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by

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Belles Lettres and Bell Ringers

A SLIGHT lull in the literary output of Oklahoma writers was noted during the month of January. While the early fall lists were loaded with books and stories by Sooners, the early winter output was considerably smaller.

Books by Todd Downing, John Oskinson, Kenneth Kaufman, David Milsten and many others were on the market during the fall. Stanley Vestal, whose name on the University faculty roll is Walter S. Campbell, will not increase this winter the list of more than a dozen titles which have come out under his pen name.

Dr. Arthur B. Adams, dean of the college of business administration, has another volume set for winter release by the Oklahoma Press. His last, *Our Economic Revolution*, was widely praised.

Dr. Paul B. Sears, head of the University department of botany, is planning another book after the remarkable success of his *Deserts on the March*. He visited Hendrik Willem Van Loon in New York during the holidays while his volume was gaining national prestige both for himself as an author and for the Oklahoma Press.

A book of verse which should prove interesting to persons recently on the campus is Norman Macleod's *Thanksgiving Before November*. It was released February 1 by the Parnassus Press which also brought out his first volume, *Horizons of Death*, a year ago.

The Parnassus Press says that Macleod's first book of verse provoked a storm of controversy as to whether it lived up to the sociological implications of his widely-known work in magazines. *Thanksgiving Before November* is advertised as a vindication of the doubts that assailed the first slim volume. Macleod was enrolled as a University student for a short time last year.

Todd Downing is expected to produce another volume by spring, while the Press has several coming out after Dean Adams' new one which was scheduled for February 1.

Bob Whitehand, '33as, Tulsa, holder of a fellowship at the University of Iowa, is author of stories and plays. One of his short stories, "Derricks on the Hill," received honorable mention in the O'Brien collection this year. A three-act play of his may be produced by the University Playhouse during the spring.

Riggs Play Opens

The opening of another play by Lynn Riggs, '22ex, former faculty member who now resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was a Broadway event of January 16.

The title of Mr. Riggs' new drama is *Russet Mantle* and it deals with young lovers protesting against convention, the doings of easterners in Santa Fe during the depression, and ranch life.

While *Russet Mantle* is not hailed as another *Green Grow the Lilacs*, a Broadway sensation and one of the best ten plays of 1931, its reviews have been generally favorable. By the middle of February, it should become known whether *Russet Mantle* is destined to catch the fancy of New York play-goers.

The poetical and lyrical qualities of the new play have been hailed as its strong points. A charge that the story told in the drama is of no great importance was made by first-night reviewers.

This may or may not affect the success of the drama. It may be remembered that Zoe Akins' *The Old Maid*, 1935 Pulitzer winning drama, was charged with "sentimentality" and classified as the type of play that was popular a generation ago when it was produced.

Unlike most of Mr. Riggs' previous dramas, *Russet Mantle* is of the lighter comedy type. It marks his return to Broadway after several seasons of absence during which he has been in Hollywood working for movie firms.

