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Oklahoma Books

THE WORLD AS SPECTACLE, AN AESTHETIC INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY by Gustav Mueller. The Philosophical Library, New York, 1944. \$3.00. This book introduces the layman to the aesthetic way of living, or rather, shows him quite plainly that he has long been familiar with and dependent on aesthetics. Although its charm of presentation makes it good reading for the beginner, it should not be ignored by the student who can learn much from the developing theory of beauty as a way of thinking.

A work of art itself, the form of the book is such that the content of both the first and last parts converges in the middle chapter, "Beauty." The formal principles delineated in *World as Spectacle* are given the reader only after he has become acquainted with that world in the "Prelude." Believing that "a philosophical book is a human being addressing you," the author dramatizes aesthetic living in what seems to be an autobiographical sketch, but which is an introduction of the themes to be used in the discussion. This artistic medium is a brilliant touch which puts the reader into the proper spirit of reception.

Throughout, Dr. Mueller makes the aesthetic problem a personal one and asks his reader to think for himself. He says, "Aesthetics is the philosophy of our aesthetic existence, it is beauty in the logical form of thought." The philosopher does, however, act as a guide, generously giving needed information and pointing out details that might be missed on the way. After describing aesthetic nature, he reminds us that "the language of nature is a dialectical unity of opposites," because we shall find this helpful when we search for aesthetic reality.

Examining the world of appearance must lead to the conclusion that nature is not enough, that aesthetics is broader and includes the work of art. Even this realization of a non-rational reality is not enough unless it is thought rationally, unless it becomes philosophy. The dialectical unity of opposites then appears in art as the symbol, "the artistic fusion of body and soul," but art becomes, with nature, a philosophical problem.

The unification of nature and art is a synthesis: beauty. According to Dr. Mueller, "Beauty is the living universe as one spectacle; actualized in the vision and incarnate in the opus of the genius; thought in the dialectic of aesthetics. Beauty is the aesthetic trinity."

By a careful scrutiny of the theories supporting the major arts, the reader learns to recognize their unity as imitation of beauty and their differences in the different intuitive materials used. By a careful scrutiny of experience, he learns to see the non-practical and sharable aspects of the art of living. Now he is ready to celebrate with the author and all who appreciate beauty, which he does in the artistic "Finale."

World as Spectacle can be read on as many levels as there are degrees of aesthetic appreciation. The material is presented in such a way that any failure is a failure on the part of the reader. Beauty cannot be forced upon a man; he must reach for it. *World as Spectacle* only makes it accessible.

—BILLIE LEE ANDERSON

WHAT TO DO ABOUT VITAMINS by Roger J. Williams. University of Oklahoma Press, 1945. \$1.00. Through the radio and press, the public has been made extremely vitamin conscious, or, as Professor Williams states it, "you are not unique . . . if you think with some justification that perhaps a 'racket' has developed overnight."

That Professor Williams realized the need for an authentic book on the subject is expressed in these words: "If this little volume helps to draw the attention of the general public to this problem, it will have served an important purpose."

The book contains very practical information

about planning a well-balanced diet, and any person interested in good nutrition will find it easy, interesting, and profitable reading. There are points which might be criticized, but they do not appreciably detract from the book for its intended audience.—L. E. DIAMOND.

► Carl Mann, '32-'35, former Oklahoma newspaperman and radio continuity writer, is the author of *Air Heraldry*, recently published by Robert M. McBride and Company in New York City.

Mr. Mann, at present a writer on the staff of the Office of War Information assigned to the War and Navy Departments in Washington, D.C., is also the author of *He's in the Engineers Now*, *He's in the Signal Corps Now*, and *Lightning in the Sky*, all published since 1943. The last-named book, a biography of Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle, was recommended by the Book of the Month Club in November, 1943, and selected as an outstanding biography by the Cardinal Hayes Literary Committee.

Upon leaving the University in 1935, Mr. Mann worked as a reporter for the *Lawton Constitution*, was on the promotion staff of the Texas Centennial Exposition and wrote continuity for radio station WKY in Oklahoma City. In 1940 he joined the public relations bureau of the War Department in Washington, and later transferred to O.W.I.

► A University of Oklahoma Press book, *Western Words*, written by Ramon F. Adams and designed by Will Ransom, art editor, has been chosen by the American Institute of Graphic Arts as one of the 50 best examples of book design and manufacture issued in the United States during the last year. The selection of the 50 best is made annually by a jury of technicians and experts in the graphic arts. Mr. Ransom is one of the best known of American book designers. Before joining the University Press staff in 1941, he was associated with J. J. Little and Ives, book manufacturers in New York.

► Four of the ten best western books of 1944, as selected by Don Russell of *The Westerners Brand Book*, were published by the University Press. The books are *Border Command: General Phil Sheridan in the West* by Dr. Carl Coke Rister, O. U. professor of history; *Western Words: A Dictionary of the Range, Cow Camp and Trail* by Ramon F. Adams; *Diary and Letters of Josiah Gregg's Excursions in Mexico and California: 1847-50*, edited by Maurice Garland Fulton, and *The Western Journals of Washington Irving*, edited by John Francis McDermott.

MARSH-BAILEY: Miss Wyn Vaden Marsh, '45ba, Oklahoma City, and Lt. George A. Bailey, East Norwalk, Connecticut, were married June 8 at Pensacola, Florida. Mrs. Bailey also attended Randolph-Macon College, Lynchburg, Virginia, where she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Lieutenant Bailey attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison and was graduated from Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. He was formerly stationed at the Norman Naval Air Station as a flight instructor.

BENNING-SNYDER: Miss Floralynn Benning, '44-'45, Norman, and Ensign William A. Snyder, '45eng, Ridge Farm, Illinois, were married June 23 at Norman. Ensign Snyder, who also attended the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, was an N.R.O.T.C. trainee at O.U. and received his commission June 23.

WOLF-ROOSTH: Miss Rebecca Wolf, '45he, Davis, and Sgt. Sol Roosth, Tyler, Texas, were married April 18 in Dallas, Texas. The couple are making their home in Wichita Falls, Texas, where Sergeant Roosth is stationed at Sheppard Field with an Air Forces Communications unit.