

## World War II

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modesty, salting it with much valuable psychological lore. —T. E. C.

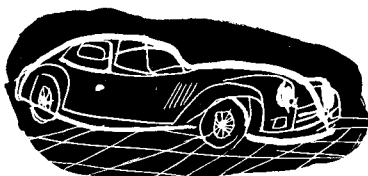
"I Remember Flores," by Tasuku Sato and Mark Tannien (Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, \$3), is a collaboration by a captain in the Japanese Navy and a Maryknoll priest.

Captain Sato was assigned as commander of the formerly Dutch island of Flores in the East Indies, where there was a strong Catholic community. Sato studied this strange religion because he needed, in his capacity as military governor, to know what he was dealing with.

With Father Tannien's aid he tells how the faith of his "subjects" gradually took hold of him and how he joined the Church. —T. E. C.

"The Ship With Two Captains," by Terrence Robertson (Dutton, \$3.95), is the story of the British submarine *Seraph*, which was commissioned as a U. S. Navy ship and given an American captain and flag so as not to offend the pride of General Henri Giraud, who refused to have anything to do with the British but wished to be transported from Vichy France to North Africa.

In lively and humorous fashion Mr. Robertson tells how the *Seraph* accomplished its mission under two captains and two flags and later participated in other exploits, including the landing of General Mark Clark



and some aides to prepare for the Allied invasion of North Africa.

—T. E. C.

"Holocaust at Sea," by Fritz-Otto Busch (Rinehart, \$3.50), grippingly narrates some of the examples of daring against great odds shown by the German surface navy during World War II. Among these is the *Scharnhorst's* dash from Brest to Wilhelmshaven through the English Channel, where every bit of air and sea power the British could muster was levelled against her. There are also stories of some of the *Scharnhorst's* raids against allied shipping, including the sinking of the British carrier *Glorious*. —T. E. C.

"Guerilla Surgeon," by Lindsay Rogers, M. D. (Doubleday, \$3.95), is the personal account of a New Zealand surgeon's experiences with Marshall Tito's Yugoslav guerillas. His job was establishing and operating secret hospitals in the forests and training Partisan doctors and nurses. His book was written without records in the space of two weeks immediately after he left Yugoslavia in 1945; his impressions are fragmentary and related only in that they came within the ken of one man, but they bear the mark of truth which is art.

—GORDON HARRISON.

## Verse

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I must admit to a prejudice which may affect my judgment unduly. Since 1946 I have tended to find almost all contemporary verse unreadable: overly intellectual, remote from life and common emotional preoccupations, either tiresomely involved in such intricate self-analysis as to require scholarly exegesis, or conversely (as in Viereck's case) so preoccupied with recapturing self-consciously a classic lyricism and simplicity as to be full of bookish conceits and artful whimsy. The question whether vital poetry can be written, as most practising poets are attempting to write it today, next door to the classroom, has yet to be faced. The examples of Shapiro, Auden—and Viereck—are not reassuring.

Viereck hasn't (and never has had) the temperament or the ear for spontaneous lyricism in the vein of Herrick, Blake, Shelley, Cummings, or Thomas. Even in the tenderest passages his flights can be positively elephantine, and his metaphors—"The perfect breasts of untouched infinite farness"—vaguely abstract. In my opinion, he is ill-advised to try this sort of thing. What he can do supremely and uniquely well is the symbolic monologue on a social-political theme like "Kilroy Was Here" or, in the present instance the dialogue between Goethe and Hart Crane in the poem entitled "Decorum and Terror":

Johann, your ego never shared  
or co-starred;  
Your secret fear of failing makes  
you boast hard.  
Your classicism? What a corny  
postcard,  
An alp all scenic'd up and bella-  
vista'd.

Don't try to act as earthy as a  
coastguard;  
You're not exactly hearty and  
two-fisted.  
Americana lures you, Hart—  
resist it.  
There's nothing wrong with being  
tender-wristed;  
Your gift is more Athenian than  
Doric;  
Your best songs are not ruggedly  
folkloric  
Nor grossly and gregariously  
choric  
But subtly—this I honor—esoteric

In this kind of poem, all Viereck's real gifts for satire, wit, rhyme, memorable phrase, and unorthodox critical analysis come into play.



## Pick of the Paperbacks



**BARCHESTER TOWERS.** By Anthony Trollope. Penguin. 85¢. This second novel in the Barchester series, published just a century ago, recounts the trials of Mrs. Proudie as she puffs her way through the intrigues of church politics in a Victorian cathedral city.

**THE MIRACLE OF LANGUAGE.** By Charlton Laird. Premier. 50¢ The family tree of verbal communication traced from Old Arabic to pidgin English.

**TWO NOVELS OF MEXICO.** By Mariano Azuela. Translated by Lesley Byrd Simpson. University of California Press. \$1.25. The Mexican Revolution, recorded in two vignettes "The Flies" and "The Bosses," by a shrewd, jocular, and always realistic Mexican novelist who served in Villa's army.

**SESSHU.** By Tanio Nakamura. English text by Elise Grilli. Tuttle. \$1.25. A lovely little book, handsomely illustrated with the simple and serene paintings of the fifteenth-century Zen Buddhist monk who is often called Japan's greatest painter.

**THE LAST DAYS OF SOCRATES.** By Plato. Translated by Hugh Tredennick. Penguin. 65¢. Plato's account of the trial, condemnation, death, and most of all the wisdom, of Socrates.

**CRUCIBLES: THE STORY OF CHEMISTRY.** By Bernard Jaffe. Premier. 35¢. The history of chemistry is related in terms of fifteen men and one woman, from fifteenth-century Trevisan to twentieth-century Oppenheimer, who contributed to its progress.

## Books For Young People



—From "Bozy and all the Children."

**E**ACH year a number of organizations concerned with children's reading make awards to books which they consider outstanding. The Newbery and Caldecott awards for this year were announced in the March 16 issue. Here is a summary of the other awards in the general field of children's books:

*Boys' Clubs of America Junior Book Awards* went to "Beaver Water," by Rutherford G. Montgomery (World); "The First Lake Dwellers," by Chester G. Osborne (Follett); "Quest of the Snow Leopard," by Roy Chapman Andrews (Viking); "The Story of Albert Schweitzer," by Jo Manton (Abelard-Schuman); and "Trail Blazer of the Seas," by Jean Lee Latham (Houghton Mifflin).

The *Carnegie Medal*, given by the Library Association of Great Britain and comparable to the Newbery Award of the Children's Library Association, was given to C. S. Lewis for "The Last Battle" (John Lane in England, Macmillan in USA).

The *Child Study Association of America* selected "The House of Sixty Fathers," by Meindert DeJong (Harper) to receive its Book Award and gave a special citation to William O. Steele for his "The Lone Hunt" (Harcourt, Brace).

The *Thomas A. Edison Foundation* gave three awards: for special excellence in portraying America's past to Samuel Eliot Morison for his "The Story of the 'Old Colony' of New Plymouth" (Knopf); for character development to Clara Ingram Judson for her "Mr. Justice Holmes" (Follett); and for the outstanding science book to Roy A. Gallant for his "Exploring the Universe" (Garden City).

The *Herald-Tribune's Spring Book Awards* for outstanding books of this spring went to "Madeline and the Bad Hat," by Ludwig Bemelmans (Viking); "Gone-Away Lake," by Elizabeth Enright (Harcourt, Brace); and "Because of Madeline," by Mary Stolz (Harper).

The *Kate Greenaway Medal*, similar to the Caldecott award and given by the Library Association of Great Britain, was presented to Edward Ardizzone for his "Tim All Alone" (Oxford).

The *William Allen White Children's Book Award* was presented to Phoebe Erickson for her "Daniel 'Coon'" (Knopf).

Reviewers for this issue: Helen Fuller, Supervisor, Work With Boys and Girls, Long Beach, California, Public Library; Margaret Mahon, Children's Librarian, Greenville, South Carolina, Public Library; and Lucile W. Raley, Consultant in Library Service, Waco, Texas, Independent School District.

—FRANCES LANDER SPAIN,  
Coordinator, Children's Services  
The New York Public Library.

**WHERE IS EVERYBODY?** Written and illustrated by Remy Charlip. William R. Scott. \$2.25. The author has created a new kind of easy reader. Simple words, familiar ideas, combined in a continuous pattern, build a story step by step in structure, picture by picture, word by word. The text begins with a simple statement at the bottom of a page, "Here is an empty sky." On the following page, "A bird flies up into the sky." Finally fourteen other words and pictures are added in cumulative pattern to complete the story. Teachers of reading, librarians, and parents will be eager to use this book. Beginning readers will love it.

—LUCILE W. RALEY.

**THE RIVER QUEEN.** Written and illustrated by Peter Burchard. Macmillan.

\$3. Small boys, particularly those who live near the water and like boats, will enjoy this story of a race between two river boats. They will identify themselves with Chip, young son of the captain, especially during the emergency when his father turns over to him the control of the wheel. The gay and colorful illustrations bring to a focal point the thread of happy anticipation that runs through the narrative. Eight-year-olds will like to read the story for themselves.

—MARGARET MAHON.

**TARO'S FESTIVAL DAY.** Story and pictures by Sanae Kawaguchi. Little, Brown. \$2.50. In pleasing pictures and easy text American children can read about the daily doings of a Japanese boy which are very similar to their

own activities. The high point is the preparation for and celebration of the big Festival, the special day of the year for children. Very satisfying, although it cannot compare with Taro Yashima's "Crow Boy" (Viking).

—HELEN FULLER.

**GONE-AWAY LAKE.** By Elizabeth Enright. Illustrated by Beth and Joe Krush. Harcourt, Brace. \$3. Eleven-year-old Portia and her older cousin, Julian, discover a row of abandoned houses facing a swampy meadow that had once been a resort lake. When the lake had suddenly dried up long ago, the fine old houses had been closed and deserted by all the families except an eccentric brother and sister, who had returned to live as they had in their childhood. Exploring the houses, making friends with Uncle Pin and Aunt Minnehaha, saving Portia's small brother from quicksand, and building a bridge across the bog, the children enjoy a summer of adventure and fun.

Elizabeth Enright, who knows how to create real children, has again written a book close to the child's understanding, and Beth and Joe Krush have illustrated it in the spirit of a period piece.

—F. L. S.

**THE GARDEN UNDER THE SEA.** By George Selden. Illustrated by Garry MacKenzie. Viking. \$2.75. This clever, fanciful story centers around four sea animals—Oscar Lobster, Peter Starfish, Hector Crab, and James Fish—who, with their friends living at the bottom of Long Island Sound, are outraged by the general pilfering of the ocean floor by summer vacationers. In retaliation they set about to make a garden under the sea. Howard and Janet, who with their families live in a summer cottage on the Sound, are also in the story;



—From "The Garden Under the Sea."

"Undersea characters . . . intrigue."