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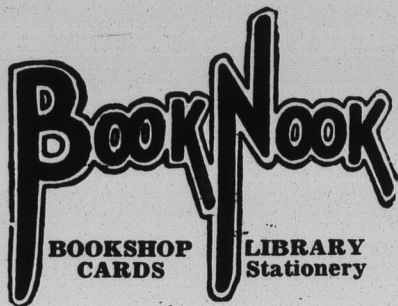
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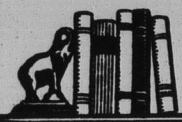
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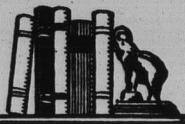
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BOOKS • REVIEWS • AUTHORS



Kenneth Horan Recommends

Victoria Royal

By Rita Wellman—Scribners
Unequivocally, with pleasure, enthusiasm and delight, we recommend this charming book. All of us who have wondered about the anti-macassars, the ottomans, the plush, and the fringes so much a part of our grandmothers' parlors will be glad to know from whence they sprung. And here's the whole story in this finely bound book whose subtitle is "The Flowering of a Style."

And how she flowered! The Georgian scene was innocent enough, made up of decorations that were elegant and simple, and often chastely uncomfortable until Victoria fell in love with "Dearest Albert, God bless him," and then everything changed. Albert was supposed to possess simply exquisite taste, and from his native Germany he brought sweet knick-knacks that were arrayed on shelves, pictures often painted by himself, of dying sunsets and passionate dawns, and a racy set of ideas about well-cushioned chairs, tables, mantles and desks. The object was to put as much into a room as possible, and then fight your way through.

The first of Albert's experiments was with Balmoral Castle, which he had decorated, floors, ceilings, walls, with plaid. When the Royal Family came to visit, they added to the general horror by all wearing plaids. It was just a step further to the plush-draped easel, and soon every house in England was a quivering mass of overstuffed pieces. It spread to France and America, and the world rocked to a profusion of Grocery Gothic and gew-gaws.

How the Royal academy, with Holman Hunt, Rossetti, Burne-Jones and others finally stemmed the tide and William Morris and Ruskin pointed out the path of righteousness to all overcrowded homes is a story as thrilling as that of any battle. For Albert was hard to beat. He'd the Crystal Palace to his credit, and even on the Hudson river some millionaire had built himself a cosy shack on the lines of the Pavilion at Brighton, so the ramparts of his taste were far-flung. The plush facade finally fell, however, and now that Victorian taste has become a legend, we are returning to some of its less poisonous effects with gratitude. The lady who wrote "Maud" might have gotten some fresh ideas for satin bows on bed-posts from this classical and amusing study.

Abraham Lincoln, The War Years

By Carl Sandburg, 4 Volumes—Harcourt, Brace
The history of Abraham Lincoln, from 1861 until his death, is written in this monumental work, a companion group to "The Prairie Years." Nicolay and Hay, and also Ida Tarbell have written definitive lives of Lincoln, but none have equalled, either in understanding or in eloquence, Carl Sandburg's. His books on Lincoln bid fair to be the greatest history yet written by an American.

Horses and Americans

By Phil Stong—(Stokes)
This large and beautifully illustrated book is the ideal Christmas present for your hunting friends. But it would be a welcome gift anywhere, for it concerns not hunting primarily, but the part the horse has played in the epic of America. Phil Stong calls the history of this country a cavalcade. He has enjoyed studying its influence on our progress, and so he has turned, momentarily, from fic-

A Best Seller



The present conflicts between Jews and Gentiles make significant Sholem Asch's modern version of the Gospel, "The Nazarene." A fantastic tale in the form of a novel, it is permeated with philosophical and mystical thoughts. "The Nazarene" has been a best seller in recent weeks.

Another Art

Ilse Forest, Lecturer in Education at Bryn Mawr college, writes: "Although I have not used George Ross Wells' *The Art of Being a Person* at Bryn Mawr as yet, I wish to report that I have used it with the greatest success with several individuals of widely differing problems and backgrounds. I think the book is excellent: it is the product of mature thinking and is exceedingly well-balanced; it is written in such fashion that it appeals to the lay reader as well as to the student of mental hygiene."

Sea Story

Charles J. Finger, winner of the Newbery Medal with "Tales from Silverlands" and the author of "Our Navy," has a new sea-story on the Houghton Mifflin list this fall. History and adventure are combined in this tale of the battle of Valparaiso, during the War of 1812, published under the title *Cape Horn Snorter*, and illustrated by Henry Pitz.

tion writing to assemble all the facts in this book, making it actually a labor of love. It begins with the Spanish conquerors, long before the Pilgrim Fathers had made the horse the power that pulled the plough. In the South, however, the horse became the foundation for the great national sport, and soon the two sections of our country were pitted against each other at Narragansett track. Mail delivery, too, was one of the horses greatest uses, and he galloped across the western plains with the Overland Mail, and the Pony Express, and led the covered wagons in every westward trek.

This is a grand book by a man who loves horses and has made a detailed study of their history. Coming from Iowa, a great horse raising state, he has investigated every aspect of the horse's breeding and uses, and presents him as man's practical as well as pleasurable friend. The illustrations are superb.

North Shore Men Aid Sandburg in Lincoln Biography

The sources and acknowledgments in the foreword of Carl Sandburg's new biographical study of "Abraham Lincoln: The War Years" (supplementing his work, "Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years") published the last few weeks by Harcourt, Brace and Company, give credit to several North Shore residents for assistance of varying degrees of importance in the preparation of the volumes.

"Abraham Lincoln: The War Years," it has been said, "will be called the greatest life of Lincoln yet written and it will remain standard for many years." Painsstakingly thorough and scholarly as it is, the work has been praised even more for its individuality, its "immense appeal" and "marvelous readability."

Barrett Collection

Oliver R. Barrett, 623 Abbottsford road, Kenilworth, an attorney, is the North Shore man offering the greatest help to the author. Mr. Barrett's famous Lincoln collection was always available to Mr. Sandburg, who found it invaluable. But for Mr. Barrett's careful collecting, almost since he was a boy, much of this Lincoln material would have been lost, the author writes. From the Barrett collection is the frontispiece in the book—"President Lincoln Visits the Army of the Potomac Headquarters, October 1862"—as are many of the other photographs and engravings throughout the text.

Repeating from the preface of his prairie years volume Mr. Sandburg says, "as a collaborator and commentator he (Barrett) has given honest value to some (many) of these pages." Several long paragraphs in the foreword elaborate upon Sandburg's obligation to this collector, to whom he is also indebted, he says, for "suggestions regarding legal evidence as applied to historical narrative."

Hokanson Helps

Nels M. Hokanson of Evanston, North Shore real estate man, is another who helped by loaning Mr. Sandburg his unpublished manuscript of a book, "Swedish Immigrants in Lincoln's Time," called by Mr. Sandburg a "solidly factual book." Mr. Hokanson has devoted his spare time to the preparation of this material over a long period of time.

Listed among those to whom Mr. Sandburg is obligated for favors, loans and other assistance are Frederick Dickinson and Mitchell Dawson, both of Winnetka.

To Louis Ellsworth Laflin, Jr., of Lake Forest, an authority on E. E. Ellsworth, Mr. Sandburg acknowledges access to a valuable collection of letters.

Survey by a German

"How long can Hitler last?" "Will there be a revolution in Germany?"—informed answers to these questions will be found in *Battle Against Time* by Heinrich Hauser, a survey of the Germany of 1939 made from the inside by a German and published by Scribners. Mr. Hauser, a novelist and journalist, is an Aryan German who prefers to live in this country, but who returned this year to Germany to get fresh and first-hand data.