

BOOK REVIEWS

Personality of An Artist

Word Picture Of Leonardo—The Florentine

By DOROTHY E. WILLIAMS
Leonardo, the Florentine, By Rachel Arispaud Taylor. Harper & Brothers.

Bewildering though this book may be, it has drawn from the confused history of the renaissance Italy anecdotes, notes, sketches fragments of a great art and even them into a personality.

He creator of the Cavallo, of the Last Supper, of the Mona Lisa is no longer a dead genius. He lives and moves a shining godlike person, artist, scientist, savant

through the circles of a vibrant Italy. . . Leonardo the Florentine.

It is an exhaustive work, sparing no detail to make complete the picture of fifteenth century Italy. Mrs. Taylor has written a scholarly and fascinating background for this artist, who more often than any other is termed "divine."

She sees him a person of many selves, cruel, charming, exotic and with a pagan air, more of ancient Greece than of the Renaissance. Vinci was the birthplace of this

artist, but from boyhood on he seems to feel that it was the latter city that knew the greatest Leonardo.

Milan later knew him and he gave great things to Milan, his mighty statue of the horse, his vallo, crumbled now to nothing, his shining picture of the Last Supper, but the author is convinced that in Florence he left something of his youth, something of the light that is seen in his "Adoration." He entered Milan a midsummer god.

There is Leonardo, lover of radiant horses, of perfumes and of wines, of wines, of wines, of his curled pages in rose and green fountains. . . Leonardo the lover of light and perfection. And there is Leonardo lover of crudely drawn and bitter darkness. . . but never Leonardo, lover of women.

To this the author attributes much weight. It was his aloofness, she believes, coupled with a quickness of mind that gave him the leisure to mold the manners of two cities and live, the idol of courtiers and poets.

There are those who saw him, the lover of Madonna Lisa. There are many who have wondered at

the rare something that he has caught for a moment in her expression, but Mrs. Taylor terms him an artist painting with a secret, an artist "reading a dream" . . . "amusing" his godlike self.

One could not praise this book too highly. It is written by a woman who has tirelessly pieced together a great personality—a personality whom time has dimmed even as it dimmed his Last Supper. It is a scholarly reproduction she has given us.

Perhaps in her zest for a background, finely drawn and true in every detail, she sometimes overshadows her artist, but she never forgets him, not even in her tales of life at the court of Lodovico, in her pictures of the duke, the humane aesthete. Always she comes back to her artist. "Lodovico gone, Leonardo might still be something of a god at hire. . . Doubtfully Leonardo would not have been so great a figure without him."

She calls him Leonardo the Florentine. She draws him a Narcissist, "in the clear city of violets and nightingales and bright art that seems as if some god dreamed it every night, the one Italy whose art and life witnessed the thrilling, sincere" of its imitation Hellas.

STATE EDITORS NAME OFFICERS

Harbor Springs; Man To Head Michigan Press Association For Next Year

East Lansing, Elmer A. Hanson, publisher of the Harbor Springs Graphic, is the new president of the Michigan Press association, organization of the state's weekly or "home town" newspapers.

Election of officers closed the fifty-eighth annual conference of the Association, held at Michigan State College Jan. 24-26. More than 150 members of the press group and their families gathered from all sections of the state for the meeting.

Hanson succeeds W. H. Berkeley of the Cassopolis Vigilant, the retiring president. Other officers elected were: A. Van Koostrine, Zeeland Record, vice-president; A. Van der Vliet, Bangor News, secretary-treasurer, for the fifth term.

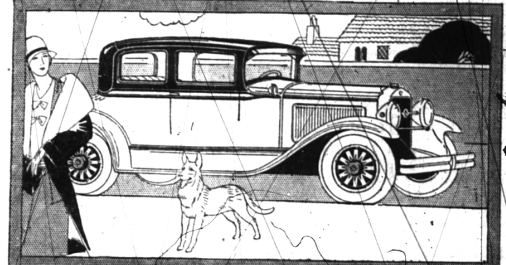
Problems of building better newspapers were attacked from all angles during the three day conference. National authorities on various publishing and advertising subjects took their place on the program, along with leaders from the Michigan editorial field.

The annual Michigan Press association banquet, with the State College serving as host, was a feature of the meeting, more than 100 members of the current state legislature attending as guests of the M.P.A. Gov. Fred W. Green, Jimmy Schermerhorn, of Detroit, Rep. Verne Brody, publisher of the Ingham County News, and Sen. Chester Howell, publisher of the Chesaning Argus, were speakers.

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WHAT THEY READ—HERE and THERE

The following is a list of the six best sellers in fiction and general literature as announced by Brentano's New York, for the week ending Jan. 19:

Fiction
 The Case of Sergt. Grischa—Arnold Zweig
 Peder Victorious—O. E. Rolvaag
 Joseph and His Brethren—H. W. Freeman
 The Snake Pit—Sigrid Undset
 The Wanderer—Alain-Fournier
 Accident—Arnold Bennett

General
 The Art of Thinking—Abbe Dimmet
 The Magic Island—W. B. Seabrook
 Elizabeth and Essex—Lytton Strachey
 John Brown's Body—Stephen Vincent Benet
 An Anthology of World Poetry—Mark Van Doren
 Morrow's Almanac for 1929—Burton Rascoe

Best sellers in Detroit for the week ending Jan. 23 (a "point" list compiled from reports of leading booksellers):

Fiction
 Peder Victorious—O. E. Rolvaag
 The Case of Sergt. Grischa—Arnold Zweig
 Joseph and His Brethren—H. W. Freeman
 Point Counter Point—Aldous Huxley
 The Snake Pit—Sigrid Undset
 The Wanderer—Katharine Holland Brown

General
 Strange Interlude—Eugene O'Neill
 Hows and Whys of Human Behavior—George Dorsey
 The Doctor Looks at Marriage and Medicine—Joseph Collins
 Elizabeth and Essex—Lytton Strachey
 Meet General Grant—W. E. Woodward
 Raiders of the Deep—Lowell Thomas

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
 Constantinople is the only place on earth where they have more worthless dogs than they do in Birmingham.

Prof. F. W. Sherman has received a call to teach the Southfield Brass Band just as soon as they receive their instruments.

Spirits of Camphor and good elder Vinegar, is said to be a most excellent gargle in Diphtheria or sore throat.

Faint and Staley the well known painters are rapidly finishing the interior and exterior of Frank Ford's new residence, and of course are doing a fine job.

I shall sell my stock of trimmed and untrimmed hats at reduced prices, now is the time to make a good bargain. Mrs. Furman.

Whitehead has got to go up to the swamp west of the Pontiac depot, and take away his feet. So much shade is killing out the grass.

Wanted—Wood in exchange for Hats etc., Mrs. Furman.

Willis Carter is in a very precarious condition from typhoid pneumonia.

22 YEARS AGO
 Another barber has hatched up a first-class tonsorial parlor in our village. John R. Nye is the candidate for wealth, prosperity, popularity and pelf, and his shop is in the National Hotel. The front room next to Cobb & Cobb's has been beautifully decorated and there you'll find John ready to do and dye.

Miss Tillie Walker is home again after two weeks of successful nursing in Southfield and says she is ready for another case.

A little snow almost daily keeps the sleighing in fine condition and everybody takes advantage of it that has hauling to do.

Whitehead & Mitchell give 19 pounds H. & E. sugar for \$1.00 and a supply of needles worth 10c and over—unmixed.

Mrs. Cooper entertained the Euchre club Wednesday afternoon.

Going to Pontiac by trolley is like making a trip to the north pole. The roadway is abandoned for horses and sleds, and if any one has to drive to Pontiac he must take the electric roadbed. The snow is about five feet deep over the road and men are, in a small way, trying to dig out so that travel can be resumed.

FIVE YEARS AGO
 Propose the creation of a metropolitan area to provide for the future sewer and water facilities of all the territory within 25 or 30 miles of Detroit.

Postoffice ruling places newspapers among first class mail.

Announce first primary election in history of township, scheduled for April 7.

Fire department adds a \$12,500 fire pumper to their equipment. Handles 700 gallons of water per minute. Fire underwriter's tests given.

Mrs. Thomas Thurber exhibits in the Detroit art show sponsored by the Fine Arts Department of the Federation of Women's Clubs.

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Little Chats About Your Health

No. 4
Why Self-Treatment Is Inadvisable

The extent of troubles brought on or furthered by self diagnosis, self medication and the taking of well meant, though worthless, advice of friends cannot be surmised.

A sufferer from nasal catarrh tells of deafness brought on in this manner.

One friend advised that salt water be sniffed up the nose.

Another recommended a similar use of oil of eucalyptus.

The result was an abscess in one ear and incurable deafness in the other.

After all there is but one safe rule to follow—whenever you are ill enough to need medicine you are ill enough to need the advice of a physician.

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50c " " " " " " " "	25.00
\$ 1.00 " " " " " " " "	50.00
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