

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
November 1, 1962 SECTION D

'No Red Ribbons' Places 1st and 2nd—in Parts

NO RED RIBBONS by John Quirk. New York: Devon-Adair Co. 1962. 54 pp. 15.95.

Reviewed by HANK HOGAN

This new novel is a product of local energy, having been written by Orchard Lake, John Quirk. While physically divided into several sections, it could very easily have been two books. It concerns a group of post war navy men first as navy men, and then later as businessmen. The book is cleverly written in dialogue style which can be well and poorly done. Because of the nature of the characters involved, our local author has done it well.

and emotionally disturbed a person can be, he can—if he marries right and has a wealthy friend—solve all of the complexities of the business world.

WHILE THE first part of the book lives up to the title, since the hero is not satisfied with second place in anything, the latter part of the book should be re-entitled, "Always Red Ribbons," because the main character is hardly ever the winner.

Another contrast exists between the two sections. The section on navy life is in a believable chronological life of sailors; while the section on business taxes the imagination.

The main character, in a very short time, is able to practically sew up industry in Detroit, and become governor of our fair state on the Democratic ticket without labor support at the same time.

I THINK WE will see and hear more of John Quirk. He has the ability to take life as he sees it and convert it to interesting readable prose.

His characterization is superb. The book should be interesting to local residents since half of it is locally oriented.

The author has taken a giant step into the writing community on his first venture.

'Darling'—Slick Play Smoothly Performed

Reviewed by E. M. BRONER

With the local and international tensions of the past weeks we were interested in what the voice of the theater, our public voice, revealed about the interests and destinies of contemporary man.

The three theater openings we covered the past month in Birmingham showed a surprising uniformity of thought on at least two major issues: first, that contemporary man is intensely interested in adultery, if not actual, than implied or possible; secondly, that to the modern playwright, Alec Coppel, Alex Gottlieb, or B. Edwin Ahearn

of Birmingham, the role of the woman is less than often envisaged in his "Doll's House."

Now the woman is a manikin, a doll, who is eternally ingenu, and whose hand gestures are as meaningful as the beauty parlor customer waving her fingers to dry a manicure.

ALL OF this does not mean that the theater has ceased to entertain. On the contrary, Enjoy! Enjoy! seems to be the purpose of the community theater, and Wake Up, Darling by Alex Gottlieb, at St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook, is no exception.

The St. Dunstan's Guild has had a long history, over 25 years of presentations. Duffy Few, who is the wisecracking mad julet in the current production, was in "Post Road," in 1938.

There have been brief excursions into meaningful theater on the part of St. Dunstan's, such as their production of "RUR" in 1955, or "Ah, Wilderness!" in 1951 (and that is the weakest of the O'Neill plays), but Robert Sherwood's "Idiot's Delight" was not presented until 1958, years after the play was timely.

Mostly, as with much community theater, there has been an annual presentation of "Philadelphia Story" or its equivalent.

IF WHAT we ask from theater is slickness and smooth performance, then "Wake Up, Darling," which opened last Friday, and will be performed again Friday and Saturday, will satisfy our demands.

There is the favorite of structures, the triangle, consisting of stage-struck Polly, her husband, Don, is the dissatisfied copy writer, and the man (or boy) who will make Polly a star, playwright Deerfield. The triangle can never be taken seriously since Don is a man of enormous presence, sensuality, and has all the best lines of the play while Deerfield, an Ivy League college boy who writes the book, lyrics and music for a musical about the Civil War, is a hand-writing, gulping adolescent.

The question, as they say in soap operas, is Will Polly or won't (See PLAY, 5-D)

THE MAIN reason why the book might have been divided into two books is that the main character changes. In the first section about life aboard and ashore an aircraft carrier, the hero is an Annapolis "black shoe" who is the son and grandson of Navy Academy grads.

He is expected to do superhuman things because of his background, and ends up doing them. This section of the book should be of particular interest to former navy men, navy brides and navy children.

THE REMAINING portion of the book centers around the experiences of a navy man after he leaves the navy blues. While the hero of the early part of the book remains in the picture, he sort of fades into a guardian-like role in this latter part. The new principal character can not exactly be called a hero. He proves that no matter how stupid

Cultural Events

Nov. 1
LITTLE GALLERY—12th day of jewelry show by three "artists-craftsmen." Sammy Wallin, J. Arnold Frew and Ronald Hayes at the Little Gallery, 915 E. Maple, Birmingham. Runs through Nov. 10. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Sundays and Mondays.

BIRMINGHAM THEATER—Second day of "West Side Story." Academy Award winning film starring Rita Moreno, Richard Beymer and Natalie Wood, with music by Leonard Bernstein.

Nov. 2
ST. DUNSTAN'S GUILD—"Wake Up, Darling," at 9 p.m. at the St. Dunstan Playhouse on Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills.

WILL-O-WAY—Premiere of "Study in Color" an original play by the Rev. Malcolm Boyd, Episcopalian chaplain to Wayne State University, at the Will-O-Way Theater, Long Lake Road (near Telegraph), Bloomfield Hills, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Nov. 3
MEET THE AUTHOR—"Meet the Author" day for John Quirk, local author of new book, "No Red Ribbons," at the Village Bookshelf, 790 N. Woodward, Birmingham, from 2 to 5 p.m.

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STUDY SKILLS CONFERENCE—Second annual conference for teachers and parents at the Oakland Center on the MSUO campus from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nov. 4
BIRMINGHAM SOCIETY OF WOMEN PAINTERS—Opening of the 18th annual exhibition at the Birmingham Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham. The public is invited to the opening reception between 2 and 5 p.m. at the Art Center. Hours (See CULTURAL EVENTS, 4-D)



'This Ought To Be...'

Looking over paintings submitted for the 18th annual Birmingham Society of Women Painters show at the Birmingham Art Center is Albert Mullen, University of Michigan professor, and Bloomfield Art Association instructor. Among the women getting pointers are (from left) Mrs. James Allen, 1108 W. Maple, Birmingham (in the rear); Mrs. Don Parsons, 1336 Willow Drive, Birmingham; Mrs. Elliot Robinson, 572 Linden, Birmingham, and Mrs. Stratton Brown, 4554 Ranch Lane, Bloomfield Hills. Their show will open Saturday and will run through Nov. 25. Hours are 2 to 6 p.m. daily except Mondays.



A MAGNIFYING glass, tweezers, an album a catalog and, of course, stamps are the material aspects of stamp collecting—probably the world's most popular hobby. The fascination of stamp collecting, however, lies in the range of subjects and areas of interest reflected on stamps, says John R. Scanlan, 819 Lake Park, Birmingham.

Orfeon of Coimbra To Appear Monday

Appearing in concert Monday at the Groves High School Auditorium will be the Orfeon of Coimbra. The 50-voice male choir from Portugal's University of Coimbra arrived in the U.S. Oct. 9 to begin their first North American tour. The performance is being sponsored by the Birmingham Lions Club.

Proceeds will be used to help support Lions Club activities as assistance for the blind and children's service programs. This will be the eighth such concert the club has sponsored. Attendance at previous concerts has averaged 2,500 per performance.

RALPH ALEXANDER, 1975 Shipman Blvd., is concert chairman. Co-chairman is Claude Kidd, of 569 Riveroak. In charge of ticket sales is Ed Kurth, 287 Larchlea.

Dr. Fred Jeffers, chairman of the publicity committee, says the group has played to a full house at each of its engagements in the North American tour.

In a letter to Richard Young, 808 Ruffner, district governor and a member of the local Lions Club, Curtis B. Lovill, president of Lions International, commended the local club for its work in bringing the Portuguese chorus to Birmingham as "a gesture in the true spirit of internationalism."

LIONS NOT already mentioned who are working on the concert include Jack McBride and Dr. Ralph Fox, program chairman and co-chairman, respectively; Robert Gougeon, production chairman; Harris Machen and Al Strone, house chairman and co-chairman; James Couzens, parking committee

Musicalé Has Concert Nov. 8

Birmingham Musicalé regular concert featuring the group's Madrigal Singers will be held at the Community House on Nov. 8, at 1:30 p.m.

The program will include a group of English Madrigals, a group of folk songs and a number of contemporary compositions, among them "November" by Albert D. Schmutz never before performed in this area publicly. Fourteen women compose the madrigal group, all Musicalé members.

They are: Mrs. Hascal E. Beard, Mrs. Howard K. Berg, Mrs. John C. Edwards, Mrs. Charles A. Erdmann, Mrs. C. Fortenbaugh, Mrs. Ralph M. Fox, Mrs. Lyle A. Hartwick, Mrs. Robert E. King, Mrs. God V. Linabury, Mrs. John R. Phelps, Mrs. Richard G. Post, Mrs. Richard O. Ruppel, Mrs. Alan Walley and Mrs. Charles L. Walker who is also their director.

Included on the program will be a group of Woodwind numbers performed by Mrs. Robert W. Katcher on the clarinet and Mrs. Maurice D. Melton, flute, with Mrs. Douglas P. McIntosh at the piano.

Birmingham Man Finds Stamp Collecting Offers An Interest for Everyone

By CORINNE ABATT
Special Writer

When stamp collectors like John R. Scanlan of Birmingham meet they don't just talk about postage stamps. Far from it, talk among the philatelists may range from geography, new countries and when they were formed, types of governments, the changes in governments, history, art, famous people, medicine, religion, music, sports and flowers to name but a few subjects.

Birmingham stamp collectors get together to discuss these and other stamp related topics at the bi-monthly meetings of the Birmingham Stamp Club at the Community House. The age range of collectors is as wide as the stamp subjects.

STAMP COLLECTING, probably the world's most popular hobby, started soon after 1840, the date when Great Britain issued its "penny black," the first adhesive postage stamp.

The United States government issued its first adhesive stamp in 1841. Prior to that time, local stamps or what the collectors call, "stampless covers" were used. Postage was prepaid in coin at the post office or the letter was mailed collect.

NOW, 122 years later, there are some 150,000 main varieties. This fact alone might bewilder the prospective collector, but Scanlan, who operates the stamp and coin department of Models Hobby Shop in Ferndale and the Scanlan Stampmart in downtown Detroit, came up with a reassuring prediction.

Topical collecting or the British equivalent, thematic collecting, is the coming thing. This means that a collector chooses a particular area of interest and collects stamps which relate to it. To illustrate, Scanlan mentioned animal, rail-

road, anti-malaria and Europa (European nations) collections.

The Birmingham collector states that one of his particular interests was checking counterfeit stamps. If stamp counterfeiting sounds at first like a penny ante crime, stamp experts hasten to explain that this type of swindle has often been carried out on a large scale. In one instance the money involved in stamp counterfeiting exceeded a million dollars.

The impression which many non-collectors have is that stamp collecting is strictly for people with lots of money to invest. Frequently

Discusses Relation Of Art and Society

By EVELINE OEN
Arts Editor

Dr. Howard Mumford Jones, professor emeritus of Harvard, who spoke last Thursday at MSUO's first Symposium on the Arts, is a man of distinctions.

He is distinguished, having been the Abbot Lawrence Lowell professor of Humanities at Harvard, a former dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and a past president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. But he also distinguishes between "art" and "entertainment" and between "art" and "culture." In addition, he was willing, both in his speech and in an interview the following day, to make a few observations about "art" and "the artist" in society today.

JONES SAW no current cultural upsurge in the country. "This is a vast country," he said. "If you look in Mississippi and Nevada, you will get one answer; if you look in New York and southern Michigan, you will get another. In general, however, there seems to be a reaction against technological civilization. Technology has given us so much leisure time we don't know what to do, and entertainment gives us no enduring satisfaction."

DISTINGUISHING between art and entertainment, Jones said: "In art, there is an intermixure of some kind of philosophic depth with the aesthetic expression. One is carried out of himself and thus left with something. In entertainment, however, the receiver is passive; no imprint of an experience remains."

There is nothing new about the American drive for culture he said. "We are trying to extend culture to more people in more ways than ever before and seem to be doing so better than anyone except the Russians."

Distinguishing between culture (See ART, 7-D)

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