

beth Förster-Nietzsche tries to arrange a personal contact between Spengler and Hitler in Bayreuth. The meeting, predictably, is not successful because two entirely different types of megalomaniac could hardly be expected to become friends. Ultimately, the hostility between the two celebrities became so acute that the great home warrior Spengler began to fear for his life.

Spengler's attempts in the Twenties to take an active part in all kinds of practical political intrigues produce a rather fantastic picture of total confusion. He tries to warn the British Foreign Office, through the South African General Smuts, that if the French annexed the Ruhr, the British one day would have to reconquer this territory in a war against France. He works, secretly, partly for and partly against Stresemann, Ludendorff, Seeckt, and others. He exchanges long letters with Gregor Strasser, Hitler's former follower, later rival, and eventual victim; or he develops the brilliant project of having Stinnes buy the strictly leftist *Simplicissimus* in order to transform this paper into an organ of nationalist rightist politics, and is innocently surprised and disappointed to hear that the owners and main contributors of this famous satirical-political weekly refuse to sell their political independence.

**M**R. Helps's rendition of the German expression "*er ist nicht im Bilde*" (meaning, he is not informed) into "he is not in the picture" could be applied to the book's author, its editors, and its translator. Nobody seems to know what is really going on. This is nicely illustrated when Mr. Helps, or some other, anonymous editor, tries to be informative by adding a historical explanation, as, e.g., in the footnote about the so-called Soviet Republic in Munich in April 1919: ". . . The citizen hostages were murdered by the revolutionaries. This aroused the civil population, who formed a citizen army." The statement is an echo of a long-since-exploded propaganda lie. Actually, these "hostages" were several arrested members of the secret Thule Society, whose plan to kill the members of the Red Government had been discovered; their hasty execution had been ordered by the Red President of Police in reprisal for the shooting of several medical corps men of the so-called Red Army. Finally, the civilian population, whether "aroused" or not, certainly did not form a "citizen army," but left it to the well-armed "*Freikorps*" to "liberate" Munich in an absolutely unnecessary blood bath.

This perhaps most flagrant example of an all-too-creative historical method may suffice to characterize the general reliability of this loose collection of notes and very often meaningless letters.

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## Victorian View of Honolulu

**Mark Twain's Letters from Hawaii**, edited by A. Grove Day (Appleton-Century, 298 pp. \$5.95), consists of twenty-five travel pieces Clemens, as roving reporter, wrote for the *Sacramento Union* concerning conditions and customs in what were then called the Sandwich Islands. John M. Allison is director of the Overseas Career Program of the University of Hawaii in Honolulu.

By JOHN M. ALLISON

**O**NE HUNDRED years ago, on March 18, 1866, Mark Twain arrived in Honolulu on the steamer *Ajax*. He recounts that when he—the last of the ship's thirty-two passengers—finally disembarked, all the hotel rooms in town were taken. Today there are some 10,000 hotel rooms in Honolulu, and they are still all taken. Mark finally did get a room, for which he paid some seven dollars a week; board cost him an additional ten. This in a first-class hotel. Today you pay that much or more for one night in a first-class Honolulu hotel.

Although most of the twenty-five letters that make up this book were published in an expensive, limited edition in 1937, and some appeared in other limited editions or as part of various works, this is the first modestly priced, complete collection of letters written by Mark Twain as a roving reporter for the *Sacramento Union*, which, we are told, was then the "most popular newspaper on the West Coast." We owe a debt of gratitude to Professor A. Grove Day of the University of Hawaii, who has brought these letters together and provided an enlightening introduction.

For Professor Day, a Mark Twain enthusiast with a vast knowledge of literature in English about the Pacific, this has undoubtedly been a labor of love. How-

ever, I am afraid that most modern readers will be more appreciative of the historical aspects of these letters than of the literary; Mark Twain's use of English leaves something to be desired. The humor, moreover, would have more appeal to a Victorian than to one living in the second half of the twentieth century. But Twain's powers of observation and description are unsurpassed and we get a vivid picture of the life and scenery of these lovely islands just 100 years ago.

Large portions of the letters are concerned with the whaling and sugar industries. Mark Twain was completely wrong in his prophecy that the "town" of Honolulu would die if the whaling trade moved elsewhere, but he was profoundly right in pointing out the importance of Americans to the prosperity and progress of what were then known as the Sandwich Islands, and the potential significance of these islands to the United States.

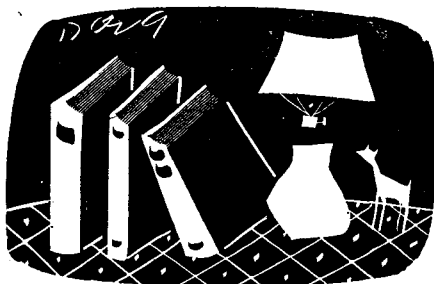
The leaders of the Hawaiian sugar industry who have been engaged in prolonged negotiation with the ILWU over a new labor contract will read with envy Mark Twain's description of the sugar industry a century ago, when Hawaiian labor was getting \$100 a year and the Chinese coolie labor, then beginning to appear, was being paid \$5 a month plus food and clothing. But in those days the annual export of sugar from the islands amounted to only some fifteen million pounds. In 1964 more than two billion pounds were shipped out of the islands.

Fascinating descriptions of old Hawaiian customs, a funeral in the Royal Family, a session of the Legislature, the contribution of the missionaries, and the character of the native Hawaiian leadership make this book difficult to put down. What Professor Day calls "the most famous single letter" was a report of the burning at sea of the Clipper Ship *Hornet* and the trials of the fifteen men who finally survived and landed on the shores of the island of Hawaii after forty-three days at sea in an open boat.

In his introduction Professor Day says:

If we make proper allowance for the calculated exaggerations for which Twain was famous, one can recommend a close reading of these Sandwich Island letters to anyone who wishes a frank and sometimes violent view of Hawaii in the reign of the fifth Kamehameha.

I agree.





## All the Facts and Where to Find Them

By DAVID M. GLIXON, *editor and translator, who reports regularly on the new reference works.*

**T**O JUDGE a book by its cover serves neither democracy nor literature, and so it is no accident that paperbacks have gradually insinuated themselves into the yearly roundup.

(1) For example, we could hardly have ignored the completely new, handy-size **Penguin Encyclopedia** (paperback, \$2.25). Since the publishers plan to supplement it with a gazetteer and a biographical dictionary, those provinces are understandably skimmed in the 650 double-column pages of this compact volume, but it packs an extraordinary amount of useful information, in alphabetical order, on the sciences and humanities. The style is terse though not without grace; by an abundance of cross-references and diagrams, each article yields more than appears on the surface. Yet, while one can read here of the Ashanti of Ghana or the mating call of the emu, recent literary history is meager—were Eliot and Faulkner but a waking dream? On the other hand, artists and dramatists of the past two decades are satisfactorily worked into general articles, and coverage of the physical and political sciences is remarkably full and up to date.

The **Lincoln Library of Essential Information** (Frontier Press, \$35.50) is a

whole library of reference works and textbooks rolled into one volume (or, if you prefer, two) of 2,350 pages, the size of an overstuffed desk dictionary. The incredibly diverse contents, revised annually, are made accessible by a sixty-three-page master index as well as by subject guides to the twelve main divisions (language, literature, history, mathematics, fine arts, education, etc.), each of them as exhaustive as would be required by a schoolboy or a nonprofessional adult. Narratives, tables, and specialized dictionaries complement one another in the treatment of a given subject; bibliographies and study questions are provided for the more ambitious reader; a thousand fascinating byways seduce the browser. There are dictionaries of synonyms and of literary plots and characters, of mythology and music, of biography, botany, and zoology, of games and holidays; there are tabulations of bridges and parks, metropolitan areas and geographical discoveries, verb forms, logarithms, and Presidents. Illustrations are numerous throughout. The price includes a question-answering service by mail (on a test question it came through nobly).

Variety is the spice of almanacs, too. The new entry in this branch of publishing is the 1,000-page **Reader's Digest 1966 Almanac** (Little, Brown, \$2.50; paperback, \$1.75). Besides all the expected data in prose and in tables, this one features short reflective articles on recent trends and events (such as mete-

orology, new math, crime, school dropouts, quasars) and on older subjects of recent interest (Magna Carta, Civil War, evolution). In the Lively Arts department the Broadway season is chronicled with brief comments on each play, and there is a token section—a lick without a promise—giving capsule summaries of just twenty-eight plays (from Euripides to Albee) and just sixteen books (from Cervantes to Steinbeck, with short biographies). The separate lists of artists and writers are chronological, which is time-consuming if you're looking someone up and meaningless from a historical viewpoint. "Common Mistakes in Spelling" are limited to forty-two (what optimists!). But the *Almanac* is good on replacing floor tiles, scientific advances, the American states, and foreign countries; and the illustrations, area maps, and typography are commendable.

The 1966 editions of **Collier's Encyclopedic Yearbook** (\$10; \$3.95 to set-owners) and the **Britannica Book of the Year** (\$6.95, sold only to set-owners) draw advantageously on the enormous resources of their respective publishers. Besides the A-Z section on the past year's discoveries and events (in both volumes handled in depth), *Collier's* (670 pp.) has feature articles on the water crisis, the Hudson River (by Laurence Rockefeller), the power blackout, the Ku Klux Klan, and other significant topics. Sir Bernard Lovell patiently traces the development of the concept of quasars from the beginnings of radio astronomy to their dramatic effect on theories of the Beginning of It All. *Britannica* (896 pp.) treats the topic more concisely in its Astronomy entry. On the subject of Latin American problems it gives Rómulo Betancourt's lead article twice as much space as *Collier's* allows Tad Szulc, but both give wide-ranging, clearly written, expert appraisals of the past and future. Either of these monu-

FOR THE 1966 ROUNDUP, this key will help guide you to the proper corral: 1. General reference works. 2. English-language dictionaries and other books about words and style. 3. Foreign-language dictionaries. 4. Books of quotations. 5. General literature and poetry. 6. Drama, film, and dance. 7. Music. 8. Art, architecture, and the domestic arts. 9. History and politics. 10. Geography and travel. 11. Science. 12. Medicine. 13. The Bible and religion. 14. The animal kingdom. 15. Sports, games, hobbies. 16. Everything else.