RIDEAU REVIEWS

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Reviews that appear in this column each month are of books that are new to the library and may be borrowed by any holder of a library card. There is no charge for this service. The idea is to review some of the lesser known books rather than best-sellers which are adequately publicised elsewhere. But they too are available i.e. books by writers such Margaret as Atwood, John le Carre, Stephen King, etc.

George Eliot by Marghanita Laski. A lucid and richly illustrated biography of Mary Ann Evans, the nineteenth century novelist who wrote under the name of George Eliot. A deep moral concern marked all her fiction, because of the scandalous nature of her own life-style her books were not always well received. They have however proved to be of lasting value. The Mill the Floss and Middlemarch are both at the library and Silas Marner was superb on television. Also new is a more detailed appraisal of her life and work from Virago press. IR

Child of the Northern

Spring by Persia
Woolley.

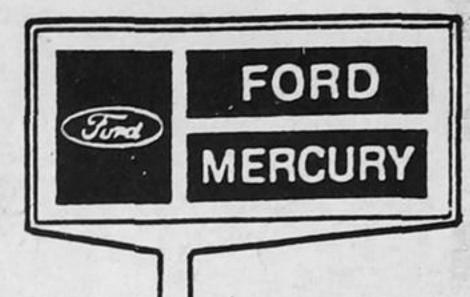
Yet another telling of Arthurian the legend, this time told in the first person by Guinevere herself. She describes her childhood in the wilds of northern Britain her and subsequent marriage to King Arthur. Writing from California, the author painstakingly captures the mood of early Britain but not the magic that illumined the Mists of Avalon, 1983. It is the first part of a proposed trilogy. IR

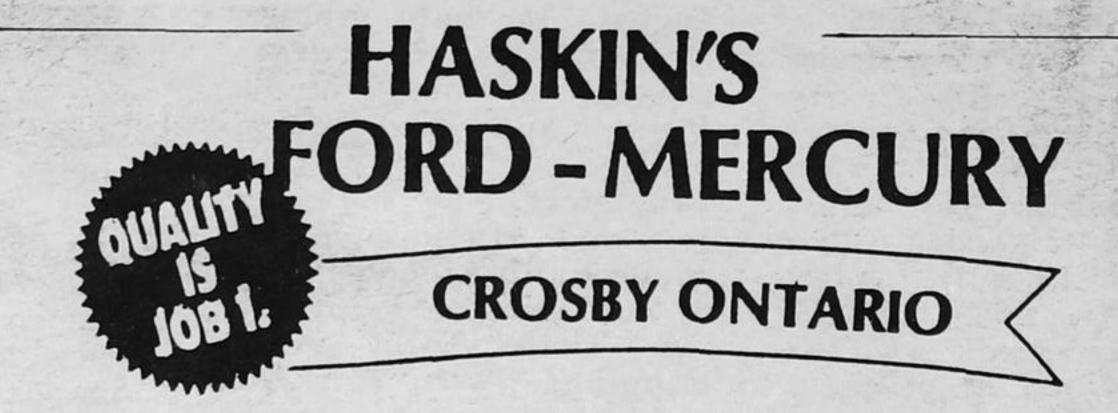
An American woman writes of her experiences in Saudi Arabia and the strict Moslem society in which she and her husband lived and worked at the height of the oil boom. She ventured into the souqs,

The SAUDIS by Sandra

Mackey.

ventured into the souqs, mosques and hareems of Riyadh and visited every corner of the desert Kingdom and says she came to love it 'with a passion'. She traces the rise of the ruling House of Saud, from Bedouin tents to wealth the like of which the world has never known and now fears for its durability in the face of change and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Iran. JR





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