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BOOKS • REVIEWS • AUTHORS

Oboe Player a Guinea Pig in Problem Novel on Political Affairs

Meet Me on the Barricades
By Charles Yale Harrison. Charles Scribner's Sons, N. Y.

Charles Yale Harrison's best known is *Generals Die in Bed*. He has written several other books, including a biography of Clarence Darrow. P. Herbert Simpson, protagonist of *Meet Me on the Barricades*, his new novel, is, in real life, an oboe player in a symphony orchestra. He is married, childless and lives with his matter-of-fact wife in a typical suburban apartment.

Inclines to Left

But his un-real life is what makes the story interesting. Mr. Simpson—like most of us—is a dreamer, and, again like most of us, worries not only about his own personal future, but about the future of the world. He inclines toward the Left. In fact he calls himself a Democratic Communist.

He wants to see justice prevail, and believes that a major change is due in the government of the world, but is bewildered by the dismaying amount of wrong mixed up with what he thinks is right.

The novel deals with three actual evenings in Mr. Simpson's life, while it covers several decades and two continents in his imaginings. Here is Mr. Simpson engaging in Bacchic revels with Russian nobility in 1904, marching with the proletariat in Petrograd in 1917, fighting with the Loyalists in Spain today, discussing current affairs with a reporter and a fellow musician in a saloon, and drifting drunkenly into a marvellous vision in which the rulers, dictators, war lords and party heads of the world unburden their souls.

Novel of Today

Distinctly this is a novel of Today—an attempt, fantastic and frequently hilarious, to see all around paramount questions as they affect the life of an intelligent, well-meaning but confused individual.

New Books Contrast Different Americans

Biographies of two sharply contrasted types of Americans are scheduled by Macmillan for March.

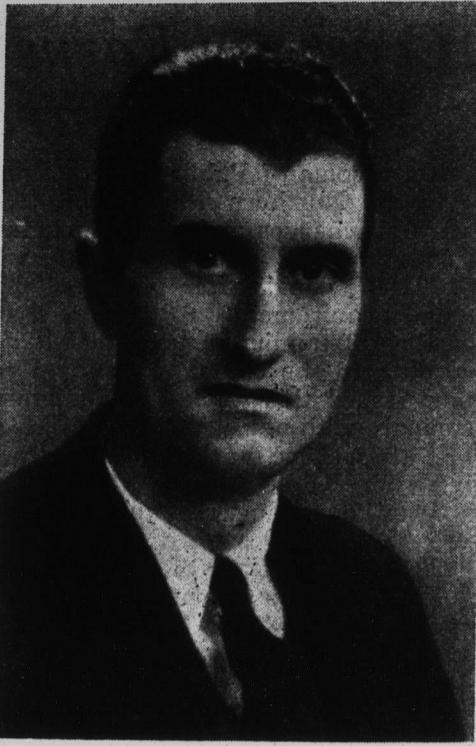
"Uncle Sam Ward" (brother of Julia Ward Howe), of old New York, who could not succeed in Wall street but became "the King of the Lobby" in Washington, who played a part in literary and artistic circles both in America and in Europe, and who numbered among his correspondents Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Washington Irving, Oscar Wilde, Lord Roseberry, and other English and American celebrities, is portrayed by Maud Howe Elliott in *Uncle Sam Ward and His Circle*.

Tom Watson of Georgia, the first Southerner in Congress to raise the Populist banner, who labored to unite white and negro farmers and workers against the industrial capitalism of the New South, and was defeated by fraud and terrorism—*Tom Watson: Agrarian Rebel* is the subject of a biography by C. Vann Woodward of the University of Florida.

By Dale Carnegie

Dale Carnegie's *Lincoln the Unknown* continues to enjoy an excellent sale. Although it is only a few weeks since they announced an unusually large printing of this study of the Great Emancipator by the author of *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, that printing has already been exhausted.

Author-Educator



James W. Mann, teacher of English and social studies at Skokie school in Winnetka, is the author of "The Student Editor," a practical manual about school publications just brought out by the Macmillan company.

First Novel Typifies Universal Poor Farmer

Charles Curtis Munz, whose first novel, *Land Without Moses*, was published by Harper and Brothers on March 22, says: "The Idea for *Land Without Moses* came to me one day last spring when I was driving in my car along a road in East Texas. In a field beside the road I saw a poor white-trash farmer trying to get his land in shape for a crop.

"He was harrowing, or dragging, his land with a knotty log; the man himself was ragged, the mule was skinny and tottering, the mule's harness was mostly of rope. The thought struck me: however hard that man works, he cannot escape from the doom of his own helplessness. He has no money, no tools, nothing but his own puny hands, and they are not enough.

"It is the novel not only of the tenant farmer in the cotton country, and the share-cropper, but the novel of the poor farmer everywhere, and indeed of the poor man everywhere."

Lumberjack Tells of Life in Logging Camp

Whistle-punk, chokerman, timekeeper and scaler—Stewart Holbrook has played all these parts in the Douglas fir camps of the west coast. He knows the American lumberjack from long and intimate association. He was born in Newport, Vt., where the log pond was the boys' favorite playground, and between school terms he worked in his father's logging camps.

It was after his service in the war that he went West. He has bunked with many veterans of the woods both East and West, and in *Holy Old Mackinaw* he tells the whole story of the lumberjack.

Mr. Holbrook now lives in Portland, Ore. His *Holy Old Mackinaw: A Natural History of the American Lumberjack* was published by Macmillan on March 22.

James W. Mann Writes Directions for Supervising School Papers

The Student Editor
By James Mann. The Macmillan company, N. Y.

The problem of directing school publications—newspapers, magazines, year books—is a situation which the teacher of English has to meet in many elementary and high schools today. Until there was issued this spring by Macmillan *The Student Editor* by James W. Mann, faculty member of the Skokie school in Winnetka, no adequate manual on the subject has been available.

"Through nearly all my teaching experience," Mr. Mann says, "I have been meeting the problem of publishing school papers as an outgrowth of English classes or of school activities. The only help has been in technical journalism books, designed for college use. The result has been that many teachers have tried to apply journalistic techniques to non-journalistic materials. A study which I made in connection with my Masters degree convinced me that there was need for a simple, practical manual built around the type of material most generally found in school papers."

Well Illustrated

Macmillan corroborates this opinion by bringing out his work in attractive textbook form, illustrated with numerous photographs, charts and allied material. Chapters and subheads are well organized for quick reference.

News gathering, news writing and editorials are simply presented, but probably some of the most helpful chapters in the book have to do with business managing and printing. How to finance the paper, how to go about securing accurate and profitable advertising, how to keep simple financial records, how to order printing and engraving, how to dummy a paper, and how to read proof—all these are things every teacher must know if he is to supervise a presentable school publication.

Printer and Salesman

Until *The Student Editor* was placed on the market, a teacher really needed to be a printer, advertising salesman, and editor as well, in order to meet with any degree of success at the outset. Today, at the cost of one textbook, the problem is solved.

Mr. Mann received his high school education in Montana, was graduated from the Montana State Normal college and the University of Montana, and received his Masters degree in education at Northwestern. He has been principal of a junior high school, principal of a grade and high school system in Montana, and has taught English and social studies since coming to Winnetka. Last summer he taught English and journalism at the Montana State Normal college.

Gorki's Last Novel

The Specter, the last novel from the pen of the great Russian writer, Maxim Gorki, will be published on April 1, according to an announcement from the offices of Gorki's American publishers, D. Appleton-Century company. The novel was left by Gorki among his papers at his death and is now being published at the order of a committee appointed by the Soviet government and the Communist party of Russia. This committee acts as the novelist's literary executors.