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BEST SELLERS

"My Name Is Aram."  
By William Saroyan

220 pages. Reviewed by Whitt N. Schultz.

The Pulitzer Prize Winner and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award Winner has written a new book. The title of that book is "My Name Is Aram." Having read some of Saroyan's other works, and having delved more completely into the life of this strange man than the average reader, I can say that Saroyan has written almost an autobiography. I think that he meant it to be that in a concealed manner, and, consequently, I feel that he would admit the authenticity of my assumption.

Saroyan is not a Harvard graduate. He is not the kind of man who would feel at ease in the presence of dignitaries. Rather, he would ignore them and would probably weave his way swiftly and casually to the less prominent and, amongst these, find himself perfectly at ease. In short, Saroyan is primarily interested in the more 'common things of life'—one can sense that when reading what Saroyan writes!

"My Name Is Aram" is a collection of recollected incidences converted into easily read short stories that sometimes have a point to them and sometimes leave a person entirely bewildered. Often times, however, the latter predicament is the more frequent. Some of the stories are quite humorous and they tend to take one's mind off of other, more important things; occasionally this is a good idea, and with that thought in mind one ought to read "My Name Is Aram." I thought "Locomotive 38, the Ojibway," was the most refreshing as well as the most preposterous tale. There are others that are in (a way) commendable because of their unfearing freshness and frankness! Indeed, I believe that Saroyan's unflinching frankness is one of his salient traits, and we will let that go at that.

In all there are fourteen short stories. Each is presented attractively because of the clever illustrations. For some reason or another Aram Garoghlanian, the main character, reminds me of Saroyan; that is, William Saroyan as a boy. I think that that is the aim of Saroyan in his writings. First, to present a character. Next, to make that character extremely odd—more so than Saroyan himself! And, finally, to exaggerate a vivid but glaringly foolish picture of an extraordinary human being.

I don't know why The Book of the Month Club selected this book. Maybe it was to help alleviate the minds of its readers—or confuse them! This I do know: Saroyan's writings tend to keep one interested for the simple reason that one never knows what is going to come next. Therefore, there is that romance of the unknown about Saroyan's books. I must confess that this book amused me, and it has—and it will!—amuse many others. Some of these odd autobiographical sketches have appeared in the 'better' periodicals. I respect the integrity and the judgment of the editors of these magazines. The stories appearing in "My Name Is Aram" are of some merit. Maybe you can find that elusive "merit" in the pages of William Saroyan's latest!

Tenth Congressional  
Eighth Largest in U. S.

Figures just released by the Bureau of the Census to Congressman George A. Paddock show that the Tenth Congressional district is the eighth largest in the United States. In 1940 the district had a population of 625,359 (approximately that of the state of North Dakota), an increase of 48,098 over 1930, a figure of 577,261.

Congressional districts with greater population are the Seventh Illinois, still the largest in the country, with 914,053; the Sixth Illinois, with 641,751; and five New York districts.

In the Tenth the vote cast for

United States Congressman (325,425 by the two major parties) becomes 52 per cent of the total population. This is an unusually high voting percentage, since the state average of Illinois on the presidential vote itself was 53 per cent; New York state ran 46.6 per cent, and the major party vote for the country as a whole was 37.7 per cent of total population.

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BODY BY FISHER WITH UNISTEEL TURBO TOP	YES	NO	NO
UNITIZED KNEE-ACTION	YES	NO	NO
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