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INSTRUCTIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS BY:—

Mrs. Frank (Anna Belle) Webb

... will be given on the patio of our shop on
the 5th & 6th and 12th & 13th of December.

NOTES:—

The Schedule of Talks is:—

December 5th (Friday)—10:30 a.m. to 12:00
Noon; 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

December 6th (Saturday)—10:00 a.m. to 11:00
a.m.; 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

December 12th (Friday)—Same hours as on the
5th.

December 13th (Saturday)—Same hours as on the
6th.

These are Instructional Demonstrations.
They are NOT WORKSHOPS.

Sample pieces will be on exhibit for study;
(some will be sold, but will remain on display
until after the 18th of December.)

Most of the materials—greens, tree-forms,
wire, shears, paints, cones, pedestals, etc.
will be available on the four demonstration
days.

Everyone is invited and welcome.
Everyone is our guest.

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BOOKS and REVIEWS

The Best American Short Stories 1958

Edited by Martha Foley and
David Burnett. 362pp. Boston.
Houghton Mifflin Company.
\$4.00.

Reviewed by
TOM PHILLIPS

In reading "The Best American
Short Stories 1958" it would be
wise to remember that "best" is
only a designation adopted by Miss
Foley and Mr. Burnett and should
not be regarded as an order.

It also should be remembered
that a book published in September
cannot be representative of the total
1958 short story scene. The
Admonitions aside, the 21 stories
in this forty-third annual collection
would rate high in any "best"
short story collection.

The editors have culled their selections from a wide variety of
sources, ranging from national
magazines such as "Harper's" and
"The New Yorker" to so-called
"little" magazines such as "The
Paris Review" and "Prairie
Schooner."

FAMILIAR names such as James
Agee, Ray Bradbury, Flannery
O'Connor and Richard Wright account
for the bulk of the authors
represented but those less well-
known, such as Bob Van Scoyk,
get their fair share of space.

The stories present a great variety
of subject matter. The themes
range from dope addiction in
"Sonny's Blues" by James Baldwin
to the humorous encounter between
a giant, Negro sailor and a
small, white hotel clerk in Richard
Wright's "Black, Blue, Good Man."

The lead off story is "The Waiting"
by James Agee. It appeared as
part of Agee's prize winning
novel "A Death in the Family" and
is a sensitively done tale of a dis-
traught wife waiting to hear what
has happened to her husband after
a serious auto accident.

AMONG the very "best" of these
best short stories are "The Day It
Rained Forever" by Bradbury and
"Home From Camp" by Van Scoyk.
Bradbury's poignant story deals
with three old men living in a run-
down hotel in a deserted ghost
town; they waiting for the one day
of the year on which it rains, and
the woman who brings rain into
their lives forever.

Divorce and its cruel effect upon
the child of divorced parents is
sensitively displayed by Van Scoyk.
"The Best American Short Stories
1958" is made up of, as the
punch on the dust jacket says, "the
brilliant story in the issue we skip-
ped, the gems from magazines we
never got around to reading."

The Ugly American

By William J. Lederer and
Eugene Burdick. 285pp. New
York. W. W. Norton & Co.
\$3.75.

Reviewed by
ROBIN BAHR

In "The Ugly American" Eugene
Burdick and William Lederer have
combined their talents in writing
what amounts to a serious and
disquieting critique of American
foreign policy in Asia.

The story concerns a handful of
American diplomats and problems
that confront them during their
tenure in Sarikham—a small Asian
country struggling unsuccessfully
with internal Communist infiltra-
tion.

The people and events are ficti-
tious, but in an epilogue to the
story, the authors make clear that
both do have basis in fact. For ex-
ample, there is, what would at first
seem, the incredible blundering of
Sarikham's ambassador, Louis
Sears.

LOUIS Sears is a political hack
enduring his appointment in Sarik-
ham in the hopes of getting a fed-
eral judgeship. He has never heard
of Sarikham, much less learned its
language before his arrival; and
his main efforts are bent toward
entertaining visiting VIP's, par-
ticipating in the "ingrown American
social life," and avoiding any
trouble that might jeopardize his
judgeship.

Opposed to him is the shrewd
dedicated Communist who, in pre-
paration for his appointment, learned
to speak, read and write Sarik-
hamese, studied its history and re-
ligion, lost 40 pounds and even
learned to play the nose flute. A
shipment of rice is sent from
America to relieve a famine in
Sarikham; between its arrival and
distribution, the Russian ambas-
sador has managed that each crate
be stamped with: "This is a gift
from Russia."

THE MEN might be exaggerat-
ed, but the situation is not. The
authors acknowledge in the epilogue
that this was imaginary, but add
that it is a fact a shipment of
American tractors was sent to Pak-
istan recently and delivered to the
natives with a hammer and sickle
stamped on each. And the authors
point out the fact that only 50%
of the American foreign service
has speaking knowledge of any
foreign language while nine out of
10 Russians speak, read and write
the language of the country to
which they are sent.

BUT aside from individual opi-

dependence on native interpreters
often offers color, and to censor the
information they pass on. Finally,
it makes possible the all-important
social communication with other
than the educated elite that speak
our language.

2. Redirect our aid program
which currently concerns itself with
their deep convictions on our Asian
policy in fiction, they have given
their case additional impact. It is
a sound, sincere critique. Perhaps
there is not the whole answer, but
they do dramatically highlight the
urgent need for revision and
attention to this troubled part of
the world.

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Eccentric Classified Ads. So re-
member, if you want to sell that
hard-to-get-rid-of article, advertise
it in the Want Ad section of The
Birmingham Eccentric.

3. Reramp the overseas recruit-
ing program, which, the authors
feel, attracts mediocrity with its
emphasis on luxury and adventure.

THEY OFFER a few rather sim-
ple suggestions, whose success
have been demonstrated by the
Russians.

1. That diplomats be required
to read, speak and write the lan-
guage of the country to which they
are sent. This eliminates depend-
ence on native employment in the
embassies which has in the past
provided fertile ground for Rus-
sian espionage. It also eliminates

BOTH of the authors are suc-
cessful writers. William Lederer—
"All the Ships at Sea" and "Ensign
O'Toole and Me"; Eugene Burdick
—"The Ninth Wave." By stating
their deep convictions on our Asian
policy in fiction, they have given
their case additional impact. It is
a sound, sincere critique. Perhaps
there is not the whole answer, but
they do dramatically highlight the
urgent need for revision and
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Dec. 4, 1958 THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC 5-B

Have You Met ...

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Roland of
2573 Worcester road? They moved
from Indianapolis, Ind., on Sept. 4.
He is district sales engineer repre-
sentative for Syntane Corp. Mr.
Roland's hobbies are golf, photog-
raphy and hi-fi. Mrs. Roland has
been active in girl scout work and
PTO.

The residents of 32065 Telegraph
road? Mr. and Mrs. Steve Toth
moved from Detroit on Oct. 27.
Steve is a draftsman for Ford Mo-
tor Co., and his wife is a nurse.
Their hobbies are square dancing
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