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One out of every three families in the United States has a financial income in addition to earnings from regular employment.

Mysteries of the Pacific

On August 1, 1785 two magnificent sailing vessels left the harbor of Brest, France—their destination, the Solomon Islands. Under the command of Jean Francois de Galaup, Comte de La Perouse, a captain of long experience in the Navy of Louis XVI, the ships sailed with flags flying, banners waving.

It was a great day for France, for the King, and for the Royal Navy. De La Perouse was hailed as another Captain Cook—in fact, the British loaned the famed captain's compasses for the voyage. Several years of preparation had gone into the building of the Astrolabe and the Boussole.

THEIR CREWS were manned with the cream of the French fleet. Every available resource in maritime knowledge had gone into making the vessels seaworthy for the long, hazardous trip.

"We shall be back in France in the autumn of 1789," La Perouse promised. News drifted back slowly, but by February 1788 the Solomon Islands were as yet undiscovered, twenty-one of the crew were dead, and La Perouse's second in command slaughtered by savages.

In spite of these drawbacks, the book has an appeal for those who love the sea and its mysteries. One might say, sailed with the Merchant Marine. Mysteries of the Pacific is the third in a series of books on sea lore.

The Butterfly Net

Miss Sheldon's novel is a not so pleasant tale of the eccentric. The story takes place during a June day's preparations for a large ball to be given at Stanton's huge Westchester estate.

The characters gather slowly as the morning begins: spoiled Willy Stanton; Anna Tait, his mistress and friend for thirteen years; Willy's wife Marge, self-indulgent and unhappy; his mother—wonderful old Daisy Stanton, the nursery maid whose marriage remains an ancient scandal as does she; and George, Willy's half-brother—the man who supports them all in the style to which they have become accustomed.

THE NOVEL'S PLOT is a guessing game in which the reader and occasional characters try to uncover the jungle of immorality and perversion which exists behind the Stanton's facade of wealth and sophistication.

The story is not so much in the present moment, but instead the past which is slowly revealed throughout the day. After nearly

By Robert de La Croix. 252 pp. New York—The John Day Company. \$3.50.

Reviewed by Josephine Mason

After day signal stations watched the sea as it lay calm beneath the blazing sun or furrowed by the monsoon from the Astrolabe and the Boussole. Months passed into years. It became obvious the expedition had vanished. Where? No one knew.

THIS STORY of the endless search for the elusive Solomons is the first and most important in a series of adventure tales by Robert de La Croix, a French writer well known in his own country.

The following stories deal with the plight of castaways, ghost ships, and the disappearance of Amelia Earhart, July 3, 1937.

The author was born in Brittany, and as a young man, sailed with the Merchant Marine.

IN THE OPINION of this reviewer the book suffers in translation. The language is over-simplified, with none of the grandeur of the sea exemplified in Conrad or Melville.

Also there is not a simple map to guide the reader on his tour of the Pacific Islands, making identification difficult.

In spite of these drawbacks, the book has an appeal for those who love the sea and its mysteries. One might say, sailed with the Merchant Marine. Mysteries of the Pacific is the third in a series of books on sea lore.

By Aletha Sheldon. 251 pp. New York. Coward-McCann, Inc. \$3.75.

Reviewed by Jean Leness.

Twenty-four hours of constant conversation, the relationships between the characters are reshuffled, and everyone goes off to bed in a place where they have been at least in spirit since being introduced.

The novel's title refers to more than the childish pastime of Willy's daughter, Margery. In the larger sense it reflects the instability in the life of each character. For the whole book seems to exist in a remote reality—a world of children where emotions are uncontrolled and the self all-important.

"THE BUTTERFLY NET" is well written, but nevertheless, perhaps for the sake of delicacy, it lacks a certain bulk. Among the main letters, one of the novel's main elements, remain shadowy in spite of the bulk about them, and the off-beat quirks of both Willy and Marge are never resolved.

Moreover, the illicit household mysteries revealed at the end of the book become a little too sensational for realism. The extravaganza of setting which carries over to character turns Miss Sheldon's novel into a fairy tale that lacks a certain bulk.

SCHOOL YEAR 1956-57

APPRAISED VALUE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY:

	1956	1957
Site	\$ 794,713.00	\$ 968,491.00
Buildings	8,146,261.00	8,161,019.00
Equipment	1,150,764.00	1,213,453.57

Number of school buildings	13
Number of classrooms	304
Number of teachers	391

TEACHERS' SALARIES:

Minimum—Bachelor's Degree	\$4200.00	Master's Degree	\$4400.00
Maximum—Bachelor's Degree	6600.00	Master's Degree	6800.00
Median	\$5240.00		

Number of elementary pupils—resident	6,614
Number of elementary pupils—nonresident	0
Number of secondary pupils—resident	3,492
Number of secondary pupils—nonresident	43
RATIO OF PUPILS TO TEACHERS	25.9

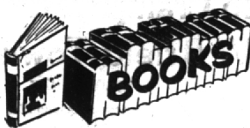
The audit of the School District of the City of Birmingham reflects another year of administration that operates in the black rather than to resort to deficit spending. The school district has been operated within the proposed budget for the year.

A cash balance of \$384,818.45 may appear to be substantial. It really is not as large as it should be. Accounts Payable for supplies and equipment ordered for the school year 1957-58 would more than reduce this figure by half. Payrolls for 1957-58 will run approximately \$350,000 a month. It will be necessary to borrow at least \$500,000 to meet payrolls and accounts payable until the December tax collection.

The growth of the school district from 3115 in 1948-49 to 10,943 in 1957-58 is reflected in the budget, not only in items of more children to be served but also in increased costs for everything required (both personnel and material costs).

School construction has been maintained through public support and understanding so that half-day sessions have been avoided and reasonable class sizes have been maintained in the system as a whole.

Up to this time there is no indication of a plateau in the membership curve which reflects the continued growth of Birmingham.



and REVIEWS

New Campus Writing No. 2

This collection of works from campuses across the country includes short stories, poetry, one-act plays, and one-act plays—all serious and worthwhile efforts by virtually untried authors.

Throughout the selections, in whatever medium, a strong emphasis on expository prose is felt. The use of clean simple language and a resulting clarity and directness is an asset to the short stories.

ALTHOUGH THEY SELDOM develop fully on more than one line, and their most often characters, this limitation keeps reader and writer alike from becoming engaged in a maze of complexities which only the most experienced writer can handle.

Thus, in "A Sense of Tribe" by Sarelle M. Wuest, our chief concern is with the old man who dwells on the ritual of funeral and burial remembered from his childhood.

Incidents and characters from the past are employed without distraction to build the man facing death, the only experience left for him.

Perhaps because most of these writers are still close to their youth, childhood is handled with unusual sensitivity and insight.

THOMAS M. LIVINGSTON'S "A Show of Strength" succeeds not because of its now common story of the young outsider at boarding school, but because Johnny has the full dimensions of a young man seldom have.

Two stories dealing with the loss of childish innocence and painful awakening to harsh adult realities on the part of the writer, "The Plenic" (Christine Clegg) dispates its impact over many sketchily drawn characters and a complicated situation requiring greater length for its telling.

CONVERSELY, Margery McKim's "The Serpent Within" wisely confines its characters and action so that the force of the child's new understanding grows and develops without obvious author manipulation, and the pain in that new understanding is felt without Miss McKinney belaboring the point.

The only story depending primarily upon technique, "Hey Sailor, What Ship?" comes off very well.

zance of setting which carries over to character turns Miss Sheldon's novel into a fairy tale that lacks a certain bulk.

Edited by Nolan Miller. 277 pages. New York. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$3.50. Reviewed by Ann Jacobs.

natively through Tillie Olsen's good sense in superimposing a thin narrative line over the reflective comments of her main character, Whitley.

With this direction, we get a completed picture of the sailor visiting the family of a sea-faring friend, and he is glamorous, disgusting, pitiful as each member of the family sees him from a separate viewpoint.

THE NEW EMPHASIS on form (eve meter and rhyme) does not succeed so well in the poetry as it does in the fiction. While we forego the vagueness often found in experimental free verse, we also miss the richness and variety more attainable in a looser form.

And in attempting to work within the discipline of form, many of

these young poets create an unnecessary problem for themselves—that of reconciling poetry to prose.

There are single poems that are exceptions to the criticism and one poet, George E. Starbuck, his three poems show him well versed in his craft, for they fit language, image and mood to their differing themes.

ONE IN PARTICULAR, "The Daydream of Sorrowing Angus," resurrects the romantic ballad form with great effectiveness.

But through the poetry is often disappointing and the fiction sometimes over-simplified, these writers are working toward something long overdue—expression within formal limits. After years of no holds barred, we cannot expect too much too soon.

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