

tion can take: an Armenian hairdresser, abandoned by the white ladies who were once his support, succeeds when he advertises, "African Ladies a Specialty."

In "The Merchant of Heaven" Mrs. Laurence portrays the dismay of a missionary when he learns what Africa is like—a theme that has often been treated before but which she treats with fresh subtlety. The title story describes an African born in the most primitive sort of society who succeeds in making what seems to be a successful adjustment to technology, only to be destroyed by the conflict of old and new. The story suggests that, though the new is bound to triumph, the old will survive for a long time.

Unusual varieties of conflict are explored. An African girl who has been educated in England is enrolled in a missionary school in the land of her parents, where she is utterly miserable. "Godman's Master" is a grotesque account of an eccentric sort of adjustment. "The Voices of Adamo" is a tragedy of misunderstanding. "A Gourdful of Glory" is both robust comedy and a sardonic comment on the inevitability of disillusionment.

Mrs. Laurence has a style that permits her to make the most of her knowledge of Africa. Here, for example, is part of a description, too long to quote in full, of a small town "growing sluggish under the sedative sun of late morning":

Pariah dogs on the road snarled over the corpse of a cat; then panting, tongues dribbling, defeated by sun, they crawled back to a shaded corner, where their scabrous hides were fondled by an old man in a hashish dream. Footsteps on the cracked and scorching pavement lagged. Even the brisk shoes of white men slackened and slowed. The market women walked tiredly, their head-trays heavy, their bare feet pressing the warm dust into ripples and dunes. Babies slung on their mothers' backs allowed their heads to loll forward and whimpered at the sweat that made sticky their faces. A donkey brayed disconsolately. Voices droned low. Laughter like melted honey poured slowly.

But more important than the author's ability to give the reader a sense of the country is her insight into its people, black and white. Although she clearly has great sympathy for the natives, she does not plead their cause. She simply makes us see them as they are, in all their bewildered complexity. Each story is built upon an insight, and each is so constructed and written that the insight comes to the reader as a kind of revelation. This is indeed a writer to be welcomed.

—GRANVILLE HICKS.

The Case of the Improper Imprint

IT IS irony of the highest order that a book secretly subsidized by the United States government should be called *The Strategy of Deception*. For those who came in late, this "Study in World-Wide Communist Tactics," as it is subtitled, was submitted to Farrar, Straus through the magazine *The New Leader*, whose staff undertook editorial preparation and supervised translation of material taken from foreign sources. Roger Straus, president of the publishing company, liked what he saw; and he liked, too, the idea that the U.S. Information Agency had indicated an interest in buying copies for overseas distribution.

A contract for publication was drawn up with the book's editor, Professor Jeane J. Kirkpatrick of Trinity College, Hartford, and *Strategy* was duly published last November. It received generally favorable reviews, and has sold to date about 4,000 copies. USIA bought another 2,000 copies to distribute abroad. Even better, the Book-of-the-Month Club has made the volume one of its midsummer "special alternates."

Then, last month, USIA disclosed, under prodding by Representative Glenard P. Lipscomb, Republican from California, that it had secretly spent \$14,952.10 to have *Strategy* developed. "Neither the copies being distributed overseas nor [the] several thousand already sold in this country indicate in any way that a government subsidy financed the book's preparation," a dispatch from the Washington Bureau of the New York Times informed its readers. Mr. Straus,

like a good Caesar's wife, professed to be the last to find out. The book, he declared, was accepted for publication entirely on its merits.

Since *The Strategy of Deception* is a serious and scholarly work, and certainly nothing to be ashamed of, why did the USIA not bring out its own edition through the Government Printing Office? There are two reasons, and neither of them reflect much credit on the USIA. First, the agency was apparently trying to conceal from Congress the fact that funds were being used to subsidize material for domestic distribution. (Authorizing legislation forbids this.) Second, USIA needed the imprimatur of a private publisher in order to play a more effective role overseas. Government-sponsored material is, quite naturally, oftentimes suspect as "propaganda."

Assuming that all this is permissible as a Cold War tactic, does such a policy justify concealing from American readers the government's financial interest in the book? We think not. Apart from the question of legality—and this, apparently, was Representative Lipscomb's chief interest in the matter—there is also the not inconsiderable question of ethics. Bear in mind that not even 10¢ of the USIA's editorial expenditure went directly to Farrar, Straus. Assume that the amount paid to *The New Leader* for "pulling the manuscript together" was honestly earned. And remember that this is no crude brainwashing job, but a genuine contribution on an important subject. Isn't there still a gray area in which the Government has breached the good faith of the publisher, and the publisher, in turn, the good faith of its customers?

When this department's truth squad posed the problem to Mr. Straus, he admitted that the wicket was pretty sticky. Did he have any plans for including, in future printings of the book, a note identifying the USIA's participation? "Absolutely not." Would the Noonday Press paper back reprint carry such a label? "It will not."

If Farrar, Straus's contract with the government for the purchase of books in bulk is similar to other contracts of this type that we know about, Mr. Straus has no choice. There is a clause that prohibits the publisher from revealing USIA's commitment to buy.

Farrar, Straus has by no means set



a precedent. *The Strategy of Deception*—again ironically—simply happens to be the book that got caught. For some years now, government money has quietly been used to encourage the publication of books on subjects that will reassure our allies and make our foes envious. Many of these are on American life and culture; a good example is the series of forty-eight-page, pamphlet-type publications put out by the University of Minnesota Press on American authors. In cases of this sort, government commitment to purchase a certain number of copies virtually guarantees the cost of publication.

But what is dangerous is that USIA reserves a veto power over the finished product. It is entitled to approve the choice of author before the manuscript is written, and to reject the book if it does not like what has been said. This right has been used sparingly, but it is censorship nevertheless. And to the argument that the publisher is still free to publish the book, what publisher wants to alienate his biggest customer?

If *The Strategy of Deception* did not set a precedent, it does involve a principle. In my opinion, no democratic government should, at any time, for any reason, smuggle information, however valid, through channels which by long tradition have come to be regarded as independent. Publishing cannot afford to be compromised, and the people do not deserve to be hoodwinked, even in their own interests. Let the buyer beware, and let the USIA stick to its overseas operations—or at least stick its neck out locally. To gain for democracy the faith of Asians (let us say) at the cost of losing the faith of Americans is a poor bargain.

And speaking of this subject, just how much of a bargain is *Strategy* for everyone concerned? In an extremely minuscule, but highly significant, degree, the man who buys this book pays for it twice: once to his bookseller, and once to the tax collector. Nor was it a very good show, economically, for the government. At \$3.60 per copy (wholesale price), it spent \$7,200 for the lot of 2,000. Add to this the \$14,952.10 editorial subsidy and you get \$22,200, which works out to about \$11 per copy. That's pretty expensive propaganda.

The USIA has asked the House Appropriations Subcommittee for \$195,000 for "book development" during the coming fiscal year—up \$105,000 from 1963-64. As honeypots go in Washington, this is a small one; yet the least that publishers can do is to insist that they be allowed to tell their readers, even in small print, that a subvention is involved. Is this too much to ask?

—DAVID DEMPSEY.

Bookstores and Blizzards

The 1964 Amy Loveman Award

A SENIOR at Ohio State University who has been on three expeditions to Antarctica has been named the 1964 winner of the Amy Loveman Award, given annually for the best personal library collected by an undergraduate at an American college or university. This year's award of \$1,000 goes to John R. T. Molholm of East Cambridge, Massachusetts, for his collection of 131 books on the polar regions.

The judges of the 1964 contest, who gathered recently to study the sixty-odd entries submitted by students all over the country, were particularly impressed by the wide range of Mr. Molholm's collection. As one of them said afterward, "The collection represents virtually a lifelong interest in polar exploration. It's extremely rare to find such scope in a student's library."

The Amy Loveman Award is sponsored annually by *Saturday Review*, the Book of the Month Club, and the Women's National Book Association. It was established to honor the late Amy Loveman, who was for many years an associate editor of *SR*, a judge of the Book of the Month Club, and a prominent member of the Women's National Book Association. Judges for this year's contest were Basil Davenport, of the Book of the Month Club board; Richard L. Tobin, managing editor of *SR*; Mrs. Mary Anne Malkin, of the *Antiquarian Bookman*; and Dr. William Williamson, librarian of the Butler Library at Columbia University.

Mr. Molholm, who is majoring in geology at Ohio State and is scheduled to receive his degree next December, went to Antarctica once with a U.S. International Geophysical Year group in 1957-58 and twice with parties from Ohio State's Institute of Polar Studies—in 1960-61 and 1961-62. Explaining to the award judges the development of his curiosity in books on exploration, he wrote: "I first became interested in the polar regions when I was in the sixth grade. One of my teachers read to us the letters which she received from her brother, who was with Admiral Byrd in the Antarctic. As a result of these letters, I started to take polar books out of the school library. When my parents noticed my interest they gave me books on polar exploration by various explorers. I began to collect my own library when my mother took me with her to second-hand bookstores. When at eight-



een I took part in my first polar expedition to northern Greenland, my early interest in polar literature was intensified."

Mr. Molholm's penchant for book collecting is no sometime thing, but an activity he pursues even when on expeditions far from the campus. "In my travels around the world," he says, "one of the first places I will visit in any new city is its bookstores. This reminds me of an incident in Sydney, Australia. After a day or two of book browsing and collecting, I was back aboard ship for dinner. One of our senior scientists, who also collected polar literature, said to me that he had gone to various bookstores and inevitably heard, 'I am sorry, sir, but a young American was here yesterday and . . .'"

A few of Mr. Molholm's entries in the annotated bibliography submitted for the contest suggest the variety of the volumes in his collection: *Into the Home of the Blizzard*, by Richard E. Byrd (privately printed, 1928) — "a brief explanation, for private circulation, of the goals of the first Byrd expedition to the Antarctic in 1928"; *Antarctic Days*, by James Murray and George Marston (1913) — "The homely side of polar exploration is told by two of Sir Ernest Shackleton's men"; *Igloo Life*, collected by Revillon Frères (privately printed, 1923) — "a short illustrated account of a primitive Eskimo tribe living on Hudson Bay"; and *Adrift in the Ice-Fields*, by Charles W. Hall (1877).

Despite his award, Mr. Molholm has no thought of resting on his laurels. He's already off on more exploratory expeditions to bookstores, prowling around in search of elusive volumes to fill the chinks in his library. And, judging by the record so far, sooner or later he'll come across the missing books.

—J.F.F.