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COMMENT on BOOKS and AUTHORS

For Boys and Girls

LETTERS TO CHANNY. By Heluiz Chandler Washburne. Illustrated by Electra Papadopoulos. Rand McNally and company.

Reviewed by Vera McDermid

The author of *Letters to Channy*, Mrs. Carleton Washburne, took a trip around the world last year, accompanying her husband, Dr. Carleton W. Washburne, noted educator and superintendent of the Winnetka Public schools. It was impossible for seven-year-old Channy to go so his mother wrote him a long interesting letter from every place she visited telling him of the things she was doing and seeing. She selected those things that would interest a seven-year-old boy, and there was much to tell because the Washburne's interests led them into intimate contact with the actual life of the people of the countries they visited. The Junior Literary guild had chosen *Letters to Channy* as its October selection for nine-, ten-, and eleven-year-olds.

The first letter Channy received describes the leaving of the boat from San Francisco on the way to Hawaii. Then on to Japan where the Washburnes lived like real Japanese people in a Japanese hotel, and Channy learns how the Japanese people eat, sleep, and even take baths.

Five weeks were spent in India, and Channy learned a great deal about elephants. The Washburnes visited the Himalayas where they lived for a whole week in a houseboat. Then Calcutta and Bombay from whence they took a boat up through the Persian gulf. In Iraq they spent two weeks among the Arabs and from there Channy received a most interesting letter telling of his mother's visit to the home of an Arab sheik.

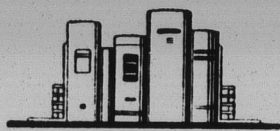
After short stays in Syria, Palestine and Egypt, Dr. and Mrs. Washburne crossed into Greece and Turkey. From Constantinople they took Russian ships through the Black Sea to Odessa and Sevastopol. Next they journeyed through the Crimea and the Ukraine to Moscow. From Russia they went to Poland, Germany, Austria, through Switzerland to France, and then to England from where they sailed for home.

RENTAL LIBRARY OPENS

John Hull Ferris, formerly of Winnetka, has opened a rental library in the Brown building, 1159 Wilmette avenue, Wilmette, where he announces the reading public will find the latest in literature. The Book Mark will feature a generous assortment of detective yarns as well as many brain-teasing jig-saw puzzles. Mr. Ferris, himself is a promising young writer, one of his short stories having appeared recently in the Saturday Evening Post. He will soon have a novel off the press, also.

ENGLISH BEST SELLER

The London Observer says that the best selling novel in England recently was the new Francis Brett Young novel, *The House Under the Water*. It was published in this country on November 2 by Harper & Brothers.



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Biography

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM E. BARTON. With an introduction by Bruce Barton. Bobbs-Merrill.

It is one of the pleasant things in Dr. Barton's appraisal of his career that he is serenely satisfied—sure that he has done something of excellence. Not that there is anything smug or boastful about him; rather, it is the story of a man who has looked upon sixty-seven years of an active life and found it good. And indeed, it was an honorable career; lived through with conscientious effort, warmed by much kindness, domestic affection, and brotherly love, and successful along the lines which he believed acceptable to his Creator. He was thoroughly of his times: a fair epitome of a late Victorian philosophy of life, fitting neatly into the comfortable years of the eighties and well into the beginning of the present century, a philosophy which was aware of Darwin and Huxley and the German higher criticism, and which imagined that it had reached a good working agreement with science. As often happens in such recitals, the chapters dealing with childhood, youth, and the early struggles to find one's place in the scheme of things, are far more interesting and much better done than those covering later years.

Glencoe Woman Has Story in Magazine

The Diamond jubilee issue this month of the Atlantic Monthly contains a short story by Katherine Peabody Girling ((Mrs. Winthrop Girling) of Glencoe written for that magazine in June, 1913. It is a winsome story of a little Swedish girl, and is entitled "Hannah Var Eight Year Old."

Hannah's mother, realizing the approach of death, tells the girl to put her in the woodshed, bind her hands and then lock the shed door, so that when she is dead the three younger children will not have seen their mother in any other way but alive and beautiful. The terror at the sight of their dead mother would be very great, the woman thinks. It is winter and Hannah's father, a fisherman, is later reported to be drowned. When the mother dies Hannah tells her sisters and brother that she has gone away. Kind neighbors take care of the children and bury the mother. Hannah is sent to America. The story is told in the first person, by Hannah, and the Swedish dialect is beautifully and excellently handled by Mrs. Girling.

Marionettes Will Play Arabian Night Story

Tony Sarg's Marionettes will come to the Goodman theater this Saturday and Sunday in a presentation of *Sinbad the Sailor*, under the auspices of the Children's theater. The performance on Saturday will be given in the morning at 10:30 o'clock and in the afternoon at 2:30. On Sunday there will be one performance at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

Tony Sarg has made over the old story into a marionette melodrama replete with vivid oriental scenes from the prologue where Sinbad comes to drown himself and changes his mind when he accidentally finds the way to fortune and adventure. There is a beautiful tableau of the ship wreck at sea with novel lighting and mechanical effects.

The Landed Gentry

FAMILY HISTORY. By V. Sackville-West. Doubleday Doran.

Reviewed by Louise Lackner

There is something eminently satisfying about a book by V. Sackville-West; an assurance that it will make good reading. One has learned, after *The Edwardians* and *All Passion Spent*, to expect a refinement and restraint which is thoroughly fitted to her subjects. The people of whom she writes are the landed gentry and the peers of England; among them culture and conservatism are a tradition, not a veneer. They are "born to the purple" and wear it instinctively, without consciousness. Yet the current of their emotions runs as deep and swift and strong as that in the bluntest Yorkshire dairyman—and the effect on them is the more shattering because of the restrictions of this tradition of restraint. It is this quality, this inner tumult beneath an outer regularity, which Miss Sackville-West has so admirably caught and of which she writes with such ease and beauty of style.

The story centers around Evelyn Jarrold, who by marrying Tommy Jarrold, became a member of a family comparatively new to wealth and position but deeply rooted in the soil of an England which knew and appreciated severity of principle and strength of purpose. Old Mr. Jarrold, upon whom a baronetcy was later conferred, made his fortune in coal and iron and had surrounded himself with the appurtenances of wealth. A town house, a large country estate, and above all the public school education for his sons without which no wealthy young Englishman could hold up his head, for these he had amassed his money and in them he sought his reward. Culture was necessary to him for its face value, but progress, particularly in ideas, meant a revolution from the Victorian pattern. Concerning this he says, "We've evolved the best pattern in the world, so why not stick to it?"

Evelyn Jarrold conformed to this pattern in every respect. She was beautiful, possessed great charm and a quiet grace and, although she was more than averagely intelligent, her ideals were the ideals of Victorian England. Her son, however, belonged to the new generation and through his revolt to the standard ideas and ideals she came closer to the pulse of the post-war world than did the rest of her family. She was afraid of these changing concepts yet tolerant of them, in a baffled sort of way.

Miles Vane-Merrick, a friend of Evelyn's son, became her lover. (Tommy Jarrold had been killed in the war.) She refused to marry him because of the disparity of their ages but in spite of the great love for him which carried her into such a liaison, she could never wholly escape from the solidity of her background. *Family History* is the story of her struggle with herself against the Victorian background. It is beautifully done, with a clear understanding of the merits of both sides. The characters are all excellently drawn and there is about the whole a sureness of touch that bespeaks the author's thorough knowledge of this side of English life. It is a very genuine book and it is that quality, rather than a conscious effort on the part of the author, which makes it so real.

WRITING NOVEL

Louis Bromfield has nearly completed a new novel which should be ready for publication early in 1933.