

UNDERWORLD COURIER

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Index

Book Notes (of an anecdotal nature) p. 1
 Book Notes (of a practical nature) p. 1, 2, 3
 Book Notes (of an unusual nature) p. 1,4
 Feature article p. 5-12
 Léger, Alexis, p. 4
 Personnel, p. 13
 Recorded Music, p. 12

Book notes (anecdotal). We were amused by a recent gift to the Library of Congress. Mrs. William M. Carpenter has given scarce ms. source material - Kiplingiana - including 6 dinner plates with verses painted on the china by the author.

Scribner's made a pleasant gesture when they bought at an auction sale in London the manuscript of a poem by Arthur Hugh Clough, "Say not the struggle nought availeth" which Churchill quoted in his international broadcast of April 27th, following the passage of the Lend-Lease Bill, and presented the manuscript to Mr. Churchill. Mr. Carter of Scribner's was received in person by Mr. Churchill in a cabinet room at No. 10 Downing Street on July 8th when the presentation was made.

The Viking Press received the manuscript of a new novel by Jane Nicholson, "Shelter", by clipper from London, and were interested to discover that an enterprising censor had found time to read it and delete certain passages en route.

Book Notes (practical) The following books have been received at D.O. for Mr. and Mrs. Bliss : Rockefeller, John, Jr. To Men of Vision and High Purpose. Remarks at the 75th anniversary of Fisk University. Accompanied by a letter from the president of the University. (A Pamphlet) Denny, Geo. V. Jr. The New Wilderness. Address at Lafayette College, 6/VI/41. With card of presentation. (A pamphlet) (Mr. Denny - though of course this is well known to you - is the president of Town Hall) Henry de Tonty fur trader. Johns Hopkins Press, 1941. Compliments of Institut Francais. Shall any of these be sent to California

Dr. Robert Smith, ass't director of the Hispanic Foundation Libr. of Cong. has sent a list of the books which would be very welcome there. You will find a descriptive list on next page following. The Hispanic Foundation has an ambitious goal in view. And any books sent to them (books to fill lacunae in their holdings) will surely rest in an appropriate place. Dr. Smith has been told that the list is being submitted to you.

Book Notes (unusual) Through a letter addressed to the librarian of Dumbarton Oaks, Dear Sir, written by Clara Louise Young, we were told of a book written by Mary Blount White when she lived at D.O., entitled "The letters from Harry and Helen". We telephoned Mrs. Young and found ourselves involved in an occult scéance over the wire. All was mysterious and soft, vague and immaterial. Eventually we did unearth some near facts: that Mrs. White lived in Peace Valley, or Spring Valley - was it Maryland, or Virginia, dear me, which is it? Do not write for all the household have trouble with their eyes ...telephone ...With these vague directions we set forth and tracked down the authoress at Falls Church and learned more immaterial facts: that the book consists of letters from brother and sister (little Blounts) written automatically. Very inti-

BOOKS IN WHICH MR. SMITH (HISPANIC FOUNDATION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS) IS INTERESTED.

September 12, 1941

CANÉ, Miguel

Juvenilia

Agua fuertes and Grabados de Alfredo Guida.

Buenos Aires, Viau & Zona, 1930

Linen, original paper covers bound in. No. 132 of 163 copies on "papel velin", signed by Publishers. Press of Woelflin & Cie. Title page printed in 2 colors. Initial letter of each chapter in color. Size 10 7/8" x 8 11/16". 264 x 220 mm.

GUIRALDES, Ricardo

El Sendero

Maestricht, Stols, 1932

Parchment wrappers, in portfolio in slip case. One of a limited number of copies, not for sale, marked F. C.

Red and blue printing. Presentation inscription, Adeline de Guiraldes.

OBLIGADO, Rafael

Santos Vega

Buenos Aires, Viau & Zona, 1932

Paper covers in board portfolio. No. 75 of limited number of copies, signed by publishers and artist. Presentation inscription, Mrs. Bliss from (?).

Title page printed in red and black. Red initial letters. Original lithographs, Alfredo Guido. Size 10 11/16" x 8 11/16". 270 x 320 mm.

PELEIE

Album "Gente Conocida"

Primera Serie

Buenos Aires, n.d.

Loose plates in board portfolio in box. Reproductions charcoal portraits, etc.

Loose typewritten letter, presentation to Mr. Bliss.

Size 10 7/8" x 9". 275 x 252 mm.

Books in which Mr. Smith (Hispanic Foundation, Library of Congress) is interested.

REYES, Alfonso

La Sasta

Rio de Janeiro, Villas Boas, 1931

Paper covers. Illustrations in color by Jose Morena Villa.

Edition of 300 copies. Presentation inscription, author

Size 9 15/16" x 8". 253 x 202 mm.

VIDAL, E. E.

Quince Acuarelas ineditas. With account of his life by Alejo B. Gonzales Garaño

Buenos Aires, Francisco A. Colombo, 1931

52 pp. text on Jap. vellum, plus colophon leaf with verso blank, plus frontis. portrait and 1 facsimile. Red initials. Leaf measures 22" x 17 1/2". 569 x 457 mm.

15 plates, colored by J. Saudé, matted, with glomé frames. Loose. Sizes varying according to sizes of original paintings: approximately W. 18" H. 4 1/8". 452 x 110 mm. W. 8 3/4" H. 12 3/4". 224 x 325 mm. W. 14 7/8" H. 9 1/2". 378 x 242 mm.

Text and plates in Cloth portfolio.

No. 57 of 159 copies, signed by Garaño. Presentation inscription, Garaño.

All in fine condition.

Book notes (unusual) continued.

mate, as only something written automatically could be. Published by her mother without the authoress' consent. By Mitchell Kennerly, in 1907. All remaining copies bought up in the course of time by the authoress. Now two are left. It is possible that she would sell one, but only if the prospective purchaser would find the way to her home, - 21 acres, the prettiest garden in the county, big trees, flowers, vines that came from D.O. - this home on Route 2, Alexandria. This home on Peace Valley Lane. Would come and read the book and feel its quality, would understand and wish to own.

Léger. Alexis

Washington Daily Merry-Go-Round

(Trade Mark Registered)

By DREW PEARSON and ROBERT S. ALLEN

(Editor's Note—The Brass Ring, good for one free ride on The Washington Merry-Go-Round, this week goes to Alexis Léger, former undersecretary of state of France, who has kept his head and his objectives today more than almost any other Frenchman.)

This is the story of a Frenchman who, during the decade before the war broke, did his best to head off impending disaster.

It is also the story of how the U. S. State Department balanced this Frenchman's advice against the advice of an American diplomat in gambling for the great stake of the Weygand army in North Africa.

This French African army for one year has been the pawn of desperate diplomatic jockeying. The British wanted it to join them against the Italians in Libya. The Germans and Italians wanted it to join them against the British in Egypt. And the United States wanted it to guard the approaches to Dakar, possible Nazi jumping-off place to South America.

The two men whose advice counted most with the United States were Robert Murphy, counselor of the American Embassy at Vichy, and Alexis Léger, for many years the No. 2 man (permanent undersecretary) in the French foreign office.

Léger came to the United States after the fall of France with exactly \$300 in his pocket, condemned to death by Vichy.

Old Women of Vichy

Later Sumner Welles, who holds the position in our State Department corresponding to Léger's position in the French foreign office, got him a job as expert in French poetry, in the Library of Congress. Léger is

forgiven the British for co-operating with Foch and Clemenceau at that time.

Meanwhile, the State Department was getting reports from its counselor of embassy, Robert Murphy. Despite Petain's prejudices, it was hoped that Weygand might be wooed into the British-American orbit. And to that end Murphy had been transferred to Algiers for the special purpose of nursing Weygand, trying to bring his still powerful African army into the democratic camp.

Murphy vs. Léger

Murphy's reports were optimistic. He said he went to mass with the aged field marshal almost daily, they were intimate friends. But every report sent by Murphy was countered by Léger.

Weygand, he warned, was twisting Murphy around his finger. Murphy, when in Paris, had been an anti-Communist as the French Royalists. Murphy's prejudices were identical with Weygand's.

Meanwhile, Murphy recommended shiploads of food, gasoline and oil for Weygand. Also he recommended tobacco. The tobacco crop had failed in North Africa, and the Arabs must have tobacco.

Léger, in turn, recommended just the opposite. It was true, he said, that tobacco was essential to keep the Arabs in line. But if they didn't get it, they would blame it on Vichy and Weygand. And Arab unrest was the best way to weaken Nazi prospects in North Africa and strengthen the hand of the democracies. In fact, gold lying idle at Fort Knox would work wonders with Arab leaders in weaning them away from Vichy.

Naturally, a man of Léger's inside background and friendship for the United States was consulted by the State Department regarding conditions in France. And long ago he advised that Marshal Weygand and Marshal Petain were not to be trusted when it came to relations with Germany.

"They are like women growing old 'who don't know it,'" Léger warned. "They are as vain as peacocks. Their whole prestige is tied up in the defeat of Britain. They prophesied her defeat, and now they have to help her be defeated."

What he referred to was the prediction by Weygand in May 1940 that England could not hold out more than two or three weeks. It was on this recommendation that France sued for an armistice.

Also, Léger referred to the fact that Petain had been a British hater ever since the World War, when he had proposed a retreat from Verdun in March 1918, leaving the British army high and dry. Marshal Foch, however, intervened.

World War Wounds

General Joffre, describing the incident in his book, says: "Petain had gone so far as to declare to Castelnau over the telephone that they could not hold out for a week and that it was important to plan at once for the retreat."

Field Marshal Montgomery-Massingberd reported: "Petain wanted the entire French army to retire to a position covering Paris, leaving us to face the German onslaught alone, and allowing the Germans to separate the British and French armies. I have never heard a senior general told off in public as was Petain by Foch on that occasion."

Léger warned the State Department that Petain never had

It was a difficult decision for the State Department. The United States has always been a humanitarian country, so instead of permitting a little native unrest in North Africa the State Department chose the humanitarian role and played into Vichy's hands. It followed Murphy's advice, sent tobacco, food, oil, gasoline. The British objected strenuously to letting French ships leave American waters and in one case seized a French oil tanker.

Gasoline For Hitler

The State Department, after arguing for one whole month with the British, finally had its way. The gasoline and oil is now in North Africa, arrived there just in time for use by the axis.

For now there can be no doubt that the hard-headed M. Léger was right and the charming Bob Murphy wrong. Vichy is completely in the axis. The French fleet is to be used by Germany to oust the British from the Mediterranean. French naval bases in North Africa will be at the disposal of Hitler. Dakar will be a Nazi base aimed against South America.

Finally, the powerful army of General Weygand, instead of tipping the scales in favor of Britain, now is sure to be used to help Italy against the British. For an all-important thing to remember about Weygand's troops is that they are native—Algerian, Senegalese, Moroccan. White French troops would be different. But natives care not whether they fight against the British or the Germans—as long as they are clothed, paid and fed.

Perhaps if they had had no tobacco, or if a little Fort Knox gold had been used among their chieftains, the story might be different.

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Any reports that I make from Connecticut this summer will be apt to give the impression that I am having a grand time and that I seem to be doing very little work for Dumbarton Oaks. I am having a very interesting time of many sorts as you shall see but in the fall it will be found that quite a lot of territory has been covered for the Textile Files. It will appear by then just what patterns may be found in what techniques, and possibly we shall have some idea where the various techniques come from. At present, however, the process of typing separately uninteresting cards, which acquire meaning only when collected by the thousand, need not be expanded upon.

My extracurricular activities are many and varied. In the first place this being New England, I go marketing the first thing in the morning. That is pleasure and as well as business, for one meets all the neighbors, hears the news as well as getting approximately what one orders. If I were a newcomer I might do better in this latter respect, but fortunately or unfortunately, although we are still not entirely out of the "Summer people" class, I have lived here since long before I was born - so to speak. Grandfather bought a house here some fifty years ago and before that his father and Henry Ward Beecher used to come up for the week end occasionally and hold a sort of theological debate in the afternoon service. But to get back to the marketing: Grandfather was educated at Freiburg and Heidelberg because there were no engineering colleges in this country when he was young - he later helped to found Lehigh and Lafayette and lectured for some years at the School of Mines at Columbia - and it so happens that the father of the present family of butchers was born near Freiburg. When I was small Grandfather and Mr. Carl Bader Sr. had long conversations ~~occasionally~~, on the Germany that they remembered, on how to corn beef, and how to bring up the boys to be good citizens and a credit to their parents. Later ~~one of the~~ the youngest boys married one of Grandmother's maids after a courtship which entertained me greatly,

for Carlie appeared punctually at three o'clock every Sunday afternoon all summer and took Bee walking - in the cemetery - for just one hour and a half. At four thirty he returned her, and as far as I could find out neither one spoke to or of the other until (there was some debate among the other maids as to whether they spoke even on the walks.) the next Sunday at three. However that may have been they were married that fall just before we left and ever since we have been the Bader's special care. In a small town with only one butcher that is something to be thankful for although it sometimes makes a radical change in the Menu. If Carlie has a specialty we are likely to eat it willy nilly.

The green grocer of Grandfather's time has retired to a beautiful Italian villa which is the pride of his heart and the amusement of our many architects. He still comes to the fore at Church suppers making delectable macaroni dishes and he grows a little extra fennel for us in his garden because Grandmother liked it. His successor is an industrious man born in this country. Shopping there has lost some of the flavor of Mr. Belfanti's reign..

The barber shop that was, has turned into a beauty shoppe. When I first remember it it was kept more or less in absentia by Mr. Frank Woodruff, who was elder brother to Dr. Arthur D. Woodruff who conducted the University Glee Club in New York for so many years. He had the most gorgeous tenor voice but no ambition. He owned the livery stable as well and was always on hand to drive visitors around if he thought their conversation would be sufficiently interesting. He sang with the chorus which "A.D." had here every summer. As a matter of fact we gave a concert here every summer for fifty years and "A.D." used it as a proving ground for young singers. When Reinold Werrenrath came up in 1930 for the Golden Jubilee he said we might be interested to hear that the first time he had ever sung in Washington, Conn. he had sung two groups of solos, an obbligate with the chorus and fattened out the bass part all for the munificent sum of \$15.

And the plumber and tin smith is General Foulon's older brother. We were

always sorry that Will didn't run away to the Spanish war instead of Benny because he has the figure to set off a uniform. But again he had no special ambition. Whereas Benny was brought home twice, not being of age, before his father decided that he might just as well let him go. Will is a good plumber and a magnificent appearing treasurer for all charitable committees in the town.

On the way home from market we stop in at the Library for books for Mother. The Library is a memorial to my sister-in-law's grandparents Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Gunn who founded the Gunnery School here ninety years ago. The ceiling was painted by Siddons Mowbray who lived here for years, and downstairs there is a small museum. It has a number of exhibits of town antiquities and also a collection of rare Indian baskets and a headdress that the Smithsonian wanted. In fact the Indians waited until they were perfectly sure the Smithsonian wanted it, and then gave it to Senator Platt: thinking that was the best way to be sure they were giving him a present that a white man would value.

Now we dash home to type cards for the Textile Census.

This summer my brother has been working in Hartford with Col. Samuel Fisher on the state Civilian Defense Commission. He now has a wide acquaintance among First Selectmen East of the Connecticut River. He also knows the whereabouts of most of their gravel pits, for when he started rounding them up they were busy oiling the roads. Time was precious and they could talk about defense just as well while trucks were being loaded or hay being pitched. We are independent in New England.

At dinner when he recounted the happenings of the day we listened with amusement and secret pleasure, for it is good for a Professor of the Classics to get acquainted with the practical workings of his state. I was especially pleased because he said the more he saw of Democracy the more he liked it.

Then he was faced with the problem which I am having at D.O. He had gathered his information - now what should he do with it. It wasn't any of my business but it is such fun to have a finger in the pie that I offered to help. And my bluff was called at once, for Alfred had apparently been lying awake nights trying to devise some method of filing which would be explainable to a volunteer stenographer. There is everything from Hartland Township which covers 22,300 acres and boasts a population of 310 people, to Hartford with 11,520 acres and a population of 166,329. There are 169 townships and each has a local defense council. And I believe firmly at least 150 of these councils know they are the most important. The other 19 think it is silly but setting up a council saves them from further visits from Hartford. And the sub-committees they set up are a nine days wonder. West Haven even gave the address and telephone number of an Emergency Mortician.

Probably I shall never see this file again after I have finished it. I am quite sure I shall never see another like it. Its first appearance is perfection, for Connecticut has only eight counties; four on the north, four on the south. So by using two colors of guides with tabs in four columns any town may be located at a glance, east to west, and north or south, in its own eighth of the state. Then comes a uniform

card carrying an outline map of the state with the township colored blue. This also gives area in acres and population as of 1940. After that come the councils and all uniformity stops. Later - in August perhaps - will come some performance cards showing how they have done what Hartford wants done.

The general plan now is to prepare a reasonable plan of procedure in case anyone took it into his head to bomb us. If there were no plan people from New York might dash up the parkway which would land them at Bridgeport or New Haven, two places where we want them least. Under the plan police will meet New Yorkers at the state line taking them up the west of the state where each township is already tabulating its emergency housing facilities. When the tabulation is finished each town will be given a quota and a plan will be worked out to deliver to that town extra food supplies as they are needed.

Air Warden schools have been conducted at Yale and in Hartford and apparently the Red Cross has been swamped with calls for First Aid courses. Fifty of us have just been taking a course here which will enable us to help in teaching First Aid.

But the prize remark was made the other day when Governor Hurley went up to see Governor Saltenstall and ask him what he was doing. Governor Saltenstall said, "What you want to do is get lots of companies of women, and put them into a becoming uniform, and drill them and drill them and drill them and drill them. Then they'll go home dead tired and not bother you any more."

Two hundred years ago thirteen men and ten women petitioned the General Assembly asking for a separate ecclesiastical society and stating as a reason that they lived "full eight miles from the Meeting House and their wives and children had to tarry at home from the worship of God about half of the year". The petition was granted and the first meeting of the Ecclesiastical Society of Judea was held at the house of Mr. John Baker in December 1741. This was the beginning of our Church. The parish has kept the name Judea although the town name was changed to Washington after the Revolution.

My Mother and sister-in-law have been going through the records in order to prepare a pageant for the celebration we are to have the 23rd and 24th of August. Though Mother and I are still only one step removed from "summer people", my brother's wife Charlotte Brinsmade "belongs" for in September 1748 her great great grandfather received the following resolution. "Voted by a clear vote to hire ye worthy Mr. Daniel Brinsmade to preach ye gospel among us till ye first Tuesday in December next." This was quickly followed by another resolution: "Voted to give ye worthy Mr. Daniel Brinsmade a call to ye work of ye gospel ministry in Judea." He stayed as pastor for forty-four years and after retiring continued to live here as his family has done ever since. Church life in those days was really exciting, for the Ecclesiastical Society controlled all the secular work of the township, as well as the moral behavior of the citizens. Apparently, this being New England, everyone had his say. At a church meeting on May 17, 1751, it was voted "that if any member of ye church of Christ in Judea shall tolerate frolics in his own house, or shall assist to carry on a frolic in any place; ye same persons shall be deemed offenders by this church and shall be subject to be dealt with by this church as offenders in a gospel way." These were not empty words for one sister was cited soon after for "being in a scandalous degree disguised with strong drink". She sat out her citation and defied the elders to prove it. They could not do so, and she was exonerated.

During the war, Mr. Brinsmade himself was the subject of some dissatisfaction

which was later ironed out. The congregation in general conference appointed a committee to lay before him a paper of grievances which "the society in general think are great obstacles in the way of his being of much service to them and unless he can make them appear groundless, they think they have just reason for their dissatisfaction." Among other things were the following: 1. They think he does not visit the people of his charge as a minister ought to do. 4. They think it does not appear that he bears his equal proportion towards defraying the charges of the present war. 6. Many think he requires a greater price for articles that he sells than is the common price in the society. And finally 7. His preaching so much on political subjects which seems to indicate a great degree of worldlymindedness. Apparently he answered the charges to their satisfaction for they voted to redeem their pladge to their pastor "because by carrying on a controversy with our minister we shall spend more time and money than would pay his salary" and "because if we go on in this way no other minister can safely trust us or in prudence settle among us, and if we disqualify ourselves to settle a minister, we shall escape to be an orderly society, and avail a character that shall effect our ruin."

Since then they have treated their ministers rather well. Payment in kind has been given up by degrees starting in 1770 when it was voted that "eight pounds be granted for to engage him to get his own firewood."

L.B.

Personnel . The clans are gathering. B.S. is back in Washington (or rather in Bethesda) and will move back into her former apartment on P. Street next week. Her sister and family are moving to Princeton. Towards the end of the month, our librarian will be back at work in her new office (formerly Mr. Bliss' den) with her new secretary (Miss Persis Mason - what a pretty name! - formerly secretary for Mr. Forbes) , we presume. Everyone else of the library staff is back; Miss Dow arrives on the 15th; the new fellows the first part of October, and Miss Woodruff before long to service the Index. Mr. Yhacher is living in his new home, the Live (or, as some call it, the Wild) Oak. He is very bubblingly happy. Little Woodsie will also be back on the 15th, we understand.

Zahn has taken unto himself a wife. And perhaps before long he will be among those older soldiers (he is 35) who are to be released from the army. The wedding announcement appears below. (We regret that the blank leaf was torn off - in a moment of economy - for scratch paper)

Recorded Music. A notice of some lovely albums

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel M. Buck

announce the marriage of their daughter

B. Agnes

to

Mr. Otto Zahn

on

Saturday, the twenty-third of August

One thousand nine hundred and forty-one

Washington, D. C.

Classical Records

Koussevitsky, Iturbi, Beecham Offer Albums of Mozart Music

By Jay Walz

More and still better Mozart.

Recording Mozart has become so commonplace that the company wanting to impress you and me at all in this field must work on an all-out basis. Star artists, topnotch orchestras and extra special de luxe albums, please, or we will just keep on playing the earlier recordings we already have—which, incidentally, weren't, and still aren't, so bad.

To make sure that this month's Mozart won't be ginger snaps and pale tea Victor worked up a double feature attraction—two symphonies in one album—with Koussevitzky and the Boston Symphony, and brings on, in another album, Jose Iturbi for the D Minor Piano Concerto; and Columbia turns the spot on that Mozart super salesman—Sir Thomas Beecham, who conducts a major symphony.

The Koussevitzky album (M-704, five large discs) contains two short and snappy symphonies, Nos. 29 and 34, that have been put on the active repertoire of the famous Boston Orchestra by popular request. Koussevitzky plays them on his out-of-town engagements, and, this summer, they have a prominent place in the Berkshire Symphonic Festival, the orchestra's summer hang-out.

Koussevitzky's way of giving Mozart melodies a lift together with the fact that he conducts what is probably the best disciplined orchestra in the world, make the performances here recorded really classic. And this album is no exception to the Victor rule of giving the Boston Symphony excellent mechanical cooperation.

It will be hard for anyone, even for those who don't like to have their orchestra soloist double a conductor—and vice versa—to show cause for not calling Iturbi's performance of the D Minor Concerto impeccable. The fact that he is

while soloing at the keyboard, also conducting the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra appears to be wholly incidental. He probably gave the boys the idea of what he wanted in rehearsal.

Anyway, this concerto has long been a favorite with pianist-conductors. It may have begun with Mozart. In modern times no less a distinguished and meticulous musician than Bruno Walter has carried on the tradition. In fact this recording, in which he is both soloist with and conductor of the Vienna Philharmonic, stands up well today despite its age—about four years. There are four large discs to both albums.

Sir Thomas Beecham's Mozart is never static. The celebrated London conductor will sacrifice the form before he will allow a Mozart piece to come off perfect, but cold. For him the melodies soar, even more than they do for Koussevitzky, and somehow he usually gets them to fit together for the sake of classic unity; but this is incidental. His newest performance for Columbia is his famous No. 39 in E flat (Album A-456, three large discs).