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FINAL ISSUE

Linwood Library Gazette

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Vol. 3 No 12.



Sept.-Oct. 1938

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* * * *

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Do not annoy
By keeping it when read—
Finish the tale
Then do not fail
To heed what has been said.

* * * *

In friendship's name I lend my book,
Then I would have you know—
However much you love my book
From you it now must go.

Return to:

* * * *

My name is written here below
If you will have a look;
It is a sin to steal a pin,
But how much more a book!

Name:

* * * *

My book's my friend
And you're my friend—
And I would keep it so—
If my book's lost
I count the cost—
My book and friend must go!

* * * *

Books are borrowed, lent and stolen,
Let this not a stolen be—
When you see the name here written,
Please be kind—return to me.

Name:

* * * *

To you I lend my book, but I would not
care to say to my book—Adieu.

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FICTION

- After the Rain Jane Henderson
- Air Peril Colin Hope
- Appointment with Death May Christie
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- Big Strike Chas H. Snow
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- Blood of the North J. B. Hendryx
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The Ebony Stag Brian Flynn
The End of Andrew Harrison F. W. Croft
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Meat for Mammon Mary Mitchell
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Nightingale Wood Stella Gibbons
No Armour Against Fate Margaret Pedler
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Prelude to War Leslie Charteris
Quack Paradise Sydney Fairway
Redskin Trail Dane Coolidge
The Return of Sanders of the River .. Francis
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Ruined City Neville Shute
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The Sign of the Swan M. Baillie Saunders
Slender Margin Basil Francis
Sons of the Saddle W. McLeod Raine
The Stolen Heiress Chas. Merrick
Such Ado About Cynthia Annabel Lee
Sunrise Grace L. Hill
The Terror in the Fog Norman Berrrow
Trent Intervenes Paul Trent
Truth to Tell Alice G. Rosman
Young Man with Money Maysie Greig

RECOMMENDED NOVELS

The Doomsday Men, by J. B. Priestley. Here is holiday reading. We begin with the final of the mixed doubles at a tennis tournament on the French Riviera. The handsomer pair are Malcolm, an architect in real life, and Andrea, an American heiress with golden shoulders and astonishing eyes, both dark horses in the tournament sense. Very properly the handsomer pair win. But Andrea is a dark horse in the tournament of life also, coming and going mysteriously, so that Malcolm, who during a whole week has barely had a dozen words with her, has only time to take her to dinner and tell her he loves her before she vanishes from the scene, carrying her secret with her. In the neighbourhood of the British Museum a young American physicist is on the trail of a missing American professor. In Los Angeles a cheerful little man whose brother has been murdered is on the trail of the Brotherhood of the Judgment. And in Hollywood Malcolm is on the trail of Andrea.

Mr Priestley is in a light mood, elaborating the mystery with skill and writing a book that is a smooth and pleasing mixture of sentiment and thrills.

Thirsty Land, by Joan Sutherland. Leon Carson, of the Indian Medical Service, lived for his work, loving the hard life of the North-West Frontier; but his health broke and he had to return to England, where he sought fresh and different interests on a Gloucestershire farm. Fortune proved just as harsh to Rupert, his brother, a District Officer who also found all that he desired on the Border; it was a rebel's bullet which crippled him, and so the two brothers were re-united. Their careers, their courage, and their mutual loyalty all combine to form a story which is frequently moving and dramatic; one, also, that never flags.

In Crippled Splendour, Evans John tells the tragic story of James I. of Scotland, ancestor of the ill-fated Stuart Kings. Always maintaining a scrupulous regard for historical accuracy, the author yet has the imaginative power that breathes life into the dim and unreal figures of the history text-book. As with growing sympathy, we live with James through the long years of his lonely captivity in England and the troubled years of his reign in a Scotland rent by the dissensions of warring factions, we wonder that history can ever be rated dull and dry. Seen through the eyes of an author who combines humour, knowledge, imagination, and a deep understanding of humanity, it can surpass the most stirring romance.

M.S.

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LINWOOD LIBRARY GAZETTE

Vol. 3 No. 10

August 1938

EDITORIAL

We must apologise to our readers for having kept them waiting for this—our final issue of the Gazette. The task of preparing the material for this little journal has fallen upon a small committee, who during the past three years have endeavoured to provide our subscribers with book reviews and to keep library topics to the fore, for the benefit of those interested in the library movement.

We have received a measure of approval and we feel that our efforts have not been in vain. To the printers, Messrs Simpson & Williams, we offer our thanks for their co-operation which has made possible the issuing of our journal.

We trust the Linwood Library will long remain the most successful of suburban libraries, and that, when the day eventually arrives for a National Library Service to become operative, Linwood will be in the forefront of the movement.

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SOME NON-FICTION RECENTLY PLACED ON OUR SHELVES

Turbulent Journey, by Owen Rutter. This is a Life of William Bligh, Vice-Admiral, and claims to be an attempt to present the Captain of the Bounty at the time of the well-known mutiny, in a truer and more favourable light than in which he is often shown.

Covered Wagon 10 H.P., by Guy Austin, describes a journey from New York to Hollywood in a Plymouth car, which already had covered umpteen miles and had a just right to be retired. However, the journey is made, mountains are crossed and rivers forded with quite a few incidents thrown in. Mr Austin, in this his second book, keeps the reader amused, and causes quite a few chuckles as he proceeds on his journey.

Lapland Journey, by Halliday Sutherland. A very enjoyable book, covering ground seldom touched upon by writers. Mr Sutherland has again met a number of folk that please us, through the author's introduction, and we lay down the book having enjoyed every page.

New Guinea Gold, by Edmond Demaitre. Beginning at the time when New Guinea was taken by British troops, he depicts the life of both natives and whites, drawing attention to the difference between then and now; this a result of the development of gold production. "Gold, Gold." Everyone thinking gold, and everyone talking gold. The difficulty of transport was overcome by powerful aeroplanes and men of iron. Police patrols scoured the country, eventually winning the trust of several native tribes. While his description of the country is excellent, his chief aim was to "discover the native." "Anyone living in the jungle and observing man, beasts, plants and flowers must inevitably come to the conclusion that there is no such thing as a bad animal or a useless life. . . . But to understand this fully one must observe at close quarters the various manifestations of life in the jungle which, although apparently capricious, anarchical, confused and cruel, yet have a precise and definite object in view." While with the patrol he made copious notes on the customs, beliefs and habits of the natives also, as to his original home. The first chapter in the third book "Short Biography of a Kanaka" gives a glimpse of the working of the native mentality.

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An interesting and informative book that will make a warm claim on many of our readers.

China's Red Army Marches, by Agnes Smedley. The opening chapters give us an idea of the conditions of life for the peasant in China, and it is sad reading, for harder conditions it would be difficult to find. The "bandits" so often met with in literature on China, seems to fit in as peasants in revolt, or the landlords and their friends evicting peasants unable to meet their demands. Then the "Reds" appear as saviours of the peasant, and the struggle takes on a somewhat different aspect.

The authoress paints a terrible picture of events in China, particularly in Hunan and Kiangse, and helps one to gauge more recent events at nearer their truer and actual value.

A book one should read even though one's susceptibilities may be hurt somewhat.

Northward Ho! and Southward Ho! by Harold Nossiter. These two volumes give us a splendid sea story of the author and his two sons. Living on the shores of Sydney Harbour, for years they had sailed their own yachts in harbour and in deep water cruises and when the time arrived Mr Nossiter had the specifications drawn up of a yacht for a voyage round the world. The result was the "Sirius," beautifully modelled, perfect lines and strongly built. In this vessel they left Sydney bound for Southampton and though some heavy weather was met, the "Sirius" proved a fine, weatherly craft. The description of the whole voyage is so real that one loses oneself and is either at sea aboard the yacht or visiting one of the numerous places of interest where the voyagers called. The route followed in "Northward Ho!" is from Sydney, up the coast to Rabaul, through the island-dotted Timor and Arafura Seas to Singapore, then follows Ceylon, Aden, Red Sea, Suez, Candia, Malta, Gibraltar, on to Southampton. While in England they met with much hospitality and kindness. London was a marvel that thrilled them. Mr Nossiter says, "There is a grandeur in its grandeur, and a greatness in its greatness that is difficult to describe." The return journey described in "Southward Ho!" was by way of Madeira, Trinidad, Panama, Cocos, Galapagos, Marquesas, Tuamotu, Tahiti, Society, Cook and Tongan Islands, thence to Sydney. A voyage round the world, and with Harold Nossiter and his two sons, the reader will find it to be a most delightful and exhilarating voyage.

I Write As I Please, by Walter Duranty. Walter Duranty is a well-known journalist, and this book is the result of fourteen years in Russia. In the chapter on "Lenin and Stalin" he shows how the aim of the one is the objective of the other and that they, with the Founding Fathers, are not thinking of today or tomorrow: they are planning for the future. The N.E.P. (New Eco-

nomic Policy) was used until it had served their purpose. "A Canter with Pegasus" gives us a good account of why Stalin became successor to Lenin, instead of Trotsky. Plot followed by counterplot—and Trotsky exiled to Central Asia. Today, Socialism, he says, is a fact. "In the U.S.S.R. there is real Socialism, in that all the dynamic forces of the country, not only the forces of money, but the forces of invention, energy, technique, discipline, effort and initiative are applied for and by the community, instead of for and by individuals. Just as the interest and enthusiasm of individuals have been brought to follow a common purpose, and rejoice over common successes, or weep over common failures in a single channel, so the common energy and effort have been canalised in a single channel. It is no longer a question of what I do or what I get, but of what we do and what we get. I venture to suggest that there could be no simpler definition of the difference between Socialism and Individualism."

The book has been through five editions and is well worth reading and studying, for it touches on those things that concern all, and while it gives one a safer background on which to judge Russia, it is very helpful to those whose opinions are in the process of being formed.

Stepping Stones From Alaska to Asia, by Isobel Wylie Hutchinson. Some time ago we placed on our Non-Fiction shelves Miss Hutchinson's "North to the Rime Ringed Sun," a book that met with much favour. Now we have this one. The authoress is commissioned by the authorities of The British Museum to acquire certain rare flowers for that institution, and the story she tells of her quest and success is fascinating. The "Stepping Stones" are the rugged storm-bound Aleutian Islands, springing from the Alaska shore and stretching almost across to the coasts of Asiatic Russia. Several of the islands were visited and Miss Hutchinson made many friends with the Aleuts, while exploring and gathering specimens. From Unalaska she was the guest of the Captain of the U.S. Government Guard, in the ship Chelan. Treacherous waters, rock-strewn, and an ever more uncertain climate, are the usual conditions, but favoured with kinder weather than often prevailed the authoress was loath to embark on the return journey. "And there I took my final glance of Attre, her shoulders draped in fleecy cloud, from which the sun struck fire . . . a noble sight, and as I watched it, into my mind from some strange subconscious channel there stole a melody. It was 'Land of Heart's Desire' . . . It was great! No owner of a million dollar yacht could have enjoyed her possessions more at that moment than the lady-guest of the United States Coastguard enjoyed the white cutter 'Chelan' which had so gracefully transported her across the forsaken seas where the Bering and the North Pacific meet and merge their wild waters in storm and exaltation."

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A book our readers will enjoy and we recommend it with full confidence.

Across Africa on Foot, by Ronald A. Monson. This was a remarkable journey, not across a parallel of latitude, but from Cape Town to Cairo. With a companion (also as the author, an Australian) they left Cape Town September 8, 1928 and reached Cairo December 21, 1929, having covered on foot 7,620 miles. To the pedestrians some of the miles—indeed many of them—seemed leagues, while often the mountain ranges, rivers, dreadful swamps, nearly broke their hearts. It is an almost incredible journey, and only the dour pluck and endurance of the pair brought them through. It is deeply interesting, and with a good map, one can check their experiences, in the jungle proper, with others who have been in similar dangers. H. V. Morton's "How I Found Livingstone," also his "Darkest Africa" help to make clearer the terrific difficulty of the African jungle even today in many places.

Men and Mountains, by M. Ilin. This can almost be said to be a work on Geography but if all books on Geography could be made as interesting as this one, we would have quite a large number of students.

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