

SOME RECENT CHILDREN'S STORIES DEALING WITH SPAIN AND SPANISH AMERICA PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES

There is perhaps no better way to maintain goodwill and peace in this world than in teaching children in the schools about the life and civilization of our world neighbors. The early friendly impressions here acquired remain throughout life. Among those who clearly appreciate the importance of these aims are book publishers in the United States. In the brief space of three years many of these concerns have issued dozens of books for children about Spain and Latin America which accomplish these laudable objectives. From among a variety of such works a few are here selected for brief notice.

A collection of ten stories from Old Spain bears the title *Three Golden Oranges and other Spanish Folk Tales* (New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1936. Pp. 137. Illus. \$2.00) by RALPH STEELE BOGGS and MARY GOULD DAVIS. These stories, so simply told, show the Spaniard in his laughing and joking moments, and they are of such an appeal that a seven year old youngster will enjoy them. The compilers have examined several hundred folk tales and have chosen these as typical of local color and conditions, especially in Andalucía. Not only is the spirit of the people shown in prose, but also it is admirably depicted in the illustrations by Emma Brock who drew the pictures from life. No adult should be bored by such an interesting book.

Another collection of children's stories from Spain is *Picture Tales from Spain* (New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1936. Pp. 132. Illus. \$1.25) by RUTH SAWYER with 43 illustrations by Carlos Sánchez. The book is one of a series of volumes dealing with folk tales of different countries and written by different authors. In this volume there are 11 stories including the well known account of Pérez the Mouse. Each story is preceded by a short introduction, and the draw-

ings are animated and realistic. The book may be read to small children, while older children will find much amusement in reading it themselves.

The Story of Ferdinand (New York: The Viking Press, 1936. Pp. 70. Illus. \$ 1.00) written by MUNRO LEAF and illustrated by Robert Lawson is the tale of a Spanish baby bull who grew up with an inferiority complex into a neurotic big bull. When men from Madrid came to select bulls for the bull fights, Ferdinand went to sit under his favorite cork tree and smell the flowers. But as he sat down he sat upon a bumble bee which surprised him so much and made him so angry that he was selected for the bull fight at the capitol. But even in the bull ring he sat down and tried at long range to sniff the flowers in the ladies' hair. No one could make him fight, so he was taken back to his pasture to sit under the cork tree and smell the flowers. As is evident, the book is for small children, but the illustrations are for all ages.

An interesting story for boys in their teens is *The Spanish Cave* (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1936. Pp. 202. Illus. \$1.75) by GEOFFREY HOUSEHOLD. An English boy, Richard Garland, at the age of twelve goes to Spain to live with his older brother who is surveying a railroad along the Basque coast. From an old sailor in the vicinity the lad learns many legends, especially the legend about the Cave of Angels which all the people in the region hold in awe. Resolving to explore the cave, Richard disappears for several days, and his adventures constitute the most exciting part of the story. The book is finely illustrated in black and white by Henry C. Pitz.

The Spanish Southwest has intrigued many writers of children's stories. *When the Storm God Rides. Texas and other Legends* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1936. Pp. x, 243. Illus. \$0.88) retold by FLORENCE STRATTON, collected by BESSIE M. REID, and illustrated by Bernice Burrough, is a collection of stories for younger children told in a simple and interesting fashion and illustrated beautifully in colors. Some of these tales may be of Maya origin and some have come from the native tribes of the United States. Some are based upon historical fact and some upon the supernatural. Some are comparatively recent and some are hundred of years old. In reading these stories one learns when and where the Storm God rises, why the Skunk walks alone, and many another interesting bits of information! At the end of the volume is a list of things for children to do and to think about after reading the book. There

are also several pages of Indian signs and symbols in black and white drawings.

An elaborately and beautiful illustrated book is by MURIEL H. FELLOWS entitled *The Land of Little Rain, a Story of Hopi Indian Children* (Chicago: The John C. Winston Co., 1936. Pp. 121. Illus. \$2.00.) Miss Fellows is both an anthropologist and a teacher of some children, and she has the happy faculty of making the life of the Southwest Indian children alive for her pupils in Philadelphia. The story deals with the Indian boy Sah-mee and his sister Moho who live the exciting life of the Hopi children.

Another book dealing with the Southwest Indian bears the title *Indians of the Pueblos, a Story of Indian Life*. (Chicago: Albert Whilman and Co., 1936. Pp. 224. Illus. \$1.50) written by THERESE O. DEMING and illustrated in water colors by Edwin W. Deming. In this story a boy named Star, a girl named White Cloud, and their baby brother called Little Bird, live through the daily and yearly rounds of activity typical of the Pueblo environment. Children in the middle grades will find these accounts interesting and educational.

Indians Today (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1936. Pp. 182. Illus. \$2.00) by MARIO and MABEL SCACHERI is a story for children in the early grades about Blue Flower, a little girl of a Picuris Indian family who goes on a trading trip among the neighboring Indian tribes in the Southwest. In this way the daily life of the natives of the Pueblo and Navajo groups is illustrated. Each odd numbered page contains a photograph of Indian life and scenes. On the opposite pages are simple and interesting narrative texts describing present-day activities. The photographs and texts combined show the natives as kindly human beings, fun-loving and happy. In this way is dispelled the idea which so many children have (and older people too) that the American Indian is perverse, cruel, dirty, and savage.

Still another recent volumen with its setting in the Southwest is *Tangled Waters, A Navajo Story*. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Co., 1936. Pp. 212. Illus. \$2.00) by FLORENCE CRANNELL MEANS with illustrations by Herbert Morton Stoops. Written for children in their teens, this book tells the story of the contemporary life and problems of the Navajo Indian Reservation children in Arizona who are trying to adjust themselves to a life between that of the white man and the life, traditions, and customs of their ancestors. The heroine is a girl of 15, Altolie by name, who because of an injury goes to an American hospital and then to an Indian school. In the

latter environment she meets the boy of the story. What follows shows the soul-stirring struggles through which most ambitious Indians must necessarily pass in trying to live their own lives and in attempting to reconcile their own civilization with that of the whites.

A unique work is *The colored land, A Navajo Indian book* written and illustrated by Navajo children and edited by ROSE K. BRANDT. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1937. Pp. 80. Illus. \$1.20.) It contains prose and poetry and many drawings, some in color. There are also photographs of child life and activity. Most of the accounts are simple but a few are of a mature nature. Miss Evangeline Dethman, who worked with the children, must be given much credit for making the book possible for she acted as guide in the creation of some of the poems, which were in reality class projects at the Tohatchi School, New Mexico. The illustrations were made by sixth grade children at the Santa Fe school.

Another book with a Navajo locale is *Dancing Cloud, the Navajo Boy*, by MARY MARSH BUFF with lithographs by Conrad Buff (New York: The Viking Press, 1937. Pp. 80. Illus. \$2.00). The story is about Dancing Cloud and his sister, Lost Tooth, who live during the winter in a log and mud hut at the foot of Pottery Butte. Navajo life is described in some detail and in an interesting manner, helped greatly by the admirable illustrations of the author's husband, both of whom lived among the Indians for some time. The book is for young readers from 8 to 10 years of age.

A true story about a Navajo boy, written for children ten to twelve, is *Nah-le Kab-de, The Story of a Navajo Boy* by ISIS L. HARRINGTON and illustrated by Louise Beaujon (New York: E. P. Dutton and Co., 1937. Pp. 96. Illus. \$1.50). This twelve year old boy, whose name means "he herds sheep", was so named by his mother because she wanted him to be a shepherd. The story is built around the lonely life of this young sheep herder and tells of his daily life and the life of his elders. At the end of the book are stories written by Navajo children. The illustrations in black and white are well done. The author has lived among the Indians as a teacher and she is well able to give an accurate picture of Navajo customs.

A book for girls in their early teens is *Singing Sands* by GRACE MOON and illustrated by Carl Moon. (Garden City: Doubleday, Doran and Co., Inc., 1936. Pp. 245. Illus. \$2.00.) The setting of the story is in the Southwest. The author shows the conflict in the

minds of educated Indians trying to choose between the white man's way of living and that of their tribe. The heroine is Piki who attends a government school for five years and is then suddenly called back to the pueblo where her father is suspected of stealing the sacred "sky stones". The book is written with an understanding appreciation of the Indians's problems and is well illustrated by an artist long familiar with native life.

Mexico is the setting for *Pepe and the Parrot* (New York: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1937. [Pp. 45.] Illus. \$2.00) by ELLIS CREDLE. When the author recently went to Mexico she decided to tell in words and pictures the story of a little Mexican dog who ran away from home in order to find happiness. Pepe, after visiting many places, found that home was best and he returned there better able to get along with his owner and her parrot, with whom he had so often quarreled. This story of typical days in a dog's life is for younger children, as are also the many excellent drawings by the author-artist.

It has become customary to illustrate books for children in a most beautiful manner, but no book with more excellent illustrations has come to the writer's attention than *Marcos. A mountain boy of Mexico* by MECICENT HUMASON LEE (Chicago: Albert Whitman and Co., 1937. Pp. 80. Ilus. \$2.00). The pictures, all in colors, are by Bertha and Elmer Hader and they succeed in making this a work of art of great interest to children and adults. The story is about a Zapotec Indian boy who leaves his mountain home to go to the neighboring city of Oaxaca to earn sufficient money to purchase a team of oxen for his father. The volume is one of the series called "Junior Press Books" and it is written for younger children.

Little Daughter of Mexico (Dallas: Dealey and Lowe, 1937. Illus. Pp. 314. \$2.00) by CATHERINE ULMER STOKER is for girls in their early teens. Amelia age 14 was a little Mexican girl living with her family in the mountains of Mexico. There she dreamed of many things and there she lived the life of a child in a family of moderate circumstances. When she leaves her home and visits other places she sees many new sights and has many new experiences. The book is filled with details regarding Mexican life. It is well illustrated in colors by Ted Holsopple.

An historical novel for older girls is *Sally goes to court* by GLADYS BLAKE (New York: D. Appleton-Century Co., 1937. Pp. 270. Illus. \$2.00). It deals with the Maximilian period in Mexican history and tells the story of Sally Burton whose father, a Confe-

derate soldier, sends her to Mexico to escape from the fighting in Alabama. With her goes Eliza Rankin, whose mother is on a secret mission to Mexico for President Davis. The adventures which these girls have and their experiences at the court of the Emperor and Carlota are well told with some attempt at historical accuracy.

A Mexican story for children in the middle grades is *Pedro the Potter* (New York: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1935. Pp. 144. Illus. \$1.50) told by IDELLA PURNELL. Pedro's father was a pottery maker in a little Mexican town. One day the father was forced by the police to flee from the village and Pedro became the breadwinner for the family. Shortly Pedro became a mixer of paints in Mexico City and later a painter of murals. Eventually he found his father. The simple plot is used as a means of depicting Mexican life and local color as it exists in out-of-the-way places.

An account of Mexico, the land and the people, for older children is *Children of Mexico. Their Land and its Story* (San Francisco: Harr Wagner Pub. Co., 1935. Pp. xii, 323. Illus.) by IRMAGARDE RICHARDS and ELENA LANDAZURI with illustrations by Jo Laughling. The authors's philosophy is told in the Preface: "Somebody lives next door to us—there is no doubt about it, even less that they are charming folk and fun to know. The time to get acquainted with our neighbors and to have fun with them is when we are very young." In this spirit the story about Mexico and its inhabitants is developed in an interesting narrative in which children at various periods in Mexican history, from the time of the Aztecs to the present, are pictured. The illustrations are numerous and excellent.

A diminutive book by the same name, *Children of Mexico* (Chicago: Rand McNally and Co., 1936. Pp. 62. Illus. \$0.10) is by STELLA BURKE MAY. This is one of the Ten Cent Series Booklets printed by this company, and it is written primarily for children in the lower grades. Each right hand page contains a photograph, while the left hand page contains an appropriate text. The story has no plot, although the names of two children, Anita and George, run through the pages, but the narrative affords a view of Mexican life and customs, and is simply and interestingly written.

A beautifully illustrated booklet in colors for parents to read to young children is *Pablo's Pipe* (New York: E. P. Dutton and Co. Inc., 1936. Pp. 48. Illus. \$1.50) by FRANCIS ELIOT. The story deals with Mexican life and tells about a small boy, Pablo, who sat by the road and played on his pipe. Three minstrels, hearing him, took him to a neighboring town to play for the people. This simple

story of rural Mexican life is illustrated by the author from life scenes, and is an artistic contribution of which any artist might be proud.

The Education of a Burro (New York: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1936. Pp. 57. Illus. \$1.00) by DOROTHY CHILDS HOGNER, with delightful illustrations by Niles Hogner, is the biography of Carlos, the donkey, who with his parents Pablo and Chiquita, belonged to Ignacio and his wife Antoñita living in a high valley in the Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico. From birth Carlos was taught all of the burro tricks, and he learned, moreover, the meaning of *Mañana*. Children in the early grades will greatly enjoy this comic story and the equally comic pictures.

On a banana plantation in Honduras lived two Indian children, Benito and Lola. What they did, what they saw, and what went on about them is told in *Children of Banana Land* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1936. Pp. 156. Illus. \$2.00) by MELICENT HUMASON LEE. The book is for children in the middle grades. It is attractively illustrated in both colored and black and white drawings by the author's husband, Leslie W. Lee. Like the previous books it is well written and interesting.

The Secret of the Maya Well (New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1936. Pp. 280. Illus. \$2.00) by FLORENCE KERIGAN is a book for teen-age girls about plantation life and archaeology in the Central American tropics. The heroine is Shirley Hunt, who went to Central America to visit her brother's banana plantation. On the ship she met two archaeologists on their way to find "The Plumed Princess", a small Maya statue. In Central America Shirley learns Spanish from an old Maya woman who is descended from a priest of the temple to "The Plumed Princess". From what she thus learns, the girl decides to lead an expedition into the jungle—and then her adventures begin as she tries to learn the secret of the Maya well.

Most children between ten and twelve are familiar with "Our Little Cousin Series" of which there are now about 70 titles. The latest of these books is entitled *Our Little Guatemalan Cousin* (Boston: L. C. Page and Co., 1937. Pp. xvi, 162. Illus. \$1.00) by MELICENT HUMASON LEE. Like other volumes in the series this one tells of the daily life of its hero and heroine, in this case Pedro, a little Guatemalan Indian boy, and his cousin Rita, part Indian and part Spanish. Life in the country and in the city are woven into a well told tale. The illustrations are as usual excellent. A glossary of Spanish and Indian words solves many pronouncing difficulties.

Another Guatemalan story is *Volcanoes in the sun. A boy and girl of Guatemala*. (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1937. Pp. x, 150. Illus. \$1.50). Like the previous book it is by MELICENT HUMASON LEE. The setting for the story is in Antigua, the one-time capital of Guatemala, and the chief theme is life on a coffee plantation and the growing of coffee. An orphaned Indian boy, Giro, and his sister Rosa are befriended by a coffee planter. Occasionally they journey to the nearby Guatemala City where life is more exciting. The book is illustrated by the author's husband, Lester W. Lee. Children from 8 to 12 will be most interested in the story.

A Puerto Rican story for older girls is *Raquel. A Girl of Puerto Rico* (New York: Random House, 1936. Pp. 349. Illus. \$2.00) by CHESLEY KAHMANN and illustrated by F. Luis Mora. The author believes that if a girl in one country understands a girl of another country goodwill between them will result. Hence this story paints a moral, for it tells of how an American girl who comes to live in a Puerto Rican household upsets domestic affairs and learns a great many things herself and teaches a great many things to her friend Raquel. Even romance has to be learned when Federico, a handsome Puerto Rican youth, appears.

Brazil is the setting for *Red Jungle Boy* by ELIZABETH K. STEEN (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1937. Pp. 82. Illus. \$2.00). In keeping with the trend in children's books this is beautifully illustrated by the author. In the Brazilian jungle lives a ten year old boy named Dohobare who learns to do things grown men can do in every day life. One day he goes into the jungle and gets lost. How he gets out is interestingly told for children who have just learned to read. The author is an explorer, having made expeditions into the Araguayan River region of Brazil.

The Napo-Pastasa region of the Ecuadoran jungle is the setting for *Manga, an Amazon Jungle Indian* by RICHARD C. GILL (New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co., 1937. Pp. xii, 260. Illus. \$2.00). The hero of the book is a Guechua-speaking boy, just entering manhood, whose father is an Indian chief. The coming of age ceremonies are described as are many other tribal customs. When Manga becomes friendly with an American photographer they make an exciting expedition into the territory of a headhunting tribe. Although names and many places are fictitious, a map of the region aids in following the story.

A general book for older boys is *Map makers* by JOSEPH COTTIER and HAYM JAFFE (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1937. Pp. viii,

293. Illus. \$1.75). It consists of a collection of 18 biographical sketches ranging from Marco Polo to William Boobe, and it includes discoverers, travelers, explorers, scientists, etc., several connected with Latin American life and history. The biographies are divided into three parts: "Outlining the world", "Filling in the map", and "Finding new worlds". Boys who read the same author's *Heroes of Civilization* will find in this a companion book. It is illustrated with black and white drawings and maps.

A general book of general appeal to both old and young is *Animal Pioneers* (Boston: Little Brown and Co., 1936. Pp. xiv, 241. Illus. \$2.00) by MRS. CATHERINE CATE COBLENTZ. The volume comprises a series of stories of animals who played a part in the discovery, conquest and settlement of America. Included among these too often unsung friends of man are the bull of the Norsemen, the mule of Columbus, the dogs of Ponce de León, the greyhound of Grijalva, the horses of Cortés, Coronado, Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, and others; the cricket of Cádiz, the dogs of the *Mayflower* and *Speedwell*, the Jamestown hen, the Puritan cat, etc., etc. The stories are interestingly told, and they light up many otherwise dark shadows along the historical path.

A. CURTIS WILGUS.

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