free. Last year's attendance: 100 at work-shops, 200 to 800 at lectures open to public. Address inquiries to Robert F. Haugh, 2617 Haven Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. Haven Hall, Arbor, Mich.



KANSAS WRITERS' CONFERENCE, under auspices of University Extension and William Allen White School of Journalism and Public In-formation, will meet June 25-28 at the Uni-versity of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan. Founded 1948, suspended 1950-52, resumed 1953 under the direction of Professor Frances Grinstead. Workshop leaders: Lewis Nordyke, nonfiction; Virginia Scott Miner, poetry; Eula M. Phillips, juvenile writing; Bob Wormington, TV drama; Elizabeth Gregg Patterson, fiction. TVuition: \$25 includes some manuscript criticism. Last year's attendance: thirty-three. For brochure, address Frances Grinstead, 203 Flint Hall, Uni-versity of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan.

MID WEST SILVER LAKE WRITERS' CONFERENCE will meet at Oak Haven, a 160-acre property at Fairmont, Minn. Aug. 1-3. Founded 1953. Host: P. Evans Coleman. Chairman: Margaret Durant. Workshop leaders: Margaret Ball Dickson, poetry; Mrs. A. Webb, radio; P. Evans Coleman, the novel. Tuition: \$10. Hos-pitality: \$2.50-\$3.50. Last year's attendance: nineteen. Address inquiries to P. Evans Cole-man, Oak Haven, Rte. 3, Fairmont, Minn.

man, Oak Haven, Rte. 3, Fairmont, Minn. LIVE OAK WRITERS' CONFERENCE, under the aus-pices of the University of Mississippi in co-operation with the Biloxi Branch of American Pen Women, will present the following pro-gram, Aug. 25-27, at the White House Hotel, Biloxi, Miss.: Welcome by D. C. Trexler; re-sponse by Mrs. Lloyd B. Griffith, president Biloxi Branch of American Pen Women; "What an Editor Wants," by Eileen Loonam; "Research," by Ray Samuel: "Agency," by Evans B. Harrington; "Poetry," by Dr. John Husband; "Color Photography in Photo-Journalism," by Ivan Dimitri; banquet ad-dress, by Katharine Anne Porter; "Articles for the National Market," by Hodding Carter; "How-To" Panel. Registration: \$15. For bro-chure, write Department of Conferences and Institutes, University Extension, University of Mississippi, University, Miss.

OMAHA WRITERS' CONFERENCE, under auspices of Omaha Writers Club, has held conferences in May since 1946. No information received on this year's conference. For dates, write Ruth Crosby, Secretary, Omaha Writers' Confer-ence, 3920 Cuning St., Omaha, Neb.

EASTERN NEW MEXICO WRITERS' WORKSHOP, un-der auspices of Eastern New Mexico Univer-sity, will meet June 20-22 on the campus of Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, N. M. Founded 1953. Director: E. Debs Smith. Staff: Marvin Borowsky, Frank Waters, others to be announced. Subjects: playwriting, TV and movie writing, novel and short story writing. Fees: \$5 for auditors; \$10 for one hour university credit. Awards totaling \$300. Last year's attendance: more than 100. For brochure, write E. Debs Smith. Director, ENMU Writers' Workshop, Eastern New Mex-ico University, Portales, N. M.

CLEVELAND WRITERS' CONFERENCE will hold its sessions at Higbee Department Store, Cleve-land, O. June 27-29. Founded 1952. Subjects: TV script writing, magazine writing, and book writing, juvenile and adult. Director: Irv. Leiberman. Speakers to include TV script buy-ers, magazine editors, publishers, and profes-sional writers. Expected enrollment: 200. Ad-dress inquiries to Irv. Leiberman, 565 Hipp Annex, Cleveland 15, O.

OHIO VERSEWRITERS' CONFERENCE, under auspices of Ohio Poetry Society, will meet at the College of Wooster, Wooster, O., May 3-4. Founded 1951. Director: Loring Williams. Staff; Rolfe Humphries, George Abbe, Ralph L. Kin-sey, William Barrett, Robert D. West. Regis-tration fee: \$3.50. Last year's registration: eighty-six. Address inquiries to Loring Wil-iiams, 4109 Bushnell Road, University Heights, 18, O.

SHORT COURSE IN PROFESSIONAL WRITING, under auspices of University of Oklahoma, will meet June 10-12 in the air-cooled auditorium of the Union Building, Norman, Okla. Founded 1938. Director: Walter S. Campbell. Ten workshops conducted by experts, writers, and editors. Among them will be article writing (Charles Ferguson), the novel (Paul R. Reynolds), the story (Dwight V. Swain), the juvenile story (Mary Agnes Thompson), poetry, TV, confession story. Arrangements will be made for criticism of short stories and for consulta-tions with publishers, editors, or agents in attendance. Fees: not above \$15. Address in-quiries to Walter S. Campbell (Stanley Ves-tal), Director of Courses in Professional Writ-ing, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla.

PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE, under the auspices of a number of writers' clubs in the Philadelphia area, will hold its ninth annual conference, June 5-7, at the Syl-vania Hotel, Philadelphia. Established 1949. President: Horbard F. Berolzheimer. Staff: Amram E. Nowak, TV and radio; Frank H. Weir, articles and features; Jean Horton Berg, juvenile writing; Austin J. Arp. basic prob-lems and principles; Pauline Bloom, short

story; Sister Mary Pauline Fitts, writing for Catholic press; Blanche Whiting Keysner, poetry; Arthur J. Burks, story; Rev. Helmut T. Lehmann, religious writing; Earl T. Crook-er, drama; Lewis P. Nachod, teen-age writing; Malcolm Stewart, confessions; Thomas P. Haviland, poetry; William E. Harris, literary consultant. Evening speakers: Joseph B. Icen-hower, John W. Alexander, Carolyn Field, Donald E. Cooke, Mrs. Oscar Mertz, Helen Bailey, Mrs. Herbert Frankenfield, Elizabeth Morton. Banquet speakers: Richard Powell, Mary Lee Settle, Livingston Biddle, D. Moreau Barringer. Cash prizes for manuscript contests. Fees: Registration \$2 plus \$3 for each work-shop; evening programs, \$2. Address inquiries to Olga P. MacFarland, Registrar, P.O. Box 897, Philadelphia 5, Pa.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE FOR READ-ERS AND WRITERS, under auspices of English Department of the University of Pittsburgh, will meet May 1-2 on the campus of the Uni-versity of Pittsburgh. Founded 1945. Director: Edwin L. Peterson. Staff: Simon Michael Bes-sie, Rose Franken, Louis E. Kronenberger, Richard Larkin, Joseph Verner Rood. No fees, no manuscript criticism. Address inquiries to Edwin L. Peterson, University of Pittsburgh 13, Pa. Pittsburgh 13, Pa.

New YORK WRITERS' CONFERENCE will meet at a major hotel in New York City, Nov. 7-9. Director: Irv. Leiberman. Speakers to be announced. Subjects: short-short stories, arti-cles, juveniles, TV scripts, magazine fiction, novels, poetry. Address inquiries to Irv. Lieberman, 565 Hipp Annex, Cleveland 15, O.

Lieberman, 565 Hipp Annex, Cleveland 15, O. Southwest WRITERS' Conference, under aus-pices of The Byliners, South Texas writers' group, will meet at Robert Driscoll Hotel, Corpus Christi, Tex., June 8-11. Founded 1944. Director: Dee Woods. Staff: Harrison Smith, William B. Hart, Nina Dorrance, Tom Batten, Timothy Seldes, Stanton Coblentz, J. Frank Dobie, Harnett T. Kane, Fred Gipson, Gar-land Roark, Lon Tinkle, J. Meredith Tatton, W. A. Stigler, Joel McCrindle, L. L. Foreman, Holland McCombs, Frank Wardlaw, J. A. Car-roll, Leonard Ormerod, Van Chandler, M. D. McElroy, Harry Ransone, Ruel McDaniel, Cothburne O'Neal, Rita Naylor, Loula Grace Erdman, Siddie Joe Johnson, Margaret Page, Lynwood Giacomini, Dechard Turner, Ken Harper, Winifred Kupper, Katharine Evans, E. B. Mann, Carl Gibke, Ross Phares, Dave Creveston, Lily Peter, Fania Kruger. Seven magazine editors and six publishers' repre-sentatives expected to be present. Lectures, workshops, clinics. Autograph parties, sailing, a visit to the King Ranch. Conference con-cludes with an award dinner, at which \$1,000 in cash prizes are presented. All contest manu-scripts returned with comment. Scholarships available. Last year's registration: 383. For brochure, write Dee Woods, 406 South Caran-cahua, Corpus Christi, Tex. WRITERS' ROUND-UP at the Amarillo Center,

WRITERS' ROUND-UP at the Amarillo Center, West Texas State College, 2101 Harrison St., Amarillo, Tex., meets Apr. 9-13. Founded in 1950 by the Panhandle Pen Women. Director: A. Kirk Knott, head of the English Depart-ment. Staff: Loula Grace Erdman, Hollis Sum-pers and othors. Address inquisite to A Visit mers, and others. Address inquiries to A. Kirk Knott, Department of English, West Texas State College, Canyon, Tex.

LEAGUE OF VERMONT WRITERS' INSTITUTE, under auspices of University of Vermont, will meet July 9-10 at the University of Vermont, Bur-lington, Vt. Speakers to be announced. Sub-jects: fiction, articles, poetry, plays, juveniles, markets. No registration fee. Address inquiries to Mary Pearl, president, League of Vermont Writers, c/o Maltex Co., Burlington, Vt.

Writers, C/O Martex Co., Burlington, VI. PACIFIC NORTHWEST INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE, an incorporated nonprofit literary association, will meet July 25-27 on the cam-pus of the University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. Founded 1956. Director: Ralph B. Potts. Staff: James Stevens, Kenneth Dodson, Mur-ray Morgan, Lucile McDonald; Helen Ross, Zoa Sherburne, Frank Richardson Pierce, Steve McNeil, Dr. George Savage, Martin Flavin, and others to be announced. A cruise across Puget Sound to a salmon barbecue on the Olympic Peninsula on July 28. Rooms for 250 visiting writers are being reserved in a university dormitory. Last year's attendance: More than 400. Address inquiries to Ralph B. Potts, Pacific Northwest International Writers Conference, 1702 Hoge Building, Seattle 4, Wash. Wash.

WRITERS' FLOATING WORKSHOP, promoted by American-Foreign Travel Associates, will sail from New York to Bermuda on June 28 on the Queen of Bermuda. Staff: Pauline Bloom, Mal-colm Stewart. One and a half hours of instruc-tion every morning and afternoon in fiction, poetry, and article writing. Workshop sessions conducted on deck and around the swimming pool. Party in honor of F. Van Wyck Mason on Bermuda. Address inquiries to Fay Oppen-heim, American-Foreign Travel Assoc., 34 S. Clinton St., Doylestown, Pa.

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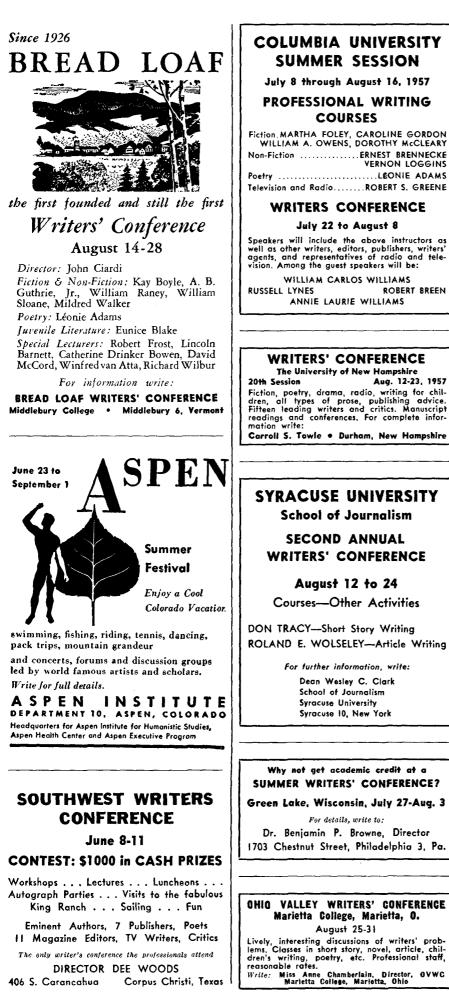


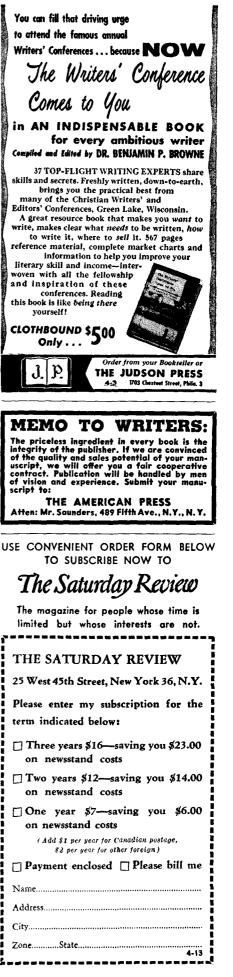
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Aspects of the Human Situation

"Craft and Character in Modern Fiction," by Morton Dauwen Zabel (Viking. 331 pp. \$4.75), is a collection of essays on novelists from Dickens to the present that look for the total relevance of a work of literary art. Our reviewer, David Daiches of Cambridge University, is lecturing this year at Indiana University.

By David Daiches

MORTON DAUWEN ZABEL, who has one of the finest critical minds of our generation, is offering in "Craft and Character in Modern Fiction" nineteen essays written at different times over a period of some twenty years. The most substantial are three on Dickens and four on Conrad. (If it be asked why Dickens should appear in a book on "modern" fiction, the answer is that Mr. Zabel is concerned, in his essays on Dickens, with the modern appraisal of Dickens, with present notions of the man and his work, with the contemporary reconstitution of a "larger and greater Dickens" than the mere Victorian Dickens, a reconstitution which makes possible a richer "understanding of the vital sources out of which the genuine art of the modern novel has emerged and on which it must count in the future.")

Mr. Zabel combines a profound sense of history and of personality with a sensitive understanding of craftsmanship. He thus belongs with Lionel Trilling (rather than with, say, Cleanth Brooks) among those critics who look for the total relevance of a work of literary art, who are concerned with ends as well as means and are not content to demonstrate complexities or subtleties of meaning and structure but go on to consider each author "a man speaking to men." After discussing the comprehensiveness of the Dickensian vision and the poetic whole which he created out of his insights and responses, Mr. Zabel proceeds: "The task of criticism lies exactly in the discernment of this vision and poetry, and of the meansso vexedly personal, so deeply involved in human and social confusion. so radically faithful to experience, so copiously varied and instinctively creative-by which Dickens realized them."

This is well put, and illustrates the parently by conscious intention than kind of searching generalization of which Mr. Zabel is a master. "So vexedly personal" describes with suggestive precision the way in which Dickens's art was involved with his life. When we have explored the full meaning of the phrase, we understand Dickens. Or again, consider how Mr. Zabel sums up Dickens's position between the lustiness of the earlier English novel and the esthetic, Jamesian rigor of the later: "What he brought to his craft was a distracted temper and rebellious impulse that kept him from submitting helplessly to the sentimental and didactic usages with which he compromised, as much as they set him apart from the disciplines of detachment and esthetic calculation that were beginning to assert themselves in his lifetime."

In these essays, Mr. Zabel only occasionally probes the detailed structure of a work—though when he does so he shows he can do it with as much skill and perceptiveness as the greatest masters of the analytic school. He moves to and fro between biography and description, between history and critical analysis, with the object not so much of putting a writer in his historical context as of bringing out the full nature of his achievement. He uses comparison and analogy with tact and understanding. He is not afraid to write: "The order of art to which Conrad addressed himself, less apby instinct and personal necessity, is one that has become paramount in the literature of the twentieth century. The ambiguity of truth, the conflict of appearance and reality, the rival claims of the secret and the social self ---these are now integral to modern fiction in its major manifestation. whether in Proust or Mann, James or Kafka, Gide or Sartre. They arrive at something like the condition of paradigm in Pirandello's 'Six Characters in Search of an Author'." The reader is invited to explore a statement of this kind, and such an exploration can yield profound insights.

At the same time Mr. Zabel has the ability to sum up in a brief and memorable phrase the essential core of a whole body of work. To refer to Conrad's "dramatizations of the trapped sensibility" is to point masterfully to the central meaning of Conrad's greatest work; we become better readers of Conrad for reading with that phrase in our minds. And though sometimes we are left with the wish that Mr. Zabel had gone further down the road with us instead of being content merely to point out the way, we are grateful for the way in which he enlarges the significant area of critical discourse and consistently sees fiction as concerned in one way or another with the human situation.

Nothing else in the book quite comes up to the discussions of Conrad and of Dickens. Mr. Zabel is interesting and informative on Hardy's view of his own art and its relation to his practice, judicious about Samuel Butler, perceptive but rather too general in his discussion of James, sound on E. M. Forster without adding anything substantial to what Trilling has said, excellent on Graham Greene.

ality. Foreign critics, as well as some

writers' MALAISE: The malaise of America's serious writers is reminiscent of the nineteenth-century French novelist. This is most apparent in the new American bourgeois's lack of sympathy for the "artistic" or avantgarde writer. His work does not satisfy the "needs" of the common man: entertainment to fill inevitable idle moments, "inspiration" to comfort him in times of doubt or despair, useful instruction to increase his earning power and solve his immediate problems. But even excluding the incomprehensible or immoral poètes maudits, we still find that most good American novels and plays fail to express the relaxed companionability, the confident spirit of optimism, and the denial of the negative and the tragic that compose the current myth of the American person-

of our own, have been impressed by the importance of violence, tragedy, and impotence in American novels and the fundamental incommunicativeness and agonizing atomic solitude of their heroes. Among postwar pieces alone, such works as "Miriam," "From Here to Eternity," "The Naked and the Dead," "The Man With the Golden Arm," "Dangling Man," "A Member of the Wedding," and "The Death of a Salesman" offer an uninterrupted series of fictional characters whose alienation, isolation, and anguish match or overpower the more civilized and self-analyzing tragic heroes of Proust, Mauriac, Malraux, and Sartre.

-From "The Unheroic Hero," by Raymond Giraud (Rutgers University Press).