

Herald and News Book Reviews

Literary Highlights

CITIES IN THE SAND: LEPTIS MAGNA AND SABRATHA IN ROMAN AFRICA. Text by Kenneth D. Matthews, photographs by Alfred W. Cook. U. of Pennsylvania Press. **YALLAH.** Text by Paul Bowles, photographed by Peter W. Haeblerlin. McDowell, Obolensky.

Below Carthage on the African shore opposite Sicily, and to one side and the other of Tripoli are the imposing remains—baths, theaters, arches, arenas, forum, pavement, the gaunt rows of pillars plain and fluted, statuary, mosaics—of two great Roman cities, Leptis Magna and Sabratha.

Centuries ago they were trading posts, enriched by traffic in olives and grain, and to them, or at least to one of them, the more southerly Leptis, came camel caravans from along the Niger and Lake Chad—the region covered in its modern aspect by the Bowles-Haeblerlin book.

Curiously, "Yallah," an invitation to the voyage meaning "Let us be off," has somehow a more ancient look than the really ancient tumble-down walls themselves. The 20th Century natives live in thatched huts, the women expose their breasts, the cleavage is the beauty mark, grain is winnowed by hand, and water is carried in skins. For this the Romans had aqueducts; their homes were tiled and their handsome faces in surviving marble portraits are unscarred.

Separation of photo and title in the present-day Africa book is a bit awkward; the pictures in the other are repetitious in one subject or another. But even so, these are unusually beautiful works and important records which you can find nowhere else.

THE SHAKSPEARIAN CIPHERS EXAMINED. By William

Friedman and Elizabeth Friedman. Cambridge, \$5.

One of the most persistent, and by its very form silliest, questions asked in literary circles is:

Did Shakespeare write Shakespeare.

Fanatical adherents of one of the numerous theories that the actual author was one of numerous other persons—principally Bacon—have spent years or lifetimes and their own fortunes or some benefactor's in their dogged research. They have tackled it negatively: Shakespeare didn't have the education. They have dug into caves, riverbeds and vaults—Calvin Hoffman was no luckier than the rest at Walsingham's empty tomb. And they have wracked their brains to prove some kind of cipher in the plays themselves may be taken to mean that, for instance, Bacon was the playwright but he hoped no one would find him out for a reasonably long time.

The Friedmans are cipher experts—Colonel William headed the U.S. Army team that cracked the Japanese code before Pearl Harbor. In their spare time they tackled the claims of Ignatius Donnelly, Orville Owen, Elizabeth Gallup, George Fabyan, Maria Bauer; they investigated anagrams, acrostics, the bilateral cipher and numerology.

They conclude positively that the systems these people used, if applied rigidly, proved nothing. And just for fun they come up with a couple of discoveries of their own, for instance, they "decipher" the dedicatory poem "To the Reader" of the First Folio to make it read: "Gertrude Stein writ this great work of literature." She would have loved that; and she might have admitted she did write it, too.

'57 Yearbook Off The Press

Up-to-the-minute information on soil care of use to home gardeners as well as farmers is emphasized in the 1957 Yearbook of Agriculture, "Soil," which was published recently by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The book's 88 chapters were written by 142 scientists in the fields of soil management, botany, chemistry, horticulture, soil conservation, agronomy, irrigation, and others.

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson says in his foreword to "Soil": "More research—continuing, thorough research—in the management of soil and water is a vital part of our long-range program. Not only must we learn more about the management of soil and water; we must encourage the wider dissemination of the results of this research. That is why I am so keenly interested in this Yearbook of Agriculture and commend it to you and your neighbors."

Of particular interest to people who have gardens, lawns, fruit trees, and small acreages are chapters about soil management for home gardens and lawns, ornamental plants, vegetables, orchards, windbreaks, soil acidity, and the bases of fertility.

Major attention also is paid to soils and plant growth, plant nutrition and fertility, soil moisture, the trace elements necessary for plants, applying fertilizers, principles of tillage, erosion, soil and insects and plant diseases, irrigation, soil management for main crops, and the economic aspects of soil management.

One comprehensive section deals with soil management and needs in each of 16 regions of the United States.

Press Agent Describes Job

FANFARE: By Richard Maney.

For more than a quarter-century Maney has been one of the Broadway stage attractions. As such, his success has been remarkable in that he seldom has gone in for orchidaceous phrases to make the stars, producers and playwrights whom he publicizes seem like Greek gods.

Instead, with his Irish wit and gifted phrasing in praise and, sometimes, mild criticism of his clients behind the footlights, he has made them seem like human beings to win understanding and good will from theatergoers to the topmost row of the balcony.

Now, from his rich experiences in the behind-scenes working of producing a Broadway play or musical, Maney has set down an exciting account of his long experiences with the various theatrical big names. He calls it "Fanfare," but his chapter titles are equally intriguing—"To Err Is Human," "Meet the Press," and "Billing Without Coing."

In sounding the drum for such theatrical notables as Tallulah Bankhead, Billy Rose, Ed Wynn, Florenz Ziegfeld, Jed Harris and Helen Hayes, his artful language has become a cherished Broadway legend. His summation of people in the theater is that "No other people live so dangerously. . . . True, many of them are a little teched but, so am I."

PUSHKIN WORKS FOUND

MOSCOW — A tiny 120-year-old book of the complete works of the poet Alexander Pushkin has been found in Krasnodar. A little under an inch wide and long, it has 400 pages.



THIS PUP is on the track of a good thing. "The Complete Book of Dog Care" will tell him everything he needs to know to live a healthy and happy life. He will undoubtedly pass a few hints on to his master.

'Complete Book Of Dog Care' Will Help You Raise Your Pet

Now is a good time to ask yourself how you're feeding your four-legged friend.

Which of these statements are true and which are false?

Milk makes worms. Potatoes cause skin rashes. Garlic eliminates intestinal parasites. Fat is poison. Raw egg white makes a dog's coat shine.

If you bit for any, you don't rate high as a dog nutritionist.

These statements, says Dr. Leon P. Whitney in his "Complete Book of Dog Care," "are all fallacies which for years have prevented people from feeding their pets intelligently."

Dr. Whitney has published 30 books, including many on the care and feeding of "man's best friend." He is founder of the Whitney Veterinary Clinic at Orange, Connecticut and a member of the Yale Medical School faculty.

A well-nourished dog is a happy, healthy pet who can resist infections and other diseases. If your dog does get sick, it's good to know that veterinarians can often take care of the trouble with penicillin or Terramycin, hormones such as Sterane, and other modern drugs that work as well in pets as they do in human beings.

But all the better if you keep your pet healthy. And that's where rationing comes in.

Feeding Fido need not be a complicated chore, says Dr. Whitney. The important thing to remember, he advises, is that a dog requires a balanced diet of protein, carbohydrate and fat. Just like other animals and people.

No need, however, to stand over a hot stove or work out special menus each day. A wholesome meal can be supplied by prepared dog food with or without family leftovers.

Dr. Whitney says a dog can digest anything you can, and a lot more besides.

Don't be afraid to feed your dog milk. Cooked fish—bones and all—is good occasionally and, says the veterinarian, so are corn, rice and potatoes—provided they are cooked.

He went where the "Blue Guides" did not say to go. He rented an apartment, sat in the people's cafes, drank their turpentine wine, patronized street hawkers, traveled by bus and second-class accommodations. And everywhere he got into conversations with his maid, the waiter, the policeman. Out of his unstrained but purposeful living he has collected a wonderful fund of information about the Greeks—their church, politics, speech, food, their immense practicality.

This is a quiet and unassuming book, but in its way and of its kind you'll hunt far before you'd find more charm and grace and wit. You could skip Lee's Greeks, but don't skip Lee.

ATHENIAN ADVENTURE: With Alarums and Excursions. By C. P. Lee. Knopf, \$4.

For the academic season 1955-56, Arkansas-born Lee was in Athens as a Fulbright professor. He'd heard of the Acropolis no doubt, the three fundamental orders of architecture, and Pindar and Xenophon—he even mentions this pair so he must have heard of them. But he couldn't care less, or so he amiably pretends, and he lived not as a tourist, or sightseer, or visiting VIP, but in so far as he could, as a Greek.

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Francoise Sagan Tells Again Her Theory Of Life And Love

THOSE WITHOUT SHADOWS. loves and does not like it. Here again is the Sagan sadness, and a funny sadness, too, since so many happy readers love it. By Francoise Sagan. Translated from French by Frances Frenaye. Dutton, \$2.95.

The ever popular young French Miss Sagan has a cast of nine listed on the opening page of this short novel, and they are described variously:

"Married to Nicole but in love with Josee," "having a love affair with Jacques," "in love with Josee," "ex-mistress of Bernard," "in love with Beatrice."

The others are identified in other terms but they have their flings: Middle-aged man pines for girl, middle-aged woman latches onto boy, pure-hearted country youth soon loses pure heart in this infectious company.

Among them are a publisher, critic, would-be novelist, medical student, actress, theater producer and clerk. But they are shown only in the different stages of their unique concern: As they scheme to make love, as they persuade the girl or are persuaded by the man, as they indulge, recover, reflect, are glad it happened, vow it will never happen again.

"No one is more conventional than a woman who is falling out of love," says the sage Sagan in one place, and in another, "unhappiness has nothing to teach." If this reminds you of Colette's worldliness, the world-weariness is Miss Sagan's own. She is still writing "Bonjour Tristesse," still the author weened on Mallarme's "The flesh is sad." When she also says of unhappiness that it makes women "put on weight," you remember she is svelte and you may wonder. But she is utterly sincere and the proof of it is that she clings in novel after novel to the same forlorn idea. A man—or a woman—drinks but is still thirsty, eats but stays hungry.

Author Of The Week



FRANCOISE SAGAN, hardly old enough to vote has written another novel, "Those Without Shadows," again on the theme of forlorn love which made her familiar to thousands of readers in her "Bonjour Tristesse" and "A Certain Smile." The same smile is there, at least in the fiction despite a serious auto accident from which the pretty French author has not entirely recovered.

Current Best Sellers

FICTION

BY LOVE POSSESSED, James Gould Cozzens.

RALLY ROUND THE FLAG, BOYS! Max Shulman.

ON THE BEACH, Nevil Shute.

PEYTON PLACE, Grace Metalious.

THE WORLD OF SUZIE WONG, Richard Mason.

NONFICTION

BARUCH: MY OWN STORY, Bernard Baruch.

THE HIDDEN PERSUADERS, Vance Packard.

THE NEW CLASS, Milovan Djilas.

WHERE DID YOU GO? OUT, Robert Paul Smith.

THE REFORMATION, W. H. Durant.