

# Trade Winds

Jerome Beatty, Jr.




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hors d'oeuvres  
with  
good spirits?**

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A year ago at the opening reception for critics, authors, publishers, and others who were attending the National Book Awards in New York, they sipped and gossiped, mainly about who might be the winners. The judges had picked them, but the information was to be top secret until the big affair at Philharmonic Hall two days hence. "The envelope, please" sort of thing. Each winner was to emerge from the wings and accept his prize.

But the secret was not kept. The reception was interrupted by a voice from the loudspeaker. Cocktails were poised in mid-air as the publishing world heard that *The New York Times* would, as it had done in the past, prematurely reveal the 1968 NBA winners in the next morning's paper.

However, this year the National Book Committee got around the problem by not having the judges meet till Monday, March 10. The decisions were announced shortly after they had been reached. Everybody got the news at once, and for once the *Times* was almost last. Now, for those of you who wait to read *TRADE WINDS* to find out what is really happening, here are the authors who won the 1969 National Book Awards for "the most distinguished" work in each category.

**ARTS AND LETTERS:** *The Armies of the Night* by Norman Mailer (New American Library).

**CHILDREN'S LITERATURE:** *Journey from Peppermint Street* by Meindert DeJong (Harper & Row).

**FICTION:** *Steps* by Jerzy Kosinski (Random House).

**HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY:** *White Over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro 1550-1812* by Winthrop D. Jordan (University of North Carolina Press).

**POETRY:** *His Toy, His Dream, His Rest* by John Berryman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

**SCIENCES:** *Death in Life: Survivors of Hiroshima* by Robert Jay Lifton (Random House).

**TRANSLATION:** *Cosmicomics* by Italo Calvino, translated by William Weaver (Harcourt, Brace & World).

The ceremony itself, when the awards are presented and the winners make short speeches, has for a couple of years produced fireworks in addition to its regular function. Two years ago, a body of protesters walked out to signify their objection to the keynote speaker, Vice

President Humphrey. Last year, poet Robert Blye, an award-winner, made an impassioned speech against the war and turned over his check then and there to a member of a draft resistance organization. This year, at least three of the winners—Kosinski, Mailer, and Jordan—had written books which indicated their deep involvement with and compassion for humanity. But there were no demonstrations. Their acceptance speeches were merely beautifully phrased appeals to the intellectual community and to the world for some sort of salvation before it is too late.

"We are a savagely mechanical society poised upon the lip, no, the main of a spiritual revolution which will wash the psychic roots of every national institution out to sea," Mailer said. "We are on the brink of dreams and disasters."

Jerzy (pronounced something like Yer-esh) Kosinski is an amazing young man. Ten years ago he came to this country and learned English. Now he has written two novels (*The Painted Bird* was the first) which show what a beautiful language it is indeed in the hands of someone who knows how to use it. (He makes one think of Conrad.) His view of his adopted America is that it has changed in the ten years since he first came. "Americans wrest freedom from each other," he said direly.

Dr. Lifton's study of Hiroshima survivors probably gives him a more vivid image of impending doom than most anyone could acquire. He made it clear where he stands. The weapons, he said, "become grotesque technological deities for a debased religion of nuclearism—gods sought by everybody as part of an all-too-human tendency to confuse the power of apocalyptic destruction with the capacity to protect, or even create, life."

**Maybe you** are familiar with the case of the Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes. He was on a ship that happened to stop in Puerto Rico. When he attempted to get off and tour San Juan, he was detained by our immigration officials. It seems that he is on a blacklist because several years ago he interviewed some Mexicans who, our State Department judged, were Communists. Our guilt-by-association policy thus affected Señor Fuentes.

The National Book Awards was a good chance, then, for the passing around of a petition calling on the new Administration to do away with the immigration regulation which makes use of this black-



## This season, we'll make 72 home runs a week.

BOAC jets will be flying from the U.S. to Britain 72 times a week during the peak travel months ahead. Leaving from New York, Boston, Miami, Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco and Honolulu.

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No other airline can offer you as many flights to Britain out of New York, 54\* per week. Or as many convenient gateways into Britain.

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comfortable jet that's been in such demand over the Atlantic for the past five years.

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# Winners 1969 NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS

## fiction

JERZY KOSINSKI  
Steps  
Random House  
Judges: Irving Howe,  
Jerre Mangione,  
Wright Morris

## arts and letters

NORMAN MAILER  
The Armies of the Night: History as  
a Novel, The Novel as History  
New American Library  
Judges: Renata Adler, Stanley  
Kauffmann, Alfred Kazin

## children's literature

MEINDERT DE JONG  
Journey from Peppermint Street  
Harper & Row, Publishers  
Judges: John Ciardi,  
Virginia Haviland,  
Zena Sutherland

## history and biography

WINTHROP D. JORDAN  
White Over Black: American Attitudes  
Toward the Negro, 1550-1812  
University of North Carolina Press  
Judges: Robert Cromie, Martin  
Duberman, Allan Nevins

## poetry

JOHN BERRYMAN  
His Toy, His Dream, His Rest  
Farrar, Straus & Giroux  
Judges: William Alfred, John  
Frederick Nims, Richard Wilbur

## the sciences

R. J. LIFTON  
Death in Life: Survivors of Hiroshima  
Random House  
Judges: J. Bronowski, Theodosius  
Dobzhansky, Walter Sullivan

## translation

WILLIAM WEAVER  
Cosmicomics — Italo Calvino  
Harcourt, Brace & World  
Judges: Howard Hong,  
Vincent McHugh,  
Richard Winston

list. Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and Abba Schwartz, both connected with the previous regime, appeared and spoke at a press conference for the repeal of the law. Roger Straus, the publisher, also expressed himself forcefully. Fuentes, it appears, is the fourth of his writers to have been subjected to the same fate.

**Sharps and Flats:** At a symposium, Floyd McKissick gave (among other things) a black-oriented version of the Declaration of Independence that starts out, "When in the course of human events one cat gonna take something from another cat. . . ." He also reminded his white audience that "We fought on both sides during the Revolutionary War. The British promised us something and so did the colonies."

► William Weaver, who was honored for his translation of Italo Calvino's *Cosmicomics*, caused a few groans in the audience when he revealed that his award-winning manuscript had been rejected by two New York publishers before Harcourt finally accepted it.

► At another discussion, on "The Future of Fiction," William Gass (*Omensetter's Luck*) wryly described the art this way: "All writers do is put words together. You're sitting there with this blank page in front of you and you've got all the words in the world you can think of. If you put them together well, you have written something good. Writers are manipulating concepts. If you have a skill for manipulating concepts, you're a writer. Thus, writing is comparable to the activity of a mathematician."

► Funny, but I heard Philip Roth mentioned only once. Rabbi Herbert Tarr (*Heaven Help Us*) told me that his father asked him what *Portnoy's Complaint* was about. Tarr explained, "It's about a thirty-three-year-old Jewish bachelor who savagely condemns his parents for ruining his life." Whereupon Tarr's mother said, "he was a fool for letting them do it."

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S  
KINGSLEY DOUBLE-CROSTIC (No. 1824)

MARIO PUZO:  
*I HOPE I BREAK EVEN*  
(Because I Need the Money)

The only sinful aspect of gambling today is how most people bet. A discreet kibitzing survey . . . shows indisputably that thousands of intelligent, high-income people gamble billions of dollars without knowing what . . . they are doing.

From Holiday, Dec., 1968

The National Book Awards are administered by the National Book Committee, and consist of seven \$1,000 prizes donated by the American Book Publishers Council, the American Booksellers Association, the Association of American University Presses, the Book Manufacturers Institute, the Children's Book Council, and the National Translation Center.

## Chess Corner—No. 133

ONE might suppose that the curious score below is the initial effort of two Mallorca Island fishermen or goat-herds (the game was played in Palma), who had absorbed flimsy and foul guidance in the rules of play.

Clearly, the opponents know how to move the pieces. And during the play—all twenty-nine moves of it—all is legal. But capturing is evidently beyond their ken. Not a Pawn or a piece is taken during the session.

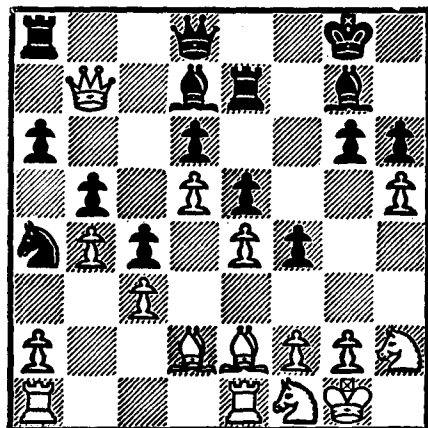
Finally, White, whose turn it is, makes his thirtieth move and quits. The score reads: "Resigns." Readers may imagine that White, bored with it all, shoves all the wood off the board and walks away. The hell with chess!

What actually happened, we have been informed by our on-the-scene correspondent, was that international master Antonio Medina of Spain (White), a former United States open champion, formally resigned to his opponent, the veteran grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric of Yugoslavia. The reason: Gligoric was threatening 30 . . . B-K1. And White loses his Queen.

The set-to is from the recent Palma de Mallorca International, oozing with talent—from minor to grandmaster.

### RUY LOPEZ

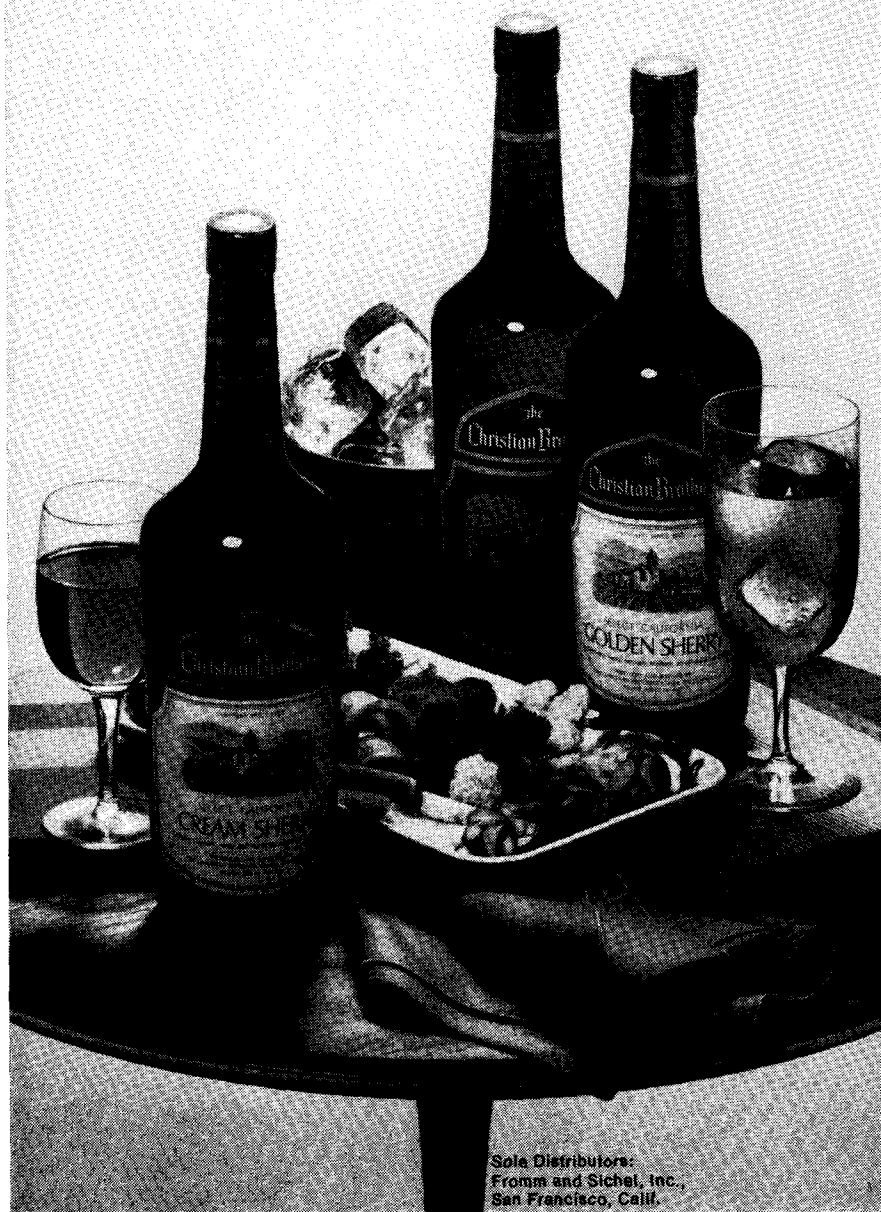
Medina White	Gligoric Black	Medina White	Gligoric Black
1 P-K4	P-K4	16 B-Q2	P-B4
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	17 P-Q5	B-B1
3 B-N5	P-QR3	18 P-N3	P-B5
4 B-R4	N-B3	19 B-KB1	B-Q2
5 O-O	B-K2	20 N-R2	R-B1
6 R-K1	P-QN4	21 P-N4	N-R5
7 B-N3	P-Q3	22 Q-B3	P-N3
8 P-B3	O-O	23 B-K2	B-N2
9 P-KR3	P-KR3	24 P-R4	N-R2
10 P-Q4	R-K1	25 P-R5	N-N4
11 QN-Q2	B-B1	26 Q-K3	P-B4
12 N-B1	B-N2	27 Q-R7	P-B5
13 N-N3	N-QR4	28 N/3-B1	R-R1
14 B-B2	N-B5	29 Q-N7	R-K2
15 B-Q3	N-N3	Resigns	



—AL HOROWITZ.

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