

NEWS

from



CLINTON - ESSEX - FRANKLIN LIBRARY
PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

MARCH 1964

THE ABC'S OF BOOK SELECTION

Dear Constant Counselor,

I am a librarian with a limited book budget. I am besieged daily by requests from the circulation department, requests often accompanied by the statement that "we have twenty-seven people asking for this book." I can't buy everything and I want to use my book money properly. How can I do that and still keep everyone happy?

Signed,

Penny-Pincher

Dear Penny-Pincher,

You can't! Just concentrate on making them well-read, even if unhappy.

Signed,

Constant Counselor

We're being facetious, of course, but the fact remains that the conscientious book selector, mindful of his responsibilities to the public and to the library is very often misunderstood. He is not necessarily being obdurate; he is not exercising censorship by omission. He is aware of the weight of requests from patrons. But he must also consider a number of other factors. He knows that book prices have risen eighteen percent during the last year. He knows too that the number of titles published in 1963 increased by the same percentage. And most important, since he realizes that his book budget has not risen proportionately, he knows he must follow a well-balanced, carefully planned selection policy.

In a letter to the LIBRARY JOURNAL, February 1, 1964, Richard M. Pearl, Professor of Geology at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, comments on the situation: "It is not the obligation of the library to purchase every book that I, as patron, might find it convenient to have it own." And as for pressure from the volume of requests, he adds, "Buying a bad book under the influence of a number of requests does not professionalize it. The Chinese have a saying: 'If a thousand people believe a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing.' And a trashy book is still one, though a dozen patrons ask for it. Let them buy it themselves."

We know that every librarian gets a good many requests for westerns, science fiction, love stories, and light mysteries of the Arcadia and Avalon type. Can he resist the pressure to buy new, expensive and ephemeral titles, whose purchase can not be substantiated by the library policy of selection according to professional standards of judgment? He not only can; he should. These professional standards do not rule out fiction for relaxation. There is fiction which meets capably the requirements of literary merit, interest, and lasting value.

An amusing solution to this problem appeared in the LIBRARY JOURNAL for February 15, 1964. The Little Rock, Arkansas, Public Library received a substantial gift of sixty shares of common stock (worth approximately \$4500) of the Worthen Bank and Trust Company of that city. The donor, Booker Worthen, vice-president of the bank, said that "the library board has always tried to use its limited public money to buy books of unquestioned quality...so this grant is given for the purpose of allowing the library to give its patrons a selection of not-so-good books without generating the usual criticism of the librarian and the Board of Trustees."

Unfortunately, not many librarians have funds for "not-so-good" books; indeed, most librarians must use the utmost care to be able to buy as many of the quality books as they do. And it is the function of the book selector to do just this. This is his *raison d'être*. Like the small stockholders in a large corporation who elect officers and trust these officers with their experience and training to represent the stockholders fairly, so should patrons of the library trust their librarian. He has been hired to represent their interests in the library and he must consider the public as a whole.

Patrons may not always understand his reasons for not buying a book; library personnel may not understand; but probably no book selector will ever win a popularity contest. Like the old man in Aesop's fables, if he tries to please everyone, he ends up pleasing no one. Only by sticking to his established, professional policy of selection can the librarian have the ultimate satisfaction of building a well-rounded and lasting collection of books.

Mary Leggett

In reference to the above article, we would like to say that the System Library is extremely conscious of the need for spending book money wisely. We are no longer buying innocuous, trivial material that clutters up library shelves after a few circulations. Our budget has not increased and we, in common with other libraries small and large, cannot afford to waste our book dollars in this way. Nor are we indiscriminately buying "best-sellers." The fact that a book has made this list does not constitute a valid recommendation for purchase - but instead may be a reflection of a publisher's zealous publicity department. We feel too that money can be wasted in over-duplication of titles. The heavy demand soon passes and several copies are usually enough to fill the need. We are also aware that readers of light romances, mysteries and science fiction are all too often the patrons with the loudest voices - and attract the most attention. Our

Adult Consultant, Mr. Vecchio, will be glad to talk with you about any problems in this area you may have. We realize the demand for love stories is still with us - and to help you with this demand, we are preparing a list of love stories suitable for a general audience. You may want to buy some of these; you may also borrow them from Headquarters.

Since our prime goal at Headquarters is service to our member libraries, we want to be able to offer them a book collection that is judiciously chosen to cover as many areas as possible, both in fiction and in non-fiction, using professional knowledge and standards for selection.

ADULT BOOKS AND SERVICES

ANTHONY F. VECCHIO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

BOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR PURCHASE

The books, this month, range far and wide in subject, place, and time but then they always do.

Close to home, we have Shannon's THE AMERICAN IRISH, a lively exposition of their history and culture. A national problem, that of the effect of smoking on health, is further explored in Senator Maurine Neuberger's SMOKE SCREEN. The much publicized official report, SMOKING AND HEALTH, is available from the Superintendent of Documents and will be published in hard cover edition by Van Nostrand. In SPORTS: THE AMERICAN SCENE, we have a good selection of well-written articles from the pages of Sports Illustrated. A new novel by Meyer Levin, THE FANATIC, takes place on Broadway and deals with the bitter struggle of an author to prevent the distortion of his work. In THE ADVENTURES OF AN ORDINARY MIND, an American housewife writes an amusing and perceptive account of how, in the interim between her sixth and seventh child, she spent her mornings reading the generally neglected classics: Chaucer, Dante, Homer, etc. The first book to break into print about our new President, Mooney's LYNDON JOHNSON STORY, fills a need but is by no means a balanced, definitive work.

Beyond our shores both near and far away, another "first in print," Clancy's APOSTLE FOR OUR TIME, POPE PAUL VI, is a good, well-written book about its subject. Two novels by popular authors take place in England: Bowen's psychological novel about the reunion of three mature women who had been schoolgirls together and Frankau's SING FOR YOUR SUPPER, the first of a trilogy which introduces an actor and his family during a fateful summer in their lives. Indonesia by amphibious jeep is the subject of an absorbing account which reveals much about the cultural, social and political life of the islanders in Schreider's THE DRUMS OF TONKIN. Africa by balloon is the exciting story in Smith's JAMBO, with many attractive color illustrations. Everywhere by everything is involved in the National Geographic Society's GREAT ADVENTURES WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC which is a compilation of the greatest of the great adventures in the seventy-five year history of the organization as told by the explorers themselves. Far off in space on the PLANET OF THE APES, the apes are the master race and humans subject to them in Boule's new fantastic and satirical novel.

To come back down to our practical, day-to-day world, the ladies would be well-advised to look at a new edition of a good, attractive, basic cookbook, THE NEW GOOD HOUSEKEEPING COOKBOOK.

War, like death and taxes, is always with us. Shelby Foote's two volume THE CIVIL WAR is a major work with the emphasis on narration rather than interpretation. As such, it is an extremely readable version. Fahey's PACIFIC WAR DIARY, 1942-45, is an account as seen through the eyes of an ordinary seaman.

And to follow the old adage, "always leave them laughing," Meredith's FIRE-SIDE TREASURY OF MODERN HUMOR is a "good and plenty" anthology.

F	Boulle, Pierre	PLANET OF THE APES Vanguard	\$4.50
B			
F	Bowen, Elizabeth	THE LITTLE GIRLS Knopf	\$4.95
B			
F	Frankau, Pamela	SING FOR YOUR SUPPER Random	\$4.95
F			
F	Levin, Meyer	THE FANATIC Simon	\$5.95
L			
301.45	Shannon, William V.	THE AMERICAN IRISH Macmillan	\$6.95
S			
613.8	Neuberger, Maurine	SMOKE SCREEN Prentice	\$3.95
N			
641.5	Good Housekeeping Institute	NEW GOOD HOUSEKEEPING COOKBOOK Harcourt	\$7.50
G			
796	Sports Illustrated	SPORTS: THE AMERICAN SCENE McGraw	\$5.95
S			
818	Conger, Lesley	ADVENTURES OF AN ORDINARY MIND Norton	\$3.95
C			
827.08	Meredith, Scott	FIRESIDE TREASURY OF MODERN HUMOR Simon	\$10.00
M			
910.9	National Geographic Society	GREAT ADVENTURES WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC National Geographic Society	\$7.95
N			
916.76	Smith, Anthony	JAMBO: AFRICAN BALLOON SAFARI Dutton	\$6.50
S			
919.1	Schreider, Helen	THE DRUMS OF TONKIN Coward	\$5.95
S			
B	Mooney, Booth	LYNDON JOHNSON STORY Farrar	\$4.50
J679m			
B	Clancy, John	APOSTLE FOR OUR TIME, POPE PAUL VI Kenedy	\$4.95
P3241c			
940.545	Fahey, James J.	PACIFIC WAR DIARY, 1942-45 Houghton	\$6.50
F			
973.7	Foote, Shelby	THE CIVIL WAR: A NARRATIVE	
F		v.1 FORT SUMTER TO PERRYVILLE Random	\$10.00
		v.2 FREDERICKSBURG TO MERIDIAN Random	\$12.50

Cat. # FS 2.2: Sm 7/2

SMOKING AND HEALTH Van Nostrand \$3.95

SMOKING AND HEALTH \$1.25

(To purchase, write and enclose remittance to:
Superintendent of Documents
U. S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D. C. 20402

Y O U N G A D U L T A N D C H I L D R E N ' S B O O K S A N D S E R V I C E S

MRS. BARBARA DOH, YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S CONSULTANT

On February 7, I attended a meeting of Children's Consultants from library systems in New York State. The object of the meeting was to analyze service to children within the state in terms of book collections, circulation and registration procedures and techniques.

Miss Nancy McGinnies, Children's Consultant, Southern Adirondack Library System, announced that a revised edition of ONCE UPON A TIME will be available in the spring. This pamphlet gives specific information to help the librarian prepare programs for story hours. It includes lists of books for story-telling and for picture-book hours.

Mr. Spencer Shaw, Children's Consultant, Nassau Library System, reported that a revised edition of RECOMMENDED RECORDINGS FOR CHILDREN will also be available this spring.

Part of the discussion centered on the fact that the BASIC CHILDREN'S BOOK-LIST FOR SMALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES is being revised to include approximately 700 annotated titles. Miss Virginia Heffernan, Public Library Children's Consultant, Library Extension Division, suggested that librarians check these lists against their library holdings and try to order titles not already purchased. It would also be advisable at this time to check the original BASIC BOOKLIST of 200 titles to make sure you have these books in your collection.

Miss Jean Connor, Director, Library Extension Division, spoke on the recent legislation on Federal Aid to Libraries and voiced particular concern for the culturally deprived child, commenting on the role of the library in helping him.

B O O K S R E C O M M E N D E D F O R P U R C H A S E

- jF Godden, Rumer THE DOLL'S HOUSE Viking 1962 \$2.75
G A new edition of this standard favorite most appropriately illustrated by Tasha Tudor. The author creates a special aura of marvel - a doll's world juxtaposed to and in certain ways dependent on the real world of two little girls. For ages 8 - 12.
- jF Ormondroyd, Edward TIME AT THE TOP Parnassus 1963 \$2.95
O Susan Shaw has disappeared - into the world of 1881. A truly credible "time" fantasy with a compelling beginning and a satisfying conclusion. The author's role as narrator-observer enhances the style. For ages 9 - 13.

- j808.81 Cole, William, ed. THE BIRDS AND THE BEASTS WERE THERE World
C 1963 \$4.95
Has appeal for all ages. Poems are classified by birds, dogs, etc. The representation of poems is excellent and includes both standard and modern selections. This is a lovely book with small decorative woodcuts by Helen Siegl appearing in just the right places.
- j916.6 Davis, Russell G. LAND IN THE SUN, THE STORY OF WEST AFRICA
D Little 1963 \$4.50
Describes in picture-book format ways of life in new West African nations. The writing is excellent; information is presented simply and specifically in a straightforward manner; there is a suggestion of immediacy and involvement as if the reader were living what he is reading. Exciting illustrations in color, with oranges and yellows predominating. For ages 9 - 12.
- j973.7 American Heritage THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG Distributed by
A Harper 1963 \$3.95 lib. ed. available
Bruce Catton, the author and one of the editors of American Heritage, makes use of significant detail to involve juvenile readers in these three days of glory and horror. Writing is vivid, restrained, and effective. Illustrated with many photographs, paintings, and sketches of the time. For junior and senior high readers.
- E Bonsall, Crosby N. THE CASE OF THE HUNGRY STRANGER Harper 1963
B \$1.95 lib. ed. available
Children will be thrilled with the mystery motif. Conversation is reasonably realistic in spite of the vocabulary limitation. Will have wide appeal for beginning readers.

SPRING COURSES AT MASSENA

Another training course for community librarians will be held in Massena on April 14 and 28, May 12 and 26. This spring series sponsored by Library Extension Division will be on Young Adult Services.

TWO NYLA AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY LIBRARIANS

L. MARION MOSHIER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED LIBRARIANSHIP

Trustees and friends are invited to suggest librarians for this award. Candidates must have given distinguished service as community librarians in rural areas of New York State. The winner will receive the sum of fifty dollars and a certificate of merit. Nominations and qualifying statements must be submitted on application forms and mailed to Ronald L. Roberts, Four County Library System, 78 Exchange Street, Binghamton, New York, by May 15, 1964. Application forms are available at Clinton-Essex-Franklin Headquarters.

ASA WYNKOOP AWARD

Trustees or friends or librarians themselves may nominate candidates for this award of one hundred dollars to be granted to a community librarian in New York State who has not had formal library school training. The application should be accompanied by a statement describing how the award will benefit the candidate and the community she serves. Nominations must be submitted on application forms and sent by May 15, 1964, to Ronald L. Roberts, Four County Library System, Binghamton, New York. Forms are available at Clinton-Essex-Franklin Headquarters.

Formal recognition of these awards will be made at the October conference of the New York State Library Association.

STATE SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

Examination for scholarships for librarians made available under the Federal Library Services Act will be held May 2, 1964. College seniors and graduates are eligible to compete for the grants which range from \$360 to \$2000, depending on financial need. These grants are paid for half to full-time study at approved library schools in New York State. Applicants must be United States citizens, residents of New York State for the year previous to the award, and willing to work two years in a public library or a library system serving rural people in the state.

Deadline for filing is April 17, 1964. Application forms may be obtained from:

Library Extension Division
New York State Library
Albany, New York 12224

HEADQUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS

A resolution of the Franklin County Board of Supervisors has reappointed Mr. Edward G. Hoit, Malone, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library for a term of five years ending in 1968.

Miss Grace McCarthy, Tupper Lake, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library to replace Mr. Harold Nichols, Tupper Lake. Mr. Nichols resigned as of December, 1963.

BOARD MEETING HELD

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library was held Saturday, February 8, in the Board Room at Plattsburgh Public Library. Present were Mr. Paul Vogan, Mrs. Allan Everest, Mrs. Lincoln Barnett, Mrs. James F. Mills, Mr. Wayne Byrne, Mr. Frank L. Carpenter, Mrs. A. J. Hecht, Mr. William A. Harvey, Mr. Edward G. Hoit, Mr. Claude H. Clark, Mr. Berry, Miss Marion Vedder, Associate Library Supervisor, Library Extension Division, and Miss Esther Helfand, Young Adult Services Consultant, Library Extension Division.

TRUSTEES ATTEND PLATTSBURGH BOARD MEETING

Mrs. A. J. Hecht and Mr. Wayne Byrne, Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library trustees, and Mr. R. Edwin Berry, director, attended a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Plattsburgh Public Library on Monday, February 17.

MICROFILM CARDS READY

Catalog cards for microfilm housed at the System's central library, Plattsburgh Public Library, are being sent out to all member libraries. As more new material on microfilm is purchased and cataloged, sets of cards will be sent to libraries in the three county system. We have microfilm readers at Plattsburgh Public Library, Saranac Lake Free Library and Wead Library, Malone, where microfilm may be used.

GRANTS FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES

All chartered libraries in the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System will receive grants to cover travel expenses for the five librarians' meetings held in April, May, June, August and October. We have been notified by the State Department of Audit and Control to discontinue our former method of having librarians turn in vouchers after each meeting for reimbursement.

Librarians who attend meetings at Headquarters (and we hope your librarian will) will be instructed in voucher preparation. Payment will be made by the System to the library in the fall after the completion of the series of meetings.

DIRECTOR VISITS SARANAC LAKE AND BLOOMINGDALE

Mr. Berry spoke at the annual meeting of the Saranac Lake Free Library on Monday, February 10. Mr. Berry pointed out that as a member of the three county library system, Saranac Lake Free Library has access to the System's large central collection of books and microfilm and to the State Library through teletype services at Headquarters. He stated that these resources, along with professional help and advice, are available to all member librarians.

Mr. Berry also visited Bloomingdale during February to meet with Mr. Claude Clark, Trustee of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library, about the bookmobile stop in that village.

LIBRARIANS' MEETINGS

The spring librarians' meeting will be held April 6 at Headquarters. Mr. Vecchio, Mrs. Doh and Mrs. Leggett will discuss book selection and ordering. We hope that every member librarian will be present.

Please remember to keep the date of May 11 free. This is the date of the next librarians' meeting, at which Miss Marion Vedder, Associate Library Supervisor, Library Extension Division, will be the speaker.

REQUESTS AND RESERVES

We are always glad to get your requests for books; however, we would like to remind all member librarians of our procedures for handling these. Serious requests for special subject and title matter will be acknowledged and kept on file for two months, coordinating our rules with those of the State Library for time limit as far as searching for this material. Requests for books in popular demand will be held until filled unless you are notified otherwise.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

We have been notified by Mrs. William H. Isham, Librarian at Keene Valley Library Association, that she has received her certificate of completion for finishing all five of the community librarians' courses sponsored by Library Extension Division. We congratulate Mrs. Isham and hope that other member librarians will let us know if they too have received such certificates.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Posters and bookmarks for National Library Week will be sent to each member library very soon. National Library Week is April 12-18.

You may be interested to know that the poster designed for this year has been selected as outstanding in its category at the Twenty-Second Exhibition of Printing held at the Hotel Commodore in New York City.

STAFF CHANGES

Mrs. Elaine H. Steel has joined the staff at Headquarters as typist.

A "PLEASE RETURN" NOTE

May we ask those of you who have padded Jiffy Bags to return them to Headquarters for reuse? These bags cost from ten to fifteen cents apiece. Please have them ready on the day the station wagon visits your library.

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

AUSABLE FORKS LIBRARY

Mrs. Paul Maicus, Librarian, has told us that the library has a display on Good Grooming. This exhibit, planned by the Girl Scouts under the direction of Mrs. Emilie Barrie, Jay, features books, posters, and a doll dressed in full Girl Scout uniform.

KEESEVILLE FREE LIBRARY

The library has received a gift collection of seventeen beginner books for children.

WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE

New fluorescent lights have been installed in the stacks in this library.

PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Plattsburgh Public Library has a special display of decorative hair combs, a collection belonging to Miss Laura Ingalls, Administrative Assistant. The fifty-one combs range from large antique Spanish combs to more modern ones from many countries and make a most unusual and interesting exhibit.

SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY

John Duquette has been elected President of the Board of Trustees of this library to succeed Captain Francis Hillman. Other officers reelected were Mr. Victor Kenyon, Vice-President; Mr. William Harvey, Treasurer; and Mrs. Jeanne DeMattos, Secretary.

Four committees were appointed. On the finance committee are Mr. Harvey, Mr. Thomas Cantwell and Mr. Kenyon. Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson, Mr. Frank R. Knight and Mr. Donald Walker are on the Book Committee. On the House Committee are Mr. D. Mott Chapin, Mr. Kenyon and Captain Hillman. Mr. Knight, Mr. Cantwell and Mrs. DeMattos are on the Publicity Committee.

The Right Reverend Noel V. Zimmerman, Saranac Lake, has announced that the parochial schools of that village will give a grant of \$200 to the Saranac Lake Free Library.

R. Edwin Berry, Director

M. Leggett, Editor