

O.U.'s Secret Pride

continued

Vlach says, "Mexican writers appreciate every sincere gesture from the United States."

Dr. Vlach is an ambitious man with great plans for the expansion of *Books Abroad's* influence throughout the world and here at home as well. His campaign to bring this world-renowned publication into local prominence has become a one-man crusade.

"I have come to the conclusion that if *Books Abroad* is an item of pride of this university, as stated in my contract, it is an absolutely secret pride," Dr. Vlach says. "As the new editor, I asked if I was bound to this secrecy too, and to my astonishment got the answer that I was not—so I intend to make the great revelation of a 35-year-old secret."

And if Dr. Vlach succeeds in his efforts to increase literary awareness at home, he should also be able to present to his readers a wider range of international literary news.

"I intend to place the same emphasis on Slavic languages that is presently given by *Books Abroad* to Spanish, Italian, French and German," he explains. "There are many Slavic writers presently in exile who must be given attention. Dr. Bernard Fleischmann, my predecessor, took the first great steps in pointing the way for such writers by contacting scholars interested in Slavic literature. I have only to develop this. It's the business of *Books Abroad* to promote international friendship through literature, so why limit its appeal? There are so many written languages it's actually necessary to have a reviewer in every country.

"More Americans are interested now in foreign peoples and more foreign countries want to make themselves known to America. It's the perfect time to disseminate information around the globe."

Next in the Sooner

In the coming issue, the *Sooner Magazine* will bring you an article written especially for alumni magazines by the world's best-known historian, Dr. Arnold Toynbee, on the question of America's neglect of its creative minority. The issue will also feature another in the "Anatomy of Excellence" series, spotlighting the O.U. Research Institute. The story of the University's on-the-job training program for prospective teachers will round out the main articles, with the regular features—Conversation Piece, Cobean, and Roll Call.

Books from Sooner Authors

THE OSAGES: Children of the Middle Waters

By John Joseph Mathews (University of Oklahoma Press)

Don't expect to read *The Osages* in a single evening. This massive 826-page volume is the result of 30 years of painstaking research and few of the historic details have been omitted. Author Mathews, '20ba, himself an Osage, has recorded the oral history of his people from the days before the white man's invasion to the present. Much of his success in gathering the needed information can be traced to his own Indian heritage and to the eagerness of the Osage people to preserve their history. In addition to endless conversations with the old men of the tribe, the 65-year-old Mathews spent many research hours in the Phillips Collection at O.U.'s Bizzell Memorial Library pouring over everything that had already been written on his subject. Mathews' style is informal, his devotion to his task evident in every word and his book an epic contribution to the heritage of his people. —CJR

TWILIGHT OF HONOR

By Al Dewlen (McGraw-Hill)

This fast-paced novel of courtroom drama and the morals of the newly-rich in the Texas Panhandle was given a regal sendoff for its public debut in December. The 328-page book had a McGraw-Hill fiction award of \$10,000 and the honor of being a Book-of-the-Month Club selection as references. Dewlen, who studied professional writing at O.U. during the early 1950's, has woven a tense story around the grisly motel murder of Jess Hutcherson, an epic-type figure of modern High Plains history—a highly individualistic, eccentric and wealthy oilman. The court-appointed lawyer for the accused murderer takes it upon himself to see that his client isn't railroaded to the electric chair. The lawyer searches for justice in the clouds of a community vendetta and also has a battle royal with the concepts of justice and personal morality. The solution to the conflict is truly shocking. Dewlen is completely at home in writing this story—a hold-over from his days as a court reporter. A resident of Amarillo, he knows the Panhandle people well and portrays them vividly. Based vaguely on the details of an actual crime which outraged the Texas Panhandle, the book does have some similarities to the best-seller *Anatomy of a Murder* but is by no means an imitation. —HM

PONY TRACKS

By Frederic Remington

Edited by J. Frank Dobie (University of Oklahoma Press)

This little volume, which first appeared in 1895, contains 15 sketches of life in the frontier cavalry and infantry from the days following the Civil War to the turn of the century. The profuse illustrations by author-artist Remington add to highly readable accounts of scouting parties and Indian skirmishes along the western frontier. In the accounts there is an underlying respect and admiration for the hard, wiry men who lived in Remington's West, for their humor, for their resignation to the fact that life held little more comfort than a good smoke, and that it might be snuffed out in an instant. One can almost hear the creak of the army saddle on the cow pony, feel the sleet freezing on the greatcoat and taste the coffee, "black as evil," as the camp breaks up in the morning. The moving journalistic style gives the tales the immediacy of today's newspaper, and a realistic glimpse at the "pony tracks" and more important, the men who made them. —RDC

SETH EASTMAN: Pictorial Historian of the Indian

By John Francis McDermott (University of Oklahoma Press)

Seth Eastman is a beautiful book from the first page of print to the last illustration. In telling the story of Eastman, John Francis McDermott has kept pace with the high standard set by his 1959 effort, *George Caleb Bingham: River Portraitist*. The new book follows Eastman from his early days as a cadet at the United States Military Academy, where much of his talent was developed, through his years of work and study among the Indian tribes of the North and Midwest. Besides narrating Eastman's life, the author has included more than 100 illustrations of the artist's work, making *Seth Eastman* an interesting and valuable book for all lovers of pictorial art. The illustrations of Eastman's

and the University's Press

work offer stark reality. Nothing has been made pretty or picturesque; nothing is changed to suit social whims. Eastman's Indians are people as real as the woman next door or the man at the next desk. —CPR

COLLECTING AUTOGRAPHS AND MANUSCRIPTS

By Charles Hamilton (University of Oklahoma Press)

Whether you are interested in collecting autographs and manuscripts, or just enjoy a good adventure story, you will read with interest this book by Charles Hamilton. There are chapters for the beginning collector and the practiced savant. Appended also is a list of the best books about autographs, for those who would pursue the subject further. The more than 800 facsimiles and other illustrations enhance the value and interest of the text. Included with shopping tips to manuscript and autograph buyers are tales of forgers, collection thieves, scoundrels and confidence men—and how to steer clear of them. Relevant anecdotes guide the reader into each chapter—adding to a highly readable and polished work. —RDC

THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN BONNEVILLE, U.S.A.

By Washington Irving

Edited by Edgeley W. Todd (University of Oklahoma Press)

Most people today think of Washington Irving as the author of such humorous books as *Knickerbocker's History of New York*, and the quaint stories of Rip Van Winkle and Ichabod Crane, but he was also the author of three books on the Old West. *The Adventures of Captain Bonneville, U.S.A.* is Irving's narrative of travels in the West and North-west from 1832 to 1835. This edition, edited by Dr. Edgeley W. Todd, professor of English at Colorado State University, is the first annotated edition to appear. Encounters with the Indians, colorful descriptions of the scenery, and boundless minutiae encountered on the journey are faithfully recorded in the sometimes rambling and cumbersome narrative. Dr. Edgeley's annotations add clarity and factualism and help the reader locate himself in the modern geography of the Old West. Maps of the area are quite helpful and abundant photographs sharpen reader interest. Irving tends to romanticize, and read from a 20th century view, the style and descriptive passages do not ring true. However, as a chronicle of the early 19th century west, this Irving contribution is a must for the devotee's bookshelf. —RDC

THE ODES OF HORACE

By Helen Rowe Henze (University of Oklahoma Press)

The possibility of a Kansas City secretary producing a worthwhile translation of the odes of Horace seems highly unlikely, but that is just what Mrs. Henze has done. A variety of translations have been made previously, but until now no complete English work has been done which retained the classical verse forms that Horace used. Mrs. Henze has done an admirable, albeit monumental job in her work. The odes are highly enjoyable, and for the new reader of Horace, the work is appended with an explanation of the verse forms and with a glossary and pronunciation guide. —CPR

ENCHANTMENT

By Dorothy Quick (University of Oklahoma Press)

This "little girl" insight into the latter years of Mark Twain gives the reader a cheerier picture of the aging author than do most biographies and commentaries. Dorothy Quick first met Samuel Langhorne Clemens aboard ship in 1907. He was 72 and she was 11. The two began a warm friendship which was to last until his death some years later. The image of Twain in old age is not so different, we find through little Miss Quick, from the image of the Mississippi steamboat pilot and the young-man author of the *Huckleberry Finn* and *Tom Sawyer* classics. Through countless visits to his home, Dorothy observes at first hand his keen sense of humor, his inbred kindness, his gentleness, and his deep and abiding love of life. Here we catch glimpses of Twain through a child's adoring eyes that give us a fresh view of the man's character. *Enchantment* is worth the reading for Twain fans everywhere. The "little girl" approach might be a bit overdone for some, but others will find it charming. —RDC

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