



## PICK OF THE PAPERBACKS

**F**OR THE university presses paperback publishing is a happy adventure. It is a means of producing inexpensive textbooks, of presenting supplementary reading in quantity and quality previously unknown, and of reissuing and revitalizing worthy scholarly books. For most university presses publishing paperbacks is a new venture. Often those just entering the field are cautious, restricting their publications to solid scholarship. Some, more daring, with a few years' experience, are expanding to include original works, fiction, and poetry. "Pick of the Paperbacks" this week deals with news and reviews of these paperbacks whose influence extends more and more beyond the campus boundaries.

**FORECAST:** The University of Virginia plans to enter the paperback field this summer with "Faulkner in the University," which presents the master's ideas about many things, including writing, the South, and other authors, all of which he talked about during his stay as UVA's writer-in-residence. . . . The University of Texas will soon begin its paperback printing with, of all things, out-of-date classics by Texans about Texas. . . . Ronald Mansbridge, manager of Cambridge University Press, says "the introduction of paperbacks is as important to the publishing industry as the innovation of cloth binding more than a hundred years ago." Cambridge's first twenty-one titles will range from such standard texts as G. H. Hardy's "Course in Pure Mathematics" to G. G. Coulton's "The Medieval Scene." . . . Yale holds the line with "paperbounds" as the term for its series. Having begun two years ago with Shakespeare, Yale has ambitious plans that include such authors as Erich Fromm, Paul Tillich, and Henry S. Commager. . . . A series on American writers and writing will be University of Minnesota's fall project. William Van O'Connor and Allen Tate, both of the faculty, and former Minnesota Professor Robert Penn Warren will edit the books that will get underway with studies of Faulkner, Frost, and Hemingway. . . . University of Nebraska marks its ingress into paperbacks with Robert E. Knoll's biography, "Robert McAlmon: Expatriate Publisher and Writer," which recreates the heyday of Paris's Twenties when McAlmon—friend of Joyce, Gertrude Stein, H.D.—was the force behind the Contact Press. Another compeer, William Carlos Williams, wrote the foreword. . . . The first original in paper covers by the University of Chicago (Phoenix Books) is Smith Palmer Bovie's translation of Horace's "Satires and Epistles."

**FOR PROFESSORS ONLY** R. R. Bowker has provided "Paperbound Book Guide for Colleges." It's free. The catalogue, underwritten by the seventy-five contributing publishers, contains over 2,000 titles suitable for classroom texts or for collateral reading. This handy guide, already in the hands of some 65,000 college teachers, ranges from art to vocabulary, with such precise cross-references as "Marriage: See Home Economics."

**PAPERBACKS IN THE SOUTH** are an important aspect of a new educational experiment at New Orleans's Negro Dillard University. This month, President A. W. Dent will inaugurate the intensive program in teaching better reading skills to students who will matriculate in September. Dr. Frank Jennings, consultant to SR's University Press issue, will join Dr. Lou LaBrant in the instruction of boys and girls whose secondary school education has not completely prepared them for college work. The need to stretch the budget as well as the number of books on the reading program means that students will do their learning from paperbacks.

—R. W. S.

### LITERATURE:

The perpetuation and encouragement of scholarship prompt university press paperback publications. In recent months, there has been made available in belles-lettres, a book as broad as Arturo Torres-Rioseco's "The Epic of Latin American Literature" (University of California Press, \$1.50) and one as concentrated and new as "The Fiction of J. D. Salinger."

Mr. Torres-Rioseco's covers four and a half centuries of South American literary output in little more than 250 pages. The Epic of the title refers not to the form—although as form it receives treatment in its place—but to the story and evolution of literary achievement south of the border.

Joseph Wood Krutch's "Five Masters," subtitled "A Study in the Mutations of the Novel" (Midland, \$1.75), considers Boccaccio, Cervantes, Richardson, Stendahl, and Proust. Each, he feels, "represented a break with tradition sufficiently brusque to be called a 'mutation.'"

The novel is also the focus of another Midland Book, "Forms of Modern Fiction" edited by William Van O'Connor (\$1.75). This is a collection of essays about novels and novelists, by a wide-reaching group of critics, including T. S. Eliot, Allen Tate, Robert Penn Warren, and Ray B. West, Jr. But the book lacks cohesion. It appears to have been arranged without regard for subject matters so much as essayists. If it had remained within the field of the modern novel instead of dipping back to the Brontës, to James, it would be more valuable.

"The Fiction of J. D. Salinger," by Frederick L. Gwynn and Joseph L. Blotner (University of Pittsburgh Press, \$1.50), is marked by a number of summary statements and judgments about the author and his fictional family of Glasses.

"Richard Crashaw," by Ruth C. Wallerstein (Wisconsin, \$1.25), concerns the "poetic development" of the strange, tormented metaphysical poet.

Miss Wallerstein is also the author of "Studies in Seventeenth-Century Poetic."

"The Celestina" (California, \$1.25) is apparently the work of Fernando de Rojas, a fifteenth-century Spaniard. It is here translated by Lesley Byrd Simpson, who considers it a novel, although it is divided into five acts and written in dialogue. Crude as it is, it is not without interest, especially lusty old Celestina, a bawdy literary ancestor of Moll Flanders and Sarah Monday. Mr. Simpson has also translated "Little Sermons on Sin" (California, \$1.50), by Alfonso Martinez de Toledo, the Archpriest of Talavera, who wrote his excitable diatribes—largely against women—in 1438.

#### HISTORY:

The bright panorama of ancient Persia is recreated in A. T. Olmstead's "History of the Persian Empire" (Phoenix, \$2.95). From Cyrus's reign to the jubilant days when Alexander ruled most of the world, the story of Persia is dappled with tales of great heroes. An equally resplendent history is recorded in A. A. Vasiliev's revised, two-volume "History of the Byzantine Empire" (Wisconsin, \$1.75 each). The genealogical tables are helpful in sorting out the myriad "lords and ladies of Byzantium."

#### EDUCATION:

The how-to books were certain to reach out to an educationally-minded public. Last year 750,000 students—or more than half that year's high school graduates—entered college. In "How to Get Into College" (Everyman, \$1.10), Frank H. Bowles, president of the College Entrance Examination Board, discusses the choice of schools, proper preparation, examinations, and just about anything pertinent to "bright college years." A good companion is W. Bradford Craig's "How to Finance

a College Education" (Holt, \$1.95). Craig, director of Princeton's Student Aid Bureau, offers a careful guide to loans, scholarships, and, basic to any further step, an estimate of educational costs and sound advice on how to meet the needs.

Yale's president, A. Whitney Griswold, in his book of essays "Liberal Education and the Democratic Ideal" (Yale, 95¢), writes of the nature and history of American education, with emphasis upon liberal education's role as "the legitimate engine of government." A more specialized survey, "American Ideas About Adult Education," edited by C. Hartley Grattan (Teachers College, Columbia University, \$1.25), samples adult educational plans from the lyceums and Chautauqua movement to the recent report by the President's Commission on Higher Education.

#### PHILOSOPHY:

"The Praise of Folly" (Ann Arbor, \$1.35), by Desiderius Erasmus, enjoys undying fame for its pointed wit and profound wisdom. "A Short Life of Kierkegaard" (Princeton, \$1.75), by Walter Lowrie, published in 1942, was the first book in English on the Danish "father of existentialism." A broader exploration is Marjorie Grene's "Introduction to Existentialism" (Phoenix, \$1.25), which evaluates the contributions of Sartre, Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Marcel, and Jaspers.

It's no surprise that Alfred North Whitehead's "An Introduction to Mathematics" (Galaxy, \$1.50) is lucid, lively, and, interspersed with explanations of arithmetic theories, are philosopher Whitehead's own philosophical ruminations on number concepts.

#### AMERICAN SCENE:

To the recent flurry of books dealing with Americans and their society there seems no end in sight. One of the most provocative of these studies is C. Wright Mills's "The Power Elite" (Galaxy, \$1.95). Sociologist Mills dissects modern society, reveals the ruling groups (war lords, corporate rich, celebrities, etc.), and analyzes how they get power and what they do with it once they have it. It's a persuasive book, and a frightening one. David M. Potter's "People of Plenty" (Phoenix, \$1.35) is an inquiry into our national character which, concludes Yale historian Potter, has been and continues to be shaped by economic abundance. "Business Cycles and Their Causes" (California, \$1.50), by Wesley Clair Mitchell, is almost fifty years old, but its analyses of that familiar quartet—prosperity, crisis, depression, revival—are still basic to more complex economic theories.

#### MEN BEHIND THE PRESSES:

GLENN GOSLING, the University of California Press's senior book editor, is one of campus



paperbacks most knowledgeable supporters. "To me," he said, "paperbacks are among the really exciting things that happen around a university press. The wider market that paperbacks command make many books that are simply not publishable in the ordinary hard-cover way salvageable as 'originals.'" Of the ten "originals" on California's list, five have already gone into their second printing. "Some books," said Gosling, "have a natural potential for a paperback audience." He cited D. MacKenzie Brown's "The White Umbrella," a study in political thought, translated from great Indian philosophers, which did well enough in hard covers, but after a few weeks in paperback its sales had outstripped five years of the cloth edition. And now it's about to return to its source—an Indian publisher wants to translate the book into Hindi!

BERNARD PERRY, who directs the activities of Indiana University Press and its paperback



Midland Books, has a ready answer to the complaint that inexpensive reprints of hard-cover books will destroy the sales of the cloth editions. "While initially the paperback may reduce the hard-cover sales, in the long run I am convinced that it actually increases the distribution. Rolfe Humphries's translation of 'Ovid,'" said Perry, "sold over 20,000 copies in paperback and a very presentable 2,000 in hard cover, which illustrated that a cloth-bound edition will often benefit from the publicity received by the wider distribution of a paperback of the same book." Perry is quick to point out that merely because one book is successful in paperback doesn't necessarily mean that another will do as well. "Editorial selectivity," he concluded, "continues to be the key to successful paperback publishing."

#### PAPERBACK BEST-SELLERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES:

California: "Rilke: Selected Poems," translated by C. F. MacIntyre.  
Chicago: "History of the Primates," by W. E. LeGros Clark.  
Cornell: "The United States in 1800," by Henry Adams.  
Indiana: "Ovid's Metamorphoses," translated by Rolfe Humphries.  
Michigan: "The Writer and His Craft," edited by Roy W. Cowden.  
Oxford: "White Collar," by C. Wright Mills.  
Princeton: "Philosophy of Mathematics and Natural Science," by Herman Weyl.  
Yale: "A Touch of the Poet," by Eugene O'Neill.



# Demographers Go to the New World

***"The Family and Population Control: A Puerto Rican Experiment in Social Change," by Reuben Hill, J. Mayone Stycos, and Kurt W. Back (University of North Carolina Press. 494 pp. \$8), reports the findings on contraception in one dense, economically depressed area. Ernest van den Haag, author with Ralph Ross of "The Fabric of Society," considers the significance of the West Indian survey.***

By Ernest van den Haag

**H**ARDLY any problem could be more important now, and for the next 100 years, than the population explosion which threatens to engulf the world.

The industrial revolution reduced the death rate in Western Europe and also increased production per head. With it came higher living scales, urbanization, pervasive nationalistic attitudes, higher educational requirements—all of which tended to reduce fertility rates. It is true that in the industrialized countries even now population is still (in some cases again) rapidly growing. But not so rapidly as to reduce living scales. And chances are that fertility will be controlled in the older industrial countries before it depresses living scales. This is likely to be the case even in most of the South American countries, which now have about the highest rate of population increase in the world, though still remaining underpopulated for the most part.

But in the countries in Asia, which are now undergoing industrialization, the outlook is bleak. Death rates have been cut suddenly owing to the successful fight against infectious diseases. But income per head has not risen much, nor have there been the other concomitants of the industrial revolution which have reduced the fertility rates in the West. Hence, the population in these already overpopulated countries is growing by leaps and bounds—which in turn makes it unlikely that income per head can be increased much even if total production rises.

The only Eastern country which has started to control fertility with some measure of success so far has been Japan. The fertility rate of its 92 million people has been halved in the last ten years mainly through legalized abortions. But Japan has been highly industrialized for a while, and what succeeded there is not too likely to succeed in less industrialized countries.

**H**OWEVER, even with technological advances this globe will become crowded and uncomfortable if population increases at the present rate for another hundred years. And it is hardly likely that under modern conditions the world could long remain divided into a few prosperous islands amid a large ocean of humanity living in misery. The pressure of the discontented, moral and military, would reduce the prosperity of the rest if only in terms of mounting defense costs. The outcome is likely to be disaster for everybody. These are

only a few of the reasons why population control is of great concern to social scientists.

How can a government induce people accustomed to high death and fertility rates to reduce their birth rate, once the death rate has been reduced? And to do so fast enough so that the potential benefits of industrialization are not nullified by population increase? Most of the governments concerned seem to be fairly willing to attempt to reduce the rate of population growth. The main obstacle is technical: so far nothing has been found that would be effective on the scale required in the conditions existing. Unfortunately, very little money is being spent, either on research or on actual measures to reduce population growth. I know of no careful investigation of Japan's success, for instance—yet surely something can be learned from it.

Something, too, can be learned from the Puerto Rican experiment described by Hill, Stycos, and Back. It would be easier to learn from their work, however, had they written their report in English; unfortunately, they write in a lingo as repulsive as it is unnecessary. A sentence such as this is the best that can be found: "Are marital interaction patterns such as to facilitate the implementation of the means?"

The findings which the authors elaborately present are not surprising; but they carry conviction, and one may hope that they will be put to good use. The government-sponsored birth-control clinics in Puerto Rico are so far not very effective. One reason is that the techniques available through these clinics are not acceptable to many of the persons reached; they are considered to interfere with pleasure, health, or both. Further, the clinics deal exclusively with women, to whom they distribute contraceptives—a few at a time—to be used by males. Clearly, without a program persuading males who, particularly in Puerto Rico, decide on the use of the devices the clinics make available, there is little chance that they will be utilized.

**T**HERE are other objections to clinic use. The main problem, however, seems to be that the motivation toward family planning is not strong enough to prompt people to do much about it even though the three-child family is widely accepted as an ideal. A second problem is that information and techniques are not sufficiently available even to those who would use them if they had been reached. The general impression the study leaves is that fertility in Puerto Rico can be controlled with a slightly more



—U.P.I.

New York Puerto Ricans—In the shadow of the railroad, they crowd into tenements.