

# BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

## CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK IS NEARING

BOOKSELLERS SEE APPRECIATION OF HOME LIBRARIES  
CHILD'S OWN TASTES AND INTERESTS LIKELY TO CARRY HIM FURTHER IF BOOKS ACCESSIBLE.

Is education for individuality an impossibility under our group system? Believers in the power of books do not think so. The child at the other end of a log from a Mark Hopkins may have the ideal instruction, but the boy or girl in the average class room has just as good a chance if the habit of reading is developed side by side with the ability to read. And, perhaps, the child's own tastes and interests will carry him farther if given free rein among open shelves than he would go under individual guidance.

All believers in the magic of the book are coming to feel the common nature of their interests. Schools are adding general book collections to their reference collections; the proposal of bookshelves for every class room and for every one room school is now heard in discussion. Public libraries are giving every attention to children's interests and the rooms prepared for them are the busiest places in all library buildings. A growing appreciation of the importance of home libraries is being marked by all booksellers, and the book publishers of the country are leading the world in the production of beautiful and stimulating volumes.

For the past four years there has

## Intimate View Of Shy, Ancient Race Given By Irving Brown

Adventures Full of Romance, Beauty and Danger Accompany "Copy Seeking" Activities of University of Cincinnati Professor.

When the University of Cincinnati re-opened this season, Irving Brown, Assistant Professor of Romance Languages, was at his desk as usual—far from the world of business adventure which is the average man's lot, but with memories of unusual and exciting experiences which few Americans, no matter what their occupations, can boast.

As he sits in his class room, following one of the most dignified and uneventful of professions, it must be hard for him to realize that only several months ago he was living with Gypsies in Spain and Turkey as one of them, witnessing the dances they reserve for their own race, traveling with them beneath the stars in a van, and fathoming their peculiar fascination which is felt especially by the people of the Latin countries.

Prof. Brown has taken trips to Europe in order to mingle with the Gypsies. His Romany friends are from every corner of the globe—English, Russian, and Hungarian Gypsies in the New World, and Roumanian and Turkish Gypsies in the Old World have urged him to marry into their tribes or join their caravans; but truer to the Gypsy spirit than any of them he has refused to limit himself to any clan or territory.

Why is it that the Gypsy Trail so often lures this young man who holds a Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Doctorate from Columbia, a most "high-brow" young man to all outward appearances? If you ask him that question he will tell you: "It is possible that I have a strain of Romany blood, as there are many incidents and names which point to this on my mother's side."

Whether his diagnosis of his case is true or not, it is certain that few have had the opportunity of coming in direct contact with so many Gypsies and of acquiring a speaking knowledge of so many dialects of the "Black Tongue."

How He Equipped To Pass As One of Race.  
In his book just published, "Nights and Days on the Gypsy Trail," a story of his Romany adventures and companions, he tells

how he fitted himself to pass among the Gypsies as a member of their race. As a very small child he saw a Romani with enormous earrings, and a scarlet handkerchief on her head. He followed her at a distance, even though he was afraid she would kidnap him. A regret that he did not follow her farther haunted him for years after. When he was a student at the University of Wisconsin, taking a vacation tour, he discovered Brown's "Gypsies of Spain" and suffered a relapse of the Romany fever. By the few pages of Spanish Gypsy vocabulary, he was inspired to master the language. He then set about to acquire the necessary dark complexion by lying on his back on a pier on Lake Mendota, with the sun beating down upon him. The sea winds of an Atlantic voyage and a ride barheaded across the blazing sands of Morocco in July tanned him the proper shade of Romani brown, and even on his first venture among the Gypsies he was taken by them as "Cala," "black."

There is a Gypsy quarter in Granada, Albayzin, which Baedeker warns the traveler to avoid. Because of his knowledge of the Gypsy tongue, Prof. Brown was welcomed as a brother and one of the best dancers of the Albayzin was summoned to dance a baile flamenco for him.

"When King Alfonso had visited Granada she had danced before him, but only for the sake of the gold with which he had showered her," Prof. Brown relates in his book. "King though he was, he had been a mere Gaco, to be exploited. There was a touch of irony in her smile as she told of the touch of regal condescension in Alfonso's praise. No king could overawe Marinilla. Was not fat old Pepe the king of the Gypsies; and

his brother a king likewise? In fact, every Calo of the Albayzin had royal blood in his veins when it came to selling his photograph to a tourist. 'Tiltes,' she said, 'make an impression on every silly Gaco.' "But now she was dancing for one of her own people, the humblest of whom is worthier in the eyes of the proud Gypsy than any potentate of Europe or Asia. Moreover, she was dancing for the sheer joy of it, with all the fire and abandon that comes with doing a deed for its own sake rather than for the sake of money."

The above paragraph gives an insight into the nature of the shy race which many of us envy at times in this complicated life so full of responsibilities and suppressions. Here are other nuggets from "Nights and Days on the Gypsy Trail": "The Gypsies have no alphabet, no books; and very few can read or write. They are a race without a country. 'All nature is their fatherland.' "Contrary to the common conception, even the wildest are very fond of family life. Instead of being their children, as is often falsely said, they almost invariably spoil them. From the child's point of view the life of the Romany is an ideal one. He is allowed to just as he pleases. His parents help him to evade the transient officer, though as a rule, he does not need much help. He is always camping out, and seeing green trees and smokes or swears if he likes. \* \* \* Troublesome ideas of right and wrong do not bother him.

"They charm without being charmed. In Spain I have seen the same phenomenon that Liszt ascribes in his book, Les Bohemiens at leur Musique, in which he tells how their seductiveness was the terror of tutors, masters and wives of the Russian aristocracy. "The Gypsy treasures his language above all else; and is most careful that on one outside his race shall learn it. \* \* \* Romany is an ancient tongue, closely allied to Sanskrit. "Many of the Gypsy girls are very beautiful, though like all Oriental races they wither rapidly. They are fatalists. "Like most Orientals, Gypsies are fatalistic. Pelted by snow and rain, driven from pillar to post by the Gales, they submit to the hardest circumstances without a murmur. \* \* \* This does not mean, however, that they are stolid. "Apart from their contribution to the world by just being, and by inspiring writers and artists to hundreds of years, Gypsies have kept alive and helped perfect to the highest degree the folk arts. Blood Ties Are Strong. Separation Fatal. "There is something touching about the gratitude of Gypsies on receiving news of relatives. Blood ties are strong with them, separation painful and being illiterate, communication by letters is difficult. Often members of families are scattered over the globe without even knowing one another's whereabouts. "Josellito, or Gallito, the best matador of modern times, and of all times according to some critics, was the son of a bull-fighter and a Gypsy. His brilliant example did more than anything else to stimulate fresh interest in the art and set a higher standard for his colleagues, in spite of the fact that he was only 25 when gored to death in the ring of Talavera, in 1920."

This, then, is the race among which the young professor of Cincinnati passed his summer vacation. His adventures were full of romance and beauty—and danger. He went to Spain this year because he says that nowhere is the Romani seen to better advantage, nowhere does he play a larger role in the life of the people. However, he adds, the true Romani types have come, in large numbers to America. These have best preserved the ancient language and customs, and he hints in his introduction to "Nights and Days on the Gypsy Trail" that he will write another book about Gypsies—the Gypsies which pass at your very door, "leading to realms of unsuspected wonders."

Of its new one-volume history of the United States, "Our Republic," by S. E. Forman, the Century Company says it was aimed to make it so readable and attractively modern in handling that it would be considered by the average general reader a volume to read rather than one merely to consult. It is said to be quite different from the old-line political histories, telling as it does of economic changes, of education, social customs and folkways, as well as of battles and presidents. The publication of such a history book, aimed directly at the general reader, is something of an experiment, and an interesting one. The author, S. E. Forman, is author of a considerable number of historical, biographical and economic works (among them some extremely popular school texts), and a contributor to the magazines.

Notwithstanding the enormous literature that exists on all subjects pertaining to Shakespeare, no adequate books on the career and horticulture of Shakespeare's time has been available, the Century Company believes, previous to their publication (October 30) of Esther Singleton's "The Shakespeare Garden." The books existing which describe the flowers mentioned in Shakespeare's plays are comparatively elementary, they state, while Miss Singleton covers the history and evolution of the small enclosed garden of the medieval castle into the "Garden of Delight" the quaint herbals of Elizabethan authority the new and exotic flowers which were then imported and admired, the real identity and actual appearance of the flowers mentioned in the plays, together with much more that probably was in the great poet's mind when he wrote of them—and last of all, suggestions for the creation of a Shakespeare garden.

Grant Overton in his New York Herald review of Joseph C. Lincoln's new best seller, "Fair Harbor," points out an interesting aspect of the manner in which Mr. Lincoln can combine real sympathy with a character with an altogether delightful underscoring of the humorous aspect of the case. "Fair Harbor" is a central character is a Captain Sears Kendrick for whom the author arouses the reader's affectionate sympathy because of certain misfortunes which have come to him. A train has gone off the track, or a barn, but what the really finished the Captain was a woman, a 300 pound woman, who fell on him and broke his leg! And Captain Sears remarks that that woman "carried her own punishment with her, I guess. I don't know, I should call it punishment if I had to carry it." One of the

## INTERNATIONALLY OWNED WIRELESS STATION PLANNED

Will Be Erected on Baffin's Bay Shore, for Weather Services.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26. — An internationally owned and operated wireless station on the shores of Baffin Bay, to supply data for the world's weather services, has been proposed, and steps are being taken to insure its installation.

Baffin Bay is pretty far north as a glance at a map on the top of our continent will show, cold winds blow cheerfully much of the time, ice and snow hold away over the land and sea for a good portion of the year, and the life of those stationed there cut off from the world except by radio, would not be of the easiest; but the value of their services to the world would be inestimable, it is said.

Officials of the United States Weather Bureau are enthusiastic over the proposal and will urge the participation of the government in the co-operative scheme. They point out the valuable work of the international weather observation station on the lonely little island of Jan Mayen, the southeast coast of Greenland where reports are sent to all the European government meteorological services as well as to the Canadian and United States Bureaus.

Mr. V. Bjerkus, a Norwegian scientist and meteorologist, through whose efforts the Man Mayen station was erected, has been in this country and China for some time in the interest of the proposed Baffin Bay station. The great value to this country of such a station is shown by observers in the fact that they are often handicapped by the sudden arrival of unforeseen weather changes originating in northern Canada, where there are few stations. Thousands of miles of the continent up to the Arctic Seas, hold no observation posts nor means of measuring observations if any were made. The northernmost weather station in Canada is almost forty degrees from the northern edge of the continent.

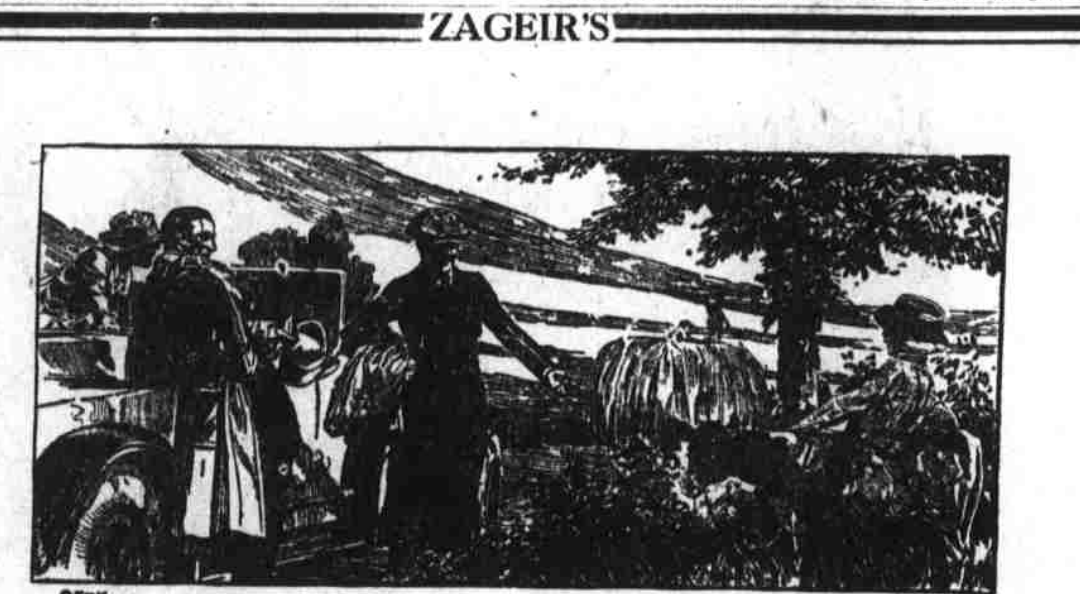
Consequently, officials said, much weather which originates in that vast stretch of land is unobserved until it is right down upon us. For this reason, it was added, cold waves often bear down from the north in winter and our weather bureau can give only scant warning.

A recent example of this sudden and unforeseen change occurred in a series of showers that ended the long country-wide drought that gripped the country during August, September and early October. Continued dryness was predicted for some days, because conditions were sluggish and no changes were observed within the scope of the reporting stations. Between two days, however, sudden showers swept down from the uncharted regions freshened up the entire Atlantic seaboard in Canada and brought an end to the drought.

If there were more stations farther north, it was said, the change could have been foreseen far ahead of its actual arrival. Instead of about two days or less, and farmers and others to whom weather conditions are important could have had longer warning to prepare.

It must be explained that through general interchange, the weather observations of nations are made available to all other countries having weather services, and to whom the data are important. Canadian stations therefore make observations which are as important to this country's weather service as though those stations were owned by the United States. The Baffin Bay station, would be financed and operated by the countries of the Northern Hemisphere to whom the data would be of value when reported by wireless.

chief causes of Mr. Lincoln's tremendous popularity is perhaps to be found in just this feature of his writings: the ability to portray characters full of simple dignity, with whom the reader feels a common cause of real sympathy which is delightfully strengthened by a rich and hearty bond of laughter.



OWN

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