

BOOKS and REVIEWS

Mistress to an Age

By J. Christopher Herold. 475 pp. Indianapolis, Indiana, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc. \$6.95.

Reviewed by FRED MALENDER

There have been a few men and women whose influence on the opinions, politics and values of their era far exceeded their particular public station. Such a woman was Germaine Necker de Stael, author, philosopher, politician, diplomat and friend or enemy of the great and near-great of Europe, particularly France, during the late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Century.

Her father, Jacques Necker, was the son of an obscure schoolmaster in Geneva. At an early age he began his career in banking and, by what might be called dubious financial manipulations, amassed a substantial fortune.

NOT satisfied with this success, he entered the political arena and rose to a position of power and popularity which made him virtual ruler of pre-revolutionary France. Her mother was the daughter of a poor, but proud, Swiss clergyman. Throughout her life she was a strict Calvinist and a public worshiper of the "noble" virtues. Germaine idolized her father and tolerated her mother, but was an individualist who, in many cases, was in direct opposition to her parents. She was never as possessed of her own importance as her father was, and "virtue" was not her main quality.

SO varied were her political interests that she was continually finding herself in trouble with authority. She ran afoul of Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, Napoleon, Robespierre, Talleyrand and assorted other officials.

Many of the political causes she espoused, and for which she diligently labored, were successful, but the extremes to which their fanatic adherents went would drive her into the other camp. This is most noticeable in her relationship with Napoleon, whom she at first supported and then, virtually alone in France, publicly fought.

As an author of both novels and tracts, she reached peaks of excellence which are still recognized. This is particularly true of "Delphine," "Corinne" and "Of Germany."

HER philosophy was that of moderation and reason tempered by a touch of romanticism. Her life is a testament to the power of the intellect.

"Mistress to an Age" does more than capture the spirit of this fascinating woman, her friends and enemies. The spirit is there but so is flesh and blood.

That the author indulged in tremendous amounts of research is obvious, but this "typical" research work—Gaiety, humor, tragedy, equal to anything in present fiction, "novels or plays, are all present and magnificently handled. This biography is undoubtedly one of the most engrossing books of our time.

ance, and a colorful backdrop of foreign intrigue which even included the coronation of a king.

The task of integrating so many diverse elements is a difficult one indeed. Unfortunately, Miss Suyin falls just short of creating a unified whole. She is extremely adept at making a pure and simple love story fairly sing with beauty and sincerity.

BUT in the act of embellishing it with complicated plot and local color, she tends to lose a certain poetic effect which is her strongest asset.

The setting is Khatmandu in the Kingdom of Nepal. Nepal lies along the slopes of the Himalayas between India and Tibet, which recently came into prominence when Chitramra filmed the coronation of its king in 1956. Han Suyin was one of those invited to the ceremony and it was from this experience that her novel developed.

The story centers about Anne Ford, a beautiful English writer who comes to Khatmandu to teach English at the Girl's Institute. During her four years of residence to John Ford, a retired colonial civil servant, she has gradually become general and her husband in particular.

UNABLE to endure any longer their argumentative old relationship, Anne leaves John and subsequently falls completely and passionately in love with a Nepalese engineer.

Gradually, as if by magic, Anne finds herself transformed from a typical, restless, materialistic Westerner to a warm, easy-going, completely relaxed woman, able to appreciate the spiritual aspects of life.

THE READER will again gain a great deal of insight into the customs and beliefs of the Nepalese people. He will also find many lovely and fascinating passages. But the book as a whole is a disappointing potpourri of everything that is guaranteed to sell copies. If Hollywood films the story, as it doubtless will, it should make a well-received, wide-screen, romantic spectacle.

vate thoughts of people who are important to our way of life.

Now the highlights of 46 of the controversial Wallace interviews have been recorded in "Mike Wallace Asks." It makes an excellent reading. I watched many of the interviews recorded here myself, and still enjoyed the repeat performances in the book.

ALTOGETHER, the 46 interviews present a vital commentary on our times, our morals, our religious thinking, and our race relations.

Such reflections on our morals as the statement by Belgian actress Monique Van Vooren: "That European men are wiser than the Americans because, 'they only marry once. They don't break up the home and marry somebody else. 'If there has to be infidelity,' she continued, 'I think I would prefer it that way, rather than this method of changing wives all the time.'"

On religion, startlers like Ben Hecht's observation: "I think observance of religious—formalized religion—I think its disappearance is a sign of the increased intelligence of the human race."

ON THE South and the Negro race, Tallulah Bankhead: "The KKK is as vicious and as horrible as any Gestapo. Kasper is like all fanatics—no one could be more evil. We have had so many to cope with—Eastland, Bilbo, Fankin."

There are hundreds of other vital statements, some of them shockers that could make "Peyton Place" look tame, that would never otherwise have gotten into print under the taboos of today's publications.

Most fascinating of all is Wallace himself, his questions, and his knowledge of his subjects. This book even reveals an interesting something of what makes Mike Wallace tick.

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
No. 128

LAKE PARK STORM SEWER
Between Barrett and Redding

Notice is hereby given that the special assessment roll heretofore made by the Assessor for the purpose of defraying the cost of construction of an improvement to be hereinafter known as LAKE PARK STORM SEWER—Between Barrett and Redding consisting of the construction of a storm sewer with manholes and necessary drainage structures to serve that portion of Lake Park Drive from Redding Road south a distance of approximately 100 feet, is now on file in my office for public inspection.

Notice is also hereby given that the Commission of the City of Birmingham will meet in the Commission Room in the Municipal Building in said City on Monday, the 15th day of January, 1959, at 2:30 p.m. to review said assessment, at which time all persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard.

IRENE E. HANLEY
City Clerk 44, 45

feel fresher at 5!

this EXECUTIVE CHAIR

by Browne-Morse is guaranteed to make each day work easier. Finish each day fresher. You'll be surprised at the new vigor a truly comfortable chair will give you. Healthy Seating. Comfortable Seating. Long-lasting quality—all yours in wearing quality—all yours in a Browne-Morse Posture Chair. Luxurious foam rubber cushioning. Comfortable Seating. Long-lasting quality. Choice of upholstery. Form fitting seats— Trouble free chair mechanism. Easy roll ball bearing casters with soft rubber tread.

There's a Browne-Morse chair for any office need.

CALL NOW FOR A FREE TRIAL IN YOUR OFFICE

Best Trade-in and Budget Terms

Tisdale Office Equipment

- Furniture
- Drafting Supplies
- Machines
- Stationery
- Supplies
- Art Supplies

MICHIGAN MIRACLE MILE (next to the Bank) FE 8-4545

Want Ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday

BIRMINGHAM CAMERA SHOP

168 So. Woodward
Phone Midwest 4-0510

If You Don't Know Cameras—Know Your Dealer

—Know Your Dealer—
Oakland County's Oldest
31st YEAR SERVING BIRMINGHAM

The Mountain is Young

By Han Suyin. 511 pp. New York. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$4.95.

Reviewed by SALLY PARSONS

Han Suyin, author of the popular "A Many-Splendored Thing," has written a new novel which can hardly escape the best-seller list. "The Mountain is Young" has all the ingredients necessary for widespread literary consumption: sex, racial conflicts, religious discussions, a fiery, passionate ro-

Mike Wallace Asks:

Edited by Charles Preston and Edward A. Hamilton. 128 pp. New York. Simon and Schuster. \$1.95.

Reviewed by JULIE CANDLER

Like the tinkerer who asks "What makes it tick?" of every mechanism he approaches, Mike Wallace has searched out the basic motivations that make many prominent people tick. His jabbing, probing, goading questions have laid bare to TV audiences the pri-

for your WINTER MENUS

Prime Beef
Farm Poultry
Fresh Vegetables
Hams

New supply of baskets

OLSEN'S MARKET

West Brown at Chester
WE DELIVER
MI 4-1916
Closed Sun.—Ample Parking

OLD PROF'S COMPLETE BOOK SHOP

4022 N. Woodward Royal LI 9-2242
9 W. Lawrence Pontiac FEderal 2-8432

FOR ANY BOOK REVIEWED IN THIS SECTION

And FOR ANY BOOK ADVERTISED ANYWHERE

Visit or Call

OLD PROF'S COMPLETE BOOK SHOP

SALE by factory

METLOX - POPPYTRAIL

20% off on ALL OPEN STOCK

from January 12 through January 31, 1959

SALE also on:

Homestead Provincial California Ivy Del Rey
Blue Provincial Navajo Red Rooster

PONTAC POTTERY

"The Largest Specialty Store in Michigan"

2099 S. Telegraph FE 2-8642
Adjacent to north side of Miracle Mile
Open Daily and Sunday 10 to 8

Sugar \$3.75 Creamer \$2.50
\$3.00 \$2.00
Butter Dish \$4.95 \$3.95
Coffees Pot \$5.95 \$7.14
Divided Vegetable \$6.95 \$5.56

Also Available:
16 Pc. Starter Set Reg. List Price \$22.00 Special \$14.95
45 Pc. Set Reg. List Price \$76.45 Special \$52.95

Panoramic Dinners in antique metal with a Western flavor.



A great bank is many things to many people.

To depositors who entrust their lifetime savings, a great bank is a fortress of stability. To a boy who has lost his parents, a bank can be a warm-hearted man in the trust department. To a corporate leader and businessman, a bank is a source of funds and counsel that help his business.

Do your banking at The Detroit Bank and Trust Company. Discover the spirit of service, the sense of responsibility, and the experience that generations of Detroiters have found at this great bank.

STATEMENT OF CONDITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1958

RESOURCES	
Cash and Due from Banks	\$156,777,023
United States Government Obligations	346,225,378
State and Municipal Securities	99,845,018
Corporate and Other Securities	671,861
Loans and Discounts	195,799,885
Real Estate Loans	140,504,711
Total Loans	\$336,304,596
Other Real Estate	9,429
Federal Reserve Bank Stock	1,631,400
Bank Properties and Equipment	8,577,825
Accrued Interest and Prepaid Expenses	4,562,754
Customers' Liability on Letters of Credit	171,699
Other Assets	162,610
Total	\$954,939,603
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits:	
Individuals, Corporations and Others	\$458,628,131
U. S. Government	12,795,773
Other Public Funds	26,793,863
Total Demand Deposits	\$498,217,767
Savings and Time Deposits	370,698,546
Total Deposits	\$868,916,313
Unearned Interest	4,418,844
Accrued Expenses and Taxes	5,871,927
Liability on Letters of Credit	171,699
Other Liabilities	398,628
Capital Stock (\$10.00 par value)	18,378,500
Surplus	42,000,000
Undivided Profits	10,096,214
General Reserves	4,687,478
Total Capital Accounts	\$75,162,192
Total	\$954,939,603

United States Government Securities in the foregoing statement with a par value of \$72,535,000 are pledged to secure public and other deposits where required by law, including deposits of the State of Michigan amounting to \$1,622,200.

THE DETROIT BANK & TRUST COMPANY

MEMBER FDIC