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BOOK REVIEW

By VERA BRADY SHIPMAN

"INNS AND TAVERNS OF OLD LONDON," by Sir Henry C. Shelley. Published by the Page company, Boston, Mass. Price \$4.00 net.

When we think that the rarest tales of Old England were told and retold in the taverns of London and roundabout, the glamour surrounds these places and we eagerly seek their descriptive passages. When you read of the Tabard Inn which centered Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, where the clerk and his friends told their tales of rare flavor, of the White Hart where Dickens wrote Pickwick Papers and others of its kind, of the Bears Head with which Shakespeare's pen mingled, the Three Granes of which Samuel Pepys decried, Boswells haunts, Ben Jonsons nooks and crannies, The Coffee Houses, the taverns, the drinking houses wherein old England made her fame in fiction—the romantic is disclosed and the places are shown in their most vivid coloring. The book is a mixture of historical facts and the romance of the intimacy of some great men.

Taverns frequently were named with the inclusion of Three. The reason for this is the division of the world into heaven, earth and water. Of all three were the taverns of Old England originated. They were the meeting ground, the palaces of gossip and the criminal lairs as well. The book pictures these famous old meeting places, with page illustrations of taverns

and their noted habitues, and the result is charming.

Goldsmith and George's Coffee House, David Garrick and Dick Sheridan of the old stage, Beef Steak clubs and societies named for the national dish of England flourished, their origin a bit hazy; a book of charm for a reader of distinction. Its pages drip the essence of romance and sentimental illusion of the days of old literature when her incentive was the jug.

"THE NEW POLAND," by Nevin O. Winter. Price \$5.00 net. With a frontispiece photo of Paderewski, the heralded advocate of Free Poland, the book of the life, customs and renewed livelihood of the land of former oppression. The Page company, Boston, Mass.

As the book opens, "Prosha Pan" is an apology, a public acquisition, a consiliatory response from a suppressed people. Since the days of Poland's new subdivisions, when its suppression was the source of untold woe, the people, the customs, the government, the laws and the religion were undergoing chaos. The ruling of centuries, the lost ideals and the renewed spirit through partial freedom have brought about a country of mixed identity. Through it all, Poland has kept the faith and has remained an identity in the changing world of European powers.

The kings of Poland, good and bad, the beloved Kosciuszko, its warrior-savior, each is eulogized. The people, their land and its geography, the horror of Prussian rule, and then the Fine Arts, the beautiful and the aesthetic which marked such creators as Chopin, of such is Poland enduring.

This book treats of the economic, the physical, and the psychological conditions of the land, of the people who have endured through it all and have kept their land in their hearts first and above all the world's sordidity.

It is a story of the resurrection of a submerged people, a review of the Polish part of the Great War, and a comprehensive and detailed description and analysis of the New Nation and for which it stands. It is beautifully illustrated with page photos of people of Polish fame and famous locations. Its subjects matter is adequately handled and is a volume which set forth the true Poland as we all should know her. It is a worthy addition to any library and for historical reference, or for general informative sources its pages are invaluable.

Such travels books as this series of the Page company are of the highest value. Their price is nominal when one considers their extremely judicious content and entertaining literary style. The book will remain as a textbook of Poland in the annals of library merit.

"CASTLES AND CHATEAUX OF OLD TOUAINNE AND THE LOIRE COUNTRY," by Francis Milton, with illustrations and paintings made on the spot by Blanche McManus. Price \$4 net. The Page company, Boston, Mass.

I quote the opening paragraphs of the book to give its atmospheric spell—

"Any account of the Loire and of the towns along its banks must naturally have for its chief mention Touraine and the long line of splendid feudal and Renaissance chateaux which reflect themselves so gloriously in its current."

And so the book tells of these castles, the homes of farmer glory these of the Renaissance period and its adjacent powers and endeavor. A general survey is made of the Loire and its banks dotted as they are with these massive castles, these formidable turrets which house the yesterdays of feudal days. You visit Orleans, accessible from Paris but as yet not extensively traveled from Paris. Touraine, the garden spot of all France. Each is told in fitting romantic color and the chateaux of its rivers edge are described in their primal beauty. The whole land is filled with romance. Sentiment runs riot mid the reflected days of former glory. Whole page illustrations, many in color add to its beauty and its story.

The book is a fine example of French living in the days of feudalism and its attendants, and will be welcomed by all students of French history, in its most attractive style.

These three books of historical worth, are part of a great list which the Page company is putting on the market, of travels into unknown countries and through countries whose vast resources have as yet been unnoticed. It tells in an entertaining style, of the lands of Europe and of America and is invaluable in its content.

"ARLIE GELSTON," by Roger L. Sergel. Published by the B. W. Huebsch Inc., New York City. Price \$2 net.

A small town story of a second grade girl. An Iowa town, the Sunday night "petting parties" and their inevitable endur. The rich boy and the very poor girl, both second grade folk, their inadequate adjustment to world's demands. The whole story is plebian, and its conversation and its personnel are inferior.

The writer may know Iowa life, but I feel that we should prefer to know a different strata of social activity.

Arlie Gelston may be a mirror to small town life but if so, give me a ticket the other direction.

She is a girl uneducated, thrust in associations of sub culture. She lives her life the easiest way and those around her seem to be on the same plane.

"THE LAST FRONTIER," by Courtney Ryley Cooper. Published by Little Brown and company, Boston. Price \$1.75 net.

An interesting western story of the days following the civil war in Kansas. Two days when Buffalo Bill Cody made his name, when Kansas was the Indian ground, the land of promise but where promises were as yet unfulfilled. It is a story for lovers of western plains life and its setting at Salina, then 40 miles beyond the end of the railroad, the Kansas Pacific afterwards the Union Pacific, is picturesque and entertaining. The Halliday family with its pretty daughter, Custer and Bill Cody, and the inevitable Indians and buffaloes, this is the picture of the last frontier which was settled. It will be enjoyed by Kansans everywhere who not only have lived within the state but who know of her early struggles for existence and decency.

PRECAUTION TAKEN IN SHIPPING GOLD

Argentine Bank Sends 20 Oaken Chests to New York for Exchange

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Ballasted by a ton of gold, over which swarthy soldiers stood guard day and night, the steamship American Legion has arrived here with its precious treasure of \$5,000,000 in bullion from Buenos Aires. It is the first gold legally to be exported from Argentina since the wartime embargo, and, according to Munson Line officials, the largest consignment ever to pass between the two continents.

The gold, in 20 oaken chests bound with metal and sealed, was shipped here by the Argentina National bank for deposit against London drafts to pay the coupons on part of the Argentine external debt. Since the debt is payable in sterling, the gold probably will be exchanged for British pounds, after which it will go into storage to remain until it is mined or rejoins the stream of billion constantly flowing between the United States and foreign countries.

Because of the difference in the rates of exchange the government of Argentina expects to profit to the extent of about 3,500,000 paper pesos in New York when the gold is exchanged for pounds sterling.

Handling large shipments of gold and silver bullion has become commonplace with trans-Atlantic steamship companies and the bullion is handled as so much "merchandise." But the shipment of a few millions from a South American country becomes a national event, and the steamship chosen for its transport is freighted with responsibility.

The removal of the \$5,000,000 from the Argentina National bank to the ship was attended by the greatest of precaution. It was rushed through the streets of Buenos Aires accompanied by guards armed with pistols, rifles and swords and hustled into the

burglar-proof vaults of the American Legion. The precious cargo was under strict watch throughout the voyage. Upon arrival here similar precautions were taken, the regular police being augmented by armed guards, while the armored trucks that carried the gold to a government sub-treasury were protected by armed men.

Handling gold has become so common with the largest trans-Atlantic steamship companies and the agents of the lines and even the dockmen have become blasé about handling millions of the metal. The process of loading, storing and unloading gold in international shipments has become so systematized that the factors of responsibility and risk are con-

sidered hardly more than in the transportation of a box of toys. An official of the International Mercantile Marine explained that the companies feel perfectly at ease when the gold is placed in a ship's vault. In transporting the gold to and from ships guards are usually provided by the consignee and consignee.

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