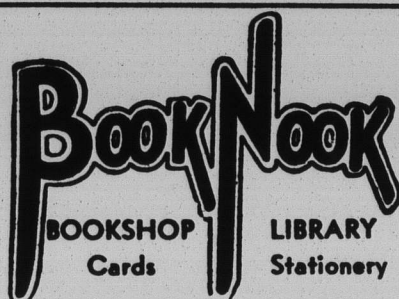


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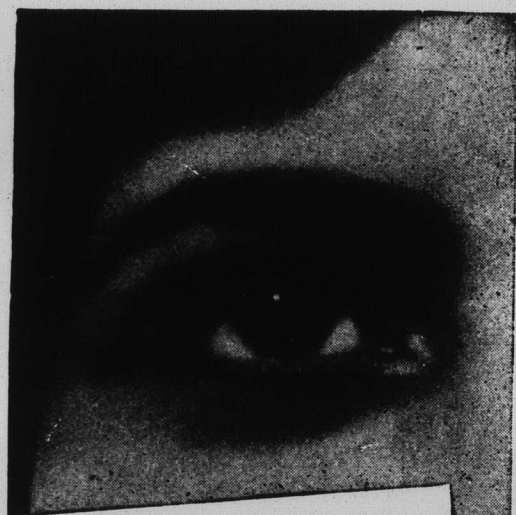


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## COMMENT on BOOKS and AUTHORS

**Socialism Explained**

**TOWARD THE UNDERSTANDING OF KARL MARX**. By Sidney Hook. The John Day company  
Reviewed by Vera McDermid

This volume will be of interest not to those who seek an "understanding" of Karl Marx but to those who are already familiar with the various economic orders or who are students of philosophy. Although Dr. Hook's volume is excellently written it is greatly involved in the discussions of various doctrines and philosophies related to Marxism. Some of the chapter heads are "The Orthodox Canonization," "The Revisionist Exegesis," "The Syndicalist Heresy," which are in themselves strange language to the ordinary layman.

The doctrines and the interpretations that have become an outgrowth of the original philosophy of Marx are many. Even during his lifetime Marx "watched with critical uneasiness the doctrinal deviations and false tactical moves of his adherents throughout the world and especially in Germany." The author explains in luminous detail the purposes and constructions of the four great movements which claimed "to be carrying on in the great spirit of Marx."

Dr. Hook's own interpretation of Marx's theories is clearly given and defies many of the Socialists who still claim to be true to Marx. In a brief review it is impossible to go into detail concerning the various points in the author's interpretation such as Marx's conception of history, of the class struggle, his theory of the State, of revolution, etc. The interest in Marx has been especially outstanding this year because of the celebration during the spring of the fiftieth anniversary of his death.

**Book House Has Exhibit at Fair**

The Book House for Children has an unusually attractive exhibit in the Social Science hall at A Century of Progress. A large house made out of books is surrounded by real trees and a stone wall. Inside the house there is a forty-foot length mural designed and painted by Miss Muriel Wilhoit of Winnetka, which depicts all the activities of children. Miss Wilhoit, who is head of the Art department, was assisted in the painting of the mural by Mrs. George Engel (Mary Martin) of Wilmette and Kate Reynolds of Chicago. Harry E. Miller of Winnetka is the president of the Book House and Mrs. Miller is editor.

**ADVENTURES IN IDEAS**. By Alfred North Whitehead. New York: The Macmillan Co.

From Plato's "Republic" comes the doctrine that the statesman must be a philosopher, and that the philosopher must be a cosmologist. Professor Whitehead believes in the present relevance of such an analysis. Consider the structure of his book. It falls into four main parts: the first, historical and analytical; the second, "cosmological"; the third, "philosophical"; and the fourth, ethical.

The historical portion represents his most popular writing. Yet there is no loss in import. Never have the riches of his experience and the varied range of his activities converged to better advantage. The significance of ideas in history—Platonism, Christianity, Egyptian technology, Roman law, Greek philosophy, medieval theology, modern science, Malthus, Darwin, industry, commerce: all receive profound and penetrating treatment.

**For the Epicurean**

**DINING AND WINING IN OLD RUSSIA**. By Nina Selivanova. Dutton.

Reviewed by Mary Winner Hughes

Of all the fascinating and different books that 1933 has brought forth so far, "Dining and Wining in Old Russia" may be placed near the top of the list. Written by a Princess under the old regime, it tells of the feasts and banquets which made up an important part of the life of the nobility in the days of the Tsars.

The Princess, however, has compassion on her readers. At the end of each chapter in which she has discussed the deliciousness of various Russian dishes, she gives the recipes for them, so that one's mouth may not water in vain ignorance. As she herself explains, she has simplified them, while retaining the true Russian flavor and essence, so that her American sisters can use them on their own tables. And this is true, for these Russian recipes are amazingly simple—their names are really the most difficult part of them. Any one who likes Russian food, and likes to putter about and experiment in a kitchen, will have no trouble concocting them, and their range is most inclusive—everything from Smokva—a kind of Russian candy—to the common stewed beef—Toosh-onoye-Miaso, please, if you are Russian!

There is an interesting chapter on Russian holidays and feast days, with the kind of food that orthodox Russians use on each, and the recipe for making them. As the Princess naively explains, when she came to this country, her American friends expected her to serve them Russian food, although "I didn't even know how to fry two eggs, let alone broil a chop. But where there is a will, there is a way, and my own longing for Russian food was so great, that . . . in several years I had acquired quite a "repertoire" of Russian national dishes with which I regaled my American friends. Here are some of the favorite ones."

The next time you have "the girls" over to luncheon, why not go Russian, with, say, the following luncheon:

Zakuski  
New York Borotch Piroshki  
Caucasian Shoshlik  
Golobzy with mushrooms  
Stuffed onions  
Nastoyka Drachina Fruit

**POPULAR IN ENGLAND**

The nonfiction book of the moment in England is Dr. A. N. Whitehead's "Adventures of Ideas," which is being read by all the wise and learned. The novel most admired by general readers with a zest for new ideas is Claude Houghton's "Julian Grant Loses His Way."

But the quietest and calmest novel readers are looking eagerly forward to the second work of fiction by F. C. Boden, who wrote "Miner." "Miner" was a first hand picture of life among those delving folk from whom the author springs. It was simple and truthful and brimming with beauty. Its successor deals with the same kind of people and is entitled "Flo." If, as I hope, it advances Mr. Boden's reputation it will be a book of the year.

**A MAN NAMED LUKE**, by March Cost (Knopf), is a strange novel concerning the life of a man who lived both in reality and in fantasy.

**PEER GYNT**, by Henrik Ibsen (Putnam), is a new translation by Gottfried Hult of this famous dramatist's play.

**Humorous Novel**

**TRAVAIL OF GOLD**. By E. F. Benson. Doubleday Doran.

Reviewed by Louise Lackner

When Mr. Benson finished this book some belated pang of conscience must have told him to put on its fly-leaf those familiar words in which authors so often seek refuge: "The characters in this book are entirely imaginary, and have no relation to any living person." But on reading this delightful story, one knows perfectly well that they can't be and that they certainly have. Mr. Benson has brought to life—or rather he has slowly vivisected—a group of people that is familiar to everyone, either at first hand or through the society columns. And he has been so witty, so clever, so consummately funny about them all that one must laugh with him—or be placed behind the bars of his zoo!

Running through this circus and keeping it on a steady course is the love story of Nancy Cornish and Christopher Merivale. Nancy is a talented young actress, sincere in her idealistic devotion to her art and in her simple loyalty to Chris. And Chris, an equally talented playwright, shares her ideals and loyalties until he finds that, translated into a play, there is no market for such stuff. Nancy rises to the top of her profession, London adores her and wants to make a fuss over her, but in spite of her overwhelming success she remains as simple, as kind, as idealistic as in the early days when this success was an ambitious dream. Chris, on the other hand, becomes embittered by his failure. He turns this bitterness and brilliant cynicism on to the people around him: his ridiculous stepmother who is obsessed with the desire to be considered "naughty," spending all of her considerable wealth on putting herself before the eyes of society, trying to create around herself an atmosphere of careless gayety slightly tinged with wickedness, and Wee Violet, that absurd woman who makes a point of her absurdity in order to hold the eye of society but who, underneath her garish appearance, has a true sense of values, and Bobby Lucas, a middle-aged male gossip, and a host of other characters upon whom E. F. Benson and Chris Merivale fix a satirical eye. Chris puts them into brilliant, hard stories and cynical, mocking plays, the public is delighted, and Chris becomes a rich man. But he also becomes the victim of his own mockeries. All the qualities which he used to find so fine in Nancy, he now regards with contempt, and that very adoration of money for its own sake which he used to scorn, is now uppermost in his heart. He has completely disintegrated morally while Nancy, still clinging to her ideals, goes on to greater success.

But Mr. Benson points no commonplace moral. Almost, Nancy succeeds in spite of her ideals, and almost one is glad that Chris is so cynical because the results are so excruciatingly funny. All in all, it is a thoroughly delightful book, with Mr. Benson at his best, which, as seen in "Miss Mapp" and "Queen Lucia," is certainly very good.

**GOES INTO THIRD PRINTING**

**Voodooes and Obeahs**, by Joseph J. Williams (Dial press), which studies scientifically and interestingly those weird customs that have retarded almost incalculably Haiti's religious and social development, has gone into its third printing in this country and is being published shortly by Allen & Unwin in England.