

# BOOKS for Engineers

## OKLAHOMA WILDCAT

By Augusta "A.B." Weaver. An exciting historical novel about the son of a boss driller in the early-day oil fields of Ohio, who came to Oklahoma soon after the discovery of oil there and took part in the rapid development of the industry. Published by the Macaulay Company. \$1.00

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# Oklahoma Books and Writers

IN view of the importance of the oil industry to Oklahoma, the University of Oklahoma Press has announced a continuing series of publications dealing with petroleum. A good deal of work has already been done by the Press in this field, including such publications as Leonard M. Logan's *Stabilization of the Petroleum Industry*, H. C. George's *Oil Well Completion and Operation*, Edward C. Petty's *Developments in the Petroleum Refining Industry as Related to the Overproduction of Crude Oil*, and Wilbur F. Cloud's 613-page technical study, *Petroleum Production*.

At least two books dealing with the industry will be published by the Press within the coming twelve months, and it is planned that succeeding studies of importance to those concerned in the industry will be issued regularly each year. Members of the faculty of the University of Oklahoma have contributed all of the books so far issued in the series, and other members are now at work on studies to be published in it. Works written by others than faculty members are also included in the program.

*The Chouteaus and the Founding of Salina*, by Vinson Lackey. Claude F. Neerman Company, Tulsa, 1939. Fifty cents.

Oklahoma has many interesting "firsts" and not the least of these is the first white settlement in what is now Oklahoma. Vinson Lackey, '20fa, '22, Tulsa newspaperman and more recently publicity man for the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, has written this story for a small volume entitled *The Chouteaus and the Founding of Salina*.

Major Jean Pierre Chouteau, famous fur trader, soldier and diplomat chose the site of Salina in 1796 for the first permanent white settlement within the boundaries of Oklahoma.

Mr. Lackey tells his story informally and interestingly, but the text shows evidence of careful and extensive research.

John B. Meserve, a director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, comments in the introduction that Mr. Lackey "shows no undue enthusiasm, but evinces proper respect, for statements which have no documentary substantiation, such as the more persistent of the stories handed down from generation to generation in the Chouteau family. Utilizing only such interview material as gives life and color to his story, he keeps always within the bounds not only of plausibility but of probability."

Pencil sketches based on historical information add interest to the text.

The absence of page numbers, and lack of a publication date are mechanical details perhaps subject to criticism, but the

book is a worthy contribution to the recorded history of the Southwest and the general format is quite pleasing.

*Imperfect Sympathies—The Anguish of an Anglophile*, by Ernest C. Ross. Cooperative Books, Norman, 1940. Fifty cents

One of the diverting points about Winifred Johnston's series of pamphlets appearing under the Cooperative Books imprint is that one never knows what to expect next. The editor of this series so far has displayed a wide range of interests.

No. 7 of Series 1 is a timely discussion of the difficulties experienced by Americans and Englishmen trying to understand and appreciate each other. As the editor points out in the introductory notes, the present crisis in world affairs gives the evaluation of each "cousin" by the other a touch of bitter need.

The author, Ernest C. Ross is professor of English at the University and is a Virginian by birth and education. He spent the winters of 1931-32 and 1937-38 in England investigating his particular literary passion, the life of Mary Lamb.

*Imperfect Sympathies* is a good-humored but penetrating account of his experiences in England, and his conclusions about the inherent obstacles to a meeting of the minds between Englishmen and Americans.

### National listing

*Memo on the Movies: War Propaganda 1914-1939*, by Winifred Johnston, '24, was one of six pamphlets on the international situation chosen for February listing by the national Pamphlet of the Month Club.

This book, published in Norman as No. 5 of Cooperative Books, was described as "A thorough historical survey, telling how the movies helped get us into the last war and may get us into the new one."

### Honors for press

A University of Oklahoma Press book, *The Southern Poor-White*, by Shields McIlwaine, has been selected as one of the half dozen outstanding books on the south issued during the last year. The announcement of the selection was made by the Southern Women's Organization in New York, which annually makes the awards with assistance from a jury of literary critics.

*Propaganda for War*, another University Press book, by H. C. Peterson of the University history faculty, was previously chosen by a jury of critics acting for *Current History* magazine as one of the ten most significant non-fiction books of 1939. *Propaganda for War* was reviewed in a CBS national radio program sponsored by *Current History* on February 17.