## Triple Play

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played in the "speak-easies" of the roaring twenties and the music rooms (that is, rooms with a piano) of the red-light districts, they cannot sense, at least as the result of a first-hand experience, what jazz might mean in a historical context.

Not feeling compelled to look at literature or jazz against an overhanging historical and sociological context, "Junior" and Holden are free to examine whatever imaginative work may be in front of them for what it is, not for what it is a part of. That is, "Junior" and Holden, unlike their historically and sociologically encumbered parents, do not rely upon an "Arnoldian" touchstone out of the past as an evaluative measuring stick to determine whether an imaginative work is moral or immoral, or whether it does-or does not--have a right to exist. Thus, "Junior" and Holden are not likely to conclude hastily that a particular jazz record is not worth consideration because its antecedents had evolved from an unhealthy habitat. Whether the "cool" trumpet of Miles Davis is to become a part of "Junior" and Holden's past will depend, I believe our sixteen-year-olds would agree, on a purely objective analysis of the work itself as viewed against a backdrop of the present tense. If what Miles has to say is worth being said right now, "Junior" and Holden will no doubt keep listening.

As nearly as I can determine, my fi-nal-but gentle--push into what might be labeled the "Junior"-Holden-let's-be-objective-school-of-art-appreciation was supplied by T. S. Eliot. In the concluding section of "The Use of Poetry and the Use of Criticism," Eliot has written:

> In a play by Shakespeare you get several layers of significance. For the simplest auditors there is the plot, for the more thoughtful the character and conflict of character, for the more literary the words and phrasing, for the more musically sensitive the rhythm, and for auditors of greater sensitiveness and understanding a meaning which reveals itself gradually.

In the phrase several layers of significance, Eliot sounds the unmistakable meaning that the reading of a work of art-whether Shakespeare, Emerson, Salinger, or "cool" jazz!-is a highly complex experience, an experience that can't be approached with a mind already clut-
tered with too many things in the way. For example, to read a play by Shakespeare effectually, the reader must be aware not only of what each word or phrase means in itself, but of what each word or phrase-each line, each page, each scene, each actmight mean in related, but varying contexts. The creative artist, as Eliot implies, deliberately selects words or phrases for their multiple possibilities of meaning. Attempting to pro-vide-rather than avoid-intellectual stimuli for aware readers, the creative artist is simply not a Mickey Spillane grinding out X -equals-only-X, onedimensional "whodunits."

Ostensibly, Eliot did not have "Junior" or Holden in mind when he suggested that "for auditors of greater sensitiveness and understanding" there is a meaning which reveals itself gradually. At least "The Use of Poetry and the Use of Criticism" was originally written by Eliot as a series of lectures-lectures directed to men of letters, hardly undergraduates. Yet, despite Eliot's feeling that the inner essence of a work is not immediately revealed, I believe that he would not contradict the "prof" in my "New England Renaissance" course who assumed that "Junior" had the power to sense right away what's being said. That is, the sensitive, understanding "Junior" who seems "to sense right away what's being said" is simply not "the auditor" who must patiently await the "mean-
ing which reveals itself gradually." Ten, twenty, thirty-perhaps fifty or sixty years-separate "Junior," who has not yet lost his youthful sensitivity and perceptivity, from the elder "auditor." Understandably, the years that separate "the auditor" from "Junior" have meant to "the auditors" years of famine, feast, war, peace, mowing the lawn, shaving, sleeping, working plus anything else that might fill the daily life of a human being.

QUITE possibly the mature "auditor" cannot completely divorce his mind from the bills-to-be-paid, decisions-to-be-made, trivia-that-would-better-be-but-somehow-can't-be-set-aside, or any of the tangibles and intangibles of daily life that, if forgotten, might allow the beholder of a creative work to sense right away what's being said. Yet a sixteen-year-old's freedom to comprehend a work of art, it would seem, ougnt to be more than an unpleasant reminder to "the auditor" that his youth and the easy understanding of art which belonged to his youth are irretrievably lost. Once the more mature "auditor" achieves, even to a degree, the intense concentration which the unencumbered "Junior" and Holden seem to extend to an imaginative work, perhaps the "meaning which reveals itself gradually" might be perceived not "at once," but a great deal sooner.


A victim must be found. By Anne Hocking. Crime Club. \$2.95. Blackmailing English nurse gets her comeuppance; Superintendent Austen, CID, and team sort out plethora of suspects. Pleasant semipuzzler, told in words of one syllable.

A day in monte carlo. By Martha Albrand. Random House. \$3.50. Yank illustrator scours Paris, Riviera, on hunt for Algerian terrorist held responsible for friend's death; beautiful French girl absorbs much of hero's time; evening in casino provides profitable interlude. Orthodox.
be careful how you live. By Ed Lacy. Harper. \$2.95. Two wrong cops (U.S. metropolis) hoard huge kidnap ransom and await chance to lam; one of them tells own life story in series of convincing flashbacks. In genious and effective, with startling terminal twist.

CAKES FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY. By C. E. Vuillamy. British Book Centre. \$2.95. English village gossip and slanderer, ticketed for extinction, is herself on spot when poison fells prominent citizeness; characters are named Mr . Lumjaw-Puddleboy, Sir Patcham Claydraw, etc. Whimsy all over.
death out of focus. By William Campbell Gault. Random House. \$2.95. Heavily insured male movie star crashes cliff; cops ponder accidentmurder alternative; TV-vs.-pix crisis dominant. Knowledgeable Hollywood number is sensitive, perceptive.

Where there's smoke. By Clarence Budington Kelland. Harper. \$3.50. Young NYC fireman (total-recall expert) joins chief marshal's staff as investigator; arson quotient's rise keeps him busy, but love triumphs; villain incredible type, but documentary stuff fine.
-Sergeant Cuff.

# KINGSLEY DOUBLE-CROSTIC NO. 1307 

Reg. U.S. Patent Office

By Doris Nash Wortman



## DIRECTIONS

To solve this puale you must guess twenty-od. IVORDS. tbe dejnitions of which are given in the column beaded DEFINITIONS. Alongside each damition, there is a row of dasbes--one for each lster in the required word. When you hare guessed a word. wite it on the dasbes, and also wite citch letter in tha
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diagram as they derctap. watram as bey derelop. Anthortty for spelings
and definitions is Wib. wnd detinitions pi wib.
shers New International Dictionary. Second Edition.


Solution of last week's Double-Crostic will be found on page 11 of this issue.

