

Oklahoma Books and Writers

WRITERS who want to make a living at writing generally turn to magazine fiction, because that is the largest and best paying market.

Writing Magazine Fiction, by W. S. Campbell of the University English faculty (Doubleday, Doran, \$2.50), is a frankly practical book designed to help amateurs and professionals who want to work seriously on magazine fiction and make it show a profit.

The four main sections of *Writing Magazine Fiction* are devoted to: the elements of the short story, and how to handle them; the different types of magazine fiction, from the short story to the complete novel, and the widely different techniques required by each; how to find markets for stories, how to sell them, how to deal with editors, agents, and the public; and models for study and guidance.

Definite assignments and problems are set at the end of each chapter, and correct solutions are offered as yardsticks of progress. The student is never at a loss as to what to do next.

Based on Mr. Campbell's experience in teaching his highly successful classes in creative writing at the University of Oklahoma, the new book presents a proved method of developing the technical skills that bring the largest checks in the field of writing.

War Novel

A thrilling story of the operation of an American aircraft carrier in a fictional war is told by Leland Jamieson, '23, in *Attack* (William Morrow & Co., \$1.50).

Mr. Jamieson is a pilot with American Airlines, and author of numerous short stories published in the *Saturday Evening Post*.

The story is about a Navy flier with an Atlantic Squadron, on neutrality patrol, which encounters an enemy force on its way to invade this hemisphere. Most of the action deals with an aerial battle over the ocean.

It's a breath-taking story of adventure, vividly presented against the interesting and little-known background of routine on a naval aircraft carrier.

High Frontiers, a long romantic novel by Mr. Jamieson, is to be published soon by the Morrow company. The early days of aviation form the background of this book.

Russia

Stuart Ramsey Tompkins, associate professor of history in the University, is author of *Russia Through the Ages: From the Scythians to the Soviets* (Prentice-Hall, school and trade editions, \$4.50 and \$6.00).

It is probably the only comprehensive book on Russia written by an American, according to Kenneth C. Kaufman, professor of modern languages in the University and editor of the *Daily Oklahoman* book page.

"Dr. Tompkins writes as an American, or at least as a man from the new world, and he sees Russia, like the United States and Canada, as being essentially a frontier country," Mr. Kaufman comments. "But Russia did not solve its frontier problems, as did the Americans, by individual effort and personal initiative. It solved them by an autocratic, enforced coalescence. In Russia every man's position and function are, and always have been determined by the state, from the top down; and from this point of view the czars explain Stalin."

Mr. Tompkins served in the World War, and after the war was sent to Vladivostok. He learned to speak Russian (having already taught himself to read it), and he visited Harbin and Tientsin and spent six months in Siberia.

This started an interest in Russia which resulted in years of reading and research, and finally the 800-page volume that has just been published.

Co-operative Books

Number Ten and Eleven in the first series of pamphlets published by Co-operative Books, Norman, are *Christ-Without-Armor: Uncensored Essays on the Democratic Way*, by E. N. Comfort, dean of the Oklahoma School of Religion; and *These Adolescents: Their Right to Grow Up*, by Doctor Allen M. Ruggles, head of the division of educational psychology in the University.

Mr. Comfort's book is largely a compilation of informal essays written for his personal column, *So This Is Life*, that has been published in the *Oklahoma Daily* for several years. *Christ-Without-Armor* is described by the author as "propaganda for democracy." It is lively reading matter, and if Mr. Comfort is at times impatient with some of democracy's weaknesses, it is because he has a vision of a better kind of democracy and is willing to work hard to help get it.

These Adolescents is based on case studies of adolescent problems, and is a valuable discussion of how parents should provide every opportunity for the normal maturing of their sons and daughters. Dr. Ruggles points out that democracy must be lived and demonstrated in the home, as well as taught in schools, to become really effective; and that domineering parents are practicing autocracy and dictatorship.

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE DUE TO COPYRIGHT
RESTRICTIONS.

A paper copy of this
issue is available at
call number LH 1 .06S6 in
Bizzell Memorial Library.

Sooner Writers

Harold Keith, '29, '39ma, director of sports publicity at the University, has written a book on sports for boys to be published by the Thomas Y. Crowell Company next spring. Mr. Keith is author of short stories published in *American Boy*, and a book *Boy's Life Of Will Rogers*, published by the Crowell company.

W. S. Campbell, director of creative writing courses at the University who is a biographer and story writer under the name Stanley Vestal, is author of a new book, *The First Fur Trader*, to be published this autumn by Houghton-Mifflin.

Mary McDougal Axelson, former University student who has become a well known playwright and has been living in Hollywood, California, went to New York in late summer to attend rehearsals of her new play called *Wings*. She also has invaded the song writing field and turned out a novelty lyric for which Pinky Tomlin, '34, band leader and composer, is supplying the tune.

Recent magazine appearances: an article on Dr. W. B. Bizzell's Bible collection by Grace E. Ray, '20, '23ma, assistant professor of journalism, in *Hobbies*; a poem, "No Certain Abode," by Jewel Wurtzbaugh, professor of English, in *Kaleidograph*; articles on various phases of educational interpretation by Stewart Harral, '36ma, director of press relations for the University, in *The Library Journal*, *The Nation's Schools*, and *The American Press*; and an article on "Your Feet and Your Children's," by Ellen D. Kelly, instructor in women's physical education, in *Hygeia*.

William H. Witt, '32, now with the information division of the Soil Conservation Service in the regional office at Fort Worth, Texas, has written a number of conservation articles for the magazines *Soil Conservation*, *Farm and Ranch*, and the *Progressive Farmer and Southern Ruralist*.

Isabel Campbell, '19, formerly of Norman and now of Santa Fe, New Mexico, had a short story recently in *Mademoiselle*.

Helene Carpenter, recently a student in W. S. Campbell's creative writing courses at the University, has had another short story published by *This Week*, making five story sales since she took the courses. One was to *Cosmopolitan*.

Mrs. Hugh Roff (Louise Wewerka, '24), of Wewoka, is co-author with Dr. Floyd A. Wright of the University law faculty, of an article published in the July *Good Housekeeping*. The article, entitled *The Ring—and the Law*, describes the etiquette of the engagement ring. Mrs. Roff and Mr. Wright have been working on a book-length manuscript on laws that particularly affect women.

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE DUE TO COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS.

A paper copy of this issue is available at call number LH 1 .06S6 in Bizzell Memorial Library.