

Readers' Alley—

Italian Writers Present Fresh Literary Works

This column conductor is still searching for someone who has read a book, praise of which he has time to record, that others might share his please.

Three articulate young men of Italian extraction have recently brought some fresh and vigorous writing to the attention of the reading public. They are Pietro di Donato, J. Pogano, and John Fante. Donato's "Christ in Concrete" (a novel that topped the best-seller list for weeks) Pagano's "Paesanos" (short stories) and Fante's "Dago Red," just off the press, are the volumes that evidence a new strength from an unexpected quarter.

Having spoken of the first two works in earlier columns, we now present reasons for reading "Dago Red," a group of a dozen short stories in an autobiographical vein that will not only delight any one who lived normally rascally youth, but add to the colorful panorama of family life among those Latin immigrants and their children who are now loyal and enthusiastic Americans. (Pogano is rabidly anti-fascist, for his brother lost his life in an encounter with Il Duce's minions.)

But getting back to Fante—we are glad he at last got those two extraordinary tales, "My Mother's Goofy Song" and "Altar Boy" in permanent covers, for we can now dispose of those dogeared STORY magazine and the American Mercury in which they first appeared in the early Thirties. Fante captures the fears and joys, ecstasies and terrors of childhood and adolescence, and expresses them in strong and pithy idiomatic prose. Reared in a Jesuit school, he reveals his struggles with the priesthood, the faith and the ritual. Adventures in petty thievery and apostasy, as well as other excursions into realms of rascality seldom touched by the children of the privileged classes, whip the reader through page after page of incident and portraiture.

His revelations of youth should be a part of every child psychologist's library, for he bores into those secret recesses of the young minds to uncover the thoughts of boys whose waking moments are full of struggle and competition, whose relationships with their elders are ever fraught with strain and misunderstanding. Fante has a sense of humor that wavers between irony and hilarity. If you ever broke a window, got a good whaling from an irate father, snatched things from a V & X (five and ten) or took part in church services, you will find plenty to warm your memory and soften your wrath toward the scamps who live on your street.

If you are not a regular subscriber, you might pick up a copy of the October HARPER'S. Of particular interest to faculty members is Irwin Ross' "The Tempest at Harvard." Academic watchbirds have long been aware of the turmoil on the banks of the Charles. Other lively articles give the low-down on Willkie's education, (Dorothy Dunbar Bromley) on the new tabloid "PM" (Ferdinand Lundberg) and the collapse of France (Robert de Saint Jean). E. B. White, in his usual mood, debates and berates the author of a volume on practical farming, challenging the man from his own experiences on a Maine farm. We leave it to the boys on Ag hill to settle the scrap.

R. G.

Industry Needs MI Grads

"Coal, petroleum, and steel are the irreplaceable elements of national defense," says Dean Edward Steidle of the School of Mineral Industries at the Pennsylvania State College.

The fact that machines, "essentially a mineral aggregate powered and lubricated with mineral products," are so vital in the present conflict, emphasizes the value of trained men in the mineral industry of Pennsylvania, he said.

At Harrisburg Today



Wendell L. Willkie, Republican presidential candidate, after making a major address in Pittsburgh last night will appear before an expected record crowd in Harrisburg today. A large following of State College residents and students will make the trip to the capital to hear the speech.

Twining Escapes Death In Powder Plant Blast

Instructions to report to a new department saved the life of Wilmer A. Twining '38 when the solvent recovery building of the Kenvil, New Jersey, plant of the Hercules Powder Co. blew up in the tragic explosion of September 12 a few minutes after he had departed.

Nearly 50 persons died in the blast which consumed approximately 30 buildings after the initial explosion occurred in the solvent recovery building.

Twining had been working three and a half days in this building when suddenly he was assigned to another chemical process department which was in one of the few buildings left standing.

Twining is staying at the Alpha Zeta fraternity before he leaves to continue his company training course. When he completes his training series, Twining will be sent to Bradford, Virginia as a production supervisor.

Prices Have Social Effect, Says Rural Sociologist

A peculiar relationship appears to exist between price movements and social problems, Dr. Macklin E. John, rural sociologist, commented today.

When prices rose rapidly from 1914 to 1920, he said, the divorce rate per 100,000 people in the United States advanced from 110 to 160. During the ensuing depression, the divorce rate fell to 128. An increase in prices from 1932 to 1935 was accompanied by an increase in the number of divorces to 171 per 100,000 of population. In "hard times" many people want divorces who can't afford them, said Dr. John, although he believes that financial problems have a tendency to bring husbands and wives into closer harmony.

Kappa Sigma President

Bayard Bloom '41 is the newly-elected president of Kappa Sigma. Other officers include Walter B. Blackwood '41, vice-president, and Emil A. Axelson '41, master of ceremonies.

All NYA Workers Must Take Allegiance Oath

All NYA workers, regardless of whether they took the citizenship affidavit, must take the oath of allegiance, it was stated yesterday by Stanley B. Maddox, NYA director.

This ruling applies both to students previously employed and to freshman workers, he said. Today is the last day to take the oath which will be given in Room 403 Old Main from 9 a. m. to noon and from 1:30 to 5 p. m.

'Self Portraiture' Is New Art Show

"Self-Portraiture Through the Ages" is the title of the educational art exhibit which will open Tuesday, October 8 and continue through October 28 in the College Art Gallery, 303 Main Engineering.

The exhibition consists of 54 photographic enlargements of the world's greatest masterpieces of self portraiture. The theme of the display is developed chronologically beginning with the portrait of an Egyptian artist of 2650 B. C. and concludes with the self portraits of contemporary artists.

The photographic reproductions will be accompanied by explanatory literature to interpret their significance. The exhibit has been prepared by the Division of Education of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

As an added feature of the educational exhibit of art media now on display in the exhibition rooms, a large group of plates on Egyptian architecture will be placed on view for Dad's Day on October 5. The new exhibit will be posted in the hall approach to the current display of W.P.A. art work illustrating lithographic, water color, carborundum, and etched work.

Soggy Potatoes Not Cook's Fault

If the potatoes are soggy, don't blame the cook, advises J. Stanley Cobb, associate professor of agronomy.

"The housewife can tell how the outside of a potato looks when she buys it, but she cannot tell what the inside quality is unless she knows the conditions under which it is grown," Professor Cobb said today.

Experiments at the College have shown that potatoes must have sufficient fertilizer, especially potash, in order to develop a good cooking quality.

"There should be a greater proportion of potash than of nitrogen," Professor Cobb believes. "Spraying is also vitally important, as the quality of the cooked potato depends on healthy leaves."

Potatoes grown under desirable conditions are likely to be mealy, and to have a white or cream color, a distinctive flavor, and a high nutritional value, he explained.

Before buying large quantities, the housewife would be wise to cook a small amount and observe these characteristics, Professor Cobb concluded.

Metal And Oil Leaders Meet Here Tomorrow

Leaders from both the metal and the oil industries of Pennsylvania will come here tomorrow to confer with faculty technicians on the progress of important research projects in the College's School of Mineral Industries.

One of the leading topics for the metallurgists, who have attended similar conferences at the College for the past five years, is the study now being made of properties of metallic materials which are used in the development of machines of national defense.

First New Equipment Received By Library

The first new library equipment received in many weeks—a supply of typewriters—arrived recently.

Reason for the slow arrival of the typewriters and other equipment is that the orders have been split among more than a dozen bidders, according to Librarian Willard P. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis also said that the seminar rooms and faculty studies have been assigned and are now in use.

The mushroom industry of Pennsylvania has benefitted materially by methods of insect control developed at the College.

Speaks Tonight



Dean Harry P. Hammond will talk on "The Evolution of Engineering Education" at an Engineering School Faculty get-together, sponsored by the ASME and the SPEE, to be held this evening at 7:30 in Room 219 E.E. it was announced yesterday by Albert P. Powell, Secretary of the Penn State Branch of SPEE.

College Debate Leaders To Attend State Meeting

The directors, coaches, and managers of Penn State's debating activities will journey to Harrisburg this week-end to participate in the annual meeting of the Debating Association of Pennsylvania Colleges. At this meeting, the Association will select the State question for this year's debating.

Among those to attend the convalesce from Penn State are: Prof. Joseph F. O'Brien, Prof. H. P. Zelco, Prof. J. H. Frizzell, Prof. P. R. Daugherty, William E. Harkins '42, and Sarah M. Bailey '43.

Tanner Will Arbitrate Labor Dispute In Mills

Professor Sheldon C. Tanner, of the economics department, has been designated sole arbitrator by the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation and the Steel Workers Organizing Committee to settle a labor dispute in the Pittsburgh steel mills.

Earlier in the year Tanner settled a strike at Aliquippa. Both parties have again agreed to accept his decision as final.

The present Buckhout Laboratory is one wing of a projected larger building.

Nibbling At The News

J. GORDON FAY

The scene is a huge, smoke-and-noise-filled room, in the center of which a heated bridge (spelled B-L-I-T-Z-K-R-I-E-G) game is going on. The players: Adolf, Benito, John, and Pierre, are fighting each trick desperately, for the stakes are high.

Altogether it is a rather screwy game. In the last hand Pierre, John's partner, was set very heavily, doubled and redoubled. As a result his clothing is reduced to a tattered pair of shorts and, furthermore, he seems to have gone over to the side of Adolf and Benito, for, being dummy, he is wandering about the table, looking at the hands and telling his former opponents whether to lead a super-bomb or a battleship.

This doesn't seem like a very nice thing for Pierre to do, but on the other hand it was probably the only condition under which he could stay in the game at all. Besides, even with his help, Benito and Adolf do not seem to be taking their share of the tricks, at least in this hand.

Another game, a two handed one, is being played at the other side of the room between two slant-eyed, yellow-skinned gentlemen, one of them large and a bit paunchy, the other small and wiry. The smaller has been doing rather well up to the present, but just now his mind is not on the game. He is casting an interested eye in the direction of Adolf and Benito, apparently with the idea of doing a little kibitzing.

There is already quite a gallery of kibitzers around the center table, some of them in pretty good shape, others in a worse state than Pierre. The guy in the battered wooden shoes and the gentleman with such a long name seem exceptionally bad off. Two newcomers, both speaking Scandinavian tongues, have just wandered into the crowd at Adolf's back.

Seated nearby is a tall, lanky person called Sam. His sleeves rolled up, he is anxiously watching Adolf and Benito, seeming a bit afraid that they will try to take his quite comfortable seat.

Yes, it is a screwy game, but the screwiest thing of all is that the players are not letting each other, let alone anyone else, know how they stand. No one knows what the score is.

They'll still use this slide rule 80 years from now!

CAN YOU BE HAPPY WITH A "PRE-CIVIL WAR" SLIDE RULE? ... READ

"How to Choose a Slide Rule"

by DON HEROLD

Not of water has flown over the dam since Lieutenant Armead Mannheim invented his Slide Rule in 1853. In this new book Don Herold explains all the new wrinkles and tells you in simple terms just what kind of Slide Rule will make life best for you. The book is handsomely illustrated with drawings by the master himself. It takes the mystery out of Slide Rules forever.

"How to Choose a Slide Rule" is free as free—but only one copy to a customer. See your campus K & E dealer at once.

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