

# Three New Books by O. U. Alumni

*Through the Diplomatic Looking Glass: Immediate Origins of the War in Europe*, by Oliver E. Benson, '32, '33ma. University of Oklahoma Press, 1939. \$2.

All diligent readers of the newspapers of the last two years have at some time or other wished for a guide to European diplomacy which would make easier the understanding of our times. In his *Through the Diplomatic Looking Glass* Dr. Oliver Benson has written such a guide. This volume is at once an account and an analysis of the diplomacy that preceded the outbreak of current European war.

The story opens with the Sudeten Crisis. With the Munich Settlement as a backdrop, the author parades before us the diplomatic events that logically and inevitably led to the outbreak of war in September, 1939. Since the events moved more rapidly in July and August, the greater portion of the book is concerned with the events of these months.

With the failure of the Munich settlement to "appease" the dictator states, the British and French policies were altered. "Appeasement" was dropped and there followed a frantic search for allies. No state was willing to face the impending crisis without friends. In the new alignment came the situation that made war inevitable.

Dr. Benson wisely has refrained from definitely assessing blame. He has presented and weighed the evidence and leaves to the reader the drawing of conclusions. He has, however, written a book that will serve as a most useful and valuable handbook for all who would understand why there is no "peace in our time."

The author is a native of Guthrie. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1932, his M.A. in 1933. Receiving a scholarship from the Institute of International Education and a fellowship from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, he attended the University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland, from which institution he was graduated with the degree of Docteur es Sciences Politiques in 1936. In the Fall of 1936, Dr. Benson joined the faculty of the University of Oklahoma where he is now assistant professor of government.

University of Oklahoma alumni may well be proud of this volume. First, the author is a product of the University; second, the book is a real contribution to the literature of recent diplomacy; third, the University Press has rendered a public service in publishing the volume.

—ROYDEN DANGERFIELD

*City Beginnings in Oklahoma Territory*, by John Alley, '02 (Kingfisher), University of Oklahoma Press, 1939. Price \$1.50.

No other state of the American Union has had quite Oklahoma's experience in the founding of towns and cities. When

the signal was given at high noon on April 22, 1889, for the first homesteader rush thousands of men joined in a race to claim choice 160-acre tracts. Before the sun had set, tent towns—Guthrie, Oklahoma City, Kingfisher, and Norman—had been born. On no other American frontier was the Mayflower procedure of government more interestingly exemplified.

Generally, turbulence and strife accompanied the establishment of law and order, and novel methods were invoked, but within a brief space of time the organization work was complete; and what had been a prairie wilderness one day had become a bustling, fairly well governed municipality the next.

In his *City Beginnings in Oklahoma Territory*, John Alley tells an interesting story of our early town building. In his introduction he traces the Boomer movement and those factors that brought about the opening of the "Oklahoma Lands" to settlement. Then in the next six chapters he sketches the founding of Guthrie, Oklahoma City, Kingfisher, El Reno, Norman, and Stillwater. Turmoil and strife accompanied the election of the first municipal officials, in the surveying of sites, and in the establishment of law and order, and the writer gives a clear picture of the problems involved. Moreover, he has pointed the way for a more exhaustive study that should be done on each of the towns studied. His two concluding chapters consist largely of an explanation of the political aftermath of our first city beginnings.

A map, five early photographs of "City Beginnings," a bibliography, and an index add to the usefulness of the book. The book's format—clear illustrations and type, binding, and jacket design—measure up to the usually high standard of University of Oklahoma Press.

Mr. Alley is head of the department of government in the University of Oklahoma.

—C. C. RISTER

*The Formation of the State of Oklahoma 1803-1906*, by Dr. Roy Gittinger, '02. University of Oklahoma Press, 1939. \$2.50.

*The Formation of the State of Oklahoma* is a study of historic backgrounds, starting with the day in November 1803, in a room of the Cabildo in New Orleans, where the formal transfer of the vast Louisiana Territory from France to the government of the United States was made, and coming down to the year of 1907.

The relations of the federal government with the Indian tribes, the treaties of removal, the location of the tribes in the western country, and President Jackson's connection with the removal, are all traced here. The Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Missouri Compromise, issues which could reasonably have been avoided, are discussed with courage and intelligence.

The federal government left the Indian tribes defenseless during the Civil War and the Five Civilized Tribes were forced to make treaties with the Confederacy. Later this was used as an excuse to violate the treaty obligations of the federal government.

From a web of conflicting testimony, Dr. Gittinger's presentation is a clear and concise picture in direct language. The whole treatise covers the period discussed with a distinction and scholarship not equalled in any other work. It is the last word on the subject.

The present volume is a reprint of the author's doctoral dissertation that has been out of print for several years. It will be welcomed by all students of western history. The history is taken from primary sources, "chiefly the official reports published by the Government of the United States." The preface is slightly changed, the maps follow each other in logical sequence, and the work has a good index. The bibliography has been revised and brought up to date.

—J. L. RADER

## Writes popular text

One of Oklahoma's most successful authors is Mrs. Myrtle Banks Quinlan, '36m.ed, instructor in Southwestern State College of Diversified Occupations at Weatherford. Her fourth book, *Faces and Places*, is just off the press, and she is preparing a fifth.

Mrs. Quinlan's other books are *Winky, Day by Day*, and *To and Fro*, all best sellers among very young readers. These three, with the new one and the uncompleted book, make up a basic series of readers, offering a reading course from pre-primary through the third grade. They are published by Allyn and Bacon, Boston.

*Winky*, the first of the series, was off the press in April of this year. Within a month the first edition of 50,000 copies was sold. In a short time a second printing of 100,000 was exhausted, and now a third of 100,000 is going fast.

There are exactly seventy-six words in this book, and each word is used at least six times in its forty-five pages. Moreover, not more than three new words are introduced on a page. These are the characteristics that make Mrs. Quinlan's work valuable in primary education.

Her books are in use today in schools all across the country, in the Philippine and Hawaiian Islands, and in Canada. In Oklahoma alone over seventy-five schools have adopted them.

When she has finished the final book of this series, Mrs. Quinlan says, she will resume her teaching. She is temporarily on leave of absence from Southwestern, where she is supervisor of the teachers' training school.