

BOOKS and REVIEWS

Dr. Zhivago
By Boris Pasternak. 599 pp.
New York. Pantheon. \$5.00.

Reviewed by Ann Jacobs

With skill and thought and sensitivity Boris Pasternak has written a novel of great scope, embracing the vast area of Russia, from Moscow to the Urals to tiny isolated villages. He has cut across the strata of Russian society, the wealthy and poor, professional and farmer, scholar and laborer—and shows them living through the amazing events of the first part of this century that are now history.

Under the order of his personal vision, that time of chaos, of tragedy and of hope is translated into a fine and important book, the life of the poet-doctor Yuri Andreyevich Zhivago.

A FEW brief glimpses are given of Zhivago's childhood and the order, of those people who lightly touch his life and are lost, and of those who become a part of him, as he they live through the funeral, which opens the book, strikes a somber note of pain and loss that is repeated with growing intensity throughout Zhivago's life.

Around the World With Auntie Mame
By Patrick Dennis. 286 pp.
New York. Harcourt, Brace and Company

Reviewed by Fred Mullender

"Mame Dennis Burnside needs no introduction to the American reading and theatre-going public. With the first novel, and subsequent plays, covering her madcap adventures and lunatic friends, she became one of the best known fictional characters of the times.

"Around the World With Auntie Mame" is not truly a sequel to "Auntie Mame," but rather an addition. The action, of which there is plenty, all occurs during the time of her first voyage to Europe, her nephew abroad, for what she termed an "educational" purpose.

HAVING BARELY arrived in Europe, Mame is off to her adventures. With the aid of her actress friend, Vera Charles, she becomes embroiled with the Folies-Bergere, British high society, a Portuguese Rubirosa type and Austrian Nazis. A trip to the pyramids is disrupted by Auntie Mame's camel's running away with Mame aboard. The ship on which her nephew gets Mame passage for America is possibly the dirtiest and sloppiest that ever sailed.

As always, Mame triumphs against ridiculous odds and, as always, she completely self-assured. Patrick Dennis, as the author, sometimes incredulous, often disgusted and always stumped by his fictional aunt's actions, manages to make hilarious sense out of this nonsense.

THE STYLE of the novel is fitted to its main character. It careens haphazardly along but somehow never misses the target, particularly in the "Folies-Bergere" chapter. At this one point Dennis achieves with the writer what very few writers have been able to do, sustained low comedy.

"Around the World With Auntie Mame" is one of the funniest books of the year. When the novel ends, it leaves the reader wishing that it had not. However, the manner in which it concludes leaves little doubt that Auntie Mame shall return. Let us hope so!

Serving in Florida
Frederick Stanbridge, electronic technician seaman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stanbridge of Highland Drive, is serving at the naval air station, Pensacola, Fla.

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New Trustee for Science Institute

Lawrence R. Hafstad, physicist and director of research for the General Motors Corporation, is elected to the Board of Trustees of Cranbrook Institute of Science on September 17.

Mr. Hafstad, who lives in Bloomfield township, received his BS degree from the University of Minnesota, his PhD from Johns Hopkins, where he was later Director of Research. He was first director of the Reactor Development division, Atomic Energy Commission from 1949-1955, received the Medal of Merit from the Navy, and the AAS award for development of a 1,000,000 volt vacuum tube.

New Chairman of the Board is Robert C. McMath, who replaces the late L. James Buckley. New vice chairman is James A. Baresford.

The Board of Trustees also accepted a miscellaneous gift totaling \$4000 to be used for the Institute's research program.

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Have You Met...
The residents of 1724 Bowers? Mr. and Mrs. John Vigneault moved from Syracuse, N. Y., on Aug. 24 John is a division sales manager for Prymacol, Div. Johnson & Johnson. They have three children. The Vigneaults are affiliated with Oakland Hills, Elks, and Knights of Columbus. Their hobbies are golfing, bridge and skiing.

Birmingham city plan board meets at 8 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the Municipal building, Martin and Henricia streets.

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