



ABOUT BOOKS AND THE PEOPLE WHO WRITE THEM
MIDWEST PORTRAITS

By Harry Hansen

Publisher: Harcourt Brace

Ben Hecht, Carl Sandburg, Edgar Lee Masters, Sherwood Anderson, Floyd Dell,—these are some of the Chicago writers that figure in Harry Hansen's "Midwest Portraits." He has named his book aptly. These pieces are not so much criticism, as they are just portraits. He knows these men personally; he tells of their lives, the influences that have shaped them; he pictures them, quotes their sayings, speaks familiarly of "Carl" and "Ben," paints them as living people.

The Sherwood Anderson chapter is perhaps the most interesting. Here he goes back to Sherwood Anderson's youth, chronicles his life in such a way as to throw light on his books. He explains Anderson's writings, gives one an idea of how and why he came to write "Poor White," and "Many Marriages." This is the kind of criticism that tends to dissipate prejudice against a writer, and sends the reader to his books with an open mind.

All of these portraits, however, are not as successful. They are all interesting, as pictures of men who are writing today, iconoclasts for the most part, who are throwing over convention and tradition in verse and prose. But at times, one grows a bit tired of the high plane upon which these men are placed. Sometimes it seems as if the author were praising them too much, almost as if he were defending them from future criticism, forestalling future attacks. And at times, it is almost amusing, the way he writes in flowing language and reminiscent vein of men in their early thirties, as if they were gray-haired, venerable bards of a past generation.

Dorothy S. Phillips

A Life of Jose Rizal
"THE HERO OF THE PHILIPPINES"

By Charles Edward Russell and E. B. Rodriguez

When a firing squad shot down Jose Rizal in December, 1896, women waved their handkerchiefs and clapped their hands, and men shouted with delight, and the band played "Viva Espana." And yet they were exulting over the death of the greatest and best man then living under the Spanish flag. Rizal has been truthfully declared to be the transcendent flower of the Malay race. For sheer genius and beauty of character and life he need not fear comparison with the greatest of any race. In making available the facts of such a life the authors and publisher have conferred a boon upon mankind. Though his birthday is a national holiday in the Philippines and some memorial of him has been erected in almost every town and village he is a true son of man and needs to be known of all men. A scientist, poet, novelist, artist and ideal patriot, his is a name as certain of immortality as any written on the scroll of fame. As to the style and readability of the book the name of Mr. Russell is sufficient guarantee.

James Walter Doughty

A New Political Type
VAN TASSEL AND BIG BILL

Henry H. Curran

Jimmy Van Tassel, a lean, athletic, healthy magnetic youngster, with high ideals, some sizeable ideas, a home on lower Park Avenue and a family position in the midst of the four hundred, was yet—in politics. It was no barren coincidence that his father years before had befriended a dispossessed Irish family on New York's East Side, a son whereof possessed red hair and now, grown up, owned in addition a sleepless sense of gratitude, a beer saloon and a place in the "machine." "Big Bill" is a henchman and associate of the loyal red-head, Toolan, and is a messenger in the service of the greatest city government in the world. "Big Bill" and Toolan, and Jimmy's district leader, hard-boiled, wise and honest, put Jimmy in the aldermanic chamber and trained him

in the rudiments of city politics, materialistic but very human. Jimmy himself learns of the rich and the poor, including the street folk—the newspaper vendors, the boot-blacks, the pushcart men—and he wins his Sally of Washington Square. There are many other things that Jimmy learned—the same undoubtedly that Mr. Curran, present Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island and recent candidate for Mayor of New York City, learned in his own honorable political career.

Evelyn Clay Everett

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Electric Home Attracts Big Crowd At Waukegan

The first electric home to be exhibited in Lake County opened Saturday, December 1, at Waukegan and will continue for two weeks.

The home, which is a brand new one just erected by Charles Jacobs, is located on Gillett avenue, having been built by Peters Bros.

The home, which is patterned somewhat after those which were erected

this fall at River Forest under the auspices of the West Suburban Electric league and by the Will County Electric league at Joliet, is designed to demonstrate in a practical as well as attractive way, the modern uses to which electricity may be put.

In view of the success that attended the enterprise at River Forest where 47,000 people availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the home at Joliet where 10,000 people attended, it is anticipated that people in large numbers will inspect the Waukegan home.

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These rugs, it must be remembered, were personally selected by our own representatives in the Orient and shipped to us direct—need we say more in explanation of the values or the qualities?

A Few of the Rare Values Chosen at Random

Variety	Size	Regular Value	Sale Price	Variety	Size	Regular Value	Sale Price
Camel Hair	11.5x5.3	\$175.00	\$135.00	Iran	6.8x4.1	\$ 125.00	\$ 85.00
Arak	14.5x10.5	890.00	535.00	Belouchistan	5.0x3.0	37.00	28.00
Mecca	18.0x7.0	750.00	575.00	Lilahan	4.9x2.8	40.00	29.50
Bergamo	10.8x6.4	325.00	235.00	Belouchistan	5.9x3.0	52.50	37.00
Sparta	13.10x9.4	550.00	400.00	Bergamo	4.2x3.1	37.00	28.00
Melaz	13.0x10.2	525.00	262.50	Kazac	7.2x4.2	95.00	70.00
Heriz	14.3x11.4	650.00	325.00	Sarouk	24.0x14.4	3,750.00	2,450.00
Hamadan	12.4x3.4	75.00	50.00	Sarouk	17.7x12.2	2,400.00	1,650.00
Sereband	16.4x3.5	160.00	120.00	Lavere	14.0x10.6	1,100.00	825.00
Caraja	14.0x3.3	145.00	105.00	Sarouk	21.0x14.5	2,900.00	1,965.00
Sarouk	5.0x3.0	145.00	110.00	Lavere	20.4x11.0	1,900.00	1,425.00
Carabaugh	14.3x3.2	70.00	50.00	Kermanshah	21.5x13.9	2,150.00	1,075.00
Sarouk	13.5x9.3	875.00	670.00	Bakshaish	18.0x11.5	875.00	690.00
Arak	10.7x7.0	220.00	165.00	Arak	19.9x13.2	900.00	650.00
Laristan	10.0x8.0	600.00	450.00	Sereband	15.6x3.6	160.00	120.00
Lilahan	12.0x9.0	850.00	625.00	Chinese	12.0x9.0	375.00	285.00
Sarouk	11.10x8.10	750.00	635.00	Chinese	9.0x6.0	175.00	135.00
Fereghan	13.3x6.9	390.00	225.00	Chinese	8.0x5.0	165.00	125.00
Sereband	17.5x7.0	475.00	350.00	Chinese	18.0x12.0	750.00	562.50
Sparta	10.2x8.3	335.00	265.00	Kashan	7.0x4.3	350.00	285.00
Cashmere	16.5x10.5	390.00	250.00	Sarouk	7.2x4.5	140.00	105.00
				Lilahan	6.6x4.8	155.00	110.00

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