

# Spring Brings the Winners

By ALICE DALGLIESH

**M**ARCH is the month that brings us the excitement of the Newbery-Caldecott medal awards. A release from the American Library Association reads in part:

Maia Wojciechowska, author of *Shadow of a Bull*, and Beni Montresor, illustrator of *May I Bring a Friend?*, have been named winners of the ALA Newbery and Caldecott awards for the most distinguished children's books published in 1964. Both books were published by Atheneum.

Miss Wojciechowska is a recognized authority on bullfighting, a writer since the age of sixteen and a world traveler.

Beni Montresor is an internationally renowned scene designer and illustrator. One of his previous picture books served as a basis for a San Francisco Ballet Company production by the same name, *The Witches of Venice*, to be premiered at the New York State Theatre in 1965. His Caldecott award-winning book was written by Beatrice Schenk de Regniers.

Runner up for the Newbery medal is *Across Five Aprils*, by Irene Hunt, published by Follett.

Runners up for the Caldecott medal are: *Rain Makes Applesauce*, illustrated by Marvin Bileck, written by Julian Scheer, and published by Holiday House; *The Wave*, illustrated by Blair Lent, written by Margaret

Hodges, and published by Houghton Mifflin; and *A Pocketful of Cricket*, illustrated by Evaline Ness, written by Rebecca Caudhill, and published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston.

When the award-winners are announced it is always interesting to go back and see what was said about them earlier in these pages. In the article "Stars in the Picture Book Sky" [SR, Nov. 11, 1961] we wrote: "This season there seem to be no bright new stars except the Italian artist Beni Montresor, a stage designer who did his first picture book last year. . . . His work is certainly something to watch."

In view of the Caldecott award I feel justified in adding that the pictures in *May I Bring a Friend?* are not Beni Montresor's best, though they may be more childlike than some of his spectacular ones. Possibly the story had a good deal to do with the choice of this book because it is one that little children will listen to more than once. One cannot, however, help feeling that the rhymes are somewhat derivative. Small children will know nothing of this, of course, but will gladly share the King and Queen's cozy home life as well as the antics of the animals that came to tea.

Incidentally, why are our youngest Americans supposed to be so fond of royalty? The last two seasons have brought us an extraordinary crop of



—From "Shadow of a Bull."

kings, queens, princes, and princesses. So enthusiastic are our authors and artists in presenting these that it comes as a shock to see in our newspapers two little girls looking at President Johnson with as much delight as if he were a king. The President is at his best under such circumstances. He regards children with warm affection.

**T**HE choice for the Newbery medal is a happy one. Although I take a negative view of bullfights and no one could possibly drag me to one, I read the book twice at one sitting. While it is about much more than bullfighting, it helps us to understand the Spanish and Mexican enthusiasm for a cruel spectator sport, and to acknowledge that in our own country some of us have a love for cruel spectator sports (a newspaper recently characterized a heavyweight title boxing match as "exciting brutality"). Perhaps the hero's rejection of violence and killing had something to do with the choice of *Shadow of a Bull*. It is a book to be read and discussed by today's young people, and their reactions to it will be most interesting. Certainly the book will be read by a large number of them.

Among the new spring books from Atheneum we notice Maia Wojciechowska's *Odyssey of Courage: The Story of Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca*, which will be covered in April. This month I have selected for review some seasonal books that might be passed over, as well as a few of the "little" books that are so popular. Freely purchased to be sent to adults or children as spring greeting cards, these titles usually prove profitable to bookstores.



—From "May I Bring a Friend?"

**The Bunny's Nutshell Library.** By Robert Kraus. Harper & Row. 48 pp., 32 pp., 32 pp., 48 pp. \$2.95 per boxed set of 4 books. While these four tiny books in pastel colors will serve as a pleasant Easter "card" for children and childlike adults, they can in no way compare with the first Nutshell Library, with its spontaneous pictures and text by Maurice Sendak. The pictures are dainty and pretty, the text frail. The titles are *Springfellows Parade*, *Juniper*, *The Silver Dandelion*, *The First Robin*. Children will find the gaily colored box most attractive and will wear out the little books taking them in and out.

**Le Vilain Chat** (*The Mischievous Cat*). By Denise and Alain Trez. World. 64 pp. \$1.95. A companion to *Le Petit Chien*, whose story was also told in French and in English, this lively little book gets a cat into more hot water than you'd think possible. Finally the other animals take a hand, and the cat reforms. For private schools or individual children studying French.

**It's Nice to Be Little.** By John Stanley. Illustrated by Jean Tamburine. Rand McNally. 32 pp. \$2.75. Nowadays children in books "grow up" too soon, but those in this one enjoy being young. They do, however, want to be big also. Wishing to be big enough to run into the street after a ball is a dubious pastime; fortunately, the children only think about it and refrain from action. Ages 3-6.

**The Naughty Boy.** A poem by John Keats. Illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats. Viking. 30 pp. \$2.25.

There was a naughty Boy,  
A naughty boy was he.  
He would not stop at home,  
He could not quiet be

A strange little poem written by Keats (no relation to the artist) to his fifteen-year-old sister is here given lively, decorative pictures in two-color collage. Some of the pictures have great charm, especially for



—From "The Naughty Boy."



—From "Le Vilain Chat."

older children or adults; others seem sacrificed to interest in technique. Nevertheless, the general effect is pleasing. A highly individual gift for any season of the year. All ages.

**Hide and Seek Fog.** By Alvin Tresselt. Illustrated by Roger Duvoisin. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. 30 pp. \$3.50. A companion volume to this author and artist's *White Snow Bright Snow*, this is even more successful in bringing to children the misty feeling of a fog that settled down on a Cape Cod village and transformed it for three days. Young people in coastal towns and villages, or the cities so often blanketed by fog or smog, will find special meaning in the book.

Its pictures differ in style from the artist's usual ones. There are misty figures of children and adults moving with the grace of a ballet through the fog. There are also brightly colored scenes indoors by the fire and outdoors when the sun returns. Ages 5-8.

**This Is Ireland.** By M. Sasek. Macmillan. 60 pp. \$2.95. There are a few spectacular pictures here—along with touristy ones that adults will enjoy, but M. Sasek's eleventh picture guidebook holds less interest for children than some of his others. However, Sasek's many fans will probably welcome it. Ages (hopefully) 8-80.

**A Treasury of Irish Saints.** By John Irvine. Drawings by Ruth Brandt. Walck. 38 pp. \$3. The black and white drawings in this charming book—printed in the U.S. but first published in the Republic of Ireland—completely suit the verse by an Irish poet. St. Patrick has three poems, but my favorite is "Invocation to Saint Bride," which begins:

Dear Saint Brigid of The Kine  
Bless these little fields of mine,  
The pastures and the shady trees,  
Bless the cows with coats of silk  
and the brimming pails of milk.

All ages (not small children).

**The Story of William Penn.** By Alik. Illustrated by the author. Prentice-Hall. 32 pp. \$3.25. Many seem to find Alik's

"primitive art" approach to history most alluring; others are less entranced by what is becoming more and more a definite mannerism: all the people have small legs. Nevertheless, this is one of the best of her biographies for very young children. It does not attempt to compress Penn's whole life into a limited number of pages, but concentrates mainly on his Quaker beliefs and his effort to live in peace and brotherhood with the Indians. Ages 4-8.

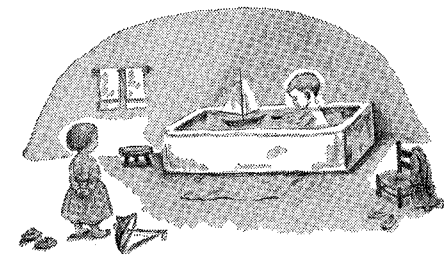
**The Art of the Eskimo.** By Shirley Glubok. Designed by Oscar Kraus. Harper & Row. 48 pp. \$3.95. This is another of Shirley Glubok's handsome books presenting the art of primitive peoples and early civilizations as seen through examples in museums. A little variation in the books, a little more explanatory text might perhaps make them twice as interesting to children. Ages 6-9.

**Lotte's Locket.** By Virginia Sorensen. Illustrated by Fermin Rocker. Harcourt, Brace & World. 253 pp. \$3.50. When Lotte's mother decides to marry an American, Lotte reacts passionately against the prospect of going to live in the United States. For a time she stays behind, and through her eyes the reader sees home and school life in Denmark. Lotte finally adjusts to the situation and accepts her stepfather. Although it is a curious mixture of "travel" and family situation book, *Lotte's Locket* is alive with interest. Ages 10-12.

**The Secrets of Tutankhamen's Tomb.** By Leonard Cottrell. Drawings by Raymond Cruz. Photographs. New York Graphic Society. 139 pp. \$4.50. No one who lived through the days of the finding of "King Tut's" tomb will ever forget the drama as played daily and weekly by the newspapers. There is some of it in this handsome book, which gives much detail about the young pharaoh and his pathetic little love affair, Egyptian life, and elaborate burial rituals. The many young people who will be interested may want to read a wider-ranging treatment by Mr. Cottrell: *Digs and Diggers: A Book of World Archaeology* (World, \$4.95). Young people.

**Beyond the Sugar Cane Field: UNICEF in Asia.** By Louisa R. Shotwell. World. 96 pp. \$3.50. It is important to present the work of UNICEF to children. In this book, by means of composite narratives, the author of *Roosevelt Grady* sympathetically shows us a group of Asian children helped by the organization.

It seems incredible that in certain states the work of UNICEF is actively campaigned against by groups who try to force libraries to remove books about the organization. There is every reason for librarians to stand firm. Young people.



—From "It's Nice to Be Little."



## Checklist

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MY WAR WITH THE 20TH CENTURY. By Pierre Berton. Doubleday. \$4.50.

THE SHELLFISH COOKBOOK. By Marian Tracy. Bobbs-Merrill. \$3.95.

THREE COINS IN THE BIRDBATH. By Jack Smith. Doubleday. \$4.50.

### Music

A HISTORY OF OPERA IN THE AMERICAN WEST. By Ronald L. Davis. Prentice-Hall. \$4.95.

### Personal History

ALY. By Leonard Slater. Random House. \$4.95.

ATATURK: A Biography of Mustafa Kemal, Father of Modern Turkey. By Lord Kinross. Morrow. \$7.50.

AT THE EDGE OF HARLEM: Portrait of a Middle-Class Negro Family. By Edward Wakin. Morrow. \$6.

THE AVAILABLE MAN: The Life Behind the Masks of Warren Gamaliel Harding. By Andrew Sinclair. Macmillan. \$6.95.

BE ALL MY SINS REMEMBERED. By Viscount Churchill. Coward-McCann. \$5.

BISMARCK. By Werner Richter. Putnam. \$6.95.

DAVID: The Story of Ben-Gurion. By Maurice Edelman. Putnam. \$4.95.

DEAR BELLE: Letters from a Cadet and

Officer to His Sweetheart, 1858-1865. Edited with narration by Catherine S. Crary. Wesleyan Univ. Press. \$5.95.

THE G.I. JOURNAL OF SERGEANT GILES. Compiled and edited by Janice Holt Giles. Houghton Mifflin. \$5.95.

I HOLD THE HEIGHTS. By Peter Mulgrew. Doubleday. \$4.95.

JOURNEY TO THE MOREA. By Nikos Kazantzakis. Simon & Schuster. \$4.95.

LINCOLN'S SCAPEGOAT GENERAL: A Life of Benjamin F. Butler, 1818-1893. By Richard S. West, Jr. Houghton Mifflin. \$7.50.

THE OTHER MR. CHURCHILL. By MacDonald Hastings. Dodd, Mead. \$5.

PRINCESS MARGARET. By Dennis Bardens. Abelard-Schuman. \$4.50.

SAM WARD: "King of the Lobby." By Lately Thomas. Houghton Mifflin. \$6.95.

### Psychology

DIBS: In Search of Self. By Virginia M. Axline. Houghton Mifflin. \$3.75.

### Religion, Philosophy

BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH. By Helmut Thielicke. Harper & Row. \$3.75.

DEATH AND IDENTITY. Edited by Robert Fulton. John Wiley. \$6.95.

DECISION AT DAWN. By Chulho Awe. Harper & Row. \$3.95.

RELATIONSHIP AND SOLITUDE. By Peter Munz. Wesleyan Univ. Press. \$6.50.

SCIENCE AND HUMAN VALUES. By J. Bronowski. Harper & Row. \$3.

—Compiled by RUTH BROWN.

## Book Letters

Continued from page 24

the article. My purpose was to introduce a controversial figure, not to judge him.

HASKEL FRANKEL.

New York, N.Y.

### Belittled Boot

NOW THAT *The Italians*, by Luigi Barzini [SR, Oct. 17, 1964], is apparently solidly entrenched on the best-seller lists, the natural query arises: Why? The answer is not necessarily that the book conveys pleasure or even reliable information. The answer resides in two words: "The Italians." Americans of Italian origin would inevitably be attracted to that title, as Irishmen would be attracted to a book called "The Irish." Italian-Americans who can afford \$6.95, and can conveniently do so, buy Barzini's book, only to be offended by its contents. The author characterizes Italians as poseurs, cowards, brutes; he belittles Italy, its scenery, customs. But the book has been sold, it cannot be returned, the sale is added to other sales, and the best-seller list is achieved.

Barzini's book is really not about Italians. The breed Barzini describes is a creation of his own startling imagination. Think of a 395-page book on Italians which says nothing about Leonardo da Vinci, Marconi, Vespucci, or Mazzini, except to list them in a footnote! Think of a book which lampoons Italian soldiery and completely ignores Vittorio Veneto, one of the greatest military victories of all times! Think of a book which caricatures the love of Italian mothers for their children!

Barzini has offended not only Italians but all those who know from association that the Italian people merit a more respectful and dignified treatment than that accorded them by Luigi Barzini.

MICHAEL A. MUSMANNO,

Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

### Flippancy

CHARLES MILLER's review of *Consciencism*, by Kwame Nkrumah [SR, March 6], is unworthy of a magazine like *Saturday Review*. . . . Surely the questions of socialism versus capitalism and independence versus colonialism are grave enough to deserve more than such flippancy. Aren't we the guardians of freedom and democracy, which means looking seriously at both sides of the issues of our time?

YVONNE PAPPENHEIM.

Cambridge, Mass.

### Nonsoporifics

CONSIDERING THE PANOPLY of soporifics in which many book reviews are wrapped, it was a relief to have Cecil Hemley audaciously refer to the best-seller *Hurry Sundown* [SR, March 6] as "doughy, pretentious, boring" and document his review with several judicious paragraphs.

DAVID ANTMAN.

Forest Hills, N.Y.

## The Osprey's Nest

By David Wagoner

THE osprey's nest has dropped of its own weight  
After years, breaking everything under it, collapsing  
Out of the sky like the wreckage of the moon,  
Having killed its branch and rotted its lodgepole:  
A flying cloud of fishbones tall as a man,  
A shambles of dead storms ten feet across.  
Uncertain what holds anything together,  
Ospreys try everything—fishnets and broomsticks,  
Welcome-mats and pieces of scarecrows,  
Sheep bones, shells, the folded wings of mallards—  
And heap up generations till they topple.  
In the nest the young ones, calling fish to fly  
Over the water toward them in old talons,  
Thought only of hunger diving down their throats  
To the heart, not letting go—(not letting go,  
Ospreys have washed ashore, ruffled and calm  
But drowned, their claws embedded in salmon).  
They saw the world was bones and curtain-rods,  
Hay-wire and cornstalks—rubble put to bed  
And glued into meaning by large appetites.  
Living on top of everything that mattered,  
The fledglings held it in the air with their eyes,  
With awkward claws groping the ghosts of fish.  
Last night they slapped themselves into the wind  
And cried across the rain, flopping for comfort  
Against the nearest branches, baffled by leaves  
And the blank darkness falling below their breasts.  
Where have they gone? The nest, now heaped on the bank,  
Has come to earth smelling as high as heaven.