

futility of their lives: Nicolas's father, whose generosity perverted into possessiveness finds an object in one of Nicolas's former mistresses, a sick and crazy little dope addict named Colette; Nicolas's friend Yves, model husband and model son, yet berated by his father and abandoned by his wife; the much-envied career woman Béatrice, at heart just a mother tormented by the knowledge that her son is homosexual. There is a prodigious number of other characters—financiers, publishers, journalists, philanthropists, swindlers, prostitutes—all making up one huge parade of folly, a dance of death, in and out of which Nicolas Lécluser weaves his own hopeless way.

The adventures of this thirty-five-year-old novelist, who has just had a violent attack of disabusement, are too despairing and too humorless to be taken seriously. He has not got over his mother's marriage to her jailer, his brother's ordination, or the death of his girl friend Renata, a vegetarian who wore handicrafty tunics. To give God a chance to set things right for him in the world, Nicolas locks up his Paris flat and heads south on a newspaper assignment in the company of a beautiful reporter wearing a pseudo-Chanel *tailleur*. It is 1962, and they are to interview repatriates from Algeria for a magazine that turns out to be an OAS front. The scandal terminates their job, but they keep traipsing about—Nicolas brooding about signs and wonders, and Marcelle, who represents a force of nature or the eternal female, just bovinely content.

Lest Nicolas's troubles depress you unduly, dear reader, please reflect that this man who found no good in heaven or on earth was capable of eating almost eight croissants for breakfast and drinking three cups of instant coffee. *Allons, allons, Madame Mallet, pour qui nous prenez-vous?*

—LAURENT LESAGE.



Checklist of New Books

Crime, Suspense

- BEST DETECTIVE STORIES OF THE YEAR. Edited by Anthony Boucher. Dutton. \$4.50.
 THE ELEPHANT VALLEY. By Finis Farr. Arlington House. \$5.
 ENEMIES OF THE BRIDE. By Osmington Mills. Roy. \$3.50.
 FAMOUS DETECTIVES: True Stories of Great Crime Detection. By Eugene B. Block. Doubleday. \$4.95.
 HERE COMES A CANDLE. By Jane Aiken Hodge. Doubleday. \$4.95.
 THE SHELTON CONSPIRACY. By Rae Foley. Dodd, Mead. \$3.95.
 THURSDAY'S FOLLY. By Judson Philips. Dodd, Mead. \$3.95.
 UNHALLOWED MURDER. By Simon Nash. Roy. \$3.50.

Current Affairs

- AMERICAN FISCAL POLICY. Edited by Lester C. Thurow. Prentice-Hall. Hardbound, \$4.95. Paperback, \$1.95.
 CITIES IN A RACE WITH TIME: Progress and Poverty in America's Renewing Cities. By Jeanne R. Lowe. Random House. \$10.
 CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL ANALYSIS. Edited by James Charlesworth. Free Press. Hardbound, \$8.50. Paperback, \$3.95.
 CUBA AND THE UNITED STATES: Long Range Perspectives. Edited by John Plank. Brookings Institution. \$6.75.
 THE DIRTY ANIMAL. By Henry Still. Hawthorn. \$5.95.
 THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE. By Leon Gordenker. Columbia Univ. Press. \$8.50.

Fiction

- THE FATAL VOYAGE. By François Ponthier. McKay. \$4.95.
 4 X 4: *Stairway to the Sea*, by Thomas Firth Jones; *This Night in Sodom*, by Charles Jules Reiter; *Custom*, by John Schultz; *The Apostate Heriger*, by Anthony Shafton. Grove. \$5.
 HUNGER. By Knut Hamsun. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. \$4.95.
 LARGER THAN LIFE. By Dino Buzzati. Walker. \$3.95.
 THE MAN WITH THE CHOCOLATE EGG. By John Noone. Grove. \$4.95.
 NIGHT FALLS ON THE CITY. By Sarah Gainham. Holt, Rinehart & Winston. \$6.95.
 THE PARADISE BIT. By William K. Zinsser. Little, Brown. \$5.95.
 THE SENATOR'S LADY. By Shirley Seifert. Lippincott. \$5.95.

History

- AN INTRODUCTION TO RUSSIAN HISTORY. By Nicholas L. Fr.-Chirovsky. Philosophical Library. \$4.50.
 THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. Edited by Philip Dawson. Prentice-Hall. Hardbound, \$4.95. Paperback, \$1.95.
 MODERN BRITAIN. By Pauline Gregg. Pegasus. \$7.50.
 THE MODERN HISTORY OF CHINA. By Henry McAleavy. Praeger. \$7.50.

Miscellany

- ACROSS THE TOP OF RUSSIA. By Richard Petrow. McKay. \$6.95.

BIGGER THAN A BREADBOX. By Steve Allen. Doubleday. \$4.95.

THE BURIED CITY: Excavations at Leptis Magna. By Ernesto V. Caffarelli, Giacomo Caputo and Fabrizio Clerici. Praeger. \$20.

IN WITCH-BOUND AFRICA. By Frank H. Melland. Barnes & Noble. \$15.

MUSEUMS IN NEW YORK. By Fred W. McDarragh. Dutton. \$6.95.

THE SMITHSONIAN: Octopus on the Mall. By Geoffrey T. Hellman. Lippincott. \$5.95.

SOME LIMERICKS. By Norman Douglas. Grove. \$4.

THE STORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. By Mario Pei. Lippincott. \$6.95. (Revised edition.)

Personal History

ALL THE ADVANTAGES. By Sam Toperoff. Atlantic-Little, Brown. \$4.95.

THE COMPLETE LETTERS OF LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU: Volume III, 1752-1762. Edited by Robert Halsband. Oxford Univ. Press. \$13.45.

EDMUND BURKE: A Genius Reconsidered. By Russell Kirk. Arlington House. \$5.

EDWARD AND THE EDWARDIANS. By Philippe Julian. Viking. \$6.50.

IMPERIAL COURTESAN. By F. W. Kenyon. Dodd, Mead. \$5.95.

MARTOV: A Political Biography of a Russian Social Democrat. By Israel Getzler. Cambridge Univ. Press. \$12.50.

PAUL KING'S REBELLION. By Arthur C. Cain. John Day. \$4.95.

ROBESPIERRE. Edited by George Rudé. Prentice-Hall. Hardbound, \$4.95. Paperback, \$1.95.

Religion, Philosophy

ECUMENISM. By Bernard Lambert, O. P. Herder & Herder. \$13.50.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE. By Pierre Grelot. Herder & Herder. \$7.50.

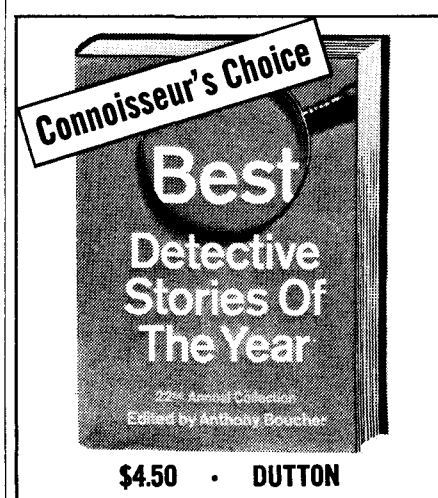
THE MAKING OF THE CHRISTIAN WEST 980-1140. By Georges Duby. Skira. \$21.50.

RADICAL THEOLOGY: Phase Two. Edited by C. W. Christian and Glenn R. Wittig. Lippincott. Hardbound, \$4.95. Paperback, \$2.25.

A REPORTER LOOKS AT AMERICAN CATHOLICISM. By Barrett McGurn. Hawthorn. \$5.95.

SHINTO: At the Fountainhead of Japan. By Jean Herbert. Stein & Day. \$20.

—Compiled by NAID SOFIAN.





PICK OF THE PAPERBACKS

The race to get the books out in the aftermath of the Israeli-Arab war was just as speedy and took as much strategy as the victory itself. Both Bantam's *Strike Zion!* (95¢) and New American Library's *Six Days in June: Israel's Fight for Survival* (75¢) were produced in publishing microseconds. Robert J. Donovan, *Los Angeles Times Mirror* Washington Bureau chief, headed the NAL operation, marshaling a squadron of Middle Eastern correspondents including Joe Alex Morris, Jr., who was arrested by Jordanians in Jerusalem. Later freed, he shuttled for days making his reports before cabling, "Have toothbrush in hip pocket my only possession other than wornout ball point pen and clothing I've been living in. . . ." While it was all gung ho with the NAL journalists, another drama was enacted at Bantam. CBC correspondent William Stevenson, in Israel since the action began, flew to New York on Friday, June 9, to cover the Security Council session, had lunch at the Algonquin on Saturday with Bantam editors and Leon Uris, who also agreed to contribute. For Stevenson that was the last square meal for ten days. A few hours later he boarded an El Al jet for Israel. After landing he spent more than a week borrowing jeeps, flying over the Gaza Strip inspecting damage, interviewing; finally on the ninth day an unshaven, haggard but triumphant Stevenson appeared at Kennedy Airport, where he was greeted by Bantam copy editors. That night the first twenty-five pages went off to the printer while Stevenson settled into a third-floor room at the Algonquin to knock out the rest of the book. Meanwhile on the eleventh floor Uris was adding the final luster to his own historical essay. Writing done, the chase wasn't over, not quite. Security measures cozy enough to keep Nasser himself under wraps were taken so that neither Bantam nor NAL knew what the other was doing. Messengers scurried around carrying copies in plain covers to hide the finished jackets from the opposition. Why the skulduggery? The publishers share the same printing plant in Chicago.

Top of the paperback lists these days is Roderick Thorp's novel *The Detective* (Avon, 95¢), a hardcover Literary Guild selection set for a movie with Frank Sinatra as the tight-lipped hero. Thorp, a thirty-year-old New Yorker and City College graduate, worked in a detective agency when still in high school. Although he lives now in London with his wife and son, he recently visited New York, where he had some comments in the differences between British and U.S. crime problems. "The English take crimes of violence very seriously. And they take carrying guns even more seriously. No one can buy a gun—even for hunting—without a permit. Bobbies don't carry guns on the theory that criminals won't need guns to defend themselves. The theory works." He added bluntly, "Our President was shot down in the streets, and we still don't have a gun law. We don't because we are afraid—so afraid we don't even know what we're afraid of. Too many psychos scare the hell out of our yellow-bellied legislators." On the other hand, Thorp's words on Scotland Yard would make New York's finest proud. "Scotland Yard is definitely inferior to the N.Y. Police Department. They have a few men in the streets, none in cars, and it takes at least an hour and a half for them to answer a call." How about that, Commander Gideon and Handsome West?

—ROLLENE W. SAAI.

who has written some first-rate mysteries is Helen McCloy, whose newest paperback, *Before I Die* (Dell Great Mystery Library, 60¢), is about both matrimony and murder. Surely everyone who reads thrillers knows that J. J. Marric is among John Creasey's many pseudonyms. Under the Marric moniker Creasey writes about Commander Gideon of Scotland Yard, and one of the best of these, winner of the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar, is *Gideon's Fire* (Signet, 60¢). Prizewinner for the best first mystery of the year, John Ball's *In the Heat of the Night* (Bantam, 50¢), introduces Virgil Tibbs, Negro detective, in what undoubtedly is the beginning of a long series. After the phenomenal popularity of Harry Kemelman's *Friday the Rabbi Slept Late*, it was only to be expected that the exploits of David Small, full-time rabbi and part-time detective, would continue. *Saturday the Rabbi Went Hungry* (Crest, 60¢) carries on the successful formula of murder against the background of ceremonial Judaism. An unusual collection of short detective fiction is *The Big Knockover* (Dell, 60¢), by Dashiell Hammett, who practically invented the form. Lillian Hellman has written a marvelous long preface recalling Hammett's life and career during the thirty years of their friendship.

The novels of Sylvia Ashton-Warner are an acquired taste. The prose is unhurried, delicate, sometimes even precious but, at its best, sheer poetry. *Greenstone* and *Bell Call* (Bantam, 75¢ each) are both set in the Maori background of the author's native New Zealand. *Window's Way* (Popular Library, 60¢) is noteworthy in the tradition of romantic fiction; here James Ramsey Ullman's doctor-hero escapes burdensome civilization by dedication to work in a Far Eastern paradise.

Fiction

The barrel of new summer fiction is rolling with gossamer entertainments as if publishers know those books which suffer least from sand between the pages.

A Charlotte Armstrong trio does well for vacation fare: *The Unsuspected*, *Dream of Fair Woman*, *The Chocolate Cobweb* (Berkley, 60¢ each), all properly suspenseful and, as SR's Sgt. Cuff declared, "satisfactorily shivery." Another woman

Vietnam

The trouble with Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., is that he keeps reminding us of our own fallibility. For instance, in *The Bitter Heritage* (Crest, 75¢), a