

differ in other ways; for instance, "The Replacement" is a cryptic narrative (with characters, dialogue, and duration), strikingly unlike its immediate predecessor. "In the Corridors of the Métro" (1959), another series, in which the three parts are numbered in the Minuit ed. (I, "The Escalator"; II, "A Corridor"; III, "Behind the Automatic Door"), appears to be a carefully designed and meaningful unit. "Scene" (1955), a description of a single actor's "performance" on a stage, is meant, I think, to be a perfect enigma, and perhaps best of all illustrates what Professor Hubert may have in mind when she speaks of "fragmentation," "discontinuity," and the "void" (p. 10). "The Shore" (1956) is a very different matter: it is a study of non-progressive "movement" and is also Robbe-Grillet's most lovely piece of prose, a prose-poem in my estimation (see "Microtexts," p. 15). But most important of all are "The Way Back" (1954) and "The Secret Room" (1962), complex and brilliantly executed experiments illustrating Robbe-Grillet's preoccupation with both time and description. In brief, by no means is *Snapshots* merely a collection of static "photographs." Robbe-Grillet certainly admits movement and time into some of his texts, but in ingenious ways he also attempts to avoid a completed process in a temporal continuum, and thus to achieve what, in *For a New Novel*, he calls "instantaneity." Finally, a number of Robbe-Grillet's explanations in *For a New Novel* are helpful glosses on *Snapshots* (for instance, see pp. 86-87, 148, 155).

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

### FICTION

Ashford, Jeffrey. *The Double Run*. New York: Walker, 1973. 192 pp. \$4.95.

Berger, Arthur Asa. *The Comic-Stripped American*. New York: Walker, 1973. 224 pp. \$7.95. "Arthur Asa Berger, professor of pop culture . . . wonders why whole libraries could be filled with studies of Shakespeare, Milton, and Dante (whom relatively few people read voluntarily), while comics, which hundreds of millions of people read, are almost totally ignored."

Benton, Kenneth. *Sole Agent*. New York: Walker, 1974. 128 pp. \$5.95.

Blankenship, William D. *The Programmed Man*. New York: Walker, 1973. 192 pp. \$5.95.

Boyd, Edward and Roger Parkes. *The Dark Number*. New York: Walker, 1974. 176 pp. \$5.95.

*Chinese Literature*. No. 5 (1973 - No. 3 (1974)). Includes a considerable number of Chinese short stories (see *IFR*, 1 [1974], 75-76.), tales, sketches, Essays, poems, drama, interviews, and plates.

Creasey, John. *The Toff and the Terrified Taxman*. New York: Walker, 1973. 192 pp. \$5.95.

- Dale, Celia. *The Innocent Party*. New York: Walker, 1973. 253 pp. \$6.95.
- Dewar, Evelyn. *Perfumes of Arabia*. New York: Walker, 1974. 192 pp. \$5.95.
- \*Drath, Viola Hermes. *Engagement und Provokation*. New York: Macmillan, 1973. 464 pp. No price given. "This collection of writings by forty most stimulating and promising contemporary [German] authors constitutes a field trip into the exciting uncharted territory of new developments in the continuously changing literary process." "Explanatory footnotes designed to clarify content and language are generously provided. It is hoped they help the student over linguistic hurdles, leaving him free to concentrate on material and form."
- Ellis, William. *The Knife Edge*. New York: Walker, 1973. 224 pp. \$5.95.
- \*\*Elkhadem, Saad. *Agneha men Rosas*. Cairo: Dar al-M'aref, 1972. 110 pp. Piaster 15.
- Giles, Kenneth. *Bardel's Murder*. New York: Walker, 1974. 160 pp. \$5.95.
- \*Good, Merle, ed. *People Pieces: A Collection of Mennonite and Amish Stories*. Scottsdale: Herald Press, 1974. 172 pp. \$2.95. "*People Pieces* does not concern itself with impressing readers about how good we are; how much we are in need of God's grace has long been apparent to both our neighbors and ourselves. Rather, this collection should be understood as an ad hoc effort by some of us who love our community, carving out windows from the walls of our lives so that others may see in."
- Haggard, William. *The Notch on the Knife*. New York: Walker, 1973. 173 pp. \$4.95.
- Jeffreys, J. G. *A Wicked Way to Die*. New York: Walker, 1973. 256 pp. \$5.95.
- Lemarchand, Elizabeth. *No Vacation for Murder*. New York: Walker; 1974. 185 pp. \$5.95.
- \*\*Mahfuz, Najib. *al-Karnak*. Cairo: Maktabet Misr, 1974. Pp. 109. Piaster 25.
- \*Pacey, Desmond. *Selections from Major Canadian Writers*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1974. "This collection is intended primarily for those students who wish to learn something of the history of Anglo-Canadian literary development, but who prefer to study relatively few major authors in depth, rather than many in a more superficial way."
- \*Rinecker, Wolfgang. *Die Kinder der Alma M.* Rudolstadt GDR: Greifenverlag, 1973. 231 pp. No price given. "Schilderte Wolfgang Rinecker in *Alma M.* den Weg einer Frau durch Krieg und Nachkrieg bis an die Schwelle unserer Zeit, so greift er in dem—selbständigen—Roman *Die Kinder der Alma M.* menschliche Haltungen und Fehlhaltungen im Dorf von heute and regt den Leser an, sich mit ihnen auseinanderzusetzen.
- Rinecker, Wolfgang. *Mord an einem Mädchen*. Rudolstadt, GDR: Greifenverlag, 1974. 162 pp. M5.80.
- \*\*Roth, Philip. *The Great American Novel*. New York: Holt, Reinehart and Winston. 382 pp. No price given. "Perhaps *The Great American Novel* might best be described as a mock epic saga, a counter-myth, which among other things, laughingly lays into the self-congratulatory legends of manliness, brotherhood, and community upon which generations of Americans have been raised."
- \*Steiniger, Kurt. *Melde mich vom Knast zurück*. Rudolstadt, GDR: Greifenverlag, 1974. 260 pp. No price given. "Mißtrauen gärt hinter den kessen Reden [des Helden dieses Romans]. . . . Jeden, der ihm den Übergang in die Freiheit kameradschaftlich

erleichtern will, sucht er abzuschütteln." Nach vielen Erfahrungen und Enttäuschungen "erlebt er, was Freundschaft vermag."

\*Such, Peter. *Riverrun*. Toronto: Clarke, Irwin & Company, 1973. 145 pp. \$5.95. "By 1818, when this novel begins, the Beothuk population of Newfoundland has already passed the point of no return: The Beothuk way of life is too disrupted by disease, starvation and indiscriminate slaughter by white men and their Micmac allies. . . . Peter Such tells the story of the last twenty-five years of the Beothuk's existence."

## NON-FICTION

Abram, M. H. *Natural Supernaturalism: Tradition and Revolution in Romantic Literature*. New York: Norton, 1973. 550 pp. \$3.95. "Abrams shows that the major poets of the [Romantic Age, 1789-1835] had in common important themes, modes of expression, and ways of feeling and imagining; that the writing of these poets were an integral part of a comprehensive intellectual tendency which manifested itself in Philosophy as well as poetry, in England and in Germany; and that this tendency was causally related to drastic political and social changes of the age."

\*Gifford, Don and Robert J. Seidman. *Notes for Joyce*. New York: Dutton, 1974. 566 pp. \$9.95. "A specialized encyclopedia of more than 9000 annotations that open up the vast world of history, theology, philosophy, science, literature, the arts, and the vernacular of Dublin in 1904 that James Joyce drew upon when weaving the complex fabric of his masterpiece, *Ulysses*."

\*Himmel, Hellmuth. *Adalbert Stifters Novelle "Bergmilch"*. Cologne: Böhlau, 1973. 160 pp. DM 30. "Die Erzählung, welche die *Bunten Steine* beschließt, wird nicht ohne Grund hier als "Novelle bezeichnet." "Trotz einiger kleinerer Mängel halten wir die Novelle ["Bergmilch"] für durchaus gelungen und sehen in ihr—im Gegensatz zu einer jahrzehntelangen Tradition der Stifter-Forschung—ein Werk, das nicht nur höchst charakteristisch für den Dichter ist, sondern auch den Übergang von der Epoche seiner kürzeren Erzählungen zu der seiner Romane markiert."

\*Meyer, Heinrich. *Die Kunst des Erzählens*. Berne: Franke, 1972. 248 pp. Sfr. 19.80. "Dieses Buch handelt im wesentlichen von den technischen Mitteln, mit denen der Erzähler arbeitet. Es ist vor allem eine Einführung in die Praxis des erfolgreichen Erzählens für angehende Schriftsteller, wobei ausgewählte Beispiele aus der Literatur mit der Technik des Erzählens vertraut machen."

Morsi, Ahmed Kamel and Magdi Wahba. *A Dictionary of Cinema*. Cairo: The Egyptian General Book Organization, 1974. Pp. 558. Piaster 350.

Pacey, Desmond, ed. *Selected Poems of Sir Charles G. D. Roberts*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1974. 100 pp. \$5.95.

\*Two page reviews of these works are invited.

\*\*Reviews for these works are being prepared.