

THE BOOKSHOPPER

The Washington Cooperative Bookshop
REpublic 4843

916 Seventeenth Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C.

July-August, 1947

BOOK REVIEWS

- THE HOURGLASS - David Alman.. \$2.75
MISSOURI COMPROMISE - By Tris Coffin \$3.00
ALBERT BEARS - Millen Brand . \$2.75
THE DARK SHIP - by Richard O. Boyer \$2.75
KNOCK ON ANY DOOR - By Willard Motley \$3.00
ORIGINAL SIN - George Taber . . . \$2.75
HISTORY IS ON OUR SIDE - by Joseph Needham, F.R.S. \$2.75
ALL ABOUT US - Eva Knox Evans . . . \$2.00

(10% Purchase Dividend on Above Books)

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ANNUAL BOOKSHOP
PICNIC

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-at-

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Picnic Grounds

No. 9

Games!
Singing!
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Entertainment!

Tickets on sale at
The Bookshop (see Page-3)



THE HOURGLASS - Reviewed by E. C. Holmes

This is another novel of Negro-White relations in the South. We have had a plethora of novels about the South and many of them have had something important to say. THE HOURGLASS surpasses most of these novels because it convinces one that everything in it could have happened.

Alman never exaggerates. His characters--his small Alabama town--are typical. Lottie Gregg is the pivotal point in the story. Daughter of the town physician, she is a normal young woman but she grows as the circumstances impinge upon her life. She is courageous and determined, as courageous as the victimized Negro wife and husband, the Jeffersons. This is not a great novel like Freedom Road and The Gentle Bash, but it will be remembered for a long time to come.

MISSOURI COMPROMISE - Reviewed by Wm. Henderson

Tris Coffin's "Missouri Compromise" is an animated story of Washington's Capitol Hill since the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt. In writing the book Mr. Coffin says: "Always I feel at one with

those curious and earnest sight seekers walking through the halls of the Capitol and peering through the picket fence surrounding the White House. They want to know what goes on behind the closed doors and behind that steel fence. So do I."

Mr. Coffin takes the reader through the closed doors and on the other side of the steel fence. With keen insight he describes the men from Missouri who have come to power since FDR's death. He tells of the changes that have taken place in Washington since the departure of so many of the New Dealers from the Capitol.

Here are the stories of Ickes' and

NOTICE OF ELECTION

-of Board of Trustees-

TUESDAY July 11, 1947 8 P.M.

--- At The Bookshop ---

SPEAKER: Mrs. A. Wagle - of India

TOPIC: "Significance of the Recent Changes in Indian Government"
(For details on elections, see Page 3)

Wallace's resignations, of Bowles' departure and of Byrnes' resignation; of the fight for the extension of OPA, the railroad strike; atomic bomb hearings, the debates on housing. Here are camera flashes of Pepper, Taylor, Taft, Wherry, Sabath and numerous others in action.

This book, like Mr. Coffin's radio broadcasts, is a fresh, intimate close-up. As the fight for power on the Hill develops, the reader sees emerging the real truth behind the press releases and the high-flown debate.

ALBERT SEARS - Reviewed by E. C. Holmes

We remember Millen Brand's "The Outward Room", "The Heroes", as being the promise of greater things to come. "Albert Sears" is that promise.

Seldom do we have a single character in a novel who sears our memories as in this one. Albert Sears is such a character, molded and carved out of the environment which produced middle class individualism. Here we have a "Middletown" portrait of the Jersey City of 1915-1916, another graphic and biting tale which is reminiscent of Arthur Miller's "Focus" and of "Whitman Avenue."

The story is Albert Sears but the unusual plot, which concerns in the main the penetration into the white neighborhood by the migrant Southern Negroes, is fascinatingly told. The very unusual triangle is here, the militancy of the Negroes, the machinations of the "Committees", the polyglot Jersey populations. All of this is what makes Brand's novel one to be remembered.

THE DARK SHIP - Reviewed by W. Henderson

Richard Boyer has written a new kind of book--a story of a new kind of American working at a trade that made America.

This is a story of the National Maritime Union, its early struggles for survival, its fight for collective bargaining, and its fight against fascism and discrimination.

Mr. Boyer writes about the common man--the seaman, working and fighting to build his union--to defeat fascism abroad and at home, and to make life better for himself and his family.

This union seaman is a man of purpose. Mr. Boyer compares him to the man who fought at Lexington and Concord, to Andy Jackson's untrumpet frontiersman and to the



ALL ABOUT US - By Eva Knox Evans - Revised by Otero Tymous

ALL ABOUT US is an excellent book to introduce children (8-12 age group) to racial and religious differences and variations in customs among peoples.

It shows how climate and environment influences both the physical appearance and actions of people the world over as they moved north and south from the equator.

The chapter "About Americans" traces America's heritage through the many different races which made it and is well worth the price of the book.

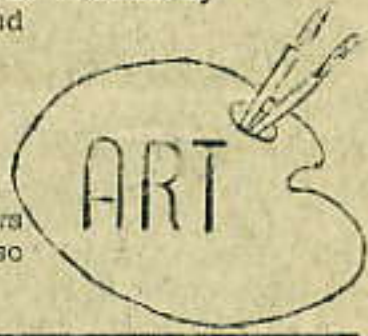
ALL ABOUT US places emphasis on evaluating people for their worth and thinking about them as individuals rather than as a group. It gets its lesson across easily and with a humor children will be quick to appreciate.

The book is set in clear, easy-to-read type and has clever black-and-white illustrations. Difficult words are explained in the text.

Miss Evans has made a worthy contribution to the field of intercultural relations. We need much more like it on the child's level.

COME IN--and see our beautiful, imported French and Dutch prints!

The cost is amazingly low--we made a very special "deal" on framing that allows us to offer them so inexpensively!



NEW JEWELRY IN!

Consider this an invitation to all you bracelet, pin and earring collectors--to come in and see our new purchases! Some beautiful copper pieces, handmade--and all at our new low prices!

hardy pioneers who won the West. Mr. Boyer presents vivid personal descriptions of seaman who have helped building the National Maritime Union. There

is, for example, George Kenneth Randolph, a Negro who on the morning of May 10, '43 leapt into a shark-infested sea after having been wounded in a bombing that sank his ship in the South Pacific, and pulled ten of his mates to safety on a raft. Another seaman is Bill McCarthy a former model student at St. Patrick's Parochial School who went to sea in 1935 as a bull boy and two years later was fighting fascism in Spain.

The author also describes in detail how a union works, its educational and recreational programs, its social service department, its meetings and handling of grievances.

Finally, Mr. Boyer has this to say of his book: "This book has been written in the belief that the men who have built American labor unions will, in the eyes of history, be considered important American pioneers whose lives have indicated the shape of things to come."

ALL OUT TO THE BOOKSHOP PICNIC!

Our Picnic Committee has lined up some real fun and entertainment for the annual picnic! We are arranging for an interesting speaker, for singing under the direction of People's Songs--and the cuisine being planned sounds most appetizing. It will be a big event - don't hesitate to bring the whole family, your friends and neighbors.

We are enclosing Members' Tickets. Be sure to hold on to them - they will admit you at membership dividend prices. Additional tickets may be purchased at the Bookshop.

The picnic will start around 1 PM and will be at Rock Creek Park, Picnic Grounds Number 9. Directions are: Take bus or drive out 16th street, northwest, to the Walter Reed Hospital. Go down Sherrill Drive to the bottom of the hill. Turn left and continue to Picnic Grounds No. 9. Tickets are 75¢ for adults with a 10% dividend to members. Children's admittance is 35¢ with a 10% dividend to the children of members. Ticket includes all fun, entertainment and food. Plan to come to the Bookshop's big social event of the year. Let's all get really acquainted!

KNOCK ON ANY DOOR - Reviewed by Eugene C. Holmes -- This novel ushers in the writing career of a new writer who will have to be reckoned with in American literature. That a writer of such stature should give us the most mature novel of 1947 is in itself, a literary phenomenon of the first magnitude.

Motley's novel is in the tradition of the French novel. He has written of a segment of American life with which we are familiar--the Chicago of Upton Sinclair, Nelson Algren, Richard Wright and James Farrell. But Motley has captured the spirit of Chicago gang life and psychology which somehow escaped other Chicago writers.

(over)

BOOKSHOP ELECTIONS

--and Membership Meeting--

Every Bookshop member is urged to attend the membership meeting on Friday, July 11, at 8 P.M. in the Bookshop and to participate in the elections.

A Board of Trustees is to be elected, consisting of 11 members. The Nominating Committee has had two meetings and the persons listed below have been nominated.

However, a final meeting of the Committee will be held Tuesday, July 1st, at the Bookshop and undoubtedly new nominees will be added to the list below. Names of additional nominees may be had by telephoning the Bookshop after July 1st.

Nominations will remain open on the night of the meeting and members may add the names of additional nominees at that time.

Partial List of Nominees

Ashman, Russell	Hurney, Tom
Clott, Lillian	Miller, Elsa
Eldridge, DeWitt	Oehler, LaVerno
Hanley, Alfred	Wahl, David

SPEAKER FROM INDIA TO BE AT July 11th Meeting!

Americans have long been sympathetic to the aspirations of the Indian people for independence.

Bookshop members will be looking forward to hearing Mrs. A. Wagle who is visiting the United States and will speak to us about her native India. She has promised to give us an appraisal of the recent changes in Indian government and will answer questions after her talk.



He has written of the streets of Chicago with their pulsating, rhythmic maelstrom, so that we can never forget the Chicago of teeming, ethnic millions.

This is the story of Nick Romano who could not possibly escape his fate; the story of his family, his friends, of his loves. Of Grant Holloway, the writer and social worker, of the people who loved him and of the cops whom he hated.

Hotley, a Negro writer, knows his Chicago and he has steeped himself in his material. No one can afford to miss this dramatic and powerful novel. Hotley gives us no solution because we, the readers, know what the solution ought to be. "Knock On Any Door" is the American Tragedy of 1947.

BOOKSHOP URGES ANTI-LYNCHING HEARINGS

June 10--In a letter to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees of Congress, the Bookshop's Board of Trustees urged that immediate hearings be held on H.R. 3488 in the House and S. 1352 in the Senate, the Anti-Lynch Bills pending before the committees. The message also called for the enactment of effective legislation on the subject by the present Congress.

Members are urged to address individual communications to: Senator Wiley, Chairman of Senate Judiciary Committee and to Congressman Michener, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee, Wash., D.C.

BOARD URGES TRUMAN VETO LABOR BILL

June 10--Declaring the Taft-Hartley Bill to be a formidable threat to American democracy and to a free trade union movement, the Bookshop Trustees, in a wire to President Truman, urged that he veto the Bill.

city of Cairo. The characters--the owner, his wife and the boarders of a small pension. The servants, especially the black Soudanese, Zouba, figure largely in the psychological drama. The five-day sandstorm is another protagonist in this novel for you will never read another such gripping account of sand--in the home in the skin and in the minds of Tristan Manasse and his wife Adela.

George Tabori uses many stylistic devices to tell this story about a man's conscience. All are successful, for they hold the attention. There are no tricks! You know Tristan murdered his wife, but you won't know WHY until almost near the end.

FORUM COMMITTEE PLANS POLL



The Forum Committee reports they are planning a poll to determine the topics that should head our forum program for the next season! That's really planning ahead, we'd say! And the first poll will be taken at the membership meeting on Friday, July 11th, at the Bookshop.

The poll will be printed on the reverse side of the election ballots. On it will be a long list of suggested forum topics and a lot of blank spaces for members to write in other subjects in which they are interested.

Forum Committee tells us their theory is that if we find out what our members want most and then see that they get it, next year we should break all forum attendance records. Sounds logical!

Some of the topics that will be listed are: Contemporary Art, Classical Music, Sculpture, Psychiatry, Marriage, Atomic Energy, United Nations, Child Psychology, Home Decorating, etc.

The Committee asks all readers and members to give some thought to the poll and come to the July 11th meeting with a hatful of suggestions.

ORIGINAL SIN - Reviewed by Eugene Holmes

Many will remember George Tabori's "Companions of the Left Hand" which was a Bookshop selection last year. Now this gifted writer has given us a psychological tour de force--"Original Sin" which will take its place among the growing number of psychological novels with some honors to spare. For, Tabori has chosen an original theme--something rare in itself. Locale is ancient part of the

HISTORY IS ON OUR SIDE -- Reviewed by Eugene C. Holmes

Professor Needham, the author, is one of the great scientists of our time--a distinguished scholar and one of the authorities in experimental embryology and morphology. He is a Marxist who has long been in the forefront of anti-fascist struggles, in England, in Spain and in China.

This invigoratingly-written book is a collection of his essays on varied subjects written from 1931 to 1942. It is difficult to single out from the diversity of subject matter, which are the best essays. All are excellent, for Professor Needham's scholarship and linguistic ability make him at home equally in religious, history, political theory and science.

Probably his eminence as a writer and lecturer makes his popularity in England very understandable. He has broadcasted widely and he writes and speaks everywhere among the clergy, the university cloister and the dais of a Chinese university.

You will enjoy "Religion and Politics", "University Democracy," "Pavlov and Lenin", "History is On Our Side," "Science, Capitalism and Fascism."

ODDS 'N ENDS

Happy Birthday to you...Happy Birthday to you.... Happy Birthday Dear Joe,

That familiar refrain is being sung to Joseph Pierce, our Bookshop Chairman who added on one more year in June. Joe HATES bouquets but we still insist on greeting the birthday of one of the Bookshop's most loyal and devoted workers.

And--ANOTHER Happy Birthday to our indefatigable co-manager, Ester Tayback whose professional know-how and zeal always keeps the Bookshop an interesting place to visit. July's her month!

Just a reminder! Make the Bookshop your headquarters for cards for all occasions--birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY has just had an overhauling job done on it and now is in first-class shape. It's stocked with all the latest books.

SERVING LEONADE these days? The Bookshop has some reasonably priced and lovely, cool-looking pitchers and glasses. All shapes and sizes--Mexican glassware, and definitely priced to go fast!

NOW
THAT
VACATION TIME
IS
HERE.....



The Bookshop officially wishes you and yours a most happy and pleasant vacation!

CALLING YOU PICNICKERS! We still have a few of the handmade Mexican picnic baskets. Made of natural straw with colorful trimming. Topped with a cover and a sturdy handle. Holds a lot! Reduced to go at \$1.50.

"KINGSBLOOD ROYAL REVIEWED AT BOOKSHOP"

It has been a long time since we've had a book review at the Bookshop. A review is always bound to be a success when it revolves around the kind of book that can stir up lively interest such as this book.

Our faithful and versatile Bookshopper, Dr. Alfred Hanley, presented a closely-studied analysis of the book. And to Bookshoppers he recommended that it be widely sold and publicized. Only trouble was that time ran short on us!